

# River of Grass

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

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

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## River of Grass Weekly Update – March 7, 2024

### **UUSC Justice Sunday [Multiplatform] Faithful Solidarity with Asylum Seekers**

When we build our Beloved Community we long for ways to expand what it means to welcome our neighbors, both near and far. Together we will explore what it means to put our Unitarian Universalist values into practice by being in faithful solidarity with asylum seekers.

Come as you are – in person at The Old Davie Schoolhouse or virtually on Zoom. We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... We'll be watching for you!

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, March 10, 2024 - 10:30 AM**

**River of Grass UU Congregation** – UUSC Justice Sunday [Multiplatform] Faithful Solidarity with Asylum Seekers -

Diane Diaz and Steve Jens-Rochow, Service and Social Justice Green Team

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

#### ***Faith Development for Kids and Youth:***

This Sunday in our Faith Development class for kids, we'll continue to explore spring, the season of new beginnings, through exploring the gift of transformation. We as Unitarian Universalists describe ourselves as a living tradition, which means we expect changes as we live and grow. But while our bodies change during this process, so do our likes and our ideas. We'll look at how while transformation can be exciting and beautiful, it also can be messy and hard. And we will create lovely butterflies and examine other amazing forms of transformation in nature. For more

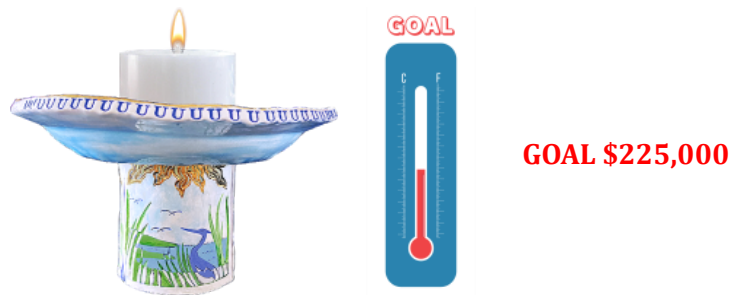
information about our Faith Development program, contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

### ***Flowing River Sangha meditation on Sunday Mornings***

The Flowing River Sangha meets Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM via Zoom. Come learn and practice the cultivation of present-moment awareness with an experienced meditator and group facilitator. Gary Gonzalez has been leading mindfulness meditation groups since 2014. Come join us via Zoom at the following link: [Flowing River Sangha Zoom Link](#). We look forward to seeing you there. Peace.

### ***ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE 2024-25 OPENING DOORS TO TOMORROW – March 3 – March 31***

**IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR - PLEASE GET YOUR PLEDGE IN SO OUR THERMOMETER RISES TO THE TOP!**



**This new congregational year begins 7/1/24 – 6/30/25.**

**\*\*\*\*\*LEADERSHIP PLEDGES RECEIVED TO DATE \$105,000\*\*\*\*\***

Your pledge packet has been mailed to you if you were unable to pick it up this past Sunday, Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>. The brochure is on our website at [riverofgrassuu.org](http://riverofgrassuu.org) and it includes messages from our minister Rev. Amy Carol Webb; Karen Gonzalez, our Faith Development Director; and our Board President, Kathy Jens-Rochow. And, for expediency, the [digital pledge card](#) is right on the Home Page. With a few clicks, you are done with your gift to The River!

We know that River of Grass has always been, is now, and forever will be about **US**, its members and friends. River of Grass and its good work in the world is only possible because of what **WE** commit to do together. **IF** we are to provide a sanctuary where all are cherished for who they are, and a home for a free search for truth and meaning; **IF** we are to create more love and justice in our community and the world; and **IF** we are to create ways to live responsibly on our beautiful Blue Boat Home... **it is entirely up to us.**

We are in the budget phase of planning for next year. Please help us bring our plans to life with your generous investment in the future of River of Grass. Please think deeply about how this community has nourished you and how you can support our work. Your generosity is so appreciated!

If over the next week you have not received a packet, please let us know; or if you have questions, we can be reached at [stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org).

Many blessings, Leana Bresnahan and Rita Cherubini, Co-Chairs, 2024-25 Annual Pledge Drive

### ***SUUSI:***

Interested in attending SUUSI this year? There have been some changes to the schedule. Please review the [SUUSI FAQs](#) at the end of this email.

### ***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](mailto:Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto: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. All who identify male are invited to join us! **We will today, Thursday, Mar 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 to 8:30 PM**, in person or via [Zoom Meeting](#). **Our topic tonight: Facing Challenges**. 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](mailto:mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org).

**MUUies – March title is "Stamped from the Beginning"**, Directed by Roger Ross Williams. **We will meet on Wednesday, Mar 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to discuss this mUUvie**. [River MUUvies Zoom Link](#)

"Stamped from the Beginning" explores the root of Racism in America through the eyes of African American Women. Relatively popular historical figures — the poet Phillis Wheatley, the writer Harriet Jacobs and the journalist Ida B. Wells — get the celebratory treatment usually reserved for history's great men. Williams opens the documentary by asking his contributors: "What is wrong with Black people?" The question elicits a range of responses: an exasperated chuckle, a sigh, a few raised eyebrows and one full-throated laugh.

Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; Passcode: 537288;

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,84418593114# US (New York)



Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow [mUUvies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:mUUvies@riverofgrassuu.org) if you will attend the Discussion.

#### **UU the Vote 2024 Launch Webinar March 14:**

UU the Vote 2024 is an ambitious strategy to grow a powerful pro-democracy majority. This year we will strengthen our commitment to democratic practices and a resilient democracy. Join us to learn about our work with State Action Networks, key ballot initiatives, political education and spiritual grounding opportunities, and our mass voter contact program.

Some candidates speak openly about ending free and fair elections, disparage trans people and immigrants, and celebrate limiting our individual freedoms. This year we will counter that by mobilizing our friends, our neighbors, and our fellow UUs to generate a groundswell of democratic action and leadership. To create a thriving future beyond Nov 5<sup>th</sup>.

Get ready for UU the Vote 2024! On Thursday, Mar 14<sup>th</sup> at 8pm join UU leaders and partners to learn how you can show up for our values and communities in the critical 2024 elections.

To Register: [UU the Vote 2024 Launch](#)

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



**BUUkies March Read – "Black Cake" by Charmaine Wilkerson**. **We will meet on Wednesday, Mar 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to discuss this bUUK**. [River BUUkies Zoom Link](#)



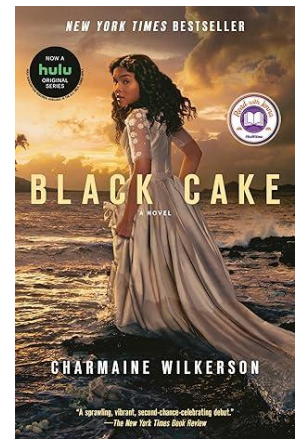
Two estranged siblings delve into their mother's hidden past—and how it all connects to her traditional Caribbean black cake—in this immersive family saga, “a character-driven, multigenerational story that’s meant to be savored” (*Time*).

Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

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

**BUUKies will discuss "Black Cake" on Wednesday, Mar 20 at 7:00 pm.**

Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow [BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org) if you will attend the Discussion.



### **Full Moon Daughters - Springtime Camping Trip March 22-March 24:**

Get ready for springtime camping with the Full Moon Daughters! We are heading west to Highlands Hammock State Park, near Sebring. This is among Florida's earliest state parks and home to a magnificent old growth hammock, with more rare species of plants and animals than any other park in Florida. We will be camping from **Friday, Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday, Mar 24<sup>th</sup>**. You can come for one night or two. For more information on the park: [Highlands Hammock State Park](#). There will be nature walks and other activities, shared breakfasts and dinners at our campsite, and singing around the campfire. Does this sound like fun but not into sleeping on the ground? There are plenty of hotels nearby, so non-campers can join us and still enjoy a soft bed. This trip is for women and girls; our definition of female includes people who are non-binary or identify as female. Reservations are required for this trip, as we have limited sites. Email [fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org) to sign up. Please indicate if you want the hotel option. Those registered will receive more details about shared meals, gear required and activities. Diane Lade and Marilisa Lawless are outing sponsors.



### **“Spring Cleaning” for our overly busy minds:**

A FREE 4-Week "Intro to Mindfulness Course" starts **Apr 10<sup>th</sup> via Zoom and in-person** (West Melbourne, FL). Tap into your own inner resources and participate in lively discussions. A variety of meditation practices and mindfulness activities will be shared, such as mindful movement, breath meditation, compassion practice and more! Register today to hold your spot. Use the QR Code in the image below or email [Scott@insightinstitutellc.com](mailto:Scott@insightinstitutellc.com). Free to all because we believe it is that important in today's world. Carolyn Sant Angelo and Scott May

A promotional poster for a mindfulness course. The background is a serene beach scene with a person sitting on the sand, looking out at the ocean under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on this image. At the top, it says "Intro to Mindfulness" in large blue letters, followed by "Free 4-Week Course" in orange. Below that, in a dark blue font, is "A 'Spring Cleaning' for our overly busy minds". On the left, a light blue circle contains the text "Wednesdays 5:30 - 7pm ET" and "April 10 - May 1" above "via Zoom". On the right, a light blue box lists three bullet points: "Take time for yourself", "Clear out what doesn't serve you anymore", and "Discover more peace". Below the box, it says "Scan QR or email to register" above a QR code. At the bottom right, it provides the email "Scott@insightinstitute.com" and the phone number "954-646-0234".

**Intro to Mindfulness**  
**Free 4-Week Course**

A "Spring Cleaning" for  
our overly busy minds

- Take time for yourself
- Clear out what doesn't serve you anymore
- Discover more peace

**Wednesdays**  
**5:30 - 7pm ET**

**April 10 - May 1**

**via Zoom**

Scan QR or email to register



Scott@insightinstitute.com  
954-646-0234

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Reduce your AC bill by closing blinds and curtains when you are leaving your home in the morning, especially any facing east or west. This will block some of the sun's heat that enters your home, reducing the energy needed to cool your home.

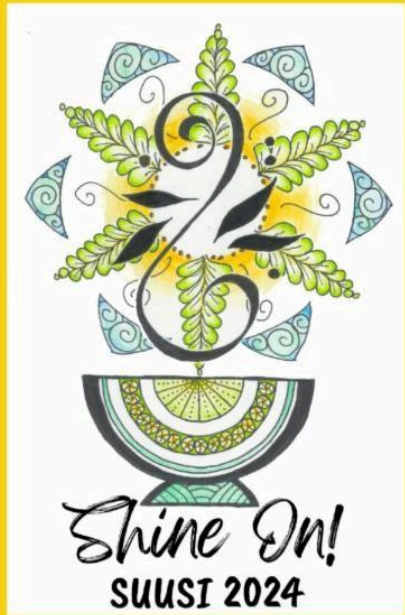
To see all of the upcoming events at River of Grass, please visit the calendar on our website at [riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html](http://riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html). River of Grass UU Congregation is on [Facebook](#) (LIKE us) and [Twitter](#) (FOLLOW Us). For more information, please contact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

*Announcements to be sent out in the weekly congregation-wide update should be e-mailed to [WeeklyEmail@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org)**





# SUUSI 2024

July 21-27

Radford University  
Radford, Virginia

## SUUSI FAQ 2024

Greetings!

We wanted to share a frequently asked questions update with our community, especially related to our move to Radford July 21-27. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to send them to [info@suusi.org](mailto:info@suusi.org).

### **1. Why did the week change?**

This was the week that was available at Radford, our best location option. Our second-best location option also only had this week available. One location we looked at couldn't accommodate us until August (that was an easy choice to say no to). We are aware that educators in Georgia will be back to school that week, and so it was not our first choice. We hope to change that back for 2025 and beyond.

### **2. Why didn't you tell us sooner?**

It's complicated, but the short answer is that we had an incredible team of people working hard, and we were confident a solution would quickly be found, so we didn't want the SUUSI community to worry.

### **3. I submitted a workshop and now I cannot attend. What can I do?**

If you have already submitted a workshop proposal, and the venue and date change now pose a problem for your proposal, please reach out directly to [workshops@suusi.org](mailto:workshops@suusi.org). We are so excited to bring you workshops at Radford!!

### **4. I applied for staff and now I cannot attend, what do I do?**

Please be in touch with your Core Staff member as soon as possible. You will be missed.

### **5. What are the costs of Radford vs WCU?**

[The cost of SUUSI 2024](#) will be significantly higher than in 2023. Part of this is because Radford's facilities are more expensive than WCU. Part of this is because SUUSI has run a deficit for the past three years and we cannot sustain

that into the future. Our SUUSIship Committee is standing by and eager to help you reduce the cost of SUUSI if that is a need.

The good news is that, taking inflation into account, the cost of SUUSI at Radford is about the same as it was when we were last there in 2014.

#### **6. What is housing like? Will I be able to get a single?**

The dorm rooms are mostly two twin beds per room with private bathrooms. All dorms are air-conditioned. Single rooms will be available (sharing a bathroom with another single) for the same cost per bed as double rooms. Children who sleep on the floor (up to a maximum of four people per room) continue to be housed for free.

#### **7. What is the new contact address for SUUSI at Radford?**

While the address you will put into your GPS has changed to (whatever Radford's address is), SUUSI's contact address remains the same.

#### **8. Do we have different COVID precautions/ requirements?**

SUUSI's COVID and other health precautions are unchanged from 2023, which is to follow the [latest CDC recommendations for vaccinations](#). As of March 2024, these recommendations are "People aged 12 years and older who got COVID-19 vaccines before September 12, 2023, should get 1 updated Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Novavax COVID-19 vaccine."

#### **9. What is the food like? Will there be vegetarian options?**

Yes! Based on decades of surveys, the food at Radford was rated the highest of any SUUSI location. Radford offers a wide range of offerings for different dietary needs and preferences and is open to working with us to meet our community's needs. We are searching for a dining liaison from SUUSI to make sure our diverse needs are being met and to address with Radford staff any issues that our participants bring to us.

#### **10. Can I get /use a mobility scooter/ accessibility aid?**

We are looking into local companies that might be able to supply scooters to SUUSI participants. You are, of course, allowed to bring and use your own if you have one. In addition, Radford allows us to have Star Cars on the sidewalks to be able to get people closer to the building entrances.

#### **11. Since marijuana is legal in VA, does that mean I can use it at SUUSI?**

While [cannabis usage in Virginia](#) is legal in specific contexts, [it is banned - including for medical purposes - on the Radford campus](#). Please note that due to these restrictions and potential legal liability, SUUSI cannot tolerate any usage of cannabis, including for medical reasons, on Radford's grounds and/or during participation in official SUUSI events.

#### **12. I am not currently affiliated with a UU congregation? I am not a UU? Can I attend SUUSI?**

YES! SUUSI is an [Intentional Community](#) based on Unitarian Universalist principles, but you do not need to be a Unitarian Universalist nor affiliated with a current congregation to attend SUUSI.