

PIQUE

Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

September 22, 2020

Welcome to Autumn, and as the year passes we note the passing of a small woman who made America bigger, better. We mourn, too, a humanist poet and friend. We watch religion die, speculate on (possible) life elsewhere, enumerate Trumpian attacks on our Constitution, and watch him get bitch-slapped on Fox (*what? where!?*). We ask what an atheist believes (and doesn't), consider the "soul" and the Enlightenment, and play the Six-Word Game again. We call for a shout-out from the next president of the United States, and begin with a message from our very own. —JR

WHERE ARE WE NOW, AND WHAT'S NEXT?

A Message From the President of SHSNY

Greetings, all, and thanks to our entire membership for hanging in with us during these most difficult times. We all miss our face-to-face encounters: the monthly Sunday Brunch and Conversation, our Day of Reason and Freethought Day Lunches/Lectures at Pete's Tavern, the annual Darwin Day Dinner, our get-togethers with other groups for Summer and Winter solstice celebrations, and our participation in freethought and political marches and demonstrations – whew, we do keep busy, don't we?

But now we're doing the best we can to keep our community together and active while we ride out the storm. As many of you know, we've been doing a weekly Happy Hour via Zoom on Sundays at 5:00pm EDT, as well as a bi-weekly Monday Movie Night meetup, (Which was funnier, "Dr. Strangelove" or "Duck Soup"?) and our Humanist and Fiction Book Clubs. All are on Zoom and all are welcome to join in. Information for all of these virtual meetups is available in the pages of the newsletter you're reading right now, PIQUE, which our ageless President Emeritus, John Rafferty, has been cranking out online every Sunday.

Last March we had been preparing for a Board of Directors election as mandated by our corporate bylaws to be held every three years. Then the pandemic struck. According to those bylaws, the upcoming election must be announced in three consecutive editions of the monthly newsletter, but due to the precautions we've taken to ensure everyone's safety, we haven't sent out hardcopies of PIQUE since March. We have therefore decided to hold the election in abeyance until we are able to fulfill the bylaws mandates. All current Board members, who serve without compensation, have agreed to continue serving until we are able to hold a proper Board election.

The Book of Revelation notwithstanding, we don't know what the future will bring. Like everyone else, we're forced to live day by day and improvise on the fly. Some of the changes we've made (e.g., on-line PIQUE only, Zoom "meetings") may become permanent, others may not. As we proceed into the uncertain we promise to keep our members updated and informed, and we welcome your feedback. If anything, the bizarre circumstances we are living in have strengthened our commitment to secular humanist principles and values (see last week's Statement of Commitment to Black Lives Matter).

As Covid and climate change wreak their havoc on the world, we reconfirm our commitment to addressing the planet's challenges with science, evidence, and reason. As immigrants, people of color, women, the LGBTQ community and other marginalized groups (including freethinkers!) continue to bear the brunt of society's shortcomings, we reconfirm our commitment to the importance and potential of every human being.

Everybody please: stay safe, stay healthy, stay sane, stay human. And remember: *Illegitimi non carborundum.*

— Jonathan Engel

Late-breaking, heart-breaking news ...

JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG 1933 -2020

Our nation has lost a jurist of historic stature ... a tireless and resolute champion of justice. — Chief Justice John G. Roberts

Justice Ginsburg paved the way for so many women, including me. There will never be another like her. Thank you RBG. — Hilary Rodham Clinton

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SHSNY is a Charter Chapter of the American Humanist Association (AHA), an Affiliate Member of Atheist Alliance International (AAI), an Affiliated Local Group of the Council for Secular Humanism (CSH) program of the Center for Inquiry (CFI), and an Endorsing Group in the Secular Coalition for New York (SCNY).

WATCHING RELIGION DIE

James A. Haught

Religion is fading more quickly in the United States than in any other nation, according to a forthcoming book, *Religion's Sudden Decline: What's Causing It and What Comes Next*, by Ronald Inglehart. Writing in *Foreign Affairs* magazine—in an advance summary titled “Giving Up on God: The Global Decline of Religion”—he writes:

“The most dramatic shift away from religion has taken place among the American public. From 1981 to 2007, the United States ranked as one of the world's more religious countries, with religiosity levels changing very little. Since then, the United States has shown the largest move away from religion of any country for which we have data.”

A profound cultural transformation is in progress – mostly happening quietly out of sight, little-noticed in daily life. Old supernatural beliefs are vanishing among intelligent, educated, science-minded western people, especially the young. Religion is shriveling into the realm of myth and fantasy. Here are some indicators:

Almost two-thirds of teens who grow up in a church drop out of religion in their twenties, according to both Barna and LifeWay surveys.

The number of Americans who say their religion is “none” began to explode in the 1990s – first to one-tenth of the population, then climbing relentlessly to one-fourth. Among those under thirty, “nones” now are forty percent.

American church membership fell twenty percent in the past two decades, according to Gallup research. Southern Baptists dropped two million members since 2005.

Tall-steeple Protestant “mainline” denominations have suffered worst. United Methodists fell from 11 million in 1969 to below 7 million today – while America’s population almost doubled. Evangelical Lutherans dropped from 5.3 million in 1987 to 3.4 million now. The Presbyterian Church USA had 3.2 million in 1982 but now is around 1.3 million. The Episcopal Church went from 3.4 million in the 1960s to 1.7 million now.

These highbrow mainline faiths with seminary-educated ministers once drew public respect. But religion is shifting to lowbrow, emotional worship that is less admirable. One-fourth of the world’s Christians now “speak in tongues”, researchers say. Christianity is moving from advanced, prosperous, northern nations to the less-developed tropics. It’s going from respected to pathetic.

Retreat of churchgoing in America may undercut the Republican Party, which depends on white evangelicals as the heart of its base. In contrast, godless Americans tend to be compassionate progressives who have become the largest faith segment in the Democratic Party. The loss of religion may shift national political values to the left. Personally, I hope the Secular Age continues snowballing until supernatural religion becomes only an embarrassing fringe. After all, belief in gods, devils, heavens, hells, miracles, visions, prophecies and the rest of dogma is extremely questionable. It’s all a fantasy, a bunch of falsehoods, as

far as any science-minded person can tell. It lacks factual evidence. The more religion declines, the more integrity is gained by society.

Come to think of it, maybe there’s a correlation: White evangelicals swallow the falsehoods of faith – and they swallow the notorious falsehoods of President Trump. Psychology researchers should study this gullibility pattern.

HEY, BIDEN CAMPAIGN: HELLO?

Hemant Mehta

(Excerpted from “It’s Not Too Late for Democrats to Reach Out to Non-Religious Voters”, at friendlyatheist.patheos.com, 9/17/2020)

Consider this: Evangelical Christians now represent about 22.5 percent of the country. Catholics make up about 23 percent. And the “Nones” are 23.1 percent. All three groups are roughly equivalent.

Consider this: As recently as 2018, 81 percent of white evangelicals supported Republicans (the same number that voted for Donald Trump in 2016) while 75 percent of Nones backed Democrats.

Slight difference, but basically polar opposites.

And now consider that Republicans go out of their way to make sure white evangelicals and conservative Catholics are part of their tent (and their beliefs promoted through legislation) ... while Democrats have historically avoided Secular Americans.

In an article for FiveThirtyEight, Daniel Cox and Amelia Thomson-DeVeaux ask why Democrats are “ignoring” us given those numbers.

The unaffiliated are a key demographic for Democratic candidates in particular. More than one-third of the people who voted for Clinton in 2016 were religiously unaffiliated, making them just as electorally important for Democrats as white evangelical Protestants are for Republicans. Yet despite constantly hearing about the importance of white evangelical voters in an election cycle, Democratic politicians have been slow to embrace the growing number of nonreligious people who vote for them. Why?

Some of the answers are obvious:

- We don’t regularly gather anywhere.
- We don’t have “leaders”, per se. (The heads of the largest atheist groups in the country still represent a mere fraction of atheists overall.)
- It could be toxic to embrace the non-religious and create an opening for Republicans to do their “culture war” posturing about how Democrats supposedly hate religion, though the GOP will always do that anyway.
- We aren’t reliable voters in the same way white evangelicals are.

Still, the authors say there’s good reason for Democrats to try reaching out to the Nones. Especially now.

Although Trump is not an overtly pious figure, he’s embraced a vision of American culture that privileges Christian identity and heritage. That’s a view that most nonreligious Americans reject, which is likely a part of the reason that their support for Biden is so high, despite

the campaign's minimal outreach efforts. In the coming years, though, that calculus might have to change, since the growing size of the country's nonreligious population could make these voters more difficult for Democrats to ignore.

I would go even further than that. Secular Americans don't just dislike the GOP's embrace of white evangelical identity politics; Democratic Party policies, by and large, overlap with what most of us want.

We respect science and expertise. We want religious freedom for everyone instead of religious privilege for select groups. We want public policy that's based on reason and evidence, instead of what may benefit certain religious people. We want separation of church and state, not special treatment for faith leaders.

Even more, considering this is the only life we have, many of us want to fight for social, racial, economic, and environmental justice. We don't want to see people suffer. We want to level a playing field that disproportionately hurts people of color and minority groups. We want a reckoning, not a whitewashing, of our own history.

I obviously can't speak for everyone who's not religious. But the short version is this: The values many humanists cherish are values that many Democrats promote. As the authors put it, "Democrats can reach this group simply by doing what they're already doing." All they need to do is make the connection a little more explicit.

Keep in mind we're not demanding that the government promote atheism for us. We want neutrality. It's hardly a radical position. If Democratic candidates were more overt about the importance of non-religious support, it could even drive more of us to vote. Would it alienate some religious people? I can't imagine that advocating for our shared goals, which some progressive Democrats already do, would push away more people than it would bring in. It's not like we're asking Joe Biden to advocate for atheism; instead, he should point out that his values, guided by his faith, are also shared by the growing number of non-religious Americans across the country who care about kindness, compassion, and basic human decency.

The fear shouldn't be that some people may vote for Republicans if the outreach is too heavy-handed. It's that some people may not vote at all because they feel politicians aren't paying attention to them. It plays to Democrats' interests to keep secular Americans excited and engaged.

It's not too late for the Biden campaign to make more direct moves in our direction. It's also not too late — and arguably easier — for down-ballot Democratic candidates to do the same.

HOORAY! ANOTHER OUT ATHEIST RUNS FOR OFFICE. *Um ... wait a minute ...*

A self-described "polyamorous transgender Mississippian lesbian anarchist atheist" named Aria DiMezzo won the GOP nomination for sheriff in Cheshire County, New Hampshire; her campaign slogan in her race against incumbent Sheriff Eli Rivera, who is running for his fifth term, is "Fuck the Police."

OUR GOVERNMENT AT WORK

John Rafferty

Department of Education

Betsy DeVos's fiefdom has begun reviewing internal employee activities, such as book clubs, for "Anti-American propaganda", including the discussion of white privilege, critical race theory, and the suggestion that the United States is a racist country.

In an internal email the department ordered a review of agency contracts for diversity training and "internal employee activities" to root out topics such as "critical race theory" or materials that suggest that the U.S. is an inherently racist country. The crackdown comes as the department implements a government-wide directive the White House issued to stop what it called "un-American propaganda training sessions" about race.

Department of Health and Human Services

Trump-appointed officials have altered CDC reports on COVID-19 to more closely reflect the president's claims about the virus. And in a Facebook Live video, the department's assistant secretary for public affairs accused career scientists at the CDC of plotting against Trump and encouraged his viewers to stock up on ammunition because, "When Donald Trump refuses to stand down at the inauguration, the shooting will begin."

Department of Justice

Attorney General William Barr told federal prosecutors in a call last week that they should consider charging rioters and others who had committed violent crimes at protests in recent months with sedition.

Barr was also said to have asked prosecutors to explore whether to bring criminal charges against the mayor of Seattle for allowing a police-free protest zone.

Federal Election Commission

James E. "Trey" Trainor III, Chairman of the independent, regulatory agency whose non-partisan purpose is to enforce campaign finance law in United States federal elections, declared that this year's election amounts to a "spiritual war" that threatens the country's "Christian moral principles". He is also on record as insisting that separation of church and state is "a fallacy".

President of the United States

Even though the federal government has no power over the curriculum taught in local schools, Donald Trump — who didn't know what the USS Arizona monument at Pearl Harbor was for, who thought we fought Canada in the War of 1812, who thought Frederick Douglass was still alive and that "very few" Americans knew Lincoln was a Republican — characterized contemporary demonstrations against racial injustice as "left-wing rioting and mayhem" that "are the direct result of decades of left-wing indoctrination in our schools", and announced that he would create a national commission — the "1776 Commission" — to promote a "pro-American curriculum that celebrates the truth about our nation's great history".

And whose "facts", we may assume, will be invented by "very stable genius" Historian Trump himself.

ASK THIS ATHEIST

John Rafferty

(Edited from my "Ask an Atheist" Facebook post 9/17)

1. *If you don't believe in God what do you believe in?*

Reason, science, love, the golden rule, and arithmetic.

2. *What do you think happens after you die?*

What evidence there is, all negative, tells me that I will revert to the non-existence I was before I was born, i.e., I simply won't be.

3. *Why does anything exist as opposed to nothing?*

No idea. I don't know, and neither do you. Anyway, it's the wrong question: why does there have to be a why?

4. *Have you looked into all the religions to make sure?*

There are thousands of them, so no, I haven't looked at all of them. But of course you're talking about the biggies, aren't you? Well, the old ones are based on ridiculous pre-literate mythology (talking snakes, cosmos-bearing turtles) that no thinking person can take seriously, and the new ones (Mormon, Scientology) are simply scams.

5. *Where do you get your morality from?*

From my fellow human beings. We have evolved morality as surely as we did bipedalism; it's in our genes, quite literally. The individuals, the families, the tribes that cooperated and shared lived longer and healthier, had more children and passed along more of their genes. Today the "commandments" at the heart of every society are essentially the same: respect others, care for the elderly and weak, don't harm, don't steal, don't cheat, don't lie. Every religion, same "commandments", because our morality is inherent and independent of religion.

Of course there are criminals and liars, but we're still evolving and getting better, and for the overwhelming majority of us, being what we all call "good" just feels right, feels good, is what we want to be.

6. *How do you account for miracles?*

I don't. Because there are none. Events you can't explain aren't "miracles", they're simply events you can't explain. "We don't know" does not mean "God!" And I'd like the next appearance of "Our Lady of a Thousand Tsours" to happen someplace where someone has a camera.

7. *What caused you to deconvert?*

Intelligence and education.

8. *How do you find meaning in your life?*

By raising my children, loving my wife (still), enlarging and enjoying my circle of friends, and by trying to do good where I can, just for the sake of doing good.

9. *Why be good if there's no god?*

Because being good feels better than being bad (see #5). There's a video clip I saw somewhere of a debate between a Protestant pastor and a secular rabbi. Pastor: "If there is no God, why not have an affair?" Rabbi: "No, I wouldn't." Pastor: "Why not?" Rabbi: "Because I love my wife." I repeat: Being good feels better than being bad.

10. *What if you're wrong?*

Ahh, you've got me there. If you're wrong, you'll never know it when you die, because you simply won't be (see #2). But if I'm wrong, I'll have Hell to pay. Literally.

PHILLIP APPLEMAN

Scholar, Poet, Humanist

1926 – 2020

Philip Appleman was Professor Emeritus in the Department of English at Indiana University. He published seven volumes of poetry, three novels and half a dozen nonfiction books, including the *Norton Critical Edition, Darwin* and the *Norton Critical Edition of Malthus' Essay on Population*. He won many awards, including the Friend of Darwin Award of the National Center for Science Education, and the Humanist Arts Award of the AHA.

Phil Appleman and his beloved wife, Marjorie, joined SHSNY in 1994, contributed freely to these pages whenever asked, and was one of the nicest people I've ever met. – JR

INTELLIGENT? DESIGN?

(To the tune of "Battle Hymn Of The Republic")

Your eyes have seen a blurry scene

That's only known to man:

Your optic nerves are backward and

Have been since time began.

That's what the preachers tell you is

God's very special plan:

Intelligent Design!

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!

Making-do will have to do ya.

Beware the swindlers who voodoo ya

With *Intelligent Design!*

You wish a guy's urethra did

The jobs that were proposed:

Both lover's clout and waterspout

Is what you had supposed.

Alas, the Great Designer squeezed

A prostate 'round your hose:

Intelligent Design!

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!

Nowhere does the Bible clue ya

That your glands won't soon subdue ya:

Intelligent Design!

Your breasts get lumps, your heart goes thump,

Your hips are giving in.

Childbirth is a horror 'cause

Your pelvis is too thin.

And osteoporosis is

Your Maker's little whim:

Intelligent Design!

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!

The Great Designer knows what's due ya,

Nothing else can stick it to ya

Like *Intelligent Design!*

– From *Karma, Dharma, Pudding & Pie*, 2009

THE PANDEMIC IN SIX-WORD MEMOIRS

Larry Smith

(Excerpted from The New York Times, 9/11/20)

Since 2006, I've been challenging people to describe their lives in six words, a form I call the six-word memoir — a personal twist on the legendary six-word story attributed to Ernest Hemingway: "For sale: baby shoes, never worn."

(Long-term PIQUE readers will remember we played the Six-Word Memoir game about ten years ago, and garnered over 80 responses, including great ones like: "Wasn't born a redhead; fixed that" and "Love a God? I married her".)

I've found that some of the most memorable six-word stories arise in the extremes — during our toughest and most joyous moments. So over the past several months, I've asked adults and children around the country to use the form to make sense of this pandemic moment in history: one person, one story, and six words at a time. Like these:

The world has never felt smaller.

Not a criminal, but running masked.

Every day's a bad hair day.

Home Ec: rationing butter, bourbon, sanity.

Deserted crowded Manhattan, my own island.

Eighth hour of YouTube. Send Help!

Messy hair, messy room, messy thoughts.

Okay, humanists, rationalists, atheists, readers of PIQUE — our turn. Send your six-word (no more, no less) stories, impressions, memoirs or memories of the past crazy half year, please, to editor@shsny.org.

LIFE (POSSIBLY) ON VENUS? WHO KNEW?

(Excerpted from Inverse Daily, 8/15/2020)

A team of astronomers made a shocking discovery about Venus: traces of a gas in Venus' clouds typically associated with life on Earth. And they can't explain how it got there. Venus' atmosphere is extremely dense, trapping heat on the planet. With its scorching hot temperatures, the surface of Venus has been ruled out as a possible host of life. However, astronomers believe that some form of life may exist in Venus' clouds.

The discovery of a biosignature gas on Venus is not directly indicative of life, but it does support the hypothesis that there may be life in the clouds on Venus. However, the researchers are proceeding with caution, noting that the gas may have also been produced through some unknown chemical process.

Wow! Who could possibly have seen that coming?

"While the surface conditions of Venus make the hypothesis of life there implausible, the clouds of Venus are a different story altogether. As was pointed out some years ago, water, carbon dioxide and sunlight — the prerequisites for photosynthesis — are plentiful in the vicinity of the clouds. ... If small amounts of minerals are stirred up to the clouds from the surface, it is by no means difficult to imagine an indigenous biology in the clouds of Venus." — Carl Sagan, Nature, September 16, 1967

READERS RESPOND

To the Editor: So, I wanted to reply to your question in PIQUE regarding the "soul".

According to the three criteria in the commentary, we have no "soul" per se, in my opinion. As an atheist and apparently a Philosophical Materialist (alas, I had to look up/clarify my understanding of the latter) I believe that all our emotions, perceptions and so on are functions of our brain. Period. When the brain dies so do we. That would seem to be the scientific stance as I understand it. I embrace mortality and reject any supernatural beliefs. The Sisters of Charity — who warned us about "materialists" — the Irish Christian Brothers, and the Jesuits from my Catholic education would be so disappointed in me. Oh well, there you go! — *Mike Weiss*

To the Editor: To me the word "soul" means a fictitious quality that some other people, not me, think exists. But to me "soul" is an excellent source of puns: all alone ... or the bottom of my shoe (Oh Sole Mio) ... or a single fish in the room (the Sole occupant) ... etcetera. — *Chic Schissel*

To the Editor: Re: "Why Trump Supporters Can't Admit Who He Really Is", PIQUE, 9/15): Ever wonder why political liberals are allies of science, whereas conservatives tend not to be? Why climate change deniers are also right wingers? The answer is that liberalism is the child of the 18th century's Enlightenment, a philosophy born of science. Before then even the educated believed in witchcraft and other superstitions. Science demonstrated that basing knowledge on physical facts arranged in a logical way brought wisdom. This led to freedom from tradition-bound political thinking, in a word, "liberalism". Today, Trump supporters reject scientific reasoning. Is it therefore a surprise that they can accept Trump's lies? As Trump and his supporters are enemies of science, so they are enemies of truth. — *Lawrence S. Shaw*

YOU KNOW HE'S BEHIND IN THE POLLS WHEN ...

President Trump called into "Fox & Friends" last Tuesday and said he planned to call into the program regularly in the final weeks of the campaign. But, um ...

Steve Doocy, a co-host and ordinarily the most brown-nosed Trump sycophant on "The Trump Network", told the president that Fox News had not agreed to giving him a weekly platform on the morning show.

"You may want to do it every week, but Fox is not committed to that," Doocy said at the end of the 47-minute call (during which he was obviously impatient with Trump's aimless blathering). "We'll take it on a case-by-case basis. And Joe Biden, as well, is always welcome to join us for 47 minutes, like we just did with the president."

Comment: "Wow, Steve Doocy just told the president of the United States, 'Don't call us, we'll call you.'"

"Imagine that — he's the most powerful man in the world and they're treating him like he's a Jehovah's Witness who's also selling timeshares." — *Trevor Noah*

SHSNY CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER 2020 – JANUARY 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, OCT 13, 7:00 pm **AMERICAN DIRT** Jeanine Cummins

Stephen King calls it "extraordinary", and this *NYTimes* best-selling story of a comfortable, middle-class Mexican family caught up in the flight to *el Norte* and away from drug violence has been called "the international story of our times". *Hardcover, Kindle.*

TUESDAY, NOV 10, 7:00 pm **THE THIRST** Jo Nesbo

Harry Hole is one of crime fiction's greatest cops ever, but after promising the woman he loves he's through, something about the killer who targets his victims on Tinder pulls Harry back to the chase in this eleventh novel in the series. *Paperback, Kindle.*

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.

TUESDAY, JAN 12, 7:00 pm **THE LYING LIFE OF ADULTS** Elena Ferrante Start reading.

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, OCT 1, 7:00 pm **TWILIGHT OF DEMOCRACY: The Seductive Lure of Authoritarianism** Anne Applebaum

Thought-provoking and gracefully written, this is the book – by a Pulitzer-Prize winning historian – to read for "insight into what Trump's rise and rule really mean – here and abroad – for democracy in our time".

– Ron Elwing, NPR

THURS, NOV 5, 7:00 pm **HOW INNOVATION WORKS: And Why It Flourishes in Freedom** Matt Ridley

Author of *The Rational Optimist*, Ridley chronicles the history of innovation – the reason we experience both dramatic improvements in our living standards and unsettling changes in our society – and how we need to change our thinking on the subject.

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.

HUMANIST HAPPY HOUR ONLINE

SUNDAY, SEP 20, 5:00 pm

Let's get together even when we can't get together, via Zoom. Pour something, grab a snack, and join 15, 20, or more humanists in our Humanist Happy Hour!

Zoom in at
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9806344432?pwd=c0NrNUoweDVGWHo2ditvYmJlVjVlGdz09>
Meeting ID: 980 634 4432
Passcode: SHSNy
Join by Skype for Business
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9806344432>

MONDAY MOVIES

MONDAY, SEP 28, 8:00 pm **We'll discuss Bong Joon Ho's PARASITE**

Did you miss the 2019 South Korean black comedy thriller – about class, caste, and a poor family at war with the rich – that won four Oscars, including Best Picture? Rent it on Amazon (\$3.99), watch it (English subtitles), and then Zoom in Sep 28, 8:00, at:
<https://zoom.us/j/93111889428?pwd=NEs2dVRIRTNZbHZZSmhmU3FPb3Zhdz09>
Meeting ID: 931 1188 9428
Passcode: Watch

MORAL MISFITS IS UP

Check out the first discussion: Rich Sander and John Rafferty on "Bait & Switch" at https://youtu.be/_Ene4Te7b0c

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