

The Unitarian  
Congregation of  
Taos  
January 2020  
Bulletin Board



Sun., Jan. 5	Service: <i>Dreams and Epiphanies</i> The Rev. Gary Kowalski
Thurs., Jan. 9	Women's Group, 4 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 12	Sharing Circle: <i>Your Purposes in Life</i>
Wed., Jan. 15	Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 19	Service: <i>Heretics?</i> The Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Sun., Jan. 26	Sharing Circle: <i>Winter</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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***A New Year***  
**The Rev. Munro Sickafoose**

As we mark another turn of the planet around the Sun, it may be worth spending a few minutes considering the nature of Time. Time has dual aspects, one is linear, the other cyclical. Paradoxically, linear time is finite and scarce, while cyclical time is infinite. Our culture is deeply invested in the idea of linear time, and each new year adds to the total of the previous years, as marked by some event—the birth of Jesus or Muhammad, or the day the world was Created, or some other marker. Day One, Year Zero. The years add up and seem to indicate progress toward something, although we are not quite sure of what that something is anymore. Is it Judgment Day? Or simply the heat death of the Universe? Perhaps we are receding further and further from some pure origin, Eden or the Big Bang. Where do we come from? Where are we going? Life as a riddle and a mystery.

Ancestral cultures largely conceived of time as cyclical, marked by the movements of the Sun and the Moon and the stars, and the passing of the seasons. This movement is eternal, without beginning or end, and human beings are embedded in it, embedded in eternity. The spiritual work of human beings is to tune into the great cycles of life and time, to harmonize with them and be supported by them. And to support them in turn, no pun intended. Our lives are mirrored in these great turnings. No riddles or mystery there.

Linear time serves our Western notion of progress, of movement toward some terminus, some salvation, perhaps perfection, in this or some other world. Progress is our civic religion, despite the lack of a clear destination. Cyclical time tells us that we are already there, cradled in the circles of the great eternal now. Both these modes of time are at our disposal, but our culture defaults to the linear, the finite,

the scarcity of time. We must ask ourselves if this is the relationship to time that serves us best. Where is it we are going in such a hurry, when we are already there?

**Sunday, January 5**  
***Dreams and Epiphanies***  
**The Rev. Gary Kowalski**

“In a dream,” according to the Gospel of Matthew, the three wise men learned of Herod’s nasty plots and returned to their own country by a different route. Dreaming figures prominently in both Christian and Hebrew scripture, while in Hinduism, this world of *samsara* (the field of space and time) is nothing more nor less than the dream of Vishnu, rousing from his eternal sleep. Why do we dream? Do our nighttime imaginings hold wisdom for our waking hours? On this Epiphany Sunday, Rev. Kowalski explores the revelations of our unconscious minds: the source of all myth and of the archetypes that shape who we are.

**Sunday, January 19**  
***Heretics?***  
**The Rev. Munro Sickafoose**

Unitarian Universalism prides itself on a heretical past, yet history tells us that all heresies become new orthodoxies that will inevitably be challenged by newer heresies. What happens when we are betwixt and between these developments? Who then, are the heretics?

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 12 Elaine Taylor
- 14 Barley Donohue

## SHARING CIRCLES

### January 12, *Your Purposes in Life*

Mark Twain had this to say about our purpose(s) in life: "The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why."

One's purpose in life is not always clear, cheery or constant. The Taos UU Circle will give us time to share what we think our purpose is today, what it was in the past, and what we wish it to be.

What activity has brought you the most fulfillment? Is there something in your life that points to an unfolding plan or purpose?

### January 26, *Winter*

"Nature looks dead in winter because her life is gathered into her heart. She withers the plant down to the root that she may grow it up again fairer and stronger. She calls her family together within her inmost home to prepare them for being scattered abroad upon the face of the earth."

~Hugh MacMillan, "Rejuvenance"  
*The Ministry of Nature*, 1873

What winter means for each of us depends on our perception and our experience. Is it a time of gathering inner strength, preparing for rebirth, or is a time of loss and death? Is it time of quiet or a time of joy and warm drinks?

This Sunday, the Taos UU Circle will take time to appreciate each of our visions of winter. Bring a favorite story, an experience, a picture or a memento of your winter to share with us. What has winter meant for you? Has your attitude regarding winter changed with age and experience?

### UCOT Women's Group, January 9

Accommodating concerns over driving at night, we will be holding our monthly meetings on the second Thursdays of each month from 4 to 6 p.m.

In January, we begin exploring the book *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times*, by Pema Chödrön. An email will go out prior to January 9th detailing the chapters to be covered, directions to the hostess's home, etc. If you wish to be added to or removed from the email list, contact Carol Doughty, [lccdoughty@gmail.com](mailto:lccdoughty@gmail.com).

### UCOT Men's Group, January 15

The UCOT Men's Group will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15th. We meet regularly on the third Wednesday of each month from 4:30 to 6 p.m. If you'd like to receive monthly notices and directions, contact Terry Surguine to be added to the email list: [tsurguine@gmail.com](mailto:tsurguine@gmail.com).

### Music Committee News

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

### Let's Face End-of-Life Issues Together

Being prepared for the end of our life is a gift we can give ourselves and our loved ones. When we can clearly tell our loved ones how we want to approach our death, we achieve some peace of mind, and they have a clear understanding of our wishes. It's important to consider these issues while we have the time and the ability to sort out and state how we want our end-of-life issues to be handled. We will discuss making a will, naming an executor, preparing a power of attorney, and naming an individual to make decisions for us if we should become unable mentally or physically to do so.

Some issues to consider: What is acceptable to us, what will make us comfortable, whether and how to prolong our life. When we can put our desires for these matters down on paper and have conversations about it with our loved ones, we will make their lives easier, because they won't be forced to struggle with what they think we want. More pragmatically, where are your end-of-life documents? Your passwords? What about your pets?

The Unitarian Congregation will have a chance to participate in a two-part session on end-of-life preparation in late January and February. Chuck Fawns and Chris Westover will be the facilitators. The cost will be \$10 each, to cover the binders and other materials. Space is limited to 20 people, so it is imperative to reserve your space: first come, first served. If more than 20 people sign up, there will be a wait list and if any of the first 20 respondents can't attend, the space will be filled by going down the wait list. The exact dates and location will be announced.

Contact Chuck Fawns: [Kyspirit@taosnet.com](mailto:Kyspirit@taosnet.com).