

PIQUE

Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

April 6, 2021

Passover and Easter, perfect timing for a science-centric issue of your favorite newsletter. This week we eschew bunnies and chocolates and unleavened bread to consider the myriad possibilities of life elsewhere in our galaxy, with conflicting reports on who we might (or might never) meet out there.

Back here at home we rail against right-wing antiscience, unChristian religion and (really, *still?*) astrology, while we listen to Earth's heartbeat and promise A New You in 80 days. But first, we take the happy measure of our secular humanist lives against those of the devout and deluded. — JR

MY CONVERSATION WITH A FUNDAMENTALIST PASTOR Jonathan Engel

Last week I had an hour and a half-long Zoom conversation with Pastor Jason Burger of the Christian Life Church, a fundamentalist Protestant congregation located in Waverly, New York. Pastor Jason had been looking to have a conversation with a secular humanist, and found someone in Canada who happens to be an acquaintance of mine, who referred him to me.

In an exchange of emails prior to our talk Pastor Jason assured me that he was not interested in a debate or anything else confrontational, and he was true to his word. We were both very cordial and friendly, and our colloquy was as well. We did disagree on a few issues. For example, at one point Pastor Jason referred to the "Judeo-Christian" origin of our constitution. In response I noted that democracy, which is at the heart of our constitution, is an enlightenment value, not a "Judeo-Christian" value. (By the way, just ask, and our illustrious President Emeritus, John Rafferty, will enlighten you as to the fact that the entire concept of "Judeo-Christian values" is a bunch of bunk. But that issue is for another day.)

After our conversation was done I mulled over what we had talked about. I looked at the different ways the two of us viewed humanity and the world, and it surprised me. It seemed to me that my worldview was much more positive, optimistic and life affirming than was his. Maybe, as my wife suggested, I was so taken aback because, truth be told, I've never spent much time around religious fundamentalists. Regardless, he talked a lot about obedience and punishment, while I focused on helping every human being to reach their maximum potential. While I emphasized working every day to make the world a better place in my

own small way, he seemed content to wait for the second coming of Jesus, who would then make the world "perfect".

As my colleague David Orenstein suggested to me, perhaps humanists take more joy in life than do fundamentalists because we know that this is the only life we're going to get. Whatever the reason, I'm glad to be on the side of people who try to improve life for everyone, right here and right now, as a way of living this life to the fullest. In the words of the modern day troubadour Billy Joel: "I'd rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints; the sinners are much more fun."

"REGARDLESS OF OTHERS" Adam Lee

(Excerpted from *Daylight Atheism on patheos.com*, 3/31/2021)

In the U.S., white evangelical Christianity and conservative politics have merged in an unholy symbiosis, and they've both been transformed. The Republican Party has become a vehicle for white supremacy in the guise of religious privilege, while at the same time, evangelicalism has been transmuted into an Ayn Rand gospel which denies that we have any moral obligations to each other.

To distract from real issues of justice, the devotees of this right-wing religion are stirring up fear of imaginary boogeymen, like "wokeness". This term originally signified awareness of racial-justice issues, but—like "political correctness" in the 90s—it's become a meaningless snarl word for anything and everything that conservatives hate. Another of these right-wing scarecrows is "cancel culture", which has come to stand for the idea that anyone should face any consequences for expressing abhorrent opinions.

All these trends are on display in a tweet from Erick Erickson, the right-wing pundit and former CEO of

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RedState:

“To understand cancel culture, understand this – Christian eschatology says you gain your salvation through a direct relationship with Christ, regardless of others. Secular eschatology says the woke can’t inherit the earth so long as the non-woke are still around and not silenced.”

First of all: The word Erickson wants here is “soteriology”, which is defined as “the branch of theology dealing with salvation”, not “eschatology”, which is the theology of the end times, the apocalypse, and the final judgment.

Second: The idea that “wokeness” and “cancel culture” demand that dissenters be silenced, whereas Christians – by implicit contrast – respect the free speech of those they disagree with ... this is sheer historical illiteracy.

Christianity’s record on free speech is a long, tattered, bloodstained scroll. Over the centuries of its existence, it’s suppressed competing viewpoints on a far larger scale and more brutally than anything ever attempted by secularists.

Has Erickson heard of the Inquisition? Blasphemy laws? Bans and burnings of heretical literature? State constitutions that bar atheists from holding office? The Comstock Law? Christian bluenoses demanding that books which offend them be removed from libraries? Christian colleges that require students and professors to affirm lengthy doctrinal statements and that forbid unapproved books, unapproved music, and unapproved student clubs?

But the third thing I have to point out, and the real reason I wanted to write this post, is this short but telling phrase: *“Christian eschatology says you gain your salvation through a direct relationship with Christ, regardless of others ...”*

The only thing this can mean is that Christianity – at least in Erickson’s vision – is a religion for people who care only about themselves. All you have to do is say the magic words and you’ve fulfilled the requirements that God set out. Securing your salvation is a solely individual matter and requires no consideration or concern for other people.

In fact, to judge from his phrasing, you should distrust anyone who claims that religion asks anything more of you. Anyone who tells you that you have a duty to repair injustice, to overthrow oppressive systems, to help the poor and downtrodden, to show generosity to the needy, to welcome the stranger, to expose the mighty who’ve abused their power ... all those ideas are “woke” and anti-Christian.

If it were only Erickson who thought this way, I wouldn’t have bothered to write this post. But this ideology isn’t just increasingly common, it’s the dominant strain of thought among the religious right.

For instance, [another site], which attacks “social justice”, another conservative boogeyman, says, “The biblical exhortations to care for the poor are more individual than societal.” This site adds that the only legitimate role of a pastor is to preach “individual sin and salvation” rather than to criticize “supposedly structural racism”. ...

This idea survived the destruction of slavery, and it’s been used ever since to defend bigotry, plutocracy, and unjust hierarchy. Even if white male evangelicals have all

the power and all the wealth, that’s unimportant in the grand scheme of things. The poor and the meek should keep their heads down, concentrate only on their own souls, and accept the world as it is without seeking to change it.

Fortunately, it’s not hard to recognize this self-serving propaganda for what it is. It’s a last-ditch effort to defend privilege by those who have no better argument than the naked assertion of “God said so”. Nonbelievers and progressive religious people both have solid grounds to reject this idea, and we can both agree that real justice requires a transformation of society, not just of individuals.

TRADING SUPERNATURAL FOR SUPERSTUPID Rick Snedeker

(Excerpted from “As Americans flee faith, they embrace astrology and other nonsense” on Godzooks at patheos.com, 3/29/2021)

Although the decline of Christianity (by far the dominant U.S. faith) is “continuing at a rapid pace”, according to a 2019 Pew Research Center, plummeting 12 points in the past decade from 65 percent of American adults, the national infatuation with not only freelance prophets but also such old-but-new-again practices as astrology and psychic phenomena has surged.

The good news is that Americans who are self-described atheists, agnostics or “nothing in particular” jumped from 17 percent of the populace in 2009 to 26 percent in 2019 – and is presumably higher today considering demographic trend lines over decades.

But LaLa Land remains. ...

In 2017, Pew reported that nearly a third of Americans then believed in the authenticity of astrology ideology. Scholar Nicholas Campion, the author of *Astrology and Popular Religion in the Modern West* – it’s available in hard cover for the astonishing price of \$179.67 – notes that, “New spirituality is the new norm.”

Much of astrology’s re-emergence in recent years has been fueled by the internet, which, as for everything, accommodates instant messaging with enormous global reach, especially via social media. In 2018, the *New York Times* published a piece titled “How Astrology Took Over the Internet”. In October last year, *The New Yorker* published an article titled “Astrology in the Age of Uncertainty”.

“In its penetration into our shared lexicon, astrology is a little like psychoanalysis once was,” asserted the article’s author, Christine Smallwood. “At mid-century, you might have heard talk of id, ego, or superego at a party; now it’s common to hear someone explain herself by way of sun, moon, and rising signs. It’s not just that you hear it. It’s who’s saying it: people who aren’t kooks or climate-change deniers, who see no contradiction between using astrology and believing in science.”...

The downside to all this surging interest in fringe religious prophets, horoscopes and psychics is that millions upon millions of people believe this stuff is true.

What good is losing religious faith if we just gain more fascination with paranormal flim-flam?

REPUBLICAN ANTISCIENCE KILLS

Peter J. Hotez

(Excerpted from "The Antiscience Movement Is Escalating, Going Global and Killing Thousands", on *scientificamerican.com*, 3/29/2021)

Antiscience has emerged as a dominant and highly lethal force, and one that threatens global security, as much as do terrorism and nuclear proliferation. We must mount a counteroffensive and build new infrastructure to combat antiscience, just as we have for these other more widely recognized and established threats.

Antiscience is the rejection of mainstream scientific views and methods or their replacement with unproven or deliberately misleading theories, often for nefarious and political gains. It targets prominent scientists and attempts to discredit them. The destructive potential of antiscience was fully realized in the U.S.S.R. under Joseph Stalin. Millions of Russian peasants died from starvation and famine during the 1930s and 1940s because Stalin embraced the pseudoscientific views of Trofim Lysenko that promoted catastrophic wheat and other harvest failures. Soviet scientists who did not share Lysenko's "vernalization" theories lost their positions or, like the plant geneticist, Nikolai Vavilov, starved to death in a gulag.

Now antiscience is causing mass deaths once again in this COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning in the spring of 2020, the Trump White House launched a coordinated disinformation campaign that dismissed the severity of the epidemic in the United States, attributed COVID deaths to other causes, claimed hospital admissions were due to a catch-up in elective surgeries, and asserted that ultimately the epidemic would spontaneously evaporate. It also promoted hydroxychloroquine as a spectacular cure, while downplaying the importance of masks. Other authoritarian or populist regimes in Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua, Philippines and Tanzania adopted some or all of these elements. ...

During the summer of 2020, COVID-19 accelerated in states of the South as governors prematurely lifted restrictions to create a second and unnecessary wave of COVID-19 cases and deaths. Then following a large motorcycle rally in Sturgis, South Dakota, a third surge unfolded in the fall in the Upper Midwest. A hallmark of both waves were thousands of individuals who tied their identity and political allegiance on the right to defying masks and social distancing. A nadir was a highly publicized ICU nurse who wept as she recounted the dying words of one of her patients who insisted COVID-19 was a hoax.

Now, a new test of defiance and simultaneous allegiance to the Republican Party has emerged in the form of resisting COVID-19 vaccines. At least three surveys from the Kaiser Family Foundation, our study published in the journal *Social Science and Medicine*, and the PBS News Hour/NPR/Marist poll each point to Republicans or white Republicans as a top vaccine-resistant group in America. At least one in four Republican House members will refuse COVID-19 vaccines. Once again, we should anticipate that many of these individuals could lose their lives from

COVID-19 in the coming months. ...

I trace the adoption of antiscience as a major platform of the GOP to the year 2015 when the antivaccine movement pivoted to political extremism on the right. It first began in Southern California when a measles epidemic erupted following widespread vaccine exemptions. The California legislature shut down these exemptions to protect the public health, but this ignited a "health freedom" rallying cry. Health freedom then gained strength and accelerated in Texas where it formed a political action committee linked to the Tea Party. Protests against vaccines became a major platform of the Tea Party; this then generalized in 2020 to defy masks and social distancing. Further accelerating these trends were right wing think tanks such as the American Institute of Economic Research that sponsored the Great Barrington Declaration, and the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, the home of physician Scott Atlas, who became a senior advisor to the Trump White House coronavirus task force.

The full antiscience agenda of the Republican Party has now gone beyond our national borders. In the summer of 2020, the language of the antiscience political right in America was front and center at antimask and antivaccine rallies in Berlin, London and Paris. In the Berlin rally, news outlets reported ties to QAnon and extremist groups. Adding to this toxic mix are emerging reports from U.S. and British intelligence that the Putin-led Russian government is working to destabilize democracies through elaborate programs of COVID-19 antivaccine and antiscience disinformation. Public refusal of COVID-19 vaccines now extends to India, Brazil, South Africa and many low- and middle-income countries.

We are approaching three million deaths from the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is increasingly apparent that the SARS CoV2 alone is not responsible. Facilitating the spread of COVID-19 is an expanded and globalizing antiscience movement that began modestly under a health freedom banner adopted by the Republican Tea Party in Texas. Thousands of deaths have so far resulted from antiscience, and this may only be the beginning as we are now seeing the impact of vaccine refusal across the U.S., Europe and the low- and middle-income countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Containing antiscience will require work and an interdisciplinary approach. For innovative and comprehensive solutions, we might look at interagency task forces in the U.S. government or among the agencies of the United Nations. Given the role of state actors such as Russia, and antivaccine organizations that monetize the internet, we should anticipate that any counteroffensive could be complex and multifaceted. The stakes are high given the high death toll that is already accelerating from the one-two punch of SARS CoV2 and antiscience. We must be prepared to implement a sophisticated infrastructure to counteract this, similar to what we have already done for more established global threats. Antiscience is now a large and formidable security issue.

The Exoplanetary Good News and Bad News
**THERE MAY BE 300 MILLION HABITABLE
PLANETS IN OUR GALAXY**
Robby Berman

(From BigThink.com, 11/04/2020)

A new study from NASA and the SETI Institute comes up with an exciting number of potentially life-supporting planets. Throughout its nine-year tour of duty that concluded in 2018, NASA's Kepler Space Telescope produced a massive amount of observational data. Scientists are still going through it all. Among its revelations were now-confirmed 2,800 exoplanets, with thousands more still being analyzed. The data suggests that there may be as many as 300 million inhabitable planets in our galaxy. It finds that several of these could be relatively close by, within 30 light years from here.

But ...

**THE MILKY WAY IS PROBABLY FULL OF
DEAD ALIEN CIVILIZATIONS**
AJ Dellinger

(Excerpted from Mic on Huffingtonpost.com, 2/26/2021)

Humans have spent centuries wondering if there is other intelligent life among us in the galaxy and decades actively searching for it. It turns out the Milky Way may have once been full of bustling alien civilizations, but they are all dead now. That is the depressing finding of a new study published in the arXiv database.

The paper, which is a preprint and awaiting peer review, amounts to an update to the Drake equation, a probabilistic model used to estimate the number of extraterrestrial civilizations in the Milky Way galaxy developed in 1961 by astronomer and astrophysicist Frank Drake. Using modern astronomy and statistical modeling techniques, a team of physicists from the California Institute of Technology were able to identify different factors that would point to the potential existence of extraterrestrial life. Using research conducted in recent years, driven largely by discoveries made possible thanks to the Hubble Space Telescope and Kepler Space telescope, the scientists were able to examine conditions within the galaxy that could result in alien civilizations. That includes factors like sunlike stars near Earthlike planets, frequency of supernovas, and the time necessary for intelligent life to develop under the right conditions.

Perhaps most importantly, they took into consideration the tendency of advanced civilizations to experience self-annihilation. And as it turns out, any alien life that came before us likely gave into that tendency long before we showed up on the scene.

Researchers found that the probability for intelligent life hit its highest point about 8 billion years after the Milky Way was formed, and about 13,000 light-years from the center of the galaxy. The Earth occupies a space that is about 25,000 light-years from that central point and didn't crop up until about 13.5 billion years after the Milky Way formed.

That means humans came along pretty late in the game, missing out on that peak point for intelligent civiliza-

tion. It also means that there may be other life behind us that is just getting started.

That leaves open the potential for discovering intelligent life at some point, just not life that came before us. The research suggests that those civilizations that may have gained their smarts billions of years before we were even a twinkle in the eye of the universe probably destroyed themselves long ago. The model suggests that over time, the probability for intelligent life to completely eradicate itself increases the longer it's around.

It's hard to say what exactly doomed those civilizations, but one doesn't have to look too far from our own circumstances to imagine what may have affected those that came before us. As we stare down the barrel of climate change and are plagued by international inaction from political and industrial leaders, it's easy to imagine how previous beings managed to self-destruct due to the same kind of hubris that might doom humanity.

Intelligent life may be a generous description, after all.

CONTACT INEQUALITY
Stephen Johnson

(Excerpted from Big Think Weekly, 4/1/2021)

How will humans discover the existence of extraterrestrial civilizations? Unless aliens decide to visit Earth, the most likely answer is by scanning the skies for "technosignatures", which are observational evidence of technological or industrial activity in the Universe.

In a recent paper published in the journal *Acta Astronautica*, researchers outlined some of the most promising ways scientists and space agencies could search for technosignatures. The paper included a somewhat surprising proposition: Humanity's "first contact" with aliens is likely to be with a much more advanced civilization.

In other words, there could be many alien civilizations throughout the Universe, or even in our galaxy, but if they're similar to us in terms of technology, we probably can't spot them yet. The same goes for those human-like civilizations spotting us. That's because the "cosmic footprints" of our civilization and theirs would be relatively small, compared to highly advanced alien civilizations. The researchers call this concept "contact inequality".

"It seems unlikely that civilizations with a relatively low level of technological development would enter into contact with each other, since that would require either very high sensitivities or highly visible engineering," reads the paper. "Less advanced civilizations lack the sensitivity needed to detect other civilizations unless they have built very large or luminous structures."

So, unless near-future technology like the James Webb Space Telescope enables scientists to find biomarkers on other planets, we're far more likely to discover more sophisticated civilizations.

How? The paper outlines a series of strategies that are either currently being practiced, could be practiced in conjunction with other astronomical projects, or could be developed in the near future:

- Dyson spheres — gigantic structures that could orbit stars and generate vast amounts of energy for civilizations.
- Near-Earth objects — space agencies could search the Moon, Mars or other space bodies for evidence of extraterrestrial artifacts, such as crashed probes.
- Abnormal spectra in planetary atmospheres — if aliens are conducting industrial activity on another planet, that atmosphere would likely contain evidence of such activity.
- Night-time illumination
- Radio and laser signals ...

Even if the searches turn up nothing, the researchers said the results would still provide “enormous ancillary benefits on solar system research and advance our knowledge about the objects being scrutinized”, and would “establish quantitative upper bounds on certain types of technologies or developmental stages of civilizations in the solar neighborhood”.

“The search for technosignatures deals with questions that have profound implications on the future of humanity,” the researchers concluded. “Perhaps one the most important is whether technological civilizations are ephemeral or, on the contrary, can be long lasting. A closely related question is whether space faring civilizations are common, and if humankind will eventually become one of them.”

PASSOVER THOUGHTS AND A COUNTERTHOUGHT

From the March 30 New York Post:

“To pursue irrational policies that demonize biblical values, the Passover story tells us, takes a society on the road to ruin. In one generation after the next, this has proved true. It is adherence to the biblically sound values of the Founding Fathers, including freedom of speech, peaceful dialogue, religious liberty and equal justice, that enabled America to flourish in the first place.”

– Rabbi Yaakov Menken, managing director of the Coalition for Jewish Values, the largest rabbinic public-policy organization in America.

Nowhere in the Bible is there any support for freedom of speech, peaceful dialogue, religious liberty and/or equal justice, especially in the Old Testament, which is the sole part of the Bible that this dickhead rabbi believes in.

However, there is support for the claim that the USA was in part founded on biblical values, i.e., slavery, patriarchy, and, regarding many Native Americans, genocide as well. All biblically sanctioned. Fortunately, Enlightenment values prevailed, although it took a great deal of time.

– Dennis Middlebrooks

Comment: *A bowdlerized version of the above ran in the April 1 NY Post, but herein I've run Dennis' original text ... because no way I'm giving up "dickhead rabbi". – JR*

Judas: Still on for Thursday?

Jesus: Thursday?

Judas: Yeah, the last supper.

Jesus: The what?

Judas: Supper. Just, um ... normal supper with the fellas.

(Cribbed from March AOF News & Views)

THE EARTH'S HEARTBEAT

(Copied from Big Think Weekly, 3/25/2021)

Flashes of lightning that strike around the earth about 50 times every second create low frequency electromagnetic waves that encompass the planet. These waves, dubbed Schumann Resonances, may have an effect on human behavior, think some scientists. Kept up by the 2,000 or so thunderstorms that (according to NASA) batter our planet every moment, the Schumann Resonances can be found in the waves that go up to about 60 miles above in the lower ionosphere part of our atmosphere. They stay up there thanks to electric conductivity in the ionosphere that features charged ions, separated from neutral gas atoms in the area by solar radiation. The Schumann Resonances encircle the Earth, repeating the beat which has been used to study the planet's electric environment, weather, and seasons. Flowing around our planet, the waves' crests and troughs align in resonance to amplify the initial signal. First measured in the early 1960s, the very low-frequency waves oscillate between greater and lower energy. Their 7.8 Hz frequency has been called “Earth's heartbeat”. ...

A 2006 study found that the frequencies may be related to different kinds of brain waves. ... 238 measurements from 184 individuals over a 3.5 year period “demonstrated unexpected similarities in the spectral patterns and strengths of electromagnetic fields generated by the human brain and the earth-ionospheric cavity”.

The Schumann Resonance of 7.83 Hz has also been linked by some to hypnosis, meditation, and even human growth hormones, but there's less rigorous scientific evidence of those connections at this point. Can our bodies truly be affected by electromagnetic frequencies generated by incessant lightning strikes?

A NEW YOU IN 80 DAYS

Mark Fischetti

(Copied from “Our Bodies Replace Billions of Cells Every Day”, in Scientific American, April, 2021)

The human body replaces its own cells regularly. Scientists at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, have finally pinned down the speed and extent of this “turnover”. About a third of our body mass is fluid outside of our cells, such as plasma, plus solids, such as the calcium scaffolding of bones. The remaining two thirds is made up of roughly 30 trillion human cells. About 72 percent of those, by mass, are fat and muscle, which last an average of 12 to 50 years, respectively. But we have far more, tiny cells in our blood, which live only three to 120 days, and lining our gut, which typically live less than a week. Those two groups therefore make up the giant majority of the turnover. About 330 billion cells are replaced daily, equivalent to about 1 percent of all our cells. In 80 to 100 days, 30 trillion will have replenished—the equivalent of a new you.

P.S.: *Of course, our bodies simultaneously host about 38 trillion bacteria and even more viruses. Busy, busy, while you thought you were doing nothing vegging out on the couch. – JR*

SHSNY CALENDAR: APRIL – JUNE 2021

FICTION BOOK CLUB ONLINE

The SHSNY Fiction Book Club meets online via Zoom for the duration of our enforced isolation. Join the Zoom Meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/97467470190?pwd=dGdEbTkwV0pSRmZRWHYvbj-FoTXIrZz09>
Meeting ID: 974 6747 0190
Passcode: Read

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

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

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

The story of a young boy born a slave who joins John Brown's antislavery crusade, right up to the Harper's Ferry Raid – and who must pass as a girl to survive. A rousing adventure and a moving exploration of identity and survival. – *Paperback & Kindle*

TUES, JUNE 8, 7:30 pm **SNAP** Belinda Bauer

Jack is only 15 years old, but he supports his sisters as "the Goldilocks Burglar" and hunts for his mother's killer in this Man Booker Prize-listed novel by "the true heir to Ruth Rendell".

HUMANIST BOOK CLUB

Harry French invites you to Hour monthly Zoom meeting. Zoom in to the waiting room at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82413289962>
Meeting ID: 824 1328 9962

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

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

– *Hardcover & Kindle*

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

Heaven? Hell? Where did these ideas come from? They are nowhere in the Old Testament and are not what Jesus or his disciples taught. A best-selling historian tours the long, fascinating history of the afterlife. – *Paperback & Kindle*

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 7:00 pm **COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE: A Very Short Introduction** Richard Passingham

An exciting account of this relatively new field that cuts across psychology and neuroscience, with connections to philosophy of mind. – *Paperback & Kindle*

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HUMANIST HAPPY HOUR ONLINE

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 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=c0NrNUoweDVGWWho2ditvYmJlVjVVGdz09>
Meeting ID: 980 634 4432
Passcode: SHSNy
Join by Skype for Business
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9806344432>

MONDAY MOVIES

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

Meeting ID: 923 5145 4127
Passcode: watch

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

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

MON, APRIL 26, 8:00 pm **HEARTS OF DARKNESS: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse**

A 1991 Emmy-winning documentary on the "insane" making of Francis Ford Coppola's brilliant 1979 Vietnam War epic, "Apocalypse Now", by his filmmaker wife, Eleanor.