

# Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

DAVIE, FLORIDA

SUMMER 2012

## FROM THE PRESIDENT: BREAKING FREE

Marjorie Loring, Board President



When I think of summer, many things come to mind. I am sure I am not alone when I think about the freedom that summer traditionally brings. In my younger years, there was the freedom from school and days when I could spend hours on my bicycle navigating my neighborhood, or on foot exploring the natural world of my neighborhood woodlands, catching frogs, climbing trees, and letting my imagination run wild and free. There was the freedom from getting up early (yes, even as a child I hated getting out of bed in the morning), homework, bus rides and report cards! There was freedom from the cold of winter and the mud of spring that restricted how much I could do outdoors and how far I could wander.

Then, as I grew older, that freedom became focused around my two-week vacations from work where I could plan the family get-away for which I saved up all year. And now, summer brings memories of all those things along with the anticipation of new adventures that only get better. Now, I find that summer breaks me out of my routine and slows down the pace of my life.

Summer brings us all a gift, and that gift is the opportunity to live life in the moment and live it to its fullest. Whether you are traveling, or spending much needed time at home, summer is knocking at our doors to remind us to open them and see how just being alive is amazing, and beautiful, and worthwhile. Summer is about breaking free and reconnecting with a life full of imagination, and possibility. Breaking free is also about letting go of routine and trusting that the same arms that wave you farewell will be open to welcome you home upon your return.

For those who will travel, remember to visit UU congregations and bring back ideas from other congregations. For those who will be sticking around, enjoy your time here. Be a tourist in your own backyard. Rediscover the wonder and beauty of your home, your family, your friends and your River of Grass community. If everyone in your family wants to do something different this summer, don't stress: go to SUUSI where there is literally something for everyone 24/7. SUUSI (Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute), being held from July 15-21 in the mountains of Virginia, on the campus of Radford University, is a life changing and spirit lifting UU experience that will knock your socks off (or tie dye them at a minimum).

But whatever your plans, remember to gather and bring back water from the magical and meaningful places that symbolize this summer. That water and the spirit it holds will be poured together with that of others and used for child dedications during the next year. You might also want to start a journal – or a blog. Make notes of insights and experiences that you might want to share during a covenant group meeting, hospitality time, or a lay led service such as the Water Communion Service or My One Wild and Precious Life.

May your summer be filled with just what you need to open that magical door of your life and step through it with the imagination and abandon of youth. Break free this summer – it's good for the spirit!



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## SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS

Diane Diaz, bUUKies

Our River of Grass book group, the bUUKies, will be taking a break for the summer and will resume meeting on the third Wednesday of August (the 15th) at 7:15 pm at River of Grass.

Vacations and lazy steamy days are good opportunities to catch up on reading and we would like to share some "hot" picks that we will discuss after the break.



- "Unaccustomed Earth" by *Jhumpa Lahiri*
- "Foot Prints of God" by *Greg Iles*
- "Pillars of the Earth" by *Ken Follett*

These books are available at local libraries in print and digital formats.

All are welcome to attend our meetings and also make suggestions of titles to read and discuss for the next congregational year. Have a happy summer and get lost in a book!



## SERVICES

- June 3 *The Way We Do the Things We Do: Living our 2nd UU Principle* with the Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- June 10 *Namaste: A personal view of spirituality* by Hal Hamblen
- June 17 *Father's Day Service* by the Women's Group
- June 24 *Summer Welcome* by Maddi Gutfreind

## River of Grass

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Phone 954-723-7877

[www.riverofgrass.org](http://www.riverofgrass.org) [office@riverofgrass.org](mailto:office@riverofgrass.org)

### Newsletter

Editor ..... Esther Sampol  
 Design & Production ..... Brit Lundell  
 Copy Editors ..... Diane Diaz & Zena Tucker

### Congregational Administrator

Sophia Brown

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 Nominating ..... Riley Cothran  
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 Service & Social Justice ..... Alan Meerow & Judi Oltmans  
 Shared Ministry ..... Diane Lade & Janet Schwartz  
 Worship ..... Kathy Jens-Rochow

## 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.

## OUR SUNDAY LOCATION

11850 W. State Road 84, Suite 1, Davie, FL 33325

## EVERY SUNDAY

**Worship Service:** 10:30 to 11:30am. **Hospitality Hour:** 11:30am to 12:30pm.

**Faith Development Classes:** 10:45 to 11:45am

## 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.

## SMOOTH SAILING FOR THIS BLUE BOAT

Marjorie Loring, Board President

All are on board! The 2012 Annual Meeting of the River of Grass was held on Sunday, May 20 from 12:00 to 2:00 pm.

The congregation unanimously voted **Maddi Gutfreind** and **Zena Tucker** onto the Board of Trustees for the 2012-2013 congregational year. The full cast of characters will now include: **Marjorie Loring**, President; **Ken Bresnahan**, Vice President; **Zena Tucker**, Secretary; **Maddi Gutfreind**, Treasurer; **Tom Robinson**, Trustee; **Deb Giblin-Davis**, Trustee; **Diane Diaz**, Trustee, **Grant Basham**, Trustee – and **Jenna Berleue**, Youth Representative.

I am thankful to those who have stepped into these leadership roles and look forward to another year of serving this congregation, its mission, and its vision. There will be an installation ceremony during an upcoming Sunday service in June. I am also thankful to our congregants who help to keep the communication flowing in both directions with their questions, concerns, ideas, and suggestions.

I am also thrilled that the Congregation voted unanimously to approve a 2012-2013 budget that will support our entering into a renewable-term contract with a consulting minister. Taking this step will help weave a consistent ministerial presence throughout our services and programs. The Board can now move forward in discussing a contractual agreement with Rev. Amy Carol Webb.

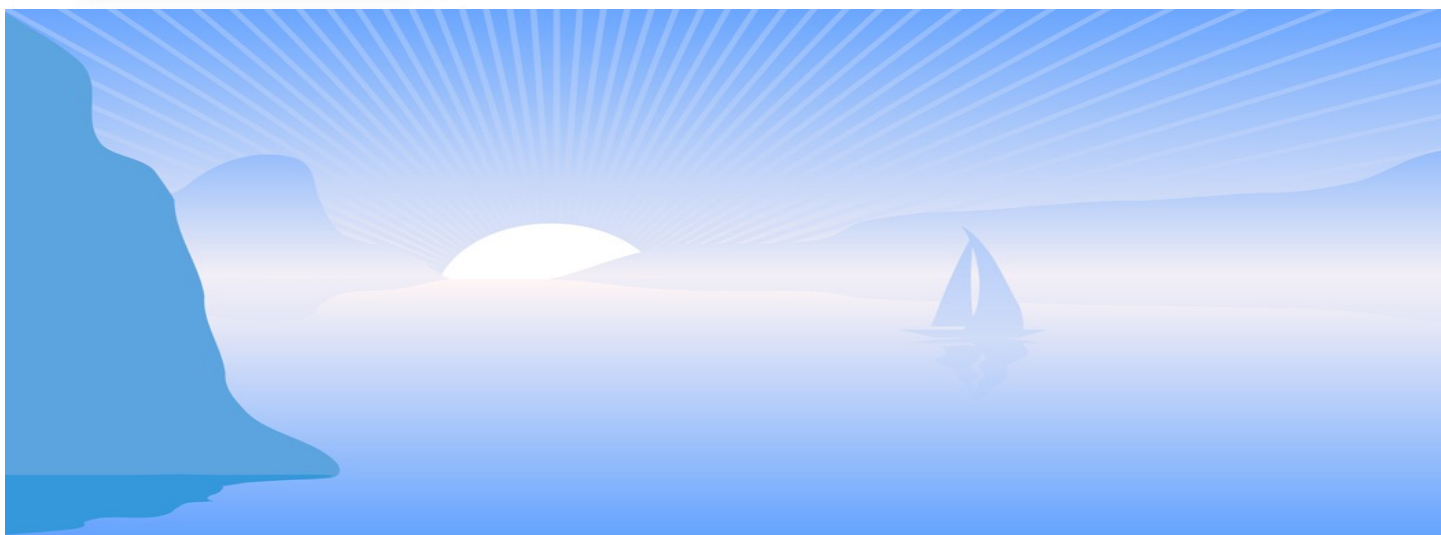
We have had preliminary discussions with Rev. Amy who has this to say: *“Clearly, River of Grass is on a trajectory for growth and deepening of congregational life within the congregation, the community, and our Unitarian Universalist movement. I look forward to the opportunity to walk and work with you in living toward your five-year vision for the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation as a life-giving source in the community and the world.”*

The 2012 Annual Meeting had that same positive energy I have been feeling all year. It says we are in this together, we believe in who we are, and we share a vision of all that we can be. Your questions were thoughtful, and demonstrated our commitment to honor the individual and stay in right relations.

I have said it before, and I’ll say it again: From the pulpit, you are an amazing view – diverse, beautiful, awe inspiring, and humbling. Thank you.



Left to right: Ken Bresnahan, Tom Robinson, Jenna Berleue, Diane Diaz, Marjorie Loring, Zena Tucker, Maddi Gutfreind, and Grant Basham.  
Not pictured: Deb Giblin-Davis.



## FAITH DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Diane Lade and Karen Gonzalez, Co-Chairs

**I**t's hard to believe: Faith Development classes for the 2011-12 congregational year end on June 3. And what a year it was. We scared young and old with our haunted Teen Room, learned about faith and values from Dr. Seuss and Homer Simpson, discussed how to make ethical decisions in tough situations, and proved that UU kids can put on the best holiday pageant ever.



We laid the groundwork for what we think is one of the most valuable things our congregation provides: religious education dedicated to helping children and youth grow into responsible, thoughtful, informed and creative spiritual beings.



*We celebrated our students and their accomplishments at our Faith Development service on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> and we held our Affirmation/Bridging ceremony to honor and celebrate our graduating seniors: **Spaulding Basham, Paige Giese, Hannah Lundell and Erica Meerow.** We wish them blessings as their journey's path takes a new turn.*

Thanks to all of our teachers who helped us get there: **Gail Goddard, Monica Dyer, June McCulloch, Deb Giblin-Davis, Maddi Gutfreind, Hal Hamblen, Rob Giblin-Davis, Marilisa Lawless, Judi Oltmans, Michael Richardson, Scott May, Carolyn SantAngelo, Diane Lade, Karen Gonzalez, Erin and Grant Enwright, and Lou DeSantis.** They are the heart of our religious education team and we thank them.

But also thanks to each one of you – congregational members, parents, mentors, friends and family – who took the time this past year to listen to a child's story, applaud when our teens took part in a service, or held a young UU's hand. We should strive to be a truly intergenerational community where people of all ages are valued and listened to. We have a lot to teach each other.

We're already psyched for the next school year. And we want you to help us set new goals and reach new heights. ***We invite EVERYONE – not just parents and students – to join us after service on Sunday, June 3 for Lessons In Faith: An Envisioning.*** Please bring your ideas and your passions, and come ready to share and dream. Lunch will be served. Questions? E-mail [faithdevelopment@riverofgrass.org](mailto:faithdevelopment@riverofgrass.org).



Although we do not hold formal Faith Development classes during the summer, we will have ***Sensational Summer Opportunities*** for kids and youth of all ages, from June 10<sup>th</sup> through August 19<sup>th</sup>. Check out the schedule below and get ready for some summer F-U-N !!

- June 10** THEATER GAMES (Ginger Thomassiny & Marjie Loring)
- June 17** DANCING DOs AND DON'Ts (Jean Yzer)
- June 24** BASKETBALL SKILLS (Jake Tepper & Laura Secord)
- July 8** BICYCLE FUN (Allen Giese)
- July 15** BOARD (not bored) GAMES (Vickie Koutoulas)
- July 22** (OPEN - This could be you!)
- July 29** (OPEN-This could be you, too!)
- Aug 5** FUN WITH BEADS (Esther Sampol & Marjorie Loring)
- Aug 12** YARN ART (Judi Oltmans)
- Aug 19** MAKING A UUTUBE VIDEO (Dan Scanlon)



## BOARD MATTERS

Susan Juncosa, Board Secretary

Sometimes we just can't have enough Board meetings. This month, our Fearless Leader, President **Marjorie Loring**, called a Special Meeting on May 3 in addition to our usual monthly meeting. The Special Meeting was for Special Planning for our Very Special Annual Meeting on May 20. Between the two meetings, we managed to get through a lot of topics, and so without further ado – the minutes!



This month's kerfuffle was the fault of the copy machine. As many of you know, our copy machine was donated a long, long time ago from a galaxy far, far away. The dilithium crystals finally ran out of energy and the service company ran out of spare parts, and thus it was determined that no option existed but to rent a new machine. To our great and unhappy surprise, none of the local copy machine renters would enter into a contract with us. Apparently our commercial credit rating, according to Dun & Bradstreet, was not high enough. **Janet Schwartz** took a crash course learning about Dun & Bradstreet, commercial credit, Bank of America and The Sad State of America's On-Hold Music. The Finance Committee is now hot on the trail of figuring out what happened and why, and making sure it doesn't happen again. Our story has a happy ending – due to the healthy state of our operating account, we simply paid for a copy machine up front and it is to be hoped that it lands in the office before you read this account. P.S. Anyone out there with Experience and/or Knowledge of these Arcane Matters – I think Janet wants to talk to you.

The Annual Giving Campaign has ended and the Finance Committee has put together budget options for the Very Special Annual Meeting on May 20 (VSAM). After some review and comments from Board members, the revised budget options will be unveiled at the VSAM. In fact, by the time you read this, you will know what they are, since you will have attended the VSAM, right?

The revised Policy for cash handling was accepted and passed unanimously. That makes it official. The proposed policy for GA (General Assembly) delegates was published as needed last month and no comments or concerns were received. (I believe that might be a first!) This policy, too, was accepted and passed unanimously. (*Editor's Note: For more information on the UUA General Assembly, see page 12.*)

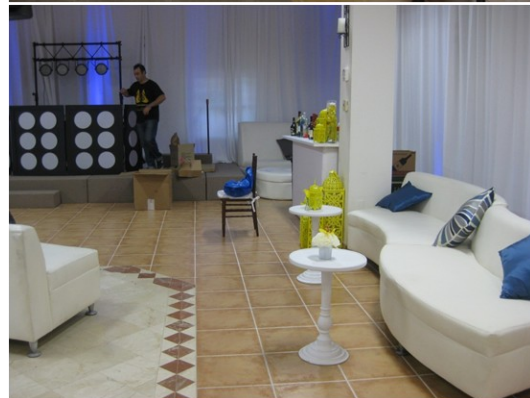
Since we were on a roll, we then went to the Top Secret portion of the meeting and practiced for the Board's Auction event, "River of Gas" coming soon (June 2<sup>nd</sup>) to a sanctuary near you. Good seats still available!

## RIVER OF GRASS... NIGHTCLUB?

Susan Juncosa, Facilities Management Committee Chair

On May 6, the River of Grass sanctuary and hospitality areas were transformed into a beautiful chapel on one side and a nightclub on the other. The occasion was the marriage of **Cory** and **Bill Rish's** daughter.

The Rish family and friends moved all our furniture into the multipurpose room while vendors arrived with 'pipe and drape' fittings, glamorous couches, crystal chandeliers and special lighting units. These pictures show a part of the change.



Please see Cory Rish to see pictures of the beautiful bride!

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Leana Bresnahan, Committee Chair

As we move into the summer season and the pace of congregational activities abates a bit, I look back on the concluding congregational year with happiness and satisfaction. I hope you do as well.



I would like to thank the faithful and hard-working members of the Membership Committee – **Elly Keane, Vickie Koutoulas, Bridget Morris, Lynn O'Brien, and Janet Schwartz** – for all that they have done this year in service to River of Grass.

From welcoming guests every Sunday morning and following up with phone calls to making sure we have greeters every Sunday to teaching classes and planning events, the work goes on every single week. They do the work joyfully and faithfully. I hope you will take the opportunity to thank each one of them when you see them.

Over the summer, we will conduct at least one Pathway to Membership class series and plan to have the next New Member Sunday in early September. We are also already planning the Welcome Back Picnic, an annual tradition at River of Grass, for Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Details on all these events will follow, so please check your weekly e-mails closely – and save the date! As always, please get in touch with me at [membership@riverofgrass.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrass.org) if you have any questions, need information, or have any suggestions for membership-related activities.

Remember if you love to meet and to talk to people, and if you would like to serve River of Grass by doing so, we are looking for you to join us on the Membership Committee!

## RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ AND COFFEEHOUSE

Gayle Giese, Concert Team



What an amazing season we have had at the River of Grass Café! We've had such great concerts every month! Thank you for coming and supporting our congregation through these fun events that bring great music to your favorite venue over and over again – and thanks to an amazing group of volunteers – the Concert Team – for making this happen each month.

<b>September 28</b>	Doug MacLeod, St. Louis/California artist, one of the greatest blues guitarists, singers and storytellers in the country.
<b>October 19</b>	Jennings and Keller, wonderful acoustic music duo from south Florida
<b>November 23</b>	Emma's Revolution, touring acoustic alternative folk duo. They have graciously performed and provided several worship services in the past.
<b>January 25</b>	Richard and Julie Smith - Richard is widely recognized as one of, if not, the greatest guitarist in the Chet Atkins tradition in the world. He will be appearing with wife Julie, a world-class cellist.
<b>February 15</b>	TBA
<b>March 15</b>	Karen Mal, brilliant singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Karen was a HUGE hit as a side musician for Ronny Cox early this year.
<b>April</b>	TBA
<b>May 17</b>	Amy Carol Webb, one of our favorite artists and guest performers. Many of you know Rev. Amy from the dynamic worship services she provides for our congregation.

Mark your calendars and plan to bring your friends to enjoy these great musical acts *and* the culinary art of the River of Grass Concert Chefs!

Most concert tickets are only \$15 in advance through the River of Grass [website](#) – and \$20 at the door. Concerts are the third Friday of each month. Doors open at 7:30pm. Music starts at 8:00pm. See you there!

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Wendell Abern

I have often heard South Florida referred to as the “sixth borough.” Some of our newest members help to perpetuate that reputation. Two and-a-half of our new members hail from New York. **Mindy Kaufman** was born in Cleveland, but sort of qualifies because she works for a company based in New Rochelle. (*For the non-New Yorkers out there, New York City has five boroughs.*)

### INGRID FURLONG

Originally from Brooklyn, Ingrid attended college in Boston, and then stayed there for 40 years. Her first career – directing and writing in theatre and television – focused primarily on folk tales and myths. Later, Ingrid says, “Work with the Agency for Instructional Development in the late 70s sparked a lifelong interest in how people learn.”

In 1981, Ingrid earned a Masters Degree in Education, and five years later established her own Instructional Design business, developing workshops and on-line interactive training for large companies. Her training programs covered “everything from how to disassemble a typewriter to processing a bank loan, to creating a responsive learning environment for pre-schoolers.”

Since retiring, Ingrid has worked with Partners in Health and developed a course for HIV positive mothers in Rwanda – a multi-faceted undertaking which included “preparing formula and managing social pressure related to bottle-feeding and another course on Human Rights as described in the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” (Observation: that’s a retirement?)

Ingrid’s interests include travel, theatre, film, contemporary art and folk art (which she collects). She also enjoys Book TV, reading non-fiction and watching Fareed Zakaria and Project Runway. She has three daughters and six grandchildren, who live in San Francisco, Ann Arbor, and Boston.

### MINDY KAUFMAN

A single mother with a ten year old son, Mindy has lived in Florida since 1970. She is in her ninth year with All State Promotions, the exclusive promotions agency for the Sidney Importing Company of New Rochelle, NY.

Mindy states, “I decided to join Unitarian Universalism after attending my first service on Easter Sunday. I was raised Jewish. However, as most of the others I’ve met in this congregation, I always felt this was just not fulfilling my spiritual needs, and I was always searching for something more. I wanted my son to be exposed to a variety of different backgrounds and after someone suggested I check out Unitarian Universalism, I did some research and felt that it was exactly what I had been searching for, for both myself and my son.

“I am looking forward to making some really great connections with people of the same mind frame, and hope that River of Grass will be our new spiritual home for a long time to come.”



### GEORGETTE POLAND

Georgette was born in Long Island, but lived most of her youth in Edison, New Jersey. She moved to South Florida in 1971 with her husband and three children. Georgette’s parents, Catholic, had her baptized as an infant, “but after becoming a widow in 1979,” she claims, “I questioned my religious faith and started searching for a spiritual community. I found the perfect one in 1966, the Unity Church of Hollywood. As a member of sixteen years, and leaving that church under loving, happy terms, it was time to join another church with like-minded people regarding world peace, social justice and continued growth. I found that at River of Grass, and am very excited to be a new member.”

Georgette graduated from Florida College of Natural Health in Pompano, and in 1988 sat for her boards in Massage Therapy. She worked as manager at the Williams Island Spa in Aventura and was one of the opening managers of the Diplomat Spa in Hollywood. She retired ten years ago, and now works part time at Palm Chiropractic, doing massage therapy for their patients.

Her three children and six grandchildren (two boys, four girls, aged 5 to 21 years) all live in Broward County. Georgette’s hobbies include writing poetry, flower and plant arranging, hiking and walking. As for her Maltese/Yorkie, “Coco is a four-pound bundle of joy in my life.”

Giving evidence of typical River of Grass humor, Georgette says, “At my age, I could have filled many more pages.”

## OUR RIVER OF GRASS FACILITY STEPS OUT

Esther Sampol, Community Awareness Chair



**O**ur River of Grass facility has a new web presence to promote rentals of our wonderful space! If you know someone who needs a place for a wedding or a commitment ceremony, a party or a class, or a (insert appropriate celebration here) - direct them to our website for more information.

Click [here](#) to explore the newly designed area on our River of Grass website dedicated to facility

rentals. (Oh, and if you have a picture or two from an event at our facility, please sent it to: [communityawareness@riverofgrass.org](mailto:communityawareness@riverofgrass.org) so that we can add it to the site.)

## WOMEN TAKE THE SUMMER OFF

Kathy Jens-Rochow, Women's Group

**T**he River of Grass Women's Group will be taking a summer break from June thru August.

In September, we will resume our regular meeting schedule, the 4th Monday of the month, at 7:30pm.

The Women's Group is open to all women of River of Grass and their women friends. We enjoy discussing topics of interest to all members and have a different one very month.

We hope that you will join us in September!



## SERVICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: AND SERVICE IS OUR LAW

Judi Oltmans and Alan Meerow, Service and Social Justice Co-Chairs

**T**hank you to all the River of Grass volunteers who helped at the Postal Food Drive on Saturday, May 12th at the Inverrary Post Office. They sorted, packed, and stacked 7,200 lbs. of canned food which will fill the shelves at LifeNet4Families. We had over 30 dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers come to help at the post office this year and it made the event a real success.



Across town, also on May 12th, we had another 10 River of Grass volunteers at the LifeNet4Families Saturday volunteer day! Thank you all for helping the needy in our community.



**T**he next LifeNet4Families volunteer day is on Saturday, July 7th from 8:45am to 11:00am. Volunteers are needed to stock the shelves and fill boxes for the needy. If you would like to volunteer you can sign up at the SSJC corner at the back of the sanctuary or contact us at [ssjc@riverofgrass.org](mailto:ssjc@riverofgrass.org).

You can continue bringing in canned food over the summer for LifeNet4Families and place it in the basket at the SSJC corner. LifeNet is in need of canned meat, peanut butter, and any kind of beans.

A note of recognition is in order to those SSJC members who were regular participants in our planning meetings and activities this year: **Steve Jens-Rochow, Maddi Gutfreind, Pixie Wright, Troy Gies, Diane Diaz, Scott May, and Elyse Brunt.** Thank you for your dedication and participation!



## AN AMAZING SEASON

Diane Lade, Full Moon Daughters Coordinator



South Florida may have some of the most beautiful waterways and subtropical nature preserves in the country. But in the summer, it's hot-hot-hot! So Full Moon Daughters, the River of Grass outdoor spirituality group for women and girls, as usual, will be taking the months of July and August off – although some of us will be hiking, biking, and camping on our vacations in cooler climes.

Our group, finishing its seventh congregational year, had an amazing 2011-12 season. Here are some of the highlights:

- ◆ We had record attendance at our February camping trip to Fort DeSoto Park, a natural barrier dune key at the mouth of Tampa Bay. About 30 Daughters of all ages gathered for a three-day weekend that included campfires, kayaking, nature walks, bike rides – and this despite the blustery weather.
- ◆ We held our first combination event with the dUUdes, an outdoor group for men and boys formed this past congregational year. (Hmmm, do we see a pattern here? We think the guys were jealous and decided to get in on the fun). The Daughters and dUUdes co-hosted a moonlight bike ride at Shark Valley in the Everglades on May 5 – and again, drew about 30 people. Congratulations to **Allen Giese** and **Linda Meerow** for organizing such a great trip, including a feast that was worth riding 15 miles for.
- ◆ We held our first rockin' fundraising Full Moon Masquerade in early 2012, where we boogied the night away. It won't be our last dance, though. It was so much fun we plan to bring it back this next year! Thanks to **Deb Giblin-Davis**, our amazing VJ **Susan Juncosa**, **Esther Sampol**, and **Judi Oltmans** for making it happen.

And best of all, we made lots of new friends. Our family grew this past year, in part because so many of our members brought women from outside of River of Grass to our gatherings. Now they are part of our fella-ship, too. Don't forget: You don't need to be a River of Grass member to join us. And you don't need to have a daughter to be a Daughter. We are not a mom-and-me group, although we love having mother-daughter teams join us.

Thanks to all event sponsors, camping site sponsors, great chefs who shared their skills with us, and members who offered rides and shared their gear – basically, everyone involved. We are blessed to know each other.

Plans already are underway for 2012-13. We go to the best camping spots in Florida, so we need to reserve early. Our three-day weekend trips will be: Nov 10-12 at Bahia Honda in the Florida Keys; and President's Day Weekend in February back at Fort DeSoto, near Tampa-St Pete. Reservations will be required for these trips, as space is limited. Announcements will be made through our e-mail list and River of Grass publications.

### Other dates to remember:

**June 9** A South Florida snorkeling day trip. Watch for details.

**September 15** The Brand New Year Brunch. This is our only "meeting" of the year, when we set our schedule and plan our events. We are a shared leadership group, so Daughters take turns sponsoring outings, spreading the workload.

**September 29** Shake it at the Full Moon Masquerade!

We will have other event dates after the brunch in September.

See you on the water, along the trail and under the stars.

Thinking of joining Full Moon Daughters this next year? Here is our ministry statement:

***"We seek to build an intergenerational community of women and girls, bonding through our shared love of nature. We welcome the personal search for meaning through activities and spiritual fellowship that connect us with the earth and each other. We honor our Seventh Principal through our respect of the interconnected web of life."***

As our ministry statement shows, we believe we are serving River of Grass' mission by building welcoming communities, encouraging the personal search for meaning, and living our UU values.

If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of, send a note to: [fullmoondaughters@riverofgrass.org](mailto:fullmoondaughters@riverofgrass.org). Include your email and telephone number (preferably a cell number, as we often need to communicate when we are on the road). We will be happy to add you to our email list.

## IF MY MOM COULD SEE ME NOW

Wendell Abern, Men's Group

**F**or those of you who missed the Mother's Day service on May 13, it was presented by the Men's Group, of which I am a ten-year member, and the guys asked me to prepare something special. Inspired by **Marjie Loring's** "Lighten Up!" service, I wrote some parodic lyrics to "If My Friends Could See Me Now!" from the Dorothy Fields/Cy Coleman Broadway musical, "Sweet Charity." Since several people asked if I would submit the lyrics for publication in our newsletter, they appear below.

The song was performed beautifully by **Gary Gonzalez, Steve Tepper, and Diane Lade.** (Note that where I manipulated the meter of the song to accommodate lyrics, I used no spaces between the words.)

### IF MY MOM COULD SEE ME NOW!

If she could see me now, that dear old mom of mine,  
I'm eatin' Easter ham and drinkin' Passover wine.  
We've got picnics, dinners, Easter parades,  
And duudes who hike and bike and think they own the Everglades.  
Oh, I'm a UU now, I've really stepped up in class,  
I've got a great fam'ly called River of Grass.  
*What a step-up, holy cow, she'd never believe it,  
If my mom could see me now!*



If she could see me now, that dear old mom I love,  
I've got a new faith now that fits me like a glove,  
When Christmas rolls around, we really deck the halls,  
And come each Passover, we make our own matzo balls.  
We honor every faith, we welcome anyone,  
Lots of holidays, and we respect every one.  
*What a step-up, holy cow! She'd never believe it,  
If my mom could see me now!*

If they could see us now, those dear old moms of ours,  
It's Mother's Day, we're decked out in their fav'rite flowers.  
All we can say is, "Mom come look at where we're at,  
You're welcome even if you're not a Democrat!"  
Our wives are here with us, we're watchin' what we say,  
'Cause they'll retaliate next month on Father's Day.  
*What a set-up, holy cow!  
They'd never believe it, if our moms could see us now!*

My son should let me know he's got a whole new style,  
Which I'd know all about, if he'd call once in a while.  
I love his wife, she's perfect, coy and demure,  
And think it's great that all the kids look like her!  
I hear their great new space has really snazzy décor,  
And it's the coolest place along State Road 84!"  
*What a step-up, holy cow! I'd never believe it,  
If I could only see it now!*

If they could see us now, those dear old moms of ours,  
It's Mother's Day, we're decked out in their fav'rite flowers.  
To show we love real moms could not come too soon,  
Because some wives believe their mom's a full moon.  
And will we pray on Kwanzaa? Well, I'm sure that we're gonna,  
Like we do each year on the day of Rosh Hashanah!  
*What a step-up, holy cow! They'd never believe it,  
If our moms could see us now!*

# JUNE 2012



Sat.	2nd	9:00am-12 noon 6:30-10:00pm	Congregational Work Day Board Murder Mystery at the River of GAS Saloon Auction Party
Sun.	3rd	10:00am	Blood Drive
Tue.	5th	4:00pm	River of GREENS
Sat.	9th	10:00am-12noon	Wildpine Covenant Group
Sun.	10th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45 am 11:30am-1:30pm	Sunday Service Sunday Classes Membership Committee
Mon.	11th	7:00-9:00pm	Finance Committee
Wed.	13th	7:00-9:00pm	Board Meeting
Thu.	14th	7:00-9:00pm	Men's Group
Sun.	17th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45 am 11:45-12:15pm	Sunday Service Sunday Classes Board Report Back

Tue.	19th	4:00pm	River of GREENS
Sun.	24th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45 am	Sunday Service Sunday Classes
Thu.	28th	7:00-9:00pm	Men's Group

## JULY HIGHLIGHTS

*Look to This Day*



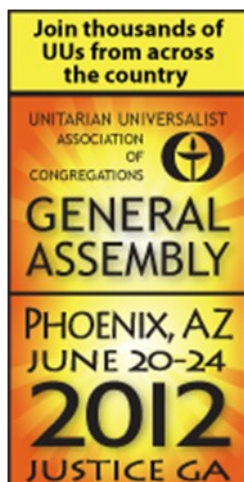
## SUUSI 2012

Radford, Virginia July 15-21  
Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute



*A view of the annular eclipse of May 20, 2012 as seen from Ogden, IA, United States. By Gummigoof [GFDL (<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>) or CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons.*

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA: JUNE 20-24, 2012



**G**eneral Assembly (GA) 2012 will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregations. But, if you are not able to attend in person, the next best thing is to attend from your home or office – via your computer!

Events at General Assembly will be covered extensively on UUA.org and by the UU World. The UU World will provide timely [reports and articles](#) on their [GA Blog](#), illustrated by some striking selections from their photo stream on [Flickr](#).

The following events will be available via live-streaming on UUA.org. (Please note that all times are local, Mountain Standard Time (not Mountain Daylight Time), which is the same as Pacific Daylight Time.)

- ◆ Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
**Opening Celebration/Plenary I**
- ◆ Thursday, June 21, 7:45 to 8:30 a.m.  
**Plenary II**
- ◆ Thursday, June 21, 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.  
**Worship: May All Beings Be At Ease: On Co-creation**
- ◆ Thursday, June 21, 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.  
**“Synergy Worship: The Call Across All Ages”**
- ◆ Friday, June 22, 7:45 to 8:30 a.m.  
**Worshipping Together, Working Together for Social Justice**
- ◆ Friday, June 22, 8:30 to 10:15 a.m.  
**Plenary III**
- ◆ Friday, June 22, 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
**Candidates Forum**
- ◆ Friday, June 22, 5:00 to 6:15 p.m.  
[Service of the Living Tradition](#)
- ◆ Saturday, June 23, 7:45 to 8:30 a.m.  
**Worship: 50 Ways to Cross a Border**
- ◆ Saturday, June 23, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.  
**Plenary IV**
- ◆ Saturday, June 23, 4:45 to 5:15 p.m.  
**Sing for Justice!**
- ◆ Saturday, June 23, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.  
[Ware Lecture](#)
- ◆ Saturday, June 23, 7:30 to 8:45 p.m.  
**Saturday Evening Worship**
- ◆ Sunday, June 24, 9:00 to 10:15 a.m.  
**Sunday Morning Worship**
- ◆ Sunday, June 24, 2:15 to 6:00 p.m.  
**Plenary V**
- ◆ Sunday, June 24, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
**Closing Celebration**