

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

June 2013
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

June 2nd -- Annual Ethel and Julius Rosenberg Commemoration

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

"60th Anniversary of the Rosenbergs' Execution"

Each June we dedicate a Sunday to acknowledge the tragedy of the Rosenberg case. On this day we honor the memory of the Rosenbergs by supporting children of jailed activists and others who have had to bear the burden of government repression. This year marks the 60th anniversary of their execution.

June 9th -- Dr. JEFFERY PERRY

"The Invention of the White Race"

Theodore W. Allen's two-volume *The Invention of the White Race* presents a full-scale challenge to what Allen refers to as "The Great White Assumption" -- "the unquestioning, indeed unthinking acceptance of the 'white' identity of European-Americans of all classes as a natural attribute rather than a social construct." Its thesis -- that the "white race" was invented in late 17th-early 18th century Virginia and Maryland as a ruling class social control formation in response to labor solidarity -- contains the root of a new and radical approach to United States history, one that challenges master narratives taught in the media and in schools, colleges, and universities. With its equalitarian motif and emphasis on class struggle it speaks to people today who strive for change worldwide.

Jeffrey Perry is an independent, working class scholar and author of *Hubert Harrison: The Voice of Harlem Radicalism, 1883-1918* (Columbia University Press). His website is www.jeffreybperry.net He is also the Treasurer of Local 300, National Postal Mail Handlers Union.

June 16th -- LINDA JENKINS

"Wrapping Up and Looking Forward"

This Sunday we will review the past year and look ahead to the summer and beyond. Noting outcomes from our recent community retreat, conditions of the concentric circles of community in which we live, we will raise up needs and priorities, to formulate a shared vision for the next year. Everyone's participation is needed!

Linda Jenkins is the Social Justice Congregational Director of CCB. In some of her former lives, she has been an attorney, a guide driving up the Mt Washington Auto Road, a professional mediator. She has been an activist for more than 40 years.

COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF BOSTON

Linda Jenkins, Congregational Director

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Park at the Back Bay Garage for \$5 on Sunday for 3hrs with a coupon available from the church.

By public transportation, Community Church is minutes from the Back Bay station (Orange line) or Copley (Green line).

community

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

June 2013

news

To Change the World that Needs Changing - Us

by Linda Jenkins, Congregational Director

Many things have colored life over the past month; the lovely spring weather has been one. I've made time to sit & rock in my favorite willow tree on the Esplanade, after enjoying the bike ride there from my home in East Cambridge.

Some of us from CCB, and many from Occupy Boston who hadn't seen each other in a while, gathered to participate in the Funeral March for Capitalism on May Day, after joining the traditional workers' marches in & around Boston that day.

The funeral was obviously an act of hopeful prophecy, statement of intent, than observance of the actual death of capitalism. But the joy shared, making & using puppets, masks, dances, banners, songs, enacting satirical rituals in calling the Death of Capitalism into the world, is necessary to replenish our energies. We face seemingly insurmountable odds against ending the military-prison-corporate death machine that now has officially declared the War On Terror a permanent condition, despite polls that the 99% knows the US government has lied to us, we know it continues to deliberately create terror around the world, instigating acts of retaliation. It has used, & continues to use drones, all over the world, legally, because our President has enacted secret laws that not only allow him to conduct this war, but to imprison people without traditional due process protections, convicted of offenses against new laws enacted solely by the President.

When John Brennan was up for approval as CIA Director, I wrote to our Senator Warren, having recently voted for her, to say that I hoped that the Democratic Party would hold their President accountable & not confirm this torturer to the post. I just received a response from her, dated May 6, 2013, in which she said that,

"Drones cannot and should not be used to kill Americans in the US who are not engaged in combat. I am pleased that Atty. General Holder has clearly stated that the President lacks this authority. I believe the President deserves the benefit of the doubt while picking members of his national security team, and I very much look forward to working with Director Brennan to protect our country and safeguard our civil liberties..." [Emphases added]

Perhaps you aren't surprised by this letter but I was. And so disappointed. It's yet another affirmation that national electoral politics have to be rendered irrelevant. It illustrates how people-power, of perhaps infinite varieties, is the only hope of stopping the violence that extends to the planet herself.

The seeds of this people-power are in the heart of every human, as Sister Clare reminded us on May 19. Every moment, each of us chooses how to allocate the resources in our care, including the non-renewable resource of time. In each moment, I have the choice to speak & listen with as much precision, compassion & humility as I can bring to that moment.

As a trainer in the NH State prisons with the Alternatives to Violence Program, I learned from the women at the Goffstown Maximum Security Prison what a powerful weapon gossip is. I learned that it's not enough to speak & listen with as much precision, compassion and humility as I can muster. I have to go & seek alternative perspectives & accord those the same consideration. Only then might I be prepared to speak or act appropriately & effectively. For me this is the process of speaking truth to power. It's deep peace-making.

Very recently John McGrath, long-time, well-loved member of CCB, passed away. The last time many of us saw him was on Sunday May 5, when Tina Chery & others from the Louis D Brown Peace Institute presented during our service. I will miss John - already do - because he was always one, in my experience, to listen & then, POW, let you have it where he thought you were wrong or off the mark. You never had to worry about John saying something just because it would keep the peace or not ruffle any feathers. He was stubborn & passionate & he would listen & then speak. His kind of peace-making is like a cleansing rain. His way of "speaking truth to power" helped us be accountable to each other. I pray his spirit will help us find other ways to do that now, to be the people-power he believed could change the world.

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Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

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Dr. JEFFREY PERRY

“The Invention of the White Race”

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“Wrapping Up and Looking Forward”

Faith & Solidarity Breakfast

The Massachusetts Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice will hold its annual Faith & Solidarity Breakfast on **Tuesday, June 4th, 8:30am** at SEIU Local 615 (26 West St, Boston).

We will come together to reflect on this year's faithful solidarity work, while also opening our hearts to workers who continue to struggle for justice & dignity at work. Massachusetts AFL-CIO President Steven Tolman will be an honored guest, and we will also have the special opportunity to lift up Mass IWJ executive board member Jeb Mays for her steadfast commitment to keeping Interfaith Worker Justice strong.

Please come and join us for this time of fellowship, refreshment, and reflection! For more information, please visit: <http://www.iwj.org>

CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on May 14, 2013
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

Various Concerns: It was suggested that members and friends of the Church, who in the past have left for various reasons, be contacted so as to have them reconnect with CCB.

A proposal to form a three-person ad-hoc Personnel Committee to aid in formulating and examining certain Church policies passed by a majority vote.

The next scheduled meeting of the board is June 11, 2013 at 7:00pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.

Nominations Report 2013: The following members are continuing their terms as officers with terms ending as noted:

Virginia Pratt, Treasurer (no term limit)
Dick Keshishian, Clerk (no term limit)

The following members are continuing as officers for the term ending June 2014:

Reed Miller, President
Dean Stevens, Vice President

The following members are continuing their terms as directors with terms ending as designated:

Jim Casteris (2016)
Mary Ann Cromer (2014)
Kevin Devine (2014)
Susan Mortimer (2015)

Nancy Messom is unable to commit to her sixth one-year term, so there will be an opening to fill her one-year term.

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk



Linda Jenkins, Mary Lynn Cramer and David Broeg at the Funeral for Capitalism

Remembering John McGrath

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of a beloved member of our community, John McGrath.

A long-time social justice & prison abolition activist, John was involved with the 1973 prisoner uprising/seizure at Walpole State Prison ("During one three month period, in the spring of 1973, the maximum security prison at Walpole, Massachusetts was the scene of an unprecedented seizure of power that shook the Massachusetts criminal justice system to its core.



The prisoners organized and ran the prison -- the school, the shops, the kitchen, the hospital, the internal security -- while the striking guards manned only the outside walls.") and continued to advocate for the rights of prisoners throughout his life.

John was active with a grassroots Friend & Families of Prisoners for years. Much of the work with which he was involved helped inform the important work "Instead of Prisons" (1976), which was reprinted by Critical Resistance around 2000.

More recently he organized a number of screenings of '3000 Years to Life', the 1973 documentary about the Walpole Prison Uprising.

He could be seen at countless demonstrations on behalf of prisoners, involved in community campaigns for better education, anti-racism and social/economic justice, and attending services and events at Community Church of Boston. He was an inspiring staple of our community and his passing is a tremendous loss to us all.

A Memorial Service will be held at the Community Church in John's honor. Details will be forthcoming and made public. For more information, please contact Linda Jenkins, our Congregational Director: congdirccb@gmail.com

Annual Meeting of the CCB

The Annual Meeting of the Community Church of Boston to take place in the Lothrop Auditorium on **Sunday, June 9th at 1:00pm**, following church services.

It is essential that every member participate in the discussion and decision-making process as fully as possible, so please try and attend!

Losses in our Community

The Community Church of Boston sends its condolences to Susy Giroux and to her husband George Balesdent on the occasion of the passing of Susy's mother, Marie Antoinette Giroux, on May 6th.

The Church also conveys its sympathy to Nancy and Kevin Devine on the passing of Nancy's mother Dorothy Hedrick on May 8th.

10th Annual Sweet Chariot Music Festival

Saturday, June 1st, 7:30pm
THEODORE PARKER UU CHURCH
1859 Centre St., West Roxbury

Admission-\$20; Kids \$5 *
Advance Tickets Online:
www.brownpapertickets.com

FEATURING: Eric Kilburn, Denny Williams, David Dodson, Dillon Bustin, Dean Stevens, Doug Day, Will Brown, Rachel and John Nicholas, Geoff Kaufman, Daisy and Stan, Lisa Redfern and more...

** CCB Members receive free admission!*

Mass Rally for Bradley Manning

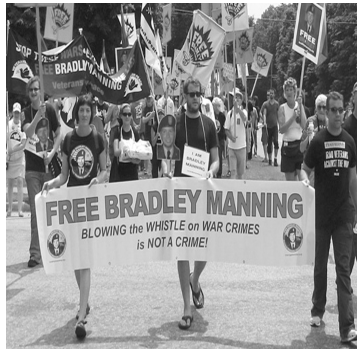
Saturday, June 1st
Ft. Meade, Maryland

After more than three years of imprisonment, including nine months of torture, Nobel Peace Prize nominee Bradley Manning's trial is finally scheduled to begin June 3, 2013, at Fort Meade, Maryland.

June 1st is the International Day of Action to Support Bradley Manning. Join us at Fort Meade on the eve of Bradley's court martial. Solidarity actions are welcome at bases, recruiting centers and US embassies worldwide.

*Sponsored by the Bradley Manning Support Network,
Veterans for Peace, Iraq Veterans Against the War,
Courage to Resist, and many more!*

<http://www.bradleymanning.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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