



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

**Barry Lynn
National Executive Director**

Monday, April 7, 2007

at 6:30 p.m.

**St. Mark Presbyterian Church
2200 San Joaquin Hills Drive, Newport Beach**

Spring 2008

Volume 4

Issue 2

Have You Reserved YOUR Seat?

REMEMBER: No one will be allowed in the church without a paid ticket.

When you arrive, you will be able to participate in the pre-talk refreshments, purchase Barry Lynn's latest book, "Piety and Politics" and have it autographed, and finally enjoy a talk by Barry Lynn, the nation's expert on the separation of church and state and the real meaning behind the free exercise and the establishment clause of the First Amendment.



We will be welcomed to the "greenest church in America" by Pastor Gary Collins and Rev. Lynn will be introduced by Rev. Paul Tellström of the Irvine United Congregational Church.

The opportunity to hear Barry in person in Orange County doesn't happen very often. You won't want to miss this event—it is sure to be one of the highlights of 2008. With the election season already begun, Barry's speech on why we need to keep politics out of the pulpit couldn't be more timely!

If you have not yet registered please complete the form on the last page of this newsletter and mail it in to us at AU-OC, 3337 S. Bristol, #251. Santa Ana 92704

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Orange County Chapter Affiliation

Whether you are joining AU for the first time or renewing your membership, if you do it through the national organization, please be sure to let them know that you are part of the Orange County chapter. This helps us financially and lets our national organization know that Orange County is an active and viable chapter. Your help in supporting us this way is greatly appreciated.

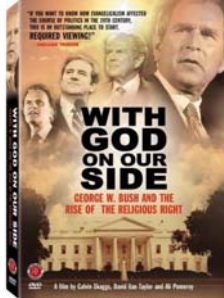
If you have any questions about this please call 714-957-0748 or email: orangecountyau@yahoo.com.

With God On Our Side

Saturday, March 15th at 2:00 pm

Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue

With God on Our Side - George W. Bush and the Rise of the Religious Right in America, covers the rise of the



religious right over the last 45 years. Join us to discover how the religious right has made the move from the margins of politics into Congress and the White House.

The film documents the effects of religion in government beginning with the opposition to "Godless Communism" and the rise of McCarthyism. Richard Nixon used the witch hunts of McCarthy as the base of his rise to power and later campaigns attracted a new voting block, the so called "Moral Majority." The first evangelical Christian President was Jimmy Carter who brought religion into the political conversation just 16 years after John Kennedy had argued that the separation of church and state was

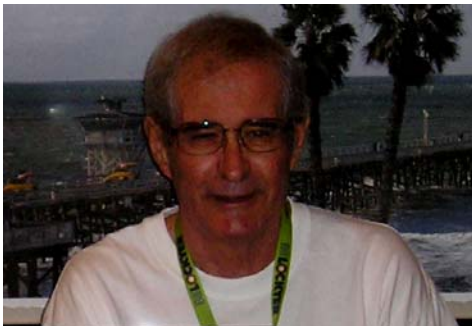
the bedrock of American politics. Even so, President Carter disappointed Christian fundamentalists by supporting women's civil rights and the right to choose. In 1980, a non-religious Ronald Reagan became the standard bearer for the religious right to defeat Carter.

"With God on Our Side" shows how we came to have a president today who believes, in the words of one commentator, that "he and his country have a special relationship with God."

Join us for the documentary and a lively discussion where we will discuss whether or not the Bush Administration was driven by religious fundamentalism? Or did it just pander to the religious right? Is the religious right a solid voting block? Or is it now divided over issues of the environment, poverty, and corruption? Can a president be elected without religion a key component of the campaign? Can the Separation of Church and State be salvaged?

A Sad Farewell to AU-OC Activist Bob Kemp

Dr. Robert Kemp had recently joined our Steering Committee and had a long-time commitment to the separation of church and state. Pictured on the left, Bob was staffing our AU table in early February. We are all saddened by his passing and wish to convey our sympathy to his wife Laura.



He taught at a fundamentalist Christian college for 16 years where in his history and politics courses he spent much of his time trying to undo the damage done to students in Christian high schools and the home-school movement. Recently retired, he had a long career in both academia and politics. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago where he won the prestigious Louis Pelzer Memorial Award for the best article published in the Journal of American History. He taught at Pitzer College, Claremont Graduate School and Concordia University, Irvine, and served as a Research Fellow at the Harvard-M.I.T. Joint Center for Urban Studies and the Russell Sage Foundation. He received awards for excellence in teaching at both Pitzer and Concordia. He was a veteran of several political campaigns, including Robert Kennedy's presidential bid in 1968 and Daniel Moynihan's first campaign for the U.S. Senate in 1976. He served on the staff of Rep. Andrew Jacobs, Jr., (D-IN) and Senator Moynihan and President Carter's Welfare Reform Task Force.

At his untimely death this month Bob was working on a biography of Gerald B. Winrod (1900-1957), the founder of the first Christian Right political movement in 1925.

We will all miss him.

Article VI: The Film That Shows How Religious Bigotry Impacts our Elections

Saturday, April 19th at 2:00 pm
Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue

The movie title refers to Article VI in the Constitution: "No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States." It was released in January 2008—but not in New York and Los Angeles, this one opened in Salt Lake City, Newport Beach and Atlanta.

Over a period of three months, the makers of this film traveled the country and gathered interviews, news clips and a variety of propaganda. The interviews included such conservatives as Hugh Hewitt and Richard Land.

The film takes the position that everyone approaches politics based on personal religious views. And it's hard to argue with that when you consider that in one of the Democratic debates this year the candidates were asked whether or not they prayed; Republicans were asked if they believed every word of the Bible. The film fails to ask why as a nation we are focusing on these questions when so much more is at stake as we select our candidates.

The filmmaker said the purpose of the film is to "make

people stop and think -- how does my faith or my bias or lack of bias, my perception, affect my vote?" He claimed voters used to care more about more general values rather than particular religious views, which are likely more personal than political. The co-producer said, after hearing from spokespersons of all major religions in the country, that he discovered that "people of almost every religion seem to think their faith is under attack."

Many of our members will find this to be an interesting film especially following our February discussion on whether or not we are a Christian nation. This film talks about the fears that varying Christian groups feel and their conviction that there is a battle to eliminate Christians as a major presence in society. Somehow the makers of the movie feel that the litigation to remove "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance, or to allow a Congressman to use a Koran instead of the Bible validates this fear.

And having said all that, they claim that this is all an effort to promote a healthy dialogue. Join us for a more realistic dialogue following the film!

The Exodus Mandate

The Exodus Mandate is a national group that focuses on encouraging parents to remove their children from the public school system. It suggests that students go into either private schools run by churches or home schooling. On February 7th of this year, as part of this organization, the California Exodus project was announced. Its chair is Dr. Gleason, a pastor at Yorba Linda's Grace Presbyterian Church.

Why does Pastor Gleason think that we need a special California Exodus program? He is concerned about the implementation of the California law which prohibits instructional materials and activities that promote a discriminatory bias against gays, transsexuals and bisexuals.

Part of this law, and the one that seems to be the driving force behind the California Exodus, is that the law defines gender in the state education code to include an individual's perceived gender. (Readers may recall that this was an issue with the Westminster School Board in 2004.)

The pastor claims that this is not a homosexual issue but the real issue is that this law will prevent what he calls "virtue and values" instruction.

This serves to remind us that the fight for separation of church and state is not historical theory but an ongoing battle, one that continues in Orange County today.

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



March
15—Documentary “With God On Our Side” at the Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine at 2:00 pm

April
7—Barry Lynn at St. Mark’s Presbyterian Church, 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road, Newport Beach at 6:30
19—Documentary “Article VI” at the Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine at 2:00 pm

May
17—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 12:30 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.

Barry Lynn Ticket Order 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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of Tickets _____

- \$20 (per ticket for members) \$25 (membership only) \$35 (per ticket for non-members)
 \$45 (new membership plus 1 ticket) Donation \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Email: _____