

River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
11850 W State Rd 84, Ste A9, Davie, FL 33325

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

River of Grass Weekly Update – December 7, 2023

Each Candle A Miracle

We rededicate ourselves
to the miracle of light in a season of darkness,
the miracle of faith in a time of cynicism,
the miracle of courage in a time of fear.
- Amanda Udis-Kessler

“What is the memory that’s valued so highly we keep it alive in this flame,” beloved singer Peter Yarrow asks of us in the re-telling of the Hanukkah story. “We have come this far always believing that justice would somehow prevail – this is why we will not fail!” he charges us. Gather with us this Sunday, December 10, in person or livestream as we once more learn the wisdom, the miracle of the Hanukkah story – a story of strength, endurance, hope, freedom, and peace – that our light, like the Maccabee children of old, may never go out as we rededicate ourselves to wholeness in a time of fracture, and in a time of hatred, the miracle of love.

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Auditorium 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, December 10, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – Each Candle a Miracle– Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

Faith Development for Kids and Youth:

As we move further into this season of mystery and wonder, we're reminded that people at this year's General Assembly felt so strongly about the power of mystery that they voted to add it to the new Article II proposal. Here is the exact wording that was added to the proposal about mystery: *As Unitarian Universalists, we proclaim that direct experiences of transcending mystery and wonder are a primary source of inspiration. These experiences open our hearts, renew our spirits, and transform our lives."*

With that in mind, our children, this Sunday, will be exploring ways that Unitarian Universalists talk about God. We'll then delve into the story of Jesus' Birth before moving on to a lighter subject...snowflakes!

For more information about our programming for children and youth, contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Holiday Gathering

We will ring in the holidays in classic River of Grass fashion with music, crafts and a special visitor during an extended hospitality time on **Sunday, December 17th**. Sign up on Sunday to host a craft table or bring a savory lunch item to share. See Karen Gonzalez or Diane Lade for more information.

Flowing River Sangha:

The Flowing River Sangha is back! We'll meet **Sunday mornings at 8:30 am** under the Old Davie Schoolhouse pavilion while our new space is being renovated. Come learn and practice the cultivation of present-moment awareness with an experienced meditator and group facilitator, Gary Gonzalez, who has been leading mindfulness meditation groups since 2014. There will be cool air provided by a portable misting fan. It's a BYOC event (bring your own cushion or chair) every Sunday morning at 8:30. You are also welcome to join via Zoom at the following link: [Flowing River Sangha Zoom Link](#).

Florida Unitarian Universalist Women's Retreat

April 5 – 7, 2024; DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center; Parrish, Florida; Ancient Feminine Voices

You are invited to a weekend gathering of UU women to explore the words and wisdom of our ancient female ancestors. Featuring Shelley Graff leading us in Singing in Sacred Circle.

- Cost is \$238 per woman for two nights in a semi-private room (2 twin beds and bathroom with shower). Each clean, air-conditioned cottage has 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, screened porch, kitchenette, and comfortable seating area. A limited number of single rooms are available at \$310 each.
- 6 meals (plus Friday evening wine & cheese) are included: Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Sunday breakfast and lunch. Arrangements can be made for dietary needs and preferences.

Register by Dec 15th for an early reservation discount of \$15. *Several River of Grass women will be going.* Contact *Kathy Jens-Rochow* at womensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org for more info.



Membership Matters:

NEW MEMBER CEREMONY – River of Grass will again open its Membership Book to welcome New Members during worship service on **Dec 17th**. If you have found your spiritual home at River of Grass and want to be fully part of building the future of this beloved community and its good works in the world, please contact Leana at membership@riverofgrassuu.org or call 954-258-6315. There is still time to be part of this joyous event!

CELEBRATING OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY – Did you know that River of Grass will celebrate its 25th Anniversary in February 2024? We are planning a big multi-day inspirational and celebratory bash that focuses on where we

have been (heritage) and where we will go next (hope). We will include our annual auction as part of the celebration, live music by our fabulous musicians, AND an envisioning meeting to chart the future course of The River together. **Please put Feb 16th (Friday), Feb 17th (Saturday) and Feb 18th (Sunday) on your calendars!** Many more details will follow and there are many ways to get involved. Please email Leana at membership@riverofgrassuu.org or call 954-258-6315 if you would like to be part of the planning team.



CALLING ALL ARTISTS! The first way to get involved in our 25th....we are planning to design a special logo that will be used uniquely AND ONLY for all materials related to the 25th Anniversary. The logo will be used for promotional purposes, such as printed products, digital mailings, and for the website.

We want to open this to all who would like to put their creative impulses to work. We will gather proposed designs and then put those submitted to a congregational vote (via anonymous digital polling) to select which one is our collective favorite. You may propose some variation of the logos we already use (see above) or create something totally new. Let your creative juices flow! **Submissions are due to membership@riverofgrassuu.org by December 10th. The vote will take place the following week.**

In order to ensure logo proposals are accessible for all, please follow these recommended guidelines:

1. General Accessibility

- High Contrast
- Font Size:
 - Headings 32 points or larger;
 - Subheadings 30 points or larger
 - Text 28 points or larger (some sources say 24 points)
 - Bold text is more visible than standard text
 - [Letter spacing sometimes needs to be wider to read easier]
- Font: Arial, Verdana, Tahoma, Antique Olive, APFont
- Avoid italics (better choices are underlining, quotations or bolding)
 - underlining can be very hard depends on how the font was made; sometimes the OS/App screws up
- Left Alignment only
- Backgrounds & Text

- Simple, not graphical
 - One color or
 - Two color gradients where one is white and the other is pastel or
 - Two color gradients one is not white but pastel colors which are adjacent on the color wheel
 - Avoid gray background or gray text
 - Avoid shadowed text
 - Avoid Blue backgrounds – use warm pastel colors!
 - There are web apps that test for color contrast for fonts to background, big no-no's: white on bright yellow, bright green, and bright red; yellow on black, on dark blue, on red
2. The logo should work well for screen, paper print, and poster use.
 3. Please do not design the logo to be too small or too detailed or with a complicated color scheme (such logos become too hard to see/read)
 4. Colors used should work well on white, black, and light gray backgrounds.

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 will continue to meet **in person at 7:00 pm in Suite A9, 595 Park of Commerce**: official address is 11850 SR 84, Suite A9, Davie, FL 33325 (GPS will get you to the 4-building complex. We’re in the 1st Building, middle suite.) Our optional pre-meeting dinner will be at our own **Lester's Diner: 1393 NW 136th Ave, Sunrise, FL 33323**. We'll meet there at 5:30pm. We are a lay-led group that looks to our members for discussion topics. **Tonight’s topic: Aging**. All who identify male are invited to join us! Our next meeting is **tonight, Dec 7th, 7:00 to 8:30 PM**, in person or via [Zoom Meeting](#). 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.

The Trans MUUvie “Disclosure” is MUUvies for Chang December offering. Directed by Sam Feder

DISCLOSURE is an unprecedented, eye-opening look at transgender depictions in film and television, revealing how Hollywood simultaneously reflects and manufactures our deepest anxieties about gender. Leading trans thinkers and creatives, including Laverne Cox, Lilly Wachowski, Yance Ford, Mj Rodriguez, Jamie Clayton, and Chaz Bono, share their reactions and resistance to some of Hollywood’s most beloved moments. Grappling with films like *A Florida Enchantment* (1914), *Dog Day Afternoon*, *The Crying Game*, and *Boys Don’t Cry*, and with shows like *The Jeffersons*, *The L-Word*, and *Pose*, they trace a history that is at once dehumanizing, yet also evolving, complex, and sometimes humorous. What emerges is a fascinating story of dynamic interplay between trans representation on screen, society’s beliefs, and the reality of trans lives. Reframing familiar scenes and iconic characters in a new light, director Sam Feder invites viewers to confront unexamined assumptions, and shows how what once captured the American imagination now elicit new feelings. DISCLOSURE provokes a startling revolution in how we see and understand trans people. [Available on Netflix](#).



MUUvies for Change will discuss “Disclosure” on **Wednesday, December 13th 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/kvL0D4l8Y>.

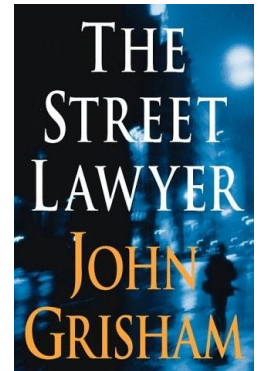
Full Moon Daughters WINTER SOLSTICE PARTY: Saturday evening, Dec 16th – Celebrate the peace of the winter season during a fun evening together. Exact starting time and details to be announced next week. But you can count on yummy food to share, music, activities and laughter. The gathering will be held at a member's home in west Plantation. All women and girls, those who identify as female or are non-binary are welcome. To sign up, please email fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org.

BUUKies December Read – "The Street Lawyer" by John Grisham. We will meet on Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00 pm to discuss this bUUK. [River BUUKies Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

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

Michael Brock is billing the hours, making the money, rushing relentlessly to the top of Drake & Sweeney, a giant D.C. law firm. One step away from partnership, Michael has it all. Then, in an instant, it all comes undone. A homeless man takes nine lawyers hostage in the firm's plush offices. When it is all over, the man's blood is splattered on Michael's face—and suddenly Michael is willing to do the unthinkable. Rediscovering a conscience he lost long ago, Michael leaves the big time for the streets where his attacker once lived—and where society's powerless need an advocate for justice.



Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.



SWIM, the Southeast UU Winter institute. Will meet in Tampa from Dec 27, 2023 to Jan 2, 2024 – SWIM, an intentional community of Unitarian Universalists and friends, meets between Christmas & New Year's for fun & fellowship. SWIM 2023 is in Tampa, Florida at the Franciscan Center, an 8-acre urban oasis on the Hillsborough River. SWIM (Southeast Winter Institute Mid-florida) begins December 27th and ends January 2nd. Choose workshops, outdoor and indoor adventures and concerts or create your own. Registration is now open, please visit <https://swimuu.org/home/> for further details Hope you join us! Registration opens Tuesday, Oct 31st.

SWUWCon24 (South West UU Women) – February 9-11, 2024 – "Nurturing Creative

Spirit" – Join us for the SouthWest UU Women annual conference in Navasota, TX. The conference begins with an opening on Friday and continues through Sunday. Your registration and Camp Allen lodging choice include access to all the workshops and vendors, dinner on Friday, three meals on Saturday including the Gala dinner Saturday night and Sunday breakfast and lunch. Single day registration without lodging is also available.



Space is limited. Single rooms are sold out and only double rooms (with a roommate) are available. **Scholarships are also available. Early Bird Registration is \$160 plus the room (\$227) per person for a double room. January 1 - January 22, registration is \$185 plus the room (\$227) per person for a double room. Early bird Registration ends December 31, and January 22 is the last day to register.** The Keynote Speaker and Conference Musician will be Reverend Kiya Heartwood from UU Church of the Brazos Valley, TX. Register soon at <https://swuuw.org/swuuwcon-2024/>; Workshops: <https://swuuw.org/workshops2024/>

Established in 1921 Camp Allen is a year-round facility located one hour northwest of Houston near Navasota, Texas. Their 1,100 beautiful acres features a hotel and conference center, two lakes, miles of trails, and much more. We invite you to explore and awaken your spirit in their piney woods!

SWUW is a non-profit organization that supports social justice issues, leadership development and learning; explores feminist theology, promotes friendships and celebrates the diversities that make us unique women on our individual spiritual paths.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Turn off printers and computers when not in use as they continue to use electricity. Shutting them off saves you money and uses less natural resources.

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)

11850 W St Rd 84, Ste A9, Davie, FL 33325 (Office & Mailing Location)

954.723.7877 - office@riverofgrassuu.org