

The Unitarian
Congregation of
Taos
July 2019
Bulletin Board



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| Wed., July 3 | Women's Group, 6 p.m. |
| Sun., July 7 | Service: <i>The Question Box</i> The Rev. Gary Kowalski |
| Sun., July 14 | Sharing Circle: <i>What Is Fulfillment?</i> |
| Wed., July 17 | Men's Group, 4:30 p.m. |
| Sun., July 21 | Service: <i>The Good</i> The Rev. Munro Sickafoose |
| Sun., July 28 | Sharing Circle: <i>Adversity > Resilience</i> |

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

An Incomplete Revolution
The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

Every July, America celebrates our Declaration of Independence from the rule of British kings and queens. That document contains these famous words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

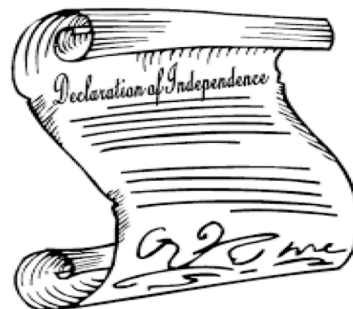
Those words are an ethical foundation for government, one that draws authority from the divine. But men, and it was men who wrote it, seem to perceive ethics differently from women. To over-generalize, men tend to think in terms of autonomy, rights, and justice, while women tend to think in terms of relationship, care, and responsibility.

In the beginning, it was a small circle of white men for whom autonomy, rights, and justice were available in law and custom. Over time, and at great cost, many have fought to have women, people of color, and others included in that circle. This is a great and good thing, and that struggle is obviously not over. The circle seems to expand and contract, and its boundaries are blurry. Law and custom are still not equally applied to all. Progress is slowly being made. But the conversation and the struggle still seem to ignore the other ethical dimension—that of relationship, care, and responsibility.

In 1852, Frederick Douglass gave a speech titled, *What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?* in which he says that all the patriotic talk about liberty, citizenship, and freedom, are an offense to the enslaved people of the United States because of their lack of freedom, liberty, and citizenship. He was talking about rights—and he was also talking about

care. Just as the state must apply the ethical dimension of rights and justice to all, so must it extend the other ethical dimension of relationships and care to all. The integration of these two dimensions is the basis of a complete ethics of government, and the mark of good government.

Because Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness are not just dependent on rights and justice—they also depend on good relationships, on care for all, and on responsible government and responsible people.



Sunday, July 7
The Question Box
The Rev. Gary Kowalski

It's time again for another round of non-trivial pursuits. Is the universe a friendly place? What would you be willing to die for? Do all religions share a common core? What are the limits of freedom, reason and tolerance (the Unitarian Trinity)? This morning I invite you to bring your philosophical, moral and theological questions to the table, promising to provide, if not answers, at least a thoughtful response. Please email your questions to me at gary.kowalski@gmail.com by July 1 to give me time to prepare. Our answers divide us, but our questions bring us together.

Sunday, July 21

The Good

The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

Centuries ago, Plato posited three transcendental properties of being — the Good, the True, and the Beautiful. These were later embedded into Western Christian thinking as properties of the Ultimate Being and as such are part of our UU heritage. Where do they stand today in our thinking? Over the next few months, we'll explore these three — starting with the Good.

SHARING CIRCLES

July 14, *What Is Fulfillment?*

“There are certain things fundamental to human fulfillment. The essence of these needs is captured in the phrase ‘to live, to love, to learn, to leave a legacy,’ (Stephen Covey). The road to self-fulfillment is different for everyone. That is why your path to personal fulfillment will take a unique course as well as present different opportunities for you to realize it. If you are running toward and immersing yourself in living, loving, learning, leaving a legacy, and leading with gratitude, you have discovered the road to fulfillment.

What has fulfilled you in the past? What are you working on now that will lead to fulfillment?

July 28, *Adversity > Resilience*

Adversity is a fact of life. Resilience is that inefable quality that allows some people to be knocked down by life and come back at least as strong. Rather than letting difficulties or failure overcome them and drain their resolve, they find a way to rise from the ashes. A resilient person has the inner resources that enable them to move into the next moment with hope and dignity. Resilience involves bringing experience, wisdom, compassion, and the promise that life will continue.

Come share an experience, past or present, that has tapped your resilience. What did you do to get through this experience? Is hope part of resiliency? What about forgiveness? How might you go about cultivating resilience for yourself?

UCOT Women's Group, July 3

We will meet at Yvonne Hayes' home at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3rd, and continue with *Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing as We Age*, a bestseller by Mary Pipher. Yvonne Hayes will facilitate as we explore part three of this book.

Directions to Yvonne's will be sent in an email to the email list along with details about how to get a ride, if needed.

To be added to (or deleted from) the UU Women's Group list, contact Carol Doughty at lcdoughty@gmail.com.

UCOT Men's Group, July 17

The UCOT Men's Group will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17th. We meet regularly on the third Wednesday of each month from 4:30 to 6 p.m. If you'd like to receive monthly notices and directions, contact Terry Surguine to be added to the email list tsurguine@gmail.com.

Music Committee News

Join Martha for singing practice at 10:30 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. All are welcome; attend when you can.



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| 5 | Joe Mazza |
| 6 | Bob Aubrecht |
| 7 | Munro Sickafoose |
| 21 | Barbara Scott |
| 22 | Nancy Schultz |
| 28 | Chuck Fawns |