

High Desert Dispatch: December 2022

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. Our Fellowship celebrates diversity and welcomes all, of every race, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious background, mental and physical ability or disability, socioeconomic condition, and family structure. **Please join us.**

UUFSC Safety Protocol: On Sundays, masks must be worn in the building at ALL times. We will not be consuming food or drinks in the building, but (weather permitting) will continue enjoying refreshments on the patio.

Dec 4: Doc Campbell - "Pilgrimage" Late in the twentieth century a revival began in doing pilgrimages. Most often connected with this is the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Using the Camino as a backdrop, Dr. Campbell will discuss who is interested in pilgrimage, what a pilgrimage might be, where pilgrim routes are and why people choose to walk one. Dr. Campbell is a local history researcher, author, and pilgrim on many routes. **Moderator: Ron Gabioud**

Dec 11: Todd Miller - "Border Chronicles" Todd and co-author Melissa del Bosque will talk about *The Border Chronicle* (a substack site), why they started it, what "border journalism" is and why it's important. They will bring up some of the issues they've covered, ranging from technology and climate change to border theater, the wall, and the right wing. **Moderator Ted Whitmore**
This is a Family/Childrens' Program Sunday – children 4 yrs and older have their own special activities.

Dec 18: Ashley Smith - "Anita Scott Coleman"

We will get a general overview of the life and work of Anita Scott Colman, a New Mexico writer who participated in the Harlem Renaissance, and a key figure in the African American community. Colman was a unique voice who did not shy away from discussing the damage of America's racial policies, sexism, gender, marriage. Ashley Smith has degrees in American History and in Collections Management, and a career working with historical societies and museums.

Moderator Art Thorn

Dec 25: NO 10 AM SERVICE -Holiday Gathering 3:30 Drumming 4:00 Fellowship The UUFSC quarterly drum circle meets on Sunday, December 25, to celebrate and welcome the Winter Solstice. Join in on the patio at 3:30 pm, before the Holiday Fellowship sip & snack begins at 4:00 pm. All are welcome - bring your percussive instruments and/or your chanting voice, and finger-foods/snacks to share.

Board Members

Board Chair - Carlos Price

Vice Chair - Victoria Reece

Treas., Joanne DeMichele

Sec - Susan Price

At large Members - DeAnna Mooney, Kris Neri, Nancy Stephens

Membership Team

Linda Price

Caring Team Lead

OPEN

Facilities Team Lead

Paul Michaud

Hospitality Volunteer Team Lead

Susan Price

Outreach Team Lead - OPEN

Programs Volunteer Team Lead

DeAnna Mooney

Audio/Visual/IT

John Mooney

Social Justice Volunteer Team

Joe Neri

Office Coordinator

Sandra Michaud

Adult RE Team

OPEN

Family Programs

Gay Hedges – Director

Ivy Etheridge- Teacher

Teja Clark – Childcare

Newsletter

Lynda Aiman-Smith

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
Linda Price - lbp650@gmail.com

Join us by Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3800124194?pwd=QkxTNjV3UFIJOXNlbHpsSDZ5bUhvZz09>

Meeting ID: 380 012 4194 Passcode (if needed): UUFSC

News from the Board – Susan Price, Secretary Nearly 45 members met on 11/20/22 for the Annual Meeting of UUFSC to learn updates on the past 6 months. Highlights follow: We welcomed 3 new members: Mary Beth Chrest, Maree McHugh and Amanda Hunt. We learned of the “Welcoming Congregation Work Group”, a new team that is focused on LGBTQI issues. 80% of other UUA congregations are Welcoming Congregations, and we voted to formally apply to be a Welcoming Congregation. We also voted to incorporate the 8th Principle. The Financial Advisory Team will be keeping us in compliance, reviewing quarterly financials, looking to our future, helping with a new, separate Federal Tax Return next year, among other needs. Our Bylaws were updated by another team, and the revision was passed at the meeting. The Board welcomes 2 new officers: Carlos Price, Chair, and Victoria Reece, Vice Chair. Susan Price is the new lead for Hospitality, so send her an email if you would like to volunteer on Hospitality or the Library. (susan2price@gmail.com). Other roles are still needing volunteers. Contact any Board member if you can give a little of your time to making UUFSC an awesome place to be!

Notes from your new Board Chair Carlos Price -- Accepting Challenges -- When the nominating committee suggested my name as a potential chairperson for the UUFSC board, I was honored, but apprehensive. Linda and I have only been members for a year; we are still learning who our fellow members *are*. I thought someone else with more knowledge of the fellowship’s needs would be better suited to take on chair responsibility. Then, I remembered from serving on other boards how hard it is to get newer members to accept the challenge of leadership. So, I agreed. One of the best things about volunteering for a position with the UU fellowship is the membership is understanding of mistakes and extremely supportive of anyone willing to try. Therefore, you’re already qualified to engage in a more active – more fulfilling – membership. If you’re reluctant to sign up, just show up! Participate with several teams until you find which one (or more!) best aligns with your interests: Social justice? Hospitality? Program? Facilities? These and others look forward to your ideas and helping hands.

Note from your Board Treasurer -- We appreciate the support of all who contribute. You can make financial contributions by: *Adding a check or cash to the basket on Sundays or mailing a check to UUFSC, P.O. Box 4034 Silver City, NM 88062. Please indicate on the check if it is to be applied to your pledge or if it is to be earmarked for Social Justice or any other cause. Otherwise, contributions will be applied to general operating expenses. Or, *Automatic deductions from your bank account. Contact Joanne DeMichele, Treasurer, with questions or information about how to setup automatic transfers. Call or text 575-654-5469 or email treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com



December Welcoming Days of Observance

December 1st is World AIDS Day. It’s an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day.

Globally, there are an estimated 38 million people who have the virus. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS related illnesses, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history. Today, scientific advances have been made in HIV treatment, there are laws to protect people living with HIV, and we understand so much more about the condition. Despite this, stigma and discrimination remain a reality for many people living with the condition. World AIDS Day is important because it reminds the public and government that HIV has not gone away – there is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education. World AIDS Day is an opportunity to show solidarity with the millions of people living with HIV worldwide.

December 10th is celebrated worldwide as Human Rights Day. The date was chosen to honor the United Nations General Assembly’s proclamation (on December 10, 1948) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first global enunciation of human rights. The day is usually marked by high-level political conferences and by cultural events and exhibitions related to human rights issues. The United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights and the Nobel Peace Prize are traditionally awarded on Human Rights Day.

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) filed a Coalition Amicus Brief to Support Trans Youth Seeking Gender-Affirming Care in Alabama. The Amicus Brief Supports Plaintiffs in Eknes-Tucker et al v. Gov. of the State of Alabama et al. The amicus brief is in support of the plaintiffs-appellees in a case argued November 18 before a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Twenty-eight Alabama

clergy also joined the brief. For more information: <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/amicus-brief-supporting-trans-youth>

Dec 3, 2022 – Four Shillings Short Concert for UUFSC Social Justice, 7PM This special benefit concert by these independent folk-artists who perform 150 concerts a year, have released 13 recordings and live as full-time troubadours, traveling from town to town performing at music festivals, theaters & performing arts centers, folk societies, libraries, house concerts and schools. A suggested donation of \$10 is requested. All concert proceeds will go to the UUFSC Social Justice Committee.

Dec 14, 2022 Soul Collage will meet on Wednesday, Dec 14, in-person at the Fellowship, from 3-6 pm.

Dec 21, Winter Solstice – Yule. This is the shortest day, longest night of the year. Pagans celebrate this day, knowing that the Sun will now return and grow in power.

Note from Hospitality Team re Dec 25, 2022- We have an open invitation to a Drumming Circle on the building patio, December 25th at 3:30 PM. This will be a half-hour prior to our annual holiday gathering, which will start at 4:00 PM. Please bring finger foods/snacks to share, Hospitality will provide hot beverages. Due to rising Covid and RSV numbers we will not have a potluck this year, but we can gather indoors, wearing masks, or outdoors to consume refreshments. We hope you'll enjoy the holiday festivities this month and find the happiness, peace and love that gratefulness brings!

December Birthdays

Jim Armstrong Dec 2
Ron Gabioud Dec 3

Karen Benediktson Dec 7
Patricia de Naranjo Dec 15
Liam Etheridge Dec 19

Want to see your birthday in the newsletter? Contact Denise Smith at denisesmith09@gmail.com