

The Unitarian
Congregation of Taos
January 2019
Bulletin Board



- Sun., Jan. 6 *What Is Democracy?*,
The Rev. Gary Kowalski
Special music with Sal Lee and
Claire Detels
- Sun., Jan. 13 *Sharing Circle: Seeds of Change*
- Wed., Jan. 16 Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
- Sun., Jan. 20 *Variations on the Theme of God*,
The Rev. Munro Sickafoose
- Sun., Jan. 27 *Sharing Circle: Being in Nature*

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

Keeping the Dream Alive

The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

The new year brings with it another session of the New Mexico legislature, and another observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. MLK Day was first proposed immediately after King's death in 1968, and didn't come to a vote in the US House until 1979. It passed in 1983 under a Republican Senate and Democratic House, and was signed into law by President Reagan, who noted, "Dr. King had awakened something strong and true, a sense that true justice must be colorblind, and that among white and black Americans, as he put it, "Their destiny is tied up with our destiny, and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom; we cannot walk alone."

What was not noted was what many people considered to be the real cause of King's assassination: the Poor People's campaign, which demanded economic and human rights for poor Americans of diverse backgrounds. The prospect of the breakdown of the racial divide between poor whites and blacks was seen a greater threat by many in power than civil rights for African-Americans.

It wasn't until the year 2000 that MLK day was observed in all 50 states, and some of them had rather twisted ways of doing so, such as "Martin Luther King's and Robert E. Lee's Birthday" in several states. 2000 is not so very long ago, and there are still many who would like to see MLK Day taken away. The struggle for social justice and human rights is far from over.

New Mexico has always been ahead of its time on the civil rights front. In 1955, the New Mexico

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Congregation Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Unitarian Congregation of Taos will be held at 11 AM on February 3, 2019, at the Masonic Lodge. The meeting will cover several important items as the Congregation prepares for 2019 and beyond. A light buffet lunch will be served immediately after the meeting.

Please mark your calendars. If you have an agenda item you wish to include, please let Bob Aubrecht know prior to December 29, 2018, when the Board will finalize the meeting agenda. See you on February 3.



2019 UCOT Pledge Campaign

Bob Aubrecht

As Chair of the Finance and Stewardship Committee, I am very pleased to announce that the goal of \$36,000 in annual pledges for 2019 has been met. I wish to thank all of the members who have made pledges to support the Congregation for 2019. Your generosity enables us to continue our mission here in Taos.

Acting UCOT President

As many of you know Barbara Scott is rehabbing after her recent cardiac surgery. Bob Aubrecht

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Keeping the Dream Alive

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state legislature enacted the New Mexico Civil Rights Act, nine years before the national Civil Rights Act was passed by the U.S. Congress. But New Mexico's situation encompasses a wider and more complicated diversity than the rest of the country, and although the NM Act defines rights and prohibits discrimination "places of accommodation, resort or amusement due to race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin", the actual solutions to the Act are still being contended in law and practice. And what all these Acts do not mention is discrimination based on class – and class discrimination is the unspoken rule that defines American life. Economic injustice and inequality are tearing our country apart. This needs changing, and we can start right here at home.

The 2019 legislative session begins on January 15th, with lots on its agenda, including criminal and economic justice, election reform, and much more. *On the 16th, Interfaith Worker Justice NM hosts the 10th Annual "Witness for the People" at the Roundhouse in Santa Fe with Sr. Simone Campbell as guest speaker. I invite you show up in faith and support workers' rights and economic justice in New Mexico. Plus you'll get to hear the awesome NM Peace Choir! See you then!*

UU Women's Group in December, January, February:

The Holiday Celebration dinner for the UU Women's Group is Wednesday, December 19th at 6pm at Mondo Italiano. They will have a large table ready for us with many options for us to choose from. Please arrange carpools if needed. If you wish to join us for this time together, please let Barbara Martinez know via an email to her by December 17th at bsmithmtz@outlook.com.

Because this is such a busy time of the year, the January 2nd Meeting of UU Women has been postponed until February. The UU women will return to our usual first Wednesday schedule on February 6th.

This first of 2019 meeting will be, as it was last year, a planning meeting: an opportunity for all those present to input suggestions for topics and resources for the coming year and revisit the suggestions remaining from our 2018 ideas.

UCOT President

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will serve as acting President of the Congregation on an interim basis until Barbara is back to her usual self. If you have any issues or concerns about Congregation items, please contact Bob either by phone – 758-9675 – or by email – aubrecht@taosnet.com



WUULF

WUULF stands for Western Unitarian Universalist Life Festival and is held at Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu annually. The theme for this year is "Letting Go in the Desert." It is an opportunity for UUs to laugh, play, and appreciate our beautiful community and world. The Rev. Christine Robinson, former Senior Minister of First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, will be the community minister this year. Registration will begin in late February/early March. For more information check out their website at <http://wuulf.org/>



Music Committee News

Singing practice with Martha at 10:30 a.m.
on the 1st & 3rd Sundays.

All are welcome; attend when you can.

Special Music for Sunday January 6th

Sal Lee, tenor, with Claire Detels, piano. If you have heard this duo before, you know what a treat it is to have them return. Their music making is the best kind of soul food!

Sunday, January 6
What Is Democracy?
The Rev. Gary Kowalski

Seventy-five years ago, artist Norman Rockwell painted an iconic series of images known as "The Four Freedoms." Freedom of Speech. Freedom of Religion. Freedom from Want. Freedom from Fear. In commemoration, the paintings have been on world wide tour, starting last fall at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, currently on display in Washington, D.C., and passing through Normandy, France for the anniversary of D-Day next June before returning to their home at the Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. This morning our co-minister Gary Kowalski examines what the Four Freedoms meant in their own time, and what a re-imagining of democracy might look like in our own generation.

Sunday, January 20
Variations On The Theme Of God
The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

"God" is a word that carries a lot of religious and cultural baggage. For many of us, it evokes patriarchal oppression and injustice. For others, it can denote a loving higher power. And some simply find the word to be no longer useful. It's complicated, and perhaps all these things are true, depending on your history. Join me as I explore some variations on the theme of God.

Call on Our Ministers in Times of Need

Pastoral care is offered to those in need of emotional and spiritual support. If you are going through a crisis (or even a hard time), feel free to reach out to our ministers — they're here to help:

gary.kowalski@gmail.com, (505) 257-5014
munrosickafoose@gmail.com, (970) 946-2814



*Happy January
birthday wishes to...*

- 12 Elaine Taylor
- 14 Barley Donahue
- 18 Mel James

UPCOMING SHARING CIRCLES

Seeds of Change, January 13

Growing new life in our gardens requires planting seeds when the earth is the right temperature, tending the new life with water and nutrients; weeding, and perhaps communicating with the new life.

Using garden and gardener as metaphors for our new growth—spiritual and otherwise— what do you want to nurture and grow in 2019? What do you envision in 2019?

No matter how pure and hopeful your vision is for the new seed, most often you must weed out what weakens new growth. Protecting the tender new growth, shielding out predators can require difficult decisions and strength of action by the gardener. What might you have to weed out of yourself to make new changes in 2019? What might you have to change in your environment?



Being in Nature, January 27

"Being in nature, or even viewing scenes of nature, reduces anger, fear, and stress and increases pleasant feelings. Exposure to nature not only makes you feel better emotionally, it contributes to your physical wellbeing, reducing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension, and the production of stress hormones. It may lead to longer and happier lives." U. Of Minnesota Taking Charge of Your Health Well Being website

Research tells us that people living away from nature, surrounded by concrete and technology may suffer from Nature Deficit Disorder—affecting their physical and mental/emotional well-being.

How do you feel in nature? Have you experienced lasting effects? What happens to you when you radically change your natural environment?

Group Contacts

- Women's Group*
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- Men's Group*
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