

The Unitarian  
Congregation of Taos  
**November 2018**  
Bulletin Board



- Sun., Nov. 4 *Day of the Dead Ceremony,*  
Marsha Fawns
- Wed., Nov. 7 Women's Group, 6:00 p.m.
- Sun., Nov. 11 Sharing Circle: *Stillness*
- Sun., Nov. 18 New-Member Ceremony with  
Doug Inhofe and Fall Feast
- Wed., Nov. 21 Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
- Sun., Nov. 25 Sharing Circle: *Empty/Full*

Services & Circles begin at 11 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago, at the intersection with Gusdorf Road.

### **The Paradox of Power**

The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

Lord Acton wrote that "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority: still more when you superadd the tendency or the certainty of corruption by authority. There is no worse heresy than that the office sanctifies the holder of it."

This has never been more blatantly obvious than in our present time, when power no longer bothers to hide its corruption.

Unitarian Universalism has always had an uneasy relationship with power and authority, both internally and externally. Our guiding ethos is one of responsible freedom; of "live and let live"; of multiple and plural power; of "power with," not "power over."

This is difficult to do. It requires constant effort. It requires constant checks on the holders of power — in the church, in political office, in business, in the military, in places of influence — for none are immune to the corruptions of power, no matter where they are on the political spectrum. Power is too easily abused for us to do otherwise. When those checks break down, we're in trouble, as our country is now in trouble.

Power is political. Power is also personal. The ability to tell stories of abuse and oppression, the power to raise our voices against injustice, is a key manifestation of personal power. But this power is ineffective without the ability to prevent the misuse and abuse of power over others for any reason — race, class, gender, politics, religion, etc.

Power and liberty have always been at odds. Power seeks to restrain liberty, for liberty is a very real threat to power. The paradox is that maintain-

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### **Vegetarian Cooking Workshops**

Barbara Scott

Have you thought about becoming a vegetarian? Or maybe you'd just like to make beautiful vegetarian dishes for yourself and others. Now is your chance to learn how to turn healthy into delicious.

During our September 9th Sharing Circle on Food, many expressed the as-yet-unfulfilled wish to become vegetarian. Others just said they wished they were better cooks. So Brenda Clark offered to teach four classes at her home in Los Colonias in the month of January!

Terry and Brenda were lacto-ova vegetarians for 30 years, prior to moving to Taos. Lacto-ova means dairy and eggs are permitted. However, she says, this can be adjusted easily. The Clarks have a daughter-in-law and a grandson who have many allergies to gluten, corn and soy. So the recipes she will share will, if needed, include adjustments.

The classes will be conducted in Brenda's home for a maximum of six people, so sign up early! Cooking and sampling will be done at each session, plus you'll be given a recipe to take home.

Time and day will be announced later, and a sign-up sheet will be available.

Thank you, Brenda, for expanding the Sharing Circle topic and bringing it to those of us who will be lucky enough to attend!



## The Paradox of Power

(Continued from page 1)

ing liberty requires power, with all the attendant dangers of corruption and moral decay.

So our uneasy relationship with power is understandable, and more than justified. That must not keep us from getting and wielding political power in order to prevent oppression and pursue justice. But we must never ever become comfortable doing so, lest we become that which we struggle against.

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## 2019 UCOT Pledge Campaign Underway

Bob Aubrecht

Chairperson, Finance and Stewardship Committee

The 2019 pledge campaign is set for the month of October. Members of the Finance and Stewardship Committee and other volunteers will be meeting with members to renew their pledges for 2019. Pledge revenues are the most important source of income for the Congregation. As UCOT continues to thrive, our needs for administrative support have become more important. For that reason, the Board has set a goal of \$36,000 in pledge income for next year.

As Rev. Gary Kowalski pointed out in his reflections last month, each of us needs to take ownership of the Congregation as we continue on our journey here in Taos. Please be generous in deciding on the level of your pledge support for 2019.

Thank you for your continued support of UCoT.

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## Outreach Community News: Taos Coalition to End Homelessness (TCEH)

Homelessness can stem from a wide variety of circumstances and issues. Many men who come to the Taos Men's Shelter have mental-health, physical-health, or substance-abuse issues. Others are recovering from serious economic circumstances or a tragic family event. The center provides individualized support services. In 2017, about 40% of clients in case management were able to restabilize and rehouse.

The shelter is open from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m., 365 days a year. The occupancy permit allows for 18 men; if there is full occupancy, the shelter can provide additional assistance. The shelter does not receive state or federal funding but relies heavily on grants and generous support from people and organizations like the Unitarian Congregation of Taos.

## UU Women's Group in November

The UU Women's Group will meet at the Taos Bridge Club (near Enterprise) at 6pm on Wednesday, November 7th. The Topic will be "Spiritual Support and Practices." Please bring and share your personal techniques and resources: books, activities, sayings — any ideas for self-nurturing that you have found helpful.

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## UU Care Community



The UU Care Community supports and strengthens community through practical assistance to members in need. Volunteers provide services, such as transportation to medical appointments, meal/snack preparation, visits, phone calls, hospital visits, and pet care. Congregation members who have volunteered to provide a particular service are matched with the person requesting the help.

As our congregation grows, it is important that we help others when a need arises. We are all aware of how quickly one changes from being a helper to needing assistance. The Care Community volunteer form is available on the table at the Bent Lodge of the Masons. Please look over services and determine what you might be willing to provide.

Thanks to all of you who have lent a helping hand when needed!

Please return the volunteer form by email to Linda Aubrecht, [aubrecht@taosnet.com](mailto:aubrecht@taosnet.com), or mail to the Unitarian Congregation of Taos, P.O. Box 510, Taos, NM 87571.

Thank you for helping to make our congregation a truly Caring Community!



Happy November birthday  
wishes to...

Stephanie Yoder,  
November 7

## UCOT Investment Study Group

Bob Aubrecht



One of the good ideas that came out of the visioning process was to organize small groups of UCOT members and friends around a specific interest or activity. I have had a couple of conversations about potential interest in forming a study group focused on a systematic approach to investments. As a result, I am offering to lead a study group with a maximum of 12 to explore the fundamentals of sound investment strategies. The group would meet for two 4-week sessions starting in early November, then a second set of four weeks in January after the holidays. Depending on schedules, I would prefer setting a time and date in advance — say 3 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons.

This is NOT an investment club dedicated to picking individual stocks. Rather, it is an opportunity to explore the fundamentals of long-term investing, including goal-setting, asset allocation, performance monitoring, portfolio rebalancing, and approaches to staying current on financial markets and economic conditions. I would use a book by David Swensen as one resource — *Unconventional Success* — \$15 on Amazon Kindle or \$20 as a book. Mr. Swensen is the Chief Investment Officer for Yale University’s endowments.

By way of my background, I spent a career in a variety of investment management roles — institutional investment funds, strategic planning and finally a portfolio manager for institutional and individual clients (\$900 million of assets under management).

If you are interested in joining this investment study group, please see me after a service, call me at 758-9675 or e-mail me at [aubrecht@taosnet.com](mailto:aubrecht@taosnet.com).

I am glad to reply to any questions or needs for more information.

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### Group Contacts

*Women’s Group*

Carol Doughty, [lccdoughty@gmail.com](mailto:lccdoughty@gmail.com)

*Men’s Group*

Terry Surguine, [tsurguine@gmail.com](mailto:tsurguine@gmail.com)

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## Day of the Dead Service Marsha Fawns

Please join us for our annual “Day of the Dead” service on November 4th. The Threshold Singers will again provide the music. Bring photos and stories to share as we create an altar and celebrate together the memories we cherish of those who have died — both two-legged or four-legged and this year or past years.

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### Sunday, November 11 Sharing Circle: Stillness

*When you look at a tree and perceive its stillness, you become still yourself. You connect with it at a very deep level. You feel a oneness with whatever you perceive in and through stillness. Feeling the oneness of yourself with all things is true love. —Eckhart Tolle*

What conditions cause you to naturally become still? What does it feel like to lose the chatter of the mind and simply appreciate the stillness?

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### Sunday, November 25 Sharing Circle: Empty/Full

*We shape clay into a pot. It is the emptiness inside that holds whatever we choose. — Taoist teaching*



For our Sharing and Listening Circle on Empty/Full, consider what empties you out — of anxiety, negative stories, stress, worry, everyday lists, anger. Each of us have different experiences that empty us in a good way, that quiet us. Most of these are heart experiences rather than something achieved by rational thinking. Perhaps it is music, or listening to a loved one breathe in sleep. Perhaps it is fishing, or a kiss.

Please join us and share the experiences that have emptied you out and brought you peace.

## Justice Ministry, Anyone?

Chuck Doughty

Should our Congregation have a more public voice for Social Change and Justice, as well as doing Community Service through our Outreach Committee?

We agree (covenant) to “affirm and promote” our seven principles, e.g. # 5 — “the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.” We say our mission is “to be an illuminating beacon and an active force to better our congregation, our greater Taos community, and the world beyond.” As individuals many Taos UU’s do remarkable work supporting service organizations and most of us, as individuals, also support organizations working for Change and Justice, like the ACLU. How should we also walk our talk as a Congregation?

We do it with our budget contributions to the UUA; for instance, see [uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/uua-denounces-brett-kavannahs-confirmation-supreme-court](http://uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/uua-denounces-brett-kavannahs-confirmation-supreme-court) — **“The UUA Denounces Brett Kavanaugh’s Confirmation to the Supreme Court.”** There are 16 organizations related to UUA with a special Social Justice focus. Check them out.

We do it with occasional ad hoc use of our banner on the streets, supporting actions like Gay Pride. We could also use the banner, write public letters, purchase ads, etc., to address critical issues. For example, the UUA has adopted 14 ‘Statements of Conscience’ since 1999.

And right now, per a UUA grant, several of us are wearing yellow shirts on the streets and at markets, which say “VOTE — Silence is Surrender” on the front and on the back “Taos Youth Votes — sponsored by Unitarian Congregation of Taos, Taos United, Common Grounds: A Taos Teen Coop.” Around a dozen of us UU’s have been registering voters. Now we are waving signs to get out the vote.

So many of us are heavily involved working on the mid-term election that we are waiting until after Nov 6 to invite all interested UU’s to a meeting to explore what, if any, further organized UCOT Justice efforts are wanted and would be supported. The Board will consider the results.

## Music Committee News



Singing practice with Martha at 10:30 a.m.  
on the 1st & 3rd Sundays.

All are welcome; attend when you can.  
*And a special welcome to our newest member,  
Linda Drew!*

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## Fall Harvest Feast — Potluck & New-Member Welcoming

Autumn is a wonderful time to celebrate the abundance most of us enjoy. Just having a meal every day and a roof over one’s head is, to a homeless person, something to be grateful for. It’s important to take time together to feel thankful for our many blessings.

Doug & Katy Inhofe will join us again this year, but this time, Doug will deliver the homily as we also welcome new members. If you’re not a member but would like to become one, please speak with Barbara Scott or with any member of the board. The only requirement is that you make a pledge of record, meaning that you promise to give of your time, talents and/or treasure to benefit our congregational and spiritual community. I promise you, the gift you bring brings many returns.

Ray Taylor will again be coordinating the dinner. He’ll design a sign-up poster board, and we can all put our names on one or two of the items designated. That way we won’t have 15 pumpkin pies and one small bowl of mashed potatoes! (Not that that’s ever happened, mind you.) If you need to contact Ray directly, his email address is [circ@taosnews.com](mailto:circ@taosnews.com). There will also be places to sign up for setup and cleanup.

