

# “The Ages of Stars”

## Information for Participants

**October 8, 2008**

### *Important Update*

The launch of Servicing Mission 4 to HST has been delayed until at least February of 2009, due to the need to replace a critical component (the SI C&DH) that has had a partial failure. We will provide updated information on HST at the meeting as we learn it.

### *Assistance*

All of the Local Organizing Committee are prepared to help you if you need assistance. The following list provides cell phone numbers, and all the LOC expect to be on-call starting October 11. If you need help, call at any time.

- Please start with Jay Anderson, who is our Participant Liaison (English/Français): 1-410-294-6430
- David Soderblom (English): 1-443-540-6945
- Jeff Valenti (English): 1-443-939-4509
- Massimo Robberto (English/Italiano): 1-410-303-1351
- Eva Villaver (English/Español): 1-443-983-4131.

Our primary administrative support person is Darlene Spencer (1-410-615-4298).

### *The symposium location: The Tremont Grand*

The symposium's sessions will be held in the Tremont Grand, an extraordinary meeting facility in Baltimore. The hotel, which is connected, is the Tremont Plaza, and the address is 222 St. Paul Place, Baltimore MD 21202. (Please be aware that there is also a Tremont Park hotel a few blocks away.) The hotel's phone number is 1-410-727-2222, and their fax number is 1-410-685-4215. Their web page is at:

<http://www.tremontsuitehotels.com/>

but please be sure to go to our registration pages to reserve your hotel room so that you get the correct rate:

<http://www.stsci.edu/institute/conference/iau258/regoptions>

At that same page you can sign up and pay for the conference banquet if you have not already done so.

The Tremont Grand is a breathtaking restored Masonic lodge, with beautiful rooms. We will meet in the Corinthian Room, and the posters will be directly below in the Marble Room. Because there are two separate buildings that were joined only recently, getting from the hotel to the meeting rooms can be a little confusing. You will see signs in the hotel

to guide you, but from the hotel take the elevator to floor 5. Turn right out of the elevator and follow the corridor across the bridge to the meeting rooms. The Corinthian Room is on floor 2, which is the floor you enter on. In other words, (hotel floor 5) = (meeting facility floor 2).

## **Arrival in Baltimore**

The majority of you will fly into Baltimore-Washington airport ("BWI"), which is about 17 km from the hotel. The fastest way to the hotel is by taxicab, and that will cost about \$40. There is "light rail" (tram) service from the airport, but it is not very convenient, particularly if you have luggage. For other options, Google on "BWI ground transportation."

If you arrive at Washington's Dulles airport (IAD), getting to the hotel is not easy. There is SuperShuttle service to the Tremont for \$90; Google on "Dulles ground transportation."

## **Parking**

Parking is available in garages adjacent to and near to the hotel. There are, for example, garages just to the south of the hotel at 200 and 210 Saint Paul Place. Parking in downtown Baltimore is expensive and can fill up quickly. For further information we recommend that you call the Tremont at the number given above.

## **Special Events**

In addition to our scientific program, we have planned for you a number of special events to add to your enjoyment:

- A reception for all participants on Sunday evening, October 12.
- Wednesday afternoon diversions.
- A conference banquet on Thursday, October 16.
- An afternoon at the Institute, on Friday, October 17.
- Bus transportation to Washington, D.C., on Saturday, October 18.

In addition, our symposium is likely to coincide with HST Servicing Mission 4, now scheduled for launch on October 8.

## **Opening Reception**

The opening reception will be held on Sunday evening, October 12, from 7 to 10 pm. It will occur in the Marble Room in the Tremont Grand, the same room being used for poster presentations. The conference registration will also be open in the Marble Room, and you may put up your poster if you wish. Food will be provided (not to be construed as a meal), with a cash bar. All symposium attendees are welcome. If you wish to bring your companion, please contact us so we know how many to expect.

## **Daily Reports**

As this is written the launch of Servicing Mission 4 is scheduled for no earlier than February, 2009. We will begin each day of the symposium at 8:45 am (except Monday, when we start at 8:30) with a brief update on progress in the servicing mission and any other important announcements. Scientific talks will begin promptly at 9:00.

## Daily Refreshments and Meals

We will provide conference attendees with three catered breaks each day. A light, continental-style breakfast will be available starting at 8 am, along with coffee, tea, and juices. Beverages and snacks will again be served mid-morning and mid-afternoon. All the catered refreshments will be served in the Marble Room, in with the posters. Ample time has been allotted for participants to view posters and meet with colleagues.

Your other meals are not provided, but there are many eating places to choose from that are very close to the hotel. We have allocated ample time for lunch and we will provide information on restaurants when you arrive.

## Diversions

As is traditional with IAU symposia, the Wednesday sessions end near noon and you have an entire afternoon to enjoy the diversions of Baltimore. There are many fine things to see in this city, but we have selected two in particular.

- The Walters Art Gallery, a world-class art museum, is a short walk from the hotel. We have arranged for a special talk to symposium participants and guests by Dr. Will Noel, who will speak on his work on the Archimedes Palimpsest. Dr. Noel is an excellent speaker, and few will want to miss this chance. To learn more, go to: <http://www.archimedespalimpsest.org/>

Those going to the Walters will also have a chance to see this museum's extraordinary art. There is no charge to visit the Walters.

- The National Aquarium in Baltimore (<http://www.aqua.org/>) is another world-class facility in Baltimore that is well worth seeing. A member of the LOC will take you on a walk from the hotel to the aquarium (about 1 km). We will arrange group admission, which will cost each person \$19.95.

We will need to hear back from all symposium participants about their choice for Wednesday afternoon so that we can make appropriate plans.

## Conference Banquet

The symposium banquet will be held in the hotel on Thursday, October 16, from 7 to 10 pm. As we have noted, the cost per person is \$65 and it is necessary to sign up in advance. Seats at the banquet are limited, and we may need to limit attendance. During the banquet you will hear about some of the history of the meeting facility.

## Friday afternoon at STScI

This may be your first trip to Baltimore. We wanted to provide you with a chance to visit the Space Telescope Science Institute even if the sessions themselves are not being held there. Because of that, the regular symposium sessions will end around noon on Friday, October 17. As an option, participants will then have an opportunity to come to the Institute for the afternoon. After lunch at the Institute, you can hear talks on progress with Servicing Mission 4 and with STScI's work on the James Webb Space Telescope. Later in the afternoon we will provide drinks and an informal chance to meet Institute staff.

Transportation will be provided to and from the Institute.

## **Saturday in Washington, D.C.**

Please note that we will not be able to charter a bus for participants because too few indicated an interest to justify the cost. We will be happy to provide information on how attendees can visit Washington, DC on their own, however.

## **Participants with special needs**

We are committed to having our symposium accessible to all registered participants. However, as an historic facility the Tremont Grand is not fully accessible in all locations. If you have special needs for access, please contact us.

In the same vein, we will make every effort to accommodate the varied needs of our colleagues. If for any reason you have questions or concerns, please contact us.

## **Internet access**

If you are staying at the Tremont Plaza, your room comes with complimentary wired internet access (i.e., at no additional charge). We will provide wireless service within the Corinthian Room, and we may also provide a few computers connected to the internet so that you can check e-mail if you don't have a laptop.

## **Safety in Baltimore**

Baltimore is a wonderful place to live and all of us on the LOC are proud of Charm City. But we do have crime, and we want to ensure that all of your experience is enjoyable and safe. Bear these rules in mind:

- During the day, you should be safe on any streets around the hotel.
- As it gets dark, and especially after dark, please travel with a companion. Staying on Charles Street is recommended.

## **Things to see and do in Baltimore**

We hope you have a chance to enjoy the many excellent museums, institutions, and events during your visit. Here are some places to find more information:

- <http://baltimore.org>
- <http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/visitor/>
- <http://www.porttombaltimore.com/baltimore.htm>

If you have particular interests, please contact us and we will see if we can find information related to that.

### **David Soderblom, SOC Chair**

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### **Jeff Valenti, LOC Chair**

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