

Understanding Belief

How we know what isn't so

May 19 and 20 - Winchester, VA



Why do people believe and perceive what they do? How does science "know" what is or isn't? What perpetuates beliefs that have no basis in fact? What can and should you do?

Join NCAS in scenic Winchester, Virginia on May 19th and 20th as we explore these issues and more in our annual workshop. From 8:30 am on the 19th until noon on the 20th we'll examine how people arrive at their belief systems. An optional dinner and social event will be planned for Saturday evening.

Registration: \$65 per person and includes breaks on Saturday and Sunday, Saturday lunch, and workshop materials.

Hotel accommodations: Hampton Inn in Winchester (1204 Berryville Ave, Winchester VA 22601 tel. 540-678-4000 - Just off I81 exit 315) at \$72 per night (Continental breakfast included- mention workshop when reserving).

Recommended but not required reading: "*How We Know What Isn't So*" by Thomas Gilovich (Available via amazon.com. Use link at www.ncas.org and NCAS earns part of the price, at no additional cost to you).

Mail registration to NCAS 2001 Workshop Registration, PO Box 8428, Silver Spring, MD 20907. Call 301-587-3827 for details or email ncas@ncas.org.

Discussion of the following topics:

- How we Know What *Isn't* So: Mental banana peels we can all slip on
- How we Know What *Is* So: How science learns about the world around us
- Mind-Body Magic Demonstration & Discussion
- How we Know what *Is* and *Isn't* so from History
- Examining Pseudohistory: Goddesses and God-Kings
- Panel Discussion: Overcoming the Momentum of Own Beliefs
- Avoiding Pitfalls for Skeptics
- De-escalating the Skeptic/Believer Arms Race - Personal Strategies (small group discussions)
- Optional time for personal networking among attendees before leaving



NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

For more information, call the 24-hour NCAS Skeptics Line recording at (301) 587-3827, send email to ncas@ncas.org or visit www.ncas.org.

Members and nonmembers alike are welcome.



Shadow of a Doubt

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

MAY 2001

Happy Birthday CSICOP

On May 1, 2001 CSICOP turned 25. As part of this celebration, Prometheus Books is publishing *Skeptical Odysseys: Personal accounts by the world's leading paranormal inquirers*. It contains personal ventures into the world of skepticism by many of the leading skeptics today. It will be available August 1, 2001 for \$27 (ISBN: 1-57392-884-4).

Stay tuned for ...

- THE BORDERLANDS OF SCIENCE: WHERE SENSE MEETS NONSENSE: The Eighth Isaac Asimov Memorial Lecture sponsored by New York Area Skeptics, Saturday, May 12, 3:00pm Unitarian Community Church, 40 East 35th St. (between Park and Madison) Manhattan, New York. Contact: Ted Debiak, debiak@li.net or info@nyask.com or www.nyask.com
- INTELLIGENT DESIGN: THE NEW CREATIONISM: New England Skeptics Society, Sunday, May 13, 3:00pm, Yale University Contact: Jon Blumenfeld, jon@jblumenfeld.com or ctskeptic@compuserve.com
- The new "Skeptical Inquirer" series will debut on the Discovery Science Channel (<http://science.discovery.com/>) in mid-April. This series, produced in cooperation with Skeptical Inquirer, is hosted by William B. Davis of "X-Files" fame and consists of ten 3-minute "interstitial" programs on paranormal and pseudoscience topics. The first five scheduled to appear will cover acupuncture, astrology, hauntings, homeopathy, and magnet therapy. These programs will appear frequently throughout the daily schedule of the Science Channel.
- A four-hour made-for-television miniseries will air in the fall on CBS about James Van Praagh's favorite subject--himself.

TIME TO RENEW?

Check your mailing label. If the renewal date has passed, please send \$20 (for 1 person) or \$30 (for 2-member households) for a one-year renewal to the NCAS address at the bottom of this page, or you will be dropped as a member.



National Capital Area Skeptics
P.O. Box 8428
Silver Spring, Maryland 20907

NCAS Information:

Telephone: 301-587-3827

Email: ncas@ncas.org

Skeptical Eye submission: S_Eye@ncas.org

<http://www.ncas.org/>