

community news

The Newsletter of the Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

February 2013

From 'Standing' to 'Moving' on the Side of Love

by Linda Jenkins, Congregational Director

February is the month of Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras and Lent, Black History and the Chinese New Year. It takes its name from an ancient festival of cleansing and purification, probably in part because it is so rainy in many parts of the northern world then. Do these observances have anything in common? I can see the idea of love, if taken in its larger sense of agape, fraternal (or 'soro-al?') regard and connection, as a thread connecting them all. This kind of love is washed-out of self-centeredness, so that there is an awareness of the interconnectedness of all beings, all things.

"Standing on the Side of Love" is the name of an interfaith public advocacy campaign that "seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression". It is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association. I was interested to learn, at our "Sharing Memories of CCB" service on January 27, that CCB affiliated with the UUA in 1968. We are not what I would call a 'mainstream' UU congregation, and we wear this affiliation lightly.

I first learned about this campaign by seeing people standing at rallies holding the signature mustard-yellow and white banners and signs and wearing t-shirts with those words on them: "Standing on the Side of Love". Someone gave me one of the placards and I carried it at in action supporting janitors with SEIU 615, last fall, and I have it in the office.

This sentiment is one we can recognize and with which we can identify. I saw us standing on the side of love at our Sacco and Vanzetti Service a few weeks ago and love the photo of us from that day. On January 26 in Portland Maine, I carried, with two other protesters, a long piece of cardboard painted as

bricks and labeled, "Wall of Resistance", at the Anti-Fracking and Tar Sands Pipeline action. Standing in loving resistance is essential but not sufficient.

I hope we, at CCB, can find our way as a community to moving together on the side of love. There are



Sacco & Vanzetti Award for Social Justice Ceremony, January 2013

opportunities to do this coming up in February. To guide and nurture our community, come to: our Growth & Membership Committee meeting on Feb 6, our Board meeting on Feb 12, our Program Committee meeting on Feb 19 and our community-wide Fiscal Meeting on Feb 24 (see the calendar for times and locations).

Let's invite each other to the social justice events that call us to action, so we can show up together. Send notices of them to the office so we can help get the word out.

And come to the "Love Not Jails: Boston Area Strategizing to Abolish the Prison-Industrial Complex" at the office of SEIU 615, 26 West Street, Boston, on Saturday, February 16 from 12-5!

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service &
Speakers Forum

February 3rd
PRIYANKA BORPUJARI
"The Human Cost of India's Race
for Development"

February 10th
LINDA JENKINS
"From 'Standing' to 'Moving'
on the Side of Love"

February 17th
TBA
"Strategies for Prison Abolition"

February 24th
31st Annual W.E.B. DuBois Address
WILLIAM LOWE
"DuBOIS, DoJAZZ, DueCANE and
Other Four Letter Words"

CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on Jan 8, 2013
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

Congregational Director's Report: The Program Committee is hoping to discuss the CCB Sunday program schedule for the remainder of the season as well as the programs for the 2013-2014 period.

The congregational director is meeting with the Committee on Ministry on a regularly scheduled basis. She is also meeting with her Quaker group once a month and is satisfied with the manner in which the Church committees are following through on their given tasks.

It has been proposed that the Growth and Membership Committee merge with a future Social Action Committee. The printing of a wish list in the monthly Church newsletter for the purposes of seeking volunteers to perform various tasks was also suggested.

The Church has received holiday cards from several CCB incarcerated members.

Financial Report: The Profit & Loss Budget Performance report for December 2012 was presented, emphasizing rental income, salaries, benefits, and expenses as well as several sundry line items.

*The next scheduled meeting of the board is
February 12, 2013 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of
the Church are invited to attend.*

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

CCB Archives Group Forming

At our January 17th Sunday Service, Dean Stevens facilitated a tantalizing dip into our archives! As a result, 9 people said they are interested in joining a group to examine and care for our archived material, much of which is stored in our room on the Mezzanine floor.

Karla Rab, Rudigear Volk, Kevin Devine, David Broeg, Karl Jones, Mary



Lynn Cramer, Bob Funke, Maurice Morales and John Mc Graft are the people who stepped up and who will be meeting at a date to be set soon.

Some folks also said they have been holding CCB records or memorabilia and it would be great to have that brought in to the office, now that we are using the Mezzanine as the designated archives storage place.

If anyone is interested in getting involved with the archives, please email or call the office so we can include you in the loop!

Lynne Stewart Emergency Alert!

by Lynne Stewart Defense Committee

Civil rights attorney and political prisoner Lynne Stewart needs help. She fought breast cancer two years ago, apparently successfully, but now the cancer is spreading. Her condition is treatable. But authorities have denied her request for transfer from her Texas prison to the New York City hospital where she received expert medical attention before.

Please flood the mail with cards and letters to Lynne. This will boost her spirits, and it will also serve another purpose. The authorities track and read all her mail, and they take notice when they see that the world is watching.

Stewart, a longtime anti-war and social-justice activist and respected criminal defense attorney, was unjustly convicted in 2005 of providing "support for terrorism" by delivering a handwritten press release to Reuters from Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, a client that the court had appointed her to represent. An

articulate critic of the U.S. justice system, Stewart is known as the "People's Lawyer" for representing controversial clients, political dissidents, and the poor.

Send messages and cards to:

Lynne Stewart #53504-054
Federal Medical Center Carswell
P.O. Box 27137
Fort Worth, TX 76127

On the legal front, Lynne's team from the Center for Constitutional Rights and the National Lawyers Guild are fighting the original charges and asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review her case.

Please take a moment to send Lynne a card. Our actions can pressure the prison system to authorize the healthcare she needs and keep her alive while we continue to fight for her freedom.

Have Heart: No More Cuts! Valentine's Day Rally

Thursday, February 14th, 12:30pm
JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury St, Boston

Massachusetts voters have overwhelmingly voted for a Budget for All to promote prosperity, not job-killing austerity. We say: ANY more debt reduction should come ENTIRELY by reducing Pentagon bloat and making corporations and the 1% pay their fair share. Have A Heart: No More Cuts! Have a Heart: Tax the 1%! Have a Heart: Redirect Pentagon \$\$ to Jobs! <http://budget4allmass.org>

Forward On Climate Rally

On Sunday, February 17th, thousands of Americans will head to Washington, D.C. to make Forward on Climate the largest climate rally in history. Join this historic event to make your voice heard and help the president start his second term with strong climate action.

For more information about rides, housing and answers to Frequently Asked Questions, visit: <http://forwardonclimate.org>

Linda Quinn, Presente!

Linda "Nicky" Quinn, a member and supporter of the Community Church, passed on on December 18, 2012.

Nicky was kind, caring, giving, and very sensitive, and gave that spirit to progressive politics. She always empathized with and supported poor, oppressed, suffering and disabled people. In spite of the illnesses and disabilities she suffered from for many years, she was always a voice for progressive causes and people around her. Like millions, she was neglected, ignored and discounted by a broken medical system, leading ultimately to her death.

Nicky supported LGBTQ struggles. She was a fighter for women's rights. She supported conservationism and fought to protect animals and the environment. She was an activist against all the U.S. wars of aggression. She was a courageous fighter, refusing to back down or be intimidated in the face of Homeland Security harassment. She will be remembered as a fighter for social justice, a great humanitarian and a true friend. We love you Nicky. Your spirit lives on.

- Kaitlin Baillie, Richard Picariello, Frank Neisser

Love Not Jails!

Greater Boston Area Strategizing Towards Abolish the Prison Industrial Complex



Saturday, February 16th, 12pm

SEIU 615

26 West St., Boston

How can we could create healthy communities rather than build up the prison industrial complex?

At this gathering we will discuss where we are at in the movement towards abolition and come up with plausible campaigns for building our capacity. This will include networking, organizing, mapping our current resources, and creating outlets for people/organizations to plug into.

For further information: **www.blackandpink.org**

Our Purpose

Community Church of Boston is a free community united for the study and practice of universal religion, seeking to apply ethical ideals to individual life and the democratic and cooperative principle to all forms of social and economic life.

Staff

Linda Jenkins, *Congregational Director*

Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*

Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*

Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*

Rodney Burston, *Building Maintenance*

Board of Directors

Reed Miller, *President*

Dean Stevens, *Vice President*

Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*

Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

Jim Casteris, Mary Ann Cromer, Kevin Devine,

Nancy Messom, Susan Mortimer



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