

The Unitarian
Congregation of
Taos
June 2019
Bulletin Board



Sun., June 2	<i>The Natural Life</i> The Rev. Jean Darling
Wed., June 5	Women's Group, 6:30 p.m.
Sun., June 9	Sharing Circle: <i>Animals</i>
Sun., June 16	<i>I Sing the Body Electric</i> The Rev. Gary Kowalski
Wed., June 19	Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
Sun., June 23	Sharing Circle: <i>Attachment</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

The Romans named June after the goddess Juno, their equivalent of the Greek Hera, the queen of the gods. The word is cognate with the Spanish *joven*, which means a young adult of more-or-less marriageable age, hence the season's association with love, brides, weddings, and fertility. For gardeners, even in Taos, the last frost date is past. It's time to plant. (What seeds are you sowing in our life?)

The late neurologist Oliver Sacks said that the greatest healers for the mind and disorders associated with the nervous system were, in his experience, gardens and music. "I cannot say exactly how nature exerts its calming and organizing effects on our brains, but I have seen in my patients the restorative and healing powers of nature and gardens, even for those who are deeply disabled neurologically. In many cases, gardens and nature are more powerful than any medication."

Learning to garden here in the arid Southwest has been a challenge for my wife, who is a Master Gardener but found the tomatoes and sweet peas we were accustomed to growing in New England simply weren't going flourish in the high desert. She is in charge of the Rose Garden here in Santa Fe, and we have a rose but have come to appreciate nearly anything that will flower in this harsh environment: Russian Sage, Mullein, Toad Flax, Penstemon. When we're lucky, we even have Indian Paintbrush outside our window.

If you look at a flower, it has a center. Where is your center? Petals radiate outward. What energy are you radiating into the world? It stretches toward the sun. What light beckons to you? The flower anchors itself in the soil. Where are your nourishing rootholds?

"Help us to be ever faithful gardeners of the spirit, who know that without darkness nothing comes to birth, and without light nothing flowers," wrote the Unitarian poet May Sarton. And learn to love even the dandelions. What else but a goldfinch does so much to brighten up a world?



Sunday, June 2
The Natural Life
The Rev. Jean Darling

Recently, we have been discovering the interconnectedness of the world in new ways; for example, how our human biome (the bacteria in our gut) contributes to our health, or lack thereof. We are discovering that the bacteria in the soil contribute mightily to its health, and to the nutritional value of the beans, squash and corn we grow in it. We are discovering that the trees in the healthy forest communicate with one another through microscopic life in the soil, feeding one another or warning of imminent threats. The large and the small need one another, and we are richer for our shared existence.



15 Michael Martinez
16 Carol Doughty

Sunday, June 16
I Sing the Body Electric
The Rev. Gary Kowalski

It was recently the bicentennial of Walt Whitman's birth. "I bequeath myself to the dirt, to grow from the grass I love," the poet said. "If you want me again, look for me under your boot-soles." On Sunday June 16th, Reverend Kowalski celebrates this singer of eros, democracy, and cosmic consciousness, the great American poet, looking beneath his boot soles to the soulful biography that produced the luminous *Leaves of Grass*.

UU Women will meet at 6:30 p.m.
on Wednesday June 5th

At Linda Aubrecht's request as the June hostess, we will start a bit later in June. Directions to Linda's will be sent in an email along with details about how to get a ride, if needed. Our topic will be from *Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing as We Age*, a bestseller by Mary Pipher. Yvonne Hayes will facilitate.

If you wish to be added to (or deleted from) the UU Women's Group list, please contact Carol Doughty at lccdoughty@gmail.com.

UCOT Men's Group

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

June 9 Sharing Circle, Animals

The Seventh Principle of Unitarian Universalism states that we must have respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Humans share the interdependent web of the universe with an amazing diversity of animal life. Animals have played a vital role in our survival since the earliest beginning of our existence, and they continue to be an essential part of our lives, whether as a source of food, as our companions, or as inspiration to see the wonders of the world around us.

Come explore with us how animals have affected your life, with these questions to guide us: How has your life been enriched by animals? How do you show gratitude to animals for the benefits they have brought to your life?

June 23 Sharing Circle, Attachment

In psychological literature, attachment often is caricaturized as the bonding that takes place between mother and child. Then there is the image of the mother duck, with her baby ducklings following behind. It is said that animals attach to the first animate object they see at birth. But in Buddhist literature, it is written that the Buddha said, "The root of all suffering is attachment." This is the First Noble Truth in Buddhism.

We will explore how to detach to avoid suffering while remaining responsive to reality and to others. Are you attached to someone or to something? Is that a plus or a minus for you? Does attachment cause suffering or not?



Inspiring Gift from Joanne Forman

Joanne Forman has donated a DVD to UCOT for the use of all members and friends. *Defying the Nazis: The Sharp's War* is a 2016 documentary by Ken Burns. It details the largely untold story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, a Unitarian minister and his wife, from Wellesley, Mass. In the face of the rise of the Nazi regime in the 1930's, they decided they must do something. Starting in '39, they administered relief programs to hundreds of endangered Jews and refugees in Prague, resettling them to Great Britain. After the Nazi occupation of France, they moved their refugee and rescue programs to Vichy France. The 80-minute DVD provides a carefully researched portrait of this courageous couple.

If you wish to borrow the DVD, please contact Bob Aubrecht at 758-9675 or via e-mail at aubrecht@taosnet.com. The DVD is also available via streaming on Netflix.

Music Committee News

Singing practice with Martha at 10:30 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. All are welcome; attend when you can.