



**Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry**  
John Eliot Square • 10 Putnam St. • Roxbury, MA 02119  
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January 2025

## Message from Our Executive Director and Senior Minister



Even in winter's quiet, high school students in our afterschool program press ahead with purpose.

This is the season of college applications and for many of them - they chart a new path. Most are the first generation in their families to aim for college. And they are determined. Last week, one high school senior described applying for 17 schools - and she was considering more.

"So far, I've heard from 2," she said. Her energy and excitement are palpable.



Thanks to friends like you, we are serving more young people than ever - 35 trailblazers are enrolled in our program, and another 20 drop by. Daily, we witness their drive in the face of the world's uncertainty. And they inspire us to keep working for the world they will inherit.

I am grateful for all the ways you invest in that future - from volunteering, to donating, to learning from our Community Conversations webinars or Bridges of Understanding anti-racism training.

Thank you for helping make UUUM a place where, in the midst of winter and at the threshold of the unknown, we hope.

In faith,

Mary Margaret

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

## Program Updates

### Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



*RYP students participate in a pottery sculpting workshop, facilitated by volunteer Janice Rudolf.*

In addition to tutoring, college preparation, studying, learning about history and research, students in our afterschool also have fun!

Here are a couple recent highlights:

#### **Pottery Sculpting**

Recently, the young people in RYP welcomed sculptor Janice Rudolf, a member of First Parish in Wayland, who led the students in a pottery sculpting workshop. Janice taught the students how to shape and cut clay to create bowls and three-dimensional faces and



figures.

Students focused on learning a new skill, which also was relaxing. The bowls and figures will be fired in a kiln and returned so the young people can see their results!

## Hockey Field Trip

Recently, RYP students said they've never been to a hockey game and wanted to experience one.

Reggie Walker, our youth programs manager, reached out to his alma-matter, UMass Lowell, and set up a chance for students to attend a game there last Saturday.

Ten RYP students joined Reggie and other RYP staff at the game last Saturday, and the Urban Ministry was featured as the "nonprofit of the game". The students had a great time, and we made it onto the scoreboard!



## Renewal House

The residents of Renewal House were in the holiday spirit, thanks to the shelter's staff beautifully decorating the space.

Again this year, our member congregations came together to generously support the shelter's residents during the holidays. Thank you to:

- First Church and Parish in Dedham
- First Parish in Lexington
- First Parish Church of Stow and Acton
- UU Society of Wellesley Hills

These congregations delivered gift cards and other donations for the families at Renewal House to make sure they had what they needed to celebrate and enjoy the holidays. Your generous efforts are appreciated.



## Bringing Renewal House to Your Congregation

Recently, the delegates from First Church in Belmont, Sean Westgate and David Deese, displayed the artwork from the Renewal House's *Beauty For Ashes* exhibit at their congregation for everybody to see.

This artwork was inspired by the stories of



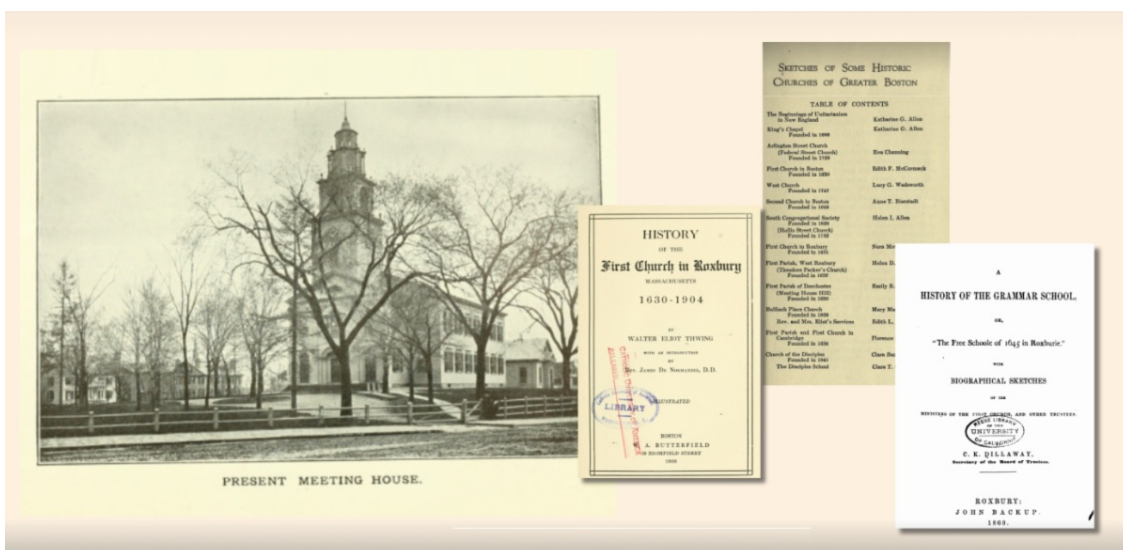


Renewal House residents, and this was a great way to share the work that Renewal House does with survivors of domestic violence. Thank you Sean and David for making this happen!

Sean Westgate, UUUM delegate from First Church in Belmont, with the Beauty For Ashes exhibit

If your congregation is interested in learning about how you can put the exhibit on display, please contact Robert Jones, congregational and volunteer coordinator: [rjones@uum.org](mailto:rjones@uum.org).

## Looking Forward and Looking Back



As UUUM prepares to re-open our restored meetinghouse to serve our mission for racial, social and economic justice, we also are examining its role in the past.

The [History Committee](#) - a partnership of UUUM and the Roxbury Historical Society - secured a Harvard Reparative Partnership grant to trace the lives of those enslaved by First Church congregants, and also to teach young people in our afterschool program how to track their own lineage. Our research fellows, MIT graduate student Mica Caine and Boston University graduate student Mary Snyder are building upon the [work completed](#) by Harvard doctoral student Aabid Allibhai.

Thus far, research has focused on:

- The history of the 1804 meetinghouse and its development/construction, congregational activity involving Black and Indigenous individuals
- Expanding the lineage tracing of 3 individuals/families identified in the initial report.

Next month, the students in RYP will begin a series of workshops to learn more about genealogical research, examine power structures in history, and honor the history of Black and Indigenous people.



Delegate of the Month - Elaine Mittell



*Elaine Mittell, UUUM delegate from UU Wellesley Hills*

This month we are happy to recognize **Elaine Mittell from UU Wellesley Hills** as our Delegate of the Month.

Elaine has been a steadfast supporter of the UU Urban Ministry for years, bringing dedication and warmth to everything she does. From her time on the Board of Directors to her current role on the Congregational Engagement Task Force, Elaine's commitment to our shared mission is unwavering. As a member of the Congregational Engagement Task Force, Elaine helps strengthen the connections between our member



congregations and the UU Urban Ministry.

Elaine also played a pivotal role in shaping our Volunteer Coordinator position, which has since grown into the Congregational and Volunteer Coordinator role. Her vision and input helped create a foundation for stronger community relationships and more impactful engagement.

Elaine is also an active supporter of our Career Exploration Internship program, which provides young people with opportunities to explore career paths and gain real-world experience. Elaine and her husband, Doug Poutasse (UUUM Board member), were also generous supporters of the campaign to restore the historic Meetinghouse - helping to ensure that the beloved space continues to serve as a hub for our community.

Elaine, we are so grateful for all that you do. Your dedication, thoughtfulness, and generosity inspire us all. Thank you for being such a vital part of the UU Urban Ministry.

## To Our Supporters



As we begin the new year, we wanted to say **thank you** to all of you who made a gift to support the UU Urban Ministry in 2024. It is your generosity that makes this ministry possible.

Your support of the UU Urban Ministry:

- helps provide the young people in our youth program with trips to college campuses
- supports the families in our emergency domestic violence shelter during the holidays and beyond
- makes another season of our walking tours of Roxbury possible
- bridges communities and bring people together

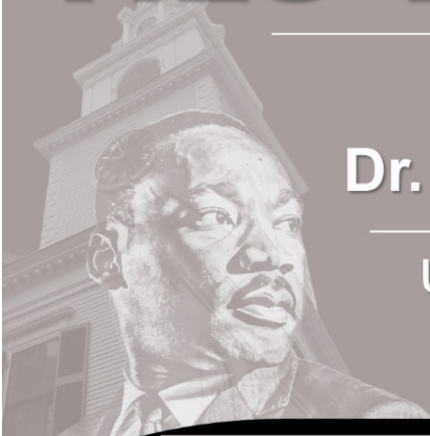
Together, there is much that we have accomplished, but still much to do. We are grateful for your support, and look forward to all that we can accomplish together in 2025.

Celebrate MLK Day with Us

*The*  
**TIES THAT BIND**

A Concert Honoring  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

UU URBAN MINISTRY  
10 PUTNAM STREET  
ROXBURY, MA 02119



feat. Marshall Hughes

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20<sup>th</sup> | 4pm - 6pm**

**FREE PERFORMANCE**

**FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS**

**SCAN QR CODE FOR A FULL LIST OF PERFORMERS  
OR VISIT: [UUUM.ORG/UPCOMING-EVENTS](http://UUUM.ORG/UPCOMING-EVENTS)**



[The Ties That Bind: A concert honoring the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

DATE: Monday, January 20, 2025

TIME: 4:00pm - 6:00pm (refreshments to follow)

WHERE: UU Urban Ministry; 10 Putnam Street, Roxbury, MA

Join us for a concert to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the holiday that celebrates and honors his life.

The evening will feature world class music thanks to an impressive lineup of performers, including (currently scheduled to perform):

- Donna Bivens
- Cliff Blake
- Sarah Cooper
- Marshall Hughes
- Isabel Randall
- Alan Rias
- Monique Smith
- Michael Weinstein
- and our MC, Daniel Callahan

Seats are limited. Please RSVP [HERE](#).

\*Snow date: Sunday, January 26, 2025 | 1:00pm - 3:00pm (w/ refreshments to follow)



**FUUSN  
MUSICIANS  
CONCERT**

23 FEBRUARY 2025  
2PM

ACAPPELLA BLUES, FOLK, ROCK CLASSICAL CHAMBER MUSIC FUUSN BAND

**FREEWILL OFFERING  
TO BENEFIT THE  
UU URBAN MINISTRY**

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY IN NEWTON  
1326 WASHINGTON STREET  
WEST NEWTON, MA 02465

### **FUUSN Musicians Concert**

DATE: Sunday, February 23, 2025

TIME: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

WHERE: 1326 Washington Street, Newton, MA 02465

Come and hear the wonderful musicians of the First Unitarian Universalist Society in concert on Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 2pm in the FUUSN Sanctuary. This concert is a fundraiser for the UU Urban Ministry.

Come and enjoy the fantastic array of musical styles and moods: classical works, bluegrass tunes, jazz and more. And we'll continue our tradition of Cookies at Intermission!

The concert is free and open to the public. Donations will be gratefully accepted for the UU Urban Ministry.

### **Volunteer Support Group**

#### **Join us for a Monthly Volunteer Networking**

##### **Next Session: February 19th at 7pm**

Our Congregational Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator Robert Jones hosts a virtual volunteer support session on the third Wednesday of each month.

The aim of these virtual sessions is to offer volunteers a chance to share their experiences, to learn from and support each other, and to share information. Any who have volunteered in the past or present, or who are interested in getting involved are welcome to





join us.

Robert Jones (above), Congregational and Volunteer Coordinator

The next session will be on Wednesday, **February 19, 2025 at 7pm via Zoom**. If you would like to join us, email Robert for details and link: [rjones@uum.org](mailto:rjones@uum.org).

### Interested in Volunteering at UUUM?

Check out the current volunteer opportunities at the Urban Ministry and at our partner organizations on the [Volunteer Opportunities](#) page of our website.

## Partnering in Roxbury



Join us for another episode of the **Redline Narratives Podcast** on taking tours and teaching the history of African Americans in Boston with **Collin Knight** of Live Like a Local Tours & **Dart Adams**, Roxbury Historian..

Tickets: Free & Donation  
 Date: February 5th 2025  
 Location: Youtube - Afrimerican TV  
 Time: 7 pm

Harvard & Legacy of Slavery Initiative  
 Equity and Inclusion

#BRLN Tickets

**BOSTONREDLINE**  
 BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT SERIES  
 DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT DISPLACEMENT

Our friend (and UUUM youth program alum) Collin Knight will be featured on a new podcast called "Redline Narratives". This podcast features stories about African Americans in Roxbury and the South End.

Collin will be a guest of the podcast along with Roxbury historian Dart Adams. They will be discussing taking tours and teaching the history of African Americans in Boston. Collin founded and operates [Live Like a Local Tours](#), and will have a lot to offer about exploring the history of Roxbury and Boston.

You can find the podcast on YouTube - *Afrimerican TV*, **February 5, 2025 at 7:00pm**. Use the QR code on the image to get your tickets today!

### Walking Tour Of Roxbury with Workshop on Redlining / Urban Renewal of Nubian Square

DATE: February 8, 2025  
TIME: 10:30 am - 2:00pm

After the podcast, you'll have the opportunity to join Collin Knight on a walking tour of African American history in Roxbury that will feature a workshop on Redlining/Urban Renewal in Nubian Square.

Use the QR code on the image to get your tickets today!



Join us for the a walking tour of African American history in Roxbury & workshop on Redlining / Urban Renewal of Nubian Square.

Tickets: Free & Donation  
 Date: February 8th 2025  
 Tour Starting Location: Upon registration.  
 Time: 10:30 am - 2 pm

Harvard & Legacy of Slavery Initiative  
 Equity and Inclusion

#BRLN Tickets

**BOSTONREDLINE**  
 BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT SERIES  
 DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT DISPLACEMENT





# Winterlights:

## A Circle of Peace

184 Highland Street, Roxbury, MA. 02119

December 7 - March 9  
From Dusk to Dawn

A public art light installation created by  
the Roxbury Electric Illumination Collaborative  
For the enjoyment of the Highland Park neighborhood

Hosted by  
Hawthorne Youth and Community Center  
9 Fulda St, Roxbury, MA. 02119



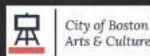
For more information,  
contact [reic@gmail.com](mailto:reic@gmail.com)  
or go to [www.circleofpeace.art](http://www.circleofpeace.art)



Hawthorne Youth  
and Community Center  
[www.hycbroxbury.org](http://www.hycbroxbury.org)



Scan to give  
feedback or comment  
on the installation.



Winterlights: A Circle of Peace was supported and made possible by  
the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Transformative Public Art program  
and the Opportunity Fund 2.0 of the City of Boston's Mayor's Office of Arts  
and Culture.

### Winterlights: A Circle of Peace

WHEN: Through March 9, 2025

TIME: From Dusk to Dawn

WHERE: 184 Highland Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

Check out this public art installation for the enjoyment of the Highland Park Community. The event is hosted by Hawthorne Youth and Community Center and created in collaboration with Roxbury Electric Illumination Collaborative.

Restoring Roxbury's Meetinghouse

Final Touches





While the final touches are being done, and the installation of the new front door of the Meetinghouse continues, we wanted to share a photo of the inside of the restored Boston landmark.

As you can see, it looks beautiful! Soon, we will be applying for an occupancy permit from the City - the final step before we throw open the doors and welcome you back to Roxbury's Meetinghouse!

Stay tuned for updates...

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**In Case You Missed It**

**Online UUUM Video Library**

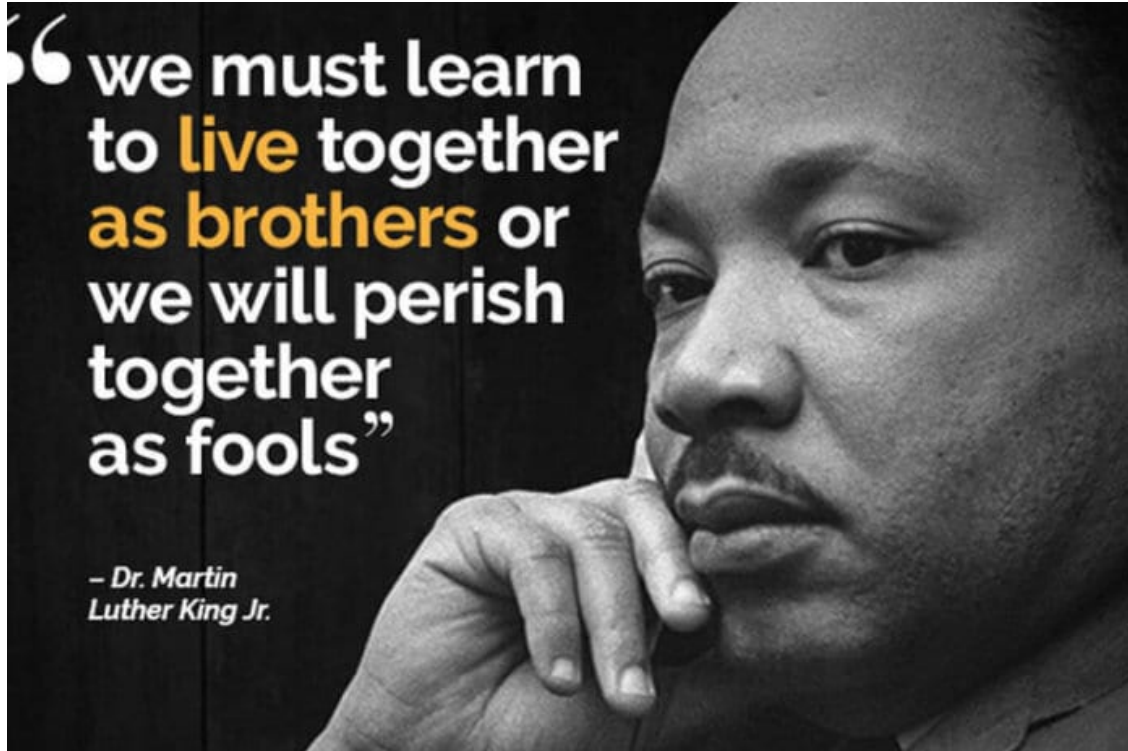




Thanks to all who were in attendance for our first Community Conversations, *Revolution in Roxbury*.

Don't worry if you missed the event! The recording of the event is posted on the [Video Library](#) of the UUUM website. Check it (and many other videos) out there.

## Words for your consideration...



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