

The Unitarian  
Congregation  
of Taos  
June 2025  
Bulletin Board



Sun., Jun. 1 Service: *A Universal Rainbow*, Rev. Diana Davies  
Sun., Jun. 8 Sharing Circle: *The Beauty of Listening*  
Sun., Jun. 15 Service: *Twenty Years of Unitarian Universalism in Taos: UCOT's 20th Anniversary*, Rev. Diana Davies  
Tues., Jun. 17 UCOT Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m., Martyrs  
Wed., Jun. 18 UCOT Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.  
Sun., Jun. 22 Sharing Circle: Open Topic  
Thu., Jun. 26 UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS  
Sun., Jun. 29 5th Sunday: *Food Systems in Taos County*

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

*"Universalists are often asked to tell where they stand.  
The only true answer to give to this question  
is that we do not stand at all; we move."*

— LEWIS BEALS FISHER

Just as joy can be an act of resistance, celebration can be an act of re-mem-bering, of joining together to remember why we fight for the things that matter. And in June, we celebrate. On the first Sunday, we'll celebrate Pride month, and we'll also remember the values of our Universalist ancestors, who were, in many ways, the original "Love People," preaching a message of universal salvation and love, regardless of faith or identity. Then, on June 15, we'll celebrate 20 years of the Unitarian Congregation of Taos! Please come and be sure to invite anyone who's ever had a connection to our congregation, even if they've been away for a while.

As much as we celebrate the past, the only way to truly honor it is to continue moving into the future. And that's what Unitarian Universalists are doing, here in Taos and around our country. I especially want to draw your attention to something that's been unfolding up in Vermont, where a Columbia student named Mohsen Mahdawi was aided by members of the UU congregation that had come to see him as a part of their beloved community. Mohsen was arrested by ICE because of his use of free speech; but with the support of his community, he was released on April 30. You can learn more about this [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

A few years ago, Mohsen gave a presentation to another UU congregation via Zoom. I strongly encourage you to listen to the whole thing. It is one of the most moving statements of universal love that I've heard in some time. You can find it on YouTube, [HERE](#). (With thanks to my friend Bonnie Kaweck for sharing this information from Vermont.)

***A Universal Rainbow***  
**Rev. Diana Davies**  
**Sunday, June 1, 11 a.m.**

Did you know that rainbows aren't really bows at all but full circles? It's only our location on the ground that keeps us from seeing part of the circle. I think this is a great metaphor for how we experience love. Love is all-enfolding, but that truth can be blocked by our personal prejudices and our history of fear. Today, we celebrate the message of our Universalist ancestors who taught that love holds us all, and we celebrate all the rainbows of Pride.

***Twenty Years of Unitarian Universalism  
in Taos: UCOT's 20th Anniversary***  
**Rev. Diana Davies**  
**Sunday, June 15, 11 a.m.**

Today, as UCOT prepares to become a full member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we look back over the past twenty years of this congregation's history, from its founding up to the present. This service will include a short documentary by our own Sally Savage, rituals of honoring and remembering, and opportunities to envision the future of this beloved community. Please stay after the service for more celebration.

**5th Sunday:**  
***Food Systems in Taos County***  
**Sunday, June 29, 11 a.m.**

At time of this publication, we have one speaker planned and are looking for another. Susan Moore, manager of Taos Food Coop was one of six co-founders of the Coop, which recently celebrated its 13th anniversary.

## SHARING CIRCLES

### *The Beauty of Listening*

June 8, 11 a.m.

"To listen is very hard, because it asks of us so much interior stability that we no longer need to prove ourselves by speeches, arguments, statements, or declarations. True listeners no longer have an inner need to make their presence known. They are free to receive, to welcome, to accept.

"Listening is much more than allowing another to talk while waiting for a chance to respond. It is paying full attention to others and welcoming them into our very beings. The beauty of listening is that, those who are listened to start feeling accepted, start taking their words more seriously and discovering their own true selves. Listening is a form of spiritual hospitality by which you invite strangers to become friends, to get to know their inner selves more fully, and even to dare to be silent with you."

— HENRI J.M. NOUWEN

### Open Topic Sharing Circle

June 22, 11 a.m.

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

### UCOT Women's Lunch

June 17, 12:15 p.m.

(Third Tuesday Monthly)

Martyrs Steakhouse

RSVP [here](#)

We will meet at Martyrs on Tuesday, June 17, 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 by Monday, June 16, to Diza Sauers, [dizas65@gmail.com](mailto:dizas65@gmail.com).

### UCOT Men's Group

June 18, 4:00 p.m.

(Third Wednesday Monthly)

The UCOT Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, June 18, at 4 p.m. Contact Chuck Fawns at [charles.fawns@gmail.com](mailto:charles.fawns@gmail.com) for this month's location.

## A Note from Rev. Diana

Beloved UCOT community. I've been so touched by the incredible care this congregation has offered me so far in my cancer journey (6 of 24 chemo treatments done!). I know that many of you would like to know how I'm doing or if I could use some help, but you also don't want to be the 10th person asking me those questions on a given Sunday. I certainly appreciate that!

So, I've opened a "Caring Bridge" page. You can click on the link [HERE](#). I'll use this site to post occasional updates on my progress and ask for help when I need it.



## Upcoming UCOT Board Vacancies and Opportunities

### A Note from UCOT President Emily Gillispie

Hello dear friends,

Joe and I have decided to sell our home here and move to Pueblo, Colorado. The medical facilities there are much more plentiful, and someday that will be a big deal for us. In conjunction with this move, I will no longer be able to be your Board President, and Joe will no longer be able to be your sound system person.

In addition, Mimi has announced that she will be resigning as our Board Vice-President at the end of the calendar year due to health reasons. She has served well and faithfully for ten years!

And, finally, Be Scott will be stepping down as our Board Treasurer, also at the end of the calendar year. Be has been on the Board for many years and has taken on many roles in service to our congregation.

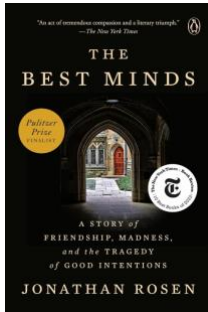
We wanted to let everyone know that new Board members and a sound system person will be needed in the near future. If you can volunteer for anything at all, please let me know. Send an email to [emily.gillispie@hotmail.com](mailto:emily.gillispie@hotmail.com).

Joe and I will miss all of you so much! We've enjoyed knowing every one of you, and being a member of this church has enriched our lives.

**UCOT Book Group**  
June 26, 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, which allows us to use their space.

In June, we will read ***The Best Minds—A Story of Friendship, Madness, and the Tragedy of Good Intentions***, by Jonathan Rosen.



*The Best Minds*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, was named a Top 10 Best Book of 2023 by *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, and *People*, and was named one of Barack Obama's favorite books of 2023. In it, acclaimed author Jonathan Rosen relates his riveting investigation of the forces at play that led his closest childhood friend Michael from the heights of brilliant promise to debilitating mental illness.

Michael blazed through college in three years, graduating summa cum laude and landing a top-flight consulting job. But all was not as it seemed. One day, Jonathan received the call: Michael had suffered a serious psychotic break and was in the locked ward of a psychiatric hospital, diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. Michael was still battling delusions when he traded his halfway house for Yale Law School. Featured in *The New York Times* as a role-model genius, he sold a memoir with film rights to Ron Howard. But then, in the grip of an unshakeable paranoid fantasy, Michael stabbed his girlfriend Carrie to death and became a front-page story of an entirely different sort.

This is a story about friendship, love, and the price of self-delusion. *The Best Minds* explores the ways in which we understand — and fail to understand — mental illness.

Please join us for the conversation.

You can find the complete **2025 Book List** at the following link: [2025 Book List](#).

**UCOT Music News**

Martha will always be at the Lodge on service days by 10:30. If anyone wants to come before the service to run through the hymns, she is happy to comply. No pre-arrangement necessary. Hymns are announced each Thursday and Sunday in the weekly email Order of Service.



**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

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

