

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

November 2011
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

November 6th -- VOICES FROM THE 99%

"Occupy Boston Report and Reflections"

Occupy Boston began with a meeting at the gazebo in the Boston Common more than a month ago. People have gathered from all around the city, and even from around the state, on the grounds of Dewey Square in the Financial District. The occupation at Wall Street has provided a tactic adopted by cities all around the world, but especially within the United States. While there is no cohesive definition of who or what this occupation movement is, the people participating regularly call themselves/ourselves the 99%, challenging the wealth of the 1%. Essential critiques of race, gender, class, dis/ability struggles have come up and are constantly being challenged. This Sunday we will listen to some people who have been actively involved in multiple aspects of the work and we will create strategies together for moving forward.

November 13th -- FELIX ARROYO SR. & ERNESTO "EROC" ARROYO

"Confronting Our Fears and Organizing With Love: Reflections from Father and Son"

On the eve of his departure from Boston, Felix Arroyo Sr. will speak to his experience organizing in Boston, as teacher, school committee president, and city councilor. He will introduce his son, Eroc, who too will speak about organizing in Boston along with the great need for us all to confront our individual and communal fears while choosing to move from a place of compassion and love. Music provided by The Foundation Movement.

November 20th -- RICARDO SIMARATANA

"The Pocasset Wampanoag and King Philip's War"

Ricky Simaratana is a member of the Pocasset Wampanoag of Fall River, MA and Tiverton, RI, one of two Wampanoag tribes to have a reservation. They are direct descendants of the Pocasset's royal families. Tribal historian is Ellie Page, who is married to Chief Everett Page. Page Rock is located at the gate of the reservation and dedicated to Daniel Page, who fought alongside Benjamin Church during King Philip's War (thereby obtaining the reservation). Sometimes called Metacom's Rebellion, this was an armed conflict in 1675-76 between Native American inhabitants of southern New England and English colonists plus their Native American allies.

November 27th -- A One-Act Play by JOHN O'BRIEN

"Test of True Love"

The Theater of Relativity is happy to be returning to Community Church to celebrate the life and work of our beloved friend, teacher & playwright, John O'Brien. In this staged reading, three of John's favorite actors will be reunited: Miki Joseph, Michele Markarian and Jason Taylor.

For the man in this play, the "test" is bringing his new flame home to meet his mother. Sparks ignite when the feminist values of the young woman are questioned by the traditional ways of the mom--and vice-versa. You can be assured many laughs and a whole lotta controversy, followed by heated discussion. Get the word out to O'Brien fans everywhere that once again we come together in appreciation of his unique point of view.

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

November 2011

news

From Occupation to Liberation!

by Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister

Dear Friends and Members, It is difficult to even know where to begin with a cover letter for this month. There are so many things going on in the world, in our country, in our state, and right here in Boston. Not only are many of us navigating the surprising snow while we are trying to appreciate the changing colors of the leaves, we are also trying to be out in the streets with unions, organizers, and the people of the "occupy" encampments. We are currently living in a very exciting moment and we have a responsibility to listen, learn, teach, and be prepared for the many possibilities of what is going to happen next.

Manissa McCleave Maharawal recently wrote about having a moment of clarity about our ongoing movement to free ourselves from the claws of capitalism. For her, she, "has grown to encompass thinking about ways in which to create a world outside of capitalism. I keep thinking: we can do this." Even as there are essential critiques to explore about occupy wall street, and the other occupy encampments, from the frustrating ongoing reality of oppression operating within our ranks to the regular attempts of sectarian cooptation, we are still continuously coming together to create new ideas on how to move forward. It was beautiful to rally with so many people in Dudley for the first Occupy the Hood event, lifting up the voices of people of color within Boston as they talked about the ways Black folks fit into the 99%.

This is also a great time for us to practice our different ways of holding one another accountable within our movements. I know there are times when I have made mistakes and caused harm even when not intending to, just as I am sure you all have done this as well. It is important that as we challenge individuals and the movements we are part of that we do so with compassion and with the intention of building up our movement rather than cut it down. Many of the critiques of the occupy movement have been done with love in the heart,

love for the possibility of trying something new and compassion for those who are learning as they go along. We all have the responsibility to practice engaging in conflict lovingly, recognizing our shared commitment to a world rooted in justice.

Tarek Mehanna's court case has also begun and continues throughout November. We, as a congregation, have a moral responsibility to show up at the court house as we can. Tarek is being pushed into a racist, Islamophobic, political trial and even as his lawyers fight strongly for him, we also need to show our own support. It has been inspiring to see so many people step up and challenge this trial, calling it out as the violent attack that it is. I am hopeful that we can continue to show up and at the end of all this violence against Tarek, he will come out strong and free.

The cry for justice reaches even more corners in our Commonwealth. Legislators are meeting behind closed doors and making quiet deals about how they intend to further strengthen our prison system. Led by Senator Tarr, and supported by Senate President Murray, conservative Republicans and so-called well meaning liberal Democrats are planning out a sentencing bill that will require prisoners to serve 25 years, rather than 15, before they are eligible for parole; will institute a three-strikes law that will incarcerate more and more people for life; will create mandatory supervision for every prisoner leaving the prison walls; and will pave the way for even greater suffering for prisoners. Some legislators will tell us that these are necessary concessions in order to repeal some mandatory minimum sentences, do not be fooled and remember the call of the prisoner led movement, ALL of US or NONE! It's time to call your legislators and speak up. We are in an exciting moment and our participation is essential. As the cold weather chills our bones let us use our communities to warm our hearts and inspire more action for moving forward!

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service &
Speakers Forum

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“Test of True Love”, performed by
Theatre of Relativity

CCB Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on October 11th, 2011
Following are highlights of the meeting.

Minister’s Report: The minister did not attend the board meeting because he spent thirty-six hours supporting the work of “Occupy Boston”. Throughout the night he aided in bailing people out of jail and during the day was assisting people in court.

Financial Matters: The treasurer discussed the September, 2011 Profit & Loss Budget Performance, including rental income, building expenses and maintenance costs. The treasurer also stated the need for people to contribute money to the luncheon following the Sunday morning program.

Various Concerns: December 10, 2011 has been tentatively selected as the date for the CCB joint board and congregational retreat. The first hour of the November board meeting will be devoted to discussing relevant matters with the appointed facilitators.

John McGrath will be the CCB representative to the American Friends Service Committee to explore possible collaboration with the Quaker Witness program in the upcoming trial of Tarek Mehanna.

The following proposal was passed unanimously by the board:

The Community Church of Boston stands in solidarity with the “Occupy Wall Street” and “Occupy Boston” movements, including those of several hundred similar actions taking place across the U.S.A. and throughout the world, in order to call attention to the extreme inequality and structural injustice prevalent throughout the globe.

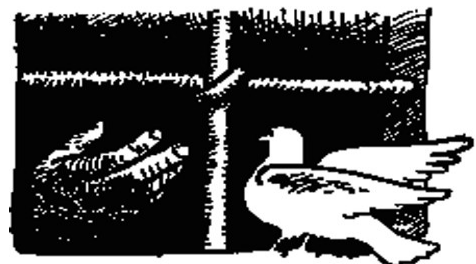
The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

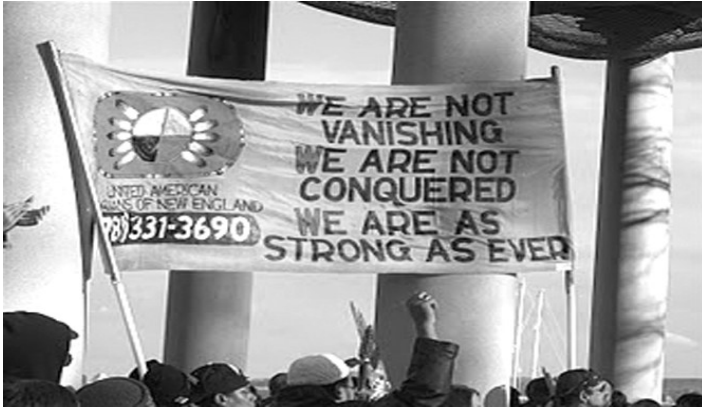
CCB’s Prison Ministry Committee

The prison ministry committee is growing! We are encouraging church members outside of prison to write with folks inside, on a more regular basis. The addresses are available in the membership directory that has been sent around. We will also begin a visiting program as well.

People who are interested in getting more involved should talk with Susan Mortimer, David Broeg, John McGrath, Mahsa Yazdy, John MacLeod, or Jason Lydon



The 42nd National Day of Mourning



**November 24th, 12:00 noon
Coles Hill, Plymouth, MA**

Since 1970, Native Americans have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native Americans do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims and other European settlers. Thanksgiving day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands,

and the relentless assault on Native culture. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Native ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression that Native Americans continue to experience.

Join us as we dedicate the 42nd National Day of Mourning to our brother, Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier. Add your voice to the millions world-wide who demand his freedom. Help us in our struggle to create a true awareness of Native peoples and demonstrate the unity of Indigenous peoples internationally. Help shatter the untrue glass image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, sexism, homophobia and war.

United American Indians of New England/LPSG

Phone: (617) 522-6626

info@uaine.org

http://www.uaine.org

Tarek Mahenna's Trial Begins

Tarek Mahenna's trial began with jury selection on October 24th at the Moakley Federal Court House in Boston and is scheduled to go until early December.

For anyone unfamiliar with the case, Tarek is a 28-year-old Muslim, an Egyptian-American and a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. He has been held in solitary confinement 23 hours a day since his arrest in 2009.

The sum total of actions Mahenna is charged with involve having conversations, translating books, traveling to the Middle East and posting to websites. Yet he faces life in prison if convicted. He has been denied bail twice, even though the FBI released him to the community after his first arrest and presented no information as to why or how he had since become so much more dangerous.

Supporters are urged to call 617-748-3159 or fax 617-748-3694, the office of U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz, to express outrage at this fraudulent prosecution and to demand that all charges be dropped.

For anyone who wants to show solidarity by attending Tarek's trial, please contact the Free Tarek Mahenna Support Committee: freetarek@gmail.com



November 11-13th

**Paresky Center at Simmons College
300 The Fenway (Boston, MA)**

A weekend of resistance to authoritarianism, oppression, and capitalism! We will host workshops, presentations and vendors from all over New England and the U.S. In addition, we will present the first ever Boston Anarchist Film Festival! You don't have to be an anarchist to attend-- this event is about sharing, listening and collaboration. Come explore the possibilities of collective liberation!

<http://bostonanarchistbookfair.org>

Centro Presente's 30th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, December, 10th, 7pm
at the Holiday Inn
30 Washington Street (Somerville, MA)

Established in 1981, Centro Presente is a member-driven, state-wide Latin American immigrant organization dedicated to the self-determination and self-sufficiency of the Latin American immigrant community of Massachusetts.

Come celebrate 30 years of working with the Latin American immigrant community and fighting for social and economic justice! General admission is \$50 (\$30 for members). All event proceeds support our organizing efforts!

<http://www.cpresente.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

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,
Reed Miller, Susan Mortimer



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