

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
June 2026
Bulletin Board



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

- Sun., Jun. 7 Service: *Pride and Joy*, Rev. Diana Davies
Sun., Jun. 14 Sharing Circle: *Dilemma*
Tue., Jun. 16 UCOT Women's Lunch, 12 p.m., Martyrs
Wed., Jun. 17 UCOT Men's Group, 4 p.m.
Sun., Jun. 21 Service: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, Rev. Diana Davies
Thu., Jun. 25 UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., Jun. 28 Sharing Circle: *Open Topic*

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

On April 19 this year, my thoughts were with the people of Oklahoma City, especially those who lived through the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Building, in which 168 people were killed, including 19 children. In that bombing, two members of the First Unitarian Church of OKC died, and a third member died later, from associated trauma. When I served the UU congregation there, every year on April 19, a member rang the church bells 168 times.

Thirty-one years have passed, and still the trauma, the grief, and the horror remain. The mass murderer responsible for the bombing, Timothy McVeigh (along with his accomplices), was motivated by white nationalism. He was strongly influenced by a racist book called *The Turner Diaries*, a white-supremacist fantasy about race war. McVeigh, in turn, became an inspiration for other white nationalist terrorists, including Dylann Roof, who shot and killed nine Black people during a Bible study in 2015. And he is a hero to militia groups like the Oath Keepers and others that were leaders in the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

In recent years, the kind of deep racism that was identified with fringe militia groups and white nationalist terrorists has gone mainstream. Or, at least, it has come out of hiding, thanks to the blatant racism of the president and those who support him. Anti-Black hate crimes continue at a horrifying pace, but what has really picked up is anti-Black legislation. Most recently, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned a key part of the Voting Rights Act that protected minority voting power, and, as I write this, four states are working to dismantle their only Black majority districts. Other states are planning to implement voter ID and other requirements that effectively function as a return to Jim Crow.

Unitarian Universalists marched with the Civil Rights leaders who fought for voting rights in the first place. We must not be silent now. As we prepare for Juneteenth (our country's "second independence day") this year, we can hear the echo of Fannie Lou

(Cont'd from previous column)

Hamer's words: "Nobody's free until everybody's free" and add to it: "No vote matters until everyone's vote matters."

Pride and Joy
Rev. Diana Davies

Sunday, June 7, 11 a.m.

Bent Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago, Taos

June is Pride month, when we celebrate the lives, the history, the rights, and the joy of [LGBTQIA+](#) people. At this time, LGBTQIA+ lives are being attacked, history is being erased, and rights are being undermined. In such an environment, joy becomes an act of resistance. On the first Sunday in June, we will celebrate Pride with personal stories of hope and resilience, with celebratory ritual, and with joyful music.



Lift Every Voice and Sing
Rev. Diana Davies

Sunday, June 21, 11 a.m.

Bent Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago, Taos

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" is #149 in our UU hymnal. It is also the African American National Anthem. It was first performed by Black students in segregated schools, during the time of Jim Crow. The artist Jon Batiste has said the hymn "connects us to the history of all ... who have marched and fought and died for the freedoms we enjoy." What does it mean for us, a mostly white UU congregation, to sing this hymn today?

SHARING CIRCLES

Bent Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago, Taos

Dilemma

Sunday, June 14, 11 a.m.

This year I owed the U.S. government a good amount of money on my federal tax return. I had suspected I might owe because I'd received a lump payment from Social Security that was for an entire previous year. I was angry. Angry because of the actions of ICE, because of the war the U.S. had started with Iran, and because of poverty in America. I didn't want to pay for this needless cruelty. Briefly I considered refusing to pay, but I was afraid and wrote the check.

Should I have stood up and refused to pay? Would it have done any good? I started thinking of Nazi Germany and the brave souls who had defied the regime by helping Jews escape and hide. I thought of Thoreau and his refusal to pay his poll tax resulting in his night in jail for this refusal. What should I have done? Am I a coward? I am not sure but I am still evaluating my choice.

Are there any decisions or choices you have made that you still think of and wonder what you might have done differently?

Open Topic

Sunday, June 28, 11 a.m.

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

UUA Corner

"I remain grateful that Unitarian Universalists are a people **who show up**. We are **warriors for love and justice** in the world, and **we do not back down** – not in the face of rising tyranny, nor in the suggestion that individualism is somehow enough. "

Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt



UCOT Women's Lunch

June 16, 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, June 15, to [Mary Shaffer](#).

UCOT Men's Group

June 17, 4:00 p.m.
(Third Wednesday Monthly)

The UCOT Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, June 17, at 4 p.m. Contact [Chuck Fawns](#) for this month's location.

Charitable Giving Committee

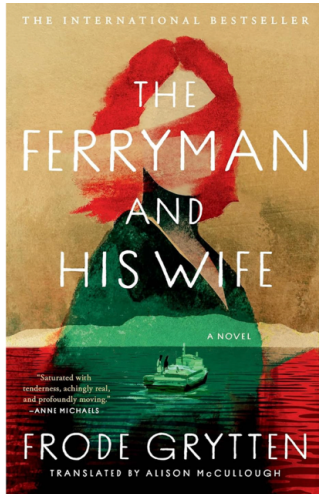
St. James Food Pantry

One of the fine Taos projects we have supported for many years through our UCOT Charitable Giving budget is the St. James Church Food Pantry. This project operates every Thursday throughout the year. It is open to anyone in need of food and there are no requirements. Supplemental food for 2-3 meals is provided to 400+ families representing 1,600 people every week. The food comes from the Food Depot and local grocery stores, farms, and donations.

St. James is currently in the midst of a building project. They are constructing a 4,000 square-foot space exclusively for outreach activities such as the Food Pantry and clothing and household goods distribution. There will also be additional food storage space, a meeting room for community use, and a washer and dryer for the use of evacuees staying at St. James in the event of a disaster. They anticipate the facility will be finished by the end of 2026 and be available for operation in early 2027. In the meantime, the Food Pantry will continue to operate out of the Church's Parish Hall every Thursday afternoon.

UCOT Book Group
June 25, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
(Fourth Thursday Monthly)

In June, we will be reading and discussing *The Ferryman and His Wife* (2023), by Frode Grytten, as translated by Alison McCullough (2025) – a book that has become a bestseller internationally.



Nik Vik wakes up on November 18 and knows it will be the day he dies. He looks around the empty house one last time before stepping onto his beloved boat. His dog, dead for many years, leaps aboard with him, and then the other dead begin to emerge – from the woods along the fjord, from each of the docks along the route. The people from the past accompany him as he revisits memories and waits for Marta, his remarkable late wife, to finally join him on the boat again. Timeless and absorbing, Grytten’s long-awaited masterpiece is the story of an ordinary yet utterly profound life told in reverse.

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](#).



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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

LEADERSHIP
Pride Month
James Radnor

Hello Everyone – Happy June Pride Month.

I keep seeing all these LGBTQ+ Pride signs everywhere. I ask people what they mean but can never get a straight answer.

As UUs, we aspire to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person. It is not by chance that this is our first principle; it is the foundational compact we share with one another, and with society. By its nature, it is a challenging path to walk because it confronts underlying concerns and fears about “the other” – people who are not like “us” – but instead who come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and sexual and gender orientations. Individually and collectively, we are continually challenged in our beliefs and perceptions, and often confronted by behaviors that push against our comfort zones.

None of this is bad; how we meet these challenges is how we are defined as individuals, and as a religious community. Our UU faith and congregations have been, and continue to be, at the forefront of social change with LGBTQ+ equality no different. Following the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, in New York City, the UUA General Assembly passed its first resolution urging the end of discrimination against homosexuals and bisexuals in 1970. In 1973, the UUA became the first major national religious organization to establish a permanent office for gay affairs (now LGBTQ Ministries) dedicated to inclusion and civil rights. By 1979, openly queer clergy were welcomed into congregations, and in 2004, following a Massachusetts court ruling, it was a UU Minister who performed the first same-gender wedding in the U.S. in the UUA chapel.

We are pioneers, but the work is not done, neither in society, nor in our congregation. As a supportive and affirming community, we can accept the challenge to become an officially recognized LGBTQ+ “Welcoming Congregation.” This is a status granted to us by the UUA and requires congregational reflection, the establishing of goals, congregational education, and community outreach. Rather than just being accepting, we become proactive to include the LGBTQ+ community in our community. The first step in that journey is to realize, and to accept

(Cont'd on p. 4)

(Cont'd from p. 3)

that we are all human, and we all want the same things: to love and to be loved.

As a personal reflection — how many LGBTQ+ people do you know: one, several, none? And if you do know someone, have you ever asked about their journey of coming out? It is a deeply personal story, and everyone's is different: some journeys are affirming, *"Closet? More like Narnia, I left ages ago"*; while others will break your heart, *"You can put a square peg in a round hole, but what you end up with is a damaged square peg."*

Coming out is not easy, family expectations and pressures, societal "norms" and laws all make the journey challenging to perilous. In 2026, there are 12 countries that have the death penalty for being gay; and unfortunately, the number is growing. Repressive laws are appearing more frequently in the U.S.; and while this is alarming and feels to be undoing so much of the social and societal progress made over the past decades, there is still room for hope. While we may have limited ability to change the national debate, our actions in our local community have always been where social change happens first. We gather the spirit, rally together, support one another, and always keep in the forefront of our beliefs and actions the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

And remember... Always Be Yourself, Unless You Can Be a Unicorn.