

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 29, 2022

My Story: Gathering Courage, Summoning Hope

“There is a quiet courage in the choice to let go of the past, in the choice to be present in this new day to live for this hour, this moment and to believe in its possibility.”

~ Rev. Gretchen Haley

Sunday’s worship service is presented by Milton Carp, a new member of our congregation. Milton will share his journey of challenges, loss and inspiration, but mostly he will talk about love. Part of his healing has come in writing a book of poetry called “Poetry - My Voice”.

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!

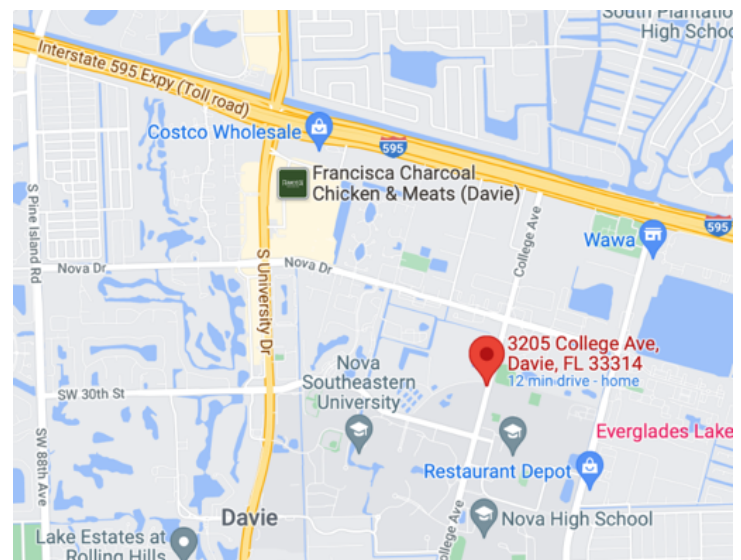
University of Florida - IFAS (Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center)

3205 College Avenue, Davie, FL 33314;

Directions: <https://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/about-us/>

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.



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, October 2, 2022

River of Grass UU Congregation – My Story: Gathering Courage, Summoning Hope

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

We've got Heart! And a lot of Art at our Auction!

Our 2022 Work of Heart Auction has received many, many donations of art that you would be proud to hang on your walls or display on just-the-right shelf or give to a fortunate recipient. The range of types of art and other Auction items is huge and just as big are our thanks to our big-hearted donors (and future bidders) for supporting River of Grass UU because Broward County needs a place for diverse, inclusive, liberal worship and fellowship.

Auction is online and runs from 6 PM on 10/22/2022 until 6 PM on 10/29/2022.

This week's Auction River of Grass Trivia Contest winners are: **Karen Gonzalez and Scott May**. Congratulations! Want to play? Check your email for our trivia questions every Tuesday morning until the Auction begins - don't forget to look in the Junk, Promotions and Spam. You could win a gift certificate from Lucille's American Cafe for \$20 off a purchase of \$30 or more.

Questions? auction@riverofgrassuu.org

Click here for donation guidelines: Click here for donation guidelines [Work of Heart Auction](#)

Faith Development - In the month of October, we'll take a look at what it means to be courageous. This Sunday, we'll reflect on the many paths of courage and how we don't need to be a superhero to be courageous. The story of Christopher Reeves will be our guide. For more information about our Faith Development Program for Children, contact Ms. Karen at ReligiousEducator@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.

October is LGBTQ+ History Month

A month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. It was founded in 1994 by Missouri high-school history teacher Rodney Wilson. LGBTQ+ History Month provides role models, builds community, and represents a civil rights statement about the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community.

The LGBTQ+ community is the only community worldwide that is not taught its history at home, in public schools or in religious institutions. LGBTQ+ History Month provides role models, builds community and makes the civil rights statement about our extraordinary national and international contributions.

Source: Wikipedia, LBGBHistoryMonth.com



2022 LGBTQ+ Icons

Hans Christian Andersen – Fairy Tale Author	Masha Gessen – Russian-American Journalist
Robina Asti- Transgender Right Plaintiff	Ron Gold – Gay Pioneer
Richard Avedon – Preeminent Photographer	Radclyffe Hall – British Author
Ninia Baehr & Genora Dancel-Marriage Equality	Bell Hooks, Author & Feminist
Sue Bird – WNBA Superstar	Jazz Jennings – Transgender Youth Activist
Victor Blackwell – CNN News Anchor	Mondaire Jones – First Out Black Congressman
Matt Bomer – Actor	Stephen Lachs – World’s First Out Judge
Raphael Bostic – Federal Reserve Bank CEO	Lawrence of Arabia – British Military Officer
Jennifer Finney Boylan–Author & Activist	Lance Loud – First Out Reality Star
Kate Brown – Governor of Oregon	James Merrill -Pulitzer Winning Poet
Nancy Cardenas -Mexican Writer & Activist	Rudolf Nureyev – International Ballet Star
Kitty Cone – Disability Rights Activist	J. Paul Oetken – First Out Male Federal Judge
Robert Cutler - National Security Advisor	Amy Schneider – “Jeopardy!” Champion
Andre De Shields – Actor & Singer	Amy Walter – Political Analyst
Lea Delaria – Comedian & Actor	Alice Wu – Film Director
Anna Elizabeth Dickinson – 19 th Century Orator	

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/>

SE UU Cluster's Annual Meeting on Oct 15th featuring speaker David Korten!

“We humans face a defining choice: transition to a civilization dedicated to care for one another and the living Earth or bear the consequences. What might that future look like? How might we get there? And what might be the role of religion?” David Korten

David Korten, author of “The Great Turning” will speak by video at the SE UU Cluster's Annual Meeting on Saturday, Oct 15th at 1:30 pm – Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion and the Human Future.

David envisions "an Ecological Civilization where human potential is maximized. And domination is minimized." To register for this free event please reply to seucluster@gmail.com with your name, congregation or organization and email address. (Please see the last page of this email for a flyer containing more information)

What is your vision of a better world, an Ecological Civilization where we address the climate crisis, social injustice and economic inequality?

BUUKies September Read - "The Book Women of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. We will meet on Wednesday, Oct 18th at 7pm.

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

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

The hardscrabble folks of Troublesome Creek have to scarp for everything—everything except books, that is. Thanks to Roosevelt's Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project, Troublesome's got its very own traveling librarian, Cussy Mary Carter. Cussy's not only a book woman, however, she's also the last of her kind, her skin a shade of blue unlike most anyone else. Not everyone is keen on Cussy's family or the Library Project, and a Blue is often blamed for any whiff of trouble.



Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.

RoG Men's Group: We begin meeting again the first and third Thursdays each month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. We will meet via this [Zoom Meeting](#) for the foreseeable future. All who identify male (to any degree) are invited to join in the fun. **The Oct 6th topic is: "TBD."** We are a lay-led group and look to our members for future topics and the direction we take. Do come out and join us. The Meeting Room opens 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.

MUUVies for Change October viewing is "Pray Away" - A 2021 American documentary film produced and directed by Kristine Stolakis that follows survivors of conversion therapy and former leaders. We will discuss this film on **Wednesday, Oct 12th at 7pm.** The movie is available on Netflix. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org if you are coming for the Discussion. Join our Zoom Meeting at 7pm: <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: Visit [OptoutPrescreen.com](https://www.optoutprescreen.com) to stop unsolicited credit card offers. This website is run by the 3 credit agencies (Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion) and is supported by the Federal Trade Commission. In just 3 minutes you can stop this junk mail, saving you hassle and reducing landfill waste.

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.

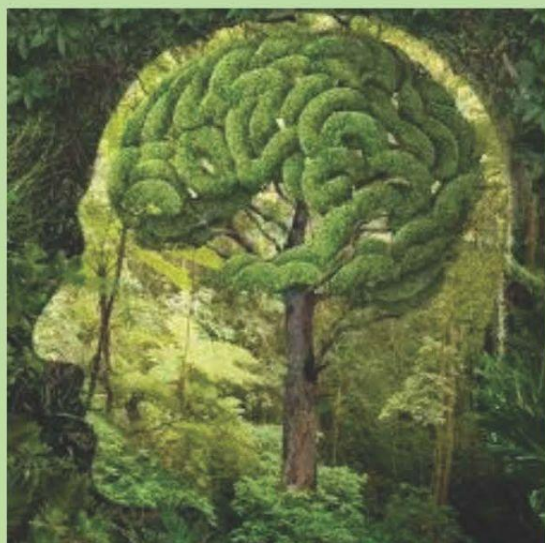
Unsubscribe - If you do not wish to receive this weekly email, please send an email and we will remove you from the mailing list, office@riverofgrassuu.org.

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.

Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion and the Human Future

Saturday, October 15, 2022, 1:30pm

FREE



"We humans face a defining choice: transition to a civilization dedicated to care for one another and the living Earth or bear the consequences. What might that future look like? How might we get there? And what might be the role of religion?"

David Korten, author of "The Great Turning" will speak by video.

He envisions "an Ecological Civilization where human potential is maximized.
And domination is minimized."

Also speaking are:

- Terry Lowman [Co-chair UUs for a Just Economic Community UUJEC]
Introduction of the program; what is coming.
- Lucy Hitchcock [Chair of UUJEC's Green New Deal task force]
Localization to implement systemic change toward Ecological Civilization.
 - Aly Tharp [Senior Organizer, GreenFaith]
GreenFaith actions/ways for congregations to be involved.
- Michael Cox [Cedars UU Church Green Sanctuary, Bainbridge, WA]
Congregational and Interfaith examples of action.

And two sets of breakout small groups

What is your vision of a better world, an Ecological Civilization where we address the climate crisis, social injustice and economic inequality?

To Register reply to seucluster@gmail.com for Zoom link