

# Reflections

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

JANUARY 2013

## MINISTER'S CORNER

### DON'T READ THIS ARTICLE!

by the Reverend Amy Carol Webb, Minister



**W**ait ... are you reading this anyway? Couldn't help it, huh? Well, you've just proven a feature of our human nature called "Ironic Processing" noted by 20<sup>th</sup> century social psychologist Daniel Wegner. "Ironic Processing" is the process whereby attempts to suppress a thought makes that thought all the more persistent.

Couple this with first century philosopher Aristotle's conclusion that "nature abhors a vacuum."

Now consider the tradition of making New Year Resolutions, and here's what you get: generally, a tendency toward chronic failure. Why?

## IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Services</i> .....	2
<i>From the President</i> .....	3
<i>Board Matters</i> .....	4
<i>Committed Couples</i> .....	4
<i>Enrichment Group</i>	
<i>Auction</i> .....	5
<i>Faith Development</i> .....	6
<i>River of Grass Café</i> .....	8
<i>Nominating</i> .....	8
<i>Facilities</i> .....	9
<i>bUUKies</i> .....	9
<i>Full Moon Daughters</i> .....	10
<i>and dUUdes</i>	
<i>Service &amp; Social Justice</i> .....	11
<i>Membership</i> .....	12
<i>Women's Group</i> .....	12
<i>Calendar</i> .....	13
<i>Conference</i> .....	14

## REV. AMY WEEKEND FOR JANUARY



Rev. Amy has been asked by Occupy Washington D.C. to use her song "STAND!" for their Inauguration Day 2013 March and Rally theme – and to go there to sing it for their Action on President Obama's second inauguration day! What an honor!

Since this falls on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> – her regular River of Grass weekend, we will swap weekends this month and **Rev. Amy will be in the pulpit on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**, instead.

Stay tuned for programming for Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>! Be sure to check your weekly email updates for more information.

It seems to me most of our New Year Resolutions tend to be more negative than positive in nature - even when we frame them positively. Think about one of the most popular and prevalent resolutions – "I Will Lose Weight". While that statement is framed positively – as an "I Will" – the underlying feeling may be negative: the notion of deprivation, of doing without food and flavors we desire, of negative body image or declining health.

For some of us the "I Will Lose Weight" resolution might as well be said as, "Don't Think of Cheesecake!" That's the Ironic Processing element of the Resolution Failure equation.

What is the Aristotelian vacuum element? Psychologically speaking, the fact that taking cheesecake (the unhealthy) component out of our lives without replacing it with a positive component leaves a vacuum Nature will rush to fill with something, anything, we might deem satisfying, especially in a moment of emotional vulnerability. I don't know about you, but more than once in my life, I turned to cheesecake for comfort. Except it didn't really work. At least not for more than a minute or two.

(Continued on page 2)

## MINISTER'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

It simply doesn't work to only declare against that which we wish to change. We must simultaneously replace the negative with a positive we wish to realize – not by hope but by action. The only real way to eradicate a bad habit is to put a good one in its place.

So what's a well-intentioned New Year Resolution-maker to do?

Here's a starting place: "I will begin to love myself as I am – a child of the Universe as perfectly made as the blossoms perpetually brightening this verdant land of flowers I call my home." Learning to love ourselves in league with the best of creation, cheesecake can take its proper place in the spectrum of personal pleasures, somewhere far below the balance, health and the inner calm my truest self desires foremost.



May 2013 be a year of health, hope and happiness for each of us, and for our River of Grass home.

Glad you didn't read this article.

## 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.

## JANUARY SERVICES

Jan. 6 Tret Fure, Singer/  
Songwriter

Jan. 13 Rev. Amy Carol Webb

Jan. 20 Marjorie Loring

Jan. 27 David Roth, Singer/  
Songwriter

## River of Grass

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Phone 954-723-7877

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### Newsletter

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Shared Ministry ..... Diane Lade &  
Janet Schwartz  
Stewardship ..... Troy Gies &  
Pam Schrimsher  
Worship ..... Kathy Jens-Rochow

## YOU ARE WHAT YOU GIVE

Marjorie Loring, Board President



*We need to give each other the space to grow, to be ourselves, to exercise our diversity. We need to give each other space so that we may both give and receive such beautiful things as ideas, openness, dignity, joy, healing, and inclusion.*

~Max de Pree

**A**t the start of the New Year, while we are busy with all of those resolutions on what we will do to better our lives and our health, River of Grass will be widening its circle of giving, and providing us all with the opportunity to better the lives and health of others as well. The driving force behind this bold step into 2013 is ... our youth.

In an ongoing effort to involve our youth in service and social justice issues, the Board reached out to them and asked them to research and choose an organization for our congregation to support that they felt had an impact on their lives and their future. The deal on the table was that for one week a month, the ½ plate donation would go to their cause – but first they had to work for it, and sell it to the Board as a worthy cause.

Here were the requirements:

One organization must be chosen for the remainder of this congregational year.

- ◆ The organization must be humanitarian (helping *people* in our community).
- ◆ The organization must be *local* (so that the youth can also be a physical presence through volunteering).
- ◆ The organization must be *qualified* (vetted - evaluated and credentialed).
- ◆ The Board of Trustees must *approve* the organization chosen.



g r o w

And here was the process:

- ◆ First, youth leadership would look for current needs in our local community and recommend to the youth some local organizations that are addressing those needs.
- ◆ Second, youth leadership would discuss these organizations with the youth.
- ◆ Third, the youth would research the organizations: who they are, what they do, what are the volunteer opportunities, and how do they fit within the scope of our principles and purposes regarding the services they provide and to whom?
- ◆ Fourth, the youth would rate the organizations discussed and vote for their top two.
- ◆ And, lastly, a proposal to support their first choice with all of the information gathered above would be submitted to the Board for review and consideration.

As you will see from our Board Matters report, starting this month, the Board has approved that ½ the undesignated funds in the 4th Sunday offering be donated to ARC Broward. Be sure to read about ARC Broward and the Youth Group Proclamation in that article. Take the time to talk to the youth about why they chose this organization and how it touched their lives. You will be impressed!

I am proud that our youth have taken the initiative to look at what community outreach means to them. I look forward to seeing them grow as UUs as they step out to engage with intention as volunteers in their outreach of choice.

## BOARD MATTERS

Zena Tucker, Board Secretary



In last month's newsletter, I reported that we were asked by our youth to find another charitable organization (besides LifeNet4Families) to donate ½ the plate offering for the 4th Sunday service. The intention is to involve our youth more in congregational activities and encourage philanthropy in our youngest members.

After much discussion and fact finding, the board accepted our youth's nomination of ARC Broward, Achievement and Rehabilitation Incorporated. Serving South Florida for more than half a century, ARC Broward has been providing services to "children and adults with Autism, Down Syndrome, and other intellectual disabilities – and other challenges. ARC Broward also "operates a Community Mental Health Center

that offers outpatient services including individual, family and group therapy as well as psychiatric assessments and medication management for children and adults with severe and persistent mental illness." The board members were very pleased with this selection and voted to begin this month and continue through the congregational year.

### River of Grass Youth Group Proclamation

"We The People of the Youth Group of River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation do hereby request that the River of Grass Board of Trustees accept our proposal that ½ of the collected plate of the last Sunday of each month (4th Sunday) go to supporting the non-profit organization called ARC Broward."

We will be learning more about ARC Broward from our youth in the coming days and months. To learn more about this organization now, please click [here](#). (To be clear, the other Sunday Services' plate offerings will continue to go to LifeNet4Families, a community kitchen and emergency food pantry for the less fortunate in our community.)

Another exciting decision was completed at our last meeting. The board agreed for River of Grass to "sponsor" a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry. A long time member, [Deb Rostorfer](#), has completed many of the requirements towards becoming a minister: attending seminary and working with an experienced minister, to name a couple. The UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee requires a sponsor congregation for all aspiring ministers. As her sponsor, River of Grass will ensure familiarity on the part of the new minister with UU congregational life and take a responsible role in her preparation and assessments. For more information on this process, click [here](#).

Finally, and also with much excitement, we are planning great events in the near future. The River of Grass Annual Auction is on Saturday, February 2nd 2013 and will be a delightful evening of fund-raising and fellowship. Be sure to purchase your tickets early!

Our mid-year congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 24th, 2013. We will review activities and finances to ensure we are making progress towards our goals. Please make plans to attend this important meeting.

## COMMITTED COUPLES ENRICHMENT GROUP

**Date:** Sunday, January 13, 2013 from 12-4pm with lunch



Are you in a committed couple relationship and want even more from your good relationship? Bring your partner to our workshop and begin the process of greater communication and affection.

Open to River of Grass and the community. (Childcare provided if reserved in advance.)

Led by [Kristine and Kip Barkley](#), [Pam Schrimsher](#) and [Grant Basham](#), with support by [Patty and Mike Miller](#), [Deb and Rob Giblin-Davis](#), and [Scott May](#) and [Carolyn Sant Angelo](#).

Please contact [Pam Schrimsher](#) ([hospitality@gmail.com](mailto:hospitality@gmail.com)) to reserve your spot.



**Our Annual Auction is just  
FOUR weeks away!**

**SAT. FEBRUARY 2, 2013**

**This is our biggest fundraiser  
of the year!**

You have an opportunity to support our beloved River of Grass community as we continue to be a much-needed presence in western Broward County, offering a liberal religious home to all who enter through our doors - while having a fun evening of dancing, dining, and bidding with friends.

Do you know what it takes for this event to be a success? **YOU!** We need your donations now for the Auction Catalog: parties, services, jewelry, gift certificates, baskets filled with goodies, works of art or whatever else you think would make a great auction item!

Our ticket price has remained the same - \$45 and tickets are now available!  
Hurry and get yours before we sell out!



**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR RIVER OF GRASS!  
DONATE *and* PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

**To buy your tickets, click [HERE](#).**

**Invite family and friends, too!**

For more information or to donate an item, please contact **Esther Sampol** at [auction@riverofgrass.org](mailto:auction@riverofgrass.org).

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## NEW BEGINNINGS

**Christy Shultz, Faith Development Coordinator**

**T**he New Year is upon us and it is time to sit down and meditate on our lives. It is time to hit the refresh button and insert new energy, new spirit into ourselves, our homes, our families, and our communities! Instead of mourning the past and dwelling on what we haven't done, or should have done, let's embrace the present moment and spend it in love and peace. According to the Mayan calendar the new age has begun – the old world has ended; let's begin the age of love and forgiveness.

Reverend Amy spoke to us about the “Power of One” during service after our spectacular Christmas Pageant on December 16<sup>th</sup>; she reminded us that we, each of us – young or old, have the power to make good in the world and to make a difference. Let's Do It!



December was full of light, remembrance, and celebration; we were reminded to cherish each other and our lives and to celebrate the light and the love of family and friends! We celebrated in so many ways...

- ◆ On December 7<sup>th</sup> we gathered together for an evening of fun, food, and festivities for our annual Holiday Gathering (thank you team). Christmas ornaments were lovingly painted with chalices, red noses were glued onto palm frond reindeer, dreidels were created and eaten and yummy homemade sugar cookies were decorated with icing and sprinkles! The Latkes were fried up in the kitchen as families mingled and ate and sang winter songs. We decorated our beloved space with wreaths, lights, and a live tree donated by the Gonzalez family. The big surprise was when Santa Claus stopped in for a quick photo session and gathering with the children!!



- ◆ We continued the holiday festivities with our yearly Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. We put Reverend Amy's creation, “Raphaella, the Herald Angel” on stage with music, children, and much love and merriment! It was fantastic...all the children, actors, choir and crew did an incredible job and made it a wonderful, love-filled day full of song and a great many gorgeous angels! (see pictures on the next page.) December 16<sup>th</sup> was also a day of remembering – remembering the children in Newton, Connecticut and their families. Each child that came to service decorated a heart and put their name on it and the hearts were sent to the families in need of love and support. Let's continue to love and support each other in this New Year.

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)



- ◆ The Youth Group has been continuing to meet every Sunday from 12-1pm. They joined with the youth of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Miami for a holiday outing to Santa's Enchanted Forest and an overnight lock-in at UUM.



The New Year will give us many Sundays to gather as community, to teach our children well and to continue on our quests to learn more about each other and ourselves.

Look for the continuation of our regular Sunday School Classes, as well as some special Rites of Passage Programs that will begin in the Spring of 2013: **Principle Pals for Early Elementary, Kindlers of the Flame for Late Elementary, and Affirmation for the Youth Program (Teens)**. These special programs happen every other year. *Rites of passage are programs of choice. It is up to the child and his/her parent to determine if they want to participate.* The Faith Development Team will let you know when the programs will begin!

Thank you for all your donations in December for the Animal Shelter; the animals will be happy and warm! "Giving" was definitely the theme for the season...our Angel Tree was a success; we collected wonderful gifts for children in need! Your generosity and love is greatly appreciated and surely put a smile on a little angel's face!

## RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ AND COFFEEHOUSE – FRIDAY, JANUARY 25TH – 8:00 PM

**R**ichard Smith was the 2001 National Fingerstyle Champion. This is a concert you can't miss! But wait, there's more! Chet Atkins said of Richard, "[He's] the most amazing guy I know on guitar. He can play anything I know, only better."

Richard has toured around the world, surprising audiences everywhere with his genius, showcasing a repertoire spanning an incredible range of musical styles from country, bluegrass, mainstream jazz, modern pop and rock, to classical guitar. Richard also plays several of John Philip Sousa's marches and, incredibly, comes close to sounding like an entire marching band! In 1999, Richard married the very accomplished cellist Julie Adams, who was classically trained at the Interlochen Center for the Arts and the Cincinnati Conservatory. Julie has won many competitions and played in a wide variety of musical settings. When they play together, it's magic. Listen at: [Richard and Julie](#)

Mark your calendar! Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. **To purchase tickets, please click [here](#).** Purchased tickets will be held for you at the front door on the night of the performance.

Doors open at 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8:00 pm. Drinks and delicious food from our River of Grass Café chefs are available for purchase. Come hungry and bring your friends!



*Richard and Julie Smith*

## UPCOMING CONCERTS

**Bob Sima** – Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> – a touring singer-songwriter with a warm and powerful voice.

**Karen Mal** – March 15<sup>th</sup> – singer-songwriter/instrumentalist with a beautiful voice and a Celtic touch.

**Amy Carol Webb** – April 12<sup>th</sup> – singer-songwriter who touches our hearts with each special song.

**Janis Ian** – May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – amazing renowned entertainer, best known for her Grammy hit songs “At Seventeen” and “Society’s Child.” Get your **Janis Ian** tickets now for Friday, 5/3 or Saturday, 5/4. Get ready to rock the River of Grass house! [Click here for tickets.](#)

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Linda Meerow, Chair**



**T**he new Nominating Committee will begin the process of selecting a slate of candidates to fill the board positions of president and vice president along with three trustee positions.

All positions are for a two-year term beginning July 2013; the positions will be voted upon at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

The newly elected board members will join **Tom Robinson** (trustee), **Zena Tucker** (secretary), and **Maddi Gutfreind** (treasurer).

If you would like to be considered for the available positions or have any suggestions for us as we proceed, please speak to any member of the nominating committee. The committee members are **Gayle Giese**, **Linda Meerow**, **John Perez**, **Mindy Kaufman**, **Lynn O'Brien**, and **Dave Katz**. Our first formal meeting will be held in mid-January 2013.

I am sure the entire congregation will join us in appreciative recognition of the current board members who have completed a two-year term and will thus retire from the board unless they seek another term. These dedicated people are **Marjorie Loring**, our current president; **Ken Bresnahan**, our current vice president; and current trustees **Deb Giblin-Davis**, **Diane Diaz**, and **Grant Basham**.



## HOME IMPROVEMENT

Susan Juncosa, Facilities Chair



*Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.*

~Mohammad Ali

Calendars and seasons sometimes seem out of whack. For those of us who grew up “up north” this seems especially true at this time of year. Up north, Winter is a time to bundle up, stay inside and slow down. But here in southern Florida, we finally get to go outside and come out of hibernation from our air-conditioned buildings.

So – no snuggling up and relaxing for us.

If you take a look at the congregational and committee calendars, you will find that we are just hitting our stride for the year. There are concerts, conferences, and committee meetings galore. Behind all of these activities is a very special committee that keeps this facility functioning and usable – the Facilities Committee.

Perhaps you think the Facilities Committee is just a group of people who like to build things or fix things that have broken. They are certainly that – but so much more. Here’s what is coming up in the next few months:

- ◆ Finish repairs needed due to the Great Flood: finish painting the multipurpose room and installing the cove molding along the baseboards;
- ◆ Second Annual storage room cleanout day – we’ll get the auction and holiday bins re-stored, evaluate contents and possibly even get rid of some things;
- ◆ Kitchen cabinets – we have several donated cabinets to install;
- ◆ Chair cleaning – a number of our sanctuary chairs need to have their fabric cleaned;
- ◆ Design and construction of some portable display racks;
- ◆ Installation of one or more ‘flying battens’ which will allow easy hanging of banners and other items;
- ◆ Inventory – we have a computer program which allows storage of photos and paperwork associated with an item; and
- ◆ The ever-popular repair of existing furnishings.

This schedule is ambitious, and how much gets done really depends upon participation. To that end, I extend an invitation to all to join us for any or all of the projects. If the usual first Saturday morning of the month doesn’t fit your schedule, or perhaps only one task tickles your fancy, you could still work on a project at a time convenient to you. Committees, Small Group ministries, and interest groups who would like to give back to River of Grass could take on an in-house service project. Please contact me at [Facilities@riverofgrass.org](mailto:Facilities@riverofgrass.org) if the time is right for you to lend a helping hand.

## BUUKIES BOOK GROUP

Diane Diaz, Coordinator

**bUUKies Announces Unitarian Universalist “Common Read”**

*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, by civil rights attorney, Michelle Alexander, has been selected as the 2012-13 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Common Read.

The author asserts that crime-fighting policies and systems in the U.S., such as the “war on drugs” and the incarceration system, disproportionately and intentionally affect Americans of color. She describes multifaceted, lifelong discrimination and disenfranchisement that affect people who are branded “felon.”

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.

Copies are available from the UUA bookstore, as well as from e-book sellers and the public library. Also, check out the UUA discussion guide, available on the UUA website, and the Facebook group called UUA Common Read Lab for information how to spread awareness and foment discussion of action steps for people of faith.

Read this important book and come join the bUUKies for a discussion tentatively set for mid-March. Keep posted for more details and a March meeting date.



## CONGREGATIONAL EVENT – FULL MOON DAUGHTERS AND DUUDES

Diane Lade, Full Moon Daughters Coordinator

Once again, it's time to ride in the light of the moon! See the Everglades by night during our somewhat annual **Shark Valley Bike Ride** on Saturday evening, January 26th. This 15-mile loop ride will take you past alligators paddling through the river of grass and trees filled with sleepy tropical birds, as you watch the sun set and the moon rise. There will be a stop midway for snacks and conversation.

The event is co-sponsored by the Full Moon Daughters, our congregational outdoor spirituality group for women and girls, and their male counterpart, the dUUdes. All are invited. You will need your own bike as Shark Valley rentals are closed in the evening. But sometimes, we can find a loaner. Please watch the weekly electronic update for details.

Here we are, last year, enjoying the ride!



And earlier in the month: The Full Moon Daughters will go on a **Morikami Museum Walk** on Saturday, January 12th. Come enjoy these beautiful gardens in Delray Beach, designed by Japanese masters, as well as the museum, gift shop, and a pay-for-your-own lunch in the Morikami's award-winning café. Admission is \$13 per adult, plus tax. This event is open to River of Grass women and girls, their friends and family. RSVPs are required.

For more information on the Shark Valley ride and the Morikami Walk, or to sign up for these outings, email: [fullmoondaughters@riverofgrass.org](mailto:fullmoondaughters@riverofgrass.org).

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## SERVICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Judi Oltmans and Steve Jens-Rochow, Co-Chairs

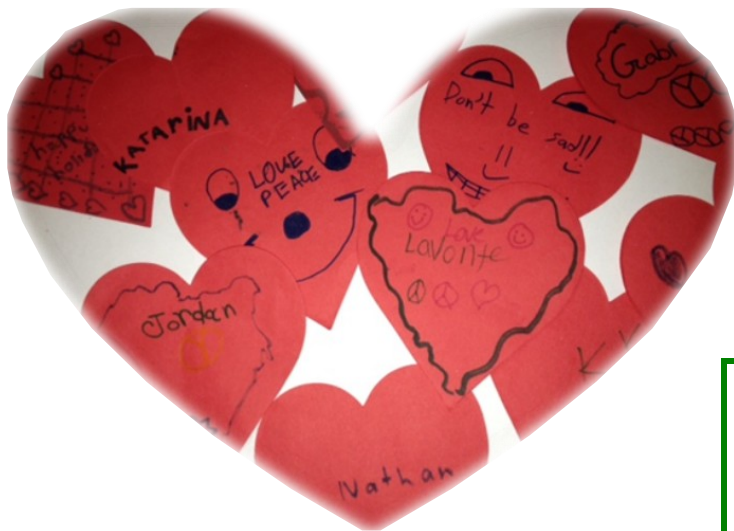
Following up the Southeast Cluster Annual Meeting held on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 on Reproductive Justice, the Service and Social Justice Committee will be offering the first session “Introduction: What is Reproductive Justice?” of a new curricula on Reproductive Justice.

We will discuss the distinctions between reproductive “health,” “rights,” and “justice” and open our awareness of reproductive oppressions. Our Unitarian Universalist history and faith calls us to address the chilling political debate on reproductive rights that occurred during the presidential campaign this year.

Reproductive Justice was elected the 2012-2016 Congregational Study/Action Issue at General Assembly last June. This exciting course will be offered on Monday, January 14 at 7:00 pm.

To participate in this course, please click on this [LINK](#) to download and review Session One.

On another note, angels and elves have been busy at work this season! The Broward County agency ChildNet provided River of Grass with the names of 50 foster children in need of some tender loving care and holiday cheer. All of the angels that were hung on the tree were taken and the holiday gifts suggested by the children were lovingly donated by friends and members of River of Grass.



SSJC will have a short monthly meeting at about 8:30 pm on the same day as the course on Reproductive Justice is being held: Monday, January 14.

Sandy Hook Elementary School was sent paper hearts signed by our children and youth and a card signed with blessings and words of comfort from our congregation. The hearts of those in our congregation are generous...

*(Continued from page 10)*

The Daughters, joined by the Women's Group, celebrated the Solstice on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 with a rollicking party and gift exchange. Thanks to our hostess with the mostess, Deb Giblin-Davis, and to Women's Group coordinator Ingrid Furlong. We wish all the deep peace of the winter season and a happy 2013.



If you want to be on our email string and get updates about upcoming events, please email your contact information to the Full Moon Daughters email address above.

See you on the water, along the trail and under the stars.

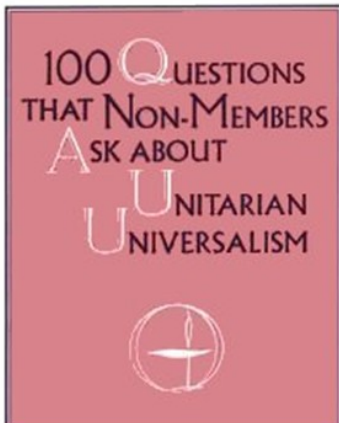
## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Leana Bresnahan, Chair

On Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, we joyously welcomed eight adults and two children into membership in our beloved community:

- ◆ Kamille Campbell and Richard Brown
- ◆ Tracey Haynes and her daughter Tai Zahra
- ◆ Alexia Heller
- ◆ Karen “Kat” Holland
- ◆ Sheryl Silverman
- ◆ Edgar Navarro and Erika Peña, and their son Pablo

Many thanks to everyone who brought food to share or to donate to LifeNet4Families or who contributed for the pizza for the New Member Lunch we shared that day. It’s always heartwarming to see how many people stay to celebrate and to see our new members being welcomed so warmly into conversation and community. So we grow our circle of caring and love, day by day, and one by one.



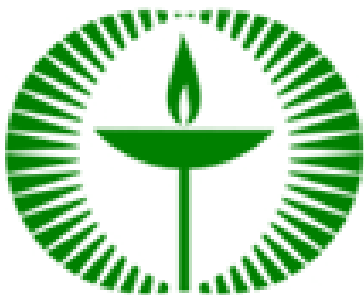
To all you who are attending worship service and/or participating in River of Grass activities and are feeling the pull of a deeper connection, please put Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> on your calendars. For on that day, we will sponsor a Pathway to Membership class, from 12 noon to 4 pm during which you can learn more about River of Grass and about the Unitarian Universalist faith.

Please look for the sign-up sheet after worship service or e-mail [membership@riverofgrass.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrass.org) to let us know you will participate! (Child care will be provided if you let us know ahead of time.)

By now, all members should have received via e-mail a PDF version of the new Member Photo Directory which we have labored mightily to put together for you.

Many thanks to Kathy Jens-Rochow, Vickie Koutoulas, Lynn O’Brien, Monica Dyer, Elyse Brunt, and Janet Schwartz for all their hard work on making this beautiful product. Please let us know if you have not received it, or if you see any corrections that need to be made. We will continue to update this and hope that it will be a tool we can all use to know each other better as we grow.

Many blessings in this New Year 2013!



## WOMEN’S GROUP

Ingrid Furlong, Coordinator

Compassion is the virtue of empathy for the suffering of others. It is regarded as a fundamental part of human love, and a cornerstone of greater social interconnection and humanism —foundational to the highest principles in philosophy, society, and personhood. More virtuous than simple empathy, compassion commonly gives rise to an active desire to alleviate another’s suffering. In ethical terms, the various expressions down the ages of the so-called Golden Rule embody by implication the principle of compassion: *Do to others what you would have them do to you.*



Come join the Women’s Group on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to explore the role of compassion in our lives.

# JANUARY 2013

Tue 1st		<b>Happy New Year!</b>
Thu 3rd	7:00-9:00pm	Writer's Group
Sat 5th	9:00am-12n	Facility Work Day
Sun 6th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45am 11:30am	Sunday Service Sunday Classes Blood Drive
Mon 7th	7:15-9:00pm	Finance Committee
Wed 9th	7:00-10:00pm	Board Meeting
Sat 12th	9:00-11:45am  10:00am-2:00pm	LifeNet4Families Volunteer Day  Full Moon Daughters Mori-kami Museum Trip
Sun 13th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45am 12:00-3:00pm	Sunday Service Sunday Classes Committed Couples Enrichment Group
Mon 14th	7:00-9:00pm	Service and Social Justice Committee
Tue 15th	4:00-7:00pm	River of GREENS
Wed 16th	7:00-9:00pm	bUUKies Book Group
Thu 17th	7:00-9:00pm	Writer's Group
Sun 20th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45am	Rev. Amy Weekend Sunday Service Sunday Classes
Fri 25th	8:00-10:00pm	River of Grass Café Concert, Richard and Julie Smith
Sat 26th	5:00-10:00pm	Everglades Shark Valley Congregational Bike Trip
Sun 27th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45am	Sunday Service Sunday Classes
Mon 28th	7:00-9:00pm	Women's Group

Tue 29th	4:00-7:00pm	River of GREENS
Wed 30th	4:00-9:00pm	River of Grass Auction Setup
Thu 31st	4:00-9:00pm	River of Grass Auction Setup

## COMING UP IN FEBRUARY!

- Feb. 1 *River of Grass Auction Setup*
- Feb. 2 **RIVER OF GRASS ANNUAL AUCTION**
- Feb. 3 *Super Bowl Party – Auction Event*
- Feb. 9 *LifeNet4Families Volunteer Morning*
- Feb. 13 *Board Meeting*
- Feb. 15 *River of Grass Café Concert: Bob Sima*
- Feb. 16-17 *Rev. Amy Carol Webb Weekend*
- Feb. 16-18 *Full Moon Daughters Fort De Soto Camping Trip*



## ***“CHRISTMAS GIFT” Reservation Deadline Extended to January 15<sup>th</sup>***



### ***Healing Our World and Ourselves***

Conference February 15-16, 2013 at the [First Unitarian Church of Orlando](#)

Co-sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brevard and the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Florida

**Friday, 2:00 PM-8:30 PM, Saturday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM**

This should be an outstanding conference--transformational in many ways. See the latest information at [www.healingourworldandourselves.org](http://www.healingourworldandourselves.org), and

**REGISTER NOW—BY JANUARY 15th--**



### **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT:**

Unitarian Universalists in Florida [WHO REGISTER BY JANUARY 15th](#)

at [www.healingourworldandourselves.org](http://www.healingourworldandourselves.org) will receive a **\$75 refund** on each of the **first two rooms** booked by members of their congregation for the night of Friday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> of the conference at a hotel or motel in Orlando. We have a block of rooms reserved at the Courtyard Marriott off Rte. 408, although you are welcome to stay at any hotel of your choice (please let us know.) **The block of rooms at the Marriott expires January 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Courtyard By Marriott, 10971 West Colonial Dr., Ocoee, FL 34761

• To confirm your room(s), you must call Reservations at 1 407 573 1010 and say you want to confirm with the **Healing Our World and Ourselves** group.

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