

PIQUE

Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

December 15, 2020

First, we celebrate a small but significant victory, almost as satisfying as the presidential election, which it seems Europe is glad about, too. More somberly, we are warned about false equivalencies, about trying to “get along” with Republicans, and about Republicans themselves. We discover another obesity problem: our stuff, and we go retro on our national motto. We offer a Christmas poem, consider the weirdness of a Christmas song, and mourn Christmases past. And, once more, we ask you to please pay your 2021 dues ... and make your tax-exempt contribution ... now. — JR

FINALLY: AN ANTI-BLASPHEMY RESOLUTION FROM OUR (usually gutless) CONGRESS

(Excerpted from various press releases)

The U.S. House on December 7 overwhelmingly passed a groundbreaking resolution calling for blasphemy and related laws to be revoked worldwide. House Resolution 512, which passed 385-3, specifically notes that “secularists” are frequent victims of such laws.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., co-chair of the Congressional Freethought Caucus*, spoke on the floor of the House in support of “the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy and apostasy laws” that often target freethinkers across the planet. “We act today to stand up for religious and intellectual freedom, in a world gone mad with religious discrimination, religious oppression and religious violence.”

Blasphemy laws are still astonishingly common. More than 70 countries maintain these archaic rules, punishable by life imprisonment and death, as well as often violent extrajudicial retribution from other citizens.

AHA Executive Director Roy Speckhardt quoted Raskin when he said, “No one on earth should spend a single day in prison for his or her religious beliefs, but hundreds of innocent people have been sentenced to months or years behind bars for these imaginary religious offenses. Our Resolution is a small but important step in prioritizing religious freedom and liberty of conscience worldwide and I thank AHA for uplifting it.”

H. Res. 512’s passage is an important milestone for unfettered religious expression around the world.

**Comment: The non-partisan Congressional Freethought Caucus has now grown to 14 members – not a single one from New York, New Jersey, or Connecticut. What can we do about that?*

Comment #2: Will Mitch McConnell’s Senate pass a similar resolution? I doubt it. — JR

GASLIGHTING FALSE EQUIVALENCIES

Jonathan Engel

Gaslighting” is a particularly pernicious type of lying, because it plays with people’s sense of reality. The Trump regime started gaslighting people on Day One when then Press Secretary Sean Spicer told us that more people attended Trump’s inauguration than Obama’s in 2008. When photos of both events showed a clearly larger crowd for Obama the gaslighting began, with Spicer insisting that he was right no matter what we saw with our own eyes, and Kellyanne Conway introducing us to the concept of “alternative facts”.

Recently it was Moscow Mitch McConnell’s turn at gaslighting the public. When queried about Democratic complaints concerning Trump’s refusal to concede an election he clearly lost, McConnell snidely retorted that Democrats have spent the past four years refusing to accept the validity of the 2016 election. Have no doubt about it, this was a gaslighting false equivalency. Democrats were always appalled that the country had elected a unqualified bigoted narcissist to the presidency, and terrified (with good reason, apparently) about how such a person would handle a real crisis. (Hint: it hasn’t gone well). But as much as they hated the result, they accepted it.

What are the facts that support this conclusion? On the day after Election Day 2016 Hillary Clinton graciously conceded the election. Within days of that President Obama (you know, the guy Trump said wasn’t a real American) invited the President-elect to the White House and Vice President Biden invited Pence to the Vice President’s residence. Former Democratic presidents Carter, Clinton and Obama all attended the inauguration, as did Secretary Clinton. (As well as George W. Bush, who famously turned to Michelle Obama after Trump’s address and commented

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“That was some weird shit”).

Let’s also take a look at what *didn’t* happen after the 2016 election. The Clinton campaign did not hire the law firm of Keystone, Keystone & Kops to try to overturn the election results by filing frivolous lawsuits. Secretary Clinton did not personally contact local Democratic election officials to try to strongarm them into overturning their state’s popular will. There were no headlines in *The New York Times* like this recent one: “State Election Staffs Bombarded by Threats”.

Republicans are anti-democratic power grabbers who think they have a divine right to rule. Democrats are not. This conclusion is supported by reality. No matter how many “fair and balanced” commentators decry political tribalism and blame gridlock engendered by “both sides” for Washington disfunction, the truth is that there is no equivalency here. Today’s Republicans are sneering at democracy (not to mention decency) in ways that Democrats never have. That’s the truth, based on clearly visible facts. Don’t be gaslighted.

AMERICA’S MODERN CIVIL WAR ISN’T OVER

David Rafferty

(Reprinted from Greenwich (CT) Time, 12/6/2020)

Let me pose a post-election question for all the pundits, commentators and politicians who want America to move on, forgive, and all just get along: What makes you think this is over?

Given the opportunity to reject what author and political commentator Richard North Patterson referred to as, “a presidency which was ignorant, cruel, reckless, lawless, divisive and disloyal”, 74 million of our fellow citizens decided they wanted four more years of the same.

Acknowledging that “Mendacity and bigotry became the mode of communication between America’s president and his party’s base,” Patterson observes that the GOP brand is solidly “white grievance and anxiety”, and that “racial antagonism” has become a “badge of pride” for Trump, his devotees, and the party that enables both.

Add to that the willingness of millions of these devotees to watch America fail rather than concede one iota of their deeply held conviction that only they have the right to rule. A willingness to believe in insane conspiracies over objective reality. A willingness to create a banana Republicanism which gives legitimacy to their rampage of white supremacy and intolerance, science and fact denying, reverence for ignorance and idolatry of evil. Even with all that, many Americans still cling to the fiction that today’s GOP remains the virtuous “party of Lincoln”, and that with just a teeny little whitewashing of recent history, we can “get back to the way things were”.

Well we shouldn’t, and I’ll tell you why.

Because the Republican faux-conservative ideological belief system, founded on bitterness, antagonism and a steady regurgitation of cons and shell games nurtured by hate radio and television, has congealed into an impervious shield of interlocking lies and half-truths designed to con-

vince true believers that they are the only “real Americans”. And that anyone whose politics, economics, religion, or cultural norms don’t fit into their narrow-minded view of America is somehow less real.

Now post-election, the 80 million citizens who voted against the Republican message of American carnage are being asked again to “reach out” and “understand” those 74 million Trump voters. But why should they? It’s been tried repeatedly, and not only don’t Republicans want to meet anyone in the middle, they reject the idea that anyone else should be allowed on the playing field.

So how about this time the 74 million mostly Republican snowflakes, many of whom live in their own fantasy world and actively reject democracy, how about they start reaching out instead? How about they start learning why 80 million Americans rejected their small-minded, petty, insecure, and crappy ideology for a better vision of a more perfect Union.

It’s now on Republicans to change, because this mess we’re in is on them. In 2016, the GOP came to the crossroads and made a deal. They knew their majority based on race and religion was fading, but instead of planning for the future, they traded their collective souls for a brute who promised a fairy-tale past. Give me the guy who will put that Black president in his place, they said. Give me the human troll who infuriates all those people I despise. Give me the personification of my resentment-filled id, who will carry out my darkest desires.

Hold on, says the country club Republican. I’ll admit I was really only in it for the tax cuts, and Hillary’s emails gave me cover, but you can’t lump me in with the embittered Trumpenvolk. No? Remember, the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing, and that’s what you did. Nothing. Even now you’re silent as your party continues to push unsubstantiated election fraud, approves unqualified judges, blocks vaccine planning, and ignores potential economic catastrophes, all of which could burn down the country, all for political gain.

After the 2016 election America did “reach out”, and Trump and his party gave us Charlottesville and children in cages. They cried “economic insecurity” but instead of helping the middle class they enriched the already rich. They claimed moral superiority but championed crooks and liars. Now we *do* understand the 74 million. And it’s time for them to understand there can be no “getting along” when they embrace delusion and authoritarianism, and undermine democracy.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, 2020, IN THE WORDS OF A LIFELONG REPUBLICAN

Steve Schmidt

The Republican Party is an organized conspiracy for the purposes of maintaining power for self-interest, and the self-interest of its donor class.

There has never been a force that has achieved power, or is within reach of achieving power in the next election,

that's been so hostile to the history, the founding, the essence and the entire meaning of the country, as is this Trump and Trumpist movement that has taken over lock, stock, and barrel the Republican Party. It's no longer dedicated to American democracy. It is dedicated to Trump and Trumpism and to his family, to defense of his indecencies, his autocratic manner, his corruptions, an apologist for the profound damage he has done.

“WITHOUT DECENCY AND WITHOUT DIGNITY”: THE VIEW FROM EUROPE

(Excerpted from “Without decency and without dignity”, by Common Dreams, on alternet.com, 12/12/2020)

There's nothing President Donald Trump seems to hate more than losing, judging by comments he's made and by lawsuits he's filed in the desperate, dying days of his single-term presidency. And as the world gets ready to bid *auf wiedersehen*, the president must now endure the ignominious insult of being named “Loser of the Year” by one of Europe's most widely read newsweeklies.

Der Spiegel, roughly the German journalistic equivalent of *TIME*—which, coincidentally, just named President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris its vaunted “Person of the Year”—on Thursday published an article entitled “*Der Verlierer des Jahres*” or “Loser of the Year”.

The article is a 3,300-word excoriation of the presidency of a man who authors Roland Nelles and Ralf Neukirch call “a man who ... was never concerned with the common good, but always with one thing—himself.”

“The country is more divided than ever since the times of the Civil War. ... This is not a byproduct of Trump's politics, it is their goal. ... Permanent conflict is part of his strategy. Nothing is normal under Trump. He refuses to admit defeat. Instead, he speaks of massive electoral fraud, although there is no evidence for it. The whole thing is not surprising. Trump's presidency ends as it began. Without decency and without dignity.”

Arguably not since grandfather Friedrich Trump was banished from Bavaria for draft-dodging—apparently it runs in the family—has a descendant of the Drumpfs of Kallstadt endured such public humiliation in Germany.

BRING BACK OUR MOTTO Bob Seidensticker

(From Cross Examined on patheos.com, 11/25/2020)

In God We Trust. This unconstitutional motto has been imposed on us. With a new, more sensible administration on the horizon, let's ask if we can do better.

Do we really trust God?

One might pray to God for comfort when things are bad, but who would pray instead of using evidence? Who would trust God for safe passage across a busy street rather than looking and using good judgment? Or trust God for a good grade rather than studying? Or trust God for food rather than earning money to buy it?

Sometimes people do actually trust God, putting

everything in his hands and not presuming he needs any help, like rejecting medical treatment and instead praying for their child to be made well, but the state rejects that. It steps in and insists on proper medical care.

No, trusting in God might sound nice, but when it comes to something important, we take the approach that works.

Like government. The U.S. Constitution begins, “We the people of the United States ...” We the people work together to build roads, educate our children, and defend our country. It's not perfect, but we do a pretty good job. We have a trustworthy government, which is why it's ridiculous to have that government declare that it's actually God that we trust.

Remember the words of the Declaration of Independence: “Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” The buck stops with us.

What's good about “In God We Trust”?

Let's consider this from another angle. What's the point of this motto? How is God supposed to react? Does it make him happy? Does it tell him anything new? Does it remind him that we care, just in case he's sad? Is it a magic charm or a spell? Are we sweet-talking God so that he does nice things for America?

I'm not trying to be rude, but it's not me who's offensive—it's this motto and those who are behind it. Naturally, Christians take very seriously their relationship with God, but how shallow do politicians think Christians' faith is, when they put this motto on money or on buildings, if they must steal the prestige of the U.S. government to bolster Christians' faith? ...

Why is this always so hard? Why not admit that the government elevating Christianity over other religions is against the rules and just stay out of religion? Can elected officials just get it right the first time? And, to the point at hand, why is it not obvious that with “In God We Trust”, government is unfairly benefitting Christianity?

What's the solution? Consider the motto that we discarded, “E Pluribus Unum”, which means, “Out of Many, One”. This has been the motto on the Great Seal since 1782. America is composed of people who came from all over the world to pull in the same direction to make one great country. “Out of Many, One” was tailor-made for the United States, but we flushed it down the toilet in favor of “In God We Trust”, a baggy one-size-fits-all suit that could be worn by a hundred countries.

Politicians often seem deaf to reason, and this issue can seem like an uphill battle, but let me suggest one small bit of civil disobedience: Cross out the “God” on your money.* Let people see you do it. Tell them why if they ask.

“In God We Trust” is ceremonial and meaningless, God doesn't need it, and it's divisive. It's the solution to no problem. Bring back our motto. Let's return to E Pluribus Unum, a motto for all.

**Comment: I have been doing so for years, following the example in these pages of atheist inspiration Greta Christina. — JR*

HUMAN-MADE STUFF NOW OUTWEIGHS ALL LIFE ON EARTH

Stephanie Pappas

(Reprinted from *scientificamerican.com*, 12/9/2020)

Humanity has reached a new milestone in its dominance of the planet: human-made objects may now outweigh all of the living beings on Earth.

Roads, houses, shopping malls, fishing vessels, printer paper, coffee mugs, smartphones and all the other infrastructure of daily life now weigh in at approximately 1.1 trillion metric tons—equal to the combined dry weight of all plants, animals, fungi, bacteria, archaea and protists on the planet. Artificial objects have gone from just 3 percent of the world's biomass in 1900 to on par with it today. And the amount of new stuff being produced every week is equivalent to the average body weight of all 7.7 billion people.

The implications of these findings, published on Wednesday in *Nature*, are staggering. The world's plastics alone now weigh twice as much as the planet's marine and terrestrial animals. Buildings and infrastructure outweigh trees and shrubs. "We cannot hide behind the feeling that we're just a small species, one out of many," says study co-author Ron Milo, who researches plant and environmental sciences at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel.

These numbers should be a wake-up call, they tell us "something about the responsibility that we have, given that we have become a dominant force," Milo says. ...

The researchers found that human-made, or anthropogenic, mass has doubled every 20 years since 1900. Total biomass remained more stable in that time period, though plant biomass has declined by approximately half since the dawn of agriculture some 12,000 years ago. The team estimates that anthropogenic mass crossed over to exceed biomass this year, plus or minus six years. ...

About half of the world's current human-made mass is concrete, with aggregates such as gravel making up much of the rest. Bricks, asphalt, metals, plastic and other materials make up about 19 percent of the total.

Whatever the moment when humanity's production eclipsed nature's, the study points to a larger narrative in which humans are modifying the planet to such an extent that we have created a new geologic epoch called the Anthropocene, says Colin Waters, who has been active in research on geologic markers of this division of time.

The new research also raises alarms for the future. If current trends hold, anthropogenic mass will grow to three times the world's biomass by 2040, Milo and his colleagues found—and there are plenty of metals and minerals available to keep this trend going in the near term. All of that new anthropogenic mass will eventually become waste that will have to be dealt with. ...

"In the next 20 years, we will get as much waste as from the last 110 years together. Most of what we have now has been built in the last couple of decades, since the 1960s. Now this is becoming end-of-life, so we are really facing huge, huge waste flows."

HAVE A STRANGE "WHITE CHRISTMAS"

James Kaplan

(From Irving Berlin, *Mr. Kaplan's biography of the songwriter*, excerpted on *delanceyplace.com*, 11/20/2020)

Nostalgia is certainly essential to "White Christmas"—Jody Rosen links the tune to the great tradition of wistfully reminiscing songs such as Stephen Foster's "The Old Folks at Home"—as is something else: secularity. In the 1930s and 1940s, when the United States was unquestioningly a Christian nation, the vast majority of Christmas songs sung and heard by Americans, including the two Bing Crosby had recorded in 1935, "Adeste Fideles" and "Silent Night", were, quite appropriately, concerned with the essence of the holiday: the birth of Jesus Christ. (Three notable exceptions were "Jingle Bells"—first published as a Thanksgiving song!—in 1857, and "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" and "Winter Wonderland", both debuting in 1934.) Strikingly, Tin Pan Alley had largely failed to capitalize on the holiday — perhaps because so many of its songwriters and publishers were Jews.

Irving Berlin clearly planned to redress this omission with "the best song anybody ever wrote". And since it wouldn't have been authentic for him as a Jew to write about Christ, he chose to universalize his lyric. And herein lies a first clue to the deep strangeness of "White Christmas". For what could be stranger than a Jew out of the shtetl and the Lower East Side creating what is arguably the most influential Christmas song of all time?

No less an observer than Philip Roth considers the question (along with "Easter Parade") in his brilliant dissection of antisemitism, the novel *Operation Shylock*:

"The radio was playing 'Easter Parade' and I thought, But this is Jewish genius on a par with the Ten Commandments. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and then He gave to Irving Berlin 'Easter Parade' and 'White Christmas'. The two holidays that celebrate the divinity of Christ ... and what does Irving Berlin brilliantly do? He de-Christns them both! ... Is anyone really dishonored by this? If schlockified Christianity is Christianity cleansed of Jew hatred, then three cheers for schlock."

AN ATHEIST'S CHRISTMAS, 1999

John Rafferty

(Reprinted from *PIQUE*, December, 1999)

God knows I shouldn't care about the tackiness of it all. Who better to ignore the increasing tastelessness of America's favorite faux-religious holiday than this card-carrying, flag-waving unbeliever?

It's been a long time since I believed the myths of any religion, but I relived my own happy Christmas memories through the eyes of my children when they were children, and do now through those of my grandchildren. My sons never considered themselves Christians, but were and are Americans, so Christmas was their national holiday, better than the Fourth of July because it included presents.

But now? The day after Christmas last year, a *New York Times* article said that the list of most-recorded/performed Christmas songs is now headed by “White Christmas”, “Rudolph”, and “The Christmas Song” (Chestnuts roasting ...). I clearly remember when any such list would have been topped by “Silent Night”, “The First Noel” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (“Adeste Fidelis” to the Latin-afflicted). But the problem with those songs (“carols” we quaintly called them) was that they were all about, well, religion. You know: Jesus, virgin birth, “born is the King of Israel” (old Israel, not the new one), Christians “joyful and triumphant”, and, pretty much in every one of them, God. Not a ho-ho or a red nose in the lot.

I remember when Bing Crosby first sang “White Christmas” in “Holiday Inn” in 1943, when “I’ll Be Home For Christmas” jerked tears from fractured families during the war, and when an alone-on-Christmas puppet named Kukla forlornly sang “A Merry Little Christmas” on the Kuklapolitan Players’s black-and-white TV stage. Nice songs, all, but they’re all about “the Christmas season”, not about Christ’s Mass. The idea of the holiday (ie: holy-day) became not the celebration of a profound human mystery of birth and redemption, or even of “peace on earth, good will toward men”, but one of cozy firesides, jingling sleigh bells and rosy-cheeked shoppers maxing-out their credit cards. And then came the song by the kid who wanted his two front teeth for Christmas, another who caught his mother kissing Santa Claus, “caroling” chipmunks and, most famously, a nasally deformed reindeer.

From the Christ child and Herod’s slaughter of the innocents to Christmas Comix in two generations. Well, why not? Daniel Patrick Moynihan is right: we’re dumbing down everything. We now commemorate sudden death not with private grief and public ceremony, but with teddy bears and spray-painted graffiti at the site of the “tragedy”, and “grief counseling” and “closure” on the Ricky Lake show. Why should we treat birth and redemption any more seriously than we treat the greatest mystery of all, death?

What a subject for Christmas. But that’s what religion is all about, folks, death. And I, who believe in no religion, who believes that Marx was right at least once when he called it the drug of mass choice, would nevertheless prefer my adversary with hair on its chest and a couple of stones in its scrotum. I stand outside the temple, the unbeliever ranting that, first, the worshippers inside shouldn’t even be there, and second, that if they insist on being there they should, Goddamn it, at least do it right.

Hey, give me a God to fight against: an Old Testament patriarch who smites his enemies hip and thigh and persecutes Job just for the hell of it, not a beribboned teddy bear; a tortured man-god born into the world to redeem human iniquity (which is real), not a white-robed and softly-coiffed icon of the consumer society; a magical promised child paid homage by the beasts of the manger, not serenaded by chipmunks or guided through the mid-winter skies by red-nosed reindeer.

I don’t believe any of it; why do I regret its passing?

CHRISTMAS POEM

Garrison Keillor

(From his blog, “The Writer’s Almanac”, 12/26/2019)

It all happened back in zero A.D.
Two folks in trouble due to pregnancy.
She lay him in the manger
And she wanted to lie down,
But shepherds and wise men
Gathered around.

A few slices of bread
Would’ve pleased her
But they only brought spices,
Frankincense and myrrh.

They stood around singing,
These clueless men.
She thought, I’m never gonna do
Another virgin birth again.
Skip the adoring, be astute.
Bring some chocolate and a basket of fruit.

OUR YEAR-END APPEAL

1. Pay your 2021 dues or subscription

2. Make a tax-deductible contribution

As I am sure you have noticed, you have not been asked to renew your SHSNY membership (or your subscription to PIQUE) in almost a year. The reason, of course, is that our whole membership renewal and distribution system was upended by the Covid-19 pandemic. The printer of our monthly newsletter shut down, social distancing rules made our mailing parties a no-no, and we had no social events to announce or report on anyway.

We have made do with a 6-page online weekly (mostly) version of PIQUE, and with informative and entertaining (we hope) Zoom gatherings and conversations every week of the month. Now it’s time to move on.

A New Renewals Policy

1. Scrub 2020 – you don’t owe anything.
2. Pay your 2021 membership or subscriber renewal now, in Dec. 2020, by check or via PayPal, and ...
3. Pay your renewals each year in December: e.g., pay in Dec. 2021 for 2022, etc.

Individual membership: \$40 per year (tax-deductible)

Family membership: \$65 (tax-deductible)

PIQUE subscription only: \$30 (sorry, no)

Make a Tax-Deductible Contribution to SHSNY

If you’re thinking of donating to charity before the Dec. 31 deductability deadline, please think of SHSNY.

The Secular Humanist Society of New York is a 501(c)3 educational non-profit, so every penny of any donation you make to this great organization is tax-deductible.

Make your check out to SHSNY and mail it to:

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SHSNY CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2020 – MARCH 2021

FICTION BOOK CLUB ONLINE

The SHSNY Fiction Book Club meets online via Zoom for the duration of our enforced isolation. Join the Zoom Meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/97467470190?pwd=dGdEbTkwV0pSRmZRWHYvajFoTXlrZz09>
Meeting ID: 974 6747 0190
Passcode: Read

TUESDAY, JAN 12, 7:30 pm **THE LYING LIFE OF ADULTS** Elena Ferrante

With this new novel about the transition from childhood to adolescence to adulthood, Ferrante proves once again why she has become one of the world's most read and beloved writers. Another gripping, highly addictive, and totally unforgettable Neapolitan story.

– *Paperback & Kindle.*

TUESDAY, FEB 9, 7:30 pm **DRESSED FOR DEATH** Donna Leon

Commissario Guido Brunetti of the Venice police solves murders while navigating Italian society, politics and family life.

TUES, MARCH 9, 7:30 pm **MR. BRIDGE** and/or **MRS. BRIDGE** Evan S. Connell

Mr. Bridge is a classic portrait of a man, a marriage, and the manners and mores of a particular social class in the first half of twentieth-century America.

Mrs. Bridge completes the group portrait of a family, closely knit on the surface but deeply divided by loneliness, boredom, isolation, and sexual longing.

HUMANIST BOOK CLUB

Harry French will send the linking codes for the Zoom meetings. Send your address to: htfrench46@gmail.com
Meanwhile, do the reading ...

THURS, JAN 7, 7:00 pm **A DECENT LIFE:** **Morality for the Rest of Us** Todd May

You don't have to be a saint to live an ethical life. Todd May stands at the forefront of a new wave of practical philosophy that sensibly reframes our morals and redefines what it means to live a decent life.

THURS, FEB 4, 7:00 pm **CASTE: THE ORIGINS OF** **OUR DISCONTENTS** Isabel Wilkerson

Pulitzer-winner Wilkerson's portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America: a hidden caste system, a hierarchy of human rankings. A #1 *NYTimes* bestseller, long-listed for the National Book Award.

THURS, MARCH 4, 7:00 pm **A LOT OF PEOPLE** **ARE SAYING:** **The New Conspiracism and** **the Assault on Democracy** Nancy L. Rosenblum and Russell Muirhead

How the new conspiracism differs from the old, how it undermines democracy, and what is to be done about it.

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HUMANIST HAPPY HOUR ONLINE

SUNDAY, DEC 13, 5:00 pm

Pour something, grab a snack, and join 15 or more humanists and rationalists for lively conversation in our SHSNY Happy Hour!

Zoom in at
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9806344432?pwd=c0NrNUoweDVGWWho2ditvYmJlEVjVGdz09>
Meeting ID: 980 634 4432
Passcode: SHSNy
Join by Skype for Business
<https://us02web.zoom.us/skype/9806344432>

MONDAY MOVIES: MUSICALS!

Let's have some fun, screening, talking about, and simply enjoying the best "all-singing, all-dancing" Hollywood (and other) classics. Rent 'em on Amazon (\$3.99), watch, then Zoom in at ...
<https://zoom.us/j/92351454127?pwd=OVg5NnBaUFc4NWtLbHJJNW1vZ1Y1Zz09>
Meeting ID: 923 5145 4127
Passcode: watch

MONDAY, DEC 21, 8:00 pm **CHICAGO**

(Diamond Edition 2003)

Winner of 6 Academy Awards, including Best Picture, with Catherine Zeta-Jones, Renee Zellwegger, Richard Gere, Queen Latifah ... *and all that jazz.*

MONDAY, DEC 28, 8:00 pm **FLYING DOWN TO RIO**

In their first onscreen pairing, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers were a sensation, stealing the picture from stars Gene Raymond and Delores del Rio. Come on – let's dance the Carioca!