

Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
DAVIE, FLORIDA

MAY 2012

A TIME OF RENEWAL

Marjorie Loring, Board President



*Personal transformation can and does have global effects.
As we go, so goes the world, for the world is us.
The revolution that will save the world is ultimately a personal one.*
Marianne Williamson

Each year, we see Spring as a time for renewal. Whether that tradition comes from the Pagan observance of Beltane, the Jewish observance of Tu B'Shvat, or the Christian observance of Easter, there is threaded though all an inseparable tie that binds us to each other, to nature, and to the earth's ecology. Renewal means growth, and the Grass is growing – the River of Grass, that is!



We have more guests each week who believe they have found their spiritual home among us. We have Faith Development programs that are growing. In addition to our amazing Children's and Youth's Sunday programs, we have kicked off a new 8 week Adult Faith Development program on Wednesday evenings called "*What We Choose: Ethics for UUs.*"

We are growing in the way that we join together in community - our congregational picnic was fun and uplifting for the spirit. We are growing in our participation in service and social justice issues, and we are growing in our generosity with an increase in giving – and not just in support of this community, but to programs like LifeNet4Families who, to date, this congregational year alone, has received close to \$9,000 in financial support from our congregation to help foster renewal in the lives of others. A renewal of faith, a renewal of health, and a renewal of spirit – and that, my friends, is what we are all about!

A good quote is worth repeating...
Personal transformation can and does have global effects.
As we go, so goes the world, for the world is us.

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CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2012

12:00 noon – 3:00 pm





**REFLECTIONS NEWSLETTER:
CHANGE AT THE HELM**
Esther Sampol, Newsletter Editor

From the Editor

Our Newsletter Editor, **Bev Kaufman**, after many, many years of creative and loving service to our congregation, has decided to step down from the role of Newsletter Editor. Over the years, Bev has been a solid presence providing gentle (and creative) reminders to keep the presses rolling and on target. In fact, her superb editing skills won our publication a District Award for Best Newsletter a few years back.

As I step into this new role, joined by our Layout and Design guru, **Brit Lundell**, and two new Copy Editors, **Diane Diaz** and **Zena Tucker**, my hope is that we can continue to provide the quality newsletters for which Bev has set a high standard. As I reflect on all the wonderful issues we have enjoyed throughout the years, I realize that she is leaving some mighty big shoes to fill.

Thank you, Bev, for so many years of sharing your gift. Not only will we miss your style and talent in this role – but your unique and creative reminders about looming deadlines will be a difficult (if not impossible) act to follow.



OUR PRINCIPLES

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

OUR SUNDAY LOCATION

11850 W. State Road 84, Suite 1, Davie, FL 33325

EVERY SUNDAY

Worship Service: 10:30 to 11:30am. **Hospitality Hour:** 11:30am to 12:30pm.

Faith Development Classes: 10:45 to 11:45am

FRIENDLY REMINDERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

There is plenty of parking outside the sanctuary, but please leave the closer parking spaces for our guests and physically challenged worshippers.

All meetings are held at 11850 W State Road 84, Suite 1 in Davie unless otherwise noted.

SERVICES

May 6 *Sunday Service* with Rev. Amy Carol Webb

May 13 *Mother's Day Service* (Men's Group)

May 20 *Bridging and Affirmations* (Faith Development Committee)

May 27 *We Remember Those Who Served* (Ken Bresnahan)

River of Grass

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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Caring Kristine Barkley
Concert Aaron Stang
Community Awareness Esther Sampol
Facilities Susan Juncosa
Faith Development Karen Gonzalez & Diane Lade
Finance Scott May
Membership Leana Bresnahan
Nominating Riley Cothran
Pastoral Care Riley Cothran, Pat Katz & Marjorie Loring
Service & Social Justice Alan Meerow & Judi Oltmans
Shared Ministry Diane Lade & Janet Schwartz
Worship Kathy Jens-Rochow

IT'S ELECTION TIME!

RIVER OF GRASS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Riley Cothran, Chair, Nominating Committee

At our upcoming Annual Meeting on May 20th, we will hold an election to fill the expiring terms of four Board of Trustees positions: Treasurer, Secretary, and two trustees. Each of these positions will serve a two-year term. Please take a moment to review the brief biographical sketch of each nominee.



Maddi Gutfreind - Treasurer

Maddi has been a member of River of Grass since June 2002. She has served on the Finance and Worship Committees, been involved in the Women's Group and Adult Religious Education, facilitated a Covenant Group, and participated in many events such as the Seder, Concerts, etc. She has more than twenty years of experience—both paid and volunteer—in profit and non-profit accounting and finance. Her experience has included the full spectrum of bookkeeping and accounting functions: basic payables and receivables, financial statement preparation and analysis, cash management and budgeting, and statutory reporting. She has also served as treasurer and director of various civic and community groups.

Zena Tucker - Secretary

Zena joyfully found River of Grass in 2011 and since joining has volunteered for Service and Social Justice, the Hospitality team, choir, and congregational work-days. Native of a small town in northwest Alabama, she joined the Air Force to see the world and get an education. And she did just that: living on our West and East coasts, in the Midwest, Germany and the Azores. Since retiring from the Air Force, she has continued working as a civilian meteorologist for the government, peering at computer screens and creating briefings. She and her husband of 30 years, Rick, have two lovely grown daughters, Nicole and Lorraine. Besides River of Grass activities and work, Zena enjoys yoga, walking, reading, singing and tackling a good question.



Deb Giblin-Davis - Trustee

Deb Giblin-Davis, a native Californian, came to South Florida kicking and screaming in 1985 with a toddler in tow when her husband Rob got a job with the University of Florida. Joining River of Grass in 1999 helped her turn that screaming into cheering and kicking into dancing! Deb is currently serving on the Board and has been involved in many aspects of congregational life. The main focus of her work has been primarily with our children and youth in Religious Education and Faith Development – serving as Director of Religious Education on and off for ten years. Deb holds a Masters in Social Work and has worked with children and families in various capacities for many years. She has three beautiful children and one lovely son in-law and is still happily married (30 years now) to the same guy that dragged her east to Florida!

Tom Robinson - Trustee

A native of Philadelphia, Tom and his wife, Mary, moved their family to Florida in 1991. They became members of the River of Grass Congregation in 2007 and in 2008, after thirty-four years of service, he retired from Postal Service. Tom and Mary have three adult children, and two granddaughters. Tom recently attended a week long Southern Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience (SUULE) in Orlando and is looking forward to using his newly learned skills in a second two-year term on the Board.



RIVER OF GRASS CAPITAL FUND BOARD

Pam Schrimsher, President, Capital Fund

Nominations are open for two trustees for the River of Grass Capital Fund to be elected for two year terms at the Annual Meeting on May 20, 2012.



Please send nominations to capitalfund@riverofgrass.org or give to any current trustee (Pam Schrimsher, Alan Meerow, Roy Schwartz, Esther Sampol, Scott May, or Rob Giblin-Davis).

Nominations need to be signed by at least one member of the congregation, and members may nominate themselves. Nominations are due by May 1, 2012. For more information about the Capital Fund, please ask a trustee or email capitalfund@riverofgrass.org.



BOARD MATTERS

Susan Juncosa, Board Secretary

“*Strange women lying in ponds distributing swords is no basis for a system of government!*”

– Monty Python and the Holy Grail

We, at River of Grass, totally agree with that sentiment, and thus another Board of Trustees meeting was held on April 11. We are in the last part of the year, heading toward Annual Meeting and summer.

Special guest **Karen Gonzalez** appeared with her Faith Development Committee Chair hat on. Karen outlined the need for a ¼ time paid staffer to coordinate the Faith Development program. She noted that River of Grass has always put great emphasis on religious education programs. Historically there has been a paid staff person, with the exception of the last few years. Karen presented a comprehensive list of possible duties, dependent upon the experience of the person hired. Although details remain to be ironed out, it was determined that should a FD Coordinator be hired, they would need to start this summer and prepare for the August start of school. Most important, the Coordinator would be at work on Sunday mornings, assuring that classes were running smoothly. Recruitment would be open to members of the Congregation as well as from outside. The position would be supervised jointly by the Faith Development and Personnel Committees. After a discussion, the Board passed a motion of support for the paid staff person.

The Treasurer reported that for the nine months ending March 31, 2012, our monthly income continues to be higher than what was budgeted and expenses lower than anticipated. The result is a net gain of \$15,000 for the nine months. It was specially noted that we continue to give 50% of the plate collection to LifeNet4Families. In March we also sent them a check for \$818 representing the collections from Empty Bowls and Stone Soup Sunday. (Fiscal) year to date, we have donated \$8,726 to LifeNet4Families. Way to go, River of Grass!

The policy team presented a proposed new policy for the selection, responsibilities, and expenses associated with delegates from River of Grass to the UUA General Assembly. The Board approved the proposal and it will be appearing soon in email and in this newsletter for congregational review. Please read it carefully, folks, as this will be your chance to make changes.

Changes to *By-Laws in Article 2 – Membership* were also presented and approved by the Board. As these are proposed changes to the by-laws, they must be approved at the Annual Meeting, so you will be seeing them soon.

It appears that committees are too busy to write reports. In fact, the Board heard from only five committees this month. Well, it makes for a shorter meeting, but we hope for more information next month. This month, the spotlight was on Annual Giving. The Committee has received the majority of pledge cards and will be contacting the remaining members to round them up. The Campaign is looking promising.

Faith Development was very active with Spring Celebration, a service presented by the youth group and is planning an upcoming *Con'vention*. Facilities Committee has finished (!) the first phase of the sound panels and an extra AC drop to the kitchen was installed. Finance Committee is preparing the Annual Budget for the Annual Meeting, including the Annual Options for the Annual Debate.

Membership Committee continues to conduct classes for potential new members and plans to hold a New Member Sunday on April 29, to be followed by a potluck lunch. And the Worship Committee is planning the summer schedule, hoping to hear from some new voices. Truly, the year has been filled with some very fine and meaningful services.

The Board was very sad to receive the resignation of **Bev Kaufman** as editor of the newsletter. Bev has been the editor for more years than we could figure out and will be sorely missed in that capacity. It is hoped she will be able to find time to share some of her writings instead. **Esther Sampol** and a team of volunteers will attempt to fill Bev's place.

The Board finished the meeting with a discussion of ministerial options and the timing of approaching a minister about 'pulpit ministry'. Much will depend upon the budget as determined at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Indications from the Annual Giving campaign are that we are on target for at least the 'pulpit supply' option from the draft budget. This year, five members donated funds to sponsor extra speaking dates for a minister. The donors were contacted and they stated that they did not want public recognition.

**The Board of Trustees of
The River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Is Proud to Present:**

RIVER OF GAS



**A dinner theater/mystery production featuring
Chili, Beans, Sarsaparilla, and....**

Murder!

Saturday, June 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

Good seats are still available!

**Contact aution@riverofgrass.org for
more information on this fundraising event.**

Tickets: \$25



RIVER OF GRASS POLICY UPDATE

Janet Schwartz, Policy Team Co-Chair

At the April meeting, Board members reviewed a proposed policy on General Assembly delegates. At a previous meeting, they reviewed an update to the cash handling policy. Prior to formally approving this addition and the change at the May Board Meeting, the Board requests that you review the proposed policies printed below, and submit your questions or concerns to policy team members **Kathy Jens-Rochow** and **Janet Schwartz** (policies@riverofgrass.org). All inquiries will be reviewed by the Board prior to the final vote.

Proposed Policy Revision – Cash Handling by Members (Only item #3)

Section 8 – Finance

~~3. Envelopes shall be turned in to the Treasurer or Board Designee as quickly as possible.~~ *The sealed envelope shall be placed in the locked wall safe after the contents of the envelope have been recorded in the cash ledger book.*

Proposed New Policy – General Assembly Delegates

Section 1 – Board of Trustees

- D. The Board shall appoint General Assembly (GA) delegates.
1. By April 30 of each year, members interested in becoming a delegate will be responsible for submitting their name to the Board of Trustees for consideration.
 2. Funds budgeted for full-time GA registration fees will be divided proportionally among the appointed delegates, and will not exceed the cost of registration.
 3. Delegates traveling to GA will be responsible for their own transportation, accommodations, and meals.
 4. Off-site delegates (congregational delegates, ministers, and credentialed directors of faith development) will participate and vote in Plenary Sessions and mini-assemblies to the extent provided by the UUA resources and will be responsible for complying with the UUA requirements for participation.
 5. All delegates will be required to submit to the UUA a certified GA credential form signed by the congregation's minister or president.
 6. Delegate voting responsibility:
 - a. In UUA presidential elections, delegates will be instructed by the Board to vote for a specific candidate or to split their votes between multiple candidates. Congregational input will be gathered and incorporated into the decision.
 - b. If the congregation has not agreed on a stance for any of the other pending issues or amendments, the delegate may consult with the Service & Social Justice Committee and/or other committees which may be affected. The Board may advise the delegates to vote according to their conscience.
 7. Following their GA attendance, delegates will be responsible for submitting a timely report to the Board.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Diane Lade and Karen Gonzalez, Co-Chairs

April showers bring May flowers. And at River of Grass, April also brought a flock of fantastic Faith Development volunteers who arrived with basketfuls of eggs and goodies for our Easter Egg Hunt and Passover Pass game on April 8. We also had a long line of bonnet-topped participants stroll in our Easter Parade. Thanks to all of the parents, teen helpers, and volunteers who made it happen.



So now May has arrived. And along with the flowers, we'll have a celebration honoring our Faith Development students, their teachers, and volunteers during service on May 20. Each class will have a special presentation. And we will "bridge" our four graduating high school seniors in a ceremony that welcomes them to young adulthood, and lets them know they always will have a spiritual home at River of Grass. Please join us in congratulating them.

Want to see your kid on the big screen? We are interested in any photos you have of our children and youth participating in congregational activities (picnics, classes, or holiday parties) for an end-of-the-year slide show. Please send them to: faith-development@riverofgrass.org.

Our last day of Faith Development classes will be Sunday, June 3. But the fun continues through the summer, with a special activity offered each Sunday during Children's Fellowship. We need your talents and energy! This is a great chance to share a special skill or fun game with our young members, and to get to know them better. We are looking for Summer Sunday Fun workshop volunteers! Jugglers, painters, bakers, and Frisbee throwers: we need you! Please sign up for a Sunday by emailing us at faithdevelopment@riverofgrass.org or by checking out the poster and registration material in the hospitality area.

Finally, our hope is that we will be able to hire a much needed part-time Faith Development coordinator for our next congregational year, as our classes and program keep growing. This will be a 10-hour-a-week position, with some flexibility as to work days. Thinking ahead, if this is approved by the congregation as a budget line item at the Annual Meeting, we would love to find a teacher who has retired or is taking time off from full-time work. In anticipation, if you know a possible candidate, please email Faith Development at the email address above.

GREEK OPA DANCING PARTY

The fun starts at River of Grass at 6:30 pm on Saturday, May 19th, 2012. Come learn some lively steps with an authentic Greek Caller then spend the evening showing off your new moves - OPA! Enjoy



food and refreshments as you dance the night away! And the great news is that even if you didn't purchase your fundraising tickets at the Auction, there's still time – the more the merrier. Guaranteed to be a memorable event with your River of Grass friends! For tickets, contact **Deb Giblin-Davis** or the auction team at auc-tion@riverofgrass.org. (Donation: \$35)

WHAT WE CHOOSE: ETHICS FOR UUS

Maddi Gutfreind, Adult Faith Development



A new Tapestry of Faith program, developed by the UUA, will be taught this Spring at River of Grass on 7 Wednesdays during the months of April, May and June: April 18, 25, May 2, 16, 23, 30, and June 6. The classes run from 7-8:30 pm. One of the program's goals is to help participants examine their own ethical and moral frameworks and to clarify and expand them after reflecting on different perspectives as presented in stories and scenarios.

Although the first class was held on April 18th, there is still room for new sign ups (and drop-ins). For more information or to sign up, please contact **Maddi Gutfreind** or **Elyse Brunt** at AdultFD@riverofgrass.org.

SHARK VALLEY BIKE RIDE

Diane Lade, Full Moon Daughters Coordinator



Come ride in the light of the moon! The dUUDes and Full Moon Daughters – the River of Grass outdoor spirituality groups for guys and gals, respectively – are teaming up for a Shark Valley Bike Ride on Saturday, May 5. You’ll experience the Everglades in a new way on this special trip, as we go at night when the park is closed. You’ll see the sun set and the moon rise over the sawgrass as we pedal out to an observation tower, where tropical birds settle into the trees at evening.

The ride is on a 15-mile oval path. Those who don’t want to do the whole trek can double back to the parking lot. The Shark Valley entrance for Everglades National Park is on US Highway 41, or Tamiami Trail, about 20-25 miles west of Krome Avenue. Detailed travel directions will be provided to participants. Food will be provided, with contributions accepted.



We plan on leaving at 6:30 pm, so try to arrive at least 15 minutes early. Park along the shoulder of US 41, right outside the entrance – you will see lots of cars. Bring a bike, bug spray, light snacks and water for yourself. A flashlight is advisable, although you will not need it when you ride. Glow sticks and food will be provided with contributions to offset expenses accepted. If you need carpooling or transportation for your bike, let the organizers know and they’ll see what they can arrange. No bike rental will be available at the park, as it is after hours. **Allen Giese** and **Linda Meerow** are sponsoring this trip. Daughters and dUUDes of all ages, and their friends and family, are welcome. Please register in advance! There will be sign-up sheets in the hospitality area beginning this Sunday. Or email: duudes@riverofgrass.org or fullmoondaughters@riverofgrass.org.

'TIS THE SEASON FINALE

Roy Schwartz, Chair, Annual Giving Committee



The Annual Giving Campaign has concluded! The generosity of our congregation was demonstrated by a substantial increase in the overall level of giving, and for the first time on record, 90% of the pledge cards were returned by the end of the campaign. Way to go!

The Annual Giving Committee will now complete its charge and share the results of the campaign with the Finance Committee members who, in turn, will incorporate the total amount pledged into the proposed operating budget. After a review by the Board of Trustees, the budget will be presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting on May 20th, 2012.

I would like to thank the entire congregation for their support this year, and particularly acknowledge **Pam Schrimsher** and **Janet Schwartz** for their dedicated efforts in making the drive a success.

FAVORITES

Kathy Jens-Rochow, Women’s Group

The May meeting of the Women’s Group, being held on Monday, May 28 at 7:30pm, will focus on our favorites – favorite color, favorite song, favorite food, favorite beverage, favorite ____ (fill in the blank).



Dress in your favorite color, bring your favorite song to share, and, always welcome, bring your favorite food and/or drink.

We will also be talking about the Father’s Day service that we will lead and make plans for next year. This will be our last meeting of the congregational year. In June, we will have our Annual Spring Girls’ Night Out.

The River of Grass Women’s Group is open to all women of River of Grass and their women friends. For more information, contact **Kathy Jens-Rochow** at womensgroup@riverofgrass.org.

AND SERVICE IS OUR LAW

Judi Oltman and Alan Meerow, Service and Social Justice Committee Co-Chairs

It's time to gear up for the Letter Carriers' Food Drive Day! May 12th is going to be a busy day for River of Grass volunteers because it's the day of the Letter Carriers' Food Drive and our morning to volunteer in the LifeNet4Families pantry!

We will once again be supporting the Food Drive by working at the Inverrary Post Office. This is the 20th anniversary of the "Stamp Out Hunger" Annual Food Drive run by the National Association of Letter Carriers. We'll need lots of volunteers for this event and there are volunteer opportunities for every level: making boxes, putting the canned food items in boxes, and stacking the boxes! There will be three shifts (12-3, 3-6, 5-8) and the sign-up sheet will be available at the SSJC corner of the hospitality area. A reminder: LifeNet4Families is still in dire need of canned food donations especially peanut butter and canned meats. You can drop off your donations in the basket at the SSJC corner.



Justice Sunday was on April 15th. We had a special guest in the pulpit, Maxine Neil, from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee headquarters. Maxine first shared a story with our youth about solidarity during the "Story for All Ages." She then gave an inspiring sermon, titled "Human Rights for Females," which touched on the plight of women worldwide. She spoke about the difference that the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has made in the lives of women, from the protection of women and girls in the displacement camps of Darfur, Sudan to the establishment of housing for orphaned girls in Camp Oasis in Haiti. It was a reminder of the importance of our support of the UUSC.

We are looking for interested members of the congregation to join the New Sanctuary Movement Task Force. We are trying to determine how we can be involved in helping immigrant families impacted by deportation and other hardships which is our justice theme for the second half of the congregational year. The task force's goal is to develop an action plan. If you would like to join, please contact **Maddi Gutfreind** or email us at ssjc@riverofgrass.org.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Leana Bresnahan, Membership Committee Chair



As congregational year 2011-2012 winds down, we can all look back with happiness and satisfaction on our first full year in our new home. We celebrated four New Member Sundays from June to April, welcoming 23 new adult members and 13 children and youth, quite a healthy growth rate for any congregation.

Just as satisfyingly, our new members have become well integrated into congregational life: teaching children and adult faith development classes; serving coffee during hospitality hour; singing in the choir; taking photos of congregational events; running the sound board on many Sundays; working on social justice projects; giving a sermon; agreeing to stand for election as an officer on the Board of Trustees for the new congregational year; attending services, participating in small groups; and showing their smiling and enthusiastic faces!

While I am sure I have missed some of these active new members' contributions, suffice it to say...they have enriched our congregational life tremendously already. Not to mention the joy so many of us feel when we see all those young kids gathering on the carpet for the *Story for All Ages* during worship service. From those of us who have been around for a while to those of you have just joined us...welcome, welcome, welcome. We look forward to many years in community with you.

If you love to meet and to talk to people, and if you would like to serve River of Grass by doing so, the Membership Committee is looking for you! We are looking forward to establishing (and in some cases, re-establishing) several activities (like Second Sunday Lunches and Circle Dinners) next year, and we will need some fresh energy to make it happen. Please contact Membership Chair **Leana Bresnahan** at membership@riverofgrass.org or any member of the committee (**Bridget Morris, Vickie Koutoulas, Elly Keane, Lynn O'Brien, or Janet Schwartz**) for more information on what we do and how you can help.

RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ AND COFFEEHOUSE

Gayle Giese, Concert Committee

On Friday, May 18th, the River of Grass Café and Concert Series will present **two** exciting acts: JOEL ZOSS and HUNTER ALTSCHUL.

JOEL ZOSS has enjoyed a following as a master songwriter since Bonnie Raitt recorded his “Too Long at the Fair” and “I Gave My Love a Candle.” His songs have sold millions of copies, earning him two gold records, and have been acquired and licensed by institutions as diverse as MUZAK and the Smithsonian Institution. He is a National Endowment for the Arts Fellow of Creative Writing and a PEN short story award winner. Joel has appeared with B. B. King and has performed and recorded with artists such as James Taylor, David Bromberg, Bonnie Raitt, John Hartford, Paul Butterfield, David Sanborn, and Todd Rundgren. Listen to his music here: [Joel Zoss](#)




A unique personality, with all the magic and mystery and mischievousness of the classic troubadour. The melodies will haunt you. His lyrics are first-rate poetry. —*The Village Voice*



HUNTER ALTSCHUL is a twenty year-old singer-songwriter who is emerging as one of Southeast Florida's new shining stars. He has already produced several CDs. Inspired by the Shins and Bon Iver, he blends the struggle of twenty-something angst with the longing of adulthood paradoxes to create musical visions the audience both floats within and through. Listen to his music here: [Hunter Altschul](#)

“Hunter is already writing material that sounds like it came from someone twice his age!”
—*The Bill Murphy Show*


 Tickets: \$ 15.00 Advance Purchase (\$20 at the door)
 Doors open at 7:30pm. Music starts at 8:00pm
 Save \$\$ and pay in advance at the River of Grass [website](#)
 Come hungry!
 Our creative River of Grass chefs are preparing something *delicious!*
 Check out our River of Grass Café [FACEBOOK](#) fan page for all the latest news!



RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ: MUSIC REVIEW CORNER

by Dr. Bob (For Dr. Bob’s full review, click [here](#).)

ARTIST: TIM FARRELL

A performer is as a performer does, and perhaps the greatest tribute to a performer’s temperament and timbre is in how they play to a small audience. When playing to a large crowd, the loss of a single pair of ears is inconsequential. However, when performing to an assembly of a few, the loss of one soul can be catastrophic. This, of course, makes the historically impromptu Wallace Hartley ensemble (April 15, 1912, somewhere in the north Atlantic Ocean) the greatest band of all time as they courageously played on while their audience involuntarily disappeared all around them.

Yet, Tim was more than up to the task with both the temperament and timbre of a professional willing to entertain any audience of any size that willingly gathers around him. And, rest assured, dear reader that Tim’s warmth and fiery finger style acoustic wizardry kept all the nearby icebergs at bay, and not a single soul was lost or inattentive during the entire show.

I was first introduced to him this past Monday as a featured performer in Chrystal Hartigan’s Songwriters Showcase at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, and his solo performance at River of Grass Café last night was the main entree to the appetizer he served up earlier this week.

All in all, Tim Farrell presented a musical feast last night that he shared graciously amongst a few. But not a single note was wasted and there were no leftovers. Personally, I’ll add this to my lucky list of experiencing Genesis live during their first U.S. tour with Phil Collins as lead singer play to a crowd of two hundred (somewhere in Pennsylvania, 1976), and the Gregg Allman Band play to a crowd of nine (Fort Lauderdale, 1986). And best of all, unlike those who attended Wallace Hartley’s performance, I’m still here to write about it.

(Dr. Bob has a long and distinguished career in the folk music community. He is a singer/songwriter/reviewer who leads open mics at Your Big Picture Cafe in Davie and other venues. He is well-known in South Florida folk music circles.)

CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC



Our Congregational Picnic was held on Saturday, March 31, 2012 – and a great time was had by all. Luckily, the event was captured in pictures (thanks to **Elyse Brunt**) and, if you weren't able to attend, you can see for yourself that we had some pretty impressive hula-hUUping, Jenga competitions that kept everyone on the edge of their seats, and even a peaceful UU water balloon toss.

MAY 2012



Tue.	1st	4:00-7:00pm	River of GREENS
Wed.	2nd	7:00-8:30pm	Ethics for UUs
Thu.	3rd	6:30-8:00pm	Facility Rental (Yoga)
Sat.	5th	9:00am-12noon 6:00-11:00pm	Congregational WorkDay Full Moon Daughters & dUUs - Shark Valley
Sun.	6th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45 am 11:30am-1:30pm 12:00 -8:00 pm	Sunday Service Sunday Classes Membership Committee Facility Rental (Wedding)
Wed.	9th	7:00-10:00pm	Board Meeting
Thu.	10th	6:30-8:00pm 7:00-9:00 pm	Facility Rental (Yoga) Men's Group
Sat.	12th	9:00am-12noon 12:00-8:00pm 10:00am-12 noon 6:00-10:00 pm	Life Net 4 Families Volun- teer Day Postal Food Drive Wild Pine Covenant Group Facility Rental (Contra Dancing)
Sun.	13th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45AM 11:45-12:15pm	Sunday Service Sunday Classes Board Report Back
Tue.	15th	4:00-7:00pm	Newsletter Deadline River of GREENS

Wed	16th	7:00-8:30 pm 7:00-9:00 pm	Ethics for UUs bUUKies Book Group
Thu.	17th	6:30-8:00 pm	Facility Rental (Yoga)
Fri.	18th	8:00-10:00 pm	River of Grass Café Event: Hunter Altshul and Joel Zoss in Concert
Sat.	19th	6:30-10:00 pm	Auction Event: Greek OPA! Party
Sun.	20th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45am 12:00-3:00 pm 12:30-3:00pm	Sunday Service Sunday Classes Congregational Annual Meeting Swamp Rose Covenant Group
Tue.	22nd	7:00-9:00pm	Women's Group
Wed.	23rd	7:00-8:30pm	Ethics for UUs
Thu.	24th	6:30-8:00pm 7:00-9:00 pm	Facility Rental (Yoga) Men's Group
Fri.	25th	7:00-9:00pm	Spiritual Arts Group
Sun.	27th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45am	Sunday Service Sunday Classes
Tue.	29th	4:00-7:00pm	River of GREENS
Wed.	30th	7:00-8:30pm	Ethics for UUs
Thu.	31st	6:30-8:00pm	Facility Rental (Yoga)

At River of Grass, we encourage everyone to find his or her own path to spiritual growth, even when it involves water balloons!



JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

Fri.	1st	Summer Issue of Reflections Newsletter (Summer Break – July & August)
Sat.	2nd	Board Presents: River of Gas Saloon Murder Mystery Event
Sun.	3rd	New Member Sunday
Sun.	17th	Board Report Back
Wed.	20th-	UUA General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona
Sun.	24th	