

River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
11850 W State Rd 84, Ste A9, Davie, FL 33325

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

River of Grass Weekly Update – February 8, 2024

River of Grass, Our Heritage and Our Hope for Beloved Community

Stories have to be told or they die,
and when they die, we can't remember who we are or why we're here.

– Sue Monk Kidd

The story of River of Grass is winding, unexpected and beautiful. This Sunday, the Sunday before we celebrate our 25th (quarter century!) Anniversary as a congregation, we'll revisit that which has been written and dare to peek at what is yet unwritten.

Come, come, whoever you are,
Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.
Ours is no caravan of despair.

(Though we've broken our vows a thousand times) Come, yet again, come.

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Auditorium 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... We'll be watching for you!

In person at:

- Our Sunday morning rental space is located at the Old Davie Schoolhouse
- 6650 Griffin Road, Davie, FL 33314 ([Click for Directions](#))
- Service will begin at **10:30 AM**
- 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, February 11, 2024 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – River of Grass, Our Heritage and Our Hope for Beloved Community - Karen Gonzalez and Leana Bresnahan

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

Faith Development for Kids and Youth:

Our children and youth will join us in worship this Sunday as we retell the River of Grass story. They'll be working on their anniversary gifts to the congregation while they follow along. For more information about our Faith Development program, contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

25th Anniversary:

CELEBRATING OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY – It is almost here! This is a time to remember the course of The River thus far; honor our members who are no longer with us; re-connect with each other, including with former members who are traveling back to South Florida from Ohio, North Carolina and elsewhere just to celebrate River of Grass! It is time to meet the famous Rev. Ken whom you may have heard some of us "old-timers" speak glowingly about. It is time to have some fun too with a concert by our own Rev. Amy and our hugely talented musicians playing some of our favorite tunes. It is time for some dancing too! It is time to shop for some great gifts and services including an African safari, and to sign up for some great parties offered by members in their homes! It's been a hard few years. Let's shake it off... honor our path up to here; celebrate we ARE still here; and envision our future.... TOGETHER.

You do not want to miss this weekend!

Please sign up now -- there is not a minute to lose!

- **DEADLINE IS TOMORROW, FEBRUARY 9th** to purchase tickets for Saturday evening, February 17th – Auction and Anniversary Party: [Please click on this link](#). Then you will need to login or register with our auction website. Please don't forget to click the ticket button and purchase the number of tickets for adults in your party.
- **Please RSVP NOW** for the weekend of FOUR events and to check out the details; [click this link to fill out the form and sign up](#).

DETAILS:

Friday, February 16th

- **Vespers and In Memoriam Service -- 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Davie Woman's Club. Co-led by Rev. Amy and Rev. Ken Beldon.** Address: 6551 Orange Dr, Davie, FL 33314. [Zoom will be available](#). Meeting ID: 955 8143 4004; Passcode: 967079; One tap mobile: +13052241968,,95581434004#,,,,*967079# US

Saturday, February 17th

- **Auction and Anniversary Party – 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. Tree Tops Park Lodge.** Address: 3900 SW 100th Ave, Davie, FL 33328. The lodge building is at the end of the road once you enter the park. There is a \$3 parking fee, which will have been covered by River of Grass.

Sunday, February 18th

- **Worship Service – 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 am. Old Davie School. Co-led by Rev. Amy and Rev. Ken Beldon.** [Zoom will be available](#).
- **Envisioning Session – 12 noon – 1 p.m. at Old Davie School.**

Questions? Contact membership@riverofgrassuu.org or auction@riverofgrassuu.org.

Welcome to the [fourth week of 30 Days of Love!](#)

Where we explore the theme of “democracy and electoral justice” and how it is situated within our broader organizing.

Our electoral system follows the organizing principle that **we build trust by telling the truth about the world we share**. The core truth that I'm reckoning with this year is that democracy—the promise of our elected officials feeling a direct and accountable tie to us, their electorate—has always been aspirational.

We acknowledge the fear that many of us hold—that the threads of democracy we've had will fully unravel, and we will lose the pieces of representation we rely on.

Organizing is where we draw hope and build long term power. It is where we invest in each other and our communities through relationships and partnerships with grassroots organizations. Organizing is where we move towards the aspiration of representative democracy; a place where local but consequential change happens. Organizing is where we move towards the aspiration of representative democracy; a place where local but consequential change happens.

Our work should ground and fortify us for whatever outcomes lie ahead. This means building and strengthening our local organizing landscapes. Growing and sharing our skills and resources generously. Engaging humbly. And always telling the truth.

Unitarian Universalism and our Fifth Principle, the use of the democratic process, calls us towards building democratic processes in our congregations & communities.

This week's offerings <https://sidewithlove.org/week-four>.

If you have any questions please contact Steve Jens-Rochow ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org.



30 Days of Love
Week Four: February 5 - February 11

Weekly Theme
Resilience:: Democracy & Electoral Justice

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

General Assembly Delegate:

General Assembly is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of Unitarian Universalists and partners that attend each June. Attendees leave with a renewed sense of energy, inspiration, and innovative ideas to take back to their congregations and communities.

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join us online Wednesday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024 for this 4-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our virtual exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who participate. You'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large!



River of Grass has 3 delegate openings. Registration fee will be paid for.

The Board will appoint our delegates. Please email Kathy at president@riverofgrassuu.org if you are interested.

But, all are welcome to attend. You don't have to be a delegate to participate in this fantastic experience. Ask Karen Gonzalez, Rev. Amy, Geri Mikulski, or Kathy Jens-Rochow about their experiences at previous General Assemblies.

Say what?

If you love social media or tech stuff, we can use your help.

We are organizing a team of a few people with the skills necessary to bring our communication methods into this century. To research various options and costs, consult with our Office Administrator and present a plan to the Board. Interested? Please contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org.



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/>

MUUies – February title is "The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson". This is a 2017 American documentary film directed by David France.

It chronicles Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, prominent figures in the Stonewall riots, gay liberation and the transgender rights movement in New York City from the 1960s to the 1990s. The film centers on activist Victoria Cruz's investigation into Johnson's death in 1992, which was initially ruled a suicide by police despite suspicious circumstances. [Available on Netflix.](#)



MUUives for Change will discuss “The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson” on **Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 PM.** Please reply to Steve

Jens-Rochow mUUives@riverofgrassuu.org if you will attend the Discussion. Join our Zoom Meeting at 7:00 PM: [Zoom Link](#). Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; Passcode: 537288; One tap mobile: +16465588656,,84418593114# US (New York); Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kvLOD4l8Y>.

RoG Men’s Group – We will continue to meet **in person at 7:00 pm in Suite A9, 595 Park of Commerce:** official address is 11850 SR 84, Suite A9, Davie, FL 33325 (GPS will get you to the 4-building complex. We’re in the 1st Building, middle suite.) Our optional pre-meeting dinner will be at our own **Lester’s Diner: 1393 NW 136th Ave, Sunrise, FL 33323.** We’ll meet there at 5:30pm. We are a lay-led group that looks to our members for discussion topics. All who identify male are invited to join us! We are meeting next week, **Thursday, Feb 15th, 7:00 to 8:30 PM,** in person or via [Zoom Meeting](#). If you're joining for dinner, please email Ken Bresnahan, group facilitator, so he can coordinate space.) The Zoom Meeting Room will open at 7:00 pm. Questions: contact Ken; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org.

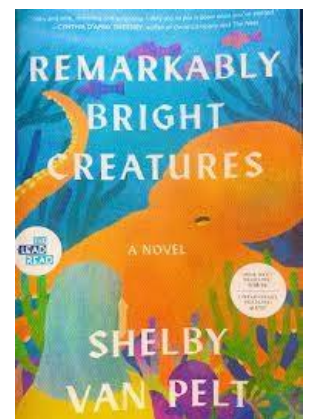
BUUKies February Read – “Remarkably Bright Creatures” by Shelby Van Pelt. **We will meet on Wednesday, February 21st at 7:00 pm to discuss this bUUK.** [River BUUKies Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

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

This is such a remarkable, original story! One of the main characters is an octopus! After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she, to keep busy, began working the night cleaner shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium. Remarkably, Bright Creatures is a book revolving around a mischievous giant pacific octopus in a small town aquarium, attended by a lovely old lady who cleans it. The two unlikely friends navigate their individual isolated lives, as both deal with heartbreak and other tensions that everyone is familiar with.

Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.



Sean Giblin – Celebration of Life:

Sean’s Celebration of Life will be held at the Old Davie Schoolhouse, Heritage Hall, the low building next to the schoolhouse where we have our worship services. It will be at **2:30pm on Saturday, February 24.** This lovely family has many friends here, and we will get to host their return to Florida with love and support as members of this beloved community. The Caring Team is asking for finger foods and desserts for this afternoon gathering. Please plan on joining this celebration... If you could respond with what you plan on bringing to caring@riverofgrassuu.org by **February 11** it will help in our planning.

Celebrating the life of
Sean GIBLIN



February 24, 1990 - December 30, 2023

Saturday, February 24th at 2:30 pm

Old Davie School Museum and Event Center
6650 Griffin Road, Davie, FL 33314

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be sent in Sean's name to any one of the following: the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, Canine Companions for Independence, or River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: *If you have unneeded furniture or home goods, donate it. Simply call Faith Farm (or other charity) and they will come and pick it up! No effort, tax deduction, and less in the landfill!*

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.

River of Grass UU Congregation

6650 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33314 (Sunday Morning Service Location)

11850 W St Rd 84, Ste A9, Davie, FL 33325 (Office & Mailing Location)

954.723.7877 - office@riverofgrassuu.org