



Jon Kitner/Spiritual Art

# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
11850 W State Rd 84, A-9, Davie, FL 33325

**Welcome** to our River of Grass Family

**Welcome** to our Love; **Welcome Home**

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Sunday Service October 4, 2026

Monthly Theme: Courage/Living the Questions

### **The Power of Forgiveness**

Rev. Katherine Cullen

Minister, UU Congregation of Ft. Lauderdale



Art and Theology

Our Jewish neighbors have just completed their  
most holy of holy times of the year—  
the Days of Awe.

How lucky are they to have a spiritual tradition that  
has institutionalized the practice of forgiveness.  
In a month where we are exploring courage and  
living the question, let's explore together the  
courage required to practice forgiveness,  
and how forgiveness can deepen our capacity  
to live together with love at the center.

## ***Our Mission***

*We nurture our spirits, love intentionally,  
and work to create a just and healthy planet.*

Come as you are Sunday morning at 10:30 – either **in-person in Davie:** 11850 W SR 84, A-9, or **virtually on YouTube** (link below). Childcare provided.



We come together to lament  
with, celebrate with, & care for  
one another in our community  
& our world.

**Flowing River Sangha**  
With Gary Gonzalez  
A-9 + Zoom; link below;  
Gather 8:15, start 8:30



## **October Worship**

**Theme: Courage/Living the Questions**

**Oct 4: The Power of Forgiveness**

Rev. Katherine Cullen, Minister,  
UU Congregation of Ft. Lauderdale

**Oct.11: History of Heretics (A UU History  
Sermon)** Robert Smith

**Oct. 18: The Creator's Workshop  
(All Ages Service)** Karen Gonzalez

**Oct. 25; The Gospel According to Love Island**  
Ron Roth, Jr.



**Living the Questions,**  
the theme for October,  
is about staying curious,  
embracing uncertainty,  
and being open to mystery.

Join us as we use  
our open minds and  
loving hearts to wonder,  
and to ask brave questions.

This Sunday, we begin a new monthly theme of "Living the Questions," though our Youngers (and Nursery) will linger for another lesson on "Interdependence."

In the Nursery, we'll get another letter from Ellery Churchmouse about depending on each other's help to create something fun, namely train tracks!

Our Youngers will practice Interdependence through a physical challenge and some collaborative art work.

Middlers will revisit the story of John Murray and the circumstances that led him to becoming the father of Universalism in America.

They'll reflect on how he found the courage to speak his (heretical) truth through the encouragement of Thomas Potter.

### **Children's & Youth's Faith Development 10:30am**

For more information about our Faith Development Program for children and youth, see our website or Facebook group or reach out to our Director, Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

Remember to register your children for the new year at  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDgt8XSMUPXKhCdgbGjU4eNLQeJlrXnq84GnHR26wU0CAquQ/viewform?usp=header>

Worship Service:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChJNmoySFzsKskHmsjkZe2g>

riverofgrassuu.org

Flowing River Sangha:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/646777873?pwd=WHZaNjJQNWF5T0t6UW1kRlFLTVcyZz09>



# River of Grass Board REPORT

The Board conducted its monthly meeting for September on Saturday, 9/26.

The Board approved its own mission and covenant for congregational year 2026-2027; as well as our board liaisons to committees and teams.

We also discussed our goals for the year, which will be finalized at the October meeting.

The Board designated a team to plan the establishment of a Committee on Ministry.

*The mission of the River of Grass Board is to lead in alignment with the River of Grass mission and Unitarian Universalist values. We make love-centered decisions that support the by-laws and policies of River of Grass and empower our committees, teams, and congregation. We will provide transparent and responsive leadership, collaborate with the congregation, and exemplify resilience and fortitude.*

Our next meeting will take place on October 25th at 11 a.m. All members are welcome to attend.



## *From our Beloved RevNick*

**Hello Beloveds,**

It is with great hope and joy (and a teeny bit of nervous excitement) that I write this to you all.

At this very moment, I am preparing to take Katie to the hospital to deliver our baby boy!

It is a little earlier than we expected, but all of the doctors have assured us that baby is big, healthy, and well-developed.

We are so excited to welcome him into this world!

Everything happens in its own time.

And so, even though the arrival of Baby Sanchez was expected, we are making a few last-minute changes to our schedules.

October will look a little different than we had originally planned - but it does mean some very exciting things!

While I am away, our community will continue to be supported by our amazing Care Team, led by Rita and Kristine, along with Marilisa.

We are also grateful for the support of our neighboring minister, Rev. Catherine Cullen from UUCFL.

She has offered to be available for any pastoral emergencies that may arise while I am away. If you need pastoral support, please reach out to the care team.

This Sunday, October 4th, our neighbor Rev. Catherine Cullen will be filling our pulpit and preaching a message of courage.

October 11th will be led by our Sunday Experience Team, presenting a message of mine on some of our UU ancestors and our history of standing up for what we believe in – “A History of Heretics.”

October 18th will feature several members of our congregation exploring a unique service – “The Creator’s Workshop” - asking life’s big questions: *What does it mean to be? Who are we? Why are we here? How are we here?*

And on October 25th, we will welcome Ron Roth Jr. from UUFBR - a truly gifted speaker and talented singer - to preach his message “The Gospel According to Live Island.”

I look forward to returning to preach on November 1st for a Remembrance Ceremony to pay respects to our dearly departed loved ones, and to introduce a new ritual to honor them.

So, be sure to come, bring a friend, welcome our neighbors and guests, and experience these truly unique services.

It is such a blessing to have so much support from within and beyond this community!

In fact, the support is palpable.

Katie, Willow, and I feel so held in love, care, and community.

We cannot express our gratitude enough to this beloved congregation.

Your acceptance and love of our family fills us with joy!

The values that we have seen you live out loud give us so much hope for the world that we are bringing this child into.

Thank you, beloveds.  
Thank you for the gift of being who you are –  
both as individuals, and  
together as a community.  
We could not imagine a better place to  
belong to as our family grows.  
Until we meet again...  
**Shine on!**  
Rev. Nick



# River of Grass ANNUAL AUCTION RIVER'S GOT TALENT

**SATURDAY**  
**DECEMBER 5 6pm**

Sunrise Lakes Phase IV  
Ballroom  
10102 Sunrise Lakes Blvd.,  
Sunrise

Live & Silent Auction  
Parties, Food, Dancing

**CALL FOR  
DONATIONS**

**Donation Forms are  
in the Hallway**

Donate your creations:  
books, artwork, poems,  
crafts, jewelry.

And Parties!

Or almost  
anything else.

Contact Kathy: [auction@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:auction@riverofgrassuu.org)





# **Fall Potluck Picnic!**

**Sunday, October 4, 2026  
1 – 4 pm**

**at the Home of  
Liz and John Perez in Plantation**

Buddy, beloved canine member of the Perez family,  
requests that you please not bring pets.

**River of Grass members, family, and friends,  
you are INVITED!**

**We will share good food and great  
conversation while the  
children play and swim.**

**Please let us know if you can bring food to  
share, and if so, what will you bring.**

**Your presence is the best gift;  
Walkins are always welcome!**

To RSVP or for more info, email  
[membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org)  
or call/text 954-258-6315

# River of Grass Justice Seekers



NO THRONES. NO CROWNS.

*Heads up! Save our Democracy!*

Justice Seekers will be organizing & inviting everyone to participate in the next NoKings rally:

Saturday, Oct. 17, 10-12, Location TBD



**NO KINGS** at Young Circle, Hollywood, March 2024



# WALK WITH TEAM TSUNAMI

FOR MENTAL HEALTH. FOR HOPE. FOR ALL.

**NAMIWALKS**  
**BROWARD COUNTY**



Saturday, October 10;  
Nova Southeastern Univ  
Registration 8a, Walk 9:15a

FOR MENTAL HEALTH. FOR HOPE. FOR ALL.



**DONATE**

HELP LINDA REACH  
HER FUNDRAISING GOAL



**JOIN US**

JOIN TEAM TSUNAMI



Please see Linda, Gayle, or Pam for more  
details about signing up to walk or  
donate to the team.

Every donation counts as we fundraise for  
mental health services here in Broward.

Thank you for your support!

For information Linda [lindalath@gmail.com](mailto:lindalath@gmail.com)

link for Team TsuNAMI:

<https://www.namiwalks.org/team/83980>



## **The River's Spiritual Artists**

Will continue creating our new  
A Frame signs on  
Saturday, October 3, 2-4pm in A-9.

We will paint the lettering on some signs  
And paint the grass, sun and  
heron on other signs.

All are welcome.

Steve Jens-Rochow  
[SpiritualArt@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:SpiritualArt@riverofgrassuu.org)

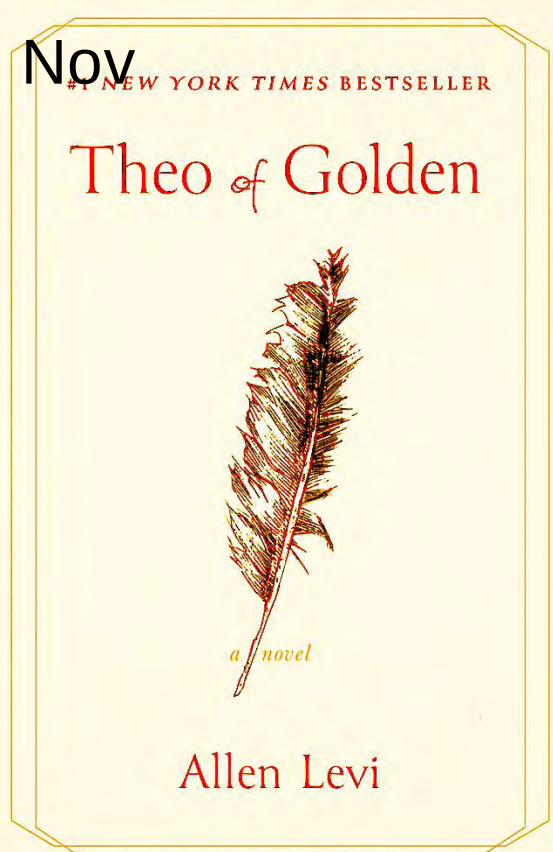
Oct "A cause for celebration." Ann Patchett



## bUUKies Fall Reads

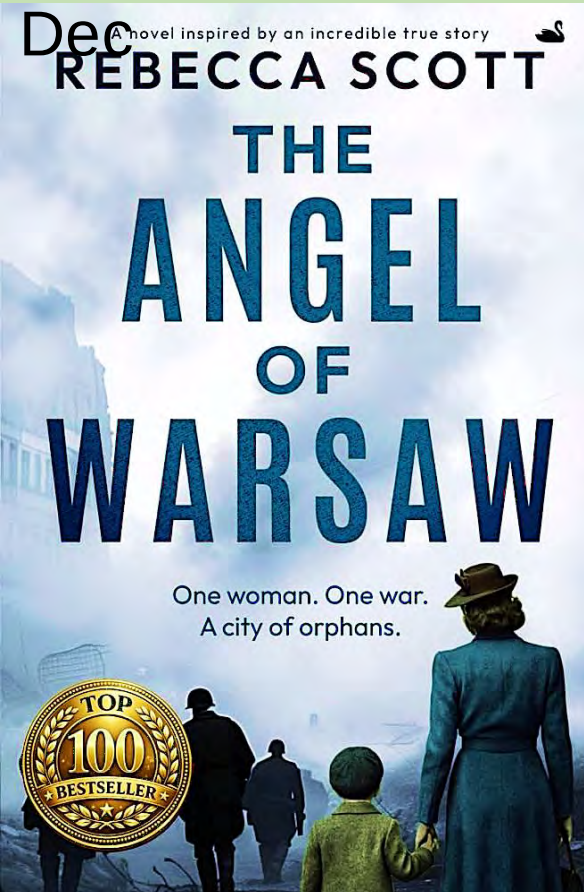
By Virginia Evans. "Filled with knowledge that only comes from a life fully lived, the book is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age."

Nov



By Allen Levy. A mysterious, kind, elderly man named Theo arrives in Golden, GA, and buys remarkable pencil portraits and returns them to their rightful owners in exchange for their life stories. Each delivery sparks a deep conversation, uncovering personal secrets, shared regrets, and healing across the town.

Dec



By Rebecca Scott. Inspired by true events, blending white-knuckle suspense with wartime romance, a woman who would become known as the female Schindler, risks everything to smuggle children out of the ghetto.

4th Wednesdays, 7pm. Link below  
Kathy and Steve Jens-Rochow  
[bUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:bUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org)

- [meet.google.com/qrx-msxw-rsg](https://meet.google.com/qrx-msxw-rsg)

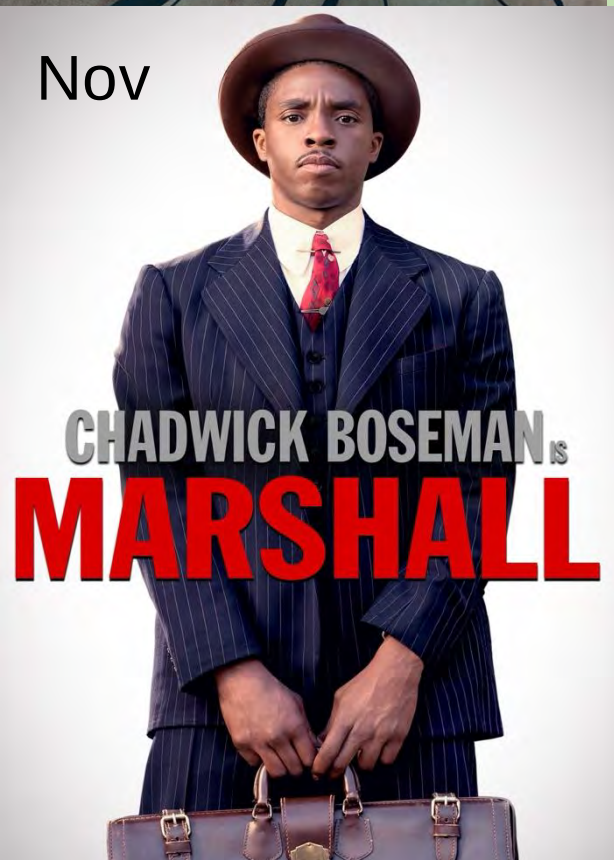
Oct



## mUUvies Fall Viewing

Director Milos Forman; Amazon  
The first film in over 40 years to win all five major Academy Awards. Randle McMurphy (Jack Nicholson), an ex-con, expects an easy stay in a mental institution, but instead clashes with the rigid, tyrannical Nurse Ratched.

Nov



Dir. Reginald Hudlin; Amazon,  
A biographical legal drama film about Thurgood Marshall [Chadwick Boseman]. Set in 1941, the story follows a young NAACP attorney, and focuses on one of the first cases of his career, when he defended a Black chauffeur accused of sexual assault & attempted murder.

Dec



Director Kirk Jones; Netflix John Davidson: diagnosed with Tourette's syndrome at a young age, which alienated him from his peers and family. He struggled with a condition few people have witnessed. And triumphed over it.

*mUUves meets on the 2nd  
Thursdays, 7pm. Link below  
Kathy and Steve Jens-Rochow  
mUUvies@riverofgrassuu.org*

- [meet.google.com/qrx-msxw-rsg](https://meet.google.com/qrx-msxw-rsg)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, October 1, 6pm Zoom **Mindfulness for Today's World** Carolyn Santangelo and Scott May

Thursday, October 1, 7pm , A-9 + Zoom **Men's Group; Topic: Fear**; Ken Bresnahan

Saturday, October 3, 2 - 4pm , A-9, **Spiritual Art Sign Painting**

Sunday, October 4, 8:15am Zoom + A-9, Gary Gonzalez **Flowing River Sangha**

Sunday, October 4, 10:30am A-9 + YouTube Livestream, **Sunday Service – The Power of Forgiveness** Rev. Katherine Cullen, Minister, UU Congregation of Ft. Lauderdale

Sunday, October 4, 10:30am A-9 **Children's Faith Development** Karen Gonzalez

Sunday, October 4, 1 pm **Fall Potluck Picnic!** Leana Bresnahan

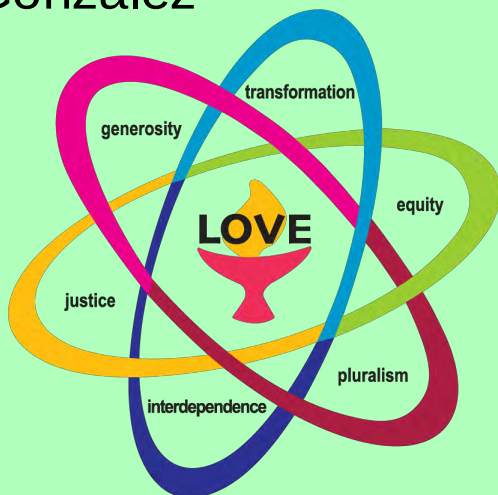
Thursday, October 8, 6pm Zoom **Mindfulness for Today's World** Carolyn Santangelo and Scott May

Thursday, October 8, 7pm Zoom **mUUVies: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**, Steve and Kathy Jens-Rochow

Sunday, October 11, 8:15am Zoom + A-9, Gary Gonzalez **Flowing River Sangha**

Sunday, October 11, 10:30am A-9 + YouTube Livestream, **Sunday Service – History of Heretics (A UU History Sermon)** Robert Smith

Sunday, October 11, 10:30am A-9 **Children's Faith Development** Karen Gonzalez



Carolyn Santangelo & Scott May

Mindfulness for Today's World

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82686665851?pwd=kF4kTZS0dA7mK3HM2FXXalsxV1bJX0.1>

Worship Service:

Gary Gonzalez Sangha

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/646777873?pwd=WHZaNjJQNWF5T0t6UW1kRIFLTVcyZz09>

RevNick Sanchez [minister@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:minister@riverofgrassuu.org)

Karen Gonzalez [religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org)

Leana Bresnahan [president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org)  
[membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org)

Steve Jens-Rochow. [stevejensrochow@gmail.com](mailto:stevejensrochow@gmail.com)

Ken Bresnahan [mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org)

Men's Group

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81490716445?pwd=NHV2akh4OURkQ2YvcTdGdmw5VjY3dz09>

Kathy Jens-Rochow [auction@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:auction@riverofgrassuu.org)

Diane Lade [dlade@bellsouth.net](mailto:dlade@bellsouth.net)

Peter Meerwarth [musicdirector@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:musicdirector@riverofgrassuu.org)

Elly Keane [elly.keane19@gmail.com](mailto:elly.keane19@gmail.com)

# Order of Service for October 4, 2026

## **GATHERING**

### **Morning Sing**

Building Bridges #1023; Words: The Women of the Greenham Peace Cooperative, Music: Contemporary English Quaker Round

Guide My Feet #348; Words: Traditional, Music: Spiritual from the Collection of Willis Lawrence James

Rededication by Shana Aisenberg

### **Welcome**

### **Ringling of the Chimes**

**Prelude** – Bright Morning Star #357; Words: Anonymous, Music: American Folk Song, River of Grass Choir

### **Welcome Cont.**

**Call to Worship** – Grace Meets Us Where We Are by Gretchen Haley

**Opening Music** – We are...#1051; Words and Music by Ysaye M Barnwell

**Chalice Lighting** – May This Flame by Bets Wienecke

## **CONNECTING**

### **Covenant**

**Wisdom Story** “What if Nobody Forgave” written by Colleen M. McDonald, Told by Karen Gonzalez

### **Singing the Children to Classes**

**Offering/Offertory** – I Choose Love

## **DEEPENING**

**Deepening Music** - Infinitely Whole by Sanctuary Boston

### **Candles of Community**

**Stones of Reflection** – Instrumental Reflection

### **Pastoral Response**

**Musical Response** – We Belong to One Another

**Message** – **The Power of Forgiveness** Rev. Catherine Cullen

## **SENDING**

**Closing Music** – Guide My Feet #348; Words: Traditional, Music: Spiritual from the Collection of Willis Lawrence James

**Closing Words** – Share Your Glorious Light by James Morrison

### **Extinguishing the Chalice**

### **Announcements**

### **Invite to Hospitality**

### **Shine On**

### **Music Reprise**



# River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation

[riverofgrassuu.org](http://riverofgrassuu.org)

River of Grass UU Congregation is on FaceBook.

*Unsubscribe* - If you do not wish to receive this weekly email,  
please contact the office and  
you will be removed.

*Announcements wishing to be sent out in this weekly  
congregation-wide newsletter should be received  
by noon Wednesday.*

*All announcements will pertain to congregational life  
and affiliated groups and and will be for activities or  
events occurring within two weeks.*

*Outside groups and individuals, wishing to use this  
vehicle of congregation-wide communication, must  
have the approval of the President.*

Steve Jens-Rochow, Editor and Art Director  
[stevejensrochow@gmail.com](mailto:stevejensrochow@gmail.com)

