

community

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

Summer 2007

news

Summer as a Time for Reflection...

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Dear friends and members... Happy summer to everyone! I hope all are enjoying the summer sunsets and the weekend swims. I am already longing for our Sunday mornings together and the conversation over lunch. We had a turbulent closing to our season and I hope all are having time to reflect and prioritize for the coming season. We have a couple new folks coming on to the Board and thus some change in leadership. This summer gives us an opportunity to take some room and breath as we make plans for our future together.

Since I left on our last Sunday I have been on quite an adventure. I began my time at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. I was wearing numerous hats this year. My primary role was as a UUA staff person providing support for the Youth Caucus, a role I played in Long Beach in 2004. The youth community this year was quite strong and organized inspiring and energizing programming, primarily around anti-racism and identity development. Another hat I wore was as an all GA Right Relationship Team member. We were a small group of about 15 folks who hold many identities (i.e. White, People of Color, Ministers, Lay leaders, etc) who were responsible for helping us all live the entirety of our Unitarian Universalist Principles during GA and to address issues of racism, classism, ableism, sexism, patriarchy, adultism, etc. as they came up in the community. More importantly our job was to support new structures that would make it so such issues would not come up. However, oppression doesn't disappear just because we want it to, it takes hard work and in time, hopefully, we won't need groups like the Right Relationship Team. The last major hat I wore was representing our congregation. It's been some time since we've had a delegate from the Community Church of Boston but it was wonderful talking with members of other urban churches, small congregations, politically left congregations, and getting new, exciting, and innovative ideas. If JooYoung wasn't having such a great time in Korea I would have wished she was there to talk with other church school directors.

One of the ideas I've been brewing in my mind for some time and I talked with some other folks about was starting a second service on Sunday evenings as a sort of "spiritual practice for leftists". One of the things that UU churches around the country are learning is that while many, many people visit our churches we do not do the best at retaining membership. It's an issue our congregation is VERY familiar with. There are many ways to work on hospitality. We are certainly growing in that area and there is more we can do. Expanding our definition of membership may also help us grow as a community with folks who are invested in how things are run and how our bills are paid. I would suggest we take some time together and look at what it means for someone to join our community and have power within the decision-making processes. Our community is far larger than our Sunday morning crew, and how do we best incorporate them into all that we are? I am hoping that by creating an evening service on Sundays at 5:00pm we may be able to meet the needs of some folks who will not have their needs met by our morning service/forum and we won't have to lose the great feel of our current Sunday set up. The ideal is to figure out a way to meet everyone's needs.

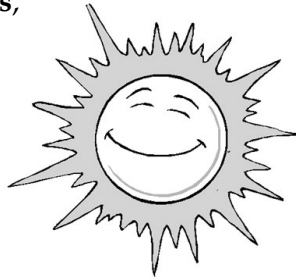
It is quite clear that I have had plenty of time to think. For those who do not know, I got on my bicycle with one of my closest friends after GA ended and began biking south. We have been biking along the Pacific Coast Highway and through the Red Woods of Northern California. The beauty is breath-taking and the relaxation is incredible. 50-80 miles of biking each day is quite a gift and allows much of the earth to be seen. With that, I look forward to seeing many of you at the events in August and also in September when our Sunday services begin once again.

Remembering Hiroshima-Nagasaki

On Sunday, August 5th, in honor of Hiroshima Day, we will gather on Georges Island together for a short service and a picnic together. The tragedy of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will never end as long as we keep funding the military industrial complex. We are called to come together on this day to remember all those who have perished as a result of war and to particularly remember those who have been destroyed because of U.S. military power. Please meet at the Boston Harbor Islands Ferry (near the Aquarium) at 10:00am and we will plan to take the 10:30 ferry. Get there early as we will need to purchase tickets. Please let Jason know if you need any assistance.

Save The Date! CCB Picnic -Saturday, August 25th!!

At the home of Lenny Shames, 81 Nyack Street, Watertown 1-5pm (approx). Please bring a dish or dessert. Drinks and ice cream will be provided.



Directions:

By car: From Watertown Square, go west on Main St. (toward Waltham) about 8 or 9 blocks, to Lexington St. Turn right, go 6 blocks, to Philip Darch Rd. Turn left, go 6 blocks to Nyack St (corner house)

By the T: Kenmore bus (#57) to Watertown Square, or else, from Harvard Square, the #73 bus to the end (Waverly Square), then call to be picked up: (617) 926-0088

80th Annual Memorial Commemoration for Sacco & Vanzetti

marches, theatre, films, and more!!

August 23rd - August 25th

for more information: <http://saccoandvanzetti.org>

CCB Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on June 14, 2007.

Following are highlights of the meeting.

The following board members were present: Mary Ann Cromer, Kevin Devine, Selma Ganz, Karl Jones, Dick Keshishian, John MacLeod, Lenny Shames, Ron Shapiro, Dean Stevens, Jason Lydon, *Congregational Director*

Congregational Director's Concerns: Jason presented a brief statement on an anti-racist conference which he attended in San Antonio.

A new CCB website will be set up for a nominal fee in exchange for allowing Students for a Democratic Society to have meetings within the Church for four hours on a weekly basis. The Boston Alliance for Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, and Transgender Youth will also be renting space on a monthly basis.

Financial Concerns: Ron announced that groups renting space on a permanent basis in the CCB building must carry an insurance policy through their organization.

The gap between income and expenses has narrowed; the Church is presently operating in the black. The PAX Funds are doing well, in part to a strong financial market. (they are worth about \$223,000 at this time.)

Various Concerns: Jim Casteris stated the need for an eventual handicap bathroom. More funds will be needed in the next five years to install a new fire escape and for other maintenance projects.

The annual CCB picnic will be held on Saturday, August 25th, at 1:00pm at the home of Lenny Shames. The date for the Hiroshima-Nagasaki event is Sunday, August 5th.

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk



Summer Thoughts from the Prez...

by Dean Stevens, President

It's a summer filled with travel and relaxation, in fact so much of it that we're gone for most of July and August, in El Salvador, Maine and Colorado. I love being away, yet I miss the chance to see some of you at our regular summer events, (The Hiroshima Day trip to the Harbor Islands, and the church picnic, this year at the home of Lenny Shames), Still, you are all in our hearts, and we look forward to seeing you in September. I hope we can come back to our church's endeavors reenergized and ready to get back to it.

This summer I got to lead my 33d Sister City delegation to four villages in El Salvador, this time accompanied by two CCB members, Lee Fich and Suzie Giroux. We got to see some phenomenal progress on endeavors that we are helping fund, including a water project and a series of tilapia fish tanks, vegetable gardens and high school scholarships. It's a beautiful trip to these mountain countryside villages, and I'd love to take other CCB members along. The delegations happen twice a year, in summer and in winter. As always, we are inspired by the way these folks work together, live in community, and slowly but surely, move forward. We were also alarmed by some of the heavy handed tactics the

Salvadoran government is employing on its opponents. A truck full of folks from CRIPDES, our partner organization in El Salvador, were arrested and accused under new "antiterrorism" laws (sound familiar??), of being in a vehicle that was headed toward a protest of the government's water privatization. There are 13 people still in jail, in what is known as preventative detention. While the government studies whether or not they are terrorists. Following the US' illustrious example, little Guantanos are sprouting up all over the continent. Fascism is alive and well. Among the arrested was Lorena Martinez, the president of CRIPDES, a brilliant and forceful voice in the popular struggle, also a wonderful friend and owner of the guest house where our delegations stay. Please email me (dean@deanstevens.com) for sample letters of protest you can send out regarding these outrageous arrests.

I look forward to hearing about your summer adventures. Keep up the struggle!

For information about upcoming concerts, CD releases, trips to El Salvador, coffee and crafts, add your name to the mailing list at: www.deanstevens.com

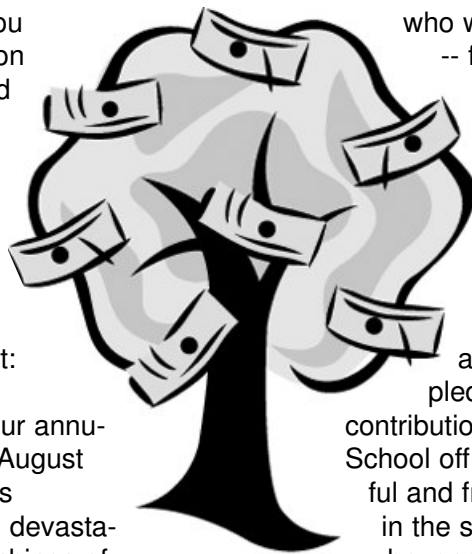
Let's Grow Our Money Tree!

by Betsy Gynn, Personnel Committee

If you haven't made an annual pledge or given a contribution to Community Church of Boston this year, we ask that you please do it today! A contribution card and envelope are enclosed to make it easy.

Yes, the summer heat is on and Community Church is taking its summer break from the Sunday Forums & Services -- but there are still lots of things going on that need your support:

-- folks are organizing our annual *Peace Service* coming up in August (see the notice elsewhere in this newsletter) in recognition of the devastation brought on by the U.S. bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the need to never forget.



-- a new Justice School Committee will convene its first meeting in August, to get ready for the children who will begin Justice School on September 9th.
-- folks are fixing, priming and painting the Guatemala Room and other church spaces so that we'll look great in September.
-- and as usual, the church is open over the summer for members, friends and activist groups to hold events, films, fundraisers, meetings, concerts and more.

So as you can see, there is lots going on and your support is needed! Please make a pledge today if you haven't yet, or send an extra contribution if you are able. It will get the Justice School off to a great start, help make our spaces beautiful and fresh, and help us continue to play a vital role in the social justice community in Boston and beyond. Thank you!

A Just Peace Production...

A Revolutionary Act: Progressive Film Series

Every Sunday until the end of Summer!
Shows at 11am, 2pm & 6pm

Moderator: Ray of Freedom
\$2 Suggested Donation at Door

Community Church of Boston
Lothrop Auditorium; The Peace Gallery
565 Boylston St, Copley Square

for more information, email: rayoffreedom@hotmail.com

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

Dean Stevens, *President*
Mary Ann Cromer, *Vice President*
Ron Shapiro, *Treasurer*
Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

Christina Braidotti, Lenny Shames, Audrey Coulter, Kevin Devine, Selma Ganz, Karl Jones, John MacLeod



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COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON

