



Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

**The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**

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## Registration is open for annual Diocesan Convention

Open comment period and Pre-Convention Forums: Save these dates and plan to participate!

**Friday, Sept. 6 is the final day to submit materials** to the Convention Office, including nomination forms for elected positions, proposed resolutions and written reports for Diocesan Convention, taking place *Saturday, Nov. 9* at the Marriott Boston Quincy Hotel in Quincy. Registration and submission links and other details can be found at [www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2024](http://www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2024).

An **open comment period** on proposed resolutions runs *Sept. 13-18*, with a Zoom discussion scheduled for *Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m.* Register [here](#). (An online feedback form will also be available during the comment period.) This is an opportunity to offer feedback and ask questions about proposed resolutions before they are distributed in final form for the convention's consideration.

**Pre-Convention Forums**—open to all, particularly voting members of the convention—will be held via Zoom on:

- *Wednesday, Oct. 9, 7-8:30 p.m.*: [Register here](#).
- *Friday, Oct. 11, 7-8:30 p.m.*: [Register here](#).
- *Saturday, Oct. 12, 2-3:30 p.m.*: [Register here](#).
- *Tuesday, Oct. 15, 7-8:30 p.m.*: [Register here](#).

These forums offer an important opportunity for discussion about the issues and business to come before the convention, including the proposed 2025 diocesan budget, resolutions and elections.

**Clergy desiring to vote** at Diocesan Convention must be canonically resident two weeks prior to its start; contact Laura Simons at [lsimons@diomass.org](mailto:lsimons@diomass.org) to complete this process by *Friday, Oct. 25*. **Delegate changes** should be reported via the delegate substitution form, [here](#), until *Friday, Nov. 1*; after that date, e-mail [convention@diomass.org](mailto:convention@diomass.org) to ensure the change is processed.

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## Preparations underway for consecration of Bishop-elect Whitworth

Updates and details at [www.diomass.org/consecration](http://www.diomass.org/consecration)

Preparations are underway for the ordination and consecration of Bishop-elect Julia E. Whitworth, to take place on *Saturday, Oct. 19 at 11 a.m.* at Trinity Church in Boston. She will be seated as the 17th bishop diocesan of the Diocese of Massachusetts the following day, *Sunday, Oct. 20 at 5 p.m.* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. Visit [www.diomass.org/consecration](http://www.diomass.org/consecration) for details and updates, including registration for seating, livestreaming, regional watch parties and how to contribute toward gifts for Bishop-elect Whitworth.

**All congregations and communities have been invited to submit photos for a slideshow** celebrating the whole diocese and the work God is doing throughout eastern Massachusetts. Instructions are available in the photo upload folder [here](#). All questions may be directed to [consecration@mabishopsearch.org](mailto:consecration@mabishopsearch.org).

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## **Celebrating Bishop Alan Gates and 10 years of ministry among us:**

*Oct. 6 family-friendly celebration at the New England Aquarium*

*Give generously: Allston Abbey Campaign to support Anglican Episcopal Community of Learning at Boston University School of Theology*

*New African Ministry Center named in Bishop Gates's honor*

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## **Search for new regional canon for Central Region now underway**

All are invited to come together in celebration and gratitude for Bishop Alan Gates and Tricia Harvey and 10 years of episcopal ministry, as Bishop Gates prepares to retire this fall.

**A family-friendly celebration and reception is being planned for Sunday, Oct. 6, 12-4 p.m., at the New England Aquarium in Boston.** Everyone in the diocesan community is welcome to come for all or part of the afternoon, with aquarium admission included.

**RSVP online [here](#), and help share the invitation.** Find publicity materials at [www.diomass.org/celebrate-bishop-gates](http://www.diomass.org/celebrate-bishop-gates).

The **Allston Abbey Campaign has been launched in honor of Bishop Alan Gates**, and everyone is invited to give generously.

Located on the campus of the former St. Luke's and St. Margaret's Church, Allston Abbey is a collaborative mission for learning, worship and ministry. Bishop Gates is especially excited about the Abbey's collaboration with the Anglican Episcopal Community of Learning at Boston University School of Theology, providing it with space for offices, trainings, worship and gatherings. The campaign seeks to raise funds to complete residential facilities for the students, to include four dormitory spaces, plus a kitchen, bathrooms and common space in the lower level of the former parish hall.

Watch for mailings containing more information, and learn more in the campaign brochure, available online [here](#) (with a Spanish-language version coming soon). **Online gifts are gratefully received [here](#).**

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

An African ministry center has been taking shape at the former Grace Church in Everett, and in July, the Diocesan Council voted to approve naming it the **Bishop Alan M. Gates African Anglican Episcopal Mission Center**. An official opening and blessing of the center, at 67 Norwood Street in Everett, will be held on *Saturday, Oct. 12 at 4 p.m.* The opening and blessing ceremony will also include the installation of the new center's Peace Pole, displaying "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in multiple languages. Everyone's prayers and presence are invited for this ministry milestone.

*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries ([jbntagengwa@diomass.org](mailto:jbntagengwa@diomass.org)).*

With the departure from the diocesan staff of Canon Martha Hubbard, the bishops have announced that Canon Greg Perez is transitioning from the diocese's Central Region to serve as the regional canon for the Northern and Western Region beginning Sept. 1. Read the announcement [here](#).

The **search for a new regional canon for the Central Region, which includes the Alewife, Boston Harbor, Charles River and Neponset River deaneries, is now underway.** The position description with application process is available [here](#) and via the [Transition Ministry webpage](#). Applications are due by *Oct. 4*.

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## **Season of Creation observed Sept. 1-Oct. 4**

With the *Sept. 1-Oct. 4* Season of Creation underway, the Creation Care Justice Network offers an updated collection of resources and suggestions for use by congregations and individuals, available [here](#). Among them are the 2024 edition of **“Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes.”** Created in 2022 and first published for the dioceses of Western Massachusetts and Massachusetts, the liturgical guide has expanded this year to include a new Daily Office guide for lay-led services and expanded and diversified readings, among other additions and improvements. The guide has been authorized for use in more than 40 dioceses—including Massachusetts—and is available at <https://newcreationliturgies.org/season>.

- **Creation Care Justice Network invites participation as it discerns next steps:** With [An Episcopal Path to Creation Justice](#) now up and running, the Creation Care Justice Network is discerning next steps and where it’s now called to be in the ministry of creation care and creation justice. A Zoom meeting is scheduled for *Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m.* Anyone interested in helping to map the next leg of this journey is invited to e-mail [creationjusticeepisma@gmail.com](mailto:creationjusticeepisma@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom link or to share ideas.

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## **NEWS & EVENT NOTES:**

- All diocesan clergy are invited to gather on *Wednesday, Sept. 25, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston for **Clergy Day**, featuring as guest presenter the Rev. Karen Hering, author of the recently published *Trusting Change: Finding Our Way through Personal and Global Transformation*. The day also will include a lunchtime conversation with the bishop-elect, the Rev. Julia Whitworth, a Eucharist and leave-taking litany for Bishop Alan Gates, and an informal celebration with cake. Clergy are welcome to stay beyond the 3:30 p.m. end time to enjoy fellowship. **Registration is open [here](#) through Sept. 22.** *FOR INFORMATION:* Jennifer Garrett, Administrator and Event Coordinator ([jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).

- Five people have been appointed to serve on a **newly formed Council on Deacons** in the Diocese of Massachusetts: Deacons Liz Good, Clifford Goodridge, Hilary V. Greene and Daphne B. Noyes, with Robert Christian, a candidate for ordination to the diaconate. The experiences and expertise of the council members will provide a source of advice and inspiration for archdeacons Chris Beukman and Pat Zifcak, and serve as a clearinghouse for information about the diaconate, assist in planning retreats and other activities and serve as a resource for others with an interest in the history and current state of diaconal ministries. There are more than 50 deacons in this diocese, serving at chaplaincies and healthcare and educational institutions, and on diocesan committees, commissions and staff. Learn more at [www.diomass.org/deacons](http://www.diomass.org/deacons).

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- A **25th anniversary luncheon honoring [St. Stephen's Youth Programs](#)** (SSYP) of St. Stephen's Church in Boston will be held on *Thursday, Sept. 26, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. Tickets are \$75 and available online [here](#). SSYP has been supported over the years by numerous church partners across the diocese as well as by diocesan budget support. All are invited to gather to celebrate this important legacy.

- **Fall Dinner for BIPOC Episcopal Community:** The BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) Support Committee of the Racial Justice Commission invites all BIPOC Episcopal clergy and lay people to dinner on *Sunday, Sept. 29, from 5 to 7 p.m.*, at St. Stephen's Church in Boston. RSVP online [here](#) by Sept. 24.

This is an occasion for BIPOC brothers, sisters, siblings in Christ from across the diocese to come together for fellowship and a time to support and share with one another over good food in the joy and gift of community.

Please share this invitation with others in this community who would enjoy participating, or, forward names and e-mail addresses so that an invitation can be extended directly.

*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries ([jbntagengwa@diomass.org](mailto:jbntagengwa@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).*

- Diocesan staff will be offering a **webinar on Zoom for wardens and vestry members to review several diocesan policies**, e.g., Safe Church, the clergy disciplinary process, memorial garden guidelines and requirements, and more. So as to include as many people as possible, the webinar will be offered twice: *Saturday, Oct. 5, 9 a.m. to noon ([register here](#))* and *Saturday, Oct. 26, 1-4 p.m. ([register here](#))*. The hope is that at least two members of the elected lay leadership from each congregation will attend one of the webinars—to include short presentations on the policies, break-out group time for discussion and time for questions and answers, with a break built into the schedule.

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

- The annual **Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration**, on *Monday, Oct. 14 at 10:30 a.m.*, will be hosted this year by Christ Church in Andover, and will welcome as guest preacher Janine Tinsley-Roe, MMHC, who served as national missioner for Native American Ministries for The Episcopal Church from 2004 to 2008. All are welcome to join for worship and lunch.

*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries ([jbntagengwa@diomass.org](mailto:jbntagengwa@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).*

- [Episcopal City Mission](#) invites participation in its **180th Annual Meeting**, a hybrid event taking place on *Saturday, Oct. 26, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*, at All Saints Church in Worcester and online. All canonically resident clergy of the diocese and two lay persons from every parish will be able to vote, and everyone else in attendance will be granted a seat and voice to participate in the meeting.

Registration is required; click [here](#) to register. (Click “Select tickets” to register. Those attending virtually will be able to indicate this by clicking the same button and then selecting “virtual attendance.”) Those intending to participate should register in order to receive updates and other critical information ahead of the meeting. Questions may be directed to [admin@ecmteam.us](mailto:admin@ecmteam.us).

- [Episcopal City Mission](#) has announced that Dr. Constance Holmes and the Rev. Steven Bonsey are opening a **fall offering of their rendition of “A Stolen Beam.”** This will be a Monday course of 1 1/2 hours every week between *Oct. 28 and Dec. 9* (please note change of dates from previous announcement).

“A Stolen Beam” is a course of educational engagement and personal reflection, originating from the Jewish Community of Amherst, focusing on the legacy of African enslavement and 400 years of anti-Black racism. It examines the historical case for reparations; global and national precedents for reparations; practical proposals for national and local reparations; and theological reflections on reparations from Jewish and Christian sources. Watch a course overview [here](#). Space is limited; register [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Derek Wong, Episcopal City Mission ([Derek@ecmteam.us](mailto:Derek@ecmteam.us)).

- Massachusetts Episcopalians are invited to partner with the [Poor People’s Campaign](#) to **“Get Out the Vote”** and help mobilize 15 million poor and low-wage voters across the country. Ways to be involved include local canvassing, text-banking and social media messaging, with training provided.

The Massachusetts Episcopal Network for the Poor People’s Campaign encourages participation as a chance to stand in solidarity with and support people on the margins, empowering others to advocate for themselves, and as a way to live into the [2022 Diocesan Convention resolution](#) inviting engagement in the Poor People’s Campaign and [Episcopal Church support](#) of it. These get-out-the-vote activities also align with The Episcopal Church’s [Vote Faithfully](#) program to support voting rights and election engagement in a non-partisan manner. [This flyer](#) provides more information and can be shared in church newsletters.

FOR INFORMATION/TO SIGN UP: Amelia Slawsby, MA Episcopal Network for the Poor People’s Campaign ([MAPPCCEN@gmail.com](mailto:MAPPCCEN@gmail.com)).



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**CHURCHWIDE:**

- Are you a person of color, wondering about how God is calling you to move more deeply into leadership in The Episcopal Church, or considering how God might be calling you to grow your ministry, deepen your vocation and offer your gifts in the church as a lay or ordained person? Are you desiring a deeper connection with leaders of color in church? If you're curious about the variety of spaces where lay and ordained ministry is more deeply connected within the church, plan to attend "**Fostering a Future with Leaders of Color in the Episcopal Church in New England,**" sponsored by the Episcopal dioceses of Province I, on *Saturday, Dec. 14, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*, at Bethany House of Prayer in Arlington. Gather with lay and ordained leaders of color from around The Episcopal Church in New England for a day of discernment, story sharing and empowerment. Details and registration will be available soon.

*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Kelly O'Connell, event contact for the Diocese of Massachusetts ([koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)).*

- The **Province I Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network** will **host two online book discussions** this fall: *Wednesday, Sept. 25, 7-8:30 p.m.*, focused on *Healing Haunted Histories* by Elaine Enns and Ched Myers (register in advance [here](#)); and *Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7-8:30 p.m.*, focused on *Massacre on the Merrimack: Hannah Duston's Captivity and Revenge in Colonial America* by Jay Atkinson (register in advance [here](#)). All are welcome to participate. *FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation ([mgardner@diomass.org](mailto:mgardner@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).*

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**GRANTS & LOANS:**

- The application and program information for **2024 Clergy Sabbatical Program Grants** are now available [here](#). Applications are due by *Friday, Oct. 25, 2024*, for sabbaticals in 2025; award decisions will be announced in November.

*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas ([theakl@mit.edu](mailto:theakl@mit.edu)) or The Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole ([sjrobbinscole@gmail.com](mailto:sjrobbinscole@gmail.com)), Sabbatical Grant Committee.*

- The Mission Strategy Committee of Diocesan Council encourages congregations, organizations and networks in the Diocese of Massachusetts to apply in 2024 for **Wicked Good Idea Micro-grants** of up to \$2,500 to take on a ministry idea in their mission settings. The application is available [here](#). Questions may be e-mailed to [missionstrategy@diomass.org](mailto:missionstrategy@diomass.org).

- The Church Home Society has launched a three-year pilot grant program, allocating up to \$40,000 a year to support **youth ministries in Episcopal churches**. Grant awards will be between \$1,000 and \$2,000. Applications (form available [here](#)) are due the last day of the month, through April 2025, and they will be reviewed at the following monthly board meeting.
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## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

At its Aug. 15 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a report from the Evangelism Committee.

Endorsed Bishop Gates's appointments of Celia Bailey-Ochoa and the Rev. Brian Raiche to the Diocesan Loan Committee.

Approved assessment adjustments for Trinity Church in Randolph; the Church of Our Saviour in Somerset; Trinity Church in Stoughton; St. John's Church in Franklin; the Church of the Advent in Medfield; St. Andrew's Church in Methuen; and Bristol Trinity Church in North Easton.

Heard a report from the Executive Committee.

**Next Council Meeting:** *Saturday, Sept. 14, 9 a.m., at Trinity Church in Concord.*

*FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Margaret Lias, Coordinator for Governance and Grants ([mlias@diomass.org](mailto:mlias@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).*

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## **CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:**

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

**Clergy Supply List:** To request a copy of the most up-to-date Clergy Supply List, or to be added to it, e-mail Jocelyn Collen, Administrator for Congregations and Development, at [jcollen@diomass.org](mailto:jcollen@diomass.org).

- **Consultants needed to shepherd parishes in transition:**

Currently in the diocese there is a large number of congregations in the priest-in-charge process, and there is a need for consultants who can help guide these churches and priests on their path. Those who have served in lay or clergy leadership in congregations, have been a member of a search committee or have skills in discernment, development or human resources may be well-suited for this role. Training is available.

Ideally, consultants would commit to a congregation for three years, but some people may be drawn to the work for certain years or particular points in the discernment process. Roughly, the first year involves getting to know each other; the second year is envisioning the future for the congregation; and the third year is a discernment process to decide whether the priest-in-charge is the right candidate for rector and if the candidate discerns a calling to remain as rector.

If interested or for more detailed information, contact Jocelyn Collen, Administrator for Congregations and Development ([jcollen@diomass.org](mailto:jcollen@diomass.org)).

### **CLERGY CHANGES:**

**The Rev. Dr. William Bergmann** began serving as priest-in-charge of Trinity Chapel in Shirley and St. Mark's Church in Westford on Sept. 1.

**The Rev. Lynn Campbell** began on Aug. 19 as rector of the Church of the Advent in Medfield where she has been serving as priest-in-charge.

**The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt** began as sabbatical priest for the MANNA Community at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston on Aug. 1.

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- The Rev. Canon Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff** began as rector of the Church of the Advent in Boston on Aug. 19.
- The Rev. Faith Mbuthia** began as strategic curate at St. Peter's Church in Dartmouth and Grace Church in New Bedford on Aug. 1.
- The Rev. Mary Rosendale**, who since 2021 has been priest-in-charge of two churches in collaboration, St. Paul's Church in Hopkinton and St. Stephen's Church in Westborough, is now serving, as of Sept. 1, as vicar of St. Paul's and rector of St. Stephen's.
- The Rev. Max Sklar** began as strategic curate at St. Anne's Church in Lowell and Trinity Church in Haverhill on Sept. 1.
- The Rev. Liz Steinhauser** began as pastor and lead organizer for The Crossing at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston on July 11.
- The Rev. Meghan Sweeney** begins as priest-in-charge at the Parish of St. Paul in Newton Highlands after Sept. 1.

**DEACONS ON THE MOVE:**

- Archdeacon Chris Beukman** on Sept. 1 joined the Rev. John Gitau to assist with collaboration between St. John's Church in Holbrook and Bristol Trinity Church in North Easton.
- Deacon Sonia Hodge** completed her ministry at Trinity Church in Stoughton and Trinity Church in Canton on Aug. 25.
- Deacon Dawn Tesorero** completes her ministry at St. John's Church in Arlington on Sept. 22.

**Central Region**

*Alewife and Charles River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Gregory Perez*  
[gperez@diomass.org](mailto:gperez@diomass.org)

*Boston Harbor and Neponset River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell*  
[koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)

**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

*None at this time.*

**RECTOR SEARCHES**

**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

NORWOOD, Grace Church  
 ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church  
 SHARON, St. John's Church

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

DORCHESTER, All Saints' Parish, Ashmont

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

*None at this time.*

**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

*None at this time.*

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

*None at this time.*

**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

*None at this time.*

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**Northern and Western Region**

Regional Canon Gregory Perez

[gperez@diomass.org](mailto:gperez@diomass.org)**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

SOUTHBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church

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

HUDSON, St. Luke's Church

LYNN, St. Stephen's Memorial Church

ROCKPORT, St. Mary's Church

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:***None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[READING, Church of the Good Shepherd](#) 3/4 time**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:***None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

DANVERS, All Saints Church of the North Shore 1/2 time

**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:***None at this time.***Southern Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell

[koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:***None at this time.***RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

SWANSEA, Christ Church

**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:***None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) 1/2 time**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

CHATHAM, St. Christopher's Church

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

ATTLEBORO, All Saints' Church 1/4 time

FALL RIVER, St. Luke's Church 1/8 time

MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church *full time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.****NEXT fyi:***

*fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the October issue is **Wednesday, Sept. 25 at noon**. E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).

Find the newsletter **deadline schedule for 2024** [here](#).