

# PIQUE

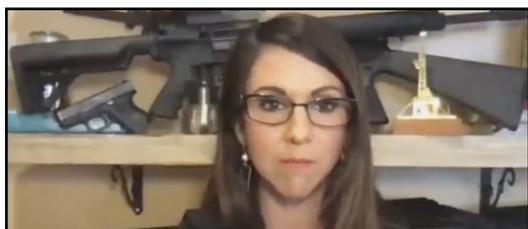
Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

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March 30, 2021

Spring! The earth is reborn, and America begins its slow return to normal: schools are re-opening, we're dining out in restaurants, baseball begins next week, and just this week we've had our first two mass murders. Herein we lament and lose sleep over our losses, take brief counsel from Edison and Einstein, call out right-wing media lies, promote statehood for D.C. and Madison Avenue for science, reassure anxious Christians we mean them no harm, celebrate Baseball Annie's church of choice (again), and remember a time when our city was as mean and as dumb as Dixie. — JR

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**THEY DIED BECAUSE ... FREEDOM!**  
John Rafferty

*"As we continue to hear the news coming out of Boulder, I'm praying for the police, first responders, and those affected by this tragedy. May God be with us as we make sense of this senseless violence, and may we unify and not divide during this time." — Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), in a Tweet March 22*

Lauren Boebert was best known before her election to the House last November as the founder, owner and manager of Shooters Grill in Rifle, where waitresses carry loaded guns and customers order the M16 Burrito or the Guac Nine Burger or the Swiss and Wesson.

She's better known now as the QAnon-endorsing Representative who insists on her "right" to pack heat on the House floor, who attends virtual Congressional committee meetings with automatic rifles displayed behind her (including during a debate on whether to ban guns at committee meetings), and who aired a spot calling on Speaker Nancy Pelosi to "cut the crap" and tear down the post-insurrection security fence around the Capitol building. The video ended with audio of a gunshot, followed by the sound of the weapon being reloaded and fired again.

About that tweeted hope in the quote above that "we unify and not divide during this time"? Translation: "I don't want to hear a word about gun-control legislation. Shut up, you gutless, freedom-hating traitors."



**THEY DIED BECAUSE THEY WERE WOMEN**  
John Rafferty

He killed them because they gave him handjobs. Not because they were Asian, but because they were women. And women, as he was taught all his young life by his insane fundamentalist religion – it's called Christianity – are "vessels of temptation" who will lead him from God's grace straight to Hell and eternal damnation.

Yes, anti-Asian prejudice and even violence is real and on the rise in America. Our vile ex-president stoked it with four years of half-truth invective about China "cheating" on trade, compounded by last year's snark about "Kung Flu" and "Wuhan Virus", but none of that is what motivated Robert Aaron Long.

What drove him crazy – literally – was the evangelical culture that taught him to hate and fear both women and the sexuality of his own body.

Robert Aaron Long told the police who apprehended him that he had a "sexual addiction", and had been a customer at two of the spas that he targeted.

He killed the Asian and Asian-American sex workers because they gave him "happy ending" massages. He killed them because women frightened him. He killed them because his religion all but told him to. But not Tucker Carlson on Fox, not Wolf Blitzer on CNN, not Rachel Maddow on MSNBC, is ever going to call Robert Aaron Long what he truly is: a "Christian Terrorist".

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## I COULDN'T SLEEP LAST NIGHT Jonathan Engel

I'm writing this on Tuesday morning March 23. Please excuse me if this essay is a bit rambling. I'm very tired and my brain feels fried. I couldn't sleep last night. Perhaps there are only so many massacres covered on TV that one can watch and still be able to succumb to the sandman. Apparently that's true for this secular humanist.

As I write this I know the identity of only one of the victims in Boulder, Colorado, a police officer with seven children, who was first on the scene and died running toward danger to protect his community. How could that not crush you?

At this point I have no idea what the Colorado gunman's motive was, and I'm not sure I really want to know. What was the Atlanta gunman's motivation? Hatred of Asians? Hatred of women? Both? A desire to cleanse the world of "Jezebels" as mandated by his extreme and warped religious beliefs? Beliefs which are shared by millions of fanatics in this country, and which semi-rational people like myself are supposed to respect? I can't. I won't.

We have an extreme violence problem in this country. I've often said that Americans have watched too many John Wayne and Clint Eastwood movies, where the answer to a problem is always a fist or a gun; frequently both. As Isaac Asimov wrote in *Foundation*: "Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent." But how many people in this country know who Isaac Asimov was compared to the number of people who know who John Wayne was? Exactly.

And then there's Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX, because of course he's from Texas) who suggested bringing back lynching as a solution to what happened in Georgia. Because the last time this country tried lynching as a law enforcement tool it all worked out so well and justly for everybody.

Of course, John Wayne and Clint Eastwood movies are works of fiction. But how many Americans today can tell fiction from reality? The Bible is a work of a tiny bit of history (maybe) mixed with a whole lot of allegorical fantasy, but tens of millions of Americans take it literally. Meanwhile, Rep. Lauren Boebert, (R-CO), who has been sent to the US House of Representatives by the god-fearing people of her district (despite the fact, or maybe because of the fact, that her only qualifications for the job are that she is a gun-toting arsenal owner with a loud and obnoxious personality), sent her prayers.

I have news for her. Preachers pray. Legislators pass laws. If that's not something you can wrap your pea brain around, get the hell out of Congress.

I couldn't sleep last night.

Non-violence leads to the highest ethics, which is the goal of all evolution. Until we stop harming all other living beings, we are still savages. - *Thomas Edison*

Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the universe. - *Albert Einstein*

## D.C. STATEHOOD: NOW! Paul Waldman

(From "D.C. statehood can no longer be ignored. Will Democrats step up?", at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com), 3/22/2021)

The House Oversight and Reform Committee held a hearing on H.R. 51, a bill to make D.C. a state and reduce the federal district created in the Constitution to a two-square mile area that includes the Capitol, the White House, the National Mall and many federal buildings. A similar bill passed the House last year, but few people noticed. This time around, it will be much less quiet.

The current iteration of the statehood legislation is co-sponsored by almost every Democrat in the House, but a few in the Senate have not yet come out in favor of statehood. Why? The real answer is that they haven't had to. Up until now it wasn't treated as something you had to concern yourself with. Even those who supported it didn't feel any obligation to act on their opinion.

But pro-statehood activists made the smart decision to link their cause to the broader issue of minority rule, the many ways our system grants outsize power to Republicans. A prominent statehood advocacy organization, called 51 For 51, demands that the Senate filibuster be eliminated so that majority rule can prevail with 51 votes and D.C. can become the 51st state.

As the minority-rule problem has become more urgent for Democrats, it has grown more difficult to dismiss D.C. statehood as irrelevant. While there are a few Democratic holdouts who respond to questions about it by saying there are more important things to worry about, the idea that D.C. statehood doesn't need serious consideration is becoming untenable. You can't object to Republican voter suppression and then say D.C. statehood is unimportant when the continued denial of voting rights to D.C. residents springs from the same antidemocratic impulses.

As for Republicans, while they'll make halfhearted arguments about the Constitution and the intent of the Framers, their real objection to statehood is nakedly partisan: Democrats, they say, only want to make D.C. a state because its two senators would almost certainly be Democrats — reason enough why it shouldn't happen.

"This would effectively shift the power to the left-wing progressives so they can enact their radical agenda," said Rep. Jody Hice (R-Ga.). That objection is half-right. Of course Democrats see the political advantage of D.C. statehood. But parties gain or lose influence because of changes to our laws all the time. Throughout American history, the addition of states was regularly pushed by parties looking to add to their power. That didn't mean that it wasn't a good thing for the country.

But Republicans barely hide the fact that their principal objection to D.C. statehood is that the people there are Democrats — and we can't ignore that nearly half the city's residents are Black. Sometimes it comes out more explicitly, as when last year Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) inveighed against D.C. statehood by citing its mayor, Muriel E. Bowser, and one of her predecessors, Marion Barry, as though by

invoking the names of two African-American politicians he had proved how irresponsible the voters of D.C. are and why they are simply unworthy of full voting rights. Like the Georgians who want to vote early or on Sundays. Or the Texans who have the wrong kind of ID. Or the North Dakotans who don't have the right kind of street address. Or the Floridians with outstanding fines.

That's what this issue is about: whether the right to be a full participant in our democracy belongs to all Americans, or only those who are of the right race and vote the way the Republican Party wants them to. It's not a question anyone will be allowed to ignore.

**Comment:** To be fair, Georgia Republican Hice (who announced that he will challenge the Republican secretary of state in Georgia who refused to help Donald Trump steal the 2020 election) also argued brilliantly that D.C. shouldn't have statehood because it doesn't have its own landfill\*.

*"D.C. would be the only state without an airport, without a car dealership, without a capitol city, without a landfill ... . We could go on and on and on."*

\*Actually, D.C. does have a car dealership – so it qualifies?

**Comment #2:**

Population of the District of Columbia 693,972

Population of Vermont 623,657

Population of Wyoming 579,315

End of debate. -- JR

## WHEN NEW YORK WAS ALABAMA

(Excerpted by Brian Lemaire from Paul Edwards's "The Bertrand Russell Case" Appendix to Why I am not a Christian by Bertrand Russell.)

In early 1940, members of the philosophy department at the College of the City of New York approached an eminent philosopher to fill one of their vacant positions. The department recommended that an invitation be sent to Bertrand Russell, who was at the time teaching at UCLA. This recommendation was approved by the Board of Higher Education. Nobody comparable in fame and distinction had ever before been a professor at City College. Bertrand Russell accepted the invitation.

When Russell's appointment was made public, Bishop Manning of the Protestant Episcopal Church wrote a letter to all New York newspapers in which he denounced the board's action. "What is to be said of colleges and universities," he wrote, "which hold up before our youth as a responsible teacher of philosophy . . . a man who is a recognized propagandist against both religion and morality, and who specifically defends adultery . . ."

The Bishop's letter was the signal for a campaign of vilification and intimidation. The ecclesiastical journals, the Hearst press, and just about every Democratic politician joined the chorus of defamation. Russell's appointment, said The Tablet, came as a "brutal, insulting shock to old New Yorkers and all real Americans".

Demanding an investigation of the Board of Higher Education, Hearst's Journal and American (now the Journal-American) by the device of quoting out of context from a

book written many years previously, branded Russell an exponent of Communism. In spite of Russell's well-known opposition to Soviet Communism, he was from then on constantly referred to as a "pro-Communist" by the zealots. Of all the features of this campaign of hate none perhaps was uglier than this deliberate travesty. ...

The main assault was carried out in New York City itself. A Mrs. Jean Kay of Brooklyn filed a taxpayer's suit in the New York Supreme Court to void Russell's appointment on the ground that he was an alien and an advocate of sexual immorality. She declared herself concerned over what might happen to her daughter, Gloria, if she were to become a student of Bertrand Russell's.

Mrs' Kay's suit was heard before Justice McGeehan, who had been associated with the Bronx Democratic machine. ... The appointment was revoked on three grounds. Firstly, Russell was an alien. ... Secondly, Russell's appointment was declared null and void on the ground that he had not been given a competitive examination. ...

The third ground of his opinion the judge approached with great relish, in which morality had to be defended against the corrupter of youth. It should be noted that McGeehan nowhere condescended to list Russell's real or alleged conduct which supposedly supported such a conclusion. Such a procedure of making derogatory statements without offering a shred of evidence, if it comes from a judge in the course of his official duties, seems a serious abuse of his position.

Russell's character was pretty bad according to McGeehan but his doctrines were even worse:

*"I think that all sex relations which do not involve children should be regarded as a purely private affair, and that if a man and a woman choose to live together without having children, that should be no one's business but their own. I should not hold it desirable that either a man or a woman should enter upon the serious business of a marriage intended to lead to children without having had previous sexual experience. The peculiar importance attached, at the present, to adultery, is quite irrational."*  
(From What I Believe, page 50.)

The New York Times now felt obliged to take a stand in an editorial on the subject. "The original appointment of Bertrand Russell was impolitic and unwise . . . it was certain from the outset that the sentiments of a substantial part of this community would be outraged by the opinions he had expressed on various moral questions."

Whether an appointment is "politic" or "impolitic" should apparently count more than the question of the teacher's competence and scholarship. This, surely, is a remarkable doctrine for a liberal newspaper to advocate. Mr. Russell himself, the Times stated, "should have had the wisdom to withdraw from the appointment. To this Russell replied in a letter published on April 26:

*"If I had considered only my own interests and inclinations I should have retired at once. But however wise such action might have been from a personal point of view, it would also, in my judgement, have been cow-*

ardly and selfish. A great many people who realized that their own interests and the principles of toleration and free speech were at stake were anxious from the first to continue the controversy. If I had retired I should have robbed them of their *casus belli* and tacitly assented to the proposition of opposition that substantial groups shall be allowed to drive out of public office individuals whose opinions, race, or nationality they find repugnant. This to me would appear immoral.

*"I do not believe that controversy is harmful on general grounds. It is not controversy and open differences that endanger democracy. On the contrary, these are its greatest safeguards. It is an essential part of democracy that substantial groups, even majorities, should extend toleration to dissentient groups, however small and however much their sentiments may be outraged.*

*"In a democracy it is necessary that people should learn to endure having their sentiments outraged."*

In the end, Judge McGeehan and Mayor LaGuardia prevented the higher courts from reviewing McGeehan's judgement. Professor Cohen of CUNY remarked that, "If this is the law, then surely, in the language of Dickens, the law is an ass."

## **NO, RELIGION IS NOT "UNDER ATTACK"**

**Tyler Broker**

*(Excerpted from "The Spectacle Of Stigma", on Abovethelaw.com, 3/22/2021)*

It is understandable, if not logical, for citizens today to believe religious faith is under attack. When held up to scrutiny, however, the claim falls apart. For one thing, religious liberty is currently on a decade-long winning streak at the Supreme Court. Indeed, thanks entirely to an ever-increasing conservative majority, the Supreme Court has without textual basis and in complete defiance of precedent reimaged the meaning of the First Amendment's free exercise clause in a way that favors religious exemption from general applicable laws. Of course, 20 or 30 years ago, discrimination against religion on college campuses required a serious legal movement. But that period does not reflect today's reality, although it serves as a reminder of how citizen-minded organizations can rise to meet a significant challenge to First Amendment guarantees. You would think that as a consequence of such an impressive and resounding winning streak that religious citizens would feel more protected. The exact opposite has occurred.

In such a religiously diverse country as ours, there are, of course, a lot of explanations for current religious angst. I submit the reason mainstream Christians, however, feel under attack is because both Protestantism and Catholicism are experiencing a rapidly declining membership among the general population. As a consequence of more Americans openly rejecting attendance in Christian churches, nonreligion itself has become more of a boogeyman to Christians. Something not only to fear, but to demonize and hate.

Under the previous president's administration,

demonization of the nonreligious population was commonplace and done openly without remorse to citizens whose only perceived failing was they did not believe in religious faiths. The prior administration's first attorney general had described the nonreligious as a threat to government. At his confirmation hearing just four years ago, he would question whether nonreligious citizens could discern "truth". Calling into subject the morality of every nonreligious citizen working at the Department of Justice.

The man who would eventually replace that attorney general two years ago took bigotry against the nonreligious a step further and proclaimed that nonbelievers as a collective group were directly responsible for claimed rises in "depression and mental illness", "suicide", "senseless violence", and furthering "a deadly drug epidemic". This demonization of citizens for their lack of religious belief is not without effect. The nonreligious are one of the most disliked religious minorities in the United States.

Not only is this demonization by cabinet members sickening (imagine if an attorney general nominee said, at their confirmation hearing no less, that they couldn't say if Catholics or Protestants could discern "truth" because their faith was wrong), it is demonstrably false. As the decline of religion has occurred, over this same period violence and crime have dropped dramatically, and even on a topic many Christians claim is of their upmost concern there is great news: abortion rates are now at record lows. Yet, there is a disturbing insistence by powerful government officials who claim that nonreligion is a national security threat and a threat to the religious way of life.

Nonbelievers, however, are not just facing rhetorical demonization but actual legal oppression. A federal court has upheld disenfranchising nonbelievers as a collective from giving secular invocations to state legislatures. The court's theory for banning nonbelievers from addressing their own state legislatures with patriotic messages of universal tolerance and unity was that "only theistic prayer can satisfy all the traditional purposes of legislative prayer". Again, imagine for one second if a federal judge said that neither Catholics nor Protestants could give invocations because only nonreligious messages could "satisfy all the traditional purposes" of a secular or civil government?

Regardless of whether you agree that only religious faiths that have given invocations in the past are capable of giving invocations to state legislatures now or in the future. Or that it is just nonbelievers that can be excluded from offering invocations. This is not a neutral position but a direct (and in my opinion vile) system of government-enforced exclusion and discrimination against an ever-growing population of American citizens. And if we're talking tradition, traditionally American legislatures represent all citizens, regardless of their religious faith.

In another federal court, nonreligious citizens were banned from performing private wedding ceremonies for nonreligious couples. Yes, you read that right. A federal court upheld a law that bans one-fifth the population in Texas from performing private wedding ceremonies. Solely

because the citizens lacked a government-required religious belief to perform a private task. ...

I will say this until I am blue in the face: there is no form of legal or cultural attack on believers that even remotely compares to the legal disenfranchisement faced by nonbelievers in just these two cases.

## SCIENCE NEEDS BETTER MARKETING

Neil deGrasse Tyson

*(Reprinted from The Wall Street Journal, 3/18/2021)*

I learned that when faced with a common enemy—an enemy of the entire human species—we regressed to basal, primitive instincts rather than band together to fight. This was a test run for an alien invasion, and we failed. I had naively hoped that the same tribal urges that pit human against human could be harnessed to pit all humans against the killer virus. But that did not happen.

We have apparently passed through a portal where pseudoscience, anti-science, fear-of-science and science-denial all thrive in our culture. Where systems of cultural, political and religious belief override the objective truths established by the methods and tools of science.

If the enterprise of science were some newfangled, untested way of knowing, one might empathize with these sentiments. But the people who battle against science are the same ones who, for instance, wield and embrace their pocket-sized smartphones, which merge state-of-the-art engineering, mathematics, information technology and space physics. It's an educator's conundrum indeed.

So perhaps what I really learned during the pandemic year is that science needs better marketing—refined and persistent—so that no one will ever again take its discoveries for granted.

Imagine the ad campaigns: We fly through the air at 500 mph, seated in a cushioned chair, inside a 100-ton metal tube, 30,000 feet above the ground—because of science. We communicate with practically anyone we've ever met, in an instant, no matter where they are in the world—because of science. We obtain immediate access to all the compiled knowledge of the world, at our fingertips—because of science. Neither you nor your mother died in childbirth—because of science. Most people used to die at 65 or 45 or younger, but we don't anymore—because of science. And we are able to glean accurate insights about Earth's past, present and future, especially its climate, our ecosystem and the forces we exert upon them—because of science.

In that future, Covid-19 would never have become a pandemic. Everyone would have understood the risks of transmission. And the bastions of anti-maskers, thinking they cannot spread the virus to others, would look as silly as a swimming pool with a designated "Peeing Section."

Until then, let's not forget the efforts of lab scientists. Nobody writes stories about not dying by not contracting Covid-19. So it's time to praise the researchers who developed vaccines in record time. If heroes save lives, then they are superheroes who have saved the lives of millions—because of science.

## WHY RIGHT WING MEDIA MUST LIE

Lawrence S. Shaw

When liberals decry the dishonesty perpetrated by right wing media (think Fox News), many suggest that liberal media (think MSNBC) is also biased and therefore dishonest. This is a false equivalency. While some liberals may stretch the truth they rarely resort to distortion with the same degree as conservatives.

The reason is that whereas conservatism which predates liberalism, has its roots in blind respect for tradition, base human emotion (fear of change), and religion (established superstition), liberalism reflects 18th and 19th century scientific enlightenment. An ideology of rationalism and science does not have to lie.

## OPENING DAY, THE HOLIEST DAY IN THE CHURCH OF BASEBALL

Ron Shelton

*(The best baseball movie ever, "Bull Durham", opens with a monologue by "Baseball Annie" Savoy (played by a knockout Susan Sarandon) who chooses a new rookie lover every spring, and explains (via screenwriter Shelton) herself and her beliefs over the movie's opening credits.*

*P.S.: Yes, I have run this in earlier April issues of PIQUE.*

*P.P.S.: And probably will again. – JR)*

Annie Savoy: [narrating] I believe in the Church of Baseball. I've tried all the major religions, and most of the minor ones. I've worshipped Buddha, Allah, Brahma, Vishnu, Siva, trees, mushrooms, and Isadora Duncan. I know things.

For instance, there are 108 beads in a Catholic rosary and there are 108 stitches in a baseball. When I learned that, I gave Jesus a chance. But it just didn't work out between us. The Lord laid too much guilt on me. I prefer metaphysics to theology. You see, there's no guilt in baseball, and it's never boring.

Which makes it like sex. There's never been a ballplayer slept with me who didn't have the best year of his career. Making love is like hitting a baseball: you just gotta relax and concentrate. Besides, I'd never sleep with a player hitting under .250, not unless he had a lot of RBIs and was a great glove man up the middle.

You see, there's a certain amount of life wisdom I give these boys. I can expand their minds. Sometimes when I got a ballplayer alone, I'll just read Emily Dickinson or Walt Whitman to him, and the guys are so sweet, they always stay and listen. 'Course, a guy'll listen to anything if he thinks it's foreplay.

I make them feel confident, and they make me feel safe, and pretty. 'Course, what I give them lasts a lifetime; what they give me lasts 142 games. Sometimes it seems like a bad trade. But bad trades are part of baseball - now who can forget Frank Robinson for Milt Pappas, for God's sake? It's a long season and you gotta trust it.

I've tried 'em all, I really have, and the only church that truly feeds the soul, day in, day out, is the Church of Baseball.

# 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 28, 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.