

Michael Shermer, continued

God. Dr. Shermer's books also include *In Darwin's Shadow*, a biography of Alfred Russel Wallace, the co-discoverer of natural selection, *The Borderlands of Science*, which explores the fuzzy boundary between science and pseudoscience, and *Denying History*, which takes on Holocaust denial and other forms of historical distortion. Dr. Shermer is also the author of *Teach Your Child Science* and co-author of *Teach Your Child Math* and *Mathemagics*.

Dr. Shermer received his B.A. in psychology from Pepperdine University, his M.A. in experimental psychology from California State University, Fullerton, and his Ph.D. in the history of science from Claremont Graduate School. He worked as a college professor for 20 years (1979–1998), teaching psychology, evolution, and the history of science at Occidental College, California State University Los Angeles, and Glendale College. Since his creation of the Skeptics Society, *Skeptical* magazine, and the Skeptics Distinguished Lecture Series at Caltech, he has appeared on such shows as 20/20, Dateline, Charlie Rose, Tom Snyder, Donahue, Oprah, Sally, Leeza, Unsolved Mysteries, and more as a skeptic of weird and extraordinary claims. Dr. Shermer has also appeared in documentaries aired on A & E, Discovery, PBS, The History Channel, The Science Channel, and The Learning Channel.

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
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NCAS Philip J. Klass Award October 2006

For outstanding contributions in promoting critical thinking and scientific understanding.



National Capital Area Skeptics

20/20 SINCE 1987

About Philip J. Klass (1919-2005)



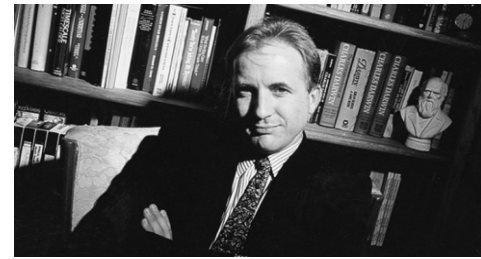
Philip J. Klass was one of the original conveners of NCAS in 1987 and was an important long-time mentor to our organization. In 1976 he, along with Carl Sagan, Isaac Asimov, James Randi, Ray Hyman, Martin Gardner, Paul Kurtz, Sidney Hook and others, was a founding member of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP). 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 Philip J. Klass Award Recipient Dr. Michael Shermer



Dr. Michael Shermer is the Founding Publisher of *Skeptical* magazine and the Executive Director of the Skeptics Society. He is an author, speaker, and producer, about whom Stephen Jay Gould said the following:

Michael Shermer, as head of one of America's leading skeptic organizations, and as a powerful activist and essayist in the service of this operational form of reason, is an important figure in American public life.

Dr. Shermer is a contributing editor and monthly columnist for *Scientific American*, and is the host of the Skeptics Distinguished Lecture Series at Caltech. He is also the co-host and producer of the Fox Family television series, *Exploring the Unknown*, and serves as the science correspondent for KPCC radio, an NPR affiliate for Southern California.

His most recent book is *Why Darwin Matters: The Case Against Intelligent Design*.

Dr. Shermer is the author of *Science Friction: Where the Known Meets the Unknown*, about how the mind works and how thinking goes wrong. His book *The Science of Good and Evil: Why People Cheat, Gossip, Care, Share, and Follow the Golden Rule*, is on the evolutionary origins of morality and how to be good without God. He also wrote *Why People Believe Weird Things*, a book that was widely and positively reviewed, and landed on the Los Angeles Times bestseller list as well as the *New Scientist* science books bestseller list. *How We Believe: Science, Skepticism, and the Search for God* presents his theory on the origins of religion and why people believe in