

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

December 2009
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

December 6th -- ELIZABETH MARIE RIVERA-VALENTINE

"Sex Worker Justice: An Essential Part of the Struggle for Workers Liberation"

Sex worker justice is about advocating alongside those in the sex trade willingly or through coercion. Solidarity with sex workers must include work against the social stigma, criminalization, and violence against sex workers. Providing access to education and health care for sex workers is vital for their safety and the safety of their communities. We will discuss the complexities of sex worker advocacy and its relevance in movements for social justice today.

Elizabeth Marie Rivera-Valentine is one of the Health Educators and the Web Designer for TransCEND. She started at TransCEND in March 2009. As Health Educator of TransCEND she help members get connected to transgender related services based on their needs including HIV counseling and testing. She also facilitates TransCEND support groups and educational groups including cultural competency trainings for service providers working with transgender women.

December 13th -- Prof. SMRITI RAO

"Putting 'Global' in the Global Economic Crisis"

Smriti Rao is assistant professor of economics and global studies at Assumption College in Worcester and a member of the progressive Dollars & Sense collective. She states, "I grew up in India--born around the time PM Indira Gandhi was throwing Coca-Cola out of the country, entering college when Coke was being invited back in--so naturally I ended up becoming an economist!" Her areas of interest are economic development in general and gender inequality in particular.

Prof. Rao's talk will argue that the current recession provides us with a reminder of the perils of unfettered markets. She feels that a close look at the countries worst affected by the financial crisis indicates they are also countries that globalized enthusiastically, but without the ability of the U.S. or E.U. to finance stimulus packages or indeed social safety nets. Unfortunately, as she sees it, while organizations such as the IMF claim to have become more flexible in their policy recommendations, the evidence suggests they continue to constrain developing countries' efforts to use economic policy to counter the effects of the recession.

December 20th -- JASON LYDON

"The Holiday Special: Finding Comfort in Darkness and Wisdom in Light"

Solstice, Christmas, Hanukkah, New Years, Kwanzaa, and Yule are all part of this celebration of transition, birth, survival, and hope! December 21st marks the end of days getting shorter and the beginning of a stronger light. The religious holidays of the month bring us stories of hope and possibility. We will gather together in hope while we reflect on the gifts and blessings of the year, finding comfort in community, and strength in our capacity to continue to resist tyranny. While we celebrate the returning of light we remember the beauty, comfort, and mystery of the darkness.

December 27th -- No Sunday Services

COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF BOSTON

Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

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Park at the Back Bay Garage for \$3 on Sunday until 1:30 with a special sticker available from the church.
By public transportation, Community Church is minutes from the Back Bay station (Orange line) or Copley (Green line).