

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 – February 1, 2024

We're Not Lost, We're Exploring Bending the Arc 2024

There is a thread you follow.
While you hold it you can't get lost.
– William Stafford

In this year of making new maps, in the wake of constant shift and change for the last four years – in the world, in our congregation, and within ourselves – with so many societal “landmarks” gone or sincerely altered, it’s not surprising we may look up and feel we’re just not sure where we are anymore. And yet, here we are. Our society so prizes “knowing,” so reveres “having a plan (and sticking to it),” so worships “order” and vaunts “tradition.” If those things aren’t our current reality, it’s easy to conclude we must be lost. What might happen if we reframed this moment in our history as “exploring?” What if our journey of belonging were more spacious and expansive and inviting of new possibilities in new directions and ways of being waiting to be discovered together in Beloved Community?

Gather with us to keep exploring as we launch February’s theme of “Belonging” this Sunday at 10:30! – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Heritage Hall or virtually on Zoom. 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/j/ab3E9JRtb9>

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, February 4, 2024 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – We're Not Lost, We're Exploring: Bending the Arc 2024 - Rev. Amy Carol Webb
<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Faith Development for Kids and Youth:

In Sunday's Small Group for Kids, we'll explore the differences between comforting love (the type of love that feels good and allows us to feel safe, love that is offered through hugs and smiles and high-fives from family and friends) and liberating love (the kind of love that pulls us to take action or make choices). Our faith sees Love as such an important value of our religion that we have made sure to not only lift it up by name, but also place it in the center of our newly proposed Values. For more information about our Faith Development program, contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.



"Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love."

Flowing River Sangha: We 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](#).

Nominating Committee Announces the River of Grass Slate for 2024-25:

Board of Trustees:

- **President 2 year term** – Leana Bresnahan
- **Secretary - second year of 2 year term** – Geri Mikulski
- **Treasurer 2 year term** – Ahysa Boutron
- **Trustee - second year of 2 year term** – Andrew Meit
- **Trustee - second year of 2 year term** – Andy Perez
- **Trustee 2 year term** – Audrey Stang
- **Trustee 2 year term** – Mindy Lawless Coker
- Note: Maureen Lundell is continuing as Vice President

Nominating Committee:

- 1 year term – Kathy Jens-Rochow
- 1 year term – Diane Lade
- 1 year term – Peter Fox

This slate will be elected at our Annual Meeting on May 19, 2024. Thanks to the Nominating Committee for their dedicated service choosing our leaders as the River begins its second 25 years.

2024 Nominating Committee: Kristine Barkley; Leana Bresnahan; Peter Fox; Steve Jens-Rochow, Chair; Diane Lade and Barbara Ratchford.

For questions contact Steve Jens-Rochow nominating@riverofgrassuu.org.

Welcome to the [third week](#) of 30 Days of Love!

In this third week, we explore the theme of “possibility” and how it shows up in our world and our work for LGBTQIA+, reproductive, gender, and disability justice. 30 Days of Love goes from Martin Luther King Day to Valentine's Day.

Imagine a world where every body – **every body** - was treated as truly sacred. Every body, whatever shape, size, expression, ability - was revered as one of the infinite expressions of the Divine. A reflection of God. An opportunity to celebrate the holy diversity that makes up our humanity.

When we witness our shared humanity, we are called to care, to defend, protect, and affirm OUR very existence and our inherent worth. In this world, every body is cared for. Where every body has access to the resources they need to thrive. **Every body – every body - is held in a truly liberating love.**

Unfortunately, we know that the world as it is today does not treat every body as sacred. The nature of the attacks on our sacred bodies means that those of us who live at the intersections of multiple marginalized identities face this violence on all aspects of our being. Let's dream of a world where every body thrives.

And yet, it is within this fight where we can remind ourselves that another world is possible, but only if we commit to creating it together. Changing the world has always happened when the few become the many. When we each find our common humanity in the strength of our values.

Go to this week's actions to make this happen: [This week's offerings](#)

OR <https://sidewithlove.org/week-three-january-29-february-4>.

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

30 Days of Love
Week Three: January 29 - February 4

Weekly Theme
Possibility :: Bodily Autonomy

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 is Black Aids Awareness Day:

The first National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) was marked in 1999 as a grassroots-education effort to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and treatment in communities of color. It is the same year that the Black AIDS Institute was created to end HIV in Black communities.

After 21 years, we know now what we knew then – you cannot end HIV without addressing racial injustice, investing in Black communities, expediting biomedical information and advancements, and uplifting Black leadership.

Source: [Black Aids Institute](#)

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.**

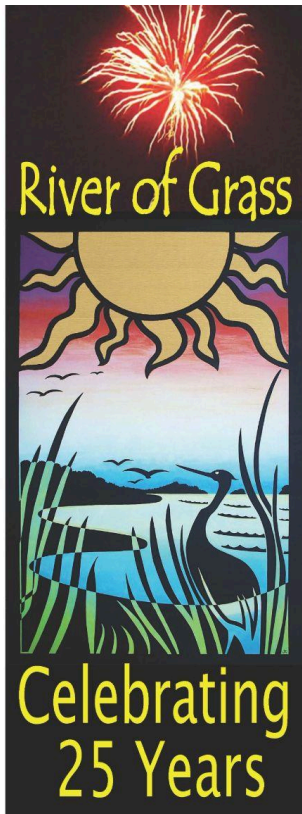
You can check out the link below to find details of Anniversary events, including who our very special guest for the weekend will be; fill out the form to RSVP or regret; AND click on the embedded link to sign up and purchase tickets for the Saturday night celebration and AUCTION.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf7H_IuQmxWG7p30d5sxF5P9sM2QWsr004Wp0L8HVIN0N0ltw/viwwform?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.

General Assembly Delegate:

General Assembly is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of Unitarian Universalists and partners that attend each June. Attendees leave with a renewed sense of energy, inspiration, and innovative ideas to take back to their congregations and communities.

General Assembly 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. Please join us online Wednesday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024 for this 4-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our virtual exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who participate. You'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large!

River of Grass has 3 delegate openings. Registration fee will be paid for.

The Board will appoint our delegates. Please email Kathy at president@riverofgrassuu.org if you are interested.

But, all are welcome to attend. You don't have to be a delegate to participate in this fantastic experience. Ask Karen Gonzalez, Rev. Amy, Geri Mikulski, Kathy Jens-Rochow about their experiences at previous General Assemblies.

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.insightinstitute.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: *Facing Challenges***. All who identify male are invited to join us! We are meeting next week, **Thursday, Feb 1st, 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.

The Women's Group will be meeting **this Sunday, Feb 4th, at 7:00 PM**. We will be multi-platform, meeting both in person and virtually. Our topic will be "Sowing the seeds in our 2024 garden. What do you want to grow in your garden this year?" *Our definition of "women" is expansive and includes anyone who feels that they belong in this space, including those who identify as nonbinary*. The purpose of this group is to deepen our personal connections through shared discussions. Listening to each person's experience. For more information or the link, contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at womensgroup@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](#).



MUUVies 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 mUUVies@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>.

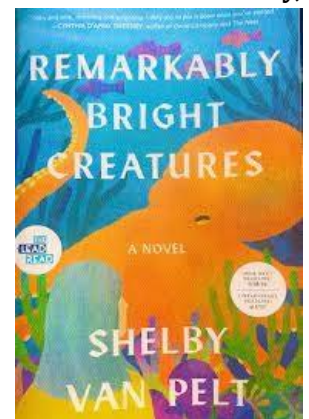
BUUKies February Read – "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. We will meet on Wednesday, February 21st at 7:00 pm to discuss this bUUK. [River BUUKies Zoom Link](#)

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.



Celebrating the life of
Sean Giblin



February 24, 1990 - December 30, 2023

Saturday, February 24th at 2:30 pm

Old Davie School Museum and Event Center
6650 Griffin Road, Davie, FL 33314

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be sent in Sean's name to any one of the following: the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, Canine Companions for Independence, or River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Sean Giblin - Celebration of Life:

Sean's Celebration of Life will be held at the Old Davie Schoolhouse, Heritage Hall, the low building next to the schoolhouse where we have our worship services. It will be at **2:30pm on Saturday, February 24**. This lovely family has many friends here, and we will get to host their return to Florida with love and support as members of this beloved community. The Caring Team is asking for finger foods and desserts for this afternoon gathering.

Please plan on joining this celebration... If you could respond with what you plan on bringing to caring@riverofgrassuu.org by **February 11** it will help in our planning.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Put an assortment of Tupperware (with lids) in one of your canvas bags and leave in your car. Take it into the restaurant when you go out to eat and use the Tupperware for your take home left-overs rather than use the Styrofoam containers the restaurants use.

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