

Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

DAVIE, FLORIDA

MAY 2014

SEARCH BY TITLE

by Rev. Amy Carol Webb, Consulting Minister



“Yep ... my people,” I commented to myself as I surveyed titles on the book exchange table at the EEU (European Unitarian Universalist) Spring Retreat just outside Paris in April. Titles from philosophy, history, mystery, poetry, social science, biography, Dr. Kinsey and Dr. Seuss, the heady and the not-so-much – a sincere reflection of the gathering itself: UUs from England, France, Switzerland, Holland, Germany, Belgium, expats from the USA and more. Though it’s certainly not the whole story, to some degree you’ve met people when you’ve met their books. Browsing these folks’ volumes made me feel right at home half a world away from my own.



What interested me more was how the people who belonged to these books also found themselves here, in the Forêt de Fontainebleau (Forest of Fontainebleau, hunting grounds for French royalty since the 16th century and Napoleon’s residence in the early 1800’s), joining together to deepen, enliven and celebrate their Unitarian Universalist faith -- and what brought them to this faith in the first place. Listening to their stories, I marveled again at what a remarkable interconnected web of being we are in community, anywhere and anytime we gather (never mind how 2nd and 3rd degree connections blazed with other participants – the godparents of a teen I coached at SUUSI, others who’ve attended SUUSI, former members of Florida congregations I’ve served over the years!). How powerful the search for truth and meaning that leads us to one another. How utterly unique we are, yet how alike. We may read the same books, but often for very different reasons.



Love radically.
Serve gratefully.
Wonder daily.
Unitarian Universalism



Whatever the ways we find ourselves together, it is what happens next that matters more. It is not enough that we have found one another. Not sufficient only to have found this faith. It is how we grow together henceforth that can and will make the difference in ourselves and our world. To find one another is a gift of our quest. How then shall we fulfill that gift? What dedication, what commitment, what portion of our selves and our resources will we offer to build this Beloved Community, that it might be here for others as it has been for us? That we might honor our heritage and feed our future. That we might render our own pages in the book of Unitarian Universalist history for our era.

Some time ago, noting a shelf in my house that held numerous sacred and historical texts from many religious traditions along with writings of Emerson, Thoreau and Whitman, I joked it should probably catch fire! Years later I found Unitarian Universalism. And that shelf did catch fire. In my heart. For this faith. That we might proclaim it. That we might ever cherish search more than surety. That we might gather not only for ourselves but for Truth with all who seek it – by any title.

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MAY SUNDAY SERVICES

- May 4 – 10:30am Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- May 11 – 10:30am *Mother's Day, Women's Group*
- May 18 – 10:30am *Flower Communion, Rev. Amy Carol Webb*
- 7:00pm *Neshamah: Gather in Spirit*, a reflective and meditative evening service,
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- May 25 – 10:30am *Poetry*, Deb Giblin-Davis and Carolyn SantAngelo

Calendar

Click [here](#) for May activities at River of Grass!



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 11:30 am. **Hospitality Hour:** 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Faith Development Classes: 11:00 am to 12:00 noon

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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Personnel Audrey Stang, Esther Sampol & Janet Schwartz
Service & Social Justice ... Steve Jens-Rochow & Judi Oltmans
Shared Ministry Diane Lade & Janet Schwartz
Stewardship Ken Bresnahan
Worship Kathy Jens-Rochow

YOUR VOICE – OUR FUTURE

Marjorie Loring, Board President



This is the last newsletter article I will be writing before we gather for our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 1st. Given the fact that we are now embarking on some thoughtful explorations during this coming year with regard to space needs and settled ministry options, I feel it is important to remind members how important it is that all of your voices are heard.

As a Board, we are ever mindful of being guided by the mission and vision established by the members of this congregation. Together, they set the compass point that keeps us on course, and inspires us to persevere on this path that we have set out on together. But we are also guided through the twists and turns of this journey by your voices – your willingness to tell us your thoughts and ideas, fears and concerns, wants and needs. These are the indicators we look to that help us navigate into our future as an engaged, healthy, and cohesive spiritual community.

So I am asking each one of you to speak up and share your authentic voice with us. This is your spiritual home, and as such, the Board needs to hear the loudest voices, the softest voices, and all those in-between. We need to hear both the popular opinions and the unpopular ones. We want the opportunity to listen, and only you can provide us with that opportunity; it is the only means we have to discern the collective voice that will truly represent this River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation. I look forward to the conversations!



FAITH DEVELOPMENT NEWS

By Ginger Parrish

Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.

- Warren Buffett

Our Faith Development year may be drawing to a close, but that doesn't mean that our work is done! As we all know, any successful endeavor begins with a well thought-out plan, and we want 2014-2015 to be our most successful Faith Development year yet.

Thank you to everyone who completed our Faith Development Survey; your input has helped us to choose our curricular themes for next year and to decide on programming that will best meet the needs of our busy families.

Here's what we have on plan so far, and how you can help! Based on survey results, we have decided to focus on **social justice** and our **7th Principle** (environmentalism)!



Families indicated that they just don't have time for additional activities throughout the week, so our main focus will be on creating dynamic, engaging Sunday morning programming (although we will still have special activities for the holidays).

We need energetic, hands-on teachers and other volunteers to help bring our social justice projects and 7th principle studies to life. Remember: you don't have to be a parent to help our children and youth grow! If you have a passion for social justice or natural/environmental studies, won't you consider joining our teaching or advising team? Whatever your talents may be, we invite you to work with us to plant the seeds that will nurture and sustain our community in the years to come.

If you are interested in discussing how you can help, please speak with me personally or email me at fdcoordinator@riverofgrassuu.org.

CLASSIFIED ADS FOR OPEN COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS FOR CONGREGATIONAL YEAR 2014-2015



Membership Committee Co-Chair – For those with a strong desire to welcome guests to River of Grass and be the smiling face and welcoming spirit of River of Grass, as well as to encourage current members into deeper community, this position is for you! Members of the Membership committee greet guests and coordinate the greeters and literature table assistants for Sunday morning worship services; conduct Pathway to Membership Classes and New Member Sundays 3-4 times per year; and plan the annual autumn picnic for all members. The new Membership co-chair will serve with current co-chair, **Diane Diaz**, and will hold committee meetings as needed; coordinate activities with River of Grass office staff, membership and other committees and Board; publicize committee happenings in newsletter articles and congregational e-mails; and provide monthly reports to the

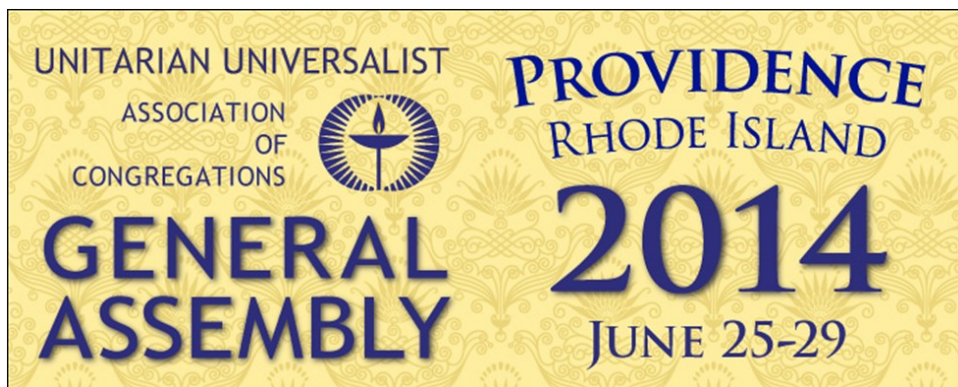
Board. For more information, contact Diane Diaz at membership@riverofgrassuu.org. To apply, contact **Marjorie Loring** at President@riverofgrassuu.org.

Service and Social Justice Committee Co-Chair – The primary responsibilities of the Service and Social Justice Co-Chair are planning and organizing service projects and justice events throughout the year for the congregation. The time commitment is approximately 2-3 hours per week and volunteering at LifeNet4Families pantry every other month. If you enjoy making a difference in our community, and have a passion for social justice, volunteering and helping others, then this is the position for you! Our SSJC Mission: “Dedicated to promoting justice and serving our local and global communities.” For more information, contact **Judi Oltmans** at SSJC@riverofgrassuu.org. To apply, contact **Marjorie Loring** at President@riverofgrassuu.org

Worship Chair – Wanted – energetic, dedicated, self-motivated member. Sound like you? Then Worship Committee Chair is just the position for you, especially if our time together on Sundays is important to you. The Worship Committee is charged with ensuring inspiring and spiritual Sunday services. This includes finding Sunday service leaders for the Sundays when Rev. Amy is not in the pulpit, recruiting volunteers for sound, PowerPoint, Sunday hosts and ushers who set-up and are responsible for counting the offering. The chair is responsible to see that these are all covered. The responsibilities may be delegated to others on the Committee. Somewhat like a Production Manager, the Chair oversees Sunday worship services. The Worship Committee has been large and involved. They meet twice a year to review the liturgy, constantly striving to improve our services. One of the tools they use is a liturgical calendar that is established by the Committee and reviewed by the Board. Time commitment-wise, the Worship Chair should be available on Sundays, so regular Sunday attendance is important. In addition, this position requires 3-4 volunteer hours per month. This position could also be covered with co-chairs. For more information, contact **Kathy Jens-Rochow** at worship@riverofgrassuu.org. To apply, please contact **Marjorie Loring** at President@riverofgrassuu.org.

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014 (JUNE 25-28)

Love Reaches Out



The Unitarian Universalist Association will hold its Annual General Assembly in Providence, RI this year. If you are interested in attending this amazing gathering of UUs, you will find all the information you need [here](http://www.uua.org/ga/) (<http://www.uua.org/ga/>) including links to registration, lodging, programs, and schedule.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

by Wendell Abern

New members include a native Floridian who prefers cold weather, an ordained Swami, a puppeteer, and a former owner of a dog sled team. Please be sure and give them a warm River of Grass hug when you see them!



Victoria Schreiber, a native Floridian (as is her husband, John) claims she prefers snow, cold weather and the change of seasons. As one who was born in Bismarck, North Dakota and survived 56 brutal Chicago winters, I am in awe of such-open mindedness!

Victoria (Tori to her friends) grew up in Ft. Lauderdale, attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, and received an MSW from Barry University in Miami. She is a licensed clinical social worker employed with the Broward County School Board.

The Schreibers have been married for 23 years, and “have three wonderful kids: Gregory, 22, lives in Galveston, Texas, Alice, 20, attends the University of Miami, and Michael is a Junior at Ft. Lauderdale High.” Tori finds her work rewarding, but also exhausting ... and balances her professional life with a very active personal one. “For the past few years I have been running with a marathon training group,” she writes. “I have run three full marathons and dozens of half-marathons.” She also practices Sivananda Yoga, and is a very avid knitter. “I am passionate about knitting with natural fiber yarn, whether its alpaca, wool, hemp, silk or cotton,” she states, “and I usually have more than one project on the needles at a time. I find that knitting offers me an outlet for creative expression as well as a meditative and calming benefit. I am also lucky to have a mom that lives half the year in Maine, so I always have someone to knit for.”

Tori’s first memories of religion were at the old Unitarian Church, formerly in downtown Ft. Lauderdale. In her twenties, she became involved with the Broward Folk Club and sporadically attended the Ft. Lauderdale church. Years later, she says: “I am very happy to have found River of Grass and look forward to meeting new friends.”



Karen and Stan Forrester joined River of Grass in February of this year. They hail from the northern Chicago suburbs, and were members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin.

They have been together for eight years and have four children: Taliesin, 17; Draigh, 15; Tim, 14, and Alea, 4. They also have one dog, Bear, and two cats, Zaros and McGonagall (named after the teacher in the Harry Potter series).

“I am a part-time online philosophy and writing instructor,” Karen writes. “I am also an ordained Swami through The Temple of Kriya Yoga. My volunteer work at the Elgin church consisted of service leadership, helping out with RE for young children, and teaching adult spirituality classes, as well as leading meditations and teaching yoga.”

Karen is part of the membership committee at River of Grass. She says, “I love the outdoors and did a lot of hiking and camping up north. I am looking forward to exploring the hiking and camping spots in Florida as time permits.” Not surprisingly, Karen is already a member of the Full Moon Daughters.

And speaking of the great outdoors, Stanley used to own and care for a dog sled team! As to whether he too prefers snow, cold weather and the change of seasons, Stanley writes, “I consider myself to be an Alaskan, even though the cold would likely kill me these days.”

With a Ph.D. in physics, Stanley is an assistant professor at Broward College, and had been a research scientist at Fermilab for six years.



(Continued on page 6)

BOARD MATTERS

Zena Tucker, Board Secretary

There are many things to report to you, dear readers, so I'll dive right in!

Our Treasurer, **Gary Gonzalez**, noted that we have overcome the majority of our planned deficit budget. To be completely in the black by the end of the congregational year, members who are behind in their pledges should make sure to catch up on their pledges soon.

The board approved three requests from the Service and Social Justice Committee. They are as follows:

(1) SSJC requested a Move to Amend resolution be added to the congregational ballot. The board approved, stipulating that the SSJC provide a discussion forum on the topic for the entire congregation prior to the annual meeting. See the SSJC report for more information about this important issue and the planned forum.

(2) The board approved a "Make a Lunch" event at River of Grass to benefit Habitat for Humanity. This is scheduled for Saturday, June 28th. Again, look for details in the SSJC report.

(3) The SSJC requested River of Grass become a congregational supporter of UU Justice Florida (UUJF) by earmarking \$1 per person in the budget similar congregation's current practice of donating \$1 per person for UU Service Committee. The mission of UUJF is to build a Florida-wide network of Unitarian Universalists, interfaith and secular partners to work together for a more just and compassionate society. River of Grass now joins many other Florida congregations in supporting UUJF. To learn more, see ujusticefl.org or contact **Steve Jens Rochow** at ssjc@riverofgrassuu.org

The board also approved a Small Group Ministry request to designate the "Game Night" group as an official affinity group in our congregation. Congratulations and thanks to **Ingrid Furlong** for initiating the group!

Finally, the board approved the candidates that will be on the Annual Meeting slate on Sunday, June 1st.

For Board of Trustees, the nominees are:



Secretary: **Zena Tucker**
for second two-year term
Treasurer: **Scott May** for
first two-year term
Trustee: **Gary Gonzalez**
for one-year term
Trustee: **Audrey Stang** for
one-year term
Trustee: **Lynn O'Brien** for
first two-year term

The Nominating Committee slate is as follows:
Michael Richardson, Pixie Wright and Tom Robinson.

Currently, the board is gathering congregational input in order to put together the slate for our Ministerial Search Committee. These names will be announced prior to the annual congregational meeting. Members please mark your calendars and plan to stay after service on Sunday, June 1st for our Annual Congregational Meeting. A light lunch and childcare will be provided.

That's all for this installation of Board Matters. Please contact me at secretary@riverofgrassuu.org if you have any questions.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

(Continued from page 5)

Karen McKinnon, now retired, has had a fascinating career life, spanning fields that have nothing in common! A professional artist, she has also been a legal assistant; a lumber, plumbing and electrical buyer; a professional puppeteer, and director of a special victims' unit.



She writes, "I moved to Weston from Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, in August of 2013, with my beloved Golden Retriever, Nike. She turned seven years old in December. We both enjoy long walks and playing tug-of-war. I enjoy decorating, painting and knitting."

One month after settling in Weston, Karen was introduced to River of Grass. "I immediately felt I had come home," she says. "Shortly after the new year, I became a member. I am looking forward to co-chairing the Auction Committee this year and being involved with River of Grass in many ways."

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

by Kathy Jens-Rochow

It's summertime, summertime, sum, sum, summertime!

So as you are planning your summer trips, family visits, etc., think about that Sunday service just waiting for you!

We have an entire summer of Sundays – from June 22 through the end of August – to be creative and spiritual on Sundays. Our services during the summer are a bit more laid back. Some of the less experienced speakers can try their hand at giving a message or homily. Or, we can have creative ones – like an experience howling at the – well, I guess – the sun, or drumming, dance or open mic poetry. We can have an old-fashioned hymn fest or experience our own musical or theatrical talents. How about “Everything I needed to know I learned from _____” (fill in the blank, like The Beatles, Alice in Wonderland, nursery rhymes)?

Let your spirit and your creativity soar this summer and volunteer to lead a summer service. You will get all the support and assistance you need to be comfortable doing a service.

For more information or to volunteer, contact **Kathy Jens-Rochow** at worship@riverofgrassuu.org.



SOCIAL WITNESS SERMON CONTEST



The Reverend Amy Carol Webb's sermon, “Body and Soul: Reproductive Justice - No Easy Answers” has been selected by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Commission on Social Witness (CSW) as the Social Witness Sermon for General Assembly 2014. Sponsored by the CSW and the Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association, this year's contest was open to both clergy and laypeople to speak out on any dimension of the current 2012-2014 Congregational Study/Action Issue, “Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling.” Rev. Webb will preach the sermon on Friday afternoon at General Assembly 2014 in Providence, Rhode Island.

POETRY OF OUR LIVES SUNDAY SERVICE

By Zena Tucker

Do you enjoy poetry? Do you have a favorite one? Then consider participating in our upcoming service on Sunday, May 25th where we will listen to the “Poetry of Our Lives”.

Members are encouraged to bring a short poem (2-3 minute reading time) to share. If you are interested in participating by providing a poetry reading, please see **Zena Tucker, Carolyn Sant-Angelo** or **Rob Giblin-Davis**, email secretary@riverofgrassuu.org or sign up after service.

Life ⁱⁿ poetry

More importantly, plan to be present to hear the words that inspire us at our service on Sunday, May 25!

BUUKIES BOOK GROUP

by Toni Cattell

Want to plan your summer reading? Well, here are the upcoming selections for the next four months. Summer reading? YES! A couple of months ago, some of us were bemoaning the summer break in meetings, and we thought - why not go ahead and meet during the summer and pick some lighter fare or something totally different? No commitment is required - and whoever wants to show up - just does! In September, we'll get back in the groove of learning, philosophy, principles, and spiritualism.

Upcoming Selections -

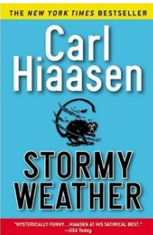
May 18th - *Behind the Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman and Eric Schlosser

The UUA Common Read for this year - facilitated by Rev Amy Carol Webb

“With *Behind the Kitchen Door*, Saru Jayaraman has introduced a fresh and essential perspective on our culture’s food obsessions and dining habits. By highlighting the lives and circumstances of workers who are often unseen and unheard, she has helped us see that labor is a key ingredient of authentic sustainability, and greatly enriched our understanding of those people who have—whether we have recognized it or not—been part of some of the most important celebrations of our lives.” — Danny Glover, actor, producer, and cofounder of Louverture Films

June 18th - *Shards of Honour* (Vorkosigan Saga) by Lois McMaster Bujold

Shards of Honour is one of those incredible books that is almost completely unknown outside of the sci-fi genre. This is a loss to the people who think that sci-fi consists of nothing more than strange aliens, ray guns, and sex in outer space. Lois McMaster Bujold has the amazing talent of mixing characters and science and fiction in exactly the proper amounts.

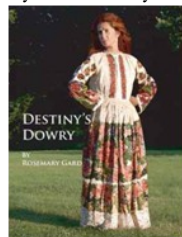


July (Date: TBD) - *Stormy Weather* by Carl Hiaasen

Stormy Weather is classic Hiaasen. His writing is so sarcastic and unrestrained by reality that it reminds me a little of Douglas Adams (*Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*) or Neil Stevenson (*Snow Crash*). Interestingly, these are science fiction authors and Hiaasen doesn’t write science fiction, but, like these science fiction writers, Hiaasen’s writing is modern and clever and his imagination knows no limits. His books are parodies of human nature, especially greed and stupidity, sort of like Voltaire’s *Candide*

August (Date: TBD) - *Destiny’s Dowry* by Rosemary Gard

In the lovely Croatian countryside of the late 1800’s, a baby near death is taken away. Miraculously the baby survives. Sixteen years later Katya’s dangerous journey takes her where she really belongs.



RIVER OF GRASS ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, June 1st, 2014
12:00 noon

Congregational Meeting



FREE FRIDAY FAMILY FILM FESTIVAL



Please join us on Friday, May 2nd for the delightful film *Matilda*, based on the book by Roald Dahl. Attendees are invited to bring friends and family for good company, lawn chairs and sleeping bags for getting comfy, and a snack for sharing. Doors open at 6:30 and the movie begins promptly at 7 pm.

INTRODUCING ANNE SMITH, OUR NEW RIVER OF GRASS CHOIR DIRECTOR

by Gayle Giese



River of Grass is very pleased to hire **Anne Smith** as our choir director! Anne has decided to accept the position to teach, direct, inspire, and grow our River of Grass Choir. The choir is already enjoying her gentle spirit, excellent musicianship, and superb teaching skills. Choir is more fun than ever! If you love to sing, please join us on Sunday mornings at 9 am in the multi-purpose room!

Anne Marie Smith was born in upstate New York, in Argyle, a small town north of Albany. She and her twin sister, Maryah are the oldest of nine children. Anne's dad, a pianist, gave Anne her first lesson at age six.

Anne earned her undergraduate degree in Music Education from The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, and enjoyed a successful career as a Music Educator and Choral Director in Massachusetts, where she graduated from Lesley College in Cambridge, with a Master's Degree in Creative Arts in Learning. In 1999, she made a decision to leave public school teaching to pursue her love, singing and playing piano. She returned to New York, where she gained a solid reputation as a unique and gifted entertainer with a diverse repertoire, playing at many of NYC's premier venues, hotels and restaurants.

Anne has produced two CDs, entitled *Until Next Time* and *Separated by Words*. *Until Next Time*, the lead track, is her original that she has performed for our River of Grass worship. *Separated by Words* is a collection of ten of Anne's originals. You can read more about Anne on her website by clicking [here](#).

RIVER OF GRASS HOSTS TRI-CHOIR VOCAL WORKSHOP

By Gayle Giese



We are pleased to host **Brett Karlin**, director of Florida's acclaimed Master Chorale and Assistant Director of the Grammy-Winning Seraphic Fire vocal group, to present a workshop for the tri-choir. The event will be held in the sanctuary on Saturday, May 17th, from 10:30 am-1:30 pm.

Anyone interested in learning about vocal production and choral singing is welcome to attend. Tri-choir directors Susan Friend of the UU Church of Ft. Lauderdale, Stephanie Nixdorf of the UU Fellowship of Boca Raton, and our own, Anne Smith, will prepare their choirs to work on a choral piece with Brett. Brett Karlin will also show a PowerPoint presentation, with technical support from Susan Juncosa, to illustrate his talk on vocal production, breath support, and singing technique. He will also answer any questions from the group. Those attending should bring a brown bag lunch. Coffee, water, and sodas will be provided by River of Grass choristers!

A decorative graphic of a treble clef and several musical notes on a staff, rendered in a dark green color.

SERVICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

by Judi Oltmans and Steve Jens-Rochow

Postal Food Drive Volunteer Team - May 10th

We need a team of volunteers to help at the Inverrary Post Office for the National Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive on May 10th. This food drive brings in about 200,000 pounds of donated food for LifeNet4Families and helps keep their pantry full until July.

Chris Polzer at LifeNet organizes several groups to volunteer at local post office branches and it has been our honor to help at the Inverrary branch every year. There are two shifts at the Inverrary branch, 3:00-5:30 and 5:30-8:00, and as always we have double duty - it's also our LifeNet4Families Saturday Volunteer day! So we really need our River of Grass volunteers morning, noon and night! Come and help pack up the food, tape up boxes and stack them up! There is a sign-up sheet at the SSJC corner in the back of the sanctuary or you can email us at ssjc@riverofgrassuu.org.

LifeNet4Families April Volunteer Day

Thank you to Steve Jens-Rochow, Bev Kaufman, Rick Tucker, Dave Katz, Alan Meerow, Janet Blair Schwartz, Sandy Blair, Reece Blair, and Holden Blair for giving their time to volunteer at the LifeNet4Families pantry on April 12th. Our volunteers packed up 101 boxes! What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning: the company is good and the work is rewarding. Thank you all for your service to the community! If you'd like to join us at our next LifeNet4Families Saturday Volunteer day, we volunteer there once a month. Upcoming dates are May 10, June 14, July 12 and August 9. You can sign up at the SSJC corner at the back of the sanctuary or email us at ssjc@riverofgrassuu.org.



Can't make it to LifeNet? Every Sunday you can bring canned foods for LifeNet4Families to River of Grass and place them in the basket at the SSJC corner. They are always in need of peanut butter and canned meats such as tuna, chicken, or beef.



MOVE TO AMEND CONGREGATIONAL RESOLUTION

Since the *Citizens United* decision, the only way to overcome corporations and their huge amount of money is with a grass roots movement. Margaret Mead said, “never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.” An important part of that movement is for organizations and municipal, county and state governments to pass resolutions that support [Move to Amend](#).



The Service and Social Justice Committee will offer a resolution to support Move to Amend for River of Grass to vote on at its Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 1. We need a Constitutional amendment to establish that corporations are not persons and money is not speech. After the recent Supreme Court ruling in the *McCutcheon* case, such an amendment to the Constitution is even more needed.

Six UU congregations in Florida have already passed resolutions. Because Unitarian Universalists believe in the “inherent worth and dignity of every person,” and in the “use of the democratic process” in society at large it is important to return power to the people where it belongs.

To learn more about this issue come to the Forum on Sunday, May 25 at 12:00 noon. See below for more information on the Forum. (A sample of the Congregational Resolution is on the display in the Hospitality Area.)

Citizens United, Corporate Personhood and Move to Amend Forum

Why is passing a congregational resolution on Move to Amend important? Is amending the US Constitution unnecessary? If you are concerned about the undue influence big corporations and wealthy individuals have on politics then come to the public Forum at River of Grass on Sunday, May 25 at 12:00 noon. **Michael Greenman**, lead coordinator of Move to Amend—Central Ohio, and the Moderator of Move to Amend Interfaith Caucus will track the history of corporate personhood and how it allows big money to control politics. By supporting the passage of a constitutional amendment to declare that “corporations are not persons” and “money is not speech,” he will explain how groups and individuals can lead the way to restoring democracy.



On Sunday, June 1, during our Annual Meeting we will vote on a Congregational Resolution to support Move to Amend. Michael will demonstrate why this is important. Growing grass roots support for a constitutional amendment is the only solution, for we are at the mercy of a Supreme Court and legal system that is only interested in protecting the interests of the rich. Come to the informational Forum on Sunday, May 25th at 12 noon.

Move to Amend Cluster Conference – Saturday, May 24th – at River of Grass



Are you tired of big money in politics? **Unplug Corporate Power** is the theme of the Move to Amend Conference on Saturday, May 24th, at River of Grass. One of the speakers at the SE Cluster Conference, **George Friday**, will be the Keynote Speaker. She will address the issues of oppression and privilege in ways that will build community. She envisions “a justice driven movement – created from the roots up – as being the only way to unplug corporate power.”

Move to Amend says “We, the People, reject the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Citizens United* ruling, and Move to Amend our Constitution to firmly establish that money is not speech, & that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights.”

Unplug Corporate Power will be an exciting conference. It will be from 9:45 am to 4:30 pm. Registration is \$15 in advance with payment by PayPal available at <http://uufloida.org/pay.htm>

greentips

Running a dishwasher has less impact on the environment than washing dishes by hand if the dishwasher is an energy star model, if you use the air-dry setting, run it full, and if you use an eco friendly detergent.

Reference: *1001 Ways to Save the Earth*
by Joanna Yarrow