

# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

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

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River of Grass Weekly Update – October 6, 2022

## Do You Hear: Courage of the First Nations

“Beyond sunrise, there is a song we follow ... can you hear it?”

- Joy Harjo

Each year on Indigenous People’s Sunday, we turn to wisdom in the voices of the First Peoples that we might both honor them and answer their call to return to the soul our being bonded in the Interdependent Web of All Being with Earth and all living things. Join us to follow the song ... can you hear it?

Come as you are – we’ll be watching for you! We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

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>

### **Rev. Amy’s sabbatical:**

Rev. Amy’s sabbatical has begun and will end on Tuesday, November 1, 2022. She will be back in the pulpit on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, for the Sunday Service. For more information about her sabbatical, please read the information that Rev. Amy prepared. It is listed on our website: [Rev. Amy's Sabbatical Page](#).

### **Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:**

#### **Sunday, October 9, 2022**

**River of Grass UU Congregation** – Do You Hear: Courage of the First Nations - Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

### ***We've got Heart! And a lot of Art at our Auction!***

**Our Online Auction runs from 6PM on 10/22/2022 until 6PM on 10/29/2022**

Deadline for donations of parties, gift cards or other items is 10/10/2022. We are very grateful for all the donations we've received for this, our biggest fundraiser of the year.

You can register now for our Annual Auction 2022 - Work of Heart...grab your cell phone, open your camera and scan the QR code.

Congratulations to **this week's Auction River of Grass Trivia Contest Leana Bresnahan and Kathy Jens Rochow**. Check your email for our trivia questions every Tuesday morning until the Auction begins



- don't forget to look in the Junk, Promotions and Spam. You could win a gift certificate from Lucille's American Cafe for \$20 off a purchase of \$30 or more.

Questions? [auction@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:auction@riverofgrassuu.org)

Click here for donation guidelines: [Work of Heart Auction](#)

**Faith Development** - IOur on-line Faith Development class for children on Sunday will continue with the theme of courage by exploring the path of personal courage. We'll share ways in which we had to muster the courage to do a hard thing or express a different view or swallow our pride. And, we'll reward ourselves with badges for our bravery! Contact Ms. Karen at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org) for class link.

**Faith Development Registration** – Registration for the new school year of Children's Faith Development is now open for both online and in-person classes. Please refer to [this link](#) to complete your family's registration. In-person classes meet at 10:30 on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. (OWL meets from 10-12.) On-line classes for K-6th graders meet at noon on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays. These programs are supported by members' pledges. Are your pledges up to date? Contact our Office Administrator, Sandy at [office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org), or see [this link to make or add to your pledge](#).

**Faith Development Volunteers** – Our children's Faith Development program is looking for people who would like to assist with activities, games and crafts to support the elementary group lessons. We will need two assistants each time we meet in person and we hope to have enough helpers that you will only be needed once or twice a month. Do you think this is a way that you'd like to serve our River of Grass community? We promise, you'll learn something! Contact our FD Director, Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org) to volunteer or ask questions.

#### **From the Membership Committee:**

- The Faith Forward Inquirers' sessions continue in October. All begin right after worship service; the hours are 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. RSVPs are much appreciated, but drop-ins are welcome!
- **Our next session is this Sunday, Oct 9<sup>th</sup>.** This is your chance to learn about the inspiring and long history of Unitarianism and Universalism, and about our UU faith, which merged the two. This will be Zoom only led by Ken Bresnahan.
- On Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, we will explore ways to build a more just community and world. The topic will be Social Action and Community Service, presented by Steve Jens-Rochow, chairperson of our Service, Social Justice and Green Team. It will be Multi-Platform (In-Person + Zoom)
- The Zoom link for both is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480603146?pwd=NIIRYzJ4MG9IVk1lMHA5djIwZhc0Zz09>.
- Our next New Member Recognition will be on Oct 16<sup>th</sup>. If you are ready to become a member, it's really easy! Please email [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org) or call Leana at 954-258-6315, and I'll get you started!

**National Coming Out Day (NCOD)** is an annual celebration with a goal of shining light on individuals within the LGBTQ+ community and their decisions to share their gender identities and sexual orientation with the public.

Additionally, the purpose of National Coming Out Day, which takes place on Oct. 11, is not only to celebrate those who've already come out, but to support those who choose to keep their identity a secret, or perhaps encourage someone to come out who's been thinking about it. So that an LGBTQ+ person can live freely and openly as their true, authentic selves.

The foundational belief is that homophobia thrives in an atmosphere of silence and ignorance, and that once people know that they have loved ones who are lesbian or gay, they are far less likely to maintain homophobic or oppressive views especially if they live in developed countries.

Source: people.com & Wikipedia



### *Ever wonder how the River runs behind the scenes?*

The River of Grass Board will be meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 3:00 every month through December. The day and time will change beginning in January when our Sunday services begin at the Old Davie School in the afternoons. In October this will be October 16<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.

Our meetings are open to members and friends. If you would like to attend our meeting as a visitor, contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at [president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org).

### *Heritage and Hope*

**Heritage - Sara Josephine Baker** (November 15, 1873 – February 22, 1945) was an American physician notable for making contributions to public health, especially in the immigrant communities of New York City. Her fight against the damage that widespread urban poverty and ignorance caused to children, especially newborns, is perhaps her most lasting legacy. In 1917, she noted that babies born in the United States faced a higher mortality rate than soldiers fighting in World War I, drawing a great deal of attention to her cause. She also is known for (twice) tracking down Mary Mallon, the infamous index case known as Typhoid Mary.

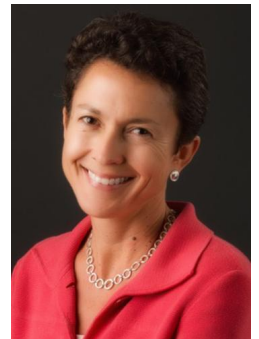


Baker began practicing as a private physician in New York City following her internship. In 1901, Baker passed the civil service exam and qualified to be a medical inspector at the Department of Health, and worked as a part time inspector in 1902. Known as “Dr. Joe,” she wore masculine-tailored suits and joked that colleagues forgot that she was a woman.

“The way to keep people from dying from disease, it struck me suddenly, was to keep them from falling ill. Healthy people don’t die. It sounds like a completely witless remark, but at that time it was a startling idea. Preventative medicine had hardly been born yet and had no promotion in public health work.”— Sara Josephine Baker, *Fighting For Life*, page 83.

Source: Wikipedia

**Hope - Rosemarie Day, MPP** founded Day Health Strategies in 2010 to focus on implementing national health reform. Building on her initial success, she and her company are now serving organizations that want to transform their approach to offering or delivering healthcare. Since founding the company, she and her team have worked with numerous private and public sector organizations in developing and implementing their health reform and related strategies. She is the author of *Marching Toward Coverage* (Beacon Press, 2020), a book that lays out the path for America to achieve universal healthcare.



Source: [hsph.harvard.edu](https://hsph.harvard.edu)

### *From the Music Team:*

Hi! Do you enjoy singing, playing an instrument, or both?

1. Would you be interested in joining the River of Grass Choir?
2. Or - how about singing a special piece at some point, as a soloist, or with others?
3. Do you play an instrument? Would you like to play for the congregation as a soloist, or in an ensemble?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, the Music Team would like you to please send your name and contact information to Gary Gonzalez at [music@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:music@riverofgrassuu.org) and let us know what interests you.

### *Constitutional Amendment*

Ensure that Floridians have access to adequate supplies of Clean and Healthy Water by supporting this proposed Amendment to the Florida Constitution. [Florida Right to Clean Water](#) is collecting signatures from registered voters to place its sponsored [Constitutional Amendment 22-02](#) on the November 2024 Florida General Election Ballot.



## Why it Matters

- We don't currently have this right to Clean and Healthy Waters
- The Legislature has failed to enact preemptive measures to protect the environment and water quality.
- Over half of our waters are polluted. Our health, economy, wildlife and quality of life depend upon clean water.

Petition forms <https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/petition>. Steve Jens-Rochow will be going around during Coffee Hour on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> to collect petitions.

## 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](mailto:Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com), or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

### **RoG Men's Group: We begin meeting again the first and third Thursdays each month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.**

We will meet via this [Zoom Meeting](#) for the foreseeable future. All who identify male (to any degree) are invited to join in the fun. **The Oct 6<sup>th</sup> topic is: "Dealing With Difference."** 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 Meeting Room opens 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](mailto:mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org); RoG Men's Group Facilitator.

### **JAM & All Interfaith invites us on Monday, Oct 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm Eastern time on Zoom – "Understanding White**

**Christian Nationalism,"** is one of those stories that we are bringing to the Roundtable. Our purpose is to help all of us understand this movement, the people, and the impact it may have on our lives. Join us as we explore this conversation. **Register for the event.** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/420730063947>.



Dr. Greg Carey is our speaker for this presentation. He will present an explanation of this "movement" and why it's important to understand.

Dr. Carey is a member of the United Church of Christ (UCC) and has a PhD in Religion from Vanderbilt University. He has been a professor at Lancaster Theological Seminary since 1999, a richly diverse, ecumenical graduate school of theology and an official "open and affirming seminary."

**MUUVies for Change October viewing is "Pray Away"** - A 2021 American documentary film produced and directed by Kristine Stolakis that follows survivors of conversion therapy and former leaders. We will discuss this film on **Wednesday, Oct 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** The movie is available on Netflix. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow [muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org) if you are coming for the Discussion. Join our Zoom Meeting at 7pm:

<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>



### **SE UU Cluster's Annual Meeting on Oct 15<sup>th</sup> featuring speaker David Korten!**

*"We humans face a defining choice: transition to a civilization dedicated to care for one another and the living Earth or bear the consequences. What might that future look like? How might we get there? And what might be the role of religion?"* David Korten

**David Korten, author of "The Great Turning" will speak by video at the SE UU Cluster's Annual Meeting on Saturday, Oct 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm – Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion and the Human Future.**

David envisions "an Ecological Civilization where human potential is maximized. And domination is minimized." To register for this free event please reply to [seucluster@gmail.com](mailto:seucluster@gmail.com) with your name, congregation or organization and email address. (Please see the last page of this email for a flyer containing more information)

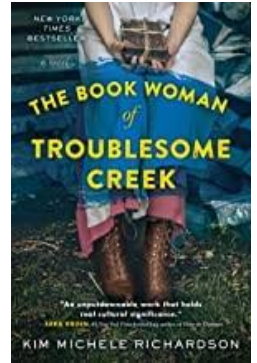
*What is your vision of a better world, an Ecological Civilization where we address the climate crisis, social injustice and economic inequality?*

**BUUKies September Read - "The Book Women of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. We will meet on Wednesday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.**

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

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

The hardscrabble folks of Troublesome Creek have to scarp for everything—everything except books, that is. Thanks to Roosevelt's Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project, Troublesome's got its very own traveling librarian, Cussy Mary Carter. Cussy's not only a book woman, however, she's also the last of her kind, her skin a shade of blue unlike most anyone else. Not everyone is keen on Cussy's family or the Library Project, and a Blue is often blamed for any whiff of trouble.



Steve Jens-Rochow [BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org).

*SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Purchase energy efficient appliances. When it's time for a new TV, fridge, dishwasher, washer, dryer or AC, look for the Energy Star (r) rating. It ensures an energy efficient green product. Even if it costs more up front, it will save money on your electric bill, reducing the pollution created to provide electricity to your home.*

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

**Team:** Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten ([COVIDTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto: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 May 24, 2022**

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

Based upon the updated CDC guidelines and the Broward County risk levels, the following measures are recommended to the Board.

**Community Level High:** Follow our previous guidelines, listed below.

In person Worship services - inside

- Masks required for all, with possible exception of speakers (see below). Masks should be KN-95 if possible.



- If the Minister and/or other speakers wish to be unmasked, they must take a rapid test the night before the service. They must maintain social distancing at all times while unmasked.
- Singing transmits more aerosols than speaking. At this time, no singing except the Minister. Humming OK!
- Maintain social distancing between household groups while indoors.
- No food or drinks inside.
- All attendees should sign in with current contact information in the event that contact tracing is required.

After service – outside

- Maintain social distancing.

Meetings and Small Groups – inside and outside.

- Group/meeting leader should determine if all attendees are vaccinated and comfortable with disclosing status. This may require some quick private conversations prior to the meeting! If everyone is not comfortable, masking and social distancing should be maintained.
- Food and drinks: up to the group. Be mindful of crowding.
- All attendees should sign in with current contact information in the event that contact tracing is required.

**Community Level Medium:** Individuals should follow CDC Guidelines for Medium

**Community Level Low:** Individuals should follow CDC Guidelines for Low

To see all of the upcoming events at River of Grass, please visit the calendar on our website at [riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html](http://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](mailto:communityawareness@riverofgrassuu.org).

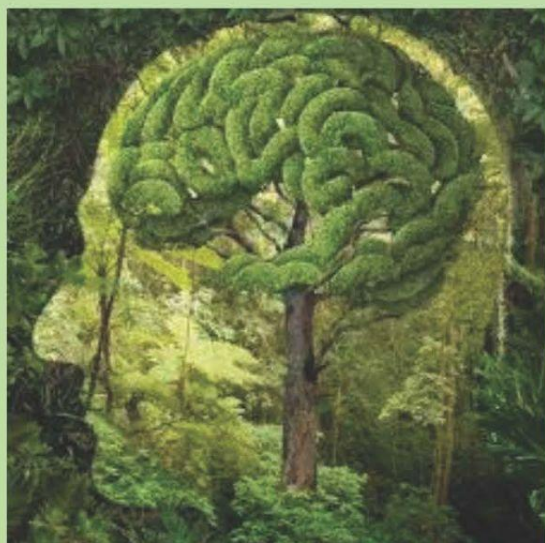
*Unsubscribe* - If you do not wish to receive this weekly email, please send an email and we will remove you from the mailing list, [office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org).

*Announcements to be sent out in the weekly congregation-wide update should be e-mailed to [WeeklyEmail@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto: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.*

## **Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion and the Human Future**

**Saturday, October 15, 2022, 1:30pm**

**FREE**



*" We humans face a defining choice: transition to a civilization dedicated to care for one another and the living Earth or bear the consequences. What might that future look like? How might we get there? And what might be the role of religion?"*

**David Korten, author of "The Great Turning" will speak by video.**

He envisions "an Ecological Civilization where human potential is maximized.  
And domination is minimized."

Also speaking are:

- Terry Lowman [Co-chair UUs for a Just Economic Community UUJEC]  
*Introduction of the program; what is coming.*
- Lucy Hitchcock [Chair of UUJEC's Green New Deal task force]  
*Localization to implement systemic change toward Ecological Civilization.*
  - Aly Tharp [Senior Organizer, GreenFaith]  
*GreenFaith actions/ways for congregations to be involved.*
- Michael Cox [Cedars UU Church Green Sanctuary, Bainbridge, WA]  
*Congregational and Interfaith examples of action.*

And two sets of breakout small groups

***What is your vision of a better world, an Ecological Civilization where we address the climate crisis, social injustice and economic inequality?***

**To Register reply to [seuucluster@gmail.com](mailto:seuucluster@gmail.com) for Zoom link**