



**Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry**  
John Eliot Square • 10 Putnam St. • Roxbury, MA 02119  
Tel: 617-318-6010 • Fax: 617 318-6022 • [www.uuum.org](http://www.uuum.org)

April 2024

Message from the Executive Director & Senior Minister





*Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, UUUM executive director (left) with Chpln. Clementina Chéry, founder and president of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute (right) at a Peace Play event hosted at UUUM in 2022.*

---

In praise of blossoms and partners.

As spring comes, we enter a new season with our community partners. We are deepening our relationships, and also connecting them with our Unitarian Universalist member congregations across Greater Boston.

Our goal is serving as a connector in order to more fully live into our mission to work for racial and social justice.

We celebrate partners like the [Louis D Brown Peace Institute](#), which has worked for transformation in Boston for 30 years.

The UU Urban Ministry is honored to be a partner, and to encourage UU's from across the region to not only walk in the [Mother's Day Walk for Peace](#) - but to form a team to raise funds to sustain the lifegiving work of the Institute. It is a way to directly make change in our city and state.

The UU Urban Ministry will be at the walk on Mother's Day, handing out snacks and water and cheering you on. It's a day full of possibility, connection, remembrance - and full of the hope for change. Hope to see you there.

In faith,  
Mary Margaret

---

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

---

## Program Updates

### Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



*RYP students in Putnam Hall rehearse the play that they are producing during this semester of the program.*

---

One way that Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) helps provide young people with space to develop their voices and opportunities is through art and artistic expression.

This year, RYP students are producing a play that examines social justice issues from their perspectives. They are working with RYP's Community Teaching Artist, Naheem Garcia, a Roxbury native who brings a wealth of knowledge in theater and acting.

Additionally this past month, RYP students had workshops that looked at the creation of podcasts, and they worked with a local artist to create a mural on a wall near the peace garden.

---

## **Learning About Finances**

This month, RYP students also participated in two workshops that focused on financial knowledge and responsibility.

We are grateful to long-time UUUM supporter, Betsy Taylor, who gave her time and tapped into her background in finance to speak with the students about the importance of saving, how to best utilize products offered by banks, and how to responsibly live with credit cards.

Thank you, Betsy!

---





## RYP Spotlight of the Month



Check out this month's [Roxbury Youth Programs: Spotlight of the Month video](#), featuring Laniya.

In the video, Laniya discusses the play that RYP students are creating this semester that will look at the history of slavery as it relates to First Church in Roxbury.

Read the report by Aabid Allibhai, "[Race & Slavery at the First Church in Roxbury \(The Colonial Period 1631-1775\)](#)", and follow the work of our [History Committee](#) on the UUUM website.

## Community Engagement

### Tours Program

The arrival of the spring season brings warmer weather, plants blooming, and for us - putting together the next season of our [Tours Program](#).

We are assembling the Summer/Fall 2024 Tours schedule now, and will announce it in the coming weeks.

Stay tuned for updates on our website, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) for all the latest from the Urban Ministry.



### Did You Know?

Paul Revere wasn't alone riding to warn the British were coming





Longfellow's poem "Paul Revere's Ride" immortalized that 1775 trek on horseback to warn those in Lexington and Concord that British soldiers were marching in their direction. But Revere wasn't the only person to do so.

William Dawes Jr. was an American soldier, and was one of several men who, in April 1775, alerted minutemen in Massachusetts of the approach of British regulars prior to the battles of Lexington and Concord at the outset of the American Revolution. **And his ride started from First Church in Roxbury.**

## Celebrate Patriots' Day with Us



# Roxbury Patriots' Day

**On Monday, April 15th**, The Roxbury Collaborative has put together a schedule of festivities to celebrate Roxbury Patriots' Day. The schedule is below, and we hope that you'll join us for what promises to be a great morning! And thank you to our friends from First Unitarian Universalist Society in Newton (FUUSN) for again providing the breakfast buffet.

### **EVENTS OF THE DAY INCLUDE:**

8:15 AM in Front of the Church  
National Lancers' William Dawes Re-enactment and Send-off

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall  
Free Breakfast Buffet

10:00 AM - 10:45 AM in the Parish Hall  
Ralph Browne Unsung Hero Awards  
Warren I. Brown Memorial Scholarship Awards

11:00 AM  
Historic Trolley Tour of Roxbury Beginning at Dillaway-Thomas House (board 10:45)  
Dillaway-Thomas House Tours

**All Events Are Free.**

**Upcoming Events**



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

# RYP Takeover

## Gatekeeping, Generational Wealth, and Collective Liberation



Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Join us for this event, organized by the students in Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP), to examine the issue of housing in the neighborhoods they call home.



Event details and Zoom link: [uum.org/upcoming-events](http://uum.org/upcoming-events)



UU Urban Ministry | 10 Putnam Street | Roxbury, MA 02119 | [www.uum.org/upcoming-events](http://www.uum.org/upcoming-events)

### [Community Conversations: Gatekeeping, Generational Wealth, and Collective Liberation \(RYP Takeover\)](#)

**When:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 - 6:00pm-7:00pm

**Where:** Virtually via Zoom

Join us for this event, organized by the students in Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP), to examine the issue of housing in the neighborhoods they call home.

### Program Spotlight & Open House





### [UUUM Program Spotlight & Open House](#)

**Date:** Thursday, May 2, 2024

**Time:** 5:00pm - 7:00pm

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

#### *Save the Date!*

Join the UUUM team and program participants and hear about our work, programs, and see our campus. Food and refreshments will be served.

### Volunteer Opportunity at UUUM

### A May Morning in the Peace Garden



Do you have a green thumb or just want to spend a May morning helping us get the peace garden ready for the summer?

On Thursday, May 16th from 10am-12pm, we are planning a volunteer opportunity to help us plant new bushes and flowers and do some weeding. We would love [and appreciate] it if you can join us.

If you are available, or have any questions, email Tricia at [development@uum.org](mailto:development@uum.org).

---

## Restoring Roxbury's Meetinghouse





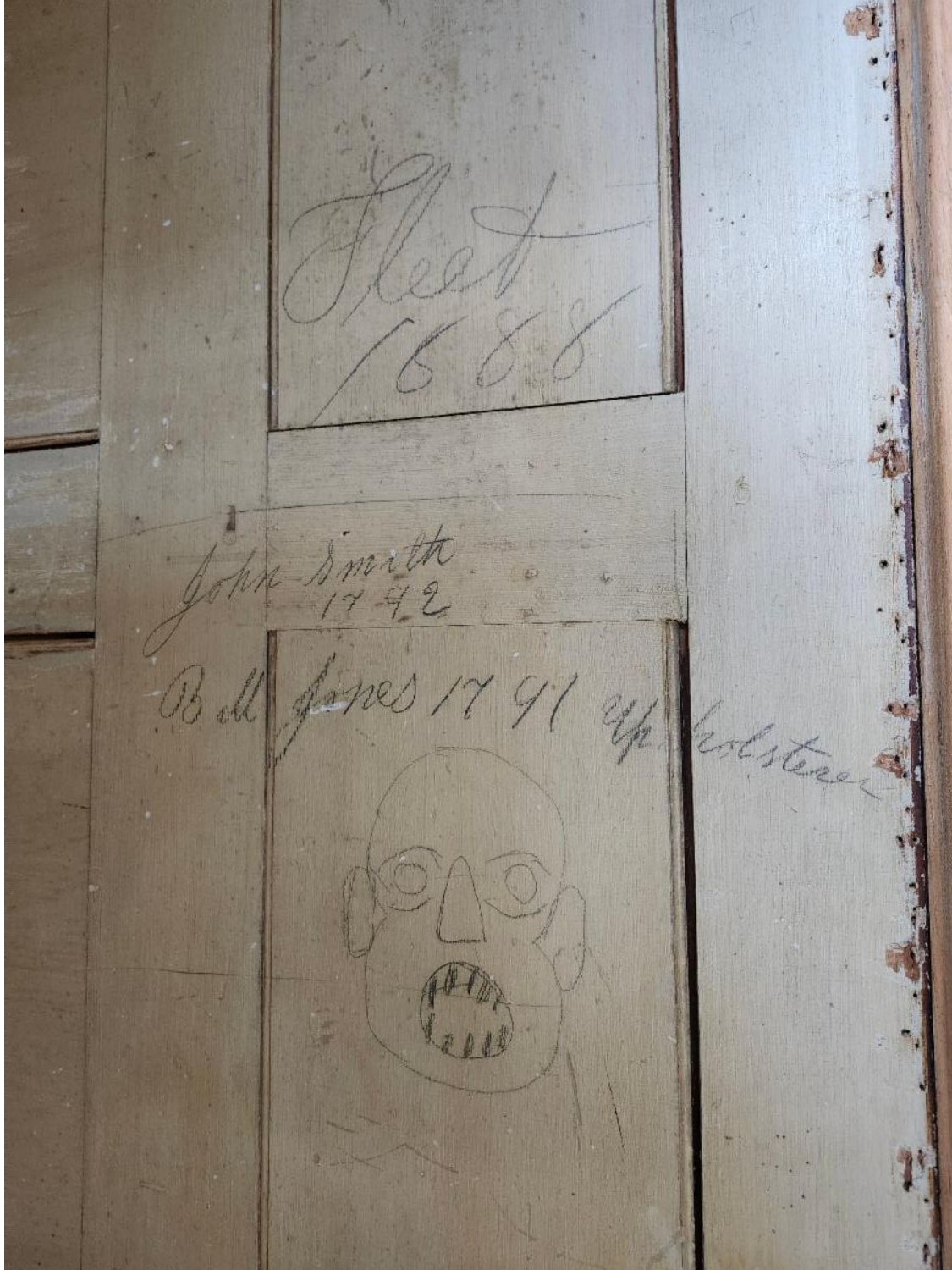
## Sneak Peek: The Restoration of Roxbury's Meetinghouse

Check out [this 75 second video](#), created by Funmi and Sabrina - two of our Career Exploration Interns - that highlights the work that has been done to restore Roxbury's Meetinghouse. It's amazing to see the transformation and the promise of what the building will mean to the neighborhood once completed.

---

**Discovering the Unexpected**





As you can imagine, the process of restoring a 220 year old church includes the discovery of things you couldn't have imagined. Above is a photo of one of those unexpected discoveries.

When we removed the upholstery from one of the box pews, we discovered drawings left for us by "John Smith" and "Bill Jones", the latter whom identified himself as "upholsterer".

---

## In the Community

### **ABOLITION THEOLOGIES: PRAYING FOR LIBERATION**

Rev. Jason Lydon  
in-person and online





With both violent theological underpinnings and inherent racism upholding the prison system, Rev. Lydon will show that prison abolitionism is a theological imperative for Unitarian Universalists.

- Thur, April 18, 7 p.m., First Church Boston
- Sun, April 21, 1 p.m., First Church Boston
- Thur, April 25, 7 p.m., King's Chapel
- Thur, May 9, 7 p.m. (Central), Chicago

Learn more: [minnslectures.org](http://minnslectures.org)

## Words for your consideration...

The test of a government is not how popular it is with the **powerful and privileged** few but how **honestly and fairly** it deals with the many who must depend on it.

– Jimmy Carter



## 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

Follow us on social media!

[UUUM on Facebook](#)  
[UUUM on Instagram](#)  
[UUUM on Twitter](#)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



FB.COM/UURBANMINISTRY



@UURBANMINISTRY



@UURBANMINISTRY

Click Here to Support the UU Urban  
Ministry

Visit the UUUM Website



UU Urban Ministry | 10 Putnam Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

[Unsubscribe vmyles@uum.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by vmyles@uum.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!