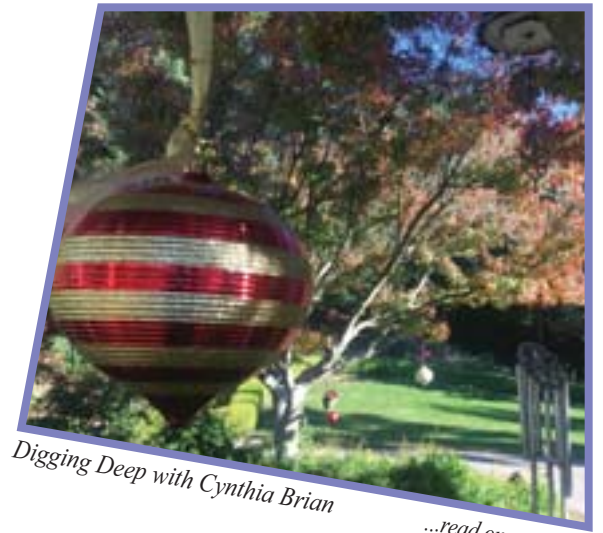


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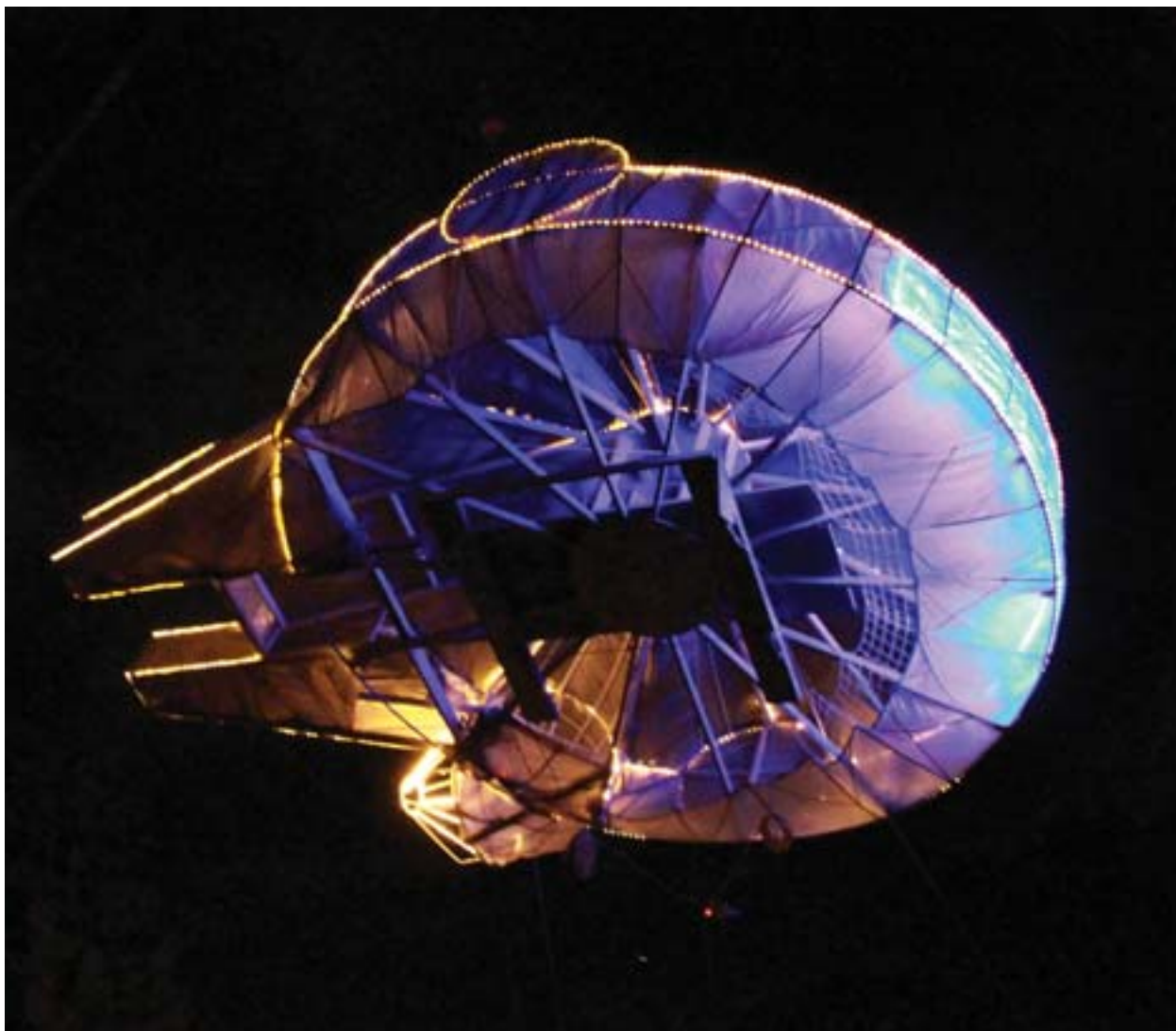


Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

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Up on the rooftop (...again!)

By Cathy Dausman



It's not a reindeer—it's the ship that made the Kessel Run in less than twelve parsecs.

Photo provided

Colby Powell's rooftop features something that flies this December, but it is definitely not reindeer or a sleigh. It is a 28-foot-long model of a Corellian YT-1300 light freighter, better known to Star Wars fans as the Millennium Falcon.

Powell, his family and neighbors assembled the starship on the ground, then it was lifted into place by a 70-foot crane. The lighted ship made its debut at Halloween. Powell says it will remain aloft until the premiere of the latest Star Wars movie, "The Last Jedi."

As elaborate as it is (a 28 by 20 by 5-foot replica, weighing 700 pounds, pitched at a 40-degree angle on an 11 by 6 foot stand to perfectly showcase the top of its iconic shape) this creation is not Powell's first space rodeo.

Two years ago, he and his family designed and built a replica Death Star ahead of the release of the 2015 blockbuster "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

This time Powell says there were lots more neighbors assisting – everyone from the youngest "Padawans" to enthusiastic adults. Still, he kept his neighbors guessing about what the finished project might be during the five weeks and 400 work hours it took to complete the assembly.

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