

# Reflections



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

DAVIE, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 2011

## HOSPITALITY: NOT JUST BUSINESS AS USUAL...

By Marjorie Loring, Board President



I have made a wonderful discovery. River of Grass has earned a reputation for being great at hospitality. Over the past few years, I have heard this from guests who have chosen to join our community as well as former members who have moved to new areas and joined other congregations. Whenever I visit these friends, I can count on hearing from them how River of Grass has raised the bar for them when it comes to Sunday hospitality.

This does not surprise me. We have become very intentional in both how we treat each other and how we welcome our guests, which is why I write that we have earned that reputation together. As a community, we have worked hard at developing, adopting, and honoring a Covenant

of Right Relations, and we have worked hard at being attentive to the quality of our guests' Sunday morning experience – both in worship and during coffee and fellowship time after service.

As I sit with my heart full of pride, I realize, humbly, that hospitality is more than a goal to be achieved. We cannot say, "OK, we're there; that's done." and shift our focus toward other things. It is an easy trap to get caught in.

I found myself near this very trap recently when I realized that I was spending hospitality hour looking for specific people that I

needed to see to discuss a variety of River of Grass business and committee-related issues. I came to service with a check list in my head of who I needed to see, and as soon as worship ended, scanned the room in my quest to connect, one by one, with the people on my list that I needed to see before they left.

What I realized was that in my new role as president, my hospitality-focused Sunday was turning into a task-focused Sunday, and I came very close to missing out on meeting and welcoming our new guests, and being in community with our members.

So it is with my own experience in mind that I caution that we must not allow ourselves to shift from a hospitality-focused Sunday to a task-focused Sunday. There are many of us in new roles but we need to remember that Sunday hospitality is an ongoing practice – and it is pro-active. It belongs before our Sunday service when members and guests arrive, and during coffee hour after service ends. We have all week to do our River of Grass business. We can do it at meetings, with a phone call, by email, and we can meet after hospitality hour.

This Sunday, and every Sunday, remember that a smile and a hello tells a guest, "You are welcome here." A handshake or conversation tells a guest, "There's a place for you among us."

It is the responsibility of us all to be fully present during worship and hospitality time on Sunday mornings. It is the responsibility of us all to maintain the wonderful reputation that together we worked so hard to earn.

## ENVISIONING DAY: COME HELP PLAN OUR COURSE FOR THE FUTURE

By Johnnie Peck

Saturday, October 15th, from 9 AM to 3 PM

While we've undergone a lot of change in the past three years, we have also accomplished a lot through everyone's time and effort. Now we have finally reached the point where we can pause to consider our future.

On Saturday, October 15th, we will have time to decide together what we want to become as a congregation and what our role is to be in the larger community. We will be developing the broad guidelines for our policies and actions for the next five years. This is an activity that will affect each one of us. It is important that we have as many members there as possible.

A light lunch will be served. If you have any questions contact **Johnnie Peck** at [Envisioning@riverofgrass.org](mailto:Envisioning@riverofgrass.org). Come and help the River run on.

### IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Services</i> .....	2
<i>River of Greens Plus</i> .....	2
<i>Faith Development</i> .....	3
<i>Auction</i> .....	3
<i>Board Matters</i> .....	4
<i>Treasurer's Tidbits</i> .....	4
<i>Membership</i> .....	5
<i>Association Sunday</i> .....	5
<i>Calendar</i> .....	6
<i>Service &amp; Social Justice</i> .....	7
<i>Green Tip</i> .....	7
<i>Women's Group</i> .....	7
<i>dUUdes</i> .....	8
<i>Full Moon Daughters</i> .....	8
<i>River of Grass Café</i> .....	10

## RIVER OF GREENS ORGANICS PLUS

By Deb GIBLIN-DAVIS

There is a new group at River of Grass – River of Greens Plus! River of Greens is an organic produce buying club that buys organic produce in bulk at wholesale prices and shares the discount with members. As a buying club we have the power to buy directly from farmers and distributors – that means that the food is fresher – from farmer to you! Buying direct cuts out a lot of overhead expense saving valuable resources and even more money. River of Greens will provide a healthy, affordable, eco-friendly, food-buying opportunity to the community at large and to our members.

How does this group fit within the mission of River of Grass? At the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in June 2011 a Statement of Conscience on Ethical Eating was passed. A three-page statement calls on UUs to “eat ethically” by becoming aware of the ways that our food choices affect our health and the planet’s health.

It makes references to industrial farming, condemns mistreatment of animals and workers in food production, encourages a diet based more on plants than animals, and invites all of us to seek out and advocate for food that is raised responsibly. It invites congregations to work for “food justice” so that everyone can have “adequate, nutritious food.”

A goal of River of Greens is to empower the members to take back control of their food source – to support local farmers as much as possible and to start the process of “becoming aware of the ways our food choices affect our health and planet’s health.” In the future it is our hope that the River of Greens group will be the catalyst for looking at ways we can implement the ethical eating guidelines as individuals and as a religious community.

If you are interested in joining and/or want to find out more about River of Greens, join us for an information meeting on Tuesday, October 4th, at 7:00pm at River of Grass. For more information, contact [FreshGreens@riverofgrass.org](mailto:FreshGreens@riverofgrass.org).

### OUR PRINCIPLES

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

### OUR SUNDAY LOCATION

11850 W. State Road 84, Suite 1, Davie, FL 33325

### EVERY SUNDAY

**Worship Service:** 10:30 to 11:30am. **Hospitality Hour:** 11:30am to 12:30pm.

**Faith Development Classes:** 10:45 to 11:45am

### FRIENDLY REMINDERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

There is plenty of parking outside the sanctuary, but please leave the closer parking spaces for our guests and physically challenged worshippers.

All meetings are held at 11850 W State Road 84, Suite 1 in Davie unless otherwise noted.

## SERVICES

- Oct. 2** Blessing of the Animals – Pam Schrimsher
- Oct. 9** Association Sunday – Leana Bresnahan
- Oct. 16** To Be Joyfully Determined – Marjorie Loring and Esther Sampol
- Oct. 23** To Be Announced – Rev. Ken Beldon, guest speaker
- Oct. 30** Finding Common Ground – Steve Hyatt

## River of Grass

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Phone 954-723-7877

[www.riverofgrass.org](http://www.riverofgrass.org) [uuriverofgrass@aol.com](mailto:uuriverofgrass@aol.com)

### Newsletter

Editor ..... Bev Kaufman  
 Design & Production ..... Brit Lundell  
 Copy Editors ..... Esther Sampol & Janet Schwartz

### Congregational Administrator

Sophia Brown

### Board of Trustees

President ..... Marjorie Loring  
 Vice President ..... Ken Bresnahan  
 Secretary ..... Susan Juncosa  
 Treasurer ..... Janet Schwartz  
 Trustee ..... Tom Robinson  
 Trustee ..... Diane Diaz  
 Trustee ..... Grant Basham  
 Trustee ..... Deb Giblin-Davis  
 Youth Representative ..... Paige Giese

### Committee Chairs

Annual Giving ..... Roy Schwartz  
 Auction ..... Audry Stang & Esther Sampol  
 Caring ..... Kristine Barkley  
 Concert ..... Aaron Stang  
 Community Awareness ..... Esther Sampol  
 Facilities ..... Susan Juncosa  
 Faith Development ..... Karen Gonzalez & Diane Lade  
 Finance ..... Scott May  
 Membership ..... Leana Bresnahan  
 Pastoral Care ..... Riley Cothran, Pat Katz & Marjorie Loring  
 Service & Social Justice ..... Alan Meerow & Judi Oltmans  
 Shared Ministry ..... Diane Lade & Janet Schwartz  
 Worship ..... Kathy Jens-Rochow

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT CLASSES TO BE HAUNTED BY HAPPINESS

By Diane Lade and Karen Gonzalez, Faith Development Co-Chairs

Get ready for a spook-tacular Halloween at River of Grass! There will be a costume parade for kids and kids-at-heart during service on Sunday, Oct. 30, followed by haunted happenings featuring crafts, refreshments and fun, sponsored by the Faith Development Committee. If you dare, take a tour of our Teen Room of Terror; our youth group plans to scare you silly. Watch the weekly electronic update for more details

Children also will be trick-or-treating for UNICEF during service on Oct. 30, so start stockpiling your change and small bills. All proceeds go directly to UNICEF, which brings health care, clean water and food to needy children around the world. Your gifts allow our kids to put their Unitarian Universalist principles into action and teaches them the importance of social justice work.

Our school year is off to a great start. Is it our imagination, or is that “magic carpet,” where our students sit for the Story for All Ages during service, getting pretty crowded? Our lessons are drawing from eclectic sources this year: the Simpsons cartoon television show, Dr. Seuss – and, yes, garbage, in the high school curriculum, where the teens are focusing on a greener tomorrow. Thanks to parents, teachers and students for making the transition to a new routine – service first, then a one-hour class starting at 10:45 am – very painless.

Our high school youth group, which is run by the teens and plans its own activities, has voted to change its name this year. The group now will be known as Beacon Youth, reflecting its affiliation with the Florida-wide Beacon program that brings Unitarian Universalist youth from across the state together for weekend gatherings known as “cons.”

Beacon emphasizes youth empowerment, with a goal of developing free-thinking, responsible young adults grounded in UU values. **Spaulding Basham** was elected the group’s leader at a super new school year pool party, hosted by **Scott May** and **Carolyn Sant Angelo**, with **Jenna Berleue** and **Tony Juncosa** chosen to be associate leaders. Actually, the group came up with new titles to replace the stodgy “president” and “vice president” terms. Ask one of them and maybe they’ll tell you what they are.

The River of Grass Faith Development program is open to children from pre-school through high school. We feature classes from 10:45 to 11:45am every Sunday, plus opportunities for children and youth to socialize, have fun, engage in social action and be mentored by our congregation through intergenerational activities. Our Faith Development program is staffed entirely by volunteers and financed completely through contributions. For more information, email: [FaithDevelopment@riverofgrass.org](mailto:FaithDevelopment@riverofgrass.org).



## THE RIVER OF GRASS ANNUAL AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2011

By Audrey Stang and Esther Sampol, Co-Chairs, Auction Committee

It’s time to start thinking about the River of Grass Annual Auction. In fact, your Auction Committee is busy at work already, planning and organizing this year’s event, and the excitement is starting to spread. Envision an elegant evening of dining, dancing, and bidding on great items – all in our very own River of Grass home this year!

Besides saving the date on your calendar, it is time now for all of us to start getting donations from businesses that you frequent. The 2011 Auction Donation letters are available from the Auction folks (**Esther Sampol** or **Audrey Stang**) on Sundays or via email, if you prefer. Just let us know at [Auction@riverofgrass.org](mailto:Auction@riverofgrass.org) and we’ll get a packet to you. At this time also, Committees and Small Groups might want to consider putting together a themed auction basket and congregants willing to share a skill (jewelry making, home repairs, computer help, garden expertise, etc.) can contact us to donate specific services as an auction item.



And – if you have offered an Auction Party in the past, please do so again this year. If you have never done so, please consider it this year. Partner up with another member (or two), think of a fun theme, decide on how many people you can accommodate at your event, pick a date, and let us know. It’s that easy! Auction parties are a wonderful way to connect with new people while raising money for our congregation and LifeNet4Families.

So, get out your dancing shoes and your party clothes as we are going to Paaarty this year in our first auction in our very own home!

Don’t delay! Get your tickets now! (Cash, check, or PayPal accepted.)



## BOARD MATTERS

By Susan Juncosa, Board Secretary

The Board of Trustees met on September 14 and spent much of the meeting reviewing Committee reports. It's impressive how much has happened in the last month, and even more impressive how much is being planned for this upcoming year!

Items requiring Board motions or approval were:

- ◆ The Board approved the formation of the "River of Greens" as a small group ministry. The group's purpose is to start a buying club that offers members of River of Grass healthy, affordable, eco-friendly produce. River of Grass will be used as a twice-monthly distribution point for club members. **Deb Giblin-Davis** will be leading this group and planning will begin as soon as possible. (See article on page 2.)
- ◆ Discussed the role of the Nominating Committee in selecting next year's Board of Trustees slate. The Board will appoint three congregational members to join the three members previously elected last June. A list of potential nominees was generated.
- ◆ The annual Board retreat will be held on Saturday, October 8 at the congregation facility.

## WANTED: NEW COPIER

By Janet Schwartz

The copy machine in the office has been aging gracefully, but now one of the twin internal rollers designed to move the paper through the machine can't keep pace with the other. Perhaps you've noticed how this causes the slight angle of the printed copy in Sunday's order of service.

Our trusted technician has let us know there are no more replacement parts available, so very soon we will be obtaining proposals from various companies for a replacement. Before we begin that process, it was suggested we first ask if any of our members and friends had access to a used copier that was in need of a new home.

If you know of an available copier, or a company that might be interested in donating a copier to a non-profit, please call our office at 954-723-7877, or drop us a note at [Office@riverofgrass.org](mailto:Office@riverofgrass.org).

## RIVER OF GRASS POLICY REVISION

By Janet Schwartz, Policy Team Member

At the September Board of Trustees meeting, the policy team presented revisions to the "building safety" section of the Faith Development policies. The recommended changes addressed language that was specific to our former elementary school location. As is our practice, the changes are now being presented to the congregation for review, and will be voted on at the October 12, 2011 board meeting. The recommended changes are:

### Part II, Section 1 - Building Safety for River of Grass Controlled Classrooms

1. ~~There will be no lighting of candles or chalices at either Central Park Elementary or the congregation's office. Battery operated candles may be used.~~
2. In case of an emergency need to evacuate the building, ~~at Central Park Elementary,~~ the designated meeting place for all children and adults will be ~~the North parking lot along the eastern fence of the parking lot, south of our building, beside bay 2.~~
3. Cleaning supplies will be kept out of reach of children ~~(in kitchen) in the kitchen~~ and in the supply closet. ~~storage area.~~ The supply closet will have a latch at least 5 feet above floor height.
4. ~~The placement of inspected fire extinguishers will be available in the sanctuary and kitchen--determined by local fire code.~~

Please direct any questions you may have in regard to these changes to [Policies@riverofgrass.org](mailto:Policies@riverofgrass.org) by October 11, 2011.

## TREASURER'S TIDBITS

By Janet Schwartz, Treasurer

At the end of each month, our Office Administrator **Sophia Brown** and I work together to produce a financial report that details the congregation's profit or loss for that month, and a report that compares our actual monthly income and expenses to the budget approved by our members at the congregation's annual meeting. These reports are reviewed by the Board of Trustees at their monthly meeting, and drive a large part of the discussion when our dedicated Finance Committee meets.

You may not love numbers to the degree members of our finance committee do, but the opportunity to review the same financial information is yours. Just stop by the bulletin board outside of the congregation's office, and locate the current financial statement and formal treasurer's report. Do you know where your congregation stands, financially? All it takes is a few minutes to find out!

A note of gratitude is extended to all of our members who are current with their annual giving contributions. Because of your commitment, our income from pledges after two months is tracking at 103% of budget.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

By Leana Bresnahan, Membership Chair

One of the questions asked in one of our recent worship services was this: What makes you get up early, Sunday after Sunday, get dressed, and make your way at a relatively early hour to River of Grass? What is it that draws you and convinces you that being at River of Grass is a better way to spend part of your precious free time than would be, for example, sleeping a little longer, or walking on the beach, or any number of other fun and/or meaningful activities you could pursue in this garden spot of South Florida that we call home? And more broadly, why am I a member of this congregation?

As I myself consider those questions, so many things come to mind. The first is that it's simply the right thing to do. I grew up regularly attending services (although of a different faith tradition), and so, being at River of Grass on Sunday mornings just feels right, like the thing that I am supposed to do.

But more than that, I take great joy in seeing the very special people who are members of our beloved community. They are such amazing people, involved in life, dedicated to being truly good people and to doing good in the world, wonderfully diverse in our interests, our talents, our professions, our spiritual practices, and yet united by our principles and by affection, even love, for each other.

But then there's more....there's the inspiration I gain each and every week from some aspect of being at River of Grass...the message of the sermon, the beautiful music that so often touches my soul, the sharing of remembrances and celebrations, the delightful stories for all ages, the stimulating conversation over coffee, the sight of new people coming through our doors and happy children running around. That inspiration stays with me through the week, and often as I fall asleep at night, visions of River of Grass float through my mind, and the songs we have sung sing me to sleep. Being part of River of Grass gives me the strength and the inspiration to live the rest of my life in joy, in hope, and in love.

And then finally, I belong to River of Grass because, frankly, I want to change the world. I picture how the world would be different and infinitely better if millions and billions more people lived by the principles we hold dear. I know that alone, I can do a lot, but that together, we can achieve infinitely more.

So I challenge each of you reading these words to consider for yourself the answer to this question. Because the more we have considered what River of Grass means to each of us, what it brings to our lives, the more we will be able to become 'spiritual extroverts' and spread the good news of Unitarian Universalism.

Visitors are spilling through our doors every Sunday. Let us share our good news with love and compassion. Let us welcome them into our conversations and our community. And for all visitors who think you may have found a home at River of Grass, we welcome you to take the next steps to become a member. Please contact me on a Sunday morning or at [Membership@riverofgrass.org](mailto:Membership@riverofgrass.org) or talk to any member of the Membership committee (**Elly Keane, Vickie Koutoulas, Bridget Morris, Lynn O'Brien, or Janet Schwartz**), so that we can let you know the next steps to take.

Our next New Member Sunday will be held during worship service on October 9th. We hope to have a full house that morning, to give a big welcome to our newest members!

Be a Unitarian Universalist. Become part of River of Grass. Nurture your spirit. Help heal the world.  
May we make it so.



---

## RIVER OF GRASS TO CELEBRATE FIFTH ANNUAL ASSOCIATION SUNDAY!

By Kathy Jens-Rochow, Worship Chair

Since 2007, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) has asked congregations to participate in annual Association Sundays to recognize and support, both spiritually and materially, the national work of the UUA. Association Sunday is a special opportunity for thousands of UUs across the nation to simultaneously celebrate our shared commitment to Unitarian Universalism.

Our congregation will celebrate Association Sunday 2011 on October 9th. As part of our service, we will take a special collection to affirm our common bonds and purposes as Unitarian Universalists. If you are not able to be at service, please send your check (made out to River of Grass and with "Association Sunday" on the memo line) directly to the office no later than October 12.

The theme of this year's Association Sunday is Celebrating Excellence in Ministries, and funds raised from special collections at participating congregations will support the UUA, Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA), Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN), Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA), and other professional organizations. Grants to these organizations will support a range of projects, including scholarships, continuing education, an assessment of our ministries, and other projects that help religious professionals get the ongoing training they need to support thriving congregations.

---

# OCTOBER 2011



Sat.	1st	8:00am-12:00pm 10:00-11:30am	Congregational Workday Wildpine Covenant Group
Sun.	2nd	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45am 11:30am-12:30pm 11:30am-1:30pm	Sunday Service Faith Development Classes Hospitality Hour Membership Committee
Tue.	4th	7:00-9:00pm	River of Greens Plus In- formational meeting
Wed.	5th	6:00-6:45pm	Vespers Service
Thu.	6th	6:30-8:00pm 8:00am-4:00pm 6:00-10:00pm	Facility Rental (Yoga Class) Board Retreat Facility Rental (ContraDance)
Sun.	9th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45am 11:30am-12:30pm	Association Sunday Sunday Service/New Member Recognition Faith Development Classes Hospitality Hour
Mon.	10th	7:00-9:00pm	Finance Committee
Wed.	12th	6:00-6:45pm 7:15-10:00pm	Vespers Service Board Meeting
Thu.	13th	6:30-8:00pm 7:00-9:00pm	Facility Rental (Yoga Class) Men's Group
Sat.	15th	9:00am-3:00p	Newsletter Deadline Envisioning Day
Sun.	16th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45am 11:45am-12:15pm 11:30am-12:30pm 12:30-3:00pm	Sunday Service Faith Development Classes Board Report Back Hospitality Hour Swamp Rose Covenant Group
Wed.	19th	6:00-6:45pm	Vespers Service
Thu.	20th	6:30-8:00pm	Facility Rental (Yoga Class)

Fri.	21st	7:30-11:00pm	Concert: Amy Carol Webb
Sat.	22nd	8:00am-12:00pm	dUudes Snorkel at Bis- cayne National Park Congregational Workday
Sun.	23rd	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45am 11:30am-12:30pm	Rev. Ken Beldon in the pulpit Sunday Service Faith Development Classes Hospitality Hour
Wed.	26th	6:00-6:45pm	Vespers Service
Thu.	27th	6:30-8:00pm 7:00-9:00pm	Facility Rental (Yoga Class) Men's Group
Fri.	28th	6:30-9:00pm	Spiritual Arts Group
Sat.	29th	8:00am-12:00pm 5:00pm-12:00am	Congregational Workday Facility Rental (ContraDance Hallow- een Party)
Sun.	30th	10:30-11:30am 10:45-11:45am 11:30am-12:30pm	Trick or Treat for UNI- CEF/Halloween Festival Sunday Service Faith Development Classes Hospitality Hour

## NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Fri.	11th	Full Moon Daughter Bahia Honda Camping - 13th Trip
Sat.	12th	Volunteer Day at LifeNet4Families
Sun.	13th	Guest at Your Table kickoff
Fri.	18th	Maria Rivas in Concert
Thu.	24th	Thanksgiving

## . . . . AND SERVICE IS OUR LAW

### SERVICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Alan Meerow and Judi Oltmans, Service and Social Justice Co-Chairs



**T**hank you to **Steve Jens-Rochow, Zena and Rick Tucker, Janice and Jerry, and Judi Oltmans** for participating at our River of Grass Saturday Volunteer Day at LifeNet4Families on September 10th. Our first job was to stock the shelves with boxes and boxes of macaroni and cheese. Sadly, this was the emptiest we'd ever seen the shelves at LifeNet4Families. The boxes of canned food from the Postal Food Drive are depleted now, so if you are able, please bring canned food, dry goods and especially **peanut butter** to the donation basket at the SSJC corner in the hospitality area.

**Committee Challenge!** Our next volunteer day at LifeNet4Families is Saturday, November 12th. Challenge your committee to spend a Saturday together and help make a difference in our community. Sign up your committee for a Saturday Volunteer day at LifeNet4Families. There is ample parking inside the LifeNet4Families facility and someone from the Service and Social Justice committee will be there to help. Service is a core value of Unitarian Universalism and volunteering at LifeNet4Families is a way to share a part of yourself and give back to our community.

The Service and Social Justice Committee had a very productive meeting in September, and in the months to come we will be placing some exciting justice actions and efforts before the congregation that are in harmony with resolutions adopted by the Unitarian Universalist Association at this year's general assembly – please stay tuned.

Also, we welcomed **Elyse Brunt, Troy Gies, Maddi Gutfreind and David Henkel** to our committee.

**Guest at Your Table** is coming in November! Help support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's human-rights work around the world by taking a **Guest at Your Table** box home with you. Look for the boxes next month, right before Thanksgiving.



## HONESTLY?

By **Kathy Jens-Rochow, Women's Group Facilitator**

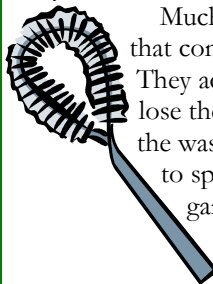
**T**he topic for the October Women's Group is "honesty." Everyone wants it, but not too much of it. Is a "little white lie" OK? Is withholding some hurtful information the same as lying? There's a lot to talk about when we talk about honesty. Honestly!!

The Women's Group will meet on Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm. The group is open to all River of Grass women and their women friends. For more information contact **Kathy Jens-Rochow** at [WomensGroup@riverofgrass.org](mailto:WomensGroup@riverofgrass.org).

## GREEN TIP: CLEANING TOILETS THE GREEN WAY

**O**ur toilets can become dumping grounds for more than our waste. In our efforts to be super clean, we are often killing not just the nasties but beneficial organisms too. Many toilet cleaning products contain bleach, formaldehyde, hydrochloric acid, or ammonia which are highly corrosive and can corrode parts in the flush valve. More importantly these chemicals not only kill bad bacteria but beneficial bacteria that assist in breaking down our waste. They can form toxins.

Much more earth friendly are toilet cleaning products that contain vinegar [acetic acid] or citric acid [orange oil]. They act on bacteria in the immediate area but quickly lose their potency to damage organisms farther down the waste stream. A good eco way to clean your toilet is to sprinkle baking soda in the bowl, spray with vinegar, allow it to sit, and scrub. You will help the Earth and save money.



– Submitted by **Steve Jens-Rochow**

## DUUDES ANNOUNCES ITS 2011-2012 EVENTS!

By Allen Giese, dUUdes Facilitator

**Y**ou've never heard of dUUdes!? Maybe that's because it's one of River of Grass's newest small groups. dUUdes are men and boys at River of Grass who are interested in doing activities outdoors, surrounded by nature, focusing on our seventh Unitarian Universalist principle while strengthening our male community. Well that's a lot to say... it's just about having fun outdoors with guys of all ages doing guy stuff. Which isn't to say gals don't like the same stuff!!! If you are a gal and like this stuff, see the Full Moon Daughters and **Diane Lade**.

So what are the dUUdes doing this year? A brief rundown of some of our events is on page 9.

## FULL MOON DAUGHTERS ANNOUNCE UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

By Diane Lade, Full Moon Daughters Facilitator

**O**ne bike ride in the moonlight, and another past the Palm Beach homes of the rich and famous. Winter solstice songs around the fire. Two camping trips to places where your tent flaps will open to a waterfront view.

Full Moon Daughters (FMD), the outdoor spirituality group for women and girls of all ages, set its event schedule for 2011-12 at its Brand New Year brunch last month. While dates can change due to weather or scheduling conflicts, this is our plan for the year. (See the schedule on page 9.)

Our goal is to have one event a month, taking July and August off: too HOT! All of our functions are open to women and girls who are members of our congregation, as well as their friends and family. We will have several outings this year that will include the guys, as we partner with our new outdoor group for men and boys: the dUUdes, coordinated by **Allen Giese** and **Alan Meerow**. All are welcome. No dues! No committee meetings! Just hanging out with a lot of cool chicks and soaking up the sun!

Please note the dates of our two 2011-12 camping trips: November 11-13 to Bahia Honda in the Florida Keys (NOT November 4-6, as mentioned in last month's newsletter) and February 18-20, 2012 at Fort DeSoto, near St. Petersburg. Reservations for these trips are a **MUST**, as there is limited space. We are imposing a small cancellation charge this year for people who back out of a camping trip a week or less from the first night of the event.

Reservations are open now for the Bahia Honda trip. We will be camping right on the ocean in Florida's most desirable state park, where we will savor fabulous camp cuisine, enjoy crafts and conversation, and watch the sun set from one of the best vantage points in the Keys. The cost will vary according to the number of people attending, but plan on a camping fee of about \$20 to \$30 per person for two nights.

Sounds like fun but hate sleeping on the ground? We can help you get a hotel in nearby Marathon. Other possible "shore" excursions include a visit to Marathon's Turtle Hospital, biking through Big Pine Key, snorkeling at Looe Key, and more.

Watch the weekly electronic update for more details. To reserve your spot, email: [FullMoonDaughters@riverofgrass.org](mailto:FullMoonDaughters@riverofgrass.org). Or call 954-463-1954 and leave a message. If you are interested in any of our activities, email us and we will get you on our mailing list.

See you on the water, along the trail and under the stars!





## DUUDES SCHEDULE

**Saturday, October 22nd:**

### **Snorkel at Biscayne National Park**

dUUDes will be on the "Ranger's Shipwreck Snorkel" tour departing from Homestead at 10:00am. The trip is 2 ½ hours long; we'll be joining a Biscayne National Park Ranger, submerging ourselves in the local maritime history as we explore a selected shipwreck belonging to the park's Maritime Heritage Trail. Rangers will give an overview of the park and the submerged cultural resources before we begin our underwater adventure. These shallow-water glimpses into the past will offer a fantastic opportunity to discover these underwater treasures surrounded by dazzling marine life. This tour is suitable for the novice and experienced snorkelers alike! We'll follow up the snorkel trip with a lunch nearby. Sign up NOW! We need to know how many are going and space is limited. Call **Allen Giese** at (954) 258-9703 or email [dUUDes@riverofgrass.org](mailto:dUUDes@riverofgrass.org)!

**Saturday, December 10th:**

### **A Day at the Park for Grilling, Kayaking and Swimming**

Take a break from the hectic holiday season and relax on the beach with the dUUDes. We'll be at John Lloyd State Park enjoying the sunshine, the ocean, games and whatever as well as each other's company.

**Friday-Sunday, February 18th-20th:**

### **Highlands Hammock State Park Campout**

The dUUDes will be taking it on the road to one of the oldest and most beautiful state parks in Florida for a three day campout. We'll enjoy bicycling, hiking and picnicking as well as ranger-guided tours through old-growth cypress swamp.

**Saturday, May 5th:**

### **Bike Shark Valley Under the Full Moon**

If you have never done this, then now is your opportunity! This is one of those "must do" things for South Florida. Seeing the Everglades by the light of the full moon while you bike the easy 15 mile loop through Shark Valley will be something you will never forget. All levels of cyclist from beginner to advanced are welcome.

## FACILITIES RENTAL NEWS:

### YOGA AT RIVER OF GRASS

By Susan Juncosa, Facilities Chair

**R**iver of Grass is happy to welcome another renter in our new home on Thursday evenings beginning September 29th. Jessica Lohrey Cobb, of "Tree of India," will be renting our facility to offer a Yoga class from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

The \$10.00 classes are open to all, in an environment where students of all levels can participate. Classes will be held in our hospitality area, so if you are interested in checking it out, a good mat is essential equipment to bring with you!

## FULL MOON DAUGHTERS' SCHEDULE

**October 30, Sunday:**

### **Sunrise meditation and breakfast**

We will gather at the ocean, greet the day with song and prayer, then adjourn for breakfast out. Sponsor: **Esther Sampol**

**November 11-13, Friday through Sunday:**

### **Camping trip to Bahia Honda in the beautiful Florida Keys**

Our tent sites have ocean views! Hotel option available. Advance registration required. Sponsor: **Diane Lade**

**December 18, Sunday:**

### **Solstice party**

Includes potluck dinner, an optional handmade gift exchange, and holiday carols around the campfire. Sponsor: **Deb Giblin-Davis**

**January 14, Saturday:**

### **Ride Millionaire Row**

We bike through the backyards of the rich and famous on Palm Beach's Lakes Trail. Lunch to follow. Sponsor: **Laura Secord**

**February 18-20, Saturday through Monday:**

### **Camping trip to Fort DeSoto, near St. Petersburg**

You will be able to kayak right up to your tent site. Hotel option available. Advance registration required. Sponsor: **Diane Lade**

**March 3, Saturday:**

### **Loxahatchee Paddle**

Kayak or canoe through cypress hammocks down one of South Florida's loveliest rivers, with the trip ending at Jonathan Dickenson State Park. Sponsors: **Halimah Polk and Diane Lade**

**March 31-April 1, Saturday and Sunday (tentative):**

### **Congregational campout at a retreat in Homestead**

Cabins available. Sponsor: **Laura Secord**

**April 21-22, Saturday and Sunday:**

### **Multi-day bike ride from the Florida Keys north**

A fundraiser for Multiple Sclerosis. Full Moon Daughters not in charge but will be participating.

**May 5, Saturday:**

### **Shark Valley Bike Ride**

Come pedal through the Everglades in the moonlight. This probably will be a congregational event, co-sponsored with the men's dUUDes outdoor group. Full Moon sponsors:

**Linda Meerow and Karen Gonzalez**

**June 9, Saturday:**

### **Snorkeling trip to John Pennekamp State Park**

Enjoy the marine life in the Florida Keys. Sponsor: **Susan Juncosa**



## RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ AND COFFEEHOUSE

By Gayle Giese

I hope you enjoyed singer/songwriters Ellen and Gary Bukstel in September! Thank you for coming and supporting the congregation through our concert series.

Don't miss the headliner event coming up October 21st. Our featured musician, Amy Carol Webb, is best described as a beloved song weaver. She is passionate, powerful, and poignant. And just announced, 20-year-old singer-songwriter Hunter Altschul will open for Amy.

Born and reared in Oklahoma, Amy traces her heritage back to Native Americans through her great-grandmothers who settled Oklahoma when it was still a territory. Amy's music reflects the same pioneering spirit, tenacity, integrity and never-quit grit.

*Billboard Magazine* called her "An Act to Watch - taking up the road Carole King, Janis Ian, and Joni Mitchell have trod." And she was the sole songwriter named among philanthropists, activists and cultural visionaries by the *Miami Herald* in "40 to Watch in the Next Millennium."

Doors open at 7:30pm. Music starts at 8pm. Tickets are \$15.00 advance purchase and \$20.00 at the door. You can pay in advance at the River of Grass website ([www.riverofgrass.org](http://www.riverofgrass.org); go to Events) using PayPal.

Check out our River of Grass Café [Facebook](#) fan page for all the latest news!



*Amy Carol Webb graces the River of Grass stage in October on Friday, 10/21*

## YOU CAN DO THIS!

By Allen Giese

Think of something that you could do that:

- ◆ Is a lot of fun,
- ◆ Will help eventually obliterate a terrible disease that impacts someone in our very own community,
- ◆ Will improve your health,
- ◆ Will be a challenge to you physically, and
- ◆ You can do with a bunch of really great people you know!

Not coming up with anything? How about this: Join the River of Grass Bicycle Team for the MS150 Bike ride next April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>!

Sponsored by the Service and Social Justice committee, the team will be riding in the MS150 bike tour from Homestead Motor Speedway to John Pennekamp Park in Key Largo. Riders of all abilities are welcome to join as there are multiple ride options including 50, 75, 110 and 150 miles over the two day event.

Riders **Linda Meerow** and **Allen Giese** will be conducting clinics and training rides for all abilities on Saturday mornings and/or Sunday afternoons for all who are interested and we'll be starting soon! Training rides will be based on the abilities of the group that we have and may be split into different levels. All who join and meet the fundraising minimum for the event will receive a custom team jersey. The fundraising minimum this year is just \$400, which is really not difficult to achieve. And it's an important cause that is within our reach!

Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. The symptoms include blurred or double vision, numbness or tingling in the limbs and can become as severe as paralysis or total loss of vision. Diagnosis usually occurs between the ages of 15 and 50, but the unpredictable physical and emotional effects are life-long. We ride for those who cannot, including our own **Sean Giblin**. We ride to find a cure and we ride to create a world free of MS.

So join us along with over 3,000 other cyclists in Florida's largest cycling event of the year! Call **Linda** at (954) 292-6586 or **Allen** at (954) 258-9703 if you are interested in hearing more about it or check the MS150 website for the details: [http://bikefls.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=BIKE\\_FLS\\_Details](http://bikefls.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=BIKE_FLS_Details).

Keep on Pedd'lin!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR UPCOMING RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ SHOWS!

October 21, 2011:	Amy Carol Webb
November 18, 2011:	Maria Rivas
December 16, 2011:	River of Grass Holiday Coffeehouse
January 27, 2012:	Al Petteway and Amy White – NOTE DATE CHANGE!
February 17, 2012:	Ronny Cox
March 16, 2012:	Tim Farrell
April 20, 2012:	Stay tuned!
May 18, 2012:	Stay tuned!

