

COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2004

Dear congregation, dear community,

I describe, on my better days, our congregation, on its better days, as being "authentic." What can that possibly mean?

From the dictionary: *conforming to fact and therefore worthy of belief.* To me, it means that we look at the world as it really appears to be, and try to understand it as it really is. We see a world of profound contradictions--the wealthiest, most productive, most powerful nation-state of the whole human story, with a prosperity gap ever-widening between the few at the top of the system and the many--virtually all!--who inhabit most of the system. We see the many systemic obstacles to the transformation of the system (theologian Walter Brueggeman will include civility, cynicism, satiation, et al.), and we seek to understand the dynamics that keep them in place. We aim to build a community that will challenge them. That's when we're most "authentic."

We are studying, this month, Racial Justice in the larger Unitarian Universalist movement. We're starting with history--excellent, difficult, complicated history.

- On February 1, we'll meet at 9:30 a.m. to see a video created by Ron Cordes and others in the Massachusetts Bay District where participants in the Black Empowerment struggle of the late 1960s reflect now on what happened then.
- On February 8, we'll step back a few years and look at a pivotal moment in our historic struggle, *Selma: Eighteen Days of Witness* by Richard D. Leonard.
- On February 15, we'll go back even earlier and discuss Mark Morrison-Reed's *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination*.
- And in the remaining weeks in February, we'll discuss our own histories and perspectives, and consider our role in the present time.

We'll share deeply, I hope, and in ways that make us increasingly authentic as a religious community. Join us?

Sobered by our history,
challenged by the present, with love,

(Rev.) David Carl Olson, *leader*

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL FISCAL MEETING

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 8, 2004
AT 1:30 P.M.

LOTHROP AUDITORIUM, CCB CENTER

- report on Income and Expenses for 2003
- adoption of a budget for 2004

**SUNDAY SERVICE &
SPEAKERS FORUM
in Lothrop Auditorium
Sundays at 10:45 a.m.**

**February 1
Superbowl Sunday
"What Does
the Superbowl Teach Kids
About Society and Values?"
WOODLEY AUGUSTE**

**February 8
"Chile:
The Other September 11th"
SERGIO R. REYES**

**February 15, 2004
"Court Decisions
and Public Commitments:
What's Love
Got to Do with It?"
Rev. DAVID CARL OLSON**

**February 22
Annual W.E.B. DuBois
Memorial Address
"The Other War"
KENNETH C. EDELIN, M.D.**

**February 29
Corporation Nation,
second in series
"Economics
for the Rest of Us"
ELLEN FRANK**



BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Community Church Board of Officers and Directors met on November 18, 2003. Minutes of the meeting are posted in Lothrop Auditorium. Highlights follow:

Financial Concerns—**Zelda Menard** reviewed the budget. Board members questioned the amount designated for rental income, maintenance and total expenses.

Human Relations Concerns—**Betsy Gynn** presented the report of the Personnel Committee and discussed several ways of improving office procedures and other matters relating to the Church.

Various Concerns—**Selma Ganz** suggested taking attendance at Sunday services and to communicate with those who have not been present, lately, on a weekly basis.

Ron Shapiro asserted that members and friends of the Church should contribute articles to the CCB Newsletter.

The Canvassing Committee will forward a letter to those who have not fulfilled their pledge for the calendar year 2003, reminding them of their commitment. The actual pledge amount of \$18,778 has been realized after a ten-month budget adjustment of \$24,750.

—**Dick Keshishian, Clerk**

Highlights of the January 20, 2004 Board Meeting:

Financial Concerns—Presentation of the budget by the treasurer involved an extended discussion in matters pertaining to the finances of the Church. Several line items in the budget were examined and revised in order to show a more realistic picture of the Church's finances. One of the specifics discussed in detail was the possibility of renting the fifth floor space of the Church building as a way to stimulate more income.

Various Concerns—**Dean Stevens** announced that the revised dates for the Community Concert series will be on **Saturdays, March 6, April 3, and April 17, 2004.**

The Annual Fiscal Meeting will take place on **Sunday, February 8, 2004** following the Sunday service.

—**Dick Keshishian, Clerk**

We're always looking for contributions to the **Community Church News** from our readers. Submissions of any kind are encouraged and may be mailed, e-mailed, faxed or simply handed to our office.

**Deadline for the March issue
is Thursday, February 19, 2004.**

AMONG US

Musicians: **Dean Stevens**, one of our own, shared the stage with legendary **Pete Seeger** and other activist folksingers on January 23 in Andover, MA. It was the opening event at the twice-yearly gathering of the People's Music Network, a progressive group of musicians and cultural workers. Over 1,000 attended the concert, including many friends and supporters from CCB.

Travelers: Dean had just returned from leading his 24th delegation to El Salvador, a group of eight people that included our own **Virginia Pratt**. They visited four remote and beautiful mountain villages, whose population returned after the civil war there.

Many groups in the U.S. and Canada provide support and solidarity for their reconstruction efforts. Dean is involved in marketing for a crafts sewing cooperative in one village. Another grows high-quality coffee, which comes back in quantities with the visitors to be roasted and sold (most delicious coffee on the planet), proceeds returning to fund work in that town. There are also scholarship students, and water projects

ongoing in two villages. Anyone interested in traveling on one of these semi-annual delegations is welcome; more information can be obtained from Dean or on his new website, <www.deanstevens.com>.

Fellow Travelers: **Dick Keshishian** was recently in Spain and Portugal. **Mary Gamson** went to Greece. **Lee Fich** has been to Africa & France this year. **Karl Jones** spent time on Trinidad. **Judith Woodruff** has gone to India. **David Carl Olson** has already reported on his travels to Iceland and Germany. And **Allen Perez** is currently in Costa Rica. Wow! (Did we omit anyone?)

Actor: **John O'Brien** appeared during January in a production of "Far Away," by Caryl Churchill, at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Author: **Carlos Lerman's** essay on the theme, "I Have a Dream," was one of five by Watertown Middle School students chosen to be read at the town's annual Unity Breakfast on Martin Luther King Day.

—*Marty Lerman*

CRITICAL THINKING/PUBLIC SPEAKING
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2004 • 1:00-3:00 P.M.

a workshop at CCB with University of Texas Professor Bob Jensen

Few things scare people as much as speaking in public, especially in front of large groups.

Robert Jensen, a professor of journalism at the University of Texas at Austin, has developed a method to help people develop skills and confidence in public speaking, improving both the quality of their arguments and their ability to deliver them. He has extensive experience speaking to campus, community, and political groups.

Please join us! This workshop is co-sponsored by the Boston Chapter of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Community Church of Boston.

beginning on Wednesdays in February at 5:30 p.m.

Stress Reduction through Meditation

w i t h c h a n t i n g , w a l k i n g a n d y o g a

led by Ji Hyang Sunim

Buddhist Chaplain, Wellesley College • Director, Cambridge Zen Center

and Rev. David Carl Olson

in Lothrop Auditorium

*donation requested \$7 to \$10 • seniors and students \$5
followed by vegetarian soup, rice and tea*

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON (non-sectarian)

565 Boylston Street • Boston, MA 02116

David Carl Olson, *minister and leader*

Clarence R. Skinner (1881-1949), *leader emeritus and founder*

John Haynes Holmes (1879-1964), *initiating speaker and founder*

Donald G. Lothrop (1905-2002), *minister emeritus*

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