

PIQUE

Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

June 23, 2020

Welcome to Summer! And just as in 2020's late unlamented Spring, our main concerns this season are microscopic malevolence, macroscopic ignorance, and the racism we all embrace. We consider what's missing from the book we're not going to buy, sing along with Stephen Sondheim, check in again on John Dewey and an atheist "faith" we might have faith in, look back at an old-time "hoaxer", and even further back to discover the Vice President in Troy (not New York). — JR

WHY VOTING OUT REPUBLICANS (NOT JUST TRUMP) IS A SECULAR HUMANIST IMPERATIVE

Jonah Fried

(Excerpted from "The Confederate Ghost Whispers to Evangelicals", in The McGill International Review, 6/12/2020)

Today, [the] vengeful ghost of the Confederacy lurks in the White House and in the Capitol, whispering to Republican politicians who continue to forestall progress on racial justice. But racism is not simply a partisan issue: it is an American issue. It is a phantom that has infested many political parties throughout American history, from the pre-Civil Rights era Democrats to the Southern Strategy Republicans. Most recently, after the realignment of constituencies during the 1960s, the party of Lincoln (the GOP or Republican Party) became the party that capitalized on that racism to achieve its political ends.

White evangelical Christians, driven by an end-justifies-the means imperative to enforce their fundamentalist moral views over the entire country, have turned the Republican Party into the Confederate spectre's new host. Of course, evangelical Christianity encompasses several denominations; however, certain sects — such as Southern Baptists — have transformed evangelicalism into a political movement, tethered to the Republican Party and fundamentalist policy positions. With their support, the Republicans have furthered a destructive agenda of corporate supremacy; undemocratic voter suppression; and environmental deregulation [*and abolishing separation of church and state* — Ed.].

This ongoing relationship between party and sect, birthed in racism and empowered by religious fundamentalism, has eroded American democracy for decades and continues today.

THE IMMOVABLE MINORITY OF THE WILLFULLY IGNORANT

Dave Masciotra

(Excerpted from "Anti-intellectualism is back — because it never went away. And it's killing Americans", rawstory.com, 5/30/2020)

The late Gore Vidal once confessed, with characteristic rapier wit, "I love stupidity. It excites me." But the excitement and hilarity of human foibles and failures diminish rapidly when the consequences include more than 100,000 corpses.

Stupidity is a steadfast provider of humor and tragedy in Freedom Central, otherwise known as the United States. Recent highlights of American imbecility stretch from the creation of reality television to the election of a man that genre made famous, who boasted of his own intelligence with the claim, "I know words. I have the best words."

As stupidity reigns supreme in both culture and politics, irony searches for its audience. So do public health experts, virologists, doctors, nurses, professors and other much-maligned "elites" who have the audacity to try to save the lives of "real Americans" with the knowledge acquired through the treasonous instrument of formal education. To compensate for its failure to create a genuine political democracy, America has marched drunkenly into the gutter of what could be termed cultural democracy — a pathological condition in which all opinions are equal, and to argue otherwise invites accusations of snobbery, pretentiousness and down-the-nose contempt for the "forgotten man".

In cultural democracy, the enemy of freedom is not the Wall Street executive hiding his wealth in an offshore tax haven and corrupting the political process through the deployment of large donations and lobbying firms. It is not the SWAT team conducting "no knock" raids that result in

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the deaths of innocent people. It's not the real estate tycoon turned television star who rides his golden escalator — and relentless racist rhetoric — to political power. The true villain in a cultural democracy is the intellectual.

The intellectual insists on standards of evidence, reason and logic when attempting to reach a conclusion regarding a matter of social import. She undermines the dogma that all nonsense is created equal, which renders her (or indeed him) unfit for participation in the increasingly masochistic rituals of liberty. Donald Trump's suggestion that perhaps we could eradicate the coronavirus by injecting of household disinfectant — a solution actual doctors and scientists were evidently too small-minded to consider — is an apotheosis of anti-intellectualism. But our collective resistance to knowledge did not begin with him. Historian Richard Hofstadter won the Pulitzer Prize in 1964 for his now-legendary book, *Anti-Intellectualism in American Life*.

Alarmed by the elevation of emotions, slogans and clichés above reason, data and analysis in national politics, Hofstadter explored why, despite occasional bright spots, the United States had never developed a culture of intellectual rigor. His tour of the “democratization of knowledge”, the populism of the pioneers, and the anti-philosophical tendencies embedded in American Protestantism led to many conclusions regarding our nation's critical failures. Chief among those conclusions was the dominance of the market, and its utilitarian ethos, over any broader notion of culture. Hofstadter never argued that Americans were stupid. Our tradition of excellence in business, engineering, medicine and law would make such a reductive analysis ridiculous. The weakness of American education and analysis, according to Hofstadter, lay in its conception that the pursuit of all knowledge had to serve a material purpose. Learning is fine, in the American tradition — but only insofar as it “makes sense” in terms of increasing profit margins, advancing corporate interests or national prestige, or improving individual career prospects. ...

If anti-intellectualism is a common characteristic of American life, it has mutated into a particularly asinine and lethal form in contemporary conservative politics. A majority of Republicans now believe higher education is “bad for America”. Suspicious of anyone with an advanced degree, they are increasingly likely to view anyone with academic credentials as alien from the “real America”, where people work with “their hands”, as conservative commentators often suggest from their computer terminals or talk-show studios, or to believe that reading books — other than the Good Book — is likely to turn true-believing patriots into “globalists” who hate God and love dark-skinned people. ...

Donald Trump speaks and behaves as if he would struggle with the recipe for ice water, but even he has a degree in economics from the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania. All his adult children have earned degrees from Wharton or Georgetown, but that did not stop him from declaring, “I love the poorly educated.”

Establishment applause for anti-intellectualism is the equivalent of an English professor writing a book in defense

of illiteracy. The political threat, however, is no joke: If an assembly of rubes and loons grows too large, as it did within the Republican Party in 2016, the so-called leadership will no longer be able to control them and, for the sake of their own survival, will simply join the mob.

The threat to society from this widespread derision of knowledge has manifested with particular urgency during the coronavirus pandemic. According to a recent survey by the Pew Research Center, only 27 percent of Republicans trust scientists, and only 31 percent trust medical science. The refusal to wear masks, the rejection of social-distancing recommendations and hostility to shutdown protocols are not merely fodder for political argument. These anti-intellectual outbursts could actually kill people — and almost certainly have already done so.

The bizarre opposition to masks, despite the consensus of public health experts, is also the newest episode in the right wing's assault on science. Only 43 percent of Republicans believe in evolutionary biology, and just 27 percent accept that climate change is a threat to the planet. Evangelical Christianity, a foundational element in the insanity of the modern right, is especially contemptuous of scientific expertise. Viewing scientists as their competition, “young-earth creationists” — a specific subset of evangelicals — routinely claim that fossils are not evidence of evolution but Satanic plants meant to mislead the fallen. Climate change, in this demented worldview, is nothing to worry about, because God has his hand on the thermostat.

Millions of people who are openly hostile to scientific thought and inquiry, and who happen to dominate one of the major political parties, do not make for ideal companions in a pandemic. Unaware that they undermine their own concepts, they hold protest rallies to demand for a “full reopening” while also ridiculing the wearing of masks — probably the most important measure in keeping people safe as we move out of lockdown. ...

In the documentary “The Brink”, sulfuric political consultant and onetime Trump adviser Steve Bannon explains his ambitions: It's unnecessary for the xenophobic nationalist movements he supports to win a majority of elected offices in any country, he says. The point is to “establish an immovable minority” that can serve to counterbalance on everything the majority does.

Is there any doubt that we are now living out Bannon's gruesome dream in the United States? Responsible Americans have to live with the antisocial pathologies of an immovable minority, even in the middle of a pandemic when lives are at stake.

We all know the faintly ironic expression, “This is why we can't have nice things.” To Americans who are frustrated with the economic shutdown and wonder why we could not have attempted the Japanese approach, the answer is before you. Behold the anti-lockdown protests, hear our president mock masks as “politically correct”, or watch a deranged viral video arguing that the entire pandemic is part of an engineered, totalitarian conspiracy. This is why we can't have nice things in America.

AMAZING DENIAL

One of the problems we face in the United States is that unfortunately, there is a combination of an anti-science bias that people are – for reasons that sometimes are, you know, inconceivable and not understandable – they just don't believe science and they don't believe authority. It's amazing sometimes the denial there is. It's the same thing that gets people who are anti-vaxxers, who don't want people to get vaccinated, even though the data clearly indicate the safety of vaccines. That's really a problem.

Anthony S. Fauci, Director,
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Yes it is.

AND THE MORE THINGS CHANGE ...

Dennis Middlebrooks

Here is a great quote from the late-19th century hoaxer Leo Taxil mocking the gullibility of the public. I am reminded of some prominent contemporary figures. From Wikipedia:

In the magazine National Magazine, an Illustrated American Monthly, April – September, 1906, Taxil is quoted as giving his true reasons behind the hoax. Ten months later, on March 31, 1907, Taxil died.

The public made me what I am; the arch-liar of the period, for when I first commenced to write against the Masons my object was amusement pure and simple. The crimes I laid at their door were so grotesque, so impossible, so widely exaggerated, I thought everybody would see the joke and give me credit for originating a new line of humor. But my readers wouldn't have it so; they accepted my fables as gospel truth, and the more I lied for the purpose of showing that I lied, the more convinced became they that I was a paragon of veracity.

"Then it dawned upon me that there was lots of money in being a Munchausen of the right kind, and for twelve years I gave it to them hot and strong, but never too hot. When inditing such slush as the story of the devil snake who wrote prophecies on Diana's back with the end of his tail, I sometimes said to myself: "Hold on, you are going too far," but I didn't. My readers even took kindly to the yarn of the devil who transformed himself into a crocodile, and, despite the masquerade, played the piano wonderfully well. ...

"Ah, the jolly evenings I spent with my fellow authors hatching out new plots, new, unheard of perversions of truth and logic, each trying to outdo the other in organized mystification. I thought I would kill myself laughing at some of the things proposed, but everything went; there is no limit to human stupidity."

As the saying goes, *Mundus vult decipi; ergo decipiatur.*

Not feeling very bright today? Smile and remember that there are grown adults who actually believe that two penguins walked all the way from Antarctica to the Middle East to get aboard an ark built by a 500 year-old man.

– *Atlanta Freethought Journal, March, 2020*

"STOP, TIDE!"

Gretchen Robinson

"King Canute got a bad rap. But the myth of the leader who tried to hold back the tide seemed to apply this week to the President of the United States." – Richard Galant, view.newsletters.cnn.com, 6/14/2020

King Trump is ordering the tide to stop rising. But Corvid will still keep killing people, the economy will falter and be slow in coming back, climate change will continue to disrupt, more young voters will be radicalized – it will all be different.

What's that definition of insanity? "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got." (Something like that).

Methinks the tide is turning against Humpy. All the King's minions and all the King's henchmen can't put his campaign back together again.

IT STILL AIN'T OVER

(Excerpted from Harper's Weekly Review, 6/16/2020)

Less than a week after all 50 states had lifted stay-at-home orders or began regional reopenings, coronavirus infections rose in 22 states, including Arizona, Oregon, and Oklahoma, each of which reported its highest number of new infections to date. ...

Update: On Tuesday, June 16, nine states – Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, and Texas – reported either new single-day highs or set a record for seven-day new case averages.

In a *Wall Street Journal* Op-Ed that same day, Vice President Mike Pence wrote that fears of a second wave of infections were "overblown" and, of course, that "the media has (*sic*) tried to scare the American people".

THE GREEKS ARE GONE FROM TROY FOR SURE

Mike Pence

(From "The Greeks Are Gone From Troy For Sure by Mike Pence", by Alexandra Petri, washingtonpost.com, 6/17/2020)

In recent days, Cassandra has taken to sounding the alarm bells over a "second wave" of Greek attack that will soon come sweeping over us like the wrath of Poseidon and leave our city in ruins. Such panic is overblown. ...

Thanks to the leadership of King Priam, our walled city is far stronger and even less pregnable than it was nine years ago, and we have won the fight against the Greeks. And if you doubt that, just look at this enormous wooden horse they have left for us, which is definitely not hollow and will absolutely not be filled with handpicked soldiers ready to pour out and devastate our city. ...

Look, we can test the horse, if you like, but I think testing just makes it more likely you will find out information that makes you unhappy, and that is the last thing we need in our moment of triumph.

This is a time of celebration, and I think we can all sleep soundly in our beds. And I, for one, will sleep better once we get that horse inside. Congratulations, people of Troy.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Jonathan Engel

This past week *The New York Times* published an opinion piece by Esau McCaulley called “What the Bible Says About Rage”, in connection with the civil rights protests that are roiling the country. So what does the Bible say about rage? I really don’t know; I only skimmed the article. And that’s my point. I don’t care what the Bible says about rage, or anything else for that matter. (A quick aside: Whose Bible? Catholic Bible? Protestant Bible? Jewish Bible? LDS Bible? They’re all different).

The racial strife that we are experiencing in this country stems directly from the embrace by early Americans (virtually all of them adherents of the Protestant, King James Version of the Bible) of the vile institution of slavery, in which dark-skinned humans were considered to be “property” based on an irrelevant difference, i.e., skin color. What kind of sense could it possibly make to look for inspiration in dealing with our current society’s race problems from a book that says that under the right circumstances (i.e., who owns who) slavery is just fine? Not to mention the book’s approval of the mass slaughter of innocents who worship the “wrong” deity.

Our country would be better off without arguments over what the Bible “really means”. Such theological nitpicking is useless. Pre-Civil War southern Christians said the Bible allowed for slavery, while their northern Christian brethren said, “But, but look over here where the Bible says otherwise.” What a useless waste of time.

Human beings in the 21st century do not need supernatural beliefs in order to know right from wrong. Frequently such beliefs inhibit, instead of enhancing mankind’s ability and willingness to act in a moral and ethical manner. Society will be better off when we all understand this.

READERS RESPOND

To the Editor: If this is a vote, I side with Dennis Middlebrooks. Without the looting the protests would have made an even stronger statement. Only Trump benefited.

It was, as always, a great issue. – *Phil Livingston*

To the Editor: A question: Does “rioting and looting ... threaten all Americans”? As an individual American, who should reasonably be included in “all Americans”, to what extent were you, personally, “threatened” by “rioting and looting”? To the same extent that the seemingly inconsequential (thousands of unarmed civilians killed, a handful of police successfully prosecuted) killings of Black Americans constitute an existential threat to Black Americans? As an aside, the actual victims of “rioting and looting” are able to be made whole by insurance, unlike those whose losses are caused by the Covid-19 pause.

“The worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things [appear] equal.” – Aristotle.

And it makes a very dishonest argument. – *Dorothy Kahn*

WE HIDE BEHIND OUR POLICE SURROGATES

JON STEWART

(Excerpted from “Jon Stewart is Back to Weigh In”, *The New York Times Magazine*, 6/15/2020)

Interviewer: I get that you’re saying that the police and policing are a mirror of societal power structures, but it doesn’t quite address police brutality.

Stewart: We can’t absolve that. Police brutality is an organic offshoot of the dehumanization of those power structures. There are always going to be consequences of authority. When you give someone a badge and a gun, that’s going to create its own issues, and there’s no question that those issues can be addressed with greater accountability. It can be true that you can value and admire the contribution and sacrifice that it takes to be a law-enforcement officer or an emergency medical worker in this country and yet still feel that there should be standards and accountability. Both can be true.

But I still believe that the root of this problem is the society that we’ve created that contains this schism, and we don’t deal with it, because we’ve outsourced our accountability to the police.

Interviewer: Does the scale and intensity of the protests suggest some positive strides toward accountability?

Stewart: Maybe. Look, every advancement toward equality has come with the spilling of blood. Then, when that’s over, a defensiveness from the group that had been doing the oppressing.

There’s always this begrudging sense that black people are being granted something, when it’s white people’s lack of being able to live up to the defining words of the birth of the country that is the problem. There’s a lack of recognition of the difference in our system.

Chris Rock used to do a great bit: “No white person wants to change places with a black person. They don’t even want to exchange places with me, and I’m rich.” It’s true. There’s not a white person out there who would want to be treated like even a successful black person in this country. And if we don’t address the why of that treatment, the how is just window dressing. You know, we’re in a bizarre time of quarantine. White people lasted six weeks and then stormed a state building with rifles, shouting: “Give me liberty! This is causing economic distress! I’m not going to wear a mask, because that’s tyranny!” That’s six weeks versus 400 years of quarantining a race of people.

The policing is an issue, but it’s the least of it. We use the police as surrogates to quarantine these racial and economic inequalities so that we don’t have to deal with them.

Having been unable to strengthen justice, we have justified strength. – *Blaise Pascal*

If the corona curves continue to crest, Covid-19 might expose as much about the dead hand of capitalism (the corruption, the hubris, the greed) as Chernobyl ever did about communism. – *Ben Schott*

A NEW FAITH? Greg M. Epstein

(Excerpted from “The gift of anger and brokenheartedness”, in The Boston Globe, OpEd, 6/9/2020)

Religions have always preached hope. But from my perspective as a chaplain to atheists and agnostics – and simply as a human being watching our various tribal affiliations seemingly tearing us apart – I’m longing for values that can meet this moment by transcending sectarianism.

I was encouraged, then, when former vice president Joe Biden tweeted, “We need a President who believes in science.” Biden’s word choice, as usual, was awkward: Science is a process, not a doctrine. But with the basic decency of our government in doubt, and in a pandemic that is also a perfect storm of despair and polarization, it reassures me when politicians believe in anything unimpeachably positive.

Let us not, however, mistake technocracy, centrist neoliberalism, or naive platitudes for true unity. We need a common faith now, but not simply the lowest common denominator of belief.

I propose a revival of 20th-century philosopher John Dewey’s vision, from his landmark work of American political philosophy, *A Common Faith*: faith in humanity, uniting diverse believers and secularists. ...

There are no easy solutions to hateful bigotry, but we can’t even begin believing in others before recognizing, on some level, our own pain. Such insight animated Nelson Mandela, Gandhi, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Martin Luther King Jr. – leaders in reconciliation not in spite of, but because of, their rage at injustice. While we may never equal their character, we honor their example by trusting authentic anger, informed by love, to create connection and good faith. ...

John Dewey “never took [race] up as a fundamental challenge to democracy”, cautions Princeton professor Eddie Glaude Jr. Dewey’s faith must be updated to explicitly reject white supremacy, to affirm that Black lives matter, and recognize the full equality of all people regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, or class.

The heart of *A Common Faith*, however, remains: In ambiguous and unstable times, we need fewer visions of perfect heaven, and more actions to improve flawed but beautiful human projects like democracy, jurisprudence, and science. Faith in such secular institutions means believing in the work people do for one another: facing problems compassionately and intelligently; pursuing truth, without prejudice; creating solutions that work. These are the tasks we must undertake to believe in one another again.

It’s called flowers wilt / It’s called apples rot / It’s called thieves get rich / And saints get shot / It’s called God don’t answer prayers a lot / Okay, now you know.

– Stephen Sondheim, “Now You Know”,
from the 1981 musical “Merrily We Roll Along”

MICHELLE GOLDBERG HAS IT EXACTLY RIGHT: DON’T BUY JOHN BOLTON’S BOOK

(Excerpted from “Don’t Buy John Bolton’s Book. But Don’t Ignore Its Revelations”, by Michelle Goldberg, New York Times Op-Ed, 6/19/2020)

That Bolton did not testify to [Trump’s impeachable crimes] earlier is to his immense disgrace. But it is a national disgrace that his confirmation of the Democrats’ impeachment case probably won’t matter, so inured are Republicans to staggering corruption.

Bolton’s warning to his ideological allies should be heeded, though it won’t be. Should Trump win in 2020, he writes, “conservatives and Republicans should worry about the removal of the political guardrail of Trump having to face re-election.”

Don’t buy this book. John Bolton doesn’t deserve to be rewarded for withholding testimony he had a duty to provide months ago. But don’t dismiss it either. The president *cheered China’s concentration camps*. At this point in the Trump era, it’s a constant challenge not to let oneself be bored by evil.

WHAT’S MISSING FROM BOLTON’S BOOK Alexandra Petri

(Excerpted from *washingtonpost.com*, 6/18/2020)

Does John Bolton’s forthcoming book really contain shocking revelations about the president? Frankly, no. It contains revelations ... that would be shocking about anyone else but in Trump’s case are ... What is the word for “no longer surprising, but still disappointing”? ... Here, by contrast, are revelations that would actually be shocking:

Donald Trump spent 30 minutes quietly reading.

Donald Trump ordered and ate broccoli.

Donald Trump admitted that something that had gone wrong was his fault, and he said he was sorry.

Things in the White House are actually much better organized than you would think.

“Please, don’t worry about the polls,” Donald Trump said. “I’m not as focused on my reelection as on doing a good job for the American people.”

Donald Trump was asked to describe who Abraham Lincoln was and answered correctly.

At the end of a busy day in the White House, Donald Trump paused to help his son with some homework.

Donald Trump stopped to pet a dog.

Someone made a mistake or disagreed with Donald Trump, and he didn’t get mad.

Donald Trump listened to an intelligence briefing and waited until it was finished before he tried to say anything.

Donald Trump spoke to the leader of one of America’s traditional allies on the phone and it was a pleasant call.

Donald Trump sent someone a heartfelt greeting card.

Donald Trump telephoned someone in need of consolation, and he said something consoling.

Donald Trump has one real friend.

In private, Donald Trump is much less racist.

SHSNY CALENDAR: JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2020

FICTION BOOK CLUB ONLINE

The SHSNY Fiction Book Club meets online via Zoom, and will continue so for the duration of our enforced isolation.

To be included and notified of each meeting's link and password, email your address to Sharon Krutzel at sharonkrutzel@rcn.com

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 7:00 pm **THE SHADOW KING** Maaza Mengiste

Set during Mussolini's 1935 invasion of Ethiopia, *The Shadow King* takes us back to the first real conflict of World War II, casting light on the women soldiers who were left out of the historical record.

TUES, AUGUST 11, 7:00 pm **DOUBLE WHAMMY** Carl Hiaasen

Just for fun, follow the adventures of a news-photographer-turned-private-eye as he seeks truth, justice, and an affair with his ex-wife. A hilarious caper with unforgettable characters, including the lunatic ex-governor of Florida whose diet is roadkill.

TUESDAY, SEPT 8, 7:00 pm **ALOYSIUS THE GREAT** John Maxwell O'Brien

By Joyce scholar and author of *Alexander the Great: The Invisible Enemy* O'Brien, *Aloysius* debuts on June 16 in paper and e-formats.

Mr. O'Brien advises that to purchase *Aloysius* in the most economical way all one has, to do is go to <http://bit.ly/AloysiusTheGreat>. It's \$22.99 there, with free shipping in the continental United States.

HUMANIST BOOK CLUB ONLINE

We continue online for the duration of our social distancing. Harry French will send the linking codes for the Zoom meetings. Send your address to:

htfrench46@gmail.com
Meanwhile, do the reading ...

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 7:00 pm **BELIEVERS** *Faith in Human Nature* Melvin Konner

Conceding that faith is not for everyone, anthropologist Konner views religious people with a sympathetic eye, examining the nature of religiosity, and how it shapes and benefits humankind.

Believers shows us that for at least a large minority of humanity, the belief in things unseen neither can nor should go away.

THURS, AUGUST 6, 7:00 pm **UNORTHODOX:** *The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots* Deborah Feldman

Deborah Feldman grew up under a Satmar code of relentlessly enforced customs governing every aspect of her life. At nineteen, with a baby, she realized that she would have to forge her own path to happiness and freedom.

Now a very good Netflix series.

THIRD THURSDAY GROUP THURS, JUNE 18, 7:00 pm

Regulars of the Humanist Book Club have formed a Zoom-in "Non-Book" club to enjoy each other's company and more conversation. To join, send an email with your address to:

htfrench46@gmail.com

*Notice: No Happy hour
Sunday, June 21*

HUMANIST HAPPY HOUR ONLINE

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 5:00 pm

Let's get together even when we can't get together – in a virtual Humanist Happy Hour (or longer), via Zoom. Get comfortable at your computer with your beverage of choice, or Cheetos, or cookies, or M&Ms – whatever makes you happy – and join 15, 20, or more of your fellow (and sororal) humanists in our Humanist Happy Hour!

June 28 Zoom details to come.

New!

MONDAY MOVIES

First Meeting:

MONDAY, JULY 6, 8:00 pm *We'll discuss Woody Allen's "MANHATTAN"*

Movie buffs among us will meet every other Monday eve to discuss interesting and socially, humanistically relevant films. Here's how it works:

1. Together we'll choose a film.
2. You'll have 2 weeks to watch it at home, free or cheap rental.
3. We'll meet via Zoom to discuss it (probably over wine).

For our first flick, let's watch "Manhattan" (\$3.99 on Amazon Prime, YouTube, others), then discuss societal attitudes re older-man/younger-woman (or girl!) relationships then (1979) and now.

Zoom-in info/details to come.

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