

High Desert Dispatch: December 2021

Bulletin of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Silver City

Join us at 3845 N. Swan Street, 10:00 a.m. Sundays

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Silver City is a diverse group of religious independents seeking knowledge, spiritual sustenance, fellowship and opportunities for service to others. Our programs encompass humanism, liberal Christianity, earth-based spirituality, Buddhism and many other traditions. The members themselves plan and present the Sunday programs. **Please join us.**

UUFSC Safety Protocol: We will not be serving food or drinks in the building until further notice. Masks will need to be worn in the building at all times. We will continue to serve refreshments on the patio, weather permitting.

Dec 5th "The Commons - Center for Food Security and Sustainability" Exec Dir Dave Chandler Our Mission - To meet the immediate needs of Grant County residents who are food insecure and strive to build community around the concepts of food justice, local self-sufficiency and sustainability. We are the little organization working on big issues. Originally, The Commons was called The Volunteer Center of Grant County and was formed as a 501(C)3 non-profit organization in 2004. (Cont'd on page 2)

Moderator: Nancy Stephens

Dec 12th Conversation with Ourselves -- The tentative title is "Hope" with a little more info TBA. **Susan Golightly** will lead us on some thoughts about this topic as well as have other members and friends add their contributions.

Dec 19th "Silver City MainStreet: Then and Now" - Charmaine Wait A brief history of the program and its current projects in our ongoing work to revitalize downtown Silver City.

Nancy Cliff, Moderator

Dec 26th Our Annual Holiday Gathering It will not be the same (surprised?) as our previous potlucks before 2020. We are envisioning a gathering on the Patio with warm drinks and snacks. Maybe a fire pit? We will announce the time & more details soon.

Preview for Sunday, Jan 2nd This program will be **Open Mic**. Start thinking about what you might want to share (poetry, readings, etc.). This first Sunday in January program is in honor of the late John Catsis, a member of UUFSC.

Board Members

Carol Morrison, Board Chair
Steph Smith, Vice Chair
DeAnna Mooney, Treas.

Joanne DeMichele
Susan Price, Sec.
Nancy Stephens
Kris Neri

Membership

Nancy Cliff, Heidi Ogas

Caring

OPEN

Facilities

Paul Michaud

Hospitality

Zoey Cronin

Newsletter

John Mooney

Programming

Ron Gabioud

Social Justice Committee

OPEN

Office Coordinator

Sandra Michaud

Adult RE

OPEN

Family Programs

ON HOLD

Website

www.uufsc.com

Email address is

uufellowshipofsilvercity@gmail.com

Our mailing address is

P.O. Box 4034

Silver City, NM 88062

For membership questions,
email Nancy Cliff

ncliff49@gmail.com

Calendar of Building Events

(Please note the schedule in the building and on the website.) Contact the office coordinator uufellowshipofsilvercity@gmail.com for scheduling.

("The Commons") Cont'd from page 1

Some facts: Annual Budget: \$160,000 -- 95% from individuals and businesses -- Two part-time staff - Over 500,000 lbs. of food distributed each year to 300-500 families each month. We help people, communities and organizations build resiliency strategies.

Dave Chandler currently serves as Exec Director of the Commons -- Center for Food Security and Sustainability in Silver City. He recently served as the Director of Community Outreach and Development for Aldo Leopold Charter School, held the position of Program Director at the Wellness Coalition in Silver City and was also Asst Director for Youth Services at the Volunteer Center of Southern Arizona/Youth Now Collaboration in Tucson, AZ.

Mr. Chandler has 38 years of program and community development experience, working in a variety of faith-based organizations, public school districts, and nonprofit groups. Mr. Chandler studied at Northern Arizona University. He represented North America on the Global Health Council's AIDS Candlelight Advisory Board. In that role he traveled to Africa and India helping develop global HIV/AIDS advocacy initiatives. Dave lives in Silver City in an off-grid house that he and his wife Shannon built.

Notes from your Chair:

Thanks to all who helped with our Annual Meeting of the Fellowship, and congratulations to our new leadership team. May we continue to build stronger bonds within our Fellowship and our Community!

This month will close out another remarkable year for us all. I am thankful our Fellowship has been spared an outbreak of Covid so far. I am so pleased we are protecting each other. I am also very appreciative of those who have stepped forward to help our members and friends who are injured or ill.

May loving kindness carry us forward together into the New Year. Carol Morrison, Chair (carolmorr@gmail.com, 575-223-8972)

Here's a big shout out for our December babies!

If you'd like to include your birthday in the months ahead, please send an email to: carolmorr@gmail.com.

December 2	Jim Armstrong
December 3	Ron Gabioud
December 7	Karen Benediktson
December 19	Liam Etheridge

News from the Board:

Our Annual Meeting of the UUFSC was held at 10:00 on Sunday, November 21 with at least 30 people in attendance. Nancy Cliff and Karen Benediktson officiated our New Member ceremony where we welcomed three people into our fellowship in-person. They are Miriam Richer, Carlos and Linda Price. Other new members were unable to be present and we welcome them all.

The new Mission and Vision Statements that were presented to our fellowship by the Task

Force beginning in early 2020, were voted upon and passed by our membership. The updated statements can be found on the bulletin board in the coffee room and at the end of this report.

The Nominating Committee presented the new slate of Officers for 2022. The following people were voted to be our new volunteer leaders: Board Chair-Carol Morrison, Board Vice Chair- Stephanie Smith, Board Treasurer-DeAnna Mooney with Joanne DeMichele starting in May or before, Board Secretary-Susan Price, At-Large: Kris Neri, Nancy Stephens, and DeAnna Mooney;
Elected Committees: Audit Committee-Heidi Ogas, Nominating Committee-Carley Preusch and Stephanie Smith

Many other volunteer positions are open for you to bring your love and talents.

Please consider exploring how you can help keep YOUR fellowship running smoothly in the year ahead.

Susan Price, Board Secretary

Our Mission is to be a nurturing community that encourages spiritual growth, practices kindness and compassion, promotes sustainability and works toward justice for all beings.

Our Vision is to be a welcoming spiritual community guided by love and the Unitarian Universalist Principles.