



**Happy New Year!**

**It is time to celebrate 2009 - The International Year of Astronomy!**

This particular New Year represents a unique opportunity for all of us to boost our ability to inspire the citizens of the world. We can seize this time to promote and rejuvenate interest in science and in our planetariums, not just for one year but also for many years into the future.

We can take advantage of the wealth of material and activities that have been specifically designed and made available for us to use in celebrating IYA. We now have a treasure chest of ideas that have been developed with the world community in mind. This was accomplished with the expertise of colleagues in a variety of scientific communities and countries working together. The results of their efforts also provide us with a tangible way to productively move forward, beyond 2009, and sustain vital connections built with community members and scientists this year and to continuously build on the enthusiasm that we create.

Don't forget to promote your planetarium's connection to the International Planetarium Society in all of your initiatives and check the IPS calendar of events as well as the IYA calendar for events with which you can connect. For example, The International Day of Planetaria will be held on 22 March ([www.dayofplanetaria.org](http://www.dayofplanetaria.org)) and the 100 Hours of Astronomy on 2-5 April (<http://www.100hoursofastronomy.org/>). Special events like these will enable you to interact with planetariums worldwide and magnify the excitement that you can create in your location. IPS members will be receiving, at no cost, two planetarium shows that you can use to enhance community outreach. "*Let There Be Night*" (<http://www.lettherebenight.com/pltm.html>) and "*Two Small Pieces of Glass*" (<http://www.400years.org/planetarium.php>) are high quality shows that can be used in planetariums of all sizes. Be sure to watch the IPS Outreach and IPS Education committee web pages for further IYA information or initiatives for planetarians throughout the year. If you are not a member, join today! Read about IPS and the many benefits of membership at <http://www.ips-planetarium.org/or/aboutips.html>.

However you choose to celebrate 2009, the International Year of Astronomy, "seize the year" and build on it. In this way we know that you will be successful in inspiring your audiences with new and exciting events at your planetarium now and in the future!

*Sincerely,*

Susan Reynolds Button  
IPS President 2007-2008

Dr. Thomas R. Mason  
IPS President 2009-2010