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## UU Urban Ministry e-News

A monthly electronic newsletter of your UU Urban Ministry



**Dear Linda,**

The Holidays are a busy and joyful time here at the UU Urban Ministry. This season of giving is a great opportunity for us to celebrate with the many people in our programs and to look forward to the new year ahead.

So many of you are helping to make this season a joyous one. The First Parish in Kingston continued their annual tradition of welcoming Renewal House residents and former residents at the Beyond Shelter holiday party with food, crafts, and gifts. Over 100 people were in attendance this year! Several congregations have also supported Renewal House residents with gifts from their wish lists or by making holiday gift baskets.

This coming weekend is the Roxbury Youth Programs Holiday Party for the children in Explorer's Club and RYP Afterschool and their families. First Parish in Arlington is cooking up a storm for the Holiday meal, First Church Boston and First Unitarian Society in Newton are making sure that each of our students has a gift with their name on it, and six other congregations will be leading craft tables where kids can make presents for their families (and maybe a gingerbread house for themselves!).



We thank you for all of your support of our programs now and throughout the year, and we wish you and your families a safe and happy Holiday Season.

Deep Peace to You!

Rev. Kate Wilkinson  
Coordinator of Congregational Outreach  
and Volunteers

If you have questions or want to respond to any of the announcements in the e-newsletter below, please contact Rev. Kate Wilkinson at 617-318-6010 x214 or [kwilkinson@uum.org](mailto:kwilkinson@uum.org).

**Issue: # 38**

**December/2011**

**"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the**

present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace. "

- Agnes M. Pharo

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## UUUM



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Visit us today at [www.facebook.com/UUUrbanMinistry](http://www.facebook.com/UUUrbanMinistry) and click on the "like" button to keep track of all of our latest news, photos, and upcoming events.

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Roxbury Youth Programs Holiday Party

Saturday, December 17

1-4 pm

at the UU Urban Ministry

Students, families, and volunteers of all of our Roxbury Youth Programs are welcome to join in the fun at our annual holiday party.



### Martin Luther King, Jr. Special Event

Sunday, January 15

Two Parts, Afternoon and Evening

**2pm:** *Following the Dream Toward a Just Community*

We'll start by viewing the film *The Letter* about a controversy over newly arriving Somali refugees in a small city in Maine. The film will be followed by a panel discussion.

**5pm:** Light supper

**6pm:** *Hope Out Loud*

This evening performance will feature a diversity of performing groups including: Gospel by the Boston Community Choir, Spirituals by Peter Terry, Uplifting Music by the First Parish in Concord Children's Choir, Jazz by Fred Woodard, Spoken Word by poet Regie Gibson and Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists Director Barry Gaither, and Liturgical Dance by Spiritual Life Dancers.

## RENEWAL HOUSE

an emergency domestic violence shelter

## Volunteer Opportunities:

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who



has supported Renewal House with holiday needs.

## **Other Needs:**

Renewal House is in need of basic toiletries (regular size) and twin size blankets and comforters (new or gently used). For a current list of other helpful

donations, please visit our [Renewal House Needs](#) page. Thank you!



## **ROXBURY YOUTH PROGRAMS**

after-school programming serving middle and high school youth

## **Volunteer Opportunities:**

Holiday Craft Tables

**Saturday, December**

**17 1-2:30pm**

Join us at our Holiday Party for RYP youth and families! The first half of our celebration is a Santa's Workshop where children can make gifts and holiday treats. Can you lead a craft table at this great event?



Friday Field Trips

Fridays are fun days at Roxbury Youth Programs. We are in need of sponsors and ideas for afternoon field trips for middle school students and evening field trips for high school students.

## **RYP WEEKEND: EXPLORER'S CLUB**

a weekend and summer enrichment program for elementary and middle school children

## **Volunteer Opportunities:**


Holiday Craft Tables

**Saturday, December 17**

**1-2:30pm**

Join us at our Holiday Party for RYP youth and families! The above mentioned Santa's Workshop will engage youth of all ages, from Explorer's Club



elementary school students   
to our high school teens. Can you lead a craft table at this  
great event?

### Lead/Sponsor an Explorer's Club

**10 a.m. - 12 noon on Saturday, 5/12**

Think about the kind of fun enrichment activities your congregation, youth group, committee, or small group ministry could offer a group of 25-30 elementary school aged children! We welcome your ideas. In particular, we would love to have science-, craft-, and health-related Explorer's Clubs. Or maybe a fun field day! Want to do something, but not sure what? Contact Rev. Kate Wilkinson for suggestions. [kwilkinson@uum.org](mailto:kwilkinson@uum.org) or 617-318-6010 x214.

### Become a Mentor

A critical and meaningful component of Explorer's Club is mentoring...and we need more mentors! If you are interested in mentoring, please fill out our [online application](#). Please also plan to regularly attend Explorer's Clubs, which are held one Saturday a month. It's very important for you to get to know the program, staff, and, of course, children (and for us to get to know you) before becoming a mentor.

### UNITED SOULS

a support group and network for men in transition

### **On-going Event:**

Weekly Meetings

**Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.**

All men are welcome to attend.

If interested, please contact:

Sam Williams

[swilliams@uum.org](mailto:swilliams@uum.org)

617-318-6010 x205



**Sincerely,**

Rev. Kate Wilkinson

Coordinator of Congregational Outreach and Volunteers

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

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