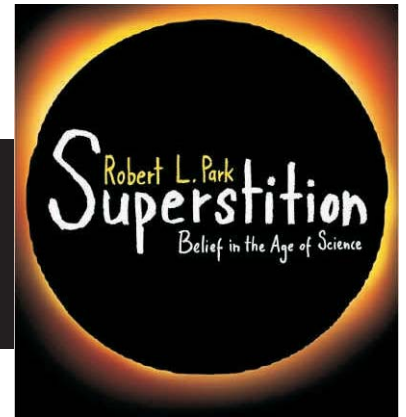


Prof. Robert Park

on his recent book

Superstition: Belief in the Age of Science



From uttering a prayer before boarding a plane, to exploring past lives through hypnosis, has superstition become pervasive in contemporary culture? Robert Park, the best-selling author of *Voodoo Science*, argues that it has. In *Superstition*, Park asks why people persist in superstitious convictions long after science has shown them to be ill-founded. He takes on supernatural beliefs from religion and the afterlife to New Age spiritualism and faith-based medical claims. He examines recent controversies and concludes that science is the only way we have of understanding the world.

Park sides with the forces of reason in a world of continuing and, he fears, increasing superstition. Chapter by chapter, he explains how people too easily mistake pseudoscience for science. He discusses parapsychology, homeopathy, and acupuncture; he questions the existence of souls, the foundations of intelligent design, and the power of prayer; he asks for evidence of reincarnation and astral projections; and he challenges the idea of heaven. Throughout, he demonstrates how people's blind faith, and their confidence in suspect phenomena and remedies, are manipulated for political ends. Park shows that science prevails when people stop fooling themselves.

Saturday, Sept 19, 2009
1:30 pm
Bethesda Library
7400 Arlington Road
Bethesda, MD
(Near Bethesda metro)

FREE admission – Everyone welcome, members and non-members

Parking at the library is free, but you must enter your parking space number into a kiosk in the lobby. Parking is validated for two hours. Patrons can extend parking for an additional two hours by re-punching their number at the kiosk.

For more information, call the 24-hour NCAS Skeptic Line recording at 301-587-3827.
ncas@ncas.org
www.ncas.org

Upcoming: Saturday, October 24, 2009

AAAS Auditorium
1200 New York Ave NW, Washington DC

Workshop, 1:00-5:30 PM

Science, Magic and Skepticism: A Natural Relationship

Jamy Ian Swiss, DJ Grothe and Chip Denman

Evening Show, 7:30PM

Jamy Ian Swiss in **Heavy Mental**

"If there were such a thing as psychic power, it would have to look like this!"

Co-sponsored by NCAS and Center for Inquiry DC

Workshop: \$35 (\$30 for CFI and NCAS members; \$15 for students)

HEAVY MENTAL Show: \$20 (\$15 for CFI and NCAS members; \$10 for students)

Workshop & Heavy Mental Show Package: \$50 (\$40 for CFI and NCAS members; \$20 for students)

More information and online registration: <http://tinyurl.com/NCAS-CFIDC>




National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series

20/20 SINCE 1987




NCAS Email List Changes

NCAS will soon be restructuring the *NCAS-Announce* email list, which currently is used to send out *Shadow of a Doubt*, etc. Dues-paying NCAS members will be added to a new *NCAS-Members* email list and will be removed from *NCAS-Announce*. Non-members will stay on *NCAS-Announce*. The *Shadow of a Doubt* will be sent to *NCAS-Members* and *NCAS-Announce*. There is nothing you need to do. Please watch for an informational email about this prior to the change. Meanwhile, you can update your email subscriptions online anytime as usual (see instructions at the bottom of each NCAS email), and contact ncas@ncas.org or call 301-587-3827 for any assistance. 

Torn From Today's Headlines

The death of singer Michael Jackson perpetuates longstanding questions about the existence of precognition, or at least its dependability. Jackson not only had the public attention typically afforded to celebrities by claimed psychics, he was close friends with one. And this was not just any run-of-the-mill psychic, but none other than Uri Geller. Yet, according to a Los Angeles County coroner's report, search warrant and affidavit, Jackson fell prey to acute intoxication by a powerful anesthetic (propofol), a substance he insisted on using regularly under a physician's care for insomnia. Thus his fate hinged on a matter of his personal choice, rather than on an illness or a random event over which he would have little control. According to *Anesthesiology News* (May 2007), propofol presents a very

narrow therapeutic window: only a few cc's more than what's required to put a person to sleep can trigger fatal respiratory arrest. Advice provided to him through accurate and timely precognition would've been invaluable for avoiding the risk of ongoing propofol use. Potential explanations (or excuses) abound for the absence of this advice or his disregarding of it, if it was available to him. But the apparent course of events and outcome also match what we would expect to see if precognition does not exist. 

2009 Election Results:

Elected

William Bridgman	J. D. Mack	Gary Stone
Chip Denman	Renee Madden	Marv Zelkowitz
Grace Denman	Eugene Ossa	

Executive Committee

President: Curtis Haymore
 Vice President: Garold (Gary) Stone
 Secretary: Walter Rowe
 Treasurer: Marvin Zelkowitz
 Spokesperson: Chip Denman

Other Board Members:

William Bridgman	Bing Garthright	Melissa Pollak
Nelson Davis, Jr.	J.D. Mack	Scott Snell
Grace Denman	Renee Madden	Jamy Ian Swiss
Herb Federhen	Eugene Ossa	