

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
June 2021
Bulletin Board



- Sun., Jun. 6 Service: *Our 5 Homes—An Environmental Contemplation*
Rev. Jeanne Montclair
- Sun., Jun. 13 Sharing Circle: *Play* (via email)
- Wed., Jun. 16 Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
- Sun., Jun. 20 Service: *Life That Maketh All Things New*, Rev. Gary Kowalski
- Sun., Jun. 27 Sharing Circle: *Play* (on Zoom)

On My Mind

Rev. Gary Kowalski

Our visit to the East Coast this spring included an afternoon excursion to Fruitlands, the utopian farm in Harvard, Massachusetts, where Bronson and Abigail Alcott along with their four daughters spent a brutally cold winter in 1843. Louisa May later satirized the episode in a lighthearted romp titled "Transcendental Wild Oats," but the experiment was no laughing matter to the participants, who knew more about philosophy than farming. All were vegetarians, adhering to strict principles of nonviolence. No animals were to be yoked to harness, which they equated to involuntary servitude. Cotton was likewise prohibited, being the product of actual slavery, and wool forbidden, constituting theft from the sheep. Root crops like carrots and potatoes were considered earthy and impure, as well as gardening with manure, all impeding the evolution of higher consciousness. There happened to be Shakers nearby, practicing celibacy between the sexes, and when Bronson's collaborator Charles Lane suggested that carnal relations might also be contrary to spiritual growth, Abigail had enough, informing her husband that she and the children were moving back to civilization and taking the furniture with them. Family friend Ralph Waldo Emerson threw out a lifeline, helping the frozen, half-starved entourage move into a fixer-upper in Concord grandly called "Orchard House" but that Louisa would name "Apple Slump."

Emerson was as soulful as any, but he married well and was a wise investor. Money gave him opportunities to subsidize moonbeams like Bronson and the wayward Henry Thoreau. "Money often costs too much," he cautioned, but it also opened doors. "All depends on the skill of the spender. Without a rich heart, wealth is an ugly beggar."

I'm with Abby and the kids. In my experience, it's hard to feel morally uplifted without a tight roof, dry socks and a warm hearth. Give me a real orchard, not just the idea of one.

Money, it's been said, is a useful servant but a poor master. Don't despise it or esteem it too highly. And may those of us fortunate to enjoy a surplus learn to share as cheerfully as Mister Emerson.

—Gary

Our 5 Homes:

An Environmental Contemplation

Rev. Jeanne Montclair

Sunday, June 6

Home means different things to us at different times of our lives. Even not having a home can mean different things depending upon our circumstances and perspective. Did we pull up anchor to set forth and have adventure? Or did a wild and unpredictable storm sever our moorings from a cozy and safe port? All places we find ourselves have something to teach us about ourselves and our sense of belonging; and yes, about impermanence, and about that which remains constant. If we choose to focus on the present moment, we find home and belonging everywhere we are and everywhere we go – for our true home is when we reside in our hearts. When we do so we are connected to all that is.

See your weekly email for the Zoom link.

The Life That Maketh All Things New

Rev. Gary Kowalski

Sunday, June 20

In honor of Father's Day, Gary offers a remembrance of his own grandfather—artist, poet, and country educated philosopher—with thoughts on aging, mortality and the persistence of hope.

See your weekly email for the Zoom link.

SHARING CIRCLES

Play

Sunday, June 13 & 27, 11 a.m.

“We don’t stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing” (George Bernard Shaw). “Almost all creativity involves purposeful play” (Abraham Maslow). “Those who play rarely become brittle in the face of stress or lose the healing capacity for humor” (Stuart Brown, M.D.).

Share your experiences on how ways of playing have enriched your life, and learn from others. How has your play changed? Can it be nourished?

Email sharing will be on June 13, and a Zoom session follow-up will be 11 a.m. to noon on June 27. For information on how to join if you are not already on the Sharing Circle mailing list, contact Dennis Scott at bridge4fun@mac.com.

Don McTaggart, 1933–2021

Reflections on our Scottish friend,
by Jim & Nancy Schultz
and Chuck & Marsha Fawns

Don was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. He earned his PhD in geography in Australia and went on to teach college geography in Malaysia, all the while developing a keen appreciation of that country’s culture. In 1970, he came to the U.S. and joined the faculty of Arizona State University, where he taught for 28 years. Next, fortunate students at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, had him as their professor until he retired from formal teaching in 2012. He loved his subject and could draw upon his deep knowledge to make any conversation interesting by quietly connecting facts and, more importantly, concepts that would invariably produce new insights for any listener. One quickly learned and respected how important geography is to understanding our world. In his quiet, measured way, he never stopped teaching, and anyone who drew him out was always enriched. We saw him as a bit of a Renaissance Man who happily read books in the original Greek.

Don loved cycling and spent many a happy holiday bike touring through Asia, Europe and North America. The Tour de France was an annual “must watch” for him.

At home, classical music was almost always in the background; his passion for this was seeded when his three maiden aunts began taking little seven-year-old Don to concerts at Ulster Hall in Edinburgh. He digested music theory, learned to

play the clarinet as a retirement project and enjoyed playing in a small adult orchestra.

He was drawn into our UCOT family some-time after his wife, Donna, helped Chuck and Marsha to establish our original congregation.

Don passed away at home in Albuquerque from complications of Parkinson’s and heart disease.

We will miss our sweet and gentle friend.

Music Committee News Gael Minton

One of the most accomplished flutists, Paula Robison, celebrates her 80th birthday this June 8th. I have had the joy of hearing her play in Vermont (Marlboro and Brattleboro Music Festivals) and in NYC and Santa Fe. She played and recorded with Rudolph Serkin (piano) for many years. Their performance/recording (1968) of the *Schubert Introduction and Variations* is breathtaking. Included here is Paula’s performance of the Cecile Chaminade [*Concertino in D Major*](#) with piano and string quartet. Read about her background [here](#).

For contrast, listen to the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra perform the [*Chaminade*](#), with flutist Haley Miller, and hear conductor Ben Zander tell the story of this composition. [*Cecile Chaminade*](#) composed the *Concertino* in 1902, and it continues to be a centerpiece of the flute repertoire. Enjoy!

UCOT Men’s Group June 16

The UU Men’s Group will meet Wednesday, June 16, at 4:30 p.m. All who are fully vaccinated are invited to meet in person. Those who wish, can join by Zoom. Contact Dennis Scott at bridge4fun@mac.com for a Zoom invitation.

Dinners for Six

We are resuming Dinners for 6 starting this June or July! So, if you are fully vaccinated and want to join in the fun, please contact Margot Coleman: mgmc50@taosnet.com or 562-481-6644. We are hoping to put the groups together that were canceled due to COVID, but everyone is welcome. We hope to hear from you soon!

✿ JUNE BIRTHDAYS ✿

- 15 Michael Martinez
- 16 Carol Doughty