



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

God in Government

Saturday, January 19th at 2:00 pm

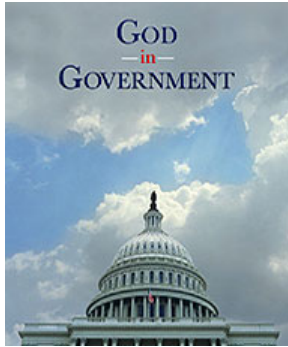
Irvine Ranch Water District

15600 Sand Canyon Avenue

Spring 2008

Volume 4, Issue 1

As we enter this election year, much of our focus will be on monitoring to ensure that politics stays out of the pulpit. Join us as we start to consider the impact of the failure to keep God out of government.



This one-hour film explores the complex relationship in today's world. With the United States as the focal point, and Iran, Israel and India as object lessons, the film asks fundamental questions: What are the

consequences when religion and politics become intertwined? What are the fault lines along which tensions and conflicts occur? What is the appropriate relationship between 'church' and state in a modern society?

With much talk about faith in this election, the debate about the appropriate role of religion in America's public square is critical.

Join us for the documentary and discussion. Can the Separation of Church and State be salvaged? Is religious fundamentalism the ultimate destiny of mankind? Can we choose a different path?

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

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...And Coming on February 16th

Are We A Christian Nation?



On **February 16th, 2:00 pm** at the Irvine Ranch Water District (15600 Sand Canyon Ave) we will be asking this question of Dr. Paul Levesque. If you asked just about anyone at Americans United the response would be "of course we are not a Christian Nation."

Dr. Levesque's answer is "not really" - not quite

as definitive as most of us would respond.

Come and hear Dr. Levesque's views on this questions.

Dr. Levesque is an Associate Professor of Christianity and World Religions in the Department of Comparative Religion at California State University, Fullerton. In addition to teaching courses in Christian thought and world religions, he has conducted a Senior Seminar in Gender Studies for the Liberal Studies Program, as well as a course in 20th Century social sciences.

Barry Lynn Comes to Orange County in April

Monday, April 7, 2008, 6:30 pm

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church

2200 San Joaquin Hills Drive, Newport Beach



The Orange County chapter is very excited to have the opportunity to present the Rev. Barry Lynn, Executive Director of the national organization of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

This is an opportunity for our Orange County chapter members to meet Barry Lynn and learn from him the important work that the organization is doing on both the legislative and litigation fronts. Join us for a talk that is guaranteed to inspire.

You will have the opportunity to hear him explain why it is so critical to keep church and state separate. He will be able to provide insight into a variety of issues such as the recent litigation on evolution vs. Intelligent Design in Dover, PA. No doubt he will also share his opinions on members of the religious right who think right-wing candidates deserve an endorsement from the pulpit and who don't react well when AU reports them to the IRS. Pastor Drake Wiley of Buena Park who encouraged his flock to pray for the deaths of AU leaders is an example that Barry Lynn enjoys discussing.

But much of his talk will be on a more serious note as he will discuss current cases being fought to preserve religious liberty and church/state separation. This is our opportunity to learn about the vital need for legislative activism to preserve our nation's secular foundation.

By the time Barry Lynn joins us the 2008 Election season will be in full force, and the religious right will be hard at work on influencing the outcome of those elections. Learn what AU is doing to fight illegal campaigning from the pulpit, and what we can do in our neighborhood to preserve the separation of church and state.

Having Barry Lynn in Orange County is a wonderful opportunity for us. We hope to make available

autographed copies of his most recent book "Piety and Politics," available. This is the book in which Barry Lynn shows how the religious right's dream is a nightmare for the rest of America.



We believe this will be one of the most important events in Orange County this Spring. This will be the chapter's primary fund raising event of the year and will allow us to continue our work in Orange

County.

Pastor Gary Collins has graciously allowed us to use his new church for this event. We hope you will join us at the church that Audubon International calls "the greenest new church campus in the United States." And Pastor Paul Tellstrom of the Irvine United Congregational Church, another good friend of AU will be introducing Barry Lynn.

Pre-registration for this event is strongly recommended since seating will be limited. The ticket cost will be:

Members: \$20

Non-Members: \$35

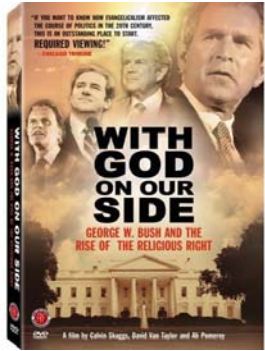
After March 15, \$40 (if available)

Non-Members including a new membership: \$45

When sending your registration, please use the membership form on Page 4 of the newsletter and check the "Barry Lynn tickets" box. Your registration must be received at the Chapter by Friday, April 4th. Tickets will not be sent out but you will need to check in at the registration table at the event.

For questions please call 714-957-0748 or email us at: 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.”

After Nixon resigned in disgrace, a true Evangelical Christian would be elected as President. President James Earl Carter 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.

Is the Bush Administration truly driven by religious fundamentalism, or are they shamelessly pandering to the religious right? Does it matter?

Is the religious right a solid voting block, or is it splintering over issues of the environment, poverty, and corruption?

Can a president be elected without the endorsement of the religious community? Can the Separation of Church and State be salvaged?

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

Message from the President—Steph Campbell

This year politicians of every stripe will be looking for votes and many of them are using religion to get them. Democratic Iowa Caucus winner Obama has a page on faith in the issues section of his web site.. Hillary Clinton hired a “faith advisor” for her campaign, and when speaking at Saddleback Church here in Orange County, she received a standing ovation. According to one reporter, she was making clear that she was not ceding the religious turf to Obama in her quest for the nomination.

Republican Iowa Caucus winner Huckabee is a former minister who is going after the “values voter.” (If he were elected, he would be the second minister to hold the presidency; James Garfield was the first.) And Romney, who is a lay pastor in the Mormon church is spending a good part of his time convincing others that Mormons are OK. But in do-

ing so he seemed to put the separation of church and state at risk. As Barry Lynn stated “Romney is wrong when he says we are in danger of taking separation too far.”

We will be talking about these issues and how we can protect separation. We begin in January with a film that talks about the impacts of religion in government, following it in February by asking the question “Are We A Christian Nation?”

On April 7th we are very pleased to present Barry Lynn, the Executive Director of Americans United as well as the author of “Piety and Politics.” Please reserve your ticket early as this will be a very popular event and seating will be limited.

Steph Campbell

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

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Santa Ana, CA 92704



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. Call 714-299-4551 for details.

January

19—Documentary: “God in Government” (Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave at 2:00 pm).

February

16—Dr. Paul Levesque asks “Are We A Christian Nation?” (Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave. at 2:00 pm).

March

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

April

7—Barry Lynn at St. Mark’s Presbyterian Church

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: _____