

The Unitarian
 Congregation of Taos
July 2018
 Bulletin Board



- Sun., July 1 *The Zen of Unitarianism,*
The Rev. Gary Kowalski
- Wed., July 4 Fourth of July picnic
- Sun., July 8 Sharing Circle: *Joy & Happiness*
- Sun., July 15 *The Divinity School Address, 180 Years On,*
The Rev. Munro Sickafoose
- Wed., July 18 Women's Group, 6 p.m.
- Wed., July 18 Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
- Sun., July 22 Sharing Circle: *Sacred & Profane*
- Sun., July 29 *Reproductive Justice, service/forum*

Services & Circles begin at 11 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago, at the intersection with Gusdorf Road.

No Strangers to Controversy

Rev. Munro Sickafoose

One hundred years ago, in 1818, the Dedham Case split one of the Standing Order communities in New England over who owned its assets — the more theologically conservative church members, or the Unitarian parish sympathizers. The courts ruled in favor of the parish, and more such splits followed — also along similar conservative and liberal theological fault lines.

It should come as no surprise that UU's have been embroiled in one controversy or another throughout our short history. After all, we are descended from heretics on both sides of the family, so to speak.

Some of these controversies have defined us and united us, while others left us divided. The Restorationist controversy divided our Universalist ancestors in the early 19th century. Landmark sermons by William Ellery Channing, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker, and Hosea Ballou (to name only a few) were quite controversial in their time. It is questionable whether our denomination has ever recovered from the Black Empowerment Controversy, although the Black Lives Matter movement and current developments at the UUA have seen us regain some of that ground.

My point is not that Unitarian Universalism has ever been perfect at resolving these disputes. Indeed, we have sometimes failed dramatically at it. But only rarely have we given up attempting resolution, and although it sometimes takes years, we usually come to a place where we begin to resolve them and integrate them into our faith. These are our values at work.

In our current age, it seems that EVERYTHING has become controversial, and worthy of very public,

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St. James Food Pantry

Patricia Scott

The St. James Episcopal Church Food Pantry has been giving out food for over 30 years, currently serving 470 families every Thursday. The food reaches 1,300 people with two to three meals on the table each week.

The Food Depot, a regional food bank in Santa Fe, and our local Super Save grocery store deliver food weekly to St. James in support of the Food Pantry efforts.

In addition to the staple groceries that are given out each week, the Food Pantry provides hams at Easter and turkeys for Thanksgiving to registered recipients. Registration serves as a tool to gather demographic information on the people who are served by the Food Pantry. It's interesting to note that many grandparents and great grandparents living on Social Security or disability income are the caretakers of children in the community.

When special needs arise, the Food Pantry provides vouchers redeemable at Super Save. This includes parents in need of formula, people just out of the hospital with special dietary needs, and people dealing with unexpected major expenses.

A fairly new program has been providing backpacks filled with food to students identified by the school district social workers as needing food for

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Happy July birthday wishes to...

- 5 Joe Mazza
- 6 Bob Aubrecht
- 21 Barbara Scott
- 22 Nancy Schultz
- 28 Chuck Fawns

No Strangers to Controversy

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very heated, debate. This trend has been exacerbated by the advent of social media and the firestorm of controversy that rages at the slightest provocation. No resolution seems possible, and there is no end in sight.

I would offer that in our current climate, perhaps the best thing Unitarian Universalism has to offer is not our positions on a range of issues, but our experience dealing with controversy, and helping different sides find some measure of resolution in the midst of all the disputation.

In Faith,
Rev. Munro

Fourth of July Picnic Sign the Poster for Side Dishes

This year, we'll be celebrating Independence Day in the courtyard of the Lodge, from 3 to 6 p.m. In case of rain (wouldn't that be nice?), we can just move it inside. Ray Taylor is organizing the food (including vegan and vegetarian choices), as well as coordinating volunteers for decorations, setup and cleanup. He and Elaine have created another fun poster for us to sign up to bring side dishes and desserts, etc. The poster will be out on the big table on Sunday June 17, at the circle on Sunday June 24, and again on July 1. In the meantime, if you'd like to contact Ray, you can email him at circ@taosnews.com.

Blustery First Camping Trip

Jane Starks

On May 21 and 22, Chris Westover, Sally Savage, and I camped at El Vado Lake State Park, about a two-hour drive on 64 west of Taos. This is a fascinating, beautiful, and isolated region in northwestern New Mexico that we were eager to explore. We were able to visit two Gallina Culture ruin complexes — Rattlesnake Ridge and Nogales Cliff house. It was a challenge to visit these sites because of the dramatic spring weather we experienced on Monday, including rain driven by wind like I'd never before encountered while camping.

However, Tuesday was spectacularly beautiful. After enjoying our coffee along with a beautiful sunrise, we drove to Heron Lake State Park, passing through several Territorial-era communities. Both Heron and El Vado lakes are bordered by escarpments, which provide a dramatic backdrop; both parks are bounded on the west and south by the Jicarilla Apache

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St. James Food Pantry

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the weekend. Every Thursday, a volunteer delivers the backpacks to the children. Currently this program reaches 17 high school students and two from middle school.

The annual Empty Bowls event raises money to support the Food Bank. Roughly 300 to 350 people purchase \$25 tickets each year. They are given a bowl donated by local potters and lunch provided by local restaurants. A silent auction is conducted during the event to raise additional funds. A separate Premier Party has attendance limited to 75; at this event, additional auction items of significant retail value are sold. These events provide 50 percent of the operating income for the Food Pantry. The balance of operating costs are made up by donations from the general public and local organizations. All money received is kept in a fund for the sole use of the Food Pantry.

Food Pantry activities are staffed 100 percent by volunteers. Fifty or more people, mostly non-St. James members, support the distribution of food on Thursdays. St. James volunteers support the portioning of beans, rice and oats on Monday mornings.

Hunger in New Mexico

- New Mexico is in the top 10 nationally of people living in hunger
- 83% of families experiencing hunger have an annual income under \$20,000
- 81% must choose between food and utilities
- 59% choose between food and medical care
- 48% choose between food and housing

Hunger in Taos County and the Town of Taos

- Taos County is in the top four hungriest
- Taos School District no longer provides free lunch to all students
- Food insecurity rate is 15.7% for county residents and 28.3% for children

Meditation Group

Chuck and Marsha Fawns will continue to host a Buddhist meditation group on the second and fourth Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. at their home. If you have an interest in joining this group or if you have any questions, contact them at Kyspirit@taosnet.com or 575-758-1887 and you can be put on the email list or just inquire about the format. If you have been

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Reservation. Tuesday evening was capped by a sunset over the lake, revealing an incredible range of pink and violet tones. A very pleasant part of this experience was the ability to camp at the very edge of the lake with an unobstructed view of the mountains and water.

If you'd like to join in an occasional camping trip, and maybe wrangle one, contact one of us: Sally, mountain_spirit@hotmail.com; Chris, cwestover2012@gmail.com; or me, jane@janestarks.com.

July 29 – A Service/Forum Joan Sanford on Reproductive Rights, plus Justice Ministry Forum

– UU's and Justice Ministry –

We are called to respect and protect the fullness of every person's reproductive and sexual life and rights – physical, emotional, political and spiritual.

What are the threats? What is being done? What other issues call for our response? How do we help? How can we support each other's work? How might we work together?

Speaker: Joan Sanford, Ex. Dir., N.M. Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, nmrcrc.org

Discussion, Worship & Reflection: Mya Coursey, Chuck Doughty, Chris Westover

Sunday, July 1 • 11:00 a.m. “The Zen of Unitarianism” Rev. Gary Kowalski

Zen Buddhism has gained wide following in North America, far beyond its original home in the East. Yet the tenets and practice of Zen remain inscrutable for many. In this, Zen may resemble our own faith - hard to explain to others, but easy to grasp from the insider's point of view of direct experience. This morning Rev. Kowalski explores the similarities between our widely differing religious traditions.

Sunday, July 15 • 11:00 a.m. “The Divinity School Address, 180 Years On” Rev. Munro Sickafoose

180 years ago, Ralph Waldo Emerson delivered what became known as the “Divinity School Address” to the graduating class of Harvard Divinity School. The sermon caused a storm of protest and Emerson was not allowed to speak at Harvard for another generation. What caused the controversy? And how well do his words stand the test of time?

meditating for a while, this community practice might be beneficial. The group shares techniques, books, and insights. Directions to their house will be included in the notification emails.

Music Committee News

Singing practice with Martha at 10:30 a.m. on the 1st & 3rd Sundays.
All are welcome; attend when you can.

UU Women's Group

On June 6th, twelve women met to share personal responses to concepts from Michael Singer's book *The Untethered Soul*. A second and final meeting around this book will be held in July. We will meet on July 18th, as the first Wednesday will be our 4th of July picnic. The meeting will be at 6 p.m. at the Taos Bridge Club. It's not necessary to purchase the book to participate. Summary material was emailed prior to the June meeting and the July facilitator, Mimi, will email information prior to the July meeting. The time will be 6 p.m., the location will be the Taos Bridge Club, near Enterprise car rental. Questions? Contact: Barbara M., Chris W., Carol D. or Marsha F.

Girl Scouts Reminisce



During a gathering of their UU Dinners for Eight (9) group, Sally, Madison and Marsha shared their Girl Scout histories and badges, discovering that while uniforms have changed, the adventures offered continue to be exciting!

Dinners for Six is Replacing Dinners for Eight

The smaller size groups will allow for easier conversations with the whole group at cozier, smaller dinner tables. Sign-up information for this fun event will be provided soon. Virginia Saporta will be coordinating the sign-ups, forming the groups, and sending out the email communications.

Contact her at vasaporta@gmail.com with questions.