

Mothers' Day Walk for Peace

Sunday, May 11, 2014
7:00am-10:00am

Town Field Park (Fields Corner, Dorchester)

The Mother's Day Walk for Peace began in 1996 for families who had lost their children to violence. On a day that we celebrate mothers and children, the Walk became a place for families and friends to feel support and love with thousands of others who pledge their commitment to peace.

Through the years, it has become a way for thousands of people to financially support the work of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute.



To register, visit:

<http://mothersdaywalk4peace.org/register.html>

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*

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Dean Stevens, *President*
Ron Shapiro, *Vice President*
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Mary Ann Cromer, Kevin Devine, Dian Lerman,
Nancy Messom, Susan Mortimer



A Time of Transitions and Rebuilding

by Dean Stevens, CCB President

Dear CCB Members and Friends, as undoubtedly many of you know, we are once again in a moment of leadership transition. The Board of Directors had to struggle with some difficult realities, that in the end left us without an office/publications manager, and then without a Minister/Congregational Director. We hope you will engage the Board members in conversation and questions, to be able to fully process the events of '13-'14, and be able to learn and act positively as we strive to toward a more dynamic and radical thinking community.

We are in a moment of crisis, but also, we believe, a moment of enormous opportunity. A clean slate, if you will, is before us.

As the summer approaches, our Personnel Committee will be forming search committees, to find replacements for Mark and Linda. We thank them both for the years of service they each performed for our congregation. And we will be embarking on a full and thorough search for their replacements. Meanwhile, we have an amazing set of programs ahead of us to finish out the season, and some fine musicians to delight and inspire us.

We will be visited in Mid-month by State Department whistle blower and author Peter Van Buren, who will receive our Annual Sacco and Vanzetti Award on Sunday, May 18, on behalf of the brave whistleblowers that we celebrate on this occasion. We will also welcome Peter for a reading from his new book, "The Ghost of Tom Joad", on Friday, May 16, at 7:30PM. And while I'm at it, I can't help but point out our visit on May 3 from longtime member and ally David Rothausser, who will talk about and show us his new film, "Hibakusha, Our Life to Live". And on May 25 we have a special Poetry Sunday with

radical poet Richard Cambridge, reading from his novel-in-progress, "1970", an alternate history of that year in which a band of activists led by the Black Panthers bring revolution to the U.S.

We hope you can also join us on Monday May 19, at 7PM, when we will have a conversation with representatives from the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our association and affiliation with the UUA goes back to our founding by Rev. Clarence Skinner, a Universalist minister and Dean of the Tufts University School of Religion. We have always proudly called ourselves non-sectarian and non-creedal. We have had our differences with the UUA, but in the end we have associated with the UUA in many ways, have had several UU ministers both permanent and interim, and have relied on the UUA for guidelines on congregational formation and nurture, and for guidance on leadership and governance. Join us as we welcome the Mass Bay UUA District's Rev. John Millsbaugh, and two other UUA folks called "Transition Partners" designated to point us in a strong direction during these interesting and hopeful CCB times.

Last but in no way least, is our Annual Membership and Fiscal Meeting on Sunday June 1, 11AM. We will, all in one day, adopt a budget for our upcoming year, and elect several new Board members. The fiscal meeting, presided by our Interim Treasurer Betsy Rueda Gynn, will be at 11AM, followed by a sumptuous lunch, followed by our Annual Membership Meeting in the afternoon. It's a key moment for the future of our church, to hear progress reports from various committees, and to envision a future for dear old CCB.



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COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON

Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

May 4th

DAVID ROTHAUER

"Hibakusha: Our Life To Live"

May 11th

RON ELBERT

"Socialism as a Practical Alternative"

May 18th

Sacco-Vanzetti Award for Social Justice

PETER VAN BUREN

"Honoring The Whistle Blowers"

May 25th

RICHARD CAMBRIDGE

"Poetry Sunday"

Annual CCB Financial & Membership Meetings

Sunday, June 1, 2014

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!

Minutes of CCB Board Meeting

Monday April 28, 2014

Various Concerns: A proposed motion to appoint Betsy Gynn to replace Virginia Pratt as CCB's Treasurer (interim) was passed unanimously by the board.

The Board passed, by unanimous vote, a proposal to renew the existing tenant leases for another year.

The annual overage check was received from the restaurant, in excess of the 2013 amount.

A discussion was held on where to store the CCB archives.

Building Concerns: The Board voted to allocate \$1200 for electrical work, concerning the relocation of sprinkler system sensors in the Cave.

Prism Energy Services, a non-profit that works with the utility companies, made proposals to 1) upgrade the track lighting in the Auditorium from incandescent to LED bulbs, and to improve the lighting fixtures on the upper office floors. The Board unanimously approved to spend \$1057 on these energy efficiency measures, which will pay for themselves in less than two years. The utility pays for 70% of the cost of these improvements.

A \$2000 request for the the Prison Membership Committee will be postponed/tabled, pending further information.

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk



"Boston Massacre" by Darrell Ann Gane-McCalla is part of the **Boston Strong?** art exhibit that focuses on the attention given to the marathon bombings, in relation to inner-city murders in Boston.

Community Church of Boston presents:

An Evening with Peter Van Buren: Ghosts of Tom Joad in Today's Great Recession

Friday, May 16, 7:30pm

Music, Refreshments & Adult Beverages Served!

Suggested Donation: \$10 (sliding scale)

Mr. Van Buren, who spent more than two decades working as a foreign-service officer in the U.S. State Department, is a prolific author, as well as co-producer of the new documentary, "Silenced." He will lead a lively discussion of his most recent book, *Ghosts of Tom Joad: A Story of the #99Percent*, an exploration of the causes and effects of ever-deepening economic inequality in America and how average people are getting by in today's downsized, outsourced, and minimum-wage economy.

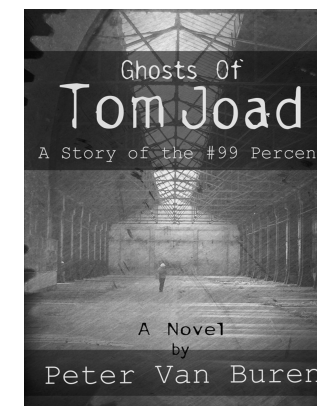
Tom Joad was the central character of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, the Depression-era classic, published 75 years ago this month. Many of the economic hardships faced by the fictional Joad family then--increased mechanization of work, home foreclosures, soup kitchens, joblessness--are similar to those faced by "the 99 percent" today and explored in Peter's book.

Ghosts tells the story of radical changes in the American "way of life" through the experiences of a single family, living in a town whose factory has closed. It is based in fact, but told through fiction. (Similarly, *Grapes* told the story of the fictional Joad family, forced to move from what had been a thriving

farming area and to seek jobs, dignity, and hope elsewhere).

Mr. Van Buren will also be accepting CCB's 2014 Sacco-Vanzetti Award for Social Justice on Sunday, May 18, as a whistleblower himself and on behalf of all whistleblowers. His last book, *We Meant Well: How I Helped Lose the Battle for the Hearts and Minds of the Iraqi People*, is an honest examination of often-misguided U.S. "reconstruction" priorities and efforts in post-war Iraq. That book brought him a Kirkus Reviews Best Nonfiction award; but it also drew the attention and ire of the State Department, and of an administration with an unprecedented record of prosecuting whistleblowers, instead of rewarding them for telling the truth. Falsely charged with revealing classified information without government authorization via *We Meant Well*, Peter became entrapped in a long legal battle that ultimately cost him his government career, fortunately, not his freedom.

Copies of *Ghosts of Tom Joad* will be available for sale and for signing during both of these events with Peter Van Buren.



Boston Strong? Art Exhibition

During the second half of April, local artists Darrell Ann Gane-McCalla, Shea Justice, Jason Pramas had a pop-art exhibition on display at the Community Church of Boston entitled *Boston Strong?*

The purpose of the show was to spark public discussion and debate about the meaning of the popular "Boston Strong" slogan, and bring light to the disparity between media coverage of the victims of last year's tragic Boston Marathon bombing (many of

whom are white and live outside Boston) and media coverage of the victims of ongoing criminal assaults around Boston -- many of whom are people of color and live in the city.

The exhibition was a great success and artists are looking to take this show to other venues. For more information:

<http://www.questionbostonstrong.com>