

**Americans United for Separation of Church and State**

3337 S. Bristol, #251, Santa Ana, CA 92704

On the web at [www.au-oc.org](http://www.au-oc.org) Email us at [orangecountyau@yahoo.com](mailto:orangecountyau@yahoo.com)

**Orange County Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church & State**

*Prayers by Board of Trustees at Saddleback College School Events*

**Saturday, October 18th at 2:00 pm  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
15600 Sand Canyon Ave, Irvine**

**Fall  
2008**

**Volume 4  
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Karla Westphal teaches math at Saddleback College,

where she has been fighting for years to get the Board of Trustees to stop including prayers at school events.

Karla's struggle to stop the prayers at Saddleback College prompted her to read a number of U.S. Supreme Court rulings dealing with the issue of prayer in school. After a short description of the on-going issue at Saddleback, she'll present a summary of these rulings.

The Board of Trustees for Saddleback and Irvine Valley Community Colleges has been offering formal prayers at the annual scholarship ceremony for years, despite repeated protest. Americans United for Separation of Church and State has written to them informing them that this was unconstitutional. This does not seem to have had any

impact judging from Board President's Donald Wagner sarcastic and angry response at this year's annual scholarship ceremony. You can listen to the Board President's remarks at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aM-PA67JA9s&feature=related>.

Although Wagner states that our mission is to remove God from the public square this is an incorrect assessment. The public square is a place where all viewpoints should be welcome. To encourage individual expression and prevent the government from endorsing religion, the constitutional principle of church-state separation forbids government, or those acting on its behalf, from expressing an official religious viewpoint. Unfortunately, this principle is often violated by state-sponsored religious, sectarian prayers at government meetings, and by many other state-sponsored activities.

We do hope you will join us as we discuss this critical issue and consider what the next steps should be. ~~~~

American's United's Legal Committee Chair of the Board of Trustees, Eddie Tabash, will be in Orange County on Sunday, October 19th. He will be speaking at the Center For Inquiry meeting which will be held at 1845 Park Avenue in Costa Mesa. The meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. The title of the presentation is "At the Crossroads: The Threat of the Religious Right to our Most Basic Freedoms."

To learn more about Eddie, visit his web site at [www.tabash.com](http://www.tabash.com).

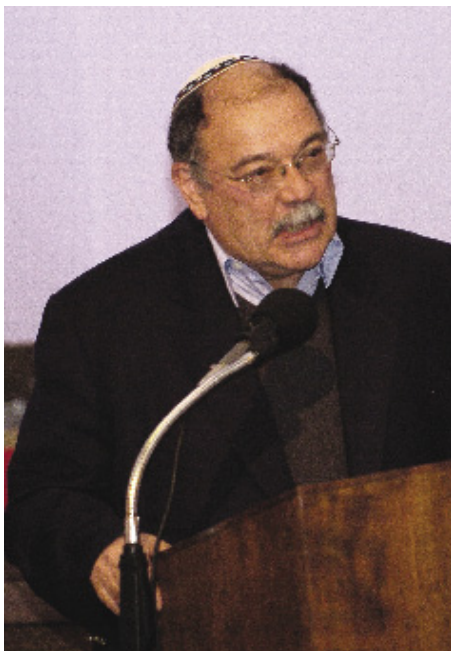


*The Orange County Chapter of Americans United  
for Separation of Church and State &  
Humanists Association of Orange County  
Jointly Present*

*Rabbi Haim Beliak of [www.jewsonfirst.org](http://www.jewsonfirst.org)*

*Saturday, October 18th at 2:00 pm*

*Irvine Ranch Water District  
15600 Sand Canyon Ave, Irvine*



2008 National Day of Prayer.

Rabbi Beliak will be talking to us about the work he has done as well as showing us the web site that they have produced and going over the many First Amendment issues that are at risk.

Please join us for an interesting afternoon which we will be sharing with the Humanist Association of Orange County!

Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak and Jane Hunter are the founders of [www.jewsonfirst.org](http://www.jewsonfirst.org). They are both veterans of political work in the Jewish and general community. Rabbi Beliak has been involved with social justice activism throughout his 30 years as a campus and congregational rabbi. He has served as vice chairperson of the American Rabbinic Network for Ethiopian Jews, and is currently a member of the board of the Progressive Jewish Alliance.

Ms. Hunter and Rabbi Beliak are co-directors of the Coalition for Justice in Hawaiian Gardens (California) and Jerusalem, which works to stop Irving Moskowitz's use of gambling profits from Hawaiian Gardens, to undermine efforts at Israeli-Palestinian peace. (See the web site [www.StopMoskowitz.org](http://www.StopMoskowitz.org).)

Rabbi Beliak was also the founder behind [www.inclusiveprayerday.org](http://www.inclusiveprayerday.org) which was instrumental in organizing against the fundamentalist nature of the

Tell a friend      defending the First Amendment against the Christian right ...

Donate      **Jews On First!**

Email sign-up      ... because if Jews don't speak out, they'll think we don't mind

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**NEW!** FOX NEWS CHANNEL BALANCES WELCOME FOR CHRISTIAN RIGHT WITH ANTI-SEMITISM

**Fox News Channel mocks reporters with altered, anti-semitic photos**

July 5, 2008. Fox News Channel personalities expressed displeasure with a *New York Times* report on the channel's sliding ratings in a report illustrated with doctored photos of the reporter and his editor that more than one commentator found anti-semitic. [Click here.](#)

**Also posted this week:** reports and commentary on Sen. Barack Obama's proposal for funding faith-based charities with public

OUR MOST RECENT EMAIL UPDATE

**Christian Right attacks Barack Obama's Christian faith.** June 25, 2008. Focus on the Family head James Dobson said on his radio show yesterday that Senator Obama "is dragging biblical understanding through the gutter." But that is mild compared to a Christian right video that calls Obama an "enemy of God" and uses what appears to be footage of abortions as illustrations. [Click here.](#)

**Creationism, mocked by the deified Flying Spaghetti Monster, defeated in court, is back again.** This time, Louisiana and Texas are in the forefront of a resurgence of support for teaching creationism. [Click](#)

## Chapter Annual Meeting & Pot Luck

Our annual meeting and pot luck will be on November 15th at the Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue. The pot luck will start at 1:30 p.m. We will have sign up sheets at both October meetings or you can email us at [orangecountyau@yahoo.com](mailto:orangecountyau@yahoo.com).

We will have a presentation on the emergence of tuition tax credits for private schooling based on the Education Program that will be held in early November in Washington at the National Advisory Council. The use of tuition tax credits to achieve tax-dollar funding for private education has been quietly established and proposed in several states in recent years. Appearing in various incarnations, the tax credit schemes have received little or no public objection, and have been subjected to minimal research on their educational effects on children or their broader public policy ramifications. Due to the use of public funds for religious

schools, their implications on Establishment Clause law are of particular interest to Americans United.

At our annual meeting we will provide a “year in review” and discuss some of the exciting topics on next year’s schedule including the politics of stem cell research in February and later in the year the film “Constantine’s Sword” with a discussion around the religious influences in the U.S. military.

But our schedule for 2009 is not complete yet and we are interested in chapter member ideas for topics for some of our open meetings. Your Steering Committee is anxious to present topics and have discussions on issues that are important to you. So come and bring your ideas and your favorite dish for the pot luck.

This will be a much more informal meeting than we usually have—more socializing and more interactive. We hope to see you there! ~~~~~

## Stop the Props—Richard Gillock

The religious right is sponsoring two propositions on the November ballot that will undermine Californians’ freedom. These propositions focus on the religious right’s two favorite issues, abortion and gay rights. Our chapter is working for the defeat of both Propositions, 4 and 8.

### ***Prop 4: Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor’s Pregnancy; Constitutional Amendment.***

Financed by out of state religious fundamentalists, this ballot measure shows up at every election and must be struck down once again. In 2005, Prop 73 was defeated by 52% and in 2006, Prop 85 was defeated by 54%. But extensive funding by a few millionaires has put this measure on the ballot. It is an attempt to undermine Roe v. Wade and to eliminate choice in America one ballot measure at a time.

While parents justifiably want to know about their daughter’s health and medical decisions, good family communications can’t be legislated. Most teens already consult family members when an unintended pregnancy occurs, but for those who do not have a healthy family relationship, a law like this can lead a desperate teen into having an unsafe illegal abortion or even suicide.

The safety of our teenage daughters is too important to risk. Learn more on the No On Prop 4 website, <http://www.noonprop4.org/>. To volunteer, contact Dave Trujillo at Planned Parenthood [dtrujillo@pposbc.org](mailto:dtrujillo@pposbc.org).

### ***Prop 8: Limit on Marriage; Constitutional Amendment.***

On May 15, 2008, the California Supreme Court ruled that denying same-sex couples the right to marry is unconstitutional in California. The religious right quickly qualified a ballot initiative to amend the California State Constitution to take away this right to marry and to nullify the marriages that have already taken place.

The California Supreme Court recognized that all Californians deserve equal protection under the law. The marriage conveys thousands of legal rights and responsibilities under California law that all loving couples in a committed relationship should have the right to share. Proposition 8 would strip away those rights from millions of Californians based solely upon their sexual preference. We must prevent bigotry from being written into our state constitution. Learn more on the No On Prop 8 website, <http://noonprop8.com/home>. To volunteer, contact Dale Osborne at California Faith for Equality, [dalenssteph@earthlink.net](mailto:dalenssteph@earthlink.net). ~~~~~



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**Americans United-OC Chapter**  
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The Steering Committee meets at 12:30 before the general meeting. All are invited.

All events are at The Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine. No charge for any of the events.

**November 15—1:30 pm** Annual Meeting and Pot Luck!

**October 19— 1:30 pm** Rabbi Haim Beliak of [www.jewsonfirst.org](http://www.jewsonfirst.org) will be discussing the web site and the founding of his organization.

**Oct 18— 2:00 pm** Prayers at Saddleback College and a discussion of related Supreme Court decisions with Karla Westphal. Q&A session follows the presentation.

***Keep Up To Date with Americans United-Orange County***  
Along with our newsletter, we keep people informed with what's going on in the fight to preserve separation of church and state as well as our events through the web site at [www.au-oc.org](http://www.au-oc.org) and also through our Yahoo! Group. If you're not on the Yahoo! Group, send an email to us at: [au-oc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:au-oc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). We meet monthly at the Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine on the 3rd Saturday at 2:00 pm.  
*Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the cause nor activities of organizations which use the District's meeting rooms that are made available as a public service.*

### ***Membership Form***

**Basic membership is \$25** and includes an annual subscription to Church & State magazine. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and donations beyond the \$18.00 value of the subscription to Church & State magazine are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Email any questions to [orangecountyau@yahoo.com](mailto:orangecountyau@yahoo.com).

**3337 S. Bristol, #251, Santa Ana, California 92704**

\$25 (new membership)    Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_