



Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

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March 2025

Message from Our Executive Director and Senior Minister



Spring, even with its birdsong and budding life, will not bring easy hope this season. And so we pause, breathe deeply, and stay grounded. And we keep moving ahead. In the midst, I remain in deep gratitude for the ways that you - our donors, volunteers and champions - sustain and strengthen our work.

It is work that resists the headwinds.

Last week, representatives from 25 of our members congregations from around Greater Boston convened at UUUM to listen to how they can support the work of our partners: DeeDee's Cry as they provide mental health resources for communities of color; the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center as they offer essential services in this community; and the Louis D Brown Peace Institute as they nurture healing for families impacted by trauma.

Meanwhile, we continue serving families in our domestic violence shelter as they prepare for a new start, and young people in our afterschool program as they prepare for college.

The months ahead will be hard ones, friends. Let us keep joining hands, knitting community, breathing, and moving forward.

In faith,

Mary Margaret

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

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



RYP students explore genealogy and research, courtesy of American Ancestors

Exploring African American History - and Genealogy

RYP students took a field trip to American Ancestors and learned about genealogy and why it matters. Alongside genealogists, students also had the chance to sit down and start working on their familial histories. They learned about some of the challenges they face in the process, including the lack of records for enslaved people.

This is one way that we are continuing the work of examining the roles that race and slavery played in the history of First Church in Roxbury, examined in [the report](#) written by Aabid Allibhai.

This opportunity was made possible by the work of our History Committee in partnership with the Roxbury Historical Society, and by support from Harvard University's Reparative Partnership Grant Program.

Celebrating African American History

Students visited the Museum of African American History in March. This trip highlighted the important stories of Black and Brown people in American history that are often missing from history books.

This trip also included a visit to the African Meeting House, the oldest surviving Black church in the nation.



RYP at the African Meeting House, during their recent field trip.

Support an RYP Student Entrepreneur



Anjeli and Aydhelin, RYP students, with their ribbon roses that they have made during the workshop.

Last month, RYP students were joined by a guest speaker who talked with them about a topic they're interested in - entrepreneurship. Since then, RYP student Lupe Tellez Varga launched her own business making beautiful ribbon roses.

Recently, Lupe led a hands-on workshop to teach other RYP students how to make these beautiful creations. Although we missed Valentine's Day, we wanted to share Lupe's work with you. Check out her [Instagram](#) to see the work she does.



Examples of Lupe's ribbon rose bouquets, from her Instagram @itzlupee_bouquets



From Our Shelter to Permanent Housing

When residents of our emergency domestic violence shelter Renewal House are ready to move on from the program, we help them navigate the process of finding permanent housing.

This spring we anticipate helping 3 of our 5 families to move into permanent housing - a major accomplishment in the face of a brutal housing market that means affordable rentals are scarce. Thanks to our supporters - we can help families secure furniture and other necessities as they take this next step.

Seeing Me in the World - Dates Are Now Available!



A group who joined us for a past Seeing Me in the World experience

We believe history is not just something you read about. It is something you experience. It shapes the way we see ourselves in the world. [Seeing Me In the World](#) was created by students, for students, to bring history to life in a way that feels real and relevant. This program and tour, facilitated with the help of students from UUUM's youth program, invites young people to engage with Roxbury's past and present through a local youth lens.

This is more than a history lesson - it is a chance to engage, reflect, and learn to take action. Participants will:

- Explore the rich and real history of Roxbury, the First Church in Roxbury, and the role the UU Urban Ministry has played in the community
- Gain a deeper understanding of Roxbury's people and culture
- Walk away with knowledge and tools to become agents of change in their own communities

If you are interested in bringing a youth group this spring - fall, email UUUM Congregational and Volunteer Coordinator Robert Jones: rjones@uum.org.

Seeing Me in the World is supported by the Veatch Program, the philanthropic program of the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock. This support has enabled our program to grow and welcome UU youth from around the country.

Congregational & Volunteer Updates

Volunteers of the Month - The Clock Winders



The clock winders at a recent dinner held in their honor at UUUM

If you have ever wondered how the clocks on the Meetinghouse keep accurate time, or why the bell rings on the hour - every hour - the people in this photo are the answer.

These are dedicated volunteers from the neighborhood who have been helping us keep time for years.

To keep the Meetinghouse clock running takes attention every few days, a steep climb up the steeple stairs, and some muscle to wind the gears that keep the clock running.

In the photos below, you see the view of one of the Meetinghouse clocks from the exterior, and the gears behind the clock that are wound and kept in running-order by the members of the First Church Clock Winders Guild.

We are grateful for their time, energy, and commitment to Roxbury's Meetinghouse.



Community Conversations - RYP Takeover



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

RYP Students & Special Guests



Revolution Today and Tomorrow

Youth as agents of change now and in the future

Sponsored by: Theodore Parker Church

Thursday, April 3rd, 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.*

*This event will be held virtually via Zoom

Scan the QR code or visit: uum.org/upcoming-events



Community Conversation: Revolution Today and Tomorrow

WHEN: Thursday, April 3, 2025

TIME: 6:00pm - 7:00pm

WHERE: Online via Zoom

Join the students from Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) as they lead the final Community Conversations of the season. They will welcome special guest panelists to discuss how youth can be the changemakers of today and in the future.

We hope you will join us to hear the viewpoints of both our students and their guests.

Sponsored by: Theodore Parker Church

UUUM Annual Meeting



**Unitarian Universalist
Urban Ministry**

190th Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 2025

5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

UU Urban Ministry's 190th Annual Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, May 22, 2025
TIME: 5:30pm - 7:00pm
WHERE: Zoom

Join us to hear about the work of our programs from the UUUM Team, an update on our programs, and more!

Get Involved

Calling All Gardeners!

As we wait for winter to loosen its grip, we're gearing up to get back outside and start gardening again! If you enjoy getting your hands in the dirt and want to help bring beauty and life to the UUUM grounds and the peace garden, we'd love to have you join us.

Whether you're an experienced gardener or just someone who enjoys being outside and helping things grow, there's a place for you. If you're interested in lending a hand this season, reach out to Congregational and Volunteer Coordinator Robert Jones at rjones@uum.org. If you haven't already, please also complete the volunteer information form here: [Please Complete.](#)

Let's get ready to welcome spring together!



Thanks to Liberty Mutual we have funds to add native plants - essential to biodiversity and climate resiliency.

Volunteer Networking Opportunities

Join us for a Monthly Volunteer Networking

Next Session: March 19th at 7pm
Our Congregational Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator Robert Jones hosts a virtual volunteer support session on the third Wednesday of each month.

The aim of these virtual sessions is to offer volunteers a chance to share their experiences, to learn from and support each other, and to share information. Any who have volunteered in the past or present, or who are interested in getting



involved are welcome to join us.

Robert Jones (above), Congregational and Volunteer Coordinator

The next session will be on Wednesday, **March 19, 2025 at 7pm via Zoom**. If you would like to join us, email Robert for details and link: rjones@uum.org.

Interested in Volunteering at UUUM?

Check out the current volunteer opportunities at the Urban Ministry and at our partner organizations on the [Volunteer Opportunities](#) page of our website.

In The Community

Roxbury Patriots Day



Roxbury Patriots' Day

Save the Date: Roxbury Patriots Day

WHEN: Monday, April 21, 2025 - starting at 8:15am

WHERE: 10 Putnam Street, Roxbury MA, 02119

The Roxbury Collaborative Presents: Roxbury Patriots' Day 2025! Events of the day will include:

- National Lancers' William Dawes Re-enactment and Send-off
- Free Breakfast Buffet (provided First Unitarian Universalist Society in Newton)
- Ralph Browne Unsung Hero Awards
- Warren I. Brown Memorial Scholarship Awards

All Events Are Free. Join us to celebrate Patriots' Day and the rich history of Roxbury!

Roxbury Easter Egg Hunt at UUUM



Easter Event Extravaganza



April 19, 2025 • 11:00 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

Fun for the kids 10 & under.

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry, 10 Putnam Street, Roxbury

Free Admission

Easter Eggs with Treats • Easter Bunny Visit • Refreshments • And More!

Registration at: roxmainstreets@gmail.com

Event Sponsors:

Wentworth
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

Easter Egg Extravaganza - Hosted by Roxbury Main Streets at UUM

WHEN: April 19, 2025 at 11:00am

WHERE: UU Urban Ministry; 10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA

Kids 10 and under are welcome to participate in an Easter egg hunt - on the campus of the UU Urban Ministry - on Saturday, April 19th. There will also be a visit from the Easter Bunny, and refreshments will be served.

Register [HERE](#) if you would like to bring your child on the Saturday before Easter.

Teen Activity at HYCC

HYCC Teen Activities

WHEN: Wednesdays 4:00pm - 6:00pm,

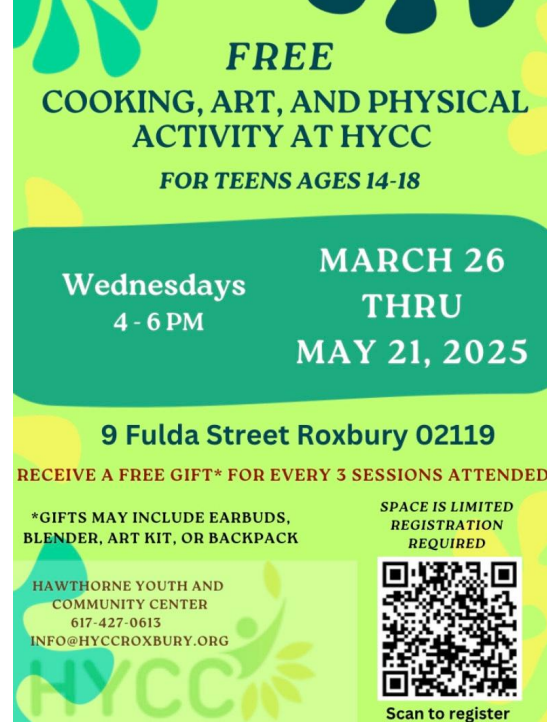
March 26, 2025 thru May 21, 2025

WHERE: 9 Fulda Street, Roxbury, MA

02119

HYCC is hosting free teen activities for those in the community! This is where teens can come learn cooking, participate in different art workshops, and have access to physical activities as well! While participation is free, registration is required.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to register or use the QR code in the image above.



FREE
COOKING, ART, AND PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY AT HYCC
FOR TEENS AGES 14-18

Wednesdays
4 - 6 PM

MARCH 26
THRU
MAY 21, 2025


9 Fulda Street Roxbury 02119

RECEIVE A FREE GIFT* FOR EVERY 3 SESSIONS ATTENDED

*GIFTS MAY INCLUDE EARBUDS,
BLENDER, ART KIT, OR BACKPACK

SPACE IS LIMITED
REGISTRATION
REQUIRED

HAWTHORNE YOUTH AND
COMMUNITY CENTER
617-427-0613
INFO@HYCCROXBURY.ORG



Scan to register

Join Our Team

Now Hiring: Director of Programs

The Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry (UUUM) is seeking candidates for Director of Programs. The UUUM is one of the oldest social justice organizations in the country and is committed to racial, social and economic justice. Our core programs are after-school, weekend and summer programming for high school students, a domestic violence shelter, and community engagement through history and the arts.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full job posting. Please share wherever you think might be helpful.



Restoring Roxbury's Meetinghouse

Final Touches



This photo was taken from the raised pulpit of the Meetinghouse just this week. It's an amazing transformation of the interior of Boston's oldest wood-frame church.

In Case You Missed It

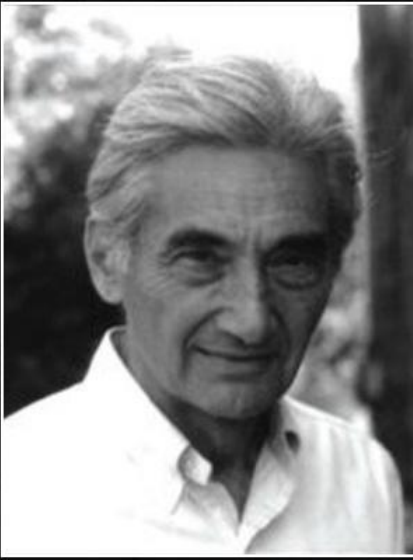


Online UUUM Video Library

Thanks to all who were in attendance for our first Community Conversations, *Revolution in Roxbury*.

Don't worry if you missed the event! The recording of the event is posted on the [Video Library](#) of the UUUM website. Check it (and many other videos) out there.

Words for your consideration...



Very important thing to keep in mind,
that when justice comes and when
injustices are remedied, they're not
remedied by the initiative of the
national government or the politicians.
They only respond to the power of social
movements.

— Howard Zinn —

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