

THE UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF TAOS

Bulletin Board: October 2017

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| 1st Sun, | Oct. 1 | <i>Being Human in Uncertain Times</i> , Rev. Munro Sickafoose |
| 2nd Sun, | Oct. 8 | Circle topic: <i>Kindness</i> |
| Wed, | Oct. 11 | 7 p.m. – Women’s Group (<i>Carol Doughty, lccdoughty@gmail.com</i>) |
| 3rd Sun, | Oct. 15 | <i>Care of the Soul</i> , Rev. Gary Kowalski |
| Wed, | Oct. 18 | 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. – Men’s Group (<i>Bob, rsilver65@gmail.com</i>) |
| 4th Sun, | Oct. 22 | Circle topic: <i>After Life</i> |
| 5th Sun, | Oct. 29 | <i>Music with a Message Program</i> , Jimmy Stadler Guest Musician |

Services & Sharing Circles begin 11:00 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge,

124 Camino de Santiago, at intersection with Gusdorf Rd.

Seeking Your Input on Our Music Program: Look for a Music Survey Coming Soon!

Last year, after tallying all the results of our Vision, Mission, and Covenant process, the board decided to implement two things that members and friends seemed to want the most: small-group activities and music. The small groups (Buddhist meditation, hiking, and the book-study group) have been free to participants and have not cost the congregation anything.

Our music program has improved in two ways: 1) We now have a group of singers (a choir of sorts) who practice the hymns before the service then stand up in front next to Martha to lead the congregation in singing hymns. Please feel free to join these singers. More is better!

And 2) We've invited on average one musical guest a month to perform. The choir program has not increased expenses, but the performances, of course, have. Now we, the board and the music committee, want to make sure we're spending your money the way you'd envisioned.

We started the music program in August of 2016. At first we started paying performers \$75 per performance. But when two or three people performed, that just didn't seem enough, so we increased it to \$150. After assessing our budget, though, we decided to dial back that amount to \$100 per performance.

We are now in the process of seeing what's working with the music program in general and what isn't, whether you'd like the same amount of music or less, the same types of performers, or something specific.

On My Mind

Life is enriched in community. Facebook is no substitute for actual, face-to-face encounters that draw us out of our own personal preoccupations and invite us to see the world through other's eyes.



But making meaningful connections is not easy. For many, the Unitarian Congregation of Taos is the entry to a world of spiritual companionship and shared values.

Unlike some churches, membership in UCOT is not defined by any common creed or belief system. Our gathering includes Jews, Humanists, Pagans, and Christians. We don't expect agreement, not in regard to riddles that have puzzled sages and philosophers for ages.

What we do expect is an honest engagement with the questions of how to live more appreciatively, lovingly, and respectfully on this small, beautiful and sometimes tragic planet.

Becoming a member of our congregation is easy, simply a matter of signing your name in assent to our covenant ... "to engage each other with respect, compassion and generosity in all our endeavours." Doing your share of household chores is also expected:



UU 101

Everything you ever wanted to know about Unitarian Universalism (and probably stuff you never thought to ask).

Join Gary Kowalski and members of the Board for a quick intro to our liberal faith tradition, following the Sunday service on October 15.

Lunch at the home of Diane and Robert Ainsworth, with opportunities to get acquainted, ask questions and learn more about what it means to be part of our congregation.

Please RSVP to Board Member Chuck Doughty (*lccdoughty@gmail.com*) so we know how many to expect.

Whether you are a recent visitor or have been attending for some time, please join us!



Music Program, cont'd from page 1

We're also hoping that musicians from within the congregation might want to occasionally perform, like Joe Mazza did this year. If you would like to pursue this opportunity, please speak to someone on the music committee: Gael Minton, Dianne Frost, Joe Mazza, Bette Myerson, or Mimi Owensby.

The board wants to hear every member's voice. The survey is anonymous, so feel free to give us your honest feedback. Please take five minutes to answer the survey when you get the link. Thank you!



Music Committee News

Singing practice with Martha at 10:30 am on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. All welcome - please join when you can.

This month, the 5th Sunday October 29th will be an all-music program with Taos' singer-songwriter-band leader Jimmy Stadler. The song list is full of heart and energy with a balance of solo singing and congregational participation. Joe Mazza will introduce Jimmy and be our MC encouraging us to sing and move during the program as we celebrate the gift of community. Visitors are welcome and there will be refreshments and conversation after the program.

On My Mind, cont'd from page 1

occasionally bringing snacks or flowers or helping with clean up, making a modest financial contribution. But the biggest contribution you can bring--and the most needed--is to show up on Sundays with an open heart and curious mind, not hanging back on the sidelines but letting your light shine (when it's shining) and being strong enough to ask for support when times are dark.

Being human is a struggle. But we don't have to do it alone. Often just sitting together, in quiet acknowledgment of the simple blessing and complicated burden of being, is as helpful as any sermon. In this way, we are all ministers to each other. It is our mutual calling, to help heal our world.

If you have been attending the Unitarian Congregation of Taos and would like to know more about us, please join us for an introduction to membership on Sunday, October 15. We'll go to lunch, get acquainted, and have some time for questions along with a brief outline of our history and faith tradition. Do let us know how many to expect by contacting Board Member Chuck Doughty (kcdoughty@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

— Gary

Sunday, October 1, 11:00 am

Being Human in Uncertain Times

Rev. Munro Sickafoose

What does it mean to be a human being? The answer seems to shift, depending on your point of view. Do past answers to that question still serve us? How can we manage to preserve some kind of humane world as we make our way through this new, uncertain world of climate change and social disruption?



Sunday, October 15, 11:00 am

Care of the Soul

Rev. Gary Kowalski

For some, the word "soul" refers to the element of personality that outlasts death. For me, it points to the dimension of depth in human existence, when we witness moments of courage, beauty and forgiveness that rise above the ordinary circuit of days and hint at things of eternal significance. The soul awakens in the presence of heroic deeds and poetic perceptions. But how do we nurture, care for and cultivate this special quality of awareness? These will be the subject for my reflections for this Sunday.



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY WISHES TO...

26 Dianne Frost

27 Michael Burney

31 Marsha Fawns

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