



**Americans United for Separation of Church and State
3337 S. Bristol, #251, Santa Ana, CA 92704**

On the web at www.au-oc.org Email us at orangecountyau@yahoo.com

**Program Announcement—January 21st at 2:00 p.m.
The Real Meaning of Separation of Church and State
with Constitutional Lawyer Edward Tabash**

January 2006

Volume 2, Issue 1

On January 21st at 2:00 p.m. at the Irvine Ranch Water District, (which is located at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine) the chapter is proud to announce that Edward Tabash will be our first speaker of the year.

Edward Tabash graduated from UCLA in 1973 and received his law degree in 1976.

Mr. Tabash is the National Chair of the Americans United for Separation of Church and State's Legal Committee and a prominent speaker on church state issues.

He has filed amicus briefs with the United States Supreme Court including one on the Elk Grove School District vs.

Michael Newdow on the Pledge of Allegiance.



Edward Tabash

Mr. Tabash is also the chair of the First Amendment Task Force for the Council for Secular Humanism.

Mr. Tabash understands the harm that can occur when church and state are not kept separate from both a legal perspective, as well as his family's personal experience. His mother is an Auschwitz survivor and

his father an orthodox rabbi from Lithuania.

For more information on Mr. Tabash please visit his web site at www.tabash.com.

There is no charge for this event and refreshments will be served.

For more information on this event please see the web site at www.au-oc.org or contact us at 714-957-0748.

"Everyone regardless of individual viewpoint on how the universe is put together will benefit if government stays out of the God business and if individuals are left free to make their own decisions and lifestyle choices in these delicate matters of conscience".

—Eddie Tabash

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Susan Jacoby in California

A special event that is worth traveling for is the appearance of author and lecturer Susan Jacoby in San Luis Obispo on Saturday, February 25th, 7:00 p.m. at the Monday Club, 1815 Monterey Street.

The tickets are \$20, \$25 and \$50 and can be purchased by writing to:

P.O. Box 225
Atascadero, CA 93423

Or send an email to: info@auslo.com for more information or to reserve a ticket.

Email or U.S. Mail—What's Your Preference?

In an attempt to provide our members with more timely information and reduce our costs we would like to do more via email. Please be sure to complete the enclosed survey and send it back to us with your email address. If you'd like to just give us the information on-line, send us an email at:

orangecountyau@yahoo.com.

Also, be sure and join our Yahoo! Group. If you're not already a member, email the group at:

au-oc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Message from the President

Happy New Year to all our members and welcome to the first newsletter of 2006! I am hoping that the 'War Over Christmas' is over—at least until next December and we can get down to the serious business of helping to preserve our religious liberties.

In January we will be looking at another Supreme Court nominee hearing; I'm sure all of our members will be contacting Senator Feinstein to express their views.

At the local level, we will be continuing our focus on the schools. In February I will be attending a seminar on the Foundations of Religious Freedom. Many public school teachers will be participating

and what is taught there is important because it is being promoted as the basis of the history-social science content standards for middle and high school students. If you're interested in attending, contact Dr. Margaret Hill, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools at 909-386-2611 or via email at:

Peg.hill@sbcss.k12.ca.us

The seminar is being taught by two professors from Michigan, both holding conservative positions on the political spectrum and neither of them appear to be strong supporters of church/state separation.

Because of these views, it is important that we understand how

our childrens' teachers are being trained to teach these very important ideas and constitutional principles.

And because this is an election year we will also be watching the issue of electioneering from the pulpit.

In 2004 there were several Orange County churches which distributed election guides and candidate recommendations. We will be looking to you, our members, to help monitor this across the county and work with the national organizations if violations are observed on either the left or right side of the political spectrum.

I hope you will get involved with us!

—Steph Campbell

Anti-Defamation League 2006 Civil Rights Debate Series The Church-State Divide January 19—February 16—March 16

The Orange County/Long Beach Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League has announced its 2006 Civil Rights Debate Series and Americans United for Separation of Church and State is very pleased to be a participant in the debate series. This year the topic will be the church/state divide.

Chapman University Law School
One University Drive in Orange
7:00 to 8:45 p.m.

The first debate will be between Professor John Eastman, law professor at Chapman University and Stephen Rohde, civil liberties lawyer, peace and justice activist and church state separation advocate. The topic of this debate is "The Intent of The Founders" and will tackle such issues as whether the founders intended this to be a Christian nation

tackle such issues as whether the founders intended this to be a Christian nation as well as whether or not our constitution is a secular document. This first debate takes place on January 19th and promises to be an interesting and informative event.

The second debate is scheduled for February 16th at 7:00 p.m. and Stephanie Campbell, president of the Orange County chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State is a scheduled debater. Other participants will be announced later. The topic of the second debate is the Faith-Based Initiative and what its implications are for the delivery of social services and how religion can be kept separate from these services—or even if it should. All of us at the Orange County chapter hope you will attend this debate in support of our Chapter.

The third debate occurs on March 16th at 7:00 p.m. and will be on Intelligent Design vs Evolution. The

\$25 for the series of debates. Two units of MCLE credit per debate is available for attorneys.

Reservations must be made through the Anti Defamation League office rather than the Americans United Chapter. **Please contact Susan Molk at 714-979-4733 or by email at smolk@adl.org.**

For more information on ADL visit their national web site at www.adl.org. This web site also contains a number of interesting articles and links on religious freedom and education. As more information on the debates is made available, it will be featured on our web site at www.au-oc.org.



"Religious beliefs and religious expression are too precious to be either proscribed or prescribed by the state."

—Justice Anthony M. Kennedy

Fall Programs and Election of Officers

In September, our speaker was Dr. Glenn Branch, the deputy director of the National Center for Science Education (NCSE), a non-profit organization that works to defend the teaching of evolution in the public schools.

Dr. Branch not only talked about the science of evolution but also the history and the politics of evolution. The science is irrefutable, but the politics are a constant attack upon reality.

In October we had a panel on sex education, and how it's taught in our local schools as well as the influence of religious fundamentalists upon these programs. Sex education is the first line of defense against pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STD). But the religious right has mounted a campaign against all sex education that is not limited to "abstinence only" programs. The sex education panelists included: CSF

Political Science Prof. Shelly Arsneault, activist parent Dan Noel, and devout Christian Brian Hart. The second part of the program was chaired by Kim Ward from Planned Parenthood of Orange County, who addressed activism to monitor and confront school boards that did not provide sufficient sex education to the students.

The result of our annual election is that the founding officers have all retained their seats for a 2-year term.

- President, Stephanie Campbell
- Vice President, Allison Young
- Secretary, Richard Gillock
- Treasurer, Ann Stern

We would like to offer special thanks to Steering Committee member and Nominating Committee Chair, Elaine Booth.

Great American Write-In

Steering Committee member Elaine Booth is also the president of Women For: Orange County which is the organizer of the Great American Write-In.



This is an annual event which encourages attendees to actively participate in our democracy by writing a letter to elected representatives to express concerns. We will be providing a sample letter on a topical issue relating to church/state separation. This will be our chapter's 2nd year participating at this event and we encourage you to attend the event—or help us at our Table. (To volunteer, send us an email at orangecountyau@yahoo.com.)

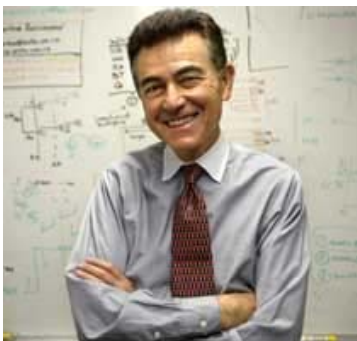
The Write-In is on March 11th from 9:30 to 1:00 at the Lakeview Senior Center, 20 Lake Road in the Woodbridge Community Park between Alton and Barranca Parkways in Irvine.

March Program Announcement—March 18th at 2:00 p.m.

Darwin's Greatest Discovery: Design Without Designer

Dr. Francisco Ayala

On March 18th at 2:00 p.m. at the Irvine Ranch Water District, (which is located at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine) the chapter is proud to announce that Dr. Francisco Ayala of the University of California at Irvine will be speaking on Darwin's Greatest Discovery: Design Without Designer.



Dr. Francisco Ayala

Dr. Ayala's research interests are in evolutionary biology; he is also interested in the philosophy of biology and bioethics as well as in the relationship between science and religion, including the teaching of evolution in the schools. Dr. Ayala served as an expert witness in the Arkansas trial on the teaching of evolution in 1981.

He is on the editorial board of Theology and Science which has as its goal to publish critically reviewed articles that promote the creative mutual interaction between the natural sciences and theology. For this journal Dr. Ayala has written "Intelligent Design: The Original Version".

Dr. Ayala was born in Madrid, Spain and became a U.S. citizen in 1971.

He is the author of over 650 articles and 12 books. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and has been a Guggenheim Fellow and a Fulbright Fellow. He has received a number of honorary degrees from prestigious universities throughout the world. He is currently the Donald Bren Professor of Biological Sciences and Professor of Philosophy at UCI and has been a member of advisory committees for the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health as well as being on President Clinton's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology.

I hope you will join us on March 18th for what promises to be a fascinating discussion on a very timely topic.

Americans United

Orange County



Help us promote the separation of church and state in Orange County



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 deductible to the full extent of the law.

Email any questions to orangecountyau@yahoo.com; to join or renew, complete this form and mail to the chapter at: **3337 S. Bristol, #251, Santa Ana, California 92704**

New Membership Renewal Membership Special Donation

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Email: _____

AU-Orange County Meeting & Issues Group Schedule

This year we will be having meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, in Irvine. We will alternate between a general meeting with a speaker and the issues group where people can get together and talk about the issues relating to church-state separation that are impacting all of our lives. We hope to have the issues group decide from meeting to meeting what our topic should be. Make sure you're on the Yahoo! Group to get details.

Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the case nor activities of organizations which use the District's meeting rooms that are made available as a public service.

Americans United-OC Chapter

3337 S. Bristol, #251

Santa Ana, CA 92704

Calendar of Events

Steering Committee



2nd Thursdays, 7:00
Call 714-299-4551 for
information and location

January

19 – ADL Debate on 'The Intent of the Founders' (see Page 2)

21 – Edward Tabash on 'The True Meaning of the Separation of Church and State' (see Page 1)

February

16 – ADL Debate on 'The Faith Based Initiative' (see Page 2)

18 – The Issues Group will be discussing the Faith Based Initiative in California. (Irvine Ranch Water District, 2 pm)

March

11 – Great American Write-In

16 – ADL Debate on 'Intelligent Design' (see Page 2)

18 – Dr. Francisco Alaya on 'Darwin's Greatest Discovery: Design Without Designer' (see Page 3)