

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
February 2024
Bulletin Board



Sun., Feb. 4	Service: <i>Thriving Together</i> , Rev. Christine Robinson
Thu., Feb. 8	UU Study Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., Feb. 11	Sharing Circle: <i>Can You Come Out and Play?</i>
Sun., Feb. 18	Service: <i>Love Is in the Details</i> , Rev. Jeanne Montclair
Tue., Feb. 20	UCOT Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m., Martyrs
Wed., Feb. 21	UCOT Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.
Thu., Feb. 22	UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., Feb. 25	Sharing Circle: <i>Open Topic</i>

Imagine
Rev. Jeanne Montclair

Happy New Year – again! The Chinese Lunar New Year of the Dragon begins amidst firework-studded parades featuring, yes, dragons, on February 10th. The Dragon is the only mythical creature of the Chinese zodiac. Associated with nobleness, honor, luck, creativity, and prosperity, traditionally the dragon is so favored by the Chinese that many couples plan to have their babies under this zodiac sign. Dragons are said to be supreme beings connecting Heaven and Earth and humans, able to control wind and rain, thus extremely influential in the success of farming in this traditionally agricultural society.

In Feng Shui (translation: Wind/Water), the Chinese art of placement, I have read of mountain ridges referred to as the back of the dragon. Here in Taos, we are surrounded by such dragon backs and know well of the effects they have on our weather and water supply. In myth there are always ribbons, or in this case rivers, of truth. I recall listening to local radio about our system for dealing with spring runoff. The man speaking imagined the water as a person, and said, in effect: “The water will feel as if we do not want it, because our system is designed to make it go away as soon as possible. We do not invite it to stay.”

With our ability to imagine, we create our reality with intention or by default. In the desert, water is precious because of its scarcity; we must use it responsibly. So too with imagination. If we imagine ourselves as creators or victims, one of these we shall be. Our current state of our world, local and global, may just lack imagination used responsibly.



Thriving Together
Rev. Christine Robinson
Sunday, February 4, 11 a.m.

We all want to thrive, and what that means differs during our lifespan. There are plenty of hints and tips about that, and I have a few of my own, especially about the life stages of “retirement” and “grandparent.” However, almost all the thinking I can dig up about thriving assumes that we can thrive all by ourselves, and I doubt that. We believe we are all connected, after all... and that would mean that we need to put some thought into how the thriving and non-thriving of others impacts us.

Christine is the Minister Emerita of First Unitarian in Albuquerque and has been an occasional pulpit guest many times over the years. She is a gardener, a gamer, and a new grandmother.

Love Is in the Details
Rev. Jeanne Montclair
Sunday, February 18, 11 a.m.

Within Black History Month are many diverse celebrations and holidays – from Imbolc (a Gaelic traditional festival from Feb. 1-2, which marks the midpoint between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, the beginning of the end of winter) to Leap Day on the 29th! February is FULL for those of us who may still be hibernating or nurturing ourselves and our relations by the fire or around the dinner table. The increase of daylight tells us: Spring is already stirring! Let's touch the heart of celebration and our own heart of hearts to prepare us to “leap” into spring!



SHARING CIRCLES

Can You Come Out to Play?

February 11, 11 a.m.

*"People do not quit playing because they grow old;
they grow old because they quit playing."*

– George Bernard Shaw

*"We are never more fully alive, more
completely ourselves, or more deeply engrossed in
anything than when we are playing."*

– Charles Schaefer, Psychologist,
the "Father of Play Therapy"

1. Think of a time in your life when you were really having FUN. What were you doing? What were you feeling? Can you share that story?

2. What were your favorite ways to play as a child? What made them interesting and exciting?

3. How do you "play" as an adult? Why do you value this kind of play?

Open Topic Sharing Circle

February 25, 11 a.m.

Using a virtual "talking stick," each person can speak in turn, sharing whatever is in their hearts or minds in the moment.

UCOT Women's Lunch

February 20, 12:15 p.m.

Third Tuesday Monthly

Martyrs Steakhouse

RSVP [here](#)

The UCOT Women's Lunch will meet at Martyrs on Tuesday, February 20, at 12:15 p.m. in Martyrs' separate back meeting space to enjoy a meal and conversation with UCOT members and friends. Join us as we enjoy delicious food and the company of other amazing women. Please RSVP to Patsy Scott, patsyscott67@mac.com by 10 a.m. on February 20.

UCOT Men's Group

February 21, 4:00 p.m.

Third Wednesday Monthly

The UU Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, February 21, at 4 p.m. Contact Chuck Fawns charles.fawns@gmail.com for location.

UU Study Group Second Thursday Monthly

February 8, 10:30 a.m.

Richard Rubin has initiated a monthly study group for those who wish to dive deeper into the texts written by Unitarians, including Rev. Gary Kowalski's *Revolutionary Spirits* and *Blessings of the Animals*, along with other UU books from the library of Sara Sautter. The idea germinated during Sara's UU 101 class.

If you, like Richard, are curious and interested in learning more about this rather revolutionary faith, you can join him and others at the SOMOS salon, which is reserved for the second Thursday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to noon. "No rules, no demands; come explore UU books," says Richard. For more information, you can email rlrubin46@gmail.com.



Music Committee News

Gael Minton

Through many interesting circumstances, southern Vermont (where I grew up) and southern New Hampshire (where Ty and I worked and lived for 30 years before moving to Taos in 2001) have a prominent place in classical chamber music history. For example, the [Apple Hill Chamber Music Center](#) in Nelson, NH, is beginning its 53rd season this year.

The *Apple Hill Playing for Peace* program began in 1988 with a two-week series of concerts and workshops between Israelis and Palestinians with the purpose of giving musicians an opportunity through playing chamber music together to build friendships beyond the conflict of their countries.

Our good friend violist Betty Hauck (pictured below), a founding member of Apple Hill, in 1971, is also a gifted writer. [Enjoy her writeup](#) of a favorite piece by the Apple Hill musicians, played in Sanders Hall (Harvard University, Cambridge, MA) during the blizzard of 1978.

Enjoy two recordings of this beautiful Antonin Dvorak String Quintet in G Op. 77 (1875), [Round Top Music Festival](#), Texas (37 minutes), and [Hochrhein Music Festival](#) (a German town in Switzerland) (33 minutes).

Help Welcome New Members

Take a moment and remember back to when you first came to a UCOT worship service. Perhaps you had your first interaction with a UCOT member when you were warmly welcomed by a smiling greeter.

Maybe you stood to introduce yourself during announcements. After that, you probably sat quietly during the worship service.

Most visitors are looking for a community of people who share their liberal faith and values. They may also be looking for a community that helps them do good in the world through social justice.

So, remembering back to your first time at worship, did you stay and speak to others? Did you drink a cup of tea and learn about our UCOT community? Did you wonder if these were people you could relate to and eventually be friends with?

And in meeting us, did you decide this was a group where you could belong?

We've moved our after-worship social time to the entrance room, where established and new members can say hello, share their thoughts about the service, the community, and the world – and where they can build relationships.

We need a few folks to help us set up and brew beverages over the next several months. Could that be you? Helping would be a service to our community and to the visitors we hope to soon call our friends and fellow members. [Sign up here.](#)



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

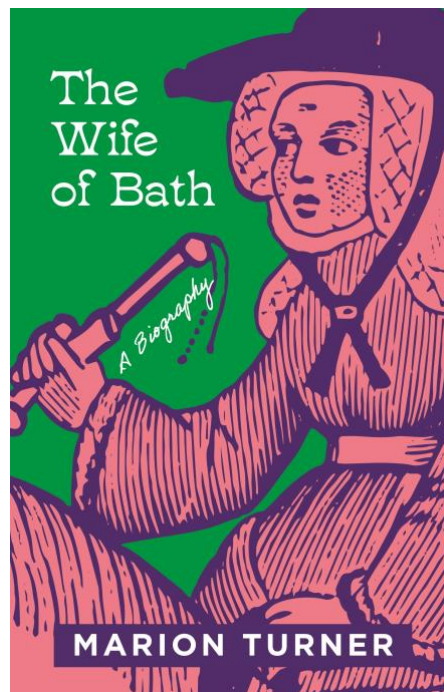
- 2 Barbara Berge
- 8 John McLoughlin
- 12 Margot Coleman
- 13 Thomas French
- 19 Dori Jones
- 20 Caryle Zorumski

Sack Lunches for the Men's Shelter

After the service on February 4, we'll be assembling lunches for the Men's Shelter. Please sign up [here](#) for what you'd like to bring. We'll set up the assembly line to put them together immediately following the service. The shelter has requested that we only bring 25 bags, so it will only take a few minutes. The men are very appreciative. Please email Annette to let her know you'll be there to help:

rubin.annette@gmail.com. Thank you for your kind assistance.

UCOT Book Group February 22, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS Fourth Thursday Monthly



Chaucer wrote the *Tale of the Wife of Bath/Canterbury Tales* between 1387 and 1400.

Marion Turner's *The Wife of Bath—A Biography* (2023) is the latest retelling of the 600-year-old Chaucerian tale. In Oxford Professor Turner's words, "Alison's [Wife of Bath] footsteps are, if anything, beating louder in the twenty-first century than ever before."

Everyone is welcome to this group and remember to bring a \$1 for donation to SOMOS.

Plans for future readings (novels, nonfiction and poetry) will be announced in the UCOT emails and the March newsletter. Contact Gael Minton, sbfarm03@gmail.com.