

PIQUE

Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

March 23, 2021

It's not a "holy-day", but it seems we have a new holiday, just in time to stick it to Passover/Easter. We celebrate the long, slow death of religion, a particular year-long failure of prayer, and the existentialist philosophy of a three-year-old. We write an all-purpose report on America's next white-guy mass murder and demand Tucker Carlson's head. We have an early Jesus & Mo and some late Paddy's Day humor. Herein, too, Bill Maher surrenders to China, Bill Penzey jerks the Pope's chain, Hunter Thompson snarls at democracy, and a King-in-Waiting who should shut up does not. — JR

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR ATHEISM

**Atheist Coming-Out Day
Tuesday, March 23**

(From AOF News & Views, March, 2021)

Atheist Day ... or Atheist Coming-Out Day ... is a relatively new global secular holiday declared in 2019 by the Freedom From Religion Foundation in partnership with the Atheist Republic. In the words of the declaration:

"We atheists and atheist allies hereby declare that from now on, March 23rd is Atheist Day. We recognize the struggle of atheists to live authentic lives in many parts of the world. The struggle to openly affirm one's atheism. The fear of intolerant governments, mobs, and religious zealots. On March 23rd we shall take a stand for our right to be treated equally and for those of us in countries where atheists are persecuted and live under a threat of death. From every city in every country in the world we shall be one voice, a voice of reason."

Comment: I'll wear my Scarlet A for Atheism lapel pin from the Richard Dawkins Foundation, and forgo my usual joke when asked ...

"What's the A for?"

"Adultery, of course."

If you describe yourself as "Atheist", some people will say, "Don't you mean 'Agnostic'?" I have to reply that I really do mean Atheist. I really do not believe that there is a god — in fact I am convinced that there is not a god (a subtle difference). I see not a shred of evidence to suggest that there is one. It's easier to say that I am a radical Atheist, just to signal that I really mean it, have thought about it a great deal, and that it's an opinion I hold seriously.

— Douglas Adams

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

Jonathan Engel

I have a three year old grandnephew named Evan. Recently my sister (Evan's grandmother), sent me a short video of Evan expounding on the wonders of one of his favorite things: chocolate. But Evan has some difficulty at his young age pronouncing the word "chocolate", which from him sounds a hell of a lot like he is saying "F**k It". So I called my sister and asked her if she was aware that it sounds like Evan is saying "F**k It" all over the video, and she replied: "Of course; that's why I sent it to you."

I got a good chuckle out of this, but later on I started thinking about it (a particularly bad habit of mine). And the more I thought about it, the more amazed I became that this toddler had (okay, inadvertently) at the tender age of 3 come across one of the secrets to leading a semi-sane life: "F**k It". So much is expected of us in our lives. By employers, colleagues, family, friends, the government (Hello tax time!) and so much more. It becomes so easy for people to get down on themselves for not perfectly meeting all those expectations.

Now I'm not suggesting that people just ignore their serious obligations. For example, if I were to promise to watch Evan for a day, it's important that I keep my word and not wander off to the nearest bar for the afternoon. But there are a lot of things we fret over, whether because of pressure from others, ourselves, or both, that really don't matter all that much. As when you perform a mundane task that you do well enough, (e.g. cooking dinner, or writing an essay for PIQUE), but not as well as you usually do. About such things we need to follow Evan's lead ... and just say "F**k It".

And if that doesn't help you stay sane during these bizarre times, there's always chocolate.

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THE LONG, SLOW DEATH OF RELIGION

James. A. Haught

(From *Daylight Atheism on patheos.com*, 3/15/2021)

By now, it's clear that religion is fading in America, as it has done in most advanced Western democracies. Dozens of surveys find identical evidence: fewer American adults, especially those under 30, attend church – or even belong to a church. They tell interviewers their religion is “none”. They ignore faith.

Since 1990, the “nones” have exploded rapidly as a sociological phenomenon – from 10 percent of U.S. adults, to 15 percent, to 20 percent. Now they've climbed to 25 percent, according to a 2016 survey by the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI). That makes them the nation's largest faith category, outstripping Roman Catholics (21 percent) and white evangelicals (16 percent). They seem on a trajectory to become an outright majority. America is following the secular path of Europe, Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and other modern places. The “Secular Age” is snowballing.

Various explanations for the social transformation are postulated: that the Internet exposes young people to a wide array of ideas and practices that undercut old-time beliefs ... that family breakdown severs traditional participation in congregations ... that the young have grown cynical about authority of all types ... that fundamentalist hostility to LGBTQ+ persons and abortion has soured tolerant-minded Americans ... that clergy child-molesting scandals have scuttled church claims to moral superiority ... that faith-based suicide bombings and other religious murders horrify normal folks.

All those factors undoubtedly play a role. But I want to offer a simpler explanation: In the scientific 21st century, it's less plausible to believe in invisible gods, devils, heavens, hells, angels, demons – or virgin births, resurrections, miracles, messiahs, prophecies, faith-healings, visions, incarnations, divine visitations and other supernatural claims. Magical thinking is suspect, ludicrous; it's not for intelligent, educated people.

Significantly, the PRRI study found that the foremost reason young people gave for leaving religion is this clincher: they stopped believing miraculous church dogmas. For decades, tall-steeple mainline Protestant denominations with university-educated ministers tried to downplay supernaturalism – to preach just the compassion of Jesus and the social gospel. It was a noble effort, but disastrous. The mainline collapsed so badly it is dubbed “flatline Protestantism”. It has faded to a small fringe of American life. Now Catholicism and evangelicalism are in the same death spiral. One-tenth of U.S. adults today are ex-Catholics. The Southern Baptist Convention lost 200,000 members in 2014 and 200,000 more in 2015.

I'm a long-time newspaperman in Appalachia's Bible Belt. I've watched the retreat of religion for six decades. Back in the 1950s, church-based laws were powerful. It was a crime for stores to open on the Sabbath. All public school classes began with mandatory prayer. It was a crime to buy

a cocktail, or look at nude photos in magazines, or buy a lottery ticket. It was a crime for an unwed couple to share a bedroom. If a single girl became pregnant, both she and her family were disgraced. Birth control was unmentionable. Evolution was unmentionable. It was a felony to terminate a pregnancy. It was a felony to be gay. One homosexual in our town killed himself after police filed charges.

Even reading about sex was illegal. In 1956, our Republican mayor sent police to raid bookstores selling *Peyton Place*.

Gradually, all those faith-based taboos vanished from society. Religion lost its power – even before the upsurge of “nones”. Perhaps honesty is a factor in the disappearance of religion. Maybe young people discern that it's dishonest to claim to know supernatural things that are unknowable.

When I was a cub reporter, my city editor was an H.L. Mencken clone who laughed at Bible-thumping hillbilly preachers. One day, as a young truth-seeker, I asked him: “You're correct that their explanations are fairy tales, but what answer can an honest person give about the deep questions: Why are we here? Why is the universe here? Why do we die? Is there any purpose to life?” He eyed me and replied: “You can say: I don't know.”

That rang a bell in my head that still echoes. It's honest to admit that you cannot explain the unexplainable.

The church explanation – that Planet Earth is a testing place to screen humans for a future heaven or hell – is a silly conjecture with no evidence of any sort, except ancient scriptures. No wonder that today's Americans, raised in a scientific-minded era, cannot swallow it. Occam's Razor says the simplest explanation is most accurate. Why is religion dying? Because thinking people finally see that it's untrue, false, dishonest. ...

It took humanity several millennia to reach the Secular Age. Now it's blossoming spectacularly.

WHEN JESUS AND MO FIRST MET THE BARMAID

(From <https://www.jesusandmo.net/comic/dualism/>)

(The boys are at the bar in *The Cock & Bull* for the first time, and engaged in their never-ending comparative religions argument.)

Jesus: What happens is that people feel a god-shaped hole in their lives, until they find meaning and purpose through me.

Mohammed: No, no! They behold the complexity of creation and infer a designer. Then they see in Koran his revelation to mankind.

Jesus: What do you think, Barmaid?

Mo: Yes, tell us, serving woman, why do you think people become religious?

Barmaid: Well, the latest research in cognitive psychology suggests that religious belief is a by-product of the way our brain develops. It is an extension of the childish dualism by which we interpret the world in our infancy – the cultural formalization of an evolutionary accident.

Jesus: ...

Mo: ...

EDITORIAL TEMPLATE FOR EVERY TIME A WHITE PERSON COMMITS AN ATROCIOUS CRIME

Carlos Greaves

(From *mcsweeneys.net*, 3/18/2021)

"A Georgia sheriff's commander was widely criticized Wednesday after he seemed to provide an excuse for the man arrested in the shooting deaths of eight people at three massage spas near Atlanta ... 'yesterday was a really bad day for him and this is what he did,' Baker said during the joint news conference with the Atlanta Police Department." – Huffington Post 3/17/21

[Appallingly high number] are dead and [equally appallingly high number] are injured after [16-65]-year-old [generic white guy name] committed [atrocious racially motivated crime] in [place where people of color and/or Jews were minding their own business].

After locating [generic white guy name], authorities were able to [method of arrest absurdly peaceful compared to how they arrest Black suspects] before taking him into police custody. He is being held at [name of indigenous people who were forcefully removed from the area] County jail, with bail set at [ridiculously low dollar amount that a group of white supremacists will easily raise on GoFundMe in a couple of hours].

The local sheriff just outside [American city where Black people have been shot by police for pulling a cell phone out of their pocket] gave a press conference where he cited [feeble excuse nobody in American history has ever used to justify a person of color committing a crime] as the reason for [generic white guy name]'s actions. He then added that he did not believe the [atrocious racially motivated crime] was racially motivated.

When questioned by authorities, [generic white guy name] clarified that his actions were motivated by [manifestation of deep-seated misogyny and creepy views about sex] brought on by his faith in [religion that has a long history of justifying those views] rather than [deep-seated racism also historically justified by that religion]. The argument by [generic white guy name] that committing [act of white supremacist violence] was somehow more justifiable if it was an expression of [one of America's primary evils] rather than [one of America's other primary evils] was further proof that [violent act that treated women of color as nothing more than sexual property] was undoubtedly an expression of [any synonym for "both," "all of the above," etc.].

Neighbors have described [generic white guy name] as [another word for "quiet"], and [list of glowing attributes that make you seriously question their judgment] who they could not have imagined would be capable of [atrocious racially and/or sexually motivated crime people with his exact profile commit at alarming rates].

A photo of [generic white guy name], is below:

[Photo that makes you think, "How the hell was this guy not already on a government watch list?"]

A spokesperson for [organization representing the

ethnic group that was targeted] issued a statement saying [polite way of saying, "Again? Are you kidding me with this bullshit?"] and calling attention to the fact that [atrocious racially and/or sexually motivated crime] has been happening to [ethnic group] at increasingly high rates ever since [incident that had nothing to do with that ethnic group] was used by [prominent racist politician] as an excuse to [act of political malfeasance] in order to blame their [craven moral failing] on [ethnic group].

[Gun control advocacy group formed after a similar incident happened not long ago] is calling for [sensible legislation that exists in almost every other country on Earth] while [organization funded by large amounts of Republican shadow money] is calling for [totally ass-backwards solution that will be repeated ad nauseam on Fox News for the next couple of days].

Governor of [state with at least one Waffle House] thanked [police department that should be under a federal consent decree] for doing [literally their job], and offered [vague expression of sympathy] to the victims and their families while condemning [atrocious racially and/or sexually motivated crime]. Meanwhile, Governor [person who won their election thanks to rampant voter suppression] was simultaneously supporting the ongoing attempt to pass [legislation that would make it harder for millions of people of color to vote], thereby ensuring that [atrocious racially and/or sexually motivated crime] is likely to continue happening until [whatever year the climate apocalypse finally kills us all].

NOTHING FAILS LIKE PRAYER, UNLESS IT'S A PRAYER BY DONALD TRUMP

John Rafferty

(Based on a FFRF release 3/15/2021)

Last week marked an important anniversary that most of us missed. A year ago, on March 15, 2020, President Donald Trump, who is really about as religious as I am, declared a "National Day of Prayer" to stop the Covid-19 pandemic, and called on the country to "pray for God's healing hand to be placed on the people of our nation". But, as with almost every Donald Trump "initiative", he actually did ... nothing.

As of that date, March 15, 2020, about 57 Americans had died from the coronavirus. During the following 365 days, Americans died at about the rate of one every minute. For a year. One year after Trump's Day of Prayer, 547,234 Americans are dead.

The Biden Administration, by turning to the scientific and medical experts, in less than two full months has been able to predict that the end of the pandemic is in sight.

The main problem in any democracy is that crowd pleasers are generally brainless swine who can go out on a stage and whup their supporters into an orgiastic frenzy – then go back to the office and sell every one of the poor bastards down the tube for a nickel apiece.

– Hunter S. Thompson

FOX NEWS: FIRE TUCKER CARLSON

John Rafferty

"I disapprove of what you say, and I will defend to your death my right to re-write it."

– Voltaire, updated by Tucker Carlson

No, he doesn't lie outright ("The moon is made of green cheese."). Rather, he poses questions that challenge the truth and imply the untruth ("How do you answer the people who believe the administration is hiding the fact that the moon is made of green cheese?").

And right now, Fox News' top-rated Tucker Carlson is implying telling his audience that the Covid-19 vaccines that could save their lives are unsafe. As David Badash wrote on alternet.org March 16, "... promoting coronavirus vaccine skepticism and anti-vaxxer talking points as if they were unanswered and legitimate questions that have been very publicly answered for months."

For instance, from last Monday night ...

Carlson: "This should prompt some tough questions for our public health experts in this country. And one of those questions is, how effective is this coronavirus vaccine?"

The vaccines range between about 85% effective – Johnson & Johnson, one dose shot, to about 95% effective – Moderna and Pfizer, two-dose shots ... facts available to anyone with a newspaper and/or internet access.

Carlson: "How necessary is it to take the vaccine? Don't dismiss those questions from 'anti-vaxxers'. Don't kick people off social media for asking them, answer the questions."

Every non-political medical and scientific authority in America says taking the vaccine is necessary. No one has been kicked off social media for asking questions, only for spreading misinformation and outright lies. And the questions have been answered, repeatedly, by medical and scientific authorities with no political agenda.

Carlson: "The administration would like you to take this vaccine. Joe Biden told you last week if you don't you can't celebrate the Fourth of July."

No, he didn't. President Biden said that if enough of us take the vaccines, we should be able to celebrate in small gatherings on the Fourth.

Carlson: "But it turns out there are things we don't know about the effects of this vaccine – and all vaccines by the way."

So what? There are things we don't know about everything. And 85 or 95 percent effective is immeasurably safer than 100 percent at-risk.

Implying that the government is hiding information ("what we don't know") not only promotes anti-vaxx skepticism, which will lead, inexorably, to thousands and thousands more deaths, but fuels the fires of every other internet insanity ("What else are they hiding?").

We are in a global war against an implacable, merciless enemy that has already killed millions of us. By cynically playing to the most irrational and paranoid fears of his audience, Tucker Carlson is giving aid and comfort to that enemy. In the name of humanity, Fox news must fire him.

WE'RE NOT LOSING TO CHINA.

WE LOST.

Bill Maher

(Excerpted from Real Time with Bill Maher, HBO, 3/12/2021)

You're not going to win the battle for the 21st century if you are a silly people. And Americans are a silly people. Do you know who doesn't care that there's a stereotype of a Chinese man in a Dr. Seuss book? China. All 1.4 billion of them couldn't give a crouching tiger flying fuck because they're not a silly people. If anything, they are as serious as a prison fight.

There's got to be something between an authoritarian government [China] that tells everyone what to do and a representative government [Ours] that can't do anything.

In two generations, China has built 500 entire cities from scratch, moved the majority of their huge population from poverty to the middle class, and mostly cornered the market in 5G and pharmaceuticals.

Oh, and they bought Africa.

In China alone, they have 40,000 kilometers of high-speed rail. America has none. ...

We've been having Infrastructure Week every week since 2009 but we never do anything. Half the country is having a never-ending woke competition deciding whether Mr. Potato Head has a dick, and the other half believes we have to stop the lizard people because they're eating babies. We are a silly people.

Nothing ever moves in this impacted colon of a country. We see a problem and we ignore it, lie about it, fight about it, endlessly litigate it, sunset clause it, kick it down the road, and then write a bill where a half-assed solution doesn't kick in for 10 years. China sees a problem and they fix it. They build a dam. We debate what to rename it.

We bingewatch, they bingebuild. When COVID hit Wuhan, the city built a quarantine center with 4,000 rooms in 10 days and they barely had to use it because they quickly arrested the rest of the disease. They were back to throwing raves in swimming pools while we were stuck at home surfing the dark web for black market Charmin.

We're not losing to China, we lost. The returns just haven't all come in yet.

They've made robots that check a kid's temperature and got their asses back in school. Most of our kids are still pretending to take Zoom classes while they watch TikTok and their brain cells fully commit ritual suicide.

There is a progressive trend now to sacrifice merit for equity. Colleges are chucking the SAT and ACT tests, and in New York Mayor de Blasio announced merit would no longer decide who gets into the schools for advanced learners, but rather a lottery system.

You think China's doing that, letting political correctness get in the way of nurturing their best and brightest? You think Chinese colleges are offering courses in "The Philosophy of Star Trek", "The Sociology of Seinfeld", and "Surviving the Coming Zombie Apocalypse"? Those are real and so is China. And they are eating our lunch.

And believe me, in an hour, they'll be hungry again.

SPEAKING OF SILLY, CONSIDER THE NEXT KING OF ENGLAND

(Sorry, I've lost this piece's source information. – JR)

Charles, Prince of Wales, Earl of Chester, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Lord of the Isles, Baron of Renfrew, Prince and Great Steward of Scotland, One-of-These-Days King, and meanwhile Royal Twit who talks to the plants in his garden to lift up their spirits, recently wrote,

"Who would have thought ... that in the 21st century that there would be a significant lobby opposing vaccination, given its track record in eradicating so many terrible diseases and its current potential to protect and liberate some of the most vulnerable in our society from coronavirus?"

Yes, who would have thought?

Maybe patrons of homeopathy? People like Charles?

In a wide-ranging article for the *Future Healthcare Journal* in which he called for an "integrated approach to healthcare", the heir to the British throne also took a swipe at those speaking out against COVID-19 shots.

Okay, good for him, but the focus of the prince's article was his message that long-term health issues needed to be addressed by integrating science, public policy and personal behavior.

"I also believe that medicine will need to combine bioscience with personal beliefs, hopes, aspirations and choices," Charles wrote, calling for an "open-minded" approach to complementary medicine whose virtues he has long espoused despite criticism from some* in the medical profession. ...

*"Only then can we escape divisions and intolerance** on both sides of the conventional/complementary equation, where on the one hand, the appropriate regulation of the proven therapies of acupuncture and medical herbalism is opposed, while on the other we find people actually opposing life-saving vaccinations."*

*"Some" in the medical profession? How about near-unanimity in the medical profession that there are no "both sides", and that homeopathy is idiocy?

**You mean the "intolerance" of the science-minded, Chuck? Damn right we're "intolerant" of bullshit like acupuncture and herbalism. Please, Prince: Just. Shut. Up. – JR

READERS RESPOND

To the Editor: In the March 16 PIQUE, Cheryl Payer, an attorney, asserted that she saw "In God We Trust" signs posted in every courtroom in NYS she appeared in.

I can attest that in the half dozen or so times I reported for NYS jury duty in downtown Brooklyn, I did not see such a sign in any courtroom I was assigned to, and as a secular humanist, I checked to make sure. Moreover, as I recall, a court official would say "Do you swear or affirm" when "swearing in" jurors and witnesses, with no "So help you, God!" at the end.

Perhaps this was unique to NYC courtrooms, or at least the one in downtown Brooklyn. – Dennis Middlebrooks

GOOD NEWS: WE'RE IN POSITIONS OF POWER

Center for Inquiry's "The Morning Heresy" of March 18 commented wittily on a letter to the editor printed in *The Virginia Advocate*. The bible-thumping author of the letter complained at length about a lack of "conscience" in today's America, and then turned his thoughts to, well, us.

"Unfortunately, many do not listen to their conscience anymore, but rather to the lies of the demonic secular humanist views of naturalistic evolution."

Oh joy, wrote TMH's editor, *Let's keep going with this. I include some interstitial commentary:*

"Secular humanists believe there is no god worth having [correct], no life after death [correct], no ultimate foundation for ethics ['ultimate'? – depends who you ask], no ultimate meaning in life [correct] and no human free will [we argue about that a lot].

Wait, it gets better/worse!

"These secular humanists have moved into key powerful positions in our nation. [We have?] Are we being set up for the mark of the beast, 666? [Wait, what?] Are we being set up for the one world government? [Hold on, this is getting...] Is the Christian way of life in this nation under attack?"

I know that one: No.

THIS IS THE SECOND REASON WHY I BUY MY HERBS & SPICES FROM PENZEY'S John Rafferty

"Pope Francis, if you are listening, you were a Jerk Monday."

So wrote Bill Penzey in his newsletter to 600,000 Penzey Spices catalog customers like me. "Love is no sin" he told the pontiff, who had killed the possibility of a Church sanction of same-sex marriages, saying that he felt terrible about it, but the Church could not sanction "sin".

Adding a dash of wit to his message, Penzey announced a one-day sale of Jerk Pork, Fish, and Chicken Seasonings ("jerk", get it?), and of his "Rainbow" Seasoning – and of giving every dollar raised to The Trevor Project, which operates The Trevor Lifeline, a suicide-prevention hotline for LGBTQ youth. He raised and donated \$41,923.

That's the second reason why I buy from Bill Penzey. First? All Penzey Spices does is herbs and spices, which are therefore fresher, better, and sometimes—even after shipping costs—cheaper than the year-old stuff sitting on supermarket shelves.

LATE* THOUGHTS ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

America & Ireland: "In America, you look up at the mansion on a hill, and you say, "One day that could be me." In Ireland they look up at the mansion on the hill, and go, "One day I'm gonna get that bastard." – Bono (*Thanks to David Rafferty*)

Spain & Ireland: An Irishman was explaining the arcane Irish language [*Gaeilge*] to his new Spanish girlfriend. "We, too," he told her, "have a word for *manaña*, but without the same sense of urgency."

*So we're a week late – what's so urgent? – JR

SHSNY CALENDAR: MARCH – JUNE 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=dGdEbTkwV0pSRmZRWHYvbj-FoTXIrZz09>
Meeting ID: 974 6747 0190
Passcode: Read

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

The *NYTimes* best-seller takes place over many decades in Korea, from Japanese colonialism in the 1930s and 1940s through the era of cell phones and wet suits for the women divers of their village's all-female diving collective. A "mesmerizing new historical novel" about female friendship and family secrets on a small Korean island. – *Paperback & Kindle*

TUES, MAY 11, 7:30 PM **THE GOOD LORD BIRD** James McBride

The story of a young boy born a slave who joins John Brown's antislavery crusade, right up to the Harper's Ferry Raid – and who must pass as a girl to survive.

A rousing adventure and a moving exploration of identity and survival. – *Paperback & Kindle*

TUES, JUNE 8, 7:30 PM "Snap", by Belinda Bauer

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HUMANIST BOOK CLUB

Harry French invites you to our monthly Zoom meeting and book club discussion. By Zoom rules you will be in the waiting room until he lets you in. Zoom in at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82413289962>
Meeting ID: 824 1328 9962

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

A historian of fascism offers a guide for surviving and resisting America's turn towards authoritarianism.

We are no wiser than the Europeans who saw democracy yield to fascism, Nazism, or communism. Our advantage is that we might learn from their experience. *On Tyranny* is a call to arms and a guide to resistance.
– *Paperback & Kindle*

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 7:00 pm **THE LONELY CENTURY** Noreena Hertz

A bold, hopeful, and thought-provoking account by "one of the world's leading thinkers" (*The Observer*) of how we built a lonely world, how the pandemic accelerated the problem, and what we must do to come together again

– *Hardcover & Kindle*

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 7:00 pm **HEAVEN AND HELL:** *A History of the Afterlife* Bart D. Ehrman

Heaven? Hell? Where did these ideas come from? A best-selling historian takes us on a tour.

HUMANIST HAPPY HOUR ONLINE

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 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

Let's introduce each other to movies we love, screen them ourselves and discuss them together. Rent 'em (many on Amazon @\$3.99), watch, then Zoom in at ... <https://zoom.us/j/92351454127?pwd=OVg5NnBaUFc4NWtLbHJJNW1vZ1Y1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 923 5145 4127
Passcode: watch

MON, MARCH 29, 8:00 pm **IN A LONELY PLACE**

Starring Humphrey Bogart and Gloria Grahame, and directed by Nicholas Ray, this mordant 1950 comment on Hollywood mores and the pitfalls of celebrity is now considered perhaps the best film noir of all time.

MON, APRIL 12, 8:00 PM **SCHOOL DAZE**

Drawn from his own undergraduate experience, here's Spike Lee's 1988 comedy of manners, politics, and even Black-on-Black prejudice. With Larry Fishburne, Giancarlo Esposito, Tisha Campbell, and Lee himself.