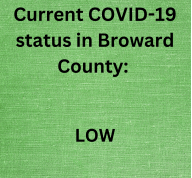


River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

PO Box 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345



WELCOME TO OUR RIVER OF GRASS FAMILY. WELCOME TO OUR WARMTH. WELCOME HOME!

River of Grass Weekly Update – March 16, 2023

YOU ROCK: Springing into New and Next!

*Some rocks look plain on the outside but hold a beautiful surprise inside.
Some rocks are full of colorful rainbows, others look like a starry night sky,
while still others look like a white chrysanthemum or a red-and-green watermelon.*
– Dianna Hutts Aston

Whatever your outside might look like, what kind of rock might you be inside? Come explore with us as we celebrate the Vernal Equinox this Sunday at River of Grass – and get a special rock of your own to carry home!

If you will be joining us virtually through Zoom or Facebook live, take a moment before the service to pick up an item of nature – a rock, or gemstone, or shell, or wood – to share in our Vernal Equinox Ritual!

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Historical Auditorium or virtually on Zoom. We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

In person at:

- Our new Sunday morning rental space at the Old Davie Schoolhouse!
- 6650 Griffin Road, Davie, FL 33314 ([Click for Directions](#))
- Service will begin at **10:30 AM**
- Childcare will be provided.

Use the Zoom link below to gather with us virtually in Zoom. Catch us on Facebook live on our [facebook page](#).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Meeting ID: 961 564 350; Password: 873805

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, March 19, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – YOU ROCK: Springing into New and Next! – Rev. Amy Carol Webb

<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Faith Development: All children and youth are welcome for a full worship service this Sunday as we welcome in the Spring Equinox and explore what we can learn from some beautiful gifts from the earth. For more information about our Faith Development programs, contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Old Davie Schoolhouse Historical Tour - Are you enjoying the beautiful space we get to call home at The Old Davie Schoolhouse? Would you like to know more about the history of this building and the town? ***Let Karen know today*** if you'd like to join our docent-led tour this Sunday at 1:00 pm. There are a few slots left. There will be a small fee, depending on the number of people who sign up. You can also reach out to our Faith Development Director, Karen at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org to sign up.

Fundraiser Yard Sale - The River of Grass Yard Sale is on **Saturday, March 25, 8am to 12 noon**, at Kathy & Steve Jens-Rochow's house in Ft. Lauderdale. Email below for the address. Our RoG Men's Group is working with the RoG FundRaising Team in our congregation-wide effort to rehome those extra tools, furniture, records, household stuff, targeting items that have a retail value of \$20 or more. (No clothes, tapes or books, please.) Sorting & pricing will start at Steve and Kathy's home this Sunday, ***so bring your stuff to them from Sunday, March 19 through Thursday, March 23***. Small items can be brought to them at church after this Sunday's service. Steve & Ken Bresnahan will continue recruiting volunteers during Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 19. So, help yourself, the planet and RoG by supporting this River fundraiser. Questions: email fundraising@riverofgrassuu.org.

Office Admin coming to Service this Sunday - Do you have a need from Sandy in the office? She will be at Services this Sunday, Mar 19th and will help out anyone after services. If you can't make it this week, don't worry. Sandy will start coming to help out with any office needs on the 3rd Sundays of each month. Or send her an email at office@riverofgrassuu.org.

March Board Meeting

Find out what's happening behind the scenes at the River. The River of Grass Board will be meeting in person this **Sunday, March 19th, at 3:00 pm** at the office (4431 SW 64th Avenue, Suite 108, Davie, FL 33314). Our meetings are open to members and friends. A Zoom link can be provided for those who wish to attend virtually. Contact Kathy Jens-Rochow president@riverofgrassuu.org.

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE: A New Beginning March 5 to March 31, 2023

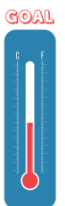
IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR - PLEASE GET YOUR PLEDGE IN SO OUR THERMOMETER RISES TO THE TOP! 62% of our goal has been reached! BE PART OF OUR FUTURE!!

This new fiscal year begins 7/1/23 - 6/30/24. Even though you filled out a pledge card for this current year, you will need to do it again for the upcoming year.

PLEDGES RECEIVED TO DATE \$165,106

Your pledge packet was mailed to you. It includes messages from Rev Amy, Karen Gonzalez, Faith Development Director, and our Board President, Kathy Jens-Rochow, some guidance on giving and a pledge card with a return envelope. Please think deeply about how this community has nourished you and how you can support the work in the world we are meant to do.

The full brochure is [on the website](#) under Donations or click the link on the opening page. Below the brochure is the digital pledge card which is the preferred way to let us know your wishes. With a few clicks, you are done! We are in the budget phase of planning for next year. Please help us bring our plans to life with your generous investment in the future of River of Grass. If you did not receive a packet, please let us know; or If you have questions, we can be reached at stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org. Leana Bresnahan and Rita Cherubini, APD 2023-24 Co-Chairs



Future Home Update

As most of you are aware, several members of the Capital Campaign and Future Home Teams met with members from TAO on Tuesday, March 14, to move forward with our prospective partnership and property purchase. We engaged in an extensive and sometimes intense discussion regarding an agreed path forward. Details are still being worked on, but we are closer. And we are not done yet.

While this update may sound vague, there are too many factors in process to offer more details at this time. Please know that your Future Home Team and Capital Campaign Teams are working towards the best possible agreement for both partners. Any partnership/purchase agreement requires a congregational meeting and vote, which will be called promptly when any agreement is reached.

We remain hopeful and excited for this opportunity, and grateful for all your support – fiscally, spiritually, and emotionally.

Please stay tuned.

Kathy Jens-Rochow, President (president@riverofgrassuu.org)

Turkey/Syria Earthquake Relief

A very big thank you to all of you who donated to our special collection for relief funds for victims of the earthquake in Turkey & Syria. **We collected \$550!!**

Following the recommendations of our UU Service Committee (UUSC), we are donating half to the Global Fund for Human Rights in Turkey and half to Nuday Syria. Both organizations are feet on the ground providing earthquake relief. It has only been 6 weeks, so their work is vitally needed. Thank you for your support.

Children's Fundraising Service Project

Kids In Distress, Inc. (KID) is a nationally accredited organization dedicated to preventing child abuse, preserving families, and treating children who have been abused and neglected. Their services include individual, family, and group therapy and counseling; preschool, aftercare and summer camp programs; recruitment, training, and support of foster/adoptive homes; and prevention, reunification, family preservation and maternal and child health services. Our FD kiddos are raising funds for this organization through their 17th Annual Duck Fest Derby on April 1st. **They've already raised over \$500!!** If you haven't had a chance to give yet, be looking for an enthusiastic young one during hospitality time on Sunday or use the link below. Buy a duck for \$5, help a kid and enter to win the \$10,000 prize! See one of our smiley kids on Sunday or click this link to donate to our River of Grass team.



<https://2023kidduckfestderby.funraise.org/team/river-of-grass-team>

Join us at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, a Magical UU Place and Experience:

- **Come work for The Mountain!** Hiring summer camp counselors and leaders, development associate, kitchen staff, and farm staff. <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs>
- **Music Week – April 23-28 2023.** Surround yourself with music and enjoy opportunities for music appreciation, concerts, group and individual participation and instruction in songwriting, guitar, voice, ukulele and more.

“Music Week has been transformative. When I came here, I lacked courage to really try to pursue music. In my first songwriting class here, I wasn’t finishing sentences. But, in five days here, I wrote two songs. There is something about this place – magical.”

~Renee E.

- **Homecoming, May 26-29.** Join us at The Mountain for our 43rd Annual Gathering of Members and Friends. We will have three days of renewing connections with old friends and making new connections, being immersed in this extraordinary natural environment, learning about current projects and possibilities for the future, in addition to workshops, entertainment, and our Annual Meeting.
- **Summer Camp options for kids and for adults!**
- **Personal Retreat -- for individuals or groups**

We look forward to hosting you at The Mountain soon.

For more information about The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center: themountainrlc.org or 828.526.5838

Join the RoG Cat Ministry

Our cat man (member: Andrew M) who does not have and cannot have a cat really benefits from an hour or so a month with a cat. If you have a cat or would be willing to take Andrew to a cat cafe on occasion, we need volunteers to help. When you sign up, you'll be volunteering to select a day out of the month you've signed up for to either bring Andrew to your home (if you have a cat that is sociable) or take him to a cat cafe to visit with a cat. Rebecca Rice is coordinating, so please reach out to her at Rebdrice@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in helping our cat man who needs some ongoing cat time.

Other Events:

Free "Mindfulness for Today's World" weekly online sessions:

Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm for adults, [zoom link for Thursday night at 6 pm](#)

For more information or to register contact Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

RoG Men's Group – We'll next meet **Thursday Mar 16th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM**. We meet in person and via [Zoom Meeting](#). Our meeting location is at The Transformation Project: 4431 SW 64th Ave Ste 109, Davie, FL 33314. All who are able can meet early for dinner at 5:30 PM at the Fat Stork Restaurant, 8270 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33328. (If you're joining for dinner, please email Ken, group facilitator, so he can coordinate space.) All who identify male are invited to join. We are a lay-led group and look to our members for future topics and the direction we take. Join us! The Zoom Meeting Room will open up at 7:00 pm and we will begin at 7:15 PM. If you have any questions please contact Ken Bresnahan; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org; RoG Men's Group Facilitator.

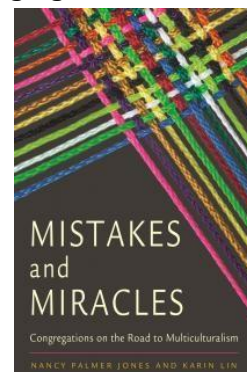
LifeNet4Families Volunteer Day – March 25th: If garage sales aren't your thing, LifeNet4Families is hosting our volunteers on **Saturday March 25th from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**. We will probably be doing what we seem to do best, which is packing bags full of food to be distributed to those in need. Come join the fun! Contact Linda at SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org with any questions and to RSVP so we know who is coming.

Common Read March 26th at noon - The UU Common Read builds community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared focus for reflection and action. A Common Read can take us on a powerful faith journey into what it means to be human and accountable in a world filled with both pain and joy.

"Mistakes and Miracles" What lessons and inspiration can we find in *Mistakes and Miracles* to guide our striving for Beloved Community, today?

Common Read 2022-23: *Mistakes and Miracles* by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin

Co-authors Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—explored five UU congregations' journeys toward Beloved Community. Their book, *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*, shares the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found.



Today, Unitarian Universalists are grappling with a charge to dismantle white supremacy in ourselves, our communities, and our world. As we enter a Common Read of this book, many will bring a spirit ready to meet the urgent need for multiculturalism and antiracism work in our congregations and our movement.

Mistakes and Miracles can be purchased from [inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop](#). Discounts are available on orders of 10 or more books.

You can also [listen to *Mistakes and Miracles* as an audiobook!](#)

If you need the book in another format, please email UUA Publications Director Mary Benard at mbenard@uua.org.

Join the conversation!

Rev. Amy will lead us in discussion about this inspiring read on March 26th, during our Second Helping series at noon. Bring your thoughts, questions and ideas about how River of Grass can be inspired in this good work!

11th Annual Florida Unitarian Universalist Women's Retreat – March 31- April 2, 2023 at DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center Ellenton Florida. A Weekend Gathering of UU Women featuring Shelley Graff facilitating Singing in Sacred Circle

- Friday evening we will get to know one another and create community
- Saturday one-hour workshops offer choices
 - Singing in Sacred Circle with Shelley Graff
 - Free time in the afternoon for personal exploration
- Sunday we share a UU Service bringing it all together



DaySpring Conference Center is conveniently located off I-75 just north of Sarasota

on Florida's West Coast. The beautiful campus nestled under ancient oaks and located on a cove of the Manatee River offers a serene setting for our annual retreat. Take a look. <https://dayspringfl.org>

\$232 per person covers expenses for a semi-private room plus meals for the weekend. A limited number of single rooms are available at \$304 each. 8 women share a cozy cottage with 4 bedrooms and 4 baths, a screened porch and common area. Come join us for an enriching and memorable weekend. To register or for more information contact Helen Leddy helen.leddy@gmail.com.

Openings at the Auction Apple Cider Tasting Party - Interested in trying several varieties of hard apple cider all the while nomming on snacks made with apples, proving the versatility of this most amazing fruit?? There are limited openings available for \$30 at this Auction party at a member's home **on April 1st**. This is not an April Fools Prank – we pushed the date back so others can still join in on the fun! Contact auction@riverofgrassuu.org to purchase.

Mind & Body Wellness Program – Want to explore ways to take better care of your mind and body? Join the online 6-week "Mind & Body Wellness Program" **starting on April 10th**. We will explore and discuss topics such as expressive arts & movement, balancing life's challenges, healing trauma, mindful eating, and a variety of mindfulness practices. This program was started by Dr. James Gordon and the Center for Mind-Body Medicine and is research-based. It is offered on a sliding scale starting at \$0. Find out more at www.insightinstitutellc.com or contact carolyn@insightinstitutellc.com.



From our 8th Principle Action team: The Dock C. Bracy Center for Human Reconciliation is a non-profit non-denominational learning organization, focused on the eradication of racism and other forms of human oppression. It is offering 2 online upcoming seminars:

1. Eradicating Racism: A Path Forward Learning Series which will be on **Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm on April 13, 20, 27 and May 4.**

REGISTER at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/468722530707>.

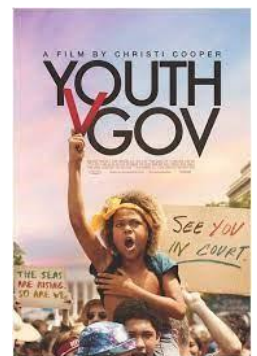
2. Let's Talk Series: Antisemitism is Everyone's Concern held on **Wed. April 19, from 7-9 pm**

REGISTER at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/558702282567>.

The Eradicating Racism series provides the opportunity for dialogue about the complexity of racism in a safe learning environment with other concerned people. In addition, participants become part of the Center's Finding Your Voice Program, which creates an environment for learning, healing, and transformation, rich in educational resources, and networking support. Questions? Contact Tanya Gustafson at 8thprincipleteam@riverofgrassuu.org.

MUUVies for Change April viewing is "Youth v Gov"

Directed by filmmaker and scientist Christi Cooper. This documentary is the story of [Juliana v. The United States of America](#) constitutional lawsuit and the 21 American youth, ages 11 to 25, who are taking on the world's most powerful government. Since 2015, the legal non-profit [Our Children's Trust](#), has been representing these youth in their landmark case against the U.S. government for violating their constitutional rights to life, liberty, personal safety, and property through their willful actions in creating the climate crisis they will inherit. The youngest plaintiff was Levi Draheim, pictured, a UU youth from Jacksonville Beach. Available on: [Netflix](#). MUUVies for Change will discuss "Youth v Gov" on **Wednesday, April 12th at 7:00 PM**. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org if you will attend the



Discussion. Join our Zoom Meeting at 7:00 PM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>. Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; One tap mobile: +16465588656,84418593114# US (New York); Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kvLOD4l8Y>.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Skip the bottled water when grocery shopping. Resist the urge, and instead refill bottles at home. You save money, you help the environment, and you send a message that reuse is the way to go. Be green!

Interim Recommendations from the RoG COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team

Team: Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten (COVIDTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org)

Purpose of Team: To review guidelines for congregational and smaller group gatherings in order to provide recommendations to the Board to be used for official River of Grass meetings and events.

These recommendations are:

For: only for official, River of Grass - sponsored outdoor and indoor small group gatherings.

Fluid: new information comes out all the time and the recommendations could change.

Inclusive: all attendees should be able to attend physically or virtually.

Protective: consider first those who are most at risk.

Science-based: follow the directives according to the experts.

Sources:

UUA: <https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/pandemics>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Johns Hopkins: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map>

UU Reston Covid-19 Guidelines: <https://www.uureston.org/covid>

MEETINGS IN THE TIME OF COVID

RIVER OF GRASS COVID-19 TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD: Updated October 16, 2022

This is a living document that will be regularly reviewed and updated.

COVID-19 is moving from pandemic to endemic status – it is always circulating in the community but the number of infected people varies from community to community. Individuals should take appropriate precautions based on their personal risk. River of Grass will follow the following measures for community gatherings based on CDC Guidelines and the Broward County risk levels.

Remember, you may choose to wear a mask and maintain social distancing at any time. If you have symptoms, a positive test or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should wear a mask.

Our COVID Team is monitoring the Broward County status weekly and will promptly advise if the status changes.

Community Level LOW: Current Broward County Status

- Individuals may elect to wear masks and socially distance at all times.

Community Level MEDIUM:

- Wear face masks for indoor gatherings.
- Choir will wear singing masks.
- Unmasked speakers and the Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening.

Community Level HIGH:

In person Worship Services – Inside

- Masks required for all, special requirements for speakers
- Masks should be KN-95
- Unmasked speakers and Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening
- No singing except the Minister (humming OK!)

- Social distancing between family groups
- No food or drinks
- All attendees sign in

After service Hospitality – Outside

- Maintain social distancing

Meetings – inside and outside

- Group leader will inquire if anyone in the group wants the meeting to be masked. If everyone is not comfortable, masking and social distancing should be maintained.
- Food and drinks – determined by the group.
- All attendees sign in.

To see all of the upcoming events at River of Grass, please visit the calendar on our website at riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html. **River of Grass UU Congregation** is on [Facebook](#) (LIKE us) and [Twitter](#) (FOLLOW Us). For more information, please contact communityawareness@riverofgrassuu.org.

Unsubscribe - If you do not wish to receive this weekly email, please send an email and we will remove you from the mailing list, office@riverofgrassuu.org.

Announcements to be sent out in the weekly congregation-wide update should be e-mailed to WeeklyEmail@RiverofGrassUU.org by 12 pm Wednesday. All announcements will pertain to congregational life and affiliated groups and will be for activities or events occurring within two weeks of the e-mail. Outside groups and individuals, wishing to use this vehicle of congregation-wide communication, must have the approval of the Board of Trustees.

River of Grass UU Congregation

6650 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33314 (Sunday Morning Service Location)

4431 SW 64th Avenue, Suite 108, Davie, FL 33314 (Office Location)

PO Box 452485, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33345 (Mailing Address Only)

954.723.7877 - office@riverofgrassuu.org