

Monthly eNews from UUA Stewardship and Development

## Giving & Generosity

e-newsletter

October 6, 2015

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### UUs Respond to Migrant Crisis

In response to the global refugee crisis, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) President and CEO Bill Schulz and Unitarian Universalist Association President Peter Morales have issued [a joint statement](#) about the global refugee crisis, establishing a [UUSC-UUA Refugee Crisis Fund](#). Thanks to your generous donations and the 39 congregations who took up a special collection, the fund has already raised over \$280,000 and surpassed the original goal of \$250,000 for emergency response needs! The UUA and UUSC have also created a [petition](#) to pressure the Obama administration to increase the number of refugees admitted into the United States to 200,000.



Thanks to the generosity of Unitarian Universalists, the UUA and UUSC have a long history of aiding people who are fleeing violence and persecution—a history rooted in helping refugees who fled Nazi oppression during World War II. Today, your gifts allow us to build on that tradition. Thank you!

### Program Proposals for UUA General Assembly 2016

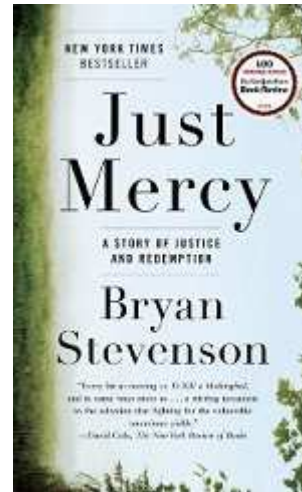
You are invited to [submit a program proposal](#) for the 2016 UUA General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. We are looking for proposals that address the 2016 theme [Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect](#), as well as strong workshop proposals for congregational leadership development and for multigenerational faith formation programming. All proposals must be submitted by Monday, November 2, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. EST.



## Introducing Two New Resources for Fall

Thanks to your generosity two new resources are available for congregations and individuals. Perfect for welcoming visitors and newcomers into our congregations and communities, updated and redesigned pamphlets available at the UUA bookstore cover a range of topics from “[Family Prayers](#)” and “[Science and Religion](#)” to “[Spiritual Home for LGBTQ People](#)” and “[Addition and Your Faith Community](#).”

Your gifts have also helped create a [discussion guide](#) for those reading the UU Common Read, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. Thank you for your support, which makes resources like these possible for all to enjoy!

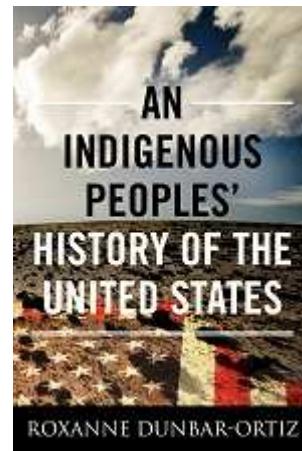



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## October UUReads: *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*

In addition to our annual UU Common Read, Beacon Press suggests a monthly read 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, congregation, or with your family and friends. Check out this month's #UUReads selection and get a special discount through the [UUA Bookstore](#).

United States history is built on a settler initiative about man's journey and expansion west. Sadly, Native Americans have been witness to this fairy tale at the loss of much of their civilization. Find out the truth behind mainstream America's version of history from the Indigenous peoples' perspective. Now in paperback, the 2015 American Book Award Winner, *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by acclaimed historian Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz is available for 15% off when you order from the [UUA Bookstore](#) using the code IPHOct15. To follow and participate in this important conversation, make sure to keep an eye on the discussion on Beacon Press [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) using #UUReads.




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## Donor Feature: Gabe and Betsy Gelb

Meet Gabe and Betsy Gelb. As UUs in New Orleans in the 1960s, Betsy and Gabe helped integrate the New Orleans public schools. When they moved to Houston, TX and joined the Emerson Unitarian

Universalist Church, they continued their work with social justice. The Gelbs were instrumental leaders when the Emerson Church founded the [Harris County Drug Court Foundation](#), which provides financial support to the Harris County's Success Through Addiction Recovery felony drug court program. Later, inspired by former UUA Vice President for Stewardship & Development Rev. Terry Sweetser, they took a leading role in founding the [Texas UU Justice Ministry](#), a coalition of 28 UU congregations in Texas that bring UU values to the attention of the Texas legislature.

Believing that religious organizations have a moral responsibility to aid people who are poor and underserved, the Gelbs generously donated to the UUA in honor of Rev. Terry Sweetser's twenty-year service to our faith. When asked why they are so passionate about social justice, Betsy simply answered, "I think we were both brought up honestly to do this. I think what a church can do, and I hope UU churches do, is to say by being a Unitarian Universalist, you are somebody who cares about what is going on in the rest of the world."




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## UU-UNO UN Sunday: International Criminal Justice

United Nations (UN) Day is October 24, and the [Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office](#) invites you and your congregation to honor UN Sunday. This year's theme is "International Criminal Justice: From Punitive to Restorative." The UU-UNO has created a [resource packet](#) with background information on UN Sunday and this year's theme, and information on how to host a UN Sunday service.

The UU-UNO is also hosting their [Annual Fall Fundraiser](#) celebrating "Compassionate Connections" on November 5 in New York City. The evening will feature both live and silent auctions, music, food, and much more. Those who cannot attend are welcome to donate to the live and silent auctions.



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