

## Center for Inquiry's 12th World Congress

NCAS members are encouraged to attend the Center for Inquiry's 12th World Congress, "Science, Public Policy, and the Planetary Community," which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, April 9-12, 2009. Speakers will include James Randi, Joe Nickell, Paul Kurtz, Richard Wiseman, Elizabeth Loftus, and others. Visit CFI's website, <http://www.centerforinquiry.net/worldcongress/>, for more information.

### Special Opportunity for NCAS Members

# 2009 NCAS Philip J. Klass Award

Friday, April 10, 11:30 AM

CFI-World Congress Luncheon

Hyatt Regency Bethesda

Crystal Ballroom

Join with skeptics from around the world when NCAS honors the father of organized skepticism. NCAS will bestow its 2009 Philip J. Klass Award on Paul Kurtz, founder and chairman of the Committee for



Philip J. Klass

Paul Kurtz

Skeptical Inquiry and Prometheus Books, at the start of the CFI Friday luncheon (11:30 AM, April 10) at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, located at 7400 Wisconsin Avenue, directly above the Bethesda Metro station.

**Admission for NCAS members is free (or \$35 to include lunch).**

NCAS members ordering lunch should register at the CFI website above, or by calling 1-800-458-1366. All other NCAS members planning to attend should RSVP at [ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org), or by leaving your name and contact information at 301-587-3827.



**National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series**

20/20 SINCE 1987



# The Truth About **PSYCHIC** Detectives

## Benjamin Radford



Psychic detectives seem to be everywhere: on TV dramas and “reality” programs, in the news, on cable talk shows. TV hosts such as Larry King and Montel Williams regularly promote psychic detectives, and many of them claim to find missing persons and solve cases for police and the FBI.

It all sounds impressive, but how good is the scientific evidence for their claims? Drawing on a decade of personal investigations and case studies, Benjamin Radford will reveal a side to psychic detectives that you won’t see on *Medium* or *Larry King Live*.

Benjamin Radford is a writer, investigator, and managing editor of *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine. He is author of three books and hundreds of articles on various topics, including critical thinking, urban legends, psychics, mysterious creatures, and paranormal investigation. His columns

appear in *Skeptical Inquirer*, the newspaper *Weekly Alibi*, and on the Web at [www.Livescience.com](http://www.Livescience.com) and [www.CSICOP.org](http://www.CSICOP.org). Radford has appeared on The Discovery Channel, CNN, National Geographic Channel, The Learning Channel, and others. He is also a filmmaker and board game designer. His Web site is [www.RadfordBooks.com](http://www.RadfordBooks.com).

**SPECIAL NIGHT and TIME**  
**Tuesday, April 14, 2009**  
**7:30 pm**  
**Bethesda Library**  
**7400 Arlington Road**  
**Bethesda, MD**  
**(Near Bethesda metro)**

**FREE admission – Everyone welcome,  
members and non-members**

For more information, call the 24-hour NCAS  
Skeptic Line recording at 301-587-3827.  
[ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org)  
[www.ncas.org](http://www.ncas.org)



**National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series**  
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# Shadow of a Doubt


The Monthly Calendar of the National Capital Area Skeptics

April  
2009

## Lucky 13

NCAS members are invited to join us for dinner with our speaker, Ben Radford, before his April 14 talk. Meet at Bethesda's Rock Bottom Brewery (7900 Norfolk Avenue) at 5:00 p.m. Call 301-587-3827, or e-mail [ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org) to reserve your seat. First 13 are in. (Please contact us if you must cancel; we'll fill your seat from the waiting list.) For parking see <http://www.bethesda.org/parking/parking.htm>. 

## Antikudos

To [Space.com](http://Space.com) for its February 23 "Natural Explanation Found for UFOs" story, carried by MSNBC and others. The article asks, "Can UFO sightings be explained by sprites?" (Sprites are high-altitude lightning, often elliptical in shape, with tendrils extending below.) The actual answer is no: a sprite persists for only several thousandths of a second, making it an unlikely candidate for a UFO sighting. For some reason this important detail is not included in the article. 

## April's Drinking Sceptically Event!

On Wednesday, April 8, come to Jackie's Restaurant at 8081 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring at 7:00 p.m. to join fellow NCASers for the next DC-area *Drinking Sceptically* event. *Drinking Sceptically* is an informal social event designed to promote fellowship and networking among skeptics, critical-thinkers, and like-minded individuals.

Don't drink? Don't let that stop you from joining us! Some of the world's most famous skeptics are teetotalers, and we are happy to have you!




[ncas.org/ds-ncas.html](http://ncas.org/ds-ncas.html)


[www.jackiesrestaurant.com](http://www.jackiesrestaurant.com)

[www.drinkingsceptically.org](http://www.drinkingsceptically.org)

There's no cover charge, and if you order from their very reasonably-priced menu, you'll be delighted. (January's *Washingtonian* magazine rated Jackie's #78 of all DC-area restaurants.)

Remember that drinking skeptically means drinking responsibly. If there's one thing science has taught us, it's the effects of alcohol on the human body. 

## NCAS Board Elections Coming

Are you an NCAS member who wants to take a leadership role in the skeptics movement? The NCAS annual board of directors election is fast approaching. Send a bio sketch by email to [ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org) for the ballot by April 30. 

## A Cosmic Journey Through Space and Time

Smithsonian Resident Associates Program, in collaboration with the National Academy of Sciences, Thursday, April 16, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Renowned astrophysicists John Mather, Vera Rubin, Charles Bennett, and Adam Riess join moderator Marcia Bartusiak in a lively discussion about our knowledge of the universe, from the first moments of the Big Bang to the mysteries of dark energy.

**Cost:** \$13 senior member, \$15 members, \$25 general admission (NAS members may receive the member rate by calling 202-633-3030.) Tickets available at <http://residentassociates.org/ticketing/tickets/start.aspx> or call 202-633-3030

**Code:** 1J0-528, Photo ID Required

**Location:** National Academy of Sciences, 101 Constitution Avenue, NW (Enter on 2100 C Street, NW) 