

PIQUE

Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

January 26, 2021

Mm, breathe in, breathe out – it really does feel like a new day and a new time, doesn't it? Herein we open and close with our new President, add instruction from one long gone, and worry just a little about the all-too-recent one. We invite you to a virtual gathering of the local freethought clans, consider Truth and Science (we're for them), as well as the likelihood of God, inaugural prayers, national hymns, and the coming of Fascism in America (we're against). – JR

"Recent weeks and months have taught us a painful lesson. There is truth and there are lies, lies told for power and for profit. And each of us has a duty and a responsibility as citizens, as Americans, and especially as leaders, leaders who have pledged to honor our Constitution and protect our nation, to defend the truth and defeat the lies."
– Joseph R. Biden Inaugural Address, Jan. 20, 2021

SCIENTISTS ARE OUR TRUE PROPHETS

Angel Eduardo

(Excerpted from "The Orchid And The Moth | Why Scientists Are The True Prophets", at centerforinquiry.org, 10/8/2020)

Scientists are our true prophets. Their hypotheses are real prophecies. By understanding and harnessing the laws of nature, scientists unlock the secrets of the universe for us, one carefully reasoned revelation at a time.

In 1868, James Clark Maxwell published four equations that not only predicted the existence of an electromagnetic spectrum, X-rays, gamma rays, and radio waves – they also laid the groundwork for Albert Einstein's theory of relativity. In 1916, as he crafted his famous theory, Einstein predicted the existence of gravitational waves – invisible ripples in space-time caused by massive cosmic events – nearly a century before we had the technology to measure them. In 1964, Peter Higgs proposed a theoretical field responsible for giving particles mass and the existence of an elementary particle implied by that field. Nearly fifty years later, in 2012, CERN's large hadron collider detected the particle – honorifically named the Higgs boson.

That is true prophecy. No hindsight bias, no metaphors, no appeals to nonsense. Only predictions about the workings of the cosmos, proven true when our knowledge catches up to the brilliant minds that foretold them. No bronze age vagaries or hackneyed holy scriptures could

hope to compare.

We live in a world of wonders, foreseen only by our greatest scientific prophets. It's easy to forget that. Scientists reveal such wonders, so often, that we can lose sight of how truly monumental their discoveries are. Arthur C. Clarke famously noted that any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. Similarly, I'd argue that any sufficiently ubiquitous magic is indistinguishable from the mundane. We would do well to stop every now and then, look around at our ever-expanding breadth of knowledge, and revel in all that's been revealed.

Let's just make sure to save a little awe for the revelations yet to come.

SCIENCE IS THE GOLD STANDARD OF TRUTH

Part 2

Richard Dawkins

(Reprinted from "The insidious attacks on scientific truth", in *The Spectator*, 12/19/2020)

(Editor: In Part 1 of this essay (PIQUE, Jan 19), Professor Dawkins lamented an "insidious threat to truth [that] comes from certain schools of academic philosophy. There is no objective truth, they say, no natural reality, only social constructs. Extreme exponents attack logic and reason themselves, as tools of manipulation or 'patriarchal' weapons of domination.")

It is true that Newton's laws are approximations which need modifying under extreme circumstances such as when objects travel at near the speed of light. Those philosophers of science who fixate on the case of Newton and Einstein love to say that scientific truths are only ever provisional approximations that have so far resisted falsification. But there are many scientific truths – we share an ancestor with baboons is one example – which are just plain true, in the same sense as "New Zealand lies south of

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Jonathan Engel, Pres.; John Wagner, V.P.; Claire Miller, V.P.; Brian Lemaire, Secty/Treas.; John Rafferty, Editor/Pres. Emeritus
Nancy Adelman, Kiwi Callahan, Dorothy Kahn, Carl Marxer, David Orenstein
SHSNY, P.O. Box 7661, F.D.R. Station, New York, NY 10150-7661 / www.shsny.org

Individual membership \$40 per year; Family membership \$65; Subscription only: \$30; Student: \$20.

Articles published in PIQUE are archived at www.shsny.org. Original-to-PIQUE articles may be reprinted, in full or in part. 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).

the equator” is not a provisional hypothesis, pending possible falsification.

The physics of the very small also goes beyond Newton. Quantum theory is too weird for most human brains to accommodate intuitively. Yet the accuracy with which its predictions are fulfilled is shattering and beyond all doubt. If I can't get my head around the weirdness of a theory which is validated by such predictions, that's just too bad. There's no law that says truths about nature have to be comprehensible by the human brain. We have to live with the limitations of a brain that was built by Darwinian natural selection of hunter-gatherer ancestors on the African savanna, where medium-sized things like antelopes and potential mates moved at medium speeds. It's actually remarkable that human brains – even if only a minority of them – are capable of doing modern physics at all. It is an open question whether there remain deep truths about the universe which human brains not only don't yet understand but can never understand. I find that open question immensely exciting, whatever the answer to it may be.

Theologians love their “mysteries”, such as the “mystery of the Trinity” (how can God be both three and one at the same time?) and the “mystery of transubstantiation” (how can the contents of a chalice be simultaneously wine and blood?). When challenged to defend such stuff, they may retort that scientists too have their mysteries.

Quantum theory is mysterious to the point of being downright perverse. What's the difference? I'll tell you the difference and it's a big one. Quantum theory is validated by predictions fulfilled to so many decimal places that it's been compared to predicting the width of North America to within one hairsbreadth. Theological theories make no predictions at all, let alone testable ones.

Of course, not all the sciences can boast the formidable accuracy of physics. We biologists stand in awe of the LIGO experiments in which gravitational waves, having travelled a billion light years, are detected by measurements accurate to less than a thousandth the width of a proton. Biological experimenters have to confront problems like the subjective bias of the experimenter – “intuitive ways of knowing”. Medical scientists have perfected safeguards aimed precisely against intuitive ways of knowing, because these are highly likely to mislead. The double blind control test has become the gold standard for demonstrating the efficacy of a medical treatment. A new drug must be compared with a placebo control and the comparison tested statistically. Neither the patients, nor the doctors running the tests, nor the nurses administering the doses, nor the analysts evaluating the results are allowed to know which patients were given the placebo, which the drug, until all the results are in.

I myself conducted a double blind test of dowsing (water divining). It was pathetically touching to witness the sincere distress of the professional dowsers when they failed – every single one of them – to perform above chance level. The poor things had never before been tested under double blind conditions: never before been deprived of whatever subliminal cues normally inform their “subject-

ive ways of knowing”. I treasure the remark of a homeopathic doctor who, when his methods failed under double blind testing conditions, said: “You see. This is why we don't do double blind tests any more. They never work!”

A layperson's version of the pernicious philosophy I mentioned earlier is the familiar bleat of: “Well it may not be true for you but it is true for me.” No, it's either true or it isn't. For both of us. As somebody once said (authorship multiply attributed), you are entitled to your own opinion but not to your own facts.

Some of what I have claimed here about scientific truth may come across as arrogant. So might my disparagement of certain schools of philosophy. Science really does know a lot about what is true, and we do have methods in place for finding out a lot more. We should not be reticent about that. But science is also humble. We may know what we know, but we also know what we don't know. Scientists love not knowing because they can go to work on it. The history of science's increasing knowledge, especially during the past four centuries, is a spectacular cascade of truths following one on the other. We may choose to call it a cumulative increase in the number of truths that we know. Or we can tip our hat to (a better class of) philosophers and talk of successive approximations towards yet-to-be-falsified provisional truths. Either way, science can properly claim to be the gold standard of truth.

SO HELP US, REASON Dennis Middlebrooks

I am glad Joe Biden, and not Donald Trump, is now our president. However, it was difficult to listen to the platitudinous Benediction prior to the swearing in ceremony and to hear Biden saying “So help me, God!” at the conclusion of his oath. Neither a prayer nor those last four words are mentioned in the Constitution. Then in the evening, Biden and Harris were obliged to remotely take part in the National Cathedral's Inauguration Day Prayer Service, a tradition which purportedly dates back to George Washington, although I am skeptical that is in fact the case.

These theocratic rituals have no place in a secular democracy, period. Biden could not have been elected without the support of the large and growing non-religious segment of the U.S. population.

Freethinkers need to hold him accountable for his words and deeds. He will no doubt have many meetings with religious leaders in the White House. Secular groups should demand the same accommodation and demand that Biden publicly recognize the “Day of Reason”.

NO

House Majority Whip James Clyburn plans to introduce legislation to designate the song “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” as “America's national hymn”. “Everybody can identify with that song,” he says.

No, I can't. No hymns! Do you hear tens of millions of us non-Christians and non-theists, Rep. Clyburn? *No!* – JR

TRUMP OR NO TRUMP, RELIGIOUS AUTHORITARIANISM IS HERE TO STAY

Katherine Stewart

(Excerpted from The New York Times, 11/16/2020)

The 2020 election is proof that religious authoritarianism is here to stay, and the early signs now indicate that the movement seems determined to reinterpret defeat at the top of the ticket as evidence of persecution and of its own righteousness. With or without Mr. Trump, they will remain committed to the illiberal politics that the [ex] president has so ably embodied. ...

The core of Mr. Trump's voting bloc, to be clear, does not come from white evangelicals as such, but from an overlapping group of not necessarily evangelical, and not necessarily white, people who identify at least loosely with Christian nationalism: the idea that the United States is and ought to be a Christian nation governed under a reactionary understanding of Christian values. ...

Most pollsters shoehorn complex religious identities into necessarily broad labels, so they fail to separate out the different strands of Mr. Trump's support. There are indications that the president in fact expanded his appeal among nonwhite evangelical and born-again Christians of color, particularly among Latinos. Mr. Biden, on the other hand, who made faith outreach a key feature of his campaign, appears to have done well among moderate and progressive voters of all faiths. ...

In their responses to the election outcome, some prominent religious right leaders have enabled or remained true to the false Trumpian line of election fraud. ...

After processing their disappointment, Christian nationalists may come around to the reality of Joe Biden's victory. There is no indication, however, that this will temper their apocalyptic vision, according to which one side of the American political divide represents unmitigated evil. During a Nov. 11 virtual prayer gathering organized by the Family Research Council, one of the key speakers cast the election as the consequence of "the whole godless ideology that's wanted to swallow our homes, destroy our marriages, throw our children into rivers of confusion". Jim Garlow, an evangelical pastor whose Well Versed Ministry has as its stated goal, "Bringing biblical principles of governance to governmental leaders", asserted that Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris are at the helm of an "ideology" that is "anti-Christ, anti-Biblical to its core". ...

While many outsiders continue to think of Christian nationalism as a social movement that arises from the ground up, it is in fact a political movement that operates mostly from the top down. The rank-and-file of the movement is diverse and comes to its churches with an infinite variety of motivations and concerns, but the leaders are far more unified.

They collaborate in a densely interconnected network of think tanks, policy groups, activist organizations, legal advocacy groups and conservative pastoral networks. What holds them together is not any centralized command struc-

ture, but a radical political ideology that is profoundly hostile to democracy and pluralism, and a certain political style that seeks to provoke moral panic, rewards the paranoid and views every partisan conflict as a conflagration, the end of the world. Partisan politics is the lifeblood of their movement.

If one considers the movement from the perspective of its leaders, it is easier to see why it is unlikely to change in the new political circumstances we find ourselves in. The power of the leadership is the function of at least three underlying structural realities in America's political and economic life, and those realities are not going to change any time soon.

The first is the growing economic inequality that has produced spectacular fortunes for the few, while too many ordinary families struggle to get by. Leaders of the movement get much of the support for their well-funded operations from a cadre of super-wealthy individuals and extended families who are as committed to free-market fundamentalism as they are to reactionary religion. The donors in turn need the so-called values voters in order to lock down their economic agenda of low taxation for the wealthy and minimal regulation. These donors include, among many others, the Prince-DeVos family, the fracking billionaire Wilks brothers, and members of the Green family, whose Hobby Lobby fortune helped build the Museum of the Bible. The movement gets another big chunk of its funding from the large mass of people who are often in the middle rungs of the economic spectrum and whose arduously cultivated resentments toward those below them have been turned into a fund-raising bonanza.

The second structural reality to consider is that Christian nationalism is a creation of a uniquely isolated messaging sphere. Many members of the rank and file get their main political information not just from messaging platforms that keep their audiences in a world that is divorced from reality, but also from dedicated religious networks and reactionary faith leaders. The fact that Mr. Trump was able to hold on to a high percentage of the vote in the face of such overwhelming evidence of malfeasance is proof enough that the religious-nationalist end of the right-wing information bubble has gotten more, not less, resistant over time.

The third critical factor is a political system that gives disproportionate power to an immensely organized, engaged and loyal minority. One of the most reliable strategies for producing that unshakable cohort has been to get them to agree that abortion is the easy answer to every difficult political policy question. Recently, religious right leaders have shifted their focus more to a specious understanding of what they call "religious freedom" or "religious liberty", but the underlying strategy is the same: make individuals see their partisan vote as the primary way to protect their cultural and religious identity. ...

Perhaps the most troubling aspect of the Christian nationalist response to the 2020 election is that we've seen this movie before. The "stolen election" meme won't bring

Mr. Trump back into the Oval Office. But then, the birther narrative never took President Barack Obama out of office, either. The point of conspiratorial narratives and apocalyptic rhetoric is to lay the groundwork for a politics of total obstruction, in preparation for the return of a “legitimate” ruler.

“KEEP CHURCH AND STATE FOREVER SEPARATE”

Ulysses S. Grant

At the Annual Reunion of the Army of the Tennessee in Des Moines, Iowa, on Sept. 29, 1875, Ulysses S. Grant, Commanding General of the U.S. Army during the American Civil War, and 18th president of the United States from 1869 to 1877, said this about the next American Civil War:

If we are to have another contest in the near future of our national existence, I predict that the dividing line will not be Mason and Dixon’s, but between patriotism and intelligence on the one side, and superstition, ambition, and ignorance on the other. ...

Let us all labor to add all needful guarantees for the more perfect security of free thought, free speech, and free press, pure morals, unfettered religious sentiments, and of equal rights and privileges to all men, irrespective of nationality, color, or religion.

Encourage free schools, and resolve that not one dollar of money appropriated to their support, no matter how raised, shall be appropriated to the support of any sectarian school. Resolve that the State or Nation, or both combined, shall furnish to every child growing up in the land, the means of acquiring a good common-school education, unmixed with sectarian, pagan, or atheistic tenets. Leave the matter of religion to the family altar, the church, and the private school supported entirely by private contributions. Keep the church and state forever separate.

FASCISM IS COMING TO AMERICA

Brendan Rafferty

Many are missing, and definitely not talking about, the real danger of what we saw happening these last four years. We did not dodge a bullet, we heard a warning shot.

There is a growing movement in this country, a strong nationalist movement that seeks to preserve what it wrongly believes is American culture, and includes a strong resentment of “the other”, whether that other is identified by ethnicity, religion, or sexuality.

I am not talking about all Trump supporters, but I am definitely talking about a dangerous number of them, in the millions. They have shown themselves completely willing to disregard our laws, our institutions, and our values to prop up an autocrat who will champion their vision for the country.

Trump hated many of the things they hated – the press, the courts, and civil liberties for others. Trump was an unabashed adulterer who had no understanding or real

interest in religion, but far right Christians were willing to embrace him, and play along, because he shared their contempt for the same things.

Trump lied and denied reality in ways that were obvious to even his most passionate supporters, but there were people who played along because more important to them than the truth was upsetting the people they hated.

Our democracy survived the Trump presidency, but not unscathed. Trump was a gift to the silent neo fascists in this country, giving them a voice and showing them that they were many.

My warning is this: The next popular political figure to rise and fill that need for a nationalist leader so many are hungry for isn’t going to be incompetent, disingenuous, or interested primarily in himself.

He’s going to be focused, driven, and genuine in his desire to cleanse and change the country.

The next guy is going to succeed where Trump did not, and will give the most rabid of Trump’s supporters the America they were hoping for.

Be grateful Trump was a buffoon.

Be worried that the next guy won’t be.

DOES GOD EXIST?

James A. Haught

(Copied from Daylight Atheism at patheos.com, 1/18/2021)

Well, it depends on what you mean by God. The universe is a maze of mysteries. How can gravity – an invisible, unexplainable force – pull the Milky Way into a spiral? How can atoms contain such awesome power that an amount of matter smaller than a dime produced the energy in the bomb that killed 100,000 Hiroshima residents? How can the double-helix thread of DNA create all living things, from bacteria to trees to Beethoven? How can electrons, dormant in every atom of your body, explode into violent lightning bolts when they’re detached? Finally, why does anything exist, at all?

If you say that the power of gravity, atoms, DNA, lightning and all the rest is God – that God is $E=MC^2$ – then God exists. Those baffling forces are undeniably real.

Or if you say, as some do, that God is the love and pity in every human heart, then God exists. Those feelings are real – just like the paranoid capacity for suspicion, hate, jealousy, anger, and the like.

But if you mean church-type deities – the three gods of the Christian Trinity, the 330 million gods of Hinduism, the wrathful Jehovah of the Old Testament, the multitudinous Greek and Roman gods, the invisible feathered serpent of the Aztecs, etc. – you’ve entered the Twilight Zone. Human logic can find no trustworthy evidence to prove, or disprove, the existence of unseen spirits. Weeping statues and holy apparitions aren’t reliable proof. So the only truthful answer for an honest person is: I don’t know.

But honest people can go farther and speculate intelligently: Do demons exist? Angels? Leprechauns? Fairies? Vampires? Werewolves? Lack of tangible evidence leads educated people to laugh off these imaginary beings. It’s a

small step to apply the same rationale to holy ghosts, resurrected saviors, blessed virgins, patron saints, etc. You can't prove they aren't hovering invisible in the room with you — but it's unlikely.

Sigmund Freud said the widespread belief in a father-god arises from psychology. Tiny children are awed by their fathers as seemingly all-powerful protectors and punishers. Without knowing it, Freud said, believers worship their hidden toddler impression of the biological father, "clothed in the grandeur in which he once appeared to the small child."

That makes sense to me. It says the father-god is just a figment of the imagination. But you can't prove it's true.

Through logic, you can see that the church concept of an all-loving heavenly creator doesn't hold water. If a divine Maker fashioned everything that exists, he designed breast cancer for women, leukemia for children, cerebral palsy, leprosy, AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, Down's syndrome, etc. He mandated foxes to rip rabbits apart (bunnies emit a terrible shriek at that moment) and cheetahs to slaughter fawns. No human would be cruel enough to plan such horrors. If a supernatural being did so, he's a monster, not an all-merciful father.

When you get down to it, the only evidence of God's existence is that holy men, past and present, say he exists. Priests have built worldwide, trillion-dollar empires on their claim that an unseen deity waits to reward or punish people after death. But such priests once said that witches exist, and burned thousands of women on charges that they flew through the sky, copulated with Satan, changed into animals, and so forth. Priests later dropped this claim (but never apologized for the witch hunts). If their assertion about God is as valid as their assertion about witches, their trillion-dollar empires rest on fantasy.

The universe is a vast, amazing, seething dynamo which has no discernible purpose except to keep on churning. From quarks to quasars, it's alive with incredible power. But it seems utterly indifferent to any moral laws. It destroys as blindly as it nurtures.

Martin Heidegger said we know only that we exist for a while, and we are doomed to die without knowing why we are here. If you are scrupulously honest, you can't say much more than that.

Are the profound forces of the universe God? I don't know. Is human love God? I don't know. Is there a personal God waiting to reward me in a heaven or punish me in a hell? I don't know — but I doubt it.

IRONY WHIZZES PAST JESUS AND MO

(Transcribed from www.jesusandmo.net, 1/20/2021)

Jesus: Mo, have you heard about this weird QAnon cult?

Mohammed: No, who are they?

Jesus: They hang on every word of the anonymous texts of someone called Q, even though none of their prophecies ever come true. And they believe they are at war with satanic forces. Oh, and they idolize Trump as a divinely-appointed leader despite his questionable moral character.

Mo: Idiots.

Let's get together, and feel alright ...

"A NEW YEAR, NEW FRIENDS"

An Online Event by New Jersey Humanist Network

Join New Jersey Humanist Network for a Virtual Meet & Greet with several other humanist groups on ...

January 31, 2021 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

We hope this event will give humanists, atheists, agnostics, freethinkers, and other like-minded folk an opportunity to build a more supportive, connected community during the pandemic.

Members of the Secular Humanist Society of New York, Montclair Atheists, and the Humanists and Free-thinkers of Fairfield County, Connecticut, will join us.

After a brief introduction, attendees will have the option to join one of several Zoom Rooms on a range of topics, including:

- Why Are You Humanist?
- The New Administration: What Does It Mean for Humanists?
- The Media Room: What Are You Binge-watching? What Are You Reading?
- What Are Your New Year's Resolutions?
- What's So Funny? Tell Us a Joke or a Funny Story!

Register in advance for this meeting at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZwvc-yvrzwpEt-Fz0fsD5GSyVNLyeVRI8InV>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

We hope to see you there!

FINALLY ...

Presidential Executive Order on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation, January 20, 2021:

Every person should be treated with respect and dignity and should be able to live without fear, no matter who they are or whom they love.

Children should be able to learn without worrying about whether they will be denied access to the restroom, the locker room, or school sports.

Adults should be able to earn a living and pursue a vocation knowing that they will not be fired, demoted, or mistreated because of whom they go home to or because how they dress does not conform to sex-based stereotypes.

People should be able to access healthcare and secure a roof over their heads without being subjected to sex discrimination. All persons should receive equal treatment under the law, no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation.

AND ONE FINAL SCAREY

I just want to say goodbye, but hopefully it's not a long-term goodbye. We'll see each other again." — Donald J. Trump, to a straggle of supporters before boarding Marine One helicopter, Jan 20, 2021.

SHSNY CALENDAR: JANUARY – APRIL 2021

FICTION BOOK CLUB ONLINE

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

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

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

“[One of] the real charms of this series [is] the endearing character of Brunetti and his compassionate insights into the heart of Venice and the soul of its people.” – *The New York Times Book Review*
– Paperback & Kindle

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

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

Mrs. Bridge completes the group portrait of a family divided by loneliness, boredom, isolation, and sexual longing. – Paperback, Kindle

TUES, APRIL 13, 7:30 pm **THE ISLAND OF SEA WOMEN** Lisa See

The *NYTimes* best-seller is a “mesmerizing new historical novel”. – Paperback & Kindle

HUMANIST BOOK CLUB

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

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

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

“An instant American classic, the keynote nonfiction book of the American century thus far.”

THURS, MARCH 4, 7:00 pm **A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE SAYING:**

The New Conspiracism and the Assault on Democracy Nancy L. Rosenblum and Russell Muirhead

Conspiracy theories are as old as politics. But conspiracists have introduced something new: conspiracy without theory. And the new conspiracism has moved from the fringes to the heart of government with Donald Trump. What is to be done about it?

THURS, APRIL 1, 7:00 pm **ON TYRANNY:** **Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century** Timothy Snyder

LIKE SHSNY ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/SHSofNY>

MEET US ON MEETUP

www.meetup.com/shsnny-org/

TEXT US ON TWITTER

@SHS_NewYork

HUMANIST HAPPY HOUR ONLINE

SUNDAY, JAN 24, 5:00 pm

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

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

MONDAY MOVIES: MUSICALS!

Let’s have some fun, screening, talking about, and simply enjoying the best “all-singing, all-dancing” Hollywood (and other) classics. Rent ‘em on Amazon (\$3.99), watch, then Zoom in at ...
<https://zoom.us/j/92351454127?pwd=OVg5NnBaUFc4NWtLbHJlNW1vZlY1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 923 5145 4127
Passcode: watch

MONDAY, FEB 1, 8:00 pm **SWING TIME**

Some critics have called this 1936 classic the best of all the great Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers films. And with music by Jerome Kern and lyrics by Dorothy Fields (“Just the Way You Look Tonight”), no argument.

MONDAY, FEB 15, 8:00 pm **GUYS AND DOLLS**

Brando sings! (Oh, yeah, so does Sinatra.) Music by Frank Loesser to match the Damon Runyon style, direction by Joe Mankiewicz, and Stubby Kaye rocks the boat.