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Bay Area to Celebrate Humanity's Adventures in Science, Sound and Space.

Part of a global celebration of space, the Yuri's Night event at NASA Ames promises to draw a diverse crowd.

Moffett Field, California--On April 13th the Bay Area joins the world in a celebration of space with a unique convergence of artists, scientists, space explorers, performers and musicians. The date marks the launch of the San Francisco Bay Area's Yuri's Night celebration at the NASA Ames Research Facility in Moffett Field, CA.

According to Lewis Braxton, Ames' Director of Center Operations, the celebration is an ideal opportunity to introduce guests to what Yuri Gagarin's successors are up to. "We hope to get people enthusiastic about NASA's plans to establish lunar outposts and send humans to Mars, and we also want them to know the key role the Ames Research Center will play to get us there," Braxton said.

Yuri's Night, a global non-profit, has partnered with a team of event planners including Nexus and Symbiosis Events to commemorate Yuri Gagarin and explorers like him. Gagarin, a Russian cosmonaut, was the first human to enter space when he orbited Earth once in 1961 at the age of 27. Yuri's Night has been coordinating parties around the world on this date for the past 7 years. Of the 101 parties scheduled in over twenty countries this year, Yuri's Night Bay Area is scheduled to be the world's largest.

This unique event, to be housed in NASA's Hangar 211, will feature interactive technology displays, live science demonstrations, art exhibitions, live performances and music from across the globe. A keynote address will be given by Anousheh Ansari, the first privately funded female space explorer, with comments by Chris McKay, senior NASA scientist studying life on Mars - past and future.

The world-class entertainment agenda includes Plaid from the United Kingdom, Telefon Tel Aviv, Spacetime Continuum and many others. Space-themed aerial artists, hoop and belly dancers, stilts, a parade from the future and more are scheduled to create a dynamic evening filled with surprises. Visual art by numerous projectionists including Rabbit in the Moon will illuminate the hangar.

From space-inspired art installations to a robotics dome and documentary area, this event illustrates Yuri's Night's unique ability to bring together visionaries from both inside and outside the space community. Planners say the environment in Hangar 211 will encourage many new relationships, innovative ideas and meaningful experiences whether attendees are music fans, art buffs, VIP dinner guests or space enthusiasts.

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"There has never been a more exciting time to dream of spaceflight," says Yuri's Night founder Loretta Hidalgo. "Anousheh Ansari's mission was just the beginning. Yuri's Night is about bringing the power and magic of space to the public to get them ready for their own missions- coming soon to a spaceport near them!"

The sub-theme of this event is the "greenification" of space. To this end, the event is bio-diesel powered, a variety of organic food and drink will be available, waste products will be composted and recycled, and one tree will be planted for every ticket sold in an effort to offset the event's carbon emissions. Whenever possible, recycled paper is used for printed materials.

Tickets are available online and at the door through In Ticketing while supplies last. For additional information about this event or Yuri's Night, visit www.worldspaceparty.com . Media inquiries should be contact Delia Santiago, 408-306-8579, delializa@yahoo.com. NASA wishes to assert that references to NASA Ames shall not be construed as official NASA approval or endorsement of any non-Governmental or commercial entity or activity.

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