

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
April 2023
Bulletin Board



- Sun., April 2 Service: *How To Be Nice*
Rev. Gary Kowalski
- Sun., April 9 Sharing Circle: *Judgment or Curiosity?*
- Sun., April 16 Service: *Remembrance Day*
Rev. Munro Sickafoose
- Wed., April 19 Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.
- Sun., April 23 Sharing Circle: *Open Topic*
- Sun., April 30 Fifth Sunday: *Taos Housing Issues*

On My Mind
Rev. Gary Kowalski

Churches are weird.

As religious institutions, they elevate the ultimate questions of human meaning and destiny. No other organization — not the university, not government, not even the arts (well, maybe the arts) attempts to address the issue of what makes life worth living. And yet churches can get entangled in the most miniscule quibbles.

Congregations are like nothing else. They resemble families and may be embroiled in both the feuding and the higher loyalties families engender, but they are not families, or businesses, or advocacy organizations. They are impractical and inefficient, like holidays are inefficient, like kindling candles when light bulbs would be easier,

What do people bring to their faith communities? They bring their yearnings to live more deeply and authentically, to rise above the quotidian concerns of getting and spending in order to become kinder, more thoughtful, more fully realized and happier human beings. But they also bring all the inevitable baggage of egos and personalities that can be cranky and crotchety.

Churches are weird and wonderful. They are liable to disappoint and can make your spirit soar. They measure success by intangibles. They are in the world but not entirely of the world.

Your faith, patience, good humor and tolerance are what make this curious hybrid possible.

— Gary

UCOT Men's Group
April 19

The UU Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, April 19, at 4:00 p.m. Contact Chuck Fawns for location (kyspirit@taosnet.com).

How To Be Nice
Rev. Gary Kowalski
Sunday, April 2, 11 a.m.

When so many of our social institutions are fraught with discord and division, how can we work to insure that our congregations remain havens of goodwill and tolerance? This morning our minister suggests that conflict is inevitable in every human organization. What matters is whether we fight over the right things, and engage our differences in a healthy manner. A talkback will follow the service, with lunch at Guadalajara south afterward.

Remembrance Day
Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Sunday, April 16, 11 a.m.

April 17 is Yom HaShoah — a national day of commemoration in Israel, on which the 6 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust are memorialized. But the Holocaust is not the only atrocity we need to remember, commemorate the victims, and honor the heroes, named and unnamed.

Taos Housing Issues
Fifth Sunday Program
Sunday, April 30, 11 a.m.

Taos Housing Issues will be the first 5th Sunday program for 2023. Our two speakers — Mayor Pascual Maestas and District III County Commissioner Darlene Vigil — will bring their expertise and perspectives to this complex issue. We look forward to your attendance and welcoming these distinguished public officeholders to UCOT. We (Gael & Irene) encourage questions emailed prior to April 30 and in writing the day of the program. Submit questions to Gael Minton: sbfarm03@gmail.com and Irene Burton: irenetaoshome@gmail.com.

SHARING CIRCLES

Judgment or Curiosity?

April 9 • 11 a.m.

“Be curious, not judgmental.”

— Misattributed to Walt Whitman by Ted Lasso

Judgment is a strictly human quality. It diminishes all our experiences, and yet we seem incapable of doing anything to curb it. Although we are judging all the time, we universally resent the feeling of being judged.

How has judgment affected the way you see the world? Have you found any antidotes that keep you out of judgment? If so, come share them with us. If not, we can at least engage in the practice of openly listening to one another without judgment.

Open-Topic Sharing Circle

April 23 • 11 a.m.

Passing a talking stick, each person can speak in turn about anything on their heart or mind (or may choose to pass). We listen and speak from the heart. All expressions are held in confidence. There is no cross talk, response to other’s sharing (such as feedback or suggestions), or obvious reactions by facial expression, vocalizations of sympathy, etc. In other words, this is not a discussion or therapy group but rather a sacred space we create together in which all are safe to feel, access, and express deep feelings and perceptions without concern of any response or evaluation from others.

UCOT Book Club

Thursday, April 27, 10:30 a.m.

Death Comes to the Archbishop

by Willa Cather (fiction)

Location to be announced. See weekly email.

Often considered Cather’s masterpiece, this captivating narrative celebrates the natural beauty of New Mexico. Set in the mid-19th century, at the center of the novel are two French Jesuits — Bishop Jean Marie Latour and his friend Father Joseph Vaillant — who bring religious faith and comfort to the newly acquired U.S. territory of New Mexico. Cather presents them as strong, committed men, flawed, like all of us are, but good at heart.

2023 Fifth Sunday Programs

Taos Housing Issues, held on **April 30**, will be the first 5th Sunday program for 2023.

The second 5th Sunday program, **July 30**, to be presented by UCOT member Richard Rubin, will illuminate the land ethic of Aldo Leopold and the possible applications in our Taos ecosphere.

The third 5th Sunday, **October 29**, will focus on Querencia — the deep experience and knowledge of place. Speakers will be announced at a later date.

Music Committee News

Gael Minton

Remember I mentioned last month my friend oboist Peggy Pearson, who says “things go better with strings”? The repertoire for just strings is immense and rich with color, tone and harmony.

For your pleasure all month, see what you think of this selection.



Johann Sebastian Bach, [*Brandenburg Concerto No. 6*](#), 1708-1721 (16 minutes)

Mendelssohn, [*String Symphony No. 8 D Major*](#) 1822 (24 minutes) and [*Op. 20, String Octet in E-flat Major*](#) for double string quartet, 1825 (33 minutes)

The Arnold Schoenberg [*10 Waltzes for Strings*](#), 1897 (16 minutes) were a discovery I have never heard live. Be surprised and enjoy!

Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, and Dvorak also composed string quintets with two violas; Dvorak and Elgar’s Serenade and Elegy all respectively are beautiful.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Sid Bender
- 5 Julian Spalding
- 22 Marianne Furedi
- 22 Richard Rubin
- 25 Bette Myerson