

# THE UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF TAOS

## Bulletin Board: August 2017

1st Sun,	August 6	<i>One Love, All In</i> , Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Wed,	August 9	7 p.m. – Women’s Group ( <i>Carol Doughty, lccdoughty@gmail.com</i> )
2nd Sun,	August 13	Circle topic: <i>Being Vulnerable</i>
Wed,	August 16	4:30 - 6:00 p.m. – Men’s Group ( <i>Bob, rsilver65@gmail.com</i> )
3rd Sun,	August 20	<i>The Last Fire Sermon</i> , Rev. Gary Kowalski
4th Sun,	August 27	Circle topic: <i>Empty/Full</i>

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



### Report on the UUA General Assembly

UU’s are very polite. I know that because I ushered at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in New Orleans this summer, and everyone said thank you as I handed them a program. Reminded me of the Norwegian waitress in the movie *Fargo*, who was so polite. Remember her?

Four thousand Unitarian Universalists—big crowd. According to some people in a youth group, they’re no longer referred to as men and women but just as people, and if you’re transgender it’s not she or he but them or they or it.

African American spirituals from our hymnal were a big hit for me. Singing these songs is a bridge for us to the Black community. Black Lives Matter and White Supremacy were frequently mentioned.

Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy* and an attorney who defends death row inmates, spoke at the Ware Lecture. The Ware Lectures began in 1922, with the

likes of Martin Luther King Jr. and Norman Lear speaking over the years.

There was a Second Line Parade with a band marching up the street and a banner parade with 200 UU churches represented. Sermons by excellent ministers and a huge choir were impressive. Our first ever woman was

(Continued on page 2)

### On My Mind

Life repeats, or spirals.

After a lifetime of accumulation (not just of possessions but of honors, degrees, and achievements), simplification becomes the mantra of later years.

Just as kids struggle to learn to ride a bike, concerns with balance and physical coordination rise again, in my sixth decade, to the foreground. When I left my New England pastorate of twenty years in Vermont, I found myself once more--as an interim minister--living in digs that resembled the student apartments I had inhabited decades earlier. When my wife and I moved to New Mexico, we junked the wedding china we’d saved for special occasions that never seemed to come and just moved what we knew we would use.

I had a clergy friend who helped senior citizens in the process of downsizing think about it as a spiritual discipline, a chance to reassess priorities. Why not? Dilemmas of faith and values are as much a part of my life now as they were when I was a young adult. Then, the struggles were with defining vocation and life purpose. Now again, as an elder (whose retirement from ministry was officially announced at the General Assembly this past June, and for whom



(Continued on page 2)

### Calendar Details

**Sunday, July 30, 11:00 am**  
*Inter-Faith/Inter-Cultural Forum*

What is the InterFaith/ InterCultural Alliance of Taos? Why should we care?

What unmet needs in Taos do you want to address? – and how? What is possible?

We will engage with members of the InterFaith/InterCultural Alliance of Taos to explore these questions.

**Sunday, August 6, 11:00 am**  
*One Love, All In*  
Rev. Munro Sickafoose

**Sunday, August 20, 11:00 am**  
*The Last Fire Sermon*  
Rev. Gary Kowalski

Our co-minister Gary Kowalski has worked as a volunteer firefighter in Santa Fe County since moving to New Mexico three years ago. This morning he shares the last in a series of reflections on life lessons learned from the end of a high pressure nozzle. Recently published under the title *Old Men and Fire: Parables from a Volunteer Firehouse*, his ruminations on the journey from preacher to emergency responder are now available on Amazon in both Kindle and paperback editions. All proceeds will benefit Hondo Volunteer Fire & Rescue.

**UUA General Assembly, cont'd from page 1**

elected president: Susan Frederick Gray is a minister from Phoenix.

Finally, the First Principal Project will need to wait to be studied. It would be helpful if our congregation wrote a letter of support to move it along. One church changed it on its own to the inherent worth and dignity of every being. Gary may have more on this or I will.

Go to [uuworld.org/ga](http://uuworld.org/ga) for all the stories.

Respectfully,  
Barley Donahue



**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:**

**August 6th** - Mary Bruschini leading Congregation in 3-part rounds

**September (Date TBA)** - 3 Good Children

**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.

**On My Mind, cont'd from page 1**

being titled "senior minister" is no longer merely honorary) I find myself wondering about my life's mission and reason for being. From this vantage, I am discovering napping to be more important. Being has edged out doing and becoming. I still try to improve myself studying Spanish and practicing the guitar, but not with any illusion that I will become totally fluent or master the fretboard. I am still in the game. But winning or being number one is less important now.

Politically, I am both more and less radical than previously. I think we need something more than a change of parties or an election day turnaround in who controls Congress or the White House. But I am less inclined to believe that any trick of politicking or social engineering is going to alter the basic human questions that dog all of us, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican alike. Where do we find a sense of meaning and self-worth? (Hint: not in the size our bank account.) How do we loosen the grip of ego and narcissism and begin to cultivate a larger, more generous estimate of our own place among the stars, here on Earth, and in this ancient landscape of northern New Mexico, the interdependent community that sustains us all?

How have you changed with the years? Have you become more mellow? Disenchanted? Patient or impatient? Have you discovered the secret of aging gracefully and wisely? If so, please share it with me. In fact, share it with us all. Give it away, abundantly, and with a free hand. Heaven? An afterlife may or may not exist--my mind keeps changing. But I am more and more convinced that you can't take it with you.

— Gary

**Women's Group**

Meets 2nd Wed. of every month at 7 pm

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

Contacts:

Carol Doughty;  
[lccdoughty@gmail.com](mailto:lccdoughty@gmail.com);  
575-224-3166

Marsha Fawns;  
[creatings@taosnet.com](mailto:creatings@taosnet.com);  
575- 758-1887

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



**HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY WISHES TO...**

- 2 Lillian Giuliano
- 4 Mary McPhail Gray
- 6 Bob Silver
- 8 Wally Cox
- 14 Sally Savage
- 22 Mya Coursey

IN AN EFFORT to get our birthday list up-to-date and correct, please email your birthday to the Admin, Welcome Lindsey: [welcomelindsey@gmail.com](mailto:welcomelindsey@gmail.com), even if you have done so previously. We hope our list is complete and we want to honor our members.

We would also like to begin including **ANNIVERSARIES**. Same contact as above.