

# Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

DAVIE, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 2014

## AWAKE!

by Rev. Amy Carol Webb

It's hard these days to keep awake. Hard to keep afloat as the tidewaters of tragedy seem to rise all around. Hard to keep balance when the relentless 24-hour media glut brings the farthest trouble to our doorstep and throws it in our faces when we dare to answer the bell. Hard to keep that door ... our eyes ... our minds ... our hearts ... open. Hard to keep faith in times like this.

Yet, it is *precisely* for times like this that people of faith are called: to answer the door to trouble and brave it together. To not only hold up a light in the darkness, but to face the darkness

itself as yet another place hope, compassion and justice may be revealed. Though spiritual seekers may quest toward enlightenment, it is often in the dark places the truth speaks.

The Buddha meditated in the caves of India. Muhammad received the Koran in a cave near Mecca. St. Francis prayed in Assisi's grottos.

In her memoir, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Barbara Brown Taylor, one of America's leading theologians, notes, "I have learned things in the dark that I could never have learned in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again .... If you are in the dark, it does not mean that you have failed," only that there is more to learn.

So goes the life of the spirit, by whatever means we may understand it.

So goes the life of a congregation, a community of light bearers and dark darers that moves forward whatever the odds and upward despite them, covenanted to walk together come what may, to link one arm together and reach out with the other that the surrounding world may know there is yet a place where hope abides and love calls all who would come inside.

This new congregational year, we set about to write the next chapter in River of Grass' story of faith and fortitude. As we lift the pen of tremendous possibility to the page before us, let us determine to make River of Grass a haven in troubled times. Not a place to hide from trouble, but a place rooted so deeply in love, in hope, in joy that trouble cannot help but give way to transformation. Let us dare to keep that door, and ourselves, open. Let us keep faith with those who came before us that we, too, might bear the flame of truth, and with those who will come after to carry on. It is no accident our Unitarian Universalist symbol is the flaming chalice.

Most of all, let us persevere as people who vow to stay awake, no matter how hard it is.



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## SEPTEMBER SERVICES



- Sunday, September 7 – 10:30am: *Faith Development*, Rev. **Amy Carol Webb**
- Sunday, September 14 – 10:30am: *Back to School: Lessons in Life*, RoG Members
- Sunday, September 21 – 10:30am: *Gathering of the Waters*, Rev. **Amy Carol Webb**  
6:00pm: *Neshamah*, a reflective and meditative evening service
- Sunday, September 28 – 10:30am: *Waltz of the Trees*, **Anne Smith**

**Rev. Amy Weekends:** *September 7 and September 14*

For a complete listing of our activities for September 2014 (and beyond), please check out our online calendar. Either click [here](#) for the calendar or go to: <http://www.riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html> for all the latest events in our congregation! Be sure to check out our [Facebook](#) page, too.



### 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 11:30 am. **Hospitality Hour:** 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

**Faith Development Classes:** 11:00 am to 12:00 noon

### 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.

## River of Grass

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Phone 954-723-7877

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### Newsletter

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Caring ..... Deb Giblin-Davis & Georgette Poland  
Community Awareness ..... Esther Sampol  
Concert ..... Aaron Stang  
Consulting Minister's ..... Diane Diaz, Committee on Ministry  
..... Esther Sampol, Leana Bresnahan, & Toni Cattell  
Facilities ..... Susan Juncosa & Ingrid Furlong  
Faith Development ..... Karen Gonzalez & Diane Lade  
Finance ..... Janet Schwartz  
Membership ..... Diane Diaz & Deb Kitner  
Nominating ..... TBA  
Pastoral Care ..... Riley Cothran, Pat Katz, & Marjorie Loring  
Personnel ..... Audrey Stang, Janet Schwartz, & Open  
Service & Social Justice ..... Rick Tucker  
Shared Ministry ..... Diane Lade & Janet Schwartz  
Stewardship ..... Ken Bresnahan  
Worship ..... Carolyn Sant Angelo

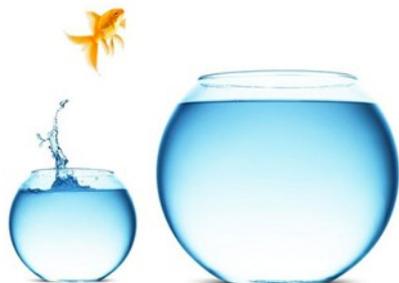
## THE YEAR AHEAD

### Marjorie Loring, Board President

Stepping into the first board meeting of the 2014-15 congregational year this past week was surreal. It wasn't because I had been away for most of the summer. Being away from River of Grass for the summer months is nothing new to me; every year, Esther and I spend a good portion of our summer traveling to visit family and friends in other parts of the country. It was the realization that I have stepped into my last year as your Board President, and as I looked around at the faces of the amazing and dedicated Board of Trustees that surrounded me, I felt both a sense of urgency and a sense of calm come over me for I believe with all my heart that we are on the right path and that the time has arrived for us to do amazing things.



I believe that this congregation is on the verge of a wonderful transformation. We are embarking on the final steps of an important inward focus by affirming our identity through the creation of our congregational packet, where we will be discerning our spiritual readiness for moving to a full time settled ministry, and we will soon be emerging from the cocoon of that internal focus to a new external focus that will ask us, "What will we do with our one wild and precious congregation?"



We will have three major congregational meetings and a candidating week this

year, and since each will require a quorum, I ask that you please keep these important dates in mind when planning your year ahead so that you can be in attendance:

#### **Sunday, November 30 through Saturday, December 6:** Candidating Week

This week is the culmination and final project of the Ministerial Settlement Committee. There will be a number of events set up throughout the week for members of the congregation and Rev. Amy to spend time together allowing congregants the opportunity to get their questions and concerns addressed before the congregation votes to call Rev. Amy into full time settled ministry at River of Grass.

#### **Sunday, December 7:** Congregational Meeting

This meeting will include the congregational vote to call the Reverend Amy Carol Webb as our settled minister.

#### **Sunday, February 1:** Mid-year meeting

#### **Sunday, May 3:** Annual Meeting

I look forward to the unveiling of all that we are, and to opening the doors to all that we are meant to be!

If you are interested, or just curious, about Board leadership and how things get done at the leadership level, members are always welcome to drop in on a Board meeting. We meet on the second Thursday of the month from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

## FULL MOON DAUGHTERS

Diane Lade, Coordinator



Oh, the places we will go!

Full Moon Daughters, the River of Grass outdoor spirituality group for women and girls, are setting their events calendar for the 2014-15 year. And we would love to have your help!

**Please join us at our annual Brand New Year brunch  
10:00 am to 12:30 pm, Saturday, September 20th  
at River of Grass**

We will swap stories about our summer vacations, catch up with old friends and meet new ones, and decide – as a group – what activities we will be offering this congregational year.

Our goal is to have one event every month, from September through June. We are a shared leadership group. So members sign up to “sponsor” activities, meaning they are in charge of getting all the details, making any required arrangements and keeping the group posted about sign ups. We like having a mixture of high and low-impact outings. Besides two camping trips, our events last year included an afternoon of hanging out at a park pavilion, a “slough slog” through the Everglades, and watching the sun rise at the beach. Garden or nature walks, bicycle rides and paddling day trips also have been popular in the past.

So please bring your ideas to the brunch, our only “committee meeting” all year. It will be a potluck, like last year. A sign-up sheet will be available.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## SERVICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Rick Tucker, Chair and Judi Oltmans, Committee Member



The SSJC is ready to get the new year started. As the new chairperson, Rick Tucker has plenty of ideas but input and issues presented by other congregants are always welcome – and needed - and would go a long way towards rounding out this year's SSJC agenda.

Rick knows he has big shoes to fill assuming the chairperson duties previously held by Steve Jens-Rochow and Judi Oltmans (though, thankfully, Judi will stay to help with LifeNet4Families). If you are interested in attending our meetings or joining the committee, the first one is on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. After that initial meeting, the committee will meet on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm.

Thank you to Toni and Sheryl, Rick, Bev, Ken and Leana, Esther, Marjie and Mattie, and Helena for giving their time to volunteer at the LifeNet4Families pantry on Saturday, August 9th. They packed up lots of boxes for needy families – in fact, almost 8 crates full of boxes!

If you would like to join us at our next LifeNet4Families Saturday Volunteer day, we volunteer there once a month. What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning - and remember, this is a great place for teens to earn their service hours. Upcoming dates are September 13, October 11 and November 8. You can sign up at the SSJC corner at the back of the sanctuary or email us at [ssjc@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:ssjc@riverofgrassuu.org).

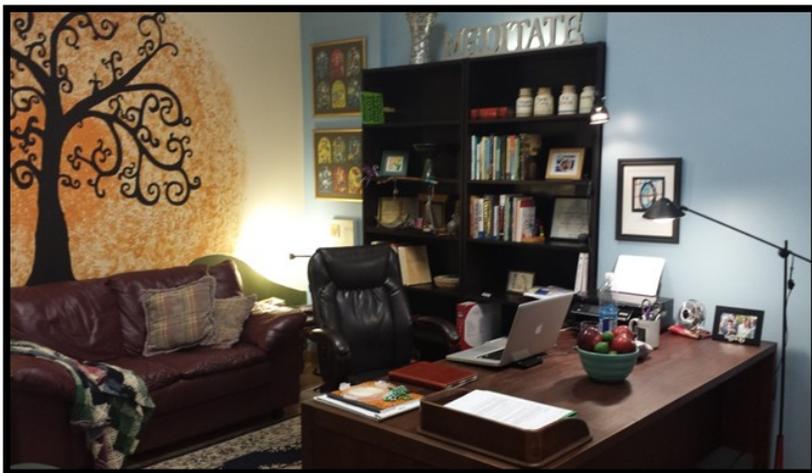
Can't make it to LifeNet? Every Sunday you can bring canned foods for LifeNet4Families to River of Grass and place them in the basket at the SSJC corner. They are always in need of peanut butter and canned meats such as tuna, chicken or beef.



## HERE WE GO!

Rev. Amy Carol Webb

I'm deeply delighted to welcome you back to start the new Congregational Year 2014-2015 as your ¾-Time Consulting Minister, complete with a newly renovated office and regular hours to spend in it! My gratitude to Susan Juncosa, Karen Gonzalez, Marjie Loring & Esther Sampol, Toni & Sheryl Cattell, Ginger Parrish and my beloved Brooke for putting their backs and hearts into creating my beautiful River of Grass homespace!



Here's how my schedule is developing for the coming months\*:

- Sundays:** 1st & 3rd Sunday morning services + 5th Sundays in November & March  
Neshamah: Evening meditation service, 3rd Sunday evenings, 6 p.m.
- Mondays:** Off
- Tuesdays:** Office Hours: 11a – 4p  
Evening appointments by request, member or committee support
- Wednesdays:** Office Hours: 11a – 4p  
Evening appointments by request, member or committee support
- Thursdays:** Office Hours: 11a – 4p  
Evening appointments by request, member or committee support
- Fridays:** Writing day (sermons, programs, newsletter, etc.)
- Saturdays:** Select Saturdays for programs, Board and committee support, pastoral care by appointment

\* *This schedule applies to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks of each month with the 3<sup>rd</sup> week off. There will be exceptions to adjust for my service to the larger UU movement a few times throughout the year, with vacation and study time factored in as well. December will be dedicated to seasonal services. If we don't have an appointment scheduled, I recommend calling the office ahead, as the Office Administrator, Sophia, will have my most current calendar.*

We have educational programming in development, so watch your weekly emails, announcements and future newsletters for information as we have it.

Meanwhile, come on by the office and celebrate with me!

## FULL MOON DAUGHTERS

*(Continued from page 3)*

If you are a newcomer to River of Grass, Full Moon Daughters is a great way to meet and build bonds with many inspirational, warm and generous women and girls. We embrace our 7th Unitarian Universalist Principle, respect for the interdependent web of all existence, through our love of nature. You do not need to be a member of River of Grass to be part of Full Moon Daughters, and you are welcome to bring female friends and family members to our events throughout the year. All ages are welcome. To get on our emailing list: Send a request to [fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org). Please include your name, email address and cell phone number.

Also, if you were on our email list this past year and don't receive a Brand New Year email by September 6th, please resend your information to the above address. The list was lost in a computer crash last year and I am rebuilding it.

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

## THE IMPORTANCE OF MISSION AND COVENANT

A Workshop with Rev. Kenn Hurto,  
Lead Executive, Southern Region of the UUA

**Morning Session:** “Whence & Whither – Why & To What End”



**Questions to consider:**

- ◆ Why do we have congregations?
- ◆ How do Unitarian Universalist heritage, values, & practices focus our Mission?
- ◆ How do we think the world will be transformed by our ministries?
- ◆ Whom and what do we serve?

**Afternoon Session:** “Lean on Me, Lean on You – Living in Beloved Community”

**Questions to consider:**

- ◆ How do we balance individual aspirations and needs with those of a beloved faith community?
- ◆ How do we reconcile divergent needs and expectations?
- ◆ How do group norms and/or behavioral expectations help or hinder beloved community?
- ◆ How do we hold ourselves and the whole community accountable to our values?
- ◆ When we are out of sync and conflict looms, how do we manage that?
- ◆ If we have broken our promises to shared values and expectations, how do we work it out and reconcile?

**T**he Importance of Mission and Covenant is the Annual Meeting of the UU SE Cluster. It is on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at the Treasure Coast UU Congregation, 21 SE Central Pkwy, Stuart, FL 34994, <http://www.tcuuc.com/>

Advance registration is \$15, and the deadline for registration is Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Please come with a congregational team; no solos please. Pre-meeting information and “homework” will be sent to participant teams before the meeting. There will be a “How did you take this home and what impact did it have?” evaluation after the Workshop.

To register, please send a check for \$15 for each team member along with the names of the team members, and their email addresses to [Kathy Jens-Rochow](mailto:Kathy.Jens-Rochow@riverofgrassuu.org), Treasurer, 1420 SW 13 Street, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312-3322.

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## THERE WAS A FARMER WHO HAD A DOG AND....



**The River of Grass Annual Auction**  
Saturday, 6 pm on March 28, 2015

**I**t's not too early to start making your list of businesses and companies to which you are going to ask for donations. If you would like to help make this year's event successful and join in all the fun, send an email to [auction@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:auction@riverofgrassuu.org) to be added to the auction committee distribution list.

Esther Sampol, Sheryl Cattell, and Toni Cattell, Auction 2015 Co-Chairs

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## A WINDOW INTO WORSHIP

### Carolyn Sant Angelo, Chair

Over the past few years, the Worship Committee (and lay-led services) have been under the leadership and guidance of **Kathy Jens-Rochow**. As **Kathy** passes the baton on, much gratitude goes to her successful and devoted efforts on behalf of our congregation!

While our Consulting Minister, the Reverend **Amy Carol Webb**, was embarking on her summer adventures, our spectacular summer services took us to vistas with many different perspectives with topics ranging from the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, to personal heartfelt views of the soul and music that inspires our hearts and minds, to a reflection on a service learning trip to Haiti and many more powerful themes! We are grateful to all of our members and guests who have offered up worship services that were worthy! For those of you who are interested in crafting your own service, the upcoming congregational year has a few openings!



The Worship Committee met in August with Rev. **Amy** and worked to discuss the organization of the liturgical calendar, hospitality, Sunday services, and non-Sunday worship services. Other topics included doing a “freshening up” of the liturgy, so look for some changes in the script and the approach to our announcements as we continue to be thoughtful about the language we use, hoping to develop a way to foster our “Community Connections.” We also hope to be more playful and soulful with our music throughout our services with some interesting styles and transitions. Feel free to discuss our rationale with any of the Worship Committee members!

A new River of Grass laptop will be in place in the next few weeks so that we can update our presentations and the use of media resources. Training on the new computer and for folks interested in joining one of our Worship Teams will be held in September. So, those of you who are interested in developing or applying your speaking skills, updating your technological gifts and deepening your connections with our wonderful Sunday services, stay tuned for info on A/V Techie training, Presentation Creation training, and a Shared Ministry Service Leader workshop!

Blessings to all! Contact **Carolyn Sant Angelo** at [worship@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:worship@riverofgrassuu.org) for more information or to share your thoughts.

## HOSPITALITY

### Bennett Lorman

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer! While you were away, there have been some changes on the Hospitality Scene:



**Tatiana Aceros** has resigned her staff position with River of Grass Hospitality/Faith Development and is taking a well-deserved vacation before assuming an active membership role within River of Grass.

Many Thanks to **Rick** and **Zena**, **Mike** and **Emilie**, and **Sheryl Silverman** (and others; you know who you are) for helping out and pitching in as needed with preparing and serving and setup and cleanup. Your help has been invaluable and very much appreciated!

However, going forward, the calendar is pretty thin. I have coverage for the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays each month and I would love to have a few more volunteers to cover the 2nd and 4th weeks on a monthly or quarterly basis.

The biggest part of the job is to “smile and wave” during hospitality time, and to deposit (in our drop box within River of Grass) the donations after everything is done.

Volunteers arrive a bit early and make sure we have fresh 2% milk and Half and Half and, of course, Oreo cookies, treats, and juice for the children (all this is reimbursable). Then volunteers help set up the tables, ready the pitchers and carafes, and put together the platters of cookies and treats. There is also a bit of light maintenance after hospitality (sweep, vacuum, damp mop, and empty trash cans; recycle contents of bins into dumpsters; and launder tablecloths and towels between uses as needed).

BUT – we do offer free training and could really use your help! Maybe this is one way that you could get involved AND get to know everyone in our community. Volunteering with the Hospitality team can offer you that!

If you are interested in being a part of our team, please contact **Bennett Lorman** at [hospitality@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:hospitality@riverofgrassuu.org) – or stop by anytime during hospitality time - to express your interest in this most valuable service opportunity!

As always, “We Thank You for Your Support”!

## BOARD MATTERS

### Zena Tucker, Secretary

Congratulations to our newly elected Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee and Settled Ministry Committee. In case you missed our June 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, here is the listing:

- ◆ President (second year): [Marjorie Loring](#)
- ◆ Vice President (second year): [Leana Bresnahan](#)
- ◆ Treasurer (two year term): [Scott May](#)
- ◆ Secretary (two year term): [Zena Tucker](#)
- ◆ Trustee (one year term): [Gary Gonzalez](#)
- ◆ Trustee (two year term): [Lynn O'Brien](#)
- ◆ Trustee (second year): [Natalie Hutton-Corp](#)
- ◆ Trustee (second year): [Audrey Stang](#)



For Nominating Committee, we elected [Michael Richardson](#), [Tom Robinson](#) and [Pixie Wright](#). (The Board will appoint three more members within the next few months.) For Settled Ministry committee, we have elected the following: [Riley Cothran](#), [Ken Bresnahan](#), [Kathy Jens-Rochow](#), [Janet Schwartz](#), [Susan Juncosa](#), [Ingrid Furlong](#) and [Toni Cattell](#).

Additionally the “Move to Amend” congregational resolution sponsored by the Service and Social Justice Committee was approved. Finally, the annual budget for 2014-2015 was approved with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  time ministry option included for Rev [Amy](#).

Many thanks to [Karen Gonzalez](#) for representing River of Grass this past summer at the UUA General Assembly (GA) 2014 in Providence, Rhode Island. She carried our banner proudly at the annual gathering of our Unitarian Universalist Association.

In other news, the board approved to share highlights of topics addressed by the board via the Members Only Weekly Email. Now members will receive this information in a quicker and timelier fashion instead of waiting for the monthly newsletter article. Additionally, our monthly board meetings have now moved to the second Thursday of the month. Our next Board of Trustees meeting will be Thursday, September 11, 2014 in the multi-purpose room.

Speaking of room, check out Rev. [Amy](#)'s cool office space. Since she will be keeping regular office hours now (see Rev. [Amy](#)'s article), the Facilities Team has repurposed the teen room into a lovely ministerial office. Many thanks to [Susan Juncosa](#), [Karen Gonzalez](#), [Ginger Parrish](#), [Marjie Loring](#), [Esther Sampol](#), Rev. [Amy Carol Webb](#) and Brooke Bell, and [Sheryl](#) and [Toni Cattell](#) for making it all happen.

Finally, the board approved the annual congregational calendar and Rev [Amy](#)'s schedule. Your board is excited about the programming for this congregational year. Here is a hint: meditation, music and community involvement. Stay tuned!

If you have any questions concerning board matters, email me at [secretary@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:secretary@riverofgrassuu.org) or better still, see you during hospitality hour.

## CH-CH-CH-CHANGES

Susan Juncosa, Facilities Co-Chair

*Turn and face the change*

– David Bowie

It doesn't seem that very long since I was writing my first articles for the newsletter about our new facility. That was back in 2011 and we had just moved in. We didn't know what to do with all the space – and we didn't have to shove all our stuff back into a box after Sunday service!

Now we're embarking on our fourth congregational year and we've kinda got the hang of this thing. We manage to have Sunday services, potluck dinners, classes and more meetings than you can shake a stick at by co-existing and sharing space. The key to this has been our flexibility – sometimes it's the furniture that moves, sometimes it's the people!

This year we have the pleasure of creating an office space for Rev. [Amy Carol Webb](#). Our minister needs a private place for thinking, counseling, writing and coming up with those amazing services. Under consideration were various places to put in some new walls, but planning, permitting and construction is going to take a while. So for the time being, the teen room has been converted into the good reverend's office.

Of course, this change has had domino effects through the back rooms and halls. The office space continues to be office and classroom space. The multipurpose room has a couch and the entertainment system. And what else is going to happen? At this time, we don't really know.



Are you interested in the discussion? Would you like to help plan the possible changes to our physical space? Your ideas and input are welcome! If so, please contact me at [facilities@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:facilities@riverofgrassuu.org).

**Be the change!**

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Diane Diaz

### FALL FROLIC PICNIC

Save the date – Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>



All River of Grass Members and their families are invited to our annual Fall Frolic Picnic on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from noon till 4pm. Once again, [John](#) and [Liz Perez](#) are hosting at their home and we look forward to their gracious hospitality. Last fall more than 85 attended and enjoyed delicious food & drink, good conversation, and the kids were cool in the pool!

The membership committee will provide the burgers, dogs (and their veggie cousins) and buns. We hope you can bring a side dish to share. Look for the sign-up sheets for appetizers, desserts, drinks and paper goods in the hospitality area.

To RSVP or for more information contact [Diane Diaz](#) or [Debbie Kitner](#) at [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org). See y'all there.

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Ginger Parrish, Faith Development Director

*Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine and at last you create what you will.*

– George Bernard Shaw

Welcome back to another exciting year in Faith Development at River of Grass! Each Sunday, our children and youth have the opportunity to engage in high-interest, thought-provoking classes in which they make friends, explore their values and beliefs, and learn about the world around them. This year, children in kindergarten through high school will focus on two themes: social justice and our Unitarian Universalist 7th principle, respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part. Some of our goals for all grade levels are:

- ◆ To foster friendships and a sense of community, both within the classroom and with the congregation at large.
- ◆ To recognize, support, and help to cultivate each child's unique interests and talents.
- ◆ To help children to become aware of challenges to social justice, at both a local and a global level.
- ◆ To develop an awareness and appreciation of social justice heroes who have come before us.
- ◆ To cultivate a sense of wonder and respect for the natural world.
- ◆ To guide children in discovering how they can apply their unique talents to make a positive difference in their community and their world.



In addition to our regular Sunday program, we will have a number of special activities throughout the year, so be sure to mark your calendar! Among these are:

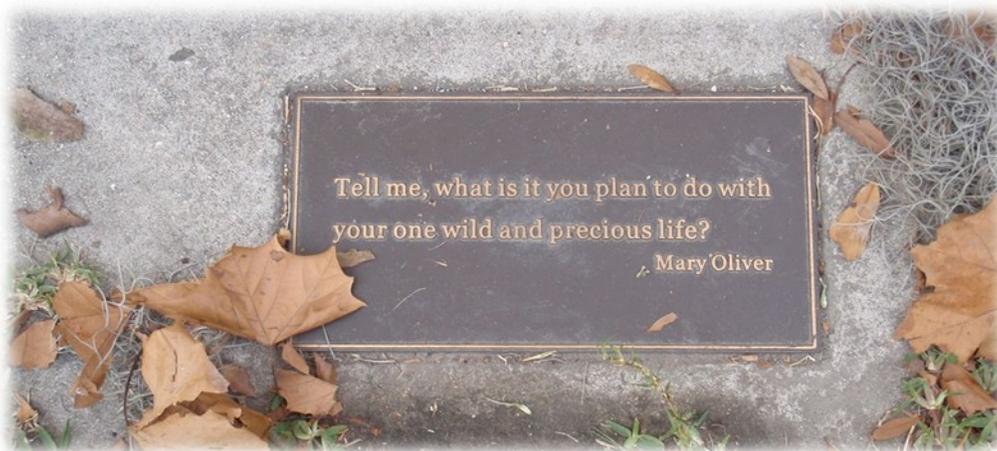
- Sunday, October 26 Spooktacular
- Friday, December 5 Holiday Movie Night
- Friday, December 12 Holiday Gathering (congregational party)
- Sunday, December 14 Holiday Pageant
- Sunday, April 5 Easter Crafts and Egg Hunt
- Friday, April 10 Passover Seder
- Sunday, May 31 Faith Development Sunday

As you can see, we're looking forward to a fun and busy year, and we hope that you'll choose to spend it in community with us. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding Faith Development at River of Grass, please feel free to contact me at [fdcoordinator@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:fdcoordinator@riverofgrassuu.org).

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## ONE WILD AND PRECIOUS LIFE

Diane Lade, Service Leader



**W**hat is your life's journey? How do you want to live? Do you have a purpose in life?

We are looking for congregational members of all ages who want to share their thoughts on these timeless questions during our special annual "One Wild and Precious Life" service. One speaker representing each decade will reflect on the question posed by UU poet Mary Oliver in her poem, *The Summer's Day*: "What will you do with your one wild and precious life?"

This service, which will be on November 23rd, has become a beloved tradition in our spiritual community. Preference will be given to those who have not spoken on this topic before. Anyone interested should contact: [worship@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:worship@riverofgrassuu.org).

## CHOIR NEWS

Anne Smith



**I** have to speak up (or sing out!) to anyone interested in joining The River of Grass Choir!

We meet every Sunday morning from 9am-10am. We

welcome all levels of singers! Our rehearsals include discussions regarding voice tone and placement, the health of the voice, posture, breathing, and the rudiments of music theory, reading notes, dynamic marks, and counting rhythms.

This year our accompanist **Gayle Giese** and I have chosen some lovely new music to challenge and inspire us. Our goal is to perform at 2 services each month. We also would like to work in one or two combined pieces with the children. I look forward to working with you and blending our sounds, voices and ideas! Please speak with me after service or send me an email with any questions: [choir@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:choir@riverofgrassuu.org).

## BUUKIES BOOK GROUP

Toni Cattell

**T**he bUUKies book group has selected the next 3 books for discussion based on recommendations from members. These readings take us through November, so keep the ideas coming for 2015 selections! I'm looking forward to some great discussions.



If you would like to join our book discussion group, please stop by River of Grass on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:15 pm. Everyone is welcome!

***Invention of Wings: A Novel* by Sue Monk Kidd.**

**Discussion:** Wednesday, 9/17/14

***Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo.**

**Discussion:** Wednesday, 10/15/14

***Andrew's Brain* by E. L. Doctorow.**

**Discussion:** Wednesday, 11/19/14

## RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ

### CONCERT SERIES OPENER – AMY CAROL WEBB

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2014 - 8:00 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM)



**A**my Carol Webb, a talented and passionate singer-songwriter and minister extraordinaire was born in Oklahoma and traces her heritage back to Native Americans through two great-grandmothers. She got her first guitar at age eleven and by fourteen she was composing and performing her own songs. She has toured many of America's most lauded festival stages and concert halls from South Florida to Texas and New England, earning her accolades as a Billboard "Act to Watch", Miami's Best Solo Musician (New Times), Best Songwriter of the South Florida Folk Festival and the praise of both regional and national press. In 2013, Amy released her 10th independent CD.

**\$15 Advance Ticket / \$20 At the Door**

For tickets, go to our website ([www.riverofgrassuu.org](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org)) and click on [Events!](#)

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**FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY  
RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ  
SEASON TICKET(S)  
FOR 2014 - 2015 SEASON**



### OPTION 1:

**Five Shows PLUS Preferred Seating for Only \$65**

**Don't Miss a Single Show of this Amazing Season Lineup!**

Click [here](#) to Purchase your Option 1 Season Ticket(s)  
and view the concert lineup

### OPTION 2:

**Four Shows PLUS Preferred Seating for Only \$50**

*NOTE: This option is available ONLY to those who have already purchased a ticket to the All You Need is Love Concert through the River of Grass Annual Auction.*

If you're already an Auction Ticket holder for the All You Need is Love Concert, you can still purchase a Season Ticket at the special price of \$50. Not only will you have Preferred Seating for All Concerts, but you will enjoy a special Gourmet Dinner (and beverage) the evening of the All You Need is Love Concert.

Click [here](#) to Purchase your Option 2 Season Ticket(s)  
and view the concert lineup

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