

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

# sunday forums

**May 2010**

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

**May 2nd -- Celebrating Labor and the International Workers' Holiday II**

**DAVID J. COHEN**

**"Labor's Untold Story: Lessons from the Past"**

The labor movement is in crisis and many of the lessons from our past can help us figure out how better to organize and how to deal with a two-party political system that is largely unresponsive to the needs of poor and working people. David Cohen has been active in the labor movement for 38 years, both as a rank & file elected leader and on staff for UE (United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America).

**May 9th -- Mothers' Day**

**ASSOCIATION of HAITIAN WOMEN in BOSTON**

**"Before and After the Earthquake"**

The Association of Haitian Women in Boston (AFAB) is a grassroots organization founded by a group of "sisters" from different social, religious and economic backgrounds. For over 20 years, it has been a strong political voice in the Haitian community. In recent months, it has joined other local Haitian organizations raising money for earthquake victims and rebuilding efforts, forming the Haitian-American Relief Fund.

**May 16th -- SAMIA A. HALABY**

**"The Revolutionary Art of the Palestinian Intifada"**

Samia Halaby was born in Jerusalem, but emigrated in the late 1940s with her family to escape Israeli terrorism. She has taught at more than half-dozen universities & art institutes and been exhibited in shows throughout the U.S., Europe & Middle East. Samia has also published a book, *Liberation Art of Palestine* (2002).

**May 23rd -- MARA VERHEYDEN-HILLIARD**

**"Defending Democracy and Civil Rights... in the Courts and in the Streets"**

Mara Verheyden-Hilliard and her husband, Carl Messineo, founded the Partnership for Civil Justice in 1994. Based in the District of Columbia, the Partnership is dedicated to the defense of human and civil rights secured by law, the protection of free speech and dissent, and the elimination of prejudice and discrimination. As the Partnership confronts the mass arrests of protesters and other unlawful police activity, they remind us that progressive social change has never come from above. The civil rights, suffrage and anti-war movements have all been grassroots, collective actions--people's movements.

**May 30th -- Military Families Speak Out**

**"The Untold Stories of War: Surviving Loss and Organizing a Movement"**

On this Memorial Day we will discuss the impact of the ongoing wars on families with loved ones in the military. The anti-war movement must be in direct relationship with those who are forced into the front lines. We will listen to the stories of families struggling to end the wars and bring their loved ones home. Military Families Speak Out is an organization of people opposed to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who have relatives or loved ones who are currently in the military or who have served since the buildup to the Iraq war in the fall of 2002.

**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](http://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

May 2010

# news

## May Day Celebrations and Struggles

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Dear friends and members... As May Day comes and we celebrate the beauty of workers resistance and spring resurgence the words of The Internationale resonate through my ears, "Arise, wretched of the earth; Arise, convicts of hunger; Reason thunders in its crater; This is the eruption of the end; Of the past let us wipe the slate clean; Enslaved masses, arise, arise; The world is about to change its foundation; We are nothing, let us be all; This is the final struggle; Let us group together, and tomorrow; The Internationale; Will be the human race!" These words have strength and meaning with each generation, with each struggle, and on each May Day. As we remember the history of revolutions throughout time we must learn from their successes and mistakes to shape our work for today.

The passage of the anti-immigrant bill in Arizona is a travesty for us all to be outraged about. This legislation is legalized racial profiling. This piece of legislation gives the police the right to question anyone they consider to possibly be an undocumented immigrant. This essentially gives permission to the police to harass people of color, primarily Latin@ people liv-



ing in Arizona. This is one of the most overtly racist pieces of legislation passed since Brown v. The Board of Education.

May Day and the immigrant struggle have been going hand in hand since the beginning. Immigrant workers are primary targets of corporate exploitation and ongoing wage theft. Immigrant workers are scapegoated as the reason for economic disaster and unemployment for other workers. Myths about immigrant workers are used by politicians to garner support for their racist policies and exploitative legislation. It is the responsibility of all of us to resist these dividing tactics of the state and corporate world while we, instead, build our power and capacity to create communities of resistance and beauty in the world.

May Day is about international organizing. May Day reminds us to look deeply at the interconnectedness of worker struggles. As we rally around the absurdity of Arizona's recent action we must also remember to pressure our federal government to change the way we do international trade. We need to continue working for the overturn of NAFTA and CAFTA, two trade agreements that force people to come searching for work within the United States. Our congress people must be asked, why are corporations allowed to cross borders with no problem even as they continue to be given rights of personhood while people who cross borders searching for work are considered illegal? We have a responsibility to change the actions of our government, and grassroots organizing is our greatest strength to get that done. This May Day, and all this month, get in the streets and on the phone to demand an end to the exploitation of all workers!

# COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



## Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium  
Sundays at 11:00am

### May 2nd

*Celebrating Labor and the International  
Workers' Holiday II*

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**MILITARY FAMILIES SPEAK OUT**

**"The Untold Stories of War: Surviving Loss  
and Organizing a Movement"**

## CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on April 15, 2010*

*Following are highlights of the meeting.*

The following board members were present: Dick Keshishian, Jason Lydon, John MacLeod, Nancy Messom, Matt Osborn, Virginia Pratt, Lenny Shames

**Congregational Director's Concerns:** The New Sanctuary Movement is continuing to meet twice monthly at various churches in the area. A Unitarian-Universalist Heritage Tour, made up of young people from New Jersey, is supposed to arrive on the weekend of April 24 and will be staying at CCB for a couple of days.

Acupuncture For Everyone has signed a new lease with the Church.

**Financial Matters:** The Church now has a basic operating budget.

**Building Concerns:** The entire security system needs to be revamped. The CCB office must be kept locked at all times. Each tenant will have his or her own mailbox. Fire codes require the need for new doors in the hallways, as well as a wheelchair accessible bathroom. It was also suggested that tenants in the building get to communicate with one another.

**Various Concerns:** The board voted to recommend that CCB be a co-sponsor of the May Day event on Boston Common and approved a \$25 donation to the Boston May Day Committee.



Some members of the board decried a lack of board participation during meetings and endorsed the idea of more input, sharing tasks, and doing a "wrap up" at the end of each meeting.

The board, on behalf of the congregants and friends of CCB, extends its congratulations to Jason Lydon on his upcoming graduation from the Episcopal Divinity School on May 20, and wishes him much success in his future endeavors with the Church.

*The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Thursday, May 25th, 2010 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.*

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk



**celebrate mayday 2010**

# Food Not Bombs 30th Anniversary Festival!

May 23rd, 12:00-5:00pm  
in the Boston Common

Join Food not Bombs in celebrating 30 years of free meals and political protest. Food Not Bombs started as an anti-nuclear action against the Seabrook, New Hampshire Power Plant in 1980. Since then it has blossomed into an international movement providing free food and helping various grassroots struggles across the globe.

Think of the 30th Anniversary Festival like a large picnic with a few hundred of your awesomest, radicalist friends: bring blankets to sit on, food to share, some things to eat off of/with, face paint, hoola hoops, materials to run your own guerrilla workshop...

Here are a few things we're looking forward to: 3 music spaces, featuring radical marching bands, hip hop, folksy stuff, and other tunes to shake yer booty to.

An open forum for homeless folks to speak out, educate, shatter stereotypes, meet, organize and do whatever the heck else they feel like.

Workshops all afternoon, such as Container Gardening, Tenants Rights, Food Justice, Veggie-Powered Cars, and other informational discussions on why capitalism ruins everything.

Speaking of the scourge of capitalism, there will be a Really, Really Free Market: Take stuff, leave stuff, everything's free! Forget a free market economy, time for a really, really free market! Kids games and activities, including a clown! And a chance to connect to FNbers across cities and generations.



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## Sacco and Vanzetti Social Justice Award Nominees

We are already getting close to the end of the season, time flies! This means we need your nominations for the Sacco and Vanzetti Award. Last year we had the great pleasure of celebrating Mel and Joyce King for their many years of justice work in the Boston community. Please send in the name of your nominee and a 5 sentence description of who they are and why you think they deserve the award no later than June 7. Submissions can be mailed to the church or emailed to congregationaldirector@gmail.com. When making your nominations please consider the legacy of Sacco and Vanzetti. Think about some of our past award recipients and nominate people you think have contributed much of themselves to the movements for justice and transformation in the world.

## Text Message Sunday Morning Reminder

Do you accidentally sleep in on Sunday mornings? Do you need reminders to come to church? Do you use text messaging on your cell phone?

We all need reminders sometimes so the Community Church of Boston will send out 9:15am text messages on Sunday mornings to anyone who is interested in the reminder.

It will be a very simple message: "Good morning! We would love to see you at church at 11:00am! This week the topic is \_\_\_\_\_. See you soon!" If you would like to be included in this text alert please email your cell number to: congregationaldirector@gmail.com or send a text saying, "include me" to 617.519.4387. The beauty of technology!

## The Network/La Red Fundraising Party!

On Saturday, May 15th 2010 the benefit event Swing into Spring will celebrate survivors of LGBTQ partner abuse and raise money to sustain The Network/La Red's invaluable programs.

Swing into Spring will begin at 6:30pm with dance lessons provided by Liz Nania, Director of OUT to Dance. At 7:30pm live music, dancing, community art-making, and a silent auction will begin and provide survivors and friends an opportunity to get creative and get involved with the organization. Music will be

provided by The Mood Swings, an all-women's 18-piece orchestra performing a big band, 1930's and 40's repertoire.

Over the past 21 years The Network/La Red has been working to end abuse in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, SM and poly communities. The Network/La Red is known nationally for their survivor-led support practices and is comprised mostly of dedicated volunteers who give their time monthly.

For more information: [www.thenetworklared.org](http://www.thenetworklared.org)

# Youth Pride 2010

May 8th, 11:00am-4:00pm

Starting at the Boston Common Band Stand

Youth Pride is the oldest and largest GLBT pride event for youth in the nation. Since its inception in 1994, Youth Pride has been wildly successful alleviating isolation and the social stigma associated with being a GLBT youth.



Youth Pride is important in a state where GLBT youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than students who don't identify as such. Having a supportive community has been shown to reduce many of the factors like isolation and depression that GLBT youth are prone to, and Youth Pride shows that there is a supportive community for those kids.

Community Church of Boston folks should feel welcome to show up and cheer these young people on!

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact us at [massypc@gmail.com](mailto:massypc@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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