

# community

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

May 2012

# news

## Truth-Telling and Movement Building

by Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister

Dear Members and Friends, I hope that everyone had a wonderful celebration of May Day! Whether you honored the workers holiday by marching in the streets, resting at home, or even if you had to work I hope you were able to take a moment to remember some of the names of the martyrs of capitalism, white supremacy, heteropatriarchy, and imperialism. Clearly the names are far too numerous to count them all, but May Day functions as a call to us, people struggling for justice, to remember those who have died fighting for liberation. There is no need to limit this commemoration to one day, allow May to be a month of invigorating your own commitment to justice. What practices do you want to take on this month? What changes in your life would you like to make? How can you live into your values more authentically? In what ways can the Community Church of Boston nurture your commitment?

There are two events happening this month that I want to highlight for our community. These two events are particularly focused on what allies in struggles for justice can do, those of us who are not directly impacted by a particular form of oppression but understand that our liberation is intertwined with others. The first event is happening at our church. When folks from the Union of Minority Neighborhoods came to the church to talk about the truth telling and community convening they have been doing about the Boston Busing/Desegregation Project, people in our community came forth with incredible stories of white ally organizing. Stories were shared about infiltrating racist groups to intentionally sabotage them. Stories were told of escorting young people through violent areas. Stories were told about challenging church leaders. What became abundantly clear was the need to tell many more stories and to have a forum for doing so. Thus, the Union of Minority Neighborhoods is convening a gathering at the Community Church of Boston on Monday, May 7th at 6pm. If these are your stories, they need to be shared. If they are stories you don't know, come and listen to others.

Anti-racist white leadership is needed now, just as much as it was needed in 1970s Boston. Truth telling and learning from people's successes and mistakes gives us handier tools for the tasks before us all.

The second event has been organized by the leadership that has been trying to free our 2011 Sacco and Vanzetti Award Recipient, Arnold King. The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School is hosting a forum on commutation and parole on Wednesday, May 16 at 3:00pm. According to the publicity, "This forum will feature guest speakers, panelists, and representatives from Massachusetts organizations, groups, and governing bodies who work closely with prisoners and former prisoners. We expect to have an informative, engaging program with the aim of bringing confidence, trust, and transparency to the parole process. The planners hope to revitalize one of the Commonwealth's progressive legal processes created for the promotion and execution of redemptive and restorative justice." The Massachusetts Parole Board is a mess, it has been since its inception. Even when there are a few "good" members of the parole board who are trying to get people out and back to the streets, the system itself is set up for people to fail. Once on the street there is also the constant fear of being violated by an incompetent parole officer and getting put back inside the walls. The commutation process is even more disastrous. How is it possible that Arnie King could receive unanimous support for his commutation, but not be granted by the governor? How is it then possible that Arnie is denied support for his commutation by the parole board just over a year later? This gathering at Harvard will, hopefully, function as an opportunity to express frustrations and make plans for moving forward, not only on Arnie's behalf, but in solidarity with the thousands locked up in prisons across the Commonwealth. Your body and your voice are needed here, your presence lifts up our commitment to Arnie and prison ministry.

# COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service &  
Speakers Forum

---

**May 6th**

**SERGIO REYES**

**“The International Nature of Migrant  
Worker Struggles”**

**May 13th**

*Mothers’ Day*

**MARIANNE BULLOCK**

**“Unshackle Mothers: Realities of  
Incarcerated Moms”**

**May 20th**

**JENS RYBO**

**“Music, Healing, and Joy”**

**May 27th**

*Memorial Day Weekend*

**IRAQ VETERANS**

**AGAINST THE WAR**

**“Operation Recovery”**

## CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on April 17th, 2011*

*Following are highlights of the meeting.*

**Minister’s Report:** The minister discussed a few administrative issues including those pertaining to the downstairs restaurant and presented an insurance coverage update on the Church building.

The Program Committee, initially formed in 1991, is in non-functioning status. The Committee has completed its tasks for the season. The board has been requested to recruit new people, beginning in July, for a revived Program Committee. The work of the Committee on Ministry will cease at the end of June when the minister takes leave of the Church. Members are needed to fill spots on a new Committee on Ministry.

**Financial Matters:** The pledges continue to be received at a lower pace than last year. Rental income has increased and overall CCB income is higher than projected. The treasurer concluded her report, touching on several points from the Profit and Loss Budget Performance, March 2012.

**Building Concerns:** Theatre Offensive is a reliable tenant. BAGLY is now renting the small office space vacated by Justice at Work. The building maintenance supervisor is doing much work on the fifth floor, i.e. painting, plastering & repairing the ceiling.

**Various Concerns:** The retreat at the Peace Abbey was a success. Approximately thirty CCB members were present. The event was facilitated by board member Reed Miller. Dean Stevens contributed music and related historical moments of the Church to the event.

*The next meeting of the board will take place on Tuesday, May 8th, 2012 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.*

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

## The 17th Annual Massachusetts Youth Pride

On Saturday, May 14, thousands of GLBTQ and Allied Youth will gather at the Boston Common Parkman Bandstand to celebrate Massachusetts Youth Pride under the theme: “We Are Making It Better!” The Rally begins at 11am, the Parade kickoff at 12pm, and the Entertainment begins at 1pm.

Massachusetts Youth Pride is a one-day annual festival that celebrates the year round commitment of diversity of youth within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Meet some new friends, catch up with old!!! Just hang out and celebrate your GLBTQ Pride!!!

Once the day’s festivities are over, there’s an OpenMic event followed by the popular and historic BAGLY Prom at City Hall!!!

For more information:

[www.bostonpride.org/youthpride](http://www.bostonpride.org/youthpride)

# May Day: Reforms, Revolution... Building a Better Future for All

by Noam Chomsky

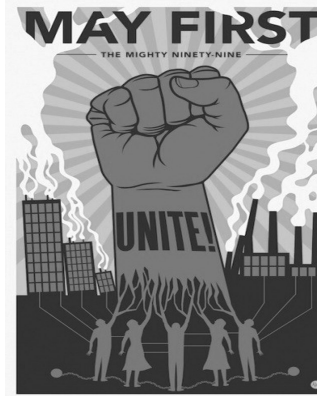
People seem to know about May Day everywhere except where it began, here in the United States of America. That's because those in power have done everything they can to erase its real meaning. For example, Ronald Reagan designated what he called, "Law Day" — a day of jingoist fanaticism, like an extra twist of the knife in the labor movement. Today, there is a renewed awareness, energized by the Occupy movement's organizing, around May Day, and its relevance for reform and perhaps eventual revolution.

If you're a serious revolutionary, then you are not looking for an autocratic revolution, but a popular one which will move towards freedom and democracy. That can take place only if a mass of the population is implementing it, carrying it out, and solving problems. They're not going to undertake that commitment, understandably, unless they have discovered for themselves that there are limits to reform.

A sensible revolutionary will try to push reform to the limits, for two good reasons. First, because the reforms can be valuable in themselves. People should have an eight-hour day rather than a twelve-hour day. And in general, we should want to act in accord with decent ethical values.

Secondly, on strategic grounds, you have to show that there are limits to reform. Perhaps sometimes the system will accommodate to needed reforms. If so, well and good. But if it won't, then new questions arise.

Perhaps that is a moment when resistance is a necessary step to overcome the barriers to justified changes.



Perhaps the time has come to resort to coercive measures in defense of rights and justice, a form of self-defense. Unless the general population recognizes such measures to be a form of self-defense, they're not going to take part in them, at least they shouldn't.

If you get to a point where the existing institutions will not bend to the popular will, you have to eliminate the institutions.

May Day started here, but then became an international day in support of American workers who were being subjected to brutal violence and judicial punishment.

Today, the struggle continues to celebrate May Day not as a "law day" as defined by political leaders, but as a day whose meaning is decided by the people, a day rooted in organizing and working for a better future for the whole of society.

- reprinted from: [www.zuccottiparkpress.com](http://www.zuccottiparkpress.com)

## CeCe McDonald Needs Your Support!

For nearly a year CeCe McDonald has had to relive the night when a group of racist neofascists attacked her and her friends using racist, homophobic, and transphobic language. During the attack CeCe's face was cut up by a broken glass that punctured her cheek, lacerating her salivary gland. CeCe fought back against the group that had been hurling insults, chasing her and her friends, and during the fight Dean Schmitz, one of the attackers, was fatally stabbed. This is a classic case of self defense. However, the Minneapolis County Attorney, Michael Freeman, chose to move the case forward charging CeCe with two counts of second degree murder, even though in this same year he has dropped charges in similar cases and has advocated for programs that keep kids in school. The case against CeCe has been one of transphobia and racism.

On Wednesday, May 2nd CeCe took a plea to second degree manslaughter, after being forced to relive that night yet again while telling the story to the judge in the courtroom. The judge went on to tell her that she had "unlawfully endangered her attacker" when she pulled out a pair of scissors from her purse. The recommended sentence in this case is 41 months, the actual sentencing hearing will happen in a month. At this point you can write letters of support both to CeCe and requests of leniency from the judge. You can find all the information you need: [supportcece.wordpress.com](http://supportcece.wordpress.com).

Letters to CeCe can go to:  
Public Safety Facility / Chrishaun Reed McDonald  
#2011014667 / 401 South 4th Ave. Suite 100 /  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

# Allies for Racial Justice During the Boston Busing Crisis

Monday May 7th, 6:00pm  
at the Community Church of Boston  
565 Boylston St, Boston

Many white people who saw themselves as being anti-racist/allies for racial justice during the Boston's school desegregation crisis feel that their story has gone untold.



What does the Boston Busing/Desegregation Project need to learn about this work? What were the successes and limits of anti-racist activism during this time? What history was this work grounded in? How does this work connect to struggles around race, class and equity in education and the city today? Come tell us what you think we should know!

For more info: [bbdplearningnetwork.wordpress.com](http://bbdplearningnetwork.wordpress.com)

## 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

Rev. Jason Lydon, *Minister*  
Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*  
Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*  
Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*  
Rodney Burston, *Building Maintenance*

## Board of Directors

David Broeg, *President*  
Mary Ann Cromer, *Vice President*  
Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*  
Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*  
  
Jim Casteris, Kevin Devine, Nancy Messom,  
Reed Miller, Susan Mortimer



DATED MATERIAL  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

telephone: (617) 266-6710  
fax: (617) 266-0449  
email: [info@commchurch.org](mailto:info@commchurch.org)  
[www.communitychurchofboston.org](http://www.communitychurchofboston.org)

Community Church of Boston  
565 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02116

non-profit  
organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Boston, MA  
Permit No. 9672