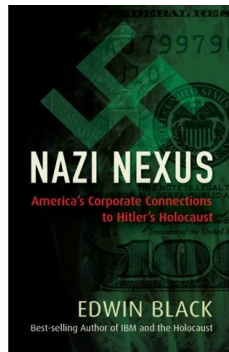


RATIONALISTS OF EAST TENNESSEE NEWSLETTER AUGUST, 2010

On Sunday, August 1st, our First Sunday Roundtable discussant will be Mr. David Driscoll who is the Ambassador for the Southeast of the Atheist Alliance International.

Mr. Driscoll is co-host of the American Freethought Podcast, www.americanfreethought.com, and host of the Secular Nation Podcast www.atheistalliance.org/podcast. He will speak about the work of Atheist Alliance International and about freethinking topics of current concern.

On the second Sunday, August 8th, we'll have our Skeptic Book Club Discussion. Our book selection is: Nazi Nexus: America's Corporate Connection to Hitler's Holocaust, and the discussion will be led by Chuck Omarzu.



Join us at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 8029 Kingston Pike, at 4:00 p.m. to discuss a bit of everything from a mostly rational viewpoint.

**He drew a circle that shut me out —
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in.**

- "Outwitted" by the great American Poet, Edwin Markham
These words came up at our July Board Meeting,
and we just wanted to share them with all of you.

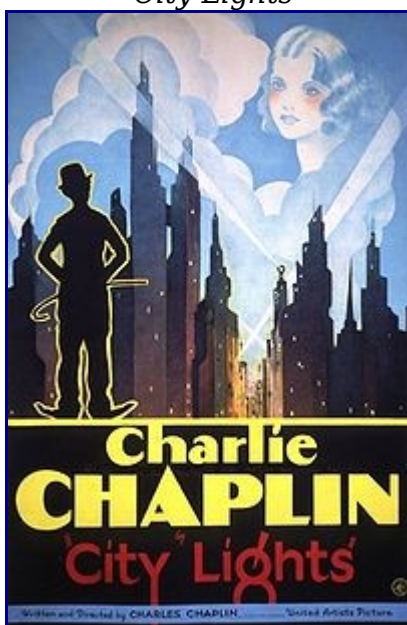
Sunday, August 15th Third Sunday Roundtable

Charlie Chaplin and the Making of a Classic: CITY LIGHTS

And now for something completely different . . . a treat for movie buffs!

U.T. Professor Charles Maland, Head of the English Department, teaches cinema studies and other aspects of American cultural and intellectual history. A leading expert on Charlie Chaplin, his most recent book is CITY LIGHTS, one of the British Film Institute's Film Classics series. CITY LIGHTS (1931) and MODERN TIMES (1936) are often considered to be Chaplin's finest work.

City Lights



Theatrical release poster

Directed by [Charlie Chaplin](#)
Produced by Charlie Chaplin (*uncredited*) Written by
Charlie Chaplin
Starring Charlie Chaplin
[Virginia Cherrill](#)
[Florence Lee](#)
[Harry Myers](#)
Music by Charles Chaplin

Cinematography Rollie Totheroh
Gordon Pollock, Mark Marklatt (*uncredited*)
Editing by Charlie Chaplin (*uncredited*)

Distributed by [United Artists](#)
Release date(s) January 30, 1931 (US)
Running time 87 minutes

Country United States
Language English (*original title cards*)
Budget \$1,500,000 (*est.*)

Fourth Sunday, August 22nd, we'll have our Reflections discussion group
at the home of Carol and Stephen Tokay,
8905 Garrison Drive, Knoxville, TN 37931.
For directions, call 865.691.6816.

Our topic will be: The Decline, Fall, and Potential Resurrection
of American Education [K-12]

Early this year [January, 2010], a gentleman named Darwin Bedford posted the following information to his website

[\[www.denormalizereligion.com\]](http://www.denormalizereligion.com).

There are many reasons why we should strive to halt religious practice.

Stephen Frederick Uhl in his book "*Imagine No Superstition*"

has dedicated an entire chapter to *why religion is harmful to society*.

Here's a quote from the chapter:

"A necessary stance of supernatural religions is that one's faith must over-ride or control one's reason; for the believer, logic is secondary to faith. This subjecting of humankind's highest natural power to faith can lead to various sorts of illogical and destructive results: inter-faith terrorism, over-population, repression of free scientific inquiry, impoverishing the poor and ignorant contributors to dubious causes, to name a few. But I think the most destructive result of subjecting reason to faith is the loss of respect for our highest power, the logical human mind with its ability to problem solve responsibly."

These are indeed words to ponder... and possible spread by the activists among us. ☺



"Rather than nullifying religion and proving that 'God is dead,'

science enhances spiritual values

by revealing the magnitudes and minutudes

—from cosmos to atom—through which man extends

and of which he is composed. "

- Charles Lindbergh, *Life* (4 July 1969)