



Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry
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December 2024

Message from Our Executive Director and Senior Minister



Dear Friends of UUUM,

In this season when the path ahead seems uncertain, I am so grateful for the work we all do together. Here, we keep moving forward in our work for a more just Boston, and we keep investing in a better future.

I am especially grateful each day for the bright spirits of the young people in our afterschool program. They inspire all of us with their drive, their creativity and their care. So this month, I'm stepping aside to make room for the voice of one of the youth in RYP.

I hope you enjoy reading her words.

Wishing you a healthy and happy season ahead.

Mary Margaret

Reflection from a Student in Our Youth Program

Going into my senior year, I am constantly reflecting on my overall performance throughout

high school, and Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) has been there through it all.

During my freshman year, I would come to RYP to sit down and do homework or complain about a teacher to my friends. During my sophomore year, I was introduced to the learning artist program and had so much fun relieving the stress of school with photography and art. During my junior year, I became a career exploration intern and learned so much about the history of Roxbury and slavery at the First Church in Roxbury - where the UUUM is located.



Whether it was providing a safe space to complete all my work, introducing art as a mode of expression, or peaking my interest in social justice in the area around me, RYP has set me up for success in multiple ways.

Coming back to RYP now as a senior, I know that the community there will help support me in this stressful year. RYP never fails to make me feel like a load is carried off my shoulders through the welcoming atmosphere set up daily. I can come in and paint by myself if I need to, I can come in and talk to the staff about my day, and I can come in knowing I would have a hot and fresh meal - and a ride home that same day. These constants make me keep coming back to RYP, knowing that whatever I'm dealing with, RYP is my safe space.

Funmi O.
Roxbury Youth Programs Participant
Boston-area High School Student

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

Program Updates

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



RYP students and staff come together last month to celebrate Thanksgiving

This month has been busy for the students in RYP. Our seniors are getting their college acceptance letters and still persevering through the FAFSA application process. One of RYP's students found out last week that she was accepted on a full scholarship to Columbia University.

Last month, students and staff celebrated Thanksgiving together with a holiday dinner. And just this week, students decorated our Christmas tree - bringing holiday cheer to our space.

Career Exploration

RYP Career Exploration Interns Ijeoma and Wintana created our first online version of our [Artists of Color Catalogue](#) to highlight the work of Boston-area BIPOC artists during the holiday season. Plus, thanks to them we now have a [TikTok](#) channel for which they are creating content. Check it out!





Renewal House staff member Doris Gilliam recently completed the domestic violence training program

Staff Training Update

Our staff at Renewal House staff recently completed a refresh of their 40-hour domestic violence training program! The training program was hosted by *Family and Community Resources Inc.*

Trainings like this help to ensure we can provide the shelter's residents with quality counseling and support services in a safe environment.



The Thanksgiving table set for a meal together at Renewal House

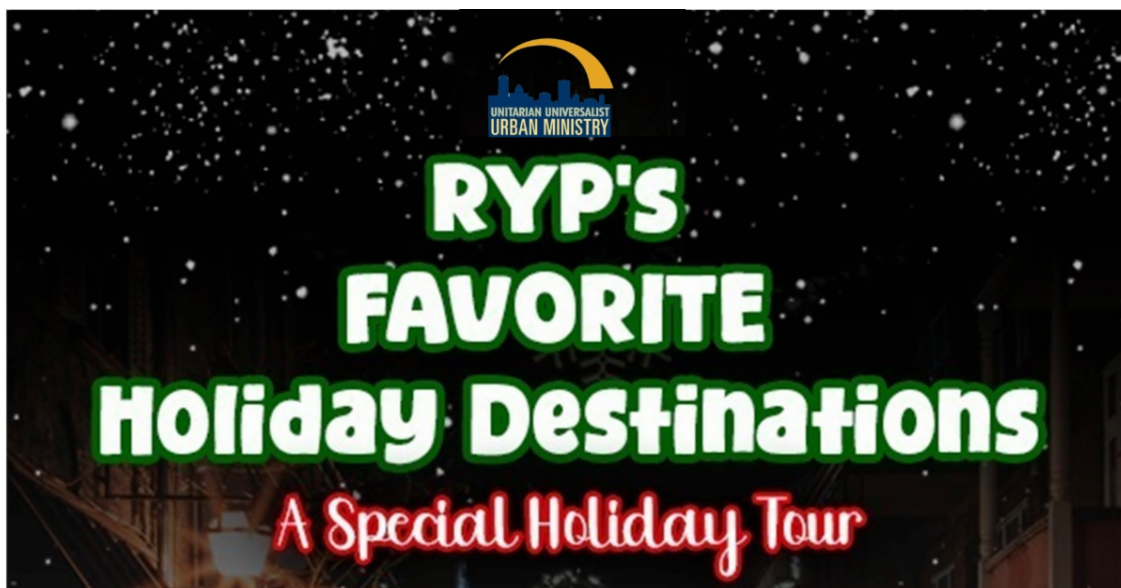
Renewal House Thanksgiving Dinner

Renewal House hosted their annual Thanksgiving dinner for residents last month.

Everybody contributed to the meal, making homemade dishes to share with those in attendance. It was a great chance for program participants and staff to come together and celebrate.

Upcoming UUUM Events

RYP's Favorite Holiday Destinations



[RYP's Favorite Holiday Destinations](#)

DATE: December 21, 2024

TIME: 10:00am - 12:00pm

WHERE: UU Urban Ministry; 10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA / Nubian Square

- Need to finish your holiday shopping?
- Want to support local, BIPOC owned businesses?
- Want to know the favorite holiday shopping spots of the students in our youth program?

Join us at UUUM for a presentation by the students from Roxbury Youth Programs, showcasing their favorite holiday shopping spots. Then we will make the short walk to Nubian Square, to do last minute shopping at the unique, BIPOC owned shops there.

Perfect for last-minute holiday gifts!

[Download the event flyer](#)

The Ties That Bind Concert

The
TIES THAT BIND

A Concert Honoring
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

UU URBAN MINISTRY
10 PUTNAM STREET
ROXBURY, MA 02119

MONDAY, JANUARY 20th | 4pm - 6pm

FREE PERFORMANCE **FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS**

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

feat. Marshall Hughes

[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)

Community Conversations



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS




Thomas Plant and Cheryl Brown-Greene

Hidden Heroes
Stories of African American Veterans

Thursday, January 9th, 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.*

*This event will be held virtually via Zoom
Scan the QR code or visit: uuum.org/upcoming-events



[Community Conversations: Hidden Heroes - Stories of African American Veterans](#)

DATE: Thursday, January 9, 2025

TIME: 6:00pm - 7:00pm

WHERE: Virtual via Zoom

Join historian Thomas Plant and educator Cheryl Brown-Greene from the Roxbury Collaborative as they tell the unsung stories of African American veterans and the role they have played in U.S. history.

Co-Sponsored by First Parish in Milton

[Download the event flyer](#)

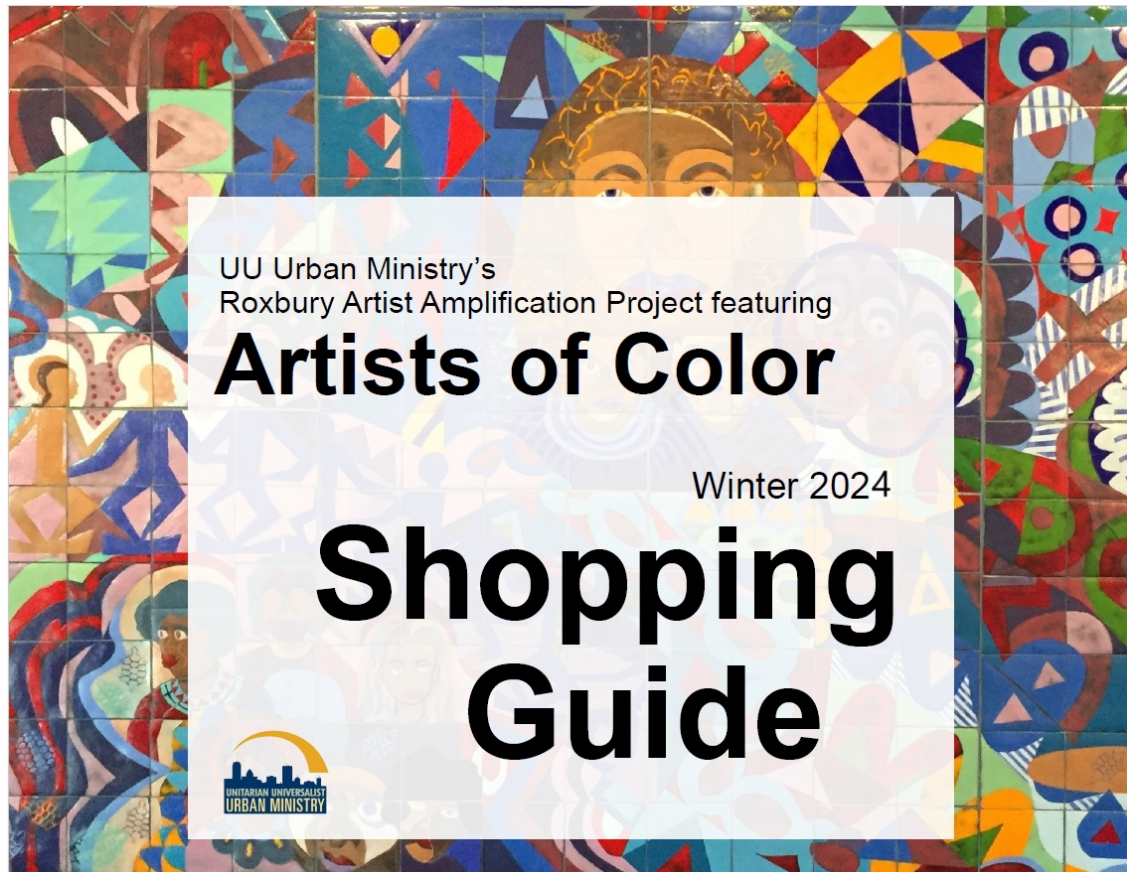
In Case You Missed It



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.



Great for last minute holiday shopping!

Our 2024 Artists of Color Shopping Guide - featuring many talented artists and artisans from the Boston-area - is still available on our website for all your holiday shopping needs. From paintings to jewelry, sculptures to stationery, the Shopping Guide has it all.

This is a great resource for holiday shopping, and promotes the art of talented artists from Roxbury and beyond, bringing business to Black and Brown artists and communities.

The guide is available now and can be accessed [HERE](#).

DeeDee Cry's Annual Toy Drive

[DeeDee's Cry Toy Drive](#)

DATE: Sunday, December 15, 2024

TIME: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

LOCATION: UU Urban Ministry

Our friends from DeeDee's Cry will be holding their annual toy giveaway event at the UUUM this year. It's a great event that will be held on Sunday, December 15th.

The event runs from 2pm–4pm, but volunteers are needed between 10am and 5pm for:



- Set-up & decorating
- Sorting toys
- Managing lines
- Assisting families
- Clean-up

If you are interested in volunteering please email Robert Jones; rjones@uuum.org.

Congregational & Volunteer Updates

Delegate of the Month



Rebecca Winborn
First Parish in Concord

This month, the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry proudly recognizes **Rebecca Winborn** from First Parish in Concord as our Delegate of the Month.

Rebecca embodies the spirit of partnership and service that defines our mission. Whenever we ask for help, Rebecca shows up, and she doesn't come alone. Time and again, she has brought a carload of enthusiastic supporters from Concord because she rallies her community to engage with and uplift the work of the Urban Ministry.

Rebecca's contributions are as varied as they are impactful. She has distributed food to families in need, stuffed letters to support City Life/Vida Urbana, and sold Mother's Day cards after Sunday services to benefit our work. Earlier this year, she and her husband Gib graciously opened their home to host a memorable gathering for the Urban Ministry, further demonstrating her dedication to fostering connections.

A founding member of the DeeDee's Cry circle of support, Rebecca also shared her insight and passion as part of a panel at our recent Delegate Luncheon event. Her commitment and ability to engage others in our shared work is a shining example of what it means to be an ambassador for the UU Urban Ministry.

Rebecca, thank you for showing up time and again. Your passion and leadership inspire us all!

Join us for a Monthly Volunteer Support Session

Next Session: Dec. 18th, 2024

Our Congregational Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator Robert Jones hosts a virtual volunteer support session each month.

The aim of these virtual sessions is to offer volunteers a chance to share about their experiences, 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.



Join Robert Jones (above), Congregational and Volunteer Coordinator

The next session will be on Wednesday, **December 18th from 7:00-8:00pm via Zoom**. If you would like to join us, email Robert for details and link: 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.

In the Community



Roxbury Concert Series: The Carnival of the Animals

WHEN: December 14, 2024 | 12:00pm
WHERE: Roxbury Branch, Boston Public Library

You're invited to this free performance of Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals, brought to life by an all-star ensemble featuring award-winning faculty and talented students from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

RSVP: roxburyconcertseries.org/rsvp

FLU and COVID-19 Clinic

DATE: December 26, 2024
TIME: 2:00pm - 6:00pm
LOCATION: BCYF Shelburne Community Center; 2730 Washington St, Roxbury, MA

Along with the start of winter comes the cold and flu season.

The Boston Health Commission will be holding a free clinic offering flu and COVID-19 shots, and all are invited. No appointment necessary.

They ask that if you have a health insurance card, to please bring it, but health insurance is not required. All vaccines are free to you!

Download the flyer [HERE](#).

Get your flu and COVID-19 vaccine, Boston!

BCYF Shelburne Community Center
2730 Washington St, Roxbury
Thursday, December 26, 2 p.m.- 6 p.m.
No appointment necessary.



Please bring your health insurance card if you have one. However, insurance and identification are not required. All vaccines are at no cost to you.



CITY of BOSTON



LEGACY CARE GROUP

Restoring Roxbury's Meetinghouse

Final Touches



The new front doors of Roxbury's Meetinghouse are being installed now. Although we repaired as much as possible during the restoration, the need for new doors was clear. Each was milled to replicate those that hung on the Meetinghouse when it first opened in 1804.

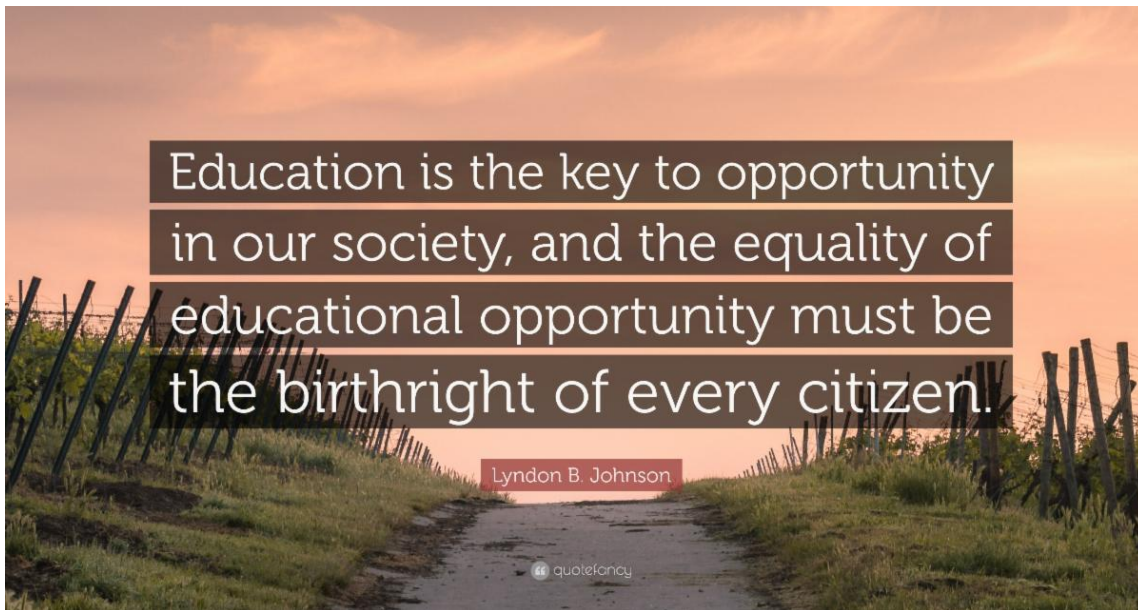
We are quickly approaching the end of this endeavor,

and plan to apply for our occupancy permit soon. Once approved, we will be able to open the doors to the community to celebrate the start of this beautiful building's next chapter.

Stay tuned for updates! We look forward to welcoming you back to our Boston landmark.



Words for your consideration...



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