

The Unitarian  
Congregation  
of Taos  
October 2021  
Bulletin Board



Sun., Oct. 3	Service: <i>What's Next and What's Our Role?</i> Rev. Mike Olsen
Sun., Oct. 10	Sharing Circle: <i>Preparing for Winter</i> (via email)
Sun., Oct. 17	Service: <i>Psalms of Life</i> Rev. Gary Kowalski with Special Music by Julie Hawley
Wed., Oct. 20	Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 24	Sharing Circle: <i>Preparing for Winter</i> (on Zoom)
Sun., Oct. 31	5th Sunday Program: <i>Regional Water Issues</i>

### *On My Mind*

Rev. Gary Kowalski

People like to hear that they are great. We love praise. Probably it's because so many of us are secretly insecure. We need affirmation because inwardly we focus on our frailties and failures. For instance, I can give a twenty-minute talk and fret over the one word I mispronounced, or play a song on the guitar and agonize over one wrong note. I remember goofs from years ago. This is not just a personal idiosyncrasy, but a general rule. In sports, for example, Novak Djokovic recently came close to winning four major tennis tournaments in a row—the Australian, French, and U.S. Open along with Wimbledon—which would have established his reputation as one of the greatest athletes of all time. But he suffered a loss in his final, championship match. The agony of that single defeat was enough to make him sob out loud, overshadowing the satisfaction of all his previous victories. Psychologists and economists have the same finding. The pleasure of winning one hundred dollars is substantially less than the pain incurred by losing the same amount. By the same token, almost any slight or criticism cuts deep. We take scolding or reproval—or even friendly suggestions for how we might improve—to heart. It takes an extra measure of encouragement for us to feel that we're actually good enough.

I suppose the greatest gifts we can give to other people are acceptance and appreciation. This is one of the traditional functions of faith: a sense of being all right with God or okay with the universe. It's close to what the New Testament means by agape or unconditional regard, making people feel they are worthy and special just by being human. But you don't have to be religious to confer this gift. It's in everyone's power.

Maybe I should try just for one day to give a big, juicy compliment to everyone I encounter. For example, say something nice on the phone to the appointment lady at the dermatologist's office. Withhold my snarky comment from that Facebook post and say something positive instead. Tell my wife

she's looking fabulous and is way smarter than me (which is really only the truth.) If I followed through with that plan, handing out approval like it was free and didn't cost me anything, how do you think my day would go?

Thanks for listening. You bring out my best! –Gary

### *What's Next and What's Our Role*

Rev. Mike Olsen

Sunday, October 3

Have you struggled with the chaos and forced social isolation of the last two years? Have you questioned whether the suffering that surrounds us will ever end? Where can I find hope and peace? As I pondered these questions I came across a quote by Archbishop Desmond Tutu that spoke to me.

Archbishop Tutu wrote: "Our God is an expert at dealing with chaos, with brokenness, with all the worst that we can imagine. God created order out of disorder, cosmos out of chaos, and God can do so always, can do so now—in our personal lives and in our lives as nations, globally. ... Indeed, God is transforming the world now—through us—because God loves us." *God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time*.

*See your weekly email for the Zoom link.*

### *Psalms of Life*

Rev. Gary Kowalski

Sunday, October 17

Special Music by Julie Hawley

Unitarian Universalists have contributed greatly to American life, producing presidents, preachers, prophets and philosophers. But our greatest impact has been through our poets. This morning Gary shares a selection of the verse that comforted, challenged and inspired our nation.

*See your weekly email for the Zoom link.*

## SHARING CIRCLE\*

### Preparing for Winter

Sunday, October 10 & 24, 11 a.m.

Winter can be arduous for humans—the cold, the long nights and short days for several months. If one grew up, whether in the Southern hemisphere or Northern hemisphere, relatively far from the Equator, adapting to the conditions of winter is deeply imbedded in body and mind. Experiencing and living through winter is enhanced with preparation. Consider this shortest winter poem by Emily Dickinson: *Winter under cultivation is as arable as Spring.*

Winter requires cultivating the capacity to maintain health and sanity. The American southwest is an extraordinary place to enjoy winter. Preparation is still necessary. How do you prepare?

For information on how to join, contact Dennis Scott at [bridge4fun@mac.com](mailto:bridge4fun@mac.com).

### Fifth Sunday Program

Sunday, October 31

On October 31, 2021 the Fifth Sunday Planning Group will host our third Chautauqua presentation at 11 a.m. via Zoom. The program will continue our look at water-related issues in Taos and Northern New Mexico, following the panel on August 29. This upcoming program will focus on the Taos Pueblo Water Rights Settlement which was briefly covered during the discussion with Peter Vigil and Andy Martinez. The program will last about an hour including J.R. Logan's presentation followed by a question and answer period.

J.R. Logan will present an update on the current status of the Taos Pueblo Water Rights Settlement and the outlook for its progress in the near future. J. R. has been a reporter for The Taos News and is active in several Taos community organizations. J.R. Has followed the Taos Pueblo Water Rights Settlement for several years and will share his perspective in this critical issue for the structure of water resource uses.

Please let your friends know about this program, since we would like it to be a service to the broader Taos community in the hopes of educating ourselves about key issues of the day.

## Music Committee News

Gael Minton

For the October 17 service, we welcome Taos Celtic Harpist Julie Hawley for a special musical performance. In 2010 she released a CD with Will Yoder *A Guide to Dreams*.



And this October, we celebrate cellist YoYo Ma's 66th birthday on October 7th.



Born in Paris, he has been performing since he was four and a half. At seven he played with his sister at the White House. He alternates between playing a 1733 Montagnana cello and a 1722 Stradivari cello, formerly owned by 19th century cellist Karl Davydov and recently by Jacqueline du Pre.

If you have watched and heard YoYo Ma play music in all styles—classical, jazz, folk, Brazilian, and Silk Road—you know his exuberance and range of sensibility. As an interpreter of great music, Ma is dedicated to living in the mind of the composer and says "One is involved in a process larger than oneself." David Blum's profile of Ma in *Quintet—Five Journeys Toward Musical Fulfillment* (1999) fully captures this amazing human being.

To listen to Ma play the [six Bach cello suites](#) and the [five Beethoven sonatas for cello and piano](#) (Emanuel Ax) is to be transported and connected with all living beings.

## The President's Corner Bob Aubrecht

October is Pledge month for our Congregation. We will ask you to renew your pledge for 2022. If you have NOT made a pledge in the past, please consider making a pledge for the coming year. Pledge income makes up 95 % of the Congregation's total income. Your pledges for next year allow the Board to develop a realistic budget for the year and to make the necessary financial commitments for 2022.

You will receive a pledge packet from Joe Mazza, our Treasurer. You can expect a follow-up telephone call from one of our pledge volunteers. If you have any questions which the volunteer is unable to answer, please call or email me or Joe. Please take time to complete your pledge for 2022 and return your pledge form to Joe by the end October. Thank you for your continued support of UCOT.

## UCOT Men's Group October 20

The UU Men's Group will meet Wednesday, October 20 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](mailto:bridge4fun@mac.com) for a Zoom invitation.



## ✿ OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS ✿

- 4 Ray Taylor
- 26 Dianne Frost
- 27 Michael Burney
- 27 Robert Spillers
- 31 Marsha Fawns

## Support for Medical Debt Relief Bette Myerson

Please consider contributing, through UCOT, to this [very important program](#). You can do so by sending a check to UCOT at P.O. Box 510, Taos, NM 87571, and our Treasurer Joe Mazza will see that Holy Cross Hospital gets this money to help cancel people's medical bills. The deadline is October 20. The amounts contributed will go on your year-end letter for tax purposes. Please indicate on the memo line of the check that the contribution is for "medical debt relief" so that Joe can keep things straight. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Bette Myerson, 575-758-3376,  
[bette@taosnetcom](mailto:bette@taosnetcom).

