



## OUR STORIES:

### NEW TENT BOARD MEMBER YVONNE HAYES

When Yvonne Hayes got the call earlier this month confirming her invitation to become TENT's newest Board member, she said, "Timing is perfect! I've been looking for a new challenge."

For over 90 years, Yvonne has never stopped embracing the next adventure. Growing up in Michigan's Finnish community, she learned to love nature and happily explored the Upper Peninsula. Between the years of being an athletic girl in the north country and an active elder in the desert southwest, she filled her life to the brim.

Yvonne had a career as a special education consultant for high school counseling and curriculum. Challenging and rewarding as that work was, however, it was being mother to a blended family of seven children that brought the most satisfaction. She was married for 37 years to Al, a mechanical engineer and "kind, generous, intellectual man," who loved to build things. When they retired, they bought a second home in Santa Fe between, but not too near, their children in Albuquerque and Taos. They spent winters in New Mexico and summers on Michigan's Upper Peninsula; they traveled, hiked, and camped. Al gave Yvonne a

loom, and she became a weaver, as befitted her Finnish ancestry.

When Al died in 2014 after a long illness, Yvonne faced the challenge of creating a



new chapter. In her eighth decade and after 27 years in Santa Fe, she knew it would be best to make a new home near family. Then Taos Mountain called her, as it has called others. Her daughter, Dianne, had been settled here for years and welcomed the idea of having Yvonne join her. They found a cottage they loved, tucked among trees near a *rio*, and had a separate apartment added for Dianne. One small room became a weaving studio, and Yvonne found perfect places to display family heirlooms. She soon made a circle of friends among the Unitarian Congregation of Taos and book lovers in town. One small group has explored in-depth Eckhart Tolle's *Stillness Speaks*, a book Yvonne says has brought her peace in the years since Al's death.

Having joined TENT soon after it launched, Yvonne is “100% behind its purpose” and values the services she’s received. Interacting with other TENT Members, she became aware of how many are lonely and isolated, especially those without access to computer connections. Addressing this concern will be a priority for

her on the TENT Board. Asked what advice she offers for aging gracefully, Yvonne credits her mother, who lived to be 103: “Try something new, something out of the box!”

-- Mya Coursey

## FROM THE BOARD:



Well, since the damn virus is still with us, we continue to hold Board meetings by Zoom. Additionally, due to a spike in COVID-19 cases, the Board voted to suspend Membership dues for the month of

December, and we will look at this issue month by month, going forward.

Services are down by about 50 percent, and we only took in one new Member this past month.

We happily welcome a new Board member, Yvonne Hayes; see her profile in this edition. Thanks to our youngest Board member, Jacob Crisp, we now have a [Facebook page](#), which can be found under the name “Taos Elders and Neighbors Together.”

Our Volunteer coordinator, Kate Harris, has just finished her first year of employment, and both she and the Board are pleased with how this is working out. Thanks Kate!

-- Jim Schultz, Board President

## Introducing a New Organization in Town: TAOS COUNTY ELDER BENEVOLENT PROGRAM

Elders who become incapacitated from illness or accidental injury suffer significant financial loss when they need long-term care. The purpose of Taos County Elder Benevolent Program (TCEBP) is to enable elders to stay in their homes or long-term care facilities by helping them seek, qualify for, and apply for governmental support programs (e.g., Medicaid, Veterans’ widows’ benefits, state rental assistance, etc.). These benefits can help the elder or family avoid income and/or asset loss, resulting in poverty.

Not a TENT program but a good one you should know about, TCEBP has been formed through collaboration with other local nonprofit organizations to provide free:

- Navigational assistance in finding the appropriate governmental support source;
- Assistance in completing applications for such benefits;
- Sources of specialized professional firms for creation of legal documents, if necessary.

If you know of anyone who needs this service let TCEBP know. Elders and their families can contact me at 575-758-0404 for further information.

-- Bill Waugh

## Book Notes West/Southwest: #1 The Santa Fe Trail

We live in a remarkable part of the country out here in the Southwest, a region that has attracted many writers whose books provide countless hours of good reading. I was fortunate to grow up in the Borderlands and find a career centered in books and teaching, so naturally I met many writers along the way. There were opportunities to discuss the art and craft of writing and also offer lectures about authors and their books. For this series of book notes, I will be reaching back through those talks to share once more the excitement of discovery awaiting us between the covers of books. Some readers of "Book Notes West/Southwest" may recall one or two of my lectures out at Ft. Burgwin on those beautiful summer evenings 15 to 20 years ago when we gathered for weekly talks in the dining hall, so don't be surprised if you find passages that are faintly familiar. If you like what you read here, perhaps we can keep it going as long as I can saddle up and make my way to the library.

Trails are always a good place to start a journey, and the Santa Fe Trail is one of the best to follow with books in the back seat of your car or beside your favorite reading chair at home. Rich in history and adventure, the Santa Fe Trail opened up when Mexico gained her independence from Spain in 1821. For almost 60 years, it was the principal commercial trade route over land from Missouri to Santa Fe and then down to Mexico City, for a total of some 2,200 miles one way.

The best contemporary account of the Santa Fe Trail is *Commerce of the Prairies*, written by Josiah Gregg, one of the most notable traders of the time. Nothing escaped Gregg's attention, including aspects of the route, the difficult stream crossings, the construction of the wagons, their outfitting and teams, the dangers of Indian attacks, the buffalo hunter's preparation of jerky as part of provisions

needed to get through another New Mexico winter, and details of homes and daily life in Santa Fe. *Commerce of the Prairies* is a compelling read; it paints a full canvas of the Santa Fe Trail and its caravans. But something is missing--women on the trail.



That is because there were very few. This is one of the elements that makes Susan Shelby Magoffin's beautiful and moving diary such a reader's delight. It is titled *Down the Santa Fe Trail and Into Mexico*, and I like the University of Nebraska Press paperback for Howard R. Lamar's foreword. For many years Lamar was the leading figure at Yale in the history of the American West, and here is what he tells us:

"The circumstances which prompted Susan Magoffin to keep a journal of her travels were almost as romantic as the trip itself. She was only eighteen years old in 1846 and had been married to Samuel less than eight months at the time of the journey . . . Although Magoffin was Susan's senior by some twenty-seven years, she was helplessly in love with the tall, big-boned Kentuckian, and intrigued by his seemingly romantic and hazardous career as a frontier merchant . . . Even a superficial reading of this western volume reveals the extremely valuable historical material it contains about the Santa Fe trade in its heyday, Mexican life and customs, Kearny's conquest of New Mexico, and the progress of the Mexican War in the border provinces."

Susan Magoffin's observations and descriptions are vivid, but they are especially poignant when she reaches Bent's Fort shortly before her 19th birthday on July 30, 1846. First she describes her surroundings: "The Fort is crowded to overflowing. Col. Kearny has arrived and it seems the world is coming with him.

Volunteers are under his command now . . . " She is writing, of course, about Stephen Watts Kearny and his Army of the West, on its way to Santa Fe to capture New Mexico at the onset of the U.S.-Mexican War. Susan was literally looking out her window on a major historical event in the making, and she continued documenting that conquest and life along the trail all the way down into Mexico. While at Bent's Fort she reveals a cruel irony—suffering a miscarriage, while in the room below, an Indian woman gives birth to a healthy child: "My situation was very different from that of an Indian woman in the room below me. She gave birth to a fine healthy baby, about the same time, and in half an hour after she went to the River and bathed herself in it, and she has continued each day since."

Several decades ago, my wife and I packed Susan Magoffin's diary, *Gregg's Commerce of the Prairies*, in a box of other books on the back seat of our car and set off to explore the trail ourselves. Starting at Boonville and Old Franklin on the Missouri River, we began our journey down the Santa Fe Trail, reading passages and photographing landmarks along the way as we came through Independence, Council Grove, Great Bend, Chouteau's Island, Bent's Fort, and Fort Union—landmarks for the early traders, now landmarks for us. It is a remarkable experience to read the early accounts while standing at these historic places

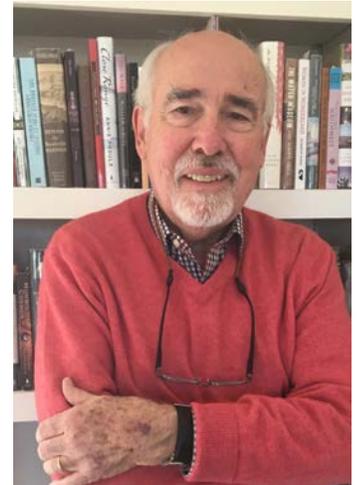
late in the day, with the sun slanting over the prairies and revealing the ruts made by wagons that rolled over a land so remote; or, watching the sunset and a new moon over Cottonwood Crossing and recalling Susan Magoffin's description of camping there.

Books are great traveling companions for the narratives they hold. The stories and histories in books can spin out like a grand journey, but they also have a way of leading us around unexpected corners where memorable surprises await. In the next installment of "Book Notes West/Southwest," there will be some more books to check out for our rambles west of the Mississippi River.

-- David Farmer

Dr. David Farmer retired in 2001 from Southern Methodist University (SMU) as Director of DeGolyer Library and a faculty member in SMU's Master of Liberal Arts Program. His books include an edition of *Women in Love* published by Cambridge

University Press, and *Willard Clark, Printer and Printmaker* published by the Museum of New Mexico Press. David and his wife, Carol Farmer, moved from Texas to Taos 20 years ago and can't imagine living anywhere else!



## The Enchanted Circle COAD

Recently I was asked to join the EC COAD (Enchanted Circle Community Organizations

Active in Disaster) as I represent various organizations in the Enchanted Circle, one of them being TENT. The COAD is made up of various local sectors who "foster effective

preparedness, response and recovery of the people of the Enchanted Circle as needed, especially in times of disaster.” The COAD formed in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and has been working since then to provide support, mitigate risk, and continue to keep its finger on the pulse of the community as it navigates the pandemic.

I have updated the COAD recently regarding TENT’s decision to limit in-person contact

between Members and Volunteers, and I have been disseminating data from the COAD to the TENT board to help it make better informed decisions as TENT navigates the ever-changing landscape of COVID-19 nationally and locally.

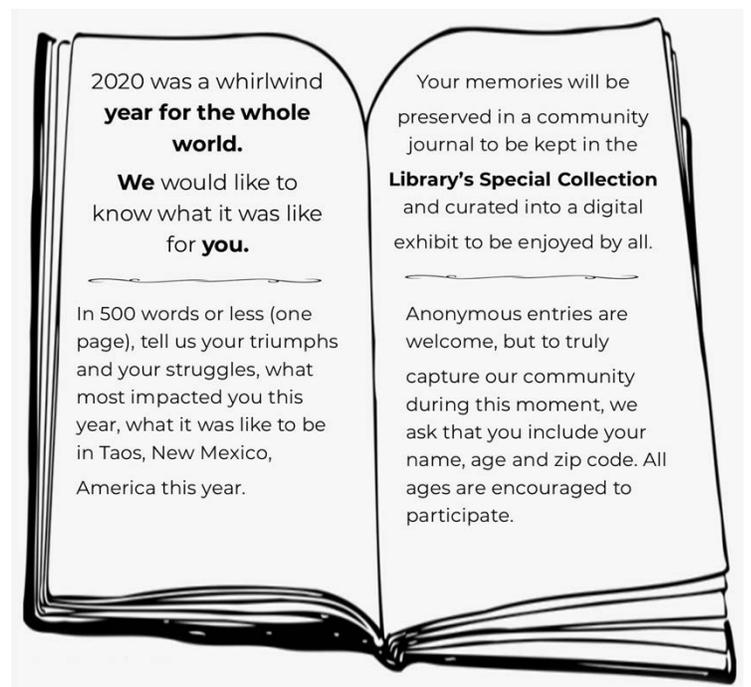
I am proud to represent TENT at the EC COAD and am humbled by the efforts being put into the community locally.

-- Jacob Crisp

## TELL YOUR STORY: 2020 COMMUNITY JOURNAL

Taos Public Library would like to record your story of this challenging year! Submit 500 words or less (one page) now through December 21, 2020. Email your entry to [librarian@taosgov.com](mailto:librarian@taosgov.com) or drop it off at the library book drop, which is open Thursdays from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. See the adjacent graphic for further instructions.

[The library reserves the right to refuse inclusion of entries for any reason. Use of profanity or explicit descriptions of adult situations will be automatically discarded by the library. Not all entries will be selected for digital exhibit. By submitting an entry, you give permission to the library to utilize your work. Names will not be included in the digital collection.]



## TENT donations via Amazon Smile

You can make small contributions to TENT if you use Amazon for any purchases. If you register with them, then 0.5% of every purchase is donated to TENT at no cost to you. This is a small donation, but it is painless and regular with every purchase.

If you buy from Amazon through your computer browser, simply connect to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and click the <Get Started>

button and follow the instructions. I have a bookmark for this, but if you forget and connect to amazon.com, the computer will remind you and automatically switch over. If you have the Amazon app on your smartphone, open the app and find “Settings” in the main menu (☰). Tap on “AmazonSmile” and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

-- Jim Ludden

## Volunteer Coordinator Update

Please welcome our new Volunteers: Randie Gonzales, David Matesi, Juan Lopez, and Darrel Baumgardner, who have already started to fulfill service requests. Thank you, and welcome to the TENT community!

We also welcome David Silva, now in charge of Member Care and Outreach. Members, stay tuned, David will be contacting all of you, setting up events, and he will also expand our community outreach and collaboration with other agencies and services. Thank you, David!

Gary and Charlene Shapiro remain our Member Intake Coordinators, we thank you for continuing this service.

I would like to thank all those who volunteered food and/or delivery of Thanksgiving goody bags to Members: Catherine Roth, Donna Dufresne, Sally Mayer, Linda Thompson, Reggie Mosser, Lana Green, Honore Maloney, Catrin Meyer, Anne Clark, Barbara Berge, Mya Coursey, Wally Cox, Colleen Shaughnessy,

Becky Calvert (and Heather), Bill Hoffmann, Ron and Marianne Furedi, Nancy Herrick, Catherine Guynes, Carol Farmer, Darrel Baumgardner, Paula Claycomb, Jane Farmer and Jim Schultz (apologies if I missed anyone). You embody the spirit of community that makes TENT so special!



As I write this, I realize that we have a LOT to be grateful for in this difficult time. We have each other, a warm and supportive community, even if it is from afar. Please stay well so that when we turn the corner on the virus, we can finally hug each other, break bread together, and rejoice in a newfound sense of togetherness.

*-- Kate Harris*

## LAUGHING UNDER THE TENT: The Graceful Art of Listening

In the spring of 2019, I telephoned my doctor's office to make an appointment. When the receptionist answered, I stated pleasantly and succinctly, "Good morning. This is Sharon Bradshaw and I'd like to make an appointment with Dr. Rosenthal about a possible sinus infection." Without pause or pleasure she asked, "Who's calling?"

In my ever-so-clever way, I queried, "Does the name Sharon Bradshaw ring a bell?" Her answer was: "What?" I knew immediately that I would be entertaining no one but myself by continuing with this particular version of sparkling banter, so I simply said, "My name is

Sharon Bradshaw." Her reply: "Which doctor do you want to see?"

Of course, I was tempted, but decided to take the high road: "I'd like to see Dr. Rosenthal, the ear, nose and throat specialist. I believe I may have a sinus infection." "Dr. Rosenthal's next available appointment is May 20th at 9:00 AM," she offered. "That will be fine, thank you," I said.

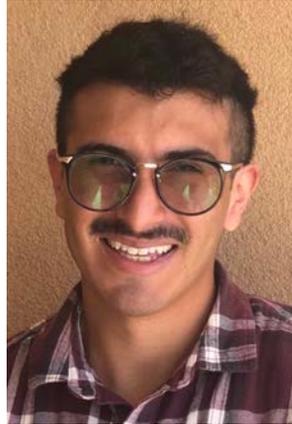
My mood was quickly improving, and I began to feel empathy for this young woman. She must receive dozens of calls each day and find it challenging to listen attentively to each and every caller. I was also remembering "patience

is a virtue" when this young woman, this very same young woman I was just beginning to soften towards, interrupted my thoughts by asking: "What will you be seeing the doctor for?"

One can only hope Dr. Rosenthal, as an ear, nose and throat specialist, will someday explain the correlation between the ability to hear and the willingness to listen—at least as it relates to her own front office. -- Sharon Bradshaw

## NEW MEMBER CARE/OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Hello TENT, my name is David Silva. I was born and raised here in Taos, NM. I grew up with parents who helped volunteer and participate in our local community. Seeing this as an example has inspired me to give back to my community.



Enchanted Circle Corps is a program designed to connect people and other organizations together. There are plenty of resources here in Taos, but sometimes we are unaware of these programs. The Enchanted Circle Corps is bringing individuals from different programs together to connect with one another. I became involved with the Enchanted Circle Corps due to the job description of connecting our community and that idea

appealed to me. I am excited to work with TENT because I value helping people. I love to learn from jobs that foster empathy and consideration of our experiences, and I seem to have found that within TENT.

My job for TENT will be as the Member Care and Outreach Coordinator. I hope to connect people during these times of COVID-19 through programs such as meetings where people can share their stories and traditions. As a group, TENT is also interested in starting a pen-pal program and I will be helping with that. One of my big ideas is that collaboration is important, and ideas are fluid and can change. So, if any of the ideas I shared in this statement can be built upon or added to, let me know. I always have an open ear and love to see ideas evolve from their initial inception. Hope to hear back from anyone and have a wonderful holiday.

Feel free to contact me at 575-741-0681 or [david@enchantedcirclecorps.org](mailto:david@enchantedcirclecorps.org)

## WHO ARE THE CALL MANAGERS?

This month we would like to celebrate our Call Managers, TENT's frontline. They are the helpful and friendly people who answer the phone and your questions (routing them to the appropriate people when necessary) and enter service requests into the system. We would not be so successful were it not for their dedication. Lana Green is Call Manager on Mondays and Tuesdays, Nancy Herrick on

Wednesdays and Thursdays, Marianne Furedi on Fridays, and Elizabeth Rusnell on the weekend. A brief introduction to each of them follows.

I owe a debt of gratitude to these marvelous Volunteers who work hard, give up their days to be on call duty, and get very little recognition. We at TENT appreciate everything you do and could not manage without you. THANK YOU!!! --Kate Harris

**Elizabeth Rusnell** taught English in high school and college and upon retiring, became a polymer clay jeweler and ceramic artist. Having lived in Alaska and New York, she moved to Taos in 1964; after 10 years, she lived in Roswell, New Mexico, and in 1998 moved back to Taos. As a Call Manager, she considers TENT's most important services to be transportation, light home repairs, computer assistance, visits, and check-in calls for homebound elders.

**Marianne Furedi** lived her first five years in a Displaced Persons' Refugee Camp in Germany. She emigrated to NYC in 1950, attended public school, college and graduate school, worked as an RN in chronic and long-term care, hospice, public health, community health, and psychiatric services. She married Ron Furedi (they met on their first day of college and are happy to still be together) and they moved to Taos in 2005. Marianne was involved in the inception of TENT, serving on the Steering Committee, Board of Directors, and as first Volunteer Coordinator. She is grateful to TENT Volunteers and Members for giving her the best work experience of her life.

**Lana Green** lived 30 years in Hinsdale, Illinois, where she raised her family, taught environmental education, led wilderness retreats for adults, and served as Director of Public Relations for St. Francis Retreat House at Mayslake in Oak Brook, IL. For a year in Three Rivers, Michigan, she applied her master's degree in divinity to the Mennonites' Contemplative Retreat House Ministry. She came to Taos 24 years ago to help rear her grandchildren, also serving as Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity (two years) and as an elder care provider for clients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia (10 years).

**Nancy Herrick** grew up in New York, moved to the city after college and lived 30 years in Manhattan, raising two children. In 1996, she and a friend moved to Taos for six months, and Nancy wanted to stay. She worked at Taos Ski Valley as Children's Ski School day care supervisor, returning to work at Fire Island, NY, as postmistress. When TENT started up, Nancy and her partner, Bill Hoffman, became Volunteers, realizing that, as Nancy says, "This is a time in life when we have time to share." (Nancy and Bill were profiled in the February 2020 issue of *inTENTions*.)

## TENT MECHANICS UPDATE

The group of TENT Volunteers specializing in home maintenance and repair, a.k.a. the "TENT mechanics," have been no less busy during the COVID crisis than have our other Volunteer service divisions.

Special efforts to apply our safety protocols to Members requesting help with minor home repair and maintenance issues have largely been accomplished without issue and, judging by feedback, to the satisfaction of everyone involved, all with a large nod to safety. Because all tasks posted on the TENT website are subject to the availability, time constraints, skill

level, and experience of the Volunteers involved, we ask that Members keep in mind that we may need to rearrange or postpone some tasks pertaining to home repair / maintenance during this unusual time.



Chuck Doughty fixing a broken door lock

However, urgent requests will always receive special attention and are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Volunteers Chuck Doughty, Bill Hoffman, and Wally Cox have tackled the usual array of household issues such as replacing light bulbs and switches, repairing flush valves and furniture, stringing clothes lines, replacing well water filters, hanging mirrors, and installing physical aids such as safety grab bars and toilet seat risers. Stacking firewood, sweeping snow, and repairing shower and light fixtures also come to mind in the job descriptions. Being a TENT mechanic has the added perk of never having to fix the "same old thing."

Since our inception, TENT mechanics have occasionally been asked to perform tasks that go beyond the common definition of simple repair or maintenance. In such cases, the

responding Volunteer may need to make an on-site assessment to determine if the job may exceed his/her skill set and/or comfort level or whether the task is beyond the scope of what TENT as an organization should attempt. Again, cases are taken on an individual basis, and we may recommend that the Member seek the services of a licensed tradesperson or firm. Although TENT refrains from recommending specific contractors or firms, we may share personal experiences of our Members and Volunteers.

Hopefully, we can continue to satisfactorily fulfill most requests, and we always appreciate constructive feedback on how to improve these TENT services. Please remember that TENT is a work in progress—we are still defining our organization and its scope, particularly in these extraordinary times. Your opinion and input matter. -- Wally Cox

## LIFE MILESTONES:

### MIRIAM KRAMER: 1941-2020

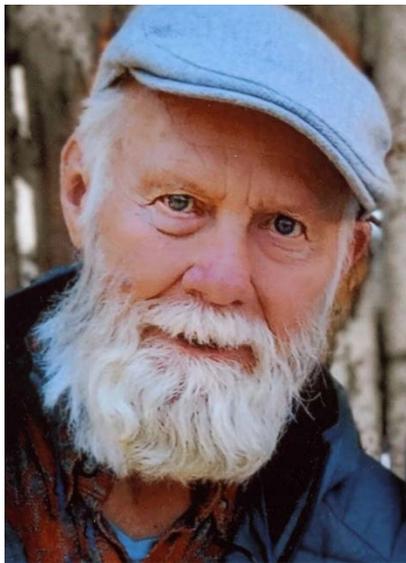
Born at Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan on April 5, 1941, Miriam Kramer was raised in an Orthodox Jewish home in the Bronx. After completing a bachelor's degree, she worked as a paralegal in Manhattan. She continued paralegal work when she moved to Santa Fe in 1983 and also worked for the State of New Mexico. Miriam had strong interests working with art and the dying. She retired to Taos in 2011. Since her critical health issues required skilled nursing care last spring, she moved to Taos Living Center. She succumbed to COVID-19 and passed on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

Miriam loved art, music, singing, and walking the trails at Bandelier National Monument.

Beginning in 1975, she was a student of Ram Dass and lived for a time in Queens with other devotees of Hanuman and Neem Karoli Baba. Ram Dass gave Miriam the name Lakshmi Ma in the late 1970s, and she is known by this name among her spiritual family members. Not survived by any known relatives, Miriam/Lakshmi Ma leaves behind many friends who enjoyed her laughter, humor, and stories. --- Gail Moran



## JOHN IRWIN: 1936-2020



Most of my contact with John Irwin was as a TENT volunteer, driving him to the gym. I suppose his Parkinson's was advanced by the time I met him. How I wish I'd known him when he was growing up on Long

Island. I could have played on the same basketball team! I had to learn from his wife, Alice, that he was something of a star athlete in college, that he had a marvelous sense of humor and loved to laugh. And later, when he was a physicist, he was in the camp of those protesting nuclear testing and the arms race to oblivion. Communicating had become difficult for him, and my hearing is not great, so we did without long sentences. And I did without wonderful stories from his life, unless they were quite abbreviated. I once asked him how he could adjust to not being able to communicate easily, and he replied that it was like saving his words for when they were necessary. So, he was a guy who could radiate warmth, without saying a word. And you knew that this was a kind man. He might greet you with a touch and a twinkle in his eye. I think often now of that twinkle in his eye. And I'm so grateful for our brief friendship.

-- Joe Von Kugelgen

John Irwin was one of those men you feel privileged to have known. He was among the kindest, most generous, positive-thinking, and funniest people you could hope to meet. I knew John through yoga. He faithfully came to my chair yoga classes for at least two years,

and when TENT came into being, I was his transportation to and from class at least one day a week (occasionally two if he didn't have other means), so I got to know him pretty well. Other people in the class could be overheard saying how upbeat John was and how he never complained or gave into the physical limitations of Parkinson's disease, with which he was afflicted. He was an inspiration for how to live well in spite of a debilitating disease. As a testament to his sense of fun, he came to yoga class on Halloween (2019) wearing a very funny mask, which made us all laugh. Whenever John was asked how he was doing, he always replied, "good," and that wasn't just a pat answer. He really meant he felt "good" because that's how he saw life. I am deeply grateful that the day before he died, I was able to tell him how he had enriched my life and to thank him for that and for being the positive presence he was in this world. He is greatly missed!

-- Janice Crouse

I was acquainted with John Irwin before TENT. We went to exercise classes together, so picking John up was easy and kept me honest and attending. John's happy smile and bright blue eyes were enough to make my day. Talking was difficult for John, but we enjoyed conversations about travel or research physics or current news events. His bright mind always shone through. We teamed up to play ball or walk the horizontal ladder at the Parkinson's exercise class at Aurafitness. John was always better at basketball (as a former player) than I was. John will be dearly missed by all of us who had a chance to enjoy his smile and lovely personality.

-- Rebecca Calvert



## RESOURCES

From the Governor: “I know times are tough for many—that’s why we set up a website to help those in immediate or long-term need. If you or a loved one or neighbor is seeking nutritional, economic or health care assistance—or any other personal help—please visit <https://www.newmexico.gov/i-need-assistance/>. If you need small business assistance, please call the state’s informational hotline at 833-551-0518, and select Option #2.

“*New Mexico Crisis Network*: The holidays are a tough time for many people, especially when travel and distance are limited. If you or someone you know is having or nearing a crisis, please visit, or have them visit, the [New Mexico Crisis Network](#) to get the help they need. No one should have to go through this crisis feeling alone, so please get help if you or someone you know needs assistance.”

AARP offers a Brain Health Challenge, Being Present, “which demonstrates mindfulness techniques and how they can foster calm and balance in everyday life.” Click [here](#).

Senator Martin Heinrich: “My office has helped hundreds of veterans across New Mexico

access their care and benefits. Whether you or a family member is having trouble filing a claim, receiving benefits, accessing health benefits or military records, replacing medals, or other veteran’s issues, you can contact my office by calling (505) 346-6601 or by visiting the [Veterans Resources Center](#) on my website.”

David Silva of TENT has kindly researched how we may shop safely during these times:

Curbside pickup is FREE at Walgreen's and Albertson's, pickup at Smith's is free for orders over \$35.00. Place your order and they will give you an estimated pickup time. The Taos Food Coop takes online orders for pick up at <http://www.taosfoodcoop.com/> and for a \$5.00 fee will deliver as far north as the blinking light and as far south as the St. Francis Church in Ranchos. Walmart offers free in-store pickup. Call ahead. (Super Save offers indoor shopping only.) We hope you can avail yourselves of these services in order to stay safe—and remember that our Volunteers can pick up and deliver a Member’s groceries!

-- Linda Thompson



Taos Plaza on a snowy winter holiday night, photo Terry Thompson

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS 2020

T'was the night before Christmas and all  
through Taos  
People were sitting all alone in their house  
Under the tree there was just empty space  
Couldn't go shopping, couldn't go anyplace!

Up on the rooftop I heard such a clatter  
I went up on the stairs to see what was the  
matter  
Two bighorn sheep were pulling a sled  
And on it a coyote all dressed up in red!

It was covered in pinecones and bags of red  
chili  
For Santa's delivery, it looked very silly

The coyote howled something that seemed like  
a carol  
And filled up my chimney like it was a barrel!

I went down and put it all under the tree  
Better pinecones and chilis than nothing, you  
see  
We drank margaritas and sang Christmas tunes  
We know this pandemic will be over soon!

At least we can Zoom, keep our dear friends in  
sight  
Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!  
– 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.

#### Directors

Jim Schultz	President@TaosElders.org	Jim Ludden	support@TaosElders.org
Reggie Mosser	Treasurer@TaosElders.org	Caryle Zorumski	Dr.Zorumski@Yahoo.com
Bette Myerson, Secretary/Fundraising	Bette@taosnet.com	Jacob Crisp	jacobwilliamservices@gmail.com
	Yvonne Hayes	hayesweaver@yahoo.com	

#### Leads

Kate Harris	Volunteers@TaosElders.org	Ron Furedi, Marketing	ronfuredi@gmail.com
Gary & Charlene Shapiro	Members@TaosElders.org	Linda Thompson	Editor@TaosElders.org
Nancy Ewing, Renewal Lead	newing5994@gmail.com	Terry Thompson	Publisher@TaosElders.org
David Silva, Member Care and Outreach	silvad1021@gmail.com		

PO Box 3561 Taos, New Mexico 87571 (575) 224-6335

**[www.TaosElders.org](http://www.TaosElders.org)**

[TaosElders@gmail.com](mailto:TaosElders@gmail.com)