



Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

John Eliot Square • 10 Putnam St. • Roxbury, MA 02119
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April 2025

Message from Our Executive Director and Senior Minister



Tomorrow, April 18, if you slow down, breathe and listen, you might hear the sound of bells ringing.

Church bells across the country will ring in recognition of the American Revolution, and the fight for liberty.

They will ring in Roxbury, too, from Boston's oldest wood frame church building; our Meetinghouse.

They will ring in John Eliot Square - the place from which John Dawes rode a ride parallel to Paul Revere's to warn that the British were coming. They will ring above the greenspace where the Patriot troops gathered and performed military drills. They will ring across from the parsonage that once housed First Church Roxbury's minister, taken over by a Patriot general to plan for the war.

This history in Roxbury - often overlooked - will be lifted up again by Roxbury community members - the Roxbury Collaborative - on Patriot's Day Monday when Dawe's ride is re-enacted in front of our restored Meetinghouse steps. So, too, they will lift up the history of African Americans veterans in the presentation by military veteran Mary-dith Tuitt: *They Fought for Our Freedom and Democracy: Blacks in the Military 1700 - Present.*

For decades, the Collaborative has persistently celebrated the contributions of African American veterans, and the key role of Roxbury in the Revolution. They have pressed forward to highlight African American history that has been broadly ignored and overlooked. And they have, over and over, succeeded.

Tomorrow, the Meetinghouse bells will call us to honor faithfulness to that history.

And they will call us to be inspired by that struggle to live into our highest ideals today.

And they will call us to imagine what future we want to build, together.

In faith,
Mary Margaret

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

Program Updates

Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP)



RYP students during a visit to the National Center for Afro-American Artists.

This month at RYP, our young people have been learning what it means to make a difference in their own communities.

Students participated in an interactive workshop called "Rise Above Redlining". The workshop used the power of art and community dialogue to reflect on the past, confront present challenges, and reimagine a future of educational equality and cultural richness. This workshop was facilitated by local community activists Dart Adams and Marlon Solomon.

Also this month, students also had the special opportunity to meet Massachusetts Appeals Court Judge Vickie Henry, who spoke with them about her legal journey and encouraged the students to participate in civic engagement.

As part of their learning, students visited the National Center for Afro-American Artists, where Barry Gaither led a tour exploring the history and impact of African-American and African diasporan art.

RYP Takeover of Community Conversations



RYP students Nya, Stephanie, and Laniya are joined by Dr. Karilyn Crockett at our most recent Community Conversations

RYP students also recently hosted the final Community Conversations of the series that

was titled "Revolution Today and Tomorrow". During it, students spoke with renowned MIT professor Dr. Karilyn Crockett about the issues they feel are most important, and how they can be change-makers in our community.

If you missed Community Conversations, you can watch the full event [HERE](#).

True Member Congregation Team Work



Left to right: Robert Jones (UUUM), Andy Derr (Stow & Acton), Doug Poutasse (Wellesley), and Barry Copp (Concord) picking up the pool table in Wayland for its trip to Roxbury

In addition to programming, tutoring help, and a nutritious dinner, RYP also provides students space to decompress and enjoy themselves.

Recently, a wonderful UUUM supporter from First Parish in Wayland donated a pool table that is now in the RYP Rec Room.

We are grateful to Lynne for this gift, as well as to Barry Copp (FP Concord), Doug Poutasse (FP Wellesley Hills), and Andy Derr who picked up the pool table in Wayland and delivered it to our office in Roxbury. It was a great team effort all



around and we appreciate it!

Students enjoying the arrival of the pool table.

This was true team work made possible by four UUUM supporters from four of our member congregations.

Renewal House



A painting that hangs up in our shelter.

The average stay for a resident at Renewal House, our emergency domestic violence shelter, is often measured in years - not weeks.

This month, we celebrate a Renewal House resident finding permanent housing. This is always a major accomplishment - especially now in the face of a brutal housing market that means affordable rentals are scarce. Thanks to our supporters - we were able to help this family secure furniture and other necessities as they take this next step.

Renewal House is financed in large part by government funding. We continue to monitor the current political situation to ensure there is no interruption in our ability to do this life-changing work with survivors. We are grateful to supporters like you who are committed to making this work possible.

What Can I Do to Make a Difference?

Many of us are looking for ways to move forward one step at these unprecedented times, and the smallest actions can make a meaningful impact.

Here are a few simple ways that your support can make a difference this month:

1) Try Writing as a Path to Healing

Looking for something meaningful this month? Join the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute for Writing to Heal, a free workshop led by Dev Luthra in partnership with the Open Theatre Project. Dev creates welcoming, healing spaces for Survivors through writing prompts and reflection.

Thursdays | April 24 – May 15 | 5:30–7PM

Hosted at 15 Christopher St, Dorchester or join virtually

RSVP: Emily@LDBpeaceinstitute.org



2) Strengthening Families Through Mental Health Support

Join DeeDee's Cry and the Parent/Professional Advocacy League (PPAL) for a powerful community event focused on mental health and family well-being. The day includes a keynote by Dr. Kevin Simon, workshops, and resources for families and professionals alike.

Saturday, April 19, 2025 | 11AM – 3PM

10 Putnam St, Roxbury, MA

Workshops: Moving Forward Together (PPAL) & Breaking the Silence (DeeDee's Cry)

Register: bit.ly/strength419

3) Attend the UUUM Program Spotlight and Open House

Join us and hear about the work of the Urban Ministry, and how you can get involved. You will also have the opportunity to meet the students from our youth program, and hear about the work they have done in the program this year.

Thursday, May 1, 2025 | 5:00pm - 7:00pm

10 Putnam St, Roxbury, MA

[CLICK HERE](#) for event information

Seeing Me in the World - Dates Are Now Available!



A group who joined us for a past Seeing Me in the World experience, along with Youth Programs Manager Reggie Walker, and tour guide (and RYP student) Sofia T.

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@uuum.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

Delegate of the Month - Dave Harrington



Dave Harrington from Theodore Parker Church, with his wife Tori

This month, we are excited to recognize **Dave Harrington**, a longtime delegate from Theodore Parker Church (TPC), as our Delegate of the Month!

Dave's steady presence and deep commitment to the UU Urban Ministry have made a lasting impact. Whether it's through his active participation in delegate meetings or his consistent attendance at UUUM events, Dave always brings thoughtfulness and dependable support to the work we do.

Over the years, he has offered his time, energy, and care in many meaningful ways. Dave has served as a tutor for Roxbury Youth Programs, dug in as a volunteer in the Peace Garden, and lent a hand at community events like DeeDee's Cry's toy giveaway. Alongside his wife Tori, he is also a generous donor, helping sustain the mission of UUUM through both action and giving.

His commitment extends beyond direct volunteering. At TPC, Dave actively works to foster support and awareness for UUUM, uplifting Community Conversations and deepening engagement within his congregation.

We're incredibly grateful for Dave's partnership, generosity, and unwavering dedication to this community and mission. Thank you, Dave, for all the ways you continue to make a difference!



Program Spotlight and Open House

WHEN: Thursday, May 1, 2025

TIME: 5:00am - 7:00pm

WHERE: UU Urban Ministry, 10 Putnam Street, Boston, MA 02119

Join us for our Program Spotlight and Open House event on Thursday, May 1st.

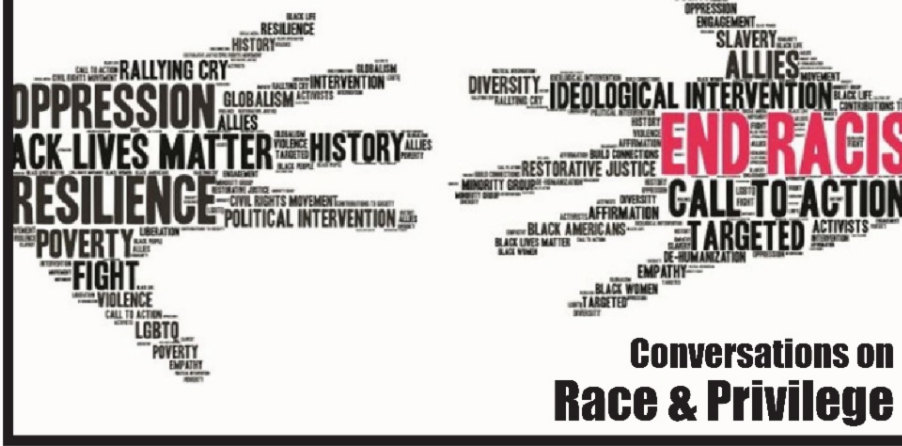
Here's what you'll experience:

- A tour of UUUM led by students from our youth program
- Presentations from each of our programs for guests highlighting their work
- Program participants will be here to share their personal experiences
- Update from UUUM staff about our work, accomplishments, and hopes for the future
- Plenty of food, drink, and dessert
- A presentation by the students from our youth program
- A surprise in the Meetinghouse at the end of the evening

Questions and RSVP, email: development@uum.org

Bridges of Understanding

Bridges of Understanding:



[Bridges of Understanding](#)

WHEN: Saturday, May 10, 2025

TIME: 10:00am - 2:00pm

WHERE: UU Urban Ministry, 10 Putnam Street, Boston, MA 02119

“Bridges of Understanding” offers us an opportunity to explore our racial biases, their impact, and what we can do to promote equity for all. We invite folks of all ages to join us for courageous conversations, interactive activities, and an opportunity to engage with fellow learners journeying toward greater self-awareness and compassion.

Join us for the next Bridges of Understanding on Saturday, May 10th!

Space is limited, so please let us know if you plan to attend. To RSVP for the event [CLICK HERE](#).

UUUM Annual Meeting



[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 winter loosens 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

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, **May 21, 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

Celebrate Roxbury's Role in the Revolution



Roxbury Patriots' Day

[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!

Download the flyer [HERE](#).

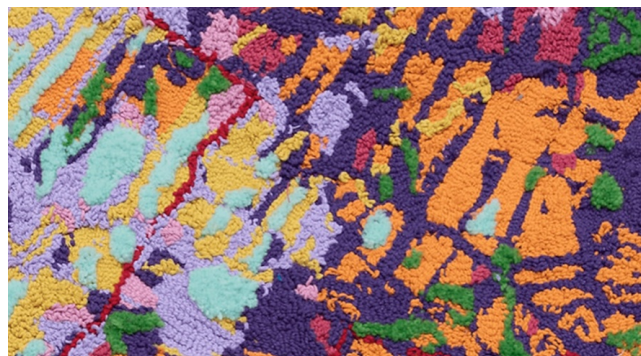
Artist Talk: Soft City with Amanda Ugorji & Sophie Weston Chien

[Artist Talk: Soft City with Amanda Ugorji & Sophie Weston Chien](#)

WHEN: Saturday, April 26, 2025

from 2:00pm-4:00pm

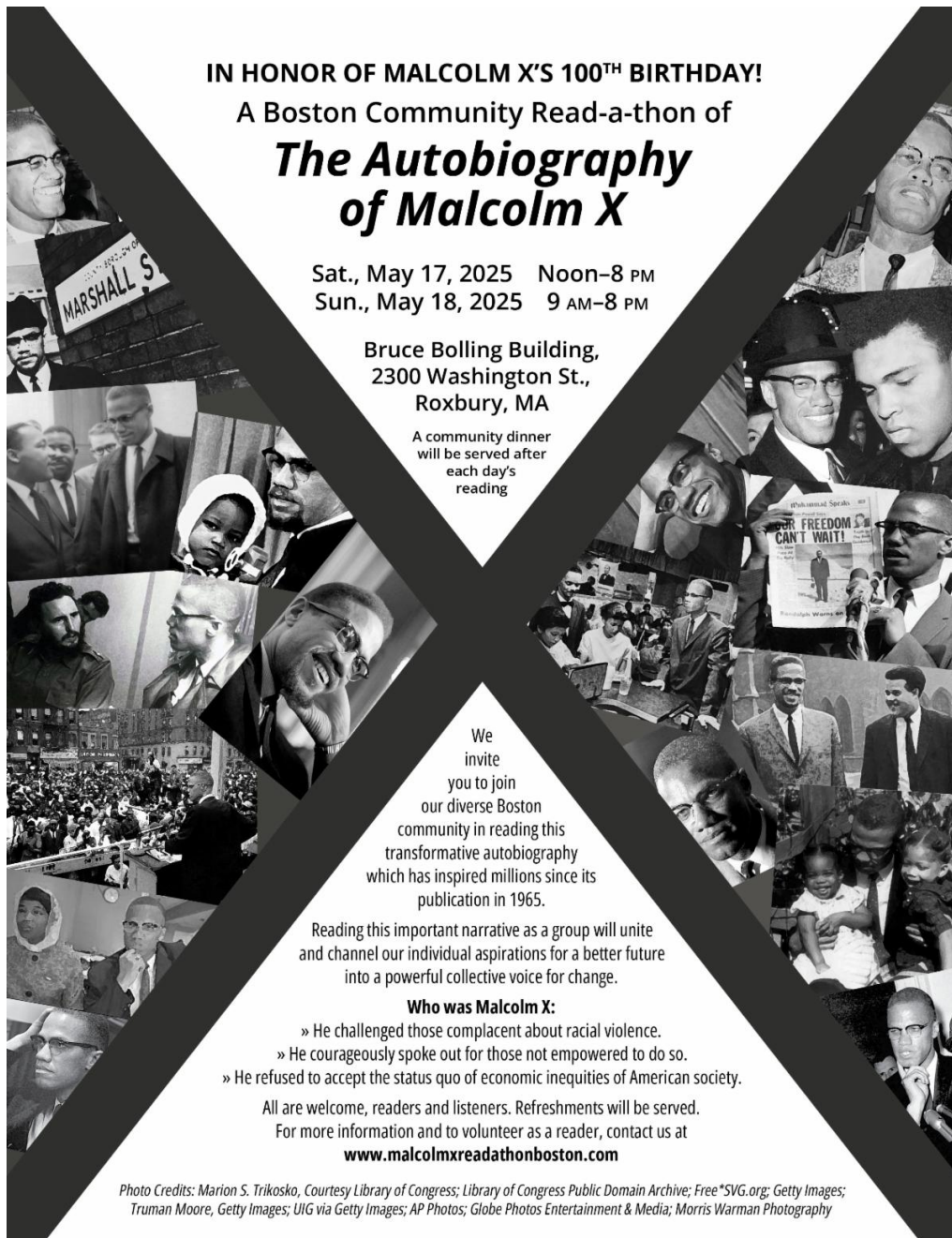
WHERE: UU Urban Ministry; 10 Putnam St., Roxbury, MA



Join artists Amanda Ugorji and Sophie Weston Chien for an intimate and thought-provoking discussion of Soft City, their tactile textile series recently displayed at the MIT Museum. This powerful one-day exhibit maps Black Boston neighborhoods to explore the intersection of racial and environmental justice.

Don't miss out on this chance to experience art, activism, and community firsthand in a space that fosters connection and reflection.

The Autobiography of Malcolm X Read-a-thon



IN HONOR OF MALCOLM X'S 100TH BIRTHDAY!
A Boston Community Read-a-thon of
The Autobiography of Malcolm X

Sat., May 17, 2025 Noon–8 PM
Sun., May 18, 2025 9 AM–8 PM

Bruce Bolling Building,
2300 Washington St.,
Roxbury, MA

A community dinner
will be served after
each day's
reading

We
invite
you to join
our diverse Boston
community in reading this
transformative autobiography
which has inspired millions since its
publication in 1965.

Reading this important narrative as a group will unite
and channel our individual aspirations for a better future
into a powerful collective voice for change.

Who was Malcolm X:

- » He challenged those complacent about racial violence.
- » He courageously spoke out for those not empowered to do so.
- » He refused to accept the status quo of economic inequities of American society.

All are welcome, readers and listeners. Refreshments will be served.
For more information and to volunteer as a reader, contact us at
www.malcolmreadathonboston.com

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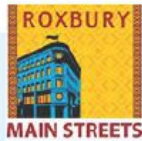
Community Read-a-thon of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*

WHEN: Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 12:00pm - 8:00pm or Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 9:00am - 8:00pm

WHERE: Bruce Bolling Building, 2300 Washington Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

Join the community in a read-a-thon to celebrate Malcolm X's 100th birthday! The community of Boston will be reading this transformative autobiography to understand and learn the importance of the the actions of Malcolm X and how he challenged the complacent about racial violence.

To sign up to be a reader, and for more information, [CLICK HERE](#).



Easter Event Extravaganza



[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.

First Parish Brookline's Book Panel and LGBTQ+ Resource Fair

Brookline Allies
PRESENT
FINDING JOY/SURVIVING HATE

BOOK PANEL AND
LGBTQ+ RESOURCE FAIR
WITH
Nico Lang
in conversation with
Asa Sevelius
Principal of the Roland Hayes School
and
Members of the Boston Alliance of
LGBTQ+ Youth (BAGLY) Speakers' Bureau

Saturday April 19, 2025
1 PM doors open for LGBTQ+ Resource Fair
2 PM conversation | audience Q & A | book signing

First Parish in Brookline, Unitarian-Universalist (accessible)
382 Walnut Street, Brookline, MA

In partnership with:

Book Panel and LGBTQ+ Resource Fair

WHEN: Saturday, April 19, 2025 at 1:00 pm

WHERE: First Parish in Brookline, 382 Walnut Street, Brookline, MA

First Parish of Brookline presents "Finding Joy/Surviving Hate" - a book panel and LGBTQ+ resource fair.

Doors open at 1pm for the resource fair, and the conversation with Nico Lang and Asa Sevelius begins at 2pm. This will be followed by a book signing.

Download the flyer [HERE](#).

Please join them in this conversation!

Join Our Team

Now Hiring: Director of Programs

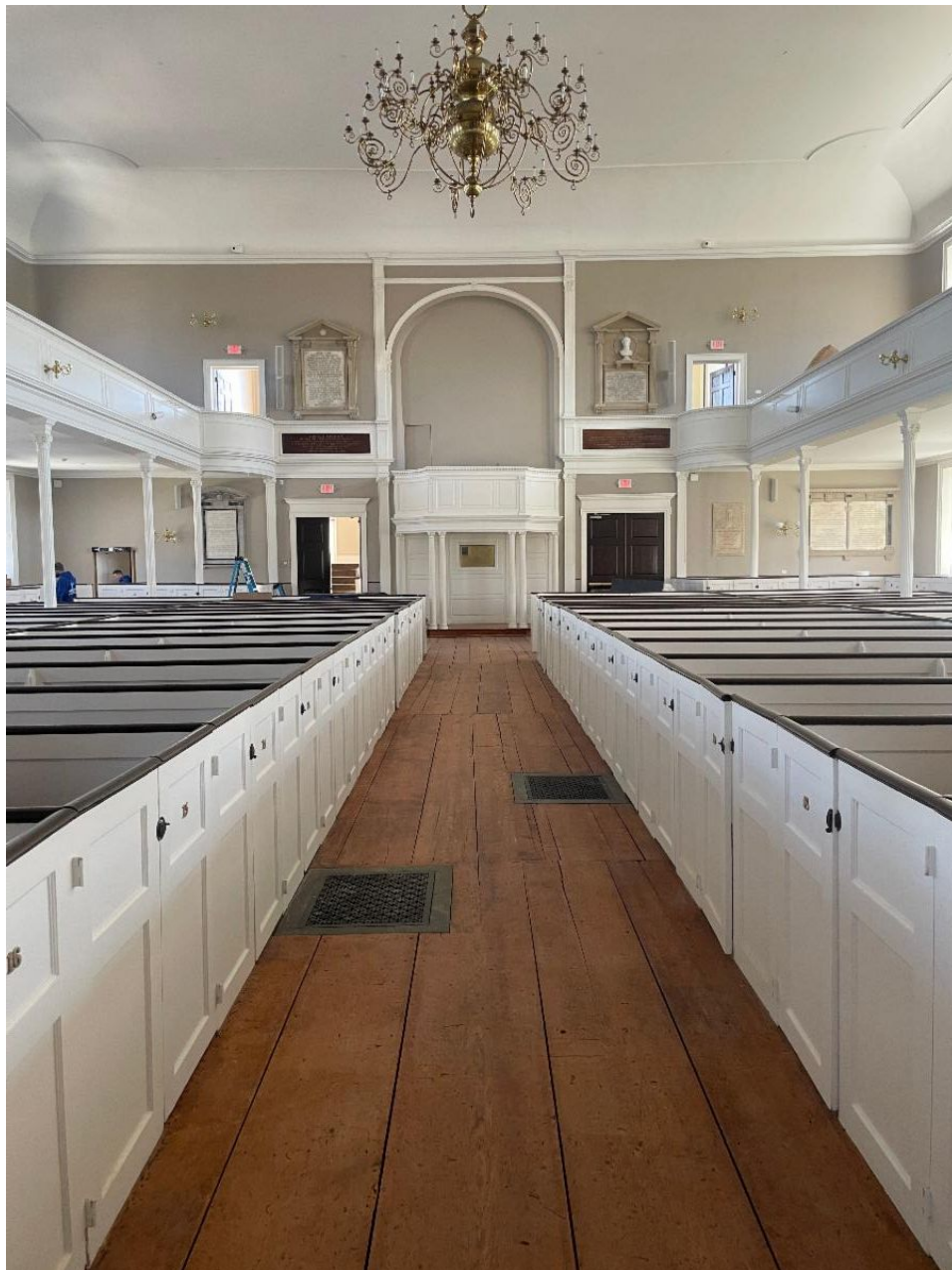
The Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry (UUUM) is seeking candidates for Director of Programs. The UUUM is one of the oldest social justice organizations in the country and is committed to racial, social and economic justice. Our core programs are after-school, weekend and summer programming for high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



Last month, you saw the view of the interior of the Meetinghouse standing from the pulpit. This month, we're sharing the view from the opposite direction - looking down the front aisle.

The restoration work is nearing its end, and we look forward to welcoming the community back to Roxbury's Meetinghouse soon!

In Case You Missed It

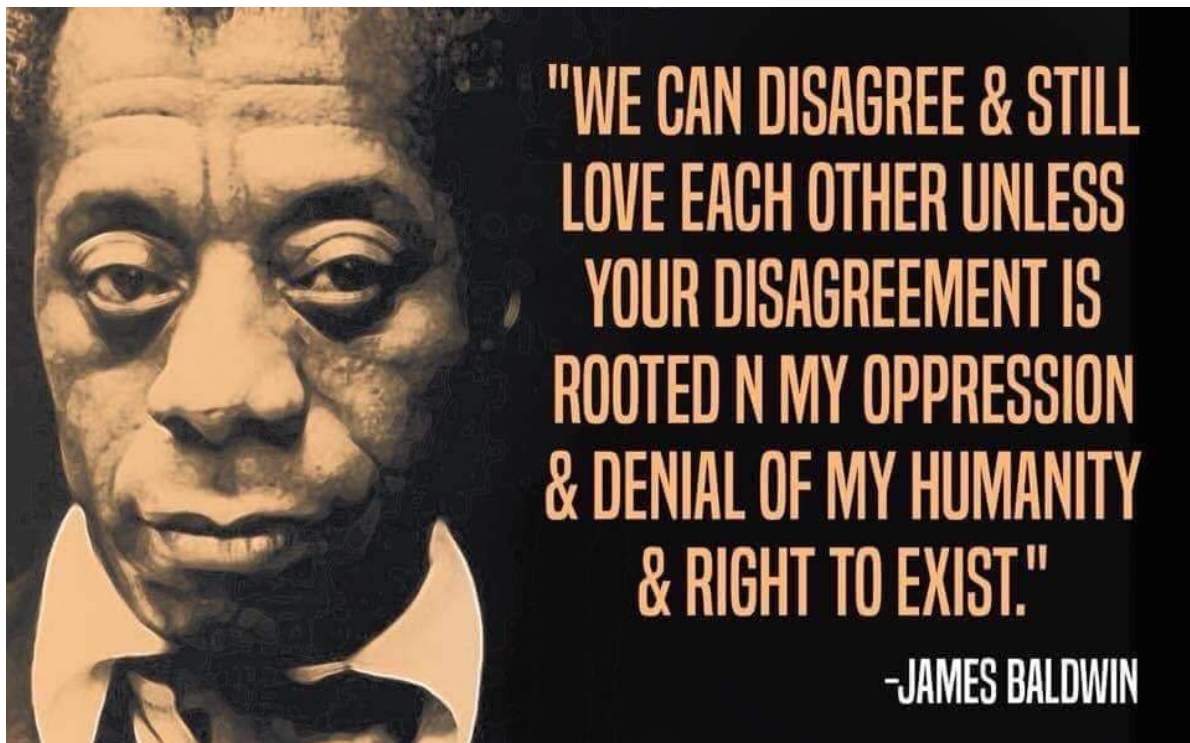


Online UUUM Video Library

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...



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