

# Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

DAVIE, FLORIDA

MARCH 2017

## BOING

Rev. Amy Carol Webb

*“Resilio” – Latin, “to rebound”.*

*“Spring” – English verb, to rebound to move rapidly from a constrained position; noun, a resilient device, that can return to its former shape when released from tension.*

*“Boing” – English onomatopoeic, sound made by compressed energy released. As in a spring.*

**S**o, yes, it makes a sound. My rebound. And has a bodily sensation, too, like a sudden spiritual G-force as I return to my former shape after trouble or trauma. Boing.

*Boing.* When I recover from the constrained position of fear.

*Boing.* When I release the compressed energy of anger.

*Boing.* When I return to my former shape – which is generally the shape of hopefulness, creativity, resolve.

*Boing.* When I resurface from the winter of sadness.



Lately I’ve been taking my lessons in resilience from Earth herself, with the signs of Spring already upon us – the ground orchids that spend the winter looking so much like weeds we have to warn the gardener to leave them be, all at once waving purple and orange good-mornings to the dawn walkers of our neighborhood; the petria creeper whose thick gray stems look altogether dead in January, now throwing cascades of lavender over the fence; the mango that gave almost nothing last year bursting out in thousands of yellow-gold buds that look for the world like the spontaneous laughter of friends feels; the baby canistel tree putting out wholly unexpected tiny fruit buds for a tree so young (you can almost hear its adolescent voice saying “I am SO old enough and I will if I WANT to!”); varieties of pink and red hibiscus beaming in flowers by the front door,

and the back door, and the windows, and the driveway. And did I mention there’s a nest of some sort in almost every tree?

All this in my own yard. Teeming proof there’s a reason this season is called “Spring.” Earth rebounding. Earth coming back from the constraints of winter to her former shape in new life, before our very eyes.

And it occurs to me again, that even in the deepest Winter – with nary a bloom in sight, sap running slow, animals caving, branches bare – Earth never says, “all is lost.” She only rests. She stores up energy in bud and blood and egg, the roots below digging deeper, attending the work of life, caring not that we above so often moan and groan, oblivious. No, Earth carries on despite us, readying herself for with the sweetness of fruit and beauty of flower, resilient life abounding, and rebounding.

And so can we. Listen for it ... *boing.*

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## 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)

**Minister** ..... **Rev. Amy Carol Webb**  
[minister@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:minister@riverofgrassuu.org)

### Newsletter

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### Board of Trustees

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

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Trustee ..... Lynn O'Brien

### Committee Chairs

committee contact info at  
[www.riverofgrassuu.org](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org)

Caring ..... Deb Kitner & Kristine Barkley  
Community Awareness ..... Sheryl Cattell  
Concert (Café) ..... Robby Greenburg & Aaron Stang  
Facilities Management ..... Jon Kitner & GL Franklin  
Facilities Rental ..... Ingrid Furlong  
Faith Development ..... Tanya Gustafson  
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Hospitality ..... Bennett Lorman & **Open**  
Membership ..... Leana Bresnahan & Deb Kitner  
Personnel ..... Lynn O'Brien & Dave Katz  
Service & Social Justice ..... Rick Tucker  
Shared Ministry ..... Diane Lade & Janet Schwartz  
Stewardship ..... Kristine & Kip Barkley  
Worship ..... Kathy Jens-Rochow

### Other Resources

contact info at [www.riverofgrassuu.org](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org)  
Office Administrator ..... Sandy Blair Chibnick  
Faith Development Coordinator ..... Deb Ely  
Choir Director ..... Gayle Giese  
Pastoral Care ..... Riley Cothran & Pat Katz  
Web Designer ..... Marjorie Loring & Esther Sampol

## 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.

## STAY CONNECTED!

**B**etween issues of *Reflections* you can stay connected to the River of Grass Congregation the following ways:

- ◆ **Sign up for our weekly email** with events and news: send an email to [office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org)
- ◆ **Visit our Facebook page:** [www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu](http://www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu)
- ◆ **Follow us on Twitter:** @RiverOfGrassUU or [www.twitter.com/riverofgrassuu](http://www.twitter.com/riverofgrassuu)
- ◆ **Visit our calendar:** [www.riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html) (or go to: [www.riverofgrassuu.org](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org) – click on Events – Calendar)
- ◆ **Join our MeetUp group:** [www.meetup.com/riverofgrassuu](http://www.meetup.com/riverofgrassuu)





## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Zena Tucker

**L**eaders needed. Have you thought about honing your organizational and leadership skills? Why not learn something new while providing a valuable service to our beloved River of Grass? There are several chairpersons stepping down at the end of this congregational year (June 30). Consider if these positions are of interest to you. To learn more contact [president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org).



## PUT THE FUN FUNDRAISER

**FUUndraising:** Responsible for organizing our big fundraising events, normally an auction and arts and craft fair. If “Event Planning and Fund Raising” would look good on your resume, then this is just the ticket for the experience! For more information, see Susan Juncosa or email [FUUndraising@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:FUUndraising@riverofgrassuu.org).



**Community Awareness:** Responsible for our public communications, including news releases and social media postings. What a great way to learn more about promotion and outreach! See Sheryl Cattell or email [communityawareness@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:communityawareness@riverofgrassuu.org).



**Strategic Plan Task Force:** Are you a big picture thinker? Do you have big dreams and hopes for our congregation? Do you like to write? Then, this task force is for you! See Emilie Sayward Henry or email [president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org).



**Service and Social Justice:** Fired up and ready to resist? Want experience in community organizing? Contact Rick Tucker or email [ssjc@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:ssjc@riverofgrassuu.org).



**Facilities Rental Co-Chair:** Got business savvy? Like to engage with other businesses and nonprofits in negotiations and agreements? Make new business contacts and help our congregation’s bottom line by finding renters for our facility. See Ingrid Furlong or email [facilities@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:facilities@riverofgrassuu.org).

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Deborah Ely, Faith Development Coordinator

**H**appy March from Faith Development! How can we already be into the third month of 2017?

Please join us this month for the **Broward County Humane Society Walk for Animals!** Those who want to walk on March 18th with us, including the children, need to register on the website [humanebroward.donordrive.com](http://humanebroward.donordrive.com) and join our Pack the ROGgies. So **PLEASE REGISTER!!** The walk will be starting around 8 am, and is a 1.25 mile walk through downtown Fort Lauderdale along the New River. It is a fun event with free breakfast, a live band and a dog agility performance; and the best part is you can **BRING YOUR DOG!!** Hope to see you all there!




Presented by VCA Animal Hospital

Saturday  
March 18, 2017  
Registration 8:00am  
Walk 10:00am  
**REGISTER TODAY!**

**A**lso, please bring your family to our intergenerational service the next day, which will be on March 19, the Vernal Equinox. We look forward to the service being filled with participants of all ages!



picture your dog's photo here! See website for details

Mar - 2017 Cover Dog

## WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM

- Mar. 19 **Rising Green: Celebrating the Vernal Equinox**,  
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- Mar. 26 **Justice Sunday**,  
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- Apr. 2 **to be announced**,  
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- Apr. 9 **Poetry of Our Lives**,  
Zena Tucker
- Apr. 16 **Easter**,  
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- Apr. 23 **to be announced**,  
Rev. Amy Carol Webb & the Arts Group

Huizenga Plaza, Downtown Fort Lauderdale



Download the registration form online at [walk4theanimals.com](http://walk4theanimals.com) or pick one up at:

- Humane Society of Broward County 2020 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale
- VCA Animal Hospitals
- Select Petco Stores
- Coconut Creek Subaru
- Pet Supermarket Stores
- Broward Strip Restaurants

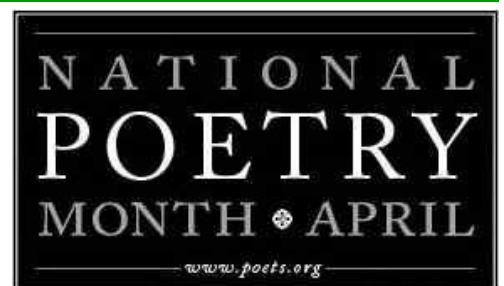
Check our website for a full list of distribution sites.

Many thanks to all of our participating sponsors!

For More Information Call  
954.266.6817 or visit [www.walk4theanimals.com](http://www.walk4theanimals.com)  
\*Cover photo courtesy of Little's Photography at [littlesphotography.com](http://littlesphotography.com)

## POETRY OF OUR LIVES SERVICE

**D**o you enjoy poetry? Then consider participating in the "Poetry of Our Lives" service on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Members are encouraged to share a short poem or provide one for someone else to present (2-3 minute reading time). If you are interested in participating, please see Zena Tucker or email president@riverofgrassuu.org no later than April 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## SUNRISE BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH FUNDRAISER

**E**njoy a special breakfast on the beach with Rev. Amy and your Board of Trustees, on Saturday April 1st. We meet at 7am on Fort Lauderdale Beach to greet the sun and enjoy a hearty breakfast. Then we wrap up the morning with a spiritual arts project. Come renew your spirit and raise funds for our beloved congregation. The cost is \$25. Please email [president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org) to sign up.



### MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Debbie Kitner, Membership Co-Chair

**I**f you are interested in learning more about the UU faith, and River of Grass in particular, please plan on attending the next **Pathways to Membership** session, which will take place on Sunday, March 26, following service. This class is for all those interested in joining our beloved River of Grass community, and also for those who have joined ROG, but never had the opportunity to participate in a Pathways session. The class will start at 12:15 and will continue until 3:00-3:30. Snacks, drinks, and desserts will be served. Child-care will be available.

Please contact Rev. Amy, or co-chairs, Leana Bresnahan and Debbie Kitner. Email [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org). Hope to see you there!

**W**e will also celebrate another New Member Sunday ceremony on Sunday, April 23, during service. If you are ready to join River of Grass, the only requirement is a meeting with our wonderful Rev. Amy. Please contact the ROG office to set an appointment.



New Members Are Joining



**C**ircle Dinners are a great way to connect with old friends and new. These dinners are held in a member's home, with the host providing the main course, and guests providing the side dishes. Please contact Kristine Barkley to host and/or attend a Circle Dinner.



## LIFENET4FAMILIES

### MARCH 11TH VOLUNTEER DAY

Judi Oltmans, SSJC Co-Chair

**T**hank you to the awesome group of River of Grass volunteers that came to LifeNet4Families on Saturday, March 11th: Jessica, Eryn, Shane, Zena and Rick, Ed, Bev, Marilisa and Juan! River of Grass loves to volunteer! Volunteer Zena Tucker said, “We put away two pallets of food. Then we made up 75 boxes (about two pallets).” It was a busy day at LifeNet4Families. Thank you all for giving your time on a Saturday to lend a hand at LifeNet!

Making a difference and healing injustice in our community is part of our River of Grass mission, and volunteering at LifeNet4Families is one way to put that mission into action. At LifeNet4Families their mission is “to be a seamless system of care for those in need in Broward County...” LifeNet4Families serves approximately 5,000 individuals and families, and provides 1.4 million meals annually.

Join us at one of our next LifeNet4Families Saturday Volunteer days: April 8th, May 13th and June 10th. We volunteer once a month from 9:00-11:00am. Sign up at the Service and Social Justice corner at the back of the River of Grass 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.



## RETURN OF THE YARD SALE

By Susan Juncosa

**I**t's been a while since we've had a Yard Sale – that means your closets should be bursting with items to donate! Have some children's toys your kids have outgrown? Ready to give up Great Aunt Sophie's costume jewelry? Split your collection of scarves or ties? How about those craft items that you know you will never use again, but someone else might be ready to try?

We'll be having a River of Grass Yard Sale at the facility – right on State Road 84! The date is Saturday, April 15, from 8:30 to 12. Items for donation can be left at ROG beginning on the Sunday before, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Here are some guidelines:

- ◆ Do NOT expect to get items back if they are not sold. You are welcome to come by at the close of the sale to reclaim unsold items.
- ◆ All unsold/unclaimed items will either be donated to charities or put in the trash.
- ◆ Please put a tag with a suggested price on the items if you can.
- ◆ Please discuss large items, such as furniture, with Susan Juncosa.

Of course, volunteers will be needed, too. Look for sign-ups on Sundays or email [fUUndraising@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:fUUndraising@riverofgrassuu.org).

