

## Giving & Generosity

e-newsletter

May 05, 2015

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### Black Lives Matter in Baltimore and Everywhere

In the wake of the violence that erupted on Baltimore's streets, UUs from First Unitarian Church in Baltimore worked with other members of the local religious community to make and distribute lunches for school children after the city closed the schools. They held a candlelight vigil on Friday, and many have participated in protest marches, following the lead of Baltimore's black community. Your gifts to the [James Reeb Fund for Multicultural Ministries and Leadership](#) are providing funds to help the congregation focus on community organizing in Baltimore. Thank you.



Rev. David Carl Olson, who attended the funeral of Freddie Gray last week, [expressed to UU World](#), "Lots of people, UUs and otherwise, are asking—in Baltimore and nationally—how they can help, and that's a great impulse. We must first connect with young black leaders wherever we are. And then we can learn how to be supportive, whether that's by helping to raise money or get supplies, or even using our churches as meeting

his experience of being in Baltimore now.

The recent protests and violence in Baltimore once again shine a light on the tragic epidemic of black men dying at the hands of police across the country. In [a public statement](#) our UUA President, Rev. Peter Morales, said, “We must all do the work necessary to change institutions that systematically harm and degrade people of color. And we must do that work together in faith. Now is the time for action. #BlackLivesMatter”

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## Your Work for Marriage Equality Reaches SCOTUS

Last Tuesday, your tireless work and support for marriage equality reached the Supreme Court of the United States. Justices heard arguments in the case of Obergefell v. Hodges, which could lead to a decision that state marriage bans are unconstitutional, granting equal marriage rights to all Americans. UUs have a long history of fighting for marriage equality, passing a General Assembly resolution in support of full marriage equality in 1996.



Your years of support are paying off. Because of you, the UUA has advocated nationally for marriage equality and submitted influential “friends of the court” briefs in Supreme Court cases, including United States v. Windsor, which overturned the Defense of Marriage Act in 2013. We have made monumental progress, but we are not finished yet. The UUA and our growing list of religious allies for marriage equality have [submitted a brief](#) to the court in support of marriage equality for the Obergefell case. We are committed to this work until all people are free to marry the person they love.

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## Response to the Nepal Earthquake

On April 25, a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal, leaving thousands dead and many more injured or missing. This tragic disaster, in a country where 25% of the population already lives at or below the poverty line, reminds us of life’s fragility and our human obligation to respond with generosity and compassion.



[Service Committee \(UUSC\)](#) to raise funds for relief. These funds will be directed to partners on the ground, providing support to people who are often left out of mainstream relief efforts, including people living in remote areas; women and children; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people; people who do not have recognized citizenship; indigenous people; Dalits; elderly people; and people living with disabilities and HIV/AIDS.

We are keeping the people of Nepal and the affected region in our hearts and prayers. [Please be generous with your support.](#)

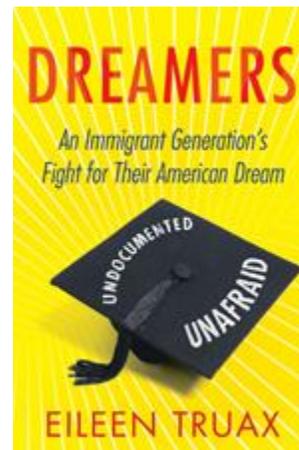
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### May UUReads: *Dreamers*

Beacon Press wants to help you connect with other UUs through books. Each month, they feature a UUReads title about a topic that is meaningful to UUs. These books will prompt great discussions in your book club or with your family and friends. Check out this month's UUReads selection and get a special discount through the UUA Book Store.

Of the approximately twelve million undocumented immigrants living in the United States, as many as two million came as children. Despite growing up and attending school here, in most states, they are barred from receiving financial aid for college and are unable to be legally employed. In 2001, recognizing a growing problem, Senator Dick Durbin introduced the DREAM Act to Congress which would allow undocumented immigrants who have graduated from US high schools to become legal residents if they met certain requirements. These young adults have since been dubbed "Dreamers." Sadly, over a decade and a half later the DREAM Act has yet to be passed.

In *Dreamers*, Eileen Truax illuminates the stories of a young generation that has begun organizing, fighting for their legal right to live here and with their rallying cry—"Undocumented, Unapologetic, and Unafraid." The newest face of the human rights movement, these men and women who are living proof of a complex and sometimes hidden political reality that calls into question



get 15% off your copy from the [UUA Book Store](#) throughout the month of May using the discount code **DreamMay15!**

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## Looking Forward to General Assembly 2015

### Annual Program FUN Scavenger Hunt and Celebration

Celebrate our congregational connections by participating in an [app-based scavenger hunt](#). Take photos, find hidden items, and explore locations around General Assembly! Play to learn more about the connections among congregations that our Annual Program Fund makes possible, meet new people, and win prizes for your congregation. The scavenger hunt will be followed by an evening celebration featuring live music and refreshments.



Friday, June 26, 2015

Scavenger hunt: 7:00 am – 7:00 pm, Complete tasks throughout the Oregon Convention Center while you attend other events and workshops.

Celebration: 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm, Oregon Convention Center Ballroom 204

### Important Information for Delegates

Are you attending General Assembly (GA) 2015 as a delegate, either in Portland or as an off-site delegate? Join Moderator Jim Key, Vice Moderator Donna Harrison, Rev. Sarah Stewart, and Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie as they discuss the agenda for this year – including the proposed transformation of the Commission on Appraisal, the draft Statement of Conscience on Reproductive Justice, and a GA discussion of proposals for increasing delegates' and congregations' engagement with General Assembly.



Register now for one of two available webinar dates:

- [Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 8:00 PM EDT](#)
- [Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 8:00 PM EDT](#)

Can't participate in the webinar, but don't want to miss this valuable information? Recordings of the webinars

[Assembly webpage.](#)

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## Make Double the Difference - Matching Gift Challenge

You make a difference every time you make a gift to our UUA. You support local congregations by providing resources, curricula, and ministerial credentialing, and you connect congregations in need with ministers. Your gifts lift up our shared values on the national stage. And now you can make double the difference with your gift!



From now until May 31, every gift you make to the Friends of the UUA will be matched dollar for dollar by a generous grant from the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock. We need to raise \$100,000 to meet their challenge! You can make double the difference for our work for social justice, congregations, and community by [making a gift to our UUA today.](#)

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