

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 – November 23, 2023



UUSC's Guest at Your Table: Pursuing Liberation

The alarming rise of fascism, authoritarianism, and nationalism in the United States and in many places around the world are putting the lives of people, and the sustainability of the planet, in critical danger. These far-right forces have co-opted the word “freedom” for their own purposes, but the concepts of liberation and freedom mean something very tangible to UUSC’s grassroots partners in communities the world over. Fighting for Justice against these forces, UUSC partners invite us into an expansive, regenerative space to pursue liberation.

Join us for this year’s Guest at Your Table program to learn what UUSC partners are doing to address immediate injustices – as well as the collective liberation they envision for the future.

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/j/961564350>

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, November 26, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – UUSC’s Guest at Your Table: Pursuing Liberation – Steve Jens-Rochow

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

Faith Development for Kids and Youth:

There will be no Small Group class for kids on the 26th. We hope everyone is practicing their gratitude and feeling more generous! For more information about our Faith Development Program for Kids, contact our Director at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Rev. Amy’s leave:

Beloveds, From Nov. 13th to Dec. 6th, I am away visiting grandkids across the sea for Friendsgiving, and will return headlong into the remaining Winter Holidays, progress on our new place, and programming for the rest of the congregational year!

Your River of Grass leadership and faithful care providers are on hand. If you are in need of support, information, or pastoral care, please contact the River of Grass office at -- office@riverofgrassuu.org, or 954-723-7877.

See you in December, and till then, may you be filled with lovingkindness in this harvest season.

Shine on! RevAmy

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](#).

Project Angel Tree supporting ChildNet:

It’s that time of year again when we get to open our hearts at River of Grass to a group that is underserved, foster care kids. Please see the attached list and choose a kiddo or 2. This year there are also QR codes for Target, Amazon, and Walmart to make it easier for those of us not able to shop easily. We are trying to still be generous and loving with our most vulnerable population.

- We are asking you to choose a child and then purchase one of the requested gifts.
- The gifts can be delivered to Marilisa Lawless's home, as she is the lead on this project.
- **Please include the child’s ID# on the gift.**
- Marilisa’s address is 1975 SW 101st Ave, Davie, FL 33324. They can be mailed or delivered.
- She has a covered porch and they can be left out front whether she is home or not.
- We are asking that these are at her home by Wednesday, Dec 6th.
- **[The Google Sheet can be viewed by clicking here.](#)**
- Please add your name and contact information to the green column to the right of the child (ren) you choose.
- There is a QR code sheet for Target, Amazon, and Walmart to make it easier for those of us not able to shop easily.



Target



Amazon



Walmart

Thank you for always stepping up for River of Grass!

To find out more about ChildNet please check out their website: <https://www.childnet.us/>

ChildNet has been chosen by the Florida Department of Children & Families to serve as the Community Based Care (CBC) lead agency in both Broward and Palm Beach Counties. As such, it is the single private non-profit entity responsible for managing the local system of services and supports for the communities' most vulnerable children. Their system of care was developed with extensive input from local stakeholders and its effective implementation depends upon their continued support.

November 20th is Transgender Day of Remembrance:

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence since Rita Hester's death, and began an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance.



“Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people — sometimes in the most brutal ways possible — it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice.” – Transgender Day of Remembrance founder Gwendolyn Ann Smith (Source: GLAAD)

LifeNet4Families - Help Feed Hungry Families

The banner features a warm orange background with autumn-themed illustrations of pumpkins, leaves, and a sunflower. On the left, the text "Happy Thanksgiving" is written in a decorative, cursive font. In the center, a house icon with a family silhouette is positioned above the text "LifeNet4Families". Below this, the message "Help make it a special Thanksgiving for all." is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom center, the call to action "Make a donation to LifeNet4Families today!" is written in a smaller, italicized font. In the bottom right corner, there is a "CHARITY NAVIGATOR" logo with four stars and the text "Four Star Charity".

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are filled with appreciation for the blessings and abundance in our lives. But it's also a time to reflect on those who are less fortunate and need a helping hand.

At LifeNet4Families, our commitment to assisting individuals and families affected by hunger and food insecurity goes beyond the holiday season. We are a lifeline for those facing adversity, providing vital support year-round.

However, the demand for our assistance has never been greater, and our resources are limited.

That's where you come in. Your support can make a significant impact. Your donation, no matter the size, is greatly appreciated. Every dollar goes directly to providing essential nutritious food to families in Broward County. Make an impact this Thanksgiving and help provide another family with the joy of a Thanksgiving meal.

Choose your gift option below and [donate today!](#)

- \$100 – Provides a family with a Thanksgiving meal plus extra groceries*
- \$75 – Provides a family with a prepared Thanksgiving meal*
- \$50 – Provides a family with Thanksgiving essentials to prepare at home*
- \$25 – Provides a senior adult with a prepared Thanksgiving meal*
- Other – Create your own impact with a giving amount of your choice*

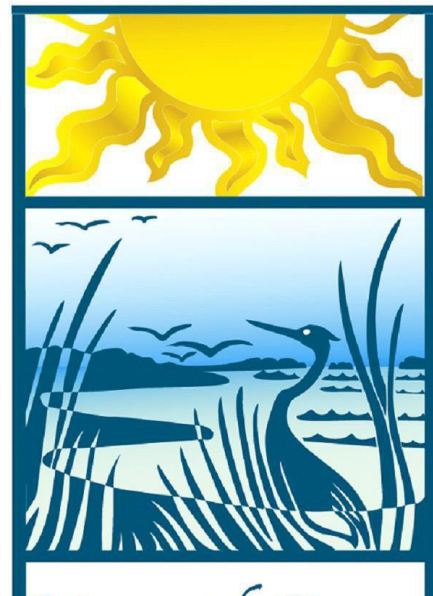
Membership Matters:

NEW MEMBER CEREMONY -- River of Grass will again open its Membership Book to welcome New Members during worship service on December 17th. If you have found your spiritual home at River of Grass and want to be fully part of building the future of this beloved community and its good works in the world, please contact Leana at membership@riverofgrassuu.org or call 954-258-6315. There is still time to be part of this joyous event!

CELEBRATING OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY -- Did you know that River of Grass will celebrate its 25th Anniversary in February 2024? We are planning a big multi-day inspirational and celebratory bash that focuses on where we have been (heritage) and where we will go next (hope). We will include our annual auction as part of the celebration, live music by our fabulous musicians, AND an envisioning meeting to chart the future course of The River together. Please put Feb 16 (Friday), Feb 17 (Saturday) and Feb 18 (Sunday) on your calendars! Many more details will follow and there are many ways to get involved. Please email Leana at membership@riverofgrassuu.org or call 954-258-6315 if you would like to be part of the planning team.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS! The first way to get involved in our 25th....we are planning to design a special logo that will be used uniquely for all materials related to the 25th Anniversary. We want to open this to all who would like to put their creative impulses to work. We will gather proposed designs and then put those submitted in an anonymous way (artist name not attached) to a congregational vote (via digital polling) to select which one is our collective favorite. You may propose some variation of the logos we already use or create something totally new. Let your creative juices flow! Submissions are due to membership@riverofgrassuu.org by December 10th. An anonymous vote by our members will take place the following week.

River of Grass
Unitarian Universalist Congregation



THE COURSE OF THE RIVER OF GRASS -- Do you ever wish you knew more about the River of Grass story? Membership will host a Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, December 6th, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** to tell our story from our birth in 1996 to the present. We will have slides and plenty of photos and the participation of a few Charter Members who actually traveled to Boston to work with the UUA on the creation of a new congregation. All are welcome, those brand new to River of Grass and long-term members as well! [Zoom link](#); Meeting ID: 959 5347 4600; Passcode: 425036.

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

- Donate to The Mountain annual fund in November and your donation will be matched, up to \$55,000!
<https://www.themountainrlc.org/giving>
- Register today for [Grateful Gathering](#) - Thanksgiving weekend, Wednesday, November 22 - Sunday, November 26. Gather for community, learning, and explorations.
- Register today for Youth CONferences! Gather with youth from around the southeast.
<https://www.themountainrlc.org/cons> High School CON – Dec 1-3
- Apply now to be a YouthCON youth leader in the Spring, planning weekend Jan 19-21:
<https://www.themountainrlc.org/pal-application>
- Early bird pricing is now available for Music Week April 18-23 <https://www.themountainrlc.org/music-week>
- [Personal Retreats](#) -- Join us in the cool mountain air, combine a personal retreat with a farm or other event and local explorations.
- Join a passionate Mountain team and be part of making a difference for individuals and our wider world! Available positions and application at <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs> - competitive compensation, including medical insurance and retirement.

We look forward to seeing you at The Mountain soon! themountainrlc.org or 828.526.5838

Florida Unitarian Universalist Women's Retreat:

April 5-7, 2024 at the DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center in Parrish, FL

Ancient Feminine Voices featuring Shelley Graff leading Singing in Sacred Circle

Two nights, six meals, semi-private rooms \$238. Joyful community, singing, outdoor activities, learning & sharing groups, and more! For registration and information, email Retreat@fluuwm.org, Join our Facebook group! [Florida UU Women's Retreat Register by December 15 for an early reservation discount of \\$15.](#) (The flyer for this retreat is at the end of this email.)

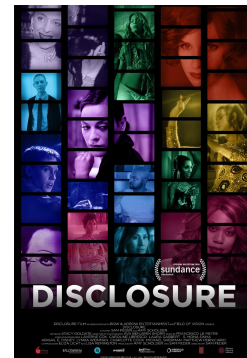
Other Events:

Due to this week's session falling on Thanksgiving, we will not be meeting for our weekly "Mindfulness for Today's World". Please join us next week as we regroup after the holiday.

Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm for adults. For more information or to register contact Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

The Trans MUUvie "Disclosure" is MUUvies for Chang December offering. Directed by Sam Feder

DISCLOSURE is an unprecedented, eye-opening look at transgender depictions in film and television, revealing how Hollywood simultaneously reflects and manufactures our deepest anxieties about gender. Leading trans thinkers and creatives, including Laverne Cox, Lilly Wachowski, Yance Ford, Mj Rodriguez, Jamie Clayton, and Chaz Bono, share their reactions and resistance to some of Hollywood's most beloved moments. Grappling with films like *A Florida Enchantment* (1914), *Dog Day Afternoon*, *The Crying Game*, and *Boys Don't Cry*, and with shows like *The Jeffersons*, *The L-Word*, and *Pose*, they trace a history that is at once dehumanizing, yet also evolving, complex, and sometimes humorous. What emerges is a fascinating story of dynamic interplay between trans representation on



screen, society's beliefs, and the reality of trans lives. Reframing familiar scenes and iconic characters in a new light, director Sam Feder invites viewers to confront unexamined assumptions, and shows how what once captured the American imagination now elicit new feelings. DISCLOSURE provokes a startling revolution in how we see and understand trans people. [Available on Netflix.](#)

MUUvies for Change will discuss "Disclosure" on **Wednesday, December 13th 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/84418593114>.

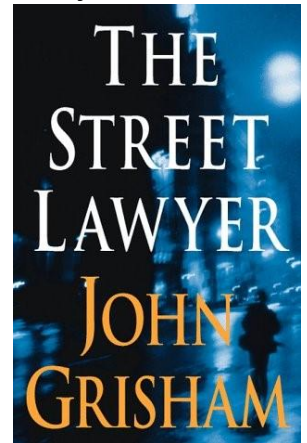
BUUKies December Read - "The Street Lawyer" by John Grisham. We will meet on Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00 pm to discuss this bUUK. [River BUUKies Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

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

Michael Brock is billing the hours, making the money, rushing relentlessly to the top of Drake & Sweeney, a giant D.C. law firm. One step away from partnership, Michael has it all. Then, in an instant, it all comes undone. A homeless man takes nine lawyers hostage in the firm's plush offices. When it is all over, the man's blood is splattered on Michael's face—and suddenly Michael is willing to do the unthinkable. Rediscovering a conscience he lost long ago, Michael leaves the big time for the streets where his attacker once lived—and where society's powerless need an advocate for justice.

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: Before buying new clothes, check out thrift stores (like Goodwill). You may be surprised to find some excellent choices and big savings.

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



Florida Unitarian Universalist Women's Retreat

April 5 – 7, 2024

DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center
Parrish, Florida

Ancient Feminine Voices

You are invited to a weekend gathering of UU women to explore the words and wisdom of our ancient female ancestors.

Featuring **Shelley Graff** leading us in **Singing in Sacred Circle**

DaySpring, located north of Sarasota, near I-75 exit 224, is nestled under ancient oaks on a cove of the Manatee River. It offers a serene setting for nature walks, canoeing, tree climbing, swimming pool, wildlife, and a labyrinth.

- Cost is \$238 per woman for two nights in a semi-private room (2 twin beds and bathroom with shower). Each clean, air-conditioned cottage has 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, screened porch, kitchenette, and comfortable seating area. A limited number of single rooms are available at \$310 each.
- 6 meals (plus Friday evening wine & cheese) are included: Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Sunday breakfast and lunch. Arrangements can be made for dietary needs and preferences.

**Register by December 15 for
early reservation discount of \$15.**

Friday evening we'll gather with wine & cheese before dinner and a group activity after dinner to get to know one another and create community.

Saturday during the day we'll have options for DaySpring outdoor activities and small group learning and sharing experiences. After dinner, we'll gather for Shelley Graff's presentation of **Singing in Sacred Circle**.

Sunday after breakfast we'll have a UU-style service and closing ceremony. We'll finish our goodbyes at lunch.

Please plan to join us for this joyful UU women's weekend.

To register, or for more information, contact Dayna Foster
Retreat@fluuwm.org

Join our Facebook group: [Florida UU Women's Retreat](#)



Scan to
access
registration
form.