

PIQUE

Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

July 7, 2020

The plague and the national holiday – what else is there? No baseball, beachball, or backyard BBQ, but also no Black Plague and 14th century medicine, so small mercies. Herein we consider that long-ago time, and Mississippi almost joining the 21st century. We note our national humiliation (are we officially a “shithole country” now?) and our deaf-to-inconvenient-truth President, lament our education, pummel pretend patriots (Yeah, we’re Number One – in deaths by stupid), and anoint the Political Idiot of the Week. But first, the poet of “I Hear America Singing” tells us what to do. – JR

THIS IS WHAT YOU SHALL DO

Walt Whitman

This is what you shall do; Love the earth and sun and the animals, despise riches, give alms to every one that asks, stand up for the stupid and crazy, devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants, argue not concerning God, have patience and indulgence toward the people, take off your hat to nothing known or unknown or to any man or number of men, go freely with powerful uneducated persons and with the young and with the mothers of families, read these leaves in the open air every season of every year of your life, re-examine all you have been told at school or church or in any book, dismiss whatever insults your own soul, and your very flesh shall be a great poem and have the richest fluency not only in its words but in the silent lines of its lips and face and between the lashes of your eyes and in every motion and joint of your body. – *From the preface of Leaves of Grass*

THE PRETEND AMERICAN PATRIOT

David Rafferty

(Reprinted from *Greenwich Time*, 7/7/2019)

America must be remade and it will be the patriots who will do it, not the nationalists. Many readers of that sentence will, unfortunately, believe they are on the side of the patriot, but they will be wrong. Far too many Americans today define patriotism as obligating you to salute the flag, never taking a knee in protest, supporting the troops, recognizing the primacy of capitalism, yearning for the good old days, and never, ever questioning America’s exceptionalism. That, my friend, is not patriotism, that’s nationalism. The kind of aggressive, militaristic nationalism where dissent equals treason and only obedience to dogma can be the mark of the true American. This push/pull of

patriotism vs. nationalism has been with us since Colonial times but now, nationalism has found its populist catalysts.

George Washington warned us against the “impostures of pretend patriotism”, and Teddy Roosevelt told us “Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president.” Barack Obama echoed our Declaration of Independence when as a senator he said, “... when our leaders or our government are out of alignment ... then the dissent of ordinary Americans may prove to be the truest expression of patriotism.”

As a nation we have always had a contentious relationship with patriotism. The Declaration of Independence is a document firmly rooted in the idea that rebels are necessary, and that the dissent of the governed is critical to building a just and honorable society. Fifteen years later the Bill of Rights enshrined into law the freedom to say what we want, even if it’s in a disrespectful voice. This privilege to dissent has led directly to the molding and shaping of this country into what we see today.

Without true patriots fighting against slavery, agitating for worker’s rights, standing up to racial injustice, pressing for women’s suffrage, America would have never become the exceptional country the nationalists want to love so much. And this is what drives the nationalists bonkers. See, the nationalist loves the idea of dissent since it makes for great slogans, but hates to see it in action. To actually see an athlete take a knee because of injustice, or to hear a freshman congressman call out systemic hypocrisy, oh no, that cannot be done by a patriot. You must hate America

To the nationalist, the pretend American patriot, it’s the symbols that are important more than the values they represent. Mix that with the unshakable belief that even among all other freedom-loving nations, somehow only America is “exceptional”, and you have engineered the kind

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of “We’re No. 1” chest-thumping that passes for patriotism these days. It’s empty calories, hollow, and absolutely not what makes America great.

The Fourth of July is not about honoring the flag, or the military, or swearing blind obedience. It’s about honoring everything that has come before us, and what is still to come. To celebrate the idea that while we might not always get everything right, that we should listen to our better angels and strive to create that “more perfect union”. The Fourth should remind us that since day one of the Republic, it’s the patriots who have always been the ones to rouse us from complacent nationalist tendencies via dissent.

Footballer Colin Kaepernick is not Rosa Parks, but then again Ms. Parks wasn’t the “Rosa Parks” of textbooks until years after the segregation battles were over. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez may be a flash in the pan who our children may never remember, or maybe not. And just as the thousands and millions of trade unionists, abolitionists and civil rights workers of the past who remade America a dozen times over, there are thousands and millions of other dissenters today who must be prepared to work to bring this country back into balance.

It will not be easy. The roar of the nationalists from their gilded towers, halls of power and the airwaves of state-sponsored media will be overpowering and hard to push against. But fighting for a better future is what American dissidents have done since those Declaration signers signed what was their death warrant in Philadelphia in 1776. They were the patriots then, and we should all aspire to be dissident patriots today.

THE NATIONAL HUMILIATION WE NEED

David Brooks

(Reprinted from The New York Times OpEd, 7/2/2020)

We Americans enter the July 4 weekend of 2020 humiliated as almost never before. We had one collective project this year and that was to crush Covid-19, and we failed.

On Wednesday, we had 50,000 new positive tests, a record. Other nations are beating the disease while our infection lines shoot upward as sharply as they did in March.

This failure will lead to other failures. A third of Americans show signs of clinical anxiety or depression, according to the Census Bureau. Suspected drug overdose deaths surged by 42 percent in May. Small businesses, colleges and community hubs will close.

At least Americans are not in denial about the nation’s turmoil of the last three months. According to a Pew survey, 71 percent of Americans are angry about the state of the country right now and 66 percent are fearful. Only 17 percent are proud.

Americans are reacting in two positive ways. We’re seeing incredible shifts in attitudes toward race. Roughly 60 percent of Americans now believe that African-Americans face a great deal or a lot of discrimination. People have been waiting for a white backlash since the riots, or since the statues started toppling. There isn’t much if any evidence of

a backlash. There’s evidence of a fore-lash.

Second, Americans have decided to get rid of Donald Trump. His mishandling of Covid-19 hurt him among seniors. His racist catcalls in a time of racial reckoning have damaged him among all groups.

I’ll be delighted when Trump goes, but it’s worth pointing out that it wasn’t only because of Donald Trump that Americans never really locked down, and then started moving around again in late April.

It wasn’t Trump who went out to bars in Tempe, Austin and Los Angeles in June. It wasn’t Trump who put on hospital gowns and told the American people you could suspend the lockdown if your cause was just. Once you told people they could suspend the lockdown for one thing, they were going to suspend it for others.

Our fixation on the awfulness of Donald Trump has distracted us from the larger problems and rendered us strangely passive in the face of them. Sure, this was a Republican failure, but it was also a collective failure, and it follows a few decades of collective failures.

On the day Trump leaves office, we’ll still have a younger generation with worse life prospects than their parents had faced. We’ll still have a cultural elite that knows little about people in red America and daily sends the message that they are illegitimate. We’ll still have yawning inequalities, residential segregation, crumbling social capital, a crisis in family formation.

Trump’s rise in 2016 was a symptom of all these crises, long before he had a chance to become an additional cause of them. What’s the core problem? Damon Linker is on to a piece of it: “It amounts to a refusal on the part of lots of Americans to think in terms of the social whole — of what’s best for the community, of the common or public good. Each of us thinks we know what’s best for ourselves.”

I’d add that this individualism, atomism and self-ishness is downstream from a deeper crisis of legitimacy. In 1970, in a moment like our own, Irving Kristol wrote, “In the same way as men cannot for long tolerate a sense of spiritual meaninglessness in their individual lives, so they cannot for long accept a society in which power, privilege, and property are not distributed according to some morally meaningful criteria.”

A lot of people look around at the conditions of this country — how Black Americans are treated, how communities are collapsing, how Washington doesn’t work — and none of it makes sense. None of it inspires faith, confidence. In none of it do they feel a part.

If you don’t breathe the spirit of the nation, if you don’t have a fierce sense of belonging to each other, you’re not going to sacrifice for the common good. We’re confronted with a succession of wicked problems and it turns out we’re not even capable of putting on a friggin’ mask.

In the days leading up to this July 4 weekend, I’ve been thinking about a scene in “Good Will Hunting”. We’ve seen Will perform all these mathematical feats and flights of verbal brilliance, but the Robin Williams character sits him down on a park bench and confronts him with a rot at the

core of his character. "I look at you; I don't see an intelligent, confident man; I see a cocky, scared kid."

The last three years have been like that for a whole nation — an intervention, a truth-telling. I had hopes that the crisis would bring us together, but it's made everything harder and worse. And now I worry less about populism or radical wokeness than about a pervasive loss of national faith.

What's lurking, I hope, somewhere deep down inside is our shared ferocious love for our common country and a vision for the role America could play as the great pluralist beacon of the 21st century.

July 4 would be a good day to find that faith.

A NATIONAL DEFENSE EDUCATION ACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

(Excerpted from centerforinquiry.org, 7/1/2020)

The worsening COVID-19 crisis in the United States is attributable to several factors, not least of which is the abysmal response by the federal government and the outright denial and misinformation peddled by the President of the United States. But it is also undeniable that efforts at all levels to slow and stop the virus's spread are badly hindered by everyday Americans' confusion and misunderstanding about the basic facts of the pandemic.

The American Philosophical Society, founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743 to "promote useful knowledge", is urging Congress to take deliberate action to address this. "Rather than the deliberative, logical and analytical thinking that the country urgently needs," they write in a letter to congressional leadership, "we find a disturbing skepticism toward evidence-based policy-making; a reluctance to accept and apply scientific knowledge; and a lack of familiarity with the relevant lessons of history, including long-past and more recent pandemics."

Signed by the American Philosophical Society President Linda Greenhouse, the letter calls upon Congress to enact legislation that would invigorate American education and focus institutional efforts to teaching critical, evidence-based thinking. A "National Defense Education Act for the 21st Century" would "support at all levels the education of America's youth in science, history, analytical thinking, and the primacy of facts as the foundation of the nation's future health, general well-being, and security."

Comment: Uh-huh, good luck with that. The May 1 letter from Linda Greenhouse to legislative leaders "draws inspiration", she says, "from the National Defense Education Act of 1958, a successful legislative initiative to support education in response to a clear international challenge (*Ed: the Sputnik wake-up call*)."

But 1958 might as well be some mythical golden age when American politicians actually believed in "science, history, analytical thinking, and the primacy of facts". Today, dozens of dunderheads sit in Congress (and in state legislatures across the nation) who proudly and publicly don't or won't believe in evolution, climate change, immunology science and the straightforward reporting of

observable facts, but who do proclaim their belief in angels and devils, an imminent Second Coming, and in hellish worldwide conspiracies pulled from the nether apertures of talk radio shock jocks. What's more, they flaunt their faith in a con man who lies every time he opens his mouth.

Those dozens of fools are backed up by dozens more — even thousands in the state legislatures — who cynically and without conscience pander to the nation's most ignorant, most gullible, and most bigoted. Four years ago in these pages we mocked the Texas Republican Party for a platform plank calling for the elimination of "critical thinking" education in the state's schools. The plank is still in the platform. And the idea of idealizing ignorance is alive and well all across the great nation.

Yeah, an act for real education in America in the 21st century. Good luck with that. — JR

MAYBE HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH, MAYBE HE WASN'T "BRIEFED"

John Rafferty

I find it perfectly plausible that the President who lies the way the rest of us breathe may be telling the truth about not being briefed about Russia paying bounties for the killing of Americans in Afghanistan. In fact, I think it highly likely. Consider this fact-based possibility:

As far back as February 9, 2018, *The Washington Post* reported that "For much of the past year, President Trump has declined to participate in a practice followed by the past seven of his predecessors: He rarely if ever reads the President's Daily Brief ... [and] after several months, Trump made clear he was not interested in reviewing a personal copy of the written intelligence report known as the PDB."

Further, the *Post* reported in 2018 that "even when it comes to oral briefings, aides have been reluctant to even bring up Russia" for fear of Trump ending the briefing rather than hear anything negative about Russia or Putin.

So, if intelligent people in the Intelligence Community wanted to keep vital intelligence out of the hands of a bumbling fool and/or outright traitor who might — probably would — instantly spit it out to his handler in the Kremlin, they could:

- Put it in the written PDB they know he won't read, and
- Neglect to bring it up in the oral briefing, thereby
- Covering their asses while keeping their options open and their country safe from the Idiot in The Oval.

Is that the "Deep State"? A cabal within the government working to sideline and sidestep the president? Could be.

And although it wouldn't be the first time in our national history that it has happened ("Gentlemen" Anti-Semites in the State Department thwarting Roosevelt and Truman attempts to help Jews during and after WW2 comes to mind, along with Nixon and his 1968 campaign team back-channel sabotaging Vietnam peace talks to bolster his election prospects), it would hardly seem to meet anyone half-awake's standards of "constitutional".

But then, under Trump, who needs a Constitution?

**THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI HAS GONE FROM
DISRESPECTING AFRICAN-AMERICANS
TO DISRESPECTING ME.
IS THAT REALLY PROGRESS?**

Jonathan Engel

Up until this past weekend the great state of Mississippi was the last in the Union to retain a certain piece of America's slave-owing past, i.e., a depiction of the Confederate battle banner (the wretched stars and bars) on their state flag. But in the past few days the state legislature voted to get rid of that flag and replace it with something new. And liberals everywhere are celebrating the end of this paean to the 19th century and its cruelties. Great progress, right? Not so fast.

I'm happy that Mississippi is finally entering the 21st Century; the Confederate battle flag is a symbol of race hatred and should be repudiated everywhere. But while the bill passed in Mississippi mandates that a new state flag be designed, it also contains a provision that the new flag contain, somewhere in its design, the words "In God We Trust". This is an affront to every freethinker in the state of Mississippi (where nearly 20 percent of the population is non-Christian and 14 percent are non-affiliated with any religion) and the entire country. Not everybody puts their trust in non-existent mythical deities, you know. I certainly don't. It is a sure bet that virtually every one of the 125,000+ Americans who have died of the corona virus (so far) was prayed for by somebody, and a fat lot of good it did them. In this situation their trust in god was obviously misplaced.

As an American citizen who happens to be an atheist, I am fed up, and not just with the troglodytes who think some god or other gave their ancestors the right to own human beings. I've also had it with so-called "liberal" and "progressive" politicians who sit by unconcerned as my right to be free from religion is trampled on. From now on, if you want my support, my vote, my money, you'd better be looking out for my interests, too. That means openly standing for the rights of atheists, agnostics, and all freethinkers.

And I am deeply disappointed that liberal activists seem unwilling or unable to express public support for my rights. I will continue to shout from the rooftops that Black Lives Matter. I will yell and march for gay rights, including the right to be free from religious bigotry. I will continue the call of "No hate. No fear. Immigrants are welcome here." But I expect reciprocity. If you're not willing to defend *my* rights as a freethinker, then don't call on me when you need help defending *your* civil rights.

I'm not asking people to agree with my freethinking beliefs (although that would be nice). I'm just insisting that they respect and defend my rights, just as I have theirs. I am a strong believer in the First Amendment and I defend the right of people to practice their religion, so long as that practice does not impose their particular beliefs on anyone else. I don't have to be a believer myself to defend the rights of others to practice their religion. And they don't have to be

atheists to defend my right to be religion-free. I'm not black, but I still say "Black Lives Matter". I'm not gay but I still say "Gay rights are human rights". So even if you're religious, if you're a real progressive I expect you to stand up for me and my freethinking ways. I've stood for your rights; now it's time for you to stand for mine.

**A TALE OF TWO PLAGUES:
HOW FAITH CHANGES**

Julia Shapiro

(Excerpted from thehumanist.com, 6/29/2020)

Besides the global pandemic we're experiencing right now, the bubonic plague is probably the most notorious in history—in particular, the Black Death that took place during the middle of the fourteenth century and swept across Europe, the Middle East, and Eurasia leaving millions dead in its wake. It's fascinating to study the human response to the catastrophic loss of life during the plague, the after-effects of which led to many developments of the modern world: colonialism, capitalism, and the Protestant Reformation.

Equally fascinating is the bubonic plague's impact on faith and religion. ...

The combination of a global pandemic and major social and political upheaval have made the year 2020 apt for comparison with the turbulent fourteenth century. Even as COVID-19 has loomed over everyday life in the United States, there are pastors who insist they must lay hands on people to heal them. Many devout people have fought for their rights to attend crowded churches in an eerily similar manner to those medieval Europeans who marched in crowded processions to appease the wrath of God, despite knowledge of how incredibly contagious the plague was.

Some religious Americans have instead braved long Zoom sessions to continue their worshiping practices. Many churches say that they're actually more engaged with their members and focusing heavily on retaining personal connections for older members or those who live alone.

However, similarly to many of our ancestors 700 years ago, many Americans find themselves less interested in religious worship. Pew Research found that a third of those who attended in-person services haven't bothered with online services during the nationwide lockdown. As NPR explains, an increase in free time has allowed some to find their own versions of spirituality outside of traditional worship. Others have expressed that the human suffering and stress COVID-19 has caused is distancing them from traditional faith, which can't provide all the answers.

It's also notable that many in the religious community have found spiritual and moral purpose marching in Black Lives Matter protests rather than in visiting a traditional house of worship. Black religious leaders, who have traditionally led civil rights movements, have taken roles as de facto leaders of the BLM movement in some cities. It's clear that many Americans see participation in protests as more pressing than church attendance at the moment.

There's no telling what will happen when stay-at-home orders are fully lifted and large gatherings are safe again (it's likely this won't be for a while). While modern medicine and technology certainly aid our ability to cope with the current pandemic, the psychological effects of an invisible enemy—in our case, COVID-19, and for fourteenth-century Europeans, the bubonic plague—remain. The uncertainty, fear, and isolation of lockdown has sent some Americans running into the arms of traditional houses of worship, disregarding safety guidelines in some cases, while others are driven to conspiracy theories and rebellion.

And while we haven't seen many Americans running away from society to the forests as some Europeans did, the mass exodus from New York City to the Hamptons when the city become a major coronavirus hot spot is comparable. In this case, as with other aspects of the modern-day pandemic, economics plays a bigger role than religious belief.

Although we've gained a lot of scientific knowledge in the last seven centuries, it seems that the psychological response, and our tendency to either embrace or reject religion in times of crisis, is largely the same. COVID-19 will undoubtedly bring massive change to American society, and the ways it will affect faith will certainly be significant.

WHAT'S NEW? FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK ...

In a new study, researchers have identified an emergent swine flu virus spreading through China. They claim that the recently emerged viral genotype, identified as G4 EA H1N1, has pandemic potential. Have a really good day.

IDIOT OF THE WEEK

"Dr. Anthony Fauci and Doctor Deborah Birx continue to contradict President Trump. It's time for the Covid-19 task force to be disbanded, so that President Trump's message is not mitigated or distorted." — *Rep. Andy Biggs, (R), AZ, July 2*

READERS RESPOND

To the Editor: Preaching to the choir, what a reassuring sound in these unsure times. Thanks — *Phil Livingston*

To the Editor: Reading this edition was a welcome recreation. I hope you enjoyed composing it as much as I enjoyed reading it. — *Brian Lemaire*

To the Editor: Thank you very much for keeping PIQUE alive (and more frequent!) during these perilous times. The June 30 issue is terrific! I assume David Rafferty ("End the Glorification of the Confederacy", June 30) is John's son. He's a wonderful chip off the old, also wonderful, block.

— *Walter Balcerak*

To the Editor: Re: "A Statue Too Far", June 30, some thoughts about the statuary group outside the American Museum of Natural History:

"Monday we dined at the Camerons; various dago diplomats were present, all much wrought up by the lynching of the Italians in New Orleans. Personally I think it rather a good thing, and said so."

— *From Theodore Roosevelt's diary, March 1891*

But, actually, the objections to the "Equestrian Statue of Theodore Roosevelt" are not about Teddy or his personal world view, they are about the White Supremacist ideology that the statue embodies and that characterized what the Museum's website refers to as its "own imperfect history".

— *Dorothy Kahn*

To the Editor: Your essay "Treason" ("A Statue Too Far", June 30) is right on. — *Gretchen Robinson*

To the Editor: Re: "Treason", a National Security Council spokesman, John L. Ulyot, said in a statement on Sunday night, "The veracity of the underlying allegations continues to be evaluated." What did Trump know and when did he know it? The NSC which ultimately has the responsibility of making recommendations about this secret "classified" information, i.e., information we have to take on faith and cannot be objectively evaluated by independent experts, is still in the process of evaluating it.

This doesn't stop the war mongering hawks in both parties who serve the interests of the military industrial complex, not the American people, none of whom appear to have even seen this secret report, from beating the drums of outrage against Russia and their favorite scapegoat for every U.S. foreign policy failure, Putin (Afghanistan being a complete fiasco).

Pelosi, Biden, McConnell and other right-wing apologists for monopoly capitalism and imperialism are already spewing outrageous and inflammatory Cold War rhetoric based on this still unproven "assessment" which our unreliable and disinformation generating "intelligence" agencies traditionally spread in advance of actions to justify some retaliatory political or military action they would like to see undertaken. ...

Common sense would indicate these allegations, part of the myth that "all roads lead to Putin" on the part of Trump's policies is trumped up as Trump's actions have not been at all helpful to Putin or Russian interests.

The woeful ignorance of the American people (including many so called "leftists") regarding the world outside our hermit republic allows all kinds of lies and fabrications about Russia (as well as Cuba, China, Venezuela, etc.) to spread in the MSM and be adopted by the public as gospel. ...

Finally, the US and Taliban have been at war with each other and killing each other for over seventeen years. Taliban soldiers don't need a "Russian bounty" as motivation to kill American troops. The whole story is simply preposterous, especially since in today's world every great power knows its rivals will find out eventually what it is up to, and the idea that Putin wants "revenge" for what happened 30 some years ago in Afghanistan to the Communist Russian government whose overthrow has led to his leadership of a capitalist Russia is too stupid to take seriously.

Humanists and progressives should not fall for this malarkey being spread by the right-wing puppets of the military industrial complex. — *Thomas Riggins*

Comment: There's more to Mr. Riggins's argument, but space limitations herein, well, limited it. For more, contact Tom at jtr222@gmail.com

SHSNY CALENDAR: JULY – SEPTEMBER 2020

FICTION BOOK CLUB ONLINE

The SHSNY Fiction Book Club meets online via Zoom, and will continue so for the duration of our enforced isolation.

To be included and notified of each meeting's link and password, email your address to Sharon Krutzel at sharonkrutzel@rcn.com

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 7:00 pm **THE SHADOW KING** Maaza Mengiste

Set during Mussolini's 1935 invasion of Ethiopia, *The Shadow King* takes us back to the first real conflict of World War II, casting light on the women soldiers who were left out of the historical record.

TUES, AUGUST 11, 7:00 pm **DOUBLE WHAMMY** Carl Hiaasen

Just for fun, follow the adventures of a news-photographer-turned-private-eye as he seeks truth, justice, and an affair with his ex-wife. A hilarious caper with unforgettable characters, including the lunatic ex-governor of Florida whose diet is roadkill.

TUESDAY, SEPT 8, 7:00 pm **ALOYSIUS THE GREAT** John Maxwell O'Brien

By Joyce scholar, author of *Alexander the Great: The Invisible Enemy*, and PIQUE subscriber O'Brien, *Aloysius* debuted June 16 in paper and e-formats.

Mr. O'Brien advises that to purchase *Aloysius* in the most economical way all one has, to do is go to <http://bit.ly/AloysiusTheGreat>. It's \$22.99 there, with free shipping in the continental United States.

HUMANIST BOOK CLUB ONLINE

We continue online for the duration of our social distancing. Harry French will send the linking codes for the Zoom meetings. Send your address to:

htfrench46@gmail.com
Meanwhile, do the reading ...

THURS, AUGUST 6, 7:00 pm **UNORTHODOX:** *The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots* Deborah Feldman

Deborah Feldman grew up under a Satmar code of relentlessly enforced customs governing every aspect of her life. At nineteen, with a baby, she realized that she would have to forge her own path to happiness and freedom.

Now a very good Netflix series.

THURS, SEPT 3, 7:00 pm **SURVIVING AUTOCRACY** Masha Gessen

As seen on MSNBC Morning Joe and heard on NPR All Things Considered: the bestselling, National Book Award-winning journalist offers an essential guide to understanding, resisting, and recovering from Trump and the ravages of our tumultuous times.

"When Gessen speaks about autocracy, you listen."

— *The New York Times*

THIRD THURSDAY GROUP THURS, JULY 16, 7:00 pm

Regulars of the Humanist Book Club have formed a Zoom-in "non-book" club to enjoy each other's company and more conversation. To join, send an email with your address to:

htfrench46@gmail.com

HUMANIST HAPPY HOUR ONLINE

SUNDAY, JULY 4, 5:00 pm

Let's get together even when we can't get together, via Zoom. Get comfortable at your computer with your beverage and/or snack of choice – whatever makes you happy – and join 15, 20, or more of your fellow humanists in our Humanist Happy Hour!

Zoom in at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9806344432>

Meeting ID: 980 634 4432

Join by Skype for Business

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/skype/9806344432>

MONDAY MOVIES

MONDAY, JULY 13, 8:00 pm (Yes, we've changed the date)

We'll discuss Woody Allen's
MANHATTAN

Movie buffs among us will meet every other Monday eve to discuss interesting and socially, humanistically relevant films. Here's how it works:

1. Together we'll choose a film.
2. You'll have 2 weeks to watch it at home, free or cheap rental.
3. We'll meet via Zoom to discuss it (probably over wine).

For our first flick, let's watch "Manhattan" (\$3.99 on Amazon Prime, YouTube, others), then discuss societal attitudes re older-man/younger-woman (or girl!) relationships then (1979) and now.

Zoom-in info/details to come.

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