

*The Institute for Science and Judaism*  
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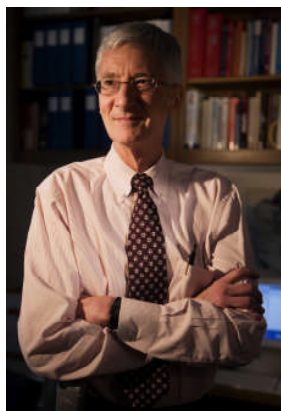
*The Mystical Experience:  
Insights from Psilocybin Research*

**Tuesday, February 21, 2012**

**7:30 pm**

**Oseh Shalom**

**7515 Olive Branch Way  
Laurel, MD 20707**



**Roland Griffiths, Ph.D.**

*Professor, Depts. of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*

Mystical experiences are common to most religious traditions – experiences characterized by a sense of the interconnectedness of all people and things, often accompanied by a sense of sacredness, feelings of joy and peace, and a sense of encountering ultimate reality. While there are numerous accounts of mystical and spiritual experiences throughout the ages, only recently have they been the subject of rigorous experimental studies. Dr. Roland Griffiths has published widely on the effects of mood-altering drugs including the mystical-like experiences occasioned by psilocybin. He has shown that positive changes in behavior, attitudes, and personality can be sustained long-term after the psilocybin

experience. Dr. Griffiths is currently investigating several therapeutic usages of psilocybin. These include treating anxiety and depression in patients struggling with cancer; helping people to stop smoking; and studying the effects of psilocybin in sustaining the positive effects of meditation and other spiritual practices.

Dr. Griffiths has been a consultant to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and to numerous pharmaceutical companies in the development of new psychotropic drugs. He is also currently a member of the *Expert Advisory Panel on Drug Dependence* for The World Health Organization (WHO).

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**The Institute for Science and Judaism.** ISJ is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to examining the interface between science and Judaism, exploring how science can expand our spiritual horizons, and understanding science's implications for theology and religious education. **Rabbi George B. Driesen, President**

**For Additional Information:**

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