

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
June 2024
Bulletin Board



Sun., June 2	Service: <i>The Poetry and Music of Ric Masten</i> , Chuck & Marsha Fawns
Sun., June 9	Sharing Circle: <i>Silence</i>
Thurs., June 13	UU Bibliophile Explorers, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., June 16	Service: <i>Our Father(s): On Father's Day</i> , Diana Davies
Tues., June 18	UCOT Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m., Martyrs
Wed., June 19	UCOT Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.
Sun., June 23	Sharing Circle: <i>Open Topic</i>
Thurs., June 27	UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., June 30	5th Sunday: Presentation by True Kids 1

So Good to Meet You!

Rev. Diana Davies

I am happy and honored to be joining you as a part-time contract minister, beginning June 1. I've already met many of you and I'm looking forward to meeting more of you and getting to know you all much better. My first impressions of this congregation are that you are a warm and welcoming group of people who genuinely enjoy being together and that you are committed to life-long learning and spiritual seeking.

Before moving to Taos at the end of March, I served as lead minister at First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City (August 2018 – March 2024). 1UCOKC is a mid-sized congregation with about 250 members, with a thriving Religious Education program and a deep commitment to social justice. Although I loved that congregation and the progressive inter-faith community in OKC, I felt a quiet calling toward something else: still a ministry, but of a different kind, involving regenerative agriculture. I also felt a strong need for rebalancing. Solo ministry in a mid-sized congregation can sometimes feel like being the CEO of a non-profit organization, and I was craving less administrative work and more time for faith development and spiritual practice. What wonderful synchronicity, then, when my husband Jim found a home for sale in Ranchos de Taos that was already set up for regenerative market gardening and, not too long after that, I ran into Rev. Doug Inhofe, who let me know that UCOT was seeking a new part-time minister, following the retirement of Rev. Gary Kowalski.

This is a sweet, liminal time for me, when I can bask in a spirit of beginner's mind: beginning to know this place, beginning to know this soil, beginning to know all of you. I am so excited and so grateful for this journey.

The Poetry and Music of Ric Masten

Chuck & Marsha Fawns

Sunday, June 2, 11 a.m.

Ric Masten was a friend of ours, and we connected many times over the years when we were members of the First Unitarian Church in Dallas. Ric was not only a poet but a traveling troubadour. He was the first – and, as far as we know, the only – person who was ever ordained as a Unitarian minister without attending one of our divinity schools. We will be presenting the poetry and music of Ric Masten. Many of you are familiar with Ric's "Let It Be a Dance," hymn number 311, in our Unitarian Hymnal.

Our Father(s): On Father's Day

Rev. Diana Davies

Sunday, June 16, 11 a.m.

June 16th is Father's Day, a holiday that, like Mother's Day, is complicated... For some, it's a joyous time to celebrate our beloved fathers or the father figures in our lives. For others, it may conjure feelings of abandonment, regret, conflict, unfulfilled dreams, or loss. We'll explore the nuanced significance of this day and the challenging and beautiful potential of the word 'father.'

Fifth Sunday Program

Youth, Community, and the Digital World

True Kids 1

Sunday, June 30, 11 a.m.

Mia Barela, Taos High junior and True Kids 1 Youth Council member, will give a presentation on the work of TK1 (other students may join Mia). TK1 is a youth media-and-technology nonprofit serving Northern New Mexico learners since 2017. The students, with staff guidance, learn to use technology tools, interview community leaders, and produce videos on a wide range of topics.



SHARING CIRCLES

Silence

June 9, 11 a.m.

“We can, in solitude, have the deepest of realizations of interbeing. Our experience of being comes to be known not so much as a separate entity but as a process through which our intention, aligned in grace, steers us.”

— Kathleen Dowling Singh, *The Grace in Aging*

Let us join together and share what silence means on our unique paths of spiritual growth. Can we let go of our attachments to our personal likes and dislikes, our habitual ways of thinking, and be open to discovering our own truths through silence? Whether Noble Silence, essential silence, or just slowing down to savor and appreciate each moment, please come share out of a place of stillness. Does this nurture your sense of gratitude and awe-filled wonder of our interconnectedness? Let us discover the different ways that silence speaks to our common soul journeys as Unitarian Universalists, perhaps slowing down in stillness for a few moments before speaking in our sacred circle.

Open Topic Sharing Circle

June 23, 11 a.m.

Using a virtual “talking stick,” each person can speak in turn, sharing whatever is in their hearts or minds in the moment.

Sack Lunches for the Men’s Shelter

June 2 Following the Service

After the Service on June 2, we’ll assemble lunches for the Men’s Shelter. We are doing this monthly now. Please [sign up here](#) for what you’d like to bring. We’ll set up the assembly line to put them together immediately following the service. The shelter has requested that we only bring 24 bags, so it will only take a few minutes. The men are very appreciative. Please email Annette Rubin with questions, rubin.annette@gmail.com.

Thank you for your help.



UU Bibliophile Explorers

June 13, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
(Second Thursday Monthly)

The UU Bibliophiles will meet again, this month on June 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the SOMOS salon. Apologies for past announcement vagaries. The Bibliophile Explorers new group is different from the established UCOT Book Group. We just provide publications on UU topics by UU authors, past and present. Our sharing library box is available at Services. Donations of UU books are welcome. We practice free reading choice and congenial discussion. We meet monthly on the second Thursday at the SOMOS Salon, 10:30. Contact Richard Rubin for more info (rlrubin46@gmail.com).

UCOT Women’s Lunch

June 18, 12:15 p.m.
(Third Tuesday Monthly)
Martyrs Steakhouse
RSVP [here](#)

The UCOT Women’s Lunch will meet at Martyrs on Tuesday, June 18 at 12:15 p.m., in Martyrs’ separate back meeting space, to enjoy a meal and conversation with UCOT members and friends. Join us as we enjoy delicious food and the company of other amazing women. Please RSVP to [Sara Sautter](#) by 10 a.m. on June 18.

UCOT Men’s Group

June 19, 4:00 p.m.
(Third Wednesday Monthly)

The UCOT Men’s Group will meet in person on Wednesday, June 19 at 4 p.m. Contact Chuck Fawns charles.fawns@gmail.com for location.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Sara Sautter
- 15 Michael Martinez
- 16 Carol Doughty
- 19 Patsy Scott

UCOT Book Group

June 27, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
(Fourth Thursday Monthly)

On Thursday June 27 at SOMOS, 10:30 a.m. to noon, the group will discuss chapter 10 through the end of *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*, by Nicole Hannah-Jones. It is a dramatic expansion of a groundbreaking work of journalism that offers a profoundly revealing vision of the American past and present.

Please bring a dollar donation to thank SOMOS for hosting us.



In late August 1619, a ship arrived in the British colony of Virginia bearing a cargo of 20 to 30 enslaved people from Africa. Their arrival led to the barbaric and unprecedented system of American chattel slavery that would last for the next 250 years. This is sometimes referred to as the country's original sin, but it is more than that: It is the source of so much that still defines the United States.

The New York Times Magazine's award-winning "1619 Project" issue reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This new book substantially expands on that work, weaving together 18 essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with 36 poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance. The essays show how the inheritance of 1619 reaches into every part of contemporary American society – from politics, music, diet, and traffic to citizenship, capitalism, religion, and our democracy itself.

This is a book that speaks directly to our current moment, contextualizing the systems of race and caste within which we operate today. It reveals long-glossed-over truths around our nation's founding and construction – and the way that the legacy of slavery did not end with emancipation but continues to shape contemporary American life.

Music Committee News

Gael Minton

Taos-based band ¡Radio Free Bassanda! tours northern New Mexico and southern Colorado, performing at the Harwood Museum where I have heard them the last two years. Their intoxicating rhythmic music is drawn from Ireland to the Mediterranean regions of Greece, to Turkey, Bulgaria, Kurdistan, Armenia, North Africa, Medieval Spain, Australia, and New Mexico. [Listen to a 2023 concert in Alamosa, Colorado](#) (2 hours, 14 minutes). Also see the [June 2023 UCOT Newsletter](#).



¡Radio Free Bassanda!

The title of this band has fascinated me, and with a little research I discovered a complex story. In Soviet Bolshevik Russia, there was a musical group called the Bassanda National Radio Orchestra (BNRO), founded by Yezget Nasilsinez (1899–1985), which in the 1940s became the Elegant Savages Orchestra (ESO) and completely divested from state funding, Radio Free. [As this link describes](#), Bassanda is not an actual geographic place but an imagined one, where the arts and culture flourish freely. The founding musician was a radical person who traveled the world and was classically trained in Moscow and Paris and had connections to American jazz and folk music. The founder's background, [outlined at the ESO site](#) along with the [Bassanda Manifesto](#), take one into a world of rich, local musical styles and the efforts to keep them alive.