

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
April 2024
Bulletin Board



Sun., April 7	Service: <i>Natural Mysticism</i> , Rev. Jeanne Montclair
Thurs., April 11	UU Bibliophile Explorers, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., April 14	Sharing Circle: <i>The Importance of Connection</i>
Tues., April 16	UCOT Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m., Martyrs
Wed., April 17	UCOT Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.
Sun., April 21	Service: <i>Faith</i> , Rev. Diana Davies
Thurs., April 25	UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., April 28	Sharing Circle: <i>Open Topic</i>

Spring Is Here!
Rev. Jeanne Montclair

The faithfulness of Spring cannot go unnoticed or unappreciated. How lucky are we that we get an annual invitation to begin again? Like the new green shoots of grasses bravely pushing up from the darkness of the still-cold Earth, we too can resurrect parts of ourselves left dormant. All life is set to THRIVE and RISK in the Springtime. "Grow, grow, grow" is its mantra. Let the birds' chatter in the treetops lure us out of ourselves and into the World again, where the magic happens.

This truly is the right time to begin taking action on any New Year's resolutions we may have crafted in the darkness, for all of life now is in support of new beginnings and transformation. Many begin the Spring season with fasting, to purify the mind and body. Some will incorporate new commitments to exercise or family and friends. How we show up for ourselves in this season of renewal will be how we show up for everything. Yet, the questions remain: Will we miss this opportunity because we are stuck in a past idea of ourselves or even an outdated idea of life? Or will we brave the invitation and set our inner compass to THRIVE and RISK? We get to decide if we are HERO or VICTIM in this season of our lives. We get to choose; that's how lucky we are, and that's how powerful.

Open the windows, take out the trash, clean the bathroom, set the table with fresh flowers, for the World is inviting a New You to arrive and share in an ancient celebration of life and renewal. I hope you accept – I promise you it will be one amazing party.



Natural Mysticism
Rev. Jeanne Montclair
Sunday, April 7, 11 a.m.

Close observation and deep listening are necessary for the path of the mystic, as are living close to the Earth's natural cycles – in tune with the Divine essence. When we walk through life with intention, we lay the foundation for authentic connection with Spirit and our own Intuition. If we allow ourselves to enter a state of receptivity, our inner vision is free to perceive patterns, symbols, coincidences, subtle energy, and feelings. This state of allowing, meaning to emerge, rather than projecting meaning reveals truths worth listening to. We can increase clarity following the path of the mystics.



Faith (Through a UU Lens)
Rev. Diana Davies
Sunday, April 21, 11 a.m.

The term "faith" can be problematic for some UUs, as well as many spiritual seekers, especially those who are recovering from painful experiences with their religious upbringing. But what does this word mean in a UU context? Can faith and realism coexist? Can a person who trusts in the scientific method have "faith?" How can UUs all have different beliefs and yet share the same faith?

SHARING CIRCLES

The Importance of Connection

April 14, 11 a.m.

Most of us recognize the importance of connection – with other people, with the earth, and with the universe. Think of all the connections you have with people – your family and friends, your community. How have your connections with other people shaped your life? Was there a connection to someone that changed your life radically? Do you feel a strong connection with the earth, or do you feel we’re abandoning that connection as society grows ever more complex? Do you believe you are connected to an omnipotent Spirit that permeates the universe and beyond? Which connections are the most important to you, and why?

Open Topic Sharing Circle

April 28, 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.



Sack Lunches for the Men’s Shelter

April 7 Following the Service

After the Service on April 7, we’ll assemble lunches for the Men’s Shelter. We are doing this monthly now. 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 24 bags, so it will only take a few minutes. The men are very appreciative. Please email Annette Rubin with questions, rubin.annette@gmail.com.

Thank you for your help.

UU Bibliophile Explorers

April 11, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
(Second Thursday Monthly)

The UU Bibliophiles will meet again on April 11, 10:30 at the SOMOS salon. Our new UCOT Sharing Library box will be on the long table at services, providing UU books given by Sara Sautter and an anonymous donor. UU additions are welcome. Help yourself then come report at the salon. For questions and ideas, contact Richard Rubin, rrubin46@gmail.com.

UCOT Women’s Lunch

April 16, 12:15 p.m.
(Third Tuesday Monthly)
Martyrs Steakhouse
RSVP [here](#)

The UCOT Women’s Lunch will meet at Martyrs on Tuesday, April 16, 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 [Annette Rubin](#) by 10 a.m. on April 16.

UCOT Men’s Group

April 17, 4:00 p.m.
(Third Wednesday Monthly)

The UU Men’s Group will meet in person on Wednesday, April 17, at 4 p.m. Contact Chuck Fawns charles.fawns@gmail.com for location.



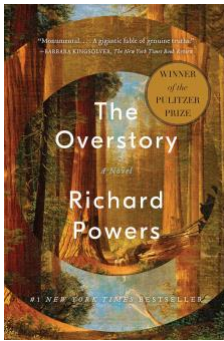
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

UCOT Book Group
April 25, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
(Fourth Thursday Monthly)

On Thursday April 24 at SOMOS, 10:30 a.m. to noon, the group will discuss *The Overstory*, a 2018 novel by Richard Powers. It is about nine Americans whose unique life experiences with trees bring them together to address the destruction of forests. The novel weaves together numerous character narratives and is the story of a collection of environmental activists and their struggles to make their protests heard by society. It won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

Please bring a dollar donation to thank SOMOS for hosting us.



Looking ahead to the remainder of 2024, the UCOT Book Group chose the following eight titles. For a downloadable document of this list, [click here](#). There will be no meeting/book in December.

- **April:** *The Overstory* (2018), Richard Powers
- **May:** *The 1619 Project A New Origin Story* (2019), Nicole Hannah-Jones
- **June:** *First Person Singular – Stories* (2020), Haruki Murakami
- **July:** *The Prague Sonata* (2017), Bradford Morrow
- **August:** *The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History* (2023), Ned Blackhawk
- **September:** *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* (2023), James McBride
- **October:** *North Woods* (2023), Daniel Mason
- **November:** *Beautiful Souls: The Courage of Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times* (2012), Eyal Press

Music Committee News
Gael Minton

From the Taos Chamber Music Group website: “TCMG is delighted to present for the first time on its series Taos School of Music faculty and alumni in spring performances. TCMG has long held the honor of collaborating with Taos School of Music (TSoM), which for 60 summers has brought to Taos elite, early-career musicians and prepared them to be artistic leaders. Today, its 1,000+ alumni can be found in leading chamber music ensembles, orchestras, and teaching positions throughout the world.”

TSoM faculty cellist Nina Lee of the Brentano String Quartet will bring four selected TSoM alumni to Taos to perform Haydn’s [String Quartet in D Major, Op. 20, No. 4](#). and Lee will join them for Schubert’s immortal [Cello Quintet in C Major](#) on April 20th and 21st at the Harwood Museum.

[Learn more about these artists:](#) Tiffany Chang, *violin*; Hannah Goldstick, *violin*; Nicolas Perkins, *viola*; and Elena Ariza, *cello*.



Nina Lee, Brentano Quartet cellist & TSoM faculty

On April 18th, the group will visit Ranchos Elementary, where they will present interactive musical performances for several classes. This is the TSoM’s second visit to the school. On Friday the 19th, the group will host, in association with the Taos Chamber Music Group, a free open rehearsal at the Harwood Museum and a private morning performance for residents of the Taos Enchanted Village.

