

Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

DAVIE, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 2019

TRUST FALL

Rev. Amy Carol Webb



You know that familiar social experiment where person #1 stands behinds person #2, then person #1 holds out their arms and person #2 proves their trust in person #1 by falling backward expecting person #1 to catch them. You've probably done it at least a few times, if not many, depending on how many youth cons, theater camps, or other bonding retreats you've experienced. Hopefully you were caught. Perhaps at one time or another, you weren't.

Think for a moment where the focus was when you did this, or where you expect it might have been. To my memory, every time I was part of this game tremendous emphasis was placed on person #2, working with that person to help them learn to let go of their natural self-protective reflexes, to have faith in the person behind them, to prove their ability, their willingness to override their instinct to protect themselves, and trust.

Perhaps it was different for you, but I don't remember all that much teaching about learning to be person #1. To be the one worthy of that trust.

Very often in religious community, we come through the doors as person #2, and likely one who suffered not being caught at some crucial time we had expected to be. We come longing to heal, thirsty for kindness, hungry for truth, seeking community, hoping for connection – and not yet able to trust. We come yearning to know we'll be caught when we fall, while expecting not to. It takes awhile to learn again, that trust. And some who, like me, experienced a version of expulsion from our religious origins – “disfellowship,” “excommunication,” “shunning,” are some of the terms for this wounding – may never fully recover.

(Continued on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE

- Stay Connected!* 2
- LifeNet4Families* 3
- Board President* 4
- Living the Dream* 4
- New Home Envisioning* 5
- Inquirers Series* 5
- Upcoming Events* 6
- Faith Development* 7
- Music Ministry* 8
- Family Fun* 8
- Second Helping* 8
- Reasons to Go Vegan* 9
- Variety Show* 9
- Composters* 9
- Want to See San Diego?* 9
- Happy Birthday!* 10
- ...To Be a Member* 10
- Help Wanted* 10
- Tom Robinson* 11
- Welcome New Members* ... 12
- Famous UUs* 13
- Garden Fest* 13
- Yard Sale* 14
- River of Grass Café* 14
- Full Moon on Facebook* ... 14

February Monthly Theme:
To be a People of Trust

Bending the Arc of Justice series

- February 10: *Peace in the Home*
4Cs Covenant Group
- February 17: *Peace in the Heart*
Ann Lewis and Sheila Klein
- February 24: *The Things We Do For Love*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb

WORSHIP SERVICES



March Monthly Theme:
To be a People of Journey

- March 3: *Mardi Gras/Annual Budget Drive Kick Off*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- March 10: *TBA*
Bob Sima
- March 17: *Picking Up and Moving On*
Rita Cherubini
- March 24: *TBA*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- March 31: *I Come From Women*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

Phone 954-723-7877

www.riverofgrassuu.org

office@riverofgrassuu.org

Minister Rev. Amy Carol Webb

minister@riverofgrassuu.org

Newsletter

newsletter@riverofgrassuu.org

Editor Melissa Buehler

Copy Diane Diaz

Layout Brit Lundell

Board of Trustees

board@riverofgrassuu.org

President Scott May

Vice President Rita Cherubini

Secretary Bruce Ngo

Treasurer Brit Lundell

Trustee Kristine Barkley

Trustee Vernon Allen

Trustee Linda Lathroum

Trustee Marilisa Lawless

Standing Committees

contact info at www.riverofgrassuu.org

Faith Development Diane Lade

Finance Rob Giblin-Davis

Membership Zena Tucker

Worship Kathy Jens-Rochow

Staff

contact info at www.riverofgrassuu.org

Choir Director Gayle Giese

Dir. of Faith Development Karen Gonzalez

Office Administrator Sandy Blair Chibnick

Strategy Teams and Other Resources

contact info at www.riverofgrassuu.org

Caring Kristine Barkley & *Open*

Community Awareness *Open*

Concert (Café) Robby Greenberg &

Aaron Stang

Congregational Grammarian Pam Schrimsher

Facilities Management Janet Schwartz &

Riley Cothran

Facilities Rental Ken Bresnahan

fUUndraising..... Zena Tucker,

Kathy Jens-Rochow &

Susan Juncosa

Hospitality Zena Tucker

Nominating Zena Tucker

Pastoral Care Riley Cothran & Pat Katz

Personnel Rev. Amy Carol Webb &

Janet Schwartz

Planned Giving Kip Barkley

Service, Social Justice & Steve Jens-Rochow

Green Team

Shared Ministry Diane Lade &

Janet Schwartz

Stewardship Kathy Jens-Rochow &

Rita Cherubini

Strategy Team Coordination Marjie Loring,

Kristine Barkley, Linda Lathroum,

& Brit Lundell

Web Design Esther Sampol &

Marjie Loring

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.

STAY CONNECTED!

Between issues of *Reflections* you can stay connected to the River of Grass Congregation the following ways:

- ◆ **Sign up for our weekly email** with events and news: send an email to office@riverofgrassuu.org
- ◆ **Visit our Facebook page:** www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu
- ◆ **Follow us on Twitter:** @RiverOfGrassUU or www.twitter.com/riverofgrassuu
- ◆ **Visit our calendar:** www.riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html (or go to: www.riverofgrassuu.org – click on Events – Calendar)
- ◆ **Join our MeetUp group:** www.meetup.com/riverofgrassuu



TRUST FALL

(Continued from page 1)

What if, in our woundedness, we shifted our focus on trust from “learning to trust,” to “learning to be trustworthy.” What kind of healing might that afford our hearts, our souls, our bodies, our communities?

This month of February, our theme asks what it could mean for us as Unitarian Universalists to become A People of Trust. Each Sunday we’ll explore different ways we might become such a People, and how deepening both our trust and our trustworthiness can transform our lives, our families, and our world.

Life in Beloved Community is never so much about learning to fall ... but learning to be the ones who catch.



VOLUNTEERING AT THE LIFE4FAMILIES FOOD BANK

Judi Oltmans

Thank you to the Herons of the Hammock Covenant group members: Rick, Zena, Sheila and Judi along with Bev and Helena for volunteering at Life4Families on January 12th. Some volunteers helped out in the kitchen while others stocked in the pantry and filled small bags of rice. It was heartwarming to see so many people enjoying a hot meal and picking up a sandwich to go. You get a chance to see what a difference Life4Families makes in so many people’s lives. If your River of Grass Covenant or other group would like to get together for a service volunteer morning at Life4Families please contact us at ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org. Our upcoming Saturday Life4Families volunteer mornings are: **March 9th and April 13th.**



Healing injustice in our community is part of our River of Grass Mission and volunteering at Life4Families is one way to put our mission into action. We can help by volunteering in their pantry, dining room, clothing and toiletries area, and kitchen doing a variety of tasks. There’s something for everyone to do! Join us at our next Life4Families Saturday Volunteer morning on **March 9th** from 9:00-11:00am. Sign up at the Service and Social Justice Green Team corner at the back of the River of Grass sanctuary or email us at ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org.

Can’t make it to Life4Families? Every Sunday you can bring canned foods for Life4Families to River of Grass and place them in the basket at the SSJGT corner. They are always in need of peanut butter and canned meats such as tuna, chicken or beef.

CELEBRATE 20 YEARS

AMAZED AT HOW FAR WE'VE COME...AND IN AWE OF WHERE WE'RE GOING!

Scott May



The 20th Anniversary of River of Grass is February 21st! Simply, Wow! Spectacular! A time to celebrate! I remember those early days at the Weston Community Center... then moving to our own space at Shotgun Road... and we found a way to carry on as our Dykes Road property dream fell short... then onto Central Park Elementary... a brief stay at Toddler Tech... and then to our current home at 595 Park of Commerce. Plus, 5 Ministers along the way: Rev Ken, Rev Jacky, Rev Dave, Rev Naomi, and now our beloved Rev Amy. What an amazing journey it has been!

Through it all, River of Grass has persevered, striving to fulfill our highest aspirations, create beloved community, and impact lives. I'm very appreciative of the many hands and hearts who have travelled this windy road together – past or present. You are River of Grass. You are truly a blessing!

So, after 20 amazing years.... what comes next? What does the next chapter look like for River of Grass? Will we survive, or thrive? Will we maintain our path, or rise to greater heights? Who are we called to be?

The next two months will set the stage for our next chapter:

- ◆ Will our Faith Development programs continue to grow?
- ◆ Will our Sunday Worship services continue to see a full house?
- ◆ Will Members and Friends embrace the transition to Strategy Teams?
- ◆ Will the Annual Budget Drive demonstrate our generosity and commitment to River of Grass?
- ◆ Will our New Home Envisioning weekend March 1-3 identify an exciting path forward?

The foundation for our future is right in front of us.... ready for our direction, our love, and our energy. It's ours to shape, to build, and to imagine. It is up to us, and we are ready!

I'm grateful for being part of this amazing River of Grass community for 20+ years! And I am so excited to see River of Grass's next chapter that we will create together! May it be so!



LIVING THE DREAM

The Annual Budget Drive 2019-2020 will kick off on March 3! In the month of February, you will be inspired by the thoughtful comments of four families who will give their testimonials about how important River of Grass is to them and why they are financially committed to our community. On Sunday, March 3, you can pick up your Pledge Packets (which will include an invitation to a special congregational celebration happening at the end of March!). If you cannot be there, look for that packet in your mailbox!

Questions? See Kathy Jens-Rochow or Rita Cherubini, ABD Co-Chairs, or contact Stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org.

NEW HOME ENVISIONING WEEKEND

MARCH 1-3, 2019

To help us envision our next home (after our lease ends in 3 years), we have invited Barry Finkelstein to spend Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 1-3 with us to conduct a New Home Envisioning program. Barry has been a Unitarian Universalist Congregational Stewardship Consultant since 2007, and has worked with over 60 UU congregations in all aspects of stewardship, governance, and planning. In addition, he is a professional management consultant with 35 years of experience supporting non-profits, US government agencies, and commercial firms.



Barry hopes to accomplish three goals during the visit:

- 1) gather enough information to gain a clear sense of who we are and where we would like to go;
- 2) generate specific observations and recommendations to help us on our journey; and
- 3) explain how the UUA Stewardship for Us Team can offer guidance and coaching as we move into the future.

Barry will meet with congregational leaders on Friday evening and Saturday morning. On Saturday afternoon, he will conduct an open workshop for everyone. More details are forthcoming. Please plan to attend.

Barry will also participate in our worship service on Sunday morning March 3rd. Following the service, he will hold an open forum to share his observations and recommendations. These sessions will be engaging, energetic, and informative. Childcare will be available, and we encourage all to attend.

Please come join the conversation, and in welcoming Barry to our congregation!

INQUIRERS SERIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join Rev Amy for question and answer after service on **February 24 (11:45-12:45p)** for the third in our Inquirers Series sessions. These short courses are for newcomers, new members and anyone wanting to learn more about River of Grass. You will have a chance to get acquainted with each other and ask a question or two of our beloved minister! See Zena Tucker or email membership@riverofgrassuu.org for more info.



RIVER OF GRASS
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION

INQUIRERS SERIES

Learn more about the River while making
new friends!

Sundays, 1145a-1245p
2/3: UU Principles and History
2/24 Campus Tour
3/10 Faith Development

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Location
Saturday, Feb 16	7:00p (doors open) 8:00p (concert)	Roy Zimmerman concert	River of Grass
Sunday, Feb 17	12:30p	Faith Development family mini golf outing	CB Smith Park
Monday, Feb 18	7:00-9:00p	SSJGT presents James Wildman "101 Reasons to go Vegan"	River of Grass
Tuesday, Feb 19	7:15-8:15p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, Feb 20	7:15-9:15p	bUUKies Book Group	River of Grass
Thursday, Feb 21	ALL DAY!!!!	River of Grass 20 th Anniversary	River of Grass
Thursday, Feb 21	7:00-9:00p	Men's Group	River of Grass
Sunday, Feb 24	12:00p	Second Helping Sunday	River of Grass
Sunday, Feb 24	12:00p	Faith Forward Inquirers series #3	River of Grass
Monday, Feb 25	7:00-9:00p	SSJGT JAM meeting/potluck	River of Grass
Tuesday, Feb 26	7:15-8:15p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, Feb 27	7:00p	Faith Development meeting	River of Grass
Thursday, Feb 28	7:00-7:45p	Welcome Table Communion Circle with Rev Amy	River of Grass
Friday, March 1	6:30-9:30p	New Home Envisioning weekend	River of Grass
Saturday, March 2	TBA	New Home Envisioning weekend	River of Grass
Saturday, March 2	9:00a-12:00p	Congregational work day	River of Grass
Sunday, March 3	12:15p	New Home Envisioning weekend	River of Grass
Sunday, March 3	ALL DAY!!!!	Annual Budget Drive Kick Off	River of Grass
Monday, March 4	7:00-9:00p	SSJGT meeting	River of Grass
Tuesday, March 5	7:15-8:15p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Thursday, March 7	7:00-9:00p	Men's Group	River of Grass
Friday, March 8	7:00-9:00p	Drum Circle with Rev Amy	River of Grass
Saturday, March 9	9:00-11:00a	LifeNet4Families volunteer day	1 NW 33 rd Terrace Ft Laud
Saturday, March 9	11:30a-2:00p	SSJGT presents Citizens Climate	River of Grass
Sunday, March 10	12:00p	Faith Forward Inquirers series #4	River of Grass
Tuesday, March 12	7:15-8:15p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Karen Gonzalez



Raising our daughters, we had one cardinal rule – no tattling to get your sister into trouble. Do tell if it will get her OUT of trouble, though! It was important to us that they grow up being each other’s protectors. This didn’t always make us popular, but as parents, one has to keep the end game in mind. We knew who we wanted them to become.

As we travel through this liturgical theme of being people of trust, I am reminded that parenting requires so much trust – trust in yourself, trust in your partner, and most certainly trust that your teens will hold onto some of the wisdom you did your best to fill them with as they make their way in the world. Our children know they can trust us to help with homework, take them to horseback riding lessons and attend dance recitals. Their academic, social and physical well-being is entrusted to us. But, it’s easy to forget that we’re also our children’s primary religious educators. How they come to understand the world and their place in it comes from their parents, first and foremost. We are blessed with dedicated

Sunday school teachers here at The River, but how are you supporting their faith development at home? Here are some ideas to help you on that journey.

- ~refer to our Principles when sharing picture books
- ~take advantage of weekly Sunday school parent letters by scheduling suggested activities
- ~take time to reflect together on Sunday afternoons about the morning services
- ~hold weekly “Sabbath” dinners and light a family chalice
- ~attend mid-week spiritual practices together at The River
- ~spend time in nature, observing and marveling at the sights and sounds
- ~create “gift bags” for the homeless to keep in your car
- ~pause the television programming to talk about the choices the characters are making
- ~hang a UU Principles poster in your home (there are many at cafepress.org)

Developing spiritual practices as a family is a healthy way to manage stress and create peace in the home. If you feel that you need to build some of your UU knowledge base, consider attending our Faith Forward programs every other Sunday after service. Childcare can be provided, if needed. We also have a children’s library in the Faith Development hallway. There are wonderful storybooks to be found there. Simply leave me a note so I know who borrowed what.



This month the Faith Development Committee will be revisiting our Faith Development Mission and Ministry Statements, which haven’t been updated in many years. If you’d like to share your views on the direction of our programming, please consider joining us at our next meeting on **February 27th at 7:00pm**.

Faith Development Mission Statement

As our congregational mission statement reflects, River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation values our children and understands the impact that religion can have on the life of a child. We believe that through religious education our children will learn the value of worship and the importance of reaching inward and outward.

Faith Development Ministry Statement

Unitarian Universalists believe that the search for truth and meaning is a life long process. Our mission is to provide our children and youth with a spiritual foundation based on our Unitarian Universalist principles and a sense of reverence. We will develop opportunities to nurture their spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth through religious education, community building activities, and service. Our intention is to foster responsible stewards of our faith and its future.

WE ARE:

ALL CONNECTED

STRONGER TOGETHER

LOVE’S HANDS IN THE WORLD

CALLED TO CREATE JUSTICE

RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND THE EARTH

WHAT IS MUSIC MINISTRY?

Gayle Giese



We need to sing and make music in the same way that we need to breathe really deeply; it is healing and rejuvenating. I've had a cold and sore throat so I've endured several days without singing, and that just doesn't feel right! Singing provides resilience against hard times. Music connects us with our emotions, allowing us to work through them, release them, and move back into joy. When I sing with others, we are connected in our shared breathing, our sounds, and our souls. When I play or sing upbeat songs with the band at River of Grass, it's joyful and FUN! When the music promotes a positive message, such as peace in the world, the musicians are connected further by this mission, to enhance or spread our message with the congregation, community, and world.

Our River of Grass music ministry has ministered to me, congregants, choir members, other musicians, and people at rallies and concerts we've done. Each year, at the Martin Luther King Day march, Rev. Amy leads justice marching songs, much like the songs sung on the civil rights marches from Selma to Montgomery in 1965, songs like "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize" and "Guide My Feet" to help the people keep walking and not give up despite exhaustion, fear of violence, hunger, and thirst.

Music at River of Grass may be entertaining, but that's not the primary intent. Musicians who are ministering through music are more like paramedics, social workers, doctors, and therapists than entertainers. This past Sunday, one congregant said, "I felt embraced by the choir's music." That is the goal. We are trying to heal, to embrace, to enhance or enlighten the message. Perhaps our music can help mend broken hearts, bend the arc toward justice, and, as so eloquently written by Lao-Tse, bring peace to our hearts, homes, neighbors, cities, and nations.



FEBRUARY FAMILY FUN EVENT



Join us for mini golf at CB Smith Park after service on February 17th!

SECOND HELPING SUNDAYS CONTINUE

Kip Barkley, Planned Giving Person

Our next program is scheduled for **February 24th** after Service. Our own Rev Amy will share with us about "The Five Wishes." This is a thought-provoking paper guide to encourage us to share in advance with family and friends what we will want, medically, socially, spiritually, should we find ourselves in an end-of-life situation. OK, it's not the most upbeat of topics, but it is one worthy of consideration.

The Second Helping Sunday topics are intended to provide education and to get members and friends thinking. Future topics might be "Nutrition Tips," "Beware of Senior Scams," and "Becoming the Queen of Costco."

Do stick around and join us.





101 REASONS TO GO VEGAN

Learn about the benefits of a plant-based diet for our health, the environment, and the welfare of animals. The presentation has been given in over 60 high schools and universities in South Florida, and the “101 Reasons To Go Vegan” video has been translated into 18 languages and has over 4 MILLION views total on YouTube.

The presentation will be by James Wildman, Humane Educator for the Animal Rights Foundation of Florida, at River of Grass on **Monday, February 18, 2019 at 7pm.**

“I just wanted to give you a huge standing ovation for your phenomenal presentation. Really the best, most succinct, entertaining, and uplifting presentation on the subject of choosing to be vegan which I have seen.”

- email from a YouTube subscriber

Steve [SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org)



RIVER OF GRASS COMPOSTERS



Thank you to our Composters who “recycled” our River of Grass compost in January! Our Sunday morning coffee grounds and fruit and vegetable scraps took on new life instead of ending up in the landfill. If you are interested in taking home our compost one Sunday please contact the Service and Social Justice Green Team at ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org. Go green!



Our First Big Annual Spring Variety Show Extravaganza is April 6th. Are you getting your act together? There'll be food, fun, laughter and a wonderfully supportive audience. What's your hidden “talent”?

***Looking to Escape the Cold?
Want to See San Diego?
Are March 2nd through 7th good dates for you?***

Consider visiting San Diego with the First Unitarian Universalists of San Diego! San Diego has so much to offer: beautiful beaches, hip urban areas, a World-Famous Zoo, inspiring universities, and a park filled with fascinating museums. And we have even left most of a day for you to tell us where you want to go!

Please go to www.firstuusandiego.org/sdvisit to see the details of this exclusive and all-inclusive tour. Funds raised will be used to support a number of social justice projects near the border. Hope to see you in San Diego!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES!



River of Grass UU Congregation (February 21)

Susan Juncosa (February 23)

Kathy Jens-Rochow (February 24)

Vickie Koutoulas (February 24)

Vernon Allen (March 1)

Zena Tucker (March 2)

Rob Giblin-Davis (March 6)

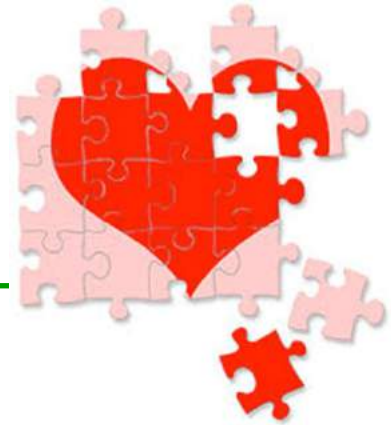
Mike Miller (March 7)

Marla Hannah (March 8)

WHAT IS IT TO BE A MEMBER?

© Sheila Klein

Appearing whole,
All limbs present,
This body has been dismembered.
Parts forgot to remember being intact,
Lost capacity to reach out,
Make contact,
Gain mobility in the world,
Make moves to carry forth,
Find lost voice,
Seek inner rhythms.
What's missing?
Too much empty space
Where sockets hold joints,
Bones spotted with holes
Like swiss cheese.
No sturdy structure this:
Insides scooped out,
Ragged edges bared,
A rare disorder of connective
Tissue disconnected
From the fabric of being.
No remedy or cure.
Silent cries ring out,
Echo without response.
In the heart of beloved, caring community,
Healing happens,
Appears miraculously,
Reignites embers of hope.



**HELP
WANTED**

As our newsletter continues to grow, we are in search of a second copy editor wizard to help. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering! newsletter@riverofgrassuu.org



IN MEMORY OF TOM ROBINSON 1941 – 2019



I first got to know Tom as we worked on wiring the stained glass chalice window when we moved into our current facility. He was an electrician and had worked for the federal government wiring new post office construction before retiring. Before that he had been a lineman, working high up in the sky on electrical utility power lines. He loved that job.

In the Men's Group he would talk about the carved wooden figures he would create. Some of them were fantastic caricatures, extremely creative and expressive. Once he brought some of them into the group. Right after I finished the bamboo chancel wall we needed a focal point for it, so I asked him to carve a wooden River of Grass chalice to go on it. The chalice we have today is what he created for us. It is magnificent.

When he served on the Board he went to the weeklong leadership school, SUULE Southern UU Leadership Experience.

Steve Jens-Rochow

I served on the Board at River of Grass with Tom. He was always soft spoken and thoughtful and like in the old E.F. Hutton commercial- when Tom had something to say people listened because it was usually very thoughtful and insightful. He will be sorely missed, and I will so cherish the beautiful wooden chalice he carved all the more.

Deb Giblin-Davis

I served on the Board with Tom back in the Toddler Tech days and our first year in our current facility. I loved his quiet sense of humor! Here's one of my favorite photos of Tom in a ten-gallon hat – plus arrow! It was the Board's auction event, "River of Gas", which was a western-themed murder mystery. Tom just showed up on the night of the play with the hat, having told no one of his plan.

Susan Juncosa

Tom will be remembered for so many things, including his gentle, kind soul. In addition, his smile, his heart, and his warmth will be sorely missed. I'm grateful for having known him.

Scott May



I am so grateful to have known Tom. He always stopped to speak to folks – and listen – even those days it took great effort. His kind and creative heart will continue to live among us at River of Grass.

Rev Amy

When I think of Tom, I think of his years on the board and how he quietly listened and reflected on all sides of an issue before forming his own response and recommendations. His comments were always insightful, carefully thought out, and kind. He loved the River of Grass community. I remember how one year he hand carved wooden chalices to donate to our annual auction. Esther and I were lucky to be one of the lucky bidders. The chalice hangs proudly in our home. He was an active Board member even outside of the Boardroom - having fun as a costumed character in our Board's mystery dinner theatre.

From early on Tom was involved in service and social justice. In fact, when Esther and I co-chaired the Service and Social Justice Committee, we awarded him an AVA (Awareness- Vision - Action) certificate in appreciation of his participation in our social justice calls to action. He was committed to making this world a better place not just for his children and his grandchildren, but also for all.

A beloved member of our community, Tom will be deeply missed and will always be remembered with love, living on in our hearts as memories of the times we shared.

Marjie Loring

Mary Robinson would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers and meals that she has received over the last several weeks. The love and support of the River of Grass community is deeply appreciated. Thank you to all!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Jackie Vera Dubin is the mother of two beautiful children, **Noah** (5y) and **Meadow** (9 months). She is married to her loving husband of 2 years, Ryan. He doesn't get to join us much, because he works on Sundays and works hard for their family. Jackie is a stay at home mom and her hobbies include: reading, acting, and singing. To quote Jackie: "I'm so thrilled to join this community and share many new memories to come. I'm also an avid animal lover. I have two dogs and two cats as well as many cat friends who I feed outside. Family is #1 and I'm so blessed to make The River of Grass part of my family life."



Lucy Harty – In the words of Lucy: "I'm a Nuyorican, that is, my parents are Puerto Rican but I was born and grew up in the Manhattan neighborhood of Washington Heights (think Lin-Manuel Miranda's "In the Heights"). Therefore I have a dual identity, which provides me with both nostalgia and pride and an occasionally interesting perspective—nostalgia from sometimes feeling I missed out, that unlike my fully Puerto Rican cousins who live and breathe their Borinquen identity, I am not quite Puerto Rican enough; whereas, sometimes I'm just very glad to be a New Yorker (which I will always be).

Married at a tender age to a charming and bright Jamaican man, I ended up in Jamaica for three years. Living on a beautiful island with a strong culture and a full-time "helper" so I never had to do housework! It was wonderful. Of course, as a result my children also have dual identities—doubled!—with a white ("blanquita") American-Puerto Rican mom and a biracial Jamaican dad. They seem to handle it well. (Being gorgeous helps.)

Anyway, I'm now a proud grandmother (Abuelita) and retired from a "career" that zigzagged from reporting for a Jamaican newspaper to selling condos on a beach in St. Croix, to managing an insurance agency to headhunting for property and casualty insurance professionals, to purchasing to accounting. My last job was as a fiscal supervisor in a County agency.

Now, I'm exploring what it means to be a UU (although I think I've always been a UU) and making new friends here. I'd like to join a committee that will be a fairly good fit. I enjoy gardening, crazy about dogs, love to read fiction (though I don't read as voraciously as I once did), enjoy (most times!) discussing politics (perhaps too much) and trying to do whatever I can to improve my blighted neighborhood (I am currently president of our little HOA.)

I look forward to getting to know what seems to be a very interesting group at ROG!"

Caryn Amster and **Rae Diamond** – Caryn Amster has lived her entire life in South Florida, and is one of the few "natives" of her generation who has been here since birth! Caryn attended college at Florida State University, University of Miami, and finished graduate school at Barry University. She enjoys a wonderful relationship for the last 8 years with partner, Rae Diamond, also a member. Currently, Caryn works with her father managing commercial real estate in South Miami. They live in Pembroke Pines and enjoy vacations to Mount Dora area on a monthly basis. Caring for Caryn's elderly parents and being an integral part of their lives as they have aged and faced various health challenges has been difficult to say the least. Caryn and Rae are looking forward to connecting with other like-minded spiritual seekers to navigate through life's stages.

Michele Korin – Michele Korin is a proud retired nurse, single mom, grandmother and daughter. One of the proudest moments of her life was as a first responder on 9/11 and served at Ground Zero from the first day to six months.



Bryan and **Corinne Mann** moved here from central Missouri last August. Bryan works as a kinesiology and sports science professor at the University of Miami. Corinne has a degree in social work (MSW) and is currently a full-time stay at home parent to **Alayna** (age 3 1/2) and **Hailey** (10 months). The Manns temporarily live in South Miami but are looking for a more progressive community for a more permanent south Florida home. Corinne says: "If you live in a great crunchy neighborhood we'd love to hear about it." The Manns were active members of the UU Church of Columbia, MO for 13 years and look forward to sharing in congregational life here at ROG.

Getting to Know UU's

FAMOUS UUs

Kathy Jens-Rochow

*Oh! how shall I speak of my proud country's shame?
Of the stains on her glory, how give them their name?
How say that her banner in mockery waves—
Her "star-spangled banner"—o'er millions of slaves?*

- Excerpt from poem "Eliza Harris"

FRANCES ELLEN WATKINS HARPER (1825 – 1911): abolitionist, suffragist, poet, teacher, public speaker, writer

Born free in Baltimore, Maryland, she had a long and prolific career, publishing her first book of poetry at the age of 20, making her one of the first African-American published writers. Her impressive activist contributions includes becoming the first woman to teach sewing at the Union Seminary, assisting escaped slaves along the Underground Railroad, joining the Anti-Slavery Society and Women's Christian Temperance Union, and being considered "the mother of African-American journalism."

Harper founded, supported and held high office in several national progressive organizations. During Reconstruction she was an activist for civil rights, women's rights, and educational opportunities for all. In 1883 she became superintendent of the Colored Section of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Women's Christian Temperance Union. In 1894 she helped found the National Association of Colored Women and served as its vice president.



GFWC Plantation Woman's Club & City of Plantation
Present



Garden Fest Plant Extravaganza

March 16th & 17th, 2019
Saturday - 9am to 5pm
Sunday - 9am to 4pm
Nature Seminars
Great Food & Music
Free Entry & Free Parking

FOR MORE INFO CALL 954.530.0076

**Volunteer Park
Community Center**
12050 W. Sunrise Blvd.
Plantation, FL 33323
WWW.GFWCPLANTATIONWOMANSLUB.COM



REVENGE OF THE YARD SALE

Susan Juncosa

Have you been watching Mari Kondo? Are you discovering items in your home, which no longer spark joy? The solution, of course, is to let your things make someone else's heart happy! And to that end, it's River of Grass to the rescue! Yes, it's that time of year – the THIRD Annual Yard Sale (at this location, that is) - is approaching. Have some children's toys your kids have outgrown? Ready to discard your coffee maker in favor of the one you got for the Holidays? Split your collection of scarves or ties? How about those craft items that you know you will never use again – but someone else might be ready to try?

We'll be having a River of Grass Yard Sale at our facility. The date is **Saturday, March 16, from 8:30 to 12**. Items for donation can be left beginning on the Sunday before, March 10, at River of Grass. Due to space constraints, we cannot accept and store items before then.



RIVER OF GRASS CAFE ...

Is thrilled to welcome back Roy Zimmerman to our stage **February 16**. In the current national nightmare, we need to laugh. And we need to hope. Roy Zimmerman's signature blend of heart and hilarity has never been more necessary.



In a career spanning more than thirty years, Roy's songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime, and his videos have garnered tens of millions of views on social media. With his satirical folk quartet The Foremen he recorded for Warner/Reprise Records. Roy has shared stages with Bill Maher, Ellen DeGeneres, Holly Near, Robin Williams, Arlo Guthrie, John Oliver, The Roches, Andy Borowitz, The Chambers Brothers, Kate Clinton and George Carlin.

Doors open at 7 PM for food and drink. The concert will start at 8 PM. Advanced tickets are available on our website for \$19. The suggested donation is \$25 at the door the night of the performance. If you like your music political, socially conscious and satirical, this night is for you! For more information, contact Robby 954.240.6313

Here are some guidelines:

- ◆ Do NOT expect to get the item back if it is not sold. You are welcome to come by at the close of the sale to reclaim unsold items.
- ◆ Electronics should be in working order.
- ◆ All unsold/unclaimed items will be either donated to charities or put in the trash.
- ◆ Please put a tag with a suggested price on the items.
- ◆ Please discuss large items, such as furniture, with Susan Juncosa.

Of course, volunteers will be needed too. In fact, if we don't get enough volunteers signed up by March 10, we will have to cancel the sale. Look for the sign ups on Sundays or email FUUndraising@riverofgrassuu.org.

FULL MOON ON FACEBOOK



Want to share news about local events focused on the outdoors, spirituality or women spirit, where you could meet up with Full Moon friends? Post about it on our Facebook page! This is a closed group but all members can join. Just search for RoG Full Moon. Please feel free to post inspirational messages, favorite photos or other events that are related to our mission: connecting women and girls of all ages who share a love of the beautiful, the wild and the creative feminine, through group activities. To join our regular email list, please send a request with your contact info to: fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org.