

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

# sunday forums

**April 2009**  
**Sundays at 11:00a.m.**

**April 5th -- RISING TIDE BOSTON**

**"Mobilizing for Climate Justice"**

December 7-18, 2009 is the United Nation's 15th Round of Climate talks know as COP 15. No one knows what COP 15 is, just like no one knew what the WTO was before Seattle. Because the talk falls near the 10th anniversary of the WTO Shutdown in Seattle it seems a great moment to honor by rebuilding a grassroots nonviolent direct action movement that can influence the Obama Administration prior to COP 15.

Rising Tide Boston is a local climate justice group that uses popular education and direct action to address the climate crisis, not just as an issue of carbon in the atmosphere, but as a symptom of colonialism, capitalism, patriarchy, and other systems of oppression.

**April 12th -- JASON LYDON**

**"Another Easter Story: Resisting Collaboration with Empire"**

In the Christian tradition, Good Friday often presents itself as an anti-Jewish celebration blaming "the Jews" for the crucifixion of Jesus. Verses from the Book of John are taken out of context and spewed like hatred into religious services. We will re-read the Biblical story, challenge the anti-Jewish language, and hold those who collaborate with empire accountable for their choices.

Jason Lydon is our Congregational Director.

**April 19th -- LEE FICH**

**"Annual Liberation Seder"**

In celebration and honor of Passover we will gather for our annual Liberation Seder. This is the time when we remember the Jewish story of resistance and come together as a community to celebrate the timeless story of overcoming injustice and choosing to remember the connection to all struggles for liberation. Please remember to bring a potluck dish to share. Dean Stevens will lead us in song through the story telling together. This is an especially good Sunday to bring friends and family!

Lee Fich is a long time friend of the church who has led the Passover Seder for many years now.

**April 26th -- International Workers' Day (part 1)**

**ANTHONY ZUBA**

**"Fighting for the Employee Free Choice Act"**

Anthony Zuba, lead organizer of the Mass Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, comes to the job with a background in theology. Founded in 1996, Interfaith Worker Justice educates, organizes & mobilizes the religious community nationally on issues and campaigns to improve wages, benefits & working conditions for all low-wage workers.

Zuba considers the Employee Free Choice Act one of the most important civil rights bills of our time. It would ensure that when a majority of employees in a workplace decide to form a union, they could do so without the harassment, intimidation, illegal firings & other tactics employers now use to prevent workers' free choice. Both our faith-based and secular civic traditions affirm the right of workers to form and join unions. However, corporations have launched a massive, well-funded but undemocratic campaign to fight the Act and the unionization efforts it would surely spark.

**COMMUNITY**  
CHURCH OF BOSTON

**Jason Lydon, Congregational Director**

**Community Church of Boston \* 565 Boylston Street, Boston MA (in Copley Square)**  
**tel. (617) 266-6710 \* fax (617) 266-0449 \* [www.commchurch.org](http://www.commchurch.org)**

Park at the Back Bay Garage for \$3 on Sunday until 1:30 with a special sticker 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

April 2010

# news

## Thinking About Tax Resistance...

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Dear friends and members... After everyone is done bailing out their basements and patching leaks from their roofs I hope we will finally usher in the warmth and beauty of spring. So much for March going out like a lamb! If anyone out there believes in deities that control the weather it would be with great appreciation for you to ask them to give pause to the rain, I know there are many bicycles in need or riding and outdoor lunch gatherings to be planned.

April brings a deadline that we are all very well aware of, April 15th, tax day! The constant cultural reminder that there are only two guarantees in life, death and taxes, is particularly ironic as the taxes paid to the US government managed to be spent on killing so many people around the world. This time of year makes me think of Cynthia Foster, one of our long-time cherished members who was a war tax resister for decades. Cynthia, collaborating with many others around the country, looked into her heart and knew that she was not willing to use her money to help fund the United States military or the cause of U.S. imperialism in any of its manifestations. Cynthia, like other tax resisters, was committed to the forward movement of peace and the action of paying her taxes directly contradicted the rest of the ways she tried to live her life.

Each year as tax season approaches I find myself scrambling in many different directions. On the one side I am trying to figure out who I can convince to fill my taxes out for me and get the most money possible back from the government. On the other side I wonder why I continue to fill out the forms that simply put more money and legitimacy into the evil that is our tax system. As a person of faith, as a Unitarian Universalist committed to revolutionary change, I

fear what happens to my wholeness when I knowingly contribute to a system that is actively causing pain around the world. I appreciate the medical professional pledge of, "do no harm," a charge we would all do well to adopt. When I pay my taxes I feel like I am directly responsible for funding harm.

Certainly choosing not to pay my taxes is not enough, there is a movement to be built. But I ask the question, we all carry contradictions as human beings functioning in the world, it is inevitable, so how do we draw our individual or collective lines in the sand of what is living authentically true to our values? What contradictions can we live with and what contradictions must we resist? I love famous people, I can't get enough of People magazine, yet I oppose the capitalistic patriarchal white supremacist system that establishes rules for fame. That is a contradiction I am willing to live with. I am not sure paying even a dollar into the funding of drones that drop bombs on Pakistanis or the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land is a contradiction I can continue living with. The memory of Cynthia Foster and the work of war tax resisters today inspire me.

One of the critiques of tax resistance is that resisters are taking money from the social programs that we do support. However, as we pass health care reform that refuses to support an individual's right to have an abortion and have welfare systems that force people to choose between paying for food or the heat, I am not so sure money to the government is actually supporting authentic social programs. All the tax resisters I have known give away a giant percentage of their income to organizations and people doing the work we need in the world. So as tax day comes let us all take the time to consider the actions we are taking and struggle with our contradictions.

# COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



## Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium  
Sundays at 11:00am

**April 4th**

*Easter Sunday*

**JASON LYDON**

**“Did The Resurrection Turn Jesus Gay?”**

**April 11th**

**MARY ZEPERNICK**

**“Legalize Democracy”**

**April 18th**

**ELIZABETH SAUNDERS**

**“Protecting Ourselves from Toxic  
Chemicals in Our Everyday Lives”**

**April 25th**

**UNITE-HERE**

**“Hotel Workers Rising -  
Standing with the Hyatt 100”**

## CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on February 17, 2010*

*Following are highlights of the meeting.*

The following board members were present: David Broeg, Kevin Devine, Dick Keshishian, Jason Lydon, Nancy Messom, Matt Osborn, Virginia Pratt. Guest included: Jim Casteris

**Congregational Director's Concerns:** Two new members have signed the membership book, along with six individuals who have joined under the prisoner membership program.

Volunteers are needed as delegates to the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Urban Ministry Conference to take place at the beginning of May. More details to follow.

The congregational director's ordination service is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 19, 2010 at CCB. A committee consisting of David Broeg, Mary Ann Cromer, Kevin Devine and John Mannheim has been formed to help prepare for the event. A budget for this event will be discussed at a later date.

The Radical Reference Collection has begun to examine the CCB archives which will eventually be transferred to Harvard University for safe keeping.

Susan Mortimer and Matt Osborn will attend a Safe Congregation Meeting conference sponsored by the UU Massachusetts Bay District for the purpose of making congregations safer against various types of abuses.

**Financial Matters:** The Church is, at present, operating on a budget developed earlier during the fiscal year with the understanding that it may be amended by a vote of the congregation at a later date.

**Building Concerns:** The board proposed physical changes to the CCB building to comply with code and fire department requirements, including making the third floor toilet a handicapped facility.

**Various Concerns:** Matt Osborn will be leading a four-week workshop -- Anti-Racist Workshop for White People, which will be open to CCB members and to the broad community. Some topics may be African-American and Latino/a related.

The Church is preparing for the commemoration of its 90th anniversary. Jason suggested creating a CD with Dean Stevens for the event. Former pastor Bill Alberts, David Olson, Phil Zwerling and Jack Mendelsohn will be invited to attend as special guests.

A couple of board members cited several recognized individuals who had spoken from the CCB pulpit over the span of many years. They include: Howard Zinn, Noam Chomsky, Carl & Ann Braden, Scott Nearing, Frank Donner, Frederick Schumann, Edward Asner, Benigno Aquino, Dennis Brutus, Michael Meeropol, William Kunstler, and judges Margaret Burnham and Nancy Gertner. Too numerous to mention are the names of the Sacco-Vanzetti Award recipients since 1976.

The board on behalf of the CCB congregation extends its sincere condolences to Dick Crowley on the recent passing of his father.

*The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Thursday, April 15th, 2010 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.*



-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

# FREE TAREK! Benefit Concert and CD Release!

Food, Raffle & Live Music to support TAREK MEHANNA and all political prisoners!

SATURDAY, APRIL 24th  
6:00pm @ Spontaneous Celebrations  
45 Danforth Street, Jamaica Plain, MA

\$10 - 30 sliding scale suggested donation. Any donation over \$15 gets you a FREE CD with entrance! All Ages! Wheelchair Accessible. No alcohol, please.

Featuring performances in support of Tarek by 8 artists featured on the CD!

NATURAL BLISS (Boston's pre-eminent female emcee, gritty hip-hop to reckon with)

BROADCAST LIVE (NY-based radical hip hop and spoken word for liberation.)

SPIRITCHILD (freedom singer of the South Bronx, hip hop for cultural revolution then evolution)

SISTAH MIA (community activist from the Bronx, revolutionizing youth through hip hop)

L.O.S.T. (young emcee from New York with a raw, complex flow and a powerful message)

STEPHANIE ROOKER (soul-shaking & alluring music for empowerment & social change)

MAJESTY (hardcore progressive hip-hop artist using his gift for the upliftment of the people)

ABU NURAH (revolutionary Muslim emcee from Worcester)

Tarek Mehanna is a young Muslim man from the Boston area who was recently arrested by the FBI after refusing to be an informant against the Muslim community.



Join us to celebrate the release of the Free Tarek! Compilation CD, an educational fundraising project to help free our brother Tarek. The CD consists of more than 30 artists who have donated their music to raise awareness about FBI repression and related struggles against racism and oppression. The CD has plenty of brand new material recorded specifically in support of Tarek, and features a musically diverse array of movement artists like Rebel Diaz, Climbing Poetree, Hasan Salaam, Sabreena Da Witch, Evan Greer, and Taina Asili. CDs are \$10 - 25 sliding scale and will be available online as well as at the show!

For more information about Tarek's Case and what you can do to help: [www.freetarek.com](http://www.freetarek.com)

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## New Church Members

We welcome new members to the Community Church of Boston! The membership of the church is what makes our mission and purpose in the world possible. We are a growing community and need to celebrate all those who make commitments to the furthering of justice in the world.

("Free World")

Travis Reed Miller, Mahsa Yazdy

(Prisoner)

Ralph Hamm III, James Cyr, Joseph Dockam,  
Stephen Metcalf & Peter Chongarlides

## CCB Fiscal Meeting

March 28, 2010

The meeting was chaired by the treasurer Virginia Pratt. The CCB budget as mailed out to the membership was discussed in detail. Feedback and reflections were offered by those present. Clarification of the issues was provided by the treasurer and the congregational director. After lengthy discussion the budget passed by a vote of 19-0 with one abstention.

Many thanks to the Finance Committee, especially to Virginia Pratt and Betsy Rueda Gynn for their invaluable assistance in formulating the 2010 budget.

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

# This Land Is Our Land: The Struggle for Parcel C in Boston's Chinatown

Friday, April 16, 5-8pm  
One Nassau Street, Unit 2, Boston



After decades of urban renewal and institutional expansion, the Chinatown community was pushed too far when Tufts New England Medical Center, the BRA, and the city of Boston wanted to build a 450-car garage in the middle of its historic community on a piece of land called Parcel C.

The struggle for Parcel C represents Chinatown's ability to rally across the boundaries of power, race and class to preserve its community in the face of increased incursion by the city of Boston and other large institutions. The exhibit commemorates this historic event through the lens of community mobilization, demonstrating how the spirit of resistance that in many ways has defined this country, is still alive today.

For more information, contact Thomas Chen at 781-475-9493 or e-mail: [wgallery@gmail.com](mailto:wgallery@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.

## Staff

Jason Lydon, *Congregational Director*

Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*

Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*

Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*

Jim Casteris, *Building Superintendent*

Rodney Burston, *Building Maintenance*

## Board of Directors

John MacLeod, *President*

David Broeg, *Vice President*

Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*

Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

Kevin Devine, Nancy Messom, Susan Mortimer,  
Matt Osborn, Leonard Shames



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