

The Unitarian  
Congregation  
of Taos  
Aug 2021  
Bulletin Board



Sun., Aug. 1	Service: <i>Daisy Chain Love: Innocence and Experience</i> , Rev. Jeanne Montclair
Sun., Aug. 8	Sharing Circle: <i>Personal Authenticity</i> (via email)
Sun., Aug. 15	Service: <i>Summer(s) of Love and Radical Change</i> , Rev. Jeanne Montclair
Wed., Aug. 18	Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Aug. 22	Sharing Circle: <i>Personal Authenticity</i> (on Zoom)
Sun., Aug. 29	5th Sunday Special Program

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

One of my favorite places is the El Morro National Monument in western New Mexico. Over the centuries, hundreds of passersby have left their signatures on a massive stone bluff. Petroglyphs from the early Pueblos, inscriptions from Conquistadors, and graffiti from the U.S. Calvary mingle to tell a story where the human presence is transient in an eternal landscape. It inspired me to write this song:

*Coronado's armies came in search of gold,  
They just found sand and the Rio Grande  
But they never went back home.  
Cause the sky was bluer in Santa Fe than the  
turquoise in a ring.  
The land was poor but there was something  
more that made the spirit sing, that made  
the spirit sing.*

*The settlers came in wagons in search of land and  
trade. Dollars replaced pesos,  
There was money to be made.  
But the land itself was larger than anyone  
could own,  
So the painters came to sign their names, to a  
picture in a frame, to sell the landscape in a  
frame.*

*Paso, paso por Nuevo Mexico. I came like water  
and like wind I go.*

*The mountains last forever, coyote's song remains,  
the Ancient Ones and the Navajo will have the  
last refrain.*

*Cause they didn't want more than the land could  
give, not silver or renown  
Just a place to pray at the end of day, to the  
beauty all around, to the beauty all around.*

*Paso por aquí, or "I passed by here." Our names  
will be forgotten. But the mystique of this place will  
inspire other songs, in other tongues. —Gary*

**Daisy Chain Love:**  
**Innocence and Experience**  
**Rev. Jeanne Montclair**  
Sunday, August 1

Our hopes to return to "normal" and gathering in person are delayed again by the evolving Covid-19 virus. We have lost an innocence we didn't even know we had to lose with this pandemic. However, the burning question is not, "When do we get to go back?" but "How can we move toward, a 'higher innocence'?"  
*See your weekly email for the Zoom link.*

**Summer(s) of Love and Radical Change:**  
**Spiritual Evolution in American  
Culture 1967, 1968, and 1969**  
**Rev. Jeanne Montclair**  
Sunday, August 15

"We're on a spiritual journey," said one young man in the Haight Ashbury district of San Francisco in 1967, "and this is just putting one foot in front of the other. There's no plan, no blueprint and no predestined fate." One decade into the Vietnam war, disillusioned students in California, New York, Mississippi, truly all around the country, began to protest as the draft loomed over them: "Hell no, I ain't going!" spoken at a rally in Mississippi, became "Hell no, we won't go!" in New York. And in San Francisco, "Make Love Not War," and "Tune In, Turn On and Drop Out" became slogans to live by. Known as "hippies" by outsiders, they were known as members of "the Tribe" by insiders. "If there is trouble," said the young man who spoke of being on a spiritual journey, "it will come from the outside. The outside community has reacted in fear. They are scared of things they don't understand within themselves." Let's take a kaleidoscopic glance back at these years of radical change and see if we can perhaps understand ourselves better, and our own spiritual journeys, because of it.

## SHARING CIRCLE

### *Personal Authenticity*

Sunday, August 8 & 22, 11 a.m.

“The movement to myself, from mask to face, from personality to person, from performing actor to ruler of the inner chamber, is the spiritual journey.” — Ravi Ravindran

When we began to think in terms of “What is life post-pandemic?” my son and I had some fun making up post-pandemic acronyms. Most thought-provoking was PPPR: Post-Pandemic Persona Restoration. Many people will go back to their old persona as they emerge into full social engagement. What has changed in you since the pandemic? After the opportunity to be away from social identity during quarantine, does that social identity still fit? How do you ever know what is authentically you, and what is the costume that smooths your entry into relationships? Is there more or less difference between the two as you grow older? What are your experiences in balancing your private and public selves?

For more information, contact Dennis Scott at [bridge4fun@mac.com](mailto:bridge4fun@mac.com), or call 575-224-1055.

## UCOT Men's Group

August 18

The UU Men's Group will meet Wednesday, Aug. 18, at 4:30 p.m., via Zoom. All who are fully vaccinated are invited to meet in person. Those who wish can join by Zoom. Contact [Dennis Scott](mailto:Dennis Scott) for a Zoom invitation.

## UCOT Sunday Services at the Masonic Lodge Postponed

Due to the recent rise in COVID-19 cases and the increase in the positive test rates for Taos County, the Board has made the decision to postpone in-person services at the Lodge. Our concern continues to be the health and safety of our Members and guests. We will continue to monitor the data for Taos County as a first step in making any decision to return to in-person services and Circles. I would prefer NOT to do a start-stop process by going back to the Lodge only to have to return to Zoom if the COVID-19 numbers deteriorate.

Glad to respond to any questions or concerns.

Bob Aubrecht, UCOT President

(575) 758-9675

[aubrecht@taosnet.com](mailto:aubrecht@taosnet.com)

## Update on the Little Food Pantry

Mimi Owensby

Almost empty. Just a few cans were what greeted me when I went to replenish the box on Friday. By the time I'd added water, juice, cereal, granola bars, peanuts, ramen dinners, peanut butter, fruit cups, cans of chili, Chef Boyardee beef ravioli, tuna, chicken, and tuna lunch packs, it was full. Our box is located in front of Taosnet, and a few weeks ago, the owner came out to speak with me. He thanked me, and all the others of us, for filling it every day and for keeping the area clean. He also said that the box gets a lot of business.

Thank you, congregation members, for your support. Your donations and pledges are doing good work. The other members of our committee are Mary Gray, Margot Coleman, Elaine Taylor, Linda Aubrecht, Patsy Scott, and Bette Myerson.

## Fifth Sunday Program

Sunday, August 29

Our second Chautauqua program will build on the May panel on water, land and forest issues in Taos by focusing on water-related challenges here in Taos and Northern New Mexico. The program will be held on Zoom at 11 a.m. on August 29, 2021. The Planning Group is working out the details of the program to include speakers and specific issues to be covered in the presentations. With the continued drought conditions in the Southwest, water concerns and policy take on even more importance for us.



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Mary McPhail Gray
- 6 Bob Silver
- 8 Wally Cox
- 13 Mary Rodgers
- 14 Sally Savage
- 16 Jeanne Montclair
- 22 Mya Coursey

**Music Committee News**  
**Gael Minton**

Our special musical guest on Sunday August 15 will be Kim Bakkum on piano.

**Here's Itzhak!**



Itzhak Perlman was born August 31, 1945, in Israel. Maybe you have heard him play or seen these films. If so, you can enjoy them again—two beautiful films with music and family, 38 years apart. If you are interested, one of his Juilliard students is here this summer with the Taos School of Music: Clara Neubauer (age 19). She performed the Schubert *Piano Trio in B Flat major* at Taos Ski Valley July 12th. It was breathtaking, and her teacher Itzhak (76 this August) would have been very proud!

Perlman is considered the greatest living violinist, and you will see why in these two films: [2016 documentary trailer](#), [1978 documentary](#) (58 minutes).

**A Memorial for Lydia Davis**

On Monday, July 26, several UU members plus a couple of others got together at Phyllis Hotch's house to remember Lydia Davis. What struck all of us was that despite her personal authenticity (see this month's Sharing Circle topic!), each of us saw her in a different way and for different reasons. Most remarked that they were grateful to have connected with her because she was interesting, generous, and creative, among her many other fine qualities.

Marianne Furedi gave us a little history of Lydia's life. One of the most fascinating aspects was that she was born in Ukraine and transported with her mother and father to a displaced person's camp in Germany. She was five years old before they were able to enter the United States permanently.

Marianne Furedi and Mya Coursey both read a poem written by Phyllis Hotch and chosen for Lydia, "Fighting the Urge." When each read the word thunder, the thunder clapped outside on that stormy afternoon! Mya read a Stanley Kunitz poem, "The Layers," which Lydia had loved and read at Mya's Poetry Salon; Marianne read the words to a Ukrainian memorial song.

Each of us were grateful just to listen to the others' perspectives. And it renewed our in-person connections, seeing how we give each other's lives meaning just by offering our presence and a listening ear. —Barbara Scott

**UCOT Treasurer's Report**  
**Jan. 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021**

The following is a summary of the UCOT First Half financials:

<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Regular Pledges	Budget \$17,000	Actual \$19,165
Plate/Donations	Budget \$1,000	Actual \$865
LFP Pledges	Budget \$770	Actual \$1,540
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>Budget \$18,770</b>	<b>Actual \$21,570</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>Budget \$19,017</b>	<b>Actual \$15,631</b>
Balance in checking account at		
Centinel Bank on 6/30/21 .....		\$85,367
UCOT Cares II donations received.....		\$ 7,850
UCOT Match .....		\$ 5,000
UCOT Cares II distributions .....		\$12,850
Total short- and long-term reserves .....		\$85,367
2021 operating reserve .....		\$19,000
Net long-term reserve.....		\$66,367

The UCOT Cares II campaign was very successful, with the final totals shown above. Many people have been blessed by your incredible generosity!

Also, as of June 30, we have received \$1,540 of increased pledges toward our goal of \$2,200 for the Little Food Pantry (LFP). So, we still need \$660 by the end of this year to meet that goal. If you haven't already contributed toward the Little Food Pantry, thank you in advance for doing so!

Sincerely,  
 Joe Mazza, UCOT Treasurer