

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
July 2024
Bulletin Board



Sun., July 7	Service: <i>The Land That Never Has Been Yet</i> , Rev. Diana Davies
Sun., July 14	Sharing Circle: <i>The Untethered Soul</i>
Tues., July 16	UCOT Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m., Martyrs
Wed., July 17	UCOT Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.
Sun., July 21	Service: <i>Your Uniqueness, Your Dream, Your Reality and Franz Kafka Walk into a Bar</i> Rev. Doug Inhofe (New-member ingathering)
Wed., July 24	UCOT Game Night, 6:30 p.m., Mary Shaffer's home
Thurs., July 25	UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., July 28	Sharing Circle: <i>Open Topic</i>

Unitarian Universalists and Spiritual Practice
Rev. Diana Davies

A spiritual practice is an activity that we come to again and again to deepen and expand our relationship with ourselves and with the sacred. Today, when we think about "spiritual practice," what might first come to mind is the tradition of Catholic contemplatives (from Ignatius of Loyola to Fr. Richard Rohr), the work of Quakers like Parker Palmer, Buddhist meditation, or yoga rooted in Hinduism. But did you know that Unitarians have a rich tradition of spiritual practice going back at least as far as [William Ellery Channing](#) (1780-1842)? Rev. Channing promoted something he called "self-culture," which was spiritual growth or "self-formation" through self-examination.

The New England Transcendentalists (people like Margaret Fuller, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Henry David Thoreau) were strongly influenced by Channing's thought, and they made spiritual practice a cornerstone of their spirituality. The Transcendentalists kept spiritual journals (and read each other's journals), meditated while walking in nature, memorized and repeated mottos (a bit like mantras), and practiced *lectio divina*, using a variety of texts.

In seminary, we students were expected to maintain at least one spiritual practice throughout our formation and beyond. Ideally, we would have an "integral transformative practice" consisting of different activities from the categories of mind (such as reading, book groups, discussion groups, or self-directed study); body (such as yoga, qigong, running or other exercise); heart (volunteering, charitable giving, designated family time, etc.); and spirit (meditation, ritual, prayer, gratitude practice, etc.). Today, I have an integral practice consisting of foreign language study (mind), yoga (body), growing food (heart), and meditation (spirit).

What are your spiritual practices? I would love to hear about them! Or, if you're interested in starting a spiritual practice, I'd be happy to share some resources.

The Land That Never Has Been Yet
Rev. Diana Davies
Sunday, July 7, 11 a.m.

How can we celebrate Independence Day with patriotic spirit even as we brace ourselves for the sentencing of this country's first convicted felon ex-president/presidential nominee? How can we be excited about participating in the upcoming election amid a pervading sense of fear and doom? We seek to remember that others, at the margins of society, have faced similar conflict and persevered, through a reading of Langston Hughes' poem, "Let America Be America Again."

Your Uniqueness, Your Dream, Your Reality, and Franz Kafka Walk into a Bar
Rev. Doug Inhofe
Sunday, July 21, 11 a.m.

Franz Kafka died on June 3, 1924. His writing was dark and demanding. He was not famous in his lifetime. Now his work commands worldwide attention, with readers recognizing the dilemmas of their own existence in his writing — bizarre as it seems at first blush. Despite bureaucratic leveling that makes us feel like numbers, and the oppressive intricacies of determining the truth, please persist: believe in your uniqueness, be inspired by hope that your "possible" might creep into your "real," and awaken to a reality that embodies your personal utopian dream.

New Member Ingathering: Sunday, July 21

During the service on Sunday, July 21, we will recognize our newest members with a Ritual of Welcome. Look for brief bios of our newest UCOT members in the August newsletter.

Are you a regular visitor, interested in joining our congregation? Contact Sara Sautter at slsautter@gmail.com for more information about joining UCOT and participating in our Ritual of Welcome.

SHARING CIRCLES

The Untethered Soul

July 14, 11 a.m.

“Shoot, I can’t remember her name. What is her name? Darn, here she comes. What is it ... Sally... Sue?? She just told me yesterday. What’s the matter with me?”

In case you haven’t noticed, you have a mental dialogue going on inside your head that never stops. How does it decide what to say and when? How much of what it says turns out to be true? How much of what it says is even important?

Let’s explore this “voice” together. For to be aware of the “voice talk” is to stand on the threshold of a fantastic inner journey.

Open Topic Sharing Circle

July 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

July 7 Following the Service

After the Service on July 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 – Change

Ongoing meetings at the SOMOS salon are cancelled. BUT we now have a continuing UU sharing library available to all. A so-labeled box has UU books available, some loaned by Sara Sautter and some donated to UCOT. The box now lives in the grey storage cabinet and will be brought out to the big table at services. Borrow, return, repeat. More UU book donations are welcome.

UCOT Women’s Lunch

July 16, 12:15 p.m.

(Third Tuesday Monthly)

Martyrs Steakhouse

RSVP [here](#)

The UCOT Women’s Lunch will be held at Martyrs on Tuesday, July 16, at 12:15 p.m., in Martyrs’ separate back meeting space. 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 July 16.

UCOT Men’s Group

July 17, 4:00 p.m.

(Third Wednesday Monthly)

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

UCOT Game Night

July 24, 6:30 p.m.

(Fourth Wednesday Monthly)

Everyone’s invited to play games — Rummikub, Dominoes, Train, or a game of your choice — on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The inaugural game night will be June 26, 6:30 p.m., and the July game night will be July 24. Contact Mary Shaffer for directions or more info: shafferstudios@gmail.com, (432) 386-5888.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Jo Gall
- 5 Joe Mazza
- 5 Linda Malm
- 6 Bob Aubrecht
- 7 Munro Sickafoose
- 11 Helen Rynaski
- 17 David Vaughn
- 21 Be Scott
- 22 Nancy Schultz
- 28 Chuck Fawns
- 30 Dennis Scott
- Erich Kuerschner

A New Congressional Management Platform Is Coming



We are happy to announce that you will soon receive an invitation to join ChMeetings, our new congregational management platform. Your UCOT leadership and staff have been busy setting it up for you over the past several months.

Why are we doing this? Up until now we have maintained a variety of member lists across a number of different members and staff. Our email lists are maintained by one person, directory by another, and affinity groups by each leader (think book group, men's group, dinners for six). With ChMeetings all of this information is housed in one place. Who is leading Sack Lunches and how do I contact them? A simple click will let you know. Need to email everyone in the group you manage? ChMeetings does that for you. When leadership changes, new organizers will have all the past information in one place, making the transfer of leadership a snap.

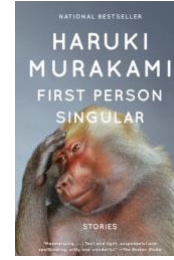
ChMeetings also has an embedded calendar ("when and where does Men's Group meet this month?"), volunteer sign-up sheets ("I wonder who is bringing flowers this Sunday; they might want my peonies."), accounting and pledge management components, and even templates for collaboration on worship planning. The platform will contain the congregation's directory and, if you choose, can be accessed on your phone. You can sign up for events, register for classes, check on your pledge and much more.

ChMeetings helps us do a better job keeping track of visitors and members, and helping them get involved in our programs. Be on the lookout for a welcome email.

Happy 4th of July!



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



The July reading is Haruki Murakami's *First Person Singular — 8 Stories* (2021), by Haruki Murakami. "Classic Murakami . . . highlighting life's essential strangeness and unfathomability." —NPR

All are welcome to join us for any month. [Here is an updated list of titles](#) we'll be discussing through the end of 2024.

Music Committee News Gael Minton

As the July issue of our newsletter goes to press, the UCOT Music Committee (Mimi Owensby, Martha Grossman, Bette Myerson, Dianne Frost and Gael) is meeting to revisit our vision for Special Music at our services. Without a congregational survey, we rely on direct feedback from the congregation regarding kinds of music and local musicians to play for us. Please, contact any one of us by phone, e-mail or talk to one of us in person.

The UCOT book group has been reading *The 1619 Project — A New Origin Story* (2021), edited by Nikole Hannah-Jones and others. Of the 18 essays, poems, photos, and historical notes, the essay "Music," by Wesley Morris (author, *NYT* staff writer, and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner for criticism), invites us to listen to the spontaneity, improvisation, and "miracle of sound" in Black music. [Listen to his 2020 talk](#) (6 minutes) at the National Museum of African American History & Culture. And, then [Josh Turner singing Swing Low Sweet Chariot](#), [Jessye Norman singing Amazing Grace](#), and a [2014 BBC interview about her career singing classical opera](#).

Finally, a [TED Talk by Chris Johnson](#) about banning the African drum in America since it was considered responsible for slave revolts.