



Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry
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October 2024

Message from the Executive Director & Senior Minister



Thomas Plant sitting with visitors from First Parish Lincoln during a visit to UUUM.

As the light lessens and nights cool, and we wait on a fraught November, we search for light and warmth.

I seek and find it in the work and community at UUUM.

I have found it in the welcome of member congregations, who stand ready to work with us to address injustice. Friends this autumn in Concord, Weston, Lexington have opened their doors wide to a message about the legacy of enslavement and our need to work together to address it.

I have found it in walks with historian and board member Thomas Plant as he leads Trees Tours in Roxbury, telling the stories of Roxbury russet apple trees, weaving in stories of challenges that have faced this community and how this community has persevered over and over again.

I have found it in the bright spirits of young people who come daily to our afterschool program - brimming with hope for their future despite everything that feels so hard outside.

I find it in our friends, our supporters like you who make new things possible with your donations, your time and your commitment.

As we travel together into a new season, I share my gratitude for your gifts.

Many thanks, and autumn blessings,

Mary Margaret

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

Program Updates

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



CD album covers created by the students in RYP during a recent workshop about self expression

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) has begun for the school year, and many new and returning students have been streaming in for tutoring, homework help, snacks and supper. We're grateful to Boston College students who have been providing tutoring for our high school students.

When they aren't studying, RYP students find space here for self expression - including creating the CD cover art for an album about themselves. They are also preparing for their Halloween party that will take place at Putnam Hall next week. We are ready for a busy year ahead!

Ensuring Our Students Start the Year Right



We're currently holding a Donation Drive to support the students in the RYP program! As the new school year begins, our students are in need of essential supplies to help them thrive. Your contributions will help replenish materials, ensure resources are available for all, and make new activities possible.

Thank you to the member congregations like **Follen Church** in Lexington and **Theodore Parker Church** in West Roxbury who are supporting this effort.

For individuals that want to participate, we are also accepting gift cards that can be sent to the UU Urban Ministry.

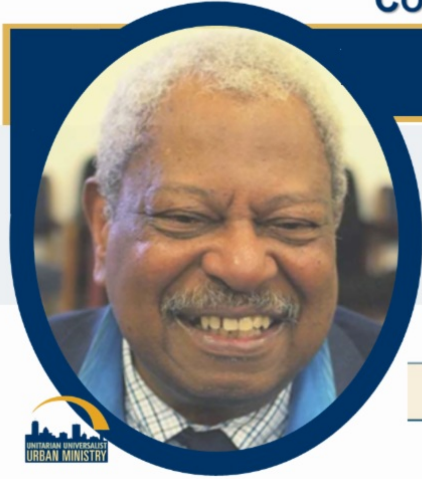
Please send any questions to Maggie Paula: mpaula@uum.org.

Upcoming UUUM Events

Community Conversations



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



Thomas Plant

Revolution in Roxbury

A historical look at the part Roxbury played
In the American Revolution

Sponsored by:

Thursday, November 7th, 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.*

*This event will be held virtually via Zoom



Revolution Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Announcing the 5th Season of the Series: November 2024 - April 2025

[Community Conversations: Revolution in Roxbury \(w/ Thomas Plant\)](#)

Thursday, November 7
6:00pm - 7:00pm (via Zoom)

The upcoming season is entitled **Revolution Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow**. As we approach the 250th anniversary of the start of the American Revolution - a fight that played out here in Roxbury - we will explore that little-known history, and also look at revolutionary leaders today - and hear from young people about what revolution looks like tomorrow.

The first conversation, *Revolution in Roxbury*, hosted by Thomas Plant.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a full schedule of the upcoming season of Community Conversations.

Become a Community Conversations Sponsor



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Community Conversations are discussions covering topics that impact the BIPOC community in Roxbury and the Boston-area. These events are made possible, in part, with the support of our member congregations and others.

Sponsorship: Congregations' financial sponsorship of Community Conversations enables us to compensate speakers, promote events to our community, and to put in staff labor to make the event as good as it can possibly be. The sponsorship contribution is \$1,000. Sponsorships can be split between two congregations.

Become a Sponsor: If your congregation or business is interested in sponsoring Community Conversations, or if you have any questions, email Vinnie Myles: vmyles@uum.org.

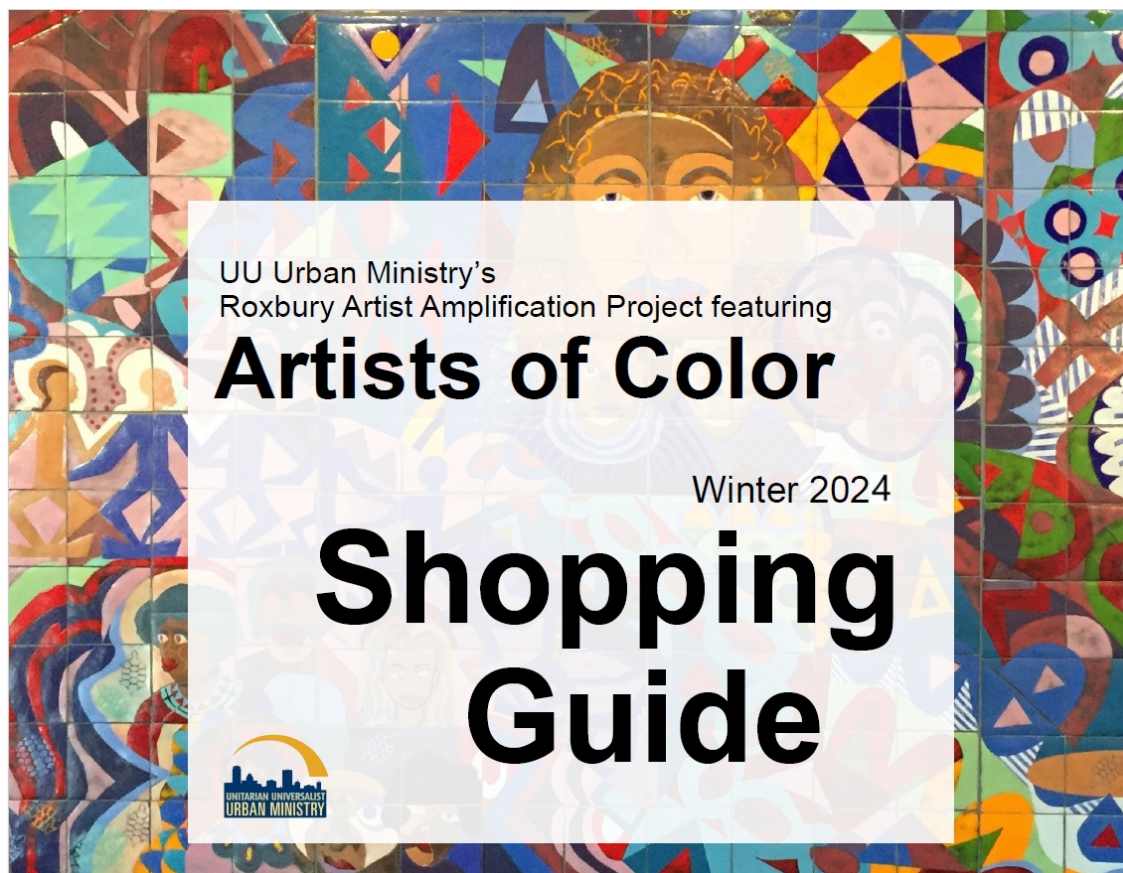


Left to right: Mary Snyder, Aabid Allibhai, and Mica Caine

Thanks to a recent grant from Harvard University, the UUUM History Committee recently hired two research fellows who will continue the work that Harvard PhD candidate Aabid Allibhai did in his research paper, "[Race & Slavery at the First Church in Roxbury \(The Colonial Period 1631-1775\)](#)", published last year.

The research fellows, Mary Snyder, a Boston University graduate student, and Mica Caine, an MIT graduate student, will work collaboratively through the academic 2024-2025 year to research historic and archival materials tracing the lineage of the 58 enslaved people named in Aabid's report, and seeking sufficient details about their lives to allow the research to be shared and interpreted in exhibitions, story-telling, and other accessible modes.

We are excited to continue this important work, and will share updates as it continues.



Coming Soon!

This year, we will be publishing a new Artists of Color Shopping Guide featuring many talented artists and artisans from the Boston-area. From paintings to jewelry, sculptures to stationery, the Shopping Guide will have it all. Stay tuned for an update about the catalogue in early November.

In the Meantime

If you are starting your holiday shopping now, or you're just looking for a great place to eat, check out [THIS MAP](#) of some of the great businesses and restaurants in Nubian Square!

Volunteer News

Monthly Volunteer Support Session Have Begun!

Our Congregational Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator Tricia Brennan kicked off our new, monthly Volunteer Support sessions.



The aim of these virtual sessions is to offer volunteers a chance to share about their experience, to learn from and support each other, and to share information. Any who have volunteered in the past or are interested in future contributions, as well as current

volunteers are welcome.

The next gathering will be on Wednesday, November 17th from 7:00-8:00pm via Zoom. If you would like to join us, email Tricia for details: tbrennan@uum.org.

Congregational Update



Thomas Plant leading a recent "Trees of John Eliot Square" tour

Thank you to UUUM Delegate Jean Masland and the group from First Parish Church in Weston who joined us recently to enjoy "The Trees of John Eliot Square; A historical perspective walking tour".

This UUUM Tour, led by historian Thomas Plant, tells the story of Roxbury's history using the neighborhood's agriculture and horticulture as the guide.



Members of the First Parish in Lincoln congregation visiting UUUM's campus

On Sunday, October 5th we had welcomed a great group of friends from First Parish in Lincoln. This group toured our campus, took a tour of John Eliot Square led by Thomas Plant, and learned about the

We are so grateful for Lincoln's UUUM Delegate Alice DeNormandie for her efforts organizing the visit and for making this great day happen.

In the Community

Roxbury Russet Fest

October 26th, 2024

Shirley Eustis Carriage House, Roxbury

Family Fun: 12pm - 4pm

Beer Tasting: 4pm - 6pm

Join in on the family during with cider donuts, crafts, and music. Then later spend the evening tasting different beer with a keynote speaker, for a fee of \$35.

Ticket Info [HERE](#)

Co-sponsored by the Roxbury Historical Society

ROXBURY RUSSET FEST

OCTOBER 26TH

FREE TASTING
BEER • MUSIC • FOOD
CIDER DONUTS • APPLE PRESS

SHIRLEY-EUSTIS CARRIAGE HOUSE

FAMILY FUN W/ CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES 12PM - 4PM	BEER TASTING W/ KEYNOTE SPEAKER HELEN HUGHREYS 4PM - 6PM
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Restoring Roxbury's Meetinghouse

Increasing Accessibility



The work of installing the accessibility ramp into the Meetinghouse was completed recently. As you can see, getting in and out of the building will now be a lot easier for everyone attending an event in the Boston landmark.

Final Touches



One of the final steps of the Meetinghouse work is the installation of new doors in the front of the building. The doors were built to replicate those that hung when the Meetinghouse was first opened in 1804.

Words for your consideration...

“We have to talk
about liberating
minds as well
as liberating
society.”

ANGELA DAVIS



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

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