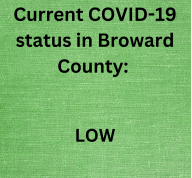


River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
PO Box 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345



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

River of Grass Weekly Update – April 13, 2023

No Monkeys No Chocolate: Community Is Resistance, It's Earthday

*"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something."
~ Signe Wenneberg*

If all the creatures of the rainforest don't do their part, there's no chocolate. Likewise each of us must join in Community Action to transform climate despair into climate justice. Join us for this Sunday's Earthday Celebration and Service Fair to learn more about doing our part -- today, tomorrow, and for the future we share -- and then do it together!

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... 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, April 16, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – No Monkeys No Chocolate: Community Is Resistance, It's Earth Day!

– Rev. Amy Carol Webb <https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Children's Faith Development: Faith Development for our children and youth will take place this Sunday during our **All-ages Worship Service**. Rev. Amy will be preaching about how we can manage to keep a positive outlook while dealing with the realities of Climate Change. Climate anxiety is real and our kiddos can easily feel the weight of it. I hope they'll leave feeling empowered and hopeful for a better planet, as Earth Day week begins. Oh, and there'll be chocolate - lots of chocolate! For more information about our programming for children and teens, contact our director, Ms. Karen at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE: A New Beginning March 5 to April 15, 2023

Pledges Received as of 4/13/23.....\$204,756 93.5% of the \$220,000 Goal.

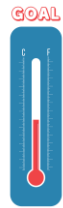
Thanks to all who have made pledge promises!

Pledges received from 66 Members and Friends!!

Does that include you!

One week left to make your pledge. We are so close. **Any amount, large or small, is so welcomed! Be part of A New Beginning for River of Grass UU Congregation!**

Please think deeply about how this community has nourished you and how you can support the work in the world we are meant to do. The full brochure is [on the website](#) under Donations or click the link on the opening page. Below the brochure is the digital pledge card which is the preferred way to let us know your wishes. With a few clicks, you are done! We are in the budget phase of planning for next year. Please help us bring our plans to life with your generous investment in the future of River of Grass. If you have questions, we can be reached at stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org. Leana Bresnahan and Rita Cherubini, APD 2023-24 Co-Chairs



Friday, April 14 – Day of Silence is GLSEN's annual day of action to spread awareness about the effects of the bullying and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning students. In the United States, students take a day-long vow of silence to symbolically represent the silencing of LGBTQ students.

Source: *Wikipedia*



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](#)

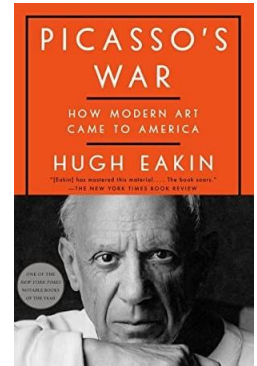
For more information or to register contact Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

BUUKies April Read – "Picasso's War: How Modern Art Came to America" by Hugh Eakin. We will meet on Wednesday, April 19th at 7pm.

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

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

"Picasso's War: How Modern Art Came to America" In January 1939, Pablo Picasso was renowned in Europe but disdained by many in the United States. One year later, Americans across the country were clamoring to see his art. How did the controversial leader of the Paris avant-garde break through to the heart of American culture? Picasso's War is the never-before-told story about how a single exhibition, a decade in the making, irrevocably changed American taste, and in doing so saved dozens of the twentieth century's most enduring artworks from the Nazis. Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.



RoG Men's Group – We'll next meet Thursday Apr 20th 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 the Fat Stork Restaurant, 8270 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. 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.

Facing the Apocalypse with a Smile - training webinar in members' homes

Sunday, April 23, 2023 4 - 5:30pm ET [REGISTER HERE](#)

Led by Rachel Myslivy, Side with Love Climate Justice Organizer. Everywhere you look the world is on fire! Sometimes you just want to scream at the top of your lungs, "Everything is bad! Do something! AAUGH!!!!" That urgency is real, and also maybe not the best way to communicate about the issues - or to take care of yourself! Come together to learn some ways to manage yourself and engage others as you effectively advocate for justice and work for a thriving world for all. Our Unitarian Universalist faith calls us to be lifelong learners, and organizing traditions teach that we need to share what we know for our movements to grow. Our Squad Skill Ups are a monthly series of training on organizing skills to help build our UUtheVote and Side with Love Volunteer Squads and help YOU build stronger teams in your congregation and community.

Contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org if you are interested in attending a group watch party or hosting a group in your home. **Let's move forward in our justice work with skill!**

Trans Life in Florida; How We Can Be Supporters and Advocates – The Sunshine Cluster, formerly the SE Cluster, will present an exciting workshop on Trans issues **on Saturday, 20 May**. How can we be supporters and advocates for Trans people in Florida? The two speakers are from Equality Florida eqfl.org : Nikole Parker, Director of Transgender Equality and Geanny Joseph Ruiz, Statewide Safe and Healthy Schools Manager. Nikole will be discussing transgender life through trans eyes, and then give a current legislative update. And Geanny will be discussing protections and issues currently facing LGBTQ youth and families here in Florida. (flier on last page of this email)

When: Saturday, May 20, 2023 FREE

Time: 1:00pm

Cost: FREE

Register: To Register email seucluster@gmail.com for Zoom link.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Stop paper billing statements! Simply go online and set up your bills and investments to send electronic statements, via email. It only takes a couple of minutes, and you will have less paper to deal with and will save trees!

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/leaderlab/pandemics>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/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.

River of Grass UU Congregation

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

4431 SW 64th Avenue, Suite 108, Davie, FL 33314 (Office Location)

PO Box 452485, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33345 (Mailing Address Only)

954.723.7877 - office@riverofgrassuu.org

The Sunshine Cluster Justice Saturday 2023

Formerly the SE Florida UU Cluster

Trans Life in Florida; How We Can Be Supporters and Advocates

Speakers from Equality Florida:



Nikole Parker left her job and home at 19 to begin her journey to living authentically. After 3 years of black-market hormones and unsafe lifestyle practices, she came back to Orlando to begin her next chapter. Nikole's passion is advocating for human rights, protections for all, and the importance of everyone having a seat at the table.

Nikole is the Director of Transgender Equality at Equality Florida.

Through advocacy, Nikole hopes to encourage open dialogue on gender issues, state and federal protections for all and linkage to proper transitioning resources. Her hope is to teach people that the black-market way of transitioning isn't the only way.

She will be discussing transgender life through trans eyes, and then give a current legislative update.

Geanny Joseph Ruiz serves as the Statewide Safe and Healthy Schools Manager for Equality Florida. She is an experienced social justice education practitioner, and trained facilitator. She has worked extensively within education systems and community partners throughout the state. Her professional focus has been providing education and resources to support the health, safety and well-being of LGBTQ+ and BIPOC students. Geanny holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Communications and a Masters Degree in Education from Florida Atlantic University.

She will be discussing protections and issues currently facing LGBTQ youth and families here in Florida.



Saturday, May 20, 2023 FREE

1:00pm

To Register reply to seucluster@gmail.com for Zoom link

The Workshop will feature Presentations from the Speakers, Question and Answer times, and two Breakout Group Sessions