

community news

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

May 2013

As Some of the Dust Begins to Settle...

by Linda Jenkins, Congregational Director

As you all know, April 15 was not only Tax Day and Patriots' Day but the day of the Boston Marathon and the day of the two explosions on Boylston Street, just after the majority of the runners had crossed the finish line. The first explosion was just a block away from 565 Boylston Street and those inside the Community Church of Boston building were quickly evacuated, in the middle of a Theater Offensive gathering in their space to celebrate two of their staff running in the marathon.

Fortunately, because of my illness, two Tax Day protests that had been scheduled to take place in the building were canceled and so there were many fewer people around than planned.

From April 15 until April 24, we were not allowed in the building. I notified our tenants of how to connect with the City of Boston website and how to register there for updates.

In talking with one of the workers there, I learned that the best sources for information about accessibility would be the officers on site so I made my way down on Saturday and, with the permission of the FBI, BPD and National Guard, and help from the Globe restaurant, downstairs, I accessed the building via the kitchen of the Thai restaurant on Newbury Street, across Public Alley 439 and into the Globe's back door. I was able to do a walk through of the while building to make sure nothing was amiss.

As it became clear that access to our space in time for the Sunday April 21st service, we first explored how we might meet in a Muslim environment, as a way of being in solidarity with that community. This wasn't possible on such short notice. After having reached out to Kim Crawford Harvey, Sr. Minister of the Arlington Street Church, we were invited to join them for their Sunday worship. About a dozen of us did, and appreciated the chance to be together in a different setting and in fellowship with the ASC! We thank them for the warm hospitality!

Mark Lasky, our Office Manager, and I returned Monday morning, hoping to reenter the building and put in a couple of hours of work. We were told that wouldn't be permitted. So we've been doing our best to keep up with CCB affairs remotely.

These are the immediate and rather superficial (though not unstressful!) ways we have been touched. We all, I think it is safe to say, continue to reel with the horrifying and tragic loss of life and limb so very visible in recent days. There has been general wide-spread sense of trauma throughout the community as we attempt to process and integrate both these recent events and the contexts in which they occurred.

As the initial awful details of the nature and extent of the injuries and fatalities emerged, I found myself thinking: "Maybe this is what it feels like to be droned." From time to time I tuned into mainstream media outlets, especially as the action moved to MIT and on to Watertown. During that time, I had the local police scanner on my laptop and various news stations on my smart phone. All the time, I was aware of the unknown value of the information, since it was primarily filtered through agencies whose biases and lack of transparency are well established. Much social and "underground" media have been, and continue to be, calmer and more reflective, as well as cognizant of the pressures which have been brought to bear on the general public and our civil rights. After all, it was the failure of one citizen to obey the order to "shelter in place" (i.e., stay indoors with doors locked), that led to his discovery of the second fugitive, wounded and lying in the bottom of his boat in his Watertown backyard.

There are many aspects of these events that will continue to color and affect us all. We at the Community Church of Boston will create a space and Program to continue to reflect upon the consequences of these events as part of our Memorial Day service on May 26. Please join us then and every Sunday!

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

May 5th

TINA CHERY

**"Transforming Pain and Anger
into Power and Action"**

May 12th

Mothers' Day & Nakbah Commemoration

ZENA OZEIR

"65 Years Later: The Ongoing Nakba"

May 19th

SISTER CLARE CARTER

"Buddhism in the Modern World"

May 26th

Memorial Day weekend

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

**"Healing from Tragedy and Resisting
a Bigoted Backlash"**

CCB Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on April 9, 2013

Following are highlights of the meeting.

Congregational Director's Report: The congregational director commented on the success of the Sunday morning services; the music enriches the content of the services. She is working with employees from the Cambridge Meridian Hotel. There are about thirty clergy involved and demonstrations are taking place on Thursdays in support of the workers. She has met with a group of street medics involved with Occupy Sandy who have purchased a bus to serve as a mobile clinic and library.

The congregational director has also participated in an anti-prison action, protesting the drug sniffing dogs in the prison who are guarding visitors.

A rally was called by Veterans for Peace at the headquarters of an organization that is constructing the Keystone Pipeline.

Financial Concerns: The treasurer reviewed several line items on the Profit & Loss statement from January through March, 2013, concentrating on Pledges & Contributions, Sunday collection & lunch income, Rental Income, Salaries, and Maintenance & Building expenses.

Building Concerns: The congregational director will consult with the building committee concerning the use of cameras to monitor the outside of the CCB building. The question of who is responsible for the trash collection in the back alley also was discussed. There was a suggestion of an energy audit by Heet, at no cost, to examine some of the basement level pipes. They will also issue a ten-page report on the status of the building.

Various Concerns: The president and vice president of the board will meet with the office manager to explore improving the distribution of the newsletter.

The next scheduled meeting of the board is May 14, 2013 at 7:00pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

A Memorial Tribute for Sara Sue Koritz

We will remember and celebrate the life of Sara Sue Koritz who sadly passed away December 3, 2012.

A lifelong class-conscious trade unionist, socialist and peace advocate, Sara Sue was devoted to the cause of liberation of the oppressed and exploited. She also upheld "an honest and steadfast role as daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, cousin, friend, neighbor and citizen of the world."

Beginning in the late 1990's she served several terms as President of the CCB's Board of Directors and remained on the Board until she left in 2006. During her time here she was a much loved and leading light. She is greatly missed by all of us.

**Community Church of Boston
Saturday, May, 18th at 11:00am**

An Open Letter to Miriam Conrad, Federal Public Defender

Dear Miriam Conrad,

We are shaken by and grieving for the deaths and injuries in our community this past week, including those of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and his brother. So I am writing to ask how our community may write to Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who may be quite alone now. We understand he was severely wounded yesterday and that he is suspected of setting off Monday's explosions, with his now deceased brother. I understand he is currently receiving treatment at Beth Israel Hospital.

I have read that he is 19 years old, graduated from high school in Cambridge, attended college at the University of Massachusetts, is a naturalized American citizen who has been well-liked by classmates and teachers.

We hope that you will be able to see him very soon and that you will be present each and every time he is interrogated.

We are concerned that many of our Due Process Rights have been eroded, to the detriment of all, and that Dzhokhar Tsarnaev may experience this erosion.

Whatever Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's crimes may be, and those have yet to be proven, we value his life and health. We want to be sure that he is accorded all protections for which our Constitution and International Human Rights provide.

Please convey our concern for, and commitment to stay in contact with, your client, as well as to stay aware of his treatment. Please also advise us of the best way to correspond with him.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Linda Jenkins
For the Community Church of Boston

Cc: US Attorney Carmen Ortiz
The Boston Globe

A Brief Report from the CCB Annual Retreat

On Sunday April 14th, instead of a regular Sunday service, around two dozen CCB members met in Lothrop Auditorium for our annual retreat. Unfortunately, Linda was ill and unable to join us. Though it was called a retreat, with the discussions held, it felt like an advance! The Growth and Membership Committee along with the Program Committee collaborated to plan the contents of the retreat for several weeks. Sitting as a group around tables with large pads of paper and markers for notes, the group tackled the topics of: Programs, Growth and Membership, Social Action, Fundraising, and Building for several hours.

The group had a lot of ideas to share, based on their experiences as members of Community Church and other social justice organizations; ideas saved from last year's retreat were shared as part of each

discussion so as to pick up the conversation where we left off. The notes from this year's retreat will be typed and shared shortly. Dean Stevens graciously provided musical interludes throughout, and we took a break from the discussions at one point to play a game of "Guess the Famous Political Activist on the Card Pinned to Your Back" (mine was Bayard Rustin!). It was suggested that we convene again in June to follow-up on the ideas put forth at this retreat and make progress toward our short and long term goals of building community and taking action for social justice.

Thanks to everyone who participated, and we missed those of you who weren't able to join us!

- Reed Miller, *President of the Board*

Mothers' Day Walk for Peace

17th Annual Walk to Benefit the work of the
Louis D. Brown Peace Institute



Sunday, May 12th, 8:00am
Town Field Park
(Field's Corner, Dorchester)

The Mother's Day Walk for Peace began in 1996 for families who had lost their children to violence. On a day that we celebrate mothers and children, the Walk became a place for families and friends to feel support and love with thousands of others who pledge their commitment to peace. Through the years, it has become a way for thousands of people to financially support the work of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute.

www.mothersdaywalk4peace.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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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