

Connections - Summer 2016

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Be sure to find us on our social media pages!



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When making estate plans, please

consider a social and economic justice legacy gift to Community Works.

<http://www.communityworks.com/get-involved/leaving-a-legacy/>

Community Works Workplace Giving

Did you know you can support Community Works

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to all our old and new friends who came to the 9th Annual Share A Laugh Community Works Fundraiser! Wendy Liebman & Friends, with host [Joyce Kulhawik](#) filled the PARAMOUNT theater with laughter and Fran Froehlich was honored for her continual commitment to Social Justice at Community Works and beyond. Many thanks to the Emerson College and Elma Lewis Center staff! This was a great opportunity to begin this year of transition as Community Works prepares to move to new offices at 14 Beacon Street in July.

Visit our web site at www.communityworks.com to learn what Community Works member groups are up to in the many amazing communities and neighborhood groups in Greater Boston and beyond.

GLAD Celebrates House Victory of Transgender Accommodations Bill

GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) is excited to share that on June 1 we moved one giant step closer to securing full non-discrimination protections for transgender people in Massachusetts - that is the day that the Massachusetts State House passed the transgender accommodations bill by a vote of 116 to 36.

GLAD staff, interns, and Executive Director Janson Wu at the Massachusetts State House

GLAD is a proud member of the Freedom Massachusetts coalition that has been fighting to make this legislation a priority. And we have never been more energized in this fight. Once signed into law by the governor, this measure will ensure fair and long-overdue protections for transgender people, and will make Massachusetts a leader once again in achieving equality for all.

As GLAD's Transgender Rights Project Director Jennifer Levi said after the House vote, "This is an incredible moment. After years of brave and steadfast work by transgender people, family members, allies, businesses, faith leaders, and community organizations, we are inches from full equality for transgender people in our state. This bill will not only ensure fair and long overdue protections

member organizations by donating through your workplace's annual charitable campaign? Community Works currently has over 30 partner businesses where employees may contribute to Community Works through an employee giving program.

These include the Massachusetts State Employees Campaign (COMECC), the City of Boston Campaign (COBECC), and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

These giving programs allow you to make recurring or one-time donations through payroll deduction. This method of donating is beneficial for both you and for the group(s) you support. It allows you to effortlessly space out your contribution over the course of the year. For many people this is more manageable than making a one-time gift by check or credit card. You can donate \$1.00 a paycheck, and at the end of the year you would have donated \$52.00! This type of donation provides Community Works member groups with the consistent, sustainable support they need.

For a complete list of employers who currently honor payroll deduction donations to Community Works and to read what some employer partners

for transgender people, but enshrine in law a recognition of the dignity and humanity of transgender people."

For more information about the bill, GLAD's work for LGBTQ justice, and to see how you can get involved, visit www.glad.org

Alternatives for Community & Environment's John Walkey Weighs in on The Paris Agreement

World leaders met in Paris towards the end of last year and congratulated each other on finally "hammering out" an agreement on Climate Change that would set limits on green house gas emissions and facilitate adaptations to changes that we know are coming. Heavily influenced by the fossil fuel industry, the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference and the resulting treaty represent the step of "admitting you have a problem" and not the serious first steps to effectively confronting that problem. If these leaders really wanted to understand the full scope and breadth of our climate crisis, they really should turn their ears from the corporations that enrich themselves from the problem and listen to those communities that have borne the brunt of the disastrous results of their business model.

Frontline communities, meaning the indigenous, communities of color, low income communities and those who have been marginalized or exploited by our neoliberal, globalized economy, have been on the receiving end of rising sea levels, extreme storms, droughts, the environmental destruction of extractive technologies, food scarcity and wars over the control of petroleum. We recognize that the climate change concerns that the broader public now recognize as the result of our energy economy are actually not the whole story. An ice-free Arctic sea is a concern, but so is an oil spill in the Amazon or a privatized water system or the hand-over of public lands to private enterprise. The larger system has a disease and the climate impacts are just the most severe manifestations of it.

have to say about our organization, please visit the [Giving at Work](#) page of our website. If you do not see your employer on the list, please call us at [617-423-9555](tel:617-423-9555) or email

annie-seekins@communityworks.com for more information on how you can help Community Works become involved in your workplace's employee giving program.

Community Works Members

-Alternatives for Community & Environment

-ACLU-MA

-Asian American Resource Workshop

-Association of Haitian Women of Boston

-Boston Self Help Center

-Boston Tenant Coalition

-Boston Women's Fund

Cambridge YWCA

-Communities Without Borders

-Concerned United Birthparents (CUB)

-Cooperative Artists Institute (CAI)

-Emerge: Counseling and Education to Stop Domestic Violence

-Greater Four Corners Action Coalition

The Paris Agreement lags far behind the expectations and demands of frontline communities. Most critically there are five concerns. First, the emission cuts proposed do not meet targets that scientists say are necessary to avoid climate catastrophe and are voluntary not mandatory. Secondly, the treaty allows the industrialized nations of the north to purchase "offsets" which allows them to continue to pollute and despoil the environment. The treaty also relies on the false promise of "dirty technologies," such as fracking, nuclear power, agro-fuels and carbon sequestration schemes. Human rights or the rights of Indigenous communities are entirely absent from the document. And finally the language of the treaty denies the possibility of reparations to the Global South by the Global North for the damage they have knowingly done and benefited from.

In all the failure of this Paris Agreement is the failure of elected governments to truly represent the well-being of their own peoples, much less the commonwealth of our shared planet. The one benefit of the conference was that if anyone had any doubts, it puts to rest the notion that a system in need of change can find that change from within itself. We need System Change, not Climate Change. The fundamental drivers of the climate crisis are the same as those that drive the crises in food sovereignty, housing, jobs, peace, migration, gender equality, access to health care and poverty. We can continue to look at symptoms and hope to mitigate and adapt, or we can come together and grow a movement that will

challenge our leaders and the corporate interests they seemingly represent. Community-rooted solutions hold the promise to transition us to a 21 st century with respect for human rights and a sustainable planet for all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Association of Haitian Women in Boston (AFAB) sponsored the Haitian Roundtable on Domestic Violence's 17 th Annual Clergy Breakfast on June 3 at the Boston Public Library, Mattapan Branch. The Paradox

[-GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders \(GLAD\)](#)

[- Haley House](#)

[-Hawthorne Youth and Community Center](#)

[-Health Care for All, Inc.](#)

[- Jane Doe Inc., The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence](#)

[-Mass Budget and Policy Center](#)

[-Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health \(MassCOSH\)](#)

[-Massachusetts Senior Action Council](#)

[-Our Bodies Ourselves \(also known as Boston Women's Health Book Collective\)](#)

[-Paige Academy](#)

[-Poor People's United Fund](#)

[-Renewal House \(Benevolent Fraternity of Unitarian Churches, Inc.\)](#)

[-Ruby Rogers Center](#)

[-Survivors, Inc.](#)

[-Waltham Alliance to Create Housing, Inc. \(WATCH, Inc.\)](#)

[-The Welcome Project](#)

[-The Women's Center, Inc.](#)

of Knocking Down Domestic Violence with Scriptural Weapons in Immigrant Faith-Based Communities: Spiritual Healing and Human Rights Implications featured Keynote Guest Speaker, Rev. Myrlande Guillaume-DesRosiers; Esq. and Public Official Guest Speaker, Boston City Councilor Andrea Campbell.

www.afab-kafanm.org.

Boston Self Help Center and it's power wheelchair soccer team, the Boston Brakers (www.bostonbrakers.com, and Facebook at [Boston Brakers](#)), are pleased to announce that the team will be heading to Fort Wayne Indiana to compete for the national championship in the Presidents Conference. The tournament will be held June 19 through June 21. Selected games can be watched live or replayed by going to www.powersoccerchair.com. The team anticipates that the Governor will proclaim June 19 through June 21 as power wheelchair soccer days in support of The Boston Brakers and the team from Canton, the Mass. Hospital School Chariots, that will be competing.

Boston Self Help Center has begun identifying sports in which individuals with greater physical needs can participate. Their hope is to turn this research into real and doable opportunities. Their first venture is power wheelchair soccer, the fastest growing sport in the world for athletes with disabilities. Various areas of the country have seen significant growth of the sport including Indiana, California and Florida. The Boston Brakers hope to have the same type of success in promoting the sport here in Boston, as well as the surrounding New England area, in an effort to give power wheelchair users a chance to experience competitive sport and sportsmanship. To learn more about power soccer, go to www.powersoccerusa.org or www.bostonbrakers.com. If you are interested in attending a session, send an email to jjwice@gmail.com. Please include your name and phone number. Power Wheelchair Soccer location: Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St., Boston (Mission Hill), MA 02120.

Emerge currently has two job openings: Office Manager and Gay Men's Batterer Intervention Group Co-Facilitator. www.emergedv.com.

Health Care for All launched an initiative to Integrate Dental and Medical Care.
www.hcfama.org.

Massachusetts Budget & Policy Center Reports:

- * Family & Medical Leave in Massachusetts: A Current Snapshot
- * Paid Family and Medical Leave: Lessons from Other States
- * Paid Family & Medical Leave and Related Policies Explained
- * Charter School Funding, Explained
- * Maintaining An Effective Transportation System

www.massbudget.org.

Our Bodies Ourselves is pleased to announce that its new executive director, Julie Childers, was featured on **HERE AND NOW** (NPR) in an interview with Robin Young on June 2. Do listen in: <http://hereandnow.wbur.org/2016/06/02/our-bodies-ourselves>.

June Happenings

Thursday, June 30

WATCH CDC's First Time Home Buyers Workshop takes place from 6:00-8:30 pm at the Charles River Public Internet Center in Waltham. www.watchcdc.org/homebuyer.

Wednesday, June 22

GLAD (GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders) hosts a one-year anniversary event celebrating the national marriage equality victory in the Obergefell case at the Supreme Court. Join them for a party with the lawyers who made history happened and see how GLAD continues to change lives across the nation. Featuring Mary Bonauto, GLAD Civil Rights Project Director, and Douglas Hallward-Driemeir, Partner, Ropes & Gray LLP. 6:00-8:00 pm at Ropes & Gray, 2099 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. www.glad.org.

Thursday, June 23

Health Care for All presents the 4th Annual Patient and Family

Advisory Council (PFAC) Conference - Strengthening Patient and Family Engagement in Massachusetts Hospitals - 8:00am-4:00 pm at the Four Points by Sheraton, 1125 Boston-Providence Turnpike, Norwood. www.hcfama.org.

Thursday, June 23

MassCOSH (Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health) holds an Open House Breakfast Reception - 8:00-9:30am at 1532B Dorchester Ave., Boston. Learn about ways that MassCOSH constituents have changed laws and improved working conditions for youth and adults. Meet local youth who have gained skills and impacted their community through peer leadership. Enjoy breakfast with interesting company. www.masscosh.org.

Friday, June 24

The Women's Educational Center presents Feminism Across Generations: Let's Talk! - 6:00-8:00 pm at 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. Much has changed since the 1970s and 80s, including ideas about feminism! A good number of high school students volunteer at the center, and there are lots of high school feminist groups these days. Teens and women in their 20s and 30s comparing notes and assumptions with women active 35-50 years ago promises to be fun to experience. All women are welcome! www.cambridgewomenscenter.com.

Sunday, June 26

Join **GLAD (GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders)** for the Anniversary Tea Dance, 5:00-7:00pm at Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. Grab a drink, dance and celebrate the one-year anniversary of marriage equality for all with the group that made history happen. www.glad.org.

Monday, June 27-Tuesday, June 28

Emerge presents a training on Domestic Violence Danger Assessment and Risk Management. www.emergedv.com.

Tuesday, June 28

YWCA Cambridge Annual Meeting will be held from 6:00-7:00pm at 7 Temple St., Cambridge. Celebrate their achievements of the past year and learn about their mission-driven programs and services. www.ywcacam.org.

Wednesday, June 29

Mass Senior Action Council's 35th Anniversary Luncheon - 11:00am-2:30pm at 108 Myrtle St., FL. 1, Quincy - celebrates 35 years of Senior Action! Join in commemorating this milestone and honor the thousands of senior activists who, through

MSAC, have pushed through their own personal challenges and frailties to fight for social justice and win hundreds of policy victories over the decades. They will be inaugurating the new MSAC office and celebrating with a catered lunch, music, dancing and an exciting keynote speaker! www.masssenioraction.org.

JULY HAPPENINGS

Friday, July 29

REEP (Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project), a program of **Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE)**, holds their 20th Annual Youth Summit from 9:00am-4:00pm (location TBA). The summit is by youth, for youth, and will include workshops, open mic performances, arts & crafts, community resources and more. REEP develops and supports youth leadership in their home neighborhood through a school-based environmental justice curriculum, an after-school youth leadership program, and youth-led organizing projects. www.ace-ej.org.

Saturday, July 30

GLAD (GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders) 35th Annual Summer Party features a fabulous silent and live action, a delicious taste of summer, and a gorgeous view of Provincetown. Mingle with other GLAD supporters and learn more about GLAD's incredible work. 4:00-7:00pm at the Pilgrim Monument & Provincetown Museum, 1 High Pole Hill Rd., Provincetown. www.glad.org.

AUGUST HAPPENINGS

Saturday, August 20

As one of the events celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2016, **Haley House** presents Outdoor Community Tables, at Haley House Bakery Café, 12 Dade St., Roxbury. www.haleyhouse.org/50years/.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, September 14 - Friday, September 16

Emerge will offer Counseling Abusers: An Introductory Training. www.emergedv.com

Thursday, October 13

YWCA Cambridge's Tribute to Outstanding Women - 24th Awards Dinner & Fundraiser 5:30 pm, Royal Sonesta Hotel, 40 Edwin H. Land Blvd., Cambridge. www.ywcacam.org

Saturday, October 15

AFAB (Association of Haitian Women in Boston) Fundraising Dinner.

www.afab-kafanm.org

Thursday, October 20 - Friday, October 21

Emerge will present a training on Advanced Group Skills. www.emergedv.com

Friday, October 28

GLAD 17 th Annual Spirit of Justice Award Dinner 6:00-10:00 pm, Boston Marriott Copley Pl., 110 Huntington Ave., Boston. www.glad.org

Friday, October 28 - Sunday, October 30

2016 CUB (Concerned United Birthparents) Retreat. www.cubirthparents.org

Guess what?

You can now designate a charity with Amazon for all your purchases instead of having to link to Amazon through a third party site like Community Works! You can now list Community Works as your designated charity at Amazon so automatically any purchase is linked with CW! Once you sign up the only thing you have to make sure to do is change your bookmarks for Amazon to

smile.amazon.com. Although the web page is the same, Amazon.com purchases will not link to CW.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mary, Catherine, Meredith, and Annie.

Community Works

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