

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

June 2014
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

June 1st -- CCB Fiscal Meeting & Annual Membership Meeting

This Sunday we will combine our Annual Fiscal Meeting (postponed from February), which will convene at 11:00am, and our Annual CCB Membership Meeting, which will meet at 1:30pm. Lunch will be provided between meetings!

June 8th -- Annual Julius & Ethel Rosenberg Commemoration

JENN MEEROPOL

"Ethel at 100 & the Rosenberg Fund for Children at 25"

Were she still living, Ethel Rosenberg would turn 100 on September 25, 2015. The same month will also mark the 25th anniversary of the Rosenberg Fund for Children. One hundred years after her birth and more than 60 years after her execution, what does Ethel mean to us today? What lessons can we draw from her life and death? Jenn will explore how the popular press, prosecutors, the defense, supporters, leading political figures, films, and the highly charged political and cultural climate "framed" how people perceived Ethel then and now and what this means for today's targeted activists and their families.

Jenn Meeropol is the granddaughter of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and executive director of the Rosenberg Fund for Children.

Music by Sol y Canto

June 15th -- STEVE EARLY

"Unions and Unionism in the U.S."

Drawing on forty years of personal experience, Steve will talk about cross-border union campaigning, labor strategies for organizing and health care reform, and political initiatives that might lessen worker dependence on the Democratic Party.

Steve Early has been active as a labor journalist, lawyer, organizer, or union representative since 1972. He is a former Boston-based international representative and organizer for the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the author of *Embedded With Organized Labor: Journalistic Reflections on the Class War at Home* and *The Civil Wars in U.S. Labor: Birth of a New Workers' Movement or Death Throes of the Old?*

Music by Constellations

COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF BOSTON

Community Church of Boston * 565 Boylston Street, Boston, MA (in Copley Square)
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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).

A Benefit for Open Media Boston

The World According to David Rovics, Jimmy Tingle, and the Afro D All Starz

Sunday, June 1st, 3:00pm
at Spontaneous Celebrations
45 Danforth Street, Jamaica Plain



A folkie, funny and funky fundraiser for Open Media Boston, the non-profit, metropolitan online news and culture publication dedicated to regularly publishing fair and accurate news, views, entertainment and technology coverage for the Boston, MA area in text, image, audio and video formats.

For more information:
www.openmediaboston.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

Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*
Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*
Rodney Burston, *Building Maintenance*

Board of Directors

Dean Stevens, *President*
Ron Shapiro, *Vice President*
Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*
Betsy Gynn, *Treasurer*

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



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565 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116



Sweet Summer of 2014

by Dean Stevens, CCB President

Dear CCB Members and Friends, there is no year in living memory that I have more longed for summer to arrive, as I have this winter and spring. It's been a tough year, and I'm not talking about weather, I'm talking about CCB. But we have weathered the storm, and come out the other side. That's what we believe and hope.

This will be a summer to finally pause from our church routine. But there is work to do. Our personnel committee will be up to their eyeballs in important work. We have two staff positions to fill. We have decisions to make about the makeup of those job descriptions. We are looking at necessary revisions of our governing documents, both the by-laws and the personnel policy. Our program committee is gearing up for next year, and would love to hear your suggestions for speakers, programs and musicians during our 2014-2015 season.

We are also in the course of defining our relationship with the UUA. We will have to reschedule our much anticipated meeting with representatives from the Mass Bay District of the UUA. They have been of great and helpful service to us during this last year. And we anticipate a lively conversation with them, when we find a date this summer to meet.

We have two more Sunday programs in June, with marvelous speakers and fantastic music.

But mostly we want to stress to you the importance of attending our ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING on Sunday, June 1. We will be electing a new Board of Directors, with several replacements to be determined. We will have our Financial Meeting in the morning at 11 AM, followed by a sumptuous lunch from Luis Guzmán, followed by the Annual Meeting in the afternoon. We hope you can join us. CCB is at a crossroads. CCB is clay in our hands, to build something great and beautiful.

CCB Wish List

(Folks, add as many items as you like for our next newsletter DREAM BIG!)

A new professional kitchen; A big stockpot, beautiful vessels to serve potluck food and Luis' lunches 120 comfortable stacking chairs for auditorium; PA Equipment: new speakers, cables, direct boxes, cordless microphones, lapel microphone for Sunday speaker;

An amazing grand piano; More toys and books for when kids come; An interim minister/leader; An office manager/publications chief; New computer/office equipment;

A well organized library with: Sacco/Vanzetti Collection; Rosenbergs Collection; Focus on authors who have spoken at CCB; A film series on Monday nights;

A John O'Brien replacement to be permanent usher/greeter; A definition of what membership is A code of conduct in our by-laws; Free parking (just kidding); A well organized archive room either at CCB, or at a nearby university; An engineering study of our building: plumbing, electric, heating, AC, alley facade;

More love, caring, concern; More members, all colors, shapes, ages, sizes....DREAM, DREAM, DREAM for CCB....

- Dean



Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

June 1st
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June 8th
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JENN MEEROPOL
“Ethel at 100 & the Rosenberg Fund for Children at 25”

June 15th
STEVE EARLY
“Unions and Unionism in the United States”

Annual CCB Financial & Membership Meetings

Sunday, June 1, 2014

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Minutes of CCB Board Meeting

May 22, 2014

Financial Concerns: The interim treasurer, Betsy Gynn, presented a clear concise and thorough preliminary budget report, discussing and explaining each line item in detail. The report suggested that the sum of \$7240 of net income be deposited into the Pax Fund. The proposal to present the interim budget for congregational approval at the June 1 financial meeting passed unanimously.

Building Committee: CCB passed the elevator inspection, and we are legal for another year.

A number of sprinkler system sensors are being relocated out of the basement cave, into the restaurant office, to protect them from moisture dripping from the brick ceiling of the cave. Prism Energy Services is beginning the installation of efficient lighting throughout the Church building.

The possibility of holding a meeting with Henry Putman was discussed, to strategize for 2017, in order to maximize the Church's financial advantage.

Personnel Committee: The newly installed Personnel Committee consists of the following CCB members: Dian Lerman (Chair), Karla Rab, Dick Crowley, Lenny Shames, and Dean Stevens.

A job description for the hiring of a new office manager will be submitted to ACT-MA, idealist.org, CCB's website, and AFSC. Other goals were to look into current Personnel Policy, last updated in 1998. Tom Campbell, CCB's attorney, should be contacted to discuss the policy's legal ramifications. He has suggested that we be gradually updating the personnel policy, in a piecemeal way, to address the issues that come up.

Various Concerns: The vice-president brought up the need for a code of conduct and a disruptive behavior policy. These are commonly used at Unitarian Universalist churches (UUA), as a method of dealing with members who display disruptive and unacceptable behavior. There was discussion about conduct, and inappropriate emails, and attempts to interfere with the work of the Program Committee by contacting scheduled speakers and musicians, and asking them not to appear at CCB programs. The unauthorized use of CCB Stationery and logos was also discussed.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 7pm.

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

In June We Remember Ethel & Julius Rosenberg

excerpted from LiberationNews.org

Each year, on June 19th, we remember the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, two courageous communists murdered by the U.S. government in the midst of the ferocious anti-communist witch-hunt of the 1950s.

They were electrocuted on June 19, 1953, in Sing Sing prison in New York, despite worldwide protests, after a three-year persecution on trumped-up charges of espionage conspiracy, supposedly for providing elements of atomic-bomb production to the Soviet Union.

The Rosenbergs' real crime, however, was that they stood for socialism at a dangerous time for progressive activists in the United States, when the U.S. government was waging an ideological war at home and abroad in the name of "fighting communism."

After World War II ended in 1945, the U.S. government launched a military, political and economic offensive against the Soviet Union and socialist camp, commonly referred to as the "Cold War."

The U.S. had emerged singularly unscathed from the war. It was the only country in the world to possess nuclear weapons, and showed its willingness to use them by annihilating Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The leaders in Washington were determined to achieve global domination and viewed the socialist camp led by the Soviet Union, and the revolutionary movements allied with it, as the main obstacle in their path.

At home, the offensive was aimed at crushing working-class struggles as well as revolutionary socialist and communist organizations. Throughout the late 1940s into the 1950s, U.S. labor unions were purged of socialists and communists, who had helped lead successful workers' struggles in major industries. By 1949, dozens of communists were imprisoned under the draconian Smith Act (Alien Registration Act of 1940).

U.S. imperialism began its massive bombing war against Korea on June 25, 1950, at the same time the FBI moved against the Rosenbergs, with the arrest of Julius on July 17 and Ethel on August 11, 1950.

After their conviction on treason charges in a rigged trial, Judge Irving Kaufman, sentenced the Rosenbergs to death on April 5, 1951. Kaufman declared them responsible for the deaths of thousands of U.S. soldiers in Korea and, reflecting the wild hysteria of the time, added, "millions more of innocent peo-

ple may pay the price of your treason."

To quell political dissent as the U.S. advanced its objectives, key political trials were given major prominence in the newspapers and new medium of television. The message was:

"Communists are endangering the American way of life."

The ruling class manufactured a hysteria to crush dissent and the Rosenbergs paid the ultimate price for refusing to comply with repression. To the last minute, the government offered to spare them if they would admit guilt and "name names" of others who could then face the same persecution.

When they refused, they were killed, a clear case of state murder designed to terrorize others on the left.

Last year, on the 60th anniversary of their relatives' executions, Robert Meeropol and his daughter Jenn, wrote:

"The US government used the Rosenberg case to attempt to prove to the public that the international communist conspiracy threatened the American way of life, and claimed fighting communism required that human rights and civil liberties take a back seat to national security.

"Today, the US government asserts that danger from the international terrorist conspiracy and their weapons of mass destruction justifies massive surveillance, indefinite detention and even torture. Authorities say we must guard national secrets even more securely to avoid destruction. Today, the issues raised by the Rosenberg case resonate from the Oval Office of the White House to Bradley Manning, who is being tried under the Espionage Act of 1917, as were Ethel and Julius."

