

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 – May 18, 2023

The Most Magnificent Thing

*This is a house of truth-seeking ... of art ... of prophecy ...
a cradle for our dreams,
the workshop of our common endeavor.
- Kenneth L. Patton*

As we continue May's exploration of what it means to be a people on Pathways of Creativity, we take a look at what we, as River of Grass, are creating. What happens when a community has come together with a dream, and the skill to build it -- and then finds it still must try and try again to make it true? Especially as conditioned as we are to think that if it's not perfect, then we should move on to something easier. Join us to consider what it means to become the most magnificent thing!

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, May 21, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – The Most Magnificent Thing – Rev Amy Carol Webb

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

COVID-19: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. River of Grass UU has over 3 years experience during the COVID

pandemic keeping our members safe and will always look to do so as we make the transition to congregational life free from guidelines. The members of our COVID Team have the thanks of the entire congregation for all their good work taking care of us all. We honor and respect anyone's choice to wear a mask and ask all attending our Worship Services and events to consider their own health when choosing whether or not to mask. If you have any questions please reach out to our team at COVIDteam@riverofgrassuu.org.

Children's Faith Development: This coming third Sunday of the month, our children and youth will join the grownups for an engaging all-ages worship as we continue to explore a path of creativity together. We'll also honor our Middle School OWL* graduates for their dedication to making the most of themselves. (*Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education program) For more information about our Faith Development program, contact Karen at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Office Admin coming to Service this Sunday – Do you have a need from Sandy in the office? She will be at Services this Sunday, May 21st and will help out anyone after services. If you can't make it this week, don't worry. Sandy will start coming to help out with any office needs on the 3rd Sundays of each month. Or send her an email at office@riverofgrassuu.org.

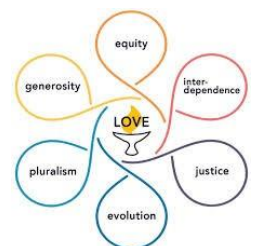
Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget: With last week's email, we provided an update to the proposed FY 2024 budget showing the changes since its original distribution with the Annual Meeting agenda. There have been no further changes, so attached is the proposed budget (PDF attached to this email distribution) that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Any additional changes must be proposed as amendments prior to the Congregation's approval of a budget at the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Finance Chair Brit Lundell at finance@riverofgrassuu.org.

River of Grass Volunteers at the Postal Food Drive – This past Saturday, River folk were called upon to row mightily at the annual Postal Food Drive. As the only team at the Plantation Post Office, we logged and sorted all the food brought by the carriers. With the expert help of Gary Gonzalez, Piers Chambers and the knife of Pat Hughes, we finally assembled the huge boxes that were filled and then picked up on pallets. Anne Marie Skogsbakken, Bev Kaufman, Linda Morgan Crain, Diane Diaz and son Marc Diaz rounded out the sweating team, but a good time was had by all. LifeNet4Families is the worthy recipient of the donations. They continue to provide meals, clothing, showers and counseling for the food insecure and unhoused in Fort Lauderdale. We will resume volunteering in the fall. For further information contact Linda Morgan Crain at SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org.

Article II Amendment Discussion Workshops: At General Assembly 2023, Unitarian Universalists will take an initial vote on proposed changes to Article II of the UUA Bylaws, which includes the current UUA purposes, principles, sources, and clauses on inclusion and freedom of belief.

The following Zoom workshops to discuss amendments to the [Article II Study Commission proposal \(PDF\)](#) are open to all Unitarian Universalists. Whether or not you submitted a suggestion or idea, we encourage you to join us for one or more of these workshops.

- ~~1. Amendment Discussion Workshop #1
Thursday, May 11 7pm ET / 6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT~~
2. Amendment Discussion Workshop #2
Thursday, May 18 7pm ET / 6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT
[Register now for the May 18th workshop](#)
3. Amendment Discussion Workshop #3
Sunday, May 21 4pm ET / 3pm CT / 2pm MT / 1pm PT
[Register now for the May 21st workshop](#)



Presidential Search Committee Nominates Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt for UUA President

The Presidential Forums continue in the months of May and June. Please plan on attending to meet the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt as president-elect of the UUA for the term from 2023-2029. Rev. Dr. Betancourt is an experienced leader and theologian in Unitarian Universalism, including formerly serving as a professor at Starr King School for the Ministry and as Interim Co-President of the UUA in 2017. You must register to attend the Zoom meeting.

- **Saturday, May 20, 2023**

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara: 1535 Santa Barbara St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

4pm ET / 3pm CT / 2pm MT / 1pm PT

[Register to attend](#)

- **Saturday, June 3, 2023**

First Unitarian Church of Dallas: 4015 Normandy Ave, Dallas, TX 75205

2pm ET / 1pm CT / 12pm MT / 11am PT

[Register to attend](#)

The campaign for President will take place throughout the first half of 2023 and conclude with an election at our multiplatform [General Assembly](#), online and in Pittsburgh, PA, June 21-25.

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 are a lay-led group that looks to our members for discussion topics. All who identify male are invited to join us! Our next meeting is **Thursday May 18th, 7:00 to 8:30 PM**, in person or via [Zoom Meeting](#). Our meeting location is at The Transformation Project: 4431 SW 64th Ave Ste 109, Davie, FL 33314. Our optional pre meeting dinner is at **5:30 PM at the Flashback Diner, 4125 Davie Road, Davie, FL 33328**. (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.

FMD – Sunrise Salutation: Come greet the new day with the Full Moon Daughters at our Sunrise Salutation on **Saturday, May 20** at the Lauderdale-by-the-Sea beach. **We will start gathering around 6:15 am** and watch the sun rise, sharing memories and singing together. Full Moon Daughters is the outdoors spirituality group for women, girls and those who identify as female. All are welcome. For more details about the Sunrise Salutation, email: fullmoonaughters@riverofgrassuu.org.



Poker Night – Enjoy a game of poker at a member's home starting off with a welcoming drink and heavy hors d'oeuvres. There will be a meal after a few hands and then more poker playing. A full bar and beers will be available. This will be a fun evening of poker with two tables. One table for people who have an idea how to play poker and will be using chips. The other table will be for the novice players, who will be taught how to play. The novice table will use pennies to place bids. **Saturday, May 20th from 6:00 - 9:00 PM \$25.** Questions or interested in purchasing? Auction@riverofgrassuu.org.

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, May 20th**. 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 seuucluster@gmail.com for Zoom link.

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

- **Come work for The Mountain!** Hiring summer camp counselors and leaders, 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

MUUVies for Change June viewing is "20 Feet from Stardom"

It is a 2013 Oscar-winning documentary about female back-up singers (mostly African American) in the music business. Directed by Morgan Neville. Starring: Darlene Love, Merry Clayton, Lisa Fischer. Available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

MUUVies for Change will discuss "20 Feet from Stardom" on **Wednesday, June 14th 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: [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>.



BUUKies June Read – "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks. We will meet on Wednesday, June 21st at 7pm.

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

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

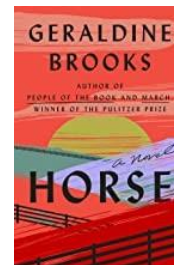
BUUKies June read is from a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, "Horse" is a sweeping story of spirit, obsession and injustice across American history.

A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: Brooks braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across 3 eras of American history:

Kentucky, 1850: An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South.

New York City, 1954: Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a nineteenth-century equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance.

Washington, DC, 2019: Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly connected through their shared interest in the horse—one studying the stallion’s bones for clues to his power and endurance, the other uncovering the lost history of the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to his racing success.



Steve Jens-Rochow BUUkies@riverofgrassuu.org.

A New Affinity Group! The Women’s Group – Calling all persons who identify as female. This group is for you. The purpose of this group is to deepen our personal connections through shared discussions. Listening to each person’s experience. The new Women’s Group will be meeting on the first Sunday of the month at 7:00 PM. We will be multi-platform, meeting both in person and virtually. Location TBD. **Our first meeting will be June 4 at 7:00 PM.** For more information and the link, contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at womensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org.



ROG FALL FUNDRAISER: The 2 of Us presents Bossa-Novas, Boleros & Ballads “second edition”. Following the well received concert of 2022, the duo “The 2 of Us” visits, through song and storytelling, some of the most beloved American Jazz Ballads, Brazilian Bossa Novas, Boleros, and Tangoes.

Check out the Youtube channel: <https://youtube.com/@the2ofusmusic>

When: Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Where: Weston Community Center - 20200 Saddle Club Rd (free parking).

Cost: There will be drinks and snacks. Seating is limited to the first 40 who sign up at \$30 per seat.

Buy your tickets at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z5VP/campaign/C-10TY2>

Please write THE 2 OF US on the “Note (optional)” field.



SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Check the air pressure in your car tires -- it just takes a minute! Properly inflated tires will improve fuel economy, using less gas and reducing air pollution. Plus it will extend tire life, saving you \$\$\$!

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