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

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Join us Sunday June 6th at 10 am 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.
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.

“Science adjusts its views based on what’s observed.

Faith is the denial of observation so that belief can be preserved.”

— Tim Minchin
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.


“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.”
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.