

community news

The Newsletter of the Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920
September 2012

New Beginnings

by Linda Jenkins, Congregational Director

Dear Members and Friends, it's been a month, and will be a year, of firsts for me and for CCB. Having just completed my first month as the Social Justice Congregational Director of CCB, I remain delighted with becoming part of this community. I'm glad that the first month was before the start of our Sunday Services: I've had the pleasure of working with our great Board of Directors and Program Committee to plan the next few months' exciting speakers. You can read about some of them in this Newsletter.

I want to thank you for a warm and welcoming luncheon in August, where I briefly introduced myself and met some of you. I'd like to tell you a bit more about myself.

As a Quaker of 32 years, 3 years as Presiding Clerk of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, I bring to this role several things. These include a passion for social justice work (being part of Occupy Boston since Oct. 7, 2011 and arrested there with a peaceful heart on Oct 11), an appreciation of the power and varieties of silence, an enthusiasm for working with groups, large and small, and an understanding that each person's spiritual journey is unique, often not lived or describable in words.

In the past, I have been a lawyer, a mediator, a founder and executive director of a nonprofit organization that created 3 restorative justice programs in the challenging environment of northern New Hampshire. I'm proud to say those programs continue to serve the communities there. I've also been a strategic planning and organizational development consultant for nonprofit organizations, including a unique inner-city, Presbyterian ministry.

I am conscious that, being white and from a family that was upwardly mobile and eventually middle

class, I am a person of privilege. I have also experienced discrimination as a woman and, as an elder woman. My great-grandparents were immigrants



Linda Jenkins arrested at an Occupy Boston action on October 11, 2011

from Wales. My grandfather had to quit school in the 6th grade to support his family by working in a paper mill.

I see working to expand my awareness of and resistance to all forms and manners of oppression as a life-long commitment.

The Community Church of Boston has a unique, monumental history, a bold orientation to social justice concerns and action, and is a warm and unconventional community. I welcome the opportunity to be a part of all of this and look forward to serving here.

Please let me know your vision of community life at CCB; what would excite you. In this era of new possibilities, there are many gifts in our care at CCB. I have had the joy this year of joining my voice with many others to shout, "We are unstoppable! Another world is possible!" Key to building this other world is building a resurrected and, at the same time, a new, re-visioned kind of community. CCB has, I believe, a firm foundation to contribute in significant ways to the creation of this new world. I look forward to building and seeing the rise of that new community with you!

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service &
Speakers Forum

September 9th
LINDA JENKINS
"Homecoming Sunday:
Water Communion"

September 16th
SHAHRZAD NOORBALOOCHI
"An Iranian Voice Against Sanctions
and War: Stories from the Iranian
Collective Memory"

September 23rd
BILL CUNNINGHAM
"The Storm Approaches: Public
Housing in Cambridge and America"

September 30th
EMILIA DUNHAM
"Trans in Boston"

CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on August 14, 2012
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

Congregational Director's Concerns: The congregational director wishes to do outreach to members and friends of the Church, both of whom, in her opinion, should be listed in the latest Church Directory.

The past accomplishments of the Program, Finance, Building, Personnel, Growth & Membership, and Prison Committees were noted, as was the idea that the Program Committee draw on non-board members.

Financial Matters: The Profit & Loss Budget Performance report was detailed by the treasurer. Topics such as Rental Income, Salary Benefits Expenses, Maintenance, Office, and Building expenses were explained.

Building Committee: Issues around air-conditioning and an electric box on the fourth floor were brought up. The Building Committee needs to be involved in tenants issues and those concerning the furnace, windows and various big ticket matters.

Various Concerns: The Search Committee has requested that the following statement be announced:

"The Search Committee presented a report to the board recommending that the board review the resumé of Linda Jenkins and offer her a position pending references"

The above statement was passed by consensus of the board.

*The next scheduled meeting of the board is
September 11, 2012 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of
the Church are invited to attend.*

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

Memorial Service for Marty Lerman

**Saturday, September 29th, 2pm
at Community Church of Boston**

As many of you may already know, Marty Lerman, a longtime CCB member and friend to many in our community, passed away in his Watertown home on May 6, 2012.

Marty will be remembered as a committed social justice activist, lover of hiking, avid sports fan, and ardent supporter of community theater. Since 1991

Marty has chaired the CCB program committee, making our Sunday services possible week after week. We are all greatly saddened by this loss.

Please come to this special memorial service and share your memories of Marty, and celebrate his life of commitment to activism and social justice.



Contemporary Reasons for Remembering Hiroshima

by Virginia Pratt

I commend Community Church for our continued remembrance of the US bombing of Hiroshima. The use of nuclear bombs did horrible damage never before possible. Our use of the nuclear bomb showed the length that the US would go to maintain imperial power. We were willing to cause massive human suffering and death as well as damage for generations to come from radiation. Perhaps more importantly, our use of the bomb sparked an arms race. Consequently we now have over 20,000 nuclear weapons worldwide; ninety-five percent owned by the US and Russia.

During our gathering at George's Island, I read an account from Kodama Michiko. Ms. Michiko was 7-years-old when the bomb struck and killed most of her school mates. She recalled being carried home injured on her father's back witnessing people burned black like charcoal, seeing people who had lost their sight because their eyeballs popped out, and others running with their intestines in their hands. Later when it rained, the rain was black. Members of her family died mysteriously within months of the blast. Later in life, Ms. Michiko has a series of miscarriages, and a child who died of cancer, all due to radiation exposure.

It's important to recall these gruesome details as the effect of the bombings were horrific and continue. The damage of war is not over when the war ends. Our threat is much more serious today. We have the threat of nuclear bombs, far more powerful than those used on Hiroshima Nagasaki as well as the threat of radiation releases from nuclear power plants.

In both cases there are very reasonable alternatives. We have plenty of sun, wind, and water to convert to clean energy. The Japanese responded to their nuclear tragedy in 1945 by developing Article 9, a constitutional



CCB members at this year's Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemoration

amendment that renounced war as a sovereign right and bans settlement of international disputes through use of force. In response to Fukushima, the Japanese people greatly reduced their consumption of energy and have massive on-going demon-

strations calling for the end of nuclear power. Germany is phasing out its nuclear plants in response to Fukushima and making tremendous use of solar energy.

We need to do more for the elimination the treats from both nuclear weapons and power. The two are linked as the weapons would not be possible without material from use and production of the power plants. The US has poisoned large areas of Iraq along with Kosovo, and Afghanistan with "Depleted Uranium" causing high rates of birth defects and cancers. The Israeli threats to bomb Iran, with significant US support, should be of grave concern as Israel has nuclear weapons. Groups like Nuclear Free Futures, United for Justice and Peace, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom continue to call for disarmament. Please join the effort to create a nuclear free world and switch to green energy if you can.

CCB Announcements

Longtime CCB member (currently serving on the Board of Directors) **Jim Casteris** will be celebrating his 80th birthday on Sunday, September 9th with friends and family. We wish him the best!

The **CCB Program Committee** will be meeting next on Tuesday, September 11th at 6pm.

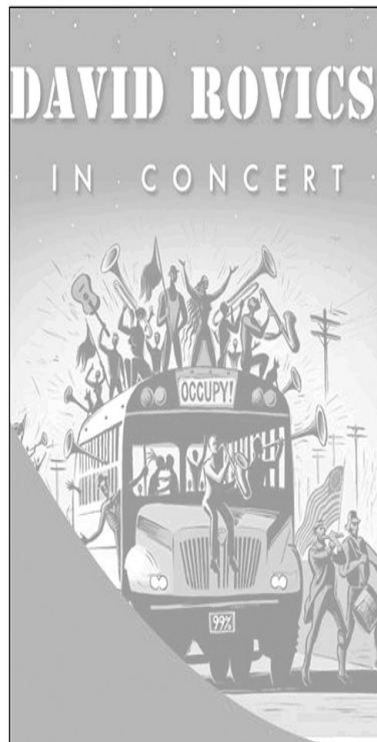
Also on September 11th, following the Program Committee meeting, will be the monthly **CCB Board Meeting** at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church of encouraged to attend both meetings.

Prisoner Membership Update

Congratulations to CCB member Ralph Hamm on the recent publication of his book **Manumission: The Liberated Consciousness of a Prison(er) Abolitionist**.

It's available from Xlibris Corporation (www.Xlibris.com). Part autobiography, part historical non-fiction and part political analysis, it is, "...not simply another book about prison reform!"

The Prisoner Membership committee, along with other CCBers, attended a book reading held for Ralph in July.



David Rovics

Thursday, October 4th
8:00pm

ADMISSION: \$15 (IN ADVANCE)

\$20 (AT DOOR)

**SLIDING SCALE: (NO ONE TURNED
AWAY IF HOUSE IS NOT SOLD OUT)**

ADVANCE TICKETS:

WWW.BROWNPAPERTICKETS.COM

**INFO: 617-869-3014,
617-266-6710**

**Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston (Copley Square)
Boston, MA 02116**

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



DATED MATERIAL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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