

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
January 2025
Bulletin Board



- Sun., Jan. 5 Service: *Burning Bowl Ritual*, Donna Collins
Sun., Jan. 12 Sharing Circle: *Networks of Grace or UU Covenant Groups*
Wed., Jan. 15 UCOT Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 19 Service: *Fannie Lou's Shotguns: Is King's Non-Violent Resistance Still Relevant?* Rev. Diana Davies
Tues., Jan. 21 UCOT Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m., Martyrs
Wed., Jan. 22 UCOT Game Night, 6:00 p.m.
Thu., Jan. 23 UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., Jan. 26 2025 UCOT Annual Meeting

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

In a coincidence that might be viewed as a divine, cruel joke or as mystically meaningful irony, both Inauguration Day and MLK Day will fall on January 20 this year. Dr. Bernice King, Rev. King's daughter, has said that she is "glad" for this collision of events, as it will only serve to highlight the difference between her father's message of love and justice, and the message of hatred and fear embraced by the president-elect and his most ardent followers.

In a recent sermon, I referred to Brother David Steindl-Rast's teaching that, while we may not be grateful for the terrible things that happen in life, we can be grateful for the opportunity that each new moment presents us. January 20th will be a date to put this lesson into practice. We are presented with the opportunity to find greater meaning in MLK Day than ever before.

For those of us who have had the luxury of thinking of MLK Day as a day off from work or a day to feel good about ourselves and how far we've come, listening to platitudes about nonviolence or dreams of peaceful equality, that other event that will take place this January 20th transforms a "nice" holiday into an urgent call to action.

Sixteen years ago, witnessing the inauguration of the first Black president in our country's history, it was easy for some of us to believe that we were living in a "post-racial" reality, and that racism was just a relic of the past. But this January 20th, the falsehood of that belief will be blatantly evident. This year's MLK Day presents us with the opportunity to take seriously the urgent need for equity and justice and to commit ourselves, fully and courageously, to this work.



Burning Bowl Ritual
Donna Collins

Sunday, January 5, 11 a.m.

The new year calls us forward, filled with mystery. As we turn toward 2025, we take a final glimpse of the past year and reckon with all that it held for us. What parts of our lives — what things, ideas, people, ways of living — have become obstacles to our becoming the people we want to be, the people we need to be? What's holding you back? What's getting in the way of your living as fully as you'd like? What might you burn away from your current life? What will you relinquish?

***Fannie Lou's Shotguns: Is King's
Nonviolent Resistance Still Relevant?***
Rev. Diana Davies

Sunday, January 19, 11 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preached a message of nonviolent resistance, and Civil Rights leaders made this a cornerstone strategy of their movement. But under a government that openly, even gleefully, celebrates violence, is nonviolent resistance still a viable option? Can nonviolent action still change both laws and hearts?

2025 UCOT Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 26, 11 a.m.

On January 26, 2025, the Unitarian Congregation of Taos will hold its annual meeting at 11 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge. This is our most important business meeting of the year, where we conduct the key business items of the Congregation: a review of 2024, election of Board members, 2025 budget approval, and more. There will also be a time for members to ask questions of and make suggestions to the Board. Please join us. Your presence and participation are vital to the ongoing processes of UCOT self-governance.

SHARING CIRCLES

Networks of Grace or UU Covenant Groups

January 12, 11 a.m.

The January sharing circle topic is ***Networks of Grace or UU Covenant Groups***. There is no better antidote to hopelessness or despair than community.

According to Michael Meade, since the world tensions that divide us may intensify, we need to make moments of wholeness that remind us of the underlying unity of life. We need to feel that, despite all the current divisions and heartbreaking conflicts, grace can fall upon us at any time.

In *The Hope: A Guide to Sacred Activism*, Andrew Harvey recommends forming “Networks of Grace,” groups composed of 6 to 12 individuals who meet to find solidarity and mutual support during a time of intense change.

This is similar to “covenant groups” (small, closed groups that meet on a regular basis over several months) that exist in many UU congregations. To create the support we need, forming covenant groups based in healthy communication, deep trust, and a commitment to hearing ALL voices, may be one way to answer Rev. Diana’s question: “What gift of opportunity is life offering you at this moment?”



ATTENTION: Circle Facilitators for 2025

There will be a brief Facilitator meeting after the Circle on January 12. A must attend for new Facilitators and a good review for returning Facilitators. I am known for my brief meetings, so I promise you we’ll be finished at 12:30 (if we begin at 12:00 that is).

— Mimi Owensby

UCOT Men’s Group

January 15, 4:00 p.m.

(Third Wednesday Monthly)

The UCOT Men’s Group will meet in person on Wednesday, January 15, at 4 p.m. Contact Chuck Fawns at charles.fawns@gmail.com for this month’s location.

UCOT Women’s Lunch

January 21, 12:15 p.m.

(Third Tuesday Monthly)

Martyrs Steakhouse

RSVP [here](#)

We will meet at Martyrs on Tuesday January 21 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. January 21 to emily.gillispie@hotmail.com.

UCOT Game Night

January 22, 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 January 22 at 6 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.



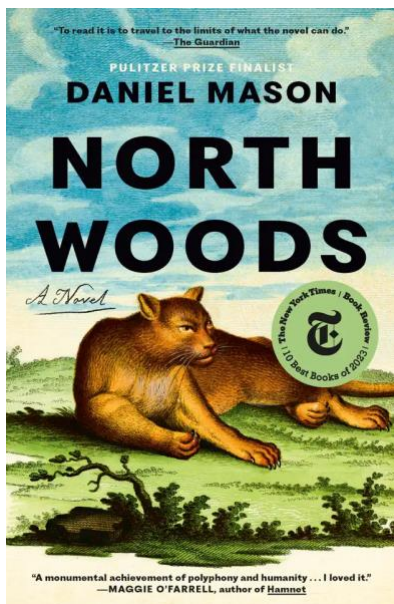
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 12 Elaine Taylor
- 13 Meredee Vaughn

UCOT Book Group
January 23, 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, which allows us to use their space.

In January, we will read **North Woods** (2023) by Daniel Mason, which was named one of *The New York Times* 10 Best Books of 2023.



North Woods is a sweeping novel about a single house in the woods of New England, told through the lives of those who inhabit it across centuries, and is described by *The Washington Post* as a “time-spanning, genre-blurring work of storytelling magic.” When two young lovers abscond from a Puritan colony, little do they know that their humble cabin in the woods will become the home of an extraordinary succession of human and nonhuman characters alike.

Please join us!

NEST Pantry Needs

UCOT is supporting the pantry by the NEST (Navigating Emergency Support Together) – center for homeless services. We need food that is for immediate consumption or only requires brief heating in a microwave. Any cans must have a flip top – and cardboard/plastic containers are preferred. Use your imagination and fill the plaid-covered box at the service! Now that it's winter and the NEST has absorbed the Men's Shelter – we need regular donations!

Call or text with questions (575) 779-3126.

– Mary Gray

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.



Gohar Vardanyan

Without any searching, the company that insures my flute sent an interview with classical guitarist Gohar Vardanyan. [**The Soul of a Classical Guitarist | Docuseries.**](#)

Her playing is magnificent in every musical way – sound, phrasing, and dynamic expression. Enjoy these two concerts: [**Virtual Concert | Gohar Vardanyan, 3/20/21,**](#) and [**Gohar Vardanyan, 7/15/24.**](#)

Here is her [**Grand Solos CD**](#) for purchase.

