

Giving & Generosity

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UUs Won't Back Down: #BlackLivesMatter and Remembering Michael Brown

When it comes to taking a stand for justice, Unitarian Universalists will not back down. Many UU congregations publicly express their support for the #BlackLivesMatter movement by hanging banners outside their churches. In recent weeks, some of these banners have been vandalized or stolen. And each time they are replaced with pride.

UUs are also showing up in very real ways to push the movement forward. Thanks to your support, UUs from across the country were able to go to Missouri to support local congregations and their community partners and to help raise the national visibility of the [August 9th anniversary](#) of Michael Brown's death.

Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen, UUA Leadership Development Associate for Youth and Young Adults of Color, writes of her experience in [a blog post](#), explaining that, "Monday's acts of resistance followed a weekend of mourning Mike Brown and the violence of white supremacy, celebrating the organizing that has brought the movement to this moment, and honoring the way Ferguson continues to teach us all."



Summer Seminary's Successful Third Year

Thanks to your generous support of all of the UUA's work with youth and young adults and the [Katie Tyson Fund](#), the third year of Summer Seminary was our biggest yet. Eighteen emerging leaders spent a soulful week of preaching, dialogue, and discernment in Denver, CO at Iliff School of Theology. With aspirations ranging from ministry, religious education, running a UU camp, music ministry and professional chaplaincy, the 2015 Summer Seminary class explored topics including their personal call to ministry, leadership styles, preaching, worship, faith development, spiritual practices, life in seminary, different forms of ministry, the ordination, credentialing and fellowship processes.



Highlights included a [Preach-Off](#) and a service led by the students on "Certain Uncertainty," which Jennica Davis-Hockett, UUA Leadership Development Associate, describes in [a blog post](#) as one of the key themes of the week. UUA President, Rev. Peter Morales attended the service and, impressed, told the young seminarians, "You may not be ordained, but you're doing ministry."

Donor Feature: Kathleen Adams

Kathleen is generous in so many ways. As a youth adviser at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango, Kathleen donates her time to working with her students. She has taught her students about generosity as she and her youth group recently created and donated [1,000 paper cranes to victims of the Ebola epidemic in Africa](#). Kathleen's generous nature also inspired her to make a gift to the UUA, with the request that the UUA move a plaque commemorating the 1961 consolidation of the Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association from the elevator at the UUA's old Boston headquarters to the new location at 24 Farnsworth Street.



As a youth advisor who often brought her students to Boston, Kathleen would stand on the plaque and point out the important date to her students. "We were all in the elevator, on the plaque, thinking about the merger, and I was just feeling very satisfied about this work. I don't jump up and down and around and celebrate it much, but the depth of that satisfaction is truly spiritual."

wanted to preserve this bit of history, and also make a gift in support of the UUA's Youth and Young Adult Programs.

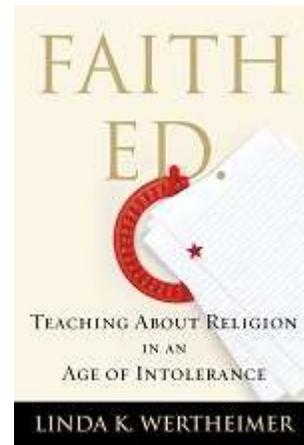
While the spark for her gift was deeply personal, her generosity has had a large impact on many. We are grateful for donors like Kathleen who embody generosity in so many ways.

September UUReads: *Faith Ed*

Beacon Press is here to help you engage with other UUs through books. Each month, they feature a UUReads title about a topic meaningful to UUs. These books will prompt great discussions in your book club or with your family and friends.

Since its founding, the United States has been known as a country where freedom of religion is a protected right. Followers of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and many more faiths are able to worship freely across the country. With this increasing amount of diversity, why is it so difficult for instructors to teach about world religions in public schools?

September's UUReads selection, Linda Wertheimer's *Faith Ed*, takes an in-depth look at the current climate of religious tolerance in the American public school system. Wertheimer gives a detailed look at the obstacles and progress made by instructors across the country fighting to create a new generation of religiously literate Americans. Get 15% off your copy throughout the month of September when you enter the discount code **FEsep15** at the [UUA Bookstore](#). Make sure to follow the discussion on Beacon Press [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) using #UUReads.



Update on the Doctrine of Discovery

At the 2012 General Assembly in Phoenix, AZ, delegates of the Unitarian Universalist Association passed a resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and calling on Unitarian Universalists to study the Doctrine and eliminate its presence from the current-day policies, programs, theologies, and structures of



you, the UUA created a fund to make [grants](#) available to Unitarian Universalist congregations, groups, and organizations to be used for projects that teach about, repudiate, and mitigate the current-day effects of the [Doctrine of Discovery](#).

Several UU congregations continue the projects they began that work to diminish the effects of the Doctrine of Discovery. One grant recipient, the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, used the funds to provide advocacy training for congregants and internships for indigenous Hawaiian religious community partners to preserve access to traditional Hawaiian sacred sites. You can read all about this partnership in the [Fall 2015 Family Pages](#) of *UU World*. Programs like this one are possible thanks to your generosity. Thank you!



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