

Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

DAVIE, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 2019

YOU! YES, YOU! COME!

Rev. Amy Carol Webb



*Come, come, whoever you are
Wanderer, worshipper
Lover of leaving
Ours is no caravan of despair
Come, yet again, come!*

So, sing we Unitarian Universalists all over the world, adapted from the beloved poem by the even more beloved 13th century Sufi poet, Jelaluddin Rumi.

*Come, come, whoever you are.
Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.
It doesn't matter.
Ours is not a caravan of despair.
Come, even if you have broken your vows a thousand times.
Come, yet again, come, come.*

I love this chant of ours. And I don't. Because the version presented in our Singing the Living Tradition hymnal (the grey one), leaves out the part that is at least as important — and sometimes more so — as the part captured in the chant we know so well.

Our hymnal gives us the “come as you are invitation,” if you will, but without the “though you’ve broken your vows a thousand times,” offer of reconciliation.

Why is that a problem, given our first principle's promise to “support and affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person?” Is there anything more “inherent worth and dignity” than “come as you are?” (Which, in South Florida, may well mean shorts and a tee-shirt and Birkenstock's, and that's fine with us!)

Yes, actually there is more to “come as you are” than your clothes. Or your age, or color, or gender, or orientation, or financial class, or marital status, or abilities, or intellect, or any of the many ways we are differently and wondrously made. There is more that these to coming into religious community, given so many have suffered for the narrow and exclusive doctrines that too many of those communities proclaim. The ones that declare if you've broken your vows you cannot, must not, come back as you are — as your full self without exception.

Perhaps you were told that at some point or another you could find yourself too far beyond the bounds of grace, of forgiveness ... of hope. Perhaps you learned in the most painful way that the 1940's novelist Thomas Wolfe could be right when he said, “you can't



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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 (7th - 12th grades): 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Faith Development Classes (K - 6th grades): 11:00 am to 12:00 noon

FRIENDLY REMINDERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

There is plenty of parking outside the sanctuary, but please leave 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.

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 browse to: www.riverofgrassuu.org – click on Calendar/Events)



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River of Grass

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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Annual Giving Rita Cherubini & Kathy Jens-Rochow

bUUKies Susan Juncosa

Café Robby Greenberg

Caring Deb Giblin-Davis & Georgette Lewis

Communications Zena Tucker

Community Awareness Open

Concert (Café) Robby Greenberg & Aaron Stang

Congregational Leadership Open

Facilities Riley Cothran

Facilities Rental Ken Bresnahan

Full Moon Daughters Diane Lade

fUUndraising Kathy Jens-Rochow & Susan Juncosa

Hospitality Kathy Jens-Rochow

Interfaith Connections Linda Crain

Pastoral Care Riley Cothran & Pat Katz

Personnel Rev. Amy Carol Webb & Janet Schwartz

Planned Giving Kip Barkley

Security Rick Tucker

Service, Social Justice

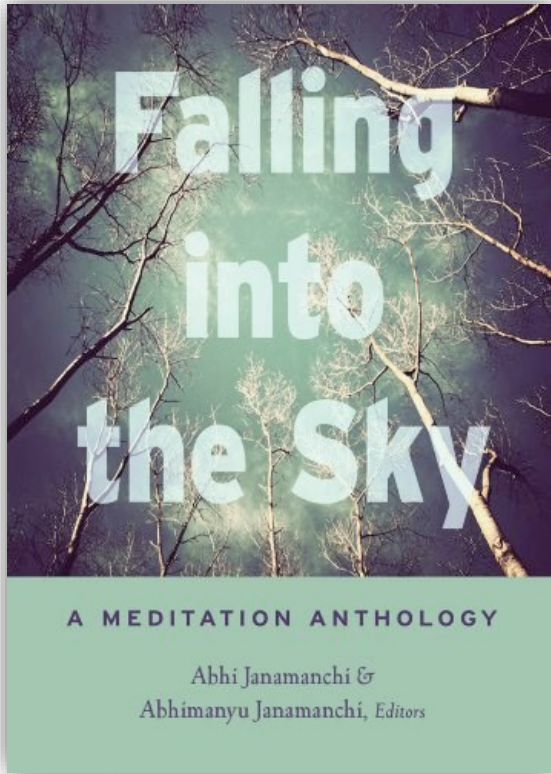
& Green Team Steve Jens-Rochow

Shared Ministry Diane Lade & Janet Schwartz

Time & Talent Open

Web Design Esther Sampol

Welcoming Congregation ... Kathy Jens-Rochow



Interested in exploring meditation? Consider reading *Falling Into the Sky* by Abhi Janamanchi and Abhimanyu Janamanchi. This book is the 2013 UUA Meditation Manual and is comprised of writings from various UU ministers, practitioners, and leaders. It can be purchased here, [in-Spirit: UUA Bookstore and Gift Shop: Falling Into the Sky \(https://www.uuabookstore.org/Falling-Into-the-Sky-P17836.aspx\)](https://www.uuabookstore.org/Falling-Into-the-Sky-P17836.aspx)

WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM



BELONGING

- October 20 *Your Part of the Puzzle: Music Sunday*, Rev. Amy, Service Host: Diane Diaz
- October 27 *Bringers of Light*, Rev. Amy & Mandi Sehgal, Service Host: Barbara Ratchford

COVENANT

- November 3 *Ancestor Sunday*, Rev. Amy, Service Host: Rob Giblin-Davis
- November 10 *Wild and Precious Life*, Welcoming Congregation Team
- November 17 *Hunger Communion/New Member Sunday*, Rev. Amy, Service Host: Ed Lewis
- November 24 *To Be Announced*, Rev. Amy

FROM THE RIVER WELCOMING CONGREGATION TEAM

October is Intersex Awareness Day to commemorate the first intersex protest, which took place in Boston. The following information is provided by the Intersex Society of North America:

Intersex is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male. Or a person may be born with mosaic genetics, so that some of her cells have XX chromosomes and some of them have XY. Though we speak of intersex as an inborn condition, intersex anatomy doesn't always show up at birth. Sometimes a person isn't found to have intersex anatomy until she or he reaches the age of puberty, or finds himself an infertile adult.

What does this mean? Intersex is a socially constructed category that reflects real biological variation. To better explain this, we can liken the sex spectrum to the color spectrum. There's no question that in nature there are different wavelengths that translate into colors most of us see as red, blue, orange, yellow. But the decision to distinguish, say, between orange and red-orange is made only when we need it—like when we're asking for a particular paint color.



So nature doesn't decide where the category of "male" ends and the category of "intersex" begins, or where the category of "intersex" ends and the category of "female" begins. Humans decide, and more specifically, typically doctors decide...how unusual a combination of parts has to be, before it counts as intersex. Humans decide whether a person with XXY chromosomes or XY chromosomes and androgen insensitivity will count as intersex.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

FALL LEAVES

Scott May

Fall is my favorite time of year. As a child in the northeast, my spirits were highest when the leaves were changing color and falling to the ground. I was a runner growing up, and fall meant cross country running. I'd train and race in our local park, filled with rolling hills, ponds, and, of course, trees beyond where the eye could see. The waves of red, orange and yellow leaves glowed like a painted canvas. And the fallen leaves would pile up, allowing my feet to carve new trails right through them. For me, there has always been something magical about fall, and it sticks with me today.

Besides the visual transformation, fall's beauty marks the passing of time -- the end of a chapter, the end of a season, the end of the old. Yet the passing is not sad, as there is no sense of loss. Instead the passing is celebrated - admiring the beauty and giving thanks for what was. And we're uplifted with hope, as we know that new leaves will blossom, and new seasons will come. Giving us another chance to start again. Another chance to be our whole selves. Another chance at life.

May this fall season be a time to allow some of the leaves of our lives to fall away, and celebrate their gifts. While simultaneously making room for new unforeseen delights to arrive, bringing freshness into our lives, and growing our spirits.



YOU! YES, YOU! COME!

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go home again.”

So it is, in this state of being, that many folk first dare to come in our doors at River of Grass. The same way I found myself at the threshold of this remarkable Unitarian Universalist faith — with yearnings I could not name and hope that would not die.

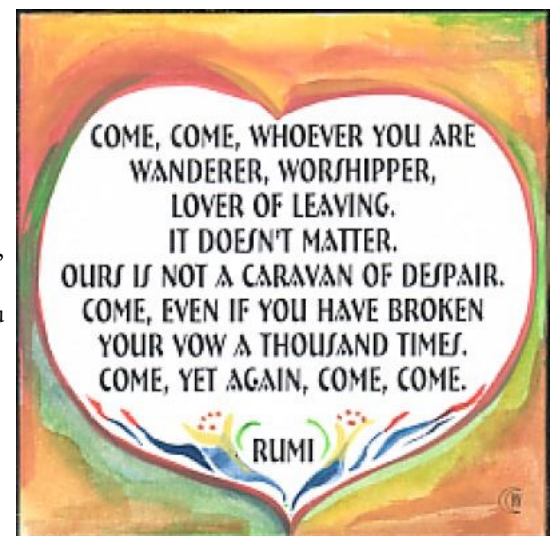
Which is exactly why, as we sing this favorite chant for October's theme hymn as we explore the meaning of “Belonging,” we will sing the truer, wider, deeper version that dares to include the whole of Rumi's intent — come, you in despair, you yearning to belong, you who believed them when they said you could never, must never come back exactly as you are.

Though you've broken your vows a thousand times, come, yet again come.

We'll be watching for you.

SAVE THE DATE!

River of Grass Auction **Friday December 6, 6:30pm.**
Food, libations, and merriment for all ages!





**THE FUTURE
IS BRIGHT**

Home sweet home. Let's continue the conversation about our spiritual home.

River of Grass has had many homes through the years. Starting in people's houses and Tree Tops Park, then moving into buildings, including the Weston Community Center, leased space on Shotgun Road in Sunrise, "church in a box" at Central Park Elementary school in Plantation and Toddler Tech in Davie, to our current home at 595 Park of Commerce in Davie. So many homes... yet a common bond and a deep connection for our beloved community. Again and again our congregation has demonstrated that River of Grass is River of Grass, regardless of our address.

Our current home has a vibrant spiritual feel, and holds many memories and smiles. It has served us well, however, it is time for serious reflection about what we see our future to be. We've been in our current home for over 8 years, and our lease ends in February 2022 - just over 2 years from now. With perpetually rising lease rates, and spending beyond our income, our savings is on a path to be depleted in 2-4 years. We must change our course, as status quo simply no longer is an option.

Barry Finkelstein, a UUA Stewardship consultant, spent time here March 1st through 3rd, meeting with 47 members and friends. He asked questions, he listened, he discerned. And based on his experience working with over 50 UUA congregations, he feels that we are ready to embark on a future home.

Last spring, several folks volunteered to layout the path toward a future home, including Kathy & Steve Jens-Rochow, Brit and Maureen Lundell, Kallie LeFever, Linda Lathroum, Rita Cherubini, Diane Lade, Rick Tucker, Rev Amy and Scott May. Many members after service April 28 to share what we need in a future home. The Future Home Team spent the summer analyzing what's possible, looking at houses of worship for sale, current lease rates, and options to make our current home serve us better. Then they crunched the numbers to provide full transparency into the various options.

The Future Home team presented a future home vision and various future home options after service on September 15. This was well attended, and there was much discussion and continued understanding. Members present unanimously concluded that we must change course. And there was overwhelming support for exploring various options to find the solution that fits us best. This includes exploring several paths, including:

- ◆ Speaking with TAO Center (the Jewish renewal group that rents space from us) to see if their future home path aligns with ours,
- ◆ Evaluating the feasibility of a capital campaign to raise funding for a future home,
- ◆ Exploring creative ideas.

Future home scenarios are underway, and will be presented in November.

Now is the time for each of us to reflect on our hopes and dreams for this beloved community.

Now is the time to discern deeply about what River of Grass can offer to our world, our community, and ourselves.

Now is the time for courage.

Now is the time to be open to listening to new ideas and fresh thinking.

Now is the time to seize the opportunities before us.

Now is the time to honor the many hands who laid the foundation 20 years ago.

Now is the time to envision the next chapter for River of Grass.

Stay engaged, stay hopeful, stay tuned.



MUSIC AT RIVER OF GRASS

Gayle Giese

Brenda Parker, Anne Smith, Gayle Giese—3 pianists; Gary Gonzalez and Aaron Stang on duo guitars; Gary singing his own composition; Rev. Amy on guitar singing her original songs; Allen Giese on violin; Linda Lathroum on violin.

Vocal trios. Vocal quartets. Flute quartets. Clarinet duos. Drum circles. Native American flutes. The River of Grass Band. The River of Grass Choir, which comprises **more** than 10% of the congregation, the average size for church choirs, and has a director and

an assistant director. Many more talented children and adults ready to make music, to minister through music. Aren't we lucky?

Yes! Here is the music and here are the musicians; open the door and . . . who coordinates all this awesomeness? We have a Faith Development Committee and Director who figure out the logistics and support our program. As we have grown, we have seen a need to create a Music Team and we are in luck! Rev Amy started a Music Team at the UU Congregation of Miami and is an expert on this topic. Would you like to be part of our exciting music program by serving on the Music Team? Would you like to lead the Team? We need you! Opportunities await, so stay . . . *tuned*.



RIVER OF GRASS' PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL STUDENT CLIMATE STRIKE



Steve Jens-Rochow

Twenty-seven River of Grass Climate Activists participated in the Student Climate Strike on Friday, September 20, at the Broward School Board Office. My thanks to Rev. Amy for getting us energized at her September 15 Sunday Service. The climate strike was impressive; the hundreds of students had incredible energy. They are striking for their future.

We followed them as they marched over the New River, west along Broward Blvd., and filled up the amphitheater in Bubier Park at Andrews Ave and Las Olas Blvd. Following the lead of Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, several student activists, such as Nicole Buckley who served as the student organizer of the strike, gave inspiring speeches.

Nicole Buckley is a leader of the newly forming Broward Climate Alliance, a coalition of Broward justice groups. Its Mission is to link Broward justice organizations together, to educate Broward citizens about the climate crisis and generate political will for action. The Broward Climate Alliance was formed at River of Grass on July 10, 2019. The organization meets on the first Saturdays of the month at 1:30 pm at the River. All are welcome to attend.

Realizing the need to maintain pressure on our government to do something about the climate emergency, RoG's Service, Social Justice and Green Team is organizing additional climate actions. See your weekly e-newsletter for details.



INQUIRERS SERIES

The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets at 12pm on Sunday mornings in the Multi Purpose Room. It is a rotation of eight 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. New members and inquirers are encouraged to attend. Classes are not mandatory for membership but are highly recommended! For more information see Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org

Date	Event
9/29/2019	FF Inquirers#3: Campus Tour & Orientation
10/6/2019	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
10/20/2019	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
11/3/2019	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
11/10/2019	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
11/24/2019	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
12/1/2019	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
12/15/2019	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life
1/5/2020	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
1/12/2020	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
2/2/2020	FF Inquirers#3: Campus Tour & Orientation

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Oct 20	12:30-1:30p	Faith Forward Inquirers Series #1	River of Grass
Sunday, Oct 20	12:00-1:15p	Second Helping Sunday	River of Grass
Tuesday, Oct 22	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, Oct 23	4:00-6:30p	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction	River of Grass
Thursday, Oct 24	7:00-7:45p	Welcome Table Communion Circle w/ Rev Amy	River of Grass
Thursday, Oct 24	7:00-8:00p	Communications Team meeting	Zoom
Friday, Oct 25	6:00-9:00p	Halloween party/UNICEF fundraiser	Gustafson Ngo home
Saturday, Oct 26	4:30-10:00p	Black Lives Matter Alliance meeting	River of Grass
Sunday, Oct 27	12:00-1:00p	SSJGT Climate demonstration	River of Grass
Sunday, Oct 27	12:30-2:30p	Full Moon Daughters Harvest Fest	Flamingo Gardens, 3750 Flamingo Rd
Monday, Oct 28	7:00-9:00p	SSJGT JAM meeting/potluck	River of Grass
Tuesday, Oct 29	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, Oct 30	4:00-6:30p	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction	River of Grass
Saturday, Nov 2	9:00a-12:00p	Congregational work day	River of Grass
Saturday, Nov 2	1:30-3:30p	SSJGT presents Climate Alliance meeting	River of Grass
Sunday, Nov 3	12:00-1:30p	Faith Forward Inquirers Series #4	River of Grass
Monday, Nov 4	7:00-9:00p	SSJGT meeting	River of Grass
Tuesday, Nov 5	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Thursday, Nov 7	6:30-8:30p	Future Home meeting	Zoom
Thursday, Nov 7	7:00-9:00p	Men's Group	River of Grass
Friday, Nov 8	7:00-9:00p	Drum Circle w/ Rev Amy	River of Grass
Saturday, Nov 9	9:00-11:00a	LifeNet4Families volunteer day	1 NW 33 rd Terrace, Ft Lauderdale
Saturday, Nov 9	11:30-1:30p	SSJGT presents Citizen's Climate Lobby	River of Grass
Sunday, Nov 10	12:00-1:30p	Faith Forward Inquirers Series #5	River of Grass
Monday, Nov 11	7:00-9:00p	Finance Meeting	River of Grass
Tuesday, Nov 12	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, Nov 13	7:15-9:15p	bUUKies meeting	River of Grass
Saturday, Nov 16	7:00p (doors open) 8:00p (concert)	Dave Nachmanoff	River of Grass
Sunday, Nov 17	10:30a	New Member Sunday	River of Grass
Sunday, Nov 17	12:00p	Second Helping Sunday	River of Grass
Tuesday, Nov 19	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Thursday, Nov 21	7:00-9:00p	Men's Group	River of Grass
Sunday, Nov 24	12:00-1:30p	Faith Forward Inquirers Series #6	River of Grass
Sunday, Nov 24	12:10-2:00p	Future Home congregational meeting	River of Grass
Monday, Nov 25	7:00-9:00p	SSJGT JAM meeting/potluck	River of Grass
Monday, Nov 25	7:00-9:00p	Faith Development meeting	River of Grass
Tuesday, Nov 26	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Thursday, Nov 28	7:00-7:45p	Welcome Table Communion Circle w/ Rev Amy	River of Grass
Sunday, Dec 1	12:00-1:30p	Faith Forward Inquirers Series #7	River of Grass
Monday, Dec 2	7:00-9:00p	SSJGT meeting	River of Grass
Tuesday, Dec 3	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Thursday, Dec 5	7:00-9:00p	Men's Group	River of Grass
Friday, Dec 6	6:30-9:30p	ANNUAL AUCTION	River of Grass
Saturday, Dec 7	9:00a-12:00p	Congregational work day	River of Grass
Saturday, Dec 7	1:30-3:00p	SSJGT presents Broward Alliance meeting	River of Grass
Monday, Dec 9	7:00-9:00p	Finance meeting	River of Grass
Tuesday, Dec 10	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, Dec 11	7:15-9:15p	bUUKies meeting	River of Grass
Friday, Dec 13	7:00-9:00p	Drum Circle w/ Rev Amy	River of Grass
Saturday, Dec 14	9:00-11:00a	LifeNet4Families volunteer day	1 NW 33 rd Terrace, Ft Lauderdale
Saturday, Dec 14	11:30-1:30p	SSJGT Presents: Citizen's Climate Lobby	River of Grass
Saturday, Dec 14	7:00p (doors open) 8:00p (concert)	Amy Carol Webb concert	River of Grass
Sunday, Dec 15	12:00-1:30p	Faith Forward Inquirers Series #8	River of Grass
Tuesday, Dec 17	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Thursday, Dec 19	7:00-9:00p	Men's Group	River of Grass
Saturday, Dec 21	6:30-9:00p	Holiday Gathering	River of Grass

FULL MOON DAUGHTERS

Diane Lade

We are off, running full speed, into our 2019-2020 year! This promises to be a year of renewal of us, after a couple years of respite. Our mission is: to build bonds, grow spirituality through connecting with nature and each other, and...HAVE FUN!

Full Moon Daughters is a “small ministry group” under the umbrella of the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Davie. All women and girls are welcome. However; you do not need to be a congregational member to join us. We are a female-only group, however, although we do typically have a couple co-ed events throughout the year. There are no dues, no secret handshakes, just good times!



FULL MOON DAUGHTERS OUTING SCHEDULE 2019-2020

- ◆ October (date TBD): Historical Scavenger Hunt in Miami Beach. Sponsor: Devon Smith
- ◆ Nov 15-16, (Fri-Sat): Fall Camping Trip at Fish Eating Creek, near Lake Okeechobee. Sponsors: Deb Giblin-Davis, Diane Lade and Judi Oltmans.
- ◆ Dec. 22, (Sun): Solstice Party and Gift Exchange. Sponsor: Judi Oltmans.
- ◆ Jan 11 or 12 (Sat or Sun, date TBD): Kayak Tour d'Wilton Manors. Sponsor: Susan Juncosa. This is a co-ed event.
- ◆ February (date to be determined): Winter Camping Trip. Sponsors: Diane Lade and others
- ◆ March 7 (Sat): Beautiful Birding at Wakodahatchee Sanctuary in Delray Beach. Sponsor: Georgia Brown.
- ◆ April (date TBD): Sunrise Salutation on the beach. Sponsor: Marilisa Lawless.
- ◆ May (date TBD): Historic Venetian Pool Splash Down and lunch in Coral Gables. Sponsor: Karen Gonzalez.
- ◆ June (date TBD): Summer's Here Snorkeling Trip. Sponsors: Susan Juncosa and Pat Katz. This is a co-ed event.

Full Moon Daughters was started more than a decade ago. It is coordinated by Diane Lade and Deb Giblin-Davis. We strive to offer a variety of activities, as we recognize not everyone has the same budget or same physical abilities. We ask you to sign up in advance for our outings, so you can receive planning emails for that event. How will you know what's going on, should you want to join us? We have multiple postings of our events and multiple ways to sign up:

The weekly River of Grass electronic update. This is an email that lists all church activities. It comes out on Thursdays. If you aren't signed up to receive this, please email: office@riverofgrassuu.org

Our Full Moon Daughters email list. This communication method works best for Daughters who aren't River of Grass members. To get on our list, just email: fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org. Emails about upcoming outings usually are sent out about three weeks in advance. You can sign up for events through this email, as well as ask questions.

The list is maintained and moderated by your coordinators, Diane and Deb. You also can post “meet-up” ideas on our list if you come across an activity you think others in our group might enjoy. For example: if you are in the mood to go kayaking and find a cool opportunity locally, just send details (including your contact information, through the above Full Moon Daughters official email, and we will send it out to the group. We ask that you please not post to the list on your own, as members are constantly being added or dropped.

Posters in the River of Grass hospitality area. There is a large and very lovely poster, created by Susan Juncosa, that is permanently posted on our wire communications tower. It lists the next scheduled outing, as well as has copies of our full schedule that you can take. Also: sign-up sheets, and a small poster, are put out during hospitality hour a couple weeks before each event.

Our Facebook page. Go to RoG Full Moon Daughters on Facebook to join. You can post outdoor events offered through other organization and news that might interest our group here, as well as photos from our outings. There also will be notices about upcoming Full Moon events here. But PLEASE note: You need to sign up for events by sending an email to fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org. A sign-up left as a comment may get overlooked.

Looking forward to having a wonderful Brand New Year together. See you on the water, along the trail and under the stars.

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FULL MOON DAUGHTERS

(Continued from page 9)



The Full Moon Daughters enjoyed beautiful bird watching in March at the Wakodahatchee bird sanctuary in Delray Beach. Another trip to this amazing place is scheduled for 2020. Come join us!



BUUKIES FALL SCHEDULE AND NEW MEETING DATE

Susan Juncosa

In a surprise move, the bUUKies are drastically changing things up. For many years, we've met on Third Wednesday of the month. Well, that's a-gonna change, folks: the bUUKies are moving to SECOND Wednesday. This move began on October 9th.

We had our first meeting of the year on September 18, and unanimously approved and recommend "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. Here's the schedule for the next few months:

- ◆ October 9: "The Nickel Boys" by Colson Whitehead
- ◆ November 13 : "Educated" by Tara Westover
- ◆ December 11: "The Women's War" by Jenna Glass
- ◆ In January, we plan to sponsor the UUA Common Read.



We very much hope to see you on SECOND Wednesdays, 7:15 at River of Grass. Contact bUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org for more information.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL LGBT HISTORY MONTH

Kathy Jens-Rochow

October was designated as National LGBT History month by former President Barack Obama in 2009, and many people and organizations worked tirelessly to achieve this recognition.

In 1994, Rodney Wilson, a Missouri high school teacher, believed a month should be dedicated to the celebration and teaching of gay and lesbian history, and gathered other teachers and community leaders. They selected October because public schools are in session and existing traditions, such as Coming Out Day (October 11), occur that month.



Gay and Lesbian History Month was endorsed by GLAAD, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Education Association and other national organizations. In 2006 Equality Forum assumed responsibility for providing content, promotion and resources for LGBT History Month. Each year 31 LGBT Icons, living or dead, are selected for achievements in their field of endeavor; for their status as a national hero; or for their significant contribution to LGBT civil rights. Some icons for 2019 are Pete Buttigieg, Emma González, Sherenté Harris, Rock Hudson, and Robert Indiana.

We will be celebrating our River LGBT/TGQNB (Transgender, queer, non-binary) members on Sunday, November 10, as they share their own journeys as our Wild & Precious Life Service tradition.



GFWC Plantation Woman's Club

Presents

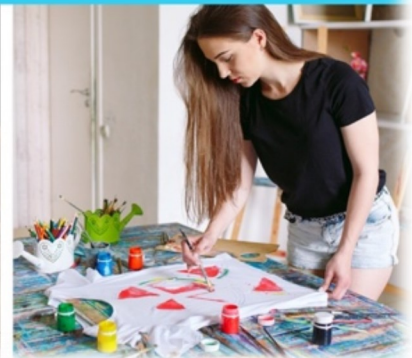
NOT YOUR MAMA'S CRAFT FAIR

*Filled with unique handmade
and seasonal treasures*

November 9th-10th 2019
Saturday 9-5 • Sunday 10-4

Volunteer Park Community Center
12050 W. Sunrise Blvd. Plantation, FL 33323

Free Entry - Free Parking • Call: 954-321-6987



Getting to Know UU's

FAMOUS UNITARIAN

Kathy Jens-Rochow



KAREN UHLENBECK (AUGUST 24, 1942 -) MATHEMATICIAN, PROFESSOR, CO-FOUNDER OF THE WOMEN AND MATHEMATICS PROGRAM AT THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY, ABEL PRIZE RECIPIENT

"I find that I am bored with anything I understand"

In May, 2019, for the first time ever, the most prestigious mathematics prize in the world was awarded to a woman. Karen Uhlenbeck, Ph.D., professor emeritus at the University of Texas at Austin and current visitor at the Institute for Advanced Study, was honored with the Abel Prize for mathematics. This award is known as the Nobel Prize for math.

Uhlenbeck was recognized for "the fundamental impact of her work on analysis, geometry, and mathematical physics," according to *The New York Times*. Uhlenbeck found out she'd won as she was leaving her Unitarian Universalist church, when she received a text message from a colleague telling her to look out for a call from Norway. She checked her missed calls. "I pressed the button and called [the Abel committee] back, and they told me I'd won—and I had to sit down."

When Uhlenbeck began teaching mathematics in the 1960s, she had to fight for a professorship. "It was really only at the period of time that I got my degree, that the jobs in academia—and probably elsewhere—were slowly being opened up to women," she says. "I was right on the edge of that. There were certainly universities that would not consider hiring me. There were universities that said, 'Oh well, why don't you go teach at a women's college?' I was told things like that, but I guess I have a rebellious streak, so I persevered."

Uhlenbeck is hopeful that we'll see even more women work in mathematics. "Certainly, the problem starts very young," she says. "I don't know how many young girls are still being told that they don't have to bother taking advanced-placement math because they're a girl and they don't need it—but I know it still happens. However, all I can say is that it's getting better."

Sources: *Wikipedia & NPR*

Finance Meeting

The Finance Committee meets the second Monday of each month at the River of Grass office. Please consider joining us in order to learn more about the ins and outs of our finances. Previous financial experience is not necessary! Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

THE MORE THE MERRIER: VOLUNTEERING AT LIFENET4FAMILIES

Judi Oltmans

Last year Faith Development, Choir and two Covenant groups volunteered at LifeNet4Families food pantry and each group had a great time! Volunteering as a group is a great way to serve the community and enjoy a fun morning together. Thank you to Karen Gonzalez and Faith Development for signing up to volunteer in November! If your River of Grass group is interested in volunteering at LifeNet4Families please contact us at ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org.

We volunteer at Lifenet on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 9:00 to 11:00 in the morning. Volunteering at LifeNet4Families helps to make a difference and heal injustice out in our community. You 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! Sign up at the Service and Social Justice spot at the back of the River of Grass sanctuary or email us at ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org. Save the Date: our upcoming Saturday volunteer days are Dec 14th and Jan 11th.

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 SSJGT spot. They are always in need of peanut butter and canned meats such as tuna, chicken or beef.



RIVER OF GRASS COMPOSTERS

Judi Oltmans

Instead of heading for the landfill, our River of Grass compost takes on new life in the compost piles of our members' homes. Coffee grounds can be beneficial in your garden! Thank you to all our composters: Steve, Scott, Deb, Karen, Judi, Geri and Rev. Amy. If you are interested in taking home our River of Grass compost one Sunday please contact the Service and Social Justice Green Team at ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org. Composters can sign up for one Sunday a month or as often as they like.

Thank you also to the Hospitality volunteers! Every Sunday morning, they put the coffee grounds and fruit and vegetable scraps into our shiny River of Grass compost container.



Go green!



**RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION**

Second Helping Sunday: Money Matters

Sunday, October 20, 12pm

**What is a
Credit Union?**

**Are credit
cards alike?**



Photo by Jernej Furman
<https://tinyurl.com/yypb3ha2>

RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Drum Circle

2nd Friday of the month
7-8pm



**No experience
necessary; we have lots
to share! Free!**

Please contact Rev. Amy
minister@riverofgrassuu.org for more information

RIVER OF GRASS CAFE

2019 - 2020 CONCERT SEASON



 Rod MacDonald Sat. Sept. 21	 Friction Farm Sat. Oct. 19	 Dave Nachmanoff Sat. Nov. 16
 Amy Carol Webb Sat. Dec. 14	 Grant Peeples Sat. Jan. 18	 Don White Sat. Feb. 15
 Kiya Heartwood Sat. March 21	 Kat Eggleston Sat. April 18	 Zoe Mulford Sat. May 16

Season Tickets plus an ROG Cafe T-Shirt for \$150 available till 9/21

Tickets/Suggested Donation \$19 Online/\$25 at the Door

Fresh food, beverages, beer and wine available for a suggested donation. Individual and season tickets available.

Get tickets now at www.riverofgrassuu.org/events

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



Food and drinks are available at every concert for a suggested donation. Our gourmet chefs will be busy preparing varied and delicious offerings for each show!

For the most up-to-date information, go to the River of Grass Café Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ROGCafe/>)

For more information or to be added to our mailing list, contact: concerts@riverofgrassuu.org

All Advance Tickets will be held at the door. All ticket donations are final and non-refundable.
(Note: The PayPal link for Advance Purchase tickets will be available only until 3:00 pm the day prior to each concert)



**10th Annual
Florida Unitarian Universalist
Women's Retreat
April 3-5, 2020**

A Weekend Gathering of UU Women

- Friday evening we will get to know one another and create community
- Saturday one-hour workshops offer choices
- Sunday we share a UU Service bringing it all together

DaySpring Conference Center is conveniently located off I-75 just north of Sarasota on Florida's West Coast. The beautiful campus nestled under ancient oaks and located on a cove of the Manatee River offers a serene setting for our annual retreat. Take a look.

<http://Dayspring.dioswfl.org>.

\$220 per person covers expenses for a semi-private room and meals. 8 women share a cozy cottage with 4 bedrooms and 4 baths, a screened porch and common area. A limited number of single rooms are available at \$292 each.

A **non-refundable deposit** of \$15 for a semi-private room or \$25 for a private room will reserve your place. Final payment is due January 15, 2020. **Scholarships are available.**

Come join us for an enriching and memorable weekend.

To register or for more information contact Helen Leddy
helen.leddy@gmail.com

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Karen Gonzalez



You may have noticed that we're seeing a lot more of our youth these days. It's nice to have them worshipping with us again! (Thank you for reserving the next to last row of seats in the sanctuary for them to quietly slip into, when they enter at 11:00.) What you may not know is just how interesting and amazing this group of kids is. I'd like to introduce them to you and perhaps you can learn more about them during hospitality time.

Marina is not only the youth representative on our River of Grass Board of Trustees, she also serves on the board of the Southeastern Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute. Her sister, Lara was the star volleyball player in the SUUSI vs Western Carolina University staff game this past summer and she sews her own clothes! Sister, Gabriela is on the cheer squad for varsity football at Cypress Bay. Josh is also a sports enthusiast, playing on 6 different sports teams for his high school. Pablo is an award-winning diver and the youngest student in a Stock and Options online course. Ella, along with her sister, Helena is a dancer at the Mai Kai Polynesian restaurant every

Sunday night. London plays baritone and trombone in his school's marching band. Grace also marches in her school's band, playing the clarinet. Miel sings with her school's choir. As you can see, they are already quite accomplished in their young years! Wouldn't you like to get to know them better?

Trick, or treat? Once again, River of Grass will be participating in the United Nations Children's Fund, Kids Helping Kids campaign. Classroom lessons will be shared on October 27th and collection boxes will go home for filling. Parents, consider a reverse trick-or-treat activity, handing out fair trade chocolates to those who contribute to your child's UNICEF box on the 31st. We'll contribute to their fundraising efforts during our worship service on November 3rd – don't forget your coins and bills! Speaking of Halloween, on Friday, October 25th, we'll be howling at the moon at our Halloween Party for families and teachers. RSVP to Tanya and Bruce.

November 9th is our family volunteer day at LifeNet for Families, an organization who services people experiencing hunger, poverty and homelessness in Broward County. We'll meet at 9:00am to stock shelves, create food boxes, and sort clothing donations. All children and youth in kindergarten and beyond are welcome to help. This is a great way to help our kids put their faith into action! Can't make it to LifeNet on the 9th? You can sign yourself and your child up for any second Saturday.

Did you gather a lot of small toiletries on your travels this summer? Bring them to The River and our children will sort them to give to LifeNet, where they provide showers and hygiene supplies to those in need. Find the special collection basket in our hospitality space.

Is your child registered for our Sunday morning programming? The details gathered with registration are used to help create the best atmosphere for your child and give us important security and safety information. Click [this link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKLMVB9-HZ3esksR9mxxRZPut0GIj-VlpNxL0nbQSonetzA/viewform) (or browse to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKLMVB9-HZ3esksR9mxxRZPut0GIj-VlpNxL0nbQSonetzA/viewform>) to register your child for the 2019-20 school year.

Yours in faith,
Karen



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.

WELCOMING CONGREGATION RENEWAL PROGRAM

OCTOBER IS LGBTQ HISTORY MONTH

River of Grass was certified as a welcoming congregation on June 2, 2004. There are so many issues that have been raised since then. A Welcoming congregation Renewal Team has been organized. As we move to renew our commitment to the LGBTQ community, we need to be aware of our historical UU LGBTQ awareness/support history. Below is a very abbreviated timeline. For a more complete listing see <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/witness/policy/timeline>.



Unitarian Universalist LGBT History Timeline

- ◆ **1967** March—Unitarian Universalist (UU) Committee on Goals publishes results of its survey on beliefs and attitudes within the denomination: 7.7% of UUs believe that homosexuality should be discouraged by law; 80.2% that it should be discouraged by education, not law; 12% that it should not be discouraged by law or education; .1% that it should be encouraged.
 - ◆ **1970** July—General Assembly General Resolution to end Discrimination against Homosexuals and Bisexuals. Calls on congregations to develop sex education programs that promote healthy attitude toward all forms of sexuality.
 - ◆ **1971** Creation of *About Your Sexuality* (AYS) curriculum, which taught a more positive attitude towards homosexuality and bisexuality.
 - ◆ **1972** Creation of the *Invisible Minority*, an adult curriculum about homosexuality.
 - ◆ **1977** June—General Assembly Business Resolution to urge UUs to fight negative propaganda against gays.
 - ◆ **1979** The Reverend Douglas Morgan Strong called to serve All Souls Church, Augusta, Maine, thus becoming the first out gay man in the UU ministry to be called to serve a congregation.
 - ◆ **1986** June—General Assembly General Resolution that calls UUs to work to end AIDS discrimination through education and advocacy.
 - ◆ **1987** June—General Assembly Business Resolution calls UUs to Support Legal Equity for Gays and Lesbians by working to overturn legislation restricting rights of gays and lesbians, including boycotting products and services of organizations that have a policy of discrimination.
 - ◆ **1989** June—General Assembly Business Resolution to adopt the *Welcoming Congregation Program* to combat homophobia in UU congregations and to educate individual UUs.
 - ◆ **1990** Fall—Publication of *The Welcoming Congregation Handbook*, edited by the Reverend Scott Alexander and Stephen L'Heureux. Handbook to be used as resource material for implementing the Welcoming Congregation Program. (The handbook is now entirely online.)
 - ◆ **1993** June—General Assembly stages public protest against North Carolina's "crime against nature" laws. As required by GA 1987 resolution, UUA Board, staff, members, and GA delegates participated in candlelight vigil and witnessing.
 - ◆ **1996** June—General Assembly Resolution of Immediate Witness in Support of the Right to Marry for Same-Sex Couples.
 - ◆ **2002** May 12—The Reverend Sean Parker Dennison called to serve South Valley UU congregation of Salt Lake City, UT, thus becoming the first out transgender person in the UU ministry to be called to serve a congregation as a parish minister.
 - ◆ **2002** May 19—The Reverend Laurie J. Auffant called to serve Follen Church Society of Lexington, MA, thus becoming the first out transgender person in the UU ministry to be called to serve a congregation as a minister of religious education.
 - ◆ **2004** May 17—UUA President the Reverend William G. Sinkford legally marries Hillary and Julie Goodridge, lead plaintiffs in *Goodridge v. Massachusetts Department of Public Health* in Eliot Hall at the Unitarian Universalist Association.
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