

# PIQUE

Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

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January 5, 2021

Happier, healthier New Year — it has to be better, doesn't it? Doesn't it? Herein we celebrate the new calendar page with musings on "success" by an adolescent Kurt Vonnegut and on television repair and the Dairy Queen Oreo Blizzard by a couple of old men. We peek into a history book that won't be written for 46 years and eavesdrop on a 2021 prayer. We discover a new word, define religious freedom, worry about AI, and celebrate federalism, the lost Fugawi tribe, truth in Ohio, and the short-tempered wisdom of Lucy Van Pelt. But first, a message — a plea — from our leader. — JR

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## THE WORLD NEEDS SECULAR HUMANISM AND SHSNY NEEDS YOU!

Jonathan Engel

I don't know about you, but what I've seen of 2020 tells me that the world is in dire need of some secular humanism and less dogma and supernatural nonsense. The Trump regime has allowed religious magical thinking to run amok in this country, with disastrous results. In 2020 we all saw the Mike Pence-led Corona virus task force take a knee and pray for their god's intervention in the pandemic crisis, but then fail to take the essential evidence-based steps needed to control the virus, resulting in over 330,000 dead Americans, and counting. In 2017 Republicans passed a huge tax cut for the wealthiest people in the country and used as cover their dogma that tax cuts for the rich benefit everyone. Doesn't matter that the evidence shows otherwise; that's their dogma and they're sticking with it, especially since true or not it helps them line their own pockets.

And here's one that you might have missed. The annual White House Christmas message included this: "This Christmas, like every Christmas, is an opportunity to celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ." Our savior? Not mine, not yours, and not the "savior" of tens of millions of non-Christian Americans. What an egregious violation of the First Amendment's establishment clause and the separation of church and state. It is wrong, and it violates our rights. Who will stand up and say so? Where is the forum for the voices of secularism, reason and rationality? Right here, that's where, in and at SHSNY.

Of course I've heard it said that organizing atheists is like herding cats. But it's also true that there is strength in numbers. The more members we have, the more we'll be listened to. That's the nature of policy, politics and public opinion, whether we like it or not. If our membership dwin-

dles, so does our clout. Don't let that happen! Renew your membership today, either online at [www.shsny.org](http://www.shsny.org), or by returning and mailing the enrollment card that was sent to you. And bring in a like-minded friend as a new member.

*Please! We need you and the world needs us.*

## GOOD NEWS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Joel Galker

Sometimes inquiring minds are better off amused than informed. About craving amusement, the NY Times AM email said that the pandemic seems to be getting worse with increasing numbers, predictions of yet higher heights and the advent of a 70 percent more infectious Covid mutation. But the goodish news is that the vaccine they're still using in Great Britain seems to work — definite proof that god exists and is on our side. Meanwhile MSNBC says that Trump and his gang have been talking up a coup and martial law, but it's not about lawfulness. I'm getting tired of bad news but I shouldn't complain too much because I had some good luck just this morning.

While watching MSNBC the TV got all screwed-up because the cable router box started misbehaving. I pushed and pushed buttons on the remote control, finally tried to reboot the f\*\*king box, which froze midway through two attempts. So I tried a lot of unplugging and replugging, took an angry slap at the box and the reboot finally worked after 10 long minutes. This is what life has become, being terrorized by disease, sociopaths and mysterious black boxes. But the good news is that the TV still works, sometimes. I recall a friend's wise words. "Cheer up, things could be worse. So I cheered up and things got worse."

Have a good New Year.

*Comment:* In my experience, slapping the box is the universal fixit. Happy New Year, Joel. — JR

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## GOOD TIMES AHEAD, THE OLD MAN SAID

Garrison Keillor

*(Excerpted from his blog at garrisonkeillor.com, 12/9/2020)*

I look forward to 2021. For four years, an angry fourth-grader has been in the driver's seat and steering for bridge abutments to see if he could make his passengers screech, and the media has been a slave to this spectacle, and in a few weeks, a grownup will take the wheel. Life is good. Coffee is better, plain black coffee has taken great strides forward. We didn't have the Dairy Queen Oreo Blizzard back in the day and I don't even need to buy one. Just knowing it exists is pleasure enough. There are more fragrances of soap than ever. Rosemary, basil: formerly on your spice shelf, now in the shower stall. The slots in your toaster are wider now to accommodate thick slices of artisanal bread: Grandma baked but she didn't consider herself an artist. Now you can.

Your phone used to be on a short leash and the whole family could hear your conversation and now you can take it to your room, outdoors, up the street, enjoy freedom of speech, exchange intimate confidences if you have any. I come from the era of Larry and Gary and now you have boys named Aidan and Liam, Conor, Dylan, Minnesota kids enjoying the luxury of being Irish. Larry and Gary are old men, a vanishing species.

There is still a good deal of stupidity around, of course. This year, the MacDowell Colony decided to drop the word "colony" from its name because it carries "a sense of exclusion and hierarchy" and has racist overtones, thinking back to European powers who cruelly and murderously oppressed their indigenous populations. The word, as used by MacDowell, simply means "a community of like-minded persons", a gang of harmless poets and composers sitting under the trees of New Hampshire, but the virus of pointless self-righteousness is everywhere and so I suppose we should no longer refer to the bowels as our "colon", perhaps we should call it the macdowell, and give the decolonizers a macdowelloscopy to see where their heads are.

This righteous act was easily accomplished because nobody gives a rip whether you call it a "colony" or an "asylum" or a bowl of almonds. What would be truly meaningful is to change New York to New Hiawatha, the Duke of York (later James II) having been a tyrant who maintained the divine right of kings, like the fourth-grader. If you renamed the city and state for the Mohawk chief, you'd be accomplishing something.

Let it be. I've learned to be grateful and that's enough for now. I was lucky to be born back when all soap was Ivory, before Blizzards had Oreos, so I could appreciate the diversity, which I truly do. I wouldn't know how to be a Liam but the cordless phone is a beautiful thing. To the young, ho-hum, but to me, a revelation.

### Coronavirus Blues

Day 320 at home and the dog says: "See? This is why I chew the furniture."

*(Lifted from "The Voice of Reason" newsletter)*

## A LIFE LESSON FOR THE NEW YEAR

(From a Humanist of the Year and

Honorary Member of SHSNY)

Kurt Vonnegut

When I was 15, I spent a month working on an archeological dig. I was talking to one of the archeologists one day during our lunch break and he asked those kinds of "getting to know you" questions you ask young people: Do you play sports? What's your favorite subject? And I told him, no I don't play any sports. I do theater, I'm in choir, I play the violin and piano, I used to take art classes.

And he went WOW. That's amazing! And I said, "Oh no, but I'm not any good at ANY of them."

And he said something then that I will never forget and which absolutely blew my mind because no one had ever said anything like it to me before: "I don't think being good at things is the point of doing them. I think you've got all these wonderful experiences with different skills, and that all teaches you things and makes you an interesting person, no matter how well you do them."

And that honestly changed my life. Because I went from a failure, someone who hadn't been talented enough at anything to excel, to someone who did things because I enjoyed them. I had been raised in such an achievement-oriented environment, so inundated with the myth of Talent, that I thought it was only worth doing things if you could "Win" at them.

## WHO, EXACTLY, IS IN CHARGE HERE?

Fareed Zakaria

*(Excerpted from Ten Lessons For a Post-Pandemic World, and forwarded by Bob Worth)*

We know that AI [Artificial Intelligence]-powered computers get the right answer, but we don't know how or why. What role does that leave for human judgement? . . . Does the rise of artificial intelligence mean the end of the Enlightenment . . . that eighteenth-century movement Immanuel Kant called "man's emergence from his self-imposed immaturity". Humanity had to grow up—we had to understand the world ourselves.

But if AI produces better answers than we can without revealing its logic, then we will be going back into our species' childhood and relying on faith. We will worship artificial intelligence that, as was said of God, works in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform. Perhaps the period from Gutenberg to AlphaGo will prove to be the exception, a relatively short era in history when humans believed they were in control. Before that, for millennia, they saw themselves as small cogs in a vast system they did not fully comprehend, subject to the laws of God and nature. The AI age could return us to a similarly humble role. This time, though, humans may work hand in hand with a higher intelligence, not subservient to it but not entirely above it, either. In some ways that is a more accurate reflection of our actual place in the vast unfathomable universe.

## A LOOK BACK AT NOW

David Rafferty

(Reprinted from Greenwich (CT) Time, 12/20/2020)

December 20, 2067

Amazon-Mitsubishi Greenwich High School  
American History 101

The assignment robot has asked for an analysis of the First Pandemic Years of 2020-22, taking into account the effects American politics played on the outcome.

Arriving in a culturally and politically divided America in 2020, Covid-19 ran rampant from coast to coast due to an unwillingness of millions of people to minimally protect themselves and maintain appropriate distances from each other, thereby significantly increasing transmission rates. (*U.S. House Committee, 2026, p.14*) Originally dismissed and never actively confronted by President Trump, a charismatic cult leader with slavish devotees, the disease was deliberately downplayed and never truly brought under control, with hundreds of thousands dying needlessly. (*SDNY v. Trump decision, 2024*) Much has been written about why so many in such an advanced nation remained either willfully ignorant or arrogantly unconcerned about the deadly threat, but most scholars now agree that collective and individual selfishness was the primary cause.

Throughout the 20th and into the 21st century, most Americans believed that their corporate-run, for-profit health insurance providers were actually preferable to an equitable public healthcare system. (*Private Insurance=Death Panels, 2044, p.17*) Yet before the Fair Elections Act of 2032 finally took big money out of politics and helped encourage honesty in political messaging, politicians beholden to big donors actually worked against healthcare as a basic human right. Even during the Pandemic, the now defunct Republican Party tried to eliminate healthcare access to many Americans, with many of the party's biggest names willingly putting power and profits over the safety of their constituents. (*Were They Really That Stupid? 2041, p.143*)

While conventional wisdom today holds that the Pandemic could have been abbreviated and fatalities lowered had Americans acted less selfishly, it's also clear that much of how we live today never would have come about otherwise. Some examples of societal changes brought on as a direct result of the Pandemic Years include:

**Good:** For centuries the handshake (*see: YouTube tutorial*) was the commonly accepted greeting when meeting a friend or new acquaintance. While the "elbow bump" generated some early usage as a replacement, by 2025 most people favored the now ubiquitous Vulcan Salutation (*see Star Trek*) and the greeting, "Namaste".

**Bad:** Globally, millions of young people either quit school during the Pandemic Years, never to return, or fell out of the workforce as jobs were eliminated. Girls and young women were hit hardest. (*UNESCO.org, 2020*) Additionally, food insecurity shot up and as many as 150 million more people were in "extreme poverty". (*Worldbank.org, 2020*)

**Good:** The iGlove. First designed as a protective virus-kill-

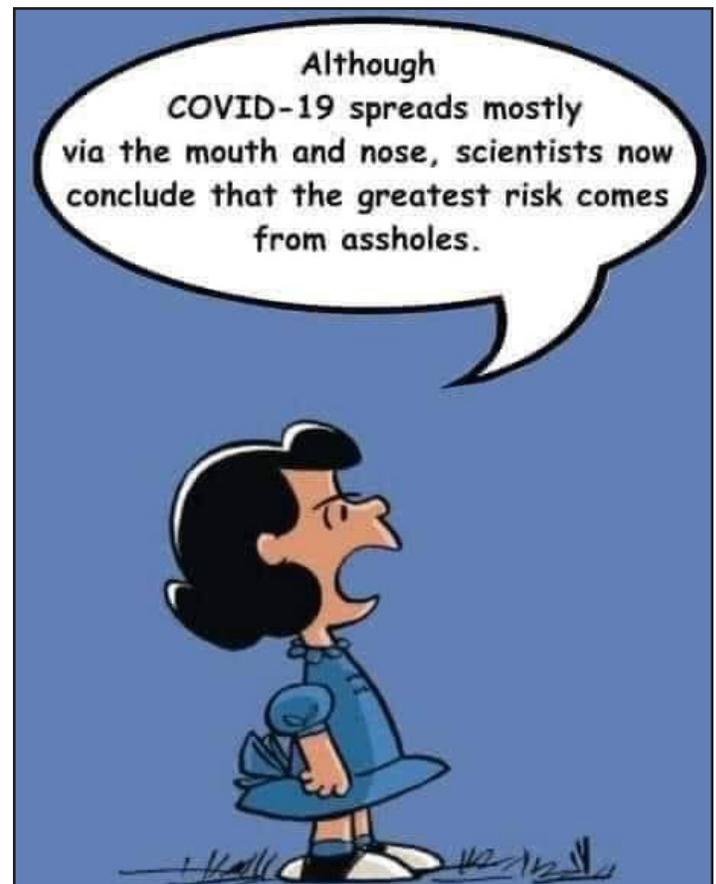
ing glove, by 2042 most Americans wore their upgraded versions all day as its touch controls are used to operate our cars, phones, computers, and even write this paper.

**Bad:** The collapse of the real estate markets as underemployed Millennials (born 1981-1996) and Generation Z (1997-2015) swore off home ownership, and committed to working from home as productivity and profitability soared.

**Both:** The world is almost entirely vegetarian now as we're terrified of disease transmission from animal proteins. Being vegetarian has also reduced greenhouse gas emissions and eased water shortages throughout the world.

But was politics ultimately to blame for the First Pandemic Years? Yes and no. The world was unprepared for the impact of Covid-19 once it spread to every continent. Historians have argued that the hyper-politicized response from the United States drew others a picture of how not to respond to a pandemic, (*It Didn't Have to be This Way, 2055, p.23*) so that when confronted with the Second and Third Pandemic Years, most nations at least knew what not to do.

However, stopping the virus' transmission and subsequent fatalities in 2020 required both non-partisan leadership as well as a change in human nature that was beyond the abilities of too many Americans at the time. (*Mommy Died For My Freedom: Growing Up MAGA, 2037, p.227*) American political leadership in 2020 was cowardly at best and criminal at worst, but too many Americans willingly ignored science, treated conspiracy theories and facts as interchangeable, and were too selfish to accept some inconveniences for the greater good of society.



## TWO CHEERS FOR FEDERALISM

Jennifer Ruben

(Excerpted from “America isn’t ‘hopelessly divided.’ It only looks that way because of our Constitution” at *washingtonpost.com*, 12/28/2020)

Get it — and agree with it to some extent: Americans are deeply divided, inhabiting two parallel political universes, ingesting different media and adhering to contradictory visions of America. One increasingly defines the United States as a bastion of White Christianity; the other sees a creedal nation defined by its founding documents. But perhaps the “civil war” perspective is distorted.

First, let’s get some perspective. Yes, a shift of a mere 39,000 votes in a few close swing states in 2016 would have made Hillary Clinton president. And yes, an even slimmer shift of about 33,000 votes would have kept President Trump in office this year. But a shift of 269 votes in Florida in 2000 would have given the election to Al Gore. Were we more divided then?

More generally, we can see that it is the electoral college that transforms President-elect Joe Biden’s margin of 7 million votes into a multistate nail-biter. ... Democrats have won the popular vote in the past four consecutive elections with margins ranging from 2.9 million (Clinton in 2016) to 10 million (Obama in 2008). And Al Gore, by the way, won by more than half a million votes nationally. One “solution” to the deep division problem, then, would be to junk the electoral college.

A similar lack of majority rule gives Republicans control of the Senate, despite having support from a minority of the population. The disproportionate power of lightly populated states turns significant majority rule by Democrats into persistent minority rule by Republicans. Gerrymandering offers many Republicans a similar artificial advantage in their House seats.

In other words, we have an enduring and significant majority in favor of Democrats nationally, but our constitutional system consistently hands that advantage over to a Republican Party that is increasingly radical, irrational and racist. (As *The Post’s* Dan Balz writes, “For Trump supporters, cultural preservation of an America long dominated by a White, Christian majority remains a cornerstone of their beliefs.” That is the *definition* of white supremacy.)

We could get rid of the electoral college by constitutional amendment or through the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (which would instruct each state’s electors to cast their votes for the national popular vote winner). But there is an alternative answer, which is also a function of our constitutional system.

One positive aspect of the Trump era is that it made many Democrats understand the value of federalism. State lawmakers and election officials prevented a coup by the Trump campaign. State attorneys general, over the course of 138 cases, also blocked Trump on an array of issues. As NBC News reported, this includes: “the ‘travel ban’; the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA; family separations at the U.S.-Mexico border; the ‘national

emergency’ declaration to build the border wall; international student visas; student loan protections; clean water rules; transgender health care protections; automobile emissions; a citizenship question on the 2020 census; U.S. Postal Service operations; and Obamacare.”

Federalism is not an unalloyed benefit to progressives, as we saw when states banned same-sex marriage, access to abortion and common sense precautions to prevent the spread of covid-19. But, if you combine the “laboratories of democracy” with local activism (which prevailed in one state after another on same-sex marriage) and a Democratic president’s persuasion, you might make real progress on everything from police reform to health care to education.

The other benefit of pushing decision-making down to the states is that state governments are less polarized and more functional than the federal government. Democratic governors work with Republican legislatures; Republican governors work with Democrats. Budgets get passed and balanced — without the backstop of printing money.

So where does that leave us? Our divisions are considerable — aggravated not solely by “polarization,” but also by the descent of one party into nuttiness and by a Constitution that gives that party disproportionate power. Where possible, lawmakers should reduce that distortion (e.g., the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact) and deploy federalism.

Finally, our politics is more fluid than we imagine. Virginia and Colorado used to be dependable red states. No more. Stacey Abrams showed Georgia politics can shift as well. We need not accept that states are fated to remain in one partisan column. Activism, outreach and demography can change the electorate, and hence the result of elections.

The bottom line: Democrats have a small but stubborn national popular vote majority. The electorate as a whole agrees with their positions on gun safety, climate change and health care. The trick is expanding democracy, maximizing the benefits of federalism and working hard to create an electorate that resembles the increasingly diverse — and progressive — population.

### READING ABOUT THE FAR RIGHT? HERE’S A USEFUL NEW WORD

(Excerpted from *A Word A Day – which is the best thing in my Inbox every morning, and free!* – 12/21/2020) – JR

**misocainea**

PRONUNCIATION:

(mis-oh-KY-nee-uh, mi-soh-)

MEANING:

noun: A hatred of new ideas.

ETYMOLOGY:

From Greek miso- (hate) + -cainea (new). Earliest documented use: 1938.

USAGE:

“A crucial objective of our program is to remove any innate misocainea ‘hatred of new ideas’, and replace it with the entrepreneurial principle of ‘change is an opportunity to create competitive advantage’.” *Change for the Better*

## TRUTH IS ALIVE AND WELL IN CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO

Brad Cotton

(From "Viewpoint: Science and truth save lives" OpEd by Dr. Cotton in the Circleville (Ohio) Herald, 12/30/2020.)

(Editor: Dr. Amy Acton is the former Director of the Ohio Department of Health, who resigned rather than violate her Hippocratic Oath to "do no harm" by following the dictates of Covid-denying Republican lawmakers. – JR)

I had to speak up. I was becomingly increasingly uncomfortable as my Sunday school class attacked science while promoting creationism. Many of these good people had willingly given themselves over to advanced medical care including drugs, CT and MRI scans based on the same kind of science that debunks creationism.

My wife and I often just kept quiet when creationism came up. The church did have great children's programs after all. We both performed in church Christmas and Easter productions. I am told I played a great Pilate. I wryly noted with a smile "I just pretended I was Dick Cheney". ...

The Sunday school class, nonetheless, clung to creationism, now claiming that even the atomic nature of matter is "just a theory". I shared that my practice as a physician is entirely founded on the same sort of science they are bashing and "... that to several hundred thousand people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Aug. 6 and 9, 1945 the atom was a whole lot more than 'just' a theory".

Truth, science and facts are not optional or subject to pre-conceived political or religious ideology. Bad things happen when we ignore truth. Science and facts always win in the end. If the United States had listened to the sciences of virology and epidemiology and public health as well as, say Germany, over 250,000 of us would be alive today.

Dr. Amy Acton compassionately told the whole truth. I sent her a laudatory message for her quoting of Dr. Victor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning* as the first wave of COVID-19 struck in March. Frankl, while imprisoned in a Nazi death camp, learned that we can give meaning to our struggles by choosing to face them bravely.

Today we can mask, hunker down, get vaccinated and beat COVID-19. Dr. Acton was a courageous kind leader and speaker of truth. Truth tellers are so often met with violence. Dr. Acton had her home surrounded with armed men for speaking her truth. Jesus himself, the Scriptures state, was killed precisely for his truthful street theater against the money-changers and dove sellers (Mark 11:18) .

For the sake of our nation, I pray earnestly that we can move beyond darkness to politics based firmly on science, facts, truth and compassion for all.

Lies kill. Science and truth save lives.

According to an NPR/Ipsos poll, only 47 percent of Americans think this statement is false: "A group of Satan-worshipping elites who run a child sex ring are trying to control our politics and media." 37 percent were "unsure", and 17 percent said it was true.

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

David Orenstein

Religious freedom is the freedom to tell you, if you ask, that your religion is nothing more than magical thinking. That your religion is a lie pretending to be a philosophy. That your prophet, savior or god is in fact fiction.

Religious freedom allows you to believe in any god or theology. It also give me the right to deny your beliefs as poorly constructed ideas regarding the ways in which you choose to live your life.

Religious freedom allows me to accept reality, appreciate science, accept we are part of nature, and realize that we can be and are better when we live without god or religious faith.

Religious freedom does not allow you to put your faith ahead of my secular rights to life, liberty and freedom. Just as my secular ideas and conclusions support your right to believe in god.

But I will always see you as scared, ignorant or impotent and needy in some way if you need to depend on faith. Even if this dependence provides you the trappings of wealth, happiness and a good life.

It doesn't mean I don't respect you or care about you. It does mean I will always wish you came to the freedom and liberation that I conclude and feel every day by being an atheist, a scientist and a humanist.

## A PRAYER OVERHEARD IN SHUL

(Forwarded by Adrienne Karp)

"*Avinu she'ba'shamayim* (Our Father in Heaven): This last year has been tough. You have taken my favorite actors: Sean Connery, Kirk Douglas and Diana Rigg; my favorite television host, Alex Trebek; my favorite singer from the 50s, Little Richard; even Charlie Daniels and Kenny Rogers, my two favorite country western singers. And from sports you took Gale Sayers and Kobe Bryant.

"I just wanted you to know my favorite politicians are Donald Trump, Mitch McConnell, Ted Cruz and Lindsey Graham. Amen."

## WHERE THE (BLEEP) ARE WE?

For millennia, humans have believed the Earth or the Sun occupied the center of the Solar System, but the truth is the planets and the Sun actually orbit a common center of mass – but no one knows exactly where it is. We are getting closer, though. This year, a team of astronomers narrowed in on the center of the entire Solar System within 100 meters. The results suggest it lies right above the surface of the Sun.

Knowing where the center is is not just good trivia. Astronomers can use it in the hunt for gravitational waves which hit the Solar System as they ripple through space.

**Comment:** All of which reminded me of the old joke about the lost Fugawi tribe that wandered forever in the desert and were known by their chant of "We're the Fugawi" (*say it fast and out loud*) That's humanity: lost and loud. – JR

# SHSNY CALENDAR: JANUARY – MARCH 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, JAN 12, 7:30 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, 7:30 pm **DRESSED FOR DEATH** Donna Leon

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

### 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, closely knit on the surface but deeply divided by loneliness, boredom, isolation, and sexual longing.

## HUMANIST BOOK CLUB

Harry French will send the linking codes for the Zoom meetings. Send your address to: [htfrench46@gmail.com](mailto:htfrench46@gmail.com)  
Meanwhile, do the reading ...

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

### 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

How the new conspiracism differs from the old, how it undermines democracy, and what is to be done about it.

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## HUMANIST HAPPY HOUR ONLINE

### SUNDAY, JAN 3, 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/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 ...  
<https://zoom.us/j/92351454127?pwd=OVg5NnBaUFc4NWtLbHJJNW1vZlY1Zz09>  
Meeting ID: 923 5145 4127  
Passcode: watch

### MONDAY, JAN 4, 8:00 pm **FLYING DOWN TO RIO**

In their first onscreen pairing, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers were a sensation, stealing the picture from stars Gene Raymond and Delores del Rio. Come on – let's dance the Carioca!

### MONDAY, JAN 18, 8:00 pm **A FUNNY THING HAPPENED** **ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM**

Zero Mostel! Sondheim music and lyrics! "Something that's gaudy, something that's bawdy, something for everybawdy ... comedy tonight!"