

**SPECIAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!**

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## 50 YEARS OF ASTRONOMY'S BIGGEST STORIES

- WHERE WILL SPACE SCIENCE GO IN 50 YEARS?

- THE HISTORY OF *ASTRONOMY* MAGAZINE

- SPECIAL ESSAY BY ANN DRUYAN

- EVOLUTION OF THE HOBBY OF ASTRONOMY

- 50 YEARS OF GREAT ASTROIMAGING

# 50

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**BONUS  
ONLINE  
CONTENT  
CODE p. 3**



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HUBBLE

Everybody loves a party. And scientists couldn't wait to celebrate the Hubble Space Telescope's 33rd birthday with a magnificent portrait of NGC 1333. This stellar nursery lies about 960 light-years from Earth at the edge of the Perseus molecular cloud. A hotbed of star formation near the Hero's southern border, NGC 1333 hosts several hundred newly formed suns embedded within thick clouds of dust and cold molecular hydrogen. Just a few of these youngsters manage to shine through. Near the image's top, dust scatters light from a brilliant blue star. Thicker dust notably dims a second bright star near the photo's center. The ruddy glow near the image's bottom offers a view deeper into the nebula, where blazing hot stars ionize surrounding hydrogen atoms. During its 33 years in low Earth orbit, Hubble has viewed nearly 52,000 celestial objects. NASA/ESA/STSCI