

# Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION  
DAVIE, FLORIDA NOVEMBER 2018



## REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Rev. Amy Carol Webb

*We are all under the same mental calamity; we have all forgotten our names. We have all forgotten what we really are.... All that we call spirit and art and ecstasy only means that for one ... moment we remember that we forget.*

– G. K. Chesterton

**I** can still hear my mother’s voice from every day of my memory as I ventured out into the world. “Remember who you are,” she would say, always just before the door closed behind me. “Remember who you are.”

She never said exactly what it was I was to remember – the wisdom of which I could not realize until I had children of my own heading out the door. She only hoped to help me keep connected with my core, my self-respect, my self-worth, my inner compass in the face of the pressures each of us face that tempt us to be something or someone other than our true selves. When my mother called out, “Remember who you are,” she meant, “Act only in ways consistent with your character – and if it doesn’t feel right, don’t do it.”

In this passage of human history we travel, it would indeed seem we have forgotten who we really are. Else the alternative, an even more terrifying prospect, is that the way we are as a society, as a species, at this moment *is* actually who we really are. Is it?

At the depths of my being, I do not believe this is who we are, but the result of forgetting who we are. For some perspective, consider this: Chesterton wrote these words in 1908. 1908. More than a century ago. With some of the worst of the 20<sup>th</sup> century still to come – wars upon wars, nuclear destruction, the Great Depression, violent racism, genocide, apartheid, McCarthyism, pollution, persecution and incarceration of women

(Continued on page 3)



## IN THIS ISSUE

Stay Connected!	2
Board President	3
Envision a New Home	4
Second Helping Sunday	4
Remembering	4
Faith Development	5
Choir Corner	6
Membership Matters	6
Sacred Action	6
Love, Learn, Lead	7
River of Grass Café	8
Getting to Know UU’s	8
Full Moon Daughters	9
Proposed Policy Changes	10
Upcoming Events	13
Tossing Flowers	14
UBarU Winter Camp	14
Letter from the Editor	14

**November Monthly Theme:**  
*To be a People of Memory*

- November 11: *Wild and Precious Life*  
Marilisa Lawless and others
- November 18: *Hunger Communion*  
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- November 25: *TBD*  
Rev. Amy Carol Webb

## WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM



**December Monthly Theme:**  
*To be a People of Mystery*

- December 2: *TBD*  
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- December 9: *Guest at Your Table*  
SSJC
- December 16: *Holiday pageant*  
Rev. Amy Carol Webb & Faith Development
- December 23: *The Wait*  
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- December 24: *Christmas Eve*

## 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)

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

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President ..... Scott May  
Vice President ..... Rita Cherubini  
Secretary ..... Bruce Ngo  
Treasurer ..... Brit Lundell  
Trustee ..... Kristine Barkley  
Trustee ..... Vernon Allen  
Trustee ..... Linda Lathroum  
Trustee ..... Marilisa Lawless

### Standing Committees

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

Faith Development ..... Diane Lade  
Finance ..... Rob Giblin-Davis  
Membership ..... Zena Tucker & Ann Lewis  
Worship ..... Kathy Jens-Rochow

### Staff

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

Choir Director ..... Gayle Giese  
Dir. of Faith Development ..... Karen Gonzalez  
Office Administrator ..... Sandy Blair Chibnick

### Strategy Teams and Other Resources

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

Caring ..... Kristine Barkley & Open  
Community Awareness ..... Open  
Concert (Café) ..... Robby Greenberg & Aaron Stang  
Environmental & ..... Steve Jens-Rochow  
Social Justice  
Facilities Management ..... Janet Schwartz & Riley Cothran  
Facilities Rental ..... Ken Bresnahan  
fUUndraising..... Zena Tucker, Kathy Jens-Rochow, & Susan Juncosa  
Hospitality ..... Zena Tucker  
Nominating ..... TBD  
Pastoral Care ..... Riley Cothran & Pat Katz  
Personnel ..... Rev. Amy Carol Webb & Janet Schwartz  
Shared Ministry ..... Diane Lade & Janet Schwartz  
Stewardship ..... Open  
Web Design ..... Esther Sampol & 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;

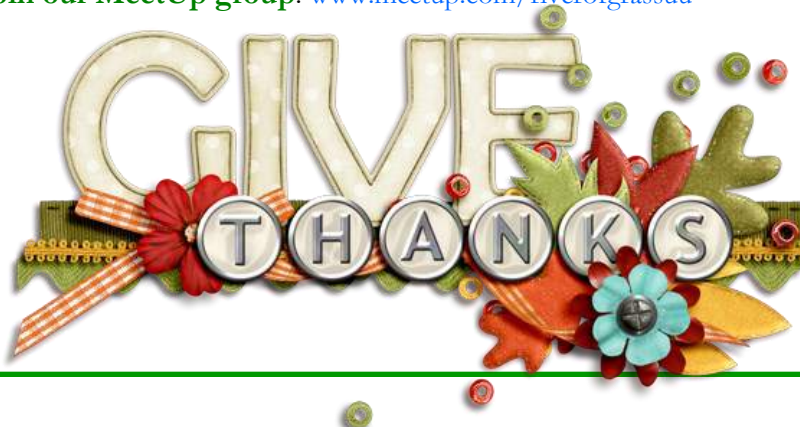
The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

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](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

Scott May



**H**appy Thanksgiving to all! I'm looking forward to Thanksgiving weekend - spending a few days with our kids and friends, putting down my phone, and enjoying life together. Besides a yummy vegetarian Thanksgiving dinner, I'm hoping we take a walk in the woods, chat and laugh, and even build a puzzle. Who knows, maybe we'll decorate a gingerbread house as well. It's vital to slow down from time to time, take a deep breath, and rejuvenate our spirits.

Equally important is the need to pause and recognize that we have much to be grateful for. Yes, we live in troubling times... yet there is much goodness all around. Our beloved River of Grass is alive and vibrant, helping to re-nourish our souls. Our service and social justice teams create

opportunities to join in and help bend the arc of justice. Our covenant groups and strategy teams help us keep connections with each other. Our worship services inspire us to be our best selves, as each of us strives to fulfill our life's purpose.

Thank you for who you are. Thank you for sharing your true selves. Thank you for living your values. This life is a blessing... let us rejoice! Happy Thanksgiving!



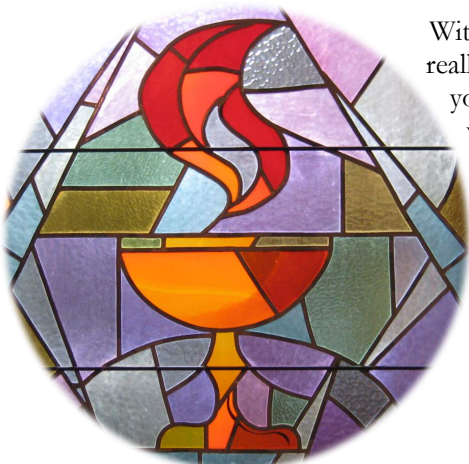
## REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

(Continued from page 1)

seeking the vote, same with African Americans, assassinations, and the list goes on. Could it be that the forgetting ... and remembering ... generation after generation is a feature of existential evolution, and we are right now living out our turn toward human progress?

All this pain? This disruption? This seeming chaos and calamity? Could it be these are just the features of our generation's finally remembering? Our reckoning. Our waking up from the illusions that have led us to this troubled place. Our opportunity to heal the rifts between who we know we are – and who we know we are not. As individuals. As communities. As people of faith. As one human family.

*A Course in Miracles* says the gift of human life is the opportunity to remember -- and when we do, to awake again in love and courage and wisdom and faith.



With this month of November's theme of "Memory," let us dare to remember who we really are. As you set off into your life each day, I bid you "Remember who you are." As you face the forces afoot that would tear you away from your truest self, "Remember who you are." Amid the whisperings of doubt and fear and anger and worry that threaten to drown out the songs of our souls, "Remember who you are."

And as the beloved community of the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation seeks to more fully live its vision and fulfill its mission, let us remember who we are.

## ENVISION A NEW HOME

Scott May

**E**nvisioning a future home is intriguing – a home with space for our growing worship services, children's activities, adult activities and events. We love our current home, it has served us well, but we are over capacity. There are calls to evaluate holding 2 Sunday morning services, certain evenings are full and cannot accommodate requested programs, and we do not have space for our faith development classes so we are paying to rent space for OWL at Candy Jazz dance studio a few doors down. In addition, our rent expense continues to escalate every year, increasing 32% since we arrived in 2012 through our end of lease in 2022. It is time to start envisioning our next home -- and we have 3½ years to make it a reality.



As we assemble our needs and hopes for a new home, we also must identify the sources of funding. Luckily we have over \$700,000 in savings in our Capital Fund, which positions us well. However additional funding is needed based on Broward County prices. To help shepherd us through this process, the plan is to engage an experienced UUA Stewardship Consultant to help layout the best options for us to consider. Although many of us have financial and real estate experience, engaging a neutral 3rd party with deep UU congregational stewardship experience will help set us up for success.

River of Grass Members are at the center of this process, and all are invited to participate during a “Next Steps” weekend to be held this spring. During this weekend, the consultant will be onsite meeting with Members in groups to gain critical insight into everyone's hopes, dreams, and priorities. A schedule of meeting options will be posted, giving everyone an opportunity to participate. Please plan to join one of these 45-60 minute sessions. Your insights are needed!

The consultant fees will be paid for by donations, so please consider donating by contacting Scott May at [president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org).

The input shared by Members is critical to defining what's possible for River of Grass, and what the next steps are. The consultant will share recommendations and next steps that same weekend on Sunday during worship and after service.

River of Grass has much to be excited about. Our past has brought us to where we are right now, and our energy and passion will lead us forward – as we continue this journey together!

## SECOND HELPING SUNDAY

Kip Barkley

**O**ur Next Second Helping Sunday will be after Coffee Hour Sunday November 18. Rev Amy will present on “Thoughts about Hospice.” Rev Amy offers a unique perspective based on her years working with Vitas Healthcare Hospice. The Planned Giving Group looks to bring thought-provoking and educational resources to our members and friends. The better organized your life, the more choices you have. And, yes, while you are naming potential beneficiaries, our legal name is “River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Inc.,” a Florida not-for-profit corporation. Are there other topics you would like to learn about?

<http://riverofgrassuu.org/planned-giving.html>

## REMEMBERING DEBBIE HOLT

Kip Barkley

**Y**ou might know her from SUUSI, the UU Summer Institute in North Carolina. You might know her from the UU Church of Fort Lauderdale. Debbie was into flowers, flowers everywhere. And, she made obsessive behavior a gracious art form. Wherever she is now, it is well petalled and better organized.



## FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Karen Gonzalez



**T**he winter holidays are upon us and for many, this time brings tidings of great joy. But for some Unitarian Universalist families, this is a complicated season full of angst, difficult choices and too many possibilities. Perhaps you are no longer in the faith of your childhood or your family formed from more than one faith. How do we as UUs celebrate miraculous nights? Michelle Richards, author of *Tending the Flame: The Art of UU Parenting*, and her husband chose to create a new family ritual around the winter solstice and let go of the pagan rituals surrounding the Christmas traditions they grew up with. They found that simply ignoring the holiday season altogether created tension in their extended families and confusion for their children. As social beings, we thrive with ritual and celebrations. So, we can embrace those things that bring us joy and make peace with those that don't. Here at River of Grass, we too have holiday traditions that help to bring us together to celebrate the silly of Santa and sleigh bells, the warmth of family and firelight, and the joy of community in this bustling season. Perhaps they'll spark an opportunity for you to share the rituals your family has chosen to embrace. And, perhaps they'll ignite new possibilities for future traditions.

Sunday evening, **November 18<sup>th</sup>** – This month's Family Fun Event brings us to the **Holiday Festival of Lights at Tradewinds Park**. Arrive at 5:00pm to enjoy dinner by Food Truck or bring your family picnic. Once the crowd disperses (around 6:30), we'll head out for our bike ride through 3 miles of festive lights (closed to car traffic on this night). Deck your bike out in style and bring helmets for those under the age of 16. The sun sets at 5:35 on that day. The cost is \$8 per bike.

Sunday morning, **November 25<sup>th</sup>** – We will not have regular Sunday School classes due to the school holiday, so we have special volunteers who will work with our children, youth and adults (during hospitality time) to create and sign holiday cards. The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) will be sending more than 890 holiday cards to CLF members experiencing incarceration, many of whom are particularly lonely and without support at this time of year. We will be helping to warm these hearts by contributing to the cause.

Friday, **December 7<sup>th</sup>** – Join us at 6:00pm for our **Annual Holiday Gathering** where we'll create holiday decorations, share delicious dishes, sing carols and deck the halls. Santa will visit and take gift suggestions from the little ones. Visit 4 stations and earn a treat from the gift basket! Sign up during hospitality time to host a craft table, hang wreaths or participate in the potluck dinner.

This year's **Holiday Pageant** will take place during the All-ages worship on **December 16<sup>th</sup>**. There'll be brief **rehearsals after class time on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> with a dress rehearsal the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am**. Hint: begin brushing up on your Spanish!

**Angel Tree Gift Giving** – Be on the lookout during Hospitality Time for the angel tree. Families can let their children choose a child to bring some holiday joy to. Let them participate in the gift purchasing and talk with them about what it will be like for their chosen child to receive their gift. Encourage empathy in your child through this activity.

Another way to support your child's faith development is through the gifts they receive during this season. Remember to consider shopping for books, stickers, jewelry and more at [In Spirit, the UUA Book and Gift Shop](http://www.uuabookstore.org) (www.uuabookstore.org). Chalice jewelry can also be found elsewhere on the web. Check out [Crow Steals Fire](http://www.crowstealsfire.com) (www.crowstealsfire.com) for unique jewelry creations.

Enjoy the holidays however they manifest themselves in your UU home!



## CHOIR CORNER

### WHEN IS MUSIC A MINISTRY?


Gayle Giese



**H**ave you ever been in service when Rev. Amy's words seemed to be just for you, healing, helping, providing insight? Music does that too! Music taps emotions even better than words do, and often we remember what we *feel* more than what we hear. The musicians never know who will walk into the River in need of comfort or inspiration. Musicians (including choristers) are more like paramedics than entertainers; we are here to help, to heal, to enliven, and to provide what is needed. Worship music is most effective when it enhances or complements the words of the readings and the message. This past Sunday, the choir sang "Love Is Love Is Love Is Love." We hope that you felt the love surround you in these very troubled times. Once a congregant said to me, "I needed to hear that song you played. It was my son's favorite and he died last year. Hearing it here today made me feel that he was here with me. It provided some peace." Who knew what good works were in the divine air? I hope our music provides you with a bit of joy, or comfort, or healing, or inspiration. Thanks for coming to our worship services.

## SACRED ACTION

### BLOOD DRIVE DECEMBER 2ND AFTER SERVICE

**O**ur Strategic Plan – Love, Learn &  Lead – challenges us to share our love for the community and live our UU values. Donating blood is one of the easiest ways to demonstrate these values and help our community. Our SSJC Committee is sponsoring a blood drive. The Blood Mobile from OneBlood will be at the River on Sunday, December 2 after service. If you are able to donate, please consider doing so. This is especially important since blood donations tend to go down before the holidays, just when the need becomes greater. Contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at [ssjc@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:ssjc@riverofgrassuu.org).



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Zena Tucker



**P**ATHWAYS Class Dec 2. Would you like to learn more about River of Grass and Unitarian Universalism? Join us after service on Dec 2. Light lunch and child care provided. RSVP is much appreciated! Contact Zena Tucker or Ann Lewis or email us at [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org).

**River Holiday Potluck Party Dec 7, 6-9pm.** Lets get to know each other better! Bring a dish to share, bring the children and bring your holiday spirit. We will have activities for all ages. Signup is available after services and online.

## WE LOVE, WE LEARN, WE LEAD

Marjie Loring, Strategic Plan Lead

I want to thank everyone who attended Sunday (Oct. 28) afternoon's Strategic Plan presentation which outlined a new way for us to move forward collaboratively toward our goals and our 5-year vision.

I also want to give a special thanks to those who brought their questions about this change to the floor. Those questions helped to clarify how this new structure will impact how we have done things in the past and how we are approaching the future by doing what we do best in new ways.

Change is never easy. But the UUA has recommended that congregations dismantle their traditional committee-heavy structure for a few years now, and it's time that we follow their advice and take that step together by establishing a team structure as opposed to committees and more committees.

The chart below shows the goals for sign-ups through December 16, 2018. However, a total of 33 members already signed up to participate on the Strategy Team(s) that best aligned with their interests. This exceeded the initial goal of 25 sign-ups for this first week! Way to go, RoG!!



Remember that the Strategic Plan is based on a 5-year vision created by you, our members. Every strategy we accomplish moves us closer to making that vision a reality. We can do this together!!

If you were not able to attend last Sunday's meeting, the sign-up sheets will be posted in the hospitality area each week for you to add your name wherever your interests and passions align! Let's raise the numbers on this chart each week and meet our goal of 60% member participation. This is your opportunity to contribute your time and talent; in whatever amount you are comfortable, as an active and integral part of this vibrant community.



## RIVER OF GRASS CAFE

Robby Greenberg

### ROG CAFE PRESENTS PATCHOULI NOVEMBER 17TH

**D**oors open at 7 PM for food and drink. The concert starts at 8 PM. The suggested ticket price is \$19 in advance and \$25 at the door. Purchase your tickets online at [www.riverofgrassuu.org/river-of-grass-cafe.html](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org/river-of-grass-cafe.html).

Patchouli and Terra Guitarra is master guitarist Bruce Hecksel and singer-songwriter, guitarist Julie Patchouli. Julie also plays an African drum and a (marimba) which seems to provide several octaves from its six chimes/bars.



Zone Music Reporter calls Terra Guitarra “one of the top nuevo-flamenco groups in the world”, with a #1 and two top 5 internationally charting albums and multiple “Album of the Year” nominations. Patchouli is a folk festival headliner and Public Radio favorite with pure, haunting lead vocals and beautiful harmonies. Their sound, depth and virtuosity is described as “Simon and Garfunkel meets the Gypsy Kings” and “taking a yoga class in a field of running mustangs.” Join us!

# Getting to Know UU's

## FAMOUS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SPOTLIGHT

Kathy Jens-Rochow

**Louisa May Alcott** (1832-1888): Civil war nurse. Suffragist. Author. Poet. Abolitionist. “I’d rather be a free spinster and paddle my own canoe.”

**L**ouisa May Alcott was an American novelist and poet best known for her novel *Little Women*. First published in 1868, *Little Women* was set in Orchard House, which was the Alcott family home located in Concord, Massachusetts. The well-received and highly acclaimed novel was loosely based on Alcott’s childhood experiences with her three sisters. Alcott later focused on activism and frequently wrote articles advocating for women’s right to vote. In 1879, Massachusetts passed a law allowing women to vote in local elections concerning education and children. Alcott quickly became the first woman registered to vote in Concord.



... for love casts out fear ...



## FULL MOON DAUGHTERS

Diane Lade



**D**oes joining a great group of women and girls on walks through a quiet subtropical forest, stargazing on the beach or singing around a campfire sound like something you would enjoy? Come spend some time with the Full Moon Daughters, the River of Grass outdoor spirituality group for women and girls. After taking some time off earlier this year, we are back and have set our schedule for 2018-19. If you are a longtime Full Moon Daughter, we hope to see you soon! If you are new to River of Grass, we hope you'll join us and get to know us.

Either way: If you are interested, please send us your email and cell phone number, as we are rebuilding our contact list. This would be helpful even if you already are part of the group. Here is our email: [fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org).

Also, please welcome Deb Giblin-Davis as our new co-coordinator, joining group co-founder Diane Lade. Deb has been an active member since the group's beginnings more than a decade ago – and a faithful supplier of early morning camping coffee, a critical role.

Here are a few important things about Full Moon Daughters:

- ◆ We are open to women and girls of all ages. You do not need to be a River of Grass member to be in our group, and everyone is welcome to bring friends.
- ◆ We are a female-only group (sorry, guys). But we do sometimes have co-ed outings, which will be prompted as such in advance. We encourage the men to form their own group!
- ◆ The best way to keep up with where we are going and what we are doing is to get on our email list, instructions above. We also regularly post our upcoming events in the River of Grass weekly update, and on posters you will see during hospitality hour. We aim to have one outing a month, with a break during July and August (too hot!). But we also do Full Moon meet-ups, sometimes on short notice. So be sure we have your email so we can let you know, as these often will not be posted through the congregational updates.
- ◆ No committee meetings! No mandatory attendance! No dues or secret handshakes! We try to keep our outings free or low cost, any money required is paid by those participating. And no committee chairs. We are a shared leadership group, with members sharing responsibilities for being in charge of different events.
- ◆ We are all about building bonds, making memories and having FUN! You do NOT need to like sleeping on the ground, 20-mile hikes or bugs. We try to plan activities that suit a wide range of abilities and interests. Our goal is to celebrate nature and its vital role in the female spirit. Hence our name: the moon has been a symbol of woman power since ancient times. We all are the beautiful daughters of the earth and sky.

Below is our calendar for this coming year. Reach out to [fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.com](mailto:fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.com) (did we mention we would love to get your email for our list?) so we can keep you posted. Or see Deb Giblin-Davis or Diane Lade at The River, if you have any questions.

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

### 2018-19 FULL MOON DAUGHTERS OUTINGS

Please note dates and events may change. You will be notified.



- Sunday, Nov. 18:** Holiday Ride in the Lights at Tradewinds Park in Coconut Creek. This is a co-ed event, families are encouraged to come. Led by Diane Lade.
- Sunday, Dec. 16:** Winter Solstice Party. A potluck dinner and fun gift exchange featuring gently recycled or hand-made items. Led and at the home of member Susan Juncosa.
- Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019:** Kayak trip at Oleta State Park in northern Miami-Dade County. Paddle through mangroves and see manatees! Led by Linda Meerow.
- February 14-19, 2019:** Trip to Puerto Rico and the island's famous El Yunque rain forest. Linda Lathroum is leading the trip. Another local event in February will be planned for those who cannot go on the trip.
- March 2019:** A trip to Palm Beach County's magnificent tropical bird sanctuaries, led by experienced birders Kris Stewart and Pam Schrimsher.
- April 2019:** Explore Coral Gable's Old Cutler Road area and bike trail, and the classic Venetian Pool. Led by Karen Gonzalez and Carole Wilschke.
- Saturday, May 4 2019:** Sunrise salutation at a local beach. Greet the dawn with meditation and chanting, followed by breakfast out. Led by Marilisa Lawless.
- June 2019:** A day trip for snorkeling and beach-going. This will be a co-ed outing. Led by Pat Katz and Susan Juncosa.

## PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES

Brit Lundell

At the previous Board of Trustees meeting, two policy changes were proposed. In compliance with our Policy on Policies, the changes are published below and will be approved or rejected at the Board meeting scheduled for November 18, 2018.

**Proposed Change to Policy 9**, related to membership. The change replaces section D to clarify administration of the membership roll and adds section E to establish responsibilities, processes, criteria, and safeguards for determining and tracking membership status, membership removal, and membership reinstatement as required by the Bylaw changes adopted by the congregation in May 2017.

If you have any questions or feedback in regard to the proposed change, you are asked to direct your questions to Zena Tucker at [Membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:Membership@riverofgrassuu.org).



### Current Policy:

- D. Membership Roll: the official roll for denomination purposes shall be updated annually by the membership committee and shall be submitted to the Board on or before January 10. A preliminary figure shall be submitted to the Board prior to the Board meeting in January.

### Proposed Complete Replacement:

- D. Membership Roll: The Congregational administrative database, such as PowerChurch, is the official member roll for the Congregation. The Office Administrator maintains the Congregational administrative database, as directed by the Membership Committee. In addition, the Office Administrator updates the UUA Membership List to reflect the Congregational administrative database for denomination purposes. At least annually, and before the annual UUA Congregational certification (see Policy 7.D Membership Certification with UUA), the Membership Committee will review the member roll to ensure its accuracy. A report of results, including any findings and corrections made, shall be submitted to the Board on or before January 10.

### Added Section:

- E. Membership Standing
1. By maintaining “good standing” status, a member recommits to membership for a Congregational year in accordance with Bylaws 2.4 Membership Standing. A member maintains “good standing” by actively participating in a Congregational function, submitting a pledge card, making an identifiable monetary or in-kind donation, or informing the Minister or Membership Chair of the member’s wish to remain in “good standing.”
  2. The Congregational administrative database is the repository for identifying a member’s “good standing” status. The Office Administrator maintains the Congregational administrative database. The process for determining “good standing” is as follows:
    - a. As the Office Administrator receives any of the following for a Congregational year, the Office Administrator will ensure the member’s status is in “good standing” for that year and will log the item that triggered the status to be set as “good standing,” should a need to validate member standing arise:
      - i. a financial pledge card from a member,
      - ii. notification by a Board Member that a member has volunteered to chair or lead a Congregational committee or group,
      - iii. notification by Membership Chair, Board Member, and/or other person designated by the Board that a member has been appointed to a volunteer Congregational position,
      - iv. identifiable monetary or in-kind donation by a member, or
      - v. notification by the Minister or Membership Chair of member’s wish to remain in good standing.
    - b. At least annually, and as otherwise required to fulfill its charge, the Membership Committee will query the Office Administrator about members not in “good standing.” Before providing any list to Membership Committee, the Office Administrator will identify members not in “good standing” and provide the list to the Minister (or in the absence of the Minister to the President), who will review the list and may direct the Office Administrator to update a member’s status to “good standing” per step 2.a. above. After Minister review, the Office Administrator will give the remaining list of members not in “good standing” to the Membership Committee.

*(Continued on page 11)*

## PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES

*(Continued from page 10)*

- c. Upon notification of a member not in “good standing,” Membership Committee will consult with Congregational leaders and the Minister regarding the member. Based on other facets of Congregational life, Membership Committee may direct the Office Administrator to update a member’s status to “good standing” per step 2.a. above.
  - d. The Membership Committee will periodically attempt to contact members not in “good standing.” If a member wishes to remain in “good standing,” the Membership Committee will notify the Office Administrator per step 2.a. above. If a member wishes to resign from membership, the Membership Committee will provide documentation of the resignation to the Board, the Minister, and the Office Administrator, and direct the Office Administrator to remove the member from the membership roll per section D Membership Roll, above.
3. Upon determining that a member has not been in “good standing” for 12 consecutive months, the Membership Chair will consult the Minister and together verify that at least 2 good faith attempts have been made to contact the member.
    - a. If so, they will direct the Office Administrator to remove the member from the membership roll per section D Membership Roll, above.
    - b. If not:
      - i. The Membership Chair and Minister will select the right leader to make at least 2 good faith attempts to contact the member.
      - ii. The contacting leader will attempt to contact the member. If the member indicates their wish to remain a member in “good standing,” then the contacting leader will notify the Membership Chair, who will notify the Office Administrator per step 2.a. above. If the contacting leader is unable to connect with the member or if the member no longer wishes to remain a member, the contacting leader will notify the Membership Chair, who will provide documentation of the removal to the Board, the Minister, and the Office Administrator and direct the Office Administrator to remove the member from the membership roll per section D., above.
  4. The Membership Chair will ensure a final email is sent to any member who has been removed from the Membership role informing the former member of this action and their options to be reinstated (as described below). Should no valid email address be available for a former member, the Membership Chair will ensure a letter is mailed to the former member’s last known address.
  5. A former member may be reinstated as a member in “good standing” at any time as described in step 1 above, unless reinstatement has been precluded by action of the Board in accordance with the Bylaws or Policies.

**Proposed Change to Policy 2**, related to facility and property usage. The changes clarify responsibilities and processes for scheduling events, add references to the separate Facility Usage and Rental Procedures document regarding rental rates, processes, approval criteria to reflect current practices, add language to clarify that outside groups invited to join events scheduled by congregational committees and groups are not considered “renters,” and implement “housekeeping” changes to language.

If you have any questions or feedback in regard to the proposed change, you are asked to direct your questions to Ken Bresnahan at [Rentals@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:Rentals@riverofgrassuu.org).

Added text in **bold green**, removed text in ~~bold red strike-through~~

### 2. **Building Facility and Property** Usage

#### A. Scheduling:

1. **All congregation-related events and rentals on or off Congregation property shall be submitted for scheduling via an email to ‘calendar@riverofgrassuu.org’ in advance. The email must include the event name and description, timing (date, begin time, and end time), contact (name and email address), and location (address if not at the congregation, or room(s) to be used if at the congregation). The Office Administrator, or other designated person, will receive the emailed schedule request and add the event or rental to the online congregational calendar if there are no scheduling conflicts, otherwise notify the requestor of the conflict(s). The requestor will work to resolve any conflicts, and resubmit their request via the process outlined above. The master calendar shall be viewable online, accessed through the congregation website. ~~All congregation-related events on or off Congregation property shall be scheduled through a designated person, with conflicts to be resolved by staff. Standing and special committees shall keep the office advised of their planned activities in advance. A master calendar should be kept in the office so dates, times and location can be assigned on an efficient basis.~~**

*(Continued on page 12)*

## PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES

*(Continued from page 11)*

### B. **Building Facility and Property Rental:**

1. Non-members may **use rent** the Congregation **facility and/or** property with proper approval and scheduling. **The fees, application process, and approval criteria are contained in the Facility Usage and Rental Procedures document. A deposit of \$200 will be required in advance. The deposit will be returned in full (excluding any repairs caused by renters' use) less a fee for clean up.**
- ~~2. Non-members may rent the congregation hall for a fee of \$250 for an approved 4 hour time block. A fee of \$50 will be charged for each additional hour. Arrangements for additional time usage must be made in advance. Additional fees for office space may be negotiated.~~
23. River of Grass members may rent the Congregation facility and/or property with proper approval and scheduling. The fees, application process, and approval criteria are contained in the Facility Usage and Rental Procedures document. Member fees will be lower than non-member fees. **using the property for a non-congregational function will be asked to pay a usage fee of \$100 to cover electricity and other cost incurred from that usage. Members are expected to leave the property clean and restored to its prior arrangement. Members also have the option of paying to have the property professionally cleaned.**
34. Board has the right to **reduce or** waive any fees.
45. All non-congregational groups renting the **facility or** property shall be required to carry Special Events insurance coverage.
5. **The facility and/or property will not be rented for partisan political events or to partisan political groups. The facility may be rented for non-partisan discussions of political issues, with proper approval and scheduling as contained in the Facility Usage and Rental Procedures document.**

### C. **Committee/Group Facility and Property Usage:**

1. Congregational Committees and Groups established under coordination of the Board of Trustees may use the facility and/or property for regular activities (such as meetings, programs, and events), at no charge, on a first come first served basis. Committees/Groups can invite outside groups to join their activities, or partner with outside groups to hold joint activities where the Committee/Group is actively involved in the activity. These are congregation activities (not facility rentals) so the outside group does not need Special Event insurance, nor does the activity require Board approval, as long as the activity meets the criteria below:
  - a. Activity is sponsored by a Committee/Group, and the Committee/Group is actively involved in the activity.
  - b. Activity purpose is compatible with the Congregation's purpose (bylaw 1.2 Congregation purpose) and mission, and serves to further the Committee/Group's charge or mission.
  - c. Activity is non-partisan.
  - d. Sponsoring Committee/Group follows the proper scheduling policies and procedure described in policy 2 Building Usage and the Facility Usage and Rental Procedures document.
  - e. Any donations collected are at the discretion of the Sponsoring Committee/Group. Any donations collected follow the procedure for handling congregational funds described in policy 8 Finances.
  - f. Sponsoring Committee/Group informs the Board whenever a new outside group will be joining an activity for the first time, in order to keep the Board informed.
2. Any exceptions require prior approval from the Board of Trustees.

### **DE.** Clean Up:

1. ~~For a congregational~~ **After every rental or** function, the **facility and** property shall be left clean and restored to its prior arrangement.

### **ED.** Smoking:

1. River of Grass is a non-smoking **and non-vaping** facility.

### **FE.** Polling Place:

1. The county may use the congregational facilities as a polling place.

### **GF.** Proposed Permanent Installations:

1. The **Site Facility** Committee prior to installation must approve all.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Location
November 17	7:00p (doors open) 8:00p (concert)	RoG Café present Patchouli	River of Grass
November 18	12:00p	Second Helping Sunday: Thoughts on Hospice	River of Grass
November 18	6:00p	Holiday Festival of Lights w/ family bike ride	Tradewinds Park
November 19	7:00-8:30p	#MeToo Healing Circle	River of Grass
November 20, 27	7:15p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
November 26	6:00-9:00p	SSJC JAM meeting and potluck	River of Grass
November 28	7:15-9:15p	bUUKies Book Group	River of Grass
November 29	7:00-7:45p	Welcome Table Communion Circle with Rev Amy	River of Grass
December 1	12:30-2:30p	Leadership Roundtable: Active Shooter Training	River of Grass
December 2	12:00p	Holiday Pageant rehearsal	River of Grass
December 2	12:00p	Pathways new membership class	River of Grass
December 2	12:00p	OneBlood drive	River of Grass
December 5	7:00-7:45p	Eventide with Rev Amy	River of Grass
December 7	6:00-9:00p	Annual Holiday Gathering	River of Grass
December 9	12:00p	Holiday Pageant rehearsal	River of Grass
December 14	7:00p	Drum Circle with Rev Amy	River of Grass
December 16	9:30a	Holiday Pageant rehearsal Pageant will take place during service	River of Grass
December 16	TBA	Full Moon Daughters Winter Solstice Party	Susan Juncosa's home



## TOSSING FLOWERS (AKA BEHIND THE SCENES AWESOMENESS)

**A** Big Shout-Out to Anne Smith for playing the piano for Brenda, while we pray for Brenda's recovery. Anne is donating the money for one service per month to Brenda. Gayle's piano playing continues to be donated to River of Grass.

# Awesome.



### UBarU Winter Family Camp

**Friday, 28 December thru Monday, 31 December  
2018**

Weekend includes winter holiday activities, break out sessions for adults and kids as well as multi-generational times. Fun, campfires, games, food, rest and a chance to celebrate some winter holidays together with folks at camp!

Early bird registration \$180.00 before 15 November & \$200.00 after for adults. Kids just \$90 or free, if 4 years and younger. For full information and to register visit [www.ubaru.org](http://www.ubaru.org)

Contact [director@ubaru.org](mailto:director@ubaru.org) with questions!  
**See you in December!**

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Melissa Buehler-Ely

**T**o give thanks: “express gratitude or show appreciation. To acknowledge, recognize.”

Giving thanks is so much more than a holiday season for our RoG community. We give thanks each time we walk through our doors. We acknowledge and recognize that our beloved community is priceless. As we begin the mad dash that is November and December, I feel an immense sense of gratitude for my family, friends, community, and each of you. My cup truly runneth over.

