

# Life / Arts

## Bright Saturn and mighty Arcturus

By Judy Isacoff

Special to The Eagle

MOUNT WASHINGTON — On a quest to find Saturn at 8:20 p.m., ample time for the planet to climb above the hills to the east, I was disappointed to see a large, flashing reddish light in the sky through a filigree of twigs, presumably the red and white blinking lights of an airplane.

I blinked in turn and irritation turned to marvel: Arcturus, the second-brightest star visible in the northern hemisphere, has moved into view in the early evening sky.

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### Eyes to the Sky

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Saturn is a leap directly to the right of the mighty, twinkling orange star. There's a tension between them as if they punctuate opposite ends of a taut line. The planet is a penetrating, yellow point of light. The two rise at exactly the same time this evening, 6:38 p.m., and within minutes of each other all month.

Although we have followed Arcturus and Saturn through the year, our attention is especially charged now that they rise opposite the sunset and are present

all night. Arcturus is the quintessential herald of spring in our locale.

Next Saturday, April 16, a nearly full moon rises at 6:15 p.m. while the brilliant, flashing star rises at 6:14 p.m. and the ringed planet a minute earlier.

To challenge your vision, begin to look for them in the southeast as the sun sets in the west at 7:35 p.m. For a dazzling show at nightfall, check an hour later to enjoy the line-up.

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