

# community

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

March 2013

# news

## What Does Our Congregational Director Do?

by Linda Jenkins, Congregational Director

**N**ow that I have been here 6 months as your Social Justice Congregational Director, here are some highlights of my activities over the past month. My job has 4 facets: mission/purpose, pastoral care, administration, ministry.

The mission/purpose of the church is social justice. Last month I participated in the Anti-Tar Sands rally in Portland Maine; the Interfaith Worker Justice Campaign to support the Cambridge Meridian Hotel workers' efforts to organize and improve working conditions; made 2 trips to NYC to defend against an illegal and violent arrest at Occupy Wall Street's 1st anniversary last September (now set for trial there on April 9); participated in Occupy Boston, its Finance Accountability Working Group and its StrikeDebt activities (all often hosted at CCB); met Medea Benjamin, co-founder of CodePink and collaborated with others in local CodePink activities; filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the help of the National Lawyers Guild; provided court support for another Occupy Boston member; participated in a day of strategizing on the abolition of the prison-industrial complex.

Ways I have been involved with pastoral care include one-on-one visits with CCB members and attenders (ask me: I'd love to make an appointment to meet with you!); mediating where there are difficult conversations between community members or within families (please also ask me about this, if interested). I also attended the interfaith service and direct action for Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, which felt like pasturing to and with part of our community. Another action

that I'll include here is setting up an email list for us to share news of social justice events and actions and invite each other to attend them together: [ccb-socialaction@googlegroups.com](mailto:ccb-socialaction@googlegroups.com)

Administration takes perhaps the largest percentage of my time. It includes oversight and supervision of our staff, Office Manager Mark Laskey, Maintenance Person and Sunday Cook Luis Guzman, Building Supervisor Rodney Burston, and Bookkeeper Xinli Xu. It also includes tenant relations with our 4 tenants, the Globe Restaurant, Theater Offensive, Boston Area Youth Organizing Project (BYOP) and Boston Alliance for Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Youth (BAGLY); attending and nurturing our Board and Committees, with about 5 meetings per month related to them. It also includes writing for and collaborating with Mark Laskey on the weekly Bulletins, monthly Newsletters and other mailings.

The area of ministry includes care and coordination of the Sunday services, meeting with the Ministry Committee, and being sure that I model self-care by participating in peer-relationships and groups that support me through and through. To that end, I meet monthly with a local UU Minister, a Quaker group and a group for clergy people and spiritual directors, as well as my activist network.

These are highlights to give you a flavor of what goes on at CCB in-between and on Sundays. It's a fast-paced environment with fascinating people and work that I enjoy. If you want to know more about any or all of it, please don't hesitate to ask!

# COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service &  
Speakers Forum

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**March 3rd**

**MARK SOLOMON**

“The Transforming Potential of the  
Political Moment”

**March 10th**

**WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE  
FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM**

“Marking International Womens' Day”

**March 17th**

*St. Patrick's Day Weekend*

**KEVIN DEVINE & FRIENDS**

“St. Patrick's Day 'The Battle of the  
Bogside' film, August, 1969”

**March 24th**

**LEE FICH**

“Liberation Seder”

**March 31st**

**LINDA JENKINS**

“On Being God's Fool”

## CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on February 12, 2013*

*Following are highlights of the meeting.*

**Congregational Director's Report:** The congregational director reported on a number of social and political activities in which she had recently participated. Those included are: Tar Sands rally in Portland, ME, Occupy Boston, Freedom of Informational Act gathering, Interfaith Worker Justice Meridian Hotel Campaign, Interfaith Service and action on behalf of Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, court support for an Occupy Boston member, Social Action mailing list, and Love & Jails; CCB service. She is also hoping to partake in an anti-AIPAC protest during March. Several other administrative tasks were also discussed.

The congregational director also suggested engaging in one to one talks with those who attend the Sunday programs.

**Financial Matters:** The 2013 CCB budget report was done in the form of a graph. The treasurer compared the sum of the 2013 budget figures, concentrating mainly on rental income, annual fund drive, salaries, building and office expenses, and CCB programming. Other thoughts included the necessity of maintaining the upkeep of the CCB building so that the present tenants would have the incentive to remain. It was also suggested that we search for a plan concerning a less expensive postal system and more newsletter emails should be examined.

**Various Concerns:** The board enthusiastically endorsed a suggestion that Betsy Rueda Gynn be offered special recognition for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Church in assuming a leading position in planning and working on the CCB budget for the past several years. Betsy has also been a stalwart and active participant involving many tasks related to Church activities throughout her extended association with CCB.

*The next scheduled meeting of the board is March 12, 2013 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.*

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

## CCB Fiscal Meeting

*February 24, 2013*

The meeting was chaired by the treasurer, Virginia Pratt. The CCB budget, as handed out to the membership, was discussed in detail. The goal is to meet all of our expenses and to attain a balanced budget, concentrating mainly and cost of living expenses. Most of CCB's income is derived from the downstairs restaurant and from other tenants throughout the Church building.

Rental income needs to cover expenses. There is also the need to renew a fundraising committee.

Following clarification of the budget issues, the board voted 15 to 1, with two members not voting, to approve the budget.

Many thanks to the Finance Committee, especially Virginia Pratt and Betsy Rueda Gynn for their invaluable assistance in formulating the 2013 budget.

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

# The Herstory of International Women's Day

by Dora Byamukama

Have you ever wondered why March 8 is celebrated as the International Women's Day? We need to go back into history to find out how the International Women's Day came into practice.

It is reported that International Women's Day, originally called International Working Women's Day was originated by Clara Zetkin, a leader of the Social Democratic Party in Germany, who first proposed the idea of a women's day at the Second International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1910.

The conference was attended by over 100 women from 17 countries and included workers' unions, socialist political parties and working women's clubs. This conference established a Women's Day, international in character, to honor the movement for women's rights and to assist in achieving universal suffrage for women. Zetkin's suggestion received unanimous approval and the first International Women's Day was celebrated in the following year.

The focus was on the rights of women workers and in 1908 about 15,000 women in various industries had marched on the streets of New York to press for shorter

working hours, better pay and voting rights. They were baton-charged by Police who arrived on horseback. The ensuing struggle between women workers and the Police led to several women being injured and imprisoned for demanding their rights. This incident was one among others that had prompted Zetkin to demand a day that would remember the women's struggle, with a view towards continuing the resistance.

As a result of the decision taken at Copenhagen, International Women's Day was marked for the first time in March 1911 in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, where more than one million women and men attended rallies. Apart from the right to vote and to hold public office, they demanded the right to work, to vocational training and to an end to discrimination on the job.

With the passage of time, the meaning of the day was broadened to include political, economic and social rights for women. The struggle for women's rights is a daily activity. It is women's day on all the 365 days of the year. Success has, to some extent, been secured but more needs to be done.

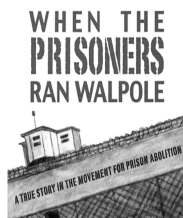
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## When the Prisoners Ran Walpole

**Sunday, March 10th, 1:45pm**  
(following the Sunday Service & Lunch)  
**at the Community Church**

As a follow-up to the Feb 16th 'Love Not Jails' gathering focused on strategizing to abolish the prison-industrial complex, CCB invites everyone to a viewing of the film "When the Prisoners Ran Walpole" and participate in discussion.

In 1971, Attica's prison yard massacre shocked the public, prisoners, and political leaders across the United States. Massachusetts residents pledged to prevent such slaughter from ever happening there, and the governor agreed. Thus began a move for reform that eventually led to the prisoners at Walpole's Massachusetts Correctional Institute winning control of its day-to-day operations.



## Saint Patrick's Peace Parade: Peoples Parade for Peace, Equality, Jobs, Social and Economic Justice

Again this year we (Veterans For Peace) were denied permission to walk in the "Official Saint Patrick's Day Parade." They don't want "peace" associated with the word "veteran". Also denied permission to walk in the "official" parade was Join the Impact, a LGBT organization. Also denied? Mass Equality.

This year, as last year, we will march immediately following the "official parade." Our parade is a "people's parade for peace and justice." We invite all progressive groups (peace, environmental, women's rights, civil rights, Occupy Boston, labor, LGBTQ, communities of faith/congregations, etc.) in the greater Boston area to please join us as we follow behind the official parade.

**Sunday, March 18th, 1:00pm**  
assemble on D Street between 1st and 3rd Street  
Broadway MBTA stop • South Boston

The Lucy Parsons Center  
and BASEN present:

# Cooperative Networking Night

*Housing,  
Mental Health,  
Urban Permaculture,  
Green Cleaning,  
Transportation,  
Worker-owned,  
and much more...*

*Bring your ideas, energy and  
experience! Meet other people  
who want to build a movement  
of democratic & sustainable coops!*

**March 12th at 6:30 pm**

*@ the Lucy Parsons Center  
358A Centre St., Jamaica Plain*



## 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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