



# The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS  
Member of The Astronomical League  
<http://sbvaa.org/>



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Since 1958

December 2020

Meeting:

December 21, 2020

Location:

**First Christian Church**  
**2102 E. Foothill Dr.**  
**San Bernardino, CA**

**4:30 p.m.**

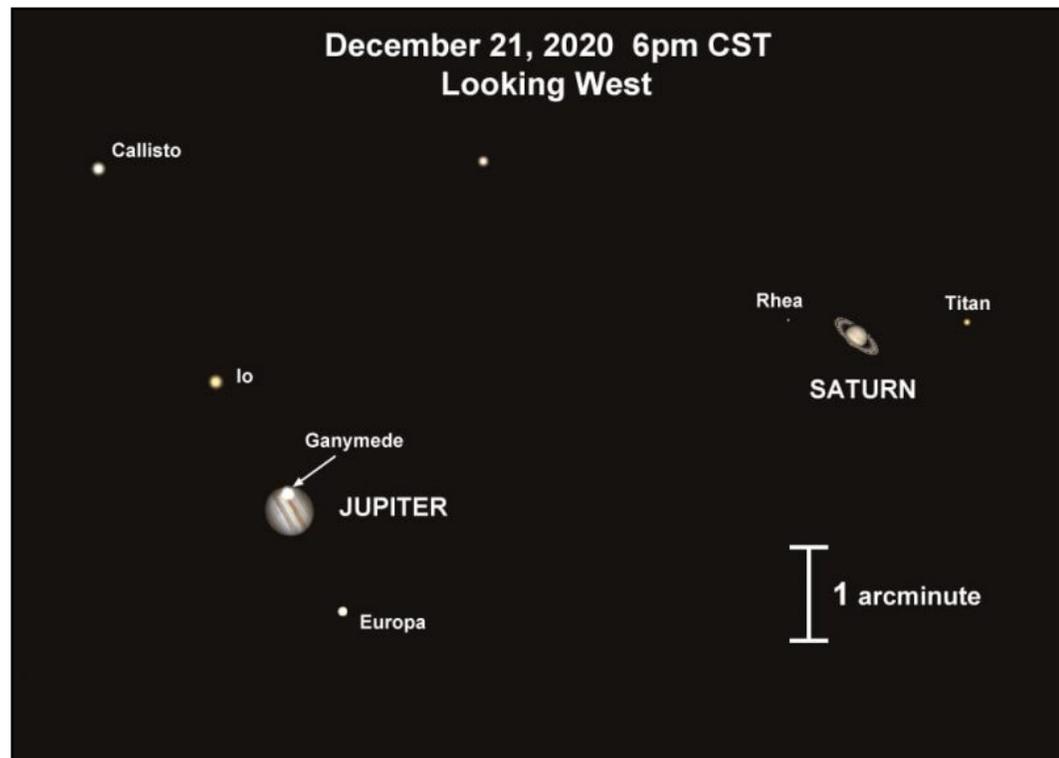
**Sunset: 4:40 p.m.**

Telescopes will be set up for viewing and members will be available to answer questions. Bring your telescope to observe with us.

*No telescope is too humble,  
and beginners are always  
made welcome!*

## Program Special Event!

No holiday party this year... BUT... There will be a "special event (weather permitting) at the church on early Monday evening, Dec. 21, to view the Grand Conjunction. Fidel will have the gates open about 4:15 or so and we will view the event from 5:00 to about 6:30 p.m. Over a period of one thousand years, from 1600 to 2599, there are only six great conjunctions where the minimum separation between Jupiter and Saturn is less than 0.2 degrees: 1623, 1683, 2020, 2080, 2417, and 2477.



## SBVAA Officers

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

~~Dec. 5, Annual Holiday Get-together,  
Shakey's, Redlands~~

Dec. 12, Star Party, Pioneer Town



Your club officers are working on alternatives for activities for 2021. The type of events and the dates will be published as soon as they can be arranged/confirmed.

Meanwhile, stay healthy & safe!

# Dues News

**For calendar year 2021 (and 2021 only), club dues are suspended.**

Owing to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, i.e. our loss of regular club meetings and also the financial hardship that some members face, your club officers have opted to suspend dues for the calendar year 2021. It is hoped that we might be able to hold some "unofficial" star parties, etc., but that will remain to be seen. If we are able to plan a safe get-together, it will be announced in your newsletter or via one of Tom's e-mail flash messages.

## Miscellaneous Stuff for December

**Important note about the pre-meeting dinner: There will be NO DINNER in December and perhaps not until well into 2021. We will keep you posted.**

Fidel has the new (2021) calendars available. He will bring some to the church on the evening of the 21st. The cost is \$8.00. If you are not going to attend the November gathering and still want a calendar, contact Fidel at number listed above.

If you are interested in obtaining a pristine Celestron C9.25 including a JMI EV1 2" diagonal focuser and T.V. 2" adapter for it, contact your newsletter editor.



## Things to See While in “Quarantine”



Dec. 14/15: Geminid meteor shower maximum. There is a New Moon that night so a goodly number of meteors should be visible (under good dark sky conditions). Fireballs should start to show about 2200 but the best show should be around 0200.

Dec. 14: If you are going to be somewhere in Patagonia you will be able to see total solar eclipse — the last eclipse of 2020.

Dec. 21: Winter Solstice.

Dec. 21: A great conjunction of Jupiter & Saturn. About every 20 years or so these two have a conjunction usually separated by a degree or so. On the night of the 21st., however, you will have a chance to see them with the closest conjunction since 1623! Their separation look to be about 1/5 the diameter of the full Moon. Let's hope we have a good, clear night.

Dec. 21/22: Ursids meteor shower maximum. The best chance of viewing will be after midnight when the first quarter Moon has set. A fairly dark location is necessary for this one.

Dec. 30: Full Moon. This is sometimes referred to as the “Cold Moon” because of the low temps in much of the Northern Hemisphere.

As always, check your sky charts and star guides.