



Wednesday, April 5, 2023

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org
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**Get your tickets & join
Presiding Bishop Curry
for Old North's 300th**

Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry's upcoming Boston visit to celebrate Old North Church's 300th anniversary is only a short way off, and tickets for the **Lantern Service** on *Sunday, April 16 at 6 p.m.* are still available. (The 11 a.m. service is filled.) For details and tickets, visit www.diomass.org/Old-North-300. The Lantern Service promises to be an inspirational evening of song and rededication, culminating in the lighting of Old North's steeple lanterns as a witness to the city and nation.

While in Boston for the Old North celebration, Curry also will be participating in two free events on *Saturday, April 15*, one open to all diocesan **middle and high school youth** and their adult mentors, from *9 to 11 a.m.* at St. Cyprian's Church in Roxbury; and another for **young adults** (over 18) in the diocese, from *2 to 4 p.m.* at Boston University. Registration for those events is still open at www.diomass.org/PB-2023-Youth-Young-Adults.

"Answering the Provocative Call" open to all for renewal & refreshment

The diocesan Racial Justice Commission is offering "Answering the Provocative Call: To Desire, Love and Enfold Our Differences," a **day of reflection and renewal, open to all**, on *Saturday, April 29, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at the Church of Our Saviour in Brookline. All are invited to come be inspired in community with reflections led by Debie Thomas, author of *Into the Mess and Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ*, with time for silence, shared reflections, prayer and a meal together. Registration is required by April 21 via www.diomass.org/event/Debie-Thomas. The \$10 fee includes lunch; scholarships are available. Find a flier [here](#) to help publicize this opportunity to come be renewed in the journey toward justice and joy this Easter.

**New ministry celebration
scheduled for May 27**

A celebration of the **new ministry of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Carol J. Gallagher as assistant bishop** in the Diocese of Massachusetts is being planned for *Saturday, May 27 at 3 p.m.* at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mattapan. Save the date and watch for more details.

**Bishops' Annual Appeal
Ingatherings are invited
to help meet 2023 goal**

Thank you to the many communities that sponsored an ingathering for the 2023 Bishops' Annual Appeal during Lent. The results to date are reported to be very encouraging.

The bishops have asked clergy and wardens to promote the Bishops' Annual Appeal locally by announcing it and distributing materials directly to their congregations. Congregations that have not yet participated are invited to schedule a Bishops' Annual Appeal Ingathering during Eastertide.

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The Bishops' Annual Appeal has an ambitious goal of raising \$300,000 for 2023 in support of shared mission as a diocesan community committed to being disciples of Jesus, seekers of justice and protectors of creation.

Materials are available at www.diomass.org/bishops-appeal, including a short video and downloads of a newsletter, poster and sample bulletin announcements.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant, (braiche@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- Gratitude is extended to all who attended the online **Pre-Confirmation Retreat** held on March 25, enriching the conversation about Confirmation and what comes next. A service project is in the works for confirmands to complete this summer. Because many have expressed interest, two more online retreats are being planned for 2023, with dates and more details promised soon. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Yolanda Rolle, Missioner for Youth and Young Adults (yrolle@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 215).*
 - **There are still spaces open for young people ages 15-19 to join the Diocese of Massachusetts delegation to the Episcopal Youth Event (EYE), July 4-8** at the University of Maryland. Interested youth should contact the Rev. Yolanda Rolle, Missioner for Youth and Young Adults, at yrolle@diomass.org; e-mail her if interested in attending an information session on *Tuesday, April 11 at 7 p.m.* To preview some of the excitement awaiting those who attend EYE, visit <https://events.episcopalchurch.org/eye>.
 - **Children's formation colleagues**—paid or volunteer, clergy or lay, full or part-time—**are invited to online gatherings.** Next meetings are on *Thursdays, April 13 at 10 a.m.* and *April 20 at 3:30 p.m.*; choose the date and time that works for you or attend both! To receive the meeting link or notices of meetings, events and resources, e-mail Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at mgardner@diomass.org.
 - Registration is open for the summer camp season at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Families of all configurations can enjoy an extra-long weekend of activities, worship and family-oriented fellowship during the *June 30-July 5 Family Camp* session (brochure [here](#)). The summer schedule also includes four week-long **Youth Overnight Camp** sessions, running between *July 9* and *Aug. 4*, for youth completing 3rd through 12th grades (brochure [here](#)).
Part of the mission at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center is that no one be unable to participate in camp due to financial need; camperships are available for those who need them. For details and registration, visit bchcenter.org/bchcamp.
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- **Life Together fellowships still available:** Know a young adult who cares about social justice, longs to explore spiritual life and wants to live in community with other young adults? Fellowships are still available with [Life Together](#), providing housing in Boston, a cost-of-living stipend and a monthly transportation pass, among other benefits. If Life Together isn't the right fit, the Episcopal Service Corps offers nine affiliated programs across the country. Apply at <https://episcopalservicecorps.org/apply>. Life Together staff and fellows are also available to visit churches and share more about the fellowship. Contact Kelsey Rice Bogdan, Executive Director, at kelsey@diomassintern.org to learn more and schedule a visit.

Two upcoming events: Join Life Together and St. Mark's Church in Dorchester at the **Dorchester Community Resource Fair**, their first annual collaborative event, on *Saturday April 29, 1-4 p.m.*, on the front lawn of the church at 73 Columbia Road. Live music and delicious food is planned, with a variety of local organizations on hand to provide information and services to the entire neighborhood. All are welcome. Questions can be directed to Margaret Walker and Sandra Soto, Life Together fellows, at st.marks_lt@diomassintern.org.

The diocesan community also is warmly invited to join Life Together fellows, staff and alumni on *Friday, May 19, 5-7 p.m.*, at Christ Church in Cambridge for **"Walking in the Light," Life Together's annual fundraiser**. This festive evening will feature inspirational stories, music, a silent auction and more. The event is the culmination of Life Together's efforts this spring to raise \$30,000 in individual and congregational gifts to support prayerful and prophetic young leaders. Registration information is coming soon, with church sponsorship opportunities available.

FOR INFORMATION: Kelsey Rice Bogdan, Life Together Executive Director (kelsey@diomassintern.org).

- The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston invites all to mark their calendars and share the invitation for the **first Annual Barbara C. Harris Hymn Sing** on *Sunday, June 11 at 4 p.m.* (the eve of her birthday). The event will bring together musicians and choristers from around the diocese, celebrate the legacy of this beloved bishop and raise funds for the cathedral. More details are promised soon.

- **The St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer is up and running:** Designed for the enrichment of every congregation and individual in the diocese, the St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer has events happening right now and coming up; opportunities to get involved; and virtual resources available to all. Read more [here](#), and sign up for e-mail updates [here](#).

- The 2022 Diocesan Convention called on the diocesan Racial Justice Commission and the Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network of the Dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts, together with the Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network of Province I, to support this diocese in the implementation of the resolution "[Fostering Right Relationship: Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, Indigenous Episcopalians and Our Indigenous Neighbors.](#)"

To that end, the commission and networks are seeking individuals to **join one of four working groups that are being organized**: Land Acknowledgement Recommendations; Relationships and Allyship; and Liturgical and Worship Resources. Those interested in more information or participation can contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, at mgardner@diomass.org, or the Rev. H. Mark Smith, co-chair of the Racial Justice Commission, at hmsmith46@gmail.com.

- Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) Episcopalians in the Diocese of Massachusetts will be celebrating the **Sri Lankan New Year** at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Dedham on *Saturday, April 15 from 1 to 4 p.m.*, organized in partnership with the Church of the Good Shepherd and the Sri Lankan community in New England. The group welcomes all to come and experience Sri Lankan food, culture and traditions and enjoy a wonderful afternoon.

- The **Good News Gardens Network** of the dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts equips Episcopal churches and their people to grow and give healthy food; reflect on connections between Scripture, faith, food and gardening; and learn about and influence food systems and policies that affect society as a whole. Bring stories, questions and ideas and join coordinator Rachel Field on Zoom on *Tuesday, April 18, 6-7 p.m.*, for a "**Growing Community**" webinar designed to help with practical ways of building up and supporting volunteers for Good News Gardens. Register in advance [here](#) to receive the meeting link.

Sign up for the Good News Gardens Network of Massachusetts newsletter [here](#); questions about the Good News Gardens Network may be sent to goodnewsgardensma@gmail.com.

- The **Massachusetts Poor People's Campaign** Statewide Meeting will be held on *April 29, 12-4 p.m.*, in Springfield. This is a great way to learn more about the Poor People's Campaign and ways to get involved. Find details and register [here](#).

The Massachusetts Poor People's Campaign Episcopal Network thanks all who joined for dinner and conversation with the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, national co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival and director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice, on March 21 at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. Find pictures and more on [Facebook](#), and justice work and events listed on the [MAPPCC EN Google Calendar](#). Contact MAPPCCEN@gmail.com to join the network's e-mail list.

- The **Diocesan Altar Guild Annual Meeting** has been scheduled for *Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at St. John's Church in Westwood. Bishop Carol J. Gallagher will be the guest speaker. *FOR INFORMATION: Louise Gant, Diocesan Altar Guild President (gantlouis20@gmail.com).*
 - **Free stewardship training** on *Thursday, May 11, 6:30-8 p.m.*: The Diocese of Massachusetts is partnering with TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) to provide free training on the challenges and opportunities of raising money for ministry in 2023. If you're a seasoned stewardship leader or just starting out in your first campaign, come learn some best practices, share your stories for success and prepare for a great fall campaign. This will be a virtual gathering. Bring your questions about stewardship and come learn together. Register for the webinar [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant, (braiche@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).*
 - **EfM graduates invited to online gathering:** Join Diocese of Massachusetts Education for Ministry coordinator David Bresnahan and Missioner for Networking and Formation Martha Gardner on *Tuesday, May 16, 7-8 p.m.*, to meet other graduates and hear from one another about "life after EfM graduation." Register for the online gathering [here](#). Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education based on small-group study and practice. EfM helps participants encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship and engage in theological reflection together. *FOR INFORMATION: E-mail efm@diomass.org or Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*
 - The diocesan Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, in conjunction with the African Clergy Caucus, will hold its second **Pan-African Conference** on *Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mattapan. All are welcome; no advance registration is required. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Canon Walter Brownridge, Canon to the Ordinary for Cultural Transformation in the Diocese of Vermont. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org).*
 - **Calling all lay preachers:** A regular Zoom gathering for lay preachers in the diocese is underway, with the next gathering scheduled for *Monday, May 22, 7-8 p.m.* Register [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*
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- Registration ends at *noon on Friday, April 7* for the **annual Clergy Conference** to be held *Monday-Tuesday, May 1-2* at Devens Common Center in Devens. Registration is available [here](#); after April 7, discounts expire and a \$25 late fee applies. A program of workshops offered by this year's guest presenter, [the Rev. Isaiah Shaneequa Brokenleg](#), Episcopal Church Staff Officer for Racial Reconciliation, will focus on the role of storytelling in racial healing. A tentative agenda is available [here](#).

Beginning on April 7, all registrants will be able to RSVP for complimentary optional outings and add optional Sunday or Tuesday night stays. Commuters will be able to add dinner on Monday and/or Tuesday night to their registration.

Those who would like request space to **host an affinity group meeting** during free time, or anyone with questions about Clergy Conference, may e-mail CPDC@diomass.org.

Those who would like to **share fliers or materials with clergy during the conference** (via the Virtual Resource Table and screen announcements during breaks) may forward them (as .JPEG, PowerPoint slide or PDF) to Jennifer Garrett at jgarrett@diomass.org.

- Three opportunities remain between April and September to attend 2023 **Clergy Professional Development Days**, offered in two parts, with the next set of sessions via Zoom: Session I on *April 20* is a workshop led by The Samaritans of Boston and is in support of 2018 General Convention resolution [C014](#), "Urging Clergy Training on Suicide Prevention." All clergy are encouraged to attend the workshop. Session II on *April 19* is a Safe Church review segment that will fulfill the refresher requirement for those clergy who are due for one this year to maintain good standing. Clergy who are unsure if they are due for Safe Church renewal this year may contact Jennifer Garrett at jgarrett@diomass.org.

Find the schedule and registration for all sessions [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- **Chaplains to the retired clergy of the diocese** were first recruited so that the retired and their spouses, widows and widowers would not "go off the radar" of attention in the diocese. Additionally, the pastoral ministry of the Church Pension Fund is supportive in keeping in touch with both newly retired and longtime retired clergy and families. There are many [resources](#) available for guidance in the retirement years.

In recent years, the chaplains have sponsored lunch meetings that have featured speakers of interest to the retired. Because the distances to travel to these meetings has been difficult for some, **plans are being developed for more local meetings on a deanery basis**. The chaplains welcome ideas of those who would like to be involved in these programs.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Billie Gordon (billiemaegordon@gmail.com) and The Rev. Robert Edson (rbedson41@gmail.com).

- **Piano donation e-mail scam:** Among the numerous and ever-evolving online “phishing” scams targeting churches and church people is one recently making the rounds with an offer to donate a piano. Replying to or accepting the offer can result in invoices for moving costs and/or persistent requests for payment or financial information. Though churches do sometimes receive legitimate piano donation offers, err on the side of caution. Don’t click on any links, and if unsure or unable to verify, don’t reply.

CHURCHWIDE:

- **Encouraging Episcopalians to apply and make referrals for churchwide positions, committees and boards,** the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations offers [six informational videos](#)—in English with Spanish subtitles—about what each group does and what qualifications new members should have.

The committee opened nominations in February and recently extended the application deadline to *April 30*. Application forms are available [here](#) in English, French and Spanish. Anyone with questions, or those who would like to speak with a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations, can e-mail JSCN@episcopalchurch.org.

- The 2023 grant funding cycle for **Episcopal Church creation care grants** is open, with [applications](#)—available in English and Spanish—due by *May 1* for local and regional eco-ministry projects.

A recording of an informational webinar about the grant process is available [here](#), and additional information [here](#).

Overseen by the church’s Task Force on Creation Care and Environmental Racism, creation care grants support projects that address climate change, environmental degradation and the inequitable and systemic impacts of environmental racism. The grant committee is interested in programs that go beyond secular environmental work to provide resources for faith-based community organizing and theological reflection. Projects that support Episcopal Church efforts to reach the goal of net carbon neutrality by 2030 will be favorably considered, along with projects that develop climate change resiliency. Up to 12 projects—ranging from \$8,000 to \$25,000 each—will be awarded to Episcopal institutions.

Find more information about Episcopal Church creation care initiatives [here](#).

- Grant applications are open for dioceses and mission developers who are envisioning, planning or growing new worshiping communities and missional enterprises throughout the church. The deadline to apply for the first round of **2023 New Episcopal Community Grants** is *May 1*. A Zoom session to answer questions and offer guidance is coming up on *April 12 at 4 p.m.*; find more information and the grant application guide and forms [here](#).

- A **churchwide “It’s All About Love” festival** of worship, learning, community and action is being organized for *Sunday, July 9 through Wednesday, July 12* at the Baltimore Convention Center. Registration by May 8 qualifies for an early-bird rate.

Three festival “tents”—devoted to evangelism, creation care and racial reconciliation—will each offer an evening revival worship service and major plenary speaker, plus dozens of daytime workshops, panels, practice opportunities and other ways to engage. Participants can stick with one tent or explore across the tents, following the themes of worship and liturgy, formation, justice and advocacy, leadership, preaching, stewardship, youth and children.

Find complete festival information at www.episcopalchurch.org/its-all-about-love.

GRANTS & LOANS:

- **Children of clergy** canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts (and their widows/widowers) are eligible to apply for **scholarship grants for undergraduate degree programs**. The application deadline is *Friday, May 12*, with notification of awards by *June 12*. The 2023 grant materials are available [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Executive Assistant to the Bishop Diocesan* (lsimons@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 407).
- The diocesan budget for 2023 sets aside \$40,000 for initial **funding for new mission initiatives**. The Mission Initiatives Committee of Diocesan Council is responsible for making recommendations regarding congregations, programs and chaplaincies that receive this funding and invites applications in May. Find application details at www.diomass.org/mission-initiatives-grants. Please note that priority will be given to under-resourced congregations and newly initiated programs for funding during this budget year.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its March 16 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a report from the treasurer, Ted Ts’o.

Voted to approve that the treasurer and Treasurer’s Office send a reminder to all congregations to file the Parochial Report in a timely manner.

Voted to establish a Budget, Strategy and Governance Committee.

Voted to approve the appointment of Celia Bailey-Ochoa to the Budget Committee.

Heard a report from the Collaborative Ministries Working Group.

Heard a “Religious Neighbors Minute” from the ecumenical officer.

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, April 20, 6 p.m.*, at All Saints’ Church in Attleboro.

FOR INFORMATION: Margaret Lias, Administrator for Governance and Grants (mlias@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Please direct inquiries about this report to the [regional canons](#).

Central Region

Alewife & Charles River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Martha Hubbard mhubbard@diomass.org

Boston Harbor & Neponset River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell koconnell@diomass.org

Northern and Western Region

Regional Canon Martha Hubbard mhubbard@diomass.org

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Isabel Geller completed her ministry at St. Andrew's Church in New Bedford on March 19.

The Rev. Tara Soughers completed her ministry as priest-in-charge of the Church of Our Saviour in Somerset on Feb. 19. **The Rev. Chris Morck** began as bridge priest there on March 19.

The Rev. Meghan Sweeney completed her tenure as rector of All Saints' Church in Attleboro on Jan. 29.

The Rev. Cathy Venkatesh began as priest-in-charge of St. Paul's Church in Malden on Feb. 1.

The Rev. Karin Wade retired April 1 from St. Mary's Church in Rockport.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

MEDFIELD, Church of the Advent

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

BOSTON, St. Stephen's Church

BROOKLINE, St. Paul's Church

NEWTON, Grace Church

ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE: *None at this time.*

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: *(Apply directly to parish.)*

[LEXINGTON, Church of Our Redeemer](#)

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES: *None at this time.*

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

BOSTON, Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin 1/4 time

DORCHESTER, St. Mary's Church 3/4 time

MEDWAY, Christ Church 1/3 time

NEWTONVILLE, St. John's Church 1/2 time

WEST ROXBURY, Emmanuel Church 1/4 time

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

LOWELL, St. John's Church

ROCKPORT, St. Mary's Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

AYER, St. Andrew's Church

FRAMINGHAM, St. Andrew's Church

HOLLISTON, St. Michael's Church

HUDSON, St. Luke's Church

NORTH ANDOVER, St. Paul's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE: *None at this time.*

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: *(Apply directly to parish.)*

[GROVELAND, St. James's Church](#) *(Short list search) 1/2 time*

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*Continued from page 9***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

BEVERLY, St. Peter's Church

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*GLOUCESTER, St. John's Church *full time*LOWELL, St. Anne's Church *1/2 time*MARBLEHEAD, St. Michael's Church *full time*WESTON, St. Peter's Church *full time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*NORTH ANDOVER, St. Paul's Church *1/2 time***Southern Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell

koconnell@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church

RECTOR SEARCHES**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

BARNSTABLE, St. Mary's Church

FOXBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church

HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist

NEW BEDFORD, Grace Church

PLYMOUTH, Christ Church

SANDWICH, St. John's Church

WRENTHAM, Trinity Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE: *None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) *1/2 time*[HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church](#) *1/2 time*[HOLBROOK, St. John's Church](#) *1/2 time*[WOODS HOLE, Church of the Messiah](#) *full time***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church

PROVINCETOWN, St. Mary of the Harbor Church

SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*FOXBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church and WRENTHAM, Trinity Church *full-time collaboration*HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist *full time*NEW BEDFORD, Grace Church *full time*PLYMOUTH, Christ Church *full time****NEXT fyi:***

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the May issue is **Wednesday, April 26 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.