

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

October 2008
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

October 5th -- PAMELA EDWARDS

"Don't Just Take It--Take Charge!"

Massachusetts Senior Action Council (MSAC) was founded in 1981 to promote the rights, well-being and dignity of all people, particularly vulnerable senior citizens. It is a democratically run membership organization, open to people of all ages, with over 2500 members statewide. MSAC has a proud history of effective community organizing and legislative advocacy on health care, housing, transportation and other issues.

Pam Edwards has worked for MSAC since 2005. She is the community organizer for three of its ten active chapters: Cambridge, Metro North and North Shore. Prior to moving to Massachusetts, Pam served for nine years as a local union president. She's enjoyed working in coalition with other progressives on local and state campaigns that have greatly improved people's lives.

October 12th -- Indigenous Peoples' Week I

LEONARD PELTIER DEFENSE COMMITTEE

"Free Leonard Peltier! Free All Political Prisoners!"

Leonard Peltier has been in prison since 1977 as a political prisoner in the United States. Leonard was an active leader in the American Indian Movement (AIM) and was set up by the FBI after a shoot-out at Pine Ridge which left one Indigenous man Joseph Stuntz, dead and 2 FBI agents dead. Leonard's case is internationally recognized as one rooted in racism and political suppression by the U.S. government. The movement to free Leonard is internationally networked and is always gaining more support. Leonard is also a former recipient of the Sacco and Vanzetti Social Justice Award.

October 19th -- Indigenous Peoples' Week II

GLORIA ALBA ANDINO LOPEZ

"Forced from Home: U.S. Policy and the Roots of Migration"

Gloria Alba Andino Lopez from El Regadio, Esteli, Nicaragua is head of a small farmers' association called "La Union". For more than 20 years she has represented organized resistance to the detrimental impacts of neoliberal economic policy, which damages small farming communities such as hers. Gloria is also involved in several women's groups, including micro-financing projects, plus education & training around marginalization, women's rights, the environment and health.

Witness for Peace-New England, sponsors tours of international human rights leaders and activists like Gloria from throughout the Americas. Last fall we hosted a woman from Venezuela. Through these tours, the speakers are able to call upon U.S. citizens to work toward reforming unjust policies that contribute to poverty and oppression.

October 26th -- To Vote, or Not To Vote?

MERELICE & GARY HICKS

"Electoral Politics as Strategic Action for Justice"

The Green-Rainbow Party is rooted in 10 Key values, Grassroots Democracy, Ecological Wisdom, Social Justice and Equal Opportunity, Nonviolence, Decentralization, Community Based Economics, Feminism, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility, and Future Focus on Sustainability. Our speakers will engage us in a dialogue about the strategic use of voting to make changes in our society.

Merelice is the co-chair of the Massachusetts affiliate of the Green-Rainbow Party. Gary Hicks is a former co-chair. Both are committed organizers in Boston's progressive communities.

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.commchurch.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 2008

news

Personal Transition and Social Transformation

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Dear friends and members... Happy fall! Happy harvest! Happy Eid! Happy New Year! Happy Mabon! If there is a holiday in this list that you don't know, take a moment to look it up. The end of September and beginning of October is a deeply holy time in many faith traditions. The Fall Equinox marks a time of great transition. In the Northern Hemisphere our days are continuing to get shorter, the air crisper, and our need to wear layers increases. Each time of transition throughout the year can be thought of as an opportunity to reflect on where we are (individually, communally, globally) and where we are going. I invite you to take some time and make a list of transitions in your own life. Where are you now? Where do you want to be? What does the process look like to get you from one place to another? Please try to remember that the process is as important as the outcome. Be authentic with yourself. Allow yourself time to grow and be transformed.

Change and transformation are very close to us as a congregation right now. We are, very sadly, saying goodbye to JooYoung Choi, the Director of our Justice School. She has been a phenomenal addition to our community and congregational leadership. She built a program from scratch, fostered relationships between young people and across generations, introduced the Community Church to dozens of families, and brought a vital artistic energy into our space. JooYoung will be deeply missed. Even though we will miss JooYoung we must acknowledge the courage she has had to make choices that best support the direction she wants her life to go. JooYoung's art is a deep gift, her work with trans-racial adoptees is essential, her commitment to her health

and self-care is admirable, and we can learn from her boundary setting. Too often the Left burns out our strongest organizers, teachers, and activists. If we wish to see a movement succeed we need to make changes in our expectations of each other. More of us need to step-up and support those who are organizing in our communities

Here at the church volunteers need to be more present and available to make the work continue. In order for the Justice School to exist and flourish we need a core-group of parents and others who are willing to prioritize this program. As a congregation we need to nurture and feed this program if we wish for it to survive. We need to challenge ourselves to be more welcoming to families and be ready for the changes in our culture that would require. We grow internally and numerically when we exist outside of our comfort zones. Sunday mornings are a time for growth and development as well as loving community. It is okay and encouraged for us to be pushed beyond our comfort zones at times. Please make space for yourself and for us to grow. Reflect on the Akan people's (Ghana) liberation theological challenge to Descartes', "I think therefore I am", "I AM BECAUSE WE ARE; AND SINCE WE ARE THEREFORE I AM." As we live within and beyond our individual selves we open ourselves to greater potential as a community. Please take time to connect deeply with one another. Bring someone new with you to church. Increase your volunteer time. Come in on a Thursday evening and volunteer for some of the little projects going on. Our community exists because we create it. Please take time to continue creating it.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium
Sundays at 11:00am

October 5th

PAMELA EDWARDS

"Don't Just Take It--Take Charge!"

October 12th

Honoring Indigenous Peoples' Week I

"Free Leonard Peltier!

Free All Political Prisoners!"

October 19th

Indigenous Peoples' Week II

GLORIA ALBA ANDINO LOPEZ

***"Forced from Home: U.S. Policy
and the Roots of Migration"***

October 26th

To Vote or Not to Vote? (part 1)

MERELICE AND GARY HICKS

***"Electoral Politics as Strategic
Action for Justice"***

November 2nd

To Vote or Not to Vote? (part 2)

JAMES HEROD

***"Discrediting Representative Government,
Fostering Direct Democracy"***

CCB Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on September 18, 2008.

Following are highlights of the meeting.

The following board members and guests were present: David Broeg, Kevin Devine, Dick Keshishian, John MacLeod, Nancy Messom, Virginia Pratt, Jason Lydon, *Congregational Director*.

Congregational Director's Concerns: A tenant committee composed of Betsy Gynn, Virginia Pratt, Jim Casteris and Jason Lydon has been formed to oversee matters relating to Church rentals and other related matters.

The security system has been installed as well as a push pad (code) to enter the CCB building.

The General Assembly of the Unitarian-Universalist Association (UUA) has called upon its president to establish a commission on environmental justice so as to take action to reduce waste pollution, to develop solar power, to encourage recycling, as well as pushing for fair trade and fair wage standards. It was suggested that an event to discuss "energy justice" be held on December 31 (First Night) at CCB.

Financial Concerns: Virginia and John met with representatives from the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and agreed to terms regarding ADC's back rent payments. ADC is still welcome to hold events at the Church.



The line items on the financial reports as of August 31, 2008 were briefly discussed, especially those concerning the charitable funds and investments.

Various Concerns: Ruediger Volk has accepted a teaching position at Roxbury Community College and subsequently resigned from the board.

Joo Young Choi, director of the Justice School, has resigned her position, effective in about two weeks. She has agreed to aid the CCB in finding a replacement. Arlington Street Church will accept the young people who wish to attend classes there. CCB will decide in the next few weeks whether or not to continue the children's program.

A committee for the presentation of the Sacco-Vanzetti Award for Social Justice has been formed consisting of Virginia Pratt, David Broeg and Kevin Devine. If interested in joining, please contact any of the above-mentioned individuals.

Kevin has urged the Church to join in an effort to defeat Question 1 concerning the repeal of the Massachusetts State Income Tax to be placed on the November ballot as a binding referendum.

The next meeting of the board will be on Thursday, October 16, 2008 at 7:15pm, to which CCB members and friends are invited to attend.

-Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

All Out for October 11th!!

On October 11, 2002 Congress approved the "Iraq War Resolution" granting the Bush administration authorization to invade Iraq. Six years later, 1 in 3 Iraqis have been killed, wounded, or displaced. Over 4000 U.S. soldiers have been killed with tens of thousands more seriously wounded. How many more billions will be looted from vital social needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, disaster relief or libraries, firehouses, childcare, or Social Security?

Join us to demand:

- Stop the wars and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Money for jobs, education, healthcare and housing. Not for war and occupation.
- No sanctions or attack on Iran.
- Stop the racist scapegoating of Arabs and Muslims.
- Stop the assault on human rights and civil liberties.

For more information:

<http://www.oct11boston.org>

STOP THE WAR

STAND UP FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 11TH RALLY & MARCH BOSTON COMMON

11:00AM

OCT11BOSTON.ORG STOPTHEWAR.ORG

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| <p>MAIN STAGE PERFORMERS IN ORDER</p> <p>PETE CASSANI (PEASANT FOLK) KIER BYRNES (AMERICAN) FLUTTR EFFECT (WOODEN BOOG) RYAN HARVEY (ACTIVIST FOLK) CASEY DESMOND (SINGER/SONWRITER) SGT. MAXWELL'S PEACE CHORUS (ANTI-WAR FOLK/BOOG/GOSPEL) BOJAH & THE INSURRECTION (POLITICAL FUNK) MICHAEL BLOOM (POLITICAL FOLK) SON OF NUN (HIP HOP) PAT SCANLON (VETERANS FOR PEACE)</p> | <p>MAIN STAGE SPEAKERS</p> <p>ASHLEY SMITH JOSEPH GERSON CHUCK TURNER MEGHAN DAY FMR STAFF SERGEANT GABRIEL PAVAN</p> <p>MAIN STAGE MCs</p> <p>ANNE MILLER DENNIS PRATER KAVERI RAJARAMAN</p> <p>BROUGHT TO YOU BY OCTOBER 11TH MOBILIZING COMMITTEE</p> |
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AN ADDITIONAL OPEN STAGE HAS MORE PERFORMERS AND SPEAKERS
 A CHILDREN'S PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE DURING THE RALLY

Video Showing - CUBA: AN AFRICAN ODYSSEY

It was the Cold War's least publicized face, that of Africa, where Soviet designs triggered a power struggle with the United States and European powers over an unstable continent emerging from centuries of colonialism. How Cuba became involved in the complex puzzle of African liberation is the subject of this fascinating French documentary, tracing Cuban efforts from the early days of Che Guevara in the Belgian Congo to the 1990s.

Part I - Thursday, October 23 at 6:30pm

Part II - Thursday, October 30 at 6:30pm

This is a fundraiser for Cuban survivors and reconstruction after the 2008 Hurricanes. Dinner will be provided.

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Jericho Movement!

Come to New York City on Friday, October 10th to honor and continue the struggle to free all political prisoners and prisoners of war. We will rally and picket on 1st ave between 42nd and 47th street at noon. Get on the Chinatown bus Friday morning with Jericho-Boston at 6:30am.

For more information contact:

jericho_boston@yahoo.com

Please keep Jennifer Johnson in your heart, thoughts, and/or prayers as this has been a challenging year for her losing both of her parents. Please also keep Selma Ganz in your heart, thoughts and/or prayers as she makes her choice to transition to California. -- Jason

Silence, they say, is the voice of complicity.
 But silence is impossible.
 Silence screams.
 Silence is a message,
 just as doing nothing is an act.
 Let who you are ring out & resonate
 in every word & every deed.
 Yes, become who you are.
 There's no sidestepping your own being
 or your own responsibility.
 What you do is who you are.
 You are your own comeuppance.
 You become your own mes-
 sage.
 You are the message.



In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
 Leonard Peltier

Our Purpose

Community Church of Boston is a free community of women and men 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*
 Joo Young Choi, *Director of Children/Youth SJE Program*
 Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*
 Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*
 Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*
 Jim Casteris, *Superintendent*

Board of Directors

John MacLeod, *President*
 David Broeg, *Vice President*
 Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*
 Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

Christina Braidotti, Kevin Devine,
 Nancy Messom, Leonard Shames



DATED MATERIAL
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON

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