

## Giving & Generosity

e-newsletter

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### IN THIS ISSUE

[UUs Celebrating Marriage Equality with Free Weddings](#)  
[2015 General Assembly Wrap-Up](#)  
[Supporting the Black Lives Matter Movement](#)  
[July UU Reads: Enabling Acts](#)  
[New UU Gear from the UUA Bookstore](#)  
[Thank You – You Met the Matching Gift Challenge!](#)



### UUs are Celebrating Marriage Equality with Free Weddings

Friday, June 26 was a day of joy and celebration as the U.S. Supreme Court established federal recognition of same-sex marriage with its 5-4 decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. This landmark decision was a cause for celebration for many of us, as Unitarian Universalists have been fighting for marriage equality for over three decades. UUA President Peter Morales called the ruling a “major step in recognizing full civil rights for LGBTQ people” in [his statement](#).



The UUA is celebrating this historic decision with free marriages to same-sex couples. UU ministers will be offering free weddings in all 50 states and the District of Columbia on July 11 and 12. Do you know a couple that wants to take part in this celebration? Or a minister that would like to offer their services to happy couples? Learn more at [#JustMarriage: A Celebration of Marriage Equality](#).



This celebration is just one part of our ongoing witness for justice. There is still much work to be done to achieve full LGBTQ equality. The UUA has committed to continuing to expand the rights of LGBTQ people, with recognition of people who are disproportionately impacted by systemic oppression like trans, gender non-conforming, and queer People of Color. We hope you

the [Freedom to Live Drive](#) to support the work of Standing on the Side of Love.

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## 2015 General Assembly Wrap-Up

More than 5,000 UUs gathered at the 2015 General Assembly (GA) in Portland, Oregon June 24-28. Thanks to your generous support, this year GA was more accessible than ever. Many events were streamed online and are [now available to watch on uua.org](#), including this year's Ware Lecture by Dr. Cornel West. In his speech Dr. West urged all of us to "Let the phones be smart. We have to be wise and aspire to integrity."



Other highlights of our yearly gathering included an Amplify Love celebration of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in favor of marriage equality after learning more about the Unitarian Universalist Association and our congregational connections in a fun day-long scavenger hunt.



At the end of the week, many UUs joined with local activists to support the Black Lives Matter movement with a die-in outside of the convention center, blocking traffic for nearly five minutes.



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## Supporting the Black Lives Matter Movement

Our hearts have been broken by the recent wave of violence toward African Americans. With the murders at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Charleston, SC and burning of African American Churches across the South weighing on their minds, General Assembly delegates overwhelmingly passed an Action of Immediate Witness entitled 'Support the Black Lives Matter Movement.' UUs will continue to work for and demand change in our communities.



UUA President Rev. Peter Morales said in [his statement in response to the church burnings](#), "These acts of hatred, oppression, intimidation, and violence, are meant to shake that center of African American life. And we must harness the healing power of love to counter these acts in support and solidarity with these communities." Thanks to your generosity, our UUA will continue to



and to share a message of love.

As the North Carolina federal court begins to hear the NAACP lawsuit challenging the state's voter suppression law, Rev. Peter Morales will join Rev. William Barber in Winston Salem, NC for a Mass Moral Monday March for Voting Rights on July 13. President Morales invites UUs from across the country to join him for the event. To learn more and RSVP, visit the [Standing on the Side of Love website](#).

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## July UUReads: *Enabling Acts*

Beacon Press wants to help you connect with other UUs through books. Each month, we feature a UUReads title about a topic that is meaningful to UUs to prompt discussions in your book club or with your family and friends.

Twenty-five years ago on July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush. To this day it is the most comprehensive piece of civil rights legislation to be passed, encompassing protections for employment, public transportation, telecommunication, and public housing and affecting the over 50 million people living with disabilities in the United States today.

Despite the breadth and magnitude of the bill, the surprising story behind how it came to be is little known. In honor of the anniversary of the passage of the ADA and the work that still lies ahead, Beacon Press is offering a free copy of [Enabling Acts: The Hidden Story of How the Americans with Disabilities Act Gave the Largest US Minority Its Rights](#) to 10 Unitarian Universalist congregations which are planning events or services around the anniversary. Want a chance to win a copy of *Enabling Acts*? Email [marketing@beacon.org](mailto:marketing@beacon.org) to share how you're honoring 25 years of the ADA.

## ENABLING ACTS



LENNARD J. DAVIS

"Enabling Acts reads like a spellbinding political thriller with advocates fighting for the rights of people with disabilities but ultimately fighting for everyone's right to be different."  
—JONATHAN HARRIS, author of  
The Secret Lives of Beavers Beyond Normal

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## New UU Gear from the UUA Bookstore

The [UUA Bookstore](#) now has even more ways for you to show off your Unitarian Universalist pride! From a wide variety of shirts and [Chalice Logo Striped Socks](#) to [reusable tote bags](#) and [umbrellas](#), the bookstore has plenty of ways for you to proclaim your values and faith in daily life.

Fans of Standing on the Side of Love can now be covered in SSL yellow from head to toe with [baseball caps](#), [logo socks](#), and [SSL branded aprons](#), perfect for congregational use.



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## Thank You – You Met the Matching Gift Challenge!

Thank you for your gifts to the Friends of the UUA. Every gift makes a difference, and your generosity from February through June was twice as meaningful. Your donations met the Matching Gift Challenge goal of \$100,000 from the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock. Those gifts will be doubled, going twice as far for Unitarian Universalism.

When you give to the UUA, you are supporting our congregations and our faith. You are advocating for justice, and you are amplifying our UU voice on the national stage. Thank you for your generous support!



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