

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

October 2010
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

October 3rd -- JOLIE OLIVETTI, MATT OSBORN, MORRIGAN PHILLIPS & JASON LYDON
"Another World is Possible: Reflections on the 2010 US Social Forum"

Boston organized over 250 people to get on buses, pile into cars, and board planes heading out to Detroit, Michigan for the second US Social Forum. The four individuals speaking will share about their different experiences at the USSF and reflect on particular learnings and tools they have brought back to help build our movements for justice here at home.

The US Social Forum is a gathering of social justice activists which grew out of the World Social Forum process, bringing together activists, organizers, people of color, working people, poor people, and indigenous people from across the US. The goal of the gathering is to build unity around common goals of social justice, to build ties between organizations present at the event, and to help build a broader social justice movement.

October 10th -- *Indigenous Peoples' Day*

JOANNE DUNN

"Who Are the Indians in Boston?"

How do we define an American Indian, and why don't we seem to see any more Indians around? What does an Indian look like, anyhow? Are we stereotyping?

Joanne Dunn is executive director of the North American Indian Center of Boston and a Commissioner on Indian Affairs for Mass, representing the north. She is also a field supervisor for Harvard Divinity School. Joanne is an enrolled Mi'kmaq in the Wagmatcook First Nation Indian Reserve and her career spans more than 30 years of service to Native People and social justice

October 17th -- NANCY B. KOHN

"The Cuban Five: In U.S. Prisons for Opposing Terrorism"

Nancy Kohn is an active member of the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five, as well as the local July 26th Coalition. She has visited Cuba four times since 1996, most recently as a participant with the 21st Pastors for Peace Friendship caravan in July and August. Come hear background and updates on the case in a presentation dedicated to the memory of Rev. Lucius Walker, founder of Pastors for Peace.

October 24th -- KIADO CRUZ

"Reclaiming Our Agricultural Heritage: Roof by Roof, Yard by Yard"

Kiado Cruz is a community organizer for RASA, the Autonomous Network for Food Sovereignty. RASA is an ever-increasing network of people who are learning and then teaching inner-city gardening, while rediscovering their own cultural food roots. Sr. Cruz will talk about sustainable agriculture, as well as the community organizing that has been instrumental in the current autonomous movements in Oaxaca and Chiapas. He will also address the damaging effects of U.S. trade policies on Mexico, increasing privatization and related migration issues. Cruz will be speaking throughout New England on Witness for Peace's annual fall tour.

October 31st -- KEVIN COLEMAN JOYCE

"The Original Halloween: Sawhain, an Ancient Celtic Ceremony!"

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

October 2010

news

Violence, Sorrow and Community Justice

by Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister

Dear friends and members... Early in the morning on Tuesday, September 28th four people were murdered on the street in our city, three adults and a 2-year-old child. The three adults were forced to strip off their clothing before they were shot and killed. Mayor Menino called the people who did this heinous act "cowards." The neighborhood of Mattapan, where the murders happened, is filled with people angry and sad, desperate and crying out for justice. How do we hold such tragedy? How do we look into the faces of people we care about and see their tear streaked faces? How do we keep up the fight for justice and push for community transformation when such precious life can be taken in the night? James Baldwin wrote to Angela Davis, "we live in an age which silence is not only criminal but suicidal... for if they come take you in the morning they will be coming for us that night." While Baldwin is writing about the government it can apply to many who steal the lives of other people under the cover of darkness. I do not think it is helpful for Mayor Menino to call the people who took four lives on Tuesday morning cowards. We must not be silent about this violence, but our words and voices must be responsible and filled with the purpose of securing authentic justice.

What does justice look like right now? How do I, as a privileged person not part of the communities most targeted by this violence, play a role right now? Firstly I pray. As a person of faith I take time to be quiet and think of the faces of those whose lives have been taken. I think of the gifts they gave the world and the gifts they will never be able to give. Then I try to think about all those who loved these people, who are now suffering in sadness. I hold them in my

heart praying for them to feel comfort and strength. I then pray for those who pulled the trigger of a gun aimed at the bodies of these human beings. I pray that they will feel the pain they have inflicted and feel what remorse really is. I pray that they will recognize that their humanity is tied to the lives they have taken. I pray that somewhere within them the spark of humanness will give light to a different direction for living. Then I pray for us all. I pray for our city that chooses to fund jails and police at the expense of young peoples lives. I pray for our city that we will put more resources into communities that hunger for jobs, programs, and food to feed their lives. And then I recall the words of one of our co-founders, John Haynes Holmes, who called us to, "the greatest of all spiritual discoveries - that if our prayers are to be answered we must answer them ourselves; that we are already answering our prayers in the mere expression of the desire that they be fulfilled."

How are we, as members and friends of the Community Church of Boston, going to be part of the answering of these prayers? As a congregation we must be present to the suffering, bear witness the pain that these deaths have caused, and commit ourselves to challenging the city government to be accountable for their role in the loss of life. The reality of racism cannot go unchallenged and we must use our voices to speak up and our hands to take action. I spoke with friends at the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, BYOP, and the City School. Our love and action is needed. When Dr. Saleh-Hanna spoke here she talked about the cultural norm that sanctifies white life while dismissing the inevitability of Black death; we must stand against these norms and live the values that cherish the worth of all life.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium
Sundays at 11:00am

October 3rd

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New Sanctuary Movement Breakfast

On Thursday, October 21st, at 9am the New Sanctuary Movement invites you to a breakfast social at the First Parish in Cambridge, Unitarian Universalist (3 Church St, Cambridge).

CCB Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on September 14, 2010

Following are highlights of the meeting.

Congregational Director's Concerns: Work is being done on the fire escape to bring it up to code. Tomorrow someone will present an assessment of the CCB building. The Church is replacing five doors with walls to save on expenses. A new fire alarm will be installed. The work on a new sprinkler system will be initiated hopefully by November 5th, or during the spring season because the outside sidewalk must be dug up in order to bring water into the building. The Church now has in its possession all the necessary work permits. Applications for grants are forthcoming. The Church has seven organizations as tenants which should facilitate receiving the grants.

Various Concerns: The clerk paid tribute to two notable individuals, both of whom passed away during the week of September 6th. Juan Mari Bras founded the Puerto Rican Socialist Party and struggled for over sixty years calling for the end of the economic and cultural colonization of his homeland; he raised the colonial status of Puerto Rico before the United Nations.



Reverend Lucius Walker, head of Pastors For Peace, supervised twenty-one caravans of material aid to Cuba over a span of many years, defying the inhumane blockade imposed by the U.S. government on the island nation. Both men had spoken at CCB several years ago at the Sunday morning program.

The board recommended that CCB become an official endorser of the One Nation, Working Together march in the nation's capital on October 2nd.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

We invite clergy, lay ministers, students, and activists from all religious communities to come to our breakfast. We will meet leaders of the immigrant movement. We will share a meal, our stories, our wisdom, and our dreams for a more just world.

RSVP by Oct. 8 to Anthony Zuba at (617) 840-5860 or info@massinterfaith.org.

FBI Raids and Harrassment of Anti-War Activists

excerpted from a statement by Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women

On September 24, gun-toting FBI SWAT agents broke into homes of antiwar activists and associates of Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO) in Minneapolis and Chicago. These outrageous actions were ordered by a federal judge in order to seize materials for a grand jury investigation into supposed terrorism. Agents walked off with files, financial records, passports, phone lists, computers and other electronic equipment. The warrant for seizing activists' possessions includes items for "the recruitment, indoctrination, and facilitation of other individuals in the United States to join FRSO" and "the recruitment, etc. of individuals to travel to Colombia and Palestine...in support of FARC, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Hezbollah." Other targets of the raid included the offices of the Twin Cities Anti-War Committee and the Chicago home of Hatem Abudayyeh, executive director of the Arab American Action Network.

In addition to the break-ins, the FBI is visiting people whom they assert may be involved in the antiwar movement or organizing support for Palestinians and Colombians. However, those raided have pointed out that they have the right to freedom of association and to organize without government interference or intimidation. Government attempts to halt solidarity with workers and the poor in other lands will not be tolerated. In directing these attacks, the Obama administration is continuing COINTELPRO-type operations the FBI used in the '60s and '70s to divide the movements and smash dissent.

There are various conjectures being put forth as to why the Obama administration is staging these raids now: to appear tough on terrorism before the Congressional elections; to chill activists before the antiwar demonstrations on October 9-16; or to take attention away from last week's Justice Department admission that the FBI used false claims to mount "counterterror" investigations as a cover for spying and infiltration of activist groups across the country. Whatever the reason, there are definitely steps to be taken to strengthen the message that antiwar and Left forces will not be intimidated and will continue to fight back!

Send protests to:

Attorney General Eric Holder
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington DC 20530
202-514-1057 Main switchboard
202-353-1555 Comment line
AskDOJ@usdoj.gov

President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111 Comment line
www.whitehouse.gov/contact

Alternative Vision for the BU Biolab

After almost eight years of struggle to stop the BU BSL4 lab, the Roxbury Safety Net and the Coalition to Stop the Bio-Terror Lab have arrived at a critical moment. Our scientists are proposing an alternative vision for the BU laboratory (see: www.justicewithpeace.org/node/1795), one that would focus its research on prevalent natural diseases and utilize new, safe vaccine and antimicrobial technologies. By doing so, Boston University could make a major contribution to public health without the hazards of working with dangerous pathogens that require BSL4 laboratories.

On Tuesday, October 5th, at 6:30pm, the Blue Ribbon Panel and the National Institutes of Health will be at Roxbury Community College (1234 Columbus Ave, Mainstage Theater, Roxbury Crossing) to inform the



community about the progress of their latest Risk Analysis for the BU bioweapons lab. We must continue to make it clear that we will not accept this dangerous lab and plan to show them the widespread support there is in the community, city and

state wide for this alternative vision.

Petition of support for this alternative vision can be found here: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/an-alternative-vision-for-the-bu-bio-terror-lab>

Arnie King's Commutation Hearing!

Thursday, October 7th, 10am
Massachusetts Parole Board
12 Mercer Rd. Natick, MA



Everyone is invited to come to the Community Church at 8:00am before the hearing for time to pray and sip coffee before we caravan out to Natick. Please let Jason know if you need a ride.

It is essential for as many people as possible to come out and show their support. Arnie has gotten unanimous support for his commutation in the past, let us do our part to help secure this outcome again.

For more information about Arnie King:
<http://www.arnoldking.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*
Jim Casteris, *Building Superintendent*
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

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