

PIQUE

Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

November 10, 2020

No, our latest “long national nightmare” isn’t quite over yet – but just 70-some-odd days to go. Herein we celebrate our sort-of success, consider what the hell is wrong with 47 percent of America, commit ourselves once more to logic and reason, and (gleefully) count the troubles YouKnowWho faces post-presidency. We ponder the get-America-back-on-track job ahead of us, entertain ideas for change from the sage of Lake Woebegone, quote Bertie Russell, wonder whether we’re the (blue?) wave of the future, and look back on today, Ken Burns-style, from some future or other. – JR

WE WON! ... sort of.

John Rafferty

Yes, we can ring the bells, toot our tin horns, bang our pots and pans, and rejoice in the simple and undeniable fact that the worst and most criminally culpable administration in American history is in its final days. No matter the bluster and bushwa the Orange One spews as he refuses to accept defeat, his accidental presidency will end at noon on January 20, full stop.

And stop worrying about him refusing to go. As Max Boot said in *The Washington Post* Thursday, “Thank goodness Trump is too incompetent to properly organize a coup.”

But ...

There was no “blue wave”: The Senate remains in the grip of the Republicans and their re-elected leader Mitch McConnell, whose openly-stated political goal is the destruction of Democratic programs and administrations; Not only did Democrats lose several seats in the House, but two of the new Congressional Republicans believe Democrats are part of a global child sex-trafficking conspiracy; Democrats did not flip a single state legislature, so when the 2020 Census results are implemented, Republicans will draw the gerrymandered boundary lines of most local, state, and Congressional districts for the next decade.

And while the panelists on MSNBC exult that Joe Biden has won more popular votes than any presidential candidate in history, recognize, too, that Donald Trump has the second-highest vote total in history, including 7 million *more* votes than he received while winning election in 2016.

Yes, 70 million adult Americans, your countrymen and women, whom we can assume were taught at their mothers’ knees not to lie and not to cheat, chose a lying, thieving, misogynist racist—and possible traitor—to be their president. Hold the celebrations.

SEVENTY MILLION AMERICANS

David Rafferty

I know you can’t actually pass or fail a Rorschach test; it’s designed to allow the subject to unconsciously arrange his or her own synapses in order to see patterns in random designs. But if we view last week’s election as a *national* Rorschach test, while we might not have failed, we certainly gave the shrinks good reasons to strap us into white coats.

Why? Seventy million Americans had four years to concentrate on a pattern of crime, corruption, venality, racism, misogyny and straight up stupidity, and what they saw in the inkblots was, “I’m okay with this.” This election was the largest focus group ever conducted and you know what we discovered? That America is a country populated by selfish jerks, disguising themselves as heroic, freedom loving “rugged individualists”.

Yep, selfish, petulant jerks who saved the world one time by beating the Nazis, and haven’t had to pay for a drink at the bar ever since. Since then we’ve morphed that, and our heroic and rugged legend, into the implausible myth that somehow our allegedly unique freedoms make America the best thing ever in the history of the world.

Except now, we’re just the angry pontifidrinking drunk, blowing the kids’ college fund and making everyone else really embarrassed to admit they ever knew us.

What else did we learn? That we should have been paying more attention when legions of Americans freaked out over a Black stormtrooper in the new “Star Wars” movies. What so many of us dismissed as nerd fanboy rage over one of the new film heroes being a Black man (when stormtroopers were supposed to all be clones of one not-Black guy) turned out to be much more than that. Sure, they paid their \$10, went to the movie and maybe even enjoyed

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it. But they were seething inside, something that was made ultra-clear every time Trump or some other populist hero railed against the “liberal political-entertainment complex”.

The flip side here is the movie “Black Panther”. When it arrived in theaters it was hailed as a great uniter. A terrific Black superhero movie that white people enjoyed and appreciated. “See how far we’ve come,” said the progressives. But no we didn’t, really, because now let’s look at both movies through the lens of Tuesday’s election.

With “Star Wars”, our black hero was, in the words of many Trump supporters, being shoved down our throats, ruining a part of the culture. “Black Panther”, on the other hand, was something new, something Trump supporters could choose to engage or not.

They had the freedom to choose. Like the freedom they want to not wear a mask.

And that’s what seventy million Americans said on Tuesday: Do not tell me what I have to do. Especially when what I really want is to be left alone. Stop the social engineering, stop ruining my history and get Big Government (and Big Media/Entertainment) off my back. I’m an American! With the freedom to choose to hate and discriminate. Open up those restaurants, movie theatres and stadiums – it should be *my* choice to go or not.

So okay, let’s let ‘em have it. I mean, they don’t want anyone telling them what’s good for them, so let’s us educated elites just ... stop. It’s too exhausting anyway. I’ll roll on my mattress like Scrooge McDuck with the money I’ll make from insanely low investment tax rates, plus the other taxes their handlers in Washington will slash as they “starve the beast” that is a functioning government.

Let them have their “freedom” to go it alone as their newly emboldened employers start turning employees into “independent contractor” serfs without benefits or protections now that the courts are completely tilted in their direction. (Just as companies will be able to kiss up to religious and other bigots by squeezing gays and minorities out of the workforce.)

Worried about the climate or clean air and water? Don’t be. They’ll come around to it. Maybe too late, but hey, buying Poland Spring is a choice. Education, health care, public works? How and what kids learn is a personal choice, not Big Education’s.

Go ahead, let them make their individual freedom choices. Then one day their kids can choose between learning Mandarin or Cantonese. I don’t care, because my kids already do and they won’t be hiring those morons.

WHY HE CAN’T FACE THE FACT OF DEFEAT

Jane Mayer

(Excerpted from a lengthy New Yorker article, “Why Trump Can’t Afford to Lose”, *Newyorker.com*, 11/01/2020)

No American President has ever been charged with a criminal offense. But, as Donald Trump fights to hold on to the White House, he and those around him surely know that if he loses ... the presumption of immunity that attends the Presidency will vanish. Given that more

than a dozen investigations and civil suits involving Trump are currently under way, he could be looking at an endgame even more perilous than the one confronted by Nixon. ...

Two of the investigations into Trump are being led by powerful state and city law-enforcement officials in New York. Cyrus Vance, Jr., the Manhattan District Attorney, and Letitia James, New York’s attorney general, are independently pursuing potential criminal charges related to Trump’s business practices before he became President. Because their jurisdictions lie outside the federal realm, any indictments or convictions resulting from their actions would be beyond the reach of a Presidential pardon. ...

The case that Vance’s office is pursuing appears to be particularly strong. According to court documents from the prosecution of Michael Cohen, he didn’t act alone. Cohen’s case centered on his payment of hush money to the porn star Stormy Daniels, with whom the President allegedly had a sexual liaison. The government claimed that Cohen’s scheme was assisted by an unindicted co-conspirator whom federal prosecutors in the Southern District of New York referred to as “Individual-1,” and who ran “an ultimately successful campaign for President of the United States”. ...

It has become clear that the Manhattan D.A.’s investigation involves more than the Stormy Daniels case. Secrecy surrounds Vance’s grand-jury probe, but a well-informed source told me that it now includes a hard-hitting exploration of potentially illegal self-dealing in Trump’s financial practices. In an August court filing, the D.A.’s office argued that it should be allowed to subpoena Trump’s personal and corporate tax records, explaining that it is now investigating “possibly extensive and protracted criminal conduct at the Trump Organization”. The prosecutors didn’t specify what the grand jury was looking into, but they cited news stories detailing possible tax fraud, insurance fraud, and “schemes to defraud”, which is how New York penal law addresses bank fraud. As the *Times*’ recent reports on Trump’s tax records show, he has long made aggressive, and potentially fraudulent, use of accounting gimmicks to all but eliminate his income-tax burden. ...

Norman Ornstein, a political scientist at the American Enterprise Institute, said, “The odds are 99.9999 per cent that New York State authorities have him on all kinds of tax fraud. These aren’t crimes that end up just with fines.” ...

The President’s niece Mary Trump—a psychologist and the author of the tell-all memoir *Too Much and Never Enough*—told me that his fury “speaks to his desperation”. She described the “narcissistic injury” Trump will suffer if he is rejected at the polls. ... As the President ponders potential political defeat, she believes, he is “a terrified little boy”.

THIS IS SERIOUS ... NO GIGGLING ... STOP!

The Rev. Irvin Baxter, who founded the Pentecostal Christian organization Endtime Ministries, appeared on convicted con man Jim Bakker’s show in March to announce that the COVID-19 pandemic was God’s punishment for “150 million fornicators” in America.

Last week he died of COVID-19.

ARE WE THE PROGRESSIVE FUTURE?

James A. Haught

(Excerpted from "Will 'Nones' Bring a Progressive Future?" at DaylightAtheism on patheos.com, 10/19/2020)

Someday, the coronavirus tragedy will be gone, wiped out by scientific vaccines. And Donald Trump will be just an unpleasant memory, an absurd reminder of what can happen when bigotry contaminates democracy.

This part of the 21st century will be remembered chiefly, I predict, as the era when supernatural religion died among intelligent western people. I think it will survive mostly as an emotional fringe for lower-brow folks such as those who "speak in tongues".

In other words, the Secular Age is blossoming right now, amid many daily distractions. Evidence is everywhere.

American adults who say their religion is "none" began to explode in the 1990s and climbed to one-fourth of the population. Among those under 30, the churchless ratio now is 40 percent. Church membership has dropped 20 percent in two decades. A stunning 13 percent of American adults are ex-Catholics. Southern Baptists have lost two million members since 2005. Mainline Protestantism has collapsed so much it's called "flatline Protestantism". Rejecting religion has become socially acceptable.

The retreat from supernatural faith has been swift and profound. *The Atlantic* observed:

"History does not often give the satisfaction of a sudden and lasting turning point. History tends to unfold in messy cycles – actions and reactions, revolutions and counter-revolutions – and even semi-permanent changes are subtle and glacial. But the rise of religious non-affiliation in America looks like one of those rare historical moments that is neither slow, nor subtle, nor cyclical. You might call it exceptional."

Research has established that nonreligious people have higher intelligence than believers do. And the Flynn Effect shows that western I.Q. rises about three points per decade. People are getting smarter, and smart people are less likely to accept gods, devils, heavens, hells, miracles, prophecies and other magic claims of religion. Rising intelligence means sinking religion.

The future of American politics may hinge greatly upon the decline of faith. The Republican Party depends enormously upon the white evangelical "religious right" – but it's fading. Fewer than 15 percent of adults now fit that category. In contrast, "nones" generally hold humane, tolerant, progressive values and have become the largest faith segment in the Democratic Party base.

A Sept. 28 Pew Research report said this right-left split holds firm around the world. It said:

"Religiously unaffiliated adults – a group also known as religious 'nones' – are more likely to express accepting views of homosexuality, less likely to prefer traditional gender roles in marriages, and more likely to identify with the political left than are adults who identify with a religion."

If America is lucky, the erosion of churchgoing will

bring a steady increase in support for humane, liberal, public policies.

Do you want universal health care as a human right for everyone? And college that is easily affordable for all, without crushing debt? And continuation of women's right to choose to end pregnancies? And security for gays against cruelty? And police reforms so white officers stop killing unarmed black men? And greater American involvement in the global battle against the menace of climate change? And sensible protections against gun massacres? And matter-of-fact sex education to reduce unwed pregnancies? And solid support for the public "safety net" that aids less-privileged families? And all the rest of the progressive wish-list?

Nobody can predict the future, but I think a significant hope for the liberal political agenda lies with the Secular Age that is blooming all around us.

HERE'S THE POST-TRUMP JOB AHEAD OF US: WE'RE NO. 28! AND DROPPING!

Nicholas Kristof

(Excerpted from *The New York Times*, 9/9/2020)

This should be a wake-up call: New data suggest that the United States is one of just a few countries worldwide that is slipping backward. The newest Social Progress Index ... finds that out of 163 countries assessed worldwide, the United States, Brazil and Hungary are the only ones in which people are worse off than when the index began in 2011. And the declines in Brazil and Hungary were smaller than America's.

"The data paint an alarming picture of the state of our nation, and we hope it will be a call to action," Michael Porter, a Harvard Business School professor and the chair of the advisory panel for the Social Progress Index, told me. "It's like we're a developing country."

The index, inspired by research of Nobel-winning economists, collects 50 metrics of well-being – nutrition, safety, freedom, the environment, health, education and more – to measure quality of life. Norway comes out on top in the 2020 edition, followed by Denmark, Finland and New Zealand. South Sudan is at the bottom, with Chad, Central African Republic and Eritrea just behind.

The United States, despite its immense wealth, military power and cultural influence, ranks 28th – having slipped from 19th in 2011. The index now puts the United States behind significantly poorer countries, including Estonia, Czech Republic, Cyprus and Greece.

"We are no longer the country we like to think we are," said Porter.

The United States ranks No. 1 in the world in quality of universities, but No. 91 in access to quality basic education. The U.S. leads the world in medical technology, yet we are No. 97 in access to quality health care.

The Social Progress Index finds that Americans have health statistics similar to those of people in Chile, Jordan and Albania, while kids in the United States get an education roughly on par with what children get in Uzbekistan and

Mongolia. A majority of countries have lower homicide rates, and most other advanced countries have lower traffic fatality rates and better sanitation and internet access.

The United States has high levels of early marriage – most states still allow child marriage in some circumstances – and lags in sharing political power equally among all citizens. America ranks a shameful No. 100 in discrimination against minorities.

The data for the latest index predates Covid-19, which has had a disproportionate impact on the United States and seems likely to exacerbate the slide in America's standing. One new study suggests that in the United States, symptoms of depression have risen threefold since the pandemic began – and poor mental health is associated with other risk factors for well-being.

Michael Green, the C.E.O. of the group that puts out the Social Progress Index, notes that the coronavirus will affect health, longevity and education, with the impact particularly large in both the United States and Brazil. The equity and inclusiveness measured by the index seem to help protect societies from the virus, he said.

"Societies that are inclusive, tolerant and better educated are better able to manage the pandemic."

The decline of the United States over the last decade in this index – more than any country in the world – is a reminder that we Americans face structural problems that predate President Trump and that festered under leaders of both parties. Trump is a symptom of this larger malaise, and also a cause of its acceleration.

David G. Blanchflower, a Dartmouth economist, has new research showing that the share of Americans reporting in effect that every day is a bad mental health day has doubled over 25 years. "Rising distress and despair are largely American phenomenon not observed in other advanced countries," Blanchflower told me.

This decline is deeply personal for me: As I've written, a quarter of the kids on my old No. 6 school bus in rural Oregon are now dead from drugs, alcohol and suicide – what are called "deaths of despair". I lost one friend to a heroin overdose this spring and have had more friends incarcerated than I could possibly count; the problems are now self-replicating in the next generation because of the dysfunction in some homes.

You as taxpayers paid huge sums to imprison my old friends; the money would have been far better invested educating them, honing their job skills or treating their addictions. That's why this is an election like that of 1932. That was the year American voters decisively rejected Herbert Hoover's passivity and gave Franklin Roosevelt an electoral mandate – including a flipped Senate – that laid the groundwork for the New Deal and the modern middle class. But first we need to acknowledge the reality that we are on the wrong track.

We like to say "We're No. 1." But the new data suggest that we should be chanting, "We're No. 28! And dropping!"

Let's wake up, for we are no longer the country we think we are.

GET BACK TO NORMAL? NOT SO FAST

Garrison Keillor

(Excerpted from "What is normality and do we want it?" on his blog at garrisonkeillor.com, 10/21/2020)

They say it'll be another year before a reliable vaccine is found and it'll take a while to distribute it, so there's time for us to plan the New Normal before it begins. I want there to be more walking, less talking. I want to bring back cribbage and backgammon. I want to bring back the classics, Dickens and Trollope and Turgenev. I want to reduce the forty-hour week to thirty. The American people are in desperate need of getting more fun out of life. Let's elongate the lunch hour and eliminate the big dinner. Let's continue the Work From Home movement. And let's do away with the Republican and Democratic Parties. Outlaw them. POOF: gone.

We're sick of them, the posturing and pandering, the flood of money, the cant, the tired rhetoric. Take a look at the GOP marching lockstep to isolationism and the biggest deficit in history – if that's conservatism, I'm Grace Kelly. The Democratic Party is dreaming of Denmark: get over it. I propose we drop them both and create a Guys' Party and a Women's, meaning (1) each Party holds a broad spectrum of views from left to right and forces opposites to reason with each other, (2) the Women's Party will naturally be dominant since women are inclined toward Order and Reasonableness, not so obsessed with Gamesmanship, and (4) it will be an enormous relief for guys to be relieved of leadership. We are comedians at heart, not commissioners. When I skipped (3), women noticed it and guys didn't. Hillary lost in 2016 because a debater vs. a flamethrower is no contest. When Uncle Joe says, "What the hell is wrong with this guy?" he is talking guy talk, saying something Hillary wanted to say and couldn't.

Let's put the bitterest, most divisive issues into quarantine for two years and focus on what we all agree is right: eliminate hunger, make good schools, pay impoverished parents to raise their children, create dignified work for young people. Unemployment among 16- to 24-year-olds is around 20 percent. This is not acceptable. Set the cultural wars aside for a while, give self-righteousness a rest, and let's take care of our people.

The moral thing I should wish to say... is very simple. I should say: love is wise, hatred is foolish. In this world, which is getting more and more closely interconnected, we have to learn to tolerate each other. We have to learn to put up with the fact that some people say things that we don't like. We can only live together in that way and if we are to live together and not die together, we must learn the kind of charity and the kind of tolerance which is absolutely vital to the continuation of human life on this planet.

– Bertrand Russell

So many gods, so many creeds,
So many paths that wind and wind,
While just the art of being kind
Is all the sad world needs. – Ella Wheeler Wilcox

THE BURDEN OF PROOF

Jonathan Engel

Whatever the outcome of the presidential election (as I write this on November 4 there's still no definitive result), the U.S. will remain a seriously divided country. Many people say that both sides need to listen to each other, and of course that's true. So I'm willing to listen to my red state brethren, but I'm not willing to lower my standards of proof. I'll hear what you have to say, but you're going to have to have reason, logic, and evidence on your side if you're going to persuade me that your opinion has merit.

Which brings me to a letter to the editor from Anna Johnson of Lakewood Colorado that the *New York Times* published on Election Day. From her letter: "Donald Trump isn't the one driving this country apart. It's the establishment and the elite who are driving us apart by not accepting the views of others." What a curious turn of phrase, "not accepting the views of others". I respect Ms. Johnson's right to hold her own views and to express them. But I don't have to "accept" her views if her arguments for them are weak or non-existent. For example, people like Ms. Johnson (she self-identifies in her letter as a "Christian believer") blared at the rest of us that if same-sex couples were allowed to marry, it would bring about the destruction of traditional marriage and wide-spread societal chaos. I wasn't moved by that argument when it was made, and time has proven me correct. Does Ms. Johnson think that I have to accept that particular viewpoint even though it was made initially without evidence or logic and now has been proven wrong?

Respecting someone's right to have and express a point of view is not the same as giving it credence just because someone has said it. Nor should it insulate the person who expresses that viewpoint from legitimate criticism. Anyone can jump into the marketplace of ideas, and that's a good thing. But if you can't prove your ideas are valid using evidence and logic, they will and should be rejected out-of-hand. And that's a good thing too.

READERS RESPOND

To the Editor: Once again, another great issue [Oct27] of PIQUE. Each article is a gem, in quality, variety and humor. Many thanks for the enjoyment it brings me each issue.

Imagine, the staid dictionaries of yesteryear ("How Did They Know?", PIQUE, Oct20) preparing us for the Trump years via their accurate definitions of "trumpetry". Hilarious! – *Stan Friedland, Chapel Hill, N.C.*

To the Editor: Thank you for the excellent essay, "Enough Already: Pack the Court" (PIQUE, Oct20), and your change of heart (mind). After the transparent, obvious actions of the Republicans of the last years, monopolizing the courts, aggressive action is called for ... and whatever actions Democrats take will be shrilly attacked anyway. – *Roger Mark Walton, Savannah, GA*

Comment: Thanks for the letter, Roger, but of course the subject is moot now that we haven't won the Senate. – *JR*

A KEN BURNS DOCUMENTARY, 2031

Sarah Hutto

(Excerpted from "What Critics Are Saying About the Ken Burns Documentary on the Trump Administration" on *newyorker.com*, 1/3/2018)

NEW YORK, May 26, 2031: In his latest documentary, Ken Burns exhaustively walks us through what felt like the longest Presidency in recent national history. In seven discs, totaling fifteen hours, we get to experience, once again, the journey from the Trump Administration's controversial beginnings to its embarrassing final moments.

Here's what critics and viewers are saying:

"Experiencing the Trump Presidency firsthand was traumatizing enough. I'm not sure why anyone would want to watch this. I actually had to get up and take Tums four times during the first two discs, and then I turned it off. Burns is a great documentarian, but I don't understand why he thought this should be made." – *The Village Voice*

"If you've been fortunate enough to have stricken the Presidency from memory, this documentary will be great for reminding you of the importance of voting. But you'll have to borrow your copy from someone else, because I already threw mine in the garbage. No – don't bother looking in the bin. I took it out to the curb and waited to see it get loaded into the truck this morning." – *The Atlantic*

"I kept being, like, 'Oh, my God. Why isn't anybody stopping him?' But then I'd remember it's about actual events that really happened and go take some pills to calm down." – *Ariana Rosetti, California*

"I liked it when he got caught in the end." – *Joey, age six, Maryland*

"Great buildup. You just know it's not going to end well. I loved that they included that incident with all the Twinkies. It was exactly how I imagined it looking. Just complete and utter chaos." – *Jeff Sanderson, Connecticut*

"I like to play this DVD in my bar because my customers end up drinking a lot more." – *Curtis Ledger, Texas*

"Really, really disturbing. But, if this is the closest I'll get to actually witnessing the moment he was dragged out from under the Resolute Desk by the Feds, then it's well worth it." – *Sharla Linquist, Michigan*

"Someone I know is now divorced because he got this documentary as a gag gift for his spouse." – *Anonymous*

"I found this movie unrealistic. No developed country would ever allow this to happen." – *Miss Teen U.S.A.*

A PERSONAL NOTE

As most readers already know, there was no online edition of PIQUE last week because I was in hospital. I'm sorry you didn't get your favorite (I hope) newsletter, but even sorer that I spent most of a week *hors de combat*. I'm better – thank the dozens of you who emailed and Facebooked good wishes – and back on schedule.

But I'm taking Thanksgiving weekend off, too. There'll be Nov 17 and 24 editions of PIQUE (Wotan willing, of course), but not Nov 30. – *JR*

SHSNY CALENDAR: NOVEMBER 2020 – FEBRUARY 2021

FICTION BOOK CLUB ONLINE

The SHSNY Fiction Book Club meets online via Zoom 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, DEC 8, 7:00 pm **THE VANISHING HALF**

Brit Bennett

From the bestselling author of *The Mothers*, a stunning new novel about twin sisters, inseparable as children, who ultimately choose to live in two very different worlds, one black and one white. Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations.

– *Paperback & Kindle.*

TUESDAY, JAN 12, 7:00 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, 7:00 pm **To Be Determined**

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HUMANIST BOOK CLUB ONLINE

Harry French will send the linking codes for the Zoom meetings. Send your address to:

htfrench46@gmail.com

Meanwhile, do the reading ...

THURS, DEC 3, 7:00 pm **THE HOOLIGAN'S RETURN: A Memoir**

Norman Manea

At the center of this internationally acclaimed memoir/novel is the author himself, always an outcast, on a lifelong journey through Nazism and communism to exile in America.

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 masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America: a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. A #1 NYTimes bestseller, and long-listed for the National Book Award.

MORAL MISFITS IS UP

Check out these lively, one-on-one humanist conversations. Browse Moral Misfits on You Tube and make your pick.

HUMANIST HAPPY HOUR ONLINE

SUNDAY, NOV 8, 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=c0NrNUoweDVGWHo2ditvYmJlVjVGdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9806344432?pwd=c0NrNUoweDVGWHo2ditvYmJlVjVGdz09)

Meeting ID: 980 634 4432

Passcode: SHSny

Join by Skype for Business

[https://us02web.zoom.us/skype/9806344432](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/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 8:00 on the date to discuss ...

MONDAY, NOV 23, 8:00 pm **EASTER PARADE (1948)**

Fred Astaire and Judy Garland at the top of their game, with an Irving Berlin score to sing and dance to. An MGM classic.

<https://zoom>.

[us/j/93181782927?pwd=Nm54UWpmVDJzb3ZvNjVBblRCZmU2Zz09](https://zoom.us/j/93181782927?pwd=Nm54UWpmVDJzb3ZvNjVBblRCZmU2Zz09)

Meeting ID: 931 8178 2927

Passcode: 901490

MONDAY, DEC 7, 8:00 pm **ON THE TOWN (1949)**

Sailors on leave Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra, a Bernstein score, and a Best Musical Oscar.

<https://zoom>.

[us/j/91435952481?pwd=MERFZUk0RG9keWVHSHFIVFBWYW5Td09](https://zoom.us/j/91435952481?pwd=MERFZUk0RG9keWVHSHFIVFBWYW5Td09)

Meeting ID: 914 3595 2481

Passcode: 238073