

High Desert Dispatch: January 2024

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.

Jan 7: Charmaine Wait – “What is a public bank and why it would be so amazing!” In this program you will learn why it is time to put New Mexico’s money to work toward strengthening local communities. It is time to invest in creative, hardworking New Mexicans. It is way past time to create a New Mexico Public Bank. Charmaine Wait has a long career in non-profits and public service. In retirement, she still is working to make our community better.

Moderator: Nancy Stephens

Jan 14 Susan Golightly – “New Year New Beginnings” Let’s have a lively conversation, share our insights, about New Beginnings. Susan Golightly has a Masters in Counseling & a wealth of experience as a facilitator. She hosts a local radio show.

Moderator: Heidi Ogas

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

Jan 21: Nick Seibel – “The Importance of Local News” Local newspapers are being lost on an average of 2.5 per week. More than more than half of USA counties are now “news deserts” or have limited access to reliable local news. With no local newspaper, communities have lower voter turnout, decreased civic engagement, and increased polarization. Nick Seibel is the publisher of the Deming Headlight and the Silver City Daily Press.

Moderator: Art Thorn

Jan 28: Connie Thibeau-Catsis - "The Immortal Diamond"
Our True Self could be seen as an immortal diamond buried deep within us, formed under the intense pressure of our lives. It is regular work to brush away the distractions of ego to find our True Selves. Connie Thibeau-Catsis has spoken several times at the UUFSC since retiring from Arizona State University where she was a professor in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

Moderator: Carley Preusch

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

Board Members

Board Chair - Carlos Price
Vice Chair - DeAnna Mooney;

Treas., Margaret Shoemaker
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 (Nov-Feb)

Audio/Visual/IT/Listservs

John Mooney & Akien Maciain

Social Justice Volunteer Team

Maree McHugh

Office Coordinator

Sandra Michaud

Adult RE Team

Karen Benediktson & Gale Green

Family Programs

Gay Hedges – Director

Ivy Etheridge- Teacher

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 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 Nancy Stephens – The UUFSC board held a retreat meeting December 15th. We welcomed two new board members, Bill Paff & Ted Whittemore. Members shared about their backgrounds. Chair Carlos Price shared that setting policy is the biggest job of the board. We want to remove barriers to accomplishing the mission and work of the Fellowship. The board discussed goals and directions for 2024 including strengthening the Children's Program, setting building-use guidelines, & improving technology. Akien Maciain has joined the volunteer tech team, and we have recently upgraded the microphone and speaker equipment.

Note from the Board Chair Carlos Price – New Year's Resolutions. Jan. 1, 2023: "I resolve to make no New Year's resolutions." Jan. 1, 2024 "ditto." Resolutions rarely work because they seek to change ingrained behaviors by will power. If I am bad at remembering names, resolving to remember names will not work. To really change, we must understand why we forget names and set up skills to help us remember. Then we can put that information into a positive affirmation. For example, "When I meet a new person, I listen carefully to their name, repeat it in our conversation and associate it with a memory trigger." That works!

Welcoming Days of Observance from Dave Becker - January 4 is World Braille Day. Celebrated on the birthday of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille, to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication for blind and partially sighted people. More information is available at: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/braille-day>

****January 15 is Martin Luther King Jr. Day.** Commemorating the birth and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the recipient of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize and an activist for nonviolent social change until his assassination in 1968. As we witness nations around the world continue to struggle with violence, hate and poverty, today's social, political and economic landscape reveals the urgent necessity of Dr. King's approach of Nonviolence. More information is available at: <https://thekingcenter.org/king-holiday-2024/>

****January 27 is the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust.** Registered by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005, this day remembers the approximately six million Jews and countless members of other minorities murdered during World War II. The date marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet troops on January 27, 1945. Remembrance plays a critical role in fighting the forces of antisemitism and Holocaust denial and distortion by tying us fundamentally to the facts, to what took place, and the people it affected. More information is available at:

<https://www.unesco.org/en/days/holocaust-remembrance> and <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/international-holocaust-remembrance-day>

Dancing Toward Your Center January 4th 2024 3:30 to 4:30 PM Church of Harmony 609 N Arizona St.

Facilitators: Beatriz Giraldo and Wendy Biondo Contact Wendy at wsdewdrop@gmail.com Donations welcome.

The Four Agreements Discussion Group will meet on Friday Jan 5 at 11am, in UUFSC Fellowship Hall. All welcome.

"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 tea, a treat, or a conversation game. Contact Barbara Bush @ mudita.ymm@gmail.com for more information. High Tea in January will be on Jan 8 and Jan 22. All are welcome.

The Soul Collage group will meet on Wed Jan 10 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.

Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr weekend: ****Friday** Jan 12, 2024 Dances of Universal Peace 5:30-7:30PM, Church of Harmony 609 Arizona St. ****Saturday** Jan 13 Documentary – Freedom Riders – noon – 3PM, Silver City Library. ****Sunday** Jan 14, 2:30PM-10PM – Celebration of Life with various speakers, singers, performers. At Chamber of Commerce Conference Center (next to Ace). Donations to benefit The Commons.

January birthdays	Geri Sanders 1/6	Art Thorn 1/6	Jane Riger 1/11
	Juniper Armstrong 1/21	Melinda Austin 1/21	Azima Forest 1/21

Want to see your birthday in the newsletter? Contact Lynda at lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com

Thanks to Karen Benediktson for donating a pack of lovely birthday cards for sending out to birthday celebrants.

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. [UUFSC Online Giving](#)

Workshops on Developing a Nurturing and Caring Community for End of Life start in Jan 2024. There is room for one or two more participants. Contact Joanne DeMichele to register joannedemichele2010@gmail.com

Celebrate Imbolc, Feb 2, 2024 5:45-7:15PM, Lotus Center. Come celebrate this pagan holiday sacred to the Goddess Brigid. Stories, songs, poetry, dance! Contact Lynda for more info, lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com