

The Unitarian  
Congregation  
of Taos  
January 2022  
Bulletin Board



Sun., Jan. 2	Service: <i>How to Bless the World</i> Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Sun., Jan. 9	Sharing Circle: <i>TBA</i> , via email
Sun., Jan. 16	Sharing Circle: <i>TBA</i> , on Zoom
Wed., Jan. 19	Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 23	UCOT 2022 Annual Meeting
Sun., Jan. 30	Service: <i>What Is Critical Race Theory? Or Shall the Fundamentalists Win?</i> Rev. Gary Kowalski

*Same as It (N)ever Was*  
Rev. Munro Sickafoose

The recently published *Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity*, by the late David Graeber and co-author David Wengrow, seeks to correct the grand narrative that human social development progressed in a linear fashion from primitive hunter-gatherers to agriculture to cities and then to modern nation states, with all their hierarchies and castes and specializations. Kings and priests and warriors are the natural outcome of this narrative, along with serfdom and inequality, and this is the cost of "civilization." The authors say that this isn't so, and they provide example after example of the ways human beings have creatively engaged with modes of production and survival, and with different ways and means of organizing ourselves and dealing with the uses and misuses of power. And we've done that for thousands of years, trying all kinds of ways of being together in the world. Humans were never simple and "primitive." We have always been creatures of imagination and complexity, creative and flexible.

I think that the deeper lesson of the *Dawn of Everything* is that we should always be suspicious of grand narratives. Why? Because grand narratives – and indeed, all narratives – benefit someone in some way. Perhaps they allow the powerful to maintain their power, or perhaps they simply reinforce our own sense of self and our place in the world. We must always ask "Qui bono?" – *Who benefits?* More importantly, we should be suspicious of narratives because they ultimately constrain our imaginations and our understanding of what is possible for us – as individuals and societies, and as a species. Narratives are just stories, after all. Stories can lie. A story may reveal some truth, but it is not *the* truth. And today's truth may become tomorrow's prison, locking us into a poverty of imagination and possibility that serves neither ourselves nor the greater good. Sometimes it's better not to tell ourselves stories at all.

*How to Bless the World*  
Rev. Munro Sickafoose  
Sunday, January 2

One of the meanings of "to bless" is to sanctify or make holy, but traditional religious language and practices can be challenging for Unitarian Universalists. Nevertheless, giving and receiving blessings is a necessary and important part of our lives, or should be. Let's explore the why and the how of it.

*See your weekly email for the Zoom link.*

*UCOT 2022 Annual Meeting*  
Sunday, January 23

*See next page for more information.  
Also see your weekly email for materials  
and the Zoom link.*

*What Is Critical Race Theory?  
Or, Shall the Fundamentalists Win?*  
Rev. Gary Kowalski  
Sunday, January 30

A few months ago, perhaps, most Americans outside of certain law schools had never heard of Critical Race Theory. Now CRT is dominating headlines and has become a bogeyman for certain politicians and friends of Fox News who use it to inflame white anxieties. Amid the noise, the signal has been lost. What exactly is Critical Race Theory and how should religious liberals respond? Gary Kowalski suggests that what Biblical scholars call a "hermeneutic of suspicion" may help penetrate the confusion.

*See your weekly email for the Zoom link.*

HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

## SHARING CIRCLE\*

TBA

Sunday, January 9 & 16, 11 a.m.

Due to the UCOT 2022 Annual Meeting on the fourth Sunday, January 23rd, Sharing Circles will be held on consecutive Sundays in January – the 9th and the 16th. Contact Dennis Scott at [bridge4fun@mac.com](mailto:bridge4fun@mac.com) if you'd like join the January circle.

## UCOT 2022 Annual Meeting

Our 2022 UCOT annual meeting is set for Sunday, January 23, at 11 a.m. via Zoom.

Our annual meeting is a key event, as it is the most significant way in which the Congregation exercises our self-governance.

As usual, we will review 2021, cover the financial results for 2021 and the projected budget for 2022. We will explore program needs for 2022 and look at the calendar of services and circles for 2022. The annual meeting is also a forum for members to ask questions and raise issues of concern.

Rachel Cohen will distribute the materials for the annual meeting as attachments in her weekly email prior to January 23.

PLEASE mark your calendars for January 23 and plan to join us via Zoom.

If you have any items you want to place on the agenda for the annual meeting, please send them to me by January 12 so I can include them on the final agenda.

Bob Aubrecht, President, UCOT

## UCOT Men's Group

January 19

The UU Men's Group will meet Wednesday, January 19, at 4:30 p.m. All who are fully vaccinated are invited to meet in person. Those who wish can join by Zoom. Contact Dennis Scott at [bridge4fun@mac.com](mailto:bridge4fun@mac.com).

## Help Wanted

Looking for two volunteers to fill a spot in the rotation of meals for the Men's Shelter. UCOT has a group of dedicated volunteers who take turns making meals for the men on the fourth Friday of the month. The meals are simple, consisting of a main dish and a side for 15 people. If interested, call Mimi Owensby at (575) 779-7575.

## Music Committee News

Gael Minton

Friday evening, December 10, Russian pianist Gleb Ivanov treated a full house at the Taos Community Auditorium to the music of Schubert, Mendelssohn, and Liszt. Saturday and Sunday, in his tenth visit to Taos, he played four works with the Taos Chamber Music Group musicians.



[Perhaps you were there](#) to hear Gleb's breathtaking musical perfection. Enjoy his artistry at these selected links:

[Young Concert Artists: Artist Profile 2012](#)

[Beethoven Moonlight Sonata \(complete\) 2017](#)

[Mendelssohn Piano Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 25](#), Gleb Ivanov, piano, Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes; Toshiyuki Shimada, musical director and conductor, 2015



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

12 Elaine Taylor

If we don't have your birthday, please send it to Rachel Cohen at [rachelucot@gmail.com](mailto:rachelucot@gmail.com) so we can wish you a happy birthday when your month arrives!