

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
April 2022
Bulletin Board



- Sun., Apr. 3 Service: *America in One Room*
Rev. Gary Kowalski (on Zoom)
- Sun., Apr. 10 Sharing Circle: *Resurrection* (on Zoom)
- Sun., Apr. 17 Service: *Of Rabbits and Resurrection*
Rev. Munro Sickafoose (on Zoom)
- Wed., Apr. 20 Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
- Sun., Apr. 24 Sharing Circle: *Each in Turn* (on Zoom)

On My Mind
Rev. Gary Kowalski

Faith is the reality of things hoped for, the proof of things not seen. It was their faith that made our ancestors reach for the heavens.

Because of faith, Noah built the ark and received the rainbow sign.

Because of faith, Abraham left his homeland and set out for a country he had never seen.

Because of faith, Moses left Egypt and Miriam hurled Pharaoh's horse and rider into the sea.

Because of faith, Joshua circled the city of Jericho and the walls came tumbling down.

Because of faith Rosa sat, Martin marched, and John Lewis knelt to pray.

Because of faith, Mandela persevered, Zelensky held fast.

What else can I say? There isn't enough time to tell about all the prophets: Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, Ida B. Wells and Fanny Lou Hamer; Mohandas Gandhi, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Oscar Romero, and Harvey Milk. Many were tortured, others beaten, and some chained in jail. Their faith helped them conquer kingdoms, and because they did right, they were pleasing unto God.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

Lift up your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight the paths for your feet. Pursue peace. "*A Riff on Hebrews 11-12*"

—Gary



America in One Room
Rev. Gary Kowalski
Sunday, April 3

Is ours a democracy in decline? A majority of both Republicans and Democrats say it's so. The signs are everywhere. Armed militias, rising hate crimes, book banning, brawls over public schools, declining trust in public institutions. This morning Gary reflects on the state of the union and what Unitarians Universalists bring to the task of healing and repair.

See your weekly email for the Zoom link.

Of Rabbits and Resurrection
Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Sunday, April 17

What can Bugs Bunny can teach us about facing our environmental problems? More than you might think. Some lessons from the wild side of nature, myth, and folklore.

See your weekly email for the Zoom link.

A Note from Pianist Martha Grossman

I don't usually contribute any explanation in the newsletter for the music I choose to play at the services. However, in the case of my selections to accompany Gary's April 3 address, "America in One Room," I felt it would be in order. One of the pieces is entitled "Petit Portrait (ABE)," composed by Aaron Copland. Three bass notes, A-B-E, dominate the piece. At times repetition of these three notes makes for what you may feel is unnecessary discordance. However, that was Copland's choice. The other piece I'll play was written by a contemporary American composer, Thomas Newman, a writer of many scores for movies. You may recognize this piece as background music for the 1999 film, "American Beauty."

—Martha

SHARING CIRCLES*

Resurrection

April 10

When we think of resurrection as a verb, it becomes a spiritual practice in daily life.

Can you think of a time when you experienced what you would call a resurrection? Are you in need of resurrection? Can you be the vehicle for the resurrection?

Each in Turn

April 24

Using a virtual “talking stick” each person can speak in turn on whatever is in their hearts or minds to share with others whatever is relevant to them in the moment.

The Talking Stick historically, is an instrument of aboriginal democracy used by many tribes on many continents. Different tribes sometimes use different symbolic objects instead of a stick. The special object is passed around the group, allowing each person to speak in turn on whatever is in their hearts or minds.

We will utilize a similar approach and process, given the limitations of Zoom for object passing. Take a moment to choose an object close to your heart which you can hold in your hand (a favorite stone or ring or memento) while you are speaking – if you so choose!

**Until further notice, all Sharing Circles are held on Zoom. See your weekly email for the Zoom link.*

Sharing Circle Facilitators Needed

The Sharing Circle Steering Committee thanks all members who have stepped up to facilitate our Sharing Circles this year. We are off to a great start! We still have opening for at least a few more members to facilitate. If interested, please contact the Sharing Circle Steering Committee via email at SharingCircleSteeringCommittee@gmail.com



UCOT Men's Group

April 20

The UU Men's Group will meet Wednesday, April 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](#).

Music Committee News

Gael Minton

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's 9th Symphony!

Beethoven began work on his 9th symphony in 1821 with the purpose of creating a piece that would arouse hope and confidence in human transformation. In the early 19th century, the European world, emerging from the collapse of the Napoleonic Empire, experienced the return of repression and political tyranny.

One of Beethoven's most recent biographers Lewis Lockwood, 2003, writes: *In the mind of the general public there are actually two "Ninth Symphonies." One is the "Ode to Joy" itself, as a choral anthem; the other is the symphony as a complex work, a large-scale four-movement cycle.*

Beethoven wrote his own introductory lines to Friedrich Schiller's 1785 poem:

O Freunde, nicht diese Töne! Sondern laßt uns angenehmere anstimmen, und freudenvollere. Freude!

Oh friends, not these sounds. Let us instead strike up more pleasing and more joyful ones! Joy!

Note, that in German, 'Friends' and 'Joy' are nearly the same word. Reading the [full text of Schiller's poem](#), it is clear why Beethoven chose it for his time in history and why it remains powerful for our time—as we are currently living through a horrific period of Russia's 8-year war against Ukraine. It is undeniable that the start of the 21st century has been war-filled.

To quote Lockwood again, *By using Schiller's "Ode" to directly address humanity at large, Beethoven conveys the struggle to work through experience from tragedy to idealism, and to preserve the image of human brotherhood as a defense against darkness.*

Of the many flash-mob performances of the *Ode to Joy* [this is my favorite from May 19, 2012](#) in the Catalan town of Sabadell, Spain.



The first performance of the *9th Symphony* was on May 7, 1824. Let's keep this music alive!

Planning for 2022 UCOT 5th Sunday Programs

The Planning Group is hard at work to plan the three 5th Sunday programs for 2022. We would like as much input from our Members as possible in the selection of topics and speakers for these programs.

To that end, Gael Minton and Bob Aubrecht will lead a brief discussion after the Services on **March 27** and **April 6** to get preferences for the three programs. Please stay for 15-20 minutes to learn about possible themes for 2022. They will present four possible themes including:

- Small scale agriculture in Taos and local food sourcing
- Housing issues and challenges in Taos
- Impacts of climate change on Taos and Northern NM
- Health and medical care issues for seniors in Taos

The plan would be to select one of these themes to build a detailed plan for the three 5th Sundays, including specifics and speakers. The goal of the Planning Group is to select a theme with the most interest among UCOT Members and friends.

If you are unable to join either of these Services and would like to voice your preference, please contact Gael or Bob via email or phone by April 10, 2022. [Gael Minton](mailto:Gael.Minton@ucot.org), (575) 751-4681, [Bob Aubrecht](mailto:Bob.Aubrecht@ucot.org), (575) 770-0280.

Spring Cleaning of UCOT's Highway Mile Saturday, April 16

Meet at **10 a.m.** in the **Masonic Lodge parking lot** to organize carpools. From there we'll head south to Highway 68 between mile markers 39 and 40.

Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, sunscreen, and work gloves. Hat and water bottle recommended. Wally will bring the roadside safety signs, reflective vests, trash bags. Clean-up usually takes about two hours, after which some may choose to get together for lunch at a local eatery.

IF YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE or have questions, please contact Wally Cox at (575) 224-1234 or al74fa@gmail.com by April 15. THANK YOU!

Appreciations for Taos Medical Debt Relief Program

The following are letters that the Charitable Giving Committee received from recipients of the Medical Debt Relief Project.

Dear good people of the Taos Medical Debt Relief Project – I received your letter on Christmas Eve. When I read the message, my eyes immediately filled with tears. Your letter has taken a great weight off my shoulders and I want to express my appreciation from the bottom of my heart to all who participate in this caring service.

To Taos Medical Debt Relief Project – I thank you all for your generosity of paying my hospital bill that was owed to Holy Cross Hospital. I am truly blessed to be a part of this community that has such a caring heart. Thank all of you! Bless all of you – you are truly angels.

Thank you – I appreciate the program in supporting me and my family in paying our outstanding (\$609.84) medical bill. This has been extremely helpful during this time.

To Whom it May Concern: Thank you for paying the debt I owed to Holy Cross Hospital. I greatly appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity of the spiritual communities who contribute to the Medical Debt Relief Project. Again, thank you for all you are doing for the Taos community.

Taos Medical Debt Relief Project – Thank you for what you are doing! Bless you!

Thank you thank you – this was an amazing surprise! Thank you so much, you have no idea how much it means to me. Thank you again!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 3 | Sid Bender |
| 22 | Marianne Furedi |
| 25 | Bette Myerson |

