



**OUR VISION:**

A community of elders and neighbors supporting one another.

**OUR MISSION:**

To connect members to resources needed to maintain comfortable, dignified, vibrant lives in their homes and community by providing appropriate services, activities, and programs that will further this purpose.

**OUR STORIES: VOLUNTEER DARREL BAUMGARDNER:  
Curiosity, Climate, and Community Care**

Darrel Baumgardner heard Taos Mountain calling him all the way from Argentina, where he and his wife were practicing for retirement in the wine-growing region of Mendoza. But neither Darrel nor Graciela can give up their vocations, and just before the pandemic locked us down, they made Taos the U.S. base of operations for their international endeavors. When he’s not responding to TENT requests, Darrel works full-time online with Droplet Measurement Technology, the atmospheric tech company he co-founded over 30 years ago. Graciela maintains her role as Senior Scientist and Professor at the Atmosphere Sciences Center of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), edits a scientific journal, and serves on international climate research committees. Both are fluent in Spanish, though not necessarily the variety spoken in Taos!

Darrel’s life journey has taken him from the Texas Panhandle to Atlanta to Laramie to Boulder to Mexico City to Argentina to Taos. Before earning a PhD in atmospheric science and technology from the University of Colorado and becoming an entrepreneur, he worked as the computer engineer for a primate sexuality study in Emory University’s

biological psychology research lab. He also served as visiting science professor at UNAM. He even built furniture during a brief, early detour. Asked for words that best describe him, he suggests *innovative, independent, and creative.*



*Compassionate* also fits. Coming from a family of “heavy duty volunteers,” Darrel looked for an opportunity to help his new Taos community. He chose to volunteer with TENT in part because its task sign-up process allows him to work around other commitments. In addition to solving Members’ computer problems and making check-in phone calls, he accepts the occasional new challenge, e.g., an emergency haircut request. TENT’s mission of keeping Members safe and comfortable in their homes as long as possible resonates with him, and he hopes such neighbor-helping-neighbor services are available for all of us in the future as we become less self-reliant.

When they aren't working or volunteering, Darrel and Graciela enjoy long walks around Taos and hanging out with **Tigger & Missy**, cats they adopted from Stray Hearts. As cross-border travel becomes more possible, Graciela will likely resume teaching in Mexico City, and

they will spend time in their Argentine retreat. But the Mountain has claimed them, and they will always come back home to Taos.

-- Mya Coursey

## FROM THE BOARD:



We are pleased to welcome Honore Maloney to the TENT Board. Honore has been an active Volunteer from the outset of TENT in 2018 and will continue to support our

mission.

We have received numerous donations of late, and we thank all who are supporting TENT with Volunteer hours and donations. If you

enjoy *inTENTions*, but have not joined in support of TENT, now is the time to do so.

We are looking for Volunteers to join the events committee—let us know if you are interested. TENT is here to help, so if you know of a neighbor who needs help, suggest that they call TENT. We do have scholarship funds to help with membership fees if necessary. -- Jim Schultz, Board President

## MEMBER CARE/OUTREACH COORDINATOR REPORT

So many exciting events and activities are coming up during the summer here at TENT and around town. If you have any interest, we suggest you check out TENT's website (<https://taoselders.helpfulvillage.com/events>) for an Events Calendar that is continually being updated. The programs on the calendar are free AARP classes that relate to yoga, technology security, and our very own book club. There are also drive-in movies at the TCA and SOMOS events coming up in the summer; if you need a ride to any of these, we are here for you.

We have started a walking program on Fridays at 9:00 AM at Fred Baca Park. The walks can last from three blocks to a mile, depending on the weather. You are not expected to walk that far and can rest whenever you want. We welcome anyone who wants to join us. If you have questions, feel free to call me at 575-741-0681 or email me at [david@enchantedcirclecorps.org](mailto:david@enchantedcirclecorps.org). -- David Silva

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR UPDATE

Many thanks to all the dedicated Volunteers steadfastly taking care of our Members! Much gratitude also to those who persisted throughout the past pandemic year, under difficult circumstances—you have made a huge difference in many lives. And thanks again to Volunteer Wendy Shuey for helping Members fill out their Five Wishes.

As COVID-19 restrictions are loosened and all active Volunteers have been vaccinated, I am looking forward to holding in-person meetings again. This, of course, is dependent upon New Mexico Department of Health and TENT policies, and also venue availability. It might be possible to gather outdoors in a local park—watch for emails! It will be wonderful to actually see you again. A reminder to check out the TENT Events page. David Silva is continuously updating this with AARP and local events. You are welcome to join any of the Member activities, such as the walking group

and book club, as they become available. As always, gratitude to our beloved Volunteers, and best wishes to all for continued good health.  
-- Kate Harris

## WHAT IS A CALL MANAGER?

What happens when a Member calls in a service request to TENT? The person answering the phone is called a Call Manager. We have four: Lana Green, Nancy Herrick, Marianne Furedi, and Elizabeth Rusnell. They will take the details of the request: what type of service, the date requested, how long it might take, and where (if it's for transport). Volunteers have signed up for the particular services they want to perform, and these are categorized in groups.

When the call is entered into the system by the Call Manager, an email is sent out to all Volunteers who have signed up for that particular service. Those Volunteers check their availability for that service, and if able, sign up for that request. Let's say that Volunteer "Andrea" has picked it up. She will receive a confirmation email that contains the details, phone number, and address of the Member, and will be asked to call that Member to confirm that the request will be fulfilled and the date and time (this is when, if there is no set time or date and thus "flexible," these will be agreed upon). Andrea will be sent an email the day before the service to remind her to call the Member again to confirm. After the service has been completed, both the Member and Volunteer involved will be sent a "service evaluation" email, asking both to rate the service, enter any desired comments and the time and mileage involved (if appropriate). These evaluations are very useful feedback for us, and both Volunteers and Members are urged to fill out the form—it is a very simple process.  
-- Kate Harris

## Book Notes West/Southwest: #4

With books very much part of my professional life, I witnessed many developments in publishing, bookselling, and collecting over the years, but one aspect never changed—the excitement of reading an engaging, well-written book. In retirement, with more time to read, it is such a luxury to wake up in the morning, settle in a chair with a cup of coffee and a favorite book to read for a while before fixing breakfast. The day just starts more smoothly with a good book!

On a recent morning I turned once again to some authors associated with Taos and northern New Mexico. Some of them were internationally famous writers, while others were happy to have a local or regional readership while living quietly in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. One of the most famous was D. H. Lawrence (1885-1930), who came here in 1922 at the invitation of Mabel Dodge Luhan, whose grand house still stands at the end of



Morada Lane. Many other notable figures in 20th century arts and letters also visited there, from Ansel Adams and Leopold Stowkowski to Georgia O'Keeffe and Tennessee Williams. Lawrence and his wife, Frieda, were guests of Mabel, and while in Taos on and off over the next three years he wrote poetry, travel essays, and fiction, along with hundreds of letters to his agents, publishers, and friends around the world. His New Mexico poems appeared in *Birds, Beasts, and Flowers*, first

published in 1923. Anyone with a computer can dip into this book for free with a title search and a click on the Project Gutenberg eBook, a digitized version that is easy to scroll through and read on the screen. (See <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/60337>.) My all-time favorite book by Lawrence is *Mornings in Mexico* with travel essays from his time in New Mexico and Mexico. A tender recollection of winter nights at the ranch closes this book, but when he wrote the final essay, "A Little Moonshine with Lemon," he had already returned to the shores of the Mediterranean where he would die of tuberculosis in 1930. Lawrence's recollections of cold winter nights up at the ranch are vivid as he describes how "the stars snap like distant coyotes, beyond the moon. And you will see the shadows of actual coyotes going across the alfalfa field. And the pine trees make little noises, sudden and stealthy, as if they were walking about. And the place heaves with ghosts. That place, the ranch, heaves with ghosts. But when one has got used to one's own home-ghosts, be they never so many, and so potent, they are like one's own family, but nearer than the blood. It is the ghosts one misses most, the ghosts there, of the Rocky Mountains, that never go beyond the timber and that linger, like the animals, round the water-spring. I know them, they know me: we go well together. But they reproach me for going away." Some of Lawrence's best writing is in his travel books, and you can find the

complete *Mornings in Mexico* on the Project Gutenberg web site, where it is free.

Another regular guest at Mabel's house was Frank Waters (1902-1995), who made Taos his home and is known for his novels and historical works about the Southwest. He served as editor-in-chief of the Taos bilingual newspaper, *El Crepusculo*, from 1949 to 1951, a forerunner of the *Taos News*. Waters wrote extensively throughout his life, and among his 12 novels and 13 works of nonfiction, it is hard to select the best. Start with his highly praised novel, *The Man Who Killed the Deer*, a timeless story of Pueblo Indian sin and redemption, and of the conflict between Indian and white laws. This is a finely crafted book, written in a style of sheer beauty. Then try *Book of the Hopi*, published in 1963. The journal *American Anthropologist* gave it high praise and found it "deeply steeped in Hopi mysticism" as it combined "Hopi art, history, tradition, myth, folklore, and ceremonialism with dignity and authority." One reviewer wrote that it deserved to be "part of the library of any student of the American Southwest."

If you would like to learn more about books by authors who lived in Taos and in Santa Fe, check out two excellent guides by Tal Luther, a longtime bookseller and collector who lived in our town. They are *Collecting Taos Authors* and *Collecting Santa Fe Authors*. Happy reading!

-- David Farmer

## PHISHING EXPEDITIONS

Now that is an odd word. "Phishing," pronounced like "fishing," is the art of casting a lure in your direction and hoping that you will bite—revealing information that will be helpful to the "phisher," but may be very damaging to you.

Phishing expeditions often come via email but are increasingly coming through phone calls and text messages. The lure is attractive: it may be a package coming to you, extended warranty for your car, a promise of payment, or an electronic attachment.

My standard warning: if it seems too good to be true, it probably is, and it may be very

harmful. Phishing expeditions are designed to get your money—either directly (by asking you to pay for something you don't really want or need) or indirectly (by taking something of yours such as your personal data that you must pay a ransom to retrieve).

I have received emails that supposedly contain a link to my bank, where I would normally log in to see my bank balance, for example. I am asked to click on the link to my bank. When this happens I (or you) can move the cursor over the link without clicking and see where it will lead.

Here is an example. I got an email about “Stiff Knees” with the reply field reading:

Within the message is a button for me to click. When I hold my cursor over the button *without clicking*, I see that, while the Reply is to “bogase.tractleveng.org,” the

To: James Ludden,  
Reply-To: Reply@bogase.tractleveng.org

Click here

[http://untifia.com/redirect.html?od=1syn609038bed212c\\_vl\\_Active12v1\\_0yq2.io3vr6.O0000rg6ojc160o00s\\_wx1250.g6ojcYTZscjUtM2E1NzZlaQ0s5tng](http://untifia.com/redirect.html?od=1syn609038bed212c_vl_Active12v1_0yq2.io3vr6.O0000rg6ojc160o00s_wx1250.g6ojcYTZscjUtM2E1NzZlaQ0s5tng)

click will take me to “untifia.com.” These are not obviously related and are a clear sign to me to immediately delete this message.

**THE CODE BREAKER:** *Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*  
By: Walter Isaacson, Simon & Schuster, 2021  
ISBN 978-1-9821-1585-2

*“As we humans struggle to fight off novel strains of viruses, it is useful to note that bacteria have been doing this for about three billion years, give or take a few million centuries.”*

The race to turn CRISPER into a gene-editing tool is a fascinating tale well told by Isaacson. While his main character is Dr. Doudna, who along with her collaborator, Emmanuelle

Even if you are familiar with the sender (who might be a friend) and the offer seems legitimate, contact the friend by another route and ask if he or she sent the offer. It is quite possible that the phisher has stolen your friend's contact list and is casting a false lure.

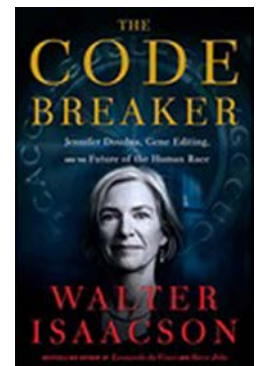
Lately seniors get phone calls offering or threatening changes in social security benefits—but asking you to give them details of your social security account. This, too, is a phishing expedition, hoping to get personal information about you so they can steal your money. The people calling you know it is a scam, so you can hang up on them without feeling guilty.

Here is a text message example:

Your FREE PlayStation 5 is Waiting!  
Best Buy PS5 Giveaway!  
Thanks for shopping with BestBuy in 2020  
We are giving away 10 FREE PlayStation 5's!  
Hurry up and go to our website to see if you are one of the 10 lucky winners!

So, if you get an offer (or threat) that seems unreal, do not respond. Ask a friend or simply delete the offer, sight unseen. — Jim Ludden

Charpentier, won the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 2020, Isaacson illuminates many others who were vital contributors on the way. By examining this multicultural and international group of scientists in engaging detail, the author offers one of the more entertaining themes of the book. Why do they do it? His in-depth interviews give us glimpses



into the private motivations of many in this rarified world. It is a rich stew of Curiosity, Collaboration and Competition.

Of course, there were epic patent battles, clearly explained while guiding us through the legalese mixed with scientific jargon necessary to satisfy the courts. However, there are four important moral questions raised by this unprecedented scientific breakthrough that are discussed in several thoughtful chapters.

First of all is the “red-line” of germline gene editing, that is, altering genes in a way that carries down to all future descendants. Second is the distinction between offering this new technique for Treatment vs. Enhancement: do you use it only to fix dangerous genetic abnormalities or to enhance human traits? Third is the inequality of access such inevitably expensive treatments could engender. Being at the genesis of these discoveries, Doudna felt a responsibility for its ethical use, so starting at a 2015 Napa Valley Conference, and again at the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2016, she and her group urged “moving forward cautiously and with respect for the new power we’ve gained.” However, she resisted calling for an actual moratorium out of fear it could prove difficult to move past in the future and might leave no space for a path forward in a responsible way. Instead, she urged “careful consideration and discussion acknowledging the risks and potential complications.”

Isaacson wisely covers these issues in a Socratic way by what he calls “Thought Experiments,” laying out details on all sides of the issues and giving the reader room to think it through without undue moralizing on his part. About the fourth issue—possible public ownership of this technology created by land-grant university labs and lots and lots of public money—he is less sanguine.

But then along came COVID and the “pure science” needed to get to work fast. Doudna’s

background couldn’t have been better custom designed to prepare her to address this new virus: her early fascination with RNA over DNA eventually led to more easily programmable RNA vaccines; she had a natural inclination for collaboration; was Executive Director of the interdisciplinary Joint Genome Institute; had experience with basic research and commercial applications; moved easily in a multi-university orbit; and knew how to create and lead lab teams. So, with an exceptionally deep rolodex of talent to call on, she joined the fray in March 2020. One of her new team said, “It’s the first time that I’ve been a part of a scientific team where so many people with different talents have coalesced around a common goal.” The story of the vision and momentum creating this lab is an excellent “stand-alone” section to enjoy all on its own.

The urgency of a pandemic timeline brought about social transformations by promoting better collaboration between individual researchers, universities, and nations. Doudna emphasized this point, which has always been close to her heart, in a feature article she wrote for *The Economist* in 2020. The Nobel Prize reminds us that curiosity-driven basic research can end up having very practical applications. Toward the end of this 500-page book, one of Doudna’s mentors and collaborators, George Church, points out that COVID is the biological event that was the catalyst bringing science and our daily lives together: “Every now and then a meteor hits, and suddenly the mammals are in charge.”

-- Ursula, ursularb@q.com

Learn More: Our library has a copy of this book, and TED features talks with Dr. Doudna.

## HOUSEPLANTS GALORE!

According to AARP, \* Millennials have developed an interest in houseplants during Covid! Well, it’s about time! That reminds me of the 70’s, how about you? Remember ferns,

spider plants, and wandering Jews? (And macrame plant hangers are also “in” again, but that could be another article—or craft class.)

Science has shown that dedicating 2% of space in our home to plants can increase humidity by 2% and improve our concentration, happiness, and anxiety-reduction—and can remind us of previous positive experiences. If you’re inexperienced with houseplants or don’t want to work very hard at it (nobody’s judging), there are some easy ones to grow.

- Pothos – Easy to root in water, so put a few cuttings in a glass, keep the water level above the roots that start, and watch the roots grow for a few weeks before you plant the cuttings in soil.
- Heartleaf or split-leaf philodendron – These also propagate in water. The split-leaf needs more light in order to develop the “splits” in the leaves.
- Peace lily – Blooms in lower light, needs regular watering or it will wilt, and it can grow to six feet tall.
- Cast iron plant – Is indestructible and likes part to full shade. Too much sun will burn the leaves, and don’t over-water it. It can be divided and comes in a variety of colors.

Plants need some basic care, of course.

- Pot – A clay pot allows the soil to dry faster, plastic and ceramic hold moisture longer. Pick a pot with a hole in the bottom for drainage. If the hole would allow soil to fall out, put a stone or pot shard over it, then put the soil into it.
- Soil – You can find very good potting soil (better than potting mix) in a bag. Enhance it by adding a little sphagnum peat moss or composted pine bark, as well as vermiculite or perlite. Cacti and succulents like special cactus soil; African violets like specialty soil, too.

- Watering – A rule of (green) thumb to test whether your plant is thirsty is to stick your finger into its soil up to your second knuckle. If it feels dry, water gently until it leaks from the hole in the bottom into the pot’s saucer.
- Light – Plants need light—and rest, too. About 14-16 hours of daily light is a good average. If the light is strong, they might need a shorter duration. If it’s low or indirect (away from the window or filtered or in a north window), your plant might want light for a longer duration. If it’s hard to find good light in your home, plants that like low light are snake plant (also known as mother-in-law’s tongue), Pothos, and peace lily. Plants that love strong light are cacti, succulents, palms, and ficus.
- Fertilizer – Feed your plant when it’s actively growing in spring and summer. Give it a good general houseplant food about once a month or less. If white “salt” forms on top of the soil, time for a nutrition diet (less fertilizer).
- Pruning – Do a little of this in the spring when the plant becomes active, as it encourages new branches.
- Repotting – Yay! Your plant is growing! Some plants need repotting every year. Look for roots coming out of the pot bottom or appearing on the soil surface, or smaller new leaves, or the pot tips over. Repot the plant when actively growing (spring or summer) to just one size larger. Some plants actually like to be pot-bound, e.g., African violets, snake plant, peace lily, spider plant, and ficus. (That’s what AARP says. My snake plant went nuts when I repotted it—twice—and had a couple dozen “babies”!)
- Dust control – Use a damp cloth (water, nothing fancier) or rinse your plant in the shower. Do not use leaf polish products, which trap dust over time.

Have fun watching your “babies” grow!  
 \* Credit AARP online seminar and a little personal experience. -- Nancy Ewing  
 (To be continued in August *inTENTions*)

## RESOURCES

To see how to stay safe after having been vaccinated for COVID-19, see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html> It will also help you find a vaccine location if you have not been fully vaccinated.

Jim Ludden refers Members and others to a *USA Today* article, “See, touch and voice control your iPhone,”: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/columnist/2021/05/15/iphone-home-button-assistive-touch-magnify-voice-control-fix-accessibility/5062817001/>

Suzanne Schutze reminds us about the Little Free Libraries around Taos. She says “There

are some really good books there—take one, leave one, or take more than one. There will be plenty more, often children’s books in good condition for your grandkids.”

They are for books only, not manuals or magazines. She lists some of the locations: Weimer area on Blumenshein, near the entrance to Family Practice on Paseo del Pueblo Sur, on the north side of Este Es Road east of Maestas, near the Mariposa Apartments, on north Blueberry Hill, on Gusdorf Road where it goes east and west at the park, and at the Ranchos Plaza Grill.

See an AARP website to participate in a program, “Staying Sharp” with guidance from the Global Council on Brain Health. AARP members can learn simple steps to maintain brain health at <https://stayingsharp.aarp.org/?referrer=https://stayingsharp.aarp.org/themes/brain-at-any-age/>  
 -- Linda Thompson

Please click [here](#) to make a charitable contribution so that TENT can help our elder community.

**TENT needs your help to help others.**

## TENT

**(Taos Elders and Neighbors Together)**

### Memberships Receiving Services

**Individual**  
 \$350/year or \$32/mo.

**Household**  
 \$450/year or \$40/mo.

**3 Month Trial**  
 \$150 or \$50/mo.

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