



### Directions / Parking

**Kresge Auditorium (W16)** is located behind the MIT Chapel, and across the street from MIT's main entrance, at 77 Massachusetts Ave.

**Parking** is available along Massachusetts Avenue, Memorial Drive, and in the lot to the rear of Kresge, which is accessible from Amherst St., off of Mass Ave.

Additional parking is located along Vassar St.

Memorial Celebration  
and  
Reception

In honor of

**Philip Morrison**

Institute Professor & Professor of Physics, Emeritus

Saturday, September 10, 2005

Saturday, September 10, 2005

Memorial Celebration  
11:00am  
Kresge Auditorium

Reception  
12:30pm  
Kresge Lobby

The Department of Physics  
of  
The Massachusetts Institute of Technology

cordially invites you to commemorate  
the life and contributions of

**Philip Morrison**

at a  
Memorial Celebration and Reception

Saturday, September 10, 2005  
11:00am - 2:00pm

Kresge Auditorium (W16)  
48 Massachusetts Avenue (rear)  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Please see reverse for directions & parking locations

GH Philip Morrison

## **Philip Morrison: An Appreciation**

By George E. Hein and Michael Spock

*Philip Morrison, 89, distinguished American astrophysicist and educator, died at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on April 22. Two friends from our field offer this tribute to the MIT Institute professor emeritus, a longtime supporter of science centers.*

Beyond his more public roles at MIT and the Manhattan Project, Philip Morrison will be missed as a passionate advocate for the public understanding of science. With his late wife and collaborator, Phylis Singer Morrison, Phil helped lift the veil of how science is actually done and found ways to give everyone—whether comfortable with science or not—a taste of learning real science by doing real science.

Together, the Morrisons made significant contributions to post-World War II development of materials-based, inquiry-oriented science curricula and to the establishment of modern science centers and interactive exhibitry. They helped to renew and maintain the theory and practice of progressive education, and, through their insightful *Scientific American* book reviews, encouraged the rise of popular science literature for children and adults.

A close friend of Frank Oppenheimer, founder of the Exploratorium, Phil was one of that museum's most devoted supporters from the start. During frequent residencies in San Francisco, he and Phylis worked with other scientists, artists, and staff to conceive, develop, and evaluate several memorable exhibits. Phylis also worked on exhibits at the Children's Museum, Boston.

Philip Morrison was one of a number of scientist/educators who made common cause with John Dewey's idea that learning was doing. He believed that science must be seen from earliest childhood as a process to be practiced, not a product to be memorized. In that spirit, he served as chair of the Steering Committee of the Elementary Science Study (ESS), a curriculum development project of the Education Development Center in Newton, Massachusetts. His essay, "The Curriculum Triangle and its Style," published in *The ESS Reader* (EDC, 1970), still provides an elegant and relevant argument for materials-based, problem-solving elementary school science.

Thanks to the insight and clarity of Philip Morrison, curriculum projects like ESS and the first science centers and children's museums worked in parallel to help develop the approach to informal, problem-based learning that is the foundation of today's informal science education. He will be missed by all of us in the field.

*George E. Hein, a former ESS staff member and museologist, is professor emeritus at Lesley University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Michael Spock, former director of the Boston Children's Museum and head of public programs at the Field Museum, is a research fellow at the University of Chicago and scholar in residence at the Chicago Historical Society.*