



Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

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March 2023

From Our Executive Director & Senior Minister



As we turn the corner toward spring, we prepare for the gifts of a new season - including the opportunity to celebrate this neighborhood.

In the months ahead, we'll roll out tours celebrating the beauty and history of Roxbury's Highland Park and Nubian Square neighborhoods. We will visit the venerable Paige Academy, launched as a Freedom School, and learn about the community organizing that gave birth to Roxbury Community College. We'll visit stunning murals on Nubian Square buildings.

We are seeking to celebrate, to learn, and also to invite visitors to spend their money in this community and in the small businesses seeking to thrive here.

We also will publish a listing of other organization offering tours celebrating Roxbury's richness - including the Dillaway Thomas House, and [Live Like a Local](#).

We believe strength lies in partnership, and celebrating all the good work underway all around us.

I hope to see you on our campus this spring and summer, and wish you the gifts of the sweet season ahead.

[Click Here to Support the Work of UUUM Programs](#)

Program Updates

Roxbury Youth Programs



The Interns from Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) have had a full schedule since their winter break. They recently made a trip to Cambridge - in particular Harvard University - that included a visit to both the Cooper Gallery of Afro Cuban Art and the Harvard Hiphop Archive Research Institute.

At the Cooper Gallery, they saw an exhibit that features the work of Cuban artists of African descent. These works, like many by artists of African descent, is often not shown or acknowledged. This visit provided an opportunity to discuss understanding the past through the lives, experiences, and artistic production of Black artists.



Did you know Harvard has a Hiphop Institute?

While there, RYP Interns took part in a tour and roundtable talk about how Hiphop can facilitate and encourage the pursuit of knowledge, art, culture, and responsible leadership.

Both visits leaned into part of RYP's commitment to foster storytelling and creative skills that allow young people to become change makers in their own communities.



Stay in touch with RYP

Keep up-to-date with RYP's Interns throughout the semester by following them on Instagram. [CLICK HERE](#) to check it out.

Believe in Success

The graduate level of Believe In Success (BIS), our trauma-informed career development program, is for alumni to continue to receive opportunities and resources to maintain or further themselves.

Just this week, BIS staff assisted a program graduate to sign up for coding classes - a career direction she has decided to pursue.



The BIS program is committed to working with participants both during their time in the program and beyond as they begin their next chapter.

Renewal House

A Good Day at Renewal House

Recently, the staff at Renewal House, our emergency shelter, arranged for a "Spa Day" for residents. The day included facials, massages, and skin care.

A goal moving ahead is to offer Renewal House residents a unique, enjoyable experience on a monthly basis.

As you can see from the note (right) written by one of the residents, it was a wonderful and relieving experience for all.

program participant

Gracias por el dia de spa
el dia 1/6/23.

Me fue super bien,
Me encanto
Me ayudo bastante a sentirme
relajada

Mi senti bien despues del spa
Fue un dia muy bueng la
mente y el cuerpo estuvieron
muy relajados. Gracias.

Translation:

Thank you for Spa Day.
It went super well for me
I loved it. It helped me alot to
feel relaxed. I felt good after
the spa. It was a great day
my body and mind felt very
relaxed.



Upcoming Events

Community Conversations

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST URBAN MINISTRY *presents*

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Dr. Karilyn Crockett

A New Path to Closing the Racial Wealth Gap

Tuesday, April 18th, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

All details for this event on www.uuum.org/attend or scan QR code below



Dr. Karilyn Crockett's research focuses on large-scale land use changes in 20th century American cities and examines the social and geographic implications of structural poverty and racial formations. Karilyn co-founded Multicultural Youth Tour of What's Now (MYTOWN), an award winning, Boston-based, educational non-profit organization. During 15 years of operation, MYTOWN created jobs for more than 300 low and moderate-income teens, who led public walking tours for more than 14,000 people. In a White House ceremony, the National Endowment for the Humanities cited MYTOWN as "One of ten best Youth Humanities Programs in America."

Karilyn served for four years with the Mayor's Office of Economic Development as the Director of Economic Policy & Research and the Director of Small Business Development for the City of Boston. She served as Boston's first Chief of Equity, a Cabinet-level position Mayor Walsh established to embed equity and racial justice into all City planning, operations, and work. She holds a faculty appointment in MIT's Department of Urban Studies & Planning. She is currently leading the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce in a partnership with the Boston Federal Reserve Bank to revisit the 2015 "Color of Wealth" report on closing the racial wealth gap. Karilyn's career mission is to continue to work at the nexus of education, economic development policy and urban revitalization.

Event sponsored by: Theodore Parker Church



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[A New Path to Closing the Racial Wealth Gap](#) [\(w/ Dr. Karilyn Crockett\)](#)

April 18, 2023 | 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Karilyn served as Director of Economic Policy & Research and the Director of Small Business Development for the City of Boston, then as Boston's first Chief of Equity, a Cabinet-level position Mayor Walsh. She is currently leading the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce to revisit the 2015 "Color of Wealth" report on closing the racial wealth gap.

Karilyn's career mission is to continue to work at the nexus of education, economic development policy and urban revitalization, and will join us on April 18th to discuss a

new path to closing the racial wealth gap. Join us!

Thank you to the sponsors of this event: Theodore Parker Church

Lunch with an Artist

Virtual Lunch with an Artist

Part of the UU Urban Ministry's Roxbury Artist Amplification Project



Wednesday, March 15

1 - 1:45 pm

Join us for a conversation with Artist Lisa Lee who joins Bithyah Israel from the Urban Ministry to share the inspiration of her artistic practice!

Join us using this link:
bit.ly/uuumlunch3
or visit: uuum.org/attend

We invite you to join the conversation!

Join us for lunch and 45-minutes connecting with the featured artist. Together, we will look at their virtual gallery and hear more from them about their work. Questions? Contact: Bithyah Israel, bisrael@uuum.org

Made possible by a gift from the Polly Thayer Starr Charitable Trust



[Virtual Lunch with an Artist \(w/ Lisa Lee\)](#)

March 15, 2023 | 1:00pm - 1:45pm

Artist Lisa Lee joins UUUM's Bithyah Israel to share work samples and the inspiration behind her work. Join us for the discussion and the interactive Q&A.

Part of the UU Urban Ministry's Roxbury Artist Amplification Project

Theodore Parker Church Lecture Series

2023 THEODORE PARKER LECTURE

Policing Black Communities, 1854–2023:
Changing Public Safety Narratives

Reverend Rahsaan D. Hall

Sunday, March 26, 2023

2:00 p.m.

Theodore Parker Church
1859 Centre St. West Roxbury, MA

REGISTER TO JOIN IN-PERSON or ON ZOOM:
tinyurl.com/theodore-parker-lecture-2023



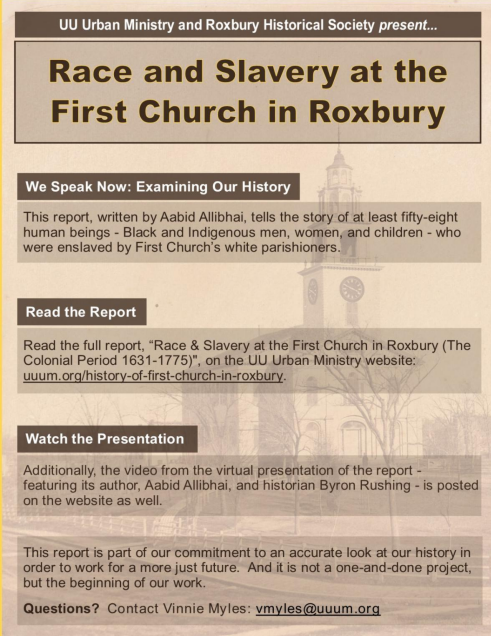
[Policing Black Communities, 1854 - 2023: Changing Public Safety Narratives](#)

March 26, 2023 | 2:00pm

Our friends at Theodore Parker Church invite you to the next event in their lecture series featuring special guest, Rev. Rahsaan D. Hall.

You can attend in-person or via Zoom, and you are asked to register in advance if you would like to participate. [CLICK HERE for the event flyer and registration details.](#)

Examining Our History



UU Urban Ministry and Roxbury Historical Society present...

Race and Slavery at the First Church in Roxbury

We Speak Now: Examining Our History

This report, written by Aabid Allibhai, tells the story of at least fifty-eight human beings - Black and Indigenous men, women, and children - who were enslaved by First Church's white parishioners.

Read the Report

Read the full report, "Race & Slavery at the First Church in Roxbury (The Colonial Period 1631-1775)", on the UU Urban Ministry website: uuum.org/history-of-first-church-in-roxbury.

Watch the Presentation

Additionally, the video from the virtual presentation of the report - featuring its author, Aabid Allibhai, and historian Byron Rushing - is posted on the website as well.

This report is part of our commitment to an accurate look at our history in order to work for a more just future. And it is not a one-and-done project, but the beginning of our work.

Questions? Contact Vinnie Myles: vmyles@uum.org

If you weren't able to join us for the virtual event about First Church in Roxbury's history with slavery, or would like to read the full report by Aabid Allibhai, they are available on our website.

Both the report and video of the virtual event can be found here on the "[History of the First Church in Roxbury](#)" page on the UUUM website.

This report was the beginning of what will be ongoing work to honestly examine our history. We will continue to share this work with you, and invite you to join us.

Career Opportunity at the Urban Ministry



We're Hiring in the Development Office

The Development Associate has the primary responsibility of ensuring the functionality and success of both the engagement opportunities and volunteer training program at the UU Urban Ministry.

Read the full job description [HERE](#).

Support the Transformation of the Meetinghouse



[THE PEWS PROJECT](#)

As of today, 50% of the pews in the Meetinghouse have been sponsored. **Thank you** to all those who have supported this initiative - and the restoration of our Meetinghouse. For those who haven't yet, there is still time...

Sponsor the work that restores the Meetinghouse pews.

- Your \$1,000 donation will help fund the work that brings the 106 box pews back to life, and ready to welcome guests again.
- When you sponsor a pew, we will send you a photo of "your" pew, along with any historical information that we know about it.
- Then when the work in the Meetinghouse is completed, join us for a celebration and sit in the pew you helped restore

The restored Meetinghouse will be a home for the arts, humanities, and civic engagement in Roxbury - and one that our neighborhood needs and deserves.

Questions?

Email Vinnie Myles, Director of Development and Communications: vmyles@uum.org

[CLICK HERE TO SPONSOR A PEW](#)

Stay Connected with Us

Stay connected and up-to-date about:

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

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FRIENDLY CORRECTION FROM LAST MONTH

In last month's e-newsletter, we mentioned the Black Lives Matters "stand outs" done by our friends at UU Wellesley Hills, and said they were done weekly.

Correction: UU Wellesley have been holding these stand outs monthly **for 5-years**. We apologize for the error,



and encourage you to beep your horn if you happen to drive by them on a Sunday morning!

Words for your consideration...

A quote from the RYP Takeover of Community Conversations

**“This world was not built for minorities,
but it was built by minorities.”**

- Sofia, H.S. Sophomore and RYP Intern

*This quote is from this year's Community Conversations/RYP
Takeover that looked at the topic of Police in Schools.*

*The event was organized and presented by the Interns of
. Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP).*

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Ministry**

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