

In the Counsel of the Wicked

the dark side of false memory recovery therapy

Carol Diamant

Author Carol Diamant discusses her forthcoming book, *In the Counsel of the Wicked*, a true personal story about the dark side of false memory recovery therapy.

In 1989 I was unhappily married to a wildly successful contractor. I had everything money could buy but could no longer tolerate my husband's other love affair -- drinking. Desperate to keep our family intact, I trusted the two women therapists with whom we began treatment because they were licensed, credentialed, and appeared to be well regarded in the community. Unwittingly, we fell into a web of deceit -- a psychotherapy cult.

During the first year, therapy was carefully calculated to bring positive results. At the beginning of the second year they introduced us to The Network, their corps of loyal followers. I cut off contact with my parents, three sisters and many old friends, all of whom had been deemed toxic and not to be trusted. By the third year our two children began treatment. During the fourth year, believing I was healed enough to resume a normal life, I expressed a desire to terminate my therapy. Not only did the therapists respond that I was far from finished, they began a campaign to undermine my mental health.

I was expelled from the Network for lack of commitment and simultaneously ordered to leave my home, my husband and my children. Shattered and suicidal, I committed myself to a psychiatric hospital 2000 miles from home. For the next two years I inched my way back to sanity with the help of legitimate mental health practitioners. Beginning in 1996 I battled in court to liberate my children. The cult therapists had stolen them from me -- now a bitter female judge conspired to keep them away. Ignoring Supreme Court law, she ultimately suspended my visitation with them without any reason and railroaded the case to dead end.

Disheartened but not defeated, I hope that someday my children will seek to unlock the mystery of how our family was torn apart. Perhaps this book will provide the key. Anyone, anywhere can be the victim of gross manipulation if they are in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Saturday, September 16, 2pm - 3:30 pm

Bethesda Public Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda, Maryland



National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series

FREE admission - Everyone welcome - members and non-members

For more information call the 24-hour NCAS skeptic Line recording at (301) 587-3827

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Shadow of a Doubt

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

SEPTEMBER 2000

DENYING HISTORY

Michael Shermer, head of the Skeptics Society, will be speaking at the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in D.C. on Sunday, September 10, 2000 at 3 pm about his new book *Denying History*, which looks at the question of why individuals insist that the holocaust never happened. (It will be taped by C-SPAN for later broadcast.) As of now we don't have any further information on general public access to this talk.

After the presentation, Shermer will join fellow NCAS members for an informal dinner. Call the NCAS skeptics line if you are interested in attending.

SKEPTICAL LICENSES

An NCAS member will soon be moving to Florida and will be freeing up Virginia license plate titled "SKEPTIC." If any local members should want to pick this up (they'd just have to pay the swap fees) please have them e-mail to dandy@mail.nova.org. This is an open offer through (roughly) sometime in October. First one who wants it and is willing to log time at a DMV will get it.

UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

By Jeff Bagato, Washington Post WEEKEND supplement, Sep 1, 2000, Page N31: From the curious to the cultured, the offbeat to the obscure, Washington's blessed with magical journeys and visions. Here are 25 such spots. The following items in that article may be of particular interest to local skeptics:

1. Alexandria Ghost and Graveyard Tour
8. Exorcist Stairs, M Street and Key Bridge.
18. National Cryptologic Museum, National Security Agency, Colony 7 Rd., Fort George Meade
20. National Museum of Health and Medicine, Walter Reed Army Medical Center
22. A Psychic's Tour of Washington

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A55855-2000Aug31.html>

INHERIT THE WIND

"Inherit the wind," a play from the 1950s that documents (mostly correctly) the 1925 Scopes trial on the teaching of evolution, will be at Fords Theater from September 26 through November 6. If there is enough interest, perhaps NCAS can organize a members' outing to the play. Call the NCAS Skeptics line if interested in attending.

TIME TO RENEW?

Check your mailing label. If the renewal date has passed, please send \$20 (for 1 person) or \$30 (for 2-member households) for a one-year renewal to the NCAS address at the top of this page, or you will be dropped as a member.



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