



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

July Program Announcement—JULY 23, 2005 2:00 – 4:00

July 2005

EQUAL MARRIAGE RIGHTS FOR SAME GENDER COUPLES: A RESOLUTION TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST—PRESENTED BY ROSLYN MANLEY

Volume 1, Issue 2

JULY 23, 2005 2:00 – 4:00

Roslyn Manley of the Irvine United Congregational Church (UCC) is co-author of a Marriage Equality resolution that was overwhelmingly passed in 2004 at the United Church of Christ Annual Meeting. A similar resolution is being presented at the 2005 UCC General Synod in Atlanta. At our meeting, Roslyn will discuss the outcome of that vote, the discussion among the delegates at the Synod, and the church state separation implications.

The meeting will be held at the Irvine Ranch Water District at 2:00 p.m. on July 23. The Water District is located at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.

Ms. Manley has been active in social justice issues most of her life, but since her 1996 gender transition she has been a founding board member and officer in the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition and founder of the Orange County Transgender Task Force. She is a board member of Equality California (EQCA) Pac and a member of The Equality Project and member of the Transgender Legislative Work Group developing California LGBT legislation and a founding board member for the National Center for Transgender Equality.

In 2004 she was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Boston and was a part of the first

Transgender Caucus. More recently she became the first openly “out” transsexual to be elected to public office in the United States.

Roslyn is a member of Irvine United Congregational Church and a board member of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. Additionally, she is chair of the Southern California Nevada Chapter of the United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concerns.

For more information, see www.au-oc.org or call us at 714-957-0748.

We look forward to seeing you on July 23rd!



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The Teaching of Creationism vs. Evolution in the Public Schools—September 10, 2005

SAVE THE DATE! On September 10th at 2:00 p.m. at the Irvine Ranch Water District we will be having Glenn Branch who is the Deputy Director of the National Center for Science Education in Oakland speaking to us.

This is a non-profit organization that works to defend the teaching of evolution in the public schools.

He will be focusing on a presentation on current issues in the evolution/creationism struggle as it impacts both teachers and

students today.

Watch for more information in our next newsletter and on the web. Also, we will be covering this in our Yahoo! Group which you can access at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/au-oc>.

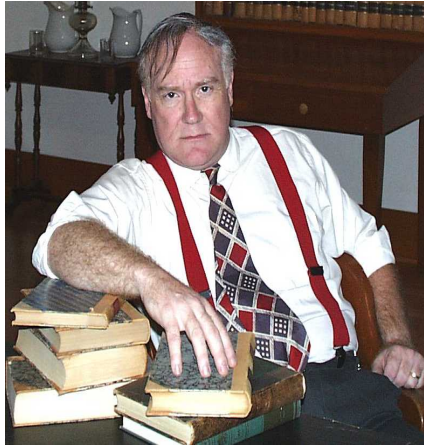
Don't forget to order your tickets for the play on Clarence Darrow—a man we cannot afford to forget. He fought against racism, social injustice, the death penalty, inequality, conspiracy laws and civil liberty violations. Join us on August 6th—see the story on page 2 for more information.

Clarence Darrow: The Search for Justice

On August 6th, Americans United for Separation of Church and State will be co-sponsoring with Amnesty International and the ACLU of Orange County a one-man show on Clarence Darrow which is being hosted by the Orange Coast Universalist Unitarian Church in Costa Mesa. Ticket sales benefit the host and the sponsoring organizations.

With our recent event covering a discussion about evolution and creationism, this play is very topical.

There will be 2 performances of this 2-hour show: 2:00 and 7:30.



In the play, Darrow recounts the

greatest trials of his career, including the Scopes “Monkey” Trial, while providing personal insights into his character and philosophies through often humorous and moving anecdotes and trial excerpts.

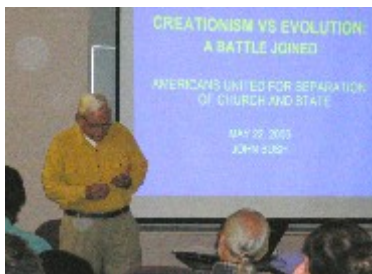
Performances will be at the Orange Coast Universalist Unitarian Church at 1259 Victoria Street, Costa Mesa. Tickets are \$15 in advance. Please complete and return the ticket form on Page 4 and we will mail your tickets to you.

Tickets will be available at our July 23rd event and our Reading Group.

Americans United—Orange County First Public Event—A Big Success John Bush on Creationism vs. Evolution

The first public event for the newly formed Orange County chapter was a standing room only lecture by Dr. John Bush on Creationism vs. Evolution on May 22. Since his retirement from industry Dr. Bush has been teaching a course in science and religion and from that he created a program focused upon the Darwinian natural selection approach to evolution and the opposition by the religious right.

His program was dynamic with participants hanging upon his words for nearly two hours. The subject was fascinating involving not just science and religion, but also politics.



Dr. Bush begins his talk

Many religions incorporate evolution into their faith; they see creation as a fact and evolution as a detail.

Natural selection is the result of environmental or other survival changes

that causes some traits to have better survival qualities and are thus propagated to their off spring.

Some religious fundamentalists believe that if one word can be found at fault within their literal interpretation of the Bible, that none of their faith’s tenants would be valid. If all species were not created within the 6 day period of creation, then nothing in the Bible can be trusted. It is for that reason that they challenge any precept that is counter to literal biblical interpretations. Accepting evolution would deny their religious faith.

While different Christian religions have different versions of the Bible that include different scriptures, the religious right believes that only their interpretation of their scriptures is correct. This is their definition of “faith.”

Much of the religious right movement owes its lineage to the John Birch Society of the 50’s and 60’s. Many of the same leaders are involved. Their goal is a world view of Christian domination of public policy.

From an observational scientific viewpoint, Darwin’s theory of Natural Selection provides the best explanation of evolution and conforms to actual

observations in our world.

The basic difference between faith and natural selection is that the scientific approach provides a means to accurately predict future outcomes while From an observational scientific viewpoint, Darwin’s theory of Natural Selection provides the best explanation of evolution and conforms to actual observations in our world.

The basic difference between faith and natural selection is that the scientific approach provides a means to accurately predict future outcomes while faith only looks backwards and attempts to justify the present in terms of Biblical prophecy.



Following the presentation Dr. Bush receives a certificate and gift membership from President Steph Campbell

From the President — Steph Campbell

I want to take this opportunity to recognize a young warrior in the fight for church/state separation.

Tiffany Royal of Bell Intermediate school faced up to her school administration and requested that equal time for Americans United be given. The result of that was that Harry Schwartzbart of the San Fernando Valley chapter conducted a school meeting on the issues of church/state separation. The Orange County chapter will be working with Tiffany on creating a First Amendment Club next year – the

first in Orange County.

Here is an excerpt from Tiffany's letter to the school district:

"..Because the bible club is being held on public school property, that makes the school look like it is promoting a specific religion, and that is wrong and against our Constitution. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was set up to protect our rights to believe whatever religion we please. ... It's important that our public schools respect the beliefs of every one... I think someone from Americans

United for the Separation of Church and State should come to the school and form an assembly to talk about the dangers of promoting a specific religion on a school campus".

The Orange County chapter is looking forward to working with Tiffany on her First Amendment Club. I also recommend that you visit the web site created by Teri Royal and add your comments in the feedback section: (<http://www.statueoflimitations.us/>)

Estancia High School—Social Forum of the Human Rights Club

On June 7th, the Human Rights Club at Estancia High School in Costa Mesa put on a "Social Forum" where they invited community groups into their school to engage students in civic activities and issues.

AU-Orange County was one of the first organizations to sign up for this event. In all, 17 local organizations were represented. Over 120 students attended the voluntary event and asked pointed questions and listened intently and at times, challenged the answers.

The format allowed small groups of students to sit down with any organization they chose and ask questions. We provided reading materials and hopefully, meaningful answers. This is student self education in the manner of

Americans United joined 17 other local organizations in a social forum at a Costa Mesa High School.

real life; ask questions and question answers.

The interchanges were both enlightening and empowering. There is great hope for this generation. Most of the students will be eligible to vote in the 2006 election and we left the event confident that they would be responsible and committed citizens.

Americans United-Orange County looks forward to their next event in the Fall.

What's Happening in Your Neighborhood?

Someone once said that "all politics are local." When it comes to the separation of church and state, you don't have to look to the national news, you can probably find an issue right here at home.

Look to your local schools. Is there favoritism of one religion over another that may make some students feel excluded, or an atmosphere where students may feel empowered to prey upon other students because of their religion?

Look to your school board, city council, or county supervisors. Do they play favorites with some religious groups when it comes to permits, zoning, or community outreach? Is there a bias in civic hiring? Do they start their meetings with an invocation, and if so, might that invocation be offensive to some groups? Is there an anti-gay or racial bias that can be attributed to the influence of a particular faith? Do all religions receive equal protection under the law?

How do you find out? By showing up. It is important that members of the local community participate in local open government meetings to help protect the religious rights of everyone. AU-Orange County is looking for volunteers to monitor their local government and participate in community affairs. It takes a little time, but it can be very effective. If you are interested in helping, contact Rich Gillock at r.r.gillock@ieee.org or call (714) 330-1805.

**Americans United for
Separation of Church**

Orange County Chapter



***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, complete this form and mail to the address 3337 S. Bristol, #251, Santa Ana, California 92704

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email: _____

\$25 \$50 \$75 Other _____

For Clarence Darrow tickets (\$15/ticket)

2:00 Show - # of Tickets: _____

7:30 Show - # of Tickets: _____

We're on the web
at www.au-oc.org

**Americans United-OC Chapter
3337 S. Bristol, #251
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Calendar of Events



***July 14th
Steering Committee
August 21
Reading Group***

***July 23, 2005
Discussion of Equal Marriage Rights for
Same Gender Couples***

***August 6, 2005
Clarence Darrow: The Search for Justice***
