

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
July 2023
Bulletin Board



Sun., July 2	Service: <i>Why Celebrate the Fourth of July?</i> Rev. Gary Kowalski
Sun., July 9	Sharing Circle: <i>Our Roles, Our Selves</i>
Sun., July 16	Service: <i>Dance With the One That Brung Ya, Part 2</i> , Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Tue. July 18	Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m., Martyrs
Wed., July 19	Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.
Sun., July 23	Sharing Circle: Open Topic
Thu., July 27	UCOT Book Club, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., July 30	5th Sunday Program: <i>Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic</i> , Dr. Richard Rubin

The Fifth Smooth Stone
Rev. Munro Sickafoose

James Luther Adams wrote this about the fifth smooth stone of religious liberalism: *Liberalism holds that the resources (divine and human) that are available for the achievement of meaningful change justify an attitude of ultimate optimism.* This is often interpreted to mean that hope for the future is justified, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. But hope and optimism are not the same thing. Hope comes into play when we feel we have less control over events and the effectiveness of our actions. We are optimistic when we feel our actions actually effect the outcomes of events. Hope is useful when we begin seeking change, but optimism arises when change starts to happen as the result of our actions. What is important is that they both inoculate us against nihilism and cynicism.

Like many of our contemporaries, Adams thought that history was a struggle in dead earnest between justice and injustice. Given the sometimes ambiguous nature of justice and injustice, my concern is that this can lead us into taking hard and polarized positions, which can actually stand in the way of achieving results. What stands out for me is his assertion that *"anyone who does not enter into that struggle with the affirmation of love and beauty misses the mark and thwarts creation as well as self-creation."* I think this assertion should open us to the possibility that not only is there no real justice without love, but no real justice without beauty, either.

UCOT Men's Group
Wednesday, July 19, 4:00 p.m.

The UU Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, July 19. Contact [Chuck Fawns](#) for location.

Why Celebrate the Fourth of July?
Rev. Gary Kowalski
Sunday, July 2, 11 a.m.

On Independence Day in 1852, Frederick Douglas delivered a fiery speech asking, "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?" pointing to the hypocrisy of a slaveholding nation flaunting its founding principles of freedom and equality. Douglas's question still resonates, as racial justice in America remains an unachieved goal. This morning, Gary attempts to put our national holiday in a context that allows us to see our Revolution honestly and uncensored, vastly imperfect but still a watershed in human affairs.

Dance With the One That Brung Ya, Part 2
Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Sunday, July 16, 11 a.m.

The expression "Dance With The One That Brung Ya" is a way of saying stay loyal and true to the people that supported you and "brought" you to where you are. But that can be extended to the ideas and the processes and beliefs that got you to where you are. Are we still dancing with the ones that brought us here?

Monthly Unitarian Women's Lunch
Tuesday, July 18, Martyr's, 12:15 p.m.

Sponsored by the Membership and Connections Team, these luncheons meet the third Tuesday of every month and provide our UCOT women an opportunity to grow friendships in a delicious atmosphere! You and your guests are invited. We begin with a personal check-in and then let the conversation flow. RSVP for our July 18 luncheon [here](#).

SHARING CIRCLES

Our Roles Our Selves

July 9 • 11 a.m.

As human beings, we are quick to identify ourselves using our circumstances, how others perceive us, our behaviors, or our positions in life. It's somehow comforting to clothe ourselves in these identities. But none of those are really who we are. And the problem with latching onto these roles is that, in addition to limiting our growth, it leaves us lost and confused when they are stripped from us.

Open-Topic Sharing Circle

July 23 • 11 a.m.

Passing a talking stick, each person can speak in turn about anything on their heart or mind (or may choose to pass). We listen and speak from the heart. All expressions are held in confidence. There is no cross talk, response to other's sharing (such as feedback or suggestions). In other words, this is not a discussion or therapy group but rather a sacred space we create together in which all are safe to feel, access, and express deep feelings and perceptions without concern of any response or evaluation from others.

UCOT Book Club — July Reading

Meets the Fourth Thursday, SOMOS, 10:30 a.m.

The July Selection (July 27) will be *An Inconvenient Apocalypse: Environmental Collapse, Climate Crisis, and the Fate of Humanity* by Wes Jackson and Robert Jensen. Professor Jensen will be in attendance.

Confronting harsh ecological realities and the multiple cascading crises facing our world today, *An Inconvenient Apocalypse* argues that humanity's future will be defined not by expansion but by contraction. Though these massive challenges can feel overwhelming, Jackson and Jensen weave a secular reading of theological concepts—the prophetic, the apocalyptic, a saving remnant, and grace—to chart a collective, realistic path for humanity not only to survive our apocalypse but also to emerge on the other side with a renewed appreciation of the larger living world.

Happy reading! [Sara](#).

UCOT Book Club is open to all who love to read. Bring a beverage to enjoy and a dollar to drop in the basket for SOMOS.

Fifth Sunday Program

Dr. Richard Rubin

Sunday, July 30, 11 a.m.

For the UCOT Fifth Sunday Program on July 30, member Dr. Richard Rubin will speak on "Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic" with photos. He will describe Aldo and Estella Leopold's origins and years in New Mexico as Supervisor of the Carson National Forest and daughter of a founding family. These years inspired the beginning of his pioneering conservation insights and achievements. His work culminated in the classic 1949 book *A Sand County Almanac*. Leopold's formulation of a Land Ethic philosophy continues to be important for environmental values and Unitarian Universalist concepts. Dr. Rubin will discuss current practices in Taos. A recent edition of *A Sand County Almanac* with a foreword by Barbara Kingsolver can be obtained from the nonprofit Leopold Foundation store, www.aldoleopold.org. From the same source, you can purchase Richard and Annette's 2022 book *Living the Leopolds' Mi Casita Ecology*. Proceeds are dedicated to the Friends of Mi Casita Fund at the Taos Community Foundation. The book is also available at the SOMOS bookshop.

UCOT 4th of July Celebration!

Annette and Richard Rubin are hosting a July 4th potluck at their home in Arroyo Seco at 4:30 p.m. Richard will smoke a small turkey in the horno, and they'll light the grill for whatever else you might like to cook. Bring side dishes, desserts, and drinks to share. Please RSVP to Annette (including what you'll bring) at rubin.annette@gmail.com and she'll send you directions. Let's celebrate the holiday together! Bless America!



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- Erich Kuerschner
4 Jo Gall
5 Joe Mazza
5 Linda Malm
6 Bob Aubrecht
7 Munro Sickafoose
8 Jay Bunker
11 Helen Rynaski
17 David Vaughn
21 Be Scott
22 Nancy Schultz
28 Chuck Fawns
30 Dennis Scott