

# High Desert Dispatch: December 2023

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 are recommended, but optional. Refreshments and potlucks can take place in the building, as well as (weather permitting) on the patio.**

**Dec 3: Kris Neri** - "From Principle to Story: Karma, and Respect for the Interdependent Web of All Existence (UUA Principle #7)" Local and award-winning author, Kris Neri will share how UUA Principle #7, which stresses respect for the interdependent web of all existence, led her to a secondary career path and ultimately brought about the theme of her Samantha Brennan & Annabelle Haggerty Magical Mystery series.

**Moderator:** Joe Neri

**Dec 10. James Holeman** - "Search & Rescue on the Border" James Holeman, founder of Battalion Search and Rescue, will discuss the volunteer humanitarian search & rescue work his organization has been doing the past 5 years in the Borderlands of the Southwest, primarily in Arizona, and more recently in NM.

**Moderator:** Joe Neri

*This is a Family/Childrens' Program Sunday – children 4 yrs and older have their own special activities.*

**Dec 17:** Drumming for the Winter Solstice. Yule, at 9:30!

**Dec 17: Jeff Goin** - "In Love with the World"- Jeff Goin, from the Lotus Center will speak about "In Love with the World," a true story by Yongey Mingyur in which the author, leaves the comfort of his Buddhist monastery to undertake a "wandering retreat" of indefinite duration. Yongey Mingyur's story provides teachings -- by way of example -- on two of the most powerful, important cornerstones of Buddhist view and practice.

**Moderator:** Art Thorn

**Dec 24: Holiday Potluck – 4:00 pm** (No Sunday morning 10:00 Service). Come and enjoy a merry and delicious time with friends! Coffee, juice and tea will be provided. Please bring your own plates and utensils. Please label your potluck contribution with the ingredients.

**Dec 31: Pat Sterling** - "The Solstice/Christmas Tree in History and Myth" Pat Sterling will be discussing the evergreen tree, a symbol of rebirth in many cultures around the globe and the subject of many international folktales. She will focus on the history of its adoption in Christian countries.

## Board Members

Board Chair - Carlos Price  
Vice Chair - DeAnna Mooney;  
Treas., Margaret Shoemaker  
[treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com)

Sec – Nancy Stephens

At large Members - Victoria Reece,  
Bill Paff, Ted Whittemore

## 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 (Jan-Mar)

## Audio/Visual/IT/Listservs

John Mooney

## Social Justice Volunteer Team

Maree McHugh

## Office Coordinator

Sandra Michaud

## Adult RE Team

OPEN

## Family Programs

Gay Hedges – Director

Ivy Etheridge- Teacher

## Newsletter

Lynda Aiman-Smith

**Website** [www.uufsc.com](http://www.uufsc.com)

**Email address is**

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

**Our mailing address is**

**P.O. Box 4034**

**Silver City, NM 88062**

For membership questions, email

Linda Price - [lbp650@gmail.com](mailto:lbp650@gmail.com)

Join UUFSC Zoom Meeting 10am Sundays

<https://zoom.us/j/3800124194?pwd=QkxTNjV3UFIJQXNlbHpsSDZ5bUhvZz09>

Meeting ID: 380 012 4194 Passcode: UUFSC

**News from the Board from Board Secretary Susan Price** – On Sunday, November 19th we had a wonderful turn-out for the Annual meeting and potluck, with plentiful food and desserts! We are grateful to all for coming. Some highlights of the meeting: *\*New Member Ceremony* - Linda Price officiated the welcoming and induction of new members: Bonnie Bitzer, Cindy Livingston, Gail Greene, Evans Gonzales, Barbara Bush, James Holeman, Carole Czujko, Janet Douglas, Sherry Edwards, Colleen Jiron, Tony Jiron, & Mana'ar Johnson. New members who were present (Bonnie, Cindy, Gail, & Evans) introduced themselves with a short bio, and received a UUFSC mug as a welcoming gift. A New Member Covenant was read with congregational response affirming in unison. We are excited that we now have 76 UUFSC members, and we're considered a medium-sized congregation

*\* Carlos thanked out-going Board members*, Joanne DeMichele, Kris Neri, & Susan Price, with an appreciation gift for their many contributed hours of service. Volunteer members were voted in for the following positions: Board of Directors- Board Chair: Carlos Price; Board Vice Chair: DeAnna Mooney; Treasurer: Margaret Shoemaker; Secretary: Nancy Stephens; Members at-large: Victoria Reece, Bill Paff, Ted Whittemore. Nominating Committee: Ron Gabioud, Carol Morrison, Cathleen Norman; Audit Committee: Heidi Ogas, Art Thorn, & Bonnie Bitzer.

*\*Outreach lead volunteer is needed* – Carol Morrison no longer coordinates Outreach, and urges members to volunteer to lead or co-lead this important, and occasional task of organizing volunteers for the UUFSC table at events, using our provided Booth-in-a-Box. If you are not already serving the Fellowship in some way, please contact any Board member to offer your service. Happy Holidays to all, as we look forward to being in an active community together in the New Year!

**Note from the Board Chair Carlos Price** – In November we held our Annual Meeting. This marks a new year for the board, leadership teams, and committees. As a lay-led fellowship, we depend on the participation of our membership to accomplish our missions. I urge you to join one of the program teams, volunteer for workdays, volunteer for other needs (e.g. hospitality) and keep the board informed about your views on the direction we need to move our fellowship. We accomplished a great deal recently but there is still room for improvement and for new endeavors. What new activities or programs do you think we need to take on? What ideas do you have for improving some of the things we do already? Please share your ideas with the team leaders and the board. Whether you are a new member or have been here a long time, we need and welcome your involvement.



**Welcoming Days of Observance from Dave Becker** - *December 1<sup>st</sup> is World AIDS Day* – a day for people

worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for the estimated 38 million 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. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS related illnesses. 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 -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 3<sup>rd</sup> is International Day of Persons with Disabilities*. This United Nations holiday raises awareness for the rights of individuals with disabilities. The estimated 1.3 billion persons with disabilities worldwide continue to face systemic discrimination and barriers to their meaningful inclusion in all areas of society. More information is available at <https://www.un.org/en/observances/day-of-persons-with-disabilities>

*\* December 10<sup>th</sup> 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. More information is available at <https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>

*\* December 18<sup>th</sup> is International Migrants Day*. This day recognizes the important contribution of migrants while highlighting the challenges they face. Conflict, insecurity, war, and the effects of climate change have contributed to forced movement of people within countries or across borders. In 2020, over 281 million people were international migrants, while over 59 million people were internally displaced by the end of 2021. Since 2014 more than 50,000 migrants have lost their lives on migratory routes around the world. Migrants and displaced people represent some of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in society, and are often exposed to abuse and exploitation, have limited access to essential services including healthcare, and are faced with xenophobic attacks and stigma fueled by misinformation. Many migrant workers are often in temporary, informal, or unprotected jobs, which exposes them to a greater risk of insecurity, layoffs, and poor working conditions. More information is available at <https://www.un.org/en/observances/migrants-day>

**The Four Agreements Discussion Group** will meet on Friday Dec 1 at 11am, in UUFSC Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

**TOWN HALL: COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON MENTAL HEALTH** - Tuesday 12/5, 2023 at 6:00PM

At the Grant County Veterans and Business Conference Center, on Hwy 180. This is a follow up to the City of Farmington presentation "Community Solutions to Substance Abuse, Mental Health Challenges and Homelessness."

**"High Tea", "Afternoon Tea" or "Tea and Talk"** – at UUFSC! Brought to you by Barbara Bush & Linda Price, join us and pitch in by bringing a tea, a treat, or a conversation game. Please contact Barbara Bush @ [mudita.ymm@gmail.com](mailto:mudita.ymm@gmail.com) for more information or to be added on the list & share what you would like to bring. High Tea in December will be on 12/11/2023. All are welcome.

**The Soul Collage** group will meet on Wed Dec 13 from 3-6 pm in-person in the Community Room. All are welcome. All instructions and supplies are provided. Masks are optional, we run the air filter for better ventilation.

**Dances of Universal Peace** Dec 15 from 3-5PM. Join some UUFSC friends for movement and sacred song/chant from a variety of spiritual paths. Live music! Church of Harmony 609 6<sup>th</sup> St. Host: Beatriz Giraldo [nobleamiga@yahoo.com](mailto:nobleamiga@yahoo.com)

<b>Dec birthdays</b>	Jim Armstrong 12/2	Ron Gabioud 12/3	Karen Benedicktson 12/7
Patricia de Naranjo 12/15	Victoria Reece 12/19	Liam Stephens-Etheridge 12/19	Ted Whittemore 12/26

*Want to see your birthday in the newsletter? Contact Lynda at [lynda\\_aimansmith@yahoo.com](mailto:lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com)*

**You can make your UUFSC donations online!** You can direct donations to go toward your Annual Pledge, Social Justice (General or Border), our Building Fund, etc. Please consider adding the calculated amount to cover the processing fee. If you want your donation to be recurring, please indicate the frequency. [UUFSC Online Giving](#)

**Workshops on Developing a Nurturing and Caring Community for End of Life start in Jan 2024.** Meeting in the UUFSC community room, limiting workshops to 15 participants. Contact Joanne DeMichele to register [joannedemichele2010@gmail.com](mailto:joannedemichele2010@gmail.com)

Jan 9, 2024 - 10am-noon Workshop 1: Getting Comfortable Discussing Death

Jan 23, 2024 10am - noon Workshop 2: What was your first experience of death?

Feb 13 -10am-noon Workshop 3: Discussing various cultural and religious perspectives on death

Feb 27 -10am - noon Workshop 4: Get Talking and Writing – Role plays; Get those papers in order

March 12 -10am - noon Workshop 5: Hospice, medical aid in dying, and other end-of-life options

March 26 -10am-noon Workshop 6: Practical information on being with people as they approach the end of life

April 9 -10am - noon Workshop 7: Legacy Wills, Letters to the Future

April 23 -10am - noon Workshop 8: Write your own Obituary, Plan your own Memorial