

# community

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

September 2007

# news

## New Church Season, New Church Programs...

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Dear friends and members, a new season is nearly upon us. August is winding down and September is knocking at our door. This is the beginning of school for so many (myself included), the start of college students wandering around lost in Boston, and the time when we come back together to energize ourselves for the work of our church.

This 88th season brings many new beginnings. One of the greatest excitements is the Justice School. After nearly a year of preparation we are joyously welcoming in to our community families with young children and youth. For months you have heard updates from JooYoung about progress on the development of this new program. We were blessed with the presence of a number of young people one Sunday in June when they experienced what a Sunday at the Justice School would be like. The time for anticipation is over and the time to be involved and nourish this vital program is now. Each Sunday we will begin together with the youth and children before they take off to the Guatemala room. During that time together JooYoung will share with us what has been happening in the program and what they plan to do that day. It is our responsibility as a community to welcome this new program and to support JooYoung in the work she is doing. It is also our responsibility to welcome the new parents, aunts, grandparents who will hopefully join us for our morning service. This is a time for radical hospitality. This is a time for us to be welcoming and generous to those who are new. When you come back in September remember the feelings of being new and how you may be gentle and inviting to our new people.

Beginning this September we will also be trying the idea of a second service on Sundays starting at 5:00pm, *Growing Faith, Building Community*. This service will be focused on serving those who wish to explore their faith, religious ideas, and spirituality as well as would rather be

sleeping or hosting brunch at 11:00am than coming to our morning service. Like our morning service, the evening service will provide space for building community and reflecting on hopes, ideas, and ideals together. The intention is to build intergenerational community that will support and uphold the purpose of this congregation. I



encourage all those who attend our morning service to come to the evening service as well if you wish. Adding this second service keeps our Sunday morning culture consistent while at the same time providing a service for those whose needs

are not met by our morning service format. Please share any and all ideas with me as this is in the earliest possible phase and needs the love and support of others to make it work.

Our first Sunday together is September 9th. I am hoping that, again this year, you all would take a moment to bring some water or sand or stones from somewhere you went this summer or representative of something you did while we were apart. As we gather together again for our first Sunday this is an opportunity for us to ignite the flame within our community and celebrate with each other our experiences from the summer and our hopes for a new church year. Please take some time to reflect on a lesson you may have learned or a new experience you had to share with us. I certainly look forward to being with everyone again.

# COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



## Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium  
Sundays at 11:00am

**September 9th**

**JASON LYDON**

*"Homecoming Sunday"*

**September 16th**

*The Middle East - week one*

**ALICE ROTHCHILD, M.D.**

*"Israel & Palestine: Broken Promises, Broken Dreams"*

**September 23rd**

*The Middle East - week two*

**AMERICAN-ARAB ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE**

*"Combatting Defamation & Negative Stereotyping in the Media and Elsewhere"*

**September 30th**

**CCB CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

*All church members are strongly encouraged to attend!*

## Welcoming our 'Justice School' Students

This summer I traveled to South Korea and visited my birth family. It was a remarkable experience. Although part of my trip was dedicated to spending time with my birth family, the other half of my trip was spent traveling on a sponsored tour all over South Korea with a group of Korean adoptees from around the world (Australia, Germany and USA). The tour was titled "Journey 2007" the goal of this trip was to help us adoptees learn more about our culture and to "find a part of ourselves"; to become "whole".



**The Justice School**

After returning to the States, I realized that our church would also embark upon a "journey". With the welcoming of our new Justice School students we will move forward into unexplored territory. This year we will celebrate and grow into a community that includes children, youth and their families. On this journey I believe we as a community will become more "whole" and find a new sense of identity as a church.

On September 9th, our congregation will be welcoming our youngest members. Before school starts, I invite each member of our church to do their homework and research within their heart how they can contribute to the nurturing of this brand new program. How can you be welcoming to our new students? Will you pay special attention to learn their names and greet them on the first day? Will you bake cookies for them to eat during class? Do you have a skill or special knowledge you would like to share with them on a Sunday down the road? Do you have extra art supplies or books you'd like to donate?

If you are interested in making an action based effort to help out, please contact me at the church: 617-266-6710 or through e-mail at [jooyoung@commchurch.org](mailto:jooyoung@commchurch.org). If you have *National Geographics* or art supplies you'd like to donate, let me know! If you would like to fold Justice School pamphlets or pick up pamphlets to distribute, let me know!

- Joo Young Choi, Director of Children/Youth SJE Program



## September Week of Anti-War Actions in Washington, DC

A broad spectrum of national groups have united to mobilize for a massive fall anti-war mobilization called the Days of Action. September 15-21 will be a major showdown in Washington, DC at the very moment that the Petraeus Report is released and Congress takes up spending over \$100 billion to prolong the war. Launched with a huge March on Washington on September 15, there will be seven days of actions to send a shockwave through Washington and the nation with the reverberating demand: End the War Now!

For information, including busses from Boston, visit: <http://www.Sept15.org>

# Obituary: Laura M. Ross, lifelong activist and organizer

*Laura M. Ross, Community Activist, Organizer, Trade Unionist, Mother, Wife, Grandmother, Internationalist, Worker for Peace/Socialism and all around great human being. She spent her life helping at make a better world for all people. Laura passed away in her sleep having been cared for by Geraldo "Din" Dias and Gary Dotterman. Many shall miss and remember Laura M. Ross.*

Laura Ross has gone home to her ancestors, and to her comrades no longer among us. She was born in Pennsylvania in 1913 of Lithuanian immigrant parents. By her 20th birthday, she was working in the retail industry of New York City. She became a leader and organizer in the Retail Clerks Union Local 65. On the night of the executions of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg on 19th June of 1953 she led her entire shop to the mass protest at the Rosenberg home.

Laura was active in the Russian War Relief. She threw all of her energy into raising money and gathering material aid for the women and children who were the refugees from Hitler's legions. And she joined others in demanding that Roosevelt, Churchill and other allies of the Soviet Union open up a second military front against the German and Axis armies in Europe.

By the 1960's, Laura had moved to Boston and for the next five-plus decades was everywhere to be seen when it came to both local and national struggles for peace and justice, against racism and male supremacy. In all of the electoral campaigns where African-American progressive candidates ran for public office, Laura was to be found organizing in the Allston-Brighton neighborhoods to get people to vote and to give money on their behalf. She was also one of the founders and leaders of the Boston People's Organization in the 1970s, the organization that in 1982 became the Rainbow Coalition that supported the run for Mayor by Mel King, long time youth advocate and community activist. Laura was an active member of the Community Church of Boston.

Laura also tried her hand at running for office. Beginning in 1974, she ran three times for the 8th Congressional District seat, occupied by U.S. House, Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill receiving 25% of the vote. She raised issues around affordable housing, unemployment relief and the impeachment of Richard Nixon impeached. After the 1974 election, her campaign office in Central Square Cambridge became the Center for Marxist Education, now in its 33rd year of operation.

Laura was a proud and unabashed member of the Communist Party USA and attributed nearly everything she knew that was of value to her experiences in that

organization. And she insisted that its newspapers—be it the Daily Worker, the Daily World, the People's Weekly World—be distributed at every opportunity. It was Laura who, at age 91, after September 11 and before things reached their present levels of struggles, distributed upwards of 800 copies of the People's Weekly World at several antiwar rallies in Boston.

Laura was married twice. She had two children by her first marriage: a daughter, the late Patricia Lee Geller of Lansing, Michigan, and a son, Dr. Arthur Naddell who lives in Florida. Her second husband Max Ross, a public transport worker who later became a labor lawyer, died many years ago. Her son, Dr. Naddell, 6 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren survive Laura. In keeping with Laura's international approach to life, her survivors and their spouses hail from USA, Mexico, Israel, Yemen, China and Switzerland. Their religious beliefs, or lack of, include Atheism, Judaism, Catholicism, Protestantism and Buddhism. Laura was part and parcel of a very eclectic family.

**A memorial event will be held at the Community Church of Boston, Saturday, September 29, 2007 from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.** In Lieu of flowers please make a donation to the Center for Marxist Education, the People's Weekly World Fund Drive, the Fund for Progress II, the Chelsea Fund for Education, and/or the Communist Party USA. Please mail contributions to: "Laura Ross Memorial", 1534 Commonwealth Avenue, Brighton, MA 02135-5002 Memorial", 1534 Commonwealth Avenue, Brighton, MA 02135-5002.

## Results for the 2007 Sacco-Vanzetti Award For Social Justice

It is with great excitement to announce this year's Sacco & Vanzetti Social Justice Award recipient, City Councilor **Chuck Turner!** After an instant run-off vote by all those present at the annual meeting in June the top three candidates, as compiled by our Office Manager, Mark Laskey, are: City Councilor Chuck Turner, Amy Goodman of Democracy Now, and progressive author/educator Robert Hilliard.

Many thanks to all who nominated someone. All of the individuals who were nominated have contributed great work to our movement and we celebrate all of them when we continue to do our own work to transform this world we live in.

# Growing Faith, Strengthening Community



Searching for faith?  
Growing your faith?  
Figuring out what you believe?

Join us at the **Community Church of Boston** for our NEW 5:00pm service and potluck dinner. The intention of the evening service is to bring together inter-

generational community to search, reflect, sing, and build community. You are invited to bring your favorite dish or snack to share after the service. ALL are welcome! Call or email Jason Lydon, *Congregational Director*, if you have any questions. 617.266.6710 - [jason@commchurch.org](mailto:jason@commchurch.org)

## 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*

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