

# THE UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF TAO

## Bulletin Board: April 2017



1st Sun,	Apr. 2	<i>Spiritual Intelligence</i> , Rev. Gary Kowalski
Wed,	Apr. 5	7 p.m. – Women’s Group ( <i>Carol Doughty, lccdoughty@gmail.com</i> )
2nd Sun,	Apr. 9	Circle topic: <i>Health and Healing</i>
3rd Sun,	Apr. 16	TBA, Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Wed,	Apr. 19	4:30 - 6:00 p.m. – Men’s Group ( <i>Bob, rsilver65@gmail.com</i> )
4th Sun,	Apr. 23	Circle topic: <i>God/god</i>
5th Sun,	Apr. 30	Community Forum

**Services & Sharing Circles begin 11:00 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge,  
124 Camino de Santiago, at intersection with Gusdorf Rd.**

### On My Mind

*“May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants—while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid.”*



Those lines from George Washington’s letter of 1790 to the Jewish congregation of Newport, Rhode Island sent a clear signal that people of all faiths would be welcome in the newly formed United States.

More than two centuries later, many Americans still haven’t got the message. Vandals last month overturned hundreds of headstones in Jewish cemeteries. A similar number of bomb threats have been phoned in to Jewish community centers. Swastikas have defaced synagogues and the Hebrew Union College. This is not the nation our first President envisioned.

The 45th President, to his credit, denounced these outrages in a recent address to Congress. In an encouraging note, Muslim leaders in St. Louis raised over \$20,000 in a matter of hours to help repair the damage to a cemetery there, offering a united front against hate.

More needs to be done, especially at a moment when violence against religious minorities is growing. Hurling racial slurs and demanding that they “get out of my country,” a gunman in Kansas shot and killed two Indian engineers in Kansas, mistaking the pair for Iranians. While 2016 FBI statistics are not yet available, the year 2015 showed a 67% jump in crimes against Muslims over previous levels.

Even in 1790, America was a land of many faiths, and our First President embraced that pluralism, proclaiming to the Jewish residents of Rhode Island “It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights ...”.

Freedom to worship belonged to every sect, in other words, not at the sufferance of a more powerful majority, but as a matter of fundamental liberty and individual right. At the time Washington wrote his famous letter, several states were still debating whether to ratify the First Amendment guaranteeing “free exercise,” and some states still had religious establishments.

When Washington affirmed that “the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support,” his target audience was not just one small synagogue but the newly forming nation.

Seeking an inclusive spiritual blessing that might speak to people of goodwill, regardless of creed, Washington ended his letter with a non-denominational prayer: May the father of all mercies scatter light, and not darkness, upon our paths!

Inheritors of this legacy, we can either join in celebrating America as the most spiritually diverse country on the planet, or see our Founder’s dreams grow dim. Protestant or Catholic, Muslim, Jew, Buddhist, Atheist or in the Native American tradition, let us live in “each under his or her own vine and fig tree” (Micah 4:4) in mutual respect.

- Gary

### Sunday, April 2, 11:00 am

*Spiritual Intelligence*, Rev. Gary Kowalski

Howard Gardner, the psychologist who popularized the concept of multiple intelligences, familiarized us with the idea of Emotional Intelligence as well as musical, linguistic, other forms of braininess. But is there such a thing as spiritual intelligence, and if so, what would it look like? How could it be sharpened and cultivated? This week, in honor of April Fools, our co-minister will explore some famous figures who were spiritually very bright - though considered foolish by their contemporaries.

### IN-REACH/ OUT-REACH OPPORTUNITIES

**Outreach Committee** meetings are held at the Dream Catcher building at 515 Gusdorf Road in the conference room at 4:00 on the 4th Tuesday of every month. The April meeting

will be April 25; the most important agenda item is to put together the 2017 budget.

Newcomers are welcome. If you are interested, please contact [mimi.owensby@gmail.com](mailto:mimi.owensby@gmail.com).



### Music Committee News

Singing practice with Martha 10:30 am 1st and 3rd Sundays.

**Guest Musician Roe Zicarello—DATE???!?**

### Pastoral Care & Counseling

If you feel the need for pastoral care or counseling, please don’t hesitate to call on either one of our ministers. You can reach Munro at 970-946-2814 or [munrosickafoose@gmail.com](mailto:munrosickafoose@gmail.com); or Gary at 505-257-5014 or [gary.kowalski@gmail.com](mailto:gary.kowalski@gmail.com).

### HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO...

- 3 Sid Bender
- 15 Yvonne Hayes
- 25 Bette Meyerson

If your name is not on the birthday list yet, please contact the Admin, Welcome Lindsey: [welcomelindsey@gmail.com](mailto:welcomelindsey@gmail.com).