



# DULUTHINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS



Join us Sunday June 6th at 10am via Zoom to hear Andrew Seidel speak on

## Christian Nationalism

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LAKE  
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**FREE  
THINKERS**

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**NEWSLETTER**

LSFreethinkers@outlook.com

**CHAIR**

**JIM LYTTLE**

(218) 464-1652

Jimlyttle@hotmail.com

**VICE-CHAIR**

**LINDA CRUMPTON**

Linda\_Crumpton

@hotmail.com

**TREASURER**

**CHARLES GESSERT**

CGessert@yahoo.com

**SECRETARY**

**DON FRASER**

dfraser456@gmail.com

**SOCIAL DIRECTOR**

**SUE ANDERSON**

(218) 728-1361



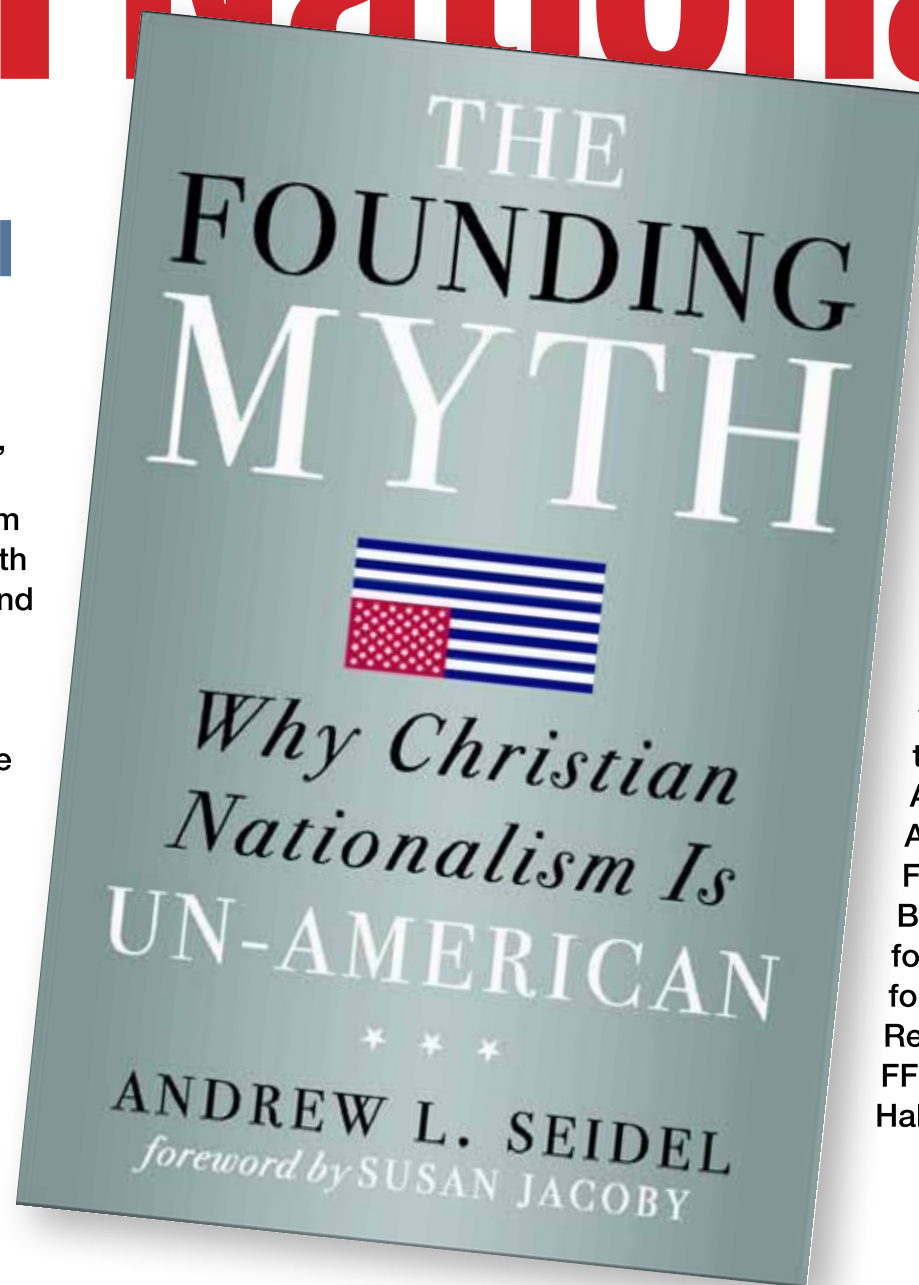
# Join us Sunday June 6th at 10am via Zoom to hear Andrew Seidel speak on **Christian Nationalism**



## Andrew Seidel

is a constitutional attorney, the Director of Strategic Response at the Freedom From Religion Foundation, and an author. Andrew graduated cum laude from Tulane University ('04) with a B.S. in neuroscience and environmental science and magna cum laude from Tulane University Law School ('09), where he was awarded the Haber J. McCarthy Award for excellence

in environmental law. He studied human rights and international law at the University of Amsterdam and traveled the world on Semester at Sea. Andrew completed his Master of Laws at Denver University Sturm College of Law with a perfect GPA ('11) and was awarded the Outstanding L.L.M. Award.



Andrew Seidel's first book *The Founding Myth: Why Christian Nationalism Is Un-American* hit the shelves in May 2019. Renowned constitutional scholar Erwin Chemerinsky has described it as "a beautifully written book" that "explodes a frequently expressed myth: that the United States was created as a Christian nation." *Publisher's Weekly* said that Andrew "provides a fervent takedown of Christian Nationalism in his furious debut. ... his well-conceived arguments will spark conversations for those willing to listen." Susan Jacoby (*Freethinkers*; *The Age of American Unreason*; and *The Great Agnostic: Robert Ingersoll and American Freethought*) wrote the foreword and Dan Barker penned a preface. When not fighting for the First Amendment, Andrew writes for *ThinkProgress*, *Religion News Service*, *Rewire News* and elsewhere. Andrew joined FFRF as a constitutional consultant on Halloween, 2011.



**Mark your calendars!**

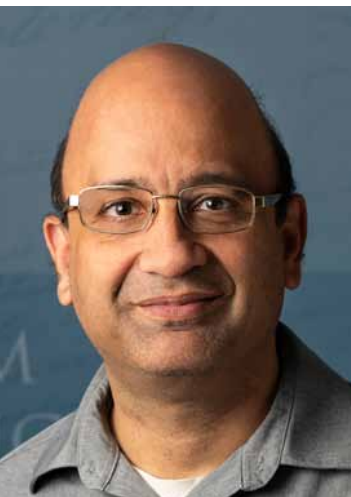
**Join us Sunday July 4th 10am at our new live monthly meeting venue:  
St. Scholastica's Somers Lounge**

————— Details to follow —————





# Hindu nationalist govt brought pandemic calamity upon India, asserts FFRF's comm director



India's Hindu nationalist government is primarily responsible for the apocalyptic pandemic wave currently slamming the country, says Freedom From Religion Foundation Communications Director Amitabh Pal in a nationally distributed op-ed.

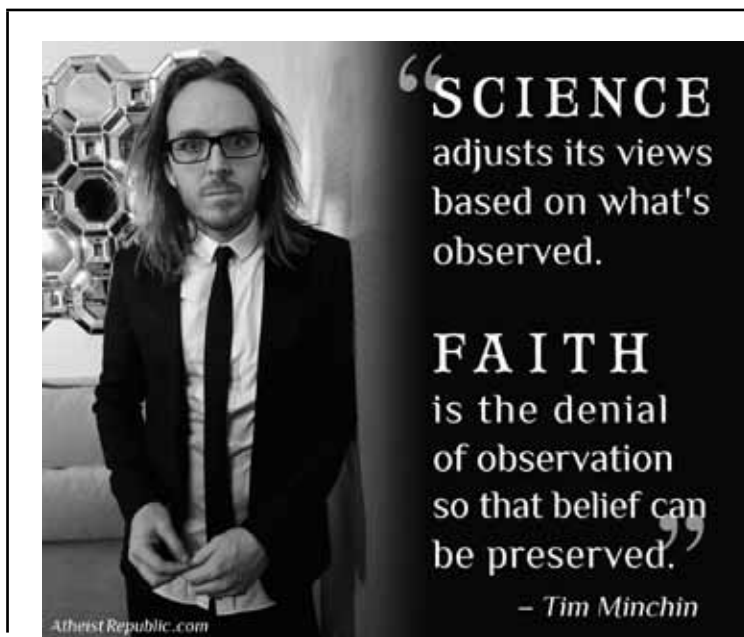
In a piece written for the Progressive Media Project and circulated through the Tribune News Service to hundreds of newspapers in the United States and abroad, Pal details the missteps of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his regime, which, not surprisingly, includes pandering to religious majoritarian sentiment:

The top official from Modi's party in charge of a mountainous state allowed a massive Ganges bathing religious festival to proceed in the middle of the pandemic — one year ahead of schedule due to astrological reasons. Millions of Indians took a dip and disseminated the virus all over India.

In keeping with its Hindu nationalist ideology, the Modi administration has a fondness for junk science that extols the cow and the traditional Hindu medicinal system called Ayurveda. Two cabinet ministers were present at the launch of a medicine (named Coronil) that a godman known as Baba Ramdev, with a medicinal empire, is peddling as a COVID-19 cure.

Pal has close family members living in India, and hears daily from his mother, as he says in the op-ed, "about relatives falling sick, getting hospitalized and worse."

Right-wing majoritarian rule has taken a huge toll around the world — and Pal's piece provides us proof of that.



Join us for another **LIVE Happy Hour!**

4:00-6:00 pm Thursday, June 3rd at Mexico Lindo, Fitgers





## David Bowie

In 1947, music legend David Bowie was born David Robert Jones in London to Margaret Mary, a waitress, and Haywood Stenton Jones, a promotions officer. He was raised without religion. Though he dabbled in different religions throughout his life, he later described himself as a nonbeliever.

His interest in music was piqued when his father brought home 45s of early American rock and roll artists, including Elvis Presley, Fats Domino and Little Richard. He was also influenced by an older brother, Terry, who tragically committed suicide when Bowie was 38. He joined his first

band at 15 and hopped from band to band until he found success as a solo performer in 1969 with the release of his album “Space Oddity.”

His career was marked by experimentation with genre and persona, although he was most frequently considered a glam rock artist. He’s famous for his alter ego Ziggy Stardust, a character from Mars who was Bowie’s own creative invention. Throughout the 1970s and ’80s, he continued to release hit singles, including “Star Man,” “Young Americans,” and “Changes.” He collaborated with British rock group Queen on the song “Under Pressure” in 1981, which reached the top of the charts in the UK.

Bowie married Angela Barnett, a model and actress born in Cyprus, in 1970. They had a son, Duncan, before divorcing in 1980. He married the supermodel Iman in 1992. Their daughter Alexandra was born in 2000. Bowie didn’t perform live after 2006 but continued to record music. He died in New York City of liver cancer in 2016, two days after turning 69.

*“I’m not quite an atheist and it worries me. There’s that little bit that holds on: Well, I’m almost an atheist. Give me a couple of months.”*

## Next Pavilion Party June 26th

### Pavilion Parties continue this summer

Join us on **the fourth Saturday of each month** at the home of our “Flounder”, Dr. Bill Van Druten.

**Plan to arrive at 1pm.** Bring a food item you have made, or maybe an interesting libation to share with other attendees. We’ll talk and laugh at Dr. Van Druten’s home: 2931 Greysolon Road in Duluth. Park anywhere on Greysolon Road but not on 30th Avenue!





# ✂️ JUNE SOCIAL DINNER ✂️

Join us June 16th at 5:30pm at Lester Park for the first of three Summer outdoor Social Dinners. Bring your own food and beverage.

