



Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

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January 2024



Photo from the Ties That Bind event in January 2023

A new year can mean a fresh start. But in 2024, the world's heaviness weighs on us. And that means we must seek inspiration to start, afresh.

On Monday, I'll seek out inspiration from Ties that Bind - a performance that draws on the legacy of Martin Luther King in order to face the problems of today.

Some of Boston's most talented performers gather in Putnam Chapel to share song, movement and spoken word that reckons with racism, war and struggle.

And on Tuesday, longtime housing activist David Harris will lead a community conversation here about the right of people to stay in their own neighborhood - and how we can all work together for housing justice.

And all week long, I'll be inspired by the young people in our afterschool program who - facing a world of challenges - show up and create and imagine new possibilities every single day.

On behalf of the UU Urban Ministry thank you for supporting this work, which seeks a way forward. Thank you for believing something better can come, and for making it so. May 2024 bring you - bring us all - sparkle and light and new possibility.

In faith,

Mary Margaret

To Our Supporters

The support we receive from you and others in our community has a real and positive impact on the young people in our Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)

To help share this with you, we asked the RYP students working as UUUM interns this school year to create a video so our young people can tell you themselves. Click on the image below to watch their video. It's under 1-minute long but says a lot.



You can support the work with our young people in RYP by making a gift to UUUM.

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

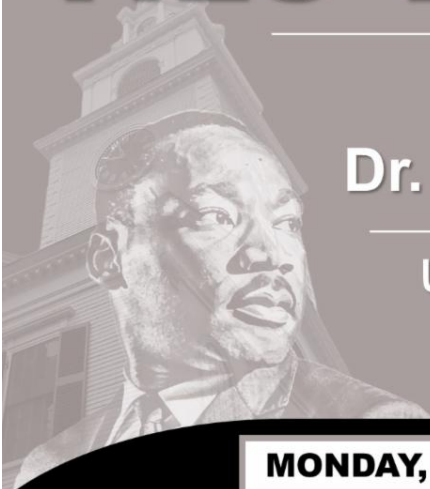
Don't Miss These 2 Events Next Week

Monday: Join us to honor MLK

The
TIES THAT BIND

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

**UU URBAN MINISTRY
10 PUTNAM STREET
ROXBURY, MA 02119**



feat. Marshall Hughes

MONDAY, JANUARY 15th @ 5PM

FREE PERFORMANCE

FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

SCAN QR CODE FOR A FULL LIST OF PERFORMERS



[The Ties That Bind](#)

When: Monday, January 15th at 5:00 P.M.

Where: UUUM (Putnam Hall); 10 Putnam St. Roxbury, MA

Join us for a concert to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event is free and refreshments will be served following the music.

The evening will feature world class music thanks to an impressive lineup of performers that includes:

- Michael Weinstein
- Alan Rias
- Cliff Blake
- Donna Bivens
- Danielle Lennox
- Patrice Jackson
- Sarah Cooper
- Isabelle Randall
- Monique Smith
- Marshall Hughes

We invite you to join us for this evening of wonderful music to honor and celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Tuesday: Community Conversations



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

David Harris

The Right to Stay



Tuesday, January 16th, 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

Where: In-person at UUUM and virtually on Zoom

Join us and our guest, David Harris, recently retired as Managing Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston. The topic this month is "The Right to Stay" and the issue of people being able to stay/live in the communities they grew up in [and have access to quality services like education while they do so].

This will be a hybrid event, and you're welcome to join us at the Urban Ministry or by Zoom.

Sponsored by: First Parish in Concord

Program Updates

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



From Our Youth Programs Manager:

Over the past month, we have actively engaged our students in various activities aimed at building strong connections and fostering personal and academic growth. Team-building exercises have allowed students to get to know each other better, creating a supportive community within the program.

In line with our commitment to holistic development, we have conducted workshops and training sessions addressing critical issues such as social, economic, and racial disparities. These discussions aim to empower our youth with knowledge and tools to navigate the complexities of the world around them.

We are excited about the positive energy and enthusiasm within the program and look forward to the continued growth and success of each participant.

- Curtis Santos, *Youth Programs Manager*

Seeing Me In the World

Our Seeing Me In the World program is an opportunity for UU youth to meet across congregations, and to learn and reflect on the history of segregation and race in Greater Boston. Youth from 8th through 12th grade are invited to join us at the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury for an historical walking tour, circle discussion, and artistic expression.



We are updating the program, with input from students in our youth program, and others, to make it more meaningful and impactful for participants. We plan to offer three dates for this opportunity for UU youth in the spring. Stay tuned for details...

Renewal House

The nature of the work done by Renewal House, our emergency domestic violence shelter, doesn't often allow for the residents to share their stories.

We will be having an exhibit on Jan. 31st that features artwork inspired by these stories, allowing our residents to safely and anonymously share with you while. We hope you will join us.

BEAUTY
for
ASHES

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
URBAN MINISTRY

Join us for an interactive art exhibit inspired by the stories of the residents of Renewal House, our emergency domestic violence shelter

Featuring the work of artist, Lisa Lee

Wednesday, January 31st
5:00pm - 7:00pm

UU Urban Ministry
10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA

[Beauty For 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).

Examining Our History

Last year, the UU Urban Ministry, in partnership with the Roxbury Historical Society, published a report by researcher Aabid Allibhai on the [history of enslavement at First Church in Roxbury](#) from its founding through the Revolutionary War. That was just the first step in this work to illuminate a covered-over history.

A [History Committee](#) emerged, led by historian and former state legislator Byron Rushing. The Committee is, again, a partnership between the UU Urban Ministry and the Roxbury Historical Society and includes many community members committed to advancing this work. Next steps include:

- Researching the lives and lineage of those enslaved persons named in the report, with a hope of learning if any descendents are now living in Roxbury
- Working with American Ancestors to offer a genealogical workshop for Boston youth
- Honoring the lives of names - and unnamed - enslaved people on our campus and through an event in the Meetinghouse



We will continue to share the group's progress in shining a light on the past - as we continue to work for a better future.

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.

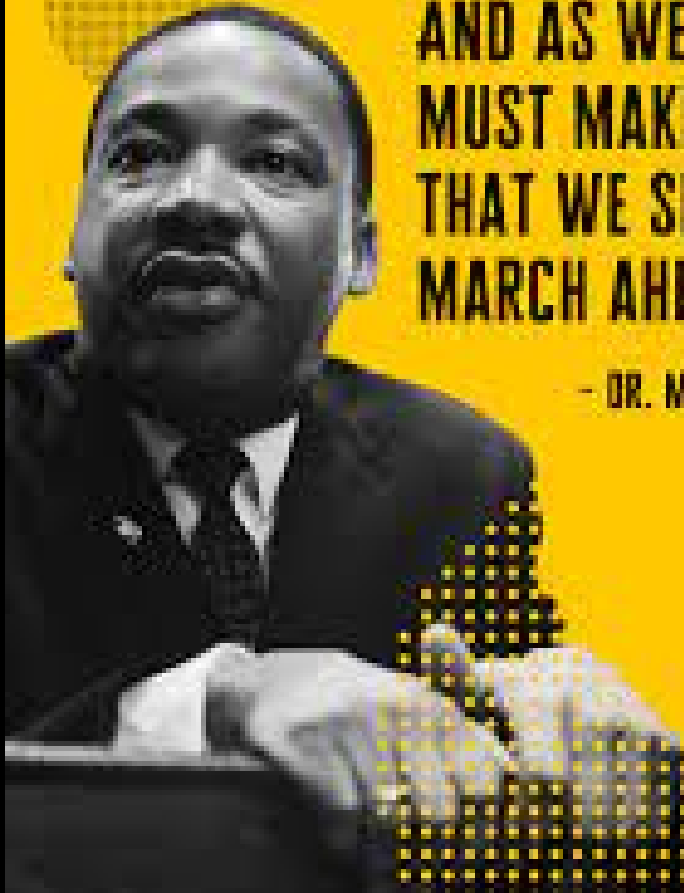
We are now open to requests for preaching for the 2023-2024 church year. If you are interested in inviting us or learning more, please email Annie Stubbs: astubbs@uuum.org.

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.

Words for your consideration...



**WE CANNOT WALK ALONE.
AND AS WE WALK, WE
MUST MAKE THE PLEDGE
THAT WE SHALL ALWAYS
MARCH AHEAD.**

- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

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