

The Unitarian
Congregation of
Taos
September
2019
Bulletin Board



Sun., Sep. 1	Service: <i>Martin Luther King and the Legacy of Organized Labor</i> The Rev. Gary Kowalski
Wed., Sep. 4	Women's Group, 5:45p.m.
Sun., Sep. 8	Sharing Circle: <i>Hiding Our Feelings</i>
Sun., Sep. 15	Service: <i>Silken Ties of Love</i> The Rev. Doug Inhofe Special Music by Jackson Price
Wed., Sep. 18	Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Sep. 22	Sharing Circle: <i>Homemaking</i>
Sun., Sep. 29	5th Sunday – Talk: <i>The Vodou Religion</i> Bill Waters, PhD, Cultural Anthropology

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

The Whole World Is Wounded
The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

"I believe that the community—in the fullest sense: a place and all its creatures—is the smallest unit of health and that to speak of the health of an isolated individual is a contradiction in terms."

~ Wendell Berry

I write this column barely a week after another mass shooting by another young man without a healthy community around him, a community capable of inoculating against the white supremacist community that influenced his actions and motivated him to drive 10 hours to kill other human beings who looked different from him.

This young man is not mentally ill. Or rather, he is not mentally ill on his own. He was, and is, part of a mentally unhealthy community, linked to other unhealthy communities, and nested in an unhealthy society. Communities that demonize others and encourage violence are not healthy ones. If we are to solve or at least reduce the problem of these kinds of mass shootings, we—the other white communities—must address the problem of unhealthy white communities.

And we don't have to go far to find them. They are right next door, and on the internet. As Wendell Berry points out, an individual cannot be healthy unless their community is healthy. This philosophy is in diametric opposition to our cultural glorification of rugged individualism and self-reliance, of lionizing people disconnected and un beholden to the others around them.

To be honest, I'm not sure our communities can ever be made completely healthy. The whole world is wounded, and we are not innocent of—or immune from—that wounding. We are both the wounded and those who wound. We can only begin where we are, with those around us, healing what we can, and hoping that the healing ripples spread outward.

Oh, and we also need to take domestic terrorism seriously, ban military weapons for civilians, and institute community mental health checks, training and licensing for anyone who wants to bear arms. It may be a right, but all rights have limits and responsibilities, and these are not just for individuals, but their communities.



Sunday, September 1
Martin Luther King and
the Legacy of Organized Labor
The Rev. Gary Kowalski

On this Labor Day Weekend, many Americans will be enjoying end-of-summer picnics. But who invented the weekend to begin with? Labor Day was established to honor the history and impact of unions in bettering the lives and fortunes of working families. On this Sunday morning, the Reverend Kowalski explores the little appreciated connection between the labor movement and the civil rights movement, with a forward look.

Sunday, September 15
Silken Ties of Love
The Rev. Doug Inhofe

Special music by Jackson Price, vocals & guitar.

SHARING CIRCLES

September 8 *Hiding Our Feelings*

What does it mean to be authentic? It is said that it is vital to live our own truth and to be authentic. An authentic life is one in which our actions and words are congruent with our beliefs and values. We are true to ourselves and not the person others want us to be.

But living an authentic life can be difficult and even painful, for ourselves and sometimes for others. Hiding our true feelings from ourselves can be a way to live in denial of our authentic selves. It can also be a mask we put on to keep others from knowing who we really are.

Please join us at the Sharing Circle to explore this issue. Consider the following prompts as a pathway in to the discussion: When has hiding your feelings caused you remorse or regret?

Think of a situation when revealing your true feelings caused another person to feel pain or anger at hearing your truth, and then describe how you felt after you honestly revealed yourself.

When did you hide your true feelings because it was the appropriate decision for the well-being or safety of another person?

September 22, *Homemaking*

Home is both a place and an idea. It is a real place, a real experience; and it can be a metaphor and a symbol. Home is different and individual for each being.

Along with the variety and diversity of "home," the meaning of homemaking and homemaker varies. Our personalities aren't fixed—we're changing all the time. Our surroundings should reflect that. Therefore, the role of the homemaker may also change as we change—a single person takes a roommate or a life partner; each discovers new roles and new facets of each other and themselves. Children, pets may be added; jobs change; locations. Goals change; processes change. AND, the home and homemaking change.

Please come and share what a nurturing home has meant for you throughout your lifetime. How have you made a home—one that allows and supports personal growth, spiritual growth?

We will somewhat abbreviate the circle so we can follow it with another brainstorming session on 2020 topics!

UCOT Women's Group, September 4

We will meet a bit earlier, **5:45 p.m.**, in order to have time for the film *The Way*. Barbara Martinez will host. Directions to her home and how to arrange for a ride will be included in an email. If you wish to be added to (or deleted from) the UU Women's Group list, contact Carol Doughty at lccdoughty@gmail.com.

UCOT Men's Group, September 18

The Men's Group will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18th. 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. There will be special music Sept. 15th by Jackson Price, vocal and guitar.

Outreach Committee News

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a community program supported by our UCOT outreach donations. CASA is a nationwide program that was founded in Seattle in the 1970s. In Taos, it operates under the auspices of Youth Heartline.

This program recruits, trains and supervises community members appointed by the District Judge as advocates for kids during the vulnerable period when they are removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. CASA volunteers advocate with Children, Youth, & Families Department (CYFD), attorneys, counselors for the kids and the family, and any other parties involved before making their own independent recommendations to the District Judge in the best interests of the kids. Our local program operates in New Mexico's Eighth Judicial District.

CASA serves more than 100 foster children a year in the tri-county judicial district, ensuring that they are safe and helping them thrive. Every foster kid deserves a caring, consistent, compassionate adult who has their back.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS
17 Linda Aubrecht