

River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

WELCOME TO OUR RIVER OF GRASS FAMILY. WELCOME TO OUR WARMTH. WELCOME HOME!

River of Grass Weekly Update – January 5, 2023

Remember, Release, Resolve: Finding Our Center

What is it
That calls you here
That calls you onward
That calls you inward
That leads you homeward?

What is it
That gives you the power
To make that change
To ask that question
To take that journey?

- *Monica Jacobson-Tennessee*

In our first multi-platform in-person service of the New Year, we begin January's journey toward Finding Our Center – beginning with our annual New Year service centered on rituals guiding us to Remember, Release, and Resolve anew to enter into the adventure of 2023 as we build a new way for ourselves and our world.

Join us to look behind, beyond, and within ourselves as individuals and Beloved Community – and center ourselves once more on the heart of the matter

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Heritage Hall or virtually on Zoom. We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

In person at:

- January 8, 2023 will be our first service at our new rental space at the Old Davie Schoolhouse!
- 6650 Griffin Road, Davie, FL 33314 ([Click for Directions](#))
- Service will begin at **2:00 PM** so mark your calendar for that new time!!
- Childcare will be provided.

Use the Zoom link below to gather with us virtually in Zoom. Catch us on Facebook live on our [facebook page](#).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Meeting ID: 961 564 350; Password: 873805

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, January 8, 2023 - 2:00 PM

River of Grass UU Congregation – Remember, Release, Resolve: Finding Our Center – Rev. Amy Carol Webb

<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Faith Development - The theme this month is Finding Your Center. In Sunday's lesson we'll explore the importance of choosing certain directions in life in order to find your center and live the values that are at the center of your being. We'll explore how the Serenity Prayer might help us find inner peace and choose the right action in our lives. Also, our new nursery is open! Look for the beautiful trailer outside the sanctuary (Heritage Hall). All babies and toddlers under the age of 5 are welcome from 1:30 - 4:30pm (for those staying for an after-service program). For more information about our Faith Development program for kids, contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at religiuseducator@riverofgrassuu.org or visit our [Facebook page - River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Faith Development](#).

Looking for Help:

Love babies? You're in luck! The River has been attracting quite a few, lately. Our new location in January will include a paid staff position for the nursery. If you know someone who might be interested in caring for our babies and kids for 3 hours each Sunday, please contact our Faith Development Director, Karen at religiuseducator@riverofgrassuu.org. We are also looking for some items to fill this space. Let Karen know if you can contribute any of the following: extra-large baby gate, high chair, and play items such as stacking blocks, cars and puzzles.

Be part of the greater UU Community Go to General Assembly!

Say "Yes"

We are a part of a much larger association of Unitarian Universalists.

Learn and participate in the greater community by attending General Assembly.

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association through the democratic process, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Participants worship, witness, learn, and connect. **Anyone may attend.**

This is an exciting GA as delegates will elect the new UUA president.

Join us June 21 - 25, 2023 online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. General Assembly 2023 will be a multiplatform event, with registration options for in-person and/or virtual participation. In-person registration includes access to events scheduled to take place in Pittsburgh, as well as everything available to virtual registrants. Full virtual registration includes access to the GA app, as well as all on-demand programming, live webinars, and live-streamed events. For more information about attending and/or being a delegate, please contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org.

Thanks For Your Commitment to Human Rights

The turn of a new year is a natural time for reflection. The UU Service Committee [UUSC] thanks you for the work you do to help them build a more just and equitable world. And thank you for your steadfast support! We look forward to another year working together to enact deep change.

Go to: <https://donate.uusc.org/give/188649/#!/donation/checkout> to donate. Thanks for your contribution. UUSC Advancing Human Rights Around the World



8th Principle Action Team – Be The Change

Our 8th Principle Action Team wants YOU to take action in your committee or small group! See the links below for more information about microaggressions and white supremacy culture and then identify one thing you can do or one change you can make to be more inclusive and anti-racist or more of an ally to BIPOC and other oppressed groups. As a key part of keeping the River going, growing and flowing, we need YOU to make our 8th principle a real part of our congregational life. Please include what you have done or changed in your committee in your January or February Board Report, or for small groups, send a note to the board (board@riverofgrassuu.org) in January. We look forward to hearing from you!

[https://www.uua.org/files/pdf/m/microaggressions by derald wing sue ph.d. .pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/pdf/m/microaggressions%20by%20derald%20wing%20sue%20ph.d.%20.pdf)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yk411vUztwA47x6kYpNL5sC6_WBpNFHB/view

Other Events:

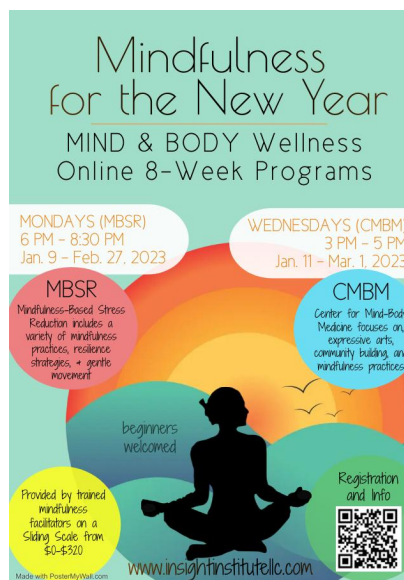
Free “Mindfulness for Today’s World” weekly online sessions:

Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm for adults, [zoom link for Thursday night at 6 pm](#)

For more information or to register contact Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

RoG Men’s Group: We’ll next meet **TODAY, Thursday Jan 5th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.** We meet in person and via [Zoom Meeting](#). Our meeting location is at The Transformation Project: 4431 SW 64th Ave Ste 109, Davie, FL 33314. All who are able can meet early for dinner at 5:30 pm at Uncle Al’s, 8200 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33328. (If you're joining for dinner, please email Ken, group facilitator, so he can coordinate space.) All who identify male are invited to join. We are a lay-led group and look to our members for future topics and the direction we take. Do come out and join us. The Zoom Meeting Room will open up at 7:00 pm and we will begin at 7:15 pm. If you have any questions please contact Ken Bresnahan; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org; RoG Men’s Group Facilitator.

“Mindfulness for the New Year” is a great way to strengthen our resilience, well-being, and mindfulness habits. These two 8-week programs begin in January and are **offered on a sliding scale starting at \$0!** Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) will be offered on **Monday evenings from 6:00 - 8:30 pm beginning on January 9th, 2023.** The Center for Mind-Body Medicine Skills Group will be offered on **Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 - 5:00 pm beginning on January 11th, 2023.** Please use the QR code to register or for more info contact carolyn@insightinstitutellc.com.



MUUVies for Change January viewing is "Little Miss Westie"

"Little Miss Westie" follows two transgender siblings as they navigate puberty, school, dating and transitioning during the Trump era. Ren is competing in the Lil Miss Westie Pageant as the first out trans-girl and her older brother Luca is coaching her on posing, make-up, and talent. He knows his stuff because he competed six years ago when he was living as a girl. Moving and unflinching, Little Miss Westie challenges fundamental ideas about gender identity as this brother and sister navigate puberty and transitioning all while bickering and competing for the crown. Available on Amazon Prime & Youtube. Directed by Joy E Reed & Dan Hunt. The MUUVies For Change group will discuss "Little Miss Westie" on **Wednesday, January 11th at 7:00 PM**. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org if you will attend the Discussion. Join our Zoom Meeting at 7:00 PM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>. Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; One tap mobile: +16465588656,,84418593114# US (New York); Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>.



Full Moon Daughters Florida Keys Getaway: Start the year with a pajama party in paradise that will warm your body and soul. Women, girls and those who identify as female are invited to a Keys weekend near Marathon on Jan. 13-15 that will include beach walks and meditations, kayaking and outdoor opportunities, and fabulous shared meals and conversation. Come for a day or stay overnight. Limited housing available at the home of a River member-- or stay at a hotel in the Middle Keys. To sign up: email fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org.



ML King Day Parade Monday, January 16, 2023

River of Grass will be marching in the ML King Day PARade on Monday, Jan 16th. Come show our 8th Principle spirit: Black Lives Matter. The Parade starts from the Longshoreman's Hall, 440 NW 6 Street [Sistrunk Blvd.], Ft. Lauderdale 33311 at 9:30 AM and proceeds west along Sistrunk and then north to Joseph C. Carter Park on Sunrise Blvd. Car pooling arranged by Susan is available from the congregational office, 4431 Davie Rd., Davie, FL 33314. Contact her at SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org for carpool details. Come early to the parade and help decorate the River float, Steve and Kathy's gray Prius Prime. Bring your own signs; and there will be signs there.



Sign Making Party Friday, Jan 13th at 10:30 AM at Steve and Kathy's House.

Contact Steve Jens-Rochow at SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org for the address.

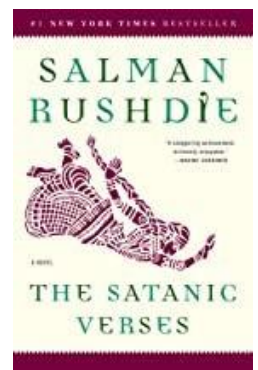
BUUKies January Read - "The Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie. We will meet on Wednesday, January 18th at 7pm.

[River BUUKies Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

One tap mobile +13017158592,,92657017488#,,, *746613# US (Washington DC)

The book caused an uproar when it was first published several decades ago. The Satanic Verses was viewed as blasphemous by many Muslims, who saw the main character as an insult to the Prophet Muhammad, among other objections. The novel was banned in Iran, where the late leader Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a fatwa, or edict, on February 14, 1989, calling for Rushdie's death, for "insulting Islam" with his novel.

For a discussion of the Fatwa, Death Threats, Exile - How 'The Satanic Verses' Changed Salman Rushdie's Life go to



<https://www.india.com/explainer/fatwa-death-threats-exile-how-the-satanic-verses-changed-salman-rushdies-life-explained-5569453/>

Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Give away unneeded useful stuff to places like LifeNet, Goodwill, ARC Broward, and Faith Farm, rather than putting it in the trash. Let someone else make use of it and help save the planet!

Interim Recommendations from the RoG COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team

Team: Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten (COVIDTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org)

Purpose of Team: To review guidelines for congregational and smaller group gatherings in order to provide recommendations to the Board to be used for official River of Grass meetings and events.

These recommendations are:

For: only for official, River of Grass - sponsored outdoor and indoor small group gatherings.

Fluid: new information comes out all the time and the recommendations could change.

Inclusive: all attendees should be able to attend physically or virtually.

Protective: consider first those who are most at risk.

Science-based: follow the directives according to the experts.

Sources:

UUA: <https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/covid-19>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

Johns Hopkins: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map>

UU Reston Covid-19 Guidelines: <https://www.uureston.org/covid>

MEETINGS IN THE TIME OF COVID

RIVER OF GRASS COVID-19 TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD: Updated October 16, 2022

This is a living document that will be regularly reviewed and updated.

COVID-19 is moving from pandemic to endemic status – it is always circulating in the community but the number of infected people varies from community to community. Individuals should take appropriate precautions based on their personal risk. River of Grass will follow the following measures for community gatherings based on CDC Guidelines and the Broward County risk levels.

Remember, you may choose to wear a mask and maintain social distancing at any time. If you have symptoms, a positive test or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should wear a mask.

Our COVID Team is monitoring the Broward County status weekly and will promptly advise if the status changes.

Community Level LOW: Current Broward County Status

- Individuals may elect to wear masks and socially distance at all times.

Community Level MEDIUM:

- Wear face masks for indoor gatherings.
- Choir will wear singing masks.
- Unmasked speakers and the Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening.

Community Level HIGH:

In person Worship Services – Inside

- Masks required for all, special requirements for speakers
- Masks should be KN-95
- Unmasked speakers and Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening
- No singing except the Minister (humming OK!)

- Social distancing between family groups
- No food or drinks
- All attendees sign in

After service Hospitality – Outside

- Maintain social distancing

Meetings – inside and outside

- Group leader will inquire if anyone in the group wants the meeting to be masked. If everyone is not comfortable, masking and social distancing should be maintained.
- Food and drinks – determined by the group.
- All attendees sign in.

To see all of the upcoming events at River of Grass, please visit the calendar on our website at riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html. **River of Grass UU Congregation** is on [Facebook](#) (LIKE us) and [Twitter](#) (FOLLOW Us). For more information, please contact communityawareness@riverofgrassuu.org.

Unsubscribe - If you do not wish to receive this weekly email, please send an email and we will remove you from the mailing list, office@riverofgrassuu.org.

Announcements to be sent out in the weekly congregation-wide update should be e-mailed to WeeklyEmail@RiverofGrassUU.org by 12 pm Wednesday. All announcements will pertain to congregational life and affiliated groups and will be for activities or events occurring within two weeks of the e-mail. Outside groups and individuals, wishing to use this vehicle of congregation-wide communication, must have the approval of the Board of Trustees.