

Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

DAVIE, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 2017



AGAIN

Rev. Amy Carol Webb

More often than not, we tend to think of courage in terms of heroics. First responders, soldiers, mothers protecting their children. These embody outward signals of bravery – the willingness to do dangerous things for the sake of others. Many people I love are among these selfless servants of the greater good. But they are not the most courageous people I know.

The root of the word “courage” comes from the French “corage”, which means “of the heart.” “Courage” is a heart word, and its attributes, heart qualities – conviction, integrity, compassion, perseverance, embrace of the unknown, strength in adversity. It shows up in the teacher singing through morning lessons after grading papers all night, again; in the grocery clerk still smiling at customers having just come from the emergency room with her elderly mother, again; the factory worker taking a second shift to better save for his kids’ education, again; the

tech pushing aside worry over his family’s debt to patiently explain the newfangled phone to yet another customer, again; the stay-home mom using the wee ones’ nap time for running the 3rd load of laundry and paying bills and prepping dinner and next day’s lunches, again; the teenager working out her/his/their sexual and gender identity heading out in the morning for not-quite-ever-safe school, again; the nurse with too many patients nonetheless finding the patience for the one most afraid, again. A thousand faces of world-weary, bone-tired, often-frightened people of every age and stripe facing the day, themselves, the world every day, no matter what. The ones who make a way others could not. The ones who find purpose in the ordinary tasks of living, and take pride in a job well done – whether or not anyone else notices.

Courage takes another aspect in these days. The kind of courage necessary to keep moving forward through troubled times. When those who clamored to lead us turn about to tear down so much that is most dear. When protections for earth and children and people of color/indigenous and those who would be and love whom they choose. When the assault on the compassionate heart and rational mind feels relentless. When we wake to tumult and terror and threat with every edition of the morning news.

Let me say here that I am aware this “new” sense of danger is only new to those in privilege. That people of color and indigenous blood have moved through every day this way for hundreds of years, along with LGBTQ+ and gender-nonconforming folks, the poor, and the disabled. Only now are those safely, if unaware, within the hegemonic structures of oppression in these United States waking up to the abuses others have born body and soul for generation upon generation under systems of white supremacy.

And so it is that we are called to a two-fold courage in our place and time: the courage to rise daily to face structures of power that would destroy humanity itself – and, the courage to own our part in perpetuating those structures of power, realize how they have served us, and dare to dismantle them in the name of liberty, in the name of love. And then wake tomorrow and do it – again.

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OUR SUNDAY LOCATION

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

EVERY SUNDAY

Worship Service: 10:30 to 11:30 am. **Hospitality Hour:** 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.
Faith Development Classes: 11:00 am to 12:00 noon

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.



River of Grass

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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& Robby Greenberg

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Faith Development Tanya Gustafson

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fUUndraising Susan Juncosa

& Zena Tucker

Hospitality Zena Tucker

Membership Deb Kitner, Lynn O'Brien,

& Zena Tucker

Nominating Diane Diaz, Georgette Lewis,

& Susan Juncosa

Personnel Rev. Amy Carol Webb

& **TBD**

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Shared Ministry Diane Lade

& Janet Schwartz

Stewardship Kip & Kristine Barkley

Worship Kathy Jens-Rochow

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contact info at www.riverofgrassuu.org

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Pastoral Care Pat Katz

& Riley Cothran

Religious Educator Debbie Ely

Web Designer Esther Sampol

& Marjie Loring

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.

STAY CONNECTED!

Between issues of *Reflections* you can stay connected to the River of Grass Congregation the following ways:

- ◆ **Sign up for our weekly email** with events and news: send an email to office@riverofgrassuu.org
- ◆ **Visit our Facebook page:** www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu
- ◆ **Follow us on Twitter:** @RiverOfGrassUU or www.twitter.com/riverofgrassuu
- ◆ **Visit our calendar:** www.riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html (or go to: www.riverofgrassuu.org – click on Events – Calendar)
- ◆ **Join our MeetUp group:** www.meetup.com/riverofgrassuu





FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Marjie Loring

STORMY WEATHER

Some things in life we can't control. It is as simple, and as complex, as that.

Simple when we allow ourselves to let go of resistance and embrace acceptance, sometimes easy and other times painstakingly difficult. Simple when we don't notice, don't care, or it doesn't affect us directly. Complex when we don't know exactly what is coming and we brace for that unknown, preparing for both best case and worst case scenarios. Complex when it doesn't just affect us, but also those we love. Complex when we question our decisions before we even see them through. Complex when we look back and wonder if there was more we could have or should have done.

Yes, my mind has been on Irma lately, and the ongoing effects on people and places. So much need that is out of our control. But, we do what we can, feeling both helpless and hopeful that what we can do will make a difference. I feel like I am "Drifting here with my ship's companions" as our *Blue Boat Home* song goes.

While Irma takes its place in our history, each of us individually and collectively faces different kinds of stormy weather in our lives. Things we can't control such as health issues, finances, work, or family. When faced with things that are out of our control, we do what we can in response, and that is what sees us through. How we respond to things that are out of our control IS something that we can control – as individuals and, also, as a congregation.

We help each other by how we prepare together, recover together, and help others together. I see all of these things in you, my River family, and feel blessed to be a part of this life journey with you. May you feel blessed by one another, as I feel blessed by each of you.



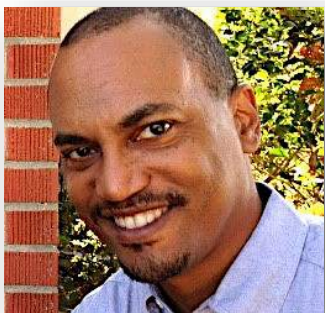
WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Steve Jens-Rochow, SSJC Chair

Are you interested in volunteering to help hurricane disaster relief efforts in Texas or Florida? The Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice UUCSJ is exploring where and how volunteers can be most useful to support the recovery and rebuilding efforts in the months to come. If you are interested in supporting hurricane response efforts go to the UUCSJ volunteer interest form: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4623138> and share information about your skills, interests and availability.

After Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast twelve years ago my wife Kathy and I went to a UUSC *Just Works* Work Camp in Biloxi, Mississippi. The weeklong experience working alongside other volunteers to rebuild homes damaged by the flooding was transformative. I went to another UUSC *Just Works* Work Camp in New Orleans shortly after the one in Biloxi. I worked rebuilding an old wooden shotgun house in the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans. I worked alongside UUSC volunteers from around the country. We made a difference. I was reminded of the Kahlil Gibran quote from the first work camp I went to, sponsored by the Quakers: "Work is Love Made Visible."

THE UU FLORIDA SE CLUSTER 2017 ANNUAL MEETING



THINKING – AND LIVING – OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE

with the Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith

Some of us are granted “acceptance” and “value” due to our skin color or other birth-given privilege. We move through life in a veritable “bubble” that buffers us from the scars of separation that others suffer on a daily basis. This “bubble” feels like protection, yet it isolates us from deeper understanding and heartfelt relationships. Join this dynamic session as we explore how to live “Outside the Bubble.”

Last month at the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, VA, Rev. Smith stood for justice, and linked arms with Prof. Cornell West, UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray and several other UU ministers, staff and parishioners. The Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith is one of nine members of the Congregational Life Staff serving the UUA’s Southern Region.

Saturday, October 21, 2017, from 10 am to 3:30 pm

Treasure Coast Unitarian Universalist Congregation 21 SE Central Parkway, Stuart, FL 34994 www.tcuuc.org

\$20 per person; \$10 Young Adult Registration [up to age 25]

For PayPal registration go to <http://uuflorida.org/annual/>

Registration includes Lunch and Continental Breakfast

Afternoon Workshop “Dynamics of Congregational Change” also with Rev. Smith

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

By Zena Tucker



Mark your calendars! Our Fall Membership Picnic is scheduled for Sunday October 15 after service. The Perez Family is again graciously offering their home as the venue. Burgers, hot dogs and beverages provided—vegan options too. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and your swimsuit if you like. Join us for great family fun, food and fellowship!

Our next New Member Sunday will be October 15, where we will recognize and celebrate all who are joining this free and open River of Grass.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Deborah Ely, Faith Development Coordinator

This fall, our River of Grass youngsters are heading back to Faith Development Classes. Our first day of scheduled classes was October 1! We are following a theme this year of Unitarian Universalist History. All three classes will be following curricula that focus on that theme.

We also have the Animal Blessing multigenerational service on October 15, which is for the whole family. All ages are welcome to attend and take part in this meaningful service.

And finishing out the month will be our annual Spooktacular celebration! Please join us this fall. We are excited to see all of our young’uns again.



RIVER OF GRASS ANNUAL AUCTION

Pixie Wright, Auction Committee Co-Chair

The Rodeo Auction is coming to River of Grass! Yahoo!! This country and western themed auction will be held on Nov. 4, 2017. Advance tickets are on sale NOW. The cost is \$30 for individuals and \$60 for family tickets, until Oct. 29. After that date tickets will be \$35 for individuals and \$70 for families. Please see Kathy Jens-Rochow after services to purchase your tickets by check or cash (and save River of Grass credit card processing fees.) Childcare will be available.

The menu will include a welcome drink, appetizers, grilled chicken breast, brisket, vegan BBQ sliders, vegan hot dogs, salad, coleslaw, baked beans, and cookies and brownies for dessert. Beer and wine will be included.

Back by popular demand is the Column O'Coins raffle. Please bring in your spare change during October. Two new raffle items include a Wine Pull and an Artisan Gift Basket of selected originals from our River of Grass artisans.

Our big-ticket auction items are a time-share weekend in Orlando or Las Vegas, and a Biscayne Bay sunset sail.

We are looking for a chocolate basket sponsor and other major items. Do you or your influential friends have a cruise or canoe? A jet or a jet ski? Maybe concert tickets? Maybe you could sponsor someone by buying extra auction tickets? And we need your help for donations of parties, (we love parties!), services, workshops, and gift baskets. Please have all donations and donation descriptions in by Oct. 22.

If you would like to assist with the auction, please contact Kathy Jens-Rochow auction@riverofgrassuu.org. This is our major fundraiser of the year and we need your support. Thank you to all our members for your gracious contributions.

Our mascot pig Dolly has her stompin' boots on. Do you have yours?



WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM

Theme for October: Courage

- October 1: *What Good are Wings?*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- October 8: *The Way You Resist Matters!*
Michael Malone (President, UU Miami)
- October 15: *The Bravest Hearts: A Blessing of the Animals*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- October 22: *Music Sunday*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
- October 29: *White Supremacy Teach-In*
Rev. Amy Carol Webb



Getting to Know UU's

"Getting to Know UU's" is a new monthly feature of the newsletter suggested and written by Kathy Jens-Rochow.

SIR TIM BERNERS-LEE (1955–): the inventor of the World Wide Web.



He made a proposal for an information management system in March 1989, and he implemented the first successful communication between a [Hypertext Transfer Protocol \(HTTP\)](#) client and [server](#) via the Internet in mid-November the same year. In 2004, Berners-Lee was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his pioneering work. In April 2009, he was elected a foreign associate of the United States National Academy of Sciences.

“I just had to take the hypertext idea and connect it to the [Transmission Control Protocol](#) and [domain name system](#) ideas and—ta-da!—the World Wide Web.”

Berners-Lee is one of the pioneer voices in favor of [net neutrality](#), and has expressed the view that [ISPs](#) should supply “connectivity with no strings attached”, and should neither control nor monitor the browsing activities of customers without their expressed consent. He advocates the idea that net neutrality is a kind of human network right: “Threats to the Internet, such as companies or governments that interfere with or snoop on Internet traffic, compromise basic human network rights.”

He has stated: “Like many people, I had a religious upbringing which I rejected as a teenager... Like many people, I came back to religion when we had children”. He and his wife wanted to teach spirituality to his children, and after hearing a Unitarian minister and visiting the UU Church, they opted for it. He is an active member of that church, to which he adheres because he perceives it as a tolerant and liberal belief.

Sources: *Wikipedia & w3.org*