

# PIQUE

Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

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November 17, 2020

Is it over yet? Can we breathe now? Herein we pick through the wreckage of the election, the serious and the stupid, and welcome some transatlantic advice. We wave a poetic goodbye to one of the worst of the outgoing (*Thank Thor!*) regime, reject “forgive and forget”, and unpin those flags from Republican lapels. We welcome a global giving up of gods and a growing skepticism right here at home, get an afterlife opinion from The Boss, and promote a cartoon TV show that outrages the Catholic League. But first, let’s hear from and about leaders we can believe in, once and future. — JR

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## I’M NOT YET READY TO ABANDON THE POSSIBILITY OF AMERICA

Barack Obama

(From President Obama’s new book, *A Promised Land* (to be published Tuesday), excerpted on [theatlantic.com](http://theatlantic.com), 11/12/2020)

I confess that there have been times during the course of writing my book, as I’ve reflected on my presidency and all that’s happened since, when I’ve had to ask myself whether I was too tempered in speaking the truth as I saw it, too cautious in either word or deed, convinced as I was that by appealing to what Lincoln called the better angels of our nature I stood a greater chance of leading us in the direction of the America we’ve been promised.

I don’t know. What I can say for certain is that I’m not yet ready to abandon the possibility of America—not just for the sake of future generations of Americans but for all of humankind. I’m convinced that the pandemic we’re currently living through is both a manifestation of and a mere interruption in the relentless march toward an interconnected world, one in which peoples and cultures can’t help but collide. In that world—of global supply chains, instantaneous capital transfers, social media, transnational terrorist networks, climate change, mass migration, and ever-increasing complexity—we will learn to live together, cooperate with one another, and recognize the dignity of others, or we will perish. And so the world watches America—the only great power in history made up of people from every corner of the planet, comprising every race and faith and cultural practice—to see if our experiment in democracy can work. To see if we can do what no other nation has ever done. To see if we can actually live up to the meaning of our creed.

The jury’s still out.

## JOE BIDEN’S LOVE FOR SEAMUS HEANEY REVEALS A SOUL YOU CAN TRUST

Jonathan Jones

(Excerpted from [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com), 11/9/2020)

I didn’t fall for Joe Biden until I learned that he loves the poetry of Seamus Heaney. Anyone who responds to the steady, humane voice of Heaney has the timbre of soul you can trust. It’s not like a politician rattling off a quotation from Shelley or St Francis of Assisi. You can’t pretend to love Heaney, for he’s too subtle for that; a slow-speaking country man giving up his secrets gradually, like a farmer revealing the land’s hidden knowledge – and its graves.

Heaney lived through the Troubles and defied them with poems of generous compassion. His peace process in language anticipated – and helped bring about – the political peace process of the 90s. He is a truly great, adventurous writer who proves the devil does not have all the best tunes.

Biden has frequently quoted Heaney, particularly from *The Cure at Troy*, his version of Sophocles’ drama *Philoctetes*. To mark Biden’s victory, Ireland’s RTE broadcast him reading his favorite passage from this play, urging us to “hope for a great sea-change / On the far side of revenge” . . .

*History says, Don’t hope  
On this side of the grave.  
But then, once in a lifetime  
The longed-for tidal wave  
Of justice can rise up,  
And hope and history rhyme.*

There is a depth in Biden’s response to Heaney that clearly goes beyond mere political convenience. He has suffered terrible losses in his life and finds particular solace in this poet who voyages into the underworld and speaks with the departed. This appreciation of one of the wisest and subtlest of poets marks out Biden as a truly rare politician.

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## LET'S TALK ABOUT "FORGIVING AND FORGETTING" IN POST-ELECTION AMERICA

Jennifer Rubin

(From *Washingtonpost.com*, 11/3/2020)

There has been much discussion about the need for healing and reconciliation once the vote-counting is complete and results certified. That's a reasonable goal after a hard-fought election in polarized times. Our democracy cannot function when we constantly battle to eradicate and delegitimize the other side. Nevertheless, we fall into the trap of moral equivalence when we pretend the past four years have merely been a fight between two extreme parties, equally responsible for rancor and tribalism.

Only *one* party has assaulted democracy, intentionally fanned ludicrous conspiracy theories, rationalized racism and xenophobia, and attacked objective reality. It is *Republican* officials who engaged in or enabled impeachable conduct and broke professional and constitutional oaths. It is *Republican* politicians, pundits, activists and operatives who compulsively lied and damaged our body politic. Right-wing outlets spread Russian disinformation and created a parallel political universe to deceive their audience, even if they knew at some level it was untrue. They insisted that Ukraine had interfered with our election, that covid-19 was like the flu, that voting fraud was prevalent and that President Barack Obama had spied on President Trump. They have never recanted these damaging falsehoods, nor have they shown any sign of changing course in their quest to distort reality and sow discord.

We are told not to regard our political opponents as mendacious and malicious, but when one side really has behaved in politically and morally repugnant ways and does not change its behavior, I for one am not ready to forgive, let alone forget.

Likewise, I am not willing to let Republican politicians and officeholders — whether they are silent go-alongers such as Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) or active accomplices such as Attorney General William P. Barr — off the hook. It is for this reason that I think every Republican on the ballot who has stuck by Trump and Trumpism should be forced out of power and never again trusted with political power.

We do not, however, need to carry around the weight of the past four years indefinitely. There is a way to release anger and to conduct the business of the country.

First, those officials, politicians, activists and media figures who have done wrong must admit their transgressions and renounce past behavior. Reconciliation is not possible unless both sides acknowledge what has occurred. Truth is a necessary element of reconciliation; otherwise, amnesia breeds injustice and evades accountability, a critical element in democracy. Those who have broken the law (e.g., by perjuring themselves) or violated professional standards must be held accountable. Dishonest media outlets should be repudiated or ignored.

We should continue with clear eyes in successive elections to clean house of those who have forfeited moral

authority to hold power. Shun, ignore, vote them out. But do not use up emotional energy inveighing that they never confessed their wrongs.

Second, we need to distinguish between that group of malefactors and ordinary Americans — our neighbors, our friends, our work colleagues. They might have made poor judgments and even voiced hateful views, but they do not cease to be our fellow citizens. Some have already come around since they voted for Trump in 2016; others might quietly realize Trump is a fraud. But they remain in the body politic, and it is those people with whom we must seek common ground. If their complaints are genuine (not disguised excuses for White grievance) and they are willing to operate in the shared reality of objective facts, we should listen, empathize and try to engage with them.

And finally, let's not forget that we have lives and relationships outside of politics. If Trump is defeated, we will succeed in recapturing our non-political lives, enjoying the luxury to ignore social media for hours (and even days!) on end without being drawn back in by some political scandal. It is in that non-political space — which now seems as much a part of a bygone era as going to the movies and hugging friends — that we can enjoy the company and fellowship of Americans regardless of their political viewpoints.

## RADICAL SUBVERSIVE ANARCHIST REPUBLICANS

Jonathan Engel

Republicans are great patriots, right? I mean, everyone says so, don't they? GOPers all wear American flag lapel pins, which everyone knows is the sign of a true patriot. They extol "God and Country", listen to country music, watch John Wayne movies, and hate intellectuals who use big words and read fancy books. They're the "real Americans", right? What a pathetic joke.

Have no doubt about it, Trump and his enablers are trying to steal this election, and they don't care if they destroy democracy in the process. They never really cared for democracy anyway. In fact, the party of "values voters" actually has no values whatsoever. But you have to give them this: they're great actors. They do outrage and high dudgeon like a party full of Lawrence Oliviers. This can be comical at times, as when GOP protestors were chanting "Stop the count" in Pennsylvania while their brethren in Arizona were chanting "Count the votes". Winning and power are everything to Republicans. Everything else they bitch and moan about are just vehicles to get them what they want.

This type of behavior can be expected from Trump. He is a sick man, suffering from one of the most severe of personality disorders. His malignant narcissism prevents him from acknowledging that he lost the election. This isn't a pass for this miserable excuse for a human being, it's just the truth. As for his enablers, from Mitch McConnell to Lindsay Graham, from Bill Barr to Ted Cruz: they are radical anti-democrats (note the small "d") who are happy to subvert

## GIVING UP ON GOD: THE GLOBAL DECLINE OF RELIGION

Ronald F. Inglehart

(Reprinted from *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2020)

In the early years of the twenty-first century, religion seemed to be on the rise. The collapse of both communism and the Soviet Union had left an ideological vacuum that was being filled by Orthodox Christianity in Russia and other post-Soviet states. The election in the United States of President George W. Bush, an evangelical Christian who made no secret of his piety, suggested that evangelical Christianity was rising as a political force in the country. And the 9/11 attacks directed international attention to the power of political Islam in the Muslim world.

A dozen years ago, my colleague Pippa Norris and I analyzed data on religious trends in 49 countries, including a few subnational territories such as Northern Ireland, from which survey evidence was available from 1981 to 2007 (these countries contained 60 percent of the world's population). We did not find a universal resurgence of religion, despite claims to that effect—most high-income countries became less religious—but we did find that in 33 of the 49 countries we studied, people became more religious during those years. This was true in most former communist countries, in most developing countries, and even in a number of high-income countries. Our findings made it clear that industrialization and the spread of scientific knowledge were not causing religion to disappear, as some scholars had once assumed.

But since 2007, things have changed with surprising speed. From about 2007 to 2019, the overwhelming majority of the countries we studied—43 out of 49—became less religious. The decline in belief was not confined to high-income countries and appeared across most of the world.

Growing numbers of people no longer find religion a necessary source of support and meaning in their lives. Even the United States—long cited as proof that an economically advanced society can be strongly religious—has now joined other wealthy countries in moving away from religion. Several forces are driving this trend, but the most powerful one is the waning hold of a set of beliefs closely linked to the imperative of maintaining high birthrates. Modern societies have become less religious in part because they no longer need to uphold the kinds of gender and sexual norms that the major world religions have instilled for centuries.

Although some religious conservatives warn that the retreat from faith will lead to a collapse of social cohesion and public morality, the evidence doesn't support this claim. As unexpected as it may seem, countries that are less religious actually tend to be less corrupt and have lower murder rates than more religious ones. Needless to say, religion itself doesn't encourage corruption and crime. This phenomenon reflects the fact that as societies develop, survival becomes more secure: starvation, once pervasive, becomes uncommon; life expectancy increases; murder and other forms of violence diminish. And as this level of

the constitution if doing so enhances their power and their wealth. They have no courage and they have no honor. They call New York an "anarchist city", but they are the true anarchists. To them there are no rules or standards, no sacrifice for the good of the country, only a nihilistic belief in their god-given right to trample over anyone and anything in order to get what they want and what they believe they are entitled to, which is pretty much everything. They would rather see a second Civil War than concede that their candidate lost fair and square, which would require them to cede power to the opposition, at least for the time being.

But hey, they wear American flag lapel pins, so I guess they must be great patriots.

### "BOTH SIDES"?

John Rafferty

Now that the election is sort-of over, we are being admonished by pundits in print and on TV that "both sides" need to try - really try, *hard* - to get along, starting by toning down any inflammatory rhetoric.

Really? Inflammatory rhetoric on "both sides"? Can anyone give me a single example of hateful speech by *anyone* on the left in a position of *any* kind of authority, like these three I collected on a single day last week?

- On his personal Facebook page, Police Captain Scott Walden of Flomaton, Alabama, reacted to a post critical of people who voted for Joe Biden. Walden posted, "They need to line up ev1 of them and put a bullet in their skull for treason."

- Twitter permanently suspended an account belonging to former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon after he suggested that Dr. Anthony Fauci and FBI Director Christopher Wray should be beheaded.

*"Second term kicks off with firing Wray, firing Fauci. ... Now I actually want to go a step farther but I realize the president is a kind-hearted man and a good man. I'd actually like to go back to the old times of Tudor England, I'd put the heads on pikes, right, I'd put them at the two corners of the White House as a warning to federal bureaucrats."*

- Marshall, Arkansas Police Chief Lang Holland, a QAnon Trump supporter, resigned after calling for violence against Democrats on the right-wing social media site Parler:

*"When this is over and Trump is president for 4 more years, do not forget what these Marxist bastards have tried to do. When you see one in public get in their face do not give them any peace. Throw water on them at restaurants. Push them off sidewalks. Never let them forget they are traitors and have no right to live in this Republic after what they have done. ... Death to all Marxist Democrats. Take no prisoners leave no survivors."*

**Interviewer in the current AARP magazine:** Do you think our dreams are the forerunner of life on the other side, when we will be reunited with those we knew here?

**Bruce Springsteen:** It's a nice idea. I wouldn't count on it.



security rises, people tend to become less religious.

Our earlier study, published in 2011, compared levels of religious belief measured as early as 1981 with findings from the latest surveys then available, from around 2007, bridging a period of roughly a quarter century. In each survey, respondents were asked to indicate how important God was in their lives by choosing a value on a scale ranging from one—“Not at all important”—to ten—“Very important”.

Examining how a country’s level of religiosity changed over time led to some striking findings. A majority of the countries surveyed showed upticks in a belief in the importance of God. The largest increases were in former communist countries. For example, from 1981 to 2007, the mean score of the Bulgarian public rose from 3.6 to 5.7. In Russia, it rose from 4.0 to 6.0. In part, this growth in religiosity was a response to the severe decline of economic, physical, and psychological security experienced after the Soviet Union disintegrated; religion was filling the ideological vacuum left by the collapse of communism. Religious beliefs also increased in many developing countries outside the former Soviet Union, including Brazil, China, Mexico, and South Africa. On the other hand, religion declined in most high-income countries.

Since 2007, there has been a remarkably sharp trend away from religion. In virtually every high-income country, religion has continued to decline. At the same time, many poor countries, together with most of the former communist states, have also become less religious. From 2007 to 2019, only five countries became more religious, whereas the vast majority of the countries studied moved in the opposite direction.

## MAYBE WE’RE NOT SO STUPID

**John Rafferty**

It comes down to this: America’s so-called “Christian leaders”, who fatten off the tithes and donations of their faithful, insist that “places of worship” should be exempt from social distancing regulations, even as the number of American covid-19 infections approaches five million and our nation leads the world in deaths as a percentage of population. Those pie-in-the-sky snake-oil salesmen are supported, even championed in their crusade to pack their churches and fill their collection plates, idiotically in the name of “freedom”, by the Current Occupant of the White House and nearly all Republican governors who are frightened of the whiplash of his poisonous forked tongue.

But a new Pew Research Center survey finds that U.S. adults overwhelmingly say houses of worship should be required to follow the same rules about social distancing and large gatherings as other organizations or businesses in their local area. About eight-in-ten Americans (79 percent) take this position, four times the share who think houses of worship should be allowed more flexibility than other kinds of establishments when it comes to rules about social distancing (19 percent).

Among U.S. Christians, about three-quarters say

churches should be subject to the same rules as other businesses. Evangelical Protestants express the most support for giving houses of worship more flexibility, but even in this group, a 62 percent majority says houses of worship should be held to the same standards as other businesses and organizations.

And while Democrats and those who lean toward the Democratic Party are substantially more likely than Republicans and Republican leaners to say houses of worship should be required to follow the same social distancing rules as other organizations, a two-thirds majority of Republicans also express this view.

## AND MAYBE WE SHOULD START WATCHING “FAMILY GUY”

*(Excerpted from “Catholic League furious over Catholic/Jewish sketch in ‘Family Guy’” by Barry Duke on thefreethinker at patheos.com, 11/11/2020)*

The Catholic League’s head honcho Bill Donohue (who claims that priestly pedophilia does not exist in the Church), has gone bananas following a broadcast of “Family Guy” on November 8. Donohue is furious that: “This episode featured a scene where two Catholic sacraments, Baptism and Holy Communion, were mocked. It also maligned priests and disparaged rabbis. The offensive scene involved a Christening.”

Donohue helpfully details the offensive segment.

**Meg (The Daughter):** “Where’s the priest?”

**Lois (The Mother):** “Oh, the Church ran out of priests months ago because of all the diddling. Now they just have a rabbi fill in.”

The scene then cuts to a rabbi at a baptismal font where he makes this comment while doing the baptism.

**Rabbi:** “Welcome to the Christening. Before the child goes in the water, has it been at least 20 minutes since she ate?”

**Joe (Father of Girl being baptised):** “Yes, rabbi.”

**Rabbi:** “Let’s dunk this kid like a doughnut. I hereby Christen this child in the name of Jesus Christ, who was killed by we-don’t-know-who, it’s not important. The last thing we want to do is point fingers.”

## RELIGION MAKES THE GENDER WAGE GAP (LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE) EVEN WORSE

**Tracey deBoria and Hemant Mehta**

*(Copied from “‘Prayer Costs Women \$1,734 Annually,’ Say Researchers”, on friendlyatheist.com)*

Two researchers have dug further into pay inequality between men and women and found that the more religious an area is, the greater its gender wage gap.

Their findings, published in *Academy of Management Journal*, show that in the least religious countries, women earn 75 percent of men’s salaries, compared to women earning 46 percent of men’s salaries in the most religious countries. The trend is similar when comparing U.S. states based on religiosity — and as the wage gap decreases, the most religious states are closing the gap to a lesser degree.

## WAIT, THERE'S MORE ELECTION NEWS

Four states passed ballot measures that allow for adult-use of marijuana. Voters in Arizona, New Jersey, Montana, and South Dakota voted to legalize recreational use for people over the age of 21.

About one in three Americans now live in one of 15 states where recreational marijuana is legal.

The Kentucky hamlet of Rabbit Hash has elected a new mayor – Wilbur, a 6-month old French bulldog.

“Rabbit Hash, Kentucky, has never had an actual person or human as a mayor,” Amy Noland, Wilbur’s human, said.

In a post-election interview, Senator-elect Tommy Tuberville (R-AL), a former college football coach who just emerged victorious from a race against Democratic Sen. Doug Jones, appeared to be confused about why and who America was fighting in the Second World War.

“You know, as I tell people, my dad fought 76 years ago in Europe to free Europe of socialism.”

Aria DiMezzo, the “polyamorous transgender Mississippian lesbian anarchist atheist” who won the Republican nomination for Sheriff of Cheshire County, New Hampshire, lost, as expected, in the general election.

Eager to get back to her singing/songwriting career, she conceded happily, but said: “When you look at the election results, don’t forget that you’re basically trusting your life to a system that accidentally gave my opponent 7710 votes from a town of 1700 people.”

Marjorie Taylor Greene, an outright believer in and supporter of QAnon theory, which posits that Democrats, Hollywood stars and media moguls are members of a worldwide child sex-trafficking ring that will eventually be exposed and defeated by Donald Trump, won election by a 3-1 landslide to the US House as the representative of the Georgia 14th Congressional district.

And a QAnon Republican could soon represent Coney Island in the State Assembly, as Assemblywoman Mathylde Frontus currently trails GOP challenger Mark Szuszkiewicz, according to Election Day results from the New York Board of Elections. Szuszkiewicz has a 2,822 vote lead over Frontus in a district that has been repped by a Democrat for nearly a century.

The Coney Island native runs a cable TV political talk show and describes himself as a jack-of-all-trades who has worked as an actor, a truck driver and financial adviser.

*Comment: In other words, he’s unemployed. – JR*

## POEM FOR BETSY, MY UNBELOVED

**Dennis Middlebrooks**

Goodbye and Good Riddance, Ms. Betsy DeVos

You’re out now, just like your Boss.

Take your hatred for public education

To some theocratic, backward nation.

We will not miss your smug demeanor

As you made our school budgets leaner.

Take your vouchers and tax credits as well

And finally, miss, take yourself straight to hell!

## CONGRATULATIONS (AND ADVICE) FROM OUR NORTH YORKSHIRE (UK) HUMANIST COUSINS

**Professor John C. Adams**

Congratulations to all the Humanist Democrats (and one or two Republicans?) who voted out the Orange One – if indeed he has been voted out. I read that your Constitution doesn’t have a definitive statement about handover and that a speech to concede is only a matter of tradition and civility ... I’m not too sure the present incumbent respects the former or has much of the latter. Anyway, the end of Trump and (possibly) Covid seems like good news to me.

One thing that is a little hard to understand is the speed at which your country men and women count votes. As I write this it seems that the North Carolina vote still isn’t in. Still not ... after eight days. What do they do in their counting houses? Is it not possible to get a few more counters on the job? I say this because in our General Elections the count is done very swiftly indeed. There is a town in the north of England – Sunderland – which holds the record for a declaration after the polls have closed of 46 minutes. The polls close at 10pm and they have counted, checked, and the declaring officer has spoken the result in front of the cameras all in 46 minutes.

Now I know the numbers are somewhat different: 70,000 as against 5 million. But ... 46 minutes as against 8 days ... and counting (so to speak). Scaling up it would seem like the good people of Sunderland could get your job done in a little over 50 hours (not counting stops for pints of Newcastle Brown and the odd chip butty ... they have strange nutritional arrangements up there). Perhaps as part of our new transatlantic friendship we should ship over some counters for 2024. I’m sure they would enjoy the trip.

One reason for the delay in North Carolina is, I read, postal votes. Well ... we also have those in our elections. They have to be in before the polling booths close which, in effect, means the morning post on election day. And what do the Sunderlanders do with them? Well, they count them of course. While they are sitting around waiting for the ballot boxes to arrive (on the back of motorbikes ridden at break-neck speed minutes after 10pm) they tot up all the postal votes and add them to the total. This seems so easy and obvious I’m slightly at a loss about the 8+ days.

Anyway – we all look forward to the incumbent being dragged out the front door and 4 years of tweets about how: “It’s not fair!” (as my then three-year-old son used to say).

Greetings to all in NY. – John

**“NOBODY LOVES ME,  
EVERYBODY HATES ME,  
I’M GOING OUT AND EAT WORMS.  
THEN YOU’LL ALL BE SORRY.”**

So the Orange One didn’t speak publicly for a week, and we all wondered why, imagining what-all.

Maybe it was just the petulant four-year-old inside that sagging 74-year-old body ... sulking. – JR

# SHSNY CALENDAR: NOVEMBER 2020 – FEBRUARY 2021

## FICTION BOOK CLUB ONLINE

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

### TUESDAY, DEC 8, 7:30 pm **THE VANISHING HALF** Brit Bennett

From the bestselling author of *The Mothers*, a stunning new novel about twin sisters, inseparable as children, who ultimately choose to live in two very different worlds, one black and one white. Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations.

– *Paperback & Kindle.*

### TUESDAY, JAN 12, 7:30 pm **THE LYING LIFE OF ADULTS** Elena Ferrante

With this new novel about the transition from childhood to adolescence to adulthood, Ferrante proves once again why she has become one of the world's most read and beloved writers. Another gripping, highly addictive, and totally unforgettable Neapolitan story.

– *Paperback & Kindle.*

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

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

## HUMANIST BOOK CLUB

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

### THURS, DEC 3, 7:00 pm **THE HOOLIGAN'S RETURN:** **A Memoir** Norman Manea

At the center of this internationally acclaimed memoir/novel is the author himself, always an outcast, on a lifelong journey through Nazism and communism to exile in America.

### THURS, JAN 7, 7:00 pm **A DECENT LIFE:** **Morality for the Rest of Us** Todd May

You don't have to be a saint to live an ethical life. Todd May stands at the forefront of a new wave of practical philosophy that sensibly reframes our morals and redefines what it means to live a decent life.

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

Pulitzer-winner Wilkerson's masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America: a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. A #1 NYTimes bestseller, and long-listed for the National Book Award.

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@SHS\_NewYork

## HUMANIST HAPPY HOUR ONLINE

### SUNDAY, NOV 15, 5:00 pm

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

Zoom in at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9806344432?pwd=c0NrNUoweDVGWWho2ditvYmJlEVjVGdz09>

Meeting ID: 980 634 4432

Passcode: SHSNy

Join by Skype for Business

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

## MONDAY MOVIES: MUSICALS!

Let's have some fun, screening, talking about, and simply enjoying the best "all-singing, all-dancing" Hollywood (and other) classics. Rent 'em on Amazon (\$3.99), watch, then Zoom in at ...

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

### MONDAY, NOV 23, 8:00 pm **EASTER PARADE (1948)**

Fred Astaire and Judy Garland at the top of their game, with Peter Lawford and Ann Miller ... and an outstanding Irving Berlin score to sing and dance to. An MGM classic.

### MONDAY, DEC 7, 8:00 pm **ON THE TOWN (1949)**

Sailors on 24-hour shore leave Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, and Jules Munshin ... a Bernstein score ("*The Bronx is up and the Battery's down, the people ride in a hole in the ground*"), and a Best Musical Oscar.