

# September Events

## Cosmos & Consciousness X

On The Cosmic Threshold:  
Extraordinary Experiences Guide The Way

Saturday, September 22, 2012

10 am—5 pm

at

The Rangeley Inn, Rangeley, Maine



Premium Weekend Package

September 21-23, 2012

[Click Here for Details](#)

### Speakers

#### **Rudy Schild, PhD**

Harvard-Smithsonian Astrophysicist  
Editor in Chief of the Journal of Cosmology

#### **Roberta Colasanti, MSW**

Behavioral Medicine Consultant; Chief of Behavioral Health for My Own Care  
Former Clinical Director, Center for Psychology and Social Change

**Trish Corbett**

Co-Founder, The Mindshift Institute

**Michael Mannion**

Author, Co-Founder, The Mindshift Institute

**Anthony Bernini**

Poet, Author of *Distant Kinships* and *Immediate Worlds*

**Saturday Admission: \$65**

*Income-Sensitive Admission Available - Call 917-817-4465 for details*  
*Student Admission Free*

**The Mindshift Institute**  
**Cosmos and Consciousness Series**

*Its center remains always the same:  
the enigma of love to which we owe our being.*  
--Wilhelm Reich

We have reached our tenth and final event in this series. For us, the conferences were truly motivated by Love—love of learning new knowledge; love of the work involved in creating the annual events; love for the speakers and all who joined us each year to co-create these special gatherings; and love for the natural beauty of Rangeley Lake.

Please take a moment to look at the listing below of the titles of each conference and the names of the wonderful women and men who shared their hearts and minds with us.

**Cosmos and Consciousness I (2003)**

*The Transformative Impact of New Knowledge*

Dr. John E. Mack, Dr. Edgar Mitchell, Dr. Rudy Schild

**Cosmos and Consciousness II (2004)**

*Life--The Ultimate Mystery*

James O'Dea, Dr. Brian O'Leary, Dr. Rudy Schild, Michael Mannion

**Cosmos and Consciousness III (2005)**

*The Cosmology of Love*

James O'Dea, Dr. Ken Hamilton, August T. Jaccaci, Michael Mannion

### **Cosmos and Consciousness IV (2006)**

*Our Interconnected Universe*

Dr. Paul Bernstein, Dr. Rudy Schild, Gillian Spencer, Stephane Allix, Natacha Calestreme, Michael Mannion

### **Cosmos and Consciousness V (2007)**

*Does Consciousness Create Reality?*

Dr. Amit Goswami, Dr. Edgar Mitchell, Dr. Rudy Schild, Dr. Jenny Wade

### **Cosmos and Consciousness VI (2008)**

*New Scientific Perspectives on Extraterrestrial Life In Our Living Universe*

Dr. Bruce Maccabee, Carol Rainey, Dr. Rudy Schild, Michael Mannion

### **Cosmos and Consciousness VII (2009)**

*The Knowledge of Tomorrow—Today*

Dr. Paul Bernstein, Dr. Ken Hamilton, August T. Jaccaci, James O’Dea, Dr. Rudy Schild, Michael Mannion

### **Cosmos and Consciousness VIII (2010)**

*Life Energy in Science, Medicine and Healing--The Foundation of a New Worldview*

Dr. Ron A. Bryan, Dr. Conny Huthsteiner, Dr. Beverly Rubik, Trish Corbett, Michael Mannion

### **Cosmos and Consciousness IX (2011)**

*The Continuity of Consciousness--Cosmic, Human, Animal and Plant*

Dr. Rudy Schild, Dr. Hillary Webb, Dr. Jonathan Balcombe, Trish Corbett, Michael Mannion

### **Cosmos and Consciousness X (2012)**

*At the Cosmic Threshold: Extraordinary Experiences Guide the Way*

Dr. Rudy Schild, Roberta Colasanti, MSW, Trish Corbett, Michael Mannion

## **On the Cosmic Threshold**

The great writer Thomas Mann observed in his novel, *The Magic Mountain*, that when our days are empty, they seem to drag on and on. But when we look back at our lives, we don’t know where the years went. However, when our days are full, they seem to pass in the blink of an eye. When we look back at our lives, the years seem to have gone by slowly and to be rich and full.

That’s how it feels to us when we look back at the Cosmos and Consciousness conferences—they

appear as a slowly unfolding pageant, moving toward a deeper understanding of ourselves and our place in the Universe. We have felt guided in this work by the primordial, physical cosmic force called Love.

In our first conference in 2003, the late Dr. John E. Mack spoke about the role of worldviews in determining “reality” at any given time, that is, what individuals and cultures believe is possible or impossible; real or not real.

There is truth in the expression “Seeing is believing.” But there is just as much truth in the expression “Believing is seeing.” Our worldviews determine what we see and what we do not see; what we believe and do not believe. At times, our worldviews help us make sense of existence. But, at other times, they lead us to believe in things that are not true, and also, to not believe in things that are true.

We can see and describe the same things subjectively. We can even measure these phenomena objectively and agree on the data. But our worldviews will lead us to different interpretations of what we experience and measure. For example, for thousands of years it was believed, incorrectly, that the visible planets moved in *perfect circles*. This error led to an unexplainable anomalous observation: at times some planets appeared to be moving backwards. “Mercury is in retrograde” is one example of how this would be described. All scientific observers saw this phenomenon and were puzzled by it.

In the early 1600s, Johannes Kepler discovered and proved that the planets *do not move in perfect circles*. Rather, their orbits are elliptical. Therefore, Mercury is never in retrograde. It only appears that way *if one assumes its orbit is a perfect circle*. Once it was known that its orbit is elliptical, the mystery was solved. And the scientific worldview changed.

The subjective observations of the planets did not change. The objective data did not change. But the worldview’s *underlying assumption* changed and the *interpretation* changed. As a result, the scientific picture of reality became more accurate.

Our present-day worldview—not only in the West but in many cultures around the planet—can be described as a **mechanistic-metaphysical worldview**, characterized by such oppositional dichotomies as “Matter vs. Spirit,” “Science vs. Religion,” or “Body vs. Soul.” It is through this “split” worldview that we interpret both our subjective experiences and objective data about these experiences. Today, new knowledge is emerging that fundamentally challenges the conscious and unconscious assumptions of this worldview and its major ways of knowing.

And each conference in our Cosmos and Consciousness series can also be characterized as a challenge to the conscious and unconscious assumptions of today’s dominant worldview. Each conference has been an exploration of both new knowledge and new ways of knowing—neither mechanistic nor metaphysical--that could help us to understand the elusive underlying unity in nature. What is that underlying unity? To us, it is the enigmatic cosmic force called Love.

Today, Humanity is on the cosmic threshold—ready or not. As Wilhelm Reich wrote nearly 60 years ago, “*We are in a process of deep and crucial change of our total existence, biological, physical, emotional and cosmic.*” There are no “experts” to whom we can turn for answers regarding questions about new knowledge at this turning point in our existence. *Therefore, we must each become an expert in new knowledge.*

We all have a lot of *unlearning* to do, a letting go of inadequate, sometimes beloved beliefs, along with *learning* new and sometimes difficult information. How can this be done? Is there nothing that can guide us along this challenging path? We think that extraordinary experiences offer valuable information and insights that have the potential to guide us forward.

## This Year's Presentations

**The morning session** will consist of three presentations:

### Our Quantum Universe of Universes

Rudy Schild, PhD



Dr. Schild, an astrophysicist and cosmologist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, is highly regarded professionally for his work on gravitational lensing, baryonic dark matter and the study of quasars and black holes. In recent years, he has observed structures in the universe that he and his team call MECOs (Magnetic Eternally Collapsing Objects). Dr. Schild is the author of over 200 articles published in peer-reviewed professional publications. In addition, he is the Editor in Chief of the highly successful—and fascinating—online publication,

*the Journal of Cosmology.*

According to Dr. Schild, recent developments in brain research strongly support a new view of the overall architecture of the universe. And, unsurprisingly, it accommodates what has been known all along by everybody except university scientists. Dr. Schild will report on an experiment that demonstrates how the mind can affect the quantum/classical properties of a laser interferometer. He will examine the implications of this experiment for our understanding of the nature of information in the universe.

At a recent Prague conference on the foundations of quantum mechanics, Dr. Schild first heard of the nature of quantum states that are now known to interact with the brain. He will discuss the nature of dark energy and how it is processed by the MECO/black-hole structures that he has previously described at Cosmos and Consciousness conferences and in professional papers. Dr. Schild will present a new overall view of the nature of consciousness in our quantum Universe of Universes. This is a talk you won't want to miss!

## Worldviews in Collision

Roberta Colasanti, MSW



Roberta L. Colasanti, LICSW is a psychotherapist with over twenty five years experience as a clinician and researcher. She is the CEO and founder of Colasanti & Associates, LLC (C&A), a company with two decades of experience assisting organizations with the performance and well-being of their workforce. She is currently the Chief of Behavioral Health for My Own Care.

Ms. Colasanti completed her post-graduate degree at Boston University School of Social Work's Advanced Standing Program. She completed her clinical internship at The Cambridge Hospital, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School. For eight years she was the Clinical Director for the Center for Psychology and Social Change, an affiliate of The Cambridge Hospital, Harvard Medical School. She has been a keynote speaker at many conferences and workshops.

For eight years, Ms. Colasanti worked with Harvard psychiatrist Dr. John E. Mack as Clinical Director of the Center for Psychology and Social Change. Through the Center's Program for Extraordinary Experience Research (PEER), they explored together the enigmatic phenomenon of human encounters with UFOs and extraterrestrial beings. Over 200 women and men participated in this effort, telling their stories in the hope of achieving a better understanding of what they had experienced and what it meant for them individually and for all of us as a society.

At PEER, Ms. Colasanti and Dr. Mack faced a fundamental challenge professionally. Their clinical experience told them that these reported experiences were true. But their worldviews told them such stories could not possibly be true. Join us for a first-hand account about what was learned in the course of the fascinating work at PEER--about the extraordinary experiences themselves; their impact on the women and men who had them; and the profound questions they present to our understanding of the nature of reality itself.

## **Conscious Contact with Life Energy: How This Can Influence All Aspects of Our Lives**

Michael Mannion



In this talk, Michael will share with us how knowledge of Life Energy can influence every aspect of one's daily life in profound and positive ways. Because of what he has learned, and continues to learn, about Life Energy, he has taken a different path in life. His education; approach to health and healing; personal relationships; and work life were all deeply influenced by his worldview, one based on the reality of a physical Life Energy as the underlying unity in Nature.

The phenomenon of Life Energy touches all aspects of our existence. It is expressed creatively when we love; when we perform life-positive work; when we explore new knowledge; when we create beauty. It is central to such areas as worldviews, education and child-rearing, philosophy, science, medicine, religion, government and social contracts—and more.

In this presentation, he will connect what he has learned about Life Energy with leading edge work being done today. There is new knowledge available now that can help us greatly in the crisis humanity faces on the cosmic threshold.

**The afternoon session** will begin with a presentation that will lead into a participatory workshop.

## **When Extraordinary Experiences Guide the Way: The Benefits of Exploring and Integrating These Key Life Events**

Trish Corbett and Michael Mannion



Trish and Michael will speak about an extraordinary experience that they had one autumn while vacationing in Rangeley. They will share with us details of the event and their initial reactions to it. And they will recount the benefits of being able to investigate this unusual event with Roberta Colasanti and John E. Mack as part of a "Multiple Witness Sighting Study" conducted by the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research (PEER) at Harvard's Center for Psychology and Social Change.

Over the years, they have not spoken about this extraordinary experience in public (except for two events put on by PEER and a French TV documentary about Dr. John E. Mack). But their Mindshift work has been deeply influenced by what they learned during the four years they co-explored this mystery with Dr. Mack and Ms. Colasanti. In a sense, the Cosmos and Consciousness series is a direct result of the integration of what they learned from their extraordinary experiences and diverse life experiences, in combination with many years of study in the areas of consciousness,

healing, Life Energy and worldviews.

Their talk will be followed by an interactive workshop for participants at their tables with an invitation to all to discuss their own extraordinary experiences (of whatever nature) if they wish to do so. There will also be a Panel discussion with the speakers and a Q& A session.

We hope you will join us for an exciting final conference in what has been a remarkable series.