

Rochester Academy of Science  
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Rochester Academy of Science  
**BULLETIN**

“An organization of people in the Natural Sciences”

April, 2009 - Vol. 63, #4

**2009 RAS SPRING  
LECTURE**

*The Constant Fire: Beyond the  
Religion vs. Science Debate*

Dr. Adam Frank  
Professor of Astrophysics  
and Astronomy  
University of Rochester

Wednesday, April 15  
7:00 PM Lecture (FREE)

Brighton Town Hall  
Main Auditorium

Adam Frank describes himself as an “evangelist of science”. His commitment to showing others the beauty and power of science has led him to a second career as a popular writer and speaker on the subject. He has recently begun speaking on the topic of Science and Religion. In his talk, Adam will recap the key ideas presented in his book, *The Constant Fire*.

Dr. Frank is a theoretical, computational astrophysicist and currently heads a successful research group at the University of Rochester. He is a leading expert on the final stages of evolution for stars like the sun, and holds a joint appointment at the Laboratory for Laser Energetics.

The lecture is free and open to the public. All are welcome to join us for dinner afterward.

**36<sup>th</sup> ROCHESTER  
MINERALOGICAL  
SYMPOSIUM**

Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> through  
Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>

Radisson Hotel,  
175 Jefferson Rd.  
Henrietta, NY

The Rochester Mineralogical Symposium attracts people from all over the world who are interested in all facets of mineralogy. Anyone interested in knowing more about rocks and minerals is welcome.

The emphasis is on education and lectures – a symposium. Lecture titles include *Microphotography of Agates, Minerals of New York City*, and *Around the World in 18 Years*. Displays of many fine minerals will be available.

The Thursday evening program is FREE to all RAS members. The lecture begins at 8:00 PM. The talk will be given by Frank Melanson, titled: *Recent Mineral Collecting in Brazil*.

For more information on lecture schedules, other activities, registration fees and forms please go to the “Mineralogical Symposium” link on the RAS web site.  
<http://rasny.org/MineralSymp.htm>

**ANNUAL ELECTION OF  
OFFICERS AND  
DIRECTORS**

Each May, the RAS elects a new slate of officers for a 1 year term, and two of six directors for a 3-year term, to start the following June 1. As in past years, the Nominating Committee has been unable to find candidates for all positions. Interested parties can contact any Board member.

By way of introduction, and to assist you with your choice, the Nominating Committee submits biographies of the non-incumbent candidates for your review, found on page 2.

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ABOUT THE **ACADEMY** - The Rochester Academy Of Science, Inc. is an organization which has been promoting interest in the natural sciences since 1881, with special focus on the western New York state region. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in science. Dues are minimal for the Academy, and are listed in the membership application. Each Section also sets dues to cover Section-related publications and mailings.



For applications and/or more information contact membership chairman Stephen Busschaert, 54 Keswick Rd., Rochester, NY 14609; by telephone 288-5683; or by e-mail <[sbusschaert@msn.com](mailto:sbusschaert@msn.com)>.

The *Academy* Internet web page is <http://www.rasny.org>

The *Astronomy Section* Information phone number is (585) 987-5330. The *Astronomy Section* Internet web page is <http://rochesterastronomy.org>

This “**BULLETIN**” is produced monthly, *except July and September*, by the *Astronomy Section, Rochester Academy of Science*. The editor is Frank Bov, 16 Gladbrook Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534 Phone (585) 422-9910 (days) and (585) 385-1518 (evenings), e-mail <[editor@rasny.org](mailto:editor@rasny.org)>

**ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OFFICERS**

		Phone		
		(585)	home	work
Stanley Spector	President	461-1272		
(open)	Vice President			
Helen D. Haller	Secretary	387-9570		
William Hallahan	Treasurer	624-1628	389-2552	
Stephen Busschaert	Membership	288-5683		
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Karen Wolf	Anthropology	670-9709	273-4500	
Carol Latta	Astronomy	392-7241		
Karen Wolf	Life Sciences	670-9709	273-4500	
John Handley	Fossil	802-8567	265-8900	
Al Mura	Mineral	227-9931		
Elizabeth Pixley	Herbarium	334-0977		
Jutta Dudley	Publications	385-2368		
Frank Bov	Bulletin	385-1518	422-9910	
William Hallahan	Student Grants	624-1628	389-2552	
Paul Dudley	Web Site Coordinator	385-2368		
Kym Pocius	Director '10	(cell) 802-8566		
Jeff Gutterman	Director '10	392-8299	359-6054	
Dan Krisher	Director '09	293-9033		
Frank Bov	Director '09	385-1518	422-9910	
Jutta Dudley	Director '08	385-2368		
William F. Rapp	Director '08	248-2617		

The Academy Postal address is P.O. Box 92642, Rochester, NY 14692

ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE BALLOT FOR JULY 2009 – JUNE 2010 OFFICERS Please vote for each office. Note there are (as always) TWO Directors' slots to fill.			
OFFICE	NAME	✓	WRITE-IN CANDIDATE
President:	<b>Stanley M. Spector *</b>		
Vice President:	<b>Chuck Hiler *</b>		
Membership:	<b>Harry deLahunta</b>		
Treasurer:	<b>William Hallahan *</b>		
Secretary:	<b>OPEN</b>		
Member, Board of Directors, 3-year term (Please select <b>TWO</b> candidates)	<b>Frank Bov *</b>		
	<b>Demaris Verzulli</b>		
* indicates incumbent candidates			
Completed ballots can be mailed to the RAS post office box, or delivered in person at RAS or Section meetings, before May 20 <sup>th</sup> .			

NEW RAS BOARD  
CANDIDATES

Director:  
Demaris Verzulli

“I have lived all my life in the Rochester area, obtaining a degree in accounting from RIT. I am semi-retired from my careers in public water supply and municipal software design and support. I have been a member of the Fossil Section of RAS for over ten years, enjoying the meetings and field trips. It's time for me to give something back to the Academy instead of remaining a silent member.”

Membership:  
Harry deLahunta

Harry has a BA in Math and Computer Science from Cornell University in 1981, an MAT in education from Colgate University in 1983, and an MS in

Computer Science from RIT in 1991. He spent two tears teaching high school Math in Fairport and 20 years as a Software Engineer.

“I joined the Fossil and Mineral Sections in 2007, attending monthly meetings. I’ve joined some of the field trips (not as many as I’d like, but maybe this Summer will be better). I’ve also attended the last two fall meetings of the NYS Geological Association, and I highly recommend those to anyone who has an interest in rocks and minerals.

“As nominee for the Membership Chair, I’d like to see the RAS grow in size. I would especially like to find ways to attract a larger group of younger members to our club; not an easy task given all the distractions that our modern society presents to young people.”

RMSC DISTINGUISHED  
SCHOLAR LECTURE

*The Robotic Revolution in  
Medicine*

**John Valvo, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at  
7:30pm

Eisenhart Auditorium  
Rochester Museum and  
Science Center

Technology has come late to medicine. See how the emergence of robotics and computer-savvy physicians is revolutionizing medicine.

Dr. Valvo is Chief of Urology and Director of Robotics at Rochester General Hospital.

Tickets are \$15 for non-RMSC members, \$8 for students through grade 12 or college students with ID. Call (585)697-1942 for more information and reservations.

EVENTS for APRIL 2009

(For updates to events, check the Academy web site, <http://www.rasny.org>, or appropriate Section web site.)

Wed 01 DISTINGUISHED  
SCHOLAR LECTURE

7:30 PM in Eisenhart Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 for non-RMSC members, \$8 for students. Call (585)697-1942 for more information and reservations.

Fri 03 ASTRONOMY  
GENERAL MEETING

7:30 PM at RIT, Gosnell Hall, room A300. This month’s meeting speaker is TBD, plus short talks by members Visitors are always welcome. Come early and socialize. For information, contact Carol Latta at 230-9548, or <cosmos@rochester.rr.com>

Wed 08 LIFE SCIENCES  
HERBARIUM WORKSHOP

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the RAS Herbarium, in the basement of the RMSC. No experience needed! We will be working on the herbarium items for the RAS Rochester Central Library display in May. RSVP to Elizabeth Pixley if you plan to attend. At RMSC, ask staff to call ext. 368. For more information, contact Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator (334-0977 or epixley@rochester.rr.com).

Thur 09 FOSSIL  
MEETING

7:30 p.m. Community Meeting Room, Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave. World famous trilobite expert Nigel Hughes, University of California/Riverside will give a talk entitled "Hunting Trilobites in the High Himalaya." Visitors welcome.

Please John Handley at (585) 802-8567 for more information.

Wed 15 RAS  
BULLETIN

Deadline for event notices and articles for the May issue.

Wed 15 RAS  
SPRING LECTURE

7:00 PM at. Look for more information in this issue.

Wed 15 RAS BOARD  
MEETING

7:00 PM Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave., in the Stage Conference Room. Everyone welcomed.

Thur 16 ANTHROPOLOGY  
MEETING

7:30 PM, Memorial Art Gallery. We will join the AIA Group for their meeting with the speaker Dr. Nancy de Grummond, titled: “Themes of Prophecy in Etruscan, Greek, and Roman Art.” Also Karen is looking for assistants at the SED table in May (13 and 14) at St. John Fisher. The more the merrier. Contact Karen Wolf 670-9709.

Fri 17 ASTRONOMY  
STAR PARTY

9:00 to 11:00 PM at Mendon Ponds Park, Hopkins Point Road near the scout camping area. Our first star party of the year spotlights Saturn and deep sky objects. No need to bring equipment or a deep understanding; just come and

enjoy the views. Dress very warm as evenings may be very chilly! For information, contact Jim Seidewand at 723-6225.

Sat 18 LIFE SCIENCES  
TEACHING WORKSHOP

10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, at the RAS Herbarium, in the basement of the RMSC. Teaching workshop on herbarium techniques, led by Peter Debes. Participants will learn proper methods for pressing and mounting plant specimens, also techniques for repairing damaged specimens. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator, at <epixley@rochester.rr.com> or 334-0977. Space is limited; respond now to guarantee a spot.

Thur 10 MINERAL  
SYMPOSIUM LECTURE

8:00 PM at the Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport. The opening lecture of the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium is free to all RAS members. Frank Melanson will speak on: *"Recent Mineral Collecting in Brazil."* Please Note: There is no regular Mineral Section meeting this month due to the Symposium.

Thur-Sun 23-26 MINERAL.  
MINERALOGICAL  
SYMPOSIUM

The 36th Rochester Mineralogical Symposium will be held at the Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport. See page 1 for more information.