

# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

PO Box 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

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

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River of Grass Weekly Update – May 25, 2023

## Answering the Religious Right with the Big Heart of Universalism

*There is a place set in this creation for every last man, woman, and child...*

*A precious, safe place has been set for each and every one of us...*

*PERIOD*

*-Scott W. Alexander*

As we continue our May theme of Creativity, we will explore how to boldly face the Religious Right as we create ways to share the wondrous gift of Universalism. As UUs, in this critical time, we must stand up to support women's rights, trans rights and voting rights, as we are reminded this Memorial Day of all those who have fought for freedom in our history.

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Heritage Hall 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... We'll be watching for you!

In person at:

- Our Sunday morning rental space is located 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/j/ab3E9JRtb9>

### *Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:*

**Sunday, May 21, 2023 - 10:30 AM**

**River of Grass UU Congregation** – Answering the Religious Right with the Big Heart of Universalism – Tanya

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

**Children's Faith Development:** This Sunday, our Children's Small Group will be exploring the ways that the creative power of music helps us make meaning in life. We'll experience the role of music as it helps us to honor and grieve for people on this holiday weekend, along with the role that jazz music has played in helping people deal

with sorrow and struggle throughout history. For more information about our Faith Development program for children and youth, contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

**Membership News:** We will celebrate a New Member Ceremony during worship service on **June 4<sup>th</sup>**. If you have been attending River of Grass worship services and activities, have found your spiritual home in the Unitarian Universalist faith and at River of Grass, and would like to sign the Membership Book during this ceremony, please let [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org) and/or [minister@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:minister@riverofgrassuu.org) know as soon as possible. You can also contact Membership Chair, Leana Bresnahan, at 954-258-6315, or Rev. Amy directly, for more information on the meaning of formal membership and on the process to join.

### **Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt for UUA President**

The Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Presidential Search Committee is pleased to announce the nomination of the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt for UUA President, for the 2023-2029 term. Rev. Dr. Betancourt is an experienced leader and theologian in Unitarian Universalism, including formerly serving as a professor at Starr King School for the Ministry and as Interim Co-President of the UUA in 2017. She currently serves as Resident Scholar and Special Advisor to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The Presidential term is for 6 years. Member congregations of the UUA, through their delegates, elect the UUA President. The campaign for President will take place throughout the first half of 2023 and conclude with an election at our multiplatform [General Assembly](#), online and in Pittsburgh, PA, June 21-25.

To learn more about Rev Dr. Sofia Betancourt, please join the last Presidential Forum. **You must register to attend.**

- **Saturday, June 3, 2023**

First Unitarian Church of Dallas: 4015 Normandy Ave, Dallas, TX 75205

2pm ET / 1pm CT / 12pm MT / 11am PT

[Register to attend](#)

### ***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](mailto:Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com), or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

**Welcome Table Communion** – Join Rev. Amy at 7:00 pm this evening for Welcome Table Christian Communion with River of Grass as we remember the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Please contact [minister@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:minister@riverofgrassuu.org) for the Zoom link and more information.

**Drum Circle Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm!** No drum necessary – we have plenty of 'em – or bring your own to drum out the week's woes and energize ourselves for the coming days! Please contact [minister@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:minister@riverofgrassuu.org) for the address and more information.

**RoG Men's Group** - We are a lay-led group that looks to our members for discussion topics. All who identify male are invited to join us! Our next meeting is **Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 to 8:30 PM**, in person or via [Zoom Meeting](#). Our meeting location is at The Transformation Project: 4431 SW 64th Ave Ste 109, Davie, FL 33314. Our optional pre meeting dinner is at **5:30 PM at the Flashback Diner, 4125 Davie Road, Davie, FL 33328**. (If you're joining for dinner, please email Ken Bresnahan, group facilitator, so he can coordinate space.) The Zoom Meeting Room will open at 7:00 pm. Questions: contact Ken; [mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org).

**A New Affinity Group! The Women's Group** – Calling all persons who identify as female. This group is for you. The purpose of this group is to deepen our personal connections through shared discussions. Listening to each person's experience. The new Women's Group will be meeting on the first Sunday of the month at 7:00 PM. We will be multi-platform, meeting both in person and



virtually. Location TBD. **Our first meeting will be June 4 at 7:00 PM.** For more information and the link, contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at [womensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:womensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org).

### "Centering Your Self this Summer!"

What a great way to start the summer with an online 8-week mindfulness program. This course is based on Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) and is a great way to develop and feel the benefits of cultivating kind awareness that can help us manage stress, relax, and deepen our relationships in our daily lives. You will be invited to participate in a variety of practices from mindful eating, breathing meditation, communication skills, physiology of stress, and gentle movement.

This program will begin on **Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 - 8:00 pm through July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023.** Beginners and those more experienced with mindfulness are welcomed! (recommended for age 16 and older) Insight Institute facilitators are certified in a variety of research-based mindfulness programs. Come join to enhance your resiliency, relax, move, and smile together!

[Register or find out more information here.](#)



**Centering Your Self This Summer!**  
Managing Stress & Supporting Wellness  
8-Week Online Mindfulness Program

MONDAYS  
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
June 5 - July 24, 2023

**Topics:**  
Mindful Eating,  
Gentle Movement,  
Mindfulness Meditation,  
Communication Skills,  
The Science of Stress,  
Tools for Today

**MBSR**  
Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction includes a variety of mindfulness practices, resilience strategies, in a safe environment

**Info**  
Provided by certified mindfulness facilitators on a Sliding Scale from \$0-\$320

**Registration**  
Use the QR code or email  
[Carolyn@insightinstitute.com](mailto:Carolyn@insightinstitute.com)  
954-253-3189  
beginners welcomed

Made with PosterMyWall.com

### MUUVies for Change June viewing is "20 Feet from Stardom"

It is a 2013 Oscar-winning documentary about female back-up singers (mostly African American) in the music business. Directed by Morgan Neville. Starring: Darlene Love, Merry Clayton, Lisa Fischer. Available on [Amazon](#).

MUUVies for Change will discuss "20 Feet from Stardom" on **Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.** Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow [muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org) if you will attend the Discussion. Join our Zoom Meeting at 7:00 PM: [Zoom Link](#). Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; Passcode: 537288; One tap mobile: +16465588656,,84418593114# US (New York); Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kvLOD4l8Y>.



**Juneteenth Celebration!** Please join us on **Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at Bergeron Park (1900 S Nob Hill Rd, Davie, FL 33328) from 9:00 am to about 12:00 pm to celebrate Juneteenth!** This year this is a congregation-wide event sponsored by Faith Development and Membership. We'll have drinks, snacks, games and a competition for those who want to test their knowledge about this important holiday celebrating the end of slavery in this nation. Contact Karen Gonzalez at [religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org) or Leana Bresnahan at [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org) for more information.



### BUUKies June Read - "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks. We will meet on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm.

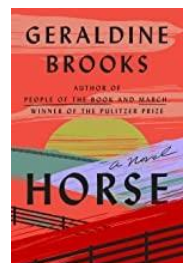
[River BUUKies Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

One tap mobile +13017158592,,92657017488#,,,\*746613# US (Washington DC)

BUUKies June read is from a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, "Horse" is a sweeping story of spirit, obsession and injustice across American history.

A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: Brooks braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across 3 eras of American history:

Kentucky, 1850: An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South.



New York City, 1954: Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a nineteenth-century equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance.

Washington, DC, 2019: Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly connected through their shared interest in the horse—one studying the stallion’s bones for clues to his power and endurance, the other uncovering the lost history of the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to his racing success.

Steve Jens-Rochow [BUUkies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:BUUkies@riverofgrassuu.org).

**ROG FALL FUNDRAISER:** The 2 of Us presents Bossa-Novas, Boleros & Ballads “second edition”.

Following the well received concert of 2022, the duo “The 2 of Us” visits, through song and storytelling, some of the most beloved American Jazz Ballads, Brazilian Bossa Novas, Boleros, and Tangoes.

Check out the Youtube channel: <https://youtube.com/@the2ofusmusic>

**When:** Saturday, **September 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

**Where:** Weston Community Center - 20200 Saddle Club Rd (free parking).

**Cost:** There will be drinks and snacks. Seating is limited to the first 40 who sign up at \$30 per seat.

Buy your tickets at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z5VP/campaign/C-10TY2>

Please write THE 2 OF US on the “Note (optional)” field.



**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Give away unneeded useful stuff to places like LifeNet, Goodwill, ARC Broward, and Faith Farm, rather than putting it in the trash. Let someone else make use of it and help save the planet!

**COVID-19:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. River of Grass UU has over 3 years experience during the COVID pandemic keeping our members safe and will always look to do so as we make the transition to congregational life free from guidelines. The members of our COVID Team have the thanks of the entire congregation for all their good work taking care of us all. We honor and respect anyone's choice to wear a mask and ask all attending our Worship Services and events to consider their own health when choosing whether or not to mask. If you have any questions please reach out to our team at [COVIDteam@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:COVIDteam@riverofgrassuu.org).

To see all of the upcoming events at River of Grass, please visit the calendar on our website at [riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org).

*Announcements to be sent out in the weekly congregation-wide update should be e-mailed to [WeeklyEmail@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org)***