

THE UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF TAOS

Bulletin Board: December 2017

1st Sun,	Dec. 3	<i>Diversity of Hope</i> , Rev. Munro Sickafoose
2nd Sun,	Dec. 10	Circle topic: <i>Laughter and Humor</i>
Wed,	Dec. 13	7 p.m. – Women’s Group (<i>Carol Doughty, lccdoughty@gmail.com</i>)
3rd Sun,	Dec. 17	<i>Sex, Sin and the Birth of Jesus</i> , Rev. Gary Kowalski
Wed,	Oct. 20	4:30 - 6:00 p.m. – Men’s Group (<i>Bob, rsilver65@gmail.com</i>)
4th Sun,	Dec. 24	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>
5th Sun,	Dec. 31	<i>Burning Bowls or End of Year Ceremony</i>

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



Ethical/Mindful Consumption

Chris Westover and Barley Donahue are forming a new UU group concerning ethical/mindful consumption. The group would discuss the personal decisions we make in our daily lives that affect our planet, our fellow human beings, and all the other species that share the earth with us, so that we can make more mindful and informed choices about energy, clothing, home furnishings, water usage, pest control, and many other matters.

Everything we buy, use, wear, eat, discard, and otherwise consume has environmental, global, economic, social, and interspecies consequences. By discussing these issues, we may be able to make more mindful and ethical personal decisions as engaged and caring inhabitants of our precious planet.

Chris and Barley will start the group in January. They will announce the time, date and location of the first meeting after the new year.



On My Mind

Snow kissed the tops of the Sangre de Cristos last week with an abundance presumably in store. It makes me think of Wilson Bentley (1865-1931), the first man to successfully photograph snowflakes and advance the theory that no two crystals are completely alike.



Bentley grew up in the farming village of Jericho, Vermont, where he became fascinated with the billows and drifts that carpeted the countryside each winter. As a teenager, he tried examining the individual flakes through an old microscope (a gift from his mother) but they vaporized too quickly for close study. Eventually he perfected a technique for capturing the ephemeral visitors on film, producing thousands of images over the course of his lifetime, popularizing his findings in journals from *Scientific American* to *National Geographic*.

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Christmas Eve: A Winter Salon

This year, Christmas Eve falls on the fourth Sunday in December, a Sunday typically reserved for sharing circles. For that reason, we’ve decided to forego the evening service and instead celebrate our families’ winter holiday traditions. Bring a remembrance of times past: Tell a story, sing a song, show and tell us about a precious memento, or read a poem. We will all share salon style.

Music Committee News

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

Music Survey: Your Opinion Matters

We want to know what you think about the direction of our music program. Please take the confidential music survey if you haven’t already. It’s super quick and easy—about two minutes. Go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/GYNRBN8. Thank you!



Next Gen Dot Edu

If you're interested in joining a think tank on originating programs to get families with children involved in the UU Congregation, please email Elaine Taylor at e.taylor1@comcast.net.



Get on Board!

Serving on the Unitarian Congregation's Board of Trustees is a valuable way to contribute to the whole congregation—and to have more input into the entire UU experience.

Two board positions will be opening between now and the annual meeting in early February. Chuck Doughty, our current secretary, will be stepping off the board at the end of his two-year term, and we will need to replace him. Also, while Chuck Fawns has been on the board as a past president, we have not had an actual vice president for quite some time. We'll be filling the secretary, vice president, and board member at large positions, but one of those positions will be filled by a current board member.

If you're interested in exploring an opportunity to serve on the board, please send Barbara Scott (finaleyes@icloud.com) a note of inquiry. List your experience and your interests. We are especially interested in finding someone who's had experience serving on a board and preferably someone who's been coming regularly to UCOT long enough to have a sense of who we are and where we are going. You must also be a member.

The board will act as the nominating committee and will submit nominations to the membership at the annual meeting on February 4, 2018.

Snowflakes, I learned, are hard to preserve even at sub-zero temperatures because they are "sublime." Sublimation is a physics term for a phase transition where a solid becomes a gas, without any intermediate liquid stage. Before snow even has time to melt, the delicate lacework of H₂O disappears into thin air. But of course snowflakes are also sublime in the vernacular sense, like sunsets, aspen vistas, or crashing waves (and just as transient). Nothing that beautiful can stay.

Truthfully, I have a hard time with the winter months. The short days, the bitter winds, the icy roads don't make this my favorite time of year. While I love to paint the snow and admire the junipers draped in white, even landscapes worthy of Currier & Ives grow tiresome eventually. I will never be a devotee of the cold, wet stuff like Wilson Bentley. But perhaps I can cultivate a "Snowflake" heart like his: one that can find delight and take astonishment from miracles that are too ordinary and abundant for most folks to notice.

Where will you find wonderment this season?

— Gary

Sunday, December 3, 11:00 am

The Diversity of Hope
Rev. Munro Sickafoose

December 3rd is the first Sunday of Advent in the Christian calendar, and its traditional theme is Hope. How is hope expressed in different places and cultures? What does it mean to hope in difficult times? Join us as we explore the diversity of hope in our lives.



Sunday, December 17, 11:00 am

Sex, Sin and the Birth of Jesus
Rev. Gary Kowalski

The nativity story is surrounded by hints of scandal: an untimely and possibly out-of-wedlock birth, a teenage mother who speaks of her "humiliation," an infant who will later be identified (by the gospel writer Mark) as "son of Mary" rather than as Jesus ben Joseph, the more typical manner of referring to the son of a Jewish father. In this sermon, Gary explores ancient categories of sex, sin, shame and gender whose distortions continue to trouble our modern world and illuminates the potentially liberating message of Christmas.



HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES TO...

- 5 Mimi Owensby
- 9 David Owensby
- 23 Emily Gillispie

If your name is not on the birthday list yet, please contact the Admin, Welcome Lindsey:

welcomelindsey@gmail.com