



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

**Orange County Chapter of Americans
United for Separation of Church & State
Is Proud to Present Our
Dr. Robert Kemp Memorial Speaker**

Dr. James Corbett

**of the
Capistrano Unified School District**

Saturday, May 17th at 2:00 pm

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

*Conservative Historical
Mythology
and the Schools*

**See Page 3 to Learn About Dr. Corbett &
Why He Is Important To You!**

**May/June
2008
Volume 4
Issue 3**

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Save the Date! June 21st is the next "Flicks For Thought" with "Friends of God: A Road Trip With Alexandra Pelosi."

Join us for this fast-paced cross-country road trip showing us a cross-section of evangelical America.

What Does Executive Director Barry Lynn Think About Us?

"This was a stellar example of how an AU chapter can partner with religious groups and humanists to get out a crowd of enthusiastic advocates for separation. From the cake cutting to the book signing to the conversations with several students after the event, it went off flawlessly. I look forward to returning."

-- Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director
Americans United for Separation of Church and State

Barry Lynn's Visit to Orange County

By
Glenda Brown Rynn



Church in Newport Beach.

Rev. Dr. Paul Tellstrom, pastor of Irvine United Congregational Church, introduced Lynn and set the scene by quoting Jerry Falwell: "The concept of the separation of church and state was invented by the Devil to keep Christians from running their own country."

Barry Lynn is not only an ordained UCC minister but also an attorney and member of the Washington, D. C. bar. Lynn joked that if a person has violated the Constitution's principle of separation of church and state, Lynn "can forgive someone tonight and file a class action suit tomorrow."

"Can Religion and Politics Co-exist?" was the evening's topic. "Probably—but not much," was Lynn's immediate answer. What made America different from all other countries was its religious freedom, he asserts. "The separation of church and state is the greatest single contribution the U.S. has made to world political thinking."

The historical breakwater was that the religious institutions here were "yielding the power of the purse and the power of the sword" they traditionally wielded.

To change that underlying premise means "the opening of the bully pulpit can actually be for bullies."

The United States is a wholly secular nation and the U.S. Constitution a secular document, Lynn stressed. Most people want the separation of church and state, but the noisy 18-24% who "really do want a Christian theocracy" put out effective propaganda to confuse citizens. If people do not know American history, "they can be peeled off" to the erroneous belief we were not founded as a secular nation. Some believe a majority vote can change

The Rev. Barry W. Lynn, Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, spoke on April 7, 2008, at St. Mark Presbyterian

that status.

Lynn observed that George W. Bush has "religious advisors" to him in his role as President. With our current presidential candidates rushing to court religious groups, Lynn said we should be asking, "How would your religious beliefs affect your domestic and international policies?"

Lynn says there is a mistaken belief that the Religious Right is waning. Of the Religious Right groups in the last two years, 14 out of 15 have taken in more money than before. Huckabee won seven primaries before dropping out. As one minister looking at another's agenda, Lynn says, "Huckabee's views are those of the Religious Right." Another example of its influence is that in "89% of all the counties in the U.S., physicians won't perform abortions because of pressure."

Lynn clarified which activities are legally permissible for a religious institution not to lose its non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service: All non-profits, churches, temples, etc., may discuss any issue or candidates. But they may *not* make any partisan effort or spend money to support or oppose a candidate.

Rev. Lynn gave several examples of churches reported to the IRS for this violation. The church then gets a visitation from the IRS who has its leaders sign a declaration that they will not violate the separation of church and state again. They understand their non-profit status is at risk.

The pastor of one Baptist church in N. Carolina threw out eight members because they voted for John Kerry instead of George Bush. Later the congregation met and invited back those eight. At the next meeting, they fired the pastor.

One Orange County church, angry that Lynn reported it to the IRS for its endorsement of Huckabee, afterwards held an "imprecatory" event during which they put curses on Lynn and his progeny. Barry Lynn says he is driven to do this work because when he wakes up in the morning, some group can control his life from conception to death.

...Continued on P. 3

More on Barry Lynn's Visit to Orange County



The impartiality of former Supreme Courts is gone. Currently, 4 1/2 of its votes are consistently for the Religious Right, Lynn asserted. The best Justice for separation of church

and state is Judge Stephens, but he's 86. Therefore, "we have to be careful now about which situations we take to the Supreme Court."

As an aside, Lynn remarked that the Intelligent Design theory "was first created to be used as a wedge to get the teaching of religion into the schools."

During interaction with the audience, one man identifying himself as Mormon said Mormons support the separation of church and state because "in Missouri until 1829, it was legal to kill a Mormon." Mormons (and Seventh Day Adventists) know that if the barrier falls, they will be persecuted by the dominant Christian groups.

America has 2,000 different religions.

Lynn concluded by saying that "In God We Trust" was not on our coins for half of our history. That phrase was put on the two-cent coin after the Civil War. During the 1950s Cold War with the Soviet Union, the phrase went on to all U.S. currency "to show those atheist Communists we're different."

He mused that those coins with "In God We Trust" are used in bribery and all kinds of crimes. As a parallel, he added that having "Gideon Bibles in almost all hotel rooms hasn't stopped adultery in those rooms."

Before the meeting Barry Lynn signed copies of his book *Piety & Politics: The Right-Wing Assault on Religious Freedom*.

Before his work with Americans United, Lynn often worked on church-state issues as legislative council for the Washington office of the American Civil Liberties Union from 1984-1991.

Lynn recommends www.firstfreedomfirst.org to examine questions that should be asked of and answered by presidential candidates.

Who is Jim Corbett and Why Should We Care?



Dr. Jim Corbett teaches Advanced Placement European history at Capistrano Valley High School. A lawsuit has been filed claiming that Dr. Corbett violated a student's constitutional rights by making "highly inappropriate and offensive" statements in class regarding Christianity. The student (and his mother) filing the lawsuit believes our nation is based on Christian principles.

Does this mean that it's OK for a student to dictate what is taught? Is it OK for a student to turn education and fact in to myth?

European history is rife with instances of the church mandating positions that conflict with reality. Consider the case of Galileo who Einstein called "the father of modern science" who because of his scientific work and writings spent the last part of his life under house arrest and forbidden to publish any future works. In 1992 Pope John Paul II expressed regret over the Church's handling of the "Galileo affair." Are we regressing back to the Inquisition? Come find out for yourself what Dr. Corbett's positions really are. Come and see what happens when the religious right goes after a talented teacher.

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

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May
17—Conservative Historical Mythology and the Schools presented by Dr. James Corbett of the Capistrano Unified School District. The presentation will take place at the
Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Ave, Irvine
The presentation will begin at 2:00 pm followed by a Q&A session.

June
21—Documentary “Friends of God: A Road Trip with Alexandra Pelosi” at the Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine at 2:00 pm

Every Month
AU-OC Steering Committee
Usually meets prior to the monthly meetings at Noon at the Irvine Ranch Water District. All members are encouraged to participate.

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 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. 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

You may also use this form to join AU. 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.

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\$25 (membership or renewal) Donation \$ _____

Name _____

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