

The Unitarian  
Congregation of  
Taos  
October 2019  
Bulletin Board



Wed., Oct. 2	Women's Group, 6 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 6	Service: <i>Mary Cassatt and the Spiritual Journey</i> The Rev. Gary Kowalski Special Cello Music by Val Landi and Mark Dudrow
Sun., Oct. 13	Sharing Circle: <i>Impermanence</i>
Wed., Oct. 16	Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 20	Service: <i>The Beautiful</i> The Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Sun., Oct. 27	Sharing Circle: <i>Knowledge vs. Experience</i>

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

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**On My Mind**  
**The Rev. Gary Kowalski**

The High Holy Days are here. New Year's Day, or *Rosh Hashanah*, paradoxically begins at sundown (not dawn), falling this year on the evening of Sept. 29, followed by the ten Days of Awe that culminate in *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement. Many cultures celebrate New Year's in the spring. (Think of the Chinese.) Yet for Jews, the season of renewal and regeneration begins just as the equinox has passed its midpoint, as days grow colder and the hours of darkness overtake those of light. There are complicated historical reasons for this. But there are also spiritual and faith-based explanations, in my mind. It's easy to celebrate in summer, amid mirth and ease. It is an act of will to maintain hope in autumn.

Goodbyes are never easy, and these thoughts come to mind as I contemplate moving away from New Mexico. I have informed the board that, come next October, 2020, I will likely be gone and no longer be your minister. The home where we live in Santa Fe is jointly owned with our in-laws, who are older and ready to move to a retirement community back East. Financially, it doesn't make sense for us to remain here without them, so Dori and I will likely spend several months traveling round the world (our last wild fling at being gypsies) before settling back in New England.

I will certainly be here through next spring, but there is some poignancy and anxiety for me in thinking that each of our days together may never recur. But isn't that always the case? Every day is a new gift and irreplaceable. I am trying in these uncertain times to focus on *what is* rather than worry about *what may be*.

Every sunrise is a gift, but as the Jews remind us, every sunset is a miracle and blaze of glory also. Endings are also beginnings. Thank you, sincerely,

for these brief years we have spent together. It has been an honor, a privilege, but most of all a pleasure to be your minister.

Downsizing once more, I want to de-accession a number of the paintings I've done here over the last five years. So, starting on Sunday, Oct. 6, I will have artworks for sale, with all proceeds to benefit the Unitarian Congregation of Taos.

You can see some of my pieces on my website at [www.santafelandscapes.com](http://www.santafelandscapes.com). But the originals are better than the photos. All will be reasonably priced, but with an aim to perpetuating and strengthening our liberal religious presence here in northern New Mexico.

Many cultures have words that mean both "hello" and "goodbye." *Aloha. Ciao.* I have confidence that while ministers come and go, our principles and the Unitarian Congregation of Taos will remain a bastion of good-hearted and loving liberalism. You are blessed with strong leadership and strong conviction. You will remain a source of inspiration and fond memory for me wherever my journey leads.

L'Chaim, Gary



KOWALSKI

**Sunday, October 6**  
**Mary Cassatt and the Spiritual Journey**  
**The Rev. Gary Kowalski**

“Van Gogh and Degas are better remembered, and command higher prices. Yet I prefer the works of their contemporary impressionist Mary Cassatt,” says our minister Reverend Kowalski, who will talk this morning about the revolution in art and sensibility that occurred when a group of rebellious painters invented a new way of seeing the world. Can we learn to somehow see the world again as it was originally created, fresh and wondrous, without blemish? Gary will be accompanying his morning talk with an art show of his own original paintings, with all proceeds being donated to benefit the Unitarian Congregation of Taos. View his work online at [www.santafelandscapes.com](http://www.santafelandscapes.com). Please bring a checkbook if you want a chance to purchase these one-of-a-kind creations.

**Sunday, October 20**  
**The Beautiful**  
**The Rev. Munro Sickafoose**

Part three of a series on the three transcendental properties of being postulated by Plato—the Good, the True, and the Beautiful—and how they relate to us today. This month I’ll share my thoughts on The Beautiful—not to be confused with beauty, glamour, or a number of other things!

**SHARING CIRCLES**  
**October 13, “Impermanence”**

In order to talk about impermanence, perhaps we should ask ourselves what is permanent. Ask yourself that question. What in your life is permanent? We have all lived enough years to think back and compare yesterday, or many yesterdays, to today and answer that question. Is there anything that seems permanent today that you can count on to be permanent in the future, even tomorrow? It has been said that all relationships end. If that is true, how do you resolve the anxiety over impermanence? Do you have anxiety over the concept of impermanence? Or, are we always in denial? What things in life were harder to deal with because you could not accept that nothing lasts forever?

**October 27, “Knowledge vs. Experience”**

What’s the difference? Is it just semantics, or is there some way to differentiate the two? Can you know things if you don’t have the experience to back it up? Can you have an experience without gaining knowledge? Is this in some way related to Munro’s discussions about Truth? Please come share your knowledge and experience.

If you weren’t able to hear Munro’s sermon, you can read it on our website at [UUTaos.org](http://UUTaos.org) > Worship and Connect > Past Sermons > The True.

**UCOT Women’s Group, October 2**

The UU Women’s Group will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 2, at Stephanie Yoder’s house. Our topic will be transformative journeys. Transformative journeys can be physical, emotional, spiritual, or any combination of those elements that change our perspective and the course of our lives. These journeys typically are a solitary path and undertaken with forethought and some fear, knowing that the outcome is uncertain. Leaving a bad relationship, taking steps to recover from an addiction, going back to school after a long absence, moving to an unfamiliar place where you know no one to start a new life: these are only a few examples of transformative journeys.

You are warmly invited to come to our next meeting to share your own experience and listen to those of others.

Directions to Stephanie’s house will be provided in an email closer in time to our meeting.

If you need a ride, contact Barbara Martinez at [bsmithmtz@outlook.com](mailto:bsmithmtz@outlook.com), 575-779-1280 or Chris Westover at [cwestover2012@gmail.com](mailto:cwestover2012@gmail.com) or 859-321-6378.

**UCOT Men’s Group, October 16**

The Men’s Group will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16. To receive monthly notices and directions, contact Terry Surguine to be added to the email list: [tsurguine@gmail.com](mailto:tsurguine@gmail.com).



## UCOT's History

### Lights. Camera. Action.

Production has begun to create a short film about UCOT's history and purpose. Budding videographer Sally Savage recently interviewed Chuck and Marsha Fawns about their journey in helping to fill the need for a liberal and socially active Unitarian community in Taos.



The goal of this project is to present a condensed version of this interview (and more) at the UCOT annual meeting in February. Its content can also be used to produce a short promotional video for our website.

**Here's where YOU come in:** To augment the interview, we are looking for pictures you have of UCOT events. These would include such activities as services, sharing circles, dinners for six or eight or any other number of people, UU men's and women's groups, animal blessing, hiking, camping, Day of the Dead, involvement in support of local organizations, public demonstrations, etc. If you're doing something with other UCOT members between now and December, take some pictures. Shoot a few 10-second video clips with your cell phone.

Please email your stills and video clips to Sally at [mountain\\_spirit\\_@hotmail.com](mailto:mountain_spirit_@hotmail.com). Thank you.



### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Ray Taylor
- 26 Dianne Frost
- 27 Michael Burney
- 27 Robert Spillers
- 31 Marsha Fawns

## 2020 UCOT Pledge Drive

With the arrival of fall weather, it is time for the annual UCOT pledge drive. We will take the month of October for the pledge drive. As with last year, members of the Finance Committee and additional volunteers will personally contact each member regarding their 2020 pledges.

If you have pledged in the past, thank you for your continued financial support of the Congregation. If you have not pledged, please consider making a pledge for next year. Pledges allow the Board to plan the 2020 budget with a greater degree of confidence and accuracy.

Our plan is to complete the pledge drive by October 31, 2019, to allow our treasurer, Bette Myerson, to prepare the 2020 budget for the Annual Meeting in January 2020.

Your generous support of the Congregation is greatly appreciated.

Bob Aubrecht

Chairperson, Finance & Stewardship Committee

## Our Mission Is to Be an Active Force

Remember the work we did on our Vision, Mission & Covenant work? Our Vision, abbreviated, is to be an active force to better our congregation, the Taos community, and the world beyond.

To find ways that you can contribute to the greater community for the greater good, please check our website regularly for "Timely Opportunities." These will be updated to give you information about where your efforts are currently needed. Go to [UUTaos.org](http://UUTaos.org) > Worship & Connect > How to Get Involved. [Timely Opportunities](#) is right up at the top of the page.

## Music Committee News



Join Martha for singing practice at 10:30 a.m. on the first and third Sundays. All are welcome; attend when you can. Special cello music Sunday, October 6, by Val Landi and Mark Dudrow.