

The Unitarian
Congregation of Taos
March 2019
Bulletin Board

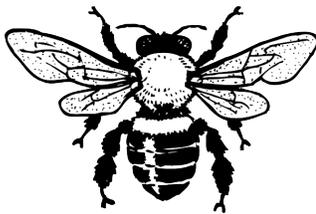


- Sun., Mar. 3 *Songs of the Soul*,
The Rev. Gary Kowalski
- Wed., Mar. 6 Women's Group, 6:00 p.m.
- Sun., Mar. 10 Sharing Circle:
Books That Changed Our Lives
- Sun., Mar. 17 *Uncle Sam and the Goddess*,
The Rev. Munro Sickafoose
- Wed., Mar. 20 Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
- Sun., Mar. 24 Sharing Circle: *Letting Go*

Services & Circles begin at 11 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago, at the intersection with Gusdorf Road.

Seeing Like a Bee

The Rev. Munro Sickafoose



The old stories tell us that our hunter-gatherer ancestors could place their consciousness into that of animals and by doing so perceive what the animals perceived. They could soar with Hawk, feel the wind beneath their wings, see the world far below. They could run with Wolf, smell a thousand scents instead of hundred, hunt in the dark with the pack. They could swim with Salmon, tasting the currents, driving themselves forward with powerful flicks of their tails, only to be swept ashore into the mouth of Bear, eating and being eaten all at once.

Perhaps this was so. Or is so yet. Consciousness seems to be a property of the world around us. Can we traverse it with our own consciousness? Many say yes!

The question is whether it is possible to see through another's eyes, gain some understanding of their experience, and so achieve some empathy, some resonance with their being. Until recently, this was thought to be a simple fact of existence. Sometime in the past few decades, another view has come to dominate, the view that the experience of another being — human or non-human — is impenetrable and unknowable. That we are isolated in our own skulls, unable to reach across even the distance of a single atom to understand the experience of other.

What an impoverished view of the world! It is a stance meant to disempower us, to isolate us from

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East Meets West Practical Philosophy Workshop

Joy Dillingham, an accomplished tutor in Practical Philosophy, has offered to conduct a seven-week workshop for our members and friends. The focus is to free ourselves from mental clutter so we can experience our lives with more joy and fulfillment. More than just meditation, it is a systematic approach to self-knowledge. We will be given real-world exercises each week then report back to the group with our results.

Weekly meetings, two hours in length, will begin the week of March 18 and continue through the first week of May. Actual dates, days, and meeting times will be chosen based on consensus and announced soon. Contact Jane Starks for more information, 770-6892 or jane@janestarks.com.



Caring Community

Linda Aubrecht

Four years ago, a small group — Jill McLoughlin, Sally Savage, and Bob and Linda Aubrecht — met to discuss forming an "In Reach Committee" to respond to the short-term needs of members and friends. The thought was that having an "Outreach Committee" was very important, but responding to the needs of our Congregation was vital.

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Seeing Like a Bee

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each other and the great web of life that surrounds us.

Of course, we humans do need more than just a shift of consciousness to understand each other fully. We need words. Words to tell each other of our pain, our joy, our experiences. Once those stories are told, we are able not just to hold them in our heads, but to feel them in our bodies, to know them because our hearts and bones resonate with our shared humanity.

The ability to hold the perspective of another seems to be a uniquely human one. (Although we don't know for sure — perhaps Crow slides its consciousness inside mine from time to time, and looks up at itself, cawing from a perch on the lamp post.) This skill can be cultivated. With practice (and a great deal of listening!), we can hold and understand the perspective of those who are very different from us in gender, race, class, experience, and religion — to name a few possible variables.

But is this enough? I think of the bee, with its many faceted “eyes,” each facet of which receives a slightly different perspective of light and shape, by which it makes its way in the world. Perhaps it is not enough to slide from one perspective to another, as if they were cable stations. Perhaps we could hold these perspectives simultaneously, each one contributing its own light and nuance, and so begin to perceive the true shape of reality.

Maybe we need to learn to see a little more like the bees.

Call on Our Ministers in Times of Need

Pastoral care is offered to those in need of emotional and spiritual support. If you are going through a crisis (or even a hard time), feel free to reach out to our ministers — they're here to help:

gary.kowalski@gmail.com, (505) 257-5014
munrosickafoose@gmail.com, (970) 946-2814

UCOT Men's Group

The UCOT Men's Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 4:30 to 6:00. Let Terry Surguine know if you'd like to receive notices and directions: tsurguine@gmail.com.

Caring Community

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The group was “fast-forwarded” when a member of the congregation fell off a ladder and broke a hip. Suddenly, our “planning process” became a “do it now” activity.

The name “In Reach Committee” has morphed to become the “Caring Community,” as the needs our members are met not by a committee, but by volunteers from the entire UU congregation.

In the past year or two, Lydia Davis, Diane Ainsworth, Patsy Scott, Caryle & Bill Zorumski, and Barbara Scott have received some assistance. I am amazed at the responses from the UU members when an email is sent out to alert the volunteers of a need. I thank all of you.

Sally Savage, who has been updating the spreadsheet, will now take over as the contact person for our Caring Community. I know she will do a wonderful job.

Sunday, March 3 Songs of the Soul

The Rev. Gary Kowalski

The phrase “best-selling poet” sounds like an oxymoron. But Mary Oliver, who passed away this last January at the age of 83, was an exception to the rule, whose original voice and resonance with nature made her both massively popular and a Pulitzer winner. Of her 20 volumes, more than half were published by our own Unitarian Universalist Beacon Press, which maintains a website with an official biography about her life. Yet she was by inclination an intensely private person, whose highest ambition was to disappear behind the luminous imagery of her verse. Come celebrate and share a bit of that light.

Sunday, March 17 Uncle Sam and the Goddess

The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

Last month, I explored what happens when myths lose their meaning and power. March continues with a look at how myths are born and shaped, and how we might have some say in the matter.

Upcoming Sharing Circles:

Books That Changed Our Lives, March 10

Without books, the development of civilization would have been impossible. They are the engines of change; windows on the world; "Lighthouses," as the poet said, "erected in the sea of time." They are companions, teachers, magicians, bankers of the treasures of the mind. Books are humanity in print.

— Arthur Schopenhauer,
philosopher (1788-1860)

What books have most changed your life — as a young adult, a middle-aged person, or a seasoned wise one? Which books informed your politics, enlarged your empathy, or helped you see the world in an intriguing or different way — and why?

Come share with others the voices that have spoken to you.

Letting Go, March 24

The art of living lies in a fine mingling of letting go and holding on.

—Havelock Ellis (1859-1939)

Holding on. Letting go. Holding on. Letting go. We do both throughout our life. Letting go could mean being willing to allow life to carry you to a new, perhaps better, place; holding on could mean trying to push life into the place of your making.

Questions to ponder: What is one thing you hold onto that enriches your life? What is one thing you have let go of that has opened your life to new possibilities?

Please join us as we explore our feelings and attitudes about letting go.

News from the Outreach Committee

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization advancing human rights together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates. They focus their work on intersecting roots of injustice to defend rights at risk due to criminalization and systemic oppression of people based on their identity. They support self-determination and defend the rights of people displaced due to climate, conflict or economic hardships; and respond to humanitarian crises as partners with people whose access to aid is most limited.

UU Women's Group Meeting on March 6th



Since snow required us to postpone our planning meeting on February 6th, it has been rescheduled for Wed., March 6th, 6pm at Barbara Martinez' house.

The focus of the meeting is assessing 2018 topics and identifying possible topics for 2019. Commitment to the purposes of the Women's Group is what make us successful; therefore, your ideas and input are needed.

To that end, we ask that you bring ideas for topics and/or books for consideration for 2019. You do not have to have researched the topic or read the book; you need just give a one- to two-sentence description. The planning committee needs your ideas and input. An email will be sent prior to the March meeting.



Music Committee News

Singing practice with Martha at 10:30 a.m.
on the 1st & 3rd Sundays.

All are welcome; attend when you can.

Thank you to all who join our "pop-up"
choir on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

If you play an instrument and would like to
play with others, please let Martha Grossman or
Gael Minton know you are interested.



Happy birthday to...
Jim Schultz, March 22