



Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry
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September 2024

Message from the Executive Director & Senior Minister



Forty three cardboard candles - painted in rainbow colors, covered in words of healing,

love, hope - stood this month in our UUUM peace garden. They were crafted by the hands and hearts of friends of our partner the Louis D Brown Peace Institute, including at a candle-making workshop in the garden this summer.

It's a simple thing, really, gathering to paint and write poems and then share them. Sometimes the simplest things are the most powerful.

Repair of the world begins in creativity and relationship. These are the things you build and nurture in your support of the UU Urban ministry's work.

Friends like you built the peace garden, a quiet oasis in the city. You've sustained our work as a good Roxbury neighbor, building relationships across race and city and suburb.

You've invested in our work to amplify Roxbury artistry and history. And out of this rich soil grows real change. In a world that's often loud and angry and disconnected, thank you for making our work for repair possible.

In faith,

Mary Margaret

[Make a Gift to the UU Urban Ministry](#)

Program Updates

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



Nyia (above) was one of the RYP students who made a presentation about bullying during the My POV event that RYP students organized

This summer, RYP's capstone project was a public presentation about bullying. The youth had selected this as a challenge they've faced themselves - on the sports field, in the classroom and in cyberspace.

Each did extensive research into the facts and facets of bullying, created compelling visual presentations and wrote speeches they delivered in Putnam Hall.

They showed great courage - sharing their own difficult experiences while calling on each of us to do our part to interrupt the cycle of bullying and create a kinder and better world.

We are grateful to all who supported our summer program and made this work possible (thank you!) - and to the young people, who give us hope for the future they'll lead us into.

Now Accepting Applications: RYP School Year '24-'25

RYP is getting ready to start the new school year. After school homework help starts on Mon., Sept. 23rd. The RYP Internship begins on Mon., Oct. 21st.



Do you know a Boston-area high school student who might be interested? If so, please share the following links:

- Students that are interested in dropping in for tutoring services [CLICK HERE](#)
- Students interested in being part of the RYP Internship: [CLICK HERE](#)

UUUM Walking Tours



Historian Thomas Plant leads the "Trees of John Eliot Square: A historical perspective" tour

We have had a wonderful season of our Tours Program, and we are planning our Fall-Winter schedule now. But until then, don't miss these two opportunities to join us to explore Roxbury's history, when historian Thomas Plant leads the [Trees of John Eliot Square: A historical perspective](#) walking tour. Enjoy a stroll around the neighborhood focused on Roxbury's agriculture and horticulture and how these shaped the neighborhood over the years.

- Sat. Oct. 5th - 9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
- Sat. Oct. 12th. - 9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

For more information, or to book your spot on a tour, visit the [Upcoming Events](#) page on uum.org.

Upcoming Events

FACILITATED BY
AKUNNA ENEH

REFLECTIONS ON JAMES BALDWIN: A COMMUNITY READING, JOURNALING AND SHARING



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
**BOSTON PUBLIC
LIBRARY**
(Roxbury Branch)

[Reflections on James Baldwin: A Community Reading, Journaling and Sharing](#)

Tue. Oct. 8th from 12pm-2pm
Thur. Oct. 10th from 6pm-8pm

Facilitated by: Akunna Eneh
In partnership with: Boston Public Library, Roxbury Branch
Free to the public

A community reading honoring James Baldwin on the 100th anniversary year of his birth. Hear readings by Baldwin, and journal and share your feelings about his words and what they make you think/how they make you feel.

Partnering in Roxbury



UUUM's Tricia Brennan (far right) joins DeeDee's Cry's Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk

We were happy to support our friends from [DeeDee's Cry](#) for their annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk in Roxbury.

UUUM's Tricia Brennan participated in the walk, and many of the signs you see being held in the photo above were made by UUUM volunteer Rebecca Winborn of First Parish in Concord (thank you, Rebecca!).

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunity

Peace Garden Clean Up



Peace Garden Work Day

Wed. Oct. 2, 2024, 10a-12:30p

All this beauty requires some TLC! The next scheduled volunteer day in the peace garden is Wed., Oct. 2nd. We will be weeding and planting bulbs for the spring. As always, we would appreciate your help (and your green thumbs)!

If you want to join in this labor of love, or have questions, contact Tricia Brennan, Congregational Partnership Consultant, at tbrennan@uuum.org.

Join the UUUM Team

Are you interested or know someone who might be?

We are currently looking for candidates for these positions at the Urban Ministry. These are important roles that will enable our organization to live its mission and enable the person in them to make a real difference.

Please take a look - and share these in your circles.



[Congregational and Volunteer Coordinator](#)

This is a new position created to enable UUUM to live into our new outwardly focused mission. The person in this position will facilitate connections between supporters in our 46 member congregations, UUUM programs, and organizations and individuals in the Roxbury community. The person in this position is responsible for working within our community to build relationships and develop meaningful engagement opportunities.



[Roxbury Youth Programs History Engagement and Tours Coordinator](#)

This team member will help us live into our motto "Learn History, Make Change" and support young people in learning their community's history, and becoming its ambassadors. The Coordinator will engage youth in historical opportunities within the UU Urban Ministry – and will be the primary staff support person for the UUUM's tours program.

In the Community

[A new opera - Is this America?](#)

3 shows: Sept. 20-22, 2024
Strand Theatre, Dorchester, MA

Is this America? tells the story of Ms. Hamer, the great Mississippi activist who galvanized the registration of Black voters in her home state despite overwhelming odds, including death threats, beatings, and rejection by her own constituency.



[Peace Trail Dedication Ceremony](#)

Sat. Sept. 21st from 11:30am-1:30pm

Join the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute to celebrate the seven inaugural Peace Trail poles in Dorchester that honor victims of violent crime and cultivate new cycles of peace in their names. We will learn more about the trail, hear from community leaders, tour the inaugural poles and celebrate with a meal!



RSVP: Ruth@LDBpeaceinstitute.org



[25th Annual Roxbury Open Studios Art Festival](#)

October 5th and 6th - 11am-5pm
Reggie Lewis Center, Roxbury, MA

Roxbury Open Studios is a multimedia, multicultural, and multigenerational community celebration! This event will feature the artwork of local artists and artisans, and is a great experience.

Mark your calendars now!

Invite UUUM to Your Congregation

Invite UUUM to Preach



Rev. Mary Margaret Earl
Executive Director and Senior Minister

Each year, Rev. Mary Margaret Earl [and members of the UUUM team] are invited to preach [speak] at UUUM member congregations.

Mary Margaret will share a sermon with a social justice message that is both a call to action and reflection. Staff members speak about the programs and mission of the Urban Ministry, and ways to join us in this work.

We are now open to requests for preaching for the 2024-2025 church year. If you are interested in inviting us or learning more, please email Maggie Paula: mpaula@uum.org

We appreciate the invitations to join you and hope to see you soon!

If you're interested or have questions about inviting Mary Margaret or a member of the UUUM Team join your congregation on a Sunday, email Maggie Paula: mpaula@uum.org.

Making Our Landmark Accessible for All



One of the final steps of the Meetinghouse work is building a new handicapped accessible ramp into the building. After a good deal of digging and creating underground support, two cement trucks were here last week as work on the ramp continues.

Words for your consideration...

UNTIL WE GET EQUALITY IN EDUCATION, WE WON'T HAVE AN EQUAL SOCIETY.

- Justice Sonia Sotomayor



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- all things UUUM
- our member congregations
- opportunities and resources in Roxbury and the Boston-area

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