

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
May 2024
Bulletin Board



Sun., May 5	Service: <i>Deepening Our Connections with Place</i> , Angela Merkert
Thurs., May 9	UU Bibliophile Explorers, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., May 12	Sharing Circle: <i>The Power of the Spoken Word</i>
Wed., May 15	UCOT Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.
Sun., May 19	Service: <i>Reflections on Aging, Two Viewpoints</i> , Mya Coursey and Bob Aubrecht
Tues., May 21	UCOT Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m., Martyrs
Thurs., May 23	UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., May 26	Sharing Circle: <i>Open Topic</i>

The Mother
Rev. Jeanne Montclair

The Mother, a planet; An archetype; A role; A woman. How we relate to the mother will determine the future of our race and our planet. The day the Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh's mother died he wrote, "A serious misfortune of my life has arrived." Not all of us would share his sentiment at the passing of our mother. The relationship we have with "mother" is one of the most profoundly formative relationships of our lives. We know if we were wanted or not; if we were loved or not; if we could trust her. The relationship is innately an intimate one. Shunning one's mother turns parts of ourselves against the self. Yet, there are some mother/child relationships where clear and even impenetrable boundaries must be drawn to prevent further damage and trauma.

As young adults we all have to draw boundaries with our mothers to assert our independence and affirm our sovereignty. Not all of the female sex are capable of nurturing or caring for another. Just as trauma is passed on through the male lineage in the form of Toxic Masculinity – the same happens through the female line. Toxic Femininity is not often discussed, but it certainly exists. There are mothers that shun their children because they were forced to bear them. And mothers that are jealous of their child because the husband/father or boyfriend molested the child.

A damaged unhealed person cannot become a healthy parent, nor raise a healthy child. Work must be done to heal those broken and fragmented parts of self; to grieve losses, to cut ties with past trauma, to bravely move towards conscious wholeness.

This Mother's Day let's strive for compassion, wholeness, and honor for The Mother and those not properly mothered.



Deepening Our Connections with Place.
Angela Merkert
Sunday, May 5, 11 a.m.

"Place" is a term associated with memories, relationships with family, neighbors, community, the land. It is also about traditions, norms, and the spirituality that "place" evokes. The Spanish term "querencia" addresses place and deepens its meaning. Let's consider how connections to our current place, our place of growing up years, and other special places are carried within ourselves.

Reflections on Aging: Two Viewpoints
Mya Coursey and Bob Aubrecht
Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m.

This third Sunday, Mya Coursey and Bob Aubrecht will preside at a Service titled "Reflections on Aging." Mya and Bob will offer their personal experiences on their years as "senior citizens" – the expectations, the ups and downs, as well as some of the lessons they have learned. Given the age of the members of UCOT, their hope is that this service will be an opportunity to reflect on your own experiences of aging. Perhaps it might start more conversations about navigating aging.



SHARING CIRCLES

The Power of the Spoken Word

May 12, 11 a.m.

We recall how President Franklin Delano Roosevelt led us out of the Depression with the following words, which he spoke to the nation: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." These words had enormous power at the time they were uttered, and they continue to be remembered.

Here are a few prompts you might consider when sharing your experience with this topic:

- Have you ever regretted saying something, and wished you had never said it?
- You have all heard "It's not what you say but how you say it." How has that thought guided you in your speech?
- We live in an age of social media, where texts are replacing talk. Does this make the spoken word more or less important?
- You have heard that sometimes it is safer to not say anything. Does that compromise integrity?

Come to the Circle and share your stories.

Open Topic Sharing Circle

May 26, 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

May 5 Following the Service

After the Service on May 5, 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

May 9, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
(Second Thursday Monthly)

The UU Bibliophiles will meet again, this month on May 9 at 10:30 a.m. 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, rlrubin46@gmail.com.

UCOT Men's Group

May 15, 4:00 p.m.

(Third Wednesday Monthly)

The UU Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, May 15, at 4 p.m. Contact Chuck Fawns charles.fawns@gmail.com for location.

UCOT Women's Lunch

May 21, 12:15 p.m.

(Third Tuesday Monthly)

Martyrs Steakhouse

RSVP [here](#)

The UCOT Women's Lunch will meet at Martyrs on Tuesday, May 21, 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 [Sara Sautter](#) by 10 a.m. on May 21.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

UCOT Book Group
May 23, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
(Fourth Thursday Monthly)

On Thursday, May 23, at SOMOS, 10:30 a.m. to noon, the group will discuss *The 1619 Project A New Origin Story*, by Nicole Hannah-Jones. It is a dramatic expansion of a groundbreaking work of journalism that offers a profoundly revealing vision of the American past and present.

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



In late August, 1619, a ship arrived in the British colony of Virginia bearing a cargo of 20 to 30 enslaved people from Africa. Their arrival led to the barbaric and unprecedented system of American chattel slavery that would last for the next 250 years. This is sometimes referred to as the country's original sin, but it is more than that: It is the source of so much that still defines the United States.

The New York Times Magazine's award-winning "1619 Project" issue reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This new book substantially expands on that work, weaving together 18 essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with 36 poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance. The essays show how the inheritance of 1619 reaches into every part of contemporary American society, from politics, music, diet, and traffic to citizenship, capitalism, religion, and our democracy itself.

This is a book that speaks directly to our current moment, contextualizing the systems of race and caste within which we operate today. It reveals long-glossed-over truths around our nation's founding and construction – and the way that the legacy of slavery did not end with emancipation but continues to shape contemporary American life.

Music Committee News
Gael Minton

The Taos Chamber Music Group is bringing the Overlook Quartet to Taos for two concerts at The Harwood Museum of Art, Saturday, May 18, and Sunday, May 19.



Overlook Quartet

The musicians are [Monica Davis](#) and [Ravenna Lipchik](#), violins; [Angela Pickett](#), viola; and [Laura Metcalf](#), cello. The quartet recently performed at Chatter in Albuquerque and as the [Albuquerque Journal article](#) states, the name *Overlook* arose from their interest in women composers and black musicians.

Enjoy their NYC roof-top performance of [Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint Georges - String Quartet No.5 G Major \(1777\)](#).

