

River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
11850 W State Rd 84, Ste A9, Davie, FL 33325

WELCOME TO OUR RIVER OF GRASS FAMILY. WELCOME TO OUR WARMTH. WELCOME HOME!

River of Grass Weekly Update – January 18, 2024

Are We There Yet Bending the Arc 2024

I do not pretend to understand the moral universe.
The arc is a long one. I cannot calculate the curve by experience of sight.
I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see
I am sure it bends toward justice.
- Theodore Parker

Steady progress, in an ever-advancing upward arc – that’s how so many of us, too many of us, thought the world would trend throughout our lifetimes. And then. And then, we began to learn that we are not exempt from the vagaries of human history, and that, no, we are not necessarily who and what we thought we were as we look around at where we expected the arc of justice to be reaching right about now, more than a little shocked to realize we are not – and in fact are at risk of sliding backward in dangerous ways.

So what now? Join us this Sunday at 10:30! – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Heritage Hall or virtually on Zoom to explore our part in bending the arc of the universe a bit more toward justice in our time. We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

In person at:

- Our Sunday morning rental space is located at the Old Davie Schoolhouse
- 6650 Griffin Road, Davie, FL 33314 ([Click for Directions](#))
- Service will begin at **10:30 AM**
- Childcare will be provided.

Use the Zoom link below to gather with us virtually in Zoom. Catch us on Facebook live on our [facebook page](#).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Meeting ID: 961 564 350; Password: 873805

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, January 21, 2024 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – Tell Them About the Dream - Rev. Amy Carol Webb

<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Faith Development for Kids and Youth:

This Sunday will not be our usual Third Sunday Intergenerational Worship service. Instead, in our Small Group for Kids, we'll explore the differences between equity, equality and justice. Our new Unitarian Universalist Values statements remind us of how important it is for us to work to bring these ideals to life in our communities.

***Justice:** We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.*

***Equity:** We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.*

For more information about our Faith Development program for kids and teens, contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Flowing River Sangha:

The Flowing River Sangha is back! We'll meet **Sunday mornings at 8:30 am** under the Old Davie Schoolhouse pavilion while our new space is being renovated. Come learn and practice the cultivation of present-moment awareness with an experienced meditator and group facilitator, Gary Gonzalez, who has been leading mindfulness meditation groups since 2014. There will be cool air provided by a portable misting fan. It's a BYOC event (bring your own cushion or chair) every Sunday morning at 8:30. You are also welcome to join via Zoom at the following link: [Flowing River Sangha Zoom Link](#).

UUA's 30 Days of Love Has Started:

The UUA's Side With Love 30 Days of Love has started. sidewithlove.org This year's theme is "Imagining an Interdependent Future." With each new year, we move into an intentional holy time of spiritual nourishment, contemplation, and embodiment. We enter 2024 witnessing unconscionable suffering and injustice at a scale that calls us all to deeply reimagine a future where we all thrive. The only way through this moment is together, bound by a commitment to our shared humanity and interdependence. 30 Days of Love offers a place to steady and stretch as we faithfully journey toward wholeness and collective liberation.

[In the first week, we explore the theme of "safety" and how it shows up in our world and our decriminalization work.](#)

In "Letters from a Birmingham Jail," Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words and context offer us an important lesson. First, that we need each other to survive. Second, we learn that when you challenge a usurped power held by the state, criminalization is a routine tactic to repress a people rising up to be free. Today, we are experiencing a contest for power: accountable collective governance for all or power organized and held by the few.

If you have any questions please contact Steve Jens-Rochow ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org.



30 Days of Love Week One: January 15 – January 21



Weekly Theme Safety :: Decriminalization

25th Anniversary:

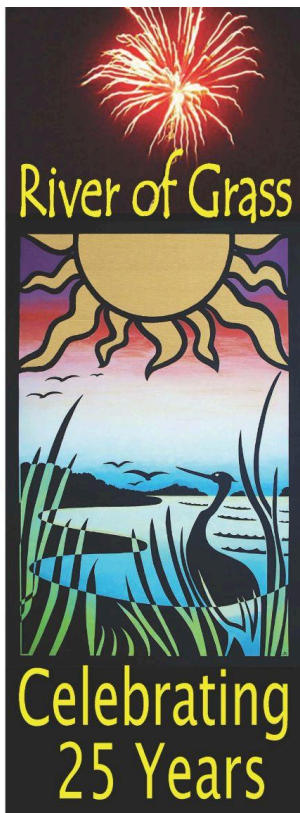
CELEBRATING OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY – **Please sign up now** for our multi-day, multi-event 25th Anniversary celebration and AUCTION to take place February 16-18, 2024.

You can check out the link below to find details of Anniversary events, including who our very special guest for the weekend will be; fill out the form to RSVP or regret; AND click on the embedded link to sign up and purchase tickets for the Saturday night celebration and AUCTION.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf7H_luQmxWG7p30d5sxF5P9sM2QWsr004Wp0L8HVIN0N0ltw/vi/ewform?usp=sharing

Please RSVP NOW! (It is so helpful for planning to know how many people plan to attend...and also let us know how you'd like to help!)

Questions? Contact membership@riverofgrassuu.org or auction@riverofgrassuu.org.



Celebration and Auction

February 17, 2024

Auction will be both in person and online



Now accepting donations



Email your donations to:
auction@riverofgrassuu.org
Include description, value,
photo, date and location of
party offered.

Questions? Contact Kathy Jens-Rochow
at auction@riverofgrassuu.org.

River of Grass Marches in the MLK Parade:

Thanks to Bev Kaufman, and Jane and Bill Garside-Foy for marching in the MLK Parade Monday. They decorated the River Float with our signs. They represented the River's commitment to Racial Justice by marching. Along the way a woman yelled "Hi Steve". She was the MLK Memorial Committee member that called me urging River of Grass to participate again this year. Thanks especially to Bev for taking the signs off at the end.

When Bev and I approached the staging area there was a police barricade. I said, "we are in the parade so we need to go through." A police woman said, "Really, THIS car is in the parade?" yes.

The crowds were the largest that I have ever seen. Their reception was warm and enthusiastic and the temperature was warm.

MLK's Letter from the Birmingham Jail said: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

If you have any questions please contact Steve Jens-Rochow ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org.



Join us at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, a Magical UU Place and Experience near Highlands, NC

- **Join a passionate Mountain team** and be part of making a difference for individuals and our wider world! Available positions and application at <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs> - competitive compensation, including medical insurance and retirement.
 - **Register today for Spring Youth CONferences.** Gather with youth from around the southeast. <https://www.themountainrlc.org/cons>
 - Summer Camps for kids and adults, Music Week, Volunteer Work Weekend, etc. Now is the time to lock in your spot for meaningful 2024 programming at The Mountain! <https://www.themountainrlc.org/upcoming-events>
- We look forward to seeing you at The Mountain soon! themountainrlc.org or 828.526.5838

Other Events:

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/>

RoG Men's Group – We will continue to meet **in person at 7:00 pm in Suite A9, 595 Park of Commerce:** official address is 11850 SR 84, Suite A9, Davie, FL 33325 (GPS will get you to the 4-building complex. We're in the 1st Building, middle suite.) Our optional pre-meeting dinner will be at our own **Lester's Diner: 1393 NW 136th Ave, Sunrise, FL 33323.** We'll meet there at 5:30pm. We are a lay-led group that looks to our members for discussion topics. **This week's topic: Home.** All who identify male are invited to join us! We are meeting tonight, **Thursday, Jan 18th, 7:00 to 8:30 PM**, in person or via [Zoom Meeting](#). If you're joining for dinner, please email Ken Bresnahan, group facilitator, so he can coordinate space.) The Zoom Meeting Room will open at 7:00 pm. Questions: contact Ken; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org.

Full Moon Daughters – Let's get out and celebrate Mother Nature during South Florida's best season – winter! Join the Full Moon Daughters for our Welleby Sunny Fun Day al fresco potluck brunch on **Saturday, Jan 20th.** The good times begin at **11:00 am in our own pavilion at Welleby Park, 11100 NW 44th Street in Sunrise.** We will share yummy favorite dishes, enjoy playing board games and walking together, and hope to do some drumming! If you participate in a drum circle, we are looking for a drum leader for this outing. All women and girls, those who identify as female or are non-binary are welcome. To let us know you are coming, or for more details, please email; fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org.

MUUies – February title is "The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson". This is a 2017 American documentary film directed by David France.

It chronicles Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, prominent figures in the Stonewall riots, gay liberation and the transgender rights movement in New York City from the 1960s to the 1990s. The film centers on activist Victoria Cruz's investigation into Johnson's death in 1992, which was initially ruled a suicide by police despite suspicious circumstances. [Available on Netflix.](#)



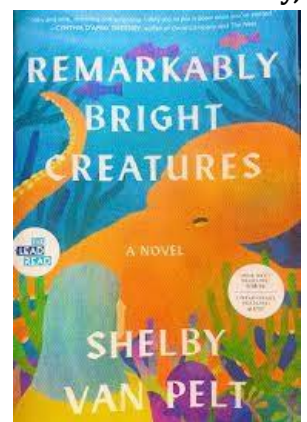
MUUives for Change will discuss "The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson" on **Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 PM.** Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow mUUives@riverofgrassuu.org if you will attend the Discussion. Join our Zoom Meeting at 7:00 PM: [Zoom Link](#). Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; Passcode: 537288; One tap mobile: +16465588656,,84418593114# US (New York); Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>.

BUUKies February Read – "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. We will meet on Wednesday, February 21st at 7:00 pm to discuss this bUUK. [River BUUKies Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

One tap mobile: +13017158592,,92657017488#,,,,*746613# US (Washington DC)

This is such a remarkable, original story! One of the main characters is an octopus! After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she, to keep busy, began working the night cleaner shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium. Remarkably, Bright Creatures is a book revolving around a mischievous giant pacific octopus in a small town aquarium, attended by a lovely old lady who cleans it. The two unlikely friends navigate their individual isolated lives, as both deal with heartbreak and other tensions that everyone is familiar with.



Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.

***SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** It takes over 50 years for leather shoes to break down in a landfill. Be sure to buy quality comfortable shoes, not just the latest fashion. And as they wear, take them to the shoe repair shop. In the long run, it will help your feet, save you money, and help the environment.*

To see all of the upcoming events at River of Grass, please visit the calendar on our website at riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html. **River of Grass UU Congregation** is on [Facebook](#) (LIKE us) and [Twitter](#) (FOLLOW Us). For more information, please contact communityawareness@riverofgrassuu.org.

Unsubscribe - If you do not wish to receive this weekly email, please send an email and we will remove you from the mailing list, office@riverofgrassuu.org.

Announcements to be sent out in the weekly congregation-wide update should be e-mailed to WeeklyEmail@RiverofGrassUU.org by 12 pm Wednesday. All announcements will pertain to congregational life and affiliated groups and will be for activities or events occurring within two weeks of the e-mail. Outside groups and individuals, wishing to use this vehicle of congregation-wide communication, must have the approval of the Board of Trustees.

River of Grass UU Congregation
6650 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33314 (Sunday Morning Service Location)
11850 W St Rd 84, Ste A9, Davie, FL 33325 (Office & Mailing Location)
954.723.7877 - office@riverofgrassuu.org