

## CLARENCE DARROW VISITS KNOXVILLE

The national tour of “*Clarence Darrow’s Search for Justice*” comes to Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, on Wednesday, September 17, at 7:00 PM. The one man play stars actor Gary Anderson as legendary lawyer Clarence Darrow in a critically acclaimed performance. “Anderson’s *Darrow* is in the same league as Holbrook’s *Twain*,” said the *Eureka Times Standard*.

“Darrow was this country’s greatest warrior for social justice,” said Anderson. “His clients were vilified in the press and hated by the vast majority of Americans. His clients were the new immigrants to America, practicing unfamiliar religions and treated with suspicion and scorn.”

In the benefit performance at TVUUC, “Darrow” will recount the greatest trials of his career, including the ongoing controversy of the Scopes “Monkey” Trial, the Leopold and Loeb plea for mercy, the Los Angeles Times Terrorist and Bombing Trial of the McNamara Brothers and Darrow’s own jury-tampering trial, while providing often humorous personal insights into his character and philosophies. The play is a “*warts and all*” presentation of the man behind the legend.

Gary Anderson is an acclaimed actor with American Legends Theatre Works who happens also to be a Unitarian Universalist. After hearing of the July 27<sup>th</sup> shooting at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Anderson volunteered to bring his show to the church as a fund raiser for the TVUUC teens. All money collected at the door will be used to fund a Unitarian Universalist Heritage Trip to Boston for the TVUUC high school youth group. Anderson is providing his services free of charge.

Anderson described Darrow as “a closet Unitarian” because of his work for social justice and his willingness to stand up for unpopular causes. “If Darrow were alive today,” he said, “I would not be surprised to see him walk in the doors of a Unitarian church.”

Not much has changed on our national landscape since Clarence Darrow’s death in 1938. Creationism versus Darwinism in our schools, celebrity murder trials, sex crimes, child murders, conspiracy laws, civil liberty concerns during times of national fear, racial hate crimes, the death penalty, police misconduct, racial profiling, four “trials of the century”—all these were representative of Darrow’s cases between 1894-1925, cases which addressed both scandalous and national issues that captured the media on radio and won front page stories and headlines.

Darrow was at the epicenter of a remarkable series of courtroom dramas that have had a significant impact on our daily lives; winning the eight-hour working day, gathering evidence that would lead to the first child labor laws, championing organized labor and fighting for the rights of those who were hated and feared.