

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
May 2023
Bulletin Board



Sun., May 7	Service: <i>The Last Lecture</i> Rev. Gary Kowalski
Sun., May 14	Sharing Circle: <i>Ancestor Legacies</i>
Tue., May 16	Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m.
Wed., May 17	Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.
Sun., May 21	Service: <i>Dance With the One That Brung Ya</i> , Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Sat., May 27	UCOT Book Club, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., May 28	Sharing Circle: <i>Open Topic</i>

The Fourth Smooth Stone
Rev. Munro Sickafoose

James Luther Adams helped frame liberal religion with the term five smooth stones, a metaphor that comes from the Biblical account of David picking five smooth stones for his sling before going up against Goliath. In March, I wrote about the third smooth stone and continue this month with the fourth: *We deny the immaculate conception of virtue and affirm the necessity of social incarnation.*

By this he means that our faith must be made real in the world through action, and not just through the actions of individuals. He puts this quite clearly when he states, "The decisive forms of goodness in society are institutional forms." He goes on to say that "The faith of the liberal must express itself in societal forms, in the forms of education, in economic and social organization, in political organization. Without these, freedom and justice in community are impossible... The creation of justice in community requires the organization of power. Through the organization of power, liberated persons tie into history; otherwise they cannot achieve freedom in history. Injustice in community is a form of power, an abuse of power, and justice is an exercise of just and lawful institutional power."

How do we tell the difference? The temptation is to confuse power with justice, which is easily done. History is rife with examples of the powerless gaining power only to create new injustices in their turn. I think perhaps no person or institution is to be trusted with power at all, and that the use of power needs to be carefully monitored and limited, and that too much power should never be allowed to accumulate anywhere, be it economic, political, or in any other form. This then, is our work as a religion, to hold power in check that the greater good may flourish.

The Last Lecture
Rev. Gary Kowalski
Sunday, May 7, 11 a.m.

Fifteen years ago, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon made headlines and history with a classroom lecture, the last he would ever deliver. Randy Pausch's talk became a *New York Times* bestseller, with lessons that remain inspiring and timely. This morning, Gary revisits the professor's credo statement and the remarkable man behind it.

Dance With the One That Brung Ya
Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Sunday, May 21, 11 a.m.

The expression "Dance With The One That Brung Ya" is a way of saying stay loyal and true to the people that 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. Are we still dancing with the ones that brought us here?

UCOT Men's Group
May 17

The UU Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, May 17, at 4:00 p.m. Contact Chuck Fawns for location (kyspirit@taosnet.com).



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Chuck Doughty
- 4 Marjorie Luckey
- 18 Madison Taylor
- 22 Barbara Martinez
- 25 Rachel Cohen

SHARING CIRCLES

Ancestor Legacies

May 14 • 11 a.m.

Aside from financial, what legacies did you inherit from your parents, ancestors, family...? Which traits and characteristics, for instance, do you most appreciate?

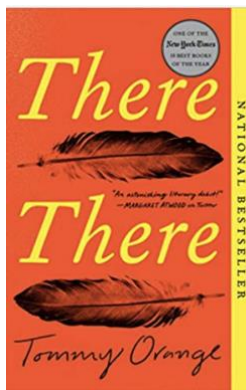
Open-Topic Sharing Circle

May 28 • 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.

UCOT Book Club — May Reading

Thursday, May 25, 10:30 a.m.



Join us at SOMOS (108 Civic Plaza Drive, Taos) on Thursday, May 25, at 10:30 a.m., when the UCOT book club meets to discuss *There, There*, by Tommy Orange

The winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize, this novel follows twelve Native characters travelling to the big Oakland Pow Wow, all connected in ways they have yet to realize. Tommy Orange will appear in Taos as the keynote speaker of this year's SOMOS writer's conference in July. And we want to be ready.

UCOT Book Club is open to all who love to read. Bring a beverage to enjoy and a dollar to drop in the basket for SOMOS.

Special Music: Rachael Penn & Billy Stewart Gael Minton



Rachael Penn (violinist, banjo player and singer) and Billy Stewart (banjo) will be special music guests at our May 21st service. They have been active in the Taos music scene for many years and are now excited to take their banjo/fiddle synergy into their new collaboration, The Cracked Pot Ramblers, where they have teamed with Jimmie Killingsworth (mandolin) and Robert Quijano (guitar and vocals) focusing on Old-Time and Irish fiddle, banjo, and Americana.

[Listen here](#) to the duo, Rachael & Billy, at Rolling Still in Taos and [here](#) to a performance of The Cracked Pot Ramblers at Adobe Bar in Taos.

Rachael and Billy have been playing music locally since 2000 and 2006 respectively. Rachael is currently working on a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling and music therapy at Lesley University.

[In this clip](#), Rachael presents her philosophy and the scope of her program.



Coffee Is Good; Tea Is Not Bad Either

How do we get to know new members? Visit with old friends? Chat with visitors? We enjoy a cup of coffee or tea after the service and share our news while learning what's going on in the lives of other congregants.

We need folks to brew coffee. It's not hard. Really. Pick a Sunday or three by going to this link and selecting the dates you can help. Directions are embedded in the [Sign-Up Genius link](#). There is also a copy in the storage cabinet at Bent Hall.

Thanks! **Enjoying fellowship after the service is important!**