

# THE UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF TAOS

## Bulletin Board: May 2017

1st Sun,	May 7	<i>The Red and The Green</i> , Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Wed,	May 10	7 p.m. – Women’s Group ( <i>Carol Doughty, lccdoughty@gmail.com</i> )
2nd Sun,	May 14	Circle topic: <i>Perseverance &amp; Patience</i>
Wed,	May 17	4:30 - 6:00 p.m. – Men’s Group ( <i>Bob, rsilver65@gmail.com</i> )
3rd Sun,	May 21	<i>America’s First Feminist</i> , Rev. Gary Kowalski
4th Sun,	May 28	Circle topic: <i>Hope</i>

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



### News from the Board of Trustees

#### Honoring Our Covenant Through UUA Stewardship

At the April 1 board meeting, Chuck Fawns—founder, with his wife, Marsha, of the Unitarian Congregation of Taos—presented us with his research on whether it was time for us to increase our contribution to the wider UUA organization, specifically through the Mountain Desert District (MDD). In the early days, UCOT received a grant of nearly \$10,000, in addition to advice and support.



This was a gift made possible through Chalice Lighter donations from other congregations within the MDD. We have also received

programming materials, training, and other support—all of which is still available to us today.

While this new level of giving does not yet mean we’re entirely affiliated with the UUA at the national level, it is a start in that direction. In past years, we have donated \$500/year to the MDD, and we voted to increase that amount to \$1,144/year, based on a \$26 donation from each of our 44 pledging members.

While this will not significantly impact our budget, it does allow us to feel that we are

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### May Musings

In July of 1970, Richard Nixon, the Republican president of the United States, proposed the consolidation of the many environmental responsibilities of the federal government under one agency, a new Environmental Protection Agency. Six months later, in December of that same year, he created the EPA by executive order. That order was ratified by committee hearings in the House and Senate, and a new agency was born, one supported by both parties and the vast majority of the American people.



Now, almost 50 years later, another Republican president and his party are seeking to abolish the EPA, or at the very least, cripple it so much that it can no longer enforce laws that protect the environment and the health of our people.

And this is happening at a time when humanity is facing the greatest environmental crisis of all – the probable collapse of our major ecosystems. A collapse brought on by excessive and unsustainable resource use and the resulting pollutants being dumped into our oceans and the atmosphere. The most obvious symptom of this is our warming planet, but there are

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### IN-REACH/ OUT-REACH OPPORTUNITIES

These three organizations are among the many to which we make donations to further their work in the Taos community and beyond.

**CAV** – the Community Against Violence’s mission is to foster and support a community free from all forms of domestic and sexual abuse. Find their website at [taoscav.org](http://taoscav.org).

**Nonviolence Works** is a nonprofit organization serving at-risk youth and families in Taos County in need of guidance and counseling. Their website is [nonviolenceworks.us](http://nonviolenceworks.us).

**Taos Alive** unites the community to plan and implement strategies that prevent and reduce substance use and its consequences among Taos County youth. You can find them at [taosalive.org](http://taosalive.org).



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contributing at a more appropriate level to the work that UUA congregations are doing in the world. Our covenant calls us to support ourselves and other congregations in our interconnected web. In the same way that we as individuals feel privileged to pledge to our own congregation, so the congregation is privileged to pay a portion of that forward.

## Music Committee News

Singing practice with Martha 10:30 am on the 1st & 3rd Sundays. This is a fluid group, please join when you can.

Guest musicians on May 21st are three of Drs. Laurie and Travis Good's children:

Shane, Jack and Finley. They will play three short piano pieces separately and three short violin pieces together.



The Music Team would appreciate suggestions for guest musicians and ideas for the 5th Sunday October 29th Music with a Message program. Cards and a manila envelope for your suggestions are on the literature table.

Thank you for your interest and support of music for our services.

## Controversy at the UUA

Reverend Peter Morales unexpectedly resigned as President of the UUA on April 1 in response to criticisms that our denomination had done too little to hire people of color at leadership levels. Two other senior staff, Chief Operating Office Harlan Limpert and Director of Congregational Life Scott Taylor, have also stepped down. Complete reports on these developments, with links to documents from Black Lives of UU and other participants in this controversy, can be found on the denomination's website at [uua.org](http://uua.org). Thanks for keeping yourself informed.

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many other signs that we can longer continue on the path we are on.

That path is an social and political economy based on infinite growth in a closed system, a closed system we call home. And the uncomfortable truth is that it is not just many Republicans and conservatives who are in denial about the harsh realities of climate change. Liberals and progressives are also in denial, just in different ways.

The most basic of these denials is that we can avoid climate change without changing our way of life, that we can simply change the kind of car we drive, or the kinds of light bulbs we use, or that we can simply green our buildings, and our lives will go on more or less the same.

Nothing could be further from the truth! Unless we make rapid and fundamental changes to the way we live – from our lifestyles, to the means and methods of our economy and the ways we relate to each other and life on Earth – we have little chance of averting disaster.

Ultimately, the EPA can't do that for us, even if it survives as an agency. After all, the EPA is there to help preserve the very way of life that we depend on, a way of life that is the root cause of the damage. Only we can make the choice to live differently, knowing that it may not be enough.

The temptation is to continue to live as we do, and it is this temptation that we must do our best to overcome. We can either make hard choices now, or have harder choices imposed us on later. As Unitarian Universalists, taking the lead and setting an example is the path we must take if we expect others to follow.

~Rev. Munro

## Sunday, May 7, 11:00 am

*The Red and The Green*  
Rev. Munro Sickafoose

I'm not talking about chile! I'm talking about that forgotten holiday, May Day. Or perhaps not so much forgotten, as suppressed and marginalized. After all, May Day represents two very subversive ways of thinking and being in the world, the red and the green. The red is for the struggles of working people to organize and have some control over their lives. The green is for life and our deep ties with the web of life on Earth. These two ways of thinking are deeply intertwined in surprising ways. Come explore the many layered meanings of May Day.

## Sunday, May 21, 11:00 am

*America's First Feminist*  
Rev. Gary Kowalski

More than her close friend Abigail Adams, Judith Sargent Murray (born this month in 1751) analyzed the relations between the sexes and called for women's complete mental and spiritual emancipation. Almost lost to history until her papers were rediscovered in 1984, we can now appreciate the progressive religious views of this forgotten foremother of American Universalism. Come learn and celebrate.

## HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO...

- 3 Chuck Doughty
- 4 Marjorie Luckey
- 22 Barbara Martinez



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