

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

June 2008
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

A Month of Forums Against the Prison Industrial Complex

June 1st -- REV. CANON ED RODMAN

"Can Prisons Be Abolished? How and Why it Can Happen"

For nearly forty years, the Reverend Canon Ed Rodman has ministered and taught in an urban context, working in partnership with a wide variety of community-based and religious coalitions concerned about the death penalty, prison abolition, public education, housing, community development, and anti-oppression training. It is this perspective that he brings to his teaching, his activism and his extensive service to the Episcopal Church. Most recently Rev. Rodman co-authored, along with Jamie Bissonette, Ralph Hamm, and Robert Dellelo, *When the Prisoners Ran Walpole: A True Story in the Movement for Prison Abolition*, a South End Press book. Join us as Rev. Rodman shared about the destructive force the prison industrial complex is and how we can all be engaged in a movement toward abolition.



June 8th -- JASON LYDON

"Addressing Violence Behind the Prison Walls"

The prison industrial complex has been established through systems of violence. Behind the prison walls this violence continues to be perpetrated on an interpersonal level by guards, "health" services professionals, and prisoners. Violence ranges from denial of medication to sexual assault. We will look at ways this violence manifests and how to address it without giving more power or money to the incarceration industry.

Jason Lydon is the Congregational Director of the Community Church of Boston. He is also a Masters of Divinity Candidate focusing on abolition theology. Jason has been involved in anti-prison organizing for nearly 10 years. He currently runs a website (www.blackandpink.org) and works on issues affecting queer/trans-gender people in prison and survivors of sexual violence.



June 15th -- Annual Ethel & Julius Rosenberg Commemoration

LOIS AHRENS

"One in a Hundred: What Drives Mass Incarceration?"

According to a recent report by the Pew Foundation, more than one of every 100 American adults are behind bars. One in nine Black men (ages 20 to 34) is serving time, as is one in 36 adult Hispanic males. This talk will focus on how, in the last 30 years, the neo-liberal agenda has exploited fear of crime and used racism to create the conditions which drive the "war on drugs" and mass incarceration.

Lois Ahrens has been an activist and social justice organizer for more than 40 years. In 2000 she founded the Real Cost of Prisons Project, which brings together justice activists, policy researchers, artists & people directly experiencing the impact of incarceration to work jointly to end the U.S. Prison Nation. The project has developed workshops, a website (www.realcostofprisons.org), a daily news blog & three comic books, soon to be anthologized and published. Lois has been involved in educating people with criminal records, those who hire them and the public about how to overcome/end obstacles created by laws and practices surrounding Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI.). She also works to raise awareness and opposition to the building or expansion of jails in this state.



COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF BOSTON

Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Community Church of Boston * 565 Boylston Street, Boston MA (in Copley Square)
tel. (617) 266-6710 * fax (617) 266-0449 * www.communitychurchofboston.org

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).