

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

September 2011
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

September 11th -- INTERFAITH SERVICE IN COPLEY SQUARE

"From Remembrance to Hope: 9/11 Ten Years After"

Community Church of Boston will join the other faith communities of Boston's Back Bay neighborhood, as we gather to mark the Tenth Anniversary of 9/11/2001 with a special Interfaith Worship Service in Copley Square on Sunday, September 11, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. This Service, whose theme will be "From Remembrance to Hope", will represent an unprecedented coming together of our diverse religious traditions – Jewish, Unitarian Universalist, Christian and Islamic - for shared worship that will take the place of each congregation's regularly scheduled worship on that day. This will be a time to come together and share an inclusive liturgy that will reflect our different traditions as we together proclaim our common life and ideals as people of faith – both in solemn memorial and in affirmation of the hope for universal reconciliation, peace and justice embraced by all of our religious teachings.

This Service, under the auspices of the Back Bay Clergy Association, will feature music by the combined choirs of the participating congregations, and will include opportunities for participation by children. In case of inclement weather, the Service will be held in Trinity Church.

September 18th -- Rev. JASON LYDON

"Homecoming Sunday: Water Communion"

Each year we begin a new season of church services and each year is an opportunity for us to honor the various gifts we each bring into this community. The Water Communion is a ritual that has been done in UU congregations for decades, symbolizing the joining of a congregational community in intentional relationship. Please bring water from a place you journeyed to over the summer (or some symbolic tap water) and be ready to share with us about something you learned or experienced over the summer.

Rev. Jason Lydon is the minister of the Community Church of Boston.

September 25th -- Prof. ELAINE C. HAGOPIAN

"Syria: Pivotal or Pariah State?"

A frequent past speaker at Community Church, Elaine Hagopian is Professor Emerita of Sociology at Simmons College. She has been studying Arab politics for over 50 years and has regularly taught and done research in the area.

Her talk will focus on the leadership of Bashar Assad in the face of an authentic and democratic protest movement, complicated by an Islamic challenge. The latter is intermixed with the protests and underwritten by Saudi Arabia, the U.S. and Israel, seeking to break up the alliance between Syria, Iran and Hezbollah. Come and learn!

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

September 2011

news

Remembering 9/11: An Alternative Perspective

by Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister

September 11, 2011 marks ten years after the plane hijackings that were seen around the world. Many of us watched on our televisions as the World Trade Center buildings crumbled to the ground and parts of the Pentagon building was severely damaged. Thousands of people died that day in a great tragedy. The families of those who died will never get to hold, kiss, teach, or learn from the loved ones they lost that day. There is so much loss that came on that day ten years ago.

The loss, tragically, did not stop on that devastating day. Throughout the month of September we will be bombarded with nationalistic stories and claims that we were attacked that day because some faceless people "hate our freedom." We will hear the heroic story of EMTs and firefighters who gave their lives trying to save others. We will not, however, hear much about the Muslim families that were torn apart after that day. We will forget to tell the stories of how young Muslim men, and non-Muslims whose families were from the Arab world, were forced to register with the government and then often deported. According to the U.S. Attorney General's office over 15,000 people were "detained and arrested" shortly after 9/11/01. The Immigration and Naturalization Services (now renamed Immigration and Customs Enforcement) along with the FBI, began surveillance and targeted attacks on Arab and Muslim communities, a practice that continues right here in Massachusetts with the prosecution of Dr. Tarek Mehanna.

The mainstream press will neglect to tell the stories of how Japanese American organizations joined together with Muslim Americans remembering the realities of the internment of Japanese Americans in 1942 during WWII. When violence comes to the shores of the United States we have a pattern of targeting anyone who looks like those who caused us harm.

We at the Community Church of Boston have seen this happen before.

The death and destruction that occurred on September 11, 2001 continued when President George W. Bush sent bombs and troops to Afghanistan and then President Barack Obama ran on a platform of increasing the troop presence on the ground. There were many people who filled the streets of New York with tears on their faces they called out, "our grief is not a cry for war." The violence did not stop with the attacks on Afghanistan, it was then justified to start an internationally decried war with Iraq. The worlds largest protests occurred on February 15, 2003 and troops still were marched off to war and a "shock and awe" attack rained down on the people of Iraq. Thousands of people tragically and maliciously died on 9/11/01, yet over a million have died since as a result of U.S. attacks in the Middle East. As we grieve the loss of life that occurred ten years ago we must do so with attention to the ongoing suffering.

We have a responsibility to join in the conversation here. Bumper sticker slogans are already being thrown around in preparation for anniversary commemorations. "Freedom isn't free." "United We Stand." "God Bless America." "These Colors Don't Run." What do these statements say to our human family around the world? What do these statements say to the Iraqi young people who are drinking water poisoned with depleted uranium? What do these statements say to people here in the United States who can't get access to their basic needs met? We need to recognize the tragedy of 9/11/01 within the context of U.S. imperialism. If we allow others to say that "they" hate our freedom then we will not find the justice we need for the world to heal. We need to honor all those who have died since that day by continuing in our communal struggle for a world of justice and love.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service &
Speakers Forum

September 11th
BACK BAY INTERFAITH SERVICE
**“From Remembrance to Hope:
Tenth Anniversary of 9/11”**
(public memorial in Copley Square Park)

September 18th
Rev. JASON LYDON
**“Homecoming Sunday:
Water Communion”**

September 25th
Prof. ELAINE C. HAGOPIAN
“Syria: Pivotal or Pariah State?”

CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on August 9th, 2011
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

Minister's Report: The minister briefly discussed the activities which took place at the Unitarian-Universalist Association's General Assembly in Charlotte, NC during this past June. The suggestion of having a board or joint board/congregational retreat was proposed for the autumn. A possible outside facility, namely the Peace Abbey, is being considered.

Financial Matters: The treasurer presented the Profit and Loss Budget Performance report for July, 2011. Among the costs discussed were those reflecting repair & improvement of the CCB building, specific office expenses, CCB programming costs, Fundraising/Event expenses, as well as those expenditures incurred in relation to the Unitarian-Universalist Association internal organization.



Building Concerns: The Church has agreed to a request from the new theatre group to cover one-half of the cost of two air conditioners for the third and fourth floors.

Two bids have been submitted concerning the repair of the front roof of the CCB building.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

40 Years After Attica: LGBTQ Prisoner Justice Today

Black and Pink wants to share with people in the Boston-area about what our work is, ask what work others believe needs to be done for LGBTQ prisoners, and create strategies together about next steps. We will do some presenting, video clip watching, and networking. We will feed you DELICIOUS DINNER!

In the 1970s there were 200,000 people in prison, today there are 2.4 million! Organizers, prisoners, and scholars have compared the system to chattel slavery and Jim Crow. The modern prison industrial complex is attacking the lives of millions of people every day.

Black and Pink has been doing LGBTQ prison work for 6 years now! Over the past 2 years we have become more structured and are reaching over 1,000 prisoners with a monthly newsletter. We are consistently growing and are being recognized for our expansive work on a national and international level.

Friday, September 9th
6:30pm–9:00pm
Community Church of Boston
(in the Lothrop Auditorium)

FREE TAREK! Pre-Trial Benefit Show at the Community Church

Please join us for an evening of music to celebrate the beginning of a month of intense organizing leading up to the trial of political prisoner, Tarek Mehanna. Tarek is an Arab Muslim man from the Boston-area who has been imprisoned after refusing to be an FBI informant against his community.

The Tarek Mehanna Support Committee will also be in the house presenting updates on the case and laying out their strategy for action in the weeks leading up to Tarek's trial, which begins Oct 3rd!

More info on his case and what you can do to support:
www.freetarek.com



Saturday, September 10th, 6:00pm
Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston St, Copley Square
\$5-20 suggested donation



Our Community Remembers...

Maja Wesil-Johnson 1930-2011

On July 18th, Maja Wesil-Johnson passed away at her home in Mission Hill, Boston at 81.

Her life was an open history book for she was a true working class teacher, trade unionist, comrade, fearless fighter for peace, justice, and against racism. She drove the Center for Marxist Education for many years of hard work as well as paying the rent from her pocket to keep the CME open.



Her husband passed a few years earlier and she continued to work to keep the CME open. If there was a strike Maja would be there to help, not lead. Maja was a life long member of the CPUSA and the UE - as well as a working class hero. She had a wealth of historical and current

knowledge of progressive politics and personalities in Boston, she was always willing to share.

A memorial service for Maja will be held at the Community Church of Boston on Saturday, September 24th at 1:00pm. All are invited to attend.

Also, donations in Maja's memory can be made to the CME at 550 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139.

Rosie's Place founder Kip Tiernan dies at 85

Mary Jane "Kip" Tiernan, who founded the country's first homeless shelter for women, died July 2nd of cancer. She was 85.

Kip opened Rosie's Place in an abandoned supermarket in Boston in 1974. Started primarily as a center to hand out coffee and used clothes and to give a few needy women a place to sleep, Rosie's Place now has 20 beds and provide an array of services, including a food pantry, a literacy program, and drug and alcohol counseling. She later went on to help start the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, the Greater Boston Food Bank, and the city's Emergency Shelter Commission.

Kip Tiernan was a tough and fair woman who believed that homelessness would one day end. She railed against politicians and bureaucrats, as well as advocates and practitioners who put their own interests first. She saved her love and kind words for those who needed them most. Her loved for un-housed folks was epic and everlasting.

the National Lawyers Guild presents...

“Tahrir Square and Its Aftermath”

with Carol Gray

**Wednesday, September 14th, 5:30pm
at Kennedy’s Midtown Pub
44 Province Street (2nd fl), Boston**



Carol Gray will share slides and videos from Tahrir Square and relay accounts of demonstrations, crack-downs, and heroism. Carol was studying international human rights law in Egypt and doing an oral history of one of Egypt’s leading human rights organizations where the Arab Spring started.

Check out her blog for more information: rotaryincairo.blogspot.com

Following the presentation: NLG Monthly Happy Hour!

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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