



## Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

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



Every morning as I pull into UUUM, the first thing I see is the "Our Mission" banner hanging on the fence. It's a daily reminder of the direction this organization chose when we adopted our new mission.

It's bold. It's inspiring. And it's daunting.

In his book, "An Only Child", Frank O'Connor tells a story from his boyhood about a time he and his friends were out exploring and came to an orchard wall that seemed too high to climb. Rather than turn back, he decided to throw his hat over the wall so that he and his friends had no choice but to follow it.

It's a metaphor that's been used for other seemingly impossible [at the time] and worthwhile endeavors. In 1963, President Kennedy used it to describe the country's commitment to landing a man on the moon before the decade was over. And it seems apt in our case, too.

As a community of neighbors, delegates, supporters, and friends - we have thrown our hat over the wall. Together, we understand this work won't be done in a year, before this decade ends, or even in our lifetimes. But we have committed our energy and persistence to moving this mission forward.

Whether it be welcoming young people as summer interns so they can be a part of the conversation and our work, restoring Roxbury's Meetinghouse to be a home for the arts, music, and civic life that this neighborhood needs and deserves, or the creation of a new workforce development program here at UUUM....each is a step

forward and a way we live into this mission.

The process won't be perfect and certainly won't be easy. But I hope that we can all find joy in knowing we are part of a community that has committed itself to this noble and necessary work - and who are committed to doing it together.

Vinnie Myles

[Click Here to Support the UU Urban Ministry](#)

## Program Updates

### Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



The summer semester of Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) ended with an art show curated by the program's students. It featured art projects, both paintings and multi-media, that expressed their thoughts about themselves, their community, and their place in it.

In addition to the physical artwork, the RYP Art Show featured spoken word. This aspect of the event was an opportunity to hear pieces written by the students themselves, and also other selected writings that had meaning to them.

Now with September upon us, we are excited to welcome students back for after-school homework assistance and tutoring in the coming days, and then the start of the fall internship program.



## Renewal House

Renewal House, our emergency shelter, recently welcomed a new family and also had another move out after staff assisted them through the process of finding permanent housing.

Additionally, we are grateful to Boston lawfirm Ropes & Gray, who sent book bags - full of school supplies - for the students in the shelter as they begin the school year.

Ropes & Gray has supported Renewal House in this way for years, and we thank them for their commitment to our families.



## Upcoming Events

**DON'T MISS IT: The Makanda Project's Final UUM Show of 2023!**



## JAZZ ON THE GREEN

2023 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Featuring:

# THE MAKANDA PROJECT

**SAT. JULY 15<sup>th</sup>**  
1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

**SAT. AUG. 5<sup>th</sup>**  
1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

**SAT. SEPT. 9<sup>th</sup>**  
1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

More information to come!

Updates and event info can be found on the UUUM website:

[www.UUUM.org/attend](http://www.UUUM.org/attend)

Events are FREE! | All are welcome | Bring a lawn chair or blanket

UU Urban Ministry - Greenspace  
10 Putnam St. | John Eliot Sq.  
Roxbury, MA 02119  
[www.uuum.org](http://www.uuum.org)



### [The Makanda Project](#)

**Saturday, September 9th; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Join us for the final concert of the 2023 Jazz on the Green Summer Series, featuring The Makanda Project. The concert is free of charge, held on our greenspace, and we invite you to join us!

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and stay for an afternoon of great music!

**And Join Us Before Makanda for...**

[Celebrate the 160th Anniversary of the Meetinghouse Clock](#)

The clock that keeps time for Roxbury is turning 160, and our intrepid team of



# JOIN US!



11:15 AM to 12:30 PM



10 Putnam Street, Roxbury MA 02119

This event will be also live streamed on our Facebook and Instagram from 11:15 to 12:30 PM. For more information contact Vinnie at [vmyles@uum.org](mailto:vmyles@uum.org)

clock winders invite you to join us to celebrate! **At 11:15 A.M. on Sat. Sept. 9th**, our clock winding team will gather to wind the clock, and you're invited! We will also stream the event on the [UUUM Facebook account](#). Light refreshments will be served.

Our clock winding team is an amazing group of neighbors who keep the clock running and the Meetinghouse bell tolling. We hope you can join us and stay for some jazz.



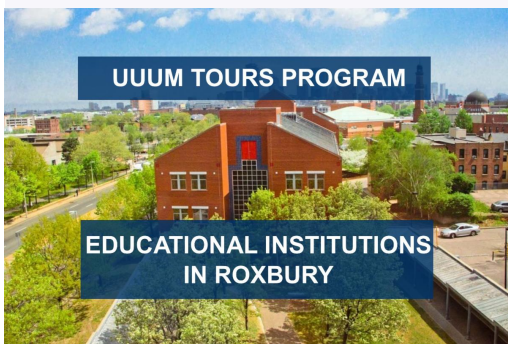
High inside the steeple of First Church Roxbury, looking down on the small room that houses the mechanism that controls the clocks.



The mechanism that our clock winders wind every 6-7 days to keep the clock ticking accurately and the church bell ringing to mark the hour.

## Neighborhood Tours Program

### The Final 3 Tours on the Summer/Fall Schedule!



#### [UUUM Tours: Educational Institutions in Roxbury](#)

**Wed. Sept 20, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**  
**Sat. Sept. 23: 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM**

Highlighting the many educational institutions in our neighborhood and look at the importance of access to education. Hear stories of activism influencing the generations of youth learning within them.

#### [UUUM Tours: Trees of John Eliot Square: A historical perspective](#)

**Sat. Oct. 07, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM**  
Enjoy a stroll around the neighborhood



focused on Roxbury's agriculture and horticulture and how these shaped the neighborhood over the years. Tour led by historian Thomas Plant.

## Upcoming Opportunity

### Jubilee Three Anti-Racism Training

#### **A Community Experience: Building Capacity to Dismantle Systemic Racism**

The UU Urban Ministry is happy to co-sponsor Jubilee Three Anti-Racism Training this **October 20th - 22nd**.

Do you wish to deepen your understanding of how race and ethnicity play out in our institutions and our daily lives? This 2-½ day workshop is open to everyone—of any faith or none—who wants to journey toward making a stand against racism and nurturing a multicultural future.

Check out the [Jubilee Three webpage](#) for full details about the opportunity, including information about the trainers, topics that will be covered, format and timeline, and registration info.

### Why Jubilee Three?



Jubilee Three Anti-Racism Training: The Opportunity & The Experience

We asked two local UU's - Lisa Snellings (from Follen Church in Lexington and UUUM board member) and Josh Shortlidge (from Melrose UU Church) - to share what their experience was like taking this anti-racism training last year.

[Watch this short video](#) to hear why Josh and Lisa are excited that Jubilee Three is being offered to our community in October.

# 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@uum.org](mailto:astubbs@uum.org).

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

## The UUUM Book Club

### Reading to Make a Difference

The first installment of the UUUM Book Club kicks off this week. The book selected for discussion is "People Before Highways: Boston Activists, Urban Planners, and a New Movement for City Making", by Dr. Karilyn Crockett.

If you missed September, don't fret! Stay tuned for the title that will be read in October, as well as instructions to sign up to be a part of it. Join us and **Read To Make A Difference!**

Details and updates can be found on the UUUM Book Club webpage: [www.uuum.org/bookclub](http://www.uuum.org/bookclub)



## Photos From Our Boston Landmark

### The Meetinghouse Bell



Embossed across the front of the bell are the words, "Revere & Son 1819"



If you've ever pulled the rope in the doorway of the Meetinghouse to ring the bell, it is attached to this large wood wheel, that turns and swings the bell, causing it to ring.



Looking down at the bell from the stairs that lead to the top of the Meetinghouse steeple.

**Words for your consideration...**



“



“We need to work together believe in our causes and give our means to support our causes.”



**Melnea Cass**

Roxbury Community activist

## 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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