

PIQUE

Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

June 9, 2020

Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? Who watches the watchmen? Who will police the police? The problem is as old as Latin, older, and we consider it humanistically herein. We quote both presidential candidates on the tragedy in Minneapolis, measure presidential courage, and give space to a distinguished conservative to call for the defeat of a cult that once was a political party ... all while we simply quit our problems, wear masks for fun, binge TV, and imagine being Bill Gates. — JR

A HEALTHY DOSE OF HUMANISM

Jonathan Engel

The killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis has, of course, focused attention on policing in this country. Clearly, there is a need for us to re-think how we expect law officers to interact with the people they are sworn to “protect and serve”. Bringing about real change will require new ideas when it comes to training and retraining police officers.

I have a thought: How about trying humanism?

As I see it, a big part of the problem is that far too many police officers view the people in the communities they work in as the “other” who need to be controlled with an iron fist, and not as members of the community who are trying to live their lives in peace. In short, the worst cops (not to mention the worst politicians) see members of the community, especially those who are black, brown, and/or poor, as somehow less than human. It certainly doesn't help that our president is such a great cheerleader for this odious point of view. Calling brown-skinned refugees and asylum-seekers “vermin” who would “infest” the U.S, and referring to African nations as “shit-hole countries” reinforces the racist views held by far too many Americans, both inside and outside law enforcement.

Enter humanism. Teach the police what we humanists all know. That every person on the planet has worth and value that needs to be nurtured, not crushed. That respect is a two-way street requiring effective communication and understanding, which in turn requires the ability and willingness to put yourself in another person's shoes and to see their point of view. That ingrained prejudice is a form of anti-reason because it causes us to reach conclusions that are not based on facts and evidence.

In short, make humanism part of every cop's training.

THE PROBLEM OF POLICING ISN'T BAD APPLES. IT'S A DISEASED TREE.

Ruth Marcus

(Excerpted from *The Washington Post*, 6/5/2020)

Every day — every night, to be more precise — more bad apples roll before our eyes. The video is horrifying; the camera unflinching. So, more Americans, a majority of Americans except, it seems, those who work behind fortified barricades for President Trump — have come to understand: The problem of policing is not individual apples, but bushels full of them. It is a diseased tree.

A diseased tree with three infected and intertwined branches that each must be lopped off. The worst, by far, is systemic racism in police departments nationwide — and here perhaps the arboreal metaphor fails, and the disease is in the trunk itself, if not in the soil of our national history. The second is the embedded culture of brutality and tolerance of brutality among police officers. The third, connected to the second, is the militarization of police departments, with equipment designed for battlefields and heedlessly deployed in American streets, that reinforces this culture of violence and, as Trump would have it, “domination”.

Those who were inclined, who had the distance — and, yes, the privilege — to be inclined to give officers and departments the benefit of the doubt can no longer soothe themselves with the illusion that these are random, unrepresentative incidents. Technology in the form of omnipresent video cameras has conclusively ended that debate. Those who are white can no longer rest comfortably in the fiction that this is a problem confined to the other. The affected communities will no longer tolerate the murderous knee on the neck, nor should they; the ensuing outrage consumes us all. As it should. As it must.

And while there should be no doubt that police

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brutality has a racial cast, there is also no doubt that lighter skin offers no absolute immunity. Witness the unprovoked shoving of 75-year-old Martin Gugino by police in Buffalo: Officers push Gugino, his head hits the pavement, he is motionless and bleeding, and the officers march on. We are not all George Floyd now, because not all of us are at similar risk. But all of us are at some risk when police believe they can act like this.

The gratifying news is that the public gets it, more than ever before. A new ABC News/Ipsos poll finds that three-fourths of those surveyed believe Floyd's killing is part of a broader problem in the treatment of African Americans by police. This number includes more than a majority — 55 percent — of Republicans.

The shift is remarkable. Just six years ago, after the police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and the death of Eric Garner in a chokehold by New York police, just 43 percent thought the incidents signified a broader problem, compared with 74 percent today.

No single measure will suffice to fix the situation; many individual steps can help. Training to create a police culture of intervention against out-of-control colleagues, not a blue wall of silence. Swift and, where appropriate, criminal consequences, as in the charges against the former Minneapolis officers in Floyd's killing, or the immediate suspension without pay of the officers in Buffalo. Revamping police union contracts to end unwarranted protections for violent officers, including shielding their disciplinary records from public view and making it difficult to remove them. Restoring the Justice Department's role — abandoned by the Trump administration — in reshaping the behavior of rogue departments. Reconsidering the doctrine of qualified immunity that has shielded officers from civil liability for their abuses.

And demilitarizing police departments. Under a 1997 law, more than \$7 billion in surplus military equipment, from grenade launchers to armored vehicles, has been transferred at no cost to local police departments. Boys with toys are too tempted to use them, and these toys are lethal. As researchers Ryan Welch and Jack Mewhirter explained in 2017, even controlling for household income, population characteristics and violent crime levels, "more-militarized law enforcement agencies were associated with more civilians killed each year by police." In short, "Militarization makes every problem — even a car of teenagers driving away from a party — look like a nail that should be hit with an AR-15 hammer." President Barack Obama issued an executive order in the aftermath of the Ferguson protests limiting what equipment could be transferred; Trump revoked it during his first year in office.

Which suggests another necessary element of the solution: a president who will help change the culture of brutal and racist policing, not reinforce it. Not send out his national security adviser to contend that the problem is limited to "a few bad apples that have given law enforcement a bad name". Acknowledging the scope and nature of the disease is an essential precondition to curing it.

America's most respected conservative writes:

**TRUMP MUST BE REMOVED.
SO MUST HIS CONGRESSIONAL ENABLERS**
George F. Will

This unraveling presidency began with the Crybaby-in-Chief banging his spoon on his highchair tray to protest a photograph — a photograph — showing that his inauguration crowd the day before had been smaller than the one four years previous. Since then, this weak person's idea of a strong person, this chest-pounding advertisement of his own gnawing insecurities, this low-rent Lear raging on his Twitter-heath has proven that the phrase malignant buffoon is not an oxymoron.

Presidents, exploiting modern communications technologies and abetted today by journalists preening as the "resistance" — like members of the French Resistance 1940-1944, minus the bravery — can set the tone of American society, which is regrettably soft wax on which presidents leave their marks. The president's provocations — his coarsening of public discourse that lowers the threshold for acting out by people as mentally crippled as he — do not excuse the violent few. They must be punished. He must be removed.

Social causation is difficult to demonstrate, particularly between one person's words and other persons' deeds. However: The person voters hired in 2016 to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed" stood in front of uniformed police and urged them "please don't be too nice" when handling suspected offenders. His hope was fulfilled for 8 minutes and 46 seconds on Minneapolis pavement.

What Daniel Patrick Moynihan termed "defining deviancy down" now defines American politics. In 2016, voters were presented an unprecedentedly unpalatable choice: Never had both major parties offered nominees with higher disapproval than approval numbers. Voters chose what they wagered would be the lesser blight. Now, however, they have watched him govern for 40 months and more than 40 percent — slightly less than the percentage that voted for him — approve of his sordid conduct.

Presidents seeking reelection bask in chants of "Four more years!" This year, however, most Americans — perhaps because they are, as the president predicted, weary from all the winning — might flinch: Four more years of this? The taste of ashes, metaphorical and now literal, dampens enthusiasm.

The nation's downward spiral into acrimony and sporadic anarchy has had many causes much larger than the small man who is the great exacerbator of them. Most of the causes predate his presidency, and most will survive its January terminus. The measures necessary for restoration of national equilibrium are many and will be protracted far beyond his removal. One such measure must be the removal of those in Congress who, unlike the sycophantic mediocrities who cosset him in the White House, will not disappear "magically", as Eric Trump said the coronavirus would. Voters must dispatch his congressional enablers,

especially the senators who still gambol around his ankles with a canine hunger for petting.

In life's unforgiving arithmetic, we are the sum of our choices. Congressional Republicans have made theirs for more than 1,200 days. We cannot know all the measures necessary to restore the nation's domestic health and international standing, but we know the first step: Senate Republicans must be routed, as condign punishment for their Vichyite collaboration, leaving the Republican remnant to wonder: Was it sensible to sacrifice dignity, such as it ever was, and to shed principles, if convictions so easily jettisoned could be dignified as principles, for what? Praying people should pray, and all others should hope: May I never crave anything as much as these people crave membership in the world's most risible deliberative body.

A political party's primary function is to bestow its imprimatur on candidates, thereby proclaiming: This is who we are. In 2016, the Republican Party gave its principal nomination to a vulgarian and then toiled to elect him. And to stock Congress with invertebrates whose unswerving abjectness has enabled his institutional vandalism, who have voiced no serious objections to his Niagara of lies, and whom T.S. Eliot anticipated:

*We are the hollow men
Our dried voices, when
We whisper together
Are quiet and meaningless
As wind in dry grass
or rats' feet over broken glass.*

Those who think our unhinged president's recent mania about a murder two decades ago that never happened represents his moral nadir have missed the lesson of his life: There is no such thing as rock bottom. So, assume that the worst is yet to come. Which implicates national security: Abroad, anti-Americanism sleeps lightly when it sleeps at all, and it is wide-awake as decent people judge our nation's health by the character of those to whom power is entrusted. Watching, too, are indecent people in Beijing and Moscow.

TWO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON THE TRAGEDY OF GEORGE FLOYD AND AMERICA

Joe Biden spoke:

We can't ignore that we are in a country with an open wound right now — a wound far older and deeper than George Floyd's killing, and his brutal, brutal death captured on film. His final words, pleading for breath, "Let me breathe, I can't breathe." It's ripped open anew this ugly underbelly of our society. ... If we're not committed as a nation, with every ounce of purpose in our beings — not just to binding up this wound in hope that somehow the scab once again will cover things over — but to treat the underlying injury, we're never going to eventually heal.

Donald Trump tweeted:

Just spoke to [Minnesota] Governor Tim Walz, and told him that the Military is with him all the way. Any difficulty and we will assume control but, when the looting starts, the shooting starts. Thank you!

CALL IT WHAT IT IS: A CULT

David Atkins

(Excerpted from "We need to speak honestly about the GOP's evolution into a conspiracy cult" in The Washington Monthly, 5/30/2020)

Being a Republican now requires believing in a jaw-dropping series of claims that, if true, would almost necessitate anti-democratic revanchism.

One has to believe that a cabal of evil scientists is making up climate science in exchange for grant money; that there is rampant, widescale voter impersonation fraud carried out by thousands of elections officials nationwide; that the "Deep State" concocted a scheme to frame Trump for Russian collusion but chose not to use it before the 2016 election; that shadowy forces are driving migrant caravans and diseases across American borders in the service of destroying white Republican America; that the entire news media is engaged in a conspiracy against the Republican Party; that grieving victims of gun violence and their families all across America want to take away guns as a pretext for stomping the boot of "liberal fascism" on conservative faces; and so on. That and much more is just the vanilla Republican belief system at this point (not even touching less explosive academic fictions like "tax cuts pay for themselves" or "the poor will work harder to better themselves if you cut the safety net.")

But things have gotten even worse in the few years short years since the Trump era began. Once a far-fringe conspiracy theory relegated to 8chan and neo-nazi filled knockoffs of Reddit, the QAnon conspiracy theory (which, among other things, posits that a wide swath of prominent Democrats, celebrities and assorted rich people are engaged in pedophilia and adrenochrome harvesting of children, and that the Trump Administration is always just a few weeks away from conducting mass arrests and summary executions — but only once QANON followers have awakened enough of the "normie" public) has become so pervasive that not only do "Q" signs pop up at almost every major conservative rally or protest, but a true believer is now the GOP nominee for Senate in Oregon. ... This conspiracy theory is destroying families, relationships, and the mental health of its adherents. A healthy and normal political party would inoculate itself from it and debunk it quickly. But the GOP is not a healthy or normal political party.

It doesn't stop there. Almost half of Fox News viewers—the core of the GOP—believe that Bill Gates is using the COVID-19 pandemic to microchip them. And Donald Trump has been promoting a series of conspiracy theories on Twitter each more outlandish than the last, from old debunked accusations against cable news hosts he dislikes to concocted accusations against former president Barack Obama.

Go to any conservative event and you'll notice a shift from even the raucous detached weirdness of Tea Party rallies. They feel less like political events than cult rallies. Cult experts like Steven Hassan have taken note of this, calling it exactly what it is: a cult built around manufactured realities, shared grievances and us-against-them insular extremism.

The increasing dependence of Republican politicians on a shrinking, embattled white evangelical base already given over to faith-based belief systems and racism-tinged “city on a hill” ideology has only exacerbated the phenomenon.

It’s long past time for even the venerable pages of *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* to start calling this what it is, and stop normalizing it as standard partisanship. It is deeply dangerous in a democracy whose constitution functionally guarantees a two-party system, for one of those two parties to become a conspiracy cult.

But that is exactly what has happened. And the first step to fixing it is to call it what it is, no matter how uncomfortable that might be for institutions and journalism professionals who find that sort of language loaded with unprofessional bias. The truth is what it is, even if it requires rethinking the role of a responsible press in an era of white anxiety and mass social-media-fueled disinformation.

PROFILE IN COURAGE

Former WI Governor Scott Walker, former White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, and other ~~cutlits~~ Republicans joined in a chorus of praise for Donald Trump’s bravery last Monday night when the intrepid president ordered troops protecting him to tear gas and flash bomb peaceful protesters in Lafayette Park and then, with only the US Army in full battle gear between him and the fleeing protesters, walked all the way across the street to trespass on the grounds of an Episcopal church at which he was not welcome (and from which a priest and a seminarian had been forcibly expelled by the troops), and posed for a photo op with an upside-down Bible.

“Hard to imagine any other @POTUS having the guts to walk out of the White House like this,” Walker tweeted.

Comment: Right, hard to imagine Eisenhower, Kennedy or any of the dozen or so presidents who have actually been in combat being so courageous. – JR

MAUREEN DOWD HAS A SUGGESTION FOR TWITTER FOUNDER & CEO JACK DORSEY

(Excerpted from “Think Outside the Box, Jack,” The New York Times, 5/31/2020)

C’mon, @Jack, you can do it. ... You could answer the existential question of whether @realDonaldTrump even exists if he doesn’t exist on Twitter. I tweet, therefore I am. Dorsey meets Descartes.

All it would take is one sweet click to force the greatest troll in the history of the internet to meet his maker. Maybe he just disappears in an orange cloud of smoke, screaming, “I’m melllllting.”

Do Trump – and the world – a favor and send him back into the void whence he came.

Maureen Dowd, in her May 24 *NYTimes* column, in a casual, offhand remark, wrote the best comparison ever of Barack Obama and Donald Trump:

“Obama glides, Trump lurches.”

WHEN IN DOUBT, QUIT

(From “Freakonomics’ offers simple strategy for making tough decisions” at newsletter @bigthink.com, 5/28/2020)

What strategy do you use to make tough life decisions like whether to end a relationship, quit your job, or go back to school? Maybe you weigh the pros and cons. Maybe you go with your gut. Or maybe, if you’re like most people, you simply do nothing. After all, we have a cognitive bias that tends to make us prefer the status quo, and focus more on the potential losses involved with change rather than the potential benefits. But here’s a simpler strategy: When you’re indecisive about a big life decision, choose the path of change.

That’s the takeaway of research recently published in the *Review of Economics Studies* by Steven Levitt, an economist at the University of Chicago and host of the “Freakonomics” podcast. For the study, Levitt asked 20,000 people who were facing tough decisions to flip a digital coin and then report back on how things played out after two and six months. The coin tosses were randomized, with one side representing change, the other status quo. The two-month survey found that participants chose change less frequently than they had initially predicted they would. After six months, however, this bias toward inaction disappeared.

Most surprising were the results on well-being. At both the two and six-month marks, most people who chose change reported feeling happier, better off, and that they had made the correct decision and would make it again. “The data from my experiment suggests we would all be better off if we did more quitting,” Levitt said in a press release. “A good rule of thumb in decision making is, whenever you cannot decide what you should do, choose the action that represents a change, rather than continuing the status quo.”

IMAGINE YOU ARE BILL GATES (Anonymous on Facebook)

(Forwarded from Facebook by Jonathan Meigs.)

You spend 30 years of your life and 50 billion of your own dollars supporting humanitarian causes. You directly save hundreds of thousands of lives in South East Asia by providing anti malaria netting to half of a continent. You drop infant mortality rates throughout the entire developing world by funding vaccine programs including vaccinating 40,000,000 children for polio. And you fund free educational platforms like Khan Academy so people can have free access to high quality education.

Then after donating half of your wealth to charity and pledging 90 percent of the remainder to charity in your will, arguably doing more to better life on earth for humanity than any other human being to ever live, you then hop on the internet only to find a million scientifically illiterate imbeciles using the very computers you pretty much invented in the first place to call you a child-murdering arch villain antichrist because they watched a YouTube video made by some other yokel with the comprehension of a fucking potato.

RANDOM THOUGHTS ON WEARING MASKS

(Will we ever again not?)

(Excerpted from “31 Funny Tweets About Wearing Face Masks” on [huffpost.com](https://www.huffpost.com), 5/27/2020)

- Ripping off your mask when you get back in the car is the new taking off your bra when you get home.
- I’ve never worn a mask before and it’s becoming comfortable, like a warm blanket of stay the hell away from me.
- I just find it funny that the same people who refuse to wear masks in public are the same ones who insist we cover our babies with a hot blanket to breast feed.
- When I wear my face mask I like to think I look like a ninja. A tired, stressed, and vacant eyed ninja.
- I just removed my mask to sneeze into my sleeve. Am I doing this right?
- COVID Parenting Tip: Train your children to loudly ask, “Why isn’t that person wearing a mask? Are we going to get sick?” when in public.
- “I’m not working out with a mask on” is my new favorite excuse for not working out.
- From now on I’m always going to wear a mask to the grocery store. I prefer a disguise when purchasing obscene amounts of junk food.
- My fellow bespectacled friends: what’s the hack to stop masks and face coverings from fogging up glasses?
- Shoutout to everybody who has sometimes burped into their own face via mask.

WHAT THE HELL MORE PROOF DOES ANYONE WITH A ROOM-TEMPERATURE I.Q. NEED?

John Rafferty

(Excerpted from friendlyatheist.patheos.com, 6/3/2020)

God will protect me. And: I know my rights.

And: The Bible says we gather. And: The virus is fake news.

In spite of official warnings and advice, the Lomax Street Potter’s House Christian Center in Idaho Falls held a multi-day revival in late May, filling the center for several days with unmasked, non-distancing Christian denialists from several eastern Idaho counties.

Within days afterward attendees began showing signs of novel coronavirus symptoms. As of June 3, the Southeastern Idaho Public Health District examiners have found 30 COVID cases, and expect the count to go considerably higher.

SOMEDAY I’M GOING TO DIE

Leonard Pitts, Jr.

(Forwarded on Facebook by Ed Buckner)

Someday I’m going to die. This I grudgingly accept. I have no idea how it’s going to happen. Maybe I will die of having a tree fall on me, of eating tainted shellfish, or of being struck by lightning. But this I guarantee. I will not die of having wagered my life that TV carnival barkers, political halfwits, and MAGA-hat-wearing geniuses know more than experts with R.N.s, M.D.s, and PhD.s after their names.

In other words, I will not die of stupid.

GAMES WE PLAY IN LOCKDOWN: BINGEING

John Rafferty

What have you been binge-watching in these weeks of it doesn’t matter what time I go to bed, what time I get up, what time I eat lunch (or don’t)? Come on, admit to us all what you’ve been hooked on. I’ll start.

Since I “quarantained” on March 17 I’ve binged:

- “Battlestar Galactica”: 74 hour-long (really 43-45 minutes) episodes on SyFy over 3-4 weeks.
- “The Good Place”: 50 half-hour episodes on NBC over 3 weeks, actually started before the lockdown started.
- “Fleabag”: 12 episodes on Amazon Prime, in two days.
- “Baseball”: All nine 2-hour “innings” of the Ken Burns PBS documentary I first watched in the 1990s, during a week.
- “The 1986 World Series”: Every inning of all 7 games on SNY, preceded by 7 games of the NLCS v. Houston, on 14 consecutive nights last month.
- “Russian Doll”: All 8 hour-long episodes of Season 1 on Netflix, all during one delicious night two weeks ago.

Tell us what *you’ve* binged, at editor@shsny.org.

READERS RESPOND

To the Editor: It’s too general a statement that you can’t vote for a third party or stay home without “owning” Trump (“Vote. Him. Out.”, PIQUE, June 2). Granted that Trump must be defeated you can work to accomplish this and still not vote for Biden — depending on your particular circumstances. If you are in a safe “Blue state” such as NY (it is inconceivable that Trump will carry NY) you can have the opportunity to actually vote your conscience without having to “own Trump”. If you are in a swing state you will have to compromise your conscience and vote for the lesser of two evils. “Red states” are more complicated but if you are in one that is definitely going to go for Trump no matter what, then you can also vote or follow your conscience without “owning” Trump. Voting third party where it’s acceptable to do will strengthen diversity and help third parties to get their messages across and weaken the “two party” system.

— Thomas Riggins

P.S.: It would be helpful if you listed your email in PIQUE.

Answer: editor@shsny.org

MAYBE THE BEST TWITTER EXCHANGE OF ALL RE MINNEAPOLIS AND THE “RIOTS”

(Shared on Facebook by Lee Moore, 5/30/2020)

Anti-Demonstrator: If you loot, riot, and destroy, you lose all credibility, in my eyes, to protest injustice.

Pro-Demonstrator: So The Boston Tea Party was bad, then?

Anti-Demonstrator: The Boston Tea Party happened after years of protests fell on the deaf ears of King and Parliament. It was the only avenue left.

Pro-Demonstrator: You ran face first into the point, and still missed it anyway.

The capacity to produce social chaos is the last resort of desperate people. — Cornel West

SHSNY CALENDAR: JUNE – AUGUST 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

TUES, JUNE 9, 7:00 pm **LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE** Celeste Ng

A #1 *NYTimes* bestseller – and named a “best book of the year” by NPR, *Esquire*, Amazon, *The Washington Post* and on numerous other lists – *Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood – and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

TUES, 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 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.

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 ...

THURS, 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.

New!

THIRD THURSDAY GROUP *First Meeting:* THURS, JUNE 18, 7 pm

Regulars of the Humanist Book Club want more discussion, and so are starting a “Non-Book” club. To join, send your address to: htfrench46@gmail.com

HUMANIST HAPPY HOUR ONLINE

SUN, JUNE 7, 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!

Zoom in at ...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86734395447?pwd=dkJOamFveFJlZEEyOFhQdmpxTDY1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 867 3439 5447

Password: 522492

Join by Skype for Business

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86734395447>

Note: We removed some of the log-in steps, so you should have an easier time joining the meeting.

SHSNY BRUNCH & CONVERSATION and GREAT LECTURES ON DVD

... will not be offered while we're social distancing. Meanwhile ...

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THREE RELIGIOUS TRUTHS

1. Jews do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah.
2. Protestants do not recognize the authority of the Pope.
3. Baptists do not recognize each other in the liquor store or at Hooters.