



## Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

John Eliot Square □ 10 Putnam St. □ Roxbury, Massachusetts □ 02119  
Tel: 617-318-6010 □ Fax: 617 318-6022 □ [www.uuum.org](http://www.uuum.org)

April 2023

### From Our Executive Director & Senior Minister



The joy of spring is getting outdoors and witnessing life, again. Budding trees and bursting daffodils, saying hello to neighbors, gathering in fellowship again.

At the UU Urban Ministry we are eager for the buzz of activity this season brings. Next month, we launch our expanded tours program - celebrating the richness of Roxbury through public art, Nubian Square businesses, and educational institutions like Paige Academy and Roxbury Community College.

Our tours educate visitors about the history of racism that Roxbury has faced, and the neighbors who nurtured a vibrant neighborhood despite it. The tours also encourage visitors to support local, Black-owned businesses, and address Boston's racial wealth gap.

As the days lengthen and birds return, I hope you'll join us in John Eliot Square to learn history and make change.

In faith,

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

## Expanding Community Partnerships



This week, Mary Margaret Earl (executive director) and Bithyah Israel (community engagement coordinator for the arts and humanities), in partnership with Roxbury Main Streets, met with Nubian Square business owners and leaders to discuss how our tours program can partner in promoting the richness of the square. They brainstormed ideas on how to highlight the eateries, shops, and historic sites in the Nubian Square neighborhood, bringing visitors in to celebrate and support this city gem.

Our new tours program is one aspect of our work to actively live our new mission. We are committed to being a crossroads for people and cultures, and a partner for Roxbury businesses and organizations - all in order to address the issues facing our community.

Stay tuned for the Spring/Summer schedule of tours.



## Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



*The warmer weather making it possible for RYP to move from the classroom to the peace garden.*

The students in our RYP program have the opportunity to both work together during their time at UUUM, and also with other partner organizations to expand offerings and experiences.

Last month, RYP students organized and led [Community Conversations](#) to discuss the issue of policing in schools. Young people had a roundtable discussion about an issue that directly impacts them, and they invited youth from Children Services of Roxbury to join them.

More recently, in conjunction with Youth & Police in Partnership from Children Services of Roxbury and Teen Leadership Council from the Boch Center [two other local youth organizations], RYP students participated in workshops together at UUUM.

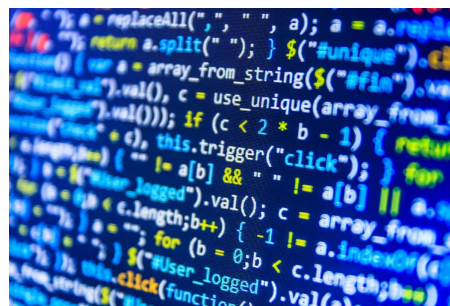
These are not only learning experiences, but opportunities for our youth, and others, to meet and connect.

## Believe in Success (BIS)

In addition to work with the 16 current BIS participants, the program's commitment to working with alumni continues to expand.

Recently, with the support of program staff, a BIS alum enrolled in a computer coding class.

In addition, the third round of our BIS alumni scholarship concluded - awarding 4 scholarships totaling \$3100. These scholarships went to



college courses, tech courses, and legal service fee support.

## Renewal House

In the coming weeks, the residents of Renewal House, our emergency domestic violence shelter, will be collaborating with an artist to facilitate an art exhibit titled "Beauty from Ashes". In this exhibit, participants will tell their story using visual art. Stay tuned for more details.



## Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

### Supporting Other Social Justice Organizations

This spring, we will be working with two of our community partner organizations to support their work and our shared commitment to social justice. We hope you can join us.

#### Louis D. Brown Peace Institute Mother's Day Walk for Peace

We are hosting two events with our friends from LDBPI to support their upcoming Mother's Day Walk for Peace. This event enables LDBPI to sustain and build their work empowering individuals and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss.

Info about both events are below and can be attached on [this PDF flyer](#).



#### 1) [Breakfast with LDBPI at the UU Urban Ministry](#)

**Wednesday, April 12th; 10:00am - 12:00pm @ 10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA**

Join us for breakfast and speak with Chpln. Clementina Chery, LDBPI's executive director, Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, UUUM's executive director, and members of the LDBPI Team about the event. Enjoy breakfast and a stroll through the peace garden, and support the important work they do.

**RSVP:** If you can join us, please email Annie and Vinnie: [development@uum.org](mailto:development@uum.org).

#### 2) [Evening with LDBPI and the UU Urban Ministry](#)

**Wednesday, April 12th; 6:00pm - 7:00pm via Zoom**

If you can't make it to breakfast, we will have a virtual opportunity to meet with Chpln. Chery, Rev. Earl, and the LDBPI Team via Zoom. This will be a discussion and a great opportunity to share ideas and hear from other supporters of the event about their efforts.

**Zoom link:** If you are able to join us, use the following link to join the Zoom at 6pm on Wednesday: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84277102211>



We are partnering with our friends at City Life/Vida Urbana, a grassroots organization that promotes tenant rights and advocates on behalf of those facing eviction. Join us as we support City Life an upcoming mailing to 2,000 people - to make them aware of their rights and available resources - as they face losing their homes.

On **Saturday, May 13th from 10:00am - 12:30pm**, we will be meeting at the UU Urban Ministry with folks from CLVU to assemble this mailing.

If you're interested in volunteering, [email Vinnie Myles](#) and we'll add your name to the list. This is a great way to use our community's people power to help do good work.

## 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm - 7:00pm**

All details for this event on [www.uuum.org/attend](http://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



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

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

**April 18, 2023 | 6:00pm - 7:00pm via Zoom**

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 for Mayor Marty 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 she will join us on April 18th to discuss

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

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

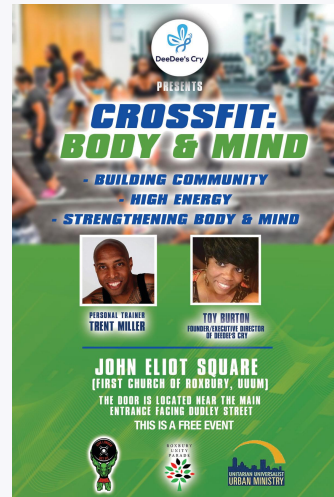
## Free Crossfit Classes for All Ages

### Crossfit: Body & Mind

Thursdays (Apr. 20th - May 11th)  
5:00pm - 6:00pm @ Uuum

Our friends from [DeeDee's Cry](#) are again hosting "CrossFit: Body & Mind" at the Uuum. These are free workout classes with personal trainer, Trent Miller. It's free. It's fun. It's at your own pace...and this is an intergenerational space.

If you're interested, join as at Uuum (10 Putnam St., Roxbury) and we'll move together!



## In the Community

### Theodore Parker Church Lecture Series



Last week, our friends at Theodore Parker Church hosted a lecture by Rev. Raheem D. Hall. The event looked at "Policing Black Communities, 1854-2023 - Changing the Public Narrative".

If you are a fan of our *Community Conversations* series, then we encourage you to check it out. The lecture is posted on Theodore Parker's YouTube page [HERE](#).

## Career Opportunities at the Urban Ministry



### Join Our Team!

We are hiring at the UU Urban Ministry, and if you're interested in a career in social justice work, or know someone who is, take a look at [or please share] these opportunities:

- [Roxbury Youth Programs Manager \(Full-time\)](#)
- [Partnerships Coordinator \(Full-time\)](#)

Say "Happy Mother's Day" and Support Our Youth



### [Mother's Day Cards to Support UUUM's Youth Programming](#)

This year, make a gift to support the work of the UU Urban Ministry to help support and expand our youth programming and promote our community-focused mission and vision.

Your gift will enable us to expand opportunities and programming for students in Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP). You will also be helping make our organization be a true crossroads for people and cultures, through our new tours program and events that bring Roxbury and our member congregations together.

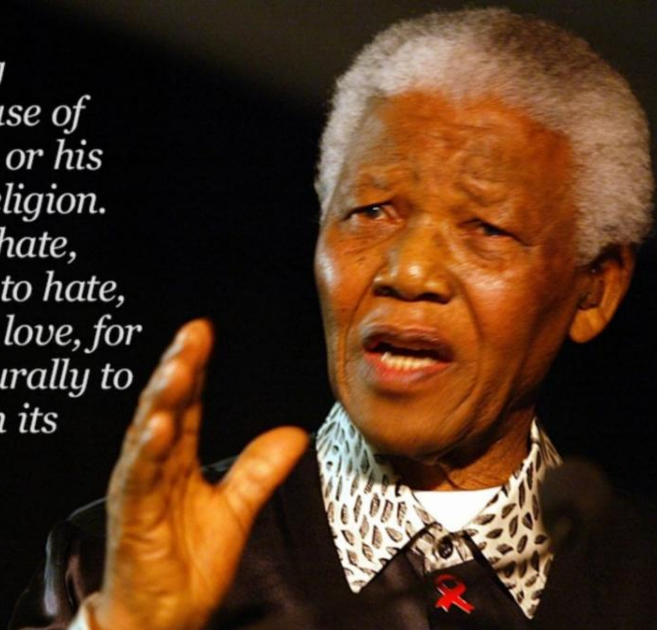
You will have the opportunity to personalize your Mother's Day Card on our website. **Order your card by May 4th** and we will send it to the person of your choice.

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO SEND YOUR MOTHER'S DAY CARD\*\*](#)

## Words for your consideration...

*“ No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.*

- Nelson Mandela



## 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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