

Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

DAVIE, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 2018



DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE

Rev. Amy Carol Webb

SANCTUARY: sanc·tu·ar·y -- noun

1. a place of refuge or safety. "people sought a sanctuary in time of trouble" synonyms: *refuge, haven, harbor, oasis, shelter*

2. a nature reserve. "a bird sanctuary"

3. a holy place; a temple or church.

We begin October's theme, "To Be A People of Sanctuary", with the world around us more and more divided along tribal

lines, while we and those we love yearn more and more deeply for connection, for safety, for a place we can belong, a space where we can rest and breathe and restore ourselves, body and spirit.

The great teacher Mahatma Gandhi said, "Be the change you want to see in the world." An old proverb instructs, "If you're looking for a kind person, be that person." In a time desperate for Sanctuary, what if we at River of Grass became a people of the Sanctuary we seek? What kind of refuge might we offer? What haven? What harbor in these stormy times? What shelter for those feeling most at risk? What if we became the holiest of holies, the inner sanctum, thrown open to all who would come inside?

But aren't we already doing that, some might ask? Yes ... and no. In these contrary times, even our best and most intentional efforts toward radical hospitality may fail, when our more unconscious biases slip to the surface.

So what do we do to counter that, to disarm our more primal connections born of "aliqueness?" Try this: seek out someone whose views, or actions, or words provoke

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WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM



October Monthly Theme:

To be a People of Sanctuary

October 14: *Is America Changing?*
Scott May

October 21: *In Another's Shoes*
(All Ages)
Rev. Amy Carol Webb

October 28: *When All Else Fails*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb

November Monthly Theme:

To be a People of Memory

November 04: *Who You Are*
(Ancestor Sunday)
Rev. Amy Carol Webb

November 11: *Wild and Precious Life*
Marilisa Lawless and others

November 18: *Hunger Communion*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

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& Marjie Loring

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!

Between 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
- ◆ **Visit our Facebook page:** www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu
- ◆ **Follow us on Twitter:** @RiverOfGrassUU or www.twitter.com/riverofgrassuu
- ◆ **Visit our calendar:** www.riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html (or go to: www.riverofgrassuu.org – click on Events – Calendar)
- ◆ **Join our MeetUp group:** www.meetup.com/riverofgrassuu



FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Scott May



Our congregational year is off to an amazing start! Reverend Amy Carol Webb is back in the pulpit delivering inspiring sermons, activities are happening nearly every Sunday after service, and much is going on during the week. Our spiritual home is alive, vibrant, and forging ahead. It is energizing and rewarding to be part of this loving community, as we move forward together!

These are exciting times at River of Grass! Our newly invigorated Faith Development program is off and running, including Our Whole Lives (OWL) for the first time in many years. The Strategic Plan (approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting last May) will be launched October 28th, giving everyone an opportunity to love, to learn, and to lead, in the ways that feel comfortable to them. And soon we'll begin talking about our potential future home - a home with space for growing worship services, space for children's activities, space for more adult activities and events, and space to continue to nourish our spirits and grow our souls, enabled by a possible future Capital Campaign. Stay tuned!

Our mission and our vision are fundamental to all we do. Our mission identifies who we are, and our vision states where we are going. Each of these are very important for our identity and trajectory. Let's revisit and discuss each of them over the next few months, to ensure they reflect our values and highest aspirations.

Our members are the backbone of River of Grass, combined with our Minister, Director of Faith Development, Office Administration, Choir Director, Pianist and the entire staff. I wish to personally thank everyone for your love, your spirit, and your energy! Together, let's continue on this journey!

DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE

(Continued from page 1)

misgivings if not visceral disagreement in you. You know, that guy at work, that friend on-line, that old classmate that found you on Facebook, that family member that just always wrecks Thanksgiving, doggone it! Then invite them in. Into conversation, out for coffee, a private chat, a phone call, a sit on the porch. Resolve with yourself that you will under no circumstance argue with them. And each time you feel the urge to counter or correct hold still and listen instead. Chances are real good they might throw out some comment or other to "stir the pot." Don't stir. Listen. Listen long enough and you'll likely stumble upon the source of their contention. And I guarantee you that source is some pain, some deep disappointment, some heartbreak, some dream dashed against the often cruel realities of life. Theirs. Maybe yours, too. And right there -- right there in that moment, in that spot, is the chance to open a door of Sanctuary. To become, yourself, Sanctuary to one you once left outside on their own. To create together a refuge, a haven, a harbor, a shelter.

It can happen. When we draw the circle wide, and wider still.

*Draw the circle
Draw the circle wide
No one stands alone
We stand side by side
Draw the circle
Draw the circle wide*

(©2008, Gordon Light)



LifeNet4Families

Can you help at LifeNet4Families during the week? We have received a specific request for assistance Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 4:00pm. Most of the volunteers are needed for the dining hall and to prep for the next day's meals. Please contact Phyllis Bard at phyllis.bard@lifenet4families.org.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Karen Gonzalez



October 24th is United Nations Day - a day celebrated around the world to commemorate the formation of a council of countries united in the fight for human rights. The Unitarian Universalist Association holds an office at the UN headquarters in New York (see photo above). The UU United Nations Office has been involved in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, leading the faith caucus to establish the International Criminal Court, working to overcome UN apathy about sexual orientation and gender identity issues, and providing strong leadership in all aspects of human rights at a policy level. The UU UNO promotes the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, as reflected in the United Nations Charter. Through targeted education, advocacy, and outreach, they engage Unitarian Universalists in support of international cooperation and the work of the UN.

River of Grass has a long history of supporting the UN through our UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) campaign. This month, our children will engage in the UN Me religious education program to learn about the work of the United Nations and how our UU principles call us to work for global human rights. Additionally, on **Sunday, October 28th**, our children will be "trick or treating" through the sanctuary to collect your loose change (and bills) in their UNICEF collection boxes. However, boxes will be available for your donations all month during hospitality time – no need to wait for the end of the month! Thank you in advance for supporting the work of the United Nations and the efforts of our children.

I hope to see many families at our Annual Picnic on **October 14th**. There will be lots of games and space to run – something we can't do at The River! Remember to wear your new gold River of Grass T-shirts. There are a few children's shirts available from me directly – let me know if you would like one.

Children are welcome to wear costumes to service on **October 28th**. There will be silly and spooky festivities to enjoy for children of all ages after service.

Save the date for our Family Workday at LifeNet for Families on Saturday, **November 10th**. This will be another opportunity to help our kids to put their faith in action.

Yours in faith,
Karen

SECOND HELPING SUNDAYS

Kip Barkley



Stay around after Sunday Service for coffee, conversation and discussion on October 21, 2018. We will gather in the sanctuary for a guest presenter, attorney Elias Dsouza. He will be presenting on "Credit Protection and Credit Repair". Your credit score pops up in many unexpected places in life, like job hunting or buying car insurance.



STRATEGY AND COMMITTEE FAIR

Rita Cherubini

LEARN, LOVE, LEAD!! At the Annual Meeting it was voted that ROG will initiate a new vision and focus for the 2018/2019 year. On the afternoon of October 28 from 12:30-2:30 there will be a Strategy and Committee Fair launching this New Strategic Plan to grow our congregation, increase involvement in ROG Events and Activities as well as Community Actions for Environmental and Social Justice. Please plan on joining us to participate in this conversation. Your participation will make the Dream a Reality. A light lunch will be provided.

For more information: Rita Cherubini, vicepresident@riverofgrassuu.org.

RIVER OF GRASS T-SHIRTS!

Karen Gonzalez

Thank you to everyone who bought a River of Grass T-shirt this summer. **A new order window is now open through December 7th.** This second order will be delivered in time for Christmas.



[T-shirt order - Adults](https://www.customink.com/g/pve0-00bj-bhw3)

(<https://www.customink.com/g/pve0-00bj-bhw3>)



[T-shirt order - Kids](https://www.customink.com/g/pve0-00bj-bhx4)

(<https://www.customink.com/g/pve0-00bj-bhx4>)

WHAT IS A MISSION STATEMENT AND WHY HAVE ONE?

Scott May

A few years ago I had the pleasure of attending UU Leadership School at The Mountain in North Carolina. It was an uplifting and valuable learning experience - gaining insights from experienced UUA Congregational Staff who are devoted to assisting congregations like ours. One focus area was Mission Statements, sharing its purpose, examples, and best practices. They shared that a congregation's Mission Statement is one of the most important elements of a congregation, and that it should be at the heart and spirit of decision-making and annual budget drive. Here is a summary of what they shared.



A Mission Statement must:

- ◆ State why our congregation exists
- ◆ Express our deepest values and call us to our highest aspirations
- ◆ Be action oriented, must accomplish something

And in order for the Mission Statement to be at the heart of decision-making and the annual budget drive, it also must be:

- ◆ Simple, clear, and succinct
- ◆ Easily memorized, where members can recite it

They shared some example Mission Statements:

- ◆ Grow souls and heal the world
- ◆ Nurture your spirit, expand your mind, work for justice
- ◆ Love radically, serve gratefully, wonder daily

Here is our Mission Statement:

River of Grass is committed to healing injustice and creating a sustainable earth while honoring each individual's search for truth, meaning, and faith.

Our Mission Statement successfully expresses why we exist, our deepest values, and our highest aspirations. Applying the learnings from the UUA Congregational Staff, our Mission Statement could be tweaked to be a little more action oriented, a bit more succinct, and easier to memorize – while maintaining what it successfully expresses, such as:

Heal injustice, create a sustainable earth, and honor everyone's search for meaning

This is not a recommendation, but merely an example of how the UUA recommendations could be applied.

Let's start the conversation and generate thoughtful discussion around our Mission Statement, encouraging members to share what feels right to them.

Wouldn't it be something if every member could recite our Mission Statement? Wouldn't it be valuable if we referred to it as we make decisions about how we spend our time, talent, and treasure?

Please notify Rita Cherubini at vicepresident@riverofgrassuu.org if you are interested in being actively involved in this important work, and being part of a 'Mission/Vision Working Group'. This working group will be charged with (a) leveraging the congregational input used to develop the strategy plan, (b) gaining additional congregational input, (c) developing a draft go-forward Mission Statement, and (d) presenting it for congregational discussion and approval at an upcoming 2019 congregational meeting.

Our Mission Statement is the cornerstone defining who we are, our deepest values, and our highest aspirations. As we move through the process of revisiting it, there is much gratitude for everyone's open mind, loving heart, and helping hands.

VISION STATEMENT: TAKING A FRESH LOOK THE CURRENT, THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

Rita Cherubini

Our Vision Statement articulates where we are going - our dreams for the future; where our Mission Statement presents who we are and what we are doing now. Our Vision Statement has been in effect from 2012 to 2017. If you were asked what's in it, could you answer? We don't see it very often; it's not posted anywhere to remind us of where we are going. Does it reflect your thinking? Here is our Vision Statement to refresh you or bring it forward to those who might not have seen it.



River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation

- Is a warm and welcoming spiritual home for all who enter our doors.
- We are known for our quality worship services and our diverse programs for adults and children.
- We promote connections with one another and the larger Unitarian Universalist community.

Our professional ministerial leadership

- Provides inspiration and guidance to our members and their families in the development of their own unique spiritual practices.
- Our lay leadership represents all of our membership and serves with love and enthusiasm.

Our members

- Commit to play active roles in our congregational life and to support our congregation financially.
- Join together in right relations to advocate for human rights and earth-friendly practices in our local, extended and global communities.

We invite seekers on spiritual journeys to join us!

On January 30, 2016, members joined together for a River of Grass Envisioning Day to review the accomplishments of our 2011-2016 five-year vision and build our next five-year vision, 2018-2023. Discussions focused around Membership, Professional and Lay Ministry, Adult and Children's Programming, ROG's Community Impact, Finances and a New Location. Out of this came some new thinking in a Strategic Plan, approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting last May.

Here are some excerpts from the 2018 Strategic Plan: A New Vision:

Look to the children. They are the future. Over the years, we have taught our children that as Unitarian Universalists, we are identified by three tenets.

- We are the people with Open Minds, Loving Hearts, and Helping Hands.
- Everything we envision fits with these three tenets, which can serve as our end goal guideposts as we move in our future.
- The new five-year Strategic Plan Goals will be: To Love, To Learn, and To Lead...for ourselves, for our families, for our congregation, for our communities and for our world.

Launching this new Strategic Plan demonstrates that our congregation is moving forward beyond the Vision Statement of 2012-2017. Anyone interested in revisiting our Vision Statement is invited to be part of a 'Mission/Vision Working Group' to reflect on our past vision and match who we are today with our focus for tomorrow. It's critical that the vision represents our congregation. The Mission/Vision Working Group will review the congregational input used to develop the Strategy plan, gain additional input from the congregation, develop a draft going-forward Vision Statement, and present it at a 2019 congregational meeting for discussion and approval. If you would like to participate in this enriching process, please contact Rita Cherubini, vicepresident@riverofgrassuu.org. I'm enthusiastic to see our new Vision Statement come to life!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Zena Tucker, Membership Committee Co-Chair

I like the double meaning of this title. In this newsletter we learn about the events and activities of the congregations' team of membership volunteers; all manner of efforts to build this community. Upon reflection, a powerful second meaning is revealed – membership at River of Grass MATTERS in our lives, connecting us and encouraging spiritual renewal, and service. This message is dedicated to both of these important tasks.



What is required to become a member? Our bylaws state one must make a covenant to

- ◆ Attend Worship
- ◆ Offer service to the congregation
- ◆ Contribute financially

Seems simple, right? And it can be. However, some (including myself when I first arrived) really didn't know where I could fit in. Everyone seemed already very connected and didn't need me. I was so wrong! Here is my journey to membership.

Pam Schrimsher asked me – “Would you like to join the coffee hour service?” I gave it a try, knowing sometimes I prefer the kitchen where I could be “DOING” something during the hubbub of hospitality hour. This “doing” thing led to the next– Café set up and tear down. Then the next, LifeNet4Families volunteer. Then, Gayle, who I loved because of the music, asked me to be on the Board. Startled at the honor of the task, I said yes. The congregation saw fit to send me to a wonderful leadership course. From there, my course was clear that Unitarian Universalism was my path and River of Grass would be my guide. Membership matters to me because our Principles matter, because community matters, because YOU matter to me.

What was your journey to membership? What keeps you coming back to the River? And how can we all make this spiritual home more welcoming to newcomers?

For the newcomer, we have lots of ways for you to connect with us! Besides all the great services by Rev Amy, here are some upcoming events to highlight. All are free and open to everyone!

- ◆ October 14: **Annual picnic** (Volunteer Park) 2:00p-5:00p
- ◆ October 15: **#MeToo Healing Circle** 7:00p-8:30p
- ◆ October 16: **Flowing River Sangha** 7:15p-8:15p (offered every Tuesday)
- ◆ October 17: **bUUKies Book Group** 7:15p-9:15p
- ◆ October 25: **Welcome Table Communion Circle** with Rev. Amy 7:00p-7:45p
- ◆ October 28: **Strategy/Committee Fair** 12:30p-2:30p
- ◆ November 4: **New Member Celebration** during service

Please contact us at membership@riverofgrassuu.org if you would like to become a member at this ceremony.

- ◆ November 9: **Drum Circle** 7:00p-9:00p
- ◆ November 10: **Family Workday at LifeNet for Families**

Sending gratitude to all who row this River with me, especially those in Hospitality and Membership teams!

ANNUAL PICNIC TIME!

Zena Tucker

This year River of Grass will have a GREEN annual picnic at Volunteer Park in Plantation, Sunday October 14, 2-5pm.

BRING –

- The whole family! Our pavilion is next to beautiful paths and a huge playground.
- A dish to share! The River will provide burgers, dogs (meat and vegan), lemonade and ice water. (Sorry, no alcohol allowed.)
- Your own plates and cups to reduce waste. Don't worry if you forget as some will bring extras.
- No money -- this event is FREE to you and your guests!

PLEASE SIGN UP to help us plan at <https://goo.gl/UH25Cv> or see our signup sheet in hospitality. Email membership@riverofgrassuu.org or see Zena or Ann for more info or to help.



ANNUAL AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

YOU OUGHT TO BE IN MOVIES

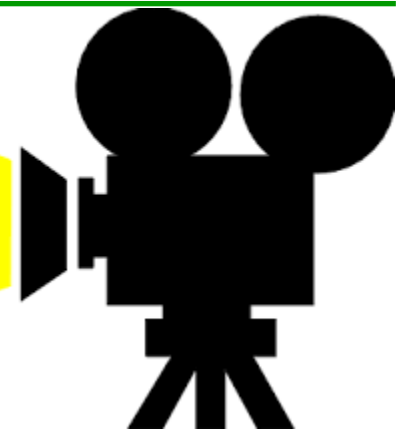
A NIGHT OF GLAMOUR AND EXCITEMENT!

Kathy Jens-Rochow

On November 3, 2018 (5:30p) we will be hosting our Annual Auction, featuring food, beer, wine, "Oscar" ceremony, and even paparazzi. Dress up like you are going to the Oscars or come as your favorite actor or actress or movie character. This is a **family** event! Kids under 16 are free and nursery care will be provided. Purchase your tickets after service or with PayPal at riverofgrassuu.org.

We are also accepting donations – parties, baskets, gift cards and certificates for service. Ask your favorite restaurant, your hair stylist, your masseuse to donate something. Or consider offering a party – poker, wine tasting, beer tasting, game night, etc. And don't forget baskets – a selection of your favorite wines, other beverages, music or holiday ornaments. We can provide the basket, if you supply the stuffing. We are also looking for some big-ticket items, like a weekend time-share for our live auction.

Contact Kathy Jens-Rochow for volunteer opportunities and for more information at auction@riverofgrassuu.org.



MEMBERSHIP POLICY CHANGE

Brit Lundell

At the previous Board of Trustees meeting, the Membership Committee proposed an addition to Policy 9, Membership. The policy change pertains to friends of the Congregation. In compliance with our Policy on Policies, the change is published below and will be approved or rejected at the Board meeting scheduled for October 17, 2018. If you have any questions or feedback in regard to the new policy, you are asked to direct your questions to Zena Tucker at membership@riverofgrassuu.org.

Add the following as a section under Policy 9, Membership:

Friend of the Congregation: A Friend of the Congregation is a person who is involved in the congregation but might not prefer to join. This includes:

- non-members who financially contribute
 - parents of children enrolled in religious education
 - former members who have moved away, but still retain a connection such as continuing to receive our weekly newsletter
 - participants in outreach programs such as college campus group or military ministry group that the congregation sponsors.
1. Friends will be identified as such in the Congregational administrative database by the Office Administrator.
 2. Friends will be solicited for financial pledging as part of the Annual Budget Drive.
 3. Friends may be listed in an area of the Member Directory (but will have the same ability as members to opt out of being listed).
 4. Friends will have access to the Member section of the website, but access to the Membership Directory information is limited to only the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of adult members and friends.

UUA PRESIDENT JOINS FLORIDA UUs FOR ALL OUT ON AMENDMENT 4 – OCT. 20TH & 21ST

The UUA is partnering with UUs in Florida in our support of the Second Chances Coalition Amendment 4 that will extend the vote to over 1.4 million people in Florida with past convictions.



UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray will be coming to Florida to join a canvassing effort anchored by the UU Church of Sarasota on Saturday, Oct. 20th. We will gather there between 9:00 & 9:30 a.m. for a short program with Rev. Frederick-Gray and canvassing training with Second Chances Coalition organizer Ashley Green. Then we will head out to canvass around noon and reconvene at the church by 3 pm. (Lunch/snacks will be provided.)

On Sunday, Oct. 21st, Rev. Susan will be preaching at our UU congregation in Clearwater. A reception and phone bank will follow.

If you can be part of the canvassing event on Saturday, 10-20 and/or the phonebank on Sunday, 10-21, please sign up [here](https://goo.gl/forms/K8sPvaoB9yVev9A32) (<https://goo.gl/forms/K8sPvaoB9yVev9A32>).

There will be Facebook Live Events with Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray from Sarasota & Clearwater streamed from her Facebook page. Congregations are encouraged to watch together and join local canvass events or the phonebanks. See more detailed information at <https://www.uua.org/justice/blog/2018-electoral-justice-yes-amendment-4-florida>.

Our faith tradition has a history of working for voting rights and to stop the criminalization of many in our communities. Our faith tells us that no one is disposable and all are redeemable and that it is systems not people that we judge. UU theologian James Luther Adams declared that it our faith's task to "make history and not be pushed around by it." Now is such an opportunity. Let us bring our hands and hearts together for a powerful justice-inspired weekend. And from there let's Get Out the Vote through November 6th. Love Resists!



CHOIR CORNER

WHO ARE WE?

Gayle Giese

Who are we? What do Unitarian Universalists believe? The answer can be found in our hymnals, which shows the history of how our faith developed, merged, changed, expanded. Look at the Contents of either hymnal to see that the songs are organized into sections representing Faith Traditions that guide us and offer us that wide palette that is Unitarian Universalism: Transcending

Mystery and Wonder, Words and Deeds of Prophetic People, Wisdom from the World's Religions, Jewish and Christian Teachings, Humanist Teachings, and Earth-Centered Traditions. This last one was added when *Singing the Journey* was created in 2005.

Ten River of Grass members (nine from the choir) attended Jason Shelton's inspiring music workshop at the UU Congregation of Miami on Saturday, 9/15. We learned how to show visitors Who We Are through our music, that it's in our traditions to sing the word "God" and to honor Earth-centered, Jewish, and world religions; to learn from the transcendentalists. Social justice has *always* been important to us.

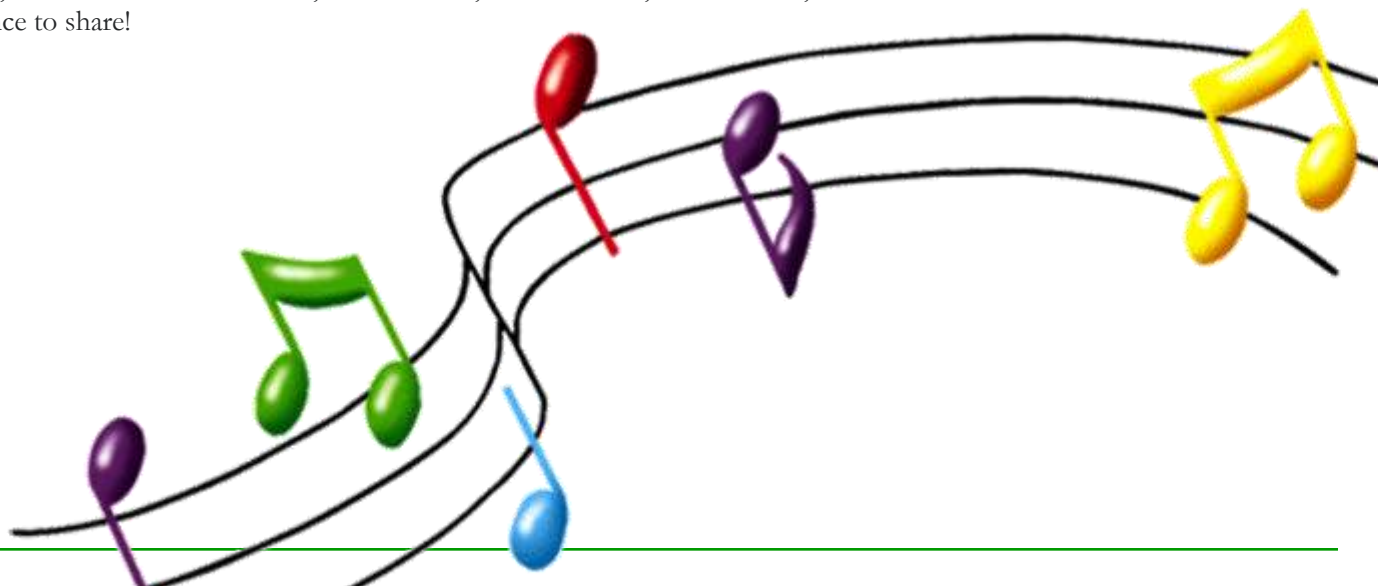
Being aware that songs can alienate people who don't know them or if the songs are difficult to sing helps us to make thoughtful hymn choices to ensure that all feel welcomed. Linda Lathroum taught us that singing songs in one's native language is a deeper, more heartfelt experience for that person. Some songs push our buttons because of memories we've associated with them. We agreed that if someone feels angst during a particular song that it doesn't mean to nix the song, but rather to work through those feelings in blessed community. In fact, it becomes an opportunity for healing or growth.

You probably love some hymns and hate others! Yes, so it'd be great to have various styles at each service to offer something that speaks to each individual. These hymn types have functions within the service:

1. Shape Songs – they shape the message and usually have a lot of content and theology to discuss.
2. Thrust Songs – a shape song with a groove that really moves us forward.
3. Swing Songs – songs with a swing beat
4. Hang Songs – songs that “go deep” into our emotions; often repetitive, may be meditative. Think “Comfort Me” by Mimi Bornstein. These may be songs we sing to each other.

Learning the story behind the song – the how and the why and the when it was written – made the song have much greater meaning to me. Mimi wrote “Comfort Me” when her dad died. Holly Near wrote “We Are a Gentle, Angry People” after Harvey Milk was shot in San Francisco. The crowd sang it at the San Francisco courthouse. “We Would Be One” was written by the Liberal Religious Youth of the United States and Canada at their conference in 1953-4, setting a model for the Unitarian Universalist merger in 1961. Leave it to the youth to figure things out first!

Our singing together unlocks the key to being together in loving community, building relationships, healing hurts, feeling joy—when we show up! Many thanks to my colleagues who attended the workshop: Kathy and Steve Jens-Rochow, Riley Cothran, Leana and Ken Bresnahan, London Lott, Geri Mikulski, Zena Tucker, and Linda Lathroum. It was a beautiful experience to share!



SACRED ACTION



The UU Florida SE Cluster Annual Meeting 2018 **Spectrum of Member Engagement**

*From Curious Individual
to Integrated Leader*

Join Lori Emison Clair as we consider together what a faith tradition might look like when it moves beyond the traditional goal of increasing membership to visioning together what a full Spectrum of Engagement in our UU Faith might look like.

We will explore ways to foster a culture of connection including the importance of changing our mindset to understand greeting as a spiritual practice and membership as a ministry and how that shifts the culture of the congregation towards belonging and deeper engagement.

We will share examples and resources that support creating a culture of belonging and building a community of engagement.

And finally, we will touch upon some ways to consider engagement tracking and retention. It will be a morning full of possibilities with information available to easily implement programing in your home congregations.



Lori Emison Clair was Director of Congregational Life at the First Unitarian Church in Des Moines from 2004 to 2015. During Lori's 11 years on staff, First Unitarian membership grew from 240 to 539. She is also a founder of the UU Association of Membership Professionals (UUAMP). Lori has worked with congregations of all sizes in helping them grow in depth as well as in numbers.

Saturday, October 27, 2018

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Miami

7701 SW 76 Ave., Miami, FL 33143 www.uumiami.org

\$20 per person advance by mail until postmark Oct. 22, 2018
Students \$10

Please mail check to Kathy Jens-Rochow, Registrar, 1420 SW 13 St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312
Childcare is \$20 per child 1-12 years old by mail registration only until postmark October 22.

For PayPal registration go to: <http://uuflorida.org/annual/>

\$25 at the door, cash or check. Registration includes Lunch and Continental Breakfast
<http://www.facebook.com/UUFloridaSoutheastCluster> seucluster@gmail.com

9:00 Registration + Continental Breakfast	1:30 Workshop: Are You As Welcoming As You Think You Are? with the Rev. Susan Smith
9:45 Welcome - Rev. Audrey Bloom	2:30 Break
10:00 Keynote Address Lori Emison Clair	2:35 Workshop: Make New Friends and Keep the Old
12:00 Lunch	Michael Malone Immediate Past Pres. UU Cong. Miami
1:00 Cluster Business Meeting.	

PLANNED GIVING AT THE RIVER

Kip Barkley, Planned Giving Group

At River of Grass, we have a Planned Giving Group comprised of Kip Barkley, Rick Tucker and Jacquie Velazquez. We report to the Finance Committee and then on to the Board. What is planned giving? First and foremost, planned giving is about getting your act together. Do you know where all your financial stuff is? Do you have a forgotten IRA still with a previous employer? Is there a financial account where you named a former spouse as beneficiary, for whom you no longer feel affection? Is there anyone else who should know where all your stuff is? Do you keep a list of your passwords? Everyone has a Last Will and Testament. If you do not write your own, the State of Florida has one in place for you. What do you want the court to do with your stuff, your legacy? This is the planning part of planned giving. Maybe you would even want some of your stuff to go to River of Grass, maybe as second in line behind another beneficiary, or first?



Planned Giving starts with a conversation. Perhaps we'll offer a workshop on money management. Perhaps you are interested in a workshop on wills? Your Planned Giving Group has many stories and suggestions. We encourage you to speak with your own legal and financial advisors. Planned gifts come from assets not income.

For a Will, the suggested wording to give to our UU community would be:

"I give and devise to the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation, the sum of \$_____."

or

"I give and devise to the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation Capital Fund, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation, the sum of \$_____ specifically for the Legacy Fund."

Remember, it all starts with a conversation.

TOSSING FLOWERS (AKA BEHIND THE SCENES AWESOMENESS)

Kathy. Rick. Steve. Zena. The words *THANK YOU* seem woefully inadequate for all that you do. But thank you for giving, doing, being, and showing up each and every week. Thank you.



Getting to Know UU's

FAMOUS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SPOTLIGHT

Kathy Jens-Rochow



“These are difficult days, but there is always hope.”

Mary White Ovington (1865–1951): Civil Rights Activist. Suffragist. Pacifist. Advocate. Journalist. Author. These are just a few of the many hats Ovington wore during her life.

Mary White Ovington was born April 11, 1865, in Brooklyn, New York. Her parents, members of the Unitarian Church, were supporters of women's rights and involved in the anti-slavery movement. This early introduction to activism provided Ovington with a foundation in social justice. Three issues seemed to be especially important to Ovington's work in the community: helping the poor, women's suffrage and civil rights. Ovington's activism helped to establish the Greenpoint Settlement, which provided shelter and services to those in need. Additionally, she was active in the early establishment and work of the National Negro Committee, which later organized the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Sources: *Biography.com & Wikipedia*



MEET OUR STUDENT MINISTER!

Rev. Amy Carol Webb

River of Grass is now a Teaching Congregation, electing to serve the greater Unitarian Universalist faith through nurturing new ministers in their study, growth, and formation! Welcome Beyssa Buil, a 2nd year seminary student, completing her Masters of Divinity degree at Meadville Lombard, our Unitarian Universalist Theological School in



Chicago, and a Candidate for Unitarian Universalist Ministry. She has completed 400 hours as a Chaplain Intern at Jackson Memorial Hospital, and served her Community Studies year with Planned Parenthood of Dade County.

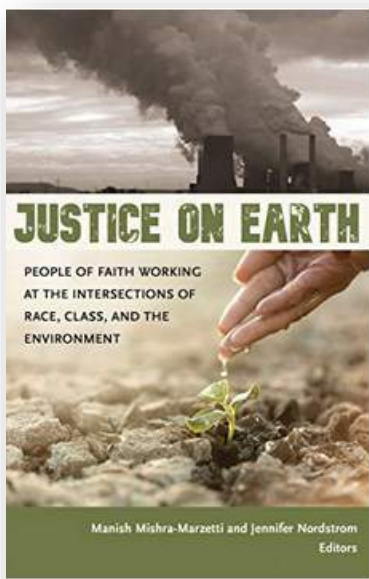
Spirituality was a key component of her upbringing, and as a child wanted to be a nun or a minister. Joan of Arc was her hero. When her son was a toddler he suffered from seizures and diagnosed with Autism. In order to support and begin the healing journey she left her career. It was then her mother urged her to go back to school and follow her calling.

She first heard about the UU faith in her religious studies professor at Florida International University read one of her papers asked her if she was a Unitarian Universalist, “because you sure did sound like one.”

Upon graduating FIU, Beyssa completed a year long graduate level Buddhist Contemplative Certificate thru the New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care in New York City and was accepted to complete Phowa initiations and training at Tibet House, the Dalai Lama's Center in New York City with Anyen Rinpoche. What drew her in to Unitarian Universalism was the dedication to social justice and addressing the systemic issues that plague our society. Beyssa looks forward to the seeds sown and flowers blossoming here at River of Grass.

HEADS UP: THE COMMON READ IS ON THE EVENT HORIZON

Susan Juncosa



Every year, the bUUKies sponsor a congregational event: the UUA Common Read. A Common Read invites participants in all UU congregations 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. Each year, a committee including both headquarters and field staff of the UUA chooses the Unitarian Universalist Common Read. Anyone may nominate a book.

This year's selected book is *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Environment*, edited by Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom (Skinner House Books, 2018). At a time when racial justice, environmental justice, and economic justice are seen as issues competing for time, attention, and resources, *Justice on Earth* explores the ways in which the three are intertwined. Those on the margins are invariably those most affected by climate disaster and environmental toxins. The book asks us to recognize that our faith calls us to long-haul work for justice for our human kin, for the Earth and for all life. It invites us to look at our current challenges through a variety of different perspectives, offers tools to equip us for sustained engagement, and proposes multiple pathways for follow-up action.

Justice on Earth is available through the UUA web site as well as Amazon. More information is available on-line. More information and the book will be available as we get closer to the date. Contact bUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Melissa Buehler



Service...it's in our DNA; it's who we are as a community, a congregation. It is woven through everything we do. Look around...our space is filled with love and service. It is in the cup of coffee made by Hospitality; or the weekends filled with social justice advocacy and congregational work lead by our Facilities team and SSJC; or when the children light our chalice; or the quiet behind the scenes efforts of the Board, Community Awareness/Website, Concert/Café, Finance, Fundraising, Membership, Shared Ministry and Worship committees. You can hear the love when the musicians play, or when our amazing Choir sings, or when we are welcomed as soon as we walk through the door, or in our service leaders' words that challenge us to love fiercely and openly. You can feel the love when the Faith Development teachers guide our children in how to be kind and compassionate, or when our A/V team makes sure

everything runs smoothly, or when the Caring Committee selflessly answers the call to help. So many people. So much service. So much love. Just so much.

Until next month, be well, continue to love and shine on....

RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ CONCERT SERIES



Robby Greenberg

Food and drinks are available at every concert for a suggested donation. Our gourmet chefs will be busy preparing varied and delicious offerings for each show! For the most up-to-date information, go to the River of Grass Cafe [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ROGCafe/) page (www.facebook.com/ROGCafe/) or contact us at concerts@riverofgrassuu.org.

*All Advance Tickets will be held at the door. The link for "Advance Purchase" will only be active until the day prior to the concert before 12:00 pm.
All ticket donations are final and non-refundable.*

RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ

2018 - 2019 CONCERT SEASON

 <p>Roy Schneider & Kim Mayfield Sat, Sept. 15th</p>	 <p>Carla Ulbrich Sat, Oct. 20th</p>	 <p>Patchouli Sat, Nov. 17th</p>
 <p>Amy Carol Webb Sat, Dec. 15th</p>	 <p>Steve Greenberg Sat, Jan 5th</p>	 <p>Roy Zimmerman Sat, Feb. 16th</p>
 <p>Deeper than the Skin (Reggie Harris & Greg Greenway) Sat, March 16th (\$25/\$30)</p>	 <p>Zoe Mulford Sat, April 20th</p>	 <p>Pat Wictor Sat, May 15th</p>

Season Tickets plus an ROG Cafe T-Shirt for \$158
(\$192 value, available till 9/14)

Tickets/Suggested Donation
\$19 Online/\$25 at the Door,
(except Deeper Than the Skin)

Fresh food, beverages, beer and wine available for a suggested donation. Individual and season tickets available.

Get tickets now at www.riverofgrassuu.org/events

River of Grass Cafe, 11850 West St Rd 84, Davie, FL
(East of Flamingo Rd on St Rd 84. Make 2nd right into 595 Park of Commerce)

