

On **Wednesday, February 25, 2004, at 7 p.m. at the Pratt Mansions** at 1026 Fifth Avenue at 84th Street, The Mindshift Institute is presenting an exciting evening event in honor of the 101st birthday of Dr. Alexander Imich, who was born on February 4, 1903.

We are proud to feature **Harvard-Smithsonian astrophysicist Rudy Schild**. Dr. Schild is now developing a new picture of the physical universe that will demonstrate that the cosmos is not what we thought it to be only 10, 5 or even 2 years ago. Fresh from speaking at an international cosmology conference at UCLA on dark matter, he will share with us the latest developments in his exciting investigation of **dark matter and dark energy**.

According to Dr. Schild, recent scientific findings suggest that planets are much more common than previously thought. Astrophysicists now believe that **almost every star we see in the sky has planets orbiting them**, and, further, that **almost every star has at least one planet that can support life**. Since the conditions necessary for life to arise appear to be present on hundreds of billions of planets, the existence of intelligent life on other worlds now seems a certainty.

Dr. Schild also will explain how his view of the cosmos has been transformed in recent years, not only by new findings in astrophysics, but also, by the inability of his discipline to explain what are called "**anomalous phenomena**," persistent reports that seem to contradict current physical theory. The tools of his discipline all look outward to the external, "objective" world. Dr. Schild now finds he must look inward as well, to subjective reports, if he is to understand the universe he is investigating.

He will describe the novel approach to anomalies he uses to help him comprehend the new knowledge about the makeup of the universe. The methodology he employs is foreign to the standard scientific approach. Dr. Schild has consulted a new breed of "experts," the people who report experiencing anomalous phenomena. Their reports seem to contain facts that Dr. Schild can confirm scientifically. He feels these men and women offer new knowledge that will astound and, perhaps, even guide us.

One anomaly, the reports of UFO sightings and encounters with extraterrestrial life, is gradually moving from the realm of science fiction to hard science. With an attitude of open-minded skepticism and suspension of disbelief, Dr. Schild has investigated the claims of some people who report encounters with extraterrestrial entities. To his great surprise, their reports contained facts that can be confirmed scientifically. While science in general dismisses such stories as impossible, they do seem to be worthy of investigation to a small but increasing number of serious scientists.