



Sunday, March 15, 2020

Welcome!

Make yourself at home!

To learn more about this congregation, please contact us at

11850 W State Road 84, Suite 1, Davie, Florida 33325

954-723-7877, office@riverofgrassuu.org

Also, visit our web site at www.riverofgrassuu.org

River of Grass – March 15, 2020

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF UUSC: BRAVE LEGACY, BOLD FUTURE

Karen Gonzalez

“Hopelessness is the enemy of justice.”

-- Bryan Stevenson

Today's Musicians: Brenda Parker, piano;
Gary Gonzalez. Guitar and vocals

GATHERING

Gathering Song

“Oh, Let Us Gather”

Words & Music: Amy Carol Webb

Community Connections and We Give Thanks

Prelude

CENTERING

Opening Words

Singing Together #1010

“We Give Thanks”

Words & Music: Wendy Luella Perkins

Chalice Lighting

Marina deMoraes

We light this chalice –

not because we must but because we may

We light this chalice –

not because we have the truth

but because we each come bearing and seeking many truths.

We light this chalice –

in connection across culture, distance, class, and language.

We light this chalice –

that our religion may be a beacon

of light, hope, and justice.

We light this chalice –

to kindle our hearts and our minds.

- Lois E. Van Leer

SHARING

Covenant

Love is the spirit of this congregation and service is its law.

This is our great covenant:

to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love,

and to help one another.

El Amor es el espíritu de esta congregación y el servicio su ley principal.

Esta es nuestra gran promesa:

vivir juntos en paz, buscar la verdad a través del amor,

y ayudarnos mutuamente.

Singing Together #347

“Gather the Spirit”

Words & Music: Jim Scott

Candles of Community

Pastoral Response

Heritage and Hope

Martha and Waitstill Sharp / Leah Harts-Landsberg

Sharing of Responsibility & Offertory

Wisdom Story

“A Cup of Light, The Story of the Flaming Chalice “

by: Pamela Baxter

Retold by: Karen Gonzalez

DEEPENING

Testimonial

Bryan Mann

Responsive Reading

“We bring into our hearts”

Leslie Takahashi

Interlude

Message

“Celebrating 80 years of UUSC: Brave Legacy, Bold Future”

Karen Gonzalez

Special Collection for UUSC

Special Music

“Love is Still the Answer”

Words & Music: Jason Mraz

Presented by: Gary Gonzalez

GOING FORTH

Singing Together #131

“Love Will Guide Us”

Words: Sally Rogers; Music: Traditional

Extinguishing the Chalice

Carrying the Flame

Greeting of Peace

Reprise

One Good Thing: *More ways to live your UU Principles! Sign up for periodic email updates on UUSC's human rights work, and ways you can get involved at -- UUSC.org/subscribe.*

“Love is the spirit of this congregation, and service is its law.” Unitarian Universalist congregations are places where people gather to nurture their spirits and practice their faith by making our world a better place. We are glad to have you with us this morning and invite you to join us for our social time following the service. If you are visiting, we invite you to sign our guest book located near the entrance door and pick up a copy of our current newsletter from the literature table. We welcome your participation in all congregational events that interest you.

River of Grass is a Unitarian Universalist congregation serving the communities of Western Broward County. Membership is open to all who find our emphasis on personal religious integrity and commitment meaningful. If you would like more information about Unitarian Universalism or our River of Grass Congregation, members of our Board of Trustees or any congregational member would welcome your questions. Additionally, we have a wide variety of materials on the literature table located near the entrance door.

~ Members of River of Grass

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Service Leader – Karen Gonzalez

Service Host – Barbara Ratchford

River Guide – Linda Morgan Crain

Flag Raisers – Kallie LeFever and Linda Lathroum

Power Point – Sheryl Cattell

A/V Tech – Bennett Lorman

Ushers – Kristine Barkley and Ahysa Boutron

Hospitality – Deb Giblin-Davis and Geri Mikulski

Welcome Table – Jeanne Masten

For more information on Unitarian Universalism

Visit the association's web site at www.uua.org

Announcements

The Faith Forward Inquirers Series will meet at 12:00 pm, on Sunday, Mar 15th. The series is a rotation of 8 conversations about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. It is designed for visitors and newcomers who are looking for a general introduction, and yet the sessions are appealing to veteran members who want more information about our beloved community. Attend 5 classes and win a chalice pin! Classes are not mandatory for membership but are highly recommended! Our class topic is **FF Inquirers #6: Social Action & Community Service**.

Covid-19 Planning Meeting Today at 2:00 pm, via Zoom - Covid-19 is top of mind for all of us. The speed and amount it will spread is uncertain, as new information arrives daily, so it is paramount that we do what we can to help keep our members, friends, guests, and renters safe during this situation. All leaders are asked to join a Covid-19 Planning Meeting today at 2:00 pm via Zoom, <https://zoom.us/j/131010524>. During this meeting, teams will identify and share key actions planned to help keep everyone safe, including the real possibility of reduced or eliminated face-to-face contact. Although this may never happen, having a plan in place will help reduce anxiety and enable us to be better prepared. Please reach out to Scott May with feedback and ideas, as we all in this together - president@riverofgrassuu.org 954-646-0234. We will keep you up to date as we go. If you are feeling anxious, which is normal in such a volatile time, please reach out to someone you trust – River of Grass, Covenant Group, Rev. Amy -- whomever you feel can best support you at this time.

Flowing River Sangha – We meet Tuesdays, Mar 17th at 7:30 pm. This is an open-ended, drop-in group for all levels of meditation experience. Gary Gonzalez meditation@riverofgrassuu.org.

JAM & ALL – This month, JAM & ALL Interfaith is re-directing it's Davie Monday Mar 23rd meetup to the **Tequesta Solstice Drum Circle on Thursday, Mar 19th**. Folks on many spiritual paths come together to celebrate the beginning of Spring at Hugh Taylor State Park, (A1A and Sunrise) from 7:00 – 11:00 pm. \$15 at the gate. Bring your own drum (or not) and help celebrate the first day of Spring. moonpathcircle.org.

Full Moon Daughters – Come romp in the swamp with the Full Moon Daughters on **Saturday, Mar 21st**! All women and girls are invited to a unique up-close look at the western Everglades during a nature walk through **Big Cypress National Preserve Reserve**. Our leader: our own Christy Schultz, an environmental educator and veteran swamp walker. We will start down the trail at **10:00 am** from a location about 90 minutes from River of Grass. We will hike about two hours over a moderate, mostly dry trail that will be okay for adults and girls who can walk distances on unpaved surfaces with occasional



Celebrating 80 Years of Advancing Human Rights

A TIMELINE OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

1939 Martha and Waitstill Sharp embark on a rescue mission to help Jews and political dissidents escape the Nazis.

1940 The Unitarian Service Committee is established to continue these humanitarian efforts in Europe.

1947 A project is founded to provide childcare, education, and food to exploited migrant communities in Texas.



1955 A relief project is established in Vienna to help refugees fleeing the Hungarian Uprising.

1960 Desegregation projects are launched in Georgia and Florida as Unitarian Universalists take a prominent role in the civil rights movement.



1978 UUSC sponsors fact-finding Congressional delegation to investigate war crimes in El Salvador.

1984 Famine in Ethiopia leads UUSC to appeal for emergency funds long before the story reaches U.S. television.

1994 UUSC sends emergency medical equipment to Rwanda and begins a long-term relationship with grassroots groups working to bring peace to the region.

UUSC has been advancing human rights and social justice since 1940, when we were founded to help Jews and political dissidents escape the Nazis. With your support, we are continuing that legacy today by supporting people forced to flee their homes due to violence, corruption, natural disaster, economic injustice, or climate change. Thank you for helping make our work possible! For more information, or to make a gift, please visit uusc.org/uusc-sunday.

A UUSC TIMELINE FROM 1939 TO 2020

2003 UUSC leads a delegation to Guatemala to monitor national elections and witnesses the defeat of former dictator General Efraín Ríos Montt.

2006 UUSC's work for a living wage helps win ballot victories in six states, leading to the first increase in the federal minimum wage in 10 years.



2010 UUSC begins decade-long response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

2012 UUSC works with partners in California to help pass Human Right to Water legislation.

2014 UUSC begins a program to help migrants in U.S. immigration detention access their legal rights.

2015 UUSC begins long-term partnerships in response to the refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe.

2017 UUSC launches new program to support Indigenous communities facing the harshest and earliest impacts of climate change.



2018 UUSC supports our partner No More Deaths to release a report documenting U.S. Customs and Border Protection's routine destruction of humanitarian aid supplies in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

2019 UUSC supports human rights defenders facing fabricated charges and jail-time in Honduras for their work to defend a national park from a mining project.



2020 UUSC continues to partner with grassroots organizers worldwide to advance human rights.