

# community

The Newsletter of the Community Church of Boston  
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

Summer 2010

# news

## Summer Travels and Reflections

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Dear friends and members... Happy summer! I hope everyone has had opportunities to get to the beach, lake, river, or some other beautiful body of water to celebrate in the great beauty that is our summer months. I have had the great pleasure of being on break for the past five weeks. The first week of being away I was at the United States Social Forum in Detroit, Michigan with thousands of other leftists from around the country, including many people who are part of our community. It was such a phenomenal opportunity to network and talk about strategy. It was also a blessing to get together for dozens of Unitarian-Universalists who skipped General Assembly, understanding the great importance of the USSF for our faith community as well as our larger movement as a whole.

Among the beautiful people, workshops, learning, and celebrations was the brilliant and inspiring Grace Lee Boggs. She spoke before a giant audience who hung on her every word. Her most recent book will be coming out in just a few short months and she shared generously with us about the essential nature of (r)evolution. She reminded us that indeed capitalism is going to fall and that we must create something to replace it or else those who command the oppressive power will do so. The room was occupied by hundreds of people filled with inspiration and tears of commitment. It was a joy to sit next to Adam and Jolie, two friends of Community Church, as we listened to such words of wisdom.

If you have not taken the time to visit the USSF website and read the statements that came out of the People's Movement Assemblies, I ask you to please do so. While there are many of them, I think understanding where we are as a movement only helps us to strengthen who we are. PMA's are gatherings of those most impacted by particular issues coming up with the

strategic actions for moving forward, for those who experience oppression are most qualified to determine how to abolish it. Take the time to read these statements at: <http://pma2010.org/resolutions>. It may be a good use of our time to choose a few to read together each month for the next few months. We can discuss and figure out how we play into these movements.

Following the USSF I got on my bicycle and headed towards my Mom's house in North Carolina. I left Detroit and biked through what was probably the most impoverished area I have ever seen in my life. Shacks made of tin and kids with puffed out bellies, the kind that mean they're hungry, not chubby. Then the sky went from being cloudy to dark, dark gray, almost black. The clouds seemed to take aim at me as they shot down enormous buckets of rain and giant chunks of hail. It hurt! I kept biking because there was really nowhere to go and hide. So I kept peddling down the street until I was surrounded by the loudest siren I have ever heard in my life. The piercing sounds were destroying my little ears. I figured there was really nothing I could do so I just kept biking. Then I went past a Walgreens and there were people in the windows waving and banging on them, I looked around and there was no one else on the street so I went over. The clerk was nearly yelling, "What are you doing?! There's a tornado coming!" So I got in and we hid out in the snack aisle of Walgreens until the tornado, which did touch down 3 miles from where we were, was gone. An adventure, a quite scary adventure.

It is good to now be home and planning the return of our season and I very excitedly am working with others on planning events for my ordination on September 19th. I look forward to seeing people in the streets and in the struggle between now and our homecoming service on September 12th!

## Annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration on George's Island

On August 8th the Community Church of Boston will hold our annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration on George's Island. People wishing to attend should gather together at the Long Wharf North Pier (right next to Columbus Park) at 10:30am to get on the 11:00am ferry to George's Island. Tickets can be purchased before hand or at the Pier.

Everyone is encouraged to bring food to share and other picnic related things. We will have a short service together while we eat and share time with one another, living for a world free of nuclear weapons!

Visit [www.bostonharborislands.com](http://www.bostonharborislands.com) to learn more about the different islands

Save the Date! CCB Picnic  
Saturday, September 11th!

This year's annual CCB picnic will take place on Saturday, September 11th, 1:00pm in the Copley Square park, directly across from the Community Church building.

Please bring a dish, dessert or refreshments to share!



## CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on July 13, 2010  
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

**Building Committee:** The reconstruction coordinator, Henry Putman, presented a lengthy report regarding several aspects of the CCB building. This was intermingled with discussion amongst members of the board directly related to Mr. Putman's statements.

The main points related to the building repairs are (1) restoration of water damage, (2) code and ordinance issues, (3) elective projects (ie, handicapped toilet and pointing of part of the roof). The need for a building lease subcommittee was also emphasized.

A building repairs subcommittee has been meeting on a weekly basis regarding the CCB building permits

## CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on June 17, 2010  
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

**Congregational Director's Concerns:** The board voted to forward a letter to be composed by the CCB president and signed by members of the board to be sent to the Conference Committee and to the governor to further protest the \$5.00 daily fee to be levied on prisoners for room and board.

Media sources stated that two-hundred people protested on June 15 at Fenway Park prior to the Arizona-Boston baseball game regarding the racist anti-immigrant law, SB 1070, due to be promulgated on July 29, 2010.

**Financial Matters:** The treasurer stated that the Church was slightly overspending on some items.

The drawings for the CCB sprinkler system have been submitted to the Inspectional Services Department. The process of obtaining permits for the reconstruction is ongoing at a frustratingly slow pace.



**Various Concerns:** John MacLeod, assisted by David Broeg and Rodney Burston, has agreed to coordinate the 11:00am Sunday brunch during July and August.

The Board of Officers and Directors and the CCB membership express their profound appreciation to Pat McSweeney, a longtime valued friend of the Church, for her generous contribution to the CCB annual appeal, Many thanks, Pat!

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

and other matters related to the upkeep of the building. Members of this committee are Virginia Pratt, David Broeg, John MacLeod and Jason Lydon.

**Financial Report:** The treasurer presented a detailed report on various line items and their respective amounts from the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual reports. A gift of approximately \$3,500 was presented to the Church from the Cynthia Anthonsen Memorial Fund.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10, 2010 at 7:15pm at the home of a board member.

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

# Updates from the Streets of Arizona

*adapted from Democracy Now!*

Protests are happening in Arizona and across the country against the new anti-immigrant law (Arizona SB 1070) that went into effect at midnight on July 29th. Four protesters brought downtown Phoenix to a standstill Wednesday night after scaling a construction crane to unfurl a large banner reading "Stop Hate." At least fifty people were arrested in Arizona Thursday in protests against the state's new anti-immigrant law. [Celebrations] were also held in parts of the state after a federal judge blocked key parts of the law, hours before it went effect. The parts of the law blocked included a provision that would have required police officers to stop and interrogate anyone they suspect is an undocumented immigrant. The ruling came in response to an injunction requested by the Obama administration, which argued in a lawsuit that the law was unconstitutional and warned the provisions would result in racial profiling. Many residents of Arizona say the law would target Latinos.



Judge Bolton said in her thirty-six-page decision that it was "not in the public interest" for Arizona to enforce provisions that preempt federal enforcement of immigration law. Also put on hold were parts of the law requiring foreigners to apply for or carry certain documents, making it a state crime for undocumented workers "to solicit, apply for or perform work," and mandating verification of the immigration status of any arrested person prior to release. Bolton ruled the partial injunction should apply until the issues are resolved by the courts.

The ruling meant that other portions of the law, known as Senate Bill 1070, took effect on midnight. Among them are provisions that prohibit state authorities from limiting enforcement of federal immigration laws, a provision that makes it a crime to impede traffic by picking up day laborers, and a part of the law that creates misdemeanor crimes for harboring and transporting undocumented immigrants.

Of the 80+ people who were arrested doing non-violent civil disobedience to express their outrage against the racist legislation, nearly thirty were Unitarian Universalists! It is an exciting time for UUs to stand up and use our voices and put our bodies on the line!

The Rev. Leela Sinha in coastal Maine wrote this prayer for those who were locked up on the night of the 29th:

*May you be whole and well tonight;  
may your presence move hearts, open doors, break chains,  
and sound a call for freedom,  
the golden torch that calls us to integrity as a people united,  
integrity as a nation,  
values brought to life by laws  
that give everyone a chance  
no matter who we are  
no matter what language we speak,  
no matter what stress or circumstance cast us upon these  
shores,  
we shall judge and be judged "on the content of our character  
and not on the color of our skin."  
May your courage inspire courage,  
may your pride inspire pride.  
May your bodies be your voices  
and may your voices stand for all of us,  
that we may strive to be the country  
that we claim to be.  
May you call us to our highest ideals.  
May we all, every one, hear you  
in that place where the still, small voice  
echoes from mountaintop  
to desert  
to ocean  
and it cannot be denied.  
May we not close our ears,  
nor deny what we hear.  
Amen.*

## Graduations Among Us!

**Julia Metzger-Traber** graduated from Hampshire College last year and has been working in New Mexico with Healthcare for the Homeless and part-time at a rape crisis center.

Bill (former CCB minister) & Eva Alberts' daughter, **Amy**, received a PhD from Tufts University in Applied Child Development and has continued there as a post-doctorate fellow.

Susan Mortimer's daughter, **Jessy**, graduated from Clark University and plans on a career in Marine Biology.

Not to be overlooked, **Carlos Lerman** graduated from the Curtis-Tufts Alternative High School after a long journey.

# Modern-Day Slavery Museum Visits Massachusetts

Presented by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers



Monday, August 9th, 10am-8pm  
Boston City Hall Plaza

Friday, August 6th, 8am-7pm  
United First Parish Church  
(1306 Hancock St, Quincy)

Sunday, August 8th, 2:30pm-8pm  
Downtown Salem (Essex St.)

The centerpiece of the traveling museum is a replica of a truck used to enslave farmworkers in the US. vs. Navarrete (2008) slavery case that tells the stories of six modern farmworker slavery cases involving over 1,000 workers.

The truck is accompanied by an examination of the history and evolution of slavery in the fields of Florida and up along the East Coast: Its roots, the reason it persists, and solutions.

<http://www.ciw-online.org/museum>

## 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

Jason Lydon, *Congregational Director*

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



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