

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
August 2024
Bulletin Board



Sun., Aug. 4	Service: <i>The Poetry and Music of Ric Masten</i> , Chuck and Marsha Fawns
Sun., Aug. 11	Sharing Circle: <i>Death</i>
Sun., Aug. 18	Service: <i>One Fainting Robin</i> , Rev. Doug Inhofe
Tues., Aug. 20	UCOT Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m., Martyrs
Wed., Aug. 21	UCOT Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.
Thurs., Aug. 22	UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., Aug. 25	Sharing Circle: <i>Open Topic</i>
Wed., Aug. 28	UCOT Game Night, 6:30 p.m., Mary Shaffer's home

Right Now, It's Like This
Rev. Diana Davies

The title for my monthly minister's column comes from a popular saying among many American Buddhists. Therevada monk Ajahn Sumedho introduced the phrase as an invitation to explore what is present, without giving in to the false belief that "it will always be this way." It seems an appropriate title for a newsletter column that can never reflect more than a moment in time.

During the 2024 UUA General Assembly (June 20–23), which was held entirely online, delegates representing congregations from throughout the United States voted to approve new language for Article II of the UUA Bylaws. Article II is the part of the bylaws that states our faith's core principles and purposes. Although the organization's bylaws require Article II to be reviewed at least every 15 years, this section hadn't been significantly updated since 1987.

The process for creating new language for our principles and purposes formally began in 2020 with the creation of a commission composed of UU religious professionals and lay members. The commission conducted surveys, workshops, and multiple Zoom meetings to solicit feedback from congregations and individual UUs. At the 2023 General Assembly, a majority of the delegates voted to advance the proposed new language, and congregations were invited to offer amendments. The final vote on the amended version was 2,025 (80.2 percent) in favor, with 499 (19.8 percent) opposed and 21 abstaining.

Although the Seven Principles are, in many ways, embedded within the new values statement, the language is significantly different, and the values now encompass Equity, Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism, and Transformation, all centered around Love.

I'll be speaking more about the new values statement during a sermon in the fall. In the meantime, you can find the full text of the new Article II [here](#).

The Poetry and Music of Ric Masten
Chuck & Marsha Fawns
Sunday, August 4, 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.

This program is rescheduled from June when it was cancelled due to Covid in the Fawns' household.



Rev. Rick Masten

One Fainting Robin
Rev. Doug Inhofe
Sunday, August 18, 11 a.m.

Looking at Kafka's life, in July, was a look inside to honor the sanctity and solidity of our own personal dreams and hopes and values. Now consider facing the world girded by our inner convictions — a world that's confoundingly ablaze with others' aspirations — and envision how our inner confidence can help us to accept the diversity of humanity and the resulting hubbub and, at the same time, to fashion a world consistent with our ideas and ideals.

SHARING CIRCLES

Death

August 11, 11 a.m.

In our elder days we confront the truth of our mortality. And we do this in the middle of our death-denying culture, a culture where we are so often offered the message that we can live forever with the right combination of yoga, injections and elective surgery. But while the false promises of immortality through self-improvement might sell product, they do nothing for us in any real way other than to make us feel like we can avoid the most inevitable thing in the world: That we will die.

Open Topic Sharing Circle

August 25, 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

August 4 Following the Service

After the Service on August 4, 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.

Music Committee News

In response to interest of members in becoming familiar with singing new hymns, Martha Grossman has offered to hold a 10:30 a.m. practice at the Lodge on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. On these Sundays gather around the piano and sing the hymns planned for that service. We are happy to revive this pre-Covid practice. All are welcome — Martha is a great teacher!

UCOT Women's Lunch

August 20, 12:15 p.m.
(Third Tuesday Monthly)
Martyrs Steakhouse
RSVP [here](#)

We will meet at Martyrs on Tuesday, August 20, at 12:15 p.m. in their separate meeting space at the rear of the property to enjoy a meal and conversation with UCOT women members and their friends.

Join us as we enjoy delicious food and the company of amazing women. RSVP to slsautter@gmail.com by 10 a.m. August 20.

UCOT Men's Group

August 21, 4:00 p.m.
(Third Wednesday Monthly)

The UCOT Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, August 21, at 4 p.m. Contact Chuck Fawns charles.fawns@gmail.com for location.

UCOT Game Night

August 28, 6:30 p.m.
(Fourth Wednesday Monthly)

Everyone's invited to play games — Rummi-kub, Dominoes, Train, or a game of your choice — on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Join us on August 28 at 6:30 p.m. Contact Mary Shaffer for directions or more info: shafferstudios@gmail.com, (432) 386-5888.

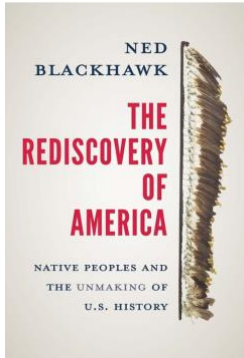


AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Mary McPhail Gray
- 8 Wally Cox
- 11 Jill McLoughlin
- 14 Sally Savage
- 16 Jeanne Montclair
- 22 Mya Coursey

UCOT Book Group
August 22, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
(Fourth Thursday Monthly)

The UCOT Book Group is open to all readers and their friends. Bring \$1 to contribute to SOMOS, who allows us to use their space. In August, we will read *The Rediscovery of America (2023)* by Ned Blackhawk.



The most enduring feature of U.S. history is the presence of Native Americans, yet most histories focus on Europeans and their descendants. This long practice of ignoring Indigenous history is changing. Ned Blackhawk interweaves five centuries of Native and non-Native histories, from Spanish colonial exploration to the rise of Native American self-determination in the late 20th century. Blackhawk's retelling of U.S. history acknowledges the enduring power, agency, and survival of Indigenous peoples, yielding a truer account of the United States and revealing anew the varied meanings of America.

All are welcome to join us for any month. [Here is an updated list of titles](#) we'll be discussing through the end of 2024.

Meet UCOT's Newest Members

On New Member Sunday, July 21st, we welcomed four new members to our congregation: Barbara Berge, Eric Murto, Mary Shaffer, and Don Zablosky. Click [here](#) to view short bios of each.



Tragedy Strikes Far From Home but Close to Our Hearts

On July 4, as we were celebrating our independence, along with our freedom of expression, someone in Kingston, Massachusetts, was taking issue with how the First Parish Unitarian Church was expressing its solidarity with Blacks and LGBTQ people. Read the police report below. If you'd like to make a donation to First Parish, they have a page on Faithify, which is like GoFundMe without the high service charges and created especially for churches. Rev. Diana Davies and the Board will be sending them a card with our sentiments of support and solidarity, signed from the Congregation, but you can send your own message and contribution through this [link](#), where you can also read about their beloved Meetinghouse. We will also have a special basket for donations on the table for the next couple of service Sundays.

Kingston, Massachusetts, Police Department

CHURCH ARSON/DAMAGED OVERNIGHT— During the early-morning hours of July 4th, the Kingston Police Department responded to reports of malicious damage to the First Parish Unitarian Church. An investigation ensued.

It is alleged that an individual illegally entered First Parish overnight and did significant damage to the building, ripping off and destroying several hand-made 200-year-old shutters, smashing multiple antique glass windows, spraying a fire extinguisher throughout the building, etc. Additionally, the individual is believed to have set fire to flags that were outside the building, charring pieces of the building in the process. The ripped and destroyed flags were "Pride" and "Black Lives Matter" flags. Overall damage estimates have not been tallied at this point but initial estimates are in the tens of thousands of dollars.

A suspect was developed and as the scene was processed, we began to look into additional information about the suspect. Around that time, he was found to have returned to the scene and appeared to be watching officers process the evidence (common for arsonists). A Kingston PD detective noticed the individual to be the suspect and attempted to stop him. The suspect yelled at the detective, took off in his vehicle, turned around, struck a sign, and fled. A Kingston PD Patrolman was able to stop the suspect down the road.

The suspect is facing several felony charges in connection with the burning of the church.

* * *

We can help First Parish recover. Please give generously.