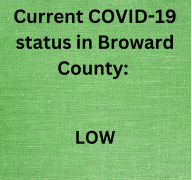


# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

PO Box 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345



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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 30, 2023

### Filling Elijah's Cup: Hope Is Resistance

*So you will be only the first of many waves of deliverance on these desert seas.*

*It is the first of many beginnings -- your Paschaltide.*

*Remain true to this mystery.*

*Pass on the whole story .... Do not go back.*

*I am with you now and I am waiting for you.*

*- Alla Reneathe Bozarth*

In this season of liberation and renewal, as we begin our month-long explorations of what it means to be a people of Resistance, we come into our Telling of the Passover wisdom as a story of hope that calls us to face down the bonds of empire that enslave us in body and spirit – around us and within us.

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Heritage Hall 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, April 2, 2023 - 10:30 AM**

**River of Grass UU Congregation** – Filling Elijah's Cup: Hope Is Resistance – Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

**Children's Faith Development:** In April we begin focusing on the theme of Resistance and in our Children's Small Group this Sunday, we'll begin by learning about the history of the Jewish people with the story of Exodus and a

story about Jews being saved by the Danish people during the Holocaust. We'll begin with a Wisdom Tale during the worship service about Elijah with our friend, Peter Fox. For more information about our Faith Development program for kids, reach out to our Director, Ms. Karen at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

**Egg Hunt:** Following the Worship Service and Children's Small Group class on April 9<sup>th</sup>, all young'ns are invited to hunt for eggs and donated food items to benefit LifeNet for Families. Families are asked to bring a dozen filled eggs for each of their kiddos to service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or the 9<sup>th</sup>. **Everyone is asked to contribute to our canned food drive with donations of cans, plastic jars, boxes and bags of food to benefit families in need this Spring. (Please, no glass.) Boxes will be available to collect donations on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your generosity!** For more information, reach out to [FaithDevelopment@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:FaithDevelopment@RiverofGrassUU.org).



### *Announcement from the Board:*

**The River of Grass Board has called a special congregational meeting on Sunday, April 2.** The purpose of this meeting is to determine the authority of the Board to present an offer to purchase a property. In the current commercial market, it is important that we be able to present a valid offer to purchase quickly when we find a suitable home.

Written notice was emailed to River members on March 20.

This is an important congregational decision, requiring a quorum of 40% of the membership to vote on any business. According to our by-laws, members eligible to vote are those in good standing 14 days prior to a Special Meetings. A new member is eligible to vote 60 days after signing the membership book.

We need you! Please put April 2 on your calendar with details of the time and place forthcoming.

Please stay tuned.

Kathy Jens-Rochow, President ([president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org))

### *Proposed New Policy:*

Below is a proposed new policy regarding expenses that are either over budgeted amount or not budgeted.

Per our Policy on Policies, the proposed policy is being published to the congregation for feedback. At the next Board meeting, the Board will review any feedback and adopt the policy for inclusion in our Policies and Procedures.

Please send any comments/edits to [board@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:board@riverofgrassuu.org).

### **Proposed Policy Revisions**

Move Policy 8 (Finances), section C regarding professional expenses for the Office Administrator to become new section E of Policy 11 (Personnel) and insert the following as section C of Policy 8:

- C. The Congregation's priorities for our ministries and programs are reflected in a budget established by a democratic vote of members.
  1. The Congregation will approve an operating budget annually at the Annual Meeting as required in Bylaws §6.1, paragraph 3.
    - a. In advance of the Annual Pledge Drive, the Finance Committee will solicit budget operating expense requests and fundraising expectations for the next fiscal year from the Board, Committees, Teams, and staff with budgetary responsibilities.
    - b. The Finance Committee will review the expense requests and fundraising expectations, resolve any questions or concerns with the requestors, and develop a preliminary operating budget for the next fiscal year.

- c. Following completion of the Annual Pledge Drive, the Finance Committee will prepare a proposed operating budget, including both expense and income expectations for the next fiscal year, and present it to the Board.
  - d. The Board will review the proposed operating budget, resolve any questions or concerns with the Finance Committee, and ensure the proposed operating budget is finalized and distributed to members in advance of the Annual Meeting as required in Bylaws §6.1.
2. Responsible individuals (i.e. Congregational Officers, Committee Chairs, Team Leads, and designated staff) are required to keep expenditures within the approved operating budget.
- a. If a responsible individual identifies the need for an unbudgeted expense, the individual will request approval for the additional expense from the Board.
  - b. The Board will review the request, resolve any questions, and vote to approve or deny the additional expense.
    - i. The Board may approve additional expenses up to the limit specified in Bylaws §9.6: 5% of the most recently approved operating budget.
    - ii. Approved additional expenses will be tracked by the Treasurer against the specified limit and will be communicated to the Finance Committee for inclusion into their oversight of the Congregation's finances.
  - c. If the additional expenses will exceed the limit specified in Bylaws §9.6, the Board may vote to call a Special Congregational Meeting per Bylaws §6.3 for the Congregation to vote on a revised operational budget to include the additional expenses for the fiscal year.
- NOTE: Although restricted donations (see section E below) or additional unbudgeted fundraising events (see Policy 3 above) may be approved by the Board, the responsible individuals still must ensure that corresponding unbudgeted expenses also are explicitly referred to the Board for approval per the above process.

### ***Huge Yard Sale a Success!***

The River of Grass Yard Sale on Saturday, March 25 made an updated total of \$4,550.50. Much more than any other previous River Yard Sale. Steve and Kathy Jens-Rochow, who are downsizing, opened up their house during a neighborhood yard sale. Many thanks to Ken Bresnahan, who was crucial for the success of the fund raiser. The River volunteers that helped are: the Rev. Amy Carol Webb, Deb Giblin-Davis, Maureen and Brit Lundell, Gary Gonzalez, Bruce Ngo, David Biklin, Andy Bunce, Elyse Brunt, Diane Diaz, Barbara Ratchford, Susan Juncosa, Pam Kelner, and Karen Gonzalez. Kathy's cousin, Mary Lou Ivanoff from Orlando, was crucial to getting Kathy & Steve through the before, during and after. A huge thanks also to everyone who donated items - as well as many of you who showed up and bought stuff!!

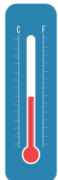
### ***ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE: A New Beginning March 5 to March 31, 2023***

**IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR - PLEASE GET YOUR PLEDGE IN SO OUR THERMOMETER RISES TO THE TOP! 85% of our goal has been reached! BE PART OF OUR FUTURE!!**

This new fiscal year begins 7/1/23 – 6/30/24. Even though you filled out a pledge card for this current year, you will need to do it again for the upcoming year.



**GOAL**



**PLEDGES RECEIVED TO DATE \$187,056**

Please think deeply about how this community has nourished you and how you can support the work in the world we are meant to do. The full brochure is [on the website](#) under Donations or click the link on the opening page. Below the brochure is the digital pledge card which is the preferred way to let us know your wishes. With a few clicks, you are done! 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. If you have questions, we can be reached at [stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org). Leana Bresnahan and Rita Cherubini, APD 2023-24 Co-Chairs

### ***Nominating Committee Update:***

This year our Nominating Committee was charged to create a slate of candidates to fill 5 positions on the Board:

- 2-year term Vice President
- 2-year term Secretary
- 2-year term Trustee
- 2-year term Trustee
- 1-year term to complete the term for Treasurer since Rob Giblin-Davis is moving

The Nominating Committee is please to present the following slate:

The slate for next year's Board is:

- Maureen Lundell has agreed to be nominated to serve another 2-year term as Vice President
- Bruce Ngo has agreed to be nominated to serve another 2-year term as Secretary
- Scott Migliori and Geri Mikulski are the candidates for the two 2-year term Trustee positions
- Ahysa Boutron will be the candidate for the 1-year term of Treasurer

The bylaws also allow for other nominations. These nominations can be made by written petition signed by at least two members, delivered to an officer or Board member at least 20 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting in order to be included on the final written slate. Members may nominate themselves.

Thank you to our Nominating Committee members: Linda Lathroum, Elly Keane, Leana Bresnahan, Barbara Ratchford, Peter Fox and Linda Morgan Crain.

Kathy Jens-Rochow, President ([president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org))

### ***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/>

### **Children's Fundraising Service Project**

This year our Children's Fundraising Service Project raised **\$899 for Kids In Distress, Inc.** (KID), which is a nationally accredited organization dedicated to preventing child abuse, preserving families, and treating children who have been abused and neglected. Come celebrate with us on **April 1st at Esplanade Park from 12 - 3 pm**. There will be tons of kids' activities. Then, the ducks will race at 2pm for the \$10,000 prize! Hope to see you there to cheer on our River of Grass Team! For more information, contact [faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org), <https://2023kidduckfestderby.funraise.org/team/river-of-grass-team>



**Openings at the Auction Apple Cider Tasting Party** - Interested in trying several varieties of hard apple cider all the while nomming on snacks made with apples, proving the versatility of this most amazing fruit?? There are limited openings available for \$30 at this Auction party at a member's home **on April 1<sup>st</sup>**. This is not an April Fools Prank – we pushed the date back so others can still join in on the fun! Contact [auction@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:auction@riverofgrassuu.org) to purchase.

**RoG Men's Group** – We'll next **meet Thursday Apr 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 PM**. We meet in person and via [Zoom Meeting](#). Our meeting location is at The Transformation Project: 4431 SW 64th Ave Ste 109, Davie, FL 33314. All

who are able can meet early for dinner at 5:30 PM at the Fat Stork Restaurant , 8270 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33328. (If you're joining for dinner; please email Ken, group facilitator, so he can coordinate space.) All who identify male are invited to join. We are a lay-led group and look to our members for future topics and the direction we take. Join us! The Zoom Meeting Room will open up at 7:00 pm and we will begin at 7:15 PM. If you have any questions please contact Ken Bresnahan; [mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org); RoG Men's Group Facilitator.

**Mind & Body Wellness Program** – Want to explore ways to take better care of your mind and body? Join the online 6-week "Mind & Body Wellness Program" **starting on April 10<sup>th</sup>**. We will explore and discuss topics such as expressive arts & movement, balancing life's challenges, healing trauma, mindful eating, and a variety of mindfulness practices. This program was started by Dr. James Gordon and the Center for Mind-Body Medicine and is research-based. It is offered on a sliding scale starting at \$0. Find out more at [www.insightinstitutellc.com](http://www.insightinstitutellc.com) or contact [carolyn@insightinstitutellc.com](mailto:carolyn@insightinstitutellc.com).



**From our 8th Principle Action team:** The Dock C. Bracy Center for Human Reconciliation is a non-profit non-denominational learning organization, focused on the eradication of racism and other forms of human oppression. It is offering 2 online upcoming seminars:

1. Eradicating Racism: A Path Forward Learning Series which will be on **Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm on April 13, 20, 27 and May 4.**  
REGISTER at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/468722530707>.
2. Let's Talk Series: Antisemitism is Everyone's Concern held on **Wed. April 19, from 7-9 pm**  
REGISTER at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/558702282567>.

The Eradicating Racism series provides the opportunity for dialogue about the complexity of racism in a safe learning environment with other concerned people. In addition, participants become part of the Center's Finding

Your Voice Program, which creates an environment for learning, healing, and transformation, rich in educational resources, and networking support. Questions? Contact Tanya Gustafson at [8thprincipleteam@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:8thprincipleteam@riverofgrassuu.org).

### **MUUVies for Change April viewing is "Youth v Gov"**

Directed by filmmaker and scientist Christi Cooper. This documentary is the story of [Juliana v. The United States of America](#) constitutional lawsuit and the 21 American youth, ages 11 to 25, who are taking on the world's most powerful government. Since 2015, the legal non-profit [Our Children's Trust](#), has been representing these youth in their landmark case against the U.S. government for violating their constitutional rights to life, liberty, personal safety, and property through their willful actions in creating the climate crisis they will inherit. The youngest plaintiff was Levi Draheim, pictured, a UU youth from Jacksonville Beach. Available on: [Netflix](#). MUUVies for Change will discuss "Youth v Gov" on **Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow [muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org) if you will attend the Discussion. Join our Zoom Meeting at 7:00 PM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>. Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; One tap mobile: +16465588656,84418593114# US (New York); Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kvL0D4l8Y>.



**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Cut down on "one-use" plastic like cellophane wrap, and instead use reusable containers to store leftovers. Also, buy food in larger containers instead of multiple smaller containers, like yogurt and cheese. Even some small changes can reduce plastic waste and help our planet.

### **Interim Recommendations from the RoG COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team**

**Team:** Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten ([COVIDTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:COVIDTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org))

**Purpose of Team:** To review guidelines for congregational and smaller group gatherings in order to provide recommendations to the Board to be used for official River of Grass meetings and events.

#### **These recommendations are:**

For: only for official, River of Grass - sponsored outdoor and indoor small group gatherings.

Fluid: new information comes out all the time and the recommendations could change.

Inclusive: all attendees should be able to attend physically or virtually.

Protective: consider first those who are most at risk.

Science-based: follow the directives according to the experts.

#### **Sources:**

UUA: <https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/pandemics>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Johns Hopkins: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map>

UU Reston Covid-19 Guidelines: <https://www.uureston.org/covid>

### **MEETINGS IN THE TIME OF COVID**

#### **RIVER OF GRASS COVID-19 TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD: Updated October 16, 2022**

*This is a living document that will be regularly reviewed and updated.*

COVID-19 is moving from pandemic to endemic status – it is always circulating in the community but the number of infected people varies from community to community. Individuals should take appropriate precautions based on their personal risk. River of Grass will follow the following measures for community gatherings based on CDC Guidelines and the Broward County risk levels.

Remember, you may choose to wear a mask and maintain social distancing at any time. If you have symptoms, a positive test or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should wear a mask.

Our COVID Team is monitoring the Broward County status weekly and will promptly advise if the status changes.

## **Community Level LOW: Current Broward County Status**

- Individuals may elect to wear masks and socially distance at all times.

## **Community Level MEDIUM:**

- Wear face masks for indoor gatherings.
- Choir will wear singing masks.
- Unmasked speakers and the Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening.

## **Community Level HIGH:**

### In person Worship Services – Inside

- Masks required for all, special requirements for speakers
- Masks should be KN-95
- Unmasked speakers and Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening
- No singing except the Minister (humming OK!)
- Social distancing between family groups
- No food or drinks
- All attendees sign in

### After service Hospitality – Outside

- Maintain social distancing

### Meetings – inside and outside

- Group leader will inquire if anyone in the group wants the meeting to be masked. If everyone is not comfortable, masking and social distancing should be maintained.
- Food and drinks – determined by the group.
- All attendees sign in.

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)**

**4431 SW 64th Avenue, Suite 108, Davie, FL 33314 (Office Location)**

**PO Box 452485, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33345 (Mailing Address Only)**

**954.723.7877 - [office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org)**