

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
October 2024
Bulletin Board



Sun., Oct. 6 Service: *Solastalgia*, Rev. Diana Davies
Sun., Oct. 13 Sharing Circle: *The Inner Child*
Tues., Oct. 15 UCOT Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m., Martyrs
Wed., Oct. 16 UCOT Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 20 Service: *Make This a Mast Year*, Rev. Diana Davies
Wed., Oct. 23 UCOT Game Night, 6:00 p.m., Mary Shaffer's home
Thurs., Oct. 24 UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., Oct. 27 Sharing Circle: *Open Topic*

Right Now, It's Like This
Rev. Diana Davies

This fall, the UU Climate Justice Coalition is organizing the first movement-wide [Climate Justice Revival](#). Sponsored by the UUA, the UU Service Committee, and other affiliated organizations, the Revival is intended to be, in the words of Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, Senior Minister of Cedar Lane UU Congregation, "an opportunity to renew our UU commitment to the planet." UU congregations around the country will be offering workshops and worship services on the theme of climate action. In keeping with this denomination-wide focus, our UCOT services on the first and third Sundays of October will be centered on the themes of nature, climate change, and climate justice.

It feels appropriate to focus on the health of our planet and the intersection between climate change and social justice issues at this time of year, a time of harvest, when the brisk, starry nights and chilly but sunny mornings make life feel especially sweet. Watching fruit ripen and leaves begin to yellow, waking to darker mornings, and saying farewell to the hummingbirds, my emotions run from deep awe and gratitude to solastalgia – an emotion that I didn't even know existed until a few years ago.

The term "solastalgia" was coined by Australian environmental philosopher Glenn Albrecht about 20 years ago. Albrecht describes solastalgia as "the homesickness you have when you are still at home" or the feeling that your home environment has changed – not just seasonally but irrevocably. This might be brought about by the trauma of natural disasters – like the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon fire – but it can also be caused by the more subtle but insidious changes related to a warming climate. Solastalgia can bleed into hopelessness, but it can also be the impetus we need to act, with a sense of urgency, on behalf of the planet.

For more, see: Glenn Albrecht, *Earth Emotions: New Words for a New World* (2019) and Brian McLaren, *Life After Doom* (2024) [UU Ministry for Earth](#).

Solastalgia

Rev. Diana Davies

Sunday, October 6, 11 a.m.

Solastalgia is a term that was coined in the early 2000s that means the feeling of distress caused by climate change. Specifically, it is a kind of homesickness for a planetary home that is changing around us, to the point where it no longer feels like "home." We will consider the ways we can harness the power of solastalgia to create positive change.

Make This a Mast Year

Rev. Diana Davies

Sunday, October 20, 11 a.m.

Oak trees have developed a way to ensure their continuation as a species. In what's known as a mast year, all the oaks over a vast area will synchronize their acorn production and produce an unusually large number of acorns. As we brace ourselves for a high-stakes election, how can we be like oaks?



SHARING CIRCLES

The Inner Child

October 13, 11 a.m.

In every adult there lurks a child – an eternal child, something that is becoming, is never completed, and calls for unceasing care, attention and education. – CG Jung

The child isn't something we outgrow; it is a lifelong channel for our spirit. – Jon Eisman

During the challenges of aging, we often find the inner child arising unbidden, dropping us into default patterns from the past. This can be either a time of inner communion – if we have a conscious relationship with the child within us – or a disorienting shock. There is no better road to wholeness than getting to know this child, because the child is both the keeper of the wounds and the keeper of the vital spark of joy.

How does your child appear? When is this a disturbance? When is this a delight? How do you support, guide, heal, and love your child?

Open Topic Sharing Circle

October 27, 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

October 6, Following the Service

After the Service on October 6, 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 after the service. It only takes a few minutes, and the men are very appreciative. Please email Annette Rubin with questions, rubin.annette@gmail.com.

UCOT Women's Lunch

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

We will meet at Martyrs on Tuesday, October 15, at 12:15 p.m. in their separate meeting space at the rear of the property to enjoy a meal and conversation with UCOT women members and their friends.

Join us as we enjoy delicious food and the company of amazing women. RSVP by 10 a.m. October 15 to slsautter@gmail.com.

UCOT Men's Group

October 16, 4:00 p.m.
(Third Wednesday Monthly)

The UCOT Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, October 16, at 4 p.m. Contact Chuck Fawns charles.fawns@gmail.com for location.

UCOT Game Night

October 23, 6:00 p.m.
(Fourth Wednesday Monthly)

Everyone's invited to play games – Rummi-kub, Dominoes, Train, or a game of your choice – on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Join us on October 23 at 6:00 p.m. Please RSVP and contact Mary Shaffer for directions or more info: shafferstudios@gmail.com, (432) 386-5888. If you need a ride from the south side of Taos, please call Don Zablosky at (469) 855-9107 or email him at don@donzablosky.com.



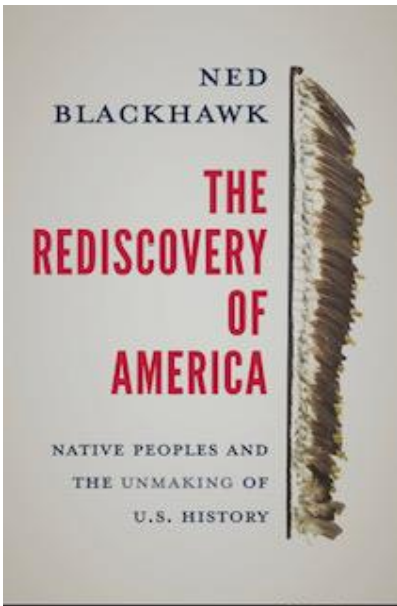
OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Mary Shaffer
- 4 Gael Minton
- 26 Dianne Frost
- 27 Michael Burney
- 31 Marsha Fawns

UCOT Book Group
October 24, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
(Fourth Thursday Monthly)

The UCOT Book Group is open to all readers and their friends. Bring \$1 to contribute to SOMOS, who allows us to use their space.

In October, we will read Part Two (pp. 207-448) of *The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History* (2023), by Ned Blackhawk.



The most enduring feature of US history is the presence of Native Americans, yet most histories focus on Europeans and their descendants. This long practice of ignoring Indigenous history has changed however, with this book by Ned Blackhawk.

Blackhawk interweaves five centuries of Native and non-Native histories, from Spanish colonial exploration to the rise of Native American self-determination in the late twentieth century.

Fall Cleaning of UCOT's Highway Mile
Saturday, October 12, 10:00 a.m.

Our semi-annual cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, between 10 a.m. and noon. Anyone interested in helping can contact Wally Cox at (575) 224-1234 for information.

Music Committee News
Gael Minton

Reminder of singing practice each Service Sunday: Martha Grossman will lead a 10:30 a.m. practice at the Lodge on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. On these Sundays, gather round the piano and sing the hymns planned for that service.

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Many people think of classical music as very serious and difficult to listen to. But many of the classical musicians I have known have great senses of humor, laugh a lot, and play jokes on each other. The music is serious in the sense that it demands huge technical ability and deep sensitivity to play well. Enjoy this [German spoof in 2012 on a J.S. Bach Brandenburg concerto](#).

And then let's celebrate Bach's 6 Brandenburg concerti composed 303 years ago for a small, diverse orchestra! This is one hour and twenty-nine minutes of music. Take time and enjoy the sounds and complex rhythms. [This boxed set of the Brandenburs](#) is beautiful and intimate, with one player to a part, as played in Bach's time.



Johann Sebastian Bach

Medical Debt Relief Program

Friends, we again have the opportunity to help those less fortunate in our community pay their medical bills. The Holy Cross Medical Debt Relief program is accepting donations to cover the bills of those who cannot pay them. Our congregation has participated in this for the past several years. Last year the debts of 140 people were forgiven. A total of \$22,000 was raised.

Write a check to UCOT and put "Medical Debt" on the memo line. Be Scott will give this money to the Hospital in November. (This is one of the nonprofits to which our Charitable Giving Committee allocates funds as well. You might have heard Mimi talk about it at one of our services recently). We will need the money by early November to be able to send it to them on time. Thank you.

—Bette Myerson