

The Unitarian  
Congregation  
of Taos  
June 2023  
Bulletin Board



- Sun., June 4 Service: *Flower Communion*  
Rev. Gary Kowalski
- Sun., June 11 Sharing Circle: *Surrender*
- Sun., June 18 Service: *Dance With the Ones That  
Brung Ya, Part 2*, Rev. Munro Sickafoose
- Tues., June 20 Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m., Martyrs
- Wed., June 21 Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.
- Thurs., June 22 UCOT Book Club, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
- Sun., June 25 Sharing Circle: *Open Topic*

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

The Unitarian Congregation of Taos is an intentional religious community. Our goal is to help people to live more consciously and abundantly. How do we do this?

By setting aside times and places for people to ponder perennial questions of where to find happiness and how to prioritize so we don't waste our time and lives on petty pursuits.

By nurturing relationships where we can experience empathy and acceptance, enabling us to overcome feelings of being not-quite-good-enough and allowing our healthier selves to take root and flourish.

By helping us feel grounded and connected to realities larger than our individual selves: the cycles of nature, the sweep of history, and the journey inward, where the psyche encounters regions known only through dreams, myths and metaphors.

By providing opportunities for service and activism, helping us to become the change we want to see in the world.

By having fun, reminding us that it is a blessing simply to be alive and enjoy the pleasure of one another's company.

The Unitarian Congregation of Taos is a co-creative enterprise. The more time and heart you put into it, the more you will likely get out of it.

If you have been attending our congregation and would like to make this your spiritual home, please talk to me, Munro or a board member about joining us. Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on life's path, we welcome you to our gathering of friendship and ideals.

—Gary



**Flower Communion**  
**Rev. Gary Kowalski**  
Sunday, June 4, 11 a.m.

What's blooming in your garden? Bring a flower to the service with you this Sunday morning as we celebrate 100 years of Flower Communion, a ceremony created by Reverend Norbert Capek of the Unitarian Church in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and now observed by liberal churches around the world. Just as flowers delight, so too the example of those who live courageously, by principle. We will exchange our flowers as part of the ritual, enriched by our colorful bouquet of viewpoints and beliefs.



**Dance With the Ones That Brung Ya, Part 2**  
**Rev. Munro Sickafoose**  
Sunday, June 18, 11 a.m.

The expression "Dance With The One That Brung Ya" is way of saying stay loyal and true to the people who supported you and "brought" you to where you are. But that can be extended to the ideas and processes and beliefs that got you where you are. We continue the exploration begun in May.

**UCOT Men's Group**  
June 21

The UU Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, June 21, at 4:00 p.m. Contact Chuck Fawns for location ([kyspirit@taosnet.com](mailto:kyspirit@taosnet.com)).

## SHARING CIRCLES

### *Surrender*

June 11 • 11 a.m.

“Stress only happens when you resist life’s events. If you’re neither pushing life away, nor pulling it toward you, then you are not creating any resistance. You are simply present. In this state, you are just witnessing and experiencing the events of life taking place. If you choose to live this way, you will see that life can be lived in the state of peace.” —Michael A. Singer, *The Untethered Soul*

Let’s explore the ways that surrendering to what is becomes a path to greater contentment in each moment of our lives. Surrender rather than resistance opens doors and leads to an openness to joy and gratitude and generosity.

How has surrendering to things as they are worked for each of us? Let’s share our stories from the heart about ways that serendipity and blessings appear in our lives when we accept reality.

### Open-Topic Sharing Circle

June 25 • 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). 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.



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Sara Sautter
- 15 Michael Martinez
- 16 Carol Doughty
- 19 Patsy Scott

## UCOT Music News

Gael Minton

For this Summer Solstice month, revel in lively dance tunes, complex rhythms, and modal scales of Balkan, Middle Eastern, and Celtic music.

Miguel Berkemeier is a violinist and guitarist from Portugal who plays with nature as his setting. Enjoy this [Music for Litha/Summer Solstice](#) (22 minutes).



*Radio Free Bassanda*

Here in Taos, on May 14, a band of local musicians—Radio Free Bassanda!—offered a concert in their unique style with many different Eastern and Western instruments. You may have heard this band live and felt their joyful energy. After hearing these five musicians live, I will say their individual talent and their ensemble sensitivity is extraordinary. Be sure to catch them next time they play in Taos!

[Here’s a 2-minute clip.](#)

### Monthly Women’s Lunch

Third Tuesday Monthly

Our first monthly Women’s Lunch was held on Tuesday, May 16, at Martyrs. Sponsored by the Membership and Connections Team, these luncheons provide our UCOT women an opportunity to grow friendships in a delicious atmosphere! You and your guests are invited. We begin with a personal check-in and then let the conversation flow.

RSVP for our June 20 luncheon [here](#).

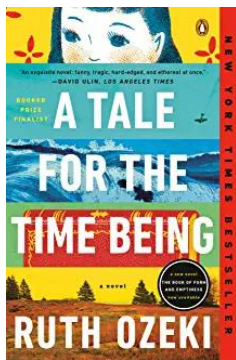
### UCOT Book

Meets the Fourth Thursday

10:30 a.m. at SOMOS

In a nod to gardening weather, we’ve given ourselves two months to read Ruth Ozeki’s *A Tale for Time Being*. We’ll discuss it on June 22.

*(Continued on page 3)*



In Tokyo, sixteen-year-old Nao has decided there's only one escape from her aching loneliness and her classmates' bullying. But before she ends it all, Nao first plans to document the life of her great grandmother, a Buddhist nun who's lived more than a century. A diary is Nao's only solace—and will touch lives in ways she can scarcely imagine.

Across the Pacific, we meet Ruth, a novelist living on a remote island who discovers a collection of artifacts washed ashore in a Hello Kitty lunchbox—possibly debris from the devastating 2011 tsunami. As the mystery of its contents unfolds, Ruth is pulled into the past, into Nao's drama and her unknown fate, and forward into her own future.

Full of Ozeki's signature humor and deeply engaged with the relationship between writer and reader, past and present, fact and fiction, quantum physics, history, and myth, *A Tale for the Time Being* is a brilliantly inventive, beguiling story of our shared humanity and the search for home.

The July Selection (July 27) will be *An Inconvenient Apocalypse: Environmental Collapse, Climate Crisis, and the Fate of Humanity*, by Wes Jackson and Robert Jensen. Professor Jensen will join us for the discussion.

Confronting harsh ecological realities and the multiple cascading crises facing our world today, *An Inconvenient Apocalypse* argues that humanity's future will be defined not by expansion but by contraction. Though these massive challenges can feel overwhelming, Jackson and Jensen weave a secular reading of theological concepts—the prophetic, the apocalyptic, a saving remnant, and grace—to chart a collective, realistic path for humanity not only to survive our apocalypse but also to emerge on the other side with a renewed appreciation of the larger living world.

Happy reading! —[Sara Sautter](#)

## UCOT Highway 68 Cleanup

**A BIG THANK YOU** to the Highway 68 Clean Up Crew, who worked diligently to fill LOTS of trash bags with roadside litter! The crew consisted of Joe Mazza, Emily Gillispie, Helen Rynaski, Barbara Reed, Be Scott, Michael Burney, Mya Coursey, and Wally Cox. (Photo courtesy of Mya Coursey.)



Joe won the contest for “coolest roadside ‘artifact,’” with a little clay bear pipe. Other finds included a sign that read “Ground Control,” a pair of tiny scissors, and a Samsung Galaxy phone—none of them usable, unfortunately.

Thanks also to Wally Cox for scheduling and coordinating this event with the Highway Department.

## Membership and Connections Team Update

Annette Rubin, Jo Gall and [Sara Sautter](#)

A new-member ritual will be held on June 18. If you have been thinking about membership at UCOT and are ready to become a member of our faith community, please contact Sara at the above email address.

We have welcomed eight new members since our last New Member Sunday in November, bringing our total membership to 65. Wahoo! Please plan to come and personally welcome these new members into our faith community:

John and Irene Burton, Erich Kuerschner, Ellie Pope, Gyana Pendleton, Helen Rynaski, Julian Spalding, Kristen Woolf