

Program for March 18, 2007

Welcome and introduction

Jamy Ian Swiss

Keynote speaker

James Randi

20 years of NCAS, a very brief history

Chip Denman

Conversation and video retrospective

James Randi and Jamy Ian Swiss

Presentation of Philip J. Klass Award

Gary Stone

Gary Stone is the NCAS president. Jamy Ian Swiss and Chip Denman, both founding members of NCAS, are on the board of directors.

The **National Capital Area Skeptics** is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit, educational and scientific membership organization that promotes critical thinking and scientific understanding.

We are advocates for science and reason, actively promoting the scientific method, rational inquiry, and education.

National Capital Area Skeptics
PO Box 8428
Silver Spring, MD 20907
www.ncas.org

NCAS Philip J. Klass Award March 2007

For outstanding contributions in promoting critical thinking and scientific understanding.



National Capital Area Skeptics

20/20 SINCE 1987



About Philip J. Klass (1919-2005)

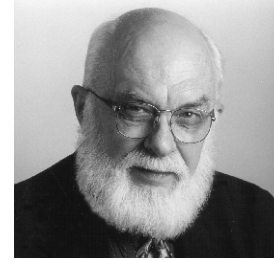
Philip J. Klass was one of the original conveners of NCAS in 1987 and was an important long-time mentor to our organization. In 1976 he, along with Carl Sagan, Isaac Asimov, James Randi, Ray Hyman, Martin Gardner, Paul Kurtz, Sidney Hook and others, was a founding member of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP), now called CSI, the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry. He was one of the world's foremost experts on UFOs.

Trained as an electrical engineer, Klass was senior avionics editor of *Aviation Week & Space Technology* for over thirty years. He received numerous awards for his work as a technical journalist, from such organizations as the Aviation/Space Writers Association and the Royal Aeronautical Society, and was named a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He wrote one of the first books about spy satellites, *Secret Sentries in Space* (1971).

Klass was known for explaining UFO sightings with pragmatic explanations. Although his detractors styled him a "debunker," in fact, debunking was the consequence, not the purpose, of his efforts. He sought to investigate "flying-saucer" reports and thus convert UFOs (unidentified flying objects) to IFOs (identified flying objects) such as celestial bodies, research balloons, advertising planes, and even secret aircraft. His books on UFOs include *UFOs Explained* (1974), *The Real Roswell Crashed-Saucer Coverup* (1997), and *UFO Abductions: A Dangerous Game* (1989).

In 1999, the International Astronomical Union named Minor Planet (asteroid) 7277 "Klass" in his honor.

NCAS created the Philip J. Klass Award in 2006. The first recipient was Michael Shermer.



NCAS Philip J. Klass Award Recipient

James Randi

James Randi has pursued "psychics", exposed the dirty tricks of faith healers, investigated homeopathic water "with a memory," and generally been a thorn in the sides of those who try to pull the wool over the public's eyes in the name of the supernatural.

He has received numerous awards and recognitions, including a Fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in 1986.

On October 19, 1993, the PBS-TV "NOVA" program broadcast a one-hour special dealing with Randi's life work, particularly with his investigations of Uri Geller and various occult and healing claims being made by scientists in Russia.

He is the author of numerous books, including *The Truth About Uri Geller*, *The Faith Healers*, *Flim-Flam!*, and *An Encyclopedia of Claims, Frauds, and Hoaxes of the Occult and Supernatural*. His lectures and television appearances have delighted — and vexed — audiences around the world.

In addition to cofounding CSICOP, he established the James Randi Education Foundation (JREF) in 1996. Its aim is to promote critical thinking by reaching out to the public and media with reliable information about paranormal and supernatural ideas so widespread in our society today. Randi's long-standing challenge to applicants who can show, under proper observing conditions, evidence of any paranormal, supernatural, or occult power or event now stands as a \$1,000,000 prize administered by the Foundation. It remains unclaimed.