

# Bread & Puppet: The Shatterer of Worlds

January 23 - February 2, 2014 (all shows at 7pm)  
at the **Boston Center for the Arts**  
(539 Tremont Street, Boston)

**BREAD & PUPPET**



The award-winning Bread & Puppet Theater from Vermont's Northeast Kingdom presents their *The Shatterer of Worlds* (chapel with naturalization services for applicants requesting citizenship in the shattered world), a walkabout political puppet performance, enveloping audience and performers alike within the Cyclorama.

All shows at 7:00 pm. General admission is \$15; \$12 for students, seniors, groups of 6 & more.

[www.breadandpuppet.org](http://www.breadandpuppet.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*  
Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*  
Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*  
Rodney Burston, *Building Maintenance*

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

January 2014

# Revisiting "Violence" and "Non-violence": A First Consideration

by Linda Jenkins, *Congregational Director*

"January" comes from "Janus": the Roman god of gates and doors, beginnings and endings, and is represented with a double-faced head, each looking in opposite directions. Janus was worshipped at the beginning of the harvest time, planting, marriage, birth, and other types of beginnings, especially the beginnings of important events in a person's life. Janus also represents the transition between primitive life and civilization, between the countryside and the city, peace and war, and the growing-up of young people. Janus was represented with two faces, originally one face was bearded while the other was not (probably a symbol of the sun and the moon).

Looking backward since last month's Newsletter, I can affirm that the struggle continues: "might" continues to try to make "right", on many levels. Humans continue the rush to make the planet uninhabitable for ourselves; corporate bosses continue to pay sub-livable wages to workers; our government continues to imprison people, especially those of color, and to deport undocumented people at astronomical rates, while Hoovering data from all quarters of the world. Slavery, particularly the trafficking and oppression of women and children, has reached numbers never seen before.

I confess that, in the face of the all-pervasiveness of these struggles, I am experiencing a crisis of faith. It's not manifesting itself in any dramatic outward form. I have been a Quaker for over half my life and that has meant embracing non-violence, which I continue to find makes more "sense" than other kinds of actions. What is changing for me is the concept of "violence."

The Buddhist nun and teacher, Pema Chodrun, has taught that sometimes the kindest thing one can do is yell, "NO!" or "DON'T!" That might be to prevent an injury to oneself or another, and so, also to the world-be injurer.

Jesus teaches, "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man's enemies will be the members of his own household." Sometimes there is a more compelling truth than the deep conventions of family.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran pastor executed at the end of WWII for participating in a plot to assassinate Hitler, wrestled with these kinds of questions. Is there a hierarchy of "violence", so that the more "violent" renders the less "violent" "no-longer-violent"?

The first step for me has been to shift away from support for any kind of civilian gun-control as long as we arm and deploy our military and police. Those institutionalized and "legitimized" forms of violence are the root of much other violence, in the US and around the world. I can no longer impose my value system on others: though I may not believe in the use of violence for my own self-defense, I cannot prevent others from exercising their consciences, to defend themselves and their families using violence, if necessary.

Looking forward, how will this continue to unfold? I don't know. But I do know that there are many kinds of resistance rising up and I continue to find niches where I join those efforts. Some of us from CCB have been showing up to be in solidarity with the Boston School Bus Drivers, in their resistance against the mega-corporation Veolia, which was brought into the city last July to bust the hard-won union formed 25 years ago. In their resistance, the drivers are on the front line for ALL of us because Veolia is doing all of the kinds of violence I listed above. CCBers and I have shown up for rallies and the first part of a City Council hearing to support the bus drivers and help use this opportunity to get Veolia, which also owns a 60% share in our rail system, out of Boston and then out of MA.

I ask for your resistance and solidarity on my birthday, January 22, by showing up at the jury trial that day for the charges against me of assault and battery on a police officer, though I was the one assaulted. Last June 12, some comrades and I did a Code Pink kind of action, interrupting Pres Obama's speech in Roxbury, to protest his administration's treatment of whistle-blowers. An officer I recognized from other actions arrested me without cause and I have refused to take their "deal." Such excessive police force and abuse of power needs to be aired. I hope you will join me there and in other opportunities for resistance as they arise.

# COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON

## Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

**January 5th**  
**IRVING KURKI**  
"The Movement Against Alienation"

**January 12th**  
**Rev. WILLIAM ALBERTS**  
"Religion Without Borders"

**January 19th**  
**CHUCK TURNER**  
"The American Prisoner is the Tip of the Mass Incarceration in the Country"

**January 26th**  
**TONY MENELIK VAN DER MEER**  
"The Need for a Mass Campaign Poverty"

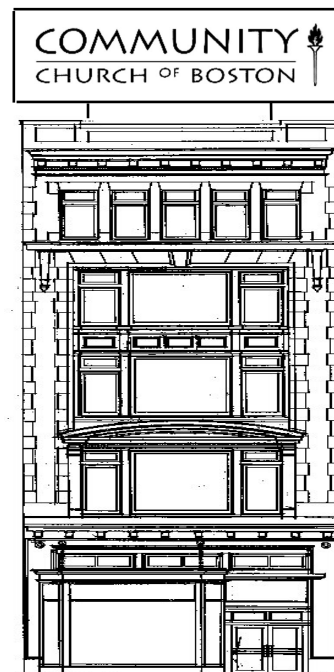
## CCB Barnraising Event

Saturday, January 25th  
9am-1:30pm

We have come into contact with an organization called the Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET), whose goal is to help congregations and non-profits green up their buildings, be better planetary stewards, and save lots of money in the doing. One of their members, Jason Taylor, well known to us through the John O'Brien plays he produces for us each year, is one of the movers and shakers in HEET, and will lead us through the steps to pick the low hanging fruit of energy efficiency: insulation of pipes, programming thermostats, installing power strips for appliances like computers and office equipment, switching incandescent bulbs for CFL or LED bulbs, spraying foam around some uninsulated window casings, installing water aerators in the spickets in the bathrooms, insulating the AC units in the offices as well as the vents that lead to the big air shaft, changing the settings on computers for energy savings.

There will be a lot of tasks like this that we, as unskilled volunteers can achieve. It will also be your chance to tour this building, see some of the office spaces we rent to several very worthy non-profits, see the restaurant's basement kitchen, and the "cave" a cavernous wine cellar-like space under the sidewalk, whose leaks have given us great grief. You will get a chance to view the enormous life-safety improvements that we achieved on our building during the recent remodeling. You will also see the building for all its warts: there are big challenges that for lack of funds and/or long term planning, we haven't ever addressed.

Be there on Saturday, January 25, at 9am, with old clothes and gloves. There will be coffee and refreshments in the morning, and a light lunch afterwards.



- Dean Stevens

## A Report from the Building Committee

by Dean Stevens

1) We finally had our inspection on Tuesday 12/3 for the renewal of our Occupancy Permit, and passed it. The new certificate will come in the mail later this week.

2) ABCO, the Sprinkler System company that also does the sprinkler inspections, installed a "city side pressure valve" in the cave, as per the directive of the Fire Department's Abatement Order. Dean has notified the Fire Inspector, of this. In addition, we are in the course of deciding several things about the "cave" and its leakage and structural problems. Tom Heger, A structural engineer, paid us a visit last week, and will issue his full report. He tells us that he will recommend the construction of a retaining wall to shore up one side of the cave that has a steel support beam that is badly corroded and buckling upward. He will issue a report in the upcoming days.

3) We are also looking into relocating a group of sprinkler sensors from the cave onto a panel in the restaurant office, to protect them from the moisture problem in the cave. Nardone Electric has submitted a bid for this work: \$1289.97. Also additional measures need to be taken to mitigate the leakage from the ceiling onto pipes from the sprinkler system. Perhaps a "quonset hut" style ceiling that deflects the water to the sides, where it won't damage anything.

4) There was an incident report about damage to the bathroom in the BYOP offices: two holes punched in a wall. Najma informs that the young man is willing

to pay for the damage, and also volunteer for the "Barnraising". Rodney has already plastered the holes.

5) The HEET barnraising date has been moved to Saturday January 25. The earlier date (Jan. 4) turned out to be a conflict with the monthly WILPF meeting in the Auditorium. All hands on deck!!

6) The Marty Book Sale raised about \$300 (exact amount hard to tally, because of donations made into the plate on Sundays). There will be one last viewing: the book buyer at Lucy Parsons Center will see if they want anything for whatever donation they'd like to make. Then the rest will go to the Prison Book Project in Quincy, and to Boomerangs in JP.

7) Our elevator company, Embree, suggests that we do some essential work on the elevator. The estimate is on last month's Building Committee Report. \$9300 is the amount of their estimate. Jim is seeking other estimates for the same work. The annual elevator inspection is in December or January. We will await that inspection, to see if the inspector requires this work by any time certain (usually they give us 90 days to complete necessary work).

8) We have an ongoing problem with a smoke alarm in the basement that keeps firing off and causing us to receive phone calls from the Answering Service that calls everyone on the list: Jim, Dean, Rodney. Nardone will come again on Fri. Dec. 6 to reset the alarm, hopefully replace the sensor. Very frustrating.

## First Night Against the Wars!

**Tuesday, December 31st**  
**12:00pm to 6:00pm**  
**On the steps of the Boston Public Library**  
**(Copley Square, Boston)**

We'll have free hot chocolate and snacks for passersby who stop to pick up your literature. We're also going to have a bright sticker that has broad appeal and that everyone opposed to these wars can wear.

We're organizing an educational action that reaches the 100,000s of people who will be in Boston to celebrate First Night. We want to welcome them. We want to celebrate. But we also want everyone to be fully conscious of the many wars:

Wall Street and Government's War on Us!  
The wars on women.  
The wars on people of color and immigrants.  
The wars on working people.  
The wars in Africa and Middle East.  
The war on the environment.

These are all connected!  
Help make this happen!

To help with the planning and organizing, please call me, Dan the Bagel Man at 857-272-6743. For more information: [www.stopthewars.org](http://www.stopthewars.org)

