

community

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

October 2013

news

Turning Oppression Inside Out Together: Save the Date!

by Linda Jenkins, Congregational Director

Whatever else the true preaching of the word would need to include, it at least would have to be a word that speaks from the perspective of those who have been crushed and marginalized in our society. It would need to be a word of solidarity, healing and love in situations of brokenness and despair AND a disturbing and troubling word of justice to those who wish to protect their privilege by exclusion.

- Letty M. Russell, Church in the Round

I love this quote. I know that we, at CCB, don't necessarily see ourselves "preaching the word" in the conventional sense. But doesn't each of us, in our heart of hearts, believe "I know what's best for me, my community, the world."? Might not that be "the word" we each feel called to "preach"? But then the quote goes on to say that such "preaching" calls for a minimum of a healing solidarity and a troubling justice. How do we do that?

This year CCB's Program Committee is focused, in planning Sunday services, on exploring oppression and what we can do about it. We have an exciting line-up of speakers on the topic for the Speakers Forum, described inside this Newsletter.

I am especially pleased that on November 10, our speaker will be Lisa Graustein, who has lived in Dorchester for most of her adult life and teaches at Codman Academy Charter School in Codman Square. A youth worker throughout college, Lisa went into public middle and high school teaching immediately after graduating. In addition to teaching, Lisa has run the New England regional Quaker youth group and serves as a trainer for the Beyond Diversity 101

Program. She recently completed a self-designed Masters in Education on racial justice education, with a focus on supporting white people to become more aware of their racial identity and to be more effective at interrupting racism.

The title of her presentation is "Working Through Privilege: A Process for Moving Forward".

One of the biggest barriers to achieving racial justice in this country is white people's collective resistance to dealing with our racial identity and our role in racism. Lisa's graduate research focused on using theories of racial identity development and transformational learning to develop a process for white people to understand our racial identity and learn new ways of being. In this way, we can become more effective in interrupting racism and working for racial healing. Her presentation will be an overview of this learning process. She will share some thoughts about how it can be used to address other forms of systemic privilege.

If we find that this process might be useful for us, the Program Committee has discussed the possibility of Lisa working with us on some kind of longer-term basis, to address the difficult underlying conditions within us that collude, despite our best intentions, to maintain the status quo.

Recognizing that our community is not entirely white, I invite people of color to attend, participate as led, and witness to our attempts to be accountable to the ideals we profess. Our only hope for achieving social justice is to stay present with each other and to struggle together. Everyone welcome!

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

October 6th
MOVIE SCREENING
Capitalism and Other Kid's Stuff,
a film by Paddy Shannon

October 13th
JAMILA RAQUIB
"Nonviolent Struggle: The Real
Power for Peace"

October 20th
JEFF PERRY
"Class Struggle and the Origin of Racial
Slavery: The Invention of the White Race"

October 27th
LINDA JENKINS
"Turning Oppression Inside Out Together"

Upcoming CCB Meetings

The **Growth, Membership & Social Action Committee** will meet on Thursday, October 3rd, 3pm, in Davis Square Park, Somerville (or, in event of rain, inside the ice cream shop facing the park).

The **Program Committee** meets on Thursday, October 3rd, 7pm in the Lothrop Auditorium.

The **Prison Membership Committee** will meet on Wednesday, October 7th, 7pm at Susan Mortimer's house (please call the office - 617-266-6710 - for the address).

The **CCB Board Meeting** is on Wednesday, October 16th, 7pm, at the Boston Public Library, room TBA.

CCB Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on September 11, 2013
Following are highlights of the meeting.

Building Committee: The Boston Area Gay and Lesbian Youth organization (BAGLY) is moving out of the Church building, but will continue to hold their Wednesday night events in the Lothrop Auditorium. Theatre Offensive is interested in renting the vacant space.

A Rental Committee consisting of Dean Stevens, Jim Casteris, Susan Mortimer, and Linda Jenkins has been formed in order to coordinate the activities of the rentals within the CCB building.



Various Concerns: The Ad-Hoc Personnel Committee presented its report concerning several aspects of the Church administration. John MacLeod, in a lengthy report, read the Committee's findings. David Rothauer also presented a brief, but concise, report on his personal findings.

The next board meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at 7:00pm at the Boston Public Library, in Conference Room 4 in the library's basement.

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

Postscript: The 2013 CCB Annual Meeting was held on September 22nd, where the following Church members were elected to will serve on the board for the years 2013-2014.

President: Dean Stevens
Vice President: Ron Shapiro
Treasurer: Virginia Pratt
Clerk: Dick Keshishian

Directors: Mary Ann Cromer, Kevin Devine, Dian Lerman, Nancy Messom, Susan Mortimer.

The following are elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2014:

Jim Casteris, Chair
Karla Rab
Lenny Shames

The Hypocrisy of U.S. Policy on Syria

by Lenny Shames

The U.S. Government is "shocked" at what the chemical weapons did in Syria. But, less than 10 years ago...

Fallujah, Iraq - Contamination from Depleted Uranium (DU) munitions and other military-related pollution is suspected of causing a sharp rise in congenital birth defects, cancer cases, and other illnesses throughout much of Iraq.

Many prominent doctors and scientists contend that DU contamination is also connected to the recent emergence of diseases that were not previously seen in Iraq, such as new illnesses in the kidney, lungs, and liver, as well as total immune system collapse. DU contamination may also be connected to the steep rise in leukaemia, renal, and anaemia cases, especially among children, being reported throughout many Iraqi governorates.

Toxic Environments

Dr Haddad believes there is a direct correlation between increasing cancer rates and the amount of bombings carried out by US forces in particular areas.

During 2004, the US military carried out two massive military sieges of the city of Fallujah, using large quantities of DU ammunition, as well as white phosphorous.

According to Dr Savabieasfahani, metal contaminants in war zones originate from bombs and bullets, as well as from other explosive devices. Metals, most importantly lead, uranium, and mercury, are used in the manufacture of munitions, and all of these contribute to birth defects, immunological disorders, and other illnesses.

Fallujah babies

"We have all kinds of defects now, ranging from congenital heart disease to severe physical abnormalities, both in numbers you cannot imagine," Alani told Al Jazeera at her office in the hospital last year, while showing countless photos of shocking birth defects.

"In the last ten years, research has emerged that has made it quite clear that uranium is one of the most dangerous substances known to man, certainly in the form that it takes when used in these wars."



*And let's recall Agent Orange between 1962 and 1972.
And let's not forget two bombs dropped on Japan in 1945.*

Petition to Free Lynne Stewart: Support Compassionate Release!

Renowned defense attorney (and Sacco-Vanzetti Award recipient) Lynne Stewart, unjustly charged and convicted for the "crime" of providing her client with a fearless defense, is dying of cancer while imprisoned in the Federal Medical Center, Carswell, Texas. Your action now can lead to her freedom so that she may live out her remaining days with the comfort and joy of her family and those closest to her!

<http://www.change.org/petitions/new-petition-to-free-lynn-stewart-support-compassionate-release>

Join us for Membership Sundays!

On the first Sunday of each month, we celebrate individuals who wish to become members of Community Church of Boston. We take time during the 11:00am service when individuals can, as they desire, come forward and sign our Membership Book – a brief yet purposeful ritual symbolizing a commitment not only from the individual to the congregation, but also from the congregation to the individual.

Upcoming Fall Concerts at the Community Church!

David Rovics

Tuesday, October 15th, 8pm
\$15adv/\$20dos donation

David Rovics grew up in a family of classical musicians and became a fan of populist regimes early on. By the early 90's he was a full-time busker in the Boston subways and by the mid-90's he was traveling the world as a professional flat-picking rabble-rouser.

Magpie

Sunday, October 24th, 7:30pm
\$15adv/\$20dos donation

In their 40 years performing together, the duo of Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino, who call themselves *Magpie*, have become a fixture on the folk scene, both in their home base of Washington D.C. and beyond.

Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com

Marty's Mighty Book Bash!

(and Central American Dinner)



Sunday, November 23rd, 5pm
(before the Magpie concert!)
at the **Community Church**
of Boston

Marty Lerman, beloved and lifetime committed CCB member, passed away last year. He left us his extensive legacy of books, which he sold for over thirty years at CCB's forums and events. We now offer them to you for sale. Pick your price. Proceeds benefit the Community Church of Boston, to further its mission of social justice.

A weekend of open house book selling will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 23 and 24. There will be a reception on Sunday, November 24, with Central American festive food and beverage fare, (pupusas and tamales \$2 a piece!) followed by a concert by the Phenomenal Folk Duo Magpie (aka Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner)

For more information, contact the office:
(617) 266-6710, or email: info@commchurch.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

Dean Stevens, *President*
Ron Shapiro, *Vice President*
Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*
Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

Mary Ann Cromer, Kevin Devine, Dian Lerman,
Nancy Messom, Susan Mortimer



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