

# AGE OF AQUINAS

a Bay Area group for Christian singles 40+

[Next astronomy lecture: Wednesday, May 23, 2007, 7:00 pm!](#)

Some of us are meeting at 5:45 at the Pasta Market Italian Restaurant, 4546 El Camino Real, Los Altos, for dinner, but you can also meet us at 6:30 (under the tall time/temp sign) to carpool up to the college.

## ★ A Ringside Seat to the Birth of Planets ★

If you're interested in coming, please let Carrie know at [ckarnos@yahoo.com](mailto:ckarnos@yahoo.com). The lecture is free. Parking at Foothill College is \$2.00 (bring 8 quarters!).



### Next Astronomy Lecture Details *A Ringside Seat to the Birth of Planets*

Astronomer [Dana Backman](#), of the Mountain View-based SETI Institute, will present *A Ringside Seat to the Birth of Planets*, an illustrated, non-technical talk, **Wednesday, May 23, at 7 p.m.** in the Smithwick Theater at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. Admission is free and the public is invited. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. **Arrive early to locate parking.**

Dr. Backman will explain how new kinds of telescopes and observations are making it possible for us to detect the birth process of planets around nearby stars. He'll discuss how some of these structures remind us of the asteroid belt in our own solar system, and the rings of icy chunks beyond Neptune that are called the Kuiper Belt. He will conclude by previewing future observations of these intriguing dusty rings with new telescopes, particularly the [Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy \(SOFIA\) Project](#) for which NASA has outfitted a Boeing 747 jet airliner with a telescope that can observe heat-rays from distant objects.

Dr. Backman has been both a research astronomer, specializing in infrared observations, and a widely praised teacher of astronomy. He is the manager of education and outreach for the SOFIA Project and a popular public speaker on topics on the frontiers of astronomy.

The lecture is presented as part of the eighth annual Silicon Valley Astronomy Lecture Series sponsored by the [Foothill College Astronomy Program](#), [NASA Ames Research Center](#), [SETI Institute](#) and [Astronomical Society of the Pacific](#).

Visitors must purchase a required campus parking permit for \$2 (eight quarters). Parking lots 1, 3, 5 and 6 provide access to the theater. Foothill College is located on El Monte Road off Interstate 280. For more information, [click here](#) or call (650) 949-7888.