

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 – October 26, 2023

Turning the Wheel of Life: Samhain

In the “old days,” when our ancestors were still tending their herds on the hillside, there were two halves of the year: winter and summer. Samhain is a celebration of the beginning of winter. The beginning of the cycle of life; death, darkness and rebirth, slowly turning into new life at Beltane. It marks the last harvest. Winter is a time for slowing down and quiet reflection.

Join us as we explore this important celebration in the Wicca calendar wheel.

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, October 29, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation –Turning the Wheel of Life: Samhain – Kathy Jens-Rochow and Andrea Perez

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

Faith Development for Kids and Youth

As Unitarian Universalists, we are inspired to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature. So, this Sunday in our Small Group for Kids, we'll learn about the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. And, we'll discover how our time-honored traditions of carving pumpkins, trick-or-treating and wearing scary costumes evolved from the rituals around this pagan religious celebration to welcome the harvest at the end of summer. **The young and young-at-heart are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to worship and join in the "parade".** For more

information about our Faith Development programming, contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Flowing River Sangha

The Flowing River Sangha is back! We'll meet **Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM** under the Old Davie Schoolhouse pavilion while our new space is being renovated. Come learn and practice the cultivation of present-moment awareness with an experienced meditator and group facilitator, Gary Gonzalez, who has been leading mindfulness meditation groups since 2014. There will be cool air provided by a portable misting fan. It's a BYOC event (bring your own cushion or chair) every Sunday morning at 8:30. You are also welcome to join via Zoom at the following link: [Flowing River Sangha Zoom Link](#).

Meeting after service on Sunday, Nov 5 about BOLD Justice

All are invited to meet right after Service on Sunday, Nov 5th, to discuss River of Grass' involvement in BOLD Justice. A couple of members have expressed concerns about the organization, and we need to listen respectfully to them. And then discern our path forward with the organization, with the possibility of joining it.

BOLD Justice - Broward Organized Leaders Doing Justice

<https://boldjustice.org/> is an organization of religious congregations throughout Broward County that are working together to solve critical community problems. BOLD Justice is a grassroots, direct action, multi-issue organization, which has come to be a powerful force for improving the quality of life in our community. Some of BOLD Justice's successes are: increasing affordable housing, increasing the use of civil citations instead of juvenile arrests, and they established that any company receiving a county contract worth more than \$500,000 must give preference during their hiring process to 'hard to hire' candidates. For information: Steve Jens-Rochow ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org.



Membership Team News:

Our Fall Potluck Picnic will take place on **Sunday, Nov 5th, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Members John and Liz Perez have again generously offered to open their home in Plantation to all of us—River of Grass Members, Family Members, Friends, and Visitors. This is always such a fun event! There is a pool for kids, small and large, to cool off in, and a yard to play. There will be plenty of good food to share and great conversation!

Please let us know if you can bring food to share, and what it will be! Sign-ups are on-going in person or via Zoom Chat at worship services; an email invite was sent to you all this past week; or please RSVP directly to membership@riverofgrassuu.org or for more information.

John and Liz would like all to know that their dog Buddy will again be part of the party. Buddy is super friendly to humans, but please respect his domain and do not bring other pets.

The flyer has a background of vibrant autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The text is arranged in a clear, organized manner. The title "Fall Potluck Picnic!" is in a large, bold, brown font. Below it, the date and time "Sunday, November 5th, 2023 from 1 – 4 p.m." are in a bold black font, followed by the location "At the Home of Liz and John Perez in Plantation". The invitation "River of Grass members, family, and friends, you are INVITED!" is in a bold black font. There are two columns of text providing contact information and details about the event. The first column says "To RSVP or for more info, email membership@riverofgrassuu.org or call/text 954-258-6315". The second column says "We will share good food and great conversation while the children play. Please let us know if you can bring food to share, and if so, what will you bring. Your presence is the best gift. NOTE, John and Liz's dog Buddy will join the party, so please no pets."/>

Fall Potluck Picnic!

Sunday, November 5th, 2023
from 1 – 4 p.m. At the Home of
Liz and John Perez in Plantation

River of Grass members, family,
and friends, you are INVITED!

To RSVP or for
more info, email
[membership@](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org)
[riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org)
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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/>

Growing Congregations in the Digital World; Nov 4. The Sunshine Cluster's Annual Meeting, keynote, and workshop with Peter Bowden will feature simple strategies for growing congregations in a complex digital world.

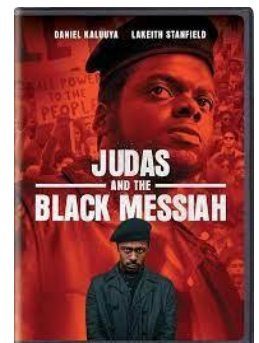
The internet has transformed how people research, explore, and make decisions. This includes how people connect with congregations. Peter's keynote will share how the internet has changed human behavior and why this calls on us to change how we approach outreach, hospitality, and membership development. After our Annual Meeting Peter will lead a one-hour program sharing specific strategies for supporting newcomers and growing our congregations today.



The **Sunshine Cluster's Annual Meeting and Program will be on Saturday, November 4, at 1:00 pm via Zoom.** Free. [Click here to Register.](#) From simple communication and website changes to harnessing the power of online video, this program is for people of all abilities. If you have any questions please contact Steve Jens-Rochow at SEUUcluster@gmail.com.

MUUVies for Change November viewing is "Judas and the Black Messiah" Directed by Shaka King

The fantastic Daniel Kaluuya portrays the young revolutionary Fred Hampton in an Oscar winning role. The biographical drama centers on Hampton (Kaluuya), as he becomes chairman of the Chicago Black Panther party, but is eventually betrayed by William O'Neal (Lakeith Stanfield), an FBI informant. All too often Hollywood tends to soften portrayals of radical political figures, but thankfully this is not the case with Judas and the Black Messiah. Not only is the depiction of the Black Panther party pretty accurate (especially for a major Hollywood film), but it also has a remarkably accurate representation of Communism as a whole, and how the tenets of the ideology inform the political aims of the party.



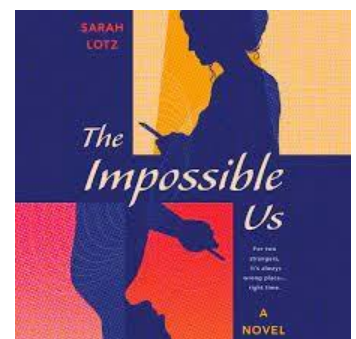
MUUVies for Change will discuss "Judas and the Black Messiah" on **Wednesday, November 8th at 7:00 PM.** Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow mUUVies@riverofgrassuu.org if you will attend the Discussion. Join our Zoom Meeting at 7:00 PM: [Zoom Link](#). Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; Passcode: 537288; One tap mobile: +16465588656,,84418593114# US (New York); Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kvL0D4l8Y>.

BUUKies November Read - "The Impossible Us" by Sarah Lotz. We will meet on Wednesday, November 15th 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)

When they decide to meet in person, it becomes clear that theirs is no simple love affair. Even while standing at the same train station, they can't see each other. They soon find out the reason: they're living in different universes. In Bee's world, Brexit happened, Donald Trump was president, and climate change is a massive threat. In Nick's world, Al Gore was president for two terms, the terrorist attacks of 9/11 never occurred, and the



government has enforced widespread environmental rules that curbed climate change to a manageable level.

Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.

SWIM, the Southeast UU Winter institute. Will meet in Tampa from Dec 27, 2023 to Jan 2, 2024 – SWIM, an intentional community of Unitarian Universalists and friends, meets between Christmas & New Year's for fun & fellowship. SWIM 2023 is in Tampa, Florida at the Franciscan Center, an 8-acre urban oasis on the Hillsborough River. SWIM (Southeast Winter Institute Mid-florida) begins December 27th and ends January 2nd. Choose workshops, outdoor and indoor adventures and concerts or create your own. Registration is now open, please visit <https://swimuu.org/home/> for further details Hope you join us! Registration opens Tuesday, Oct 31st.



SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: *Join your fellow UUs who avoid buying items that use styrofoam. Styrofoam is not biodegradable, so it stays in the landfill undissolved for generations! Luckily most major fast food chain restaurants stopped using styrofoam years ago. Join the no-Styrofoam movement and know you are making a difference.*

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.

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