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## UU Urban Ministry e-News

A monthly electronic newsletter of your UU Urban Ministry



**Dear Linda,**

Although Roxbury Youth Programs does not start up again until September 26, almost every day now a student drops by to say hello. Some come with application in hand, eager to come back for a new year. Some are alumni who have gone on to college and need advice about choosing classes or help with buying books. Of course we gush about how proud of them we are. Each visit energizes us for the year ahead.

If you would like to be a part of our fall start-up, please consider volunteering your time and energy this year. From weekly tutoring to a one-time mock college interview, there are many different ways to engage. Please read on for more details about volunteering with Roxbury Youth Programs, Explorer's Club and Renewal House.

Many Thanks,  
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: # 35

September/2011

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

~Thomas Edison

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The Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry has a NEW fan page on Facebook!

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.

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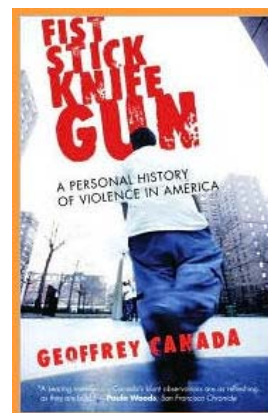
## Mark Your Calendars!

### Book Discussion

Thursday, September 29

6pm

Join the men of United Souls who are hosting our next book discussion. Teens from Roxbury Youth Programs, UUUM staff and volunteers will gather for conversation about the chosen book. We are returning to one of our favorite authors, Geoffrey Canada, to read his compelling book *Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun: A Personal History of Violence in America*. All are welcome! A light supper will be served.



### Candlelight Vigil

Thursday, October 27

6:30-7:30pm at the UU Urban Ministry

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In years past we have hosted a vigil honoring those whose lives were lost due to domestic violence in MA. This year we are pleased to invite you to join us for a collaborative vigil honoring the lives of those who have been lost due to violence in our community and across the state. Led by RH staff, RYP youth and men from the United Souls group, this event is sure to be emotional and uplifting - highlighting the various experiences of the individuals and families we serve.

### Spark: The Fire Within

A Performance to Benefit Renewal House

Saturday October 29th

7-9 pm at First Church in Boston

We are celebrating the voices of domestic violence survivors in "Spark: The Fire Within," an exciting evening of performance, poetry, dance and art to raise money for the work of Renewal House. You can show your support to domestic violence survivors, and our work providing support, education, and community awareness, by becoming an event sponsor or taking out a program ad with a message of support (For details check our [UUUM website](#)). Tickets to the event are \$30, and may be purchased by contacting Ruth Crocker at [rcrocker@uum.org](mailto:rcrocker@uum.org). All ad proceeds and \$25 of each ticket sale will be matched, doubling your donation to Renewal House.

***Prophetic Encounters* Book Release Celebration  
A Jack Mendelsohn Forum special event  
with scholar and author Dan McKanan  
Sunday afternoon, November 13, 3-5pm**

Due to be released on November 1st by Beacon Press, *Prophetic Encounters* is the first comprehensive history of the intimate relationship between religion and the Left in the United States. Come learn how Unitarians and Universalists have worked alongside Jews, Catholics, Freethinkers, Spiritualists, mainline and evangelical Protestants, and so many others in extending liberty, equality, and solidarity to all people.

**RENEWAL HOUSE**

an emergency domestic violence shelter

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

Fall Volunteer Training

Thursdays 10/6, 10/13, 10/20,

10/27, 11/3, 6-9pm and

Saturday, 10/15, 9am-5pm

This fall we will be offering a 25 hour volunteer training for all those interested in volunteering at Renewal House. If you are interested in going through this required training, please fill out our [online volunteer application](#).



Matching Gifts Needed

We are excited to announce that we have received a two-part grant from the John and Geraldine Weil Foundation to support Renewal House. They have given us a \$15,000 grant and will make a second \$15,000 grant if we can raise that amount in matching funds. Imagine what a total of \$45,000 could do to transform the lives of people escaping violence in their homes. Please use this opportunity to [double your support of Renewal House!](#)

**Other Needs:**

Renewal House is in need of full size toiletries (please no hotel sizes) including shampoo, conditioner, soap, body cream, deodorant, razors, tooth paste, and tooth brushes. Also helpful

would be additional copies of the text books we use in our ESL classes. ...[Side By Side](#) and [Ventures 2](#). 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:**

#### Many Ways to Engage

We have many different ways for you to volunteer with RYP. There are one-time commitments and group opportunities as well as weekly roles for those of you who want to be more deeply involved.



If anything on this list interests you, please contact Rev. Kate Wilkinson for more details. And if you have not already done so, please fill out our [online volunteer application](#).

- Tutor a middle school or high school student one afternoon or evening a week (Monday-Thursday 3:30-6pm or Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm).
- Cook dinner one night for Roxbury Youth Programs teens and tutors (grocery shop and cook for ~30 people on a Wednesday night. Dinner is at 6pm.).
- Help get us tickets for a Fun Friday Fieldtrip (for 25 middle school or 25 high school students).
- Lead an art activity with 10 middle school students on a Wednesday afternoon (5-6pm).
- Become a college coach (meet twice a month with a high school junior or senior to help them navigate the college application process).
- Lead a resume workshop for our high school students.
- Join us for our weekly game night on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30pm.
- Help lead our weekly learning circles for middle school students (Math circles are Tuesdays from 4-5pm; English Language Arts circles are Thursdays from 4-5pm).
- Be a guest on one of our career panels (January and February dates).
- Interview students during our mock interview series (phone interviews and in person interviews during the month of March).
- Buy pizza and popcorn for our middle schoolers and join

- us for an in-house movie on a Friday afternoon.
- Lead a nutrition workshop and teach our kids how to prepare a healthy snack (one Wednesday or Friday afternoon).
- Spend an hour being a computer lab chaperone (Monday-Thursday 5-6pm).

## STAND HIGH / STAND UNITED

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

### Volunteer Opportunities:

#### Lead/Sponsor an Explorer's Club

**10 a.m. - 12 noon on any of the following Saturdays: 12/10, 1/14, 2/11, 3/10, 4/14, and 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. And maybe a fun field day next spring! 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 Stand High / Stand United 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. Our next volunteer training is on Saturday, September 10.

## 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,**

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Coordinator of Congregational Outreach and Volunteers  
Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry  
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