

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

June 2009
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

Educating Against the Prison Industrial Complex!

June 7th -- DR. VIVIANE SALEH-HANNA

"Uncovering the Global and Historical Impacts of the Prison Industrial Complex"

Where did this system of domination and control, from the police to the prisons, come from? How have we gotten to the place of international prison expansion? Viviane Saleh-Hanna will discuss with us about how we have gotten to where we are and the impacts of globalization on the international rise of the prison industrial complex.

Dr. Saleh-Hanna is an activist scholar who has worked with prisoners of the criminal justice system internationally. Prior to moving to the United States, she lived in Nigeria and worked with prisoners in Nigeria, Ghana and the Gambia. Her book *Colonial Systems of Control: Criminal Justice in Nigeria* is the first publication on prisons in West Africa. More recently, her scholarly work has focused on the role music plays in black liberation struggles and the fight against mass incarceration.

June 14th -- JASON LYDON

"Religion, Theology, and the Prison Industrial Complex"

It is easy to blame the Quakers for instituting the first penitentiaries in our country but the role of religion runs much deeper than that. Religious leadership has benefited from and perpetuated the expansion of the penal system since the beginning. We will discuss the far reach of religion within the modern penal system as well as the religious and theological basis for its abolition. We will look at the power of evangelical Christians who run private prisons, the chaplains who restrict prisoner access to support, and all those who use their faith to inspire resistance.

Jason Lydon is the Congregational Director of the Community Church of Boston. Jason has been involved in anti-prison organizing for nearly a dozen years. He currently runs a website (www.blackandpink.org) and works on issues affecting queer/transgender people in prison and survivors of sexual violence.

June 21st -- Annual Ethel & Julius Rosenberg Commemoration

SUSAN MORTIMER & BARBARA DOUGAN

"Making Families Pay: The Unseen Cost of Incarceration"

Susan Mortimer, CCB member and prison activist, is a founder of the Statewide Harm-Reduction Coalition. Her political analysis is informed by real-life experience, since she is the sister of a prisoner with multiple disabilities and works to hold bureaucrats and medical staff accountable. Susan can speak of the social and human costs to the families left behind, the burden of carrying on financially and much more.

Barbara Dougan is Mass. Project Director for Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM), a national non-profit that seeks to reform sentencing on the state and federal level. Although its primary focus is on drug sentencing, FAMM opposes all mandatory minimums which prevent individualized justice (sentences that fit the crime). An attorney, she is also co-chair of the Greater Boston Civil Rights Coalition and the Mass. Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

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).