

# THE UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF TAOS

## Bulletin Board: November 2017

Oct. 29	<i>Music with a Message Program</i> , Jimmy Stadler Guest Musician
1st Sun, Nov. 5	<i>Day of the Dead Program</i> , Marsha Fawns
2nd Sun, Nov. 12	Circle topic: <i>Blessings</i>
Wed, Nov. 8	7 p.m. – Women’s Group ( <i>Carol Doughty, lccdoughty@gmail.com</i> )
3rd Sun, Nov. 19	<i>The Persistence of Memory</i> , Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Wed, Nov. 15	4:30 - 6:00 p.m. – Men’s Group ( <i>Bob, rsilver65@gmail.com</i> )
4th Sun, Nov. 26	Circle topic: <i>Death and Dying</i>

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



### Heartbreak Hotel

The month of October began with another mass shooting here in America, one that can only be described as a massacre, an indiscriminate and brutal slaughter. It was not the first, and there is little hope that it will be the last. What set this one apart was the scale of it: 59 dead, 527 injured, all shot from a 32nd story window in a Las Vega hotel by a single person.



What made it possible are laws that allow any citizen to amass collections of weapons that far exceed any reasonable need for hunting or personal defense. These laws need changing, and guns need to be brought under control, but again, there is little hope that this will change.

Guns have become tribal identifiers in our national divide, signifiers on one side of freedom, self-reliance, and self-determination. They are a defense against what they see as the outside forces that seek to undermine their tribe: immigrants, criminals, and the government. The other side largely sees guns as dangerous tools that need to be highly regulated and controlled by the government.

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### A Follow-Up Report on Mission and Finances from Our Secretary, Chuck Doughty

Our board asked me to talk about how we are doing so far this year to fulfill our Mission and Covenant with our financial resources and contributions. Read to the end, and you will be gratified.

You may recall the six months we spent in 2016, engaging in some depth with each other about who we are and what we want to be, together. In May 2016 we adopted these statements:

#### MISSION

Our mission is to be an active force, promoting liberal religious values and interfaith and intercultural collaboration to better our congregation, our greater Taos community, and the world beyond.

#### COVENANT

Our covenant is to engage each other with respect, compassion, and generosity in all our endeavors.

#### **So, How Are We Doing?**

Last January our congregation voted to budget \$3,000 as direct dollar support to community service organizations in Taos. We wanted to help reduce homelessness and hunger for women and men, support

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### News from Outreach

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 whose mission is to foster and support a community free from all forms of domestic and sexual abuse. Find their website at <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 <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 <http://taosalive.org/>



**Heartbreak Hotel, cont'd from page 1**

I think that what lies at the heart of this divide is a debate over what freedom is, and what freedom means. In 1941, Franklin Delano Roosevelt gave a speech in which he outlined what he called the four freedoms: Freedom of speech. Freedom of worship. Freedom from want. Freedom from fear. It is this last one that I feel is of particular importance in this debate.

One side sees guns as a means of keeping their fears at bay, the other sees guns and their misuse as sources of fear and oppression. Living in fear is the common denominator on both sides. Each side has fears that are very real to them. Perhaps this points to a way forward, a discussion about our fears, and not about the guns.

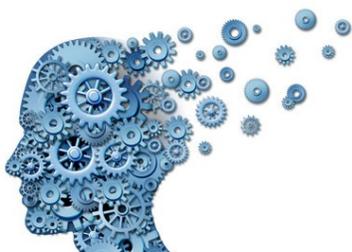
What would it take for all of us — on both sides — to no longer live in fear?

Blessings,  
Rev. Munro

**Sunday, November 19  
11:00 am**

*The Persistence of Memory*  
Rev. Munro Sickafoose

Countries and cultures order themselves, not just through the formal structures of law, but also through the collective myths and stories they tell. These stories change from time to time, and life is hard to navigate when we're in the middle of that process. What is no longer useful? What is the new story that is emerging?



**Day of the Dead Service**

Please join us for the annual "Day of the Dead" service on November 5th. The Threshold Singers will provide music. Bring photos and stories to share as we create an altar and celebrate together the memories we cherish of those who have died. — Marsha Fawns

**Women's Group**

Meets 2nd Wed. of every month at 7 pm in different homes. Book being read: *Field Notes on the Compassionate Life*, by Marc Barasch.

**Carol Doughty**; lccdoughty@gmail.com; 575-224-3166

**Marsha Fawns**; creatings@taosnet.com; 575- 758-1887



**HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY  
WISHES TO...**

7 Stephanie Yoder

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

**Congratulations to Emily Gillispie  
and Joe Mazza on Their Wedding!**

The congregation enjoyed wedding cake and coffee to celebrate the couple's August 28 nuptials, which took place at the Rio Pueblo Canyon near their home. Munro Sickafoose officiated the ceremony.



We wish them many years of happiness together.



**Music Committee News**

Singing practice with Martha 10:30 am on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month. Please join when you can.

There will be **no guest musician** in September as we prepare for the All Music 5th Sunday in October.

**Bueno-Bye...**

Sadly, our good friend Gale Dorion has moved from Taos to live with her sister, Maxine, in the Hollywood Hills of Los Angeles. At a service in September, Gale reiterated how deeply meaningful being part of our UU congregation has been to her. And we will miss her, too—her gentle, loving presence. We wish her much happiness.

You can still keep in touch with Gale through the mail, phone, or email:

Gale Dorionc/o Maxine Picard  
6716 Hillpark Dr., #306  
Los Angeles, CA 90068  
575-770.8873  
[gale.dorion@gmail.com](mailto:gale.dorion@gmail.com)

## Follow-Up Report, cont'd from page 1

nonviolent services, literacy, and other efforts we felt were important.

We committed all undesignated plate contributions to that part of our mission, and in nine months we surpassed that \$3,000 budget commitment by almost \$300. Also, our outreach committee and many others of us have provided direct service of meals, in-kind donations; volunteer time, moral support, and consulting to many organizations, such as Heart of Taos, Taos Men's Shelter, Non-violence works, The InterFaith/ InterCultural Alliance, Taos United, etc. And we will continue to do that, with respect, compassion and generosity.

But then, in addition to that, we realized we needed to focus our financial commitments, along with our time and talents, on the other parts of our mission to better our congregation, and the world beyond.

As you may know, our first nine months of contributions from pledges and gifts for congregational programs were less than we had projected and budgeted.

But, since that word went out, many of us have responded with compassion and generosity. Many of us have increased our monetary gifts, or increased our gifts of time, use of houses for meetings, etc. We hope everyone will join in, as they are able, by writing checks or donating appreciated investments (so you can get the tax break) or putting cash in the collection plate.

For the rest of this calendar year, the money put in the plates will go to our congregational programs and expenses rather than making further direct-dollar gifts to community organizations. Of course we want our congregation to

survive, but we also want it to improve. Our financial commitments pay for rent, insurance, office materials, and for staff to help do newsletters, bulletins, and building setup, as well as for our ministers. Our gifts of money also help support the Unitarian Universalist Association to develop resources for us and other UU congregations at the regional and national levels, to be our voice at the national level and also at the UN to address larger environmental and social-justice issues.



In the sixteen months since we adopted those words as our Mission and Covenant, I (along with most people I know) have felt repeatedly shocked and discouraged by the destructive harm being done to our cultural, moral and political values and to the institutions we need if we are to save what is left of our environment and our liberal democratic heritage.

But each time I have felt shocked, I have also felt caring, support, and encouragement from this congregation. We help each other find courage to stay engaged in local, state, and national organizations and campaigns. Maybe such help comes from talk in the men's or women's groups, or through conversation with an understanding UU friend; maybe from part of a sermon we could share; maybe from sharing tears or laughter in a sharing circle; maybe help comes from

rubbing UU elbows on a march for social justice or cleaning the highway, or seeing each other at a political action meeting; maybe help comes from singing out together to the *Spirit of Life*.

Some form of love—some sort of “respect, compassion and generosity”: this can be and has been found here. As visible proof of that statement, in response to the letter you received from the board, 14 households gave us additional donations for 2017, totaling \$2,595. Eighteen households have pledged for next year, totaling \$15,320. Many folks have not yet pledged (including some who sent additional contributions for 2017), but we expect they will fill out their pledge forms sometime within the next two months so we can make a budget for next year. Also, in-kind contributions include Diane and Robert Spillers agreeing to host the UU 101 class and potluck at their home in Talpa on October 15.

This level of response has been heartening, to say the least. The board thanks all of you who stepped up with generosity and commitment. This is our shared community, and you have come through. We are now on target for meeting all of our commitments in 2017.

Thank you!