

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 – June 1, 2023

Flowers Then, Flowers Now, Flowers for All Time

One hundred years ago in June 1923, amidst a world of despair and destruction, the Rev Norbert Capek held the first Flower Ceremony with his congregation in Prague, Czechoslovakia to celebrate beauty and joy in the power of a loving community. This Sunday we, too, gather in beauty, love, and delight with our own annual Flower Ceremony — while we Bridge teens and welcome new members and carry on our traditions of hope and resilience in our own troubled world.

Folks coming in-person, remember to bring flowers for our ceremony from your yard or another place of beauty and meaning for you. Folks joining us on zoom or facebook, send a photo of you and your flower to us for the ceremony -- send to: minister@riverofgrassuu.org by Friday at 5:00 pm -- be sure to bring a flower into your screen for the celebration!

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, June 4, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – The Most Magnificent Thing – Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

Children's Faith Development: This coming Sunday, we'll be celebrating our Faith Development kiddos and this year's Helpers as we combine FD Sunday with our annual Flower Communion. We'll celebrate our graduates with a

Bridging Ceremony, too! If you have any questions about our FD program or what's in store for next year, please reach out to our Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Membership News: We will celebrate a New Member Ceremony during worship service this Sunday, **June 4th**. If you have been attending River of Grass worship services and activities, have found your spiritual home in the Unitarian Universalist faith and at River of Grass, and would like to sign the Membership Book during this ceremony, please let membership@riverofgrassuu.org and/or minister@riverofgrassuu.org know as soon as possible. You can also contact Membership Chair, Leana Bresnahan, at 954-258-6315, or Rev. Amy directly, for more information on the meaning of formal membership and on the process to join.

Rev. Amy Summer Vacation & Study Leave

My Beloveds, as of June 16, I'll be heading out for Summer Adventures 2023, as well as my work in service to the greater Unitarian Universalist community with conferences with the UU Ministers Association, General Assembly, and SUUSI (Southeast UU Summer Institute) as the 2023 Director. The business meetings of the UUMA (Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association) and UUA GA (Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly) are already underway this week. In between I'll have some vacation and study time to rest, renew, and prepare for the coming congregational year as we make new maps for the way ahead. I will also be on hand for our New Home and New Rental Teams as we find our next threshold there as well. Meanwhile, know that I'll see you back in the office in mid-August, and back in the pulpit to launch our 12th year together on the first Sunday in September for Labor Day! If you have a pastoral care emergency that may require professional ministry, please contact the President of the Board, Kathy Jens-Rochow president@riverofgrassuu.org, or our Pastoral Care Team PastoralCare@riverofgrassuu.org.

FL Constitutional Amendment for Abortion

Are you alarmed about the ban on abortion after 6 weeks passed by the recent Florida Legislative session and signed by Gov. Ron Desantis? Then let's put the right to have an abortion into the Florida Constitution. If we get enough signatures this Constitutional Amendment will be on the ballot in 2024. Please go to: [Floridians Protecting Freedom Petition](#) and print the petition, fill it out, sign it, and either mail it to the address on the petition or bring it to Sunday Service and give it to either Steve Jens-Rochow or Bev Kaufman. For more information email SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org.

Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt for UUA President

The Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Presidential Search Committee is pleased to announce the nomination of the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt for UUA President, for the 2023-2029 term. Rev. Dr. Betancourt is an experienced leader and theologian in Unitarian Universalism, including formerly serving as a professor at Starr King School for the Ministry and as Interim Co-President of the UUA in 2017. She currently serves as Resident Scholar and Special Advisor to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The Presidential term is for 6 years. Member congregations of the UUA, through their delegates, elect the UUA President. The campaign for President will take place throughout the first half of 2023 and conclude with an election at our multiplatform [General Assembly](#), online and in Pittsburgh, PA, June 21-25.

To learn more about Rev Dr. Sofia Betancourt, please join the last Presidential Forum. **You must register to attend.**

- **Saturday, June 3, 2023**

First Unitarian Church of Dallas: 4015 Normandy Ave, Dallas, TX 75205
2pm ET / 1pm CT/ 12pm MT / 11am PT
[Register to attend](#)

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/>

A New Affinity Group! The Women's Group – Calling all persons who identify as female. This group is for you. The purpose of this group is to deepen our personal connections through shared discussions. Listening to each person's experience. The new Women's Group will be meeting on the first Sunday of the month at 7:00 PM. We will be multi-platform, meeting both in person and virtually. Location TBD. **Our first meeting will be Sunday, Jun 4th at 7:00 PM.** For more information and the link, contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at womensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org.



“Centering Your Self this Summer!”

What a great way to start the summer with an online 8-week mindfulness program. This course is based on Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) and is a great way to develop and feel the benefits of cultivating kind awareness that can help us manage stress, relax, and deepen our relationships in our daily lives. You will be invited to participate in a variety of practices from mindful eating, breathing meditation, communication skills, physiology of stress, and gentle movement.

This program will begin on **Monday, June 5th from 5:30 - 8:00 pm through July 24th, 2023.** Beginners and those more experienced with mindfulness are welcomed! (recommended for age 16 and older) Insight Institute facilitators are certified in a variety of research-based mindfulness programs. Come join to enhance your resiliency, relax, move, and smile together!

[Register or find out more information here.](#)

Centering Your Self This Summer!
Managing Stress & Supporting Wellness
8-Week Online Mindfulness Program

MONDAYS
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
June 5 - July 24, 2023

Topics:
Mindful Eating,
Gentle Movement,
Mindfulness Meditation,
Communication Skills,
The Science of Stress,
Tools for Today

MBSR
Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction includes a variety of mindfulness practices, resilience strategies, in a safe environment

Info
Provided by certified mindfulness facilitators on a Sliding Scale from \$0-\$320

Registration
Use the QR code or email Carolyn@insightinstitutellc.com 954-253-3189
beginners welcomed

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MUUVies for Change June viewing is "20 Feet from Stardom"

It is a 2013 Oscar-winning documentary about female back-up singers (mostly African American) in the music business. Directed by Morgan Neville. Starring: Darlene Love, Merry Clayton, Lisa Fischer. Available on [Amazon](#).

MUUVies for Change will discuss "20 Feet from Stardom" on **Wednesday, June 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/kvLOD4l8Y>.



The Service, Social justice and Green Team of the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation and Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty www.fadp.org/ will have a vigil protesting the execution of Duane Owen at **5:00 pm. on Thursday, June 15, 2023.** 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 downtown Ft. Lauderdale. 33301. Signs will be provided. If you have any questions please contact Steve Jens-Rochow SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org.

RoG Men's Group – For this month only – we are meeting on the 3rd and 5th Thursday of the month – We are a lay-led group that looks to our members for discussion topics. All who identify male are invited to join us! Our next meeting is **Thursday June 15th, 7:00 to 8:30 PM,** in person or via [Zoom Meeting](#). Our meeting location is at The Transformation Project: 4431 SW 64th Ave Ste 109, Davie, FL 33314. Our optional pre meeting dinner is at **5:30**

PM at the Flashback Diner, 4125 Davie Road, Davie, FL 33328. (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.

Juneteenth Celebration! Please join us on **Saturday, June 17th at Bergeron Park (1900 S Nob Hill Rd, Davie, FL 33328) from 9:00 am to about 12:00 pm to celebrate Juneteenth!** This year this is a congregation-wide event sponsored by Faith Development and Membership. We'll have drinks, snacks, games and a competition for those who want to test their knowledge about this important holiday celebrating the end of slavery in this nation. Contact Karen Gonzalez at religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org or Leana Bresnahan at membership@riverofgrassuu.org for more information.



BUUKies June Read - "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks. We will meet on Wednesday, June 21st at 7pm.

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

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

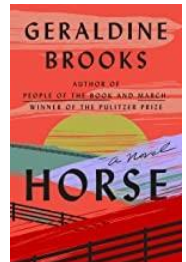
BUUKies June read is from a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, "Horse" is a sweeping story of spirit, obsession and injustice across American history.

A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: Brooks braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across 3 eras of American history:

Kentucky, 1850: An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South.

New York City, 1954: Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a nineteenth-century equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance.

Washington, DC, 2019: Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly connected through their shared interest in the horse—one studying the stallion's bones for clues to his power and endurance, the other uncovering the lost history of the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to his racing success.



Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.

ROG FALL FUNDRAISER: The 2 of Us presents Bossa-Novas, Boleros & Ballads "second edition".

Following the well received concert of 2022, the duo "The 2 of Us" visits, through song and storytelling, some of the most beloved American Jazz Ballads, Brazilian Bossa Novas, Boleros, and Tangoes.

Check out the Youtube channel: <https://youtube.com/@the2ofusmusic>

When: Saturday, **September 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

Where: Weston Community Center - 20200 Saddle Club Rd (free parking).

Cost: There will be drinks and snacks. Seating is limited to the first 40 who sign up at \$30 per seat.

Buy your tickets at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z5VP/campaign/C-10TY2>

Please write THE 2 OF US on the "Note (optional)" field.



SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Invest green! Most 401Ks and IRAs offer "sustainable" or "social" investment options - which avoid petroleum, coal, guns, etc. One example is Vanguard Social Index. Align your money with your values!

COVID-19: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. River of Grass UU has over 3 years experience during the COVID pandemic keeping our members safe and will always look to do so as we make the transition to congregational life free from guidelines. The members of our COVID Team have the thanks of the entire congregation for all their good work taking care of us all. We honor and respect anyone's choice to wear a mask and ask all attending our Worship Services and events to consider their own health when choosing whether or not to mask. If you have any questions please reach out to our team at COVIDteam@riverofgrassuu.org.

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