

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 – November 24, 2022

Radical Inclusion

*“If we say “inclusion” but we mean
“We have something that’s perfect exactly the way it is,
so you should come join us and fit right in,”
that’s not inclusion, that’s colonization.*

-CB Beal, Justice and Peace Consulting

Sunday’s worship service focuses on exploring and celebrating the Change that we need in order to become a more inclusive community. We come together this weekend after Thanksgiving to grapple with the uncomfortable realization that we, of non-Indigenous descent, live here because we assimilated and colonized a people. We have much work to do to repair this great harm.

Our recently adopted 8th principle calls on us to “build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” So where do we start with this monumental task? One place to start is with ourselves and our small groups, and ask how we can be more inclusive – truly inclusive. Join us Sunday to hear more about this important journey to build Beloved Community!

Come as you are – we’ll be watching for you! We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

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/j/ab3E9Jrtb9>

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, November 27, 2022

River of Grass UU Congregation – Radical Inclusion – Kathy Jens-Rochow

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

Threshold Conversations

During last week's worship service, we invited the congregation to take part in a project titled, Threshold Conversations, the work of religious educators from several UU institutions including the UUA, LREDA (Liberal

Religious Educators Association), The Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard, and Starr King School for the Ministry. Threshold Conversations seeks to lift up and promote the essential work of religious education as the learning process through which we grow in faith; ideally as a lifelong endeavor, for all UUs. If you were not able to attend and didn't have the opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas about the most essential topics that we teach and learn here at The River, please click on the QR code below to submit your answers. Each person in your family is welcome to submit answers.



What is it that we teach/learn here at River of Grass? Click QR code to submit your 3 one-word responses.

Annual Holiday Gathering - Faith Development is excited to again be holding our Annual Holiday Gathering for families and teachers on **December 10th from 6:00 - 9:00 pm**. We will be doing holiday crafts and might even have a visit from Santa! Bring a dish to share if you can. Families should have received an Evite recently with directions and details. Any questions, please email faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org.

Looking for Help:

Love babies? You're in luck! The River has been attracting quite a few, lately. Our new location in January will include a paid staff position for the nursery. If you know someone who might be interested in caring for our babies and kids for 3 hours each Sunday, please contact our Faith Development Director, Karen at religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org. We are also looking for some items to fill this space. Let Karen know if you can contribute any of the following: extra-large baby gate, high chair, and play items such as stacking blocks, cars and puzzles.

8th principle Action Team announcement:

Bold Justice is an organization of 22 religious congregations from different racial/ethnic and religious backgrounds. Their mission is to "powerfully address community issues in Broward County through a self-sustaining, interfaith, interracial, proactive organization rooted in religious congregations."

They have won victories related to Affordable Housing, Dental Care, Juvenile Arrests, Jobs, Unemployment, and Education. Currently, they are working to end the criminalization of poverty. One example of this is to encourage the State Attorney to support a program for civil citations instead of arrests for adults with misdemeanor offenses, such as driving with an expired tag or failure to pay a fine. They are also working on climate change with a focus on extreme heat in Broward County.

The work of this group is in line with our recently adopted 8th principle - *Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.* For more information, check out their website at boldjustice.org.

Help Spread UU values by participating in the UUA's Church of the Larger Fellowship's (CLF) Worthy Now Prison Ministry Program

This year, on Giving Tuesday, (Nov 29th), the CLF's goal is to recruit free-world folks (you), to send Holiday messages to people living their lives in a penitentiary. The CLF currently has 1600 "pen pals" on their roster waiting to hear from a friendly "free-world" UU (you). This short term opportunity to send a holiday message is a wonderful way to spread, experience, practice and live our UU values... and it's easy!

There are 2 wonderful program opportunities found on the website link (below):

1. The short term holiday greeting, mentioned above, and
2. Becoming an actual Pen Pal - a longer term commitment.

Whichever one you choose, I encourage you to make a difference in the lives of these men and women! ...on or before Giving Tuesday, November 29, ...and Shine On!!

<https://worthynow.org/3-simple-ways-to-spread-holiday-cheer-to-incarcerated-uus>

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is a nonprofit ministry offering Unitarian Universalist spiritual resources to those who are unchurched. Thank you for helping spread our love and principles. Contact me for further information: Kat Holland, ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org.

The Mountain Retreat

Join us at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, a Magical Place and Experience

[Youth CONferences](#) – Elementary Dec 2 - 4; High School Dec 9 - 11.

[Songwriting Retreat](#) – December 1 - 4. Join Christine Stay and Aidan Quinn of Friction Farm, a modern folk duo, to be mentored in creating songs from your own life story or other events.

[Music Week](#) – April 23-28 2023. Surround yourself with music and enjoy opportunities for music appreciation, concerts, group and individual participation and instruction in songwriting, guitar, voice, ukulele and more.

Personal Retreat -- for individuals or groups

We look forward to hosting you at The Mountain soon!

To contribute toward our \$50,000 November match or buy something off our wishlist, click here:

<https://www.themountainrlc.org/granting-wishes>

For more information: themountainrlc.org or 828.526.5838

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](#)

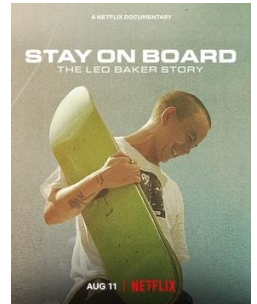
For more information or to register contact Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

RoG Men’s Group: We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. We are now meeting in person as well as 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 5:00 pm at Uncle Al’s, 8200 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. **Our Dec 1st topic: Will be announced next week.** 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 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.

New Member - Our next New Member Ceremony will take place during worship service on **December 4th**. Please contact Leana Bresnahan as soon as possible at membership@riverofgrassuu.org or at 954-258-6315 if you wish to become a member and sign the membership book that day!

MUUVies for Change December viewing is "Stay on Board"

Starring Leo Baker, this movie is a documentary available on Netflix. This is a candid look at one person's experience with coming out, a humane film that shows the bravery and resilience of queer people who seek relief from the categories that are imposed on them. Leo Baker was a champion skateboarder who left the US 2020 Olympic Team to come out as trans.



We will discuss this film on **Wednesday, December 14th at 7pm**. 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/u/kvL0D4l8Y>.

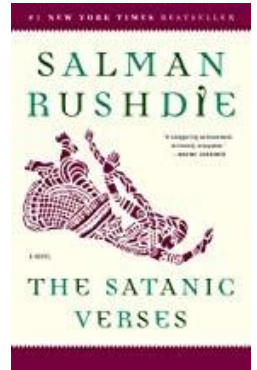
BUUKies December Read - "The Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie. We will meet on Wednesday, December 21st at 7pm.

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


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

"A torrent of endlessly inventive prose, by turns comic and enraged, embracing life in all its contradictions. In this spectacular novel, verbal pyrotechnics barely outshine its psychological truths."

One of the most controversial and acclaimed novels ever written, "The Satanic Verses" is Salman Rushdie's best-known and most galvanizing book. Set in a modern world filled with both mayhem and miracles, the story begins with a bang: the terrorist bombing of a London-bound jet in midflight. Two Indian actors of opposing sensibilities fall to earth, transformed into living symbols of what is angelic and evil. This is just the initial act in a magnificent odyssey that seamlessly merges the actual with the imagined.



Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.

Please remember to **Smile when you shop at Amazon.com**. When you use the River of Grass link while shopping on Amazon, our community receives a .5% donation as one of their eligible charitable organizations. The direct River of Grass Amazon link is:  <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/65-0791653>. River of Grass has received \$2,079.50 since we signed up with AmazonSmile. This holiday season you can help support River of Grass while online shopping with Amazon.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: *Change your car's air filter the next time you change the oil. Over time, air filters get clogged causing your engine to work harder - creating more greenhouse gas emissions and lowering your fuel economy. Save money on gas by spending money on a new air filter.*

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 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.