

Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

DAVIE, FLORIDA

APRIL 2019

BROKEN BEAUTIFUL BELOVED

Rev. Amy Carol Webb



Sometimes this white page is daunting. How much more so, this month of April as we explore “Wholeness” in our Sunday services and beyond – what it means to dare to bear witness to brokenness in ourselves, others, and our world. And further, what it might mean, what it may take, to be repaired ourselves, even as we help others become more whole.

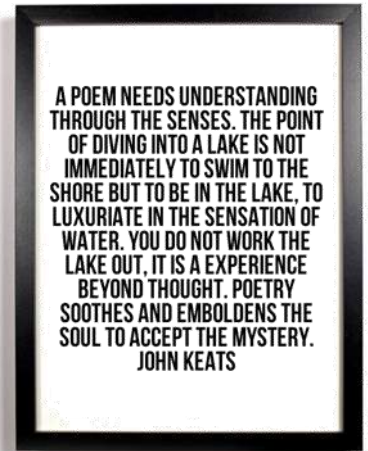
April, as it happens, is also National Poetry Month, which finds me both encountering poets new to me, and revisiting many that feel like old friends.

And so, I find myself at a fortuitous and delicious intersection – a blank page awaiting words on “wholeness.” And a poet whose words bear that message better than mine ever could, I expect. Here, Beloveds, is your invitation to embrace beauty, and brokenness, with one of our own Beacon Press poets, Mary Oliver. Read gently. Read again. Ponder. And again. Slowly.

Breakage

*I go down to the edge of the sea.
How everything shines in the morning light!
The cusp of the whelk,
the broken cupboard of the clam,
the opened, blue mussels,
moon snails, pale pink and barnacle scarred—
and nothing at all whole or shut, but tattered, split,
dropped by the gulls onto the gray rocks and all the moisture gone.
It's like a schoolhouse
of little words,
thousands of words.
First you figure out what each one means by itself,
the jingle, the periwinkle, the scallop
full of moonlight.*

Then you begin, slowly, to read the whole story.



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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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Community Awareness Open

Concert (Café) Robby Greenberg & Aaron Stang

Congregational Grammarian Pam Schrimsher

Facilities Management Janet Schwartz & Riley Cothran

Facilities Rental Ken Bresnahan

fUUndraising 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, Susan Juncosa, 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

STEPPING INTO

Scott May



There are many aspects of my life where I look in from the outside, instead of “stepping into” and engaging. At times I do this with social justice, where I learn about an upcoming event and click “like” or “interested” on Facebook, yet my action stops there. Or I read about an upcoming SSJGT event in Sunday’s order of service, I place a donation in the collection basket during service, and then move on to other things.

Yet at times I do “step in” and engage fully. At present, I serve as your board of trustees president, which requires active engagement nearly every day. Plus I serve as lead of the Security Team, Mission/Vision Team, and New Home Envisioning. And I deeply engage in various areas outside of ROG, such as serving on LifeNet4Families board of directors, where I just finished writing an operations manual for the Community/Volunteer Coordinator position.

I can’t “step into” everything, yet when I do “step in”, it feels good. It is in giving that I receive. It is in serving that I feel alive and whole.

River of Grass is at a busy time of year, with many events after Sunday service, all culminating with our **Annual Meeting on Sunday May 19th**.

Democracy is in full bloom at our Annual Meeting, where all voices are heard - as we discuss, contemplate, and vote on our Annual Budget, Board Members, Bylaw Amendments, and new Mission Statement.

This is the time when members can “step in” a little deeper, get a little more involved, and be fully engaged. To give and receive. To serve and be grateful. To row this River together, toward our highest aspirations.



BROKEN BEAUTIFUL BELOVED

(Continued from page 1)

Everything That Was Broken

Everything that was broken has forgotten its brokenness. I live now in a sky-house, through every window the sun. Also your presence. Our touching, our stories. Earthly and holy both. How can this be, but it is. Every day has something in it whose name is Forever.

The Uses of Sorrow

*(In my sleep I dreamed this poem)
Someone I loved once gave me a box full of darkness.
It took me years to understand that this, too, was a gift.*

There is wholeness afforded in coming to a place the poets can lead us, have we the courage to accompany them. A place where brokenness can be transformed into beauty, when we know ourselves as beloved, and becoming whole.

“Breakage” - Mary Oliver, *Poetry*. Poetry Foundation, 2003

“Everything That Was Broken” - Mary Oliver, *Felicity*. Penguin, 2015

“The Uses of Sorrow” - Mary Oliver, *Thirst*. Beacon Press, 2006

FULL MOON DAUGHTERS



I co-founded the Full Moon Daughters, the River of Grass outdoor spirituality group for women and girls, more than a decade ago. While I love our camping trips and outings, I always have hoped we someday could have an adventure together that would take us outside of Florida. That dream came true when we took a six-day trip in February, at member Linda Lathroum's suggestion, to her homeland of Puerto Rico. Our minister Rev. Amy Carol Webb came with us, and arranged a wonderful Sunday worship and lunch with the Unitarios Universalistas de Puerto Rico congregation in the San Juan suburbs. We stayed in the mountainous countryside next to the El Yunque National Rainforest, which presented its transportation challenges. But we were rewarded with amazing views and the nighttime sounds of the rainforest's creatures right outside our door.

I came away with a newfound love and appreciation for my Full Moon sisters – their spirit, their belief in joy, and their loving kindness when the going gets a little tough. And I also left with love and appreciation for Puerto Rico – its beautiful mountains that rise up from the sea, its lush landscapes and bustling city streets. And especially for its people who are lively, welcoming and so resilient as the recovery from 2017's Hurricane Maria continues. Show your care. Go visit the island soon, tourism is a vital part of their economy. You won't be sorry.

~Diane Lade

It was such a pleasure to welcome some of my Full Moon Daughter sisters to my homeland of Puerto Rico. We had the opportunity to bond, be there for each other in times of need, and get to know some of our fellow Puerto Rican UUs. Thank you, Full Moon sisters, for accepting the invitation! Until next time!

~Linda Lathroum, whose family still lives in Puerto Rico

On Sunday morning in Puerto Rico, we delighted to worship with the Unitarian Universalists of Puerto Rico, and their small-but-mighty congregation meeting in the community library, and led by a perfectly UU trifacta of a former Lutheran minister, a devoted Buddhist, and an agnostic professor of philosophy. We took copies of our hymnal, *Las Voces del Camino* and UU-authored reading/meditation books, as a gift for their hospitality. What a blessed morning, with lively singing, sharing communion, and a message of resilience and courage. After worship we adjourned to the sweet Apolo Panaderia Reposteria café, for lunch and coffee. A time of nourishment for body and spirit! I am assembling a care package for them of more worship supplies and such; please let me know if you have something you'd like to contribute.

~Rev. Amy

I have so many wonderful memories from our trip to Puerto Rico. The one I'll never forget is our first night there. After picking up a few Full Moon Daughters at the airport in San Juan, we headed to our home away from home in Canovanas. After having lived in Puerto Rico for 10 years and traveling extensively there, I truly believed I was well acquainted with the island. Much to my surprise, our Airbnb home was located in an area beyond anything I could have imagined. "Remote" does not come close to describing this home's location. In fact, in Puerto Rico we have a saying for when something is very, very far away and isolated. We say it's in the "Jurutungo." When I told Linda Lathroum that the house was in the "Jurutungo," even she said it was beyond the "Jurutungo" when she first visited the home.

The caretaker of the Airbnb home met us in the town of Canovanas that night to guide us to the house. I was driving a minivan filled with some of the most wonderful women I know. Still, I could not imagine what happened next. The road was dark, narrow, and steep as we drove up the mountain. Curve after curve, the pick-up truck guiding me led me into what felt like a black hole. The caretaker was unfazed by the potholes and oncoming cars. I was blindly following his lead, driving hysterically not knowing to where, nor for how much longer we'd be on that dark, dark road. He was driving at least 40 mph on that road, 20 mph faster than what was reasonable to drive. In fact, he said it would only take us 10 minutes to the house. Each time after that night, it took me at least 20 minutes to travel up or down that mountain. It took others about 30 minutes. We all held on for our lives, or so it felt that way, while we also laughed incredulously on our drive to our Airbnb house.

~Ahysa Boutron



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FULL MOON DAUGHTERS

(Continued from page 4)



*Awesome trip with awesome women doing awesome things!
~Marilisa Lawless*



*Ahysa Boutron, Shani Lawless and Linda Lathroum.
At the La Cocoa waterfall in the El Yunque National Forest.
About 70 percent of the internationally known forest still is
closed as is the main visitor's center.*



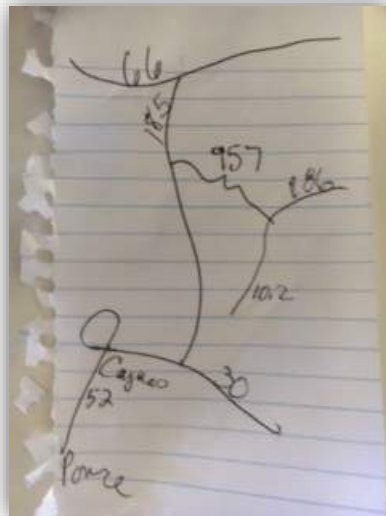
*Linda says: "This picture was taken in one of my favorite places
in the world, the El Yunque Rainforest."*

*(Full Moon Daughters, left to right: Linda Lathroum, Karen
Gonzalez, Shani Lawless, Marilisa Lawless, Susan Malca, Diana
Tull, Kris Stewart, Diane Lade, Ahysa Boutron.)*



*Karen LeFever, Ahysa Boutron, Karen Gonzalez and Shani
Lawless*

*Dinner in downtown San Juan's La Placita district, a local
hotspot recommended by our Full Moon Daughters familiar with
the city. Thanks! So much fun!*



*Our house in Canovanas was so far off the grid, this hand-drawn
sketch was the only map we had of how to get there. But the drive
was worth it. From the back patio of the home, on the side of a
mountain, we could see all the way to the ocean and the city of
San Juan.*

~Diane Lade



(Continued on page 6)

FULL MOON DAUGHTERS

(Continued from page 5)



We went to Old San Juan, a city even older than Florida's St. Augustine, to see the historic buildings and enjoy a lovely winter afternoon. The rolling, enormous lawn outside the huge oceanfront fort commonly called El Morro was filled with families and locals, as well as tourists, flying kites, playing with their dogs and enjoying the setting sun. Some young men did a dance on the fort's exterior walls.



Full Moon Daughter Kris Stewart, who is a national park interpretative park ranger, greets a "ranger colleague" at the Castillo San Felipe del Morro, part of the San Juan National Historic Site.



Susan Malca, Kathy Jens-Rochow and Karen Gonzalez (left to right) take in the nightlife on the "umbrella street" in La Placita de Santurce, San Juan.



Getting ready for Sunday worship with the Unitarian Universalist congregation of Puerto Rico. This small but determined group is lay led, meeting as often as they can in a library on the outskirts of San Juan.



A close-up of Karen's pink cast. At right, Karen LeFever with her plush coqui, purchased for her by the Full Moon Daughters at the El Yunque National Forest visitor's center.



The sound of the coqui (a small tropical frog) singing in the rain forest has always symbolized joy for me. After my adventure with the mountain mud during our trip, my sisters gifted me with a stuffed coqui who sings that song. Now, when I hear the sound, I am filled with a knowing that I am surrounded by the love and support of my sisters! #LotoDeLodo (Lotus of the Mud)

~Karen LeFever

Karen LeFever, one of our Full Moon Daughters travelers, fell into a deep muddy drain field hidden the backyard grass at our mountain house. She seriously injured her left foot and ankle, requiring surgery when she returned home. She had to lie on the ground in the backyard for hours, with Rev. Amy caring for her, while an ambulance from the closest city made its way up the treacherous roads. The Daughters rallied around Karen – comforting her, taking her to doctor's appointments, helping her plan for possibly not being able to fly back home. Karen put all of her energy and determination into healing. Only a few hours from our flight's departure, she was finally cleared by the San Juan doctor to board the plane and travel home with us.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Karen Gonzalez



*Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.
It's just like a magic penny,
Hold it tight and you won't have any.
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many
They'll roll all over the floor.*

* Malvina Reynolds, UU Folk musician

How we love our River! These past couple of months we've carefully considered just how much of our treasure we can commit to sharing with it, through our annual budget drive. We certainly hope that our contributions will provide us with the enriched environment that sustains us as we grow in faith and love.

Being a good steward means caring for that which we love. We strive to be good stewards of our earth and we teach our children to be the same. But, are our children learning to be good stewards of their faith? Consider talking to your children about how your family contributes financially to River of Grass. Help them to find ways to contribute, as well. Placing even a small coin in the basket on Sunday morning is a ritual practice of that which Paul R. Beedle writes is "that form of love we call generosity". What better way to teach our children to be generous, than with a weekly ritual of giving to their beloved community – a community that also shares with those in need outside our doors? So, don't forget to pass the basket to the littlest of hands among us and if they forgot to bring a magic penny, share one with them. Together, we'll make the world a more generous place!



EASTER EGG HUNT – APRIL 21ST



Families, please bring in a dozen filled eggs for each of your children for our hunt after service on Easter Sunday. And, don't forget a basket for collecting those treasures!



WELCOME NEW KINDLERS!

We are blessed to have two new kindlers among us. Emma Enwright and Alex Ngo have completed their studies of our Flaming Chalice and Worship Rituals and will be inducted into the worship team on **Sunday, April 28th.**

May their fierce lights burn brightly among us for many years to come.



AFTER THE “AFTER L, G, AND B” ARTICLE

Faith Development and Rev Amy will be facilitating a conversation after service on **May 5th** that may bring more clarity to the concerns following the publication of the *UUWorld* article, “After L, G, and B”. Our OWL (Our Whole Lives) teen graduates and a visiting consultant will guide us to a better understanding.

From the editor: Our story hurt people

From the editor: Transgender and gender nonbinary leaders in the Unitarian Universalist movement, along with their allies and other UUs, have expressed alarm and shared their pain about this article in the Spring 2019 issue of *UU World*. [Read the editor’s apology](https://www.uuworld.org/articles/apology-spring-2019) (https://www.uuworld.org/articles/apology-spring-2019) for publishing the essay and for the pain it has caused.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR REFLECTIONS ON THE RIVER



We want to hear from you! Do you have thoughts and/or questions about current events, our strategic plan, new home, etc. that you would like to share with our congregation? Consider submitting a letter to the editor! newsletter@riverofgrassuu.org



April Monthly Theme: *To be a People of Wholeness*

- April 14: *We are THE People*
Elaine Silver
- April 21: *Deep in the Stone:
Easter Earth Day*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- April 28: *Neck Deep and Rising:
A Passover Telling*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb

WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM



May Monthly Theme: *To be a People of Curiosity*

- May 5: *Youth Faith Development Sunday*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- May 12: *Have a Good Childhood Now*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- May 19: *TBA*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- May 26: *The Art of Re-Remembering*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb

NEW HOME ENVISIONING

Scott May, President

Our New Home Envisioning is vibrant and progressing!

Thank you again to the 47 members who actively participated in the New Home Envisioning meetings on March 1-3 with Barry Finkelstein - UUA Stewardship Consultant. His report is quite comprehensive, and was emailed to all members and is posted on the member section of our website.

Highlights of Results and Recommendations from Barry's report:

“The major result of the process is that **River of Grass is ready to move toward a successful relocation effort and capital campaign to finance the investment in a new facility.** The Congregation has many assets and strengths to build on, along with challenges that can be addressed as part of the campaign planning and execution.”

Next Steps:

As Barry's report confirmed, there is strong interest in moving to new space when our lease expires in 3 years (February 2022). This is exciting, so let's get started in defining the new home we seek.

Please join the next **New Home Envisioning meeting on Sunday April 28 after service.** The agenda for this important meeting is:

- ◆ Review highlights of Barry's report
- ◆ Identify our New Home needs, those not met by our current space
- ◆ Evaluate our New Home Options:
 - Stay where we are, and possibly annex the space next door
 - Move to a larger storefront type space
 - Buy a building
 - Buy land and build
 - Church in a box (i.e. Central Park elementary school)
 - Possibly align with UUCFL and/or TAO Center in some way
 - Select a New Home Option (if there is consensus)
- ◆ Identify the Team that will move this forward

This is an exciting opportunity for River of Grass to take another step toward our highest aspirations! Please join us on **April 28th**, and feel free reach out with questions and comments to Scott May president@riverofgrassuu.org

ANNUAL MEETING MAY 19TH



The Annual Meeting has been **RESCHEDULED** to **Sunday, MAY 19th** after service! Please plan to attend this important meeting as a quorum is needed to **vote on our Annual Budget, Board Members, Bylaw Changes, New Mission Statement, etc.** Lunch and childcare provided.

SAFETY TRAINING – JUNE 9

In today's world we need to stay alert and trained on how to best handle potentially harmful situations. After service on **June 9th**, Marjie will lead us through Active Shooter training.

This is important and serious training, and not appropriate for children and youth. We will review key strategies for acting quickly and effectively should a dangerous situation arise. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Marjie Loring or Scott May at president@riverofgrassuu.org.

**SAFETY
FIRST**

MISSION STATEMENT – *IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE!*

Scott May

Your Mission/Vision Team (Linda Lathroum, Steve Jens-Rochow, Zena Tucker, Scott May) has been reviewing our Vision Statement and Mission Statement to ensure they reflect who River of Grass is today and where we are going. The team is focusing on our Mission Statement first.

Current River of Grass Mission Statement:

River of Grass is committed to healing injustice and creating a sustainable earth while honoring each individual's search for truth, meaning, and faith.

UUA Leadership Experience (SUULE) shared the importance of a Mission Statement, and becoming a mission-based congregation. They also shared several key Mission Statement attributes:

- ◆ States why our congregation exists
- ◆ Calls us to our highest aspirations
- ◆ Represents our deepest values
- ◆ Accomplishes something
- ◆ Uses action verbs
- ◆ Simple, clear, succinct
- ◆ Able to be easily memorized/members can recite
- ◆ Should drive annual budget drive and major decisions

In addition, SUULE shared several potential Mission Statements to consider. Each was 9 words or less, while our current Mission Statement is 23 words – thus more difficult to memorize and incorporate into congregational life.

These seem like wise guidelines, and immediately indicate opportunity to evolve our Mission Statement. Based on these guidelines, the Mission/Vision Team drafted 3 Mission Statement options and presented them for discussion after service on April 7th. The 20+ members at this meeting discussed several options at length, and confirmed these key Mission Statement guidelines:

- ◆ Our next Mission Statement will:
 - ✓ Use action verbs, as recommended by the UUA.
 - ✓ Be relatively short, thus easier to memorize.
 - ✓ Use words that our children understand.
- ◆ Our next Mission Statement will have 3 components:
 - ✓ Component 1: Self Growth – nourishing ourselves in order to achieve our vision.
 - ✓ Component 2: Love Unconditionally – living up to our UU principles.
 - ✓ Component 3: Justice and a Healthy Planet – working for healing and change.
- ◆ Congregation to vote on a new Mission Statement at the Annual Meeting on May 19th.
- ◆ We will review our vision statement at a later time.

The members at the April 7th meeting identified 3 options for each of the 3 components – to be presented and voted on at the Annual Meeting, as follows:

Mission Statement Options for voting at the Annual Meeting (select ONE option for each component):

Component 1 – Self growth:

- Option A:** Nurture your spirit,
- Option B:** Nurture our spirits,
- Option C:** Nurture ourselves,

Component 2 – Unconditional love:

- Option A:** love absolutely,
- Option B:** love always,
- Option C:** love intentionally,

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MISSION STATEMENT – IT’S TIME FOR A CHANGE!

(Continued from page 10)

Component 3 – Justice and a healthy planet:

- Option A:** create justice on earth.
- Option B:** create a just and healthy planet.
- Option C:** create justice, tend the planet.

These options reduce our Mission Statement length from 23 words to 8-11 words, facilitating easier memorization. The intention is to create a Mission Statement that is more likely to be shared with guests and used as part of congregational decision-making. The words are simple and succinct, using action verbs toward fulfilling key values and aspirations of our congregation.

Let’s move forward with evolving our Mission Statement to one that better aligns with who we are and where we are going, and that we can proudly recite and share with visitors and the world.

Reach out with questions to anyone on the team, or email president@riverofgrassuu.org.

ANNUAL BUDGET DRIVE

Rita Cherubini

If your name is not on the Flame Board in the hospitality area, we are missing you!

Our Annual Budget Drive is coming into the final week of the Pledge campaign, LIVING THE DREAM by making our dreams a reality. We now have 54 pledges totaling \$182,657! That translates to 50 pledges we haven’t heard from. Join your Members and Friends in supporting your Congregation! We will be contacting all those we haven’t heard from at the end of the Campaign.

The Pledge card this year directs you to use eGiving as the preferred method of setting up your one-time or recurring donation at the River of Grass website on the Stewardship/Donation page. This new method meshes well with our church systems and eliminates check handling. Please follow the directions on the Pledge card. Register and follow the prompts at our website. Don’t forget to sign the card indicating your pledge and check the box with your eGiving preference. Please contact Rita Cherubini and Kathy Jens-Rochow, Co-Chairs at stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org if you have any questions. Your generosity to River of Grass is honored and appreciated!

BUDGET MEETING

River of Grass Informational Budget Meeting with Rob GIBLIN-DAVIS and the Finance Committee will be held at ROG on **Sunday, April 14** following service in the sanctuary from noon to finish.



Please join us for this important informational meeting and discussion about the important work of budgeting for our congregational life for next year in advance of our Annual Meeting. We have not done this recently, but feel that it will help in navigating the River for 2019-2020 and beyond.



Thanks in advance for trying to attend this important meeting. Contact Rob GIBLIN-DAVIS, finance@riverofgrassuu.org, for more information.

Important SUUSI Dates (all times EDT)

April 6	April 23	May 23	June 23	July 14
7pm	11:59pm	11:59pm	11:59pm	10am-5pm
Online registration via SOLIS opens.	Priority application deadline for SUUSIships.	Early registration discount (\$50) ends. Second SUUSIship deadline.	Online registration ends. You can still register on site (+\$25). Final SUUSIship deadline.	SUUSI check-in! Check-in closes promptly at 5.

<https://www.suusi.org/2019-suusi-catalog/> The catalog is now available.

THE FAITH FORWARD INQUIRERS SERIES MEETS AT 11:45 ON APRIL 21



INQUIRERS SERIES

It is a rotation of 8 conversations about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. The series is designed for visitors and newcomers who are looking for a general introduction, and yet the sessions are also appealing to veteran members who want more information about our beloved community. Attend 5 classes and win a chalice pin! Classes are not mandatory for membership but are highly recommended!



April 21: Social Action and Community Service. We will learn how Unitarian Universalism faith calls us to respond to injustice. We'll learn of the opportunities for action in our community.

Join us to learn more and make friends in the process! For more information see Zena Tucker, Membership Committee Chairperson, membership@riverofgrassuu.org

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY MAY 5

Are you interested in becoming a member of River of Grass? For more info or to RSVP for this celebration of membership contact Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org

HAPPY (BELATED AND SOON TO BE) BIRTHDAY!

- ⇒ Wendell Abern (3/26)
- ⇒ Karen Gonzalez (3/27)
- ⇒ Steve Tepper (4/3)
- ⇒ Lucy Harty (4/6)
- ⇒ Lisa McCrum (4/11)
- ⇒ Edgar Navarro (4/11)
- ⇒ Joyce Hamann (4/17)
- ⇒ Judi Oltmans (4/23)
- ⇒ Ann Hemeon (4/23)
- ⇒ Debbie Buehler-Ely (4/23)
- ⇒ Laura Secord (5/3)
- ⇒ Rick Tucker (5/4)
- ⇒ Gary Gonzalez (5/11)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Apr 14	12:00p	Informational Budget Meeting	River of Grass
Sunday, Apr 14	12:15p	Kindlers Lunch w/ Rev Amy	River of Grass
Tuesday, Apr 16	7:15-8:15p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, Apr 17	7:15-9:15p	bUUKies Book Group	River of Grass
Wednesday, Apr 17	7:00-9:00p	Faith Development meeting	River of Grass
Thursday, Apr 18	7:00-9:00p	Men's Group	River of Grass
Saturday, Apr 20	7:00p (doors open) 8:00p (concert)	Zoe Mulford concert	River of Grass
Sunday, Apr 21	12:00p	Easter Egg hunt	River of Grass
Sunday, Apr 21	12:00p	Faith Forward Inquirers series #6	River of Grass
Monday, Apr 22	6:00-9:00p	SSJGT JAM meeting/potluck	River of Grass
Tuesday, Apr 23	7:15-8:15p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Thursday, Apr 25	7:00-7:45p	Welcome Table Communion Circle with Rev Amy	River of Grass
Friday, Apr 26	7:00p	Young Adult bowling	Bowlero, 8200 W State Rd 84 Davie
Saturday, Apr 27	12:30-1:30p	Membership meeting	River of Grass
Sunday, Apr 28	12:00p	New Home Envisioning discussion	River of Grass
Tuesday, Apr 30	7:15-8:15p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Thursday, May 2	7:00-9:00p	Men's Group	River of Grass
Friday, May 3	7:00-9:00p	Southbury UUs vs. Nazi Bund camp presentation	River of Grass
Sunday, May 5	10:30a	New Member Sunday	River of Grass
Sunday, May 5	12:00p	"After L, G and B" article discussion w/ Faith Development & Rev Amy	River of Grass
Sunday, May 5	3:00-5:00p	SSJGT presents Moms Demand Action	River of Grass
Monday, May 6	7:00-9:00p	SSJGT meeting	River of Grass
Tuesday, May 7	7:15-8:15p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Friday, May 10	7:00-9:00p	Drum Circle w/ Rev Amy	River of Grass
Saturday, May 11	9:00-11:00a	LifeNet4Families volunteer day	1 NW 33 rd Terrace Ft Lauderdale
Saturday, May 11	3:30pm-6:00pm (shift 1) 5:30pm-8:00pm (shift 2)	Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive	Contact Judi Oltmans
Saturday, May 11	9:30a-5:30p	SSJGT presents Citizens Climate Lobby	River of Grass
Tuesday, May 14	7:15-8:15p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, May 15	7:15-9:15p	bUUKies Book Group	River of Grass
Thursday, May 16	7:00-9:00p	Men's Group	River of Grass
Saturday, May 18	9:00a-12:00p	Teacher Appreciation brunch	River of Grass
Saturday, May 18	7:00p (doors open) 8:00p (concert)	Pat Wictor concert	River of Grass
Sunday, May 19	12:00p	Congregational Annual Meeting (quorum needed)	River of Grass
Tuesday, May 21	7:15-8:15p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Thursday, May 23	7:00-7:45p	Welcome Table Communion Circle with Rev Amy	River of Grass
Sunday, May 26	12:30-1:30p	Faith Forward Inquirers Series #8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life	River of Grass
Monday, May 27	6:00-9:00p	SSJGT JAM potluck/meeting	River of Grass
Tuesday, May 28	7:15-8:15p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Saturday, June 1	9:00a-12:00p	Congregational work day	River of Grass
Sunday, June 2	12:00p	Faith Forward Inquirers Series #1	River of Grass
Monday, June 3	7:00-9:00p	SSJGT meeting	River of Grass
Tuesday, June 4	7:15-8:15p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Thursday, June 6	7:00-9:00p	Men's Group	River of Grass
Friday, June 7	6:30-8:00p	River Mixer	River of Grass
Saturday, June 8	9:00-11:00a	LifeNet4Families volunteer day	1 NW 33 rd Terrace Ft Lauderdale
Saturday, June 8	11:30a-2:00p	SSJGT presents Citizens Climate Lobby	River of Grass
Sunday, June 9	12:00p	Active Shooter Training	River of Grass
Tuesday, June 11	7:15-8:15p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Friday, June 14	7:00-9:00p	Drum Circle w/ Rev Amy	River of Grass

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Karen Lee Wald



Karen is a social justice activist who came of age during the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s, which led to so many other movements for social change. While Karen lived in California many of these solidarity events were sponsored by or held at Unitarian Universalist churches, this led naturally to her identifying with the UUs. In 1996 she worked for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee identifying women's activities in Cuba that the UUSC could support financially, which included, among others, Women to Women (AIDS prevention), and a program to teach family (community) doctors a gender perspective on healthcare.

Karen moved here two years ago when California Bay Area housing prices made it impossible for a retired teacher to live there. Karen was a bilingual and then ESL teacher, who taught all grades from kindergarten to adult. Her heart and most of her family are still in California. "River of Grass has become my new family," she says. "I'm really pleased that I discovered River of Grass when looking for a way to get to the demonstration against gun violence after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting in Parkland."

Bruce Seidenstein and Susan Rosen

Bruce was born in New York City and relocated to Florida over 50 years ago. His early years here were spent with two large Florida real estate developers and he later developed two subdivisions in the Ocala-Silver Springs area. He later got interested in the study of health and nutrition and formed "School of Nutrition" and "Nutrition Counseling Services" in Hallandale. After that he entered into the computer technology field and ran his own website development company for the next 20 years. While in the Internet business he met his "Significant Other", Susan.



Susan was born in Brooklyn, NY and relocated to Florida about 22 years ago. She was an elementary school teacher in NY for approximately 30 years before retiring and moving to south Florida. While attending a dance in her new home town of Boca Raton, she saw, as she likes to tell it: "A young, good looking guy (Bruce) across the dance floor". She beckoned to him to come join her for a dance. The rest, as they say, is history. They've now been together for a little over 21 years (but who's counting??).

Mandi Sehgal, Corey Fleming, Nikhil and Devin



Look for their stories next month! – Editor

Pat McCrary

Pat was born in Lima Ohio, studied and taught dance until WWII, when she was "Rosie the Riveter" at the Lima tank depot, sealing tanks to be used in the war. After the war she met Ken McCrary at the tank depot and got married after 3 dates! That launched a lifetime of entrepreneurship, including wrecking yards, nightclubs in Ohio, and later businesses in FL, where she retired in her early 80's. She has two kids (Mike, and Toni Cattell), lots of grand kids and great grands! Mom loves animals, movies, music, TV and mashed potatoes! She loves the folks at River of Grass! She is 93!



Getting to Know UU's

FAMOUS UNITARIAN

Kathy Jens-Rochow



PAUL REVERE (1734 – 1818): AMERICAN SILVERSMITH, EARLY INDUSTRIALIST, AND CONSIDERED A PATRIOT IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

On April 16, 1775, Revere rode to Concord to urge the patriots to move their troops and supplies due to the soon-to-be arriving British military. He infamously created the signal “one if by land, and two if by sea” in which he hung lanterns in Boston’s Old North Church steeple to warn of British arrival. Following the war, Revere returned to his silversmith trade. He later became the first American to successfully roll copper into sheets for use as naval vessel sheathing.

In 1861, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow memorialized Revere’s midnight ride in his poem “Paul Revere’s Ride,” which begins:

*Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-Five;
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year*

Sources: Wikipedia & biography.com

NEWS FROM THE ROG YOUNG ADULTS

Linda Lathroum

We are an intentional community of young adults that uplift and inspire each other. We seek to grow together while enjoying life to the fullest.



Please join us for some Bowling FUN!!!

Where: Bowlero in Davie (8200 W State Rd 84)

Date: Friday, April 26th

Time: 7pm

For more information, please contact us at youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org.

THE PROMISE TO PROTECT TOUR IN MIAMI

Ana Maria De La Rosa (adelarosa@uusc.org)



UUSC, in partnership with UUA and UUMFE is teaming up with [The Promise To Protect Tour](#) in Miami on **May 11th 2019**. This historic tour is Indigenous lead and will be facilitated by Indigenous trainers who have been actively fighting against the Keystone Pipeline and other environmental injustices in their communities. The training is an opportunity to learn lessons from Lakota water defenders that can be applied to the climate justice issues in your communities. If you are interested, please register at the following link:

Registration: <https://nokxlpromise.org/training-tour/?referrer=unitarian-universalist-ministry-for-earth>

About the tour: *The Promise to Protect is a commitment to resist fossil fuels where you live and prepare to take creative action along the Keystone XL pipeline route when called upon by Indigenous leaders. With millions of dollars being poured into fossil fuel projects each year, we must be ready to mobilize and fight back to protect the land, air, and water. The mission of this tour is to educate, empower, and elevate the voices and skills of community members to take back their land and push out extractive oil and gas companies. After the training, community members will be equipped with the knowledge and support necessary to organize their own actions and trainings to stop the fossil fuel industry in their tracks and to demand that fossil fuels be kept in the ground.*

May 11: Miami Promise to Protect Training

May 11, 2019 • 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM

Due to limited spots, only confirmed participants will receive the location information for the training in the days leading up to the event.

CCUU...And All That Jazz

Mark your calendars for Community Church Unitarian Universalist's Annual Jazz Fest Worship Service and Celebration!

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of New Orleans' Jazz & Heritage Festival (www.nojazzfest.com/), in late April & early May CCUU in New Orleans will be offering our Unitarian Universalist friends from across the country a Bed and Breakfast experience, local knowledge and an incredible Jazz Fest worship service at Community Church UU on Sunday, May 5th (with professional musicians Don Vappie, Cindy Scott and other very special guests).

For more info and to make your New Orleans visit a reality, please contact us at office@ccuunola.com. All proceeds will go toward our shared work for justice, equity and an ever-deepening spiritual life at Community Church Unitarian Universalist.