

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

June 2010

Sundays at 11:00a.m.

June 6th -- BOSTON WORKERS ALLIANCE

"Successes and Compromises in the Struggle to Reform CORI"

After years of organizing and community efforts the CORI reform bill has made another big step and passed the house. There is great joy and apprehension about the bill. There are successes such as banning the box that asks about convictions on applications and there are setbacks such as no sentencing reform and still too long to seal records. We will discuss the process and next steps of CORI reform and reflect on the double edged sword of legislative action.

The Boston Workers Alliance is a member run organization that works with people impacted by CORI and other unemployed workers.

June 13th -- JASON LYDON

"Abolishing the Prison Industrial Complex: A Theological Perspective"

Clarence Russell Skinner, one of the founders of Community Church of Boston, wrote, "All great social problems involve theological conceptions. We may divorce church from state, but we cannot separate the idea of [the divine] from the political life of the people." Our movements all have theological roots and realities, the movement to abolish the prison industrial complex still needs a more comprehensive theological analysis. Last year we discussed the theology behind the incarceration system, this year we will discuss the theology needed to back up the movement to abolish this system.

Jason Lydon is the Congregational Director, and soon to be ordained minister, of the Community Church of Boston. He recently graduated from divinity school where he focused on abolition theology, queer liberation, and anti-racist/anti-imperialist/eco-feminist theological perspectives.

June 20th -- Annual Julius & Ethel Rosenberg Commemoration

THROUGH BARBED WIRE

"Remembering the Rosenbergs: Words from Behind the Walls"

Hearing the words of prisoners and getting the voices of those incarcerated out to the community is vital for prisoner movement to succeed. As part of our annual Rosenberg commemoration we will read poetry, stories and other writings from prisoners. Everyone is invited to bring writings from prisoners that they would like to share. We will also be reading excerpts from the letters between Ethel and Julius Rosenberg during their incarceration.

Through Barbed Wire was founded by Arnie King, a dedicated prison and community activist incarcerated in the Bay State Center in Norfolk, MA. The group meets at the Community Church of Boston on the fourth Friday of each month to share poetry, films, readings, and discussions.

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.communitychurchofboston.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

June 2010

news

Building Networks, Connecting Struggles

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Dear friends and members... I am writing my letter to you all this month from San Francisco. It has been overwhelming to be here as the Senate Budget in Massachusetts includes vicious anti-immigrant policies and liberal supported prisoner fees policies that can charge prisoners up to \$5 a day for their incarceration as well as their basic necessities. It has been challenging to be here as Israel struck out at the humanitarian aid boat and killed around a dozen people, wounding dozens more. While San Francisco and the entire Bay Area has large organizing efforts, I have missed the love and comfort of my community in Boston. Rallying with the people out here is moving and exciting and it reminds me of the great importance of relationships and loving care that we must have among us as we build and strengthen our organizing for justice. It is a joyous time to be out and having fun in the Bay area and it is a wonderful reminder of how much I love serving the Community Church of Boston and feel blessed to have such an incredible network of justice seekers in the Greater Boston area.

Today, in Los Angeles, the trial for former BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit - equivalent to the MBTA) police officer Johannes Mehserle begins. On New Years Eve of 2009 Mehserle murdered Oscar Grant as he was being restrained by other police officers face down on the ground. Mehserle shot Oscar Grant in the back, a video of which made it onto the web and went viral in hours. The Bay Area is in great anticipation as this trial starts and communities wonder if justice will be served and what that even looks like from such a corrupt and violent system like the U.S. courts.

This trial comes at a time just weeks after Detroit police murdered Aiyana Stanley Jones, a 7-year-old

sleeping little girl. Again, this brutal murder was videoed, this time by the television show 48-Hours. In Boston, just a couple of months ago, police killed Manuel "Junior" DaVeiga, shooting at him multiple times before killing him in the street. Who will bring justice to any of these cases? Who will organize to stop the police from killing people and carrying guns onto our streets and intimidating people that we love and care about? As the Sweet Honey in the Rock song ask us, "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

June is Pride month. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer people with our allies will be marching through the streets remembering the legacy of Stonewall and the fight for justice in our communities. As we celebrate in this pride and march along the streets we must do so while remembering these deaths and these losses. The police will line the streets of Boston Pride. The Gay police organization may even march in the parade. They will do so as if we immediately forgot the violence the police represent and bring upon so many of our comrades and loved ones. If we do not connect all of the struggles for justice then we will not ever find ourselves on the winning side of justice.

Drawing the connections between our campaigns is vital. The role of the police is often a lynch pin in the oppression of people and movements. The recent law in Arizona gives police the right, responsibility even, to racially profile people. These murders of people around the country by police gives them justification to kill young people of color at will. Israel uses the same language of "protecting and serving" that police use to excuse their violence. Let us continue to organize because now is always the time for love and justice!

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium
Sundays at 11:00am

*Educating Against the
Prison Industrial Complex*

June 6th
BOSTON WORKERS ALLIANCE
**“Successes and Compromises in the
Struggle to Reform CORI”**

June 13th
JASON LYDON
“A Theology for Abolition”

June 20th
*Annual Julius & Ethel Rosenberg
Commemoration*
THROUGH BARBED WIRE
**“Remembering the Rosenbergs:
Words from Behind the Walls”**

Annual Meeting of the Community Church of Boston

The Annual Meeting of the Community Church of Boston to take place at the Community Church Center at 1:00pm on Sunday, June 13th. The purpose of this meeting is to receive reports from the the Church officers and committees; elect new officers and directors; elect a nominating committee; and select a 2010 recipient for the Sacco & Vanzetti Award for Social Justice.

It is hoped that Church members will make every effort to be present at this important meeting since a quorum of 18 members is required to call the meeting to order. Moreover, it is essential that every member participate in the discussion and decision-making process as fully as possible.

CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on May 25, 2010
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

Congregational Director’s Concerns: Several members and friends of the Church participated in demonstrations at the State House to protest a possible fee of five dollars per day to be levied on each prisoner for room and board. Others took part to protest the Arizona anti-immigrant law due to be enacted on July 29, 2010. There was also a rally in Methuen in support of the Shaw’s Market warehouse workers who have been on strike since March.

The committee for the congregational director’s ordination on September 19, 2010 will meet on either June 7, 8, or 10 to make preparations for the event. Invitations must be in the mail during that week.

Financial Matters: The Church is concerned about over-spending on building supplies. An overage check was received from the first floor restaurant which was less than anticipated. More fundraising is necessary in the long run. The amounts in the PAX funds have slightly increased due to a temporary improvement in the financial markets.

Building Concerns: Approval for the building improvements should be issued hopefully by the third week of June. The city will approve the Church’s proposal after a completion of the drawings of the sprinkler system.

Various Concerns: The board adhered to a request by Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom for a three-month lease instead of one for twelve months until the building repairs have been completed.



The annual Gay Pride parade will take place on Saturday, June 12, with the theme “from riots to rights”.

Nominations: The following names have been submitted as nominees to serve as members of the Board of Officers and Directors for the ensuing terms: David Broeg, president (2012); Mary Ann Cromer, vice president (2012); Virginia Pratt, treasurer (no term limit); Dick Keshishian, clerk (no term limit); Jim Casteris (2013); Kevin Devine (2011); Nancy Messom (2011); Susan Mortimer (2012); Matt Osborn (2011).

Please be advised that additional nominations from the floor are accepted during the annual meeting.

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

Benefit Concert for the Community Church!

Saturday, June 12th, 6:00pm
at the Community Church of Boston

FREE FOOD! RAFFLE! FUN FOR EVERYONE.

6:00pm -- FOOD and MUSIC
10:00pm -- DANCE PARTY

Benefit show for the Community Church of Boston, which was recently damaged by a flood. Plus a Birthday Celebration for the one and only Laila Murad!

Bring \$1 bills and cash for the SOLIDARITY AUCTION!

Featuring a huge lineup of live, revolutionary performances by:

SABREENA DA WITCH (amazing Palestinian emcee and singer, as seen in the film Slingshot Hip-Hop)

NATURAL BLISS (Boston's preeminent female MC, gritty hip hop to be reckoned with)

BROADCAST LIVE (boston's favorite NY-based radical hip-hop / rock band)

spiritchild (revolutionary hip-hop from the South Bronx)

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

EVAN GREER & FRIENDS (riot-folk! with a full band of friends including Sohrob Kazerounian on violin, Lauren Kenneally on banjo/melodica, members of Broadcast Live, and more!)

MARTA RODRIGUEZ & MYRIAM ORTIZ (puerta rican independistas and revolutionary singers)

PLUS MANY MORE SPECIAL SURPRISES!!!

Free on-site childcare available at request. Email: evan-greer@gmail.com to reserve a spot for your kid(s).

Victory Report! CORI REFORM Passes!

CORI Reform was passed in the House with a vote of 139 to 17! The victory was a critical milestone, bringing us a major step closer to the adoption of CORI reform into law. The vote now places CORI reform into Conference Committee, where a small group of State Reps and Senators will be responsible for reconciling the House and Senate versions to produce a final bill.

The Conference Committee process could be lengthy, and requires for supporters of the campaign to stay vigilant. The Committee has until the end of July to produce a bill for signing by the Governor. We will press the Committee to release a bill much sooner.

Key to pushing a final bill through Conference is to maintain momentum for CORI reform until it is signed. To that end, we ask our supporters to share your excitement by calling your State Rep today!

For more information visit the Boston Workers Alliance website: <http://bostonworkersalliance.org>

March with Mass Bay District UU's at Pride on June 12!

Marchers will be asked to show up between 11:00 and 11:30 AM at the parade line-up in Boston's South End on June 12th. Instructions about exactly where to meet us are still forthcoming from the Pride Committee.

Those attending the Pride Worship at Arlington Street UU prior to the march are welcome to join us as soon as they can get to us after that service (Arlington Street Pride service begins at 11:00am)

Say No to Arizona's Racist Law! Picket the Diamondbacks Game!

On June 15th from 6:00-7:00pm the Boston New Sanctuary Movement and others will picket outside the Diamondbacks game at Fenway Park!

Everywhere the Diamondbacks play people are showing up to say NO to the racist Arizona law and the owner of the Diamondback's support of the law. Bring your signs, bring your anger, and bring your passion for justice!

2010 US Social Forum

*Another World Is Possible!
Another US is Necessary!*

The USSF will take place June 22-26, 2010 at Cobo Hall and Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit. Other workshops and community art and culture programs will take place across the city. The USSF will convene social movements from across the United States and globally. Organizers are reaching out to young people, people of color, unionists, laid off and unorganized workers, welfare recipients, veterans, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, freedom fighters, collectives, and many others.

The US Social Forum will provide a space to build relationships, learn from each other's experiences, and share analysis of the problems our communities face. It will help develop leadership, vision, and strategy needed to realize another world.

<http://www.ussf2010.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

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



DATED MATERIAL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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