

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
February 2021
Bulletin Board



- Sun., Feb. 7 Service: *Mortality and Its Alternatives*
Rev. Gary Kowalski
- Sun., Feb. 14 Sharing Circle: *Becoming Native to This (Your) Place* (via email)
- Wed., Feb. 17 Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
- Sun., Feb. 21 Service: *Bend Not Break*
Rev. Jeanne Montclair
- Sun., Feb. 28 Sharing Circle: *Becoming Native to This (Your) Place* (on Zoom)

On My Mind
Rev. Gary Kowalski

Lounging on the flight deck at the Bosque del Apache bird refuge, it is easy to believe that the world is alive. Hundreds of snow geese bark in the distance. Wood ducks scurry for safety as a northern Harrier glides over the shallows. Sandhill cranes resembling ancient pterodactyls soar in from the pre-Pleistocene to alight on the marshy mud flats just beneath the mirrored water that reflects an infinity of sky. Two cranes neck ostentatiously: there is no other word for the affection of these pair-bonded, lifetime-mated birds. They are making out. Here in the late afternoon sun of southern New Mexico, how can you doubt that love is the secret sauce that lubricates the world?

"When despair for the world grows in me," wrote the poet Wendell Berry, "I go and lie down where the great heron feeds, and where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water." The peace of wild things assures us that despite the appalling stupidity, greed and short-sightedness of our species, something older and wiser than we are has a hand in events. Narcissism is not nature's way. A more generous, joyful and amorous spirit presides. Darwin called it evolution: an amazingly simple, almost self-evident idea in retrospect, but one that somehow eluded the most intelligent minds for centuries. One wonders. Are there other equally obvious truths that we overlook today—rules of conduct that are integral to the world's maintenance and survival, but that are still to be discovered?

We are awaiting word. But as revelation came to Darwin from observing finches, there would be worse places to look than to the gossiping, quarreling, socially successful cranes who—without political parties, congressional inquiries, solemn resolutions or treatises on government—have nonetheless managed to thrive these past ten million years. We should live so long. – Gary

Mortality and Its Alternatives
Rev. Gary Kowalski
Sunday, February 7

To be human is to experience the dual awareness of being alive, knowing you are destined to die. While other species may share in a consciousness of death, few face it as deliberately or knowingly. This morning, Gary explores the conundrum of being mortal, with thoughts on how we maintain our dignity to the end and find peace with whatever might lie beyond.

See your weekly email for the Zoom link.



Bend Not Break
Rev. Jeanne Montclair
Sunday, February 21

See your weekly email for the Zoom link.

SHARING CIRCLE*

Becoming Native to This (Your) Place

Sunday, February 14 & 28, 11 a.m.

Many ecologists and biologists have asked: What does it mean to become native to your place? Can we think like a mountain, a watershed, a field, a forest, a community? Ecologist Robin Wall Kimmerer has a native arctic friend who introduces himself as “a boy who was raised by a river.”

“Humans are not special and independent but part of a continuum of life encircling and embracing the globe. With its glorious non-human past and its uncertain provocative future, this life, our life, is embedded now as it always has been, in the rest of Earth’s sentient symphony.” – Lynn Margulis and Dorion Sagan, *What Is Life?*)

How do you connect with the place you live in? How can you deepen that connection?

*Sharing Circles are a little different in 2021. The first one of the month will be in the form of an online quote or passage, and the responses will be via email (as we’ve been doing). The second one will be on Zoom, sharing face to face and hearing each other’s voices again after all these months.



UCOT Men’s Group

February 17

The UU Men’s Group will meet Wednesday, February 17, at 4:30 p.m., via Zoom. To receive a Zoom invitation, contact Dennis Scott at bridge4fun@mac.com.

Music Committee News



Singer-songwriter Carole King will be 79 on February 9th. So many of her songs were covered by other musicians that you may not be aware of just how extensive her songwriting library is! Here’s a link to her Best Hits album.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMlxICBHDN0

In a message to all varieties of front-line workers she updated her 1971 classic song So Far Away. Enjoy it here on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_gX9M_uP6U

If you have a musician or piece of music you would like to highlight for the congregation in our monthly newsletter, please contact Gael Minton at sbfarm03@gmail.com.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Sang Roberson
- 12 Margot Coleman
- 19 Dori Jones
- 22 Caryle Zorumski

