

# THE UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF TAOS

## Bulletin Board: January 2018



1st Sun,	Jan. 7	<i>Rambling in the Weeds</i> , Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Wed,	Jan. 10	7:00pm – Women’s Group ( <i>Carol Doughty, lccdoughty@gmail.com</i> )
2nd Sun,	Jan. 14	Circle topic: <i>Reaching Across the Divide: Forgiveness</i>
Wed,	Jan. 17	7:00pm – Men’s Group ( <i>Bob Silver, rsilver65@gmail.com</i> )
3rd Sun,	Jan. 21	<i>The Bible As Poetry</i> , Rev. Gary Kowalski
4th Sun,	Jan. 28	Circle topic: <i>Story</i>

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

### Creating a Culture of Real Accountability

The last half of 2017 saw the rise of the #MeToo movement, as millions of women from all walks of life revealed their accounts of sexual harassment and assault at (literally) the hands of their male bosses, co-workers, strangers, and sometimes friends and family.



A wave of high profile firings and resignations followed. We know the names, and I won’t take up space listing them here. Whether some of these are fully justified or not is still unclear. We’re still figuring out where we draw the lines as a society. What is clear is that for the first time, women are being believed when they speak up, and that’s a very good thing. Many of the men involved are being held accountable, and that too is a very good thing.

What is also clear is that without social media, and the reach and power that it brings to these accusations, #MeToo would probably not be succeeding the way it is. Human beings are social animals, and social disapproval is a powerful force. For better or worse, we are now all connected in ways that amplify both approval and disapproval more powerfully than we’ve collectively experienced before.

But social disapproval and ad-hoc accountability are not enough. They need

### NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Barbara Scott*

#### Celebrate Morning Eves

This year, Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve both fall on a Sunday. So it might be confusing to think of a morning circle and service, respectively, to celebrate each of those Eves. While we will not be having a Christmas Eve service in the evening this year, we will be having a salon-style sharing circle in the morning. Everyone is invited to come at 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 24, to share one of your family’s winter holiday traditions. Tell a story, read a poem, sing a song, or show us a memento from an earlier time and tell us a story about it. We’ll go round the circle taking turns sharing and maybe we’ll establish a winter holiday tradition of our own.

One week later, on New Year’s Eve — again, in the morning — we’ll reprise an old favorite from years past. Donna Collins has agreed to come up from Albuquerque to lead the Burning Bowls ceremony, releasing the old and inviting the new. This is an indoor/outdoor service, complete with a little time spent by the fire outside the lodge, so dress accordingly. Feel free to bring warming snacks to share after the service.

#### Music Survey Closed

Thanks to those who took the time to complete the survey. The music committee feels it has heard from enough people to have a fairly accurate sampling of how the congregation as a whole feels about our music program. Since there was no place for comments on the survey, please feel

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued on page 2)

### CARE COMMUNITY

Our Taos UU Congregation continues to grow, and Outreach services are an important part of this growth. It is also quite important to remember the needs of our own Congregation’s members and friends. Situations arise in which one of us needs a helping hand, and who better to offer it than one of our fellow Unitarians or friends of the Unitarian Congregation?

The CARE COMMITTEE is composed of those individuals who offer help when it is requested. Services may include rides (to doctors appointments, the grocery store, pharmacy, physical therapy appointments, visits to hospitalized friends), meal preparation, pet care, etc. Congregation members who have volunteered to provide a particular service are then matched with the person requesting the help.



In essence, this process will make our entire congregation the “Care Community.” However, the

CARE COMMUNITY needs more volunteers!

Needs of members and friends should be relayed to Linda Aubrecht at laubrecht99@gmail.com 575-758-9675

## **Accountability, cont'd from page 1**

to be backed up by laws that define all the gradations of these behaviors and follow through with consequences – in business, in politics, in the public sphere, in the home. And that means electing people who will create these laws and pass them through Congress, through our state legislatures, through our city and county governments. It means putting pressure on those already serving to do that – knowing that some of them won't go along, and that we'll need to replace them.

Social movements can help achieve that. They can also help to create much needed opportunities for rehabilitation, redemption, and reconciliation. But nothing says real progress like laws on the books, with the actual enforcement of those laws, to make our disapproval a reality.

To do that, men need to step up and help make it so. The women in our lives can be our guides, but men need to take responsibility for the violence that's been done, individually and collectively, and make amends. Men need to partner with women to take the steps necessary to stop future violence and harassment against women in all levels of society. Only then will we have a chance at creating a culture of real justice and accountability, one in which #MeToo is no more.

May It Be So — Re. Munro

## **Sunday, January 7**

**11:00 am**

*Rambling in the Weeds*  
Rev. Munro Sickafoose

Conversations with the ancestors about death, fear, and history in a time of great change.  
Where will our wanderings take us?



## **President's Notes, cont'd from page 1**

free either to hand or email any suggestions to Martha Grossman ([marthagrossman@q.com](mailto:marthagrossman@q.com)) or Gael Minton ([sbfarm03@gmail.com](mailto:sbfarm03@gmail.com)).

### **UCOT Directory**

If you are not already listed in our directory, and you'd like to be, please send your information to me at [finaleyes@icloud.com](mailto:finaleyes@icloud.com). Name, physical address, mailing address (if they're different), email address, and phone number.

If you'd like to receive an electronic version of the directory before the annual meeting, let me know that, too, and I'll send one to you. It has quite a few changes since last year's printing.



**Sunday, January 21**

**11:00 am**

*The Bible as Poetry*  
Rev. Gary Kowalski

A much ballyhooed "Bible Museum" opened last month on the national mall, chock full of ancient artifacts, translations, and reconstructed first century Jewish villages, all premised on the debatable notion of Steve Green (President of Hobby Lobby, the institution's principle funder) that "the Bible is a reliable historical document." Rather than dissect the various strands of myth, folklore, superstition and genuine moral teaching in the scriptures, our minister Gary Kowalski will consider an entirely different angle of vision: reading the Bible as verse, much of it magnificent and moving, yet a document where the melody may be as important as the meaning.

## **MUSIC NEWS**

Singing practice with Martha at 10:30 am on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

All welcome - please join when you can.

Many thanks to all who have been singing!

The Music Committee (Bette, Mimi, Dianne Silver, Joe Mazza, Martha Grossman and Gael) will meet in early January to review the results of the Music Survey and make plans for 2018. Thanks to all who responded to the Survey!

We have some wonderful local musicians who want to contribute to a service in 2018.

If you would like to join the Music Committee please let Gael know and you will receive notice of our next meeting:  
[sbfarm03@gmail.com](mailto:sbfarm03@gmail.com)



## **HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO...**

12 Elaine Taylor  
14 Barley Donahue

If your name is not on the birthday list yet, please contact our Admin, Welcome Lindsey: [welcomelindsey@gmail.com](mailto:welcomelindsey@gmail.com).