

The Unitarian  
Congregation of Taos  
**May 2019**  
Bulletin Board



Wed., May 1	Women's Group, 6 p.m.
Sun., May 5	"Cinco de Mayo?" The Rev. Gary Kowalski
Sun., May 12	Sharing Circle: <i>Resistance &gt; Acceptance &gt; Surrender</i>
Wed., May 15	Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
Sun., May 19	<i>Our Faith as Spiritual Practice</i> The Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Sun., May 26	Sharing Circle: <i>Spiritual Immigrants</i>

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

### **The Right Question?**

**The Rev. Munro Sickafoose**

When Unitarian Universalists ask ourselves what we want, the answer is generally something along the lines of "We want a just and sustainable world" or "We want an end to oppression and injustice." After all, our sixth principle is the goal of a world community, with peace, liberty, and justice for all. This a fine vision to have. I think every person on the planet can get behind that goal, and yet after many years and many wars, it seems we are no closer to it. It's easy to want the results. Achieving them is another matter. Perhaps asking ourselves what we want isn't the right question. Maybe the right question is *What are we willing to do to achieve that goal?*

If you want to learn to play the violin well, you need hours of practice. If you want that totally buff body, you need to eat right and spend lots of time at the gym. If you want to be rich, that means dedicating much of your life to making money. If you want a wonderful relationship with a partner or partners, you have to work through your interpersonal stuff and theirs, and be present for all of the give-and-take that relationships demand. If we want to end oppression and create a sustainable world, we have to be willing to dismantle our current systems and create something new in their place.

All real change comes with a certain amount of suffering and sacrifice. Turning any of our wants into reality has associated costs: time, money, emotional investment, and the risk of failure. It's not a question of wanting the goal enough. We also have to also want what it takes to get there.

Who we are is defined by what we are willing to struggle for. The answer to the question *What are we willing to do to achieve the goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all?* is a critical one for each of us, and all of us.

### **Sunday, May 5** **"Cinco de Mayo?"**

The Rev. Gary Kowalski

My guess is that most gringos think that Cinco de Mayo is an occasion for an extra cerveza, maybe a Modela Negra. I am not much more informed. But it has always fascinated me how a full blooded Zapotec Indian could beat back the armies of France, take on the Catholic hierarchy, establish separation of church and state, and create an independent nation that had been a vassal of Europe. Not incidentally to U.S. history, the commander of the Battle of Puebla helped the North win the Civil War. Maybe we'll even learn a little this week about the religious beliefs of Benito Juarez, the man who is remembered for saying that "respect for the rights of others is peace." I'm going to be reading up.

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### **Sunday, May 19** ***Our Faith as Spiritual Practice***

The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

Many of us bring spiritual practices from other faiths or domains with us when we come to Unitarian Universalism. Some of these — like meditation, prayer, and ritual — are shared around the world in all kinds of settings, including our faith. Are there spiritual practices that are unique to us? How can Unitarian Universalism be a spiritual practice?

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### **UCOT Men's Group**

The UCOT Men's Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Let Terry Surguine know if you'd like to receive notices and directions: [tsurguine@gmail.com](mailto:tsurguine@gmail.com).

## UU Women's Group — May 1st

Wednesday, May 1st, at 6 p.m., we'll meet at the home of Marsha Fawns. If you wish a ride, email Carol Doughty at [lccdoughty@gmail.com](mailto:lccdoughty@gmail.com) to arrange being picked up at the Taos Bridge Center parking lot. RSVP to Marsha at [creatings@taosnet.com](mailto:creatings@taosnet.com) if you plan to attend. Yvonne will facilitate as we share our reactions to *Women Rowing North*, a best-selling book on aging by Mary Pipher.

An email will go out soon to those on the list, explaining how much of the book will be discussed; directions to Marsha's home will be included.

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### Upcoming Sharing Circles:

**May 12**

#### **Resistance > Acceptance > Surrender**

Resistance is like picking a fight with reality. To notice this, look for the complaints you think and speak. Usually we're not even aware of our complaints, especially the silent ones. But when we become aware, we can see how our complaining stands us in opposition to reality.

Acceptance allows us to hear our complaints and either drop them and embrace what we're experiencing, or do something to change the situation.

Surrender puts us in a place of trust. Or put another way, trust allows us to feel that it's safe to surrender. Paradoxically, surrender takes far more courage than acceptance or resistance.

What kinds of situations cause you the most resistance in your life?

**May 26**

#### **Spiritual Immigrants**

Being an immigrant, we leave our cultural upbringing, longing for lives that are better, safer, freer, stronger, more loving, more rewarding, more defining, more something.

Being an immigrant, we take our cultural upbringing along with us, longing for belonging, for competence, for the familiar... longing for acceptance.

Each new beginning carries endings, and each ending already holds many beginnings. The immigrant experiences beginnings and endings, exploration and loss, discovery and grief.

Looking back at your spiritual journey, what did you leave behind to begin a new spiritual life? In your renewed spiritual life, what did you find?

## 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](mailto:gary.kowalski@gmail.com), (505) 257-5014  
[munrosickafoose@gmail.com](mailto:munrosickafoose@gmail.com), (970) 946-2814

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### Music Committee News



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

All are welcome; attend when you can.

If you play an instrument and would like to play with others, please let Martha Grossman or Gael Minton know you are interested.

### Special Music Dates

**May 19**

Becky Reardon, vocal and guitar, and  
Julie Hawley, Celtic harp

**September 15**

Jackson Price, vocal and guitar

**October 6**

Mark Dudrow and Val Landi, cello duo

**December 1**

Elaine Nelson, saxophone, with a guitarist

### Happy May Birthdays to...



3	Chuck Doughty
4	Marjorie Luckey
18	Madison Taylor
22	Barbara Martinez