

James Randi

[www.nytimes.com/.../the-unbelievable-skepticism-of the amazing Randi](http://www.nytimes.com/.../the-unbelievable-skepticism-of-the-amazing-Randi)

Randi began performing as a teenager in the 1940s. Billed as The Great Randall, many believed his stunts of telepathy and predicting the future were due to paranormal powers, no matter how many times he assured his audiences that such stunts were a result of subterfuge and legerdemain. Once he understood the power he had over his audience, and how easily he could exploit their belief in the supernatural to make money, it frightened him. As a result of his confrontations with the showman Uri Geller, he joined forces with psychologist Ray Hyman and Scientific American columnist Martin Gardner to form the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. CSICOP, as it became known, was funded by donations and by sales of a new magazine, which became The Skeptical Inquirer.

In Telepath, he had a mind-reading act, and also specialized in telling the future. In 1949 he made local headlines for a trick in which he appeared to predict the outcome of the World Series a week before it happened, writing the result down, sealing it an envelope and giving it to a lawyer who opened and read it to the press after the series concluded. But no matter how many times he assured his audiences that such stunts were a result of subterfuge and legerdemain, he found there were always believers. They came up to him in the street and asked him for stock tips; when he insisted that he was just a magician, they nodded — but winked and whispered that they knew he was truly psychic. Once he understood the power he had over his audience, and how easily he could exploit their belief in the supernatural to make money, it frightened him: “To have deceived people like that . . . that’s a terrible

4.2 James Randi educational foundation

The usual suspects: Harriet Hall: dinosaur science

Quack Reviews

Quackfiles by Harriet Hall, MD, quack review of *Energy Medicine The Scientific Basis*
<http://quackfiles.blogspot.com/2006/01/review-of-energy-medicine-scientific.html>
(Don’t expect any in depth analysis here)

Harriet Hall

<http://www.sciencebasedmedicine.org/the-living-matrix-a-movie-promoting-energy-medicine-beliefs/>

Paul Ingraham

The website subtitle:

“Exploring issues and controversies in science and medicine”

This sub title is misleading.

Far from exploring issues in an even handed manner, this website has an agenda,

as it dismisses anything outside the realm of traditional allopathic medicine, often ignoring, or just plain ignorant of science based data and studies.

Since 2003, the JREF has annually hosted The Amaz!ng Meeting, a gathering of scientists, skeptics, and atheists. Perennial reductionist speakers include Richard Dawkins, Penn & Teller, Phil Plait, Michael Shermer and Adam Savage.

The foundation produced two audio podcasts, *For Good Reason* which was an interview program hosted by [D.J. Grothe](#), promoting critical thinking and skepticism about the central beliefs of society. It has not been active since December, 2011.^[17] *Consequence* was a biweekly podcast hosted by former outreach coordinator Brian Thompson in which regular people shared their personal narratives about the negative impact a belief in pseudoscience, superstition, and the paranormal had had on their lives. It has not been active since May, 2013

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Randi_Educational_Foundation

no critique of the JREF

The James Randi Educational Foundation's Million Dollar Challenge has been terminated.

<http://web.randi.org/the-million-dollar-challenge.html>

“Effective 9/1/2015 the JREF has made made major changes including converting to a grant making foundation and no longer accepting applications for the Million Dollar Prize from the general public. “

<http://web.randi.org>

Starting in 2016, we will be making grants to non-profit groups that we believe are promoting activities that encourage critical thinking and a fact-based world view. We expect to make a small number of grants each year totaling approximately \$100,000 per year. We will **NOT** accept suggestions, applications or proposals for these grants.

<http://web.randi.org/home/jref-status>