

# Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

DAVIE, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 2015

## **KNOCK-KNOCK: WE WERE HERE**

**Rev. Amy Carol Webb**

*In fourteen hundred ninety-two  
Columbus sailed the ocean blue  
He had three ships and left from Spain;  
He sailed through sunshine, wind and rain.*

**S**o begins the rhyme taught to us in elementary school about a brave and noble northern European explorer who sailed to this land and exclaimed, “¡Aquí está! Heeeeeere’s America!” Who then, by virtue of his people’s hard work, perseverance, courage, and ingenuity, founded a nation. Well not quite. First, he landed in the Bahamas. Second, the kindly “savages,” the Arawak, Tainos and Lucayan peoples whose home it was, had to be cheated of their goods, which they had first offered freely. And third, these same native peoples had to be “conquered” – brutally conquered.

In letters to his benefactors, the king and queen of Spain, Columbus spoke of the gifts the Arawaks brought their visitors, “... *parrots and balls of cotton and spears and many things ... They willingly traded everything they owned ...*” He then noted, “*They do not bear arms, and do not know them. Their spears are made of cane ... they would make fine slaves... With fifty men we could subjugate them all.*”

Columbus proceeded to seize control of their land in the name of Spain, followed some years later by Ponce de Leon, who claimed “La Florida,” because he landed on our eastern seaboard during the time of the Easter feast, or *Pascua Florida*. All this was done under the “Doctrine of Discovery,” a decree by 15<sup>th</sup> century Popes that empowered explorers to claim any land they came upon for the Christian Monarchs they served – no matter who or what was already there. That “doctrine” has been used for centuries since, to expropriate and colonize indigenous lands – and was upheld by the United States Supreme Court as recently as 2005 in the City of Sherrill v. Oneida Indian Nation of N.Y. case.



You likely know all that. But did you know that the 2012 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in Phoenix, AZ, passed a resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and charged UUs everywhere to learn about it and work to eliminate its influence from present-day “policies, programs, theologies, and structures of Unitarian Universalism”?

*“BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates of the 2012 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery as a relic of colonialism, feudalism, and religious, cultural, and racial biases having no place in the modern day treatment of indigenous peoples.”\**



### **IN THIS ISSUE**

<i>Services</i> .....	2
<i>Calendar</i> .....	2
<i>Board President</i> .....	3
<i>Worship</i> .....	4
<i>Fall Frolic</i> .....	4
<i>Circle Dinners</i> .....	4
<i>Game Night</i> .....	4
<i>Service and Social Justice</i> ....	5
<i>Actions of Immediate Witness</i> .....	5
<i>Black Lives Matter</i> .....	6
<i>River of Grass Café</i> .....	7
<i>Faith Development</i> .....	7
<i>Full Moon Daughters</i> .....	8

(Continued on page 4)

## SUNDAY SERVICES – 10:30 AM

- October 4, *Marjie Loring, The Fragile Art of Hospitality*  
12 noon, **Second Helping Sunday** (see Worship Committee article, page 5)
- October 11, *Amy Carol Webb, First Nations Day (Anti Columbus Day)*
- October 18, TBD
- October 25, *Amy Carol Webb, All Creatures Great and Small*



Click [here](#) for our Congregational Calendar or go to: [www.riverofgrassuu.org](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org) – click on Events – Calendar.

### 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

[www.riverofgrassuu.org](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org)

[office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org)

### Newsletter

Editor ..... Monica Dyer

Layout ..... Brit Lundell

Copy Editor ..... Diane Diaz

### Board of Trustees

President ..... Zena Tucker

Vice President ..... Esther Sampol

Secretary ..... Toni Cattell

Treasurer ..... Scott May

Trustee ..... Emilie Sayward Henry-Richardson

Trustee ..... Dave Katz

Trustee ..... Brit Lundell

Trustee ..... Lynn O'Brien

### Committee Chairs

Auction ..... Kathy Jens-Rochow & Open

Caring ..... Deb Giblin-Davis

& Georgette Poland

Community Awareness .....

Outreach/Chair ..... Sheryl Cattell

Website ..... Marjorie Loring

& Esther Sampol

Concerts ..... Aaron Stang & Rick Tucker

Facilities .....

Buildings & Maintenance ..... Susan Juncosa

Rentals ..... Ingrid Furlong

Faith Development ..... Karen Gonzalez

& Diane Lade

Finance ..... Janet Schwartz

Hospitality ..... Drea Kelly

& Bennett Lorman

Membership ..... Leana Bresnahan

Ministry ..... Toni Cattell, Diane Diaz,

Esther Sampol, & Leana Bresnahan

Pastoral Care ..... Riley Cothran & Pat Katz

Personnel ..... Marjorie Loring,

Janet Schwartz, & Audrey Stang,

Policy ..... Marjorie Loring

& Janet Schwartz

Service & Social Justice ..... Rick Tucker

Shared Ministry ..... Janet Schwartz

Small Group Ministry ..... Janet Schwartz

Stewardship ..... Kip Barkley

& Kristine Barkley

Worship ..... Carolyn Sant Angelo

## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Zena Tucker



Not every day is sunshine and roses even in the sunshine state--traffic, work deadlines, bills to pay, trouble on top of troubles. A solution to this daily grind is doing more of the things that make you happy. Here are a few of my favorites:

- ◆ Good food in the company of interesting people – like at Circle Dinners (email [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org) for more information)
- ◆ Music with a heart, like “Blue Boat Home” in our “*Singing the Living Tradition*” hymnal
- ◆ Singing a lively tune in choir, like “Mayim, Mayim”(Water Communion Service last month)
- ◆ Letting my mind wander with doodling and knowing there are other doodle-artists among us at the River (How about you?)
- ◆ Marching in a parade, like the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade last January and singing “This Little Light of Mine” while wearing a bright “Standing on the Side of Love t-shirt!
- ◆ Taking take a step toward justice by signing a petition, writing a letter to my congressman, or donating to a cause, bolstered by the knowledge of other brave UUs doing the same. (See recent PalmBeachPost article on BlackLivesMatter: “<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/crime-law/n-palm-beach-churchs-sign-supporting-black-lives-m/nYRL/>”
- ◆ Re-discovering the wonder of a child’s perspective while teaching a Faith Development class full of bright and talkative students
- ◆ Picnics in the park with women and girls who love the outdoors (email [fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org) for more information)
- ◆ Singing around the campfire under the stars – like at our last congregational campout
- ◆ Sharing meaningful conversation with people I trust – like in our affinity and covenant groups ([smallgroupministry@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:smallgroupministry@riverofgrassuu.org) for more information)
- ◆ Making a powerful, invigorating sound on a drum at our monthly Drum Circles
- ◆ Compelling and beautiful poetry and art, like is so often shared during River of Grass services
- ◆ Coffee and a treat – like after service during hospitality
- ◆ Making a difference in the Syrian refugee resettlement solution by contributing to the special collection and signing the petition (See UU Service Committee website at <http://www.uusc.org>)



Say, what makes you happy? I welcome your thoughts at [president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org).



## KNOCK-KNOCK: WE WERE HERE

(Continued from page 1)

Be it resolved, then, that Sunday, October 11, will be First Nations Day here at River of Grass, named for the precious lands we border, where native peoples lived since some 15,000 years ago – the Calusa and the Tequesta, the Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee, the Seminole and Miccosukee, the Creek and the Glades. There was no “discovery.” Indigenous peoples were here. And we still are.

\*Learn more, and find out what UU's can do at:

[www.uua.org/multiculturalism/dod](http://www.uua.org/multiculturalism/dod) and DRUUM: Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries [www.drumm.onefireplace.org](http://www.drumm.onefireplace.org)

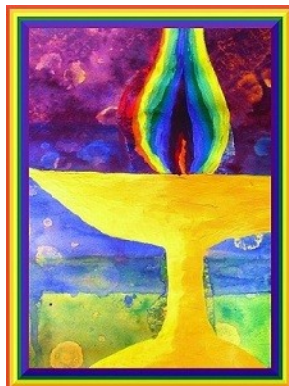
## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Carolyn Sant Angelo, chair

**N**eed another helping of River of Grass? This year on the first Sunday of each month, the Worship Committee will provide adventures in adult faith development called “Second Helping Sunday!” Join us on October 4th after service, from noon until 1:00 p.m., as we serve up our first helping. We will brainstorm meaningful UU topics and various ways to develop our personal and congregational faith. We hope to provide some serious, and not so serious, ways to connect with ourselves, our faith, and each other. This first week we invite folks to join us for a casual and simple lunch of pizza, salad and drinks. (Proceeds from any donations collected will go to LifeNet4Families.)



Unable to make it on October 4th? No worries! Join us for the next spoonful of “Second Helping Sunday” on November 1st. Contact **Carolyn Sant Angelo** at [worship@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:worship@riverofgrassuu.org) for more information!” We are looking forward to seeing you at this soulful gathering!



## SAVE THE DATE!!

**T**he Fall Frolic Picnic will be on Sunday, November 15, from 12:00 until 4:00. **John** and **Liz Perez** have again generously offered their home for the picnic. More information to follow.



## CIRCLE DINNERS ARE BACK!

By **Debbie Kitner**

**R**iver of Grass members host Circle Dinners in their homes. The host provides the main course, and guests provide drinks, side dishes and desserts. The dinners are small groups-- usually made up of six to ten people. They are a great way to get to know one another better, and enjoy great food and fun.



Please see **Debbie Kitner** after service for more information, to sign up to attend a scheduled dinner, or to host a dinner.

## GAME NIGHT IS OFF AND RUNNING!

By **Ingrid Furlong**



**P**lease come and join the fun! With the new year, comes a new schedule: **Game Night will be meeting on the 2nd Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m.** We look forward to welcoming people of all ages interested in cards, Bingo, board games, and, for the silly and adventurous, Charades and Pictionary!

Contact **Ingrid** at [Gamenight@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:Gamenight@riverofgrassuu.org) for more information.

## SERVICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

By Judi Oltmans

On Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, our 15 volunteers at **LifeNet4Families** really did show their faith by their works! There were enough of us to take on two different projects: sorting clothing and stocking the pantry. LifeNet's Chris Polzer had a special project for us. Half of our group worked on this project, sorting through clothing donations and hanging up the clothes. The other half of our crew worked in the pantry, stocking the shelves with lots and lots of donated food. We accomplished much in those two hours! Chris was very appreciative.



If you'd 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 for teens, a great way to earn service hours! Upcoming dates are October 10<sup>th</sup>, November 14<sup>th</sup>, and December 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## LIFENET4FAMILIES IN NEED OF MEN'S CLOTHING

**T**ake a minute to comb through your closets and see if you have anything to donate to LifeNet4Families! LifeNet not only provides meals and food boxes for the needy, they also supply men and women with clothing and shoes. Right now they are in desperate need of men's clothing only. Please check out the list below and see if there are any items you can provide. Donations can be brought to the Service and Social Justice corner. Thank you!

- ◆ Jeans, khakis, shorts
- ◆ T-shirts, polo shirts, short-sleeve shirts, tank-tops
- ◆ Socks, belts
- ◆ Baseball caps and visors
- ◆ Sneakers, casual shoes, sandals, flip-flops



## WHAT ARE "ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS"?

By Scott May

**G**eneral Assembly (GA), the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), offers delegates the opportunity to participate in the high-energy "Action of Immediate Witness" (AIW) process. The AIW process enables Unitarian Universalists to respond quickly to social issues deemed urgent, by adopting AIWs that express the conscience, and carries the authority, of the delegates at GA. AIWs are the product of considerable thought, collaboration, and commitment, and bring to life the values of Unitarian Universalism. At GA 2015 in Portland Oregon, 3 AIWs were adopted:

- ◆ Support the Black Lives Matter Movement
- ◆ Act for a Livable Climate
- ◆ End Immigrant Child and Family Detention Now

The AIW process starts with people impassioned on an issue, then the delegates engage one another in conversation, craft proposed statements, sign petitions, debate the issues, and vote, all within the span of one 5-day GA. Adopted AIWs are used by congregations in local efforts and empower them to take action and recommend action through the UUA and other Unitarian Universalist groups. AIWs help enable us to bring our UU values to life.



Please see the related Article on the Black Lives Matter AIW on page 6.

## UU ACTION OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

### SUPPORT THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT



**B**elow is the Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW) “Support the Black Lives Matter Movement” adopted at General Assembly 2015:

*“WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists strive for justice, equity and compassion in human relations;*

*“WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists have a goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;*

*“WHEREAS, allowing injustice to go unchallenged violates our principles;*

*“WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement has gained powerful traction in conjunction with recent tragic events involving, in particular, police brutality and institutionalized racism that target the black community;*

*“WHEREAS, Tanisha Anderson, Rekia Boyd, Michael Brown, Miriam Carey, Michelle Cusseaux, Shelly Frey, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Trayvon Martin, Kayla Moore, Tamir Rice, and Tony Robinson are just a few names of people who were recently killed by the racism that exists in the United States today;*

*“WHEREAS, people of all ages and races are killed by law enforcement, yet black people ages 20-24 are seven times more likely to be killed by law enforcement;*

*“WHEREAS, mass incarceration fueled by for-profit prisons and racially biased police practices drive the disproportionate imprisonment of black and brown Americans;*

*“WHEREAS, the school-to-prison pipeline is an urgent concern because 40% of black students are expelled from U.S. public schools and one out of three black men is incarcerated during his lifetime; and*

*“WHEREAS, we must continue to support the Black Lives Matter movement and Black-led racial justice organizations;*

*“THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls member congregations to action, to become closer to a just world community, and to prevent future incidents of this nature;*

*“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly urges member congregations to engage in intentional learning spaces to organize for racial justice with recognition of the interconnected nature of racism coupled with systems of oppression that impact people based on class, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability and language;*

*“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly encourages member congregations and all Unitarian Universalists to work toward police reform and prison abolition (which seeks to replace the current prison system with a system that is more just and equitable); and*

*“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly recognizes that the fight for civil rights and equality is as real today as it was decades ago and urges member congregations to take initiative in collaboration with local and national organizations fighting for racial justice against the harsh racist practices to which many black people are exposed.”*

**N**o matter who you are, black lives matter, and a system of fair, transformative, and restorative justice that is accountable to communities is something to which each of us has a right. Unitarian Universalists and our greater society have the power to make this happen. Let's do it!

---

## RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ

### MICHELLE AND SCOTT DALZIEL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST, 8:00 PM

The fresh and soulful sounds of Michelle and Scott Dalziel's voices, combined with their high energy performance, memorable and meaningful songwriting, and instrumental finesse, put them in a category all their own. Acoustic Rock or Folk genres could very well hold them, but not completely. They dip down into R&B, jazz, roots, and blues showing the versatility of this duo. Since their Kerrville Folk Festival and South West Regional Folk Alliance debuts in 2004, they are gaining recognition and respect from not only audiences, but from venue owners and established artists alike.



*The Dalziels will caress your mind and your heart with their songs of people and places that exist in all of our minds. You will feel as though you too have seen Topanga Canyon, been a Sea Faring Man leaving a family behind and the yearning of that young crush while you are Waiting for the Revolution. They are without a doubt one of the most talented songwriting teams and musicians that have ever graced our stage.*

– Kim, Monson, Two Harbors Folk Festival, Two Harbors, MN

**Suggested Ticket Donation Price: \$18 in advance, \$23 at the door.**

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Mary Warner, Faith Development Coordinator

On September 6th, Faith Development students headed “back to Sunday school,” and met their new teachers and classmates. The primary class learned about our UU symbols and created their own bean chalice design. The secondary class discussed democracy and the 5<sup>th</sup> UU principle, “All people need a voice,” and also started writing in their spiritual journals, which they will use throughout the year.



At our first intergenerational service on August 30th, we held a teacher dedication to honor our hard-working volunteer teachers: Elyse Brunt, Natalie Corp, Riley Cothran, Marpessa DeMoraes, Monica Dyer, Katrin Forster-Csvany, Deb Giblin-Davis, Karen Gonzalez, Jennifer Hutton, Diane Lade, Marilisa Lawless, Lynn O'Brien, and Zena Tucker. These talented members of our congregation are supporting our children and youth during the first half of our Sunday school year.

In October, we will begin our next Spiritual Art activity. Our primary and secondary classes will be creating spirit masks as they discuss and learn about spirituality and our 2<sup>nd</sup> principle, “Be kind in all you do.” Look for the masks at our next intergenerational service! Also in October, our students will learn about and participate in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. Funds raised through UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) help provide clean water, nutrition, health care, education, and a number of other life-saving services to children around the world.



Last, but certainly not least, our annual Spooktacular event will be held on Sunday, October 25th. Kids (and adults) are welcome to come to River of Grass in costume and participate in our costume parade! After class time, there will be spooky crafts, games, and snacks in the multipurpose room. If you are interested in lending a hand, please see [Mary Warner](#) or email her at [fdcoordinator@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:fdcoordinator@riverofgrassuu.org).

## FULL MOON DAUGHTERS' NEW OUTING AGENDA

By Diane Lade



**F**ull Moon Daughters, the outdoor spirituality group for women and girls, set their outing agenda for the 2015-16 year at their annual Brand New Year Brunch on Sept. 19th. There will be something for everyone over the next nine months – including plenty of activities that don't involve sleeping in a tent, bears, or getting a sunburn.

Interested in kayaking, touring Homestead wineries, garden walks, biking or camping? We hope you will join us! Our group, which is part of Shared Ministry at River of Grass, is open to any female of any age. You don't need to be a congregational member to participate. Full Moon Daughters is a great way to build bonds with amazing women, through a shared love of nature.

Thanks to all the amazing Daughters who last year and this one, agreed to sponsor activities, lead campfire songs, reserve campsites, and cook food fit for the gods (and goddesses!) among many other things. Blessings everyone one of you. We are a community of abundance.

Below is our schedule for the upcoming congregational year. We schedule at least one activity a month – and sometimes more. Any fees are split by those attending. There will be announcements in the newsletter and weekly updates regarding sign-ups. But the best way to keep up with what's happening is to join our email list. Just send a request to [fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org), and we'll add your name.

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

### 2015-16 FMD OUTINGS

- ◆ **October** (date to be determined): Night walk or nature walk.  
Sponsor: **Monica Dyer**
- ◆ **November 7-9**: Bahia Honda Camping Trip, Florida Keys\*  
Coordinator: **Diane Lade**, plus various site sponsors.  
\*Hotels are available nearby
- ◆ **November 14**: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk, Tradewinds Park  
Sponsor: **Gayle Giese**
- ◆ **December 20**: Winter Solstice Party  
Sponsor: **Deb Giblin-Davis**
- ◆ **January 23**: Shark Valley Bike Ride in the Moonlight  
Sponsor: **Diane Lade**
- ◆ **February 13-15**: Airstream Adventure Weekend in Homestead  
Sponsor: **Karen Gonzalez**
- ◆ **February 21**: Moonlight Kayaking on West Lake, Hollywood  
Sponsors: **Esther Sampol** and **Marjie Loring**
- ◆ **March 4-6**: Congregational Camping Trip (co-ed), Highlands Hammock Park  
Sponsors: **Diane Lade**, **Esther Sampol**, **Marjie Loring** and others
- ◆ **April 2**: Pavilion Picnic at Birch State Park in Fort Lauderdale  
Sponsors: **Ingrid Furlong** and **Zena Tucker**
- ◆ **April** (date to be determined): Plantation Preserve Walk  
Sponsors: **Karen Gonzalez**, **Carolyn Sant Angelo**
- ◆ **May 14**: Snorkeling off Deerfield Beach  
Sponsors: **Susan Juncosa**, **Pat Katz**
- ◆ **June 11**: Pool Party! Yay, summer is here!  
Sponsor: **Susan Juncosa**
- ◆ **June** (date to be determined): Turtle Nesting Night Walk  
Sponsor: **Toni Catell**

