

# Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

DAVIE, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 2012

## MINISTER'S CORNER

### THE FADING OF THE LEAF

the Reverend Amy Carol Webb



**I**n our hemisphere, October is traditionally considered an Autumn month. Temperatures begin to cool, even if that cooling may not be so evident around these parts. In South Florida we tend to get what I call a “teaser front” early in October – a few days of cooling relief where I might actually get to wear a sweatshirt in the evening, which then gives way to returning warmth that will last into the holiday season. Even after more than two decades in South Florida, I’m still not quite used to the likelihood of needing at least a little air conditioning at Thanksgiving.

Our Slavic ancestors called October the time of “the fading of the leaf,” reflecting Nature’s cycle of the deciduous trees blazing into color, then fading, then dropping their leaves to reveal the

beauty of bare branches lacing through the icy grey winter sky.

I love this time of the fading of the leaf, and the lessons our Mother tries to teach us through it. For me, it is a lesson in letting go. Letting go of Summer’s journeying. Letting go of the harvest as it moves from field to family. Learning from the trees letting go of leaves that have served their purposes and now must make way for the new growth that will come in Spring – after the deepening reflections of Winter. Letting go of any notion of personal power over the cycle of life. For I can no more stop the movement of my life through time – and time through my life – than I can stop the time of the fading of the leaf. In this, our Mother teaches me again the art of letting go of the parts of life that have fulfilled their purpose and now must fade and fall to make way for the deepening cool of introspection, with the faith that Spring will indeed come with new growth, new life, new hope.

So may we not weep for the fading of the leaf – or of the parts of ourselves, our lives, that may be reaching their season of letting go. Let us rejoice in the wisdom of Nature, and our place within the interconnected web of all being, respecting the power of Autumn, in earth and in ourselves.

~ Reverend Amy



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## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Kathy Jens-Rochow, Chair



**R**ev. Kenn Hurto returns to River of Grass

This month our special guest speaker will be Rev. Kenn Hurto. Rev. Hurto is the Executive Lead & Director of Transitions for the Southern Unitarian Universalist Association Staff (Virginia to Texas, Florida to Oklahoma, and beyond). He coordinates and supervises the work of his colleagues in four districts of the UUA. Their primary work is with congregational leaders, providing organizational development consultation, advocating for healthy congregational practices, and strengthening Unitarian Universalism in our congregations.

Rev. Kenn has spoken at River of Grass on numerous occasions bringing his energy and commitment to our congregation. His sermons are thought provoking and enlightening.

Look for more information about his October 28th service in our weekly emails.



## OCTOBER SERVICES

- Oct. 7 Spirit Crossing, *Marjorie J. Loring*
- Oct. 14 The Others, *Pam Schrimsher*
- Oct. 21 "Say What?": Finding our UU Voice, *Rev. Amy Carol Webb*
- Oct. 28 *Rev. Kenn Hurto, Executive Lead for the Southern Unitarian Universalist Association*

### River of Grass

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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 Faith Development ..... Karen Gonzalez & Diane Lade  
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 Pastoral Care ..... Riley Cothran, Pat Katz & Marjorie Loring  
 Service & Social Justice ... Steve Jens-Rochow & Judi Oltmans  
 Shared Ministry ..... Diane Lade & Janet Schwartz  
 Worship ..... Kathy Jens-Rochow

### OUR PRINCIPLES

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

### OUR SUNDAY LOCATION

11850 W. State Road 84, Suite 1, Davie, FL 33325

### EVERY SUNDAY

**Worship Service:** 10:30 to 11:30am. **Hospitality Hour:** 11:30am to 12:30pm.

**Faith Development Classes:** 10:45 to 11:45am

### FRIENDLY REMINDERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

There is plenty of parking outside the sanctuary, but please leave the closer parking spaces for our guests and physically challenged worshippers.

All meetings are held at 11850 W State Road 84, Suite 1 in Davie unless otherwise noted.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### RECONNECT, RENEW, REENGAGE!

Marjorie Loring, Board President



A retreat is time set aside for reflection, meditation, study, or guided instruction. With that in mind, on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, your Board of Trustees held their annual retreat, accompanied this year by Rev. Amy Carol Webb, and spent a Saturday together working to review our mission, our vision, our covenant, and our purpose, and building a strategic agenda that will guide us in serving our community while leading River of Grass toward its five year vision.

There was a lot of energy and enthusiasm within the group as we brainstormed the one thing we can focus on this year. By the end of the day, it became clear what that one thing would be:

*To clearly identify who we are to ourselves,  
and to articulate who we are to the wider community.*

Our objectives toward accomplishing this one thing include you - our members, committees, and small groups. We believe that if we all work together to align our programs and activities with the following objectives for this next year, we will have succeeded in accomplishing this one thing, and will be well on our way to achieving your vision for River of Grass!

How will we clearly identify who we are to ourselves, and to articulate who we are to the wider community? Here is your Board's recipe for success:

- ◆ We will do this with activities that both welcome and integrate our guests and new members into River of Grass community life.
- ◆ We will do this by developing and supporting youth involvement and youth programs, and by inviting the voice of our youth into the conversation, openly welcoming their language, their style, and their perspectives.
- ◆ We will do this by getting more involved in the local community. To show up en masse and be seen supporting those things that showcase our values and our principles to the world.
- ◆ We will do this by breathing new life into our small group ministries and faith development programs that will help guide us on our spiritual paths and deepen our connections to one another.
- ◆ We will do this by letting guests and new members know that we have been waiting for them, and show them the variety of ways they can hook into River of Grass life. We will welcome the gifts, talents, and insights they bring with open arms, and affirm that that they can come as they are, and we will meet them there.

Our goal this year is for us to answer, as a community, the question: "Why River of Grass?", and to answer it in as many ways possible.



## ANNOUNCING OUR NEW COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Marjorie Loring, President, Board of Trustees



and growth in ministry as she moves through her 3 year primary fellowship toward full fellowship.

As we move into a year with Rev. Amy Carol Webb as our new quarter-time consulting minister, I am pleased to share with you the creation of a Committee on Ministry. To honor a requirement of the UUA, and as part of Rev. Amy's contract, this committee will serve as a liaison committee between Rev. Amy and the UUA for the purpose of evaluating Rev. Amy's service

The Board has appointed Diane Diaz and Esther Sampol, both members of the Personnel Committee, to serve on this committee. Diane and Esther will meet regularly with Rev. Amy throughout the year, and will be responsible for completing the required UUA fellowship evaluations. Thank you Diane and Esther for taking on this role!

## SERVICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Judi Oltmans and Steve Jens-Rochow, Committee Co-Chairs**

**I**t's time to help create some justice in our community! We just received a grant of almost \$1000 from the Fund for Unitarian Universalist Social Responsibility for a *Get Out the Vote* effort by UU congregations! This supports our fifth principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. We want to ensure that voters in Broward County are given the opportunity to register to vote and are informed about the issues in the upcoming election. A SSJC (Service and Social Justice) subcommittee comprised of Diane Diaz, Troy Gies, Steve Jens-Rochow, Judi Oltmans, Carolyn Sant-Angelo, Zena Tucker, and Pixie Wright has been meeting this past month to apply for the grant and plan events.

We have enlisted the assistance of the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, for event speakers and informational literature. We are focusing on two events. One will be held at River of Grass on Sunday, October 28th where we will be screening the movie, *The One Percent*, as well as having speakers who will cover the Florida amendments. The event will be open to the public and there will be a luncheon included. The other event planned was held at the end of September out in the community at the Davie campuses of Florida Atlantic University, Broward College and Nova Southeastern University. College clubs that align with our principles (NSU Students Working for Equal Rights, Broward College Gay Straight Alliance, etc.) were invited and asked to assist with the event. We had speakers (and, even, pizza) at the event!



If you are interested in helping with the *Get Out the Vote* effort, please contact us at [ssjc@riverofgrass.org](mailto:ssjc@riverofgrass.org). Together we can make a difference!



*(Front) Tahmina, Alicia, Marilyn, Jayden, Bennett, Daniel, and Judi; (back) Elyse, Zena, and Steve. Thank you for volunteering at LifeNet4Families on Saturday, September 8th!*

## BOARD MATTERS

Zena Tucker, Board Secretary



**T**ropical Storm Isaac and other chaotic events kindled activity from all parts of River of Grass, and the Board was no exception. Cancellation of regular services on August 26, no weekly plate collection, no opportunity for work for part time personnel, storm-shutter put up and removal are a sampling of the impacts of Isaac. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped us weather the storm.

Financially speaking, Isaac's impact and other exceptional costs, such as a new maintenance agreement, a facility deep cleaning and service calls meant our budgeted loss for the month was about \$200 more than expected. With the new season of fundraising events just getting underway, we have confidence we will make up for this loss soon. Thanks to the recent Auction Wine Tasting Party contribution of \$140, we are well on our way.

The board supported several committee requests this month. First, our Service and Social Justice Committee, led by **Judi Oltmans** and **Steve Jens-Rochow**, requested concurrence from the Board for a grant application to the Unitarian Universalist Association for "Get Out the Vote" events. The Board enthusiastically approved. Second, our Facility Committee chair, **Susan Juncosa**, sought Board approval to send a certified letter to our facility management company referencing on-going problems with leaks from walls and ceiling during heavy rains, especially noted during the tropical storm (Isaac, Isaac, Isaac!). Again, the Board fully supported this decision.

Our Faith Development Committee, co-chaired by **Karen Gonzalez** and **Diane Lade**, asked for a policy change to require annual background checks for those who work with children, bringing our policy in line with state law. Our Personnel Committee recommended a policy, which was then initiated by the Policy Committee, regarding employee pay when tropical storm/hurricane warnings prevent work. The board approved these items for congregational comment. Look for these in this newsletter or in the email weekly announcements. We invite your feedback.



Our Youth Group, led by **Jenna Berleue**, asked permission to plan and fundraise for a trip to Boston. The Affirmation students would like to visit some of the historical places of significance to Unitarian Universalists. The Board enthusiastically approved.

In personnel matters, we now have a full complement of nominating committee members. In addition to the elected members, the board appointed three additional members. In total, our six volunteers are: **Gayle Giese, Linda Meerow, John Perez, Mindy Kaufman, Lynn O'Brien, and Dave Katz.**

## CARING COMMITTEE

**Ingrid Furlong & Maureen Lundell,**  
Committee Co-Chairs

**T**he Caring Committee has a new chair – in fact, two. **Maureen Lundell** and **Ingrid Furlong** will be coordinating the work of volunteers in support of friends and members of our congregation who may need meals, rides, and other logistical support while weathering health and other crises.



We are updating our contact list. If you wish to become one of the volunteers tapped for this very rewarding work, please contact Ingrid or Maureen at [caring@riverofgrass.org](mailto:caring@riverofgrass.org). Your help will be deeply appreciated.

Returning to the topic of chaos, hackers have sneaked into our River of Grass website. When one Google searches for "River of Grass Unitarian Universalist", the link which Google returns is for a prescription medicine, although when you click on that link, it does bring you to our website. **Marjorie Loring**, our President and Web Designer, jumped into action and has contracted with a company that specializes in these types of cyber-attacks. This is a benign hack that will have no effect on anyone visiting our website.

In conclusion, the Board is working on many other issues not finalized enough to report to you in this newsletter. One of the items is how to routinely express our gratitude to the hard-working volunteers of this community. The Board is very motivated and humbled by your example. Thank you all so much!

## FULL MOON DAUGHTERS

Diane Lade, Coordinator



Oh, the places we will go!

Full Moon Daughters, the congregation's outdoor spirituality group for women and girls, set their schedule for the 2012-13 congregational year at the Brand New Year Brunch in September. We are doing everything from swamp slogging to garden strolling – and hope you will join us. Our season runs from September through June, when we offer one outing a month, taking a break during the heat of July and August. These events are open to women and girls at River of Grass, as well as their friends and family. (And in a few cases, as you'll see below, the guys are invited along, too.) We are discussing hosting a congregational camping trip for all sometime in 2013. Any costs associated with these outings will be paid by participants. We try to stick to things that are affordable. Sign-ups will be announced in the weekly update and the newsletter. But to make sure you get in on the fun, put yourself on our Full Moon Daughter's email list by sending your name and email address to: [fullmoon-daughters@riverofgrass.org](mailto:fullmoon-daughters@riverofgrass.org). If you think you were on the list but have not received an email from us within the last four months, please submit your information again.

**Take a looking at our brand new year and mark your calendars.**



**October 21:** (Sunday) A trip to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum of the Seminole Tribe, in the Everglades, after service. Dinner out and/or an airboat ride may be included. Sponsors: [Christy Schultz](#) and [Karen Gonzalez](#)

**November 12-14:** (Saturday through Monday) Fall camping trip to Bahia Honda State Park in the beautiful Florida Keys. Camping, kayaking, biking or just lying around on the beach. Waterfront campsites. Hotel option will be available. Sign-ups will be required and will begin Oct. 13. Limited camping space available. Sponsor: [Diane Lade](#)

**December 16:** (Sunday) Celebrate the coming of winter at our Solstice party! Potluck dinner, drumming, fire circle, hand-made/recycled gift exchange. At a member's home. Sponsor: [Deb Giblin-Davis](#)

**January 12:** (Saturday) Enjoy the cooler weather with a ramble through the Morikami Gardens in Delray Beach. Lunch at the gardens. Sponsor: [Jackie DeCaro](#)

**January 26:** (Saturday) Come ride in the light of the moon! The favorite, almost annual, Shark Valley Moonlight Bike ride is open to the whole family, guys and gals. You will see the sun set and the moon rise as you pedal past the gators. Co-sponsored by Full Moon Daughters and the dUUDes men's outdoor group. FMD sponsor: [Linda Meerow](#)

**February 16-18:** (Saturday through Monday) Winter camping at Fort DeSoto Park, outside of St. Petersburg. Waterfront sites on a back bay where you can practically paddle right up to your tent. Fort DeSoto's beach, part of a natural barrier island, is one of the best preserved in the state. Side trips to the Dali Museum and lovely downtown St. Pete. Hotel option will be available. Sign ups will be announced. Limited camping space available. Sponsor: [Diane Lade](#)

**March 9:** (Saturday) Everglades slog and visit to photographer Clyde Butcher's studio. Nature educator and our own Faith Development coordinator, [Christy Schultz](#), will lead us on a walk through the River of Grass. Sponsor: [Christy Schultz](#)

**April 13:** (Saturday) Night kayaking at Oleta River State Park in North Miami Beach. More details to be determined. Sponsors: [Marjie Loring](#) and [Esther Sampol](#)

**May:** Delray Adventure! Come walk the labyrinth at the Duncan Conference Center, then check out the wildlife at a nearby nature center. There may be an option to stay overnight in the area and spend the evening strolling through downtown Delray. Date TBA. Sponsors: [Gayle Giese](#), [Marjie Loring](#), [Esther Lorphol](#), [Christy Schultz](#)

**June:** A water-based trip to be determined. Sailing? Snorkeling? We will let you know!

See you on the water, along the trail and under the stars.

## UPDATES FROM THE POLICY TEAM

by Janet Schwartz

At the September 2012 board meeting, the policy team proposed a clarifying revision to a policy that pertains to faith development background checks, and a new policy for compensating staff members when our facility is closed due to pending tropical storms or hurricanes.



The faith development revision adds the words “*performed annually*” to acknowledge the State of Florida’s requirement that background checks on all adults working with children and youth must be completed every year.

### POLICY CHANGE:

Background checks will be ~~done~~ *performed annually* on staff and volunteers who work with children and youth.

The proposed **NEW POLICY** to compensate non-exempt staff members reads:

*Full and part-time, non-exempt employees will be paid for the number of hours they are scheduled to work when the facility is closed due to tropical storm or hurricane warnings. This benefit will be paid for only the first day of the facility closing that impacts their regular schedule, and a maximum of 3 days paid time off will be granted during any 12 month period. All non-exempt employees will be eligible for this benefit after completing a 90-day probationary period.*

In compliance with our Policy on Policies, the changes will be approved or rejected at the next board meeting scheduled for October 10, 2012. If you have any questions or concerns in regard to the policy revision or the new policy, you are asked to please direct your questions to the Policy Team (Grant Basham, Kathy Jens-Rochow or Janet Schwartz) at [policies@riverofgrass.org](mailto:policies@riverofgrass.org). Your input will be reviewed prior to submitting the final proposal to the board.

## REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE WAKES UP THE CLUSTER

Steve Jens-Rochow, President, SE UU Cluster



This is going to be an exciting Annual Meeting for the SEUU (Southeast Unitarian Universalist) Cluster. Our focus will be on “*Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling*”, the UUA’s Study Action Issue for 2012-2016. Our keynote speakers will be: Jane Caputi, Ph.D, Professor, Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Florida Atlantic University and Jessica Halpern, Women’s Issues Program Associate at the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The UUA says, “Reproductive Justice works against the cultural, political, economic, and structural constraints that limit women’s access to health care and full reproductive choice. It also includes GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender) adoption issues and equality.” And, Reproductive Justice is an issue for both men and women. Jessica Halpern reminds us, “Sure, the availability of abortion and contraception immediately affects women’s bodies and are tied up in sexist ideas about control and decision-making, but women don’t get pregnant or need contraception all by themselves – men are physically half of that equation! The fullness of every person’s reproductive and sexual life is on the line.”

Rev. Kenn Hurto, Lead Executive to the UUA Southeast Region, will talk on “What Does District Reorganization Mean to Local Congregations?” Since this is our Annual Meeting we will have brief cluster elections and food will be available.

The Annual Meeting is on **Saturday, October 27, 2012, from 9 am to 4 pm** at River of Grass. The cost is \$15. For registration and to pay by Paypal or check go to <http://www.uuflorida.org/annual.htm>. Childcare is available.

First UU Congregation of the Palm Beaches  
UU Fellowship of Boca Raton  
River of Grass UU Congregation  
UU Church of Fort Lauderdale  
Unitarian Fellowship of South Florida  
UU Congregation of Miami  
All Souls Miami  
One Island Family: The Southernmost UU Congregation  
Treasure Coast UU Congregation  
UU Fellowship of St. Croix  
UU Fellowship of St. John

## CHANGE OF SEASONS

Christy Schultz, Faith Development Coordinator

September marked the beginning of a new year for us: a “welcome back” from the traveling days - the slower days of summer. We sang the new year in with gusto! We had a great turn out for Sunday Children & Youth Programs - the kids, teachers, and parents - all happy and engaged! Our Youth Group also started with a bang! Fifteen kids, aged 12-17 “slept” at River of Grass for the Youth All-nighter/Lock-in, and got sufficiently revved up for a fun, activity-filled year!! They will be meeting every Sunday from 12-1pm. Jenna Berleue and James May attended the Youth Caucus in Orlando on September 23rd to determine when we will be holding a weekend “Con” here at River of Grass for the Florida District!!

October is here and marks the beginning of a new season. Even if it is still super-hot here in Florida, the seasons are a-changin’ and autumn is on its way! The birds are arriving (look for those hummingbirds in your garden), the nights are longer, the sun a little milder, the weather drier, and the breeze a bit lovelier!!



Autumn begins the festive holiday time...beginning with Halloween - All Hallows’ Eve, followed by el Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, and All Soul’s Day. In pre-medieval Europe, the ancient Celtic people celebrated “Samhain” (pronounced sah-wen), as many Wiccans/Pagans still do in modern times. Samhain celebrated the end of the “light half of the year” when the nights began to get longer, heading into Winter. Costumes, sharing and giving treats, and honoring of the deceased were part of the old traditions and have endured through the centuries.

Let us continue those traditions here at River of Grass! Our children (of ALL ages) will be celebrating the change by donning their favorite costumes for our Halloween Parade during service on October 28. Come, join the fun! The parade will be followed by refreshments, fun, and maybe some eyeball soup! Once your belly is full and you are ready for more - take a trip to the Teen Room for some *Terribly Terrifying Terror*!!

Don’t forget - gather your pocket change, small bills (or big ones) as the children and youth will also be collecting for UNICEF on October 28th during service. All proceeds go directly to UNICEF, which brings health care, clean water, and food to needy children around the world. Your gifts allow our kids to put their Unitarian Universalist principles into action and teaches them the importance of social justice work.

## BREAKING FAITH DEVELOPMENT NEWS!



**J**enna Berleue, our Board of Trustees’ Youth Representative has gone district! Jenna has been elected to a district wide position with Beacon Youth, a youth community founded in the Florida District of the Unitarian Universalist Association that is based on key elements such as community building, spirituality,

learning, social action, youth empowerment, leadership, and good youth-adult relations. Jenna will be in charge of Beacon’s social action programs.

Jenna has been a youth member of River of Grass for ten years and is a senior at Cypress Bay High School. Congratulations, Jenna! We are proud of you!



The River of Grass Faith Development Program provides many ways for our children, pre-school thru high-school, to become engaged spiritually and socially. Sunday classes are from 10:45-11:45 and offer children time to learn, discuss, and play. Intergenerational services allow the children to join in worship during service and to be a part of the larger River of Grass community. Social Action projects allow the children to put into action what they are learning and to see how they can make a difference in their community. Youth Group allows kids aged 12-20 to be empowered and learn how they, themselves, can determine their roles in life - and they get to have fun!



Faith Development Programs are almost entirely volunteer-run and are gratefully supported by contributions. For more information, please email [Christy Schultz](mailto:Christy.Schultz@riverofgrass.org), Faith Development Coordinator at: [fdcoordinator@riverofgrass.org](mailto:fdcoordinator@riverofgrass.org).



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Leana Bresnahan, Committee Chair

An exciting new congregational year has begun, and we, on the Membership Committee, are looking forward to much good fellowship and a lot of hard work! Our mission is to welcome guests to River of Grass, encourage those who are interested to consider membership in the congregation, and to help ensure that our members are well connected into congregational activities, particularly in the early days of their membership. It's a lot of fun for anyone who loves to meet new people and to have a chance to share our amazing Unitarian Universalist faith. Contact us if you are interested in helping out, because we are always looking for more hearts and hands....many hands make light work!

We are grateful to **John** and **Liz Perez** for their flexibility in making their home available for the rescheduled date for the **Welcome Back Picnic**. The TS Isaac-delayed event will now take place on **Sunday, November 4th**, beginning at 1 p.m. Please sign up again with what you plan to bring to share during the hospitality time after worship service, or e-mail [membership@riverofgrass.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrass.org). We hope that the weather gods will cooperate with us for this new date!



If you are interested in exploring **Unitarian Universalism** and learning more about River of Grass, please join us for a get-together on **Sunday, October 14th, from noon – 4 p.m.** Formerly known as the “Pathway to Membership” class, we are considering changing the name to emphasize the fact that taking the class does not commit anyone to become a member. Instead it is a chance for new folks, in a relaxed environment, to explore the UU faith and meet some leaders of the congregation and others who are also new to River of Grass. Childcare will be provided and we request that you bring a bag lunch. We provide drinks and dessert! If you would like to attend, please sign up after worship service or e-mail [membership@riverofgrass.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrass.org), and especially let us know if you will need childcare.

We celebrated New Member Sunday on September 9th, and on that day, it was our great joy to welcome the following new members into our midst:



**Bennett Lorman**, and son, **Daniel**



**Christy Schultz**, and son, **Cedar**



**Rick Tucker**

We have scheduled our **Circle Suppers** for this congregational year for November 3rd, February 2nd, and May 4th! Circle suppers are groups of 8-10 people who meet and dine at a host's home. The host will coordinate with those who have signed up to attend to determine what each person will bring in order to create a fabulous meal! Circle Suppers are a fun way to get to know River of Grass members and friends on a smaller, more personal level. We will begin sign-ups for the November Circle Supper around the beginning of October. We hope you'll join us for some good food and great company! You don't need to be a River of Grass member to attend.

The photo directory we have been working on during the summer is nearly ready. It should be ready by the end of October, and will be distributed to all members in .pdf format via e-mail. The Membership Committee will sponsor one last opportunity for photos to be taken, for those who have not been able to do so. There will be a photo release form that all will need to sign, and that will be made available in the next few weeks.

Many blessings to all as we begin another great year at River of Grass!

## WOMEN'S GROUP

Ingrid Furlong, Small Group Coordinator



The Women's Group started off the new year in September by reexamining the purpose and focus of the group, our ground rules for attendance, and how we can best serve our River of Grass community. The form and content of our October meeting will reflect this new focus.

The meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 7:15 pm to 8:45 pm. (The group meets every fourth Monday at River of Grass.) Come join us!

Since the current women's group consists primarily of women over 50, we would like to hear from the younger women in our congregation regarding what type of women's group might meet their needs. If you are interested in being part of a younger women's group, or joining the current women's group, please contact **Ingrid Furlong** at [womens-group@riverofgrass.org](mailto:womens-group@riverofgrass.org).

## RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ

By Gayle Giese

Friday, October 19, 2012 - 8:00 pm  
Jennings and Keller

**J**ennings and Keller is Laurie Jennings Oudin and Dana Keller, an acoustic duo based out of Miami, Florida. They bring a wealth of experience to their collaboration, from the Broadway musicals of New York to the honky tonks of West Texas. Their music is called Fusion Folk Americana, a blend of many different elements that comes from their vast and wide-ranging musical backgrounds.

The release of their debut CD, *Susan's House*, and its follow-up, *As the Universe Unfolds* (2009), Jennings and Keller are quickly gaining recognition throughout the country. In 2007 alone, they were finalists in five songwriting contests across the nation: South Florida Folk Fest, Suwanee SpringFest, Susquehanna, SolarFest, and Falcon Ridge Folk.

Listen at: [Jennings&Keller](http://Jennings&Keller).

So, mark your calendar! Friday, 10/19. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.

To purchase tickets for Jennings and Keller, please go to [www.riverofgrass.org](http://www.riverofgrass.org) and click on the "Calendar and Events" tab in the upper right corner. Select "Coffeehouse Concerts." Purchased tickets will be held at Will-Call on the night of the performance. Tickets will not be mailed.



Doors open at 7:30pm. Music starts at 8:00pm.  
Drinks and delicious food from our River of Grass chefs for sale!  
**Come hungry and bring your friends!**

*Next month:*

Friday, November 30th: **Emma's Revolution**, a duo of award-winning songwriter activists.



## REV. AMY WEEKEND - OCTOBER WORKSHOPS (FACILITATED BY REV. AMY CAROL WEBB)

### Saturday, October 20

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Morning Workshop: Covenant of Right Relations: How we live it, and what to do when we don't**  
(Open to adults only – childcare will be provided.)

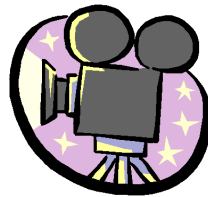


In this workshop we will review our **Covenant of Right Relations**, discuss its elements, and move into the following topics:

- ◆ How do we live our Covenant of Right Relations (CRR)?
- ◆ How do we want to be approached when someone feels we are behaving or communicating out of CRR?
- ◆ How do we call another back to CRR when we feel they are behaving or communicating out of CRR?
- ◆ CRR - face to face
- ◆ CRR - online (email, Facebook, texting, etc.)
- ◆ CRR - when we disagree
- ◆ CRR - when resolving disputes

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

**Brown Bag Lunch and a Movie**  
(Family friendly - all ages welcome.)



2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**Covenant of Right Relations Counseling Time** with Rev. Amy (for Workshop Participants)  
(Four ½-hour time slots available.)

### Sunday, October 21

10:30 am Sunday Service

**“Say What?” – Finding Our UU Voice**

12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

**Brown Bag Afternoon Workshop: Say it – Live it**  
(Open to Adults and Youth - Childcare will be provided for little ones.)

In this workshop we will work on crafting our “elevator speeches” for our UU Faith Tradition and/or for our River of Grass UU Congregation.



Workshop participants will write an elevator speech (and, if willing, can record their speeches for our website).



Mon. 1st	7:00-9:00pm	Service and Social Justice Committee
Tues. 2nd	7:00-8:30pm	Healthy Inspirations – Adult Faith Development Workshop
Wed. 3rd	7:30-9:00pm	Leadership Roundtable
Sat. 6th	6:30-9:00pm	Auction Event: Latin Potluck Fiesta
Sun. 7th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45am	Sunday Service Sunday Classes
Mon. 8th	7:15pm-9:00pm	Finance Committee
Tues. 9th	4:00-7:00pm 6:00-8:00pm	River of GREENS Being a UU Parent – Adult Faith Development Workshop
Wed. 10th	7:00-10:00pm	Board Meeting
Thurs. 11th	7:00-9:00pm	Men’s Group
Sun. 14th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45am 11:45-12:15pm 12:15-4:00pm	Sunday Service Sunday Classes Board Report Back Class: Intro to Unitarian Universalism and the River of Grass UU Congregation
Wed. 17th	7:00-9:00pm	bUUKies Book Group
Fri. 19th	8:00-10:00pm	Café Concert: Jennings and Keller
Sat. 20th	9:00am-noon  noon-2:00pm  2:00-4:00pm	Rev. Amy Workshop: Covenant of Right Relations: How we live it, and what to do when we don’t. Brown Bag Lunch and a Movie with Rev. Amy Counseling Time with Rev. Amy (for Workshop Participants only).
Sun. 21st	10:30am  10:45-11:45am 12:30-3:30pm	“Say What?” – Finding our UU Voice, Rev. Amy Carol Webb Sunday Classes Brown Bag Rev. Amy Afternoon Workshop: Say it – Live it

Mon. 22nd	7:00-9:00pm	Women’s Group
Tues. 23rd	4:00-7:00pm 6:00-8:00pm	River of GREENS Being a UU Parent – Adult Faith Development Workshop
Thurs. 25th	7:00-9:00pm	Men’s Group
Fri. 26th	6:30-9:00pm	Spiritual Arts Group
Sat. 27th	9:00-3:00pm	UU Southeast Cluster Meeting at River of Grass
Sun. 28th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45am	Sunday Service Sunday Classes



### COMING UP IN NOVEMBER!

Nov. 4:	<i>Welcome Back Picnic – Rescheduled Date</i>
Nov. 6:	<i>Being a UU Parent – Adult Faith Development Workshop</i>
Nov. 10:	<i>Service and Social Justice Volunteer Day at LifeNet4Families</i>
Nov. 10-12:	<i>Full Moon Daughter Bahia Honda Campout Weekend</i>
Nov. 14:	<i>Board Meeting</i>
Nov. 18:	<i>Rev. Amy Carol Webb Sunday Service</i>
Nov. 23:	<i>Being a UU Parent – Adult Faith Development Workshop</i>
Nov. 30:	<i>Café Concert: Emma’s Revolution</i>