

# Reflections

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

DAVIE, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 2019

## THE FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT

Rev. Amy Carol Webb



Late in the 14<sup>th</sup> century of the current era, the medieval English anchoress, Julian of Norwich, sat down at her tiny desk in her small stone cell to record her “showings,” a rather extravagant account of a series of 16 visions she had had during a near death experience. We don’t know a lot else about Julian’s life. In fact, Julian was not even her real name, but the name of the church to which she attached herself – the Church of St. Julian, in Norwich.

We do know enough of the history of her time to realize that by the time she committed her visions to ink and paper, she had borne through three epidemics of the plague, and nearly died of it herself. Virtually every person she had known and loved had died, her own body was wracked with pain, and all around her was relentless human suffering. Life as she knew it was utterly miserable, with disease, and poverty, and drought, and anguish

and pain in every corner. How is it then, that in the closing words of her text, she could write – “All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of things will be well”?

It was because of her vision.

Julian of Norwich died in the year 1416. Now here we find ourselves some 600 years later, in the midst of a world that’s gone terribly awry. Climate change coming on faster than expected and climate refugees seeking higher ground; violence permeating seemingly everything and migrants fleeing violence denied simple human rights at our own border; democracy hanging by a thread, racism and misogyny and poverty and hatefulness and really some down right idiocy on full display as the emperor parades down the middle of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave naked and proud, while people we love just keep cheering it on! It’s enough to make one think this whole human enterprise as we know it could collapse.

But in fact, none of this is new. Generation after generation of our ancestors faced the same human, social, political, practical and spiritual dilemmas we face, only the details are changed, commensurate with our own times. And, yes, as a species we actually are getting better one generation at a time, evidence of our times notwithstanding. What we’re in right now is called an “extinction burst” – a blast of bitter defiance when old ways are about to die and must fight to hold onto power.

This world has always been a tough place to live. Societies of every age have had their naked Emperors. Violence has always been with us. And in us. As has poverty. And hatred. Wars and rumors of wars. And humanity generally being inhuman toward one another. There has always been struggle and pain and disease and despair.

And still ... here we are. People still gather. People still play. People still write stories and tell tales and dance and sing and love one another and find ways around and through

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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** (7th - 12th grades): 10:00 am to 11:00 am

**Faith Development Classes** (K - 6th grades): 11:00 am to 12:00 noon

### FRIENDLY REMINDERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

There is plenty of parking outside the sanctuary, but please leave 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.

## 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](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org)
- ◆ **Visit our Facebook page:** [www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu](http://www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu)
- ◆ **Follow us on Twitter:** @RiverOfGrassUU or [www.twitter.com/riverofgrassuu](http://www.twitter.com/riverofgrassuu)
- ◆ **Visit our calendar:** [www.riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html) (or go to: [www.riverofgrassuu.org](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org) – click on Events – Calendar)



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## River of Grass

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Phone 954-723-7877

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[office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org)

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Vice President ..... Susan Juncosa

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Youth Representative ..... Marina DeMoraes

### Committees

contact info at [www.riverofgrassuu.org](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org)

Faith Development ..... Erin Enwright & Diane Lade

Finance ..... Rob Giblin-Davis

Membership ..... Kathy Jens-Rochow & Zena Tucker

Nominating ..... TBD

Worship ..... Rita Cherubini

### Staff

contact info at [www.riverofgrassuu.org](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org)

Choir Director ..... Gayle Giese

Dir. of Faith Development ..... Karen Gonzalez

Office Administrator ..... Sandy Blair Chibnick

### Strategy Teams and Other Resources

contact info at [www.riverofgrassuu.org](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org)

Caring ..... Deb Giblin-Davis & Georgette Lewis

Community Awareness ..... Open

Concert (Café) ..... Robby Greenberg & Aaron Stang

Facilities Management ..... Riley Cothran

Facilities Rental ..... Ken Bresnahan

fUUndraising ..... Kathy Jens-Rochow & Susan Juncosa

Hospitality ..... Kathy Jens-Rochow

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Service, Social Justice & Green Team ..... Steve Jens-Rochow

Shared Ministry ..... Diane Lade & Janet Schwartz

Stewardship ..... Rita Cherubini & Kathy Jens-Rochow

Web Design ..... Esther Sampol

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### WELCOME BACK!

Scott May



**W**elcome back! I hope everyone had a glorious fulfilling summer, and is refreshed and ready to *nurture our spirits, love intentionally, and create a just and healthy planet.*

The summer kept me busy, with numerous events and travel... I attended UUA General Assembly as an online delegate, hiked in Colorado, co-lead a mindfulness workshop at SUUSI in North Carolina, attended a 10-day silent meditation retreat in Georgia, visited family up north and across Florida, continued consulting part-time, and assisted LifeNet4Families as a board trustee.

Now I'm ready to settle in and devote time to the good people and good works of River of Grass! Our immediate major item is for the congregation to discern its future home path, as our lease expires in 2.5 years. The Future Home Envisioning Team was busy this summer researching, ready to present clear options to the congregation. This has been a deliberate process, and everyone needs to review the options in detail and let their voice be heard. This is an important congregational decision, as we all row this River together!

I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve this beloved community, and look forward to continuing on our journey together.



## THE FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT

(Continued from page 1)

and over and under all manner of obstacles. There have always been storms. With rainbows right behind. Even storms we get all prepared for that then they pass us by, all the while aggrieved that somewhere else our kin suffer that same storm.

If Julian's vision in the midst of more death and misery than we have seen could still declare, "All manner of things will be well," so can our own vision sustain and lead us now.

We begin our new Congregational Year of 2019-2020, with the Grand Theme – **"Wake Now Our Vision."**

Okay, yeah, we couldn't resist the fact that come January, we will see – say it with me – 2020. And really that 2020 thing is right on time – because this is the year this Beloved Community at River of Grass will cast its vision for its own 21<sup>st</sup> century future. This is the year of some mighty big decisions. This is the year of reaching deeper and higher and wider to live into the visionary religious community we aim to be with the work we do, the justice we seek, the peace we make, and the love we give at a whole new level. This is the year we Love and Learn and Lead up new pathways toward our mission to *nurture our spirits, love intentionally, and create a just and healthy planet!* This is the year we proclaim "We can, we must, we will!" This is the year we look about us at the precarious state of the world and and yet dare to declare, "All manner of things will be well," because *we have promised to make it so together.*



This is the year we ...

*Wake now our vision of ministry clear;  
Brighten our pathway with radiance here;  
Mingle our calling with all who will share;  
Work toward a planet transformed by our care.*

Oh people, my people, beloveds of my very soul ... our future's so bright.



## FAITH DEVELOPMENT

### WELCOME BACK!

Karen Gonzalez



We have some very talented, kind and energized teachers looking forward to beginning a new year of Faith Development programs for our children and youth on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Something new this year will be our older children and youth sharing a classroom space. Our 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders (Wise Old Owls) will meet in the office classroom from 10:00 to 11:00am on Sundays, followed by our 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders (Mockingbirds) who will meet in that space from 11:00 to 12:00pm. This will mean that some grownups will have to establish new habits of using the copier/checking mailboxes/ leaving notes for Sandy/ gathering supplies, either before 10:00 or after 12:00. Thank you in advance for this shift in practice and any and all attempts to honor our teachers and youth during their class time.

As usual, our younger ones will join us in worship for the first half of service, and now our older youth will be able to join us for the second half of service. This spiritual practice will provide good support to the development of their faith as they enter into a Coming of Age year of study. Stay tuned for ways you can help to support their Heritage Trip to Boston in the spring!

Another change this year is additional All-ages Worship experiences – now on most 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month in addition to 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. Our children’s (and our own) faith is developed throughout all of our experiences at The River – not just in the classroom. Once upon a time, faith formation only occurred in the home or in multi-age religious communities. Even early schoolhouses devoted most of their time to morality and character development over academics. In the 1900’s, public schools began focusing on pure academics and then shifted to age-segregated classrooms. That opened the door for similar models of Sunday School. More recently, we’ve seen this old model fail to meet the needs of all of our families.

Religious Educator, Kimberly Sweeney states in her book, The Death of Sunday School, “Paying attention to the shifting needs of our families and children, releasing ourselves from the structures of our past, and boldly experimenting to contribute to the evolution of faith formation may just be the spiritual task of our time.” Reverend Amy and I are always looking for more ways that our families can develop spiritual practices together. If you’d like to contribute to the conversation, consider joining our Faith Development Committee this year, where building a community of families is a top priority (see our calendar of Family Fun Events). Parents can also join me for a series of dinner conversations on “Being a UU Parent”, building skills to guide young ones in their faith development. Sign up through your child’s registration page (<https://tinyurl.com/ROGFD2019>). Everyone is welcome to join us at The River for the Southeast Cluster meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Kimberly Sweeney will be the keynote speaker on the topic of Faith Formation for a New Age.



We row this river together and we ought to be mindful of the current!

Yours in faith,  
Karen



## MONTHLY FAMILY FUN CALENDAR

Join us for these opportunities to build community and foster friendships!

- ◆ Family Bowling at Bowlarama – Sunday, **September 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- ◆ Annual Family Picnic – Sunday, **October 13<sup>th</sup>**
- ◆ Octoberfest/Halloween Fun – Friday, **October 25<sup>th</sup>**
- ◆ Lifenet for Families Justice Workday – Saturday, **November 9<sup>th</sup>**
- ◆ Annual Holiday Gathering – Friday, **December 6<sup>th</sup>**
- ◆ Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade – Monday, **January 20<sup>th</sup>**
- ◆ River of Grass birthday party – Saturday, **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- ◆ Playground Picnic – Sunday, **March 8<sup>th</sup>**
- ◆ Spring Variety Show – Saturday, **April 4<sup>th</sup>**
- ◆ End-of-Year Pool Party – Sunday, **May 17<sup>th</sup>**

## DENVER DID NOT DISAPPOINT!

### CHOIR CORNER

Gayle Giese



**T**he River of Grass Choir is back in the house! Inspired by creativity, music, fellowship, and education at the Association of Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries (AUUMM), I've purchased a few very special choir pieces for this church year. Look and listen for music by Mark Miller, Ysaye Barnwell (Sweet Honey in the Rock), Lia Davis, and others.

At AUUMM, I attended many workshops including one led by Kathy Mittleman, Choir Director of the Emerson UU Congregation of Marietta, GA. Kathy suggested to kick our choir experience up a notch by connecting emotionally with the meaning of the music. So this year, our choir will be exploring what each song means to us. I imagine that you'll see more emotion on their faces, hear more depth in their sound, and experience more spirituality in their presentations.

It was a great JOY to sing with Linda Lathroum and 199 other singers in the convention choir, directed by the phenomenal Mark Miller. We sang three of Mark's choral pieces at the Sunday service at the First Universalist Church of Denver who hosted us (and provided about 1000 cups of coffee for us!). Two of our leading clinicians were Mark Miller and Glen Thomas Rideout, now my favorite clinicians of all time! I am so grateful to River of Grass and AUUMM for the opportunity to attend and be inspired by these brilliant people.

Glen Thomas Rideout, gorgeous singer, renowned conductor, composer, church music director and now minister at First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor says to those who say they only sing in the shower, "Don't you know your voice is powerful? Because your voice is forever-changing, you must sing forever . . . because your voice is not like any other voice, you must sing forever . . . we sing to change lives." I recently asked our choir members to record themselves singing a simple song like "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" and listen back, "being gentle with yourself because our voices are like snowflakes; no two are alike." When we join our unique voices together, magic happens!

**SO JOIN US! SING WITH US! NO AUDITIONS!**

**SUNDAYS @ 9am in the Multi-Purpose Room.**

Let's make a joyful noise and transform lives, ours and others.



## FAITH DEVELOPMENT CLASSES



Our teachers are so excited to begin the new Faith

Development programs for this year! Join us next Sunday, Sep 22nd, as we kick off our new class sessions. 7th through 12th graders begin at 10:00 am, before service. Everyone else will begin service with the grownups and begin class at 11:00 am.

Registration is now open for the new Faith Development program year for children and youth. Click on this link to complete your family's registration. (<https://tinyurl.com/ROGFD2019>)

## STORYTELLING ROUNDTABLE –

### STONE SOUP BREAKFAST

Saturday, September 21, 9:00a

There's something about stories that stick with us. Storytelling is one of the most effective approach to connecting with children (and adults!).

Whether you are currently a member of our Storyteller Team, want to be a member, or just would like to learn more about storytelling and learning, please join us as we share a few tips, resources and tell stories!

It may very well be the most important skill you can ever pick up

Bring a story (or not) and a breakfast dish to for a great shared breakfast.

RSVP to Kathy Jens-Rochow at [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org).



## WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM



### EXPECTATIONS

September 22 *Autumn Equinox*, Rev. Amy Carol Webb,  
Service Host: Linda Lathroum

September 29 *The Great Hoop of the World: First Nations' Day* (New Member Sunday),  
Rev. Amy Carol Webb,  
Service Host: Tanya Gustafson

### BELONGING

October 6 *Want What You Have*, Riley Cothran,  
Service Host: Ed Lewis

October 13 *Climate Reality*, SSJGT,  
Service Host: Kathy Jens-Rochow

## LETTERS to the Editor

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

### REFLECTIONS ON THE RIVER

We want to hear from you! Do you have thoughts and/or questions about current events, our strategic plan, new home, etc. that you would like to share with our congregation? Consider submitting a letter to the editor!

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee meets the second Monday of each month at the River of Grass office. Please consider joining us in order to learn more about the ins and outs of our finances. Previous financial experience is not necessary! Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.





## SECOND HELPING SUNDAY



**O**n September 22 we are hosting AARP at 12:15p. The wonderful people at AARP will be sharing with us all of the important AARP resources and events. All are welcome to attend!



## NEWS FROM THE YUUNG ADULTS

Linda Lathroum



**T**he YUung Adults are an intentional community that uplifts and inspires each other. We seek to grow together while enjoying life to the fullest. We have hosted fun events such as, “Yummy Thai,” “Bowling Fun,” and “Movie Night!” They were all wonderful ways to get to know each other more deeply while having fun! We are planning several events for this year: Karaoke night, another movie night, a beach picnic, and much more. We will have an envisioning meeting as our group continues to evolve early in the fall. For more information about upcoming events, please email [youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org).

# Getting to Know UU's



## FAMOUS UNITARIAN

Kathy Jens-Rochow

**PETE SEEGER (MAY 3, 1919 – JANUARY 27, 2014):  
SINGER, SONGWRITER, ENTERTAINER, SOCIAL JUSTICE  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST**

**“Participation! It’s what all my work has been about.”**

**F**or nearly 70 years as a performer, Pete Seeger embodied the ideals of folk music – communication, entertainment, social comment, historical continuity, inclusiveness. The songs he wrote helped preserve our cultural heritage, imprinting adults and children with the sounds, traditions and values of our global past and present. Seeger’s political activism, from the Civil Rights movement to anti-war protests, has become the template for subsequent generations of musicians and ordinary citizens with something to say about the world.

While his songs frequently challenged status quo, Seeger’s fearless contributions earned him a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, a Harvard Arts Medal, the Kennedy Center Award, the Presidential Medal of the Arts, and even membership in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

*Sources: Wikipedia, Seeger website and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Sept 15	12:00-1:30p	Faith Forward Inquirers Series #8	River of Grass
Sunday, Sept 15	12:15p	New Home Envisioning meeting	River of Grass
Tuesday, Sept 17	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, Sept 18	7:15-9:15p	bUUKies Book Group	River of Grass
Wednesday, Sept 18	4:00-6:30p	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction	River of Grass
Thursday, Sept 19	7:00-9:00p	Men's Group	River of Grass
Saturday, Sept 21	9:00-11:00a	Stone Soup Breakfast	River of Grass
Saturday, Sept 21	7:00p (doors open) 8:00p (concert)	Rod MacDonald	River of Grass
Sunday, Sept 22	12:15p	Back to School Bowling Bash at Bowlero	8200 W State Rd 84 Davie, FL
Sunday, Sept 22	12:00p	Second Helping Sunday	River of Grass
Monday, Sept 23	7:00-9:00p	SSJGT JAM meeting/potluck	River of Grass
Tuesday, Sept 24	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, Sept 25	4:00-6:30p	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction	River of Grass
Thursday, Sept 26	7:00-7:45p	Welcome Table Communion Circle w/ Rev Amy	River of Grass
Saturday, Sept 28	6:00-9:00p	Parents Night Out	River of Grass
Sunday, Sept 29	12:00-1:30p	Faith Forward Inquirers Series #1	River of Grass
Sunday, Sept 29	10:30a	New Member Sunday	River of Grass
Tuesday, Oct 1	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, Oct 2	4:00-6:30p	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction	River of Grass
Thursday, Oct 3	7:00-9:00p	Men's Group	River of Grass
Saturday, Oct 5	9:00a-12:00p	Congregational work day	River of Grass
Sunday, Oct 6	12:30-1:30p	Faith Forward Inquirers Series #2	River of Grass
Monday, Oct 7	7:00-9:00p	SSJGT meeting	River of Grass
Tuesday, Oct 8	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, Oct 9	4:00-6:30p	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction	River of Grass
Friday, Oct 11	7:00-9:00p	Drum Circle w/ Rev Amy	River of Grass
Saturday, Oct 12	9:00-11:00a	LifeNet4Families volunteer day	1 NW 33 <sup>rd</sup> Terrace Ft Lauderdale
Saturday, Oct 12	11:30-1:30p	SSJGT Presents: Citizen's Climate Lobby	River of Grass
Saturday, Oct 12	9:30a-3:45p	SSJGT hosts "Engaging All Ages: Faith Formation, Social Justice, and Outreach"	River of Grass
Sunday, Oct 13	12:15p	Annual Picnic	TBA
Monday, Oct 14	7:00-9:00p	Finance Meeting	River of Grass
Tuesday, Oct 15	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, Oct 16	4:00-6:30p	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction	River of Grass
Wednesday, Oct 16	7:15-9:15p	bUUKies Book Group	River of Grass
Thursday, Oct 17	7:00-9:00p	Men's Group	River of Grass
Saturday, Oct 19	9:00a-3:00p	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction	River of Grass
Saturday, Oct 19	7:00p (doors open) 8:00p (concert)	Friction Farm	River of Grass
Sunday, Oct 20	12:30-1:30p	Faith Forward Inquirers Series #3	River of Grass
Tuesday, Oct 22	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, Oct 23	4:00-6:30p	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction	River of Grass
Thursday, Oct 24	7:00-7:45p	Welcome Table Communion Circle w/ Rev Amy	River of Grass
Friday, Oct 25	7:00-9:00p	Halloween party/UNICEF fundraiser	River of Grass
Monday, Oct 28	7:00-9:00p	SSJGT JAM meeting/potluck	River of Grass
Tuesday, Oct 29	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Wednesday, Oct 30	4:00-6:30p	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction	River of Grass
Saturday, Nov 2	9:00a-12:00p	Congregational work day	River of Grass
Saturday, Nov 2	TBA	RIVER OF GRASS 19 <sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AUCTION	River of Grass
Sunday, Nov 3	12:00-1:30p	Faith Forward Inquirers Series #4	River of Grass
Monday, Nov 4	7:00-9:00p	SSJGT meeting	River of Grass
Tuesday, Nov 5	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass
Thursday, Nov 7	7:00-9:00p	Men's Group	River of Grass
Friday, Nov 8	7:00-9:00p	Drum Circle w/ Rev Amy	River of Grass
Saturday, Nov 9	9:00-11:00a	LifeNet4Families volunteer day	1 NW 33 <sup>rd</sup> Terrace Ft Lauderdale
Saturday, Nov 9	11:30-1:30p	SSJGT Presents: Citizen's Climate Lobby	River of Grass
Sunday, Nov 10	12:00-1:30p	Faith Forward Inquirers Series #5	River of Grass
Monday, Nov 11	7:00-9:00p	Finance Meeting	River of Grass
Tuesday, Nov 12	7:30-8:30p	Flowing River Sangha	River of Grass



RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

# Drum Circle

2nd Friday of the month  
7-8pm



No experience necessary; we have lots to share! Free!

Please contact Rev. Amy minister@riverofgrassuu.org for more information



BUUKies

# BOOK CLUB

River of Grass Unitarian  
Universalist Congregation

BUUKIES@RIVEROFGRASSUU.ORG

Third Wednesday of  
the month 7:15pm



# New Member Celebration



Sunday, Sept 29  
During Service



RIVER OF GRASS  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION  
RIVEROFGRASSUU.ORG



## INQUIRERS SERIES

**The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets at 12pm on Sunday mornings in the Multi Purpose Room.** It is a rotation of 8 conversations about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. The series is designed for visitors and newcomers who are looking for a general introduction, and yet the sessions are also appealing to

veteran members who want more information about our beloved community. New members and inquirers are encouraged to attend. Classes are not mandatory for membership but are highly recommended! For more information see Zena Tucker, [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org)

Date	Event
9/29/2019	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
10/6/2019	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
10/20/2019	FF Inquirers#3: Campus Tour & Orientation
11/3/2019	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
11/10/2019	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
11/24/2019	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
12/1/2019	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
12/15/2019	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life





**RIVER OF GRASS UU CONGREGATION**

# **ANNUAL PICNIC**

Location: Member Home

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1019**

**12:30-2:30PM**

**BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE**

Burgers, hot dogs and drinks provided. Vegan options too! Reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

**FREE OF CHARGE**

**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY**

Signup in the hospitality area or  
email [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org)





## SEPTEMBER 23 IS “CELEBRATE BISEXUALITY DAY” OR “BI VISIBILITY DAY”



**B**i Visibility Day, also known as **International Celebrate Bisexuality Day**, has been marked each year since 1999 to highlight biphobia and to help people find the bisexual community.



### LGBTQ+ / TGQNB\* Days of Observance

*All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.*

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD)	1st Wednesday of February	National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD), a national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative targeted at Blacks in the United States and the Diaspora.
International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV)	March 31	Celebrated to bring awareness to transgender people and their identities as well as recognize those that helped fight for rights for transgender people.
Day of Silence	April	April; Day varies from year to year. GLSEN's Day of Silence is an organizing tool to end the silencing effect of anti-LGBTQ bias.
Lesbian Visibility Day	April 26	Origin unknown, but recognized since 2008 as a way of acknowledging perceived erasure of lesbian spaces and the need to preserve and celebrate lesbian culture, distinct as it is from other gay, bi, trans, and queer experiences.
International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia	May 17	The main purpose of the May 17 mobilizations is to raise awareness of violence, discrimination, and repression of LGBT communities worldwide.
LGBT Pride Month	June	June is celebrated as Pride in honor of the Stonewall Riots, though Pride events occur all year round. It also marks the month that same-sex marriage was legalized in the United States.
Pulse Night of Remembrance	June 12	Annual day of US remembrance for the loss of 49 people in the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida on June 12, 2016.
Stonewall Riots Anniversary	June 28	To remember the Stonewall Riots that are described as the start of the Trans and Gay Liberation Movement in the United States.
Celebrate Bisexuality Day	September 23	Also referred to as Bisexual Pride Day, CBD, Bisexual Pride and Bi Visibility Day.
LGBT History Month (USA)	October	First celebrated in 1994 in October. It was declared a national History month by President Barack Obama in 2009.
National Coming Out Day	October 11	National coming out day celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people's coming out experiences and journeys.
Intersex Awareness Day	October 26	Celebrated in October to commemorate the first intersex protest, which took place in Boston, MA.
Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR)	November 20	Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.
World AIDS Day	December 1	Recognized in 1988 by the United Nations.

\*TGQNB - Transgender, Genderqueer, Non-Binary

For more information on UUA LGBTQ+ programs and resources email [lgbtq@uaa.org](mailto:lgbtq@uaa.org).  
Learn more about UUA Welcoming Congregations and LGBTQ+ / TGQNB inclusion, and more at [www.uaa.org/lgbtq](http://www.uaa.org/lgbtq).

## ENGAGING ALL AGES: FAITH FORMATION, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND OUTREACH

SATURDAY, OCT. 12, 2019 FROM 9:30 TO 3:45 P.M. AT RIVER OF GRASS CONGREGATION



Your [SE Florida Cluster](https://www.facebook.com/UUFloridaSoutheastCluster/) (<https://www.facebook.com/UUFloridaSoutheastCluster/>) invites you to its dynamic, interactive fall program. Join UU friends from congregations across SE Florida to network, make new friends, and share ideas.

UU President Susan Frederick-Gray welcomes us with a special video address. With keynote Kimberly Sweeney, author of “[The Death of Sunday School and the Future of Faith Formation](https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/the_death_of_sunday_school_and_the_future_of_faith_formation_ksweeney_june2017.pdf),” ([https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/the\\_death\\_of\\_sunday\\_school\\_and\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_faith\\_formation\\_ksweeney\\_june2017.pdf](https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/the_death_of_sunday_school_and_the_future_of_faith_formation_ksweeney_june2017.pdf)) offering a wealth of innovative ideas and with engagement as our topical umbrella for the day, we’ll explore new ways of “Engaging All Ages” to bring new vitality our congregations.

Following her morning keynote (and a scrumptious lunch), Kim will lead an afternoon nuts & bolts mini-workshop to deepen understanding of her approach and generate pragmatic ways to implement. Other afternoon workshops will focus on how UU congregations are using social justice issues and activism to spur engagement and another on the broad and very personal nature of outreach as a tool to not only engage but also as a spiritual awareness practice.

Breakfast and lunch served as part of the inclusive price. **Child care is offered but you must RSVP.**

- \$15 students\*
- \$25 per person in advance\*
- \$30 day of event
- \*Scholarships Available

[PayPal to Register](http://uuflorida.org/paynow/) (<http://uuflorida.org/paynow/>)

To pay by mail, please mail your check made out to “Southeast Florida Cluster, Inc.” to the SE Florida Cluster Registrar, 1420 SE 13 Street, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312. Deadline is Monday, Oct. 7 postmark.

Child care is available (\$25 per child) but you must reply by Monday, Oct. 7.

For more information, contact Michael Malone (305) 281-4089 or [mikelrm3@gmail.com](mailto:mikelrm3@gmail.com) or Kathy Jens-Rochow at [seucluster@gmail.com](mailto:seucluster@gmail.com).





**Your SE Cluster  
Board invites  
YOU to...**

# ***Engaging All Ages***

***Faith Formation, Social Justice,  
and Outreach***

Keynote Kimberly Sweeney, [\*The Death of Sunday School\*](#), a special welcome from UU President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray; and much more...



Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019

9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Breakfast & Lunch served

\$25 advance/\$30 door



**[River of Grass UU Congregation](#)**

***[Paypal Registration Link](#)***



## THE BROWARD CLIMATE ALLIANCE BEGINS AT RIVER OF GRASS

Steve Jens-Rochow



**I**t started with a Service, Social Justice and Green Team sponsored meeting at the River of the Climate Reality Project in July. As members of River of Grass and others discussed climate and its implications, the group became energized and excited about forming a coalition of local environmental groups that could work together on climate change. They began by inviting local organizations for a meeting at River of Grass. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this meeting happen! On August 10th twenty-two people representing 12 organizations came to River of Grass and agreed to work together on climate-related challenges as an ad hoc group, the Broward Climate Alliance. Nicole Buckley, the Florida Director for Schools Under 2°C, offered to set up a website and a Slack account. By the end of the meeting she had both up and running!

## Citizens' Climate Lobby

The Broward Climate Alliance [BCA] met for the second time on Saturday, Sept. 7th at 1:30 pm at River of Grass. Twenty people attended, including 9 students. We drafted a Mission Statement: *The Broward Climate Alliance's Mission is to link Broward justice organizations together, to educate Broward citizens about the climate crisis and generate political will for action.* The students decided to hold Broward's Climate Strike from 11:30 to 1:30 pm on Friday, Sept. 20 in order to get video on the noon TV news broadcasts. The Strike will be at Bubier Park, South Andrews Ave and Las Olas Blvd in downtown Ft. Lauderdale. The Strikers will march south down Andrews Ave over the bridge and then east past the County Courthouse. Arriving at the School Board office at SE 6 St and SE 3 Ave.

The Climate Strike is worldwide.

The next Broward Climate Alliance meeting will be Saturday, October 5th, 1:30p at the River. Individuals as well as climate organizations are encouraged to join. Any questions, please contact Judi Oltmans at [ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org).



## RIVER OF GRASS COMPOSTERS

Judi Oltmans



**I**n a continued effort to be green we will be composting again this year! If you are interested in taking home our River of Grass compost one Sunday please contact the Service and Social Justice Green Team at [ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org). Composters can sign up for one Sunday a month or as often as they like.

Thank you to all our composters last year: Steve, Scott, Deb, Karen, Judi, Geri and Rev. Amy. Instead of ending up in the landfill, our compost took on new life in the compost piles at their homes. Coffee grounds can be beneficial in your garden! A big thank you also goes to the Hospitality volunteers! Every Sunday morning they put the coffee grounds and fruit and vegetable scraps into our shiny River of Grass compost container.

Go green!



## VOLUNTEERING AT THE LIFE<sup>NET</sup>4FAMILIES FOOD BANK

Judi Oltmans

Once a month on a Saturday morning you'll find River of Grass volunteers helping out at LifeNet4Families—making a difference and healing injustice out in our community. Is your covenant group looking for a service project? You can help by volunteering in their pantry, dining room, clothing and toiletries area and kitchen doing a variety of tasks. There's something for everyone to do!

Join us at our next LifeNet4Families Saturday Volunteer morning on October 12th from 9:00-11:00am. Sign up at the Service and Social Justice spot at the back of the River of Grass sanctuary or email us at [ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org). Save the Date: our upcoming Saturday LifeNet4Families volunteer days are Nov 9th, Dec 14th and Jan 11th.

Can't make it to LifeNet? Every Sunday you can bring canned foods for LifeNet4Families to River of Grass and place them in the basket at the SSJGT spot. They are always in need of peanut butter and canned meats such as tuna, chicken or beef.

## LIFE<sup>NET</sup>4FAMILIES GALA

As LifeNet4Families embarks on its 34<sup>th</sup> year of service to those most in need in Broward County, you are cordially invited to celebrate with us at this year's LifeNet4Families Gala, *Helping Lives Bloom: A Garden Gala*.

The 34th Anniversary LifeNet4Families Gala will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2019, 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm, at The Westin Resort Convention Center, Las Olas Ballroom, 3030 Granada Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304.

While many in our community are aware of our work to eliminate hunger we also provide numerous other services that are relatively unknown. These services include on-site showers, hygiene, clothing, case management, basic health care services, family support and job readiness opportunities. For countless individuals and families facing hunger, homelessness, and other poverty-related issues, LifeNet4Families is a village of hope hidden away, a secret garden of sorts.

Our annual gala is indeed a great excuse to network with friends old and new, but more importantly, it is an opportunity to help keep our doors open every single day and make a difference for the 6,000 clients assisted at LifeNet4Families every year.

It is only through the investments of generous donors that LifeNet4Families continues to provide a gateway to stability for people in Broward County experiencing hunger, homelessness and poverty by providing Food and Nutrition, promoting Health and Well-Being and Enabling Sustainability.

For more information, visit <https://www.lifenet4families.org/portal/annual-gala> or email [carolina.lopez@lifenet4families.org](mailto:carolina.lopez@lifenet4families.org). Thank you for your support and see you at this exciting event!





# RIVER OF GRASS CAFE

## 2019 - 2020 CONCERT SEASON



Rod MacDonald  
Sat. Sept. 21



Friction Farm  
Sat. Oct. 19



Dave Nachmanoff  
Sat. Nov. 16



Amy Carol Webb  
Sat. Dec. 14



Grant Peeples  
Sat. Jan. 18



Don White  
Sat. Feb. 15



Kiya Heartwood  
Sat. March 21



Kat Eggleston  
Sat. April 18



Zoe Mulford  
Sat. May 16

Season Tickets plus an ROG Cafe T-Shirt for \$150 available till 9/21

Tickets/Suggested Donation  
\$19 Online/\$25 at the Door

**SEASON TICKETS**  
ADMIT ONE

Fresh food, beverages, beer and wine available for a suggested donation. Individual and season tickets available.

Get tickets now at [www.riverofgrassuu.org/events](http://www.riverofgrassuu.org/events)

River of Grass Cafe, 11850 West St Rd 84, Davie, FL  
(East of Flamingo Rd on St Rd 84. Make 2nd right into 595 Park of Commerce)

**F**ood and drinks are available at every concert for a suggested donation. Our gourmet chefs will be busy preparing varied and delicious offerings for each show!

For the most up-to-date information, go to the River of Grass Café Facebook page.  
For more information or to be added to our mailing list, contact: [concerts@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:concerts@riverofgrassuu.org).

All Advance Tickets will be held at the door. All ticket donations are final and non-refundable.  
(Note: The PayPal link for Advance Purchase tickets will be available only until 3:00 pm the day prior to each concert.)



## RIVER OF GRASS CAFÉ ROD MACDONALD

River of Grass Café is thrilled to welcome Rod MacDonald on Saturday, September 21, 2019 at 8:00p. Rod MacDonald is an American singer-songwriter, novelist, and educator. He was a big part of the 1980s folk revival in Greenwich Village clubs, performing at the Speakeasy, The Bottom Line, Folk City, and the Songwriter's Exchange at the Cornelia Street Cafe. He co-founded the Greenwich Village Folk Festival. He is perhaps best known for his songs “American Jerusalem”, about the contrast between the rich and the poor in Manhattan (*Sing Out!*), “A Sailor's Prayer”, “Coming of the Snow”, “Every Living Thing”, and “My Neighbors in Delray”, a description of the September 11 hijackers' last days in Delray Beach, Florida, where MacDonald has lived since 1995.



His songs have been covered by Dave Van Ronk, Shawn Colvin, Four Bitchin' Babes, Jonathan Edwards, Garnet Rogers, Joe Jencks, and others. His 1985 recording “White Buffalo” is dedicated to Lakota Sioux ceremonial chief and healer Frank Fools Crow, whom he visited in 1981 and 1985, and who appears with MacDonald in the cover photograph.

Since 1995 MacDonald has lived in south Florida, where his cd, “Later that Night” was named “Best Local CD of 2014” by *The Palm Beach Post* and reached the top ten in national roots music charts. His first novel, *The Open Mike*, about a young man in the open mike scene of Greenwich Village, was published on December 5, 2014, by Archway Publishing. On May 1, 2018, MacDonald released his 12th solo recording, “Beginning Again,” on Blue Flute Music.

Suggested Ticket Donation Price: \$19 Advance Purchase / \$25 at the door



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**10<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Florida Unitarian Universalist  
Women's Retreat  
April 3-5, 2020**

**A Weekend Gathering of UU Women**

- Friday evening we will get to know one another and create community
- Saturday one-hour workshops offer choices
- Sunday we share a UU Service bringing it all together

DaySpring Conference Center is conveniently located off I-75 just north of Sarasota on Florida's West Coast. The beautiful campus nestled under ancient oaks and located on a cove of the Manatee River offers a serene setting for our annual retreat. Take a look.

<http://Dayspring.dioswfl.org>.

\$220 per person covers expenses for a semi-private room and meals. 8 women share a cozy cottage with 4 bedrooms and 4 baths, a screened porch and common area. A limited number of single rooms are available at \$292 each.

A **non-refundable deposit** of \$15 for a semi-private room or \$25 for a private room will reserve your place. Final payment is due January 15, 2020. [Scholarships are available.](#)

Come join us for an enriching and memorable weekend.

To register or for more information contact Helen Leddy  
[helen.leddy@gmail.com](mailto:helen.leddy@gmail.com)

*Autumn Women's Retreat  
in the North Carolina Mountains!*



*Come to the Temple:  
The Mother's Holy Well  
UUWomenspirit Autumn 2019*

**Wed - Sun  
Oct 16-20  
2019**

**Institute & Gathering**

UUWomenspirit is a powerful retreat with community-led worship services, Tracks and Workshops, Brigid's Bazaar of vendors and artisans, and group activities including drumming, dancing, and cabaret at **The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, near Highlands NC**. Lodging is in cabins or in lodge rooms. Meals are included.

- Early Bird reduced rate!**
- Scholarships available!**

Calling All Women! You are warmly invited to return to the source of our wisdom and inspiration—the Mother's Holy Well. We will experience the Temples of Vision, Joy, Healing, Power, Harmony, and Unity, and consider how we create these sacred spaces in our lives. Connect with women from all over the Southeast to celebrate the Feminine Divine, as we Come to the Temple: The Mother's Holy Well!

**Institute:** Oct 16-18, Wed. 5pm to Fri. noon. *Choose from a selection of in-depth Tracks with focused learning and time for reflection.*

**Gathering:** Oct 18-20, Fri. 5pm to Sun. noon. *Full-day and half-day Workshops offer time for personal discovery within community.*

**Come to Institute or Gathering or Both!**

For more information and registration details:  
[uuwomenspirit.org](http://uuwomenspirit.org)





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SING, Recite  
& CELEBRATE**



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in honor of

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**21 September**

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**FREE**

**September 21, 2019 3PM**

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**Come at 2:30PM**