

The Unitarian
 Congregation of Taos
April 2019
 Bulletin Board



- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Wed., Apr. 3 | Women's Group, 6:00 p.m. |
| Sun., Apr. 7 | <i>One Big Soul</i> ,
The Rev. Gary Kowalski |
| Sun., Apr. 14 | Sharing Circle: <i>Imagination</i> |
| Wed., Apr. 17 | Men's Group, 4:30 p.m. |
| Sun., Apr. 21 | <i>One Nation, Many Gods and Goddesses</i> ,
The Rev. Munro Sickafoose |
| Sun., Apr. 28 | Sharing Circle: <i>The Power of Attitude and Intention</i> |

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

On My Mind

The Rev. Gary Kowalski

Born on March 24, 1919, the poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti turned a hundred this spring. Remarkably, he is still writing verse, which he calls an insurgent art form. "Constantly risking absurdity and death whenever he performs above the heads of his audience, the poet, like an acrobat, climbs on rime to a high wire of his own making."

Ferlinghetti served in the army during World World II and became a pacifist when he witnessed the devastation of Nagasaki. Ten years later, he spent time in prison for publishing Allen Ginsberg's "Howl" (I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving hysterical naked, dragging themselves through the negro streets at dawn looking for an angry fix), which censors labeled obscene. Ferlinghetti found greed, corruption and hypocrisy obscene.

Pity the nation whose people are sheep,
 and whose shepherds mislead them.
 Pity the nation whose leaders are liars,
 whose sages are silenced,
 and whose bigots haunt the airwaves.
 Pity the nation that raises not its voice,
 except to praise conquerors and acclaim the bully as hero
 and aims to rule the world with force and by torture.
 Pity the nation that knows no other language but its own
 and no other culture but its own.
 Pity the nation whose breath is money
 and sleeps the sleep of the too well fed.
 Pity the nation — oh, pity the people who allow their
 rights to erode and their freedoms to be washed away.
 My country, tears of thee, sweet land of liberty.

If you want more, try reading my friend Steve Edington's *The Beat Face of God*, or just dig out an old copy of *Coney Island of the Mind*. What better affirmation of life and creative aging than to refresh yourself at this old spring, which has been flowing with such sweet and pungent juice for a century plus?

Announcements/Joys & Sorrows

Barbara Scott

At the March 9 meeting, the UCOT Board of Trustees discussed something that has been coming up in the form of complaints and worries from members about the amount of time people are taking before the services to make their announcements or to share their joy or sorrow. Some have even asked us, "Is it time to do away with announcements and Joys & Sorrows?" The board decided that no, it's not yet time to do that. These opportunities to hear from friends and members keep us informed and bring us closer to each other. But please be mindful that the idea is to keep them very brief. It's helpful to put oneself in the role of others — including visitors. Thank you.

Outreach Committee News

Bette Myerson

Another local nonprofit that our congregation supports is TENT (Taos Elders and Neighbors Together). TENT began providing services last October to the Taos community. In the planning stages since 2016, TENT's purpose is to make it easier and more affordable for aging residents to remain in their homes.

TENT is a member of the national Village-to-Village Network, which includes over 200 similar villages around the country. Currently TENT has about 25 vetted and trained volunteers who provide services such as transportation, social contacts, minor home repairs, occasional pet care, gardening or light house-keeping, and caregiver relief to about 30 members. TENT also provides bimonthly social and

(Continued next page)

Music Committee News

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

All are welcome; attend when you can.

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

Upcoming Sharing Circles: *Imagination, April 14*

Imagination is the capacity to produce images, ideas and sensations in the mind without any immediate input from the senses. It allows us to explore ideas about things that are not in our present environment, or perhaps not even real. For example, one can imagine the cup of coffee seen the day before, or one can imagine an alien spaceship arriving in Earth's orbit. The key is that what is imagined is generated from within.

We will be doing an imagination exercise at the circle, followed by a sharing of your experiences with imagination.

The Power of Attitude & Intention, April 28

The word attitude has three meanings: the mindset with which one approaches the world, a position of a person's body that conveys a state of mind, or "that guy just gave me attitude." Think of a situation where attitude, yours or someone else's, changed the course of an exchange.

In addition, many disciplines have a practice of "setting an intention." Have you ever experimented with this? What happened? Have you tried "an attitude of gratitude"? What were the results? Does attitude impact intention?

Please come share about attitude and intention.

UU Women's Group for April:

Wednesday, April 3 at 6pm, we will meet at Stephanie Yoder's home. If you wish a ride, email Carol Dougherty at <lccdoughty@gmail.com> to arrange pickup at the Taos Bridge Center parking lot. RSVP Stephanie at <sfyoder@gmail.com> if you plan to attend. The topic will be "Poems that Inspire," so come ready to share one that has spiritual significance for you. Chris Westover will facilitate.

Ahead: May to July we will be reading and sharing from the book *Women Rowing North* a best-selling book on aging by Mary Pipher.

Outreach Committee

(Continued from page 1)

information programs open to the public, and a newsletter, also bimonthly (on alternate months).

Many members of the Unitarian Congregation are active in TENT, and you have probably heard us talk about it before: Marianne Furedi is our Volunteer Coordinator. Jim Schultz, Caryle Zorumski and I are on the Board of Directors.

If you would like information about becoming a member, a volunteer, or a donor to TENT, please talk to any one of us. Also, let us know if you are not receiving our emails and would like to do so.

Sunday, April 7 *One Big Soul*

The Rev. Gary Kowalski

Where in the world do we find hope? What strength can faith and the human spirit offer in the midst of heartless systems and crushing indifference? As we approach Good Friday, Pesach and Easter, the old stories of liberation need fresh telling. Reverend Kowalski finds a compelling new version of the good news in what he considers to be the Great American Novel.

Sunday, April 21 *One Nation, Many Gods and Goddesses*

The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

From the beginning, the United States was always a land of many gods and goddesses. It is becoming more so as time goes on. How did we arrive at a place where the opposite is commonly believed?

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.



Happy April birthdays to...

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 3 | Sid Bender |
| 22 | Marianne Furedi |
| 25 | Bette Myerson |
| 28 | Margarita Denevan |