

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

October 2012
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

October 7th -- Indigenous Peoples' Day

JIMI TWO FEATHERS

"Occupation, Decolonization and the Struggles of Native Peoples"

Jimi Two Feathers will help us consider the language of "occupation" in light of the history of native peoples on this continent. What next steps might be available to us, in light of the expressions of solidarity of some groups of indigenous people with the Occupy Movement, and of various Occupys with indigenous people, notwithstanding the problematic nature of the language prevalent in and about the current movement?

Jimi Two Feathers is a skilled facilitator and teacher who has been drumming and dancing for over thirty years. He has been involved with Occupy Boston's People of Color and Anti-Oppression Working Groups, and is a founder of Earth Drum Council, a group that focuses on drumming as a tool for healing, community-building, cultural awareness, and personal growth.

October 14th -- FELIPE TOBAR & ANA NAVARRETE

"25 Years of Struggle, 25 Years of Solidarity: Sister Cities Cambridge & San Jose Las Flores, El Salvador"

The struggle for dignity, peace, the right to land and sovereignty in El Salvador is embodied in the community of San José Las Flores – boldly and defiantly repopulated in 1986 in the midst of the US-backed war. Since 1986, the people of Las Flores have built a community where education, health care, housing, livelihood and political governance extend to every person. They have stood with other organized communities and movements in El Salvador and international solidarity efforts including partnering as a sister city with Cambridge in 1987.

Felipe Tobar is the mayor of Las Flores and Ana Navarrete is town council president.

October 21st -- DON WHITE

"Blasphemy, Heresy, Comedy, Poetry, Beauty, Love!!!"

There is no one-word description for what Don White does. He has survived and thrived for twenty years, bringing his audiences to laughter and tears in his live performances, studio recordings, and on the printed page. He is a storyteller-comedian-author-troubadour-folk singer-songwriter. He is a walking challenge to the phrase "file under." Best to just sort him under "Don White." At every point, White has been the ultimate observer, infusing his work with his experiences as a husband, a father, a seeker, and a joker.

October 28th -- JILL BAKER

"Waking Up and Overcoming: A Unitarian Universalist Response to the Israel-Palestine Conflict"

What actions do Unitarian-Universalist principles, history and values call us to take in the movement to end the occupation and human rights abuses in Israel/Palestine?

Jill Baker is a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan where she serves on the Social Justice Council, the Immigration Study/Action Team, and is co-chair of her local Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UJME) chapter. She was also the 2012 winner of the UJME's "Sermon of the Year" contest.

COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF BOSTON

Linda Jenkins, Congregational Director

Community Church of Boston * 565 Boylston Street, Boston, MA (in Copley Square)
tel. (617) 266-6710 * info@commchurch.org * www.communitychurchofboston.org

Park at the Back Bay Garage for \$5 on Sunday for 3hrs with a coupon 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 2012

news

Movement Building Together

by Linda Jenkins, Congregational Director

Dear Members and Friends, Last month, September, marked a year's end and another year's beginning. I celebrated Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, in Zuccotti Park the evening of September 17th. I was there, with thousands of other protestors, to also celebrate the first anniversary of Occupy Wall Street, which launched the Occupy Movement around the world. Of course, the Occupy Movement grew out of the rising up of the Indignados in Spain and of the Arab Spring throughout the Middle East.

Globalization, characterized by the omnipresent tentacles of corporate greed obliterating and poisoning the planet and her creatures, also has features that permit the oppressed of the world to band together in ways never possible before. Occupy Boston has at least one member from Spain who is also involved with the Indignados. There are weekly international conference calls of 20-100 people (go to "InterOccupy.net") on many, the issues that concern people around the world. There is a long list of the new mediums for connection.

Another feature of globalized life today, in this nation and others, is increased US military presence. Leaving the actual military aside, we have domestic drones and municipal police trained in and employing blatantly illegal tactics meant to intimidate and injure. This could be a part of the government's undoing; much the way the universal draft was a large factor in the revolt, during the Vietnam War, which ended that war.

I had the opportunity to witness and experience the force of the NYPD on the morning of September 17, when I was running as a street-medical for a Code Pink affinity group. In fairness, I have to say that I'd heard that street-medics and legal observers are targets for this and other cities' police attacks.

As I stood quietly on the sidewalk, under scaffolding, in the middle of a peaceful crowd, in the middle of a block, (the intersections on both ends were blocked by

police and protestors), I had my back turned to the street. Suddenly, someone grabbed me from behind, by the hair and jerked me back against the pipe railing. Two cops each grabbed an arm shoved them into the plastic zip-lock instruments of torture they call handcuffs. I stupidly asked the cop holding my right arm not to hurt my shoulder, which was already injured. He pushed that arm as far into the loop of the cuff as he could, wrenching my arm further behind me and yanked the cuff closed with what seemed to be all his strength. I never saw the faces of any of them. I was passed to a blue-shirted officer, from Queens it turned out, who told me his name was Kevin and appeared to try to be an advocate for me and the 2 men eventually assigned to him. It took him a while to find a cutter to cut off the cuffs so he could replace them. He said that they are not issued cutters; they have to buy them with their own money. Despite all this, I am glad I went and grateful for your support.

This beginning of the second year of OWS and Occupy Boston, is a time for us at the Community Church to consider how we as a community, can be in solidarity with this movement. Many of us are engaged in important social justice work and we often show up for the same events without coordinating it, because we are like-minded in our concern for action. As an experiment, there will be a new CCB committee, as the participants decide. Its working title is CCB: On Our Feet, In the Street. I see this committee as a vehicle to coordinate our presence at social justice activities and actions and possibly to initiate some too. I imagine us showing up with a large banner proclaiming who we are and what we stand for. It will be what the participants determine. This has been done at other times in the community's past and perhaps we can revisit the practice in a new form, to add our collective voice deep and lasting change in our world. Together, "We Are Unstoppable! Another World is Possible!"

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service &
Speakers Forum

October 7th

Indigenous Peoples' Day

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Struggles of Native Peoples"**

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FELIPE TOBAR & ANA NAVARRETE

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Solidarity: Sister Cities Cambridge & San
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October 28th

JILL BAKER

"Working for Justice in Israel/Palestine"

CCB Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on September 11, 2012

Following are highlights of the meeting.

Congregational Director's Report: The congregational director has suggested the formation of a social action committee to address the wishes and concerns of CCB and their input regarding various matters.

Building Committee: The importance of a positive relationship with the CCB building tenants was emphasized.

Financial Matters: The treasurer presented the Profit and Loss Budget Performance for August, 2012, concentrating on issues regarding rental income, salaries, benefits and building & maintenance expenses.

Various Concerns: The board must address the issue of keeping the CCB building clean at all times.

Small amounts of monies for postage and stamps for prison members should be set aside at a rate of twenty dollars semi-annually.

The congregational director should decide whom she wants as members of the Committee on Ministry.

The treasurer will follow up on sending an email to all candidates who applied for the position of minister or congregational director, stating that the position has been filled.

A need for board members who do not have access to email to be contacted on issues relevant to the Church was also discussed.

The next scheduled meeting of the board is October 9, 2012 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

Communitiy Announcements

If you are interested in talking about the community's collective presence in social justice activities with **Linda Jenkins** and others, please let Linda know that and what format might work best too. Thank you!

The next **CCB Board Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, October 9th at 7:15pm**. Members and friends of the Church of encouraged to attend both meetings.

"**Recreating Democracy in a Globalized State**" book release and forum with editors **Cliff DuRand** and **Steve Martinot** on **Thursday, October 11th, 7pm** at the Center

for Marxist Education (550 Mass. Ave, 2nd fl, Central Sq, Cambridge)

The **Boston Feminists for Liberation** are sponsoring a **March & Speak Out against Rape Culture & Gender Inequality** on **Saturday, October 13th, 12pm** at the Boston Common Bandstand

The **Sacco-Vanzetti Award Committee** will meet in the CCB office on **Wednesday, October 17th, 7pm**.

The submission deadline for the November CCB Newsletter is Monday, October 29th!

Indigenous Peoples' Day: Challenging The Legacy of Columbus

The Unitarian Universalist faith calls us to fully understand the legacy of Christopher Columbus, just as it calls us to respect and learn from indigenous peoples and support their struggles for social justice and religious freedom. Join Unitarian Universalists across the United States in honoring Indigenous Peoples Day.

"Indigenous Peoples Day" reimagines Columbus Day and changes a celebration of colonialism into an opportunity to reveal historical truths about the genocide and oppression of indigenous peoples in the Americas, to organize against current injustices, and to celebrate indigenous resistance.

The idea of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day was born in 1977, at a U.N.-sponsored conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on discrimination against indigenous populations in the Americas. Fourteen years later, activists in Berkeley, CA, convinced the Berkeley City Council to declare October 12 a "Day of Solidarity with Indigenous People." Henceforth, there has been a growing movement to appropriate "Columbus Day" as "Indigenous People's Day"; states such as South Dakota, Hawai'i, and Alabama have changed the holiday's name and many more cities have taken similar action.

Ways to Honor Indigenous Peoples' Day

- (1) Craft a Sunday service around Indigenous Peoples Day.
- (2) Build and strengthen connections to nearby Native communities.
- (3) Study the 'Doctrine of Discovery' (the legal process that stole Indian people's territories, and that continues today) and work to eliminate its effects.
- (4) Take action to rename Columbus Day "Indigenous Peoples Day."
- (5) Provide age-appropriate education on Native lives and cultures as part of your congregation's religious education programming.
- (6) Hold a movie screening with a discussion afterward.
- (7) Host a congregation-wide common read and book discussion.
- (8) Take action for the rights and needs of Native peoples!

- excerpted from the UUA's website:
<http://www.uua.org/justicecalendar/114099.shtml>

Our Program Committee in the Post-Marty Era

by Dean Stevens, Vice President

We are making a feeble attempt to fill Marty Lerman's shoes. It's not an easy task, even if it's an entire committee trying to do what he did mostly himself for so many years. We are slowly figuring out what it takes to schedule a year's speakers and musicians. It's an interesting and tedious journey, especially when done by committee. We will miss Marty, and his more than 40 years of unfailing dedication to this community.

As luck would have it, two of my pet themes dominate this month's programs: Central America and music.

On Sunday October 14, we welcome folks from Cambridge (US) and San Jose Las Flores (El Salvador), celebrating their 25 year mutual friendship. Our speaker is Felipe Tobar, mayor of San Jose Las Flores. (sadly, Ana Navarrete, town council president, will not join us, her visa was denied). We will also be celebrating the efforts of all of the Boston Area El Salvador Sister City Committees. We have invited Salvadorans from those

villages, who now live in Boston to join us. Our own Luis Guzmán, on hearing about this program, stepped up to inviting his friends to help him prepare an extra special Salvadoran luncheon... pupusas, tamales and arroz con pollo. Is that enough to entice you to be with us? My mouth waters already.

Sunday Oct. 21 will bring us a very special, first time ever, musical event. Don White, from Lynn, MA, is one of my favoritest, funniest and most hard hittingly compassionate performers on the Boston folk scene today.

See the schedule on this newsletter for all the details on the other fine October sunday programs.

I don't know why I got so lucky to have such a hand in this month's events. We'd like to hear more from you. Help us shape Community Church's calendar. Offer us suggestions for speakers and topics. This is your speaker series. Own it!!

March/Rally Against Wars & Attacks on Civil Liberties



Join us in a march and rally to protest the dangerous escalation in threats of military action against Pakistan, Syria and Iran and increased racist violence and repression at home.

Saturday, October 6th, 1:30pm

**Boston Common
(Park Street Station, Boston)**

LET'S STAND TOGETHER IN UNITY AND
SOLIDARITY. TOGETHER WE ARE POWERFUL!

HANDS OFF SYRIA AND IRAN! NO TO RACISM,
RAIDS, AND REPRESSION! NO TO ISLAMOPHOBIA!

For more information: **BostonUNAC@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

Linda Jenkins, *Congregational Director*

Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*

Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*

Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*

Rodney Burston, *Building Maintenance*

Board of Directors

Reed Miller, *President*

Dean Stevens, *Vice President*

Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*

Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

Jim Casteris, Mary Ann Cromer, Kevin Devine,

Nancy Messom, Susan Mortimer



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Community Church of Boston

