

PHOTO CREDIT



PRIDE CELEBRATION, JUNE 6th

A small but lively ACLU-SC contingent marched with our beautiful new banner and staffed a booth at the 30th annual Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, & Questioning PRIDE celebration in downtown Santa Cruz on June 6. With the theme "Family Values," this year's event celebrated "those who have created their own definitions of what it means to be a family." ACLU-SC members handed out 1,000 of our popular lavender "Gay Rights Are Civil Rights" stickers, which were visibly sported by crowd members throughout the day.

Civil liberties can't defend themselves!

Show your commitment to **free speech, the right to dissent, and constitutional rights** by making a donation to the Santa Cruz chapter of the ACLU. Your contribution will support local educational events and actions like those described in this newsletter.

Make your check payable to ACLU-Santa Cruz County and send it to:

ACLU Santa Cruz County Chapter
Post Office Box 984
Santa Cruz, California 95061



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- I'd like to make a **donation** to ACLU-Santa Cruz County to support civil liberties in our community. I'm donating (amount) \$_____.
- I'd like to become a **member** of the ACLU. Enclosed are my membership dues in the amount of \$_____. (Suggested membership donations: \$20 regular; \$30 joint; \$5 student/low income.)
- Send me action alerts! Here's my e-mail address_____

If you received this newsletter via U.S. mail, you're already a member; thank you!

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newsletter ▶ summer ▶ 2004

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER

Newsletter Highlights

Celebrate Patriot Day

Congress recently designated September 11 as "Patriot Day." Find out how civil libertarians plan to participate. Page 3

Gay marriage, the Patriot Act, Prisons

The ACLU-Santa Cruz Chapter has offered a wealth of recent events for members and the public. We recap them for you. Pages 2-4

Leaders among us

We profile the two dedicated volunteers who lead the ACLU-SC board. Page 3

Chapter builds an e-mail network

The ACLU-SC is building its e-mailing list to enhance timely communication and to reduce postage costs and the adverse environmental impacts associated with printing on paper. Send your name and e-mail address to santacruzacu@yahoo.com or use the handy form in this newsletter.

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REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

UNDER SIEGE

By ACLU member Cynthia Mathews, Associate Vice President for Public Affairs with Planned Parenthood Mar Monte and Santa Cruz City Council member

In spite of apparent advances over the past several decades—including the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, development of new family planning methods, and broader opportunities for women—reproductive rights in the U.S. today are tenuous and diminishing.

When Roe was handed down over 30 years ago, many thought the struggle for reproductive rights had been effectively won. The decision to terminate pregnancy had finally been freed from the back alleys, where the lives, health, and dignity of untold women were sacrificed each year. Progressive doctors, clergy, attorneys, and women's rights advocates envisioned a new era in which reproductive freedom would be secured and protected as a fundamental human right.

Since then, however, a relentless campaign of state and federal restrictions, combined with harassment and physical violence, has chipped away at those rights. The most vulnerable women—poor, young, rural, isolated, incarcerated—have felt the brunt of those harsh restrictions, but all are at risk.

Now opponents of abortion are engaged in a new offensive, hoping to endow embryos with the legal status of personhood in order to undermine the basic principles of Roe. In addition, they have usurped the medical judgment of physicians by passing legislation to ban certain abortion procedures, and have promoted a steady stream of astonishingly reactionary judicial appointments.

But the assault goes far beyond high-profile attacks on access to safe, legal abortion. The anti-choice agenda has targeted even such widely-supported services as birth control, family planning, sexuality education for teens, and condom use to prevent HIV/AIDS. It has blatantly placed ideology over science in the issuing of official information and shaping public policy.

For decades, the ACLU has been at the heart of the struggle to secure and protect reproductive choice. The ACLU's commitment to this most fundamental right—the right to privacy and freedom from unnecessary government intrusion in personal matters—has never been more urgent.

For more information, go to www.aclu.ReproductiveRights.



PHOTO CREDIT

MARGARET CROSBY TO SPEAK ON THREATS TO REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Mark your calendar now for

Thursday, October 14th, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Louden Nelson Community Center

301 Center Street

Downtown Santa Cruz

An attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California for over 25 years, Margaret Crosby specializes in cases involving reproductive privacy. She worked closely with State Senator Sheila Kuehl in authoring California's Reproductive Privacy Act, which protects birth control and abortion choices, and the California Comprehensive Sex Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act, which ensures that sex education in California schools is comprehensive, bias-free and medically accurate.

GAY-MARRIAGE EVENT PLAN PROVES PRESCIENT

In mid-2003, when ACLU-SC board members planned a public discussion of same-sex marriage and related issues for early 2004, they had no idea how apt their timing would prove to be.

In attendance at the February 26th event, as it turned out, were several impromptu guests of honor: same-sex newlyweds who had recently obtained marriage licenses, thanks to the initiative of Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco. The landmark developments in that city brought a lively crowd of about 90 people to the ACLU-SC event, held at the Santa Cruz Police Department Community Room.

Entitled "Rights and Wrongs: Gay Marriage and the State of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights in 2004," the panel featured local attorney Joyce Nordquist, State Assembly member John Laird, and Bob Kearney, Associate Director of the ACLU of Northern California.

Nordquist discussed the significant legal and financial inequities she faced in connection with the death of her partner of almost 15 years, fellow tax attorney Patricia Shanahan.

"I'm fine—obviously, I'm still eating," quipped Nordquist. But many of her clients, she said, have fared far worse under family and marriage laws that exclude or discriminate against same-sex partnerships.

Assembly member Laird presented an insider's view of the successful struggle to pass landmark family-rights legislation in Sacramento. He focused on AB 205, which extends to same-sex couples all of the marriage rights legally recognized in California (though not all such rights established under federal law). AB 205 goes into effect on January 1, 2005.

ACLU Associate Director Bob Kearney emphasized the uncertain political future of gay-marriage laws at the national level, and urged audience members to contact their representatives.

"There are members of Congress who don't know what to do—and they're listening," said Kearney.

For more information, go to www.aclu/LesbianGayRights and <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/>

TERROR AND THE PATRIOT ACT: THE CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE



Congressman Sam Farr (left) and City Council member Mike Rotkin discussed the Patriot Act in April.

At Loudon Nelson Center on April 23rd, Congressman Sam Farr and ACLU-SC board member Mike Rotkin led a lively discussion about Congress, the U.S.A. PATRIOT Act, and civil liberties. About 75 people attended the event.

Rotkin warmed up the crowd with "the quickest history lesson you've ever had": a group re-construction of the Bill of Rights. He then demonstrated that virtually every one of these rights has been violated by provisions of the PATRIOT Act.

Congressman Farr called Rotkin's demonstration "beautifully done." "Frankly," he said, "we've never even had that clear a presentation in Congress."

Both Rotkin and Farr discussed two PATRIOT Act follow-ups pending in Congress. The bipartisan SAFE Act ("Security and Freedom Ensured": HR 3352, SB 1709) would reform some of the Act's worst civil-liberties abuses. The CLEAR Act ("Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal," HR 2671) would codify racial profiling. It would also create a Federal police agency with the power to deputize local law enforcement.

Farr described the fear-based "pressure to act" that influenced hasty passage of the PATRIOT legislation. "President Bush after 9-11 began uniting the nation around fear," he said. "What never got debated was the real danger: the danger to civil liberties." "This administration has never met a civil liberty that they didn't want to trample on," said Farr.

For up-to-date information, go to www.aclu.org/SafeandFree

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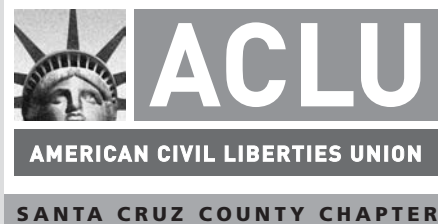
www.acluncsc.org

What you'll find:

Information about upcoming local events

General chapter information

Opportunity to sign up for the Santa Cruz ACLU email list to receive occasional alerts



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A Community Conversation

LET'S TALK: PATRIOT DAY 9/11/04

In late 2001, Congress designated September 11 as Patriot Day, an annual day of commemoration and reflection. In recognition of Patriot Day 2004, ACLU members are invited to participate in any of a series of community conversations initiated by the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries and endorsed by numerous local organizations.

The conversations will bring Santa Cruz County residents together to consider our values as individuals and our future as a democracy. Open to all, these two-hour discussions will be scheduled from Friday, September 10th through Sunday, September 12 at Rotary Clubs, retirement communities, temples, churches, and other neighborhood venues. Plan to attend and contribute a civil libertarian perspective on three main questions:

- ▶ What makes me proud to be an American, or to have made my home in America?

- ▶ What disappoints, worries, frightens, or angers me about this country as it is today?

- ▶ What do we intend to do as citizens to help make those things better?

Several ACLU-SC members have already volunteered to participate as facilitators and note-takers. Notes will be compiled online, and every participant's contribution will be published.

Enliven democracy. Participate in Patriot Day and show members of our community how much civil libertarians care about America.

To participate and/or get local information, contact Kathleen R. Hughes at 439-9467, or email santacruzaclu@yahoo.com.

General information: www.acluncsc.org and www.theseptemberproject.org.

PRISON ACTIVISTS SPEAK

On May 20th, two noted activists spoke to more than 140 people at Loudon Nelson Center about the rights of prisoners in the United States. The event was sponsored by ACLU-SC.

Dorsey E. Nunn is Program Director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children and co-founder of All of Us Or None, a national effort to strengthen the collective voice of the formerly incarcerated. A former California Department of Corrections parolee himself, Nunn described the resources available to former prisoners: "Jack-in-the-Box jobs, substandard housing, and limited assistance from the state."

Nunn left the audience with this challenge: "Your rights are in jeopardy if I don't have any."

Angela Y. Davis, Professor of History of Consciousness at UC Santa Cruz, decried the use of the prison-industrial complex to inflate the profits of powerful corporations. She noted that in our system, prisoners become "slaves of the State." Their estates, she said, are administered like those of dead people, and in some states, they are denied the right to vote.



DON MONKERO

UCSC Professor and activist Angela Davis at ACLU-SC's May 2004 event

Davis pointed to a hierarchy of eligibility to participate in U.S. democratic society—a contradiction in terms. "Democracy should eschew hierarchy," she said. She observed that attempts at prison reform have not significantly changed the system. "The past haunts the present," said Davis.

For more information, go to www.allofusornone.org, www.prisonerswithchildren.org, or www.aclu.org/prisons.



DOREEN SCHACK

Nick Oakley (left) and Kathleen Hughes (right) have recently served as co-chairs of ACLU-SC. Pictured with them is Bob Kearney, Associate Director of the ACLU-Northern California office in San Francisco.

Introducing ACLU-SC's Co-Chairs

This year, the local chapter of the ACLU has been lead by two staunch and skilled defenders of civil liberties: Kathleen Hughes and Nick Oakley.

When she's not at her "day job" as a UC Santa Cruz administrative/financial manager, Hughes makes a difference locally as a grassroots community activist. She first became involved with ACLU in the 1980s as an intern with the organization's local chapter, later serving on the Board. She returned to active participation in 2002, after the administration's response to 9/11 made it clear that "there are times in our history when it's particularly important to defend civil liberties, and this was one of those times."

On her current term as co-chair, Hughes says "I think we've done a good job reaching the community. I encourage the membership to get involved—join one of our active sub-groups, make a financial contribution, or join our dynamic board."

Hughes' fellow co-chair Nick Oakley graduated UCSC in June with a double major in Community Studies and Politics and a long-term "dream career goal" of working as a lobbyist for ACLU. His ACLU involvement began with an internship in our local chapter, later moving on to ACLU-Northern California as a full-time intern for six months. There, he worked to defeat Proposition 54 and facilitated ACLU's hotline for victims of post-9/11 discrimination. Last month, he moved to Washington, D.C.—their gain, our loss—to pursue career opportunities at ACLU or another nonprofit with similar goals.

Nick's vision for ACLU-SC: he'd like to see the community rely on us for vital information on hot topics—calling on us to organize an event on short notice, for example, or to provide speakers and other resources that educate and make a difference.