ASLI Meetings Begin at 8:00 PM

IN-PERSON MEETING ONLY
August 3 - The August Night Sky - In the Planetarium - by Steve Bandel. There will be a talk about objects of interest in the night skies of August by Steve Bandel, but instead of it being projected on a flat screen, Steve will be talking in the Planetarium, and Dave Bush will be running the sky projector for the talk.

ZOOM MEETING ONLY
August 10 - The TESS Mission and Exoplanet Atmospheres - by Dr. Kelvan Stassun. This presentation will highlight some of the ways that NASA's TESS - "Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite" mission is revolutionizing our understanding of exoplanets, especially the nature of exoplanet atmospheres and the conditions in which exoplanet habitability may exist. We will see how the TESS mission was launched and how it provides valuable data for understanding the atmospheres of other worlds.

Dr. Stassun is the Stevenson Professor of Physics & Astronomy at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He is the Director of the Robert C. Byrd Dark Energy Survey and Director, Frist Center for Autism & Innovation, after earning a B.A. in physics and astronomy from UC Berkeley, and the PhD in astrophysics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In 2017, Dr. Stassun launched the Center for Autism & Innovation, focused on advancing science and engineering through the engagement and advancement of individuals with autism. Most recently, Dr. Stassun was awarded a one million dollar HHMI Professor award, was named Mentor of the Year by the AAS, was honored by the White House with a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Engineering Mentoring, and served on the National Academies' Astro2020 Decadal Steering Committee for Astronomy & Astrophysics.

ZOOM MEETING ONLY
August 17 - What's Up with the Sun? - by Dr. Kelly Korreck. What is faster than a speeding bullet? What can fly through turbulence without fastening its seat belt? What can tell us about the origins of our solar system while at the same time performing its main mission to understand our closest star? NASA's Parker Solar Probe! The Parker Solar Probe spacecraft was designed to solve mysteries of the sun as well as the very practical goal of furthering our understanding of space weather. The talk will cover Dr. Parker’s measurements of coronal mass ejections (CMEs) which are billions of tons of matter hurtling through space at millions of miles an hour - part of space weather as well as recent Venus encounters and a few other surprises that Parker has discovered!

Dr. Kelly Korreck is a scientist in the Heliophysics Division at NASA Headquarters, where she works with a host of NASA missions and works on science activation and education. Over 20 years working with NASA missions at various institutions, her research has ranged from the Sun’s coronal mass ejections to the remnants shock waves from supernovae. Dr. Korreck has been involved in building spacecraft hardware, working on a sounding rocket, and, most recently, co-led an instrument suite onboard NASA’s Parker Solar Probe mission.

IN PERSON MEETING ONLY
August 24th - ASLI Observing Night. We are going to start scheduling ASLI observing nights at the Vanderbilt Planetarium on one Wednesday night a month. The Moon will be a waning crescent, so we will have skies darker than normal. ASLI members and guests are welcome. Bring your telescopes and binoculars, or look through member's telescopes.

IN PERSON MEETING AND ZOOM
August 31 - "Mary Ward: Woman of Science" - by Stephen Lieber. Mary Ward was an accomplished amateur astronomer who lived in Ireland. Living in the 1800s, she had no access to the latest equipment and literature. Despite this, she became an accomplished astronomer, biologist, and author. Her fascinating life had many twists and turns. Starting during childhood, Ward was in contact with many leading scientists of her day. She used the knowledge and skills she learned to communicate science to the public. Her fascinating accomplishments are an inspiration for people today, who might think of science as being "only for the professionals".

Stephen Lieber has been a member of ASLI for almost 30 years. Like the subject of the talk, Mary Ward, Lieber is largely self-taught in astronomy. Steve built his own 17.5" Dobsonian telescope and he ground and polished the mirror for that instrument! Steve holds a degree in Philosophy and Occupational Safety and Health. He is a Certified Safety Professional. Articles by Lieber were published in "Sky and Telescope" and "Astronomer Magazine". He has been interviewed on radio for WCB, BBC and NPR. On television, Steve has done a number of talks for ASLI, and they are always very carefully researched and fascinating to hear!