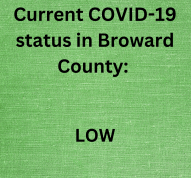


River of Grass

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 20, 2023

Me and Becky – A Love Story

“What we have once enjoyed, we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.” Helen Keller

During the 1990’s when America On Line offered a forum on poetry for disabled people, Andrew met Becky and shared more than they expected. Sunday’s worship service focuses on the love story between two disabled people resisting the restrictions put on them by society and their families to experience a meaningful, loving relationship.

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 23, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – Me and Becky – A Love Story

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

Children’s Faith Development: This Sunday in our Small Group for Kids, we’ll be learning about the Islamic days of Ramadan, which come to a close today, with the holiday of Eid al Fitr. Our theme this month is Resistance, so we’ll talk about the struggles that come with fasting and resisting the urge to give in to hunger or want. What can we learn from this discipline? We’ll end our class with a game that requires us to resist the urge to give up on a challenge! For more information about our Faith Development program for children and youth, contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

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

THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO MADE YOUR PLEDGE TO THE ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE 2023-24!

TOTAL PLEDGES: \$204,556

THANK YOU!!

If you have questions, we can be reached at stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org. Leana Bresnahan and Rita Cherubini, APD 2023-24 Co-Chairs

River People are Saving Energy – Fourteen River people have taken the Low Carbon Diet, and saved 157,000 pounds of Carbon Dioxide annually in actions they have done previously. Take a look at the list below and tell me how much you have saved in previous green actions you have already done.

Pounds of CO2 Saved per Year per Household:

- 5000 Switch from a vehicle getting 25 mpg to one getting 50 mpg
- 11,000 Switch to an electric vehicle from a gas vehicle getting 25mpg
- 175 Install an insulating blanket around your hot water heater
- 150 Set your hot water heater thermostat to 120°
- 2500 Install solar hot water
- 800 Install hybrid hot water heater
- 2500 Change 20 incandescent light bulbs to LEDs
- 240 Raise your AC thermostat 2°
- 600 Turn off all electrical equipment when not in use
- 800 Install low-e insulating duo pane windows
- 700 Insulate your attic
- 500 Use cold water in your washing machine [5 loads a week]
- 500 Install an Energy Star front load washer
- 125 Rinse hand washed dishes in cold water
- 125 Install an Energy Star dishwasher
- 250 Install a low flow showerhead
- 1050 Reduce solid waste by 10 gallons weekly
- 25,000 Switch your electricity to renewable power [solar, wind]
- 800 Install an Energy Star air conditioner
- 4900 Switch from meat to vegetarian diet [per person]

If you have any questions, please reach out to Steve Jens-Rochow SSIGT@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/>

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!**

What's New in the Unitarian Universalist World? Plan to stay for our Second Helping program on **Sunday, April 30th** to learn about big changes coming to the UUA Bylaws. Article II of our bylaws are required to be reviewed every 15 years and some interesting recommendations have been made to update them. Just when you thought you might be able to remember all of our 8 Principles, they may be taking a back seat! Delegates from our congregation will be voting on these changes at the General Assembly in Pittsburgh this June. **This "Second Helping" gathering at noon on the 30th is an opportunity for you to learn more and give guidance to your representatives.**

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.

Join us at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, a Magical UU Place and Experience:

- **Come work for The Mountain!** Hiring summer camp counselors and leaders, capital campaign manager, development associate, kitchen staff, and farm staff. <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs>
- **Homecoming, May 26-29.** Join us at The Mountain for our 43rd Annual Gathering of Members and Friends. We will have three days of renewing connections with old friends and making new connections, being immersed in this extraordinary natural environment, learning about current projects and possibilities for the future, in addition to workshops, entertainment, and our Annual Meeting.
- **Summer Camp options for kids and for adults!**
- **Personal Retreat -- for individuals or groups**

We look forward to hosting you at The Mountain soon!

For information about more programs at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center: themountainrlc.org or 828.526.5838

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Change your car's air filter the next time you change the oil. Over time, air filters get clogged causing your engine to work harder - creating more greenhouse gas emissions and lowering your fuel economy. Save money on gas by spending money on a new air filter.

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