



Evelyn Kain Leads Discussion of Tyson's *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry*

At our March meeting, Evelyn Kain displayed a slideshow of images of the universe on the big screen TV to introduce us to the Neil DeGrasse Tyson collection of essays in *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry*. She also wore an apron with celestial objects! The source of Evelyn's slideshow images can be found at Astronomy Picture of the Day (<https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>). Even for those challenged by the sciences the discussion was fun and lively.

Tyson is the Director of the Hayden Planetarium in New York City and author of many books on space and science. He is well-known for his re-boot of Carl Sagan's *Cosmos* television series, a scientist he prophetically met at the age of seven. Later in the day of Evelyn's presentation, National Geographic and Fox Broadcasting announced Tyson would be returning to television following investigations into sexual misconduct allegations.

The text certainly expands the reader's vocabulary and recalls familiar theories about the Big Bang and our connection to the basic elements of carbon and oxygen. After all, aren't we all just a collection of atoms like everything else? This humbling thought suggests an examination of philosophies that place humans above the environment, the planet, and ultimately each other.

And what about those phenomena like dark energy and dark matter that we still don't have answers for? As humorous as Tyson is in informing us, he resists making fun of ancient disproved theories by suggesting we simply need to apply more scientific knowledge to solving these mysteries.

Coordinator: David Kelly, DavidJaxKelly@gmail.com
Photos by Loren Schneider

Friends of the Palm Springs Library Book Club
meets the third Friday of each month at 2pm
at **The Learning Center**
Palm Springs Library
300 S. Sunrise Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262