

Please submit information you'd like to be included!

2014-2015 CCB Membership Directory

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email: _____

Member _____ Non-Member _____ (mailing list only)

Comments: _____

Submit to CCB, 565 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116
or by phone at 617-266-6710 (Tuesdays or Thursdays)
or email commchurch@gmail.com

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.

Board of Directors

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

Dick Crowley, Lee Fich, Dian Lerman,
John Mannheim, Susan Mortimer

Staff

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



Thinking About Membership

by Dean Stevens, CCB President

Dear CCB Members and Friends, what does it mean to be a member of Community Church? According to our by-laws, anyone who has signed the Membership Book is a member. There are no qualifications to this: if you moved away twenty years ago, if you simply signed the book but did not give your contact information, if you are dead, or even if you are present in Boston but haven't attended an event in years, in all of these scenarios, you're a full fledged member, with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto.

There are historic reasons for the fuzzy definition of membership at CCB. In early red scare days, and on into the Cold War and the Fifties of Joseph McCarthy and the HUAC, people in left circles and sympathetic with dissenting causes were reluctant to be on membership lists, and with good reason. Willard Uphaus, our 1980 Sacco/Vanzetti recipient, went to jail in New Hampshire for refusing to divulge the membership list of World Fellowship Center, one of our kindred organizations, to the authorities. People were justifiably worried about being on lists, and being investigated. And this certainly has parallels today, what with the NSA, rampant surveillance, etc.

During our recent crisis, the issue of membership came to the fore. The definition of membership, and the need for a % quorum to convene a meeting, do business, pass a budget, take a vote, made for deep divisions in our ranks, and showed us the glaring need to better define membership in our by-laws. This Board of Directors, and its newly forming By-Laws Committee, is working to arrive at a new definition of membership, that will better reflect who we are, and that will allow us to do business in a more transparent way.

We think our first task is to truly get a grasp on who our members are. There are some folks on our Membership Directory who we have never met, others who have moved away, and some who still support the church and its mission, but from afar, with donations/dues, but do not attend our events. There is a lot of interest in devising two categories of membership. Something like: full membership vs. supporting membership. A full member could be one with rights to vote, pass budgets, serve on boards, who might be expected to attend two or three services a year, and/or contribute a symbolic amount to our efforts. This is all still in formative stage. We'd like to hear your voice about this initiative.

Meanwhile, our first task is to revise our Membership Directory. We have included a questionnaire [on the back page], to compile the information for this year's Membership Directory. If you are a member, we'd like to know how you'd like to be listed, and what contact information to include or not include.

We are also looking to enhance and improve the impact of our Newsletter. We will slowly be moving toward electronic broadcasting of information and publicity. We spend many thousands printing and sending a newsletter which goes out to several hundred people every month. We are starting to send out the newsletter in pdf format online. We will soon go to an email marketing format as well. If you think that you could dispense with receiving the paper version in the mail, let us know.

Membership is just one of the matters we will be tackling in upcoming months, as we move to improve and upgrade our by-laws to reflect who we are and how we choose to govern ourselves. Let your voice be heard about this, and other CCB issues.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL

www.communitychurchofboston.org
email: commchurch@gmail.com
telephone: (617) 266-6710

Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116



**ANNUAL HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI
DAY COMMEMORATION
Sunday, August 3rd, 10am**

The Community Church of Boston will hold our annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration on George's Island. People wishing to attend should gather together at the Long Wharf North Pier (next to Columbus Park).

Everyone is encouraged to bring food to share and other picnic related things. We will have a short service together while we eat and share time with one another, living for a world free of nuclear weapons! For more info: (781) 891-0401

Ferry Tickets are: Adult: \$14 ; Senior (65+): \$10
Child (ages 3-11): \$8 ; Children under 3 yrs: Free!

www.bostonharborislands.com

**Annual CCB Financial &
Membership Meetings**

The joint Financial and Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, June 1, 2014 with twenty-six (26) members present, constituting a quorum. Following are highlights of the meeting:

The treasurer read and discussed a detailed report of the 2014 Preliminary Budget which was later approved by a near unanimous vote of the congregation.

After a brief lunch break, the annual meeting began with nominations for the board of officers and directors for 2014-2015, and for next year's nominating committee. The following members were elected to their respective positions:

President: Dean Stevens, Vice President: Ron Shapiro, Treasurer: Betsy Gynn, Clerk: Dick Keshishian; **Directors-at-Large:** Dick Crowley, Lee Fich, Dian Lerman, John Mannheim; **Nominating Committee:** Nancy Messom, Greg Brown, Albert Puella

Oral reports were presented by officers and other chairs of Church committees. Written reports will be presented to CCB members in booklet form at a later date.

A committee is in the process of being formed to undertake a code of conduct & disruptive behavior policy as regards the Church.

**Minutes of
CCB Board Meeting**

June 10, 2014

Personnel Concerns: The CCB website has received about ten resumes, which will be reviewed for the purposes of determining the eligibility of those individuals regarding the position of office manager by way of personal interviews.

Various Concerns: The board suggested the formation of a search committee to select, fairly promptly, an interim minister for a term of one to two years. The president will be in touch with the Unitarian-Universalist Association (UUA) to continue this process.

The Program Committee will meet soon to discuss Sunday programs for the upcoming fall season. The candidates for the Sacco-Vanzetti Award will also be on the agenda.

The allocation of funding for the Prison Committee will be handled by the Church office.

A proposal to allow congregants to bring their dogs to Sunday programs passed by a vote of six to one, with one board member voting present.

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

Announcements

**Sacco & Vanzetti Commemoration Society
Seeking Support!**

Since 2007, the Sacco & Vanzetti Commemoration Society has secured an annual proclamation by the City of Boston designating August 23rd as "Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Day". We are asking people to save the date. We will gather at 2pm in front of the Boston Common Visitor Center and march to the Paul Revere Mall in the North End, as we have done for many years. Please consider endorsing and supporting the event and organizing for the event as an individual or as an organization. Email: info@saccoandvanzetti.org

Annual CCB Summer Picnic!

This year's annual CCB picnic will take place at the home of Dean Stevens and Jennifer Johnston, on Sunday, August 24th at 3pm. Please call (617) 869-3014, or email dean@deanstevens.com to RSVP.

Remembering Julia Mitchell

(May 12, 1915 – July 3, 2014)

by Virginia Pratt

Julia was always quick with a smile. Her eyes lit up as she greeted you with: "Hi, Hi" and reached out her hand. She deeply appreciated conversation, visits, and companionship, as well as talking about current events, controversial issues and church news.

Julia was very proud of her membership with the Community Church of Boston. She came to the church as a delegate from the NAACP in 1957 or 1959. Julia credited Community Church with broadening her thinking and her break with her Catholic upbringing. Julia said that after coming to Community Church she would not long accept biblical beliefs in an unquestioned way. Julia idolized Cynthia Foster and sometimes compared herself to Cynthia. They both lived to be close to 100 years old. Julia, like Cynthia, was quick to say that war was an outmoded way of doing things. Instead, the nations and their peoples needed to work together. Julia promoted racial, ethnic, class, and cultural diversity. She insisted that isolation was not the solution.

Fiercely independent, when offered help Julia typically responded: "I think it is best to do for oneself."

Julia took the MTBA up into her 90s. Julia liked doing her own shopping, especially at Whole Foods. Julia insisted on organic foods and the values of good nutrition. She welcomed modern medicine with the exception of flu vaccines. Julia's choices were very deliberate.

As her mobility decreased, she found her corresponding lack of independence frustrating and depressing. She hated being in a nursing home. Even when she was wheelchair and bedbound, Julia dreamed of going home. Julia was very critical of the food at Sherrill house – she would sputter "No taste to It" and worse, "having nothing to look forward to." Her last year was very difficult, "No fun to be old". Julia felt defeated when she learned that she would no longer walk again. Let's hope that she feels free now and that she was joined her friends and compatriots Cynthia Foster, John O'Brien, Marty Lerman, Able Cohen, and William Worthy.

A memorial service will be held for Julia at Calvary Church International Ministries (21 Parish St, Dorchester) on Friday, July 18th, 11:30am.

Abe Cohen: A Life in Struggle

We are sad to announce the passing of CCB member and life-long advocate for social justice, Abraham Cohen. Abe was born in Malden, Sept. 22, 1916, eldest son of the late Hyman and Fannie Cohen, and later brother to William. Like his parents, he was a lifelong socialist and a fighter for peace, justice and equality for all people. One of his first political actions as a young boy was passing out leaflets in protest of the coming execution of Sacco and Vanzetti.

During the 1950s, he and Madeline suffered constant harassment from the FBI because of their progressive political beliefs. In 1956, he was called before the Massachusetts Commission on Un-American Activity with which he refused to cooperate. Years later, he received a citation from the city of Quincy honoring his commitment to justice and his refusal to bow to political pressure.

In the 1980s, he and Madeline and many others worked to overcome racial discrimination in housing in the city of Quincy. Their suit against the city helped

pave the way to open public housing in Quincy to minorities. During his life, he was also president of the Jewish Community Center and was active with the Community Action Program in Quincy and was a founder with Madeline of the South Shore Coalition for Human Rights.

Abe Cohen will be greatly missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire the generations that follow and remember him. When I passed the news on to Lane, he gasped, in sadness and shock, and then began telling his favorite stories about Abe's way with words, his principles, his wit and his courage.

SAVE THE DATE! An evening with Roy Zimmerman Sunday, September 21st: First Parish Jamaica Plain <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/750072> (Roy will also sing at Community Church of Boston that Sunday morning!!!)