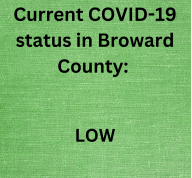


River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
PO Box 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345



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

River of Grass Weekly Update – April 6, 2023

Joy Is Resistance: An Easter Celebration of First Last Greatest and Least

*A tomb is no place to stay
When each morning announces our reprieve,
And we know we are granted yet another day of living.
- Richard S. Gilbert*

We continue this season of hope and renewal with a celebration of the Eastertide, as we consider the teachings of who among us will be first, last, greatest, and least – in this time we are called to ever deeper commitments to serve the transformation of our world and ourselves. What is our call? To whom? For whom? What is our place – and our responsibility – to build a new and joy-filled way for this human journey?

Join us to celebrate joy as an act of resistance – and answer “yes!” to life!

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 9, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – Joy Is Resistance: An Easter Celebration of First Last Greatest and Least

– Rev. Amy Carol Webb <https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Children's Faith Development: This Easter Sunday, our Children's Small Group will learn about the Christian story of the holiday, along with the stories behind the Spring traditions that we associate with it. They'll hear stories of resistance shown by Jesus and others who gave truth to power to conquer injustices. And, of course, there'll be a hunt for filled eggs and donated food supplies for our local food bank, LifeNet for Families. *Parents, please leave your one dozen filled eggs for each of your children with Tanya, prior to service.* For more information about our Faith Development program for kids, reach out to our Director, Ms. Karen at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

LifeNet for Families Food Donations: Please bring in bagged, boxed, canned and jarred (plastic) food items and feel free to hide them in the courtyard on Sunday. Our young'ns will hunt for them and they will all be given to LifeNet to assist in their efforts to combat hunger in our community. For more information, reach out to FaithDevelopment@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.

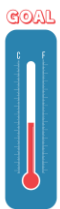
Proposed Policy Revisions

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.

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE: A New Beginning March 5 to April 15, 2023
Pledges Received as of 4/6/23.....\$199,556, 90.7% of the \$220,000 Goal.
Thanks to all who have made pledge promises!



Pledges received from 58 Members and 6 Friends!!
 Does that include you!

We have extended the Campaign until April 15 to reach all of the Members and Friends at The River. We are so close. **Any amount, large or small, is so welcomed! Be part of A New Beginning for River of Grass UU Congregation!**



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. Leana Bresnahan and Rita Cherubini, APD 2023-24 Co-Chairs

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’ll next meet **Thursday Apr 6th 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; 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 10th**. 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 or contact carolyn@insightinstitutellc.com.



Execution vigil Wednesday, April 12 at 6pm: The Service, Social Justice and Green Team of River of Grass and Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty fadp.org will have a vigil protesting the execution of Louis Gaskins on Wednesday, April 12th at 6:00 pm. Governor Ron Desantis has signed his death warrant. The vigil location will be at the Federal Courthouse at the Northwest corner of NE 3rd Avenue and East Broward Boulevard in Ft. Lauderdale. 33301. Signs will be provided. If you have any questions please contact Steve Jens-Rochow SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org.

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>.

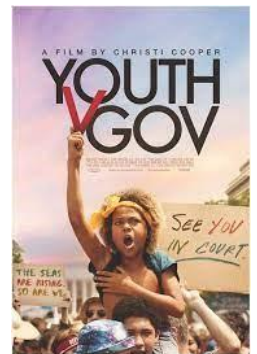
2. Let's Talk Series: Antisemitism is Everyone's Concern held on **Wed. April 19, from 7-9 pm**

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.

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 12th 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: <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/u/kvL0D4l8Y>.

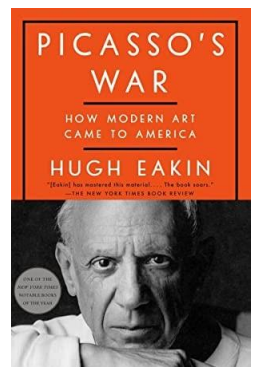


BUUKies April Read - "Picasso's War: How Modern Art Came to America" by Hugh Eakin. We will meet on Wednesday, April 19th at 7pm.

[River BUUKies Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

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

"Picasso's War: How Modern Art Came to America" In January 1939, Pablo Picasso was renowned in Europe but disdained by many in the United States. One year later, Americans across the country were clamoring to see his art. How did the controversial leader of the Paris avant-garde break through to the heart of American culture? Picasso's War is the never-before-told story about how a single exhibition, a decade in the making, irrevocably changed American taste, and in doing so saved dozens of the twentieth century's most enduring artworks from the Nazis. Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.



SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Use recycled paper and reduce printing whenever you can. Ask yourself if you really need a hard copy. Print double-sided whenever your printer allows. The trees will thank you!

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

Team: Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten (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. **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)

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