



# ON THE STREET

## The Peoples Church of Chicago

### Newsletter for February, 2013

“A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience”

## CALENDAR

### Upcoming Sundays

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- **Sundays 10am:** Worship Service, Rev. Jean Darling preaching.
- **Sun, Feb 24:** Service followed by all church **potluck**, and special showing of 1953 film, “**Bright Road**,” with Dorothy Dandridge & Harry Belafonte.

### Other Events

- **Fri, Feb 8, 6pm:** Second Friday: Folk singing duo **February Sky**.
- **Weds, Feb 13, 6pm:** Treasures of Uptown interfaith steering committee.
- **Thurs, Feb 14, 1:30pm:** 2 Li'l Fishes development committee, foyer.
- **Sat, Feb 16, 10am:** PBC Board meets, Molly's Café.
- **Sat, Feb 23, 10am:** Ludie's **Prayer Breakfast** – feed your body and your spirit! Tickets only \$15.
- **Sat, Feb 23, 7pm:** Joseph Bures plays “Finland and Adversary” – Sibelius vs. Russian composers.
- **Weds, Feb 27, 6:30pm:** Ald. James Cappleman town hall meeting on public safety.

### Minister's Notes:

#### Ballots and Bullets

*Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling*

This month we've been exploring Black History, using the story of Moses as a theme – what is the path to freedom?

I've found Frederick Douglass to be an iconic voice over several of these weeks, as we've talked about Abolition, then Reconstruction and its aftermath, Jim Crow.

Before the Civil War, Douglass thundered, “Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation, are people who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning; they want the ocean without the awful roar of its waters.”

Then, in 1866, when the war was over, Douglass wrote an article for the Atlantic Monthly magazine supporting Reconstruction, arguing against use of force against the South:

Slavery [today] is so strong that it could exist, not only without law, but even against law. Custom, manners, morals, religion, are all on its side everywhere in the South; ...you have the conditions, not out of which slavery will again grow, but under which it is impossible for the Federal government to wholly destroy it... The true way and the easiest way is to...give to every loyal citizen the elective franchise, -- a right and power which will be ever present, and will form a wall of fire for his protection.<sup>1</sup>

The vote, Douglass said – the vote is the only real protection for citizens against tyranny.

The vote, a voice – without a way to participate in making the decisions that affect our lives, democracy means nothing.

But when did guns replace the ballot box as the symbol of freedom in America?

In the last couple of weeks, the air waves have been filled with stories about guns – hearings, reportage, documentaries – as the debate rages about reducing gun violence. At an outdoor rally in Vermont, one man compared President Obama to King George III, and gun control to dictatorship.

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### 2 Li'l Fishes

2 Li'l Fishes serves a free hot lunch Tuesday, and Thursday through Sunday, downstairs in Anderson Hall. All are welcome.

To help out, contact Will Pruitt, volunteer coordinator, [twoliifishes@yahoo.com](mailto:twoliifishes@yahoo.com).

### Minister's Notes, cont'd

A reporter pointed out that one side feels safer with fewer guns, and the other side feels safer with more guns. And when the two sides are so far apart, he said, how can there be any agreement?

A Nova science program on public television explored why young people would – apparently out of the blue – attack and shoot others in their school. One young man who was a young teen at the time of the shooting, and now serving a life sentence, told the reporter that he was too ashamed at the time to tell his father how depressed he was – he didn't think by shooting that he would kill anyone, just make a lot of noise. He thought he would be committing "suicide by police."

The other day a story about school closings featured one clip of a woman at a public hearing saying how she had said the same thing at meetings over and over, about how good her school was, how many great things it was doing for the children and for the community, and it seemed as though no one had heard a word she said. "Who's listening? Who? Who?" she cried.

It has seemed lately that a lot of the anger people are feeling, especially that directed at government, comes from this feeling that you can talk till you're blue in the face, and it makes no difference.

I remember a therapist once telling me, long ago, that if complainers are less than 5% of a group, you can ignore them. I was horrified at that idea – more by the idea of being ignored than the perhaps practical truth of it.

The reality is that we all need to be heard. The boy who shot and killed two of his classmates and is now living in prison was never told by his father that he loved him – until he was sitting in juvie awaiting trial. Perhaps it was naïve of Frederick Douglass to think that the ballot alone would guarantee people's freedom. But the ballot is a symbol of the voice we all need, to express not just our anger, but our love, our concern, our dreams.

peace, Jean

### Classical Piano Recital,

Saturday, Feb 23, 7pm:

"Finland and the Bear" – It's Jean Sibelius vs. Russian composers, in Joseph Bures' monthly piano recital.



### "Seeds of Peace"

Treasures of Uptown interfaith action coalition holds a community dialogue for creating peaceful spaces in Uptown, from 3-5pm at the Buddhist Temple of Chicago, 1151 W. Leland Ave, Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. People of all faiths and philosophies are encouraged to attend this free and public event. See [www.TreasuresofUptown.org](http://www.TreasuresofUptown.org).

### 4<sup>th</sup> Black History Sunday

Following the service on February 24, Insight Arts is showing "BRIGHT ROAD," a moving film about a new school teacher (played by Dorothy Dandridge) who struggles with reaching an underachieving young man in a small rural community in the South. A pioneering 1953 film with a mostly black cast, in the era before school integration. It's also the first feature film appearance by Harry Belafonte, who co-stars as the principal of the school.



### Prayer Breakfast fundraiser

Saturday, February 23, 10am, in Molly's Café, join us to feed your body and your soul, as Ludie serves a delicious, filling breakfast with sausage, ham, grits, eggs, OJ! And spiritual food consisting of music by the Voices of Praise choir and a reflection by Pastor Jean. Tickets, \$15 – help support Pastor Jean's salary!



### The Peoples Church of Chicago

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# Calendar – February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>BLACK HISTORY MONTH</b></p>					1	2
<p>3 10am Service</p>	4	<p>5 (10am CALM - Chic Area Liberal Ministers)</p> <p>6:30 wedding mtg</p>	6	7	8	9
<p>10 10am Service 11:30 Trustees</p>	11	12	13	14	15	16
			<p>6pm Treasures steering comm., foyer</p>	<p>1:30 2 Li'l Fishes</p>		<p>10 JustEmbrace Sole Care foot clinic 10-noon PBC board meeting</p>
<p>17 10am Service</p>	18	19	20	21	22	23
					<p>5:30pm PBC Arts Open House</p>	<p>10 Ludie's Prayer Brkfst – Molly's Café</p> <p>4pm -Spir. Beans @Golden Pancake</p> <p>7pm Jos. Bures piano recital</p>
<p>24 10am Service 11:30 Potluck 12 - film</p>	25	26	27	28		