

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
March 2020
Bulletin Board



Sun., Mar. 1	Service: <i>Healing the Wounds</i> Rev. Gary Kowalski
Sun., Mar. 8	Sharing Circle: <i>Create Your Day</i>
Thu., Mar. 12	Women's Group, 4 p.m.
Sun., Mar. 15	Service: <i>The Ides of March</i> Rev. Munro Sickafoose Special Music by Rick DeStefano
Wed., Mar. 18	Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Mar. 22	Sharing Circle: <i>Dreams</i>
Sun. Mar. 29	UCOT Legacy Video and 5th Sunday Design Discussion

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

March Madness
The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

Ahh, March. Time for the NCAA playoffs. I'm not a basketball fan myself, but for a few weeks, the playoffs will dominate the news cycle. Enthusiastic fans will perform extreme displays of allegiance. Billions of dollars will be won and lost in bets—on and off book, and in office pools. It's called March Madness, and we don't know who will win the Championship until the very end. And then there will be heartbreak and triumph, winners and losers, and an end to the Madness until next year. March also kicks off with Super Tuesday, the day when Democratic Primaries are held simultaneously in 16 different states or jurisdictions. Unlike the NCAA playoffs, Super Tuesday will probably pick the eventual Democratic nominee. The winner of 17 of the last 18 Super Tuesdays has gone on to win the nomination. But who knows?

The past is not always an accurate predictor of the present. And politics is a much messier process than sports. There are not always clear winners or losers, and the "game" never stops. Things are going to get pretty crazy between now and Election Day. I won't make a prediction about who wins the nomination, or who wins in November. What I will predict is that there is going to be plenty of heartbreak to go around—before and after. We've turned our politics into a zero-sum game of winners and losers, a spectacle in the Thunder Dome. And the only real winners are the ones staging the game, selling us one thing or another. Popcorn, peanuts, disastrous policies.

Let us be passionate, but strive for non-attachment. We can't let the defeats—or the victories—take over our emotions and own us. That can consume our precious energy, and divert our attention from long-term goals. The struggle for a just, sustainable, and equitable world is one of generations. That kind of world is a win-win world, and that's the world we want. But getting there will take a serious winning streak, and those take hard work, talent, and keeping

our eyes on the prize. We may weep some days, and cheer on others, but the struggle never ends. Let us play the long game. Let us look not just to November of 2020, but to 2024, and 2028, and beyond. What will it take?

Sunday, March 1
Healing the Wounds
The Reverend Gary Kowalski

The American Psychiatric Association says that 3.5 percent of all Americans suffer from PTSD, with women twice as likely to be affected as men. This morning, our minister suggests that almost all of us suffer from some form of traumatic damage in our lives, injuries that scar the mind and soul as well as afflicting bodily well-being. The word "trauma" means wound. How we name, recognize, and survive the inevitable wounds of living is as much a matter of art, philosophy and faith as of medical science.

Sunday, March 15
The Ides of March
The Reverend Munro Sickafoose

Some thoughts on history, bias, social signifiers, and the end of the world—filtered through the lenses of Luck, Fate, Divine Intervention, and perhaps a tiny bit of reason.

Special music by Rick DeStefano, vocals and piano.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

22 Jim Shultz

SHARING CIRCLES

March 8, *Create Your Day*

Do you wake up in the morning and roll out of bed, fix coffee, shower, read your email—in other words, is every day a habitual repeat of the day before? Or do you create each day anew? Most of us, if we're lucky, at least experience a hybrid of the two. Come share with the rest of us the ways in which you create and re-create YOUR day. Do you have regular meditations, affirmations, a gratitude practice? What if you were getting ready for bed at night only to discover that this was your last day? What could you say you'd done this day that was worthy of future memory?

March 22, *Dreams*

Gary Kowalski, Facilitator

What guidance and insight, what cautions or clues, can we gain from our dream life? Have you ever had "big dreams" that shaped the way you understand the world? Have you had lucid dreams, pre-cognitive dreams, or recurring dreams that have some special hold on your psyche? Might there be a collective unconscious or "shared dreaming" that is common to our culture or species? Our co-minister facilitates a sharing circle for the curious who want to delve more deeply into the personal well from which myth and religion spring.

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.



The Music Team has lined up four Special Music performances for Sunday services:

- ❖ March 15, Rick DeStefano, vocal and piano
- ❖ May 3, Julie Greer, vocal and guitar
- ❖ August 2, Kim Bakkum, piano
- ❖ October 18, Michael Virga, vocal and guitar

UCOT Women's Group, March 12

UU Women's Group meets Thursday, March 12. Accommodating concerns over driving at night, we will be holding our monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month from 4 to 6 p.m.

In March we will continue exploring the book *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times*, by Pema Chödrön. An email will go out prior to March 12th detailing directions to the host's home, and notify you of the chapters we will cover. If you wish to be added to or removed from the email list or need to carpool, contact Carol Doughty, lccdoughty@gmail.com.

UCOT Men's Group, March 18

The Men's Group will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18th. To receive monthly notices and directions, contact Terry Surguine to be added to the email list: tsurguine@gmail.com.

5th Sunday, March 29

UCOT Documentary Screening

Followed by a 5th Sundays Planning Meeting

Bob Aubrecht

Our first "fifth Sunday of the month" meeting will have two components. First, Sally Savage will premiere her video about UCOT, "Nurturing the Spirit of Life". She has been working on it for months with Chuck and Marsha Fawns. We are grateful for their persistence and hard work. The video will be available later on our website.

Second, I will moderate a discussion and planning meeting about our future fifth Sundays. We have tried a variety of approaches for fifth Sundays, including music, panel discussions, guest speakers, DVDs and member presentations on a variety of topics. The UCOT Board has experimented, hoping that the range of meetings would be interesting to as many as possible.

My thought for this meeting is to look at the Chautauqua model as an approach, to review a wide range of possible issues and topics (e.g., immigration, prison reform, sustainability, the death sentence, gun control, environmental issues, the "media," and more) to identify possible speakers and resources for each issue, and to develop a working schedule for 2020. The intention is to educate ourselves and also to invite those in the Taos community who might be interested.

If this approach has sufficient interest within UCOT, I suggest that we form a working group of three to five people willing to coordinate these fifth Sundays for 2020.