



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

September Program Announcement
Creationism vs. Evolution in the Public Schools
with Dr. Glenn Branch

SEPTEMBER 10TH 2:00 AT THE IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

September 2005

Volume 1, Issue 3

On September 10th at 2:00 p.m. at the Irvine Ranch Water District, (which is located at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine) we will be having Dr. Glenn Branch join us to discuss the very timely and important topic of teaching evolution, as opposed to creationism and intelligent design in the public schools.

Glenn Branch is 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.

He is a regular speaker on the topic of the evolu-

tion/creationism controversy and has written on the topic for *The American Biology Teacher*, *Seed*, *The Humanist*, *BioScience*, and *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*.



Dr. Glenn Branch

The NCSE has no religious affiliations and it bases its work on the

strong belief that science and the scientific method should determine a science curriculum.

For more information on this event please visit our web site www.au-oc.org or call us at 714-957-0748.

For more information on the National Center for Science Education, please visit their website at www.ncseweb.org.

We look forward to seeing you on September 10th!

And check out the book by NCSE Executive Director Eugenie C. Scott, *Evolution vs. Creationism*, Greenwood Press, 2004.

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Upcoming Meetings! All at the Irvine Ranch Water District at 2:00 p.m.

October 22nd—A panel discussion on **sex education in the schools**. We will begin with a discussion of the state of sex education in Orange County public schools and the training materials that are used. Come and hear what's being taught, the influences of the reli-

gious right and the pressures to pursue abstinence only.

This will be followed by a workshop on how to work with your school board.

Watch the Yahoo! Group and the web site for more information.

November 19th—Join us for a busy afternoon where we will discuss the **Faith Based Initiative in California**. Before the discussion is the biennial chapter elections for 2006-2007 officers. Nominations including any self-nominations will be gratefully accepted.

See our web site or send us an email. We also need to find new chair persons for committees as well as for the Steering Committee. The president will also be providing a "Year In Review" for AU-OC; join us to hear how far we've come!

Roslyn Manley Speaks to AU-OC

Roslyn Manley of the Irvine United Congregational Church (UCC) was our July speaker.

She is co-author of a Marriage Equality resolution that was passed at the 2005 UCC General Synod in Atlanta. Unfortunately Roslyn had not been able to be at the General Synod due to illness but she had received daily updates and was able to fill us in on how it went.

The resolution did pass—with about an 85% vote. Roslyn explained that even though the vote was overwhelming that it was not without its difficulties and it appears that some

churches will not stay within the fold. The resolution does not require member churches to celebrate same gender marriages but they are encouraged to do so.



Roslyn Manley receives a certificate of appreciation

Open Mosque Day

August 21st was Open Mosque Day in southern California, an event put on by the Islamic Shura Council, which several of our members attended. At the Mosque in Mission Viejo we were warmly welcomed. We enjoyed an informative tour of the Mosque and talk by the Imam who was both humorous and very gracious. He spent a lot of time answering the many questions that we had as well as anticipating some of the issues on the minds of his audience. This was a great event and should open a dialog between many faiths in these troubled times.



Clarence Darrow: The Search for Justice —A Moving and Inspirational Show

In Costa Mesa we experienced an inspiring event in August with Gary Anderson as Clarence Darrow, the famed lawyer who championed civil liberties, labor rights, and fought successfully against the death penalty in a time when public hangings were still routine.



Gary Anderson as Clarence Darrow

Almost everyone knows of Clarence Darrow from the famed Scopes “Monkey Trial” in 1925. The trial was immortalized in the movie, “Inherit the Wind.” But probably few knew that Darrow defended 102 people in death penalty trials without a single defendant being executed.

He became the general attorney for the Chicago and Northwestern Railway but he later switched sides during the Pullman Strike, unsuccessfully defending Eugene Debs and the unions on contempt charges. He did successfully defend other labor leaders over the years as well as championing child labor laws.

It was the trial of two labor leaders in Los Angeles that led to the unions vilifying Darrow. James and Joseph McNamara were charged with the bombing of the LA Times building resulting in the death of 21 workers. After thorough investigation, Darrow was convinced that they were guilty and formed a defense that would spare them from execution. The unions he had represented considered this treason. But Darrow’s troubles did not end there. Charges were filed against him for jury tampering, and he entered the lowest point of his life. Towards the end of the trial he finally rose up in his own defense and thoroughly discredited the prosecution’s case and won his freedom. After that he went on to defend the civil liberties of WWI anti-war protestors on sedition charges, and victims of the Espio-

nage Act. He worked with civil liberties groups like the ACLU on the Scopes trial, and with the NAACP in the Sweet case.

Dr. Ossian Sweet, a Detroit bell hop, put himself through medical school in Ann Arbor and studied in Vienna. He returned to Detroit and set up a practice and in 1925 bought a home in a middle-class neighborhood. When a white mob tried to run him and his family out of their home, Sweet along with a few friends, opened fire on the mob killing one. Darrow won Dr. Sweet an acquittal based upon self-defense. Darrow later stated that “The verdict meant simply that the doctrine that a man’s house is his castle applied to the black man as well as to the white man.”



The “real” Clarence Darrow

Clarence Darrow defended the underdog and the despised.

He was a true American hero.

From the President — Steph Campbell

With the end of summer just around the corner many of us are filled with “back to school” thoughts and our Fall events reflect that. We will be starting in September with a discussion of how—and even if—evolution is taught in the public schools plus what can you do about it.

In October we’ll move on to the topic of sex education in the schools. As I write this, there is another move in the Santa Ana schools to limit sex education to an abstinence-only policy fueled by the religious right.

We also hope to be helping Tiffany Royal (see next story) on starting her First Amendment Club—watch our web site for more on this in the coming months.

In November we will be holding our biennial chapter elections. At the October meeting we will announce the chapter slate as well as look for additional nominations.

In our first year as a chapter I have found working to promote the separation of church and state a very rewarding experience. We have an excellent steering committee and even if you don’t want to hold an

office I do encourage you to consider participating with the committee. Our committee is open to all of our members—the only requirement is to be committed to our issues.

We are always looking for input into chapter programs and ideas to promote Americans United throughout the County.

If you’re interested in getting more involved, contact the chapter. There’s lots to do and we’d love your help!

—Steph Campbell

Honoring Tiffany Royal

Americans United in Orange County has been following the work that Tiffany Royal did at her school. She is the student from Bell Middle School in the Garden Grove School District who challenged her school’s use of only a religious right minister from Calvary at the school’s Bible Club. This minister was the one who told the students that anyone who lived with a non-believer should move out. Tiffany then sent a letter to her principal and asked for equal time for Americans United; Harry Schwartzbart of the

San Fernando Valley ran an assembly at the school. Our steering committee put on a barbecue to honor her and her family.

Tiffany Royal will be starting a First Amendment Club this Fall at her school. If you’re interested in information on starting a First Amendment Club at an Orange County high school or college campus, contact the Chapter.



Tiffany receiving a certificate honoring her work.

The Walk for Hope—September 24th 9:00 a.m.

The walk is at El Dorado East Regional Park in Long Beach and is unlike any walk you’ve ever been on. Along this 5K walk you’ll find inspirational messages and activity stations where you can learn about global issues, and find ways in which you can express your creativity, as well as ways in which you can connect with others.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State will be there pro-

viding information and literature to the walkers along with many other progressive organizations in the area. We encourage you to be part of this annual event.

Check out the Be The Cause website:

<http://www.bethecause.org/walk>

If you would be willing to volunteer to work at the Americans United table, please contact us by email:

orangecountyau@yahoo.com

Or you can leave us a message at 714-957-0748.

You can also find out more information about this event and any of our upcoming meetings at our web site at: <http://www.su-oc.org>

And to keep up on national issues be sure and visit the national web site at <http://www.au.org>



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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email: _____

\$25 \$50 \$75 Other _____

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

AU-Orange County Issues Group

The Issues Group met on August 21st for an often passionate discussion on issues relating to the California Compassionate Choices Act (Assembly Bill 651). There was much discussion about whether this was really an issue that our group should be involved with. But in reviewing all the opposition to the bill coming from the many religious right organizations we were convinced that encouraging our members to contact their state senators on this is a worthwhile cause. For more information, please see their website at:

<http://www.compassionandchoices.org/>

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Calendar of Events



**Steering Committee
2nd Thursdays, 7:00**

- September 10**
Evolution or Intelligent Design?
- October 22**
Sex Education in the Schools
- November 19**
Year in Review,
Chapter Elections
Faith Based Initiative
in California