

community

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

October 2007

news

October: The Month of Awareness

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Dear friends and members... Autumn is upon us. The leaves are quickly changing colors, the brisk cool air is already beginning to fill our lungs, soon squashes will be overflowing our kitchens, and before you know it plastic Harry Potter costumes will be strewn all over the aisles in CVS. October is one of my favorite times of year. Please do let me know if you want to spend some time apple picking, as I will be running to whatever orchards I can find between classes and church. The more apple pickers there are, the merrier.

Each month I find myself looking up what that particular month is set aside to honor. March is Women's History Month, February is Black History Month, June is Queer Pride Month, and so on. Most months have a number of focused celebrations. When there are so many issues, causes, and communities to honor we hardly have enough moments in a year to do any of them significant justice. Certainly critique of tokenized time to learn about a particular historically marginalized community or forgotten issue is easy. However, we are well aware that the majority of our time and energy as a culture is focused on the dominant histories and issues affecting White, heterosexual, able-bodied, healthy, men between the ages of 30 and 55. Thus, taking time to honor the stories and issues affecting those not within the above mentioned communities is essential for any community seeking to do justice work. Our responsibility is to not relegate all the histories to the set aside months, days, or weeks. The founder of Black History Month, Carter G. Woodson, had intended Black History Week would not need to exist once our culture understood that Black history should be included in all study of U.S. history. Tragically we are nowhere near that goal.

With all that in mind, October is one of those months with MANY awareness issues and histories to be told. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Lupus Awareness Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and even Cyber Security Awareness Month. October is also Disability History Month, Queer History Month, and Black History Month in the U.K. I

encourage you all to look into the histories you know and how those with disabilities, who are queer, and are Black are left out or included in those histories. I encourage you to question what you see in your communities about the awareness of breast cancer, lupus, and domestic violence (cyber security is likely more important than I give it credit for).

I would like to give you a jumpstart on understanding the issues of Domestic Violence. According to The Network/La Red partner abuse is defined as, "a recurring and chronic pattern of behaviors where one person tries to control the thoughts, beliefs, or actions of their partner, someone they are dating or someone they had an intimate relationship with." It is often assumed that partner abuse can only occur when one person is physically assaulting another, however an abuser is able to use tactics of control and manipulation that focus on their partner's emotional, mental, economic, or cultural identity. Partner abuse happens within all communities regardless of class, race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, etc. Survivors of partner abuse do not have nearly enough resources at their disposal. It is imperative that silence around this issue end and that communities of all sorts, including our congregation, learn about the many resources that do exist and provide support to those who may be seeking a helping hand.

Of course there is far more to learn about domestic violence than I can put into one paragraph. This is just a beginning. October is an opportunity to introduce yourself to those things set aside in this month to raise your awareness. Also, if you are a survivor of domestic violence, you are not alone. Please visit www.thenetworklaared.org for support and for a list of resources in the Greater Boston area. We as a community are responsible for caring for each other. Remember to be a welcoming and respectful ear to those in need.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium
Sundays at 11:00am

October 7th

Indigenous Peoples' Week: I
COLOMBIA VIVE
*"Indigenous Resistance to the U.S.-
Colombia Free Trade Agreement"*

October 14th

Indigenous Peoples' Week: II
BELKIS URDANETA
*"Moving Beyond Rhetoric: Chavez'
Venezuela and U.S. Policy"*

October 21st

AYDAN RODRIGUEZ
*"Queer Youth: Resiliency, Power,
and Community"*

October 28th

**DEAN STEVENS, LEE FICH,
SUZIE GIROUX & FRIENDS**
*"El Salvador: Sister 'Cities'
North and South"*

CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on August 28, 2007.
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

An abbreviated board meeting took place with three board members, the congregational director, and a representative from the Ministerial Committee.

Congregational Director's Concerns: Jason sent out 180 press releases and dropped off flyers and miscellaneous publicity concerning the upcoming CCB season as well as information concerning the newly inaugurated Sunday evening services at 5pm.

Financial Concerns: Ron wishes to initiate a financial growth plan for the Church. The roof of the CCB building needs repairs.

Various Concerns: At Jason's request, Kevin Devine has agreed to be the liaison from CCB to Jobs with Justice.

Those present thanked Virginia Pratt, who showed her photos and presented a detailed and informative description of her recent trip to Bolivia as part of a delegation from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on September 5, 2007.
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

The following board members were present: David Broeg, Selma Ganz, Karl Jones, Dick Keshishian, John MacLeod, Virginia Pratt, Ron Shapiro, Dean Stevens, Jason Lydon, *Congregational Director*

Presidential Concerns: Dean stated that he is trying to invigorate the Building Committee and wants to make the CCB building more energy efficient by applying plastic on all of the windows, especially in the rear of the building. CCB has joined Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light, who advise faith-based communities on energy efficiency and sustainability



Dean also made a special point of thanking Andrea Hornbein and her friend Thalia for the excellent job in the painting of the Guatemala Room.

Various Concerns: A discussion on the amendments and additions to the CCB bylaws will be held on October 21, 2007. It was also decided that the board meetings would take place tentatively on third Thursday of the month, unless otherwise noted.

Thirteen young people are enrolled in the newly formed Justice School at CCB.

Dean will communicate with Louis Randa from the Peace Abbey regarding a congregational meeting to be held there perhaps in late April, 2008.

According to his office, Councilor Chuck Turner has tacitly agreed to receive the 2007 Sacco-Vanzetti Award to be presented sometime in early December.

Jason suggested that a signing of the CCB membership book be held on the first Sunday of the month with the hope of encouraging people to become members.

Karl Jones proposed that the name of the Program Committee be changed to the Program & Outreach Committee, recognizing those who put their time and energy into outreach. A proposed website would include the listing of speakers and topics as soon as a date had been agreed upon.

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

Our Ornerly Digs: CCB Building News and Updates

by Dean Stevens, President

This is a little missive about our funky old building. Some day I'd like to research the exact story of how we came to own 565 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116. I understand it dates back to the 40s, and that we somehow inherited this gem. My gratitude to our predecessors for this gift to us, is enough for me to, now, as I write, go to the phone, call our lawyer, and have him include Community Church of Boston in our will. We are so fortunate to own this building. It provides us a space to meet, and at the same time brings us a goodly portion of the income we need to stay afloat, make our payroll, and keep on moving forward. This building has also housed a myriad of progressive organizations over the years, and now is no exception. I remind you of the present list: Boston Youth Organizing Project, Healing our Land (an HIV Ministry, led by Rev. Franklin Hobbs), and the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. This year we welcome a new tenant, Boston Area Gay and Lesbian Youth, (aka BAGLY) who meet in the Lothrop Auditorium every Wednesday evening. There are numerous other groups who meet regularly here. The one I'm most active with is called Boston Climate Action Network, whose meeting is on the first Sunday evening of each month. We hope soon to have a bulletin board that is solely for our tenants to list their activities/activism.

We regret to hear the news that the Peace Abbey will vacate their office on the Lothrop level. We were their Boston Area headquarters for several years. We will miss them. It means that we have a small office space available for rent. Spread the word!!

There are days when this building feels more like a bane than a boon. The day we found out that we need extensive and expensive roof repairs was a bane day. In the months to come, we will be doing fundraising around that big upcoming capital outlay. We are also trying hard to be better environmental stewards. To that purpose we have joined Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light, an ecumenical organization that provides energy audits, oil buyers' discounts and other environmental stewardship advice to churches. We will be having an audit soon, and hope to find inexpensive ways to tighten up our building, save ourselves lots of money on oil bills, and be better planetary stewards in the process.

Jim Casteris deserves enormous accolades for his decades of dedication to this building. Also, I thank Betsy Rueda-Gynn and her nephew-in law Cristian for many hours spent painting and sprucing up the Guatemala Room to welcome the Justice School, and for making the far end of the Auditorium feel comfortable and cozy. Andrea Hornbein and Dick Crowley, thank you for your marvellous painting work in the Guatemala Room. But most of all, thanks to our predecessors, names known and unknown, for passing this building along to us. May we have the wisdom to keep it well, for those who are yet to come. Enjoy it. Love it. Take care of it. It is yours, mortgage free!!

Attend Arnie King's Upcoming Public Hearing!

The Massachusetts Parole Board has granted Arnold King a public hearing for a potential commutation of sentence. Please join members of Community Church of Boston as well as elected officials, students, professors, clergy, business people, family members and friends to show support for Arnie King's request for commutation of sentence.

Hearing Date:
Thursday, October 25th
10:00am

Location:

Massachusetts Parole Board Central office
12 Mercer Rd, Natick, MA 01760
(508) 650-4500

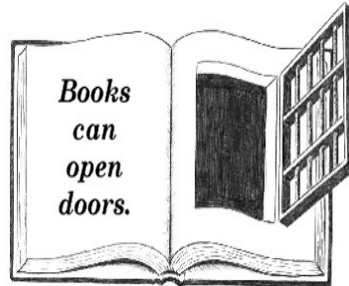
If you cannot attend the hearing, please consider writing a letter before the hearing describing why you would welcome Arnie back into the community. For details on letter writing, visit www.throughbarbedwire.com and click on "Here's How You Can Help".

For more information about Arnie King's case and hearing, visit: www.arnoldking2007.org

Support the Prison Book Program of Boston!

Book Drive!!!

Bring your unwanted book donations to benefit Prison Book Program. Hardcover, paperbacks, used and new, fiction and non-fiction!



At the Community Church of Boston we will have a box in the Lothrop Room for you to drop off your books in. On October 20th the Prison Book Program is hosting a drop off party for the books where individuals can volunteer to organize, sort, and clean books. The event will be at Allston-Brighton Congregational Church UCC, 404 Washington Street (Brighton, MA)

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, David Broeg, Kevin Devine,
Selma Ganz, Karl Jones, John MacLeod,
Virginia Pratt



DATED MATERIAL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

telephone: (617) 266-6710
fax: (617) 266-0449
email: info@commchurch.org
www.commchurch.org

565 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON

