

River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

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

River of Grass Weekly Update – September 1, 2022

River Dance: Over Under Around & Through Water Ingathering 2022

I am one thing. I am many things. I am water.

This is my dance through our world.

- Thomas Locker

Once more we make our way over, under, around, and through as we gather for our 2022-2023 Congregational Year with our first in-person all-generation Water Ceremony (and it will be special on zoom too!). We will mingle the waters of our journeys, bless one another in service, bless our young'uns backpacks for the new school year, and celebrate the River Dance of our lives together!

In-person folks, remember to bring your waters of meaning for our shared ceremony, zoom folks, have your waters of meaning with you on the screen and we'll all take it together from there.

Come as you are – either in-person at University of Florida IFAS Satellite Building 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... See you then!

University of Florida - IFAS (Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center)

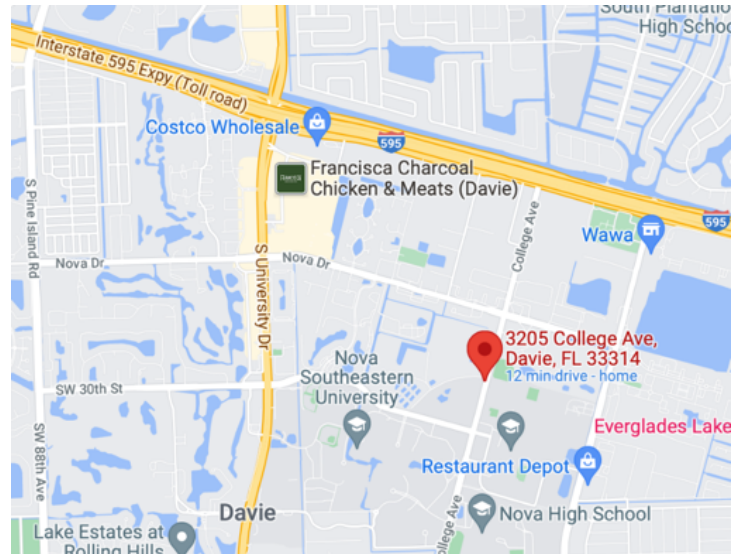
3205 College Avenue, Davie, FL 33314;

Directions:

<https://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/map-and-directions/>

If you are arriving via University Drive:

- Turn east at Nova Drive (SW 24th Street), which would be a right turn if driving from the south and a left turn if driving from the north.
- Drive east on Nova Drive to the first stoplight, which is College Avenue.
- Turn right onto College Avenue and drive south ¼ mile to the first entrance on the right side of the street. Look for a large blue monument sign with University of Florida on it. The entrance is 600 feet past this monument sign.



We'll be live on Zoom at the link below, as well as 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, September 4, 2022

River of Grass UU Congregation – River Dance: Over Under Around & Through (Water Ingathering 2022)

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

Hospitality is back! Yes, now that we will be together twice a month, we need some volunteers to assist Geri Mikulski, the Team Coordinator. If you want to be that person to assist in bringing goodies, set-up, clean-up, please get in touch with Geri at hospitality@riverofgrassuu.org and thank you for getting involved!



Faith Development - I'm excited to see the return of so many beautiful faces this Sunday! There's been a slight change of plans - this is an all-ages service, so our families will stay together for the full worship. Remember to bring backpacks to be blessed and your family's water for the water ceremony! We'll bless our backpacks, our children and our teachers for the start of a new year. And, we'll gather our individual gifts of water to symbolize this life-giving force and its place in our lives. This UU ritual provides us with water for many blessings throughout the year. For some history on the water ingathering service, you can go to this link.

<https://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/featured-new/water-rituals-and-ingatherings-revitalized/>

Office Administrator on Vacation

Our Office Administrator is away on vacation beginning Thursday, August 25th and back in the office on Tuesday, September 5th. If you need to communicate with the office, please anticipate a delay in response over this time frame. Your messages will be responded to upon her return.

New Worship Schedule with more in person services:

Beginning Sep 4th we will be meeting at University of Florida's IFAS Building in person twice monthly! The schedule from Sep 4th through Dec 24th (Christmas Eve) includes **meeting in-person on the FIRST AND THIRD Sundays of the month**. In January, we will be meeting **EVERY WEEK at our new location at the Old Davie Schoolhouse** in Davie at 2:00 p.m. As we settle back into our fall routine, please join us. We will be looking for you! If you have any questions, please email the Worship team at worship@riverofgrassuu.org.



Faith Development Registration – Registration for the new school year of Children's Faith Development is now open for both online and in-person classes. Please refer to [this link](#) to complete your family's registration. In-person classes meet at 10:30 on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. (OWL meets from 10-12.) On-line classes for K-6th graders meet at noon on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays. These programs are supported by members' pledges. Are your pledges up to date? Contact our Office Administrator, Sandy at office@riverofgrassuu.org, or see [this link to make or add to your pledge](#).

Faith Development Volunteers – Our children's Faith Development program is looking for people who would like to assist with activities, games and crafts to support the elementary group lessons. We will need two assistants each time we meet in person and we hope to have enough helpers that you will only be needed once or twice a month. Do you think this is a way that you'd like to serve our River of Grass community? We promise, you'll learn

something! Contact our FD Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org to volunteer or ask questions.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program for 7th-9th graders – The UUA's Our Whole Lives (OWL) program is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum that is led by trained facilitators and open to youth outside of our congregation. We're excited to welcome soon-to-be-trained Sam Alva as a new facilitator for our 7-9th grade class this year. If you know a family who might be interested in enrolling their child in this class, please have them contact Faith Development Director, Karen Gonzalez at religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org. You can learn more about [OWL at this link](#).

Our mandatory parent orientation program will be on Wednesday, September 14th from 7:30 - 9:00pm.

Heritage and Hope

Heritage - Thomas Starr King (December 17, 1824 – March 4, 1864), often known as Starr King, was an American Universalist and Unitarian minister, influential in California politics during the American Civil War, and Freemason.[1] Starr King spoke zealously in favor of the Union and was credited by Abraham Lincoln with preventing California from becoming a separate republic. He is sometimes referred to as "the orator who saved the nation".



In 1849, he was appointed pastor of the Hollis Street Church in Boston, where he became one of the most famous preachers in New England and a noted speaker on the lyceum circuit through New England and as far as Chicago.

The lyceums flourished in the U.S. before and after the Civil War. They were important in the development of adult education in America. The lyceum movement featured lectures, dramatic performances, class instructions, and debates, by noted lecturers, entertainers and readers. They would travel the "lyceum circuit," going from town to town or state to state to entertain, speak, or debate in a variety of locations, never staying in one place for too long. Their appearances were open to the public, which caused them to contribute significantly to the education of the adult American in the 19th century.

King's lyceum lectures for general audiences included "Substance and Show", "Sights and Insights", "The Ideal and the Real", "Existence and Life", [5] and a number of talks on Plato and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

In addition, Starr King organized the Pacific Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission, which raised money and medical materials for wounded soldiers and was the predecessor to the American Red Cross. A fiery orator, he raised more than \$1.5 million for the Sanitary Commission headquarters in New York City, one-fifth of the total contributions from all the states in the Union.

Source: Wikipedia.org

Hope - Starr King School for the Ministry is a graduate theological school and seminary in Oakland, California. Its roots are deep in the fertile soil of Unitarian Universalism and its branches embrace the multi-religious life and learning that will matter most in the new century. A vision that theological education must focus on the development of the whole person and the calling forth of each person's gifts.



Over its more than 100-year history, Starr King has held fast to its commitment to religion that is both liberal and liberating. At the school's heart is a passion for transformative education and a belief in the possibilities that lie within human beings.

Source: sksm.edu

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/>

MUUVies for Change – The River of Grass film group, has chosen *Te Ata* for September's film. Based on the true story of Mary Thompson Fisher (portrayed in the film by Q'orianka Kilcher), widely known as Te Ata, who traverses cultural barriers to achieve fame as an actress and a Native American storyteller. This film was produced by the Chickasaw Nation and also stars Graham Greene (a First Nation actor) and Cindy Pickett (played the mom in Ferris Bueller's Day Off). Available on Netflix.



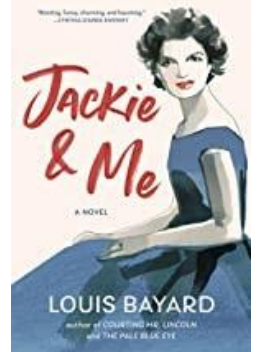
Movies for Change will meet on Wednesday, September 14, at 7pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>

BUUKies September Read – "Jackie and Me" by Louis Bayard. We will meet on Wednesday, Sep 21st at 7pm.

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

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

Lem knew what Jackie gave up for the Kennedys. This is his story. Lem Billings was the charming real-life outsider and college roommate of J.F.K. deputized to entertain Jackie while J.F.K. was campaigning and cavorting. The arrangement took a lasting toll. On the surface, this is a fun, glittery tale about the Kennedys. But it's also a prism for examining situational friendship and the loneliness of public life.



Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Light your way to green. Replace 3 frequently used bulbs with LEDs. Much less heat, much less electricity. Through their life this could save 1,660 pounds of CO2. It's that simple. Do it today.

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/safe/pandemics/covid-19>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/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 May 24, 2022

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

Based upon the updated CDC guidelines and the Broward County risk levels, the following measures are recommended to the Board.

Community Level High: Follow our previous guidelines, listed below.

In person Worship services - inside

- Masks required for all, with possible exception of speakers (see below). Masks should be KN-95 if possible.

- If the Minister and/or other speakers wish to be unmasked, they must take a rapid test the night before the service. They must maintain social distancing at all times while unmasked.
- Singing transmits more aerosols than speaking. At this time, no singing except the Minister. Humming OK!
- Maintain social distancing between household groups while indoors.
- No food or drinks inside.
- All attendees should sign in with current contact information in the event that contact tracing is required.

After service – outside

- Maintain social distancing.

Meetings and Small Groups – inside and outside.

- Group/meeting leader should determine if all attendees are vaccinated and comfortable with disclosing status. This may require some quick private conversations prior to the meeting! If everyone is not comfortable, masking and social distancing should be maintained.
- Food and drinks: up to the group. Be mindful of crowding.
- All attendees should sign in with current contact information in the event that contact tracing is required.

Community Level Medium: Individuals should follow CDC Guidelines for Medium

Community Level Low: Individuals should follow CDC Guidelines for Low

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.