

THE UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF TAOS

Bulletin Board: June 2017

1st Sun,	June 4	<i>Free Speech, Free Minds, Free Religion</i> , Rev. Munro Sickafoose
2nd Sun,	June 11	Circle topic: <i>Epiphanies</i>
Wed,	June 14	7 p.m. – Women’s Group (<i>Carol Doughty, lccdoughty@gmail.com</i>)
3rd Sun,	June 18	<i>Juneteenth: Still Waiting For Freedom</i> Rev. Gary Kowalski
Wed,	June 21	4:30 - 6:00 p.m. – Men’s Group (<i>Bob, rsilver65@gmail.com</i>)
4th Sun,	June 25	Circle topic: <i>What Keeps You Going/What Lifts You Up?</i>

**Services & Sharing Circles begin 11:00 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge,
124 Camino de Santiago, at intersection with Gusdorf Rd.**



Congregational Signing of the Declaration of Conscience

At the May 6 board meeting, board members discussed resolutions, as a form of public witness, and how best to get congregational buy-in and approval so these decisions are not being made by the board alone.

We were thinking particularly of the UUA Declaration of Conscience. The board feels that making a congregation-wide commitment to UUA values is an important step in stating our values to the broader community, because it will give us a chance to make a public statement about our values. Signing the declaration as a congregation will allow us to publicize our own mission—to be an illuminating beacon and an active force, promoting liberal religious values and interfaith and intercultural collaboration to better our congregation, our greater Taos community, and the world beyond.



We propose our congregation sign this Declaration of Conscience as an opportunity to integrate our own values with those of the national organization—and to make them more public within our community.

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On My Mind

As some of you know, the Unitarian Universalist Association is in turmoil. In mid-March, when a Latina woman was passed over for a paid denominational posting in favor of a white male (both applicants members of the UUA Board), she wrote a personal blog charging racism. She backed up her allegation with numbers showing that while a clear majority of lower level, service positions at the UUA were held by blacks, only about 11% of senior, management jobs went to people of color.



Peter Morales, the elected president of the UUA, responded by defending his administration’s hiring statistics. He suggested that as a Latino man, he would love to hire more Latinas but the idea that an “eminently qualified” candidate had been passed over for a white guy was simply false. In another communication, he asked everyone to calm down, calling for more humility and less hysteria, a poor choice of words that only inflamed matters. A few days later, apologizing and saying he no longer had the trust needed to lead, Reverend Morales precipitously resigned.

Since then, several other top staffers (all white) at the UUA have resigned; or have been actually forced out, according to Morales. A three-person team of co-presidents (all black) has been appointed by the Board to serve out the interim until new elections take place at General Assembly this June.

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A Fond Farewell to Marilyn Scholl

It was with sadness but also with cheer that many UU members gathered to send off Marilyn Scholl as she starts the next phase of her life, in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Marilyn has been invaluable to the Unitarian Congregation through her work with the Outreach Committee to create meals for the Men’s Shelter and HEART of Taos. She also served as a liaison between UU members and these organizations by picking up donations and delivering them to their intended recipients. And this doesn’t even mention the wonderful baked goods she volunteered to provide for our after-service coffee and snack times.

We will miss her very much and wish her the best. If you’d like to stay in touch with her, here’s her new contact information:

Marilyn Scholl
950 Mormon Dr., Apt B2
Las Cruces, NM 88011
rutilatedbeads@gmail.com
(575) 770-8140



Declaration of Conscience, cont'd from page 1

Many of you have already signed, as individuals, the Declaration of Conscience. If not, it can be read and signed online at <http://connect.uusc.org/l/103112/2017-01-17/gpgn2>.

We will ask for a congregational vote at the June 6 service. Please come on June 6 and make your voice heard.

Music Committee News

Singing practice with Martha 10:30 am on the 1st & 3rd Sundays. This is a fluid group, please join when you can.

Guest Musicians:
June 18th - Rick DeStefano piano and voice
July 16th - Ruth Fahrbach voice with piano accompaniment
August 6th - Mary Bruschini leading Congregation in 3-part rounds
No Guest in September
October 29th (5th Sunday) - all music program theme to be announced



The Music Team would appreciate suggestions for guest musicians and ideas for the 5th Sunday October 29th Music with a Message program.

Thank you for your interest and support of music for our services.

HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY WISHES TO...



- 15 Michael Martinez
- 16 Carol Doughty

If your name is not on the birthday list yet, please contact the Admin, Welcome Lindsey: welcomelindsey@gmail.com.

On My Mind, cont'd from page 1

Discussion of the personalities and precipitating causes behind these events has occurred mostly on Facebook, one of the worst possible platforms for civil conversation. And the conversations have not been civil. Information has been sparse. Innuendo and speculation have filled the void.

All this took me by surprise. Unitarian Universalist congregations (like ours) are predominantly white by history and tradition, a fact that remains true despite our best efforts to model diversity and inclusion. Yet the UUA, while an imperfect institution, has for the past quarter century made fighting racism a top priority. I hope it will continue to do so, especially in this historic moment when white nationalism, anti-immigrant fervor, anti-Muslim bigotry and blatant race-baiting have re-emerged as an ugly presence in our country's politics.

But we will not rise to this challenge by infighting. The better angels of our nature demand that we come together as people of goodwill to define the real foe. Calling each other names will not do. Quarreling among ourselves over whether the UUA is a "white supremacist" organization is just what the real hate-mongers want. We are living through dangerous times, my friends. And in this case, the enemy is not us.

— Gary



Sunday, June 4, 11:00 am

Free Speech, Free Minds, Free Religion
Rev. Munro Sickafoose

Our religious heritage is grounded in Dissent – the right to think and believe as we choose, and to speak freely. These rights are fundamental to our identity as Unitarian Universalists and Americans. Where do we stand today in relation to that religious heritage? Do we still hold these rights in the esteem we once did? As usual, lots of questions and an invitation to explore some answers.

Sunday, June 18, 11:00 am

Juneteenth: Still Waiting For Freedom

Rev. Gary Kowalski

On June 19th, 1865, more than two months after the surrender of Robert E. Lee at Appomattox, black slaves living in Texas finally received word that the Civil War was over and they were henceforth free.

"Juneteenth" is now celebrated as an official public observance in many states including Texas. Yet the journey from the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery into the full reality of liberty and equality for Americans of African descent is still far from complete, with setbacks that continue to divide our country, as well as trouble our religious tradition. This morning Gary Kowalski reflects on the re-emergence of white nationalism in our politics and charges of white supremacy in the UUA. A talkback with both our ministers will follow this service.

Women's Group

Meets 2nd Wed. of every month at 7 pm

Book being read: *Field Notes on the Compassionate Life*, Marc Barasch

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Contact Carol Doughty if you are not on the email list and would like to be.