

# PIQUE

Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

November 24, 2020

Conspiracy! Who *really* runs the world? A best-selling historian explains the thinking behind even the nuttiest “global cabal” theories, and we go inside the heads of a few of the nut jobs. We question our own belief in polls, weigh two different “vaccines”, examine religious bias and religious exemption in America, process an angry American president’s leave-taking, and celebrate a Black man’s celebration of that exit. We end with a holiday poem and a holiday cartoon (*Look out!*), but begin with the warning immediately below ... and wish you a Happy, Safe & Small Thanksgiving. — JR

## “COVID HELL”: A QUARTER OF A MILLION DEAD, AND 2,000 MORE EVERY DAY

“What America has to understand is that we are about to enter Covid hell.” — Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center of Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, and the newly appointed coronavirus adviser to President-elect Joe Biden. “It is happening.”

The U.S. is nearing 10 million reported Covid-19 cases as of November 11, the most of any nation on the globe. The coronavirus has killed more than 250,000 Americans.

“I will not go, this administration will not lockdown.”  
— Donald Trump — Nov. 14

The U.S. is reporting a record-high average of roughly 108,736 cases every day, growing more than 33 percent compared with a week ago.

“COVID is getting worse by the day, all around the country. The fall surge is here.” — New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, who announced a prohibition on gatherings in private residences that exceed 10 people. “We need New Yorkers to take this seriously.”

“I’ll be having more than 10 ppl at my house on Thanksgiving.” — Joe Borelli, a Staten Island Republican who is the New York City Council’s minority whip. “Some family will come from (gasp!) New Jersey.”

New York State had a 61 percent increase in new daily reported cases over the past week, and new daily reported deaths have jumped by 47 percent. Nearly 1 in 5 people screened in Newark, New Jersey’s largest city, tested positive for the virus last week.

**Comment:** Good luck to the Borelli family. Really, good luck to them — they’ll need it.

The Trump family? They can go to Covid hell. — JR

## WHY ARE THE POLLS SO OFTEN WRONG?

Mark Lasswell

(Excerpted from *Opinions A.M.* on [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com), 11/20/2020)

“There’s a dirty little secret that we pollsters need to town up to,” writes David Hill, director of Hill Research Consultants. “People don’t talk to us anymore, and it’s making polling less reliable.”

In the 1980s, Hill says, pollsters could call five people and expect that one of them would be willing to be interviewed. Not anymore.

I offer my own experience from Florida in the 2020 election to illustrate the problem. I conducted tracking polls in the weeks leading up to the presidential election. To complete 1,510 interviews over several weeks, we had to call 136,688 voters ... only 1

in 90-odd voters would speak with our interviewers. Most calls to voters went unanswered or rolled over to answering machines or voicemail, never to be interviewed despite multiple attempts. ...

Whereas once I could extract one complete interview from five voters, it can now take calls to as many as 100 voters to complete a single interview, even more in some segments of the electorate.

And here’s the killer detail: That single cooperative soul who speaks with an interviewer cannot possibly hold the same opinions as the 99 other voters who refused.

In short, we no longer have truly random samples that support claims that poll results accurately represent opinions of the electorate.

**Comment:** Count me among the non-responding. When the cheerful voice says, “I’m calling from ...” I hang up. — JR

## NO PIQUE NEXT WEEK

The next edition will be that of December 8, in your Inbox December 6. — JR

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## THE BIAS IN FAVOR OF RELIGION

Jonathan Engel

Religious people are no more moral or ethical than non-religious people. It's amazing that I have to say that. Last week the *New York Times* posted a front-page article by Jason Horowitz entitled "Vatican Says John Paul Knew About Abuse". The article begins, "A highly anticipated Vatican report found on Tuesday that Pope John Paul II had rejected explicit warnings about sexual abuse by Theodore E. McCarrick, now a disgraced former cardinal."

That's right, Karol Wojtyla, alias Pope John Paul II, looked the other way after being told about a cardinal who was using his powerful position within the church to get away with sexually abusing young people. And they made this guy a "saint", whatever that is. Covering up widespread sexual abuse of minors is about as immoral as you can get. That applies both to the institution of the Catholic Church and to Mr. Wojtyla personally. By any reasonable measure, this Wojtyla fellow, who was renowned and cheered for his hyper-religiosity, was an amoral stain on humanity. Yet this causes very few people to question the transparently groundless correlation society makes between religion and morality.

The insane internet phenomenon known as "Q-Anon" is on the job spreading the preposterous tale of a worldwide Liberal/Globalist child sex ring that kidnaps children, tortures them, kills them, and cannibalizes the remains—I don't know how I can make this sound any more ridiculous than it already does—while all the time we know, with actual evidence, that there is an international organization, with hundreds of millions of adherents, that has worked diligently, sometimes with the connivance of local authorities, to cover up thousands of instances of child sex abuse by its employees. That institution, of course, is the Catholic Church.

But it's not only the knuckle draggers of Q-Anon who are always willing to give religion the benefit of the doubt. On the same day that the news of the Vatican report broke, Thomas Friedman penned an op-ed in the *Times* about our need to hear truth from our elected officials and that Trump supporters didn't seem to care about their hero's lies.

Friedman writes: "Many of [Trump's] voters—even Evangelicals—did not care (about Trump's lying) as long as he appointed anti-abortion judges." Why does Friedman express surprise that "even Evangelicals" don't care about Trump's lies? Based on everything we've seen the past four years and more, why expect that Evangelicals would care more about truthfulness than anyone else?

It never ceases to baffle me how our society equates belief in the supernatural with ethical behavior. How do these things corollate at all? And yet people persist in holding on to this evidence-free delusion even as the actual evidence mounts of the moral bankruptcy of the Catholic Church and one of its most revered modern day "saints", Karol Wojtyla. No wonder we secular humanists stick to our evidence-based beliefs; it helps prevent us from making fools of ourselves.

## WHY RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION EXISTS (AND WHY IT SHOULDN'T)

Anton Spivak

*(Reprinted from his blog, rantinfromanton, 11/14/2020)*

As a nontheist, I find it unjust when those who identify as religious are exempt from rules that apply to everyone else. For example, I happen to be a vegan. When I go out to eat, often it's hard for me to find an eatery that offers vegan food, and so I often have to explain my diet. I tell them about the health benefits of veganism, they reply along the lines of "a little meat's not gonna kill you". I point out how animals used for food are exploited, and they think I'm some PETA fanatic who's married to a goat. I bring up the link between meat and global warming, and they view me as a treehugger. Yet if I claim that eating animal products goes against my religion, they go along with that without asking what that religion is or why they forbid the use of animal products.

And that's one of more benign examples. Laws concerning issues such as reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ rights allow religious exemptions, so as I've hinted before, people can claim religious freedom when denying you birth control or discriminating based on your sexual orientation. Really, should "an invisible man in the sky said so" be the only acceptable excuse? Replace God with neighbor's dog and you'll see how little sense this actually makes.

Yet ours is a culture where religious belief is normalized and criticizing belief is frowned upon. The media doesn't help matters, as in entertainment atheists are usually portrayed as arrogant know-it-alls (like Hornbeck in "Inherit the Wind"), rebellious adolescents (like Jen in "Dawson's Creek") or disenchanting cynics (like Dr. House). And usually all it takes is a good religious person or a positive occurrence to bring them back to belief. Only rarely is losing faith seen as a good thing, the solution to religious zealotry being a nicer form of faith, as in "Saved!".

But I digress, as I tend to do. All I'm saying is that religion should not make one immune to the laws that apply to everyone else. As I've previously noted, your freedom of worship should not override the public health or the rights of others to be treated with equality. Otherwise you would be privileging believers over non-believers. And that goes against what this great country is about.

### WHICH VACCINE DO YOU WANT?

"With both Moderna and Pfizer announcing the successful development of a vaccine that appears to be over 90 percent effective, take a minute to appreciate how fucking amazing that is. A group of scientists will have beaten a novel disease less than a year after its outbreak. *Go science!*" — Seth MacFarlane, creator of the TV series "Family Guy" and "American Dad".

"We have a vaccine. The name is Jesus Christ." — Pastor John Hagee, who just spent over a week in hospital being treated for Covid19, during which we may assume the doctors and staff simply prayed over him in Jesus' name.

## WHEN THE WORLD SEEMS LIKE ONE BIG CONSPIRACY

Yuval Noah Harari

(Copied from *nytimes.com*, 11/20/2020)

Conspiracy theories come in all shapes and sizes, but perhaps the most common form is the Global Cabal theory. A recent survey of 26,000 people in 25 countries asked respondents whether they believe there is “a single group of people who secretly control events and rule the world together”.

Thirty seven percent of Americans replied that this is “definitely or probably true”. So did 45 percent of Italians, 55 percent of Spaniards and 78 percent of Nigerians.

Conspiracy theories, of course, weren’t invented by QAnon; they’ve been around for thousands of years. Some of them have even had a huge impact on history. Take Nazism, for example. We normally don’t think about Nazism as a conspiracy theory. Since it managed to take over an entire country and launch World War II, we usually consider Nazism an “ideology”, albeit an evil one.

But at its heart, Nazism was a Global Cabal theory based on this anti-Semitic lie: “A cabal of Jewish financiers secretly dominates the world and are plotting to destroy the Aryan race. They engineered the Bolshevik Revolution, run Western democracies, and control the media and the banks. Only Hitler has managed to see through all their nefarious tricks – and only he can stop them and save humanity.”

Understanding the common structure of such Global Cabal theories can explain both their attractiveness – and their inherent falsehood.

### *The Structure*

Global Cabal theories argue that underneath the myriad events we see on the surface of the world lurks a single sinister group. The identity of this group may change: Some believe the world is secretly ruled by Freemasons, witches or Satanists; others think it’s aliens, reptilian lizard-people or sundry other cliques.

But the basic structure remains the same: The group controls almost everything that happens, while simultaneously concealing this control.

Global Cabal theories take particular delight in uniting opposites. Thus the Nazi conspiracy theory said that on the surface, communism and capitalism look like irreconcilable enemies, right? Wrong! That’s exactly what the Jewish cabal wants you to think! And you might think that the Bush family and the Clinton family are sworn rivals, but they’re just putting on a show – behind closed doors, they all go to the same Tupperware parties.

From these premises, a working theory of the world emerges. Events in the news are a cunningly designed smoke screen aimed at deceiving us, and the famous leaders that distract our attention are mere puppets in the hands of the real rulers.

### *The Lure*

Global Cabal theories are able to attract large followings in part because they offer a single, straightforward

explanation to countless complicated processes. Our lives are repeatedly rocked by wars, revolutions, crises and pandemics. But if I believe some kind of Global Cabal theory, I enjoy the comforting feeling that I understand everything.

The war in Syria? I don’t need to study Middle Eastern history to comprehend what’s happening there. It’s part of the big conspiracy. The development of 5G technology? I don’t need to do any research on the physics of radio waves. It’s the conspiracy. The Covid-19 pandemic? It has nothing to do with ecosystems, bats and viruses. It’s obviously part of the conspiracy.

The skeleton key of Global Cabal theory unlocks all the world’s mysteries and offers me entree into an exclusive circle – the group of people who understand. It makes me smarter and wiser than the average person and even elevates me above the intellectual elite and the ruling class: professors, journalists, politicians. I see what they overlook – or what they try to conceal.

### *The Flaw*

Global Cabal theories suffer from the same basic flaw: They assume that history is very simple. The key premise of Global Cabal theories is that it is relatively easy to manipulate the world. A small group of people can understand, predict and control everything, from wars to technological revolutions to pandemics.

Particularly remarkable is this group’s ability to see 10 moves ahead on the global board game. When they release a virus somewhere, they can predict not only how it will spread through the world, but also how it will affect the global economy a year later. When they unleash a political revolution, they can control its course. When they start a war, they know how it will end.

But of course, the world is much more complicated. Consider the American invasion of Iraq, for example. In 2003, the world’s sole superpower invaded a medium-sized Middle Eastern country, claiming it wanted to eliminate the country’s weapons of mass destruction and end Saddam Hussein’s regime. Some suspected that it also wouldn’t have minded the chance to gain hegemony over the region and dominate the vital Iraqi oil fields. In pursuit of its goals, the United States deployed the best army in the world and spent trillions of dollars.

Fast forward a few years, and what were the results of this tremendous effort? A complete debacle. There were no weapons of mass destruction, and the country was plunged into chaos. The big winner of the war was actually Iran, which became the dominant power in the region.

So should we conclude that George W. Bush and Donald Rumsfeld were actually undercover Iranian moles, executing a devilishly clever Iranian plot? Not at all. Instead, the conclusion is that it is incredibly difficult to predict and control human affairs.

You don’t need to invade a Middle-Eastern country to learn this lesson. Whether you’ve served on a school board or local council, or merely tried to organize a surprise birthday party for your mom, you probably know how difficult it is to control humans. You make a plan, and it backfires.

You try to keep something a secret, and the next day everybody is talking about it. You conspire with a trusted friend, and at the crucial moment they stab you in the back.

Global Cabal theories ask us to believe that while it is very difficult to predict and control the actions of 1,000 or even 100 humans, it is surprisingly easy to puppet master nearly eight billion.

### *The Reality*

There are, of course, many real conspiracies in the world. Individuals, corporations, organizations, churches, factions and governments are constantly hatching and pursuing various plots. But that is precisely what makes it so hard to predict and control the world in its entirety.

In the 1930s, the Soviet Union really was conspiring to ignite communist revolutions throughout the world; capitalist banks were employing all kinds of dodgy strategies; the Roosevelt administration was planning to re-engineer American society in the New Deal; and the Zionist movement pursued its plan to establish a homeland in Palestine. But these and countless other schemes often collided, and there wasn't a single group of people running the whole show.

Today, too, you are probably the target of many conspiracies. Your co-workers may be plotting to turn the boss against you. A big pharmaceutical corporation may be bribing your doctor to give you harmful opioids. Another big corporation may be pressuring politicians to block environmental regulations and allow it to pollute the air you breathe. Some tech-giant may be busy hacking your private data. A political party may be gerrymandering election districts in your state. A foreign government may be trying to foment extremism in your country. These could all be real conspiracies, but they are not part of a single global plot.

Sometimes a corporation, a political party or a dictator does manage to gather a significant part of all the world's power into its hands. But when such a thing happens, it's almost impossible to keep it hush-hush. With great power comes great publicity.

Indeed, in many cases great publicity is a prerequisite for gaining great power. Lenin, for example, would never have won power in Russia by avoiding the public gaze. And Stalin at first was much fonder of scheming behind closed doors, but by the time he monopolized power in the Soviet Union, his portrait was hanging in every office, school and home from the Baltic to the Pacific. Stalin's power depended on this personality cult. The idea that Lenin and Stalin were just a front for the real behind-the-scenes rulers contradicts all historical evidence.

Realizing that no single cabal can secretly control the entire world is not just accurate – it is also empowering. It means that you can identify the competing factions in our world, and ally yourself with some groups against others. That's what real politics is all about.

**T**he universe is under no obligation to make sense to you. Human senses are not the measure of what is or is not true in the universe, experiments are. – Neil deGrasse Tyson

## **A PEEK INSIDE THEIR HEADS, TRIPPIN' ON THE LOONEY-TUNES EXPRESS**

*(Excerpted from two posts by Hemant Mehta at Friendly Atheist on patheos.com, 11/17/2020)*

**C**hristian Right activist and conspiracy theorist Mark Taylor, the subject of the Liberty University-connected film "The Trump Prophecy" and guy who said last month that criticizing Donald Trump is an affront to his faith, is now saying that anytime Trump talks about a potential COVID vaccine, he's really talking about arresting Satanic people-eating pedophiles.

"Trump is 10 steps ahead of everybody," Taylor said. "When you listen to him speak, every time that he would say the word 'COVID', switch that out with the word 'cabal'. What is the cure? The vaccine. What is the vaccine? We the people, and the military when they go in and they start arresting these people. I think he was giving code out a lot of times to the people because there's always more than one depth of revelation to what he says. He's so much far ahead of the game. So the vaccine is the cure for what? The cabal. That's what's gonna happen, I believe, when they release the vaccine."

And even that wasn't enough for the man Taylor was speaking to, "Erskine", who took the insanity a step further:

"It's called the corona virus," Erskine said. "C-O-R-O-N-A. Six letters. 'C' is the third letter in the alphabet, 'O' is the 15th letter, 'R' is the 18th, 'O' is the 15th, 'N' is the 14th, 'A' is the first. Six letters in 'corona'; those other numbers add up to 66. 666. Occult-driven script and a luciferian human sacrifice mega-ritual. They use this type of thing. This is what Satan uses and that's it: 666 corona."

"Is that coincidence?" Erskine asked. "I don't buy coincidence, do you?"

"No," replied Taylor.

### *And in a neighboring alternate reality ...*

**S**cott Adams, the creator of "Dilbert" and a right-wing conspiracy theorist who said in 2016 that the Democratic National Convention was "lowering testosterone levels all over the country", wants you to know Joe Biden is Satanic.

How does he know that? Because if you manipulate his name, it reveals "666".

"Did you know if you took the capital letter J – just imagine the capital letter J in your mind – now think of the next letter in 'Joe'. It's an O. Now just move with your mind the O to the left until it's on top of the J. It's a backward six," Adams said. "Now suppose the next letter is the lowercase E. What does a lowercase E look like if you turn it upside down? Well, it looks like a six."

He continued, "So you've got the J and O together. If you combine them it looks like a backward six. You've got this lowercase E that looks like an upside-down six, but that's just two sixes. Six?, six wouldn't mean anything, right? But the next letter is capital B for Biden, and capital B is where you hide your six. So even J-O-E-B is 666."

He surmised that the letters I, D, E, and N left in Biden's last name is short for "identity."

"666 identity, that's what Joe Biden's name actually is."

## EXIT INTERVIEW? TRUMP IS FURIOUS.

Andy Borowitz

*(The Borowitz Report, on newyorker.com, 11/17/2020)*

Donald J. Trump was reportedly furious after the White House's Human Resources Department notified him that it had scheduled his exit interview. Carol Foyler, the H.R. chief who was the target of Trump's wrath, said that the exit interview is a "valuable tool" to help make the White House a better working environment.

"Everyone who leaves the White House has to participate in an exit interview," she said. "That was true of the nine thousand people who left during the past four years."

She said she hoped the interview could help Trump explore any workplace issues that led to his departure.

"The previous three people held the job for eight years and he only lasted four. It would be helpful to get his perspective on why things didn't work out for him here."

*And in related news ...*

Former President Barack Obama has offered to read his new book aloud to Donald J. Trump.

It's the least I can do," he said. "There's a lot in there about democracy, governmental norms, and the rule of law," Obama said of *A Promised Land*. "I think he'd get a lot out of it being read to him."

Obama said that he had thought about sending Trump the audio version, but realized that "there would be no one to help him when he got to a word he didn't understand."

## "THE CHARACTER OF THE COUNTRY MATTERS" A BLACK MAN REACTS TO THE ELECTION

Van Jones

After CNN called the election, political commentator and best-selling author Van Jones was moved to tears as he gave an emotional on-air statement that every person of color, every aggrieved group, and every sympathetic white person can understand. It is not necessary to live someone's pain to empathize with their situation. Jones released that entire emotional baggage live on-air.

"This is vindication for a lot of people who have really suffered," Jones said. "You know, 'I can't breathe?' that wasn't just George Floyd. That was how a lot of people have felt. They couldn't breathe."

"Every day you are waking up, and you are getting these tweets, and you don't know. And you go into the store, and people who have been afraid to show their racism are getting nastier and nastier to you. And you are worried about your kids. And you are worried about your sister. Can she go to Walmart and get back into her car without somebody saying something to her. And you spent so much of your life energy just trying to hold it together."

Jones went on to say that this Biden/Harris win is a big deal, a time for us to get some peace and to get a reset.

"The character of the country matters. Being a good man matters. I want my sons to look at this. It is easy to do it the cheap way and get away with stuff. It comes back around. And it is a good thing for this country."

## WHY THANKSGIVING IS THE BEST HOLIDAY

Helen Bennett

We don't have to buy gifts  
For everyone we know,  
We have no intrinsic need  
To set hundreds of lights aglow.  
We don't have to hear announced  
Over and over again  
The hypocritical slogan,  
"Peace on earth, good will to men."  
We don't have to wonder why Jesus,  
Who inspires all those lights,  
Causes such civic commotion  
And First Amendment fights.  
Why can't we show a menorah?  
Or Christ's nativity?  
Why do religious symbols  
Cause such sensitivity?  
And unlike the Fourth of July,  
We don't have to wake up a wreck  
Because a night of fireworks  
Was such a pain in the neck.  
Everyone loves Thanksgiving,  
It matters not your belief,  
It won't be until tomorrow  
That the scale will give you grief.  
It's the time to say we are grateful,  
It doesn't matter to whom,  
For being a single survivor,  
Or maybe a bride or groom.  
We're grateful for our family,  
We appreciate our friends,  
We're thankful that we're not starving  
And that we can make amends  
If we have hurt anybody,  
If we haven't been truly kind,  
It's better to have Thanksgiving  
And leave Yom Kippur behind!



# 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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## HUMANIST HAPPY HOUR ONLINE

### SUNDAY, NOV 22, 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.