

The Unitarian  
Congregation  
of Taos  
May 2026  
Bulletin Board



All programs begin at 11 a.m. unless otherwise stated

Sun., May 3 Service: *Give Them Not Hell*, Rev. Diana Davies  
Sun., May 10 Sharing Circle: *Acceptance*  
Sun., May 17 Service: *Are You My Mother?* Rev. Diana Davies  
Tue., May 19 UCOT Women's Lunch, 12 p.m., Martyrs  
Wed., May 20 UCOT Men's Group, 4 p.m.  
Sun., May 24 Sharing Circle: *Open Topic*  
Thu., May 28 UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS  
Sun., May 31 5th Sunday: *Feeding Our Community*

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

The international distress signal for radio communications is Mayday, Mayday, Mayday! That code originated back in 1923 (the same year that Norbert Capek developed the Flower Ceremony), when a senior radio officer at an airport in London needed a way to express an urgent need for help that could not be misunderstood. Because so many of the flights arriving at that airport came from France, the radio officer selected a French expression, m'aider (help me) repeated three times in quick succession.

The urgent call to help (Mayday, Mayday, Mayday!) has nothing to do with May Day, the pagan holiday with its roots in ancient Roman and Gaelic celebrations of spring, or with May Day, the workers' holiday, which is also celebrated on May 1. Nonetheless, in our annual Flower Ceremony, elements of these three May Days/Maydays all come together. In the Flower Ceremony, we gather flowers in celebration of the return of spring and in recognition of our sacred work in helping one another.

For many of us, the cries for help that we answer aren't typically life-threatening emergencies, although sometimes they are. And we are often completely unaware of the way that our help may be life-changing and life-sustaining for others, whether that help takes the form of being a listening, loving presence for someone who is suffering, or cooking food for someone who is hungry, or growing flowers to make someone smile.

Thankfully, we are not alone in our service. Because our gifts are exponentially more powerful when they are combined with the gifts of others. Like the flowers in a bouquet or in a meadow. When we act in the context of community, helping feels less like hard labor and more like a prayer.

**All services are held at the Bent Lodge,  
124 Camino de Santiago, Taos**

***Give Them Not Hell***  
**Rev. Diana Davies**  
**Sunday, May 3, 11 a.m.**

Universalism, one of the two traditions entwined within Unitarian Universalism, was known to many as the "No Hell" faith. While UUs hold many beliefs about what happens after death, a standard part of our theology is the insistence that there is no eternal punishment. The idea that a loving God would torment humans forever for their finite mistakes goes against reason. And yet, when we see terrible crimes go unpunished in this lifetime, what are we to do with our hunger for justice?

***Are You My Mother?***  
**Rev. Diana Davies**  
**Sunday, May 17, 11 a.m.**

Mother's Day can be a difficult holiday for many, but giving birth or adopting someone isn't a requirement for mothering. Each day, the world asks of us, "are you my mother?" Like the unlikely helper in a beloved children's book, how can we find the courage and the resilience to say "yes"? This Sunday, we also celebrate our annual Flower Ceremony (please bring a flower from your home; we will also provide flowers) and we recognize our newest members.

***Feeding Our Community***  
**5th Sunday Program**  
**Sunday, May 31, 11 a.m.**

Taos enjoys a robust network of food distribution for our community. We will hear from several of these providers — El Pueblito, Little Free Pantries, Neem Karoli Baba Ashram, and St. James Pantry — and learn how we can continue to support and promote them in their efforts to keep Taos fed.



## SHARING CIRCLES

Bent Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago, Taos

### Acceptance

Sunday, May 10, 11 a.m.

The core principle of Buddhism says life is suffering; but when we accept that life is suffering, we no longer suffer. A similar principle says the pain is necessary, but the suffering is optional. We will discuss aspects of our lives where we have had to practice acceptance and when we have been successful or unsuccessful in doing so.

This discussion could range from major life crises to barriers to self-acceptance or acceptance applied to relationships. It can apply to the everyday challenges we face that rob us of our peace of mind. Also, what specific practices have led to your ability to practice acceptance?

### Open Topic

Sunday, May 24, 11 a.m.

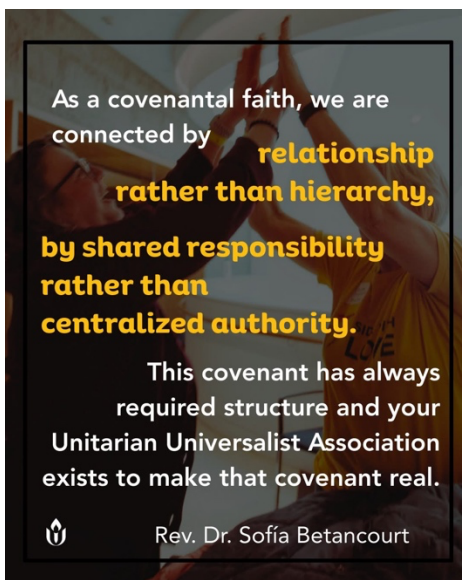
Come as you are. Say what you like. Share your thoughts or feelings as we pass the mic.

### Treasurer's Brief

Be Scott

Pledge amounts and expenses have continued to fluctuate since we all gathered for our annual meeting. We now have a balanced budget! This means that our budgeted expenses (\$43,000) no longer surpass our budgeted income (now also \$43,000), and we no longer anticipate having to "borrow" from last year's surplus. Thanks to all who fulfilled their pledges and even increased them. This is who we are: not just purveyors but supporters of all the programs we collectively provide to each other and to our community.

### UUA Corner



## UCOT Women's Lunch

May 19, 12 noon

(Third Tuesday Monthly)

Martyrs Restaurant

RSVP [here](#)

Join us at Martyrs, in their separate meeting space at the rear of the property, to enjoy a meal and conversation with UCOT women members and their friends. Enjoy delicious food and the company of amazing women. RSVP by Monday, May 18, to [Mary Shaffer](#).

## UCOT Men's Group

May 20, 4:00 p.m.

(Third Wednesday Monthly)

The UCOT Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, May 20, at 4 p.m. Contact [Chuck Fawns](#) for this month's location.

## Free Gentle Yoga Class

Saturdays, 10 a.m., First Presbyterian

Every Saturday, Rev. Diana (a 200-hour Registered Yoga Teacher) will lead a gentle, meditative practice from 10-11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church (215 Paseo del Pueblo Norte). All are welcome! The gentle, [Kripalu-style](#) yoga can be practiced on a mat or using a chair. Diana offers modifications for both options. All donations will go to the Taos Medical Debt Relief Project. Contact Rev. Diana for more information.

## Beware of Scams!

If you receive an email or text that seems to be from me, asking you for a favor (usually a request to respond discretely, followed by a request to purchase gift cards), please check the sending email address/phone number. Unless the email is from my account which ends in @startmail.com, or the text is from a number ending in either 1120 or 7537, the message is NOT from me. Some other ways to tell that a message might be a scam is if it is signed with a name or title I don't typically use (such as Pastor Diana, or Rev. Davies), or includes a salutation or complimentary closing that isn't "typically UU" (such as "Stay blessed"). If you are unsure, instead of responding directly, please contact me at the email or phone number listed in the UCOT directory and let me know you've received a suspicious message from "the minister." After alerting me, you can report the scam to the [FTC](#).

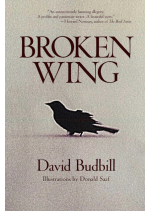
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If a scam email comes from a gmail account, you should block the sender and also send a message to Google using their form. A final step can be to notify your email provider or cell phone provider of the scam. Most importantly, DO NOT respond directly to the scammer. — Rev. Diana

**UCOT Book Group**  
**May 28, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS**  
**(Fourth Thursday Monthly)**

In May we will be reading and discussing **Broken Wing**, by David Budbill.



Set in the remote mountains to the north, **Broken Wing** is an allegorical tale about a blackbird with a broken wing who can't fly and therefore is trapped in the inhospitable north for the winter, and an African-American man, known only as The Man Who Lives Alone in the Mountains, who lives a solitary life of nurturing attentiveness, simple kindness, and passionate emotional intensity. This is the story of how these two different lives come together, and about what it is like to be a minority in a strange place. Told with simple, dignified prose, it takes on the timeless, mythic aura of a folktale.

Please join us for the conversation.

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.

To view the entire **2026 Book List**, follow [this link](#).



**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Chuck Doughty
- 4 Marjorie Luckey
- 12 Diza Sauers
- 18 Madison Taylor
- 22 Barbara Martinez
- 25 Rachel Cohen
- 26 Brigid Meier
- 28 Ellie Pope

**Charitable Giving Committee**

**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates is an organization supported by the National CASA/GAL Association. They are volunteer-based nonprofits that advocate for abused and neglected children in the court system. They provide crucial information to judges to ensure children find safe, permanent homes. They serve as the child's voice, investigating cases and offering consistent support, working alongside a network of local and state programs across the US. GAL stands for Guardian ad Litem.

**LEADERSHIP**

**With Gratitude from our Founders,  
Marsha & Chuck Fawns**

We don't yet know when, but we will be moving to the Denver area, leaving so much and so many people that we love. We know that this Unitarian Congregation will continue to thrive, with so many multitalented longtime and new members. When Reverend Diana challenged us to begin 2026 by choosing a word, I chose "adapting." We have watched with gratitude as UCOT adapted over the past 20 years: to new locations, to the inevitable loss of members, to changing needs in our changing world.

**From Marsha...**



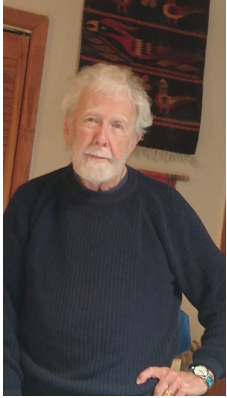
Personally, after the first few years of planning and persisting in getting the congregation established, I have focused my efforts on the Women's Group, the Caring Committee, and establishing an annual celebration and grieving service for Dia de Los Muertos. It is my hope that all three will continue to exist, to adapt. Years ago, the Women's Group met in our homes, involving a focused activity or concept. For example: we walked a labyrinth together and watched and discussed a series of Joseph Campbell presentations. While our current monthly lunches are nurturing to body and relationships, perhaps theme gatherings might

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be considered again. I have been committed to the Caring Committee mission. I believe we must support each other to be our best selves in the world. Many have signed up to call or do errands or provide food. These supports can only continue if someone takes on the task of keeping in constant contact with our members so we know who needs assistance. I sincerely hope that the Dia de Los Muertos celebration will continue. We NEED to grieve and celebrate together.

### From Chuck...



It has been a wonderful, and sometimes rocky, road. But one filled with inspired and dedicated people. In May of 2025 we celebrated UCOT's 20th anniversary. The Men's Group, and the many talented and committed people who have served on our boards over the years have made the road fulfilling.

Physically, we've moved around a little over the years, starting in the Jewish Center on Gusdorf, then to a Hogan, then to Ranchos Presbyterian Church, and finally to our current home, the Masonic Lodge. We also owe a debt of gratitude to our former ministers: The Reverend Anne Heller, The Reverend Doug Inhofe, The Reverend Gary Kowalski, The Reverend Monroe Sickafosse, and our wonderful talented current minister, The Reverend Diana Davies. So many, both clerical and lay, have not only been our mentors and guides but so much more.

### From Chuck & Marsha...

You all are our tribe. The nurturing we feel every Sunday in your presence is hard to describe. Whatever else horrific that is happening (and there is plenty), being with people who have compassionate hearts and open minds makes us feel strong enough to go on. We are not gone yet, and through streaming, we hope never to be completely gone.

### UCOT Represents at No Kings Protest Taos, March 28, 2026

Thank to Don Zablosky for rallying folks to carry our banner at the No Kings Protest last month.

