



Celebrating  
26 Years

# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

Riverofgrassuu.org 954-723-7877

Office@riverofgrassuu.org

**Welcome** to our River of Grass Family

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

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### Thursday, September 11, 2025

Sunday Service, September 14, 2025

#### **A Blind Service – We All Belong**

*“Use your eyes as if tomorrow you will be stricken blind.”*

Helen Keller

Close your eyes and sit in silence for a while.

What information can you gather from the world around you?

Use your other senses.

Smell nature if you go outside. Close your eyes. Feel the dirt or sidewalk on your feet. Sit in a dark room and listen to the sounds around you. Sit with your eyes closed and hold an orange or other object. Try to learn about it without sight.

We really need to remember we have other senses.

Otherwise, what would you do if you lost YOUR sight?

Sandy & Rick Toriano, from UU Palm Beach, who are blind, will share their experience in a Sunday service.

In order to appreciate the blind experience more, there will be no PowerPoint, lyrics, or use of hymnals. It may be challenging.

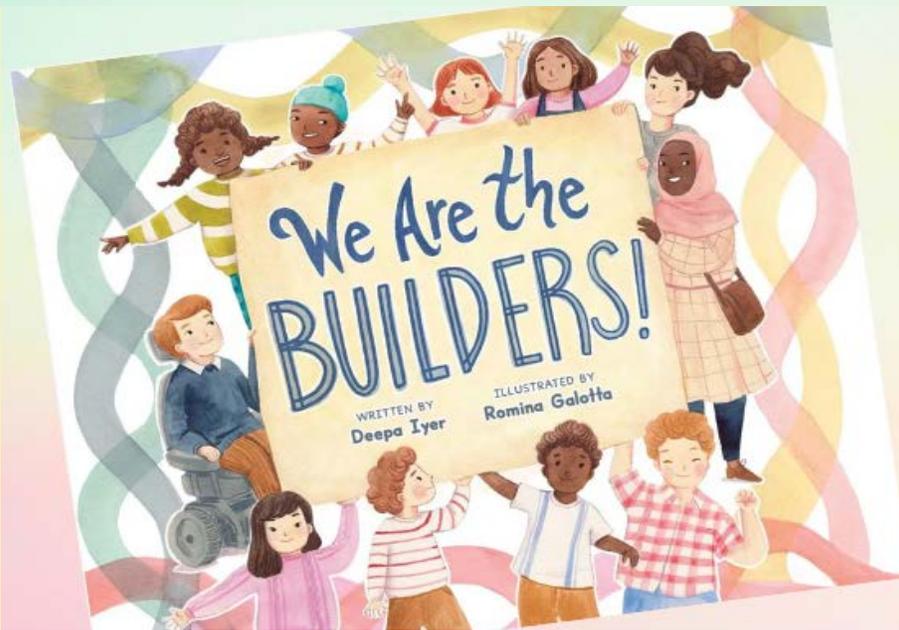
## Our Mission

Nurture our spirits; love intentionally; create a just & sustainable world.

Come as you are Sunday morning at 10:30 – either **in-person in Davie** (info below) or **virtually on Zoom** (link below).

- 11850 W State Road 84, Suite A-9, Davie, FL 33325
- Children's & youth's Faith Development at 10:30. Childcare provided.

*Introducing this year's UUA Common Read  
for children and youth:*



*Join us this Sunday  
as we explore the  
ways that we can  
work together to  
make real change  
in our communities.*

For more information about our FD program, contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

## Our Covenant

Love is the spirit of this congregation and service is its law.  
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,  
To seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

El Amor es el espíritu de esta congregación  
y el servicio su ley principal.

Esta es nuestra gran promesa: vivir juntos en paz, buscar la  
verdad a través del amor, y ayudarnos mutuamente.

Worship Service:

<https://zoom.us/s/91663081076#success>

Meeting ID: 916 6308 1076.

<https://www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu>

Meditation:

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



Let's support mental health together:  
Join Linda Lathroum and TEAM TsuNAMI.  
Let's walk together for mental health.

**Saturday, October 4, 8am**

Nova Southeastern University  
Alan Sherman Library  
3100 Ray Ferrero Jr. Blvd., Davie, FL 33314

Meet at Allen Giese's Northstar Financial Planners tent.

[justiceseekers@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:justiceseekers@riverofgrassuu.org)

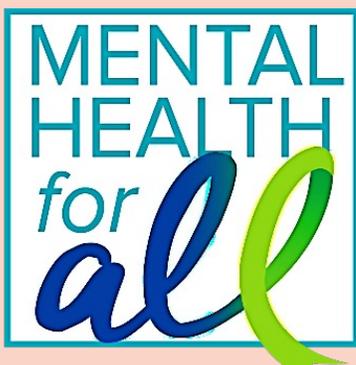
*It's more than a walk.*

*It's a lifetime's journey – one that will leave a lasting  
impact on the mental health of our community.*

*Together, we'll walk this path, hand in hand!*

**NAMIWalks Broward County**

**Go to the link below to support them and/or  
join her team**



Let's support the mission and the work  
that NAMI Broward does to provide free  
services to people with mental illness  
and their families in Broward County.

<https://www.namiwalks.org/teams/76954>

# EMMA'S REVOLUTION

"PAT'S SONGS WILL BE SUNG WELL INTO THE 22ND CENTURY"  
~ PETE SEEGER

**30 Gen Admission seats still available**



## WE ARE THE POWER

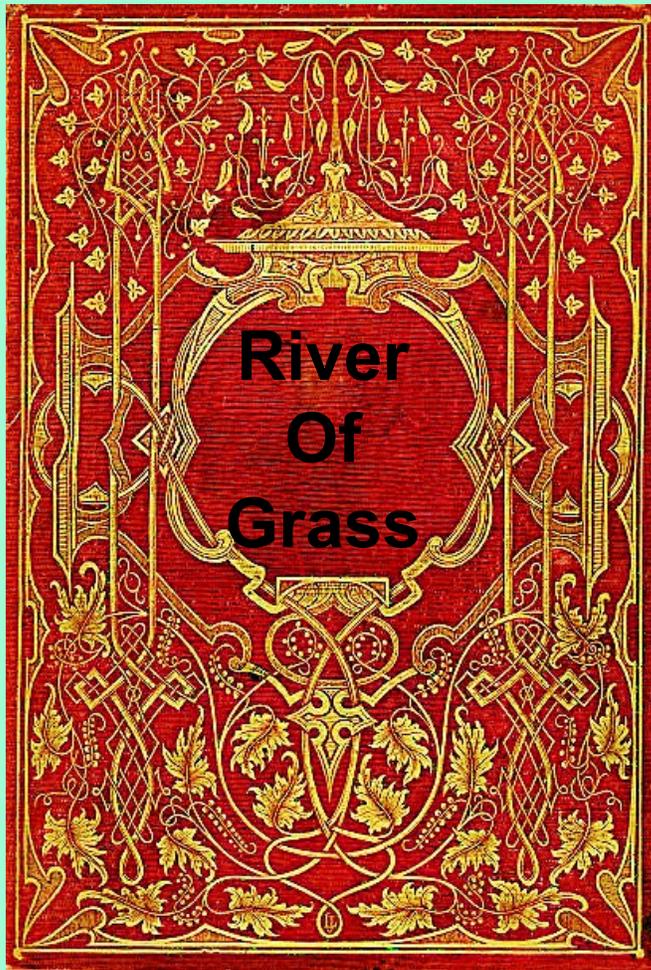
**FRI SEPT 12TH 7PM** DOORS 6PM

RIVER OF GRASS UU CAFÉ  
11850 STATE ROAD 84 SUITE A9 DAVIE

\$25 THEATER SEATING | \$30 VIP TABLE | \$35 AT THE DOOR

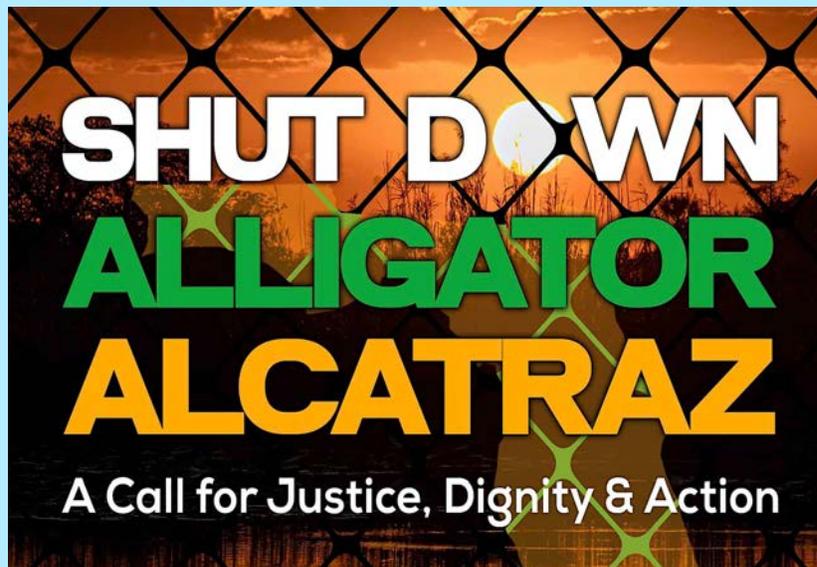
NO ONE TURNED AWAY. DINNER AVAIL FOR PURCHASE

TIX: [RIVEROFGRASSUU.ORG/EMMAS-REVOLUTION](http://RIVEROFGRASSUU.ORG/EMMAS-REVOLUTION)



# New Member Celebration Sunday, September 28, 2025

If you are interested in joining  
River of Grass UU Congregation  
please contact Leana Bresnahan at  
[membership@riverofrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofrassuu.org)



**Big Cypress National Preserve  
Interfaith Prayer Vigil  
Every Sunday 5pm**

Meet at A-9 on 9/14 at 3:15pm to carpool.

A small group of RoG Justice Seekers attended on 9/7.  
There were about 70 people in attendance overall.

The service was led by Rev. Tony Fisher of the UU Church  
of Greater Naples with participation by about  
8 other clergy.

We met UUs from Naples, Miami and Fort Myers.

In a moving prayer, Betty Osceola of the Miccosukee  
Indian Tribe of Florida called for us to come together in  
unity to care for the earth and all her creatures.

**This week, Emma's Revolution will lead us in song. Let's  
have a larger group! Karen and Leana can provide tips.**

[justiceseekers@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:justiceseekers@riverofgrassuu.org)



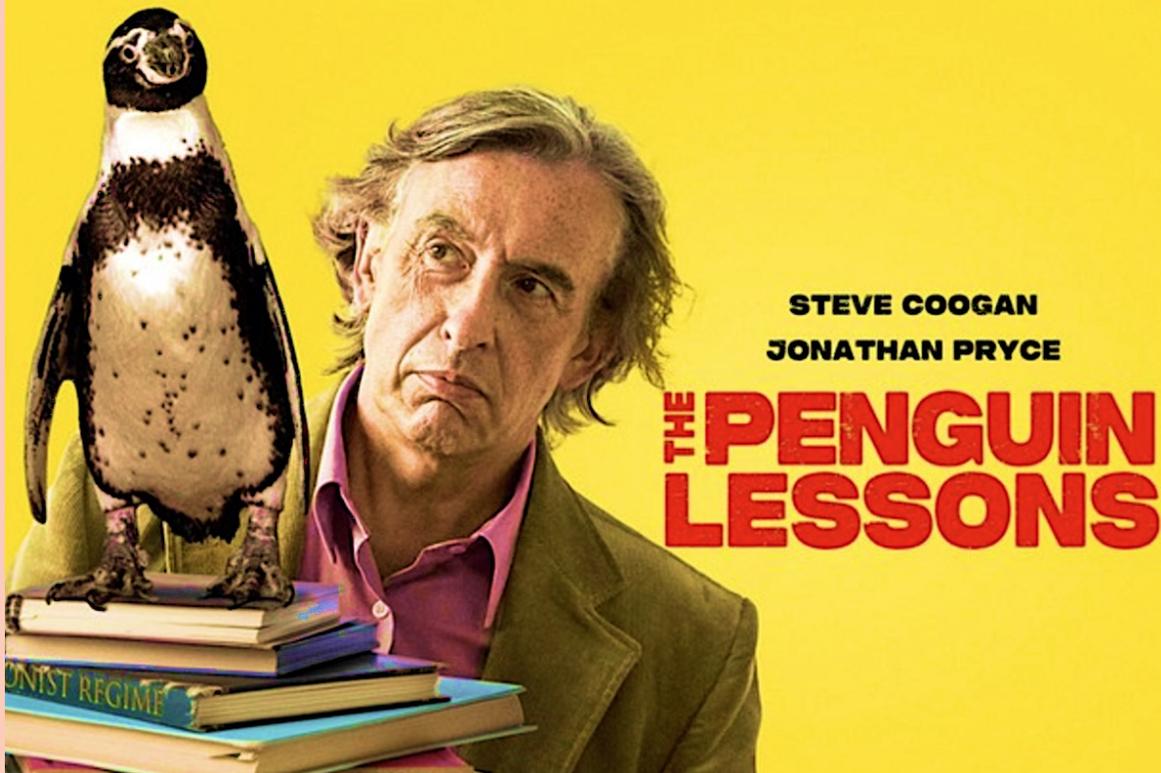
Leana and Ken Bresnahan, Karen Gonzalez and Andy Bunce





Betty Osceola





## THE PENGUIN LESSONS

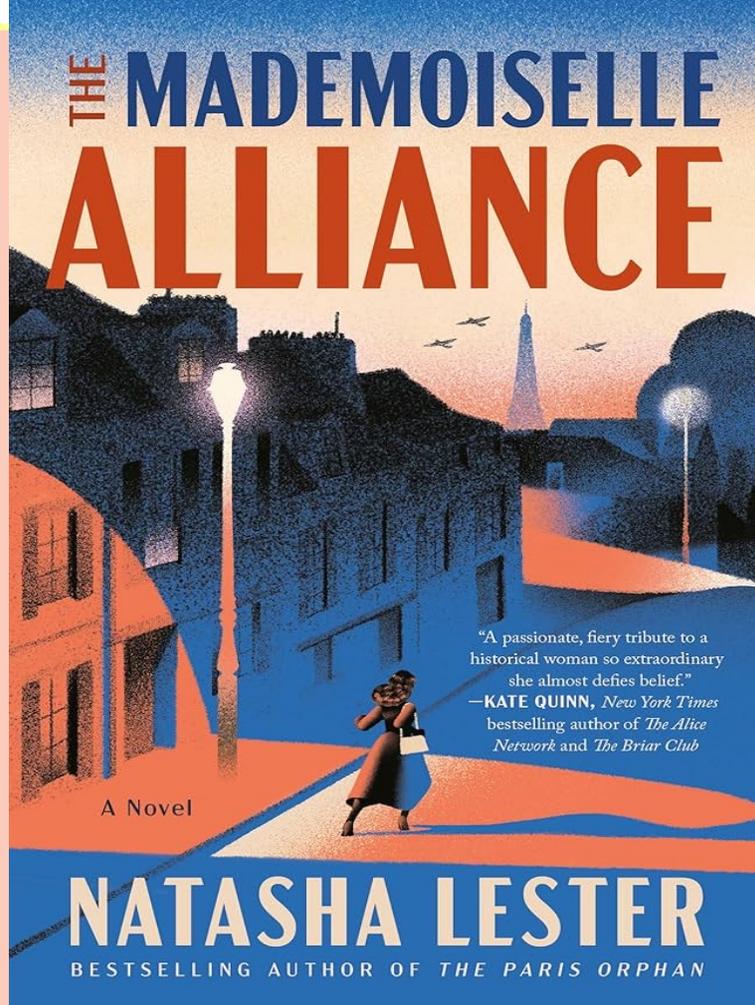
A disillusioned Englishman who goes to teach in a boy's school in a cataclysmic period in Argentina in 1976 finds his life transformed when he rescues an orphaned penguin from the beach.

A true story, the students are transformed by the penguin from sullen to eagerly attentive.

Netflix + Amazon Directed by Peter Cattaneo.

mUUVies will discuss *The Penguin Lessons* on Thursday, September 11, at 7pm on Zoom.

Steve and Kathy Jens-Rochow  
[muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org)



bUUKies September read is

## **The Mademoiselle Alliance** by Diane Hanks

How did a young Parisian mother, celebrated for her beauty and glamour, come to lead the largest spy network in occupied France?

She steps into the role of leader of what is now known as Alliance, despite the naysayers who doubt a woman's ability to do so.

bUUKies will discuss

**The Mademoiselle Alliance** on Wed, Sept 24, 7p

Zoom link [bUUKies@riverofgrassu.org](mailto:bUUKies@riverofgrassu.org)

Steve Jens-Rochow



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, September 11, 6pm Zoom **Mindfulness for Today's World** Carolyn Santangelo and Scott May

Thursday, September 11, 7pm Zoom **mUUvies The Penguin Lessons** Steve Jens-Rochow

Friday, September 12, 7pm A-9 **River of Grass Café Emma's Revolution** Ken Bresnahan

Sunday, September 14, 10:30am A-9+Zoom **Worship Service Blindness** Kathy Jens-Rochow

Sunday, September 14, 10:30am A-9 + Zoom **We Are the Builders** Kid's Comon Read **Children and Youth Faith Development** Karen Gonzalez

Thursday, September 18, 6pm Zoom **Mindfulness for Today's World** Carolyn Santangelo and Scott May

Thursday, September 18, 7pm Zoom+A-9 **Men's Group** Ken Bresnahan

Sunday, September 21, 10:30pm A-9 + Zoom **Worship Service Building our UU Identity - Reflections on General Assembly** Leana Bresnahan, Karen Gonzalez, Andrew Meit, Robert Smith

Sunday, September 21, 10:30am A-9 + Zoom **Children and Youth Faith Development** Karen Gonzalez

Sunday, September 21, 12 noon A-9 **UUA's Common Read Social Change Now** Karen Gonzalez

Carolyn Santangelo & Scott May

Mindfulness for Today's World

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/551319571?pwd=TDdRdmhML3FoVVEvbNkRRC9qRIJPQT09>

Gary Gonzalez <https://riverofgrassuu.org/sunday-meditation.html>

Worship Service:

<https://zoom.us/s/91663081076#success>

Meeting ID: 916 6308 1076.

<https://www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu>

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

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

[membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org)

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

[mUUvies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:mUUvies@riverofgrassuu.org)

[bUUkies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:bUUkies@riverofgrassuu.org)

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

Men's Group

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

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

[worship@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:worship@riverofgrassuu.org)

Diane Lade [fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org)

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

Elly Keane [auction@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:auction@riverofgrassuu.org)

## Order of Service September 14, 2025

### **Morning Sing**

#188 Come, Come, Whoever You Are; Words: Rumi, Music: Lynn Adair Ungar

#1031 Filled with Loving Kindness; Words: Buddhist meditation, Music: Ian W. Riddell

Oh, Let Us Gather Words and Music by RevAmy Carol Webb

### **Ringing of the Chimes**

**Prelude** "Let It Be" Words & Music: John Lennon/Paul McCartney

### **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

**Opening Music** #123 Spirit of Life; Words and Music by Carolyn McDade

### **Chalice Lighting**

We light our flaming chalice

To illuminate the world we seek

In the search of truth, may we be just,

In the search for justice, may we be loving and,

In loving, may we find peace

*Rev. Elizabeth McMaster*

### **Covenant**

**Wisdom Story** "The Black Book of Colors" by Menena Cottin and Rosana Faria

### **Sing Children to Classrooms**

### **Offering/Offertory**

**Deepening Music** Draw the Circle Wide; by Gordon Light

### **Candles of Community**

### **Stones of Reflection**

### **Pastoral Response**

**Message** We All Belong. Rick & Sandy Toriano

**Closing Music** #6 Just as Long as I Have Breath; Words: Alicia Carpenter,

Music: Johanne Ebeling

**Closing Words** "I wish for you" by Charles S Stephen, Jr

### **Extinguishing the Chalice**

### **Announcements**

### **Shine On**

**Q&A** Sandy & Rick

### **Invite to Hospitality**

### **Music Reprise**



## *Green Tip of the Week*

### **Choose Greener Transportation**

[The Union of Concerned Scientists](#) points out that our cars and trucks make up “nearly one-fifth of all U.S. carbon emissions.” Naturally, one of the best ways to cut down on your family’s contributions to this carbon production is to park the car and walk, ride a bike or use an electric vehicle.



Church of the  
Larger Fellowship

### **Church of the Larger Fellowship**

is the UU congregation without walls, connecting people all over the world for spiritual growth, worship, learning, and mutual support.

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

CLF’s [www.questformeaning.org](http://www.questformeaning.org) site engages people of all ages and stages in Unitarian Universalism, and its many ministries nurture depth and meaning in places as diverse as family dinner tables, prison cells, and military mess halls.



To see all of the upcoming events at River of Grass, please visit the calendar on our website [riverofgrassuu.org](http://riverofgrassuu.org)  
River of Grass UU Congregation is on FaceBook.  
For more information, please contact us at [communityawareness@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:communityawareness@riverofgrassuu.org).

*Unsubscribe* - If you do not wish to receive this weekly email, please send an email to [office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org) and you will be removed.

*Announcements wishing to be sent out in this weekly congregation-wide newsletter should be e-mailed to [WeeklyEmail@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:WeeklyEmail@riverofgrassuu.org), 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.*

[president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org)

Steve Jens-Rochow, Editor  
[newsletter@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:newsletter@riverofgrassuu.org)



# Leana's Letter



## Bisexual Pride Day September 23

Bisexual Day of Visibility, also known as Bi Visibility Day or Celebrate Bisexuality Day, will be on September 23, 2025. This day is observed annually to recognize and celebrate the bisexual+ community and its history. It's a time to acknowledge the experiences and resilience of bisexual individuals and promote acceptance of the broader bi+ community (including pansexual, omnisexual, fluid, and queer individuals)

