

Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
 DAVIE, FLORIDA SEPTEMBER 2013

MINISTER'S CORNER

PRECIOUS PINK PEARLS

by Rev. Amy Carol Webb



My favorite part of heading back to school – yep, I was the weird kid who actually looked forward to school – was brand new pencils: their erasers not yet smudged up with equations that didn't quite compute, sentences left with their participles dangling, historic dates off by only a decade or so, words spelled by common sense alone – and, in one particular year, science questions my Creationist teacher in small-town Oklahoma insisted be answered biblically. I got detention for that preacher's daughter, but I didn't see why creation and evolution couldn't work together.

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Ah, but those pristine erasers, all clean and smooth pink or white. Such a perfect expression of fresh starts. I loved them, and strove to keep them that way even as their pencils ground down and down and down to handy little stubs as the year progressed, clean erasers clear evidence of my academic prowess. All the better to leave my precious Pink Pearl block erasers safely preserved in my pencil box.

But now I know better. For while those unmarked erasers might profess mistakes not made, they may also actually belie ideas never tried. What if clean erasers don't mean accuracy so much as cowardice? What if I never besmirch my eraser not so much for being right but for fear of being wrong? Not for answers always given correctly, but for answers never attempted?

Smudged up erasers mean something entirely different to me now. They mean daring to try new things, test new ideas and challenge old ones. They mean forging ahead to write new stories for our lives. And perhaps more important, the courage to re-write old ones. The clarity to see a mistake. The strength of character to go back and correct it. And the fortitude to sharpen the pencil and try again.



These days, pristine erasers strike me as a little suspicious. I find myself scouting about for the ones that are good and dirtied up, lop-sided and even better all worn down with those triangular replacements affixed over the end of a still perfectly useful pencil. These days the precious pearls are lessons learned.

As we embark on the new congregational year at the River of Grass, we're working on some new ideas. Ideas about who we are, building on who we've been, working toward who we want to be as Unitarian Universalists – in Davie, Florida, in the greater Unitarian Universalist movement afoot in the 21st Century, and in the world that still values clean erasers over those smeared with a lifetime of learning. We've a great year of programming set out before us – workshops, music, youth and adult faith development, sacred celebrations and a new third Sunday evening reflection gathering called "Neshamah," which in Hebrew means "breath."

So let us come and let us write the next chapter of the story of the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation, freshly sharpened pencils and precious smudged-up erasers in hand!

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES

- September 1, 2013 **Rev. Amy Carol Webb** "Bread and Roses: A Labor Day Sermon and Song" (incl. Teacher Dedication)
- September 8, 2013 **Kip Barkley** "The Way of the Wizard"
- September 15, 2013 **Rev. Amy Carol Webb** "Water is Wide" (Water Communion)
- September 22, 2013 **Mindy Simmons** Music Service
- September 29, 2013 **Steve Jens-Rochow** Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) on Corporate Personhood

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR (Click [here](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html) or go to www.riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html)



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.

River of Grass

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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Shared Ministry Diane Lade & Janet Schwartz
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Worship Kathy Jens-Rochow

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Marjorie Loring, Board President

GROWTH AND RENEWAL



Through the summer months, I was able to work with Rev. Amy on the details of her Consulting Minister's contract and together we established her schedule for the year. Her expanded role will bring us office hours for pastoral care, a variety of workshops for both adults and youth, and *Neshamah: Gather in Spirit* Sunday evening services. (See page 6 for Rev. Amy's complete schedule, and start planning ahead for the things you would like to attend.)

In addition to welcoming Rev. Amy back, be sure to take a moment to congratulate member Ginger Parrish for being hired as our new part-time Faith Development coordinator. Ginger has been busy planning some great programming for our growing population of children and youth! Also, since Music has always been an integral part of our community, and we have so many talented singers and musicians among us, we are searching for a part-time Choir Director to revitalize the River of Grass choir for which so many of us – both singers and listeners alike - have been longing!

Finally, I look forward to working beside those Board members who are staying the course of their terms as well as the new Board members who will begin their terms this year. The new energy, ideas, and perspectives that each Board member brings will keep our community moving forward toward its vision. The Board retreat in August provided us with a full day of activities and planning which allowed us the time to get to know each other better and bring the year ahead into focus.

Did I say I was bursting with energy? Now you know why. I hope it's contagious!



I'll admit it... I am bursting with energy! That's right. Riding the wave of our transition from one congregational year to the next, and allowing the summer months to break my routine and provide the much-anticipated opportunities for reflection and exploration, does much to re-fuel the flames of my River of Grass passions. At our annual meeting last June, we came together and re-affirmed our individual commitment to our future together. We reported an increase in membership to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), saw new members step up to take on leadership roles, voted to expand our professional ministry, and added a new choir director position to our part time staff. When it



AUCTION COMMITTEE

Sheryl Cattell and Esther Sampol

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, March 1, 2014

Hear ye, hear ye, here y'all! Have you heard the news? Our Annual Auction is getting an overhaul! While we will still have the silent auction, we are adding a casino and game night theme as well.



Your Auction Committee is hard at work already planning this exciting and FUN evening.

We are calling all River of Grassers (ROGers?) to help make this congregational year's auction on Saturday, March 1st a roaring success!

We need your help – and, no, it's not too early to start planning! If you have a talent or service you can donate, please send us an email of the service you wish to offer to auction@riverofgrassuu.org.



If you have a small to medium sized item to donate please bring it to service with you on any Sunday and give it to either Sheryl or Esther.

And if your item is too large to bring with you (a boat, car, or helicopter) please contact us at auction@riverofgrassuu.org and make arrangements for pick up or delivery.

Thanks to all who attended our first Auction Meeting of the Congregational Year held in August. Let's keep the momentum going and let's get started! Once we secure and bring in donations, then we can concentrate on having fun! Join us for our next meeting and be part of the planning process: Wednesday, September 11th, 2013 at 7:00 pm at River of Grass.

BOARD MATTERS

Zena Tucker, Secretary
Board of Trustees



At first review, all appeared tranquil at River of Grass these last few weeks. The thick, hot air and bright sun of South Florida forced us to take things slower. But looking back, I realize the members of River of Grass were slowly moving mountains. Many traveled far and wide -- many to the annual Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (AKA SUUSI). Some painted a house. Some joined the choir. Still others kept the chalice lit at home and took time for relaxation and family. The summer was enjoyable indeed, quiet, yet remarkably active!

There was no board meeting in July. Nevertheless, we coordinated on some issues that couldn't wait until our next meeting. The Service and Social Justice Committee ([Judi Oltmans](#) and [Steve Jens Rochow](#), co-chairs) proposed an application for a special endowment from the Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church of Cedar Park, Texas. Since the deadline for the application was August 1, SSJC, the board convened via email. Live Oak awards grants annually on the basis of their potential to benefit and strengthen the Unitarian Universalist denomination through congregational growth, as well as social and environmental action initiatives. Our SSJC proposes using grant funds as seed money for a benefit concert and dinner at River of Grass to benefit LifeNet4Families. The board unanimously approved via email vote.

The board then took quick action on another request. The Auction Committee co-chairs, [Sheryl Cattell](#) and [Esther Sampol](#), requested board support for a casino and game night theme for the upcoming auction on Saturday, March 1st, 2014 to include gambling and playing games for prizes. They requested feedback as they needed to make reservations to secure the date. The board weighed the pros and cons, and in the end, supported this new idea from these dedicated and imaginative volunteers. Be sure to chat with Sheryl and Esther soon to learn more.

The kick-off board meeting for the congregational year was held on Wednesday, August 14th. Here we learned of [Rev. Amy's](#) plans and schedule for River of Grass this year. We are excited and pleased and believe you will be too. Stay tuned to the Reflections newsletter, weekly updates, and our website - www.riverofgrassuu.org - for details on her inspiring events.

Our board retreat was held on Saturday, August 24. The purpose was to orient new members, re-energize the existing ones, build relationships and set goals for the coming year. I will make available a summary report for those interested.

The board set the date for our first Leadership Roundtable (LRT for short) of the new congregational year. Here all who are chairpersons or small group leaders meet with our new board vice president, [Leana Bresnahan](#), to coordinate activity and get revved up for this congregational year. Anyone in a leadership position is encouraged to attend. The meeting is set for Wednesday, September 25th at River of Grass.

That's the news from the board. We think this year is going to be special at River of Grass. Join us on this journey!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Kathy Jens-Rochow

Even though we will now have [Rev. Amy](#) in the pulpit two Sundays a week, the remaining Sundays are lay-led and members of our congregation step up to share their talent and insights for meaningful services. As a lay-led congregation, we are fortunate to have so many dedicated members willing to share at our Sunday services.



But wait, there are probably others who would like to participate! Do you have something YOU would like to bring to the congregation? Something you have learned? Something about a UU value that is meaningful to you?

We would like to hear from you!

Rev. Amy will be leading a **Worship Workshop** on **Saturday, October 5th** for anyone who wishes to learn how to put together a service, appropriate topics, resources and much, much more. It is also for those who want to improve their services. For more information, please contact [Kathy Jens-Rochow](#) at worship@riverofgrassuu.org.

WELCOME BACK!

Ginger Parrish

Faith Development Coordinator

“And now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been”

- Rainer Maria Rilke



Come, come, whoever you are! Welcome back to another exciting year of faith development classes, fellowship, and special activities for the young and young at heart alike. We are so glad that you have chosen to join us on our journey of learning and as the lazy days of summer give way to the hustle and bustle of back-to-school, we are reminded that, for most families, this is the true New Year. Much more so than January 1, the beginning of a new school year feels momentous and full of possibility. It is a time of change and renewal, a time to set goals, and a time to reconnect and strengthen ties to one's community. At River of Grass, we look forward to learning about ourselves and the world

around us, to deepening our connections to one another, and to taking our Unitarian Universalist principles with us as we seek our path and place.

In the 2013-2014 year, our Sunday school curricula will be focused on the study of world religions, with particular attention given to our Jewish and Christian heritage. Using the UU curricula Picture Book Bible Tales, Timeless Themes, and Bibledeon as guides, children and youth will gain an understanding and appreciation of the world's great faith traditions while exploring their own beliefs and values. Older youth may also choose to join the River of Grass youth group and to participate in Our Whole Lives (OWL), a nationally known, highly esteemed sexuality education curriculum that emphasizes knowledge, positive relationships, and responsible decision-making.

In addition to their involvement in youth group and Sunday classes, we encourage children of all ages to become active participants in the River of Grass community. Whether they choose to advocate for social justice, to volunteer at LifeNet for Families, or to sing in the choir, our children and youth are an integral part of our congregation, and their contributions are truly valued and appreciated. Whatever your child's interests or special talents may be, rest assured that we will find a place for them.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the faith development program, please don't hesitate to email me at fdcoordinator@riverofgrassuu.org or to speak with me or your child's teacher in person. Again, welcome to old friends and new, and thank you for joining us for another wonderful year!

RECLAIMING YOUR RELIGIOUS PAST: AN ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT CLASS

by Deb Giblin-Davis and Kip Barkley



More than 90% of us UUs grew up in some other religion. Our next Workshop will revisit the places and people of our past. We will share our stories and perhaps keep a journal. We get to decide what we carry

forward and what we discard, as we take the next steps in our lives.

Adult Faith Development will begin the new congregational year with a 5 session class: Reclaiming Your Religious Past. Classes will be held on 5 successive Tuesdays beginning October 2nd at 7:15 pm (multipurpose room). The class facilitators are **Kip Barkley** and **Deb Giblin Davis**. Join us. Come take this journey with us. (Signup sheets are in the hospitality area – or contact us at: AdultFD@riverofgrassuu.org.)

GOT VOICE? CHOIR INVITED TO LEAD HYMNS

Gayle Giese

Anyone interested in joining the choir? All are welcome! No experience needed. The choir will start the year off with hymn

singing before services. Members show up at 9:45am in the multi-purpose room and learn the hymns for that day's worship service, perhaps even with 4-part harmony! It's fun and you get to use your skills right away on the same day! Mad music skills!



To sign up for Sunday morning hymn singing, contact **Gayle Giese** at: choir@riverofgrassuu.org or just show up at 9:45 am any Sunday!

Rev. Amy's Schedule for 2013-14

River of Grass welcomes the Reverend Amy Carol Webb as our consulting Minister for 2013-14.

Rev. Amy Sunday Services – 10:30 am

September 1	Bread and Roses: A Labor Day Sermon and Song (incl. Teacher Dedication)
September 15	Water is Wide (Water Communion)
October 6	Association Sunday
October 20	Service w/ Rev Kenn Hurto
November 3	If Music Be the Food of Faith: a UU Music Service
November 17	Hunger Communion (Guest at Your Table)
December 1	Light one Candle: A UU Chanukah Service
December 15	Unto You is Born: Holiday Pageant
December 24	Christmas Eve Service
January 5	Topic TBA
January 19	Lift Every Voice: A UU Music Service
February 2	Topic TBA
February 16	Topic TBA
March 2	Topic TBA
March 16	Topic TBA
April 6	Youth Service with Rev Amy
May 4	Topic TBA
May 18	Topic TBA
June 1	Faith Development Sunday
June 15	'Til We Meet Again: Reaching Forward, Reaching Back

Sunday Evening Services - 7:00 pm Neshamah: Gather in Spirit

September 15
October 20
November 17
December 15
January 19
February 16
March 16
April 27
May 18
June 15



Rev Amy's Office Hours

Sunday, September 1 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Saturday, October 5 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Saturday, November 2 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Sunday, December 1 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Saturday, January 4 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Sunday, January 5 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Saturday, February 1 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Saturday, March 1 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Saturday, April 5 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Saturday, May 31 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Schedule pastoral time by emailing:
minister@riverofgrassuu.org

Saturday and Sunday Workshops

Saturday, October 5	All that is Worthy: A Workshop in Worship Arts
Sunday, October 6	Lucky 7: A UU Identity Project – Part I
Sunday, October 20	Lucky 7: A UU Identity Project – Part II
Saturday, November 2	The Minor Fall: Music Summit I
Sunday, November 3	Raising the Roof: Congregational Singing 101
Sunday, November 17	Caring Congregation Part I
Sunday, December 15	Caring Congregation Part II
Saturday, January 4	Decked: Holiday Recovery
Sunday, January 19	Joyful Noise: Singing for Fun and Prophet
Saturday, February 1	Walking in the Way of Right Relationship Part I
Sunday, February 16	Young Voices: Youth Workshop Part I
Sunday, March 2	Young Voices: Youth Workshop Part II
Sunday, March 16	Young Voices: Youth Workshop Part III
Saturday, April 5	Walking in the Way of Right Relationship Part II
Sunday, April 6	Youth Voices: Reflection
Saturday, May 3	Spring Fling: Music Summit II
Sunday, May 4	Spring Sing! Congregational Singing
Saturday, May 31	TBA

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Diane Diaz and Bridget Morris

Greetings, dear friends! After what we hope has been a wonderful summer for all, we're looking forward to seeing everyone back at River of Grass, ready for a new congregational year, full of wonder and meaning, working together always to create more justice, more love, more joy, and more peace.



As the Membership Committee ramps up for this congregational year, we know the coming year is full of possibility and opportunity, and that is a wonderful thing! As the new committee co-chairs, we want to ensure that we are ready to serve the congregation in the most robust way possible, and we hope, also, that a few new folks will join us! What exactly does the Membership Committee do? We hope you will attend a meeting on Sunday, September 8th, from 12:00 – 1:30 pm to find out!

But if you love this faith, long for River of Grass to grow our connection to each other and in numbers, in order to have a greater impact on our community, and you are eager to play your part in making that happen, you are an excellent candidate to work on membership. In our meeting on September 8th, we will talk about the mission and responsibilities of the committee. We invite all who are interested, or just think you may be interested, to attend the meeting. We appreciate you signing up ahead of time by sending an e-mail to membership@riverofgrassuu.org, so we can prepare for the meeting appropriately. But you can also just show up!

We have several other important dates for upcoming events we would like for you to note:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15: After Worship Service

A brief orientation to River of Grass will take place right after worship service and hospitality hour. The purpose is to give newcomers and guests a 30-minute max introduction to River of Grass and the UU faith. Please join us. There is no need to sign up ahead of time.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 12:00 – 4:00 pm

The first Pathway to Membership class of the new congregational year will be held. The class is a lively four-hour class that introduces newcomers to congregational leaders, explains the wide variety of congregational programs and activities and how to get involved in them, teaches the main tenets of the Unitarian Universalist (UU) faith, gives you a quick rundown of two millennia of UU history, PLUS an even quicker overview of River of Grass History. All of that for the low low price of.... ABSOLUTELY FREE!!! The only thing you have to bring is your lunch. We even provide the drinks and desserts! So, if you are feeling a pull to Unitarian Universalism, if you feel you have found your spiritual home at River of Grass, if you want to become part of a community that is ready to set the world on fire for love....please sign up for the Pathway to Membership class, either after worship service, or by e-mailing: membership@riverofgrassuu.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13: During Service

Our first New Member Sunday of the 2013/2014 congregational year. If you wish to become a member of River of Grass on that date, we ask that you would have taken the Pathway to Membership class, and that you have a short get-acquainted meeting with our Board President, [Marjie Loring](#). Please send an email to membership@riverofgrassuu.org if you wish to be part of the ceremony on October 13th.



ALSO ON OCTOBER 13th: We will hold our *Annual Potluck Welcome Back Picnic*, newly renamed the *Fall Frolic Picnic*, on October 13th, after worship service. [John](#) and [Liz Perez](#) have once again generously offered to open their home for the picnic, and there is plenty of room in their backyard for the young'uns to run and play and swim! There will be sign-up sheets available in the hospitality area, so please look for them and sign up for the food dish you will share! This is one of the best attended events in our year, the food is plentiful and delicious, and the company is even better, so you definitely want to be there!

SERVICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Steve Jens Rochow and Judi Oltmans

MOVE TO AMEND IN BROWARD

In June 2012, River of Grass members voted to support the UUA's stand on the "People's Rights Resolution", a resolution that is working to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United. Many members of our River of Grass community also wrote letters to their congressional representatives asking them to vote to overturn Citizens United. To further support ongoing efforts, a Broward County Move to Amend (MovetoAmend.org) affiliate has formed.



Move to Amend rejects the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United, and moves to amend our Constitution to firmly establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights. The Broward affiliate's aim at this time is to have the County Commission pass a resolution supporting Move to Amend.

We will meet Wednesday, September 18 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at Total Wine and More, 801 S. University Dr, Plantation, FL 33324 in The Fountains Shopping Center. Check for updates about programming for the meeting in the weekly announcements.

LIFENET4FAMILIES JULY VOLUNTEER DAY

On July 13th our Congregation's covenant statement "...and service is its law" was put into action! Thanks to the efforts of Mindy, Scott and Jayden; Marpessa, Renato, Marina, Gabriela and Lara; Bennett and Daniel; Amy, Laura and Sarah; Zena; and Karen, our LifeNet4Families July 13th volunteer day was a huge success. LifeNet needed our help in the kitchen as well as in the pantry and due to our large group of volunteers we were able to cover both areas. Volunteers stocked the pantry shelves, put together food boxes for families, made sandwiches and served meals to the needy. Marpessa and her family said, "We loved the experience and especially the chance we had to interact with some of the people who came to the dining room. A smile, a comment, a word of appreciation, sharing their life changing experiences and hardships, their wishes...all that happened this morning. We're glad we could help."

Our next **LifeNet4Families Volunteer Day** is on **Saturday, September 14th** and if you're interested in helping there is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary at the SSJC corner or you can email us at ssjc@riverofgrassuu.org. Can't make it on September 14th? Here are some upcoming volunteer dates at LifeNet4Families: October 12th, November 9th, and December 14th. For more information about LifeNet go to <http://lifenet4families.org/>.

ACTS SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Thank you for all your generous donations to the ACTS School Supply Drive! ACTS (actsfl.org) is a local group that maintains residences for middle and high school foster girls. Our school supply drive benefited these girls ensuring that they are prepared for their first day of school. Every year they are so appreciative of our gifts. If you are still interested in donating to ACTS, they can use Target and Walmart gift cards for special school projects that come up throughout the year. Please see Judi Oltmans or Steve Jens-Rochow if you're interested.

service
projects
working
ssjc
faith
social
developing
community
opportunities
congregation
justice
committee
agencies
friends
members
variety
include
unique
express

HOUSE PAINTING PROJECT

Esther Sampol, Community Awareness

Our Congregation ROCKS! One of our River of Grass members put out a call for assistance with painting her home. Well, the River of Grass community, as usual, responded and got the job done! Thanks to all who participated in love and in community.



RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ

Esther Sampol

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! [RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ](#) CONCERT SERIES - 2013-2014 CAFÉ SEASON OPENER: AMY CAROL WEBB IN CONCERT ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST MOMENTS CD RELEASE PARTY



Amy Carol Webb
Song Weaver
Saturday, Sept. 21st

Bluegrass to Beatles
Concert and Sing-Along
with the ROG Musicians
Saturday, Oct. 19th



Season Tickets Available
Until Saturday,
September 21st, 2013

OPTION 1: For only \$75

Purchase a Season Ticket for all 5 regular season concerts, plus our special October "Bluegrass to Beatles" event (that includes a full set of Beatles sing-alongs).

Six shows in all!

(Five Regular Season Concerts plus Special October Event)

OPTION 2: For only \$65

Purchase a Season Ticket for all 5 regular season concerts. (This option is perfect for our ROG regulars who have already purchased tickets for the "Bluegrass to Beatles event".)

(Five Regular Season Concerts - excluding the Special October Event)



Emma's Revolution
Truth, Hope, Irreverence
Friday, Dec. 6th



Richard Smith
Fingerpicking Virtuoso
Saturday, Feb. 1st



Still on the Hill
Ozarks "Folkgrass"
Saturday, March 22nd

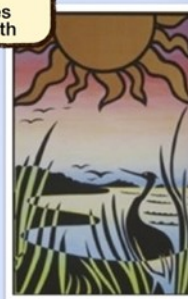


Josh Rowand
Pitbull of the Blues
Saturday, April 19th

RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ

2013 - 2014 CONCERT SEASON

Come Hungry!!! Available for Purchase at Each Show: Gourmet Food, Beverages, Beer, and Wine.
Buy tickets in advance at [Cafe Tickets Now!](#)



River of Grass Cafe, 11850 West St Rd 84, Davie, FL
(East of Flamingo Rd on St Rd 84. Make 2nd right into 595 Park of Commerce)
Map: [River of Grass](#)

FULL MOON DAUGHTERS

Diane Lade

Get ready for a brand new year of fun, friendship and connecting with nature.

The Full Moon Daughters, the River of Grass small group ministry for women and girls, will hold their ONLY meeting for the congregational year: our Brand New Year Brunch. The gathering will be from 10am-noon on Saturday, Sept. 21, at River of Grass.

The brunch is when we traditionally plan our monthly events and outings for the coming year. And we would love to hear your ideas! This meeting is open to all women and girls at River of Grass, their female friends and family. You do not need to be a member of the congregation, or the group, to attend the brunch or our events.

Our adventures in the past have included bike rides in the Everglades and past Palm Beach mansions, a visit to the Morikami Museum & Gardens in Delray Beach, and kayaking on the Intracoastal. We like to do a variety of things, some that don't require "roughing it". Our goal is to have one event per month. Each is coordinated by a different member, as we are a shared leadership group. We also have two out-of-town camping trips per year, in November and February.

So come share your thoughts – and your best breakfast eats! The brunch this year will be a potluck, as everyone knows FMD campers are the BEST cooks. Sign up sheets will be in the sanctuary during Sunday hospitality time following Labor Day. Or you also can RSVP at any time by emailing **Diane Lade** at: fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org. Please let me know what food you will be bringing.

And mark your calendars: Our first two outings for 2013-14 are set already. The Delray Adventure, which includes walking the Duncan Center labyrinth, will be on Oct. 18-19, with an optional hotel sleepover to explore downtown Delray Beach. And the Bahia Honda camping trip to the Florida Keys is set for Nov. 9-11. Watch the newsletter or weekly email update for more details.

The Full Moon Daughters Small Group Ministry seeks to build an inter-generational community of women and girls, to bond through a shared love of nature. We welcome the personal search for meaning through activities and spiritual fellowship that connect us with the

earth and each other. We honor our Seventh Principal through our respect of the interconnected web of life.

If you want to be on our email list, please drop me a line at the fullmoondaughters email address above.

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

BUUKIES BOOK GROUP

Toni Cattell and Kathy Jens-Rochow

Calling all bUUKies ...and bUUKies to be! Do you love to read? Then we want to talk to you! The bUUKies book group is an important part of River of Grass, and we are excited to kick off the next season on Wednesday



September 18th at 7:15 pm. This summer Diane Diaz, Kathy Jens-Rochow, and Toni Cattell met for a passing of the torch from Diane to Kathy and Toni as co-coordinators. We are looking forward to be stepping into this role and hope we can do as good a job as Diane and all the fabulous coordinators in the past.

We are anxious to hear from you. We want your input as to what makes the book discussion group rewarding, and how it might be even more satisfying to your book-loving palate.

For this upcoming meeting on September 18th, we'll make some time for sharing of ideas on structure and content, and decide together on books to read for the next couple of months.

Our "read" suggestion for this first meeting of the "new year" is *Society's Child* by Janis Ian –Jan has won two [Grammy Awards](#), the first in 1975 for her song "[At Seventeen](#)", and the second in 2013 for [Best Spoken Word Album](#), for her autobiography, *Society's Child* (nearly 40 years later). For those of you who were fortunate enough to see and hear Janis Ian at the River of Grass Café, hopefully you also picked up her book or CD. It's a fascinating chronicle of history, the culture and the times from the '60s - through today. One that is hard to put down!

Even if you don't get a chance to read the book, we hope you will come and help us shape the content for the coming year. For more information contact **Kathy** and **Toni** at buukies@riverofgrassuu.org. Thanks and hope to see you there!



RIVER OF GRASS OUTREACH

Ken Bresnahan and Esther Sampol, Community Awareness

Exciting news! Keep an eye out for some new advertising for River of Grass!

The bus bench just to the west of our Davie home became available and we've been looking for a way to help people find us. We had to move fast to get our name on it and eighteen families jumped in to help us acquire this unbudgeted opportunity. So, at least for the next year, visitors and friends are less likely to miss us and have to "drive around". We are hoping, also, that it will draw some attention and we'll get some web hits from curious folks who may want to check us out but just haven't found us yet. Or, maybe, they don't even KNOW yet that they should be looking for us! This may help them find that spiritual home they need in their lives.

A special thanks goes to (in alpha order) our donor families: Barkley, Bresnahan, Gies, Giese, Gonzalez, Jacks, Juncosa, Jens-Rochow, Katz, Lundell, SantAngelo-Mays, Peck, Perez, Rish, Schwartz, Stang, Tepper and Tucker.

Our design has gone to the marketing company's graphics person and it will look something like this, more or less:



VIRTUAL GA (GENERAL ASSEMBLY) AT RIVER OF GRASS

Zena Tucker, Board Secretary

But always remember this: interfaith work is not just civic, it is also sacred. It is something you UUs know deeply. Nurturing positive relations between people with deep disagreements is holy. ... Think about Martin Luther King Jr. after the Montgomery Bus Boycott, when asked whether he felt anger or sought revenge, responded: "this is not the time for revenge, the end is reconciliation, the end is redemption, the end is the creation of the beloved community".

~Eboo Patel, from the Ware Lecture



These inspiring words were presented via live-streaming to a gathering of dedicated River of Grass members at our first ever "Virtual" UUA General Assembly. Motivated after a delicious potluck dinner filled with fun conversation and an in-gathering meditation lead by Maddi Gutfriend, our group heard Mr. Patel's message on the importance of interfaith cooperation. Afterwards, we all enjoyed inspiring music and a moving worship service.

I was honored to help facilitate the virtual GA sessions and am grateful to Michael Richardson, Steve Jens-Rochow, Ken Bresnahan, and Maddi Gutfriend whose enthusiasm and hard work made the event possible. Special thanks to Michael and Maddi who also were our virtual delegates to the General Assembly, preparing their computers, participating in the business sessions and making informed votes on key elections and social justice issues. And thanks to all who participated.

Shall we make this an annual activity? Let us know your thoughts about this past event - and ideas about possible future ones. Send me an email at: secretary@riverofgrassuu.org.