

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

March 2011
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

March 6th -- Marking International Women's Day

RICHARD KORITZ

"Two Brave Working Class Women Tested in a Time of Trial and Tribulation: A Legacy for Our Time"

In the summer of 1955, Sara Sue Koritz and her comrade Mary Walsh Carlson took their four children to the Massachusetts State House to protest to Governor Christian Herter the blacklisting of their husbands which prevented these two men from earning a living for their families. The moral of their story is that their nobility came from their willingness to struggle for justice for themselves and their husbands and families as well as for the oppressed and exploited of the earth. Their lives richly deserve celebration---and emulation.

Richard Koritz, proud son of Sara Sue, is a member of the North Carolina Human Relations Commission, a member of the Board of Directors of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum and an elected member of the State Executive Board of the National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL-CIO).

March 13th -- GRACE ROSS

"Main Street Smarts: Who Got Us Into this Economic Mess and How We Get Through It"

Grace will explore the story of Main Street, what we've experienced and the challenges for reversing the economy for the regular people of Massachusetts. She will explore the need to reengage in a political process that is supposed to be for the people.

Grace Ross brings 25 years of experience working with the grassroots and creating policy change from the municipal all the way up to the national and international political arenas. Among her many campaigns Grace is currently actively involved with Mass. Alliance Against Predatory Lending, fighting to keep people in their homes.

March 20th -- Rev. DOROTHY EMERSON

"Spirit, Money, and Justice"

How does our relationship with money affect us spiritually and emotionally? What does it mean to have a healthy relationship with money? How can we best use money to work for justice?

Rev. Dr. Dorothy May Emerson is a Unitarian Universalist community minister with Rainbow Solutions in Medford, Massachusetts, where she focuses on connecting spirituality, money, and justice; consults with justice-making organizations and is the coordinator of the Margaret Fuller Bicentennial.

March 27th -- JUDITH WOODRUFF

"An Event that Changed America: Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire"

On March 25, 1911, 146 garment workers--mostly young immigrant women--lost their lives in the worst workplace disaster in New York City history (until "9-11"). While discussing the fire and its victims, we will also look at the history of sweatshops, the beginnings of union organizing and the dynamic people who ultimately forced fundamental reforms of working conditions nationally. Finally, we'll briefly consider workplace safety today.

Judith Woodruff is an educator, founder and director of International Arts for Peace, and producer of a video about that venture that was shown on PBS.

COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF BOSTON

Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister

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

March 2011

news

Celebrate Women's History (& Struggles)

by Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister

Happy March! This month is honored as Women's History Month and March 8th marks 102 Annual International Women's Day. This day, celebrating the struggles of women around the world, was first declared by the Socialist Party of America, based in New York, as they were pushing for shorter work hours, better pay, and voting rights for women. In 1911 more than one million women and men attended IWD rallies campaigning for women's rights to work, vote, be trained, to hold public office and end discrimination. However less than a week later on 25 March, the tragic 'Triangle Fire' in New York City took the lives of more than 140 working women, most of them Italian and Jewish immigrants. This disastrous even became a focus of subsequent International Women's Day events. Celebrating the resistance of women is not new and is not over, this is an essential time to honor the strength of women's power!

When we turn our eyes to the global stage we see women's fists raised and feet planted in the fight for liberation. Asmaa Mahfouz, a 26-year-old Egyptian woman is one of the founders of the April 6 Youth Movement. In her own words, that she recorded for the world to see on YouTube, "As long as you say there is no hope, then there will be no hope, but if you go down and take a stance, then there will be hope." While men were constantly in the images of the resistance in Tahrir Square women around the globe collected images of sisters in the streets, and the collections are as plentiful as they are inspiring. According to a New York Times Article, "In one scene... Mariam Soliman, a 28-year-old school counselor, led a group of men and women down a street as they gradually became surrounded by truckloads of riot police officers. Ms. Soliman led the chant. 'Down, down with Mubarak!'... 'At least I'll die defending my rights,' she said. 'I am not a socialist, I am not a liberal, I am not an Islamist. I am an Egyptian woman, a regular woman rejecting injustice and corruption in my country.'" Women's voices and bodies live and breath at every level of the struggle.

Women's lives are under attack in Wisconsin, and they are fighting back in a fight not often seen in the United States. One feminist writer points out that, "About 80 percent of American teachers... are female... Nursing is 95 percent female. Nationwide, the majority of public sector union members, represented by AFSCME and other groups, are women." The fight in Wisconsin is more complex than just workers rights. Misogynistic and patriarchal systems of power are continuing to try to disenfranchise women. The "Budget Repair Bill" would allow Governor Walker to cut provisions to the Medicare program at will, directly targeting the health and well-being of working class, poor, and elder folks in Wisconsin -- a reality that disproportionately impacts the lives of women. However, as the street chant goes, "When women's rights are under attack, what do we do? Stand up! Fight back!" That is exactly what is happening in Wisconsin. It has also been a great joy to see people standing up in solidarity right here in Boston as well.

We are also seeing an unprecedented attack on reproductive rights. The attempts to defund Planned Parenthood on a federal level and the attempts to decriminalize the murder of abortion doctors in North Dakota are just two extreme examples of the larger attacks on abortion. However, as that is happening here in the United States the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in the UK have changed their recommendations to inform women considering abortions that most women do not experience "long-term feelings of guilt, sadness or regret." They have also shared the statistic that having an abortion is generally safer for women considering termination than carrying the baby to full term. While reproductive rights can be under attack here, there are people fighting back all across the globe. The message for March is simple yet deeply powerful, women's lives are rooted in the struggle for liberation throughout history, today, and in the movements of tomorrow.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service &
Speakers Forum

March 6th

Marking International Women's Day

RICHARD KORITZ

**"Two Brave Working Class Women Tested
in a Time of Trial and Tribulation"**

March 13th

GRACE ROSS

**"Main Street Smarts: Who Got Us Into
This Economic Mess and How
We Get Through It"**

March 20th

Rev. DOROTHY EMERSON

"Spirit, Money, and Justice"

March 27th

JUDITH WOODRUFF

**"An Event that Changed America:
Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of
the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire"**

Queer (In)Justice Book Release

A conversation and reading with Joey Mogul and Andrea Ritchie, two of the authors of *Queer (In)Justice: The Criminalization of LGBT People in the United States*.

**Thursday, March 31st at 7:00pm
at the Community Church of Boston**

This book is an essential addition to the queer and trans movements for justice in the United States. This book explores the complexities of race, gender, class, sexuality, and other identities as they intersect with criminalization and state repression.

CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on February 15th, 2011
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

Minister's Report: Since the January congregational meeting, it has been understood that BK Enterprise will complete the CCB building reconstruction. The board has formally proposed that BK track the number of people of color working on site.

The pledge drive is underway; individuals are encouraged to speak to the congregation on why they contribute to the Church. The pledge letter will be mailed during March and one to one sit down meetings will take place with friends and congregants concerning their 2011 pledge.

The 2010 Sacco-Vanzetti Award for Social Justice will be presented to Truth and Justice Radio sometime during spring at CCB.



The minister concluded that the voices of the congregation were needed to end wars and urged solidarity with the peoples of the Middle East in their quest for peace and justice.

Building Concerns: Jim Casteris again voiced concerns about the renovations and presented alternative opinions from an architect about reinforcing the walls to make them fireproof and installing a sprinkler system which he deemed unnecessary and ultimately found to be incorrect in the case of the CCB building. The congregation had approved the continuation of the repairs by BK Enterprise at the February 13, 2011 Fiscal Meeting. A last ditch attempt to negate that vote was declared not valid.

Various Concerns: Matt Osborn has volunteered to design and produce donation slips to use for fundraising purposes for the Church.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

You can now receive CCB's 'Community News' by email. See back cover for details.

The New American Workers Movement and the Confrontation to Come

by Dan La Botz (excerpted from *Against The Current*)

The new American workers movement-born in the last few weeks in the giant protests in Wisconsin and Ohio-faces a fateful confrontation this coming week. In Madison and Columbus, Republican legislators are pushing to abolish public employee labor unions and tens of thousands of workers are protesting and resisting. We have seen nothing like this face off between workers and bosses in the United States since the labor upheaval of the early 1970s, though the issues in the balance are more like those of the 1930s. The very existence of the American labor movement is at stake. The question is: What will it take to win?

What a movement this has become in just a couple of weeks. In the fight to preserve public employees' right to unionize, tens of thousands-as many as 70,000 on one day-have demonstrated in Wisconsin. There they have maintained a permanent occupation of the state capitol building and sustained a mass movement seething around it. In Columbus, Ohio there have been several demonstrations at that state capitol building, one of as large as 10,000 workers. And there are plans for more demonstrations in Columbus to continue the pressure. In Indianapolis where thousands of steelworkers and autoworkers demonstrated and Democrats fled to prevent a vote, the Republicans have agreed to take their "right-to-work" law off the table.

The movement has already exhibited great potential and shown some power. The demonstrations by tens of thousands who have participated in the Midwest supported by thousands in other states have been more than symbolic. This is a mobilization of workers who are also taxpayers and voters, and the Republicans know it and fear it. In Wisconsin, this mobilization has been accompanied by the occupation of the capitol and by what was for a day or two a virtual general strike by teachers in the state.

The tremendous mobilization of tens of thousands of workers which has taken place so far is indeed impressive, but it is not clear that that alone can stop the Republicans and their corporate backers from passing the legislation. Workers have concentrated on the occupation of the capitol, but they also have still untapped

power of numbers in the streets, using civil disobedience to disrupt government and business. Groups of workers prepared to go jail for their rights would raise the level of struggle in Wisconsin and throughout the state.

Workers also have greater power both in the economy and in society which they have not used to the fullest. The strike is a powerful weapon in this struggle. Teachers in Wisconsin have already used it both in Madison and around the state. The South Central Federation of Labor in Wisconsin has raised the idea of a general strike of all unions in the state. To be effective a general strike has to be called before the legislature votes and it has to be organized in such a manner that it both shuts down government and business and simultaneously takes charge of protecting the safety and well-being of the people in Wisconsin.

Around the country, hundreds of thousands of workers are looking to Wisconsin and to Ohio to take the bold steps needed to stop the Republican assault on our rights. We are watching you. We are with you.



February 22nd solidarity rally for Wisconsin public sector workers held in Boston

To read the full article:

<http://www.solidarity-us.org/current/node/3177>

Framing the Innocent: Crimes Under Color of Law at the Massachusetts US Attorney's Office

Thursday, March 24, 7:00pm
Northeastern University School of Law
240 Dockser Hall (65 Forsyth St., Boston)

Speakers: **Chuck Turner**-- Five-term Boston City Councilor representing Roxbury and Dorchester, and a lifetime activist for social justice, recently targeted by the FBI and the Massachusetts US Attorney

Bob Boyle--Attorney representing many activists and political prisoners targeted by the FBI's infamous Counter-Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO)

Laila Murad--Organizer from the Tarek Mehanna Support Committee

Michael Avery--Professor of Law, Suffolk Law School, won a landmark civil suit against the Boston FBI on behalf of four men wrongfully convicted of murder

Sign Up to Receive 'Community e-News'

The Community Church of Boston is making our newsletter available electronically! Would you like to receive this newsletter in email form?



If so, please send your email to:
communitychurchnewsletter@gmail.com

If you would like to continue receiving the paper newsletter we are requesting that you help us off-set costs by contributing \$25 per year for a subscription. Many thanks for your commitment to our congregation. You are important to our continuing work and we look forward to staying in touch.

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

Rev. Jason Lydon, *Minister*
Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*
Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*
Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*
Rodney Burston, *Building Maintenance*

Board of Directors

David Broeg, *President*
Mary Ann Cromer, *Vice President*
Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*
Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

Jim Casteris, Kevin Devine, Nancy Messom,
Susan Mortimer, Matt Osborn



DATED MATERIAL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

telephone: (617) 266-6710
fax: (617) 266-0449
email: info@commchurch.org
www.communitychurchofboston.org

Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

