



## Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

John Eliot Square • 10 Putnam St. • Roxbury, MA 02119  
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December 2023



'Tis the season of high-sparkle - whatever lights will be hung this holiday are shining, now.

And here at the UU Urban Ministry we have lights and glitter and shimmering snowflakes, too.

But what sparkles most is not the decorations. It's the connections. It's the people. It's the relationships.

This week we were welcomed at a magical celebration of Kwanzaa by our neighbors at [Paige Academy](#). There, preschoolers and first graders and older students sang in the season of Kwanzaa, and shared its principles. Parents and community members listened

and celebrated, creating a loving circle of community that shined brightly. And our community partner [DeeDee's Cry](#) invited us to partner in a holiday celebration with the families they serve, and UU Urban Ministry staff joined in a gathering with Santa and music and the magic the season holds for little ones.

We've celebrated with our own programs, too, decking our halls and filling stockings for students in our afterschool programs and for survivors in our shelter.

What's loveliest is the laughter and music and celebration and community that flow from these. All the things that friends like you make possible.

Your support means we can offer space to our partners, and build relationships, and welcome young people daily.

Your support makes way for shimmer and sparkle and all the things that are at heart of this holiday time.

Thank you for all you do.

Wishing you shimmer and light, too.

Mary Margaret

Make a Gift to the UU Urban  
Ministry

## Program Updates

### Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



Our Career Exploration Interns (from left to right): Funmi, Sabrina, Sofia, Sarah-Simone

## New Internship Opportunities

This semester's class of Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) is 34 young people strong - the largest in the program's recent history. Four of these students will be working as Career Exploration Interns with UUUM's Development and Community Engagement departments.

Our Career Exploration Interns will learn skills they can take with them, and share what they learn with younger RYP students. They will create videos, craft blog posts and amplify our social media. We are happy to have them as part of the team!

## Learning Through Artistic Expression

RYP gives young people an opportunity for artistic expression. Each week, they participate in workshops where they use art to open up important conversations. In the coming weeks, local artists will share various artistic disciplines with RYP students.

Below are some examples of RYP art from just this week!



## Community Engagement

On Sunday, December 18th, our friends from [DeeDee's Cry](#) held their annual toy distribution event at the Urban Ministry.

The event provided toys to 300+ kids from the Roxbury-area, and they also had the opportunity to have their photos taken with Santa [and the Grinch].

One way we strive to be a good partner is letting other area social justice organizations utilize the space on our beautiful campus.

We were happy to play host for this event, and we appreciate our friends at DeeDee's Cry letting us participate.



Toy Burton (left), the founder of DeeDee's Cry with Reggie Walker, UUUM community engagement manager.

Read the Dec. 6th [article from The Bay State Banner](#) about DeeDee's Cry and the naming of a Roxbury park to remember those effected by suicide, featuring a quote from Rev. Mary Margaret Earl.

## Renewal House

We are grateful to the member congregations that held holiday gift card drives for the residents of Renewal House, our emergency domestic violence shelter.

Thank you to:

- Tricia Johnson and our friends at the UU Society of Wellesley Hills
- Diane Miller and our friends at First Parish Church of Stow & Acton
- Susan Sennott and our friends at First Church and Parish in Dedham

thank  
you

An additional note of thanks to Vivien Morris and her group of basket makers for their support of the families at Renewal House. This generosity is appreciated!

## A Bird's Eye View

Last month, Joe Turner from Melrose UU Church offered to visit our campus with his drone to take some aerial photos of our historic Meetinghouse.

Joe returned with a framed enlargement of one of his photos that we have proudly hung on our wall.

Thank you, Joe, for these beautiful photos of the Meetinghouse and John Eliot Square!





One of Joe Turner's aerial photos of the Meetinghouse and John Eliot Square

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## The Impact You Make



The support we receive from you and others in our community helps to make all of the work we do at the Urban Ministry possible.

Whether expanding opportunities for the young people in our youth program, supporting the families in our emergency shelter, or our work to be a true community partner in Roxbury - your support makes it possible. As we near the end of 2023, consider supporting the Urban Ministry by making a gift.

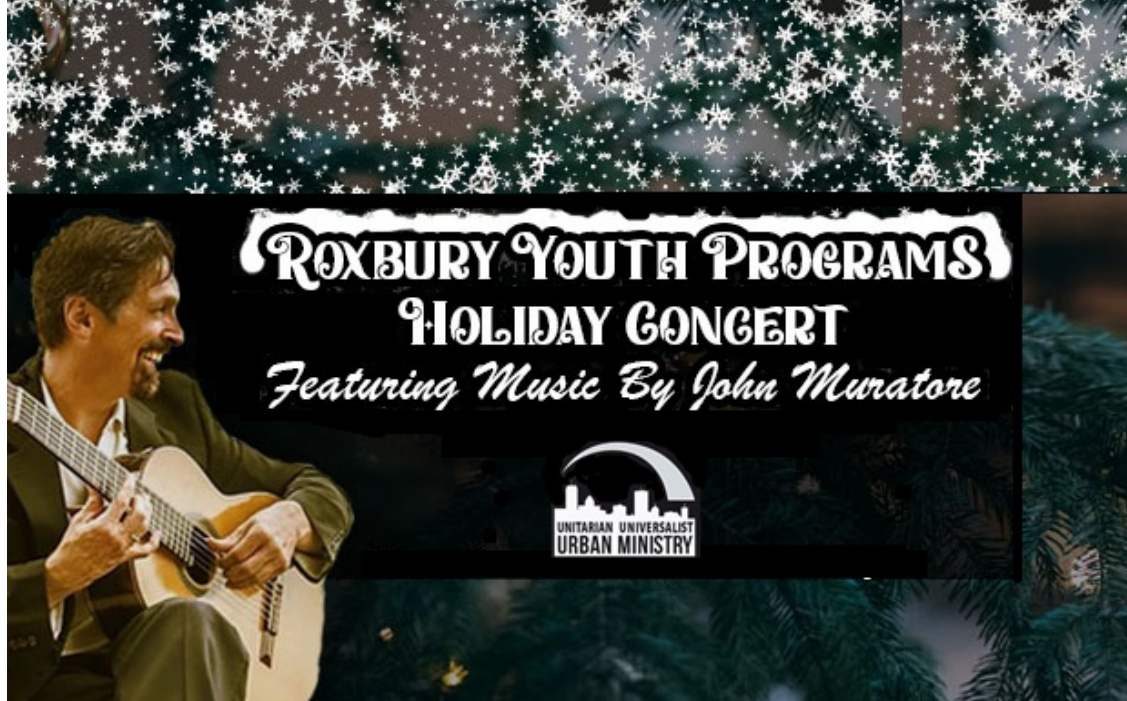
[CLICK HERE](#) to make a tax-deductible donation, or [email Vinnie Myles](#) if you have any questions about supporting UUUM.

Thank you for all that you do to support our work and mission.

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## Upcoming Events

**TOMORROW! Holiday Concert w/ Classical Guitarist, John Muratore**



### [RYP Holiday Concert \(feat. John Muratore\)](#)

**When:** Friday, December 22nd

- 6:00pm - 7:00pm: Food and Festivities
- 7:00pm: Concert begins

**Where:** UUUM; 10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA

**Join us** for a heartwarming celebration of the holiday season, with the music of acclaimed classical guitarist, John Muratore!

This concert is free, and we hope you will join us for an evening of celebration and world class music. Donations are welcome, and will benefit UUUM's Roxbury Youth Programs.

### Community Conversations



## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

# David Harris

## The Right to Stay



**Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.**

Join us for this discussion with David about how housing has contributed to racial inequity, especially in Boston - and the rights people have to stay in their homes.

David retired as Managing Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice and lecturer at Harvard Law School. David has extensive experience in many facets of civil rights issues.

Prior to his position at the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute he served as founding Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston. David is the former President of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and longtime chair of the Medford Human Rights commission. He currently chairs the Massachusetts Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. He served for many years on the board of the UU Urban Ministry.



Event sponsored by: **First Parish in Concord**



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### [Community Conversations: The Right to Stay \(w/ David Harris\)](#)

**When:** Tuesday, January 16th; 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**Where:** In-person at UUUM and virtually via Zoom

Join us for this discussion with David Harris about how housing has contributed to racial inequity, especially in Boston - and the rights people have to stay in their homes.

This event will be held live at the Urban Ministry (10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA)

Sponsored by: First Parish in Concord

### Ties That Bind - Concert Honoring MLK

# TIES THAT BIND

## A Concert Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

UU URBAN MINISTRY  
10 PUTNAM ST. ROXBURY, MA



feat. Marshall  
Hughes

**MONDAY, JANUARY 15th @ 5PM**

**FREE PERFORMANCE**

**JOIN US!**

**FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS**

### [Ties That Bind: A concert honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

**When:** Monday, January 15th at 5:00 PM

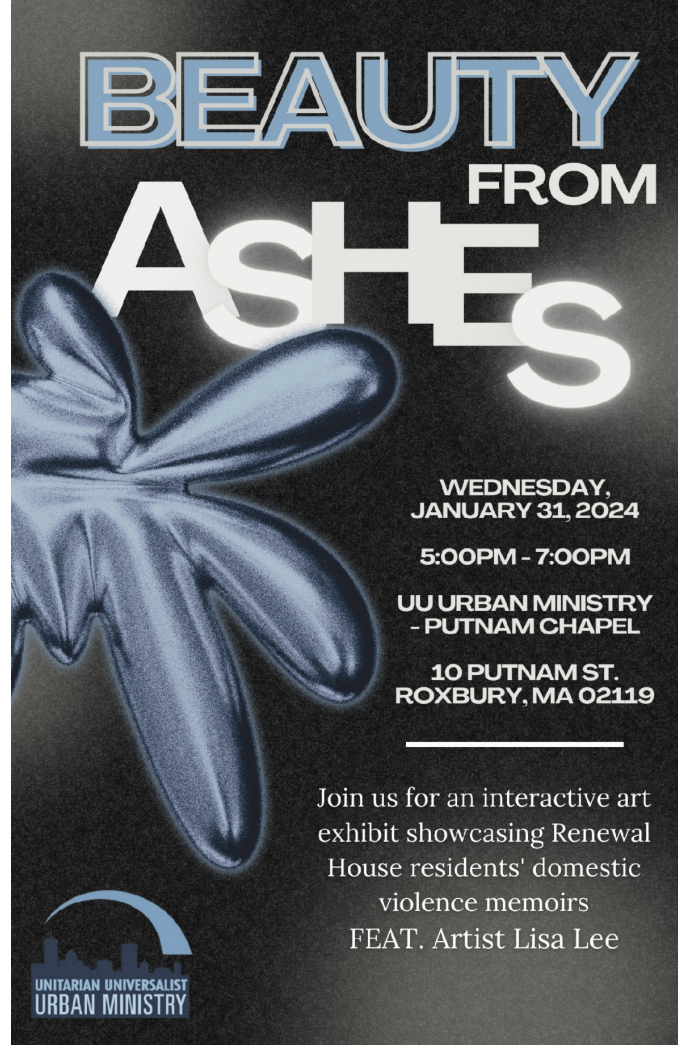
**Where:** UU Urban Ministry; 10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA

An afternoon of soaring and uplifting music to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Performers will include the beautiful voice of Marshall Hughes, and others.

More details to come, but save the date now!

**Beauty From Ashes - Renewal House Art Exhibit**





### [Beauty From Ashes](#)

An exhibit of art inspired by the stories of Renewal House residents - featuring the work of artist, Lisa Lee

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024

**TIME:** 5:00pm - 7:00pm

**WHERE:** UU Urban Ministry (Putnam Chapel); 10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA 02119

Join us to experience this interactive art exhibit and the stories of the residents of our emergency domestic violence shelter, Renewal House.

There will be a short program at 6pm, with words from Mary Margaret Earl (UUUM executive director), Marie Padilla (Renewal House manager), and Lisa Lee (artist).

### **In Case You Missed It**

#### **UUUM Online Content Library**

If you miss any of the Community Conversations series - like the event we held earlier this month with Aja Kennedy from The Boston Indicators report, you can watch the videos on the [Video Library](#) (under the Resources tab) of the UUUM's webpage.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the Dec. Community Conversations with Byron Rushing.

**Hope to See You On Sunday**

# Invite UUUM to Preach



**Rev. Mary Margaret Earl**  
*Executive Director and  
Senior Minister*

Each year, Rev. Mary Margaret Earl [and members of the UUUM team] are invited to preach [speak] at UUUM member congregations - and others. Mary Margaret will share a sermon with a social justice message that is both a call to action and reflection. Staff members speak about the programs and mission of the Urban Ministry, and ways to join us in this work.

We are now open to requests for preaching for the 2023-2024 church year. If you are interested in inviting us or learning more, please email Annie Stubbs: [astubbs@uuum.org](mailto:astubbs@uuum.org).

We appreciate the invitations to join you and hope to see you soon!

## The 2023-2024 Calendar is Filling Up

If you are interested in having Rev. Mary Margaret Earl preach at your congregation on an upcoming Sunday, or in having a member of the UUUM Team join you to discuss our mission, work, and ways your church can get involved, email Vinnie: [vmyles@uuum.org](mailto:vmyles@uuum.org).

## Photos From Our Boston Landmark



The plywood box is the area on the Meetinghouse balcony where our fully repaired and restored Hook & Hastings organ will be reassembled.



Workers restoring the box pews. The pews along the perimeter of the building have been sanded, repaired, and painted. Now the work has turned to the pew sections on either side of the main aisle.

Words for your consideration...

**YOUR SILENCE  
WILL NOT  
PROTECT YOU**

**- AUDRE LORDE**



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Stay connected and up-to-date about:

- all things UUM

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

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