

Announcements

Faith Development: Teens 3:00 pm; Family Vespers 5:00 pm

The theme this month is Commitment. As Unitarian Universalists, we commit to many things but we're going to focus on our commitment to being curious, to being willing to grow and change, to listening to our conscience, and always – our commitment to being compassionate.

This Sunday, our Teens will meet for class in the afternoon. Our children and families will gather for Vespers in the evening. The message for everyone is about compassion. Being compassionate means caring for others so that their suffering is lessened. It's not enough to love our neighbors, we also have to care for them. And, of course, we have to offer ourselves that same love and care. Compassion is active, it's putting our love to work! Everyone is welcome to join our Vespers Service at this Zoom link: [Family Vespers 5:00pm, Sunday March 7th](#). For more information about our Faith Development program for children and youth contact our Faith Development Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiouEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org.

River of Grass in Pandemic: One Year Later

Rev. Amy Carol Webb, March 01, 2021

One year since River of Grass moved everything we'd do in person on-line to do our part to keep ourselves, one another, and our community safe COVID-19 changed virtually every aspect of our lives -- what a year of profound change, adaptation, learning and unlearning, creating a new normal that became, well, just "normal" before long, with all our coping and adapting and grieving and planning and dreaming and missing people we love to the bone and finding ways to stay connected driven by love that never gives up and renewed gratitude for all the good that lifts its head in the hardest of times.

And while we are grateful we've not lost a River of Grass member to the virus, none of us remains untouched by the loss of someone we love. Most of us also lost our way of life, whether from working from and schooling kids at home, or suffering mightily in isolation, while the COVID economy came down on so many as well.

Now one year later, hope rises as vaccines roll out and we can begin to see opportunity to gather in person again on the horizon – though we must yet remain patient until enough people have immunity to be safe together again.

Your leadership at River of Grass continues to take every precaution with every new stage of this process, especially as we weigh when/how/where we will gather again in person. To that end, your COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team has been at work examining data, listening to science, following guidelines as they come from science and health authorities, as well as recommendations from those who know congregational life, like the Unitarian Universalist Association and the World Council of Churches, and also watching trends and ideas being developed across religious communities as absolutely all of us are on the same ground, facing the same questions, at the same time.

Here are the Interim Recommendations from the RoG COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team

Team: Deb Buehler Ely, Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten

Purpose of Team: To review guidelines for congregational and smaller group gatherings in order to provide recommendations to the Board to be used for official River of Grass meetings and events.

These recommendations are:

For: only for official, River of Grass - sponsored outdoor small group gatherings.

Fluid: new information comes out all the time and the recommendations could change.

Inclusive: all attendees should be able to attend physically or virtually.

Protective: considers first those who are most at risk.

Science-based: follow the directives according to the experts.

Sources:

UUA: <https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/covid-19>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

Johns Hopkins: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map>

UU Reston Covid-19 Guidelines: <https://www.uureston.org/covid>

MEETINGS IN THE TIME OF COVID

RIVER OF GRASS COVID-19 TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD: February 2021

Meetings in the Time of the COVID

We don't know when. We don't know where. But we are trying to provide answers for "How?" As vaccinations for COVID-19 roll out, River of Grass members are thinking about getting together. This meeting protocol has been developed and can be found on our web (RiverofGrassUU.org/teams-committees--small-groups.html). Contact Susan Juncosa at vicepresident@riverofgrassuu.org for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions - Small Groups - Outdoors only

1. Can I meet with my RoG friends?

- That is your choice at all times. These recommendations are only for official River of Grass – sponsored gatherings.

2. What's the first thing to consider when organizing an in-person event?

- Is it necessary that the gathering be in person? Can the same purpose be achieved by meeting on Zoom? Is there a reason to meet other than the fact that we want to be together?

3. My group has all been vaccinated with all shots and have waited the recommended times. Can we have an in-person meeting?

- Yes, if you take these actions:

+ everyone signs the covenant and a list of attendees is made;

+ everyone keeps their masks on and maintains social distance;

+ no food or drink sharing;

+ If any members of the group do not want to attend in person, provision must be made for attendance by Zoom or other application.

4. Seriously, Question 3? What's the point of all these precautions if everyone has a vaccination?

- Seriously. At this time, it is unknown if vaccinated people can still pass along the virus or its' variants. So yeah. Follow the precautions.

5. What about an indoor meeting?

- At this time, no official River-of-Grass indoor gatherings should be held L

6. Can children come to the gathering?

- At this time, there is no vaccine approved for children. They would have to maintain social distance and masking, etc. This might be a group decision.

Factors Considered in forming the Guidelines:

All guidelines depend on both the public and the personal.

The public – the surrounding community – must meet certain standards for daily new cases, infection rate, test positivity percentage, contact tracing in place and hospital capacity.

Personal – each individual's state of health.

Scope of Recommendations:

At this time, the recommendations are only for small gatherings in **outdoor** spaces in which social distancing protocol can be maintained.

Format of Recommendations:

The team will develop a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document to be posted on the web site and added to the weekly e-mail, which will be updated as needed.

Meeting Leader will do the following:

- + send the covenant to attendees prior to the meeting;
- + set up space and have sanitizer/hand washing supplies available;
- + collect signed covenants or procure signed covenants at the start of meeting;
- + locations of outdoor gathering will be chosen with the physical needs of the attendees in mind and alternative Zoom links will be offered if needed;
- + review masking and social distancing.

Actions Prior to a Gathering

A covenant shall be developed and sent to attendees which includes the following:

- + agrees to follow social distancing and masking protocols; and
- + has not traveled internationally in past two weeks; and
- + attendee will comply with any contact tracing which may ensue; and
- + is not experiencing any COVID symptoms.

Actions During a Gathering

- + attendees will give meeting leader the signed covenant or sign a copy at the start of meeting;
- + Meeting attendees will follow masking and social distancing guidelines;
- + Meeting attendees will not share food or drink.

Actions after a Gathering

- + Meeting leader will keep the covenants collected for two weeks;
- + Attendees will inform the meeting leader if they have Covid symptoms and/or a positive Covid test within two weeks after the meeting. Meeting leader will inform all attendees.

How well do you know your UUs: Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman - Joanne Gignilliat

Trimmier Woodward is an American actress, producer, and philanthropist. She is the recipient of an Academy Award, three Primetime Emmy Awards, and three Golden Globe Awards. She is perhaps best known for her performance in *The Three Faces of Eve* (1957), which earned her an Academy Award for Best Actress and a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress



in a Motion Picture – Drama. In a career spanning over six decades she starred or co-starred in many feature films, receiving four Oscar nominations (winning one), ten Golden Globe Award nominations (winning three), four BAFTA Film Award nominations (winning one), and nine

Primetime Emmy Award nominations (winning three). She is the widow of actor Paul Newman. Paul Leonard Newman was an American actor, film director, producer, race car driver, IndyCar owner, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. He was the recipient of numerous awards, including an Academy Award, a BAFTA Award, a Screen Actors Guild Award, and a Primetime Emmy Award.

In 1988, Woodward and Newman founded the SeriousFun Children's Network, a global family of summer camps and programs for children with serious illness which has served 290,076 children since its inception. In 2006, Paul Newman also co-founded Safe Water Network with John Whitehead, former chairman of Goldman Sachs, and Josh Weston, former chairman of ADP, to improve access to safe water to underserved communities around the world.

With writer A. E. Hotchner, Woodward and Newman founded Newman's Own, a line of food products, in 1982. Newman established a policy that all proceeds, after taxes, would be donated to charity. In 1994, they jointly presented the Award for Greatest Public Service Benefiting the Disadvantaged, an award given out annually by Jefferson Award.

“Every time we get into an argument about cooking or laundering shirts, she shakes her Oscar at me, and I'm dead in the water. It is a great equalizer now after 33 years.”

Source: Wikipedia and Brainyquotes

Rev. Amy's upcoming sabbatical: Rev. Amy's sabbatical will begin March 13, 2021, and end May 09, 2021. She will be back with us for the Annual Meeting on May 9th, and back in the pulpit on May 16, 2021. For more information about her sabbatical, please check out the information listed on our website: <https://riverofgrassuu.org/rev-amys-sabbatical.html>.

Registration for Unit One of Building the World We Dream About is now open: The registration link can be found on our website, on our Facebook page, and [**REGISTER HERE FOR BUILDING THE WORLD WE DREAM ABOUT.**](#)

In these first 12 90-minute sessions, we'll focus our gaze inward as we learn about ourselves and begin the work of becoming an antiracist / antioppressive / multicultural faith community. Specific dates and times will be determined by those who register.

Building the World We Dream About is a Unitarian Universalist Association program that seeks to interrupt the workings of racism and transform how people from different racial/ethnic groups understand and relate to one another. The full program consists of 24 workshops, with Taking It Home activities, reflections, and readings to be done between workshops. The program creates opportunities for participants to practice dreaming our world otherwise, and then commit to new, intentional ways of being.

As Unitarian Universalists, we hope developing antiracist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural habits and skills will lead us to build the multicultural world of the beloved community we dream about. Contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org for more information or to sign up for this transformational experience.

Important Announcement from the Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee is excited to announce the slate to fill the open positions on Board members for the year 2021-2022:

Vice President – Maureen Lundell

Secretary – Bruce Ngo

Trustee – Mallory McLaren

Trustee – Corrine Mann

Nominating Committee (3 people to be elected by the Congregation)

Peter Fox

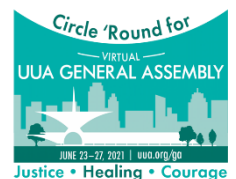
Bev Kaufman

Karen (Kat) Holland

On behalf of the Congregation, the Board would like to thank the Nominating Committee members for putting together a great slate for our upcoming year. Thank you Toni Cattell, Dave Katz, Corey Fleming, Jacquie Velasquez, Monica Dyer, and Devon Smith.

Per our By-laws - Other nominations may also be made by written petition signed by at least two members, delivered to an officer or Board member at least 20 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting (May 9th this year) in order to be included on the final written slate. Members may nominate themselves. Nominations from the floor during the meeting are not permitted.

Why Virtual General Assembly? General Assembly (commonly referred to as GA) is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.



This year River of Grass will fund our three voting delegates, as well as others who are interested in attending. This is a major time commitment but so worth it. Go to <https://www.uua.org/ga> to view agendas and programs being offered. Only voting delegates are expected to attend the business meetings, but all are encouraged to attend. Last year we paid the registration fee for five attendees. With many ROGers attending, we can cover most of the workshops. Attendees will be expected to write a report to the Board. If you are interested in attending, please contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org.

Poetry Service - Apr 25th! Do you enjoy poetry? Members are invited to submit a poem for our annual poetry reading service. The theme is “Becoming”. Poems must be brief (no more than 4 minutes reading time) and in keeping with our UU principles. All poetry must have permission of the author or no known copyright restriction. Send submissions to Zena Tucker or email membership@riverofgrassuu.org. **All**



poems must be received by Mar 30th.

Flowing River Sangha - We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, Mar 9th via zoom. <https://zoom.us/j/201911385>. We will meet from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. This is an open-ended, drop-in group for all levels of meditation experience. Gary Gonzalez meditation@riverofgrassuu.org.

bUUKies Spring Reading List - The bUUKies have finalized the Spring 2021 reading list. It's a little bit of this and a little bit of that. **March starts off with "The Tubman Command" by Elizabeth Cobbs.** This work of historical fiction focuses on Harriet Tubman as a Union spy leading a team of black scouts through alligators, overseers, slave catchers and more! It's sure to be educational, inspiring and fun! **Join us at 7:00 pm on Mar 10th through the magic of Zoom as we discuss this story.** Send an email to bUUKies@RiverofGrassuu.org to get the secret Zoom codes.

The remainder of the Spring reads are:

"Today, We Go Home" by Kelli Estes shines an illuminating light on history and the female soldiers who have served this country from the Civil War to Afghanistan today.

"An American Sunrise" by Joy Hardjoe. A nationally best-selling volume of wise, powerful poetry from the first Native American Poet Laureate of the United States.

"Life of a Klansman" by Edward Bell. Edward Ball, a descendant of the Klansman, paints a portrait of his family's anti-black militant that is part history, part memoir rich in personal detail.

Free "Mindfulness for Today's World" weekly online sessions:

Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm for adults, [zoom link for Thursday night at 6 pm](#)

For more information or to register contact Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

Young Adults are now meeting on the 2nd Sundays, at 7:30 pm virtually on Zoom – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUUnG Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Mar 14th at 7:30 pm.** Our group's purpose is to foster an inclusive, diverse and intentional community that inspires spiritual growth and connection. Please email youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

Have you heard about our Faith Forward Inquirers Series? We meet on Wednesdays from 7:30 – 8:30 pm on Zoom, see the schedule below! Faith Forward Inquirers Series is a rotation of seven 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 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! Our next class is scheduled for **Mar 24th and is FF Inquirers #6: Social Action & Community Service.** For more information, email Zena

Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
3/24/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
3/31/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
4/7/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life
4/28/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
5/5/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
5/12/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
5/26/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
6/2/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
6/9/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life

River of Grass New Mailing Address - We have our post office box and are forwarding all of our mail there now. Our new mailing address is listed on our website as a footer on each page and in the [contact us page](#) if you need to look it up.

River of Grass UU Congregation, 3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: If you have unneeded furniture or home goods, donate it. Simply call Faith Farm (or other charity) and they will come and pick it up! No effort, tax deduction, and less in the landfill!

Capital Campaign Contributions: We have set up several methods for you to make your pledges/contributions to the Capital Campaign. The table below details the various methods, including charges that the River accrues when this payment method is used. We are here to help with any questions you may have. Feel free to contact our office administrator, Sandy Blair Chibnick, via email at office@riverofgrassuu.org.

Monetary Donations		
Method	How	Processing fees paid by River of Grass
Check	Write CC on memo line Mail to River of Grass: 3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485 Sunrise, FL 33345	\$0
Checking account via Vanco	Set up payment on our Donations page . Designate on the Capital Campaign line	\$0.45 per transaction plus processing fee 1%
Credit Card via Vanco	Set up payment on our Donations page . Designate amount on the Capital Campaign line.	\$0.45 per transaction plus credit card processing fee: American Express: 3.5% Visa/MasterCard: 2.75%

PayPal	https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile In the notes write "Capital Campaign"	Varies based on method of payment
Zelle	Use your bank to set up \$ transfer. Send Zelle payment to CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org .	\$0
Securities	<p>Any questions contact Northstar Financial Planners: <i>Allen Giese, Steve Tepper, or Stacy Saavedra at (954) 693-0030</i></p> <p>Securities should be transferred per instructions from the donor's brokerage or advisor using the following DTC and A/C numbers as the destination</p> <p>#0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional A/C #944110334</p> <p>RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC.</p> <p>The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org.</p>	