



NEWS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 24, 2017

Contact: Jina Felton, Library Operations Manager, Port Angeles Main Library
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Re: The Mystery of the Missing Supernova

Combining historical clues with more recent observations, NASA Outreach Coordinator Donna Young will discuss the catastrophic collapse of the star Cassiopeia A. Young's presentation, *The Mystery of the Missing Supernova* will take place at 6:30pm on Monday, May 8, at the Port Angeles Main Library of the North Olympic Library System.

In July of 1999, the Chandra X-Ray Observatory was launched. After achieving a final orbit ranging from 16,000 km to one third of the distance to the moon, the mirrors focused on Cassiopeia A (Cas A) to calibrate the instruments. The stunning first light image of Cas A provided an unparalleled view of the destroyed star and for the first time the neutron stellar core at the center of the remnant was seen. The catastrophic collapse of the star that resulted in the supernova event happened between 300 and 400 years ago – however, the exact time is still a mystery. Bits and pieces from observational journals, medieval poetry, and studies of the Greenland Ice Sheet all give tantalizing, but contradictory clues to the event. NASA Outreach Coordinator, Donna Young, will present the most recent findings involving the supernova event.

About the Presenter

Donna L. Young is the NASA/NSO STEM Outreach Coordinator and works with the NASA Astrophysics Division through the Chandra X-Ray Center located at the Smithsonian

Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, MA. The newly reorganized NASA education and outreach program has been established as NASA's Universe of Learning Astrophysics STEM Literacy and Learning Network. This program now provides formal support for the National Science Olympiad, for which Young has been the National Astronomy Event Supervisor for the past 18 years, and oversees the space science events. In this capacity she runs Science Olympiad invitationals, workshops, and coaches clinics. Young travels extensively – presenting at national workshops, meetings and conferences, as well as public libraries and community colleges.

During her visit to the Olympic Peninsula, Young will also present *The Mystery of the Missing Supernova* program to students at the Port Angeles High School. About ten years ago, Young presented *Visions of the Universe* at the Port Angeles Main Library, which attracted a large audience.

Also, mark your calendars for another program of similar interest happening at the Port Angeles Main Library on May 22 at 6:30pm. Amber Henry from the LIGO Hanford Observatory will give an overview of the remarkable gravitational waves captured in 2015 by twin Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory in Washington and Louisiana.

Additional Information

The Port Angeles Main Library is located at 2210 South Peabody Street in Port Angeles. This event is open to the public and generously supported by the Port Angeles Friends of the Library. For more information, contact the Port Angeles Main Library at 360.417.8500, email Discover@nols.org, or visit www.nols.org and select, "Events."

Progression of a Supernova Explosion



“The Mystery of the Missing Supernova” will take place at 6:30pm on Monday, May 8. Photo courtesy of NASA

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