

# COSMOS AND CONSCIOUSNESS IV: OUR INTERCONNECTED UNIVERSE

*"The latest discoveries are showing us that ours is a living universe,  
linked at every level, where Love is the force that connects us."*

September 16, 2006  
10 a.m.--5:30 p.m.

The Rangeley Inn  
2443 Main Street  
Rangeley, Maine

## Hosts

Trish Corbett and Michael Mannion  
Co-Founders of The Mindshift Institute

We are excited to be announcing our latest conference, **Cosmos and Consciousness IV: Our Interconnected Universe**. We are also happy to be back in Rangeley, Maine. It is easy to sense the cosmic in the beautiful mountains and lakes of Rangeley. Especially when our guides are leading explorers of new knowledge. We were inspired to create this conference by Wilhelm Reich. He recognized an interconnectedness in nature at every level, writing that in the natural world, "all seemed to be ONE."



The latest discoveries are showing us that every realm of the universe is connected, from the microscopic to the cosmic. In addition, there seems to be some kind of intelligence, knowing or reason present in every realm we investigate. And Love appears to be the force that connects us. The implications of this new knowledge are profound for all of us, as individuals and as a society.

Our work is devoted to fostering life-positive knowledge, that is, wisdom and insights that improve life on Earth. We focus on work that we think can help us wake up from what we call “The Trance,” a profound detachment from our inner and outer reality. Each of us is in a trance, to one degree or another. We cannot awaken from our trance alone, *but together, we can lovingly assist one another* in waking up and perceiving new truths that expand our view of reality. Such life-positive new knowledge can have a transformative impact on us—if we are open to it, let it into our hearts and consciousness, and then see what emerges that has meaning for us.

## Join Our Mindshift Explorers For a Day of Dialogue

This year, the day will unfold in a way that is very different from our previous conferences. Rather than having speakers address the audience about interconnectedness, we believe that this new format will help *create a day that is in itself interconnecting*.

Our “Mindshift Explorers” have been invited because of their experience and expertise but they will speak with us and interact with us as part of the group, not separated from it. During our dialogue with one another, we will all be part of the audience and we will all, at times, have the opportunity of contributing, if so desired. It is truly a co-creative day that will be influenced in important ways by those who attend.

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



Dr. Schild, an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, has recently published a paper in the prestigious *Astronomical Journal*, a leading peer-reviewed publication in his field. His findings challenge the accepted view of black holes. If confirmed, his theory would lead to a revolutionary new picture of the physical universe. Some experts believe that Dr. Schild’s paper may come to be seen as a turning point in his area of astrophysics.

He will explain his exciting discovery to us, but even more, he will share with us his inspiring speculations on the significance of this discovery regarding the existence of interconnectedness, some kind of intelligence, and even love, in the cosmos.

Unlike the majority of his colleagues, Dr. Schild has investigated a number of anomalous phenomena (e.g., UFOs and ET encounters, life-after-death). Such phenomena suggest to him that the astrophysicist's concept of the universe has serious shortcomings. As a practicing scientist, he has studied anomalies looking for clues to guide him to a correct theory.

At the same time, he has recognized that advances in cosmology indicate that dark energy may dominate the content of the universe. Dr. Schild's new theory of the nature of the magnetic and quantum electrodynamic properties of black holes can help us understand that an "intelligence" or "guiding principle" may be present in the cosmos and may enter and influence events in our universe.

According to Dr. Schild, "Quantum non-locality can bring the subtle energies concealed within the black hole network to realization within all life forms throughout the cosmos. Apparently, we live in a universe seemingly driven by simple physical forces, yet guided by an Intelligence or Source, the nature of which remains unknown to science—but which has been experienced by many people."

### **Paul Bernstein, PhD Researcher**



Dr. Bernstein has a natural science degree from the University of Michigan and a social science degree from Stanford University. He has taught at the University of California at Irvine and Boston College. He has been published in academic books (e.g., *Endophysics*, *Time*, *Quantum and the Subjective*) and periodicals (*The Journal of Economic Issues*; *Administrative Science Quarterly*). His work has also appeared in the popular media (e.g., *The Boston Globe*, *National Public Radio*, *The Progressive*, *Christianity Crisis*).

Dr. Bernstein served on the Board of Directors and the editorial staff of the International Association for Near-Death Studies from 1999 through 2004. His outlook on fundamental questions has also been influenced by a training in Mediumship, and by learning experiences gained in a wide range of situations, among them Dr. John Mack's Program on Extraordinary Experience Research (PEER), the Findhorn Community, the Dolphin Cognition Laboratory, Tibetan Buddhism (Kalachakra), Christian Science, and Quakerism.

Dr. Bernstein's contributions to our dialogue will be based on his study of near-death experiences, his exploration of the quantum and holographic underpinnings of intuition, his work in the area of inter-species communication, and his examination of the overlap of psychology with spirituality.

During the day, he will share with us what he learned from his years of work with women and men who have had near-death experiences (NDEs) with a focus on the phenomenon of Love. A wide range of people described to him in detail the Love they sensed during their NDE.

They spoke of a deepening encounter with a light that is a peaceful, enveloping force. The light is felt to be somehow knowing and alive. Ultimately, the light is experienced as unconditional love—and, for many, as “Home” or “Source.” The implications of these experiences for our understanding of interconnectedness in the universe, and of Love in the cosmic sense, are many and powerful. The reports of those who have had near-death experiences can certainly help to expand our view of reality. They contain important “lessons from the light,” to use Dr. Kenneth Ring's phrase, from which we can all benefit.

### **Stephane Allix and Natacha Calestreme** **Writers and Documentary Filmmakers**



Stephane Allix and Natacha Calestreme are both successful documentary filmmakers and writers. They live and work in Paris, France with their two children, Charles and Luna. Stephane is a highly respected, award-winning photojournalist, formerly a war correspondent and investigative reporter, who covered conflicts in Afghanistan, Kashmir, Somalia and other war-torn areas.

Since 2003, he has been exploring a “new frontier” for him: using new discoveries in science to help him understand unexplained phenomena.

His most recent film, *Experiencers*, focused on the life and work of the late Dr. John E. Mack. We are proud of the fact that Stephane met John Mack at our first **Cosmos and Consciousness** conference held in Rangeley in 2003. Stephane is now working on a four-part series about anomalous phenomena for French TV. This September, his new book on the subject of extraterrestrial life will be published in France. It is called *Extraterrestres: l'Enquete* or *Extraterrestrials: The Investigation*. He is already at work on a new book about the nature of consciousness, its relationship to the physical universe and its fate after the death of the body.

Natacha Calestreme began her career as a journalist. She is now a successful documentary

filmmaker and the creator of the series, *Heroes of Nature*. Since 2000, Natacha has been filming women and men at work worldwide protecting endangered species and their habitats from the destructive impact of human activities. Her last two films were about Laurie Marker and Merlin Tuttle, both Americans, who are struggling to protect cheetahs and bats, respectively. She is also the author of a recent book, *Les Heros de la Nature*, about those who save wildlife.

Love and interconnectedness are evident throughout the work of these two talented people. In Natacha's films and writings, we see men and women motivated by love for other living beings, for the environment and for the planet itself, devoting themselves to life-positive efforts to preserve and protect Life on Earth. And Natacha herself is motivated by love to bring the crucial efforts of these heroes of nature to a wide audience so that their work may garner support and inspire others. There is an interesting interconnection evident in the work of Natacha and Stephane: she portrays human beings helping other life forms and Stephane's recent film examines the possibility that part of the extraterrestrial phenomenon involves an attempt by other intelligences to help humanity, in some way, at this turning point in our history and in our understanding of the planet as an intelligent ecosystem.

In both filmmakers' work, the nature of specie-to-specie interaction suggests that love and a sense of interconnectedness are both involved. Natacha and Stephane will use brief film clips to help us understand what they have learned in their exciting work.

### **Gillian Spencer**

#### **Writer, Actress, Medical Intuitive**



Ms. Spencer lives in New York City and is an award-winning writer and actress working in television, theater and film. More than 20 years ago, she began a personal search which brought her to work with Dr. Helen Bonny and training in music and altered states of consciousness at the Institute for Consciousness and Music. Gillian's early explorations with Dr. Bonny opened her to an experience of love through which she was healed physically. Eventually this experience led Gillian to work as a medical intuitive, in collaboration with physicians and other healing practitioners, offering health/life readings for people.

These personal readings were always reminders that each of us is known and remembered in the universe; that we are cared about in a deep and unconditional way. Over time, personal readings began to include stories about the physical place in which a person lived—the house, the town, or even the country itself and changes happening deep in the earth. Readings often expanded into stories about our universe, the stars and the part Earth

and her inhabitants play in a process of on-going change and reconnection.

Currently, Gillian is co-director, with Marilyn Clark, of Landsong Associates, a nonprofit organization offering seminars and retreats which use music, myth and discoveries in current science to explore our intimate connection to life on every level. Marilyn is a pastoral counselor with expertise in working with non-ordinary states of consciousness who also acts as facilitator and ground for the readings process.

On this day of dialogue, Gillian will share with us some of her own story and her view of interconnectedness as it manifests from the single cell, to the body, to Earth and out into the Cosmos. Hers is a message of love and intimate connection repeated in many ways, which says that the “family of Earth” is reconnecting with families in the everywhere—a link that makes all of Nature and the Cosmos wonderfully personal, not separate, but an intrinsic part of who and what we are. In a fascinating, experiential session, Gillian will invite us to experience contemplative music as a pathway to bring us deeper into ourselves and into greater contact with each other, the earth and the universe.

We hope you will join us for **Cosmos and Consciousness IV: Our Interconnected Universe** on **September 16, 2006**.