

# High Desert Dispatch: November 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.**

**REMEMBER -- CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS - "FALL BACK"**

**Nov 6: Joe Neri - "Protest Songs for the Midterm Elections"**

Are you mad as h#ll? Have you had enough? Join us for a timely and fun program of protest songs for and about political activism and social justice. Joe Neri will share some of the most important and powerful songs that are cornerstones of the movements over the past 6+ decades. Let's get charged up for the November 8 elections! Appropriate attendee attire colors are blue or pink or tie-dyed!

**Nov 13: Denali Wilson and Abby Long - " Addressing Excessive and Extreme Youth Sentencing in New Mexico"**

Reporting on the work to end life-in-prison & long adult sentences for children in NM.

**Moderator Pat Sterling**

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

**Nov 20: Annual Meeting of the Fellowship.** We will vote on a proposed revision of our By-Laws, the first in five years. We also have a vote on the new 8th Principle. We will hold a Welcoming New Members ceremony.

**Nov 27: Sunny Kellerman. Gratitude: It's not just for Thanksgiving anymore"** Wear gratitude like a cloak and it will feed every corner of your life."--Rumi

As we leave Thanksgiving behind us, it is important to remember that gratitude is not limited to a day or a season. The art and science of cultivating and expressing gratitude benefits every aspect of physical, mental and emotional well-being.

**Moderator Nancy Cliff**

**Board Members**

Carol Morrison, Board Chair  
Steph Smith, Vice Chair  
Joanne DeMichele, Co-Treas  
DeAnna Mooney, Co-Treas.  
.Susan Price, Sec.  
Nancy Stephens  
Kris Neri

**Membership Team**

Nancy Cliff, Heidi Ogas

**Caring Team Lead**

OPEN

**Facilities Team Lead**

Paul Michaud

**Hospitality Volunteer Team Lead**

Zoey Cronin

**Newsletter**

Lynda Aiman-Smith

**Programming Volunteer Team**

Karen Murphy

**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

**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

Nancy Cliff:

[ncliff49@gmail.com](mailto:ncliff49@gmail.com)

Join us by Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3800124194?pwd=QkxTNjV3UFIJOXNlbHpsSDZ5bUhhVz09>

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

**Notes from your Board Chair Carol Morrison:** It has been a pleasure to serve as your Board Chair this past year. Having a capable, dedicated Board and Volunteers like you make the task so much easier. I hope that you will join us at the Annual Meeting of our congregation on Sunday, November 20th, when we come together in Fellowship and to vote on our 8th Principle; our revised by-laws; and our leadership team for the coming year. See you there!

**News from the Board – Susan Price, Secretary**

*Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00* rather than a regular program. We will vote on revised UUFSC Bylaws (passed by the Board). As well we will vote on the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle. The meeting is open to non-members to attend, however, according to UUA Bylaws, in order to vote you must be a member 60 days before the meeting and have made a monetary contribution (which you may do at the Annual Meeting). No potluck, but bring finger foods to share if you wish.

*The Board discussed lifting our mandatory masking at Sunday services, and voted unanimously to keep our masking protocol to honor our members who have compromised health and to help keep people safe. This goes with our Seven Principles. With winter on the way, we don't know what illnesses it may bring; daily Covid numbers in Silver City are increasing. Masking is optional for groups meeting at our building for their activity.*

*Trunk or Treat on Halloween is our next Outreach Activity.* Please consider volunteering or taking the lead on Outreach activities, which are infrequent during the year, but very important.

**Note from your Board Treasurer** -- 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. We appreciate the support of all who contribute. You can make a financial contributions by:

\*Adding a check or cash to the basket on Sundays

\*Mailing a check to UUFSC, P.O. Box 4034 Silver City, NM 88062

\*Automatic deductions from your bank account\*

-- Contact Joanne DeMichele, Treasurer, for details: treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com

**Welcoming Congregation Committee Update** – The Committee, with nine core members, has met four times since it was organized mid-August, and is working on two main issues. First, we are working through the action steps that will allow the UUFSC to apply for recognition by the Unitarian Universalist Association as a “Welcoming Congregation”—one that works to become intentionally more inclusive of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or other sexual orientations and gender identities, and which works to undo prejudice and honors every part of our backgrounds, identities, and experiences. As part of this process, the Committee has developed a set of Inclusion Principles that will be considered at the November 20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting for addition to the Bylaws, and has begun: developing ideas for program topics for fellowship meetings; reaching out to LGBTQIA+ groups in the community; reaching out to other UUA Welcoming Congregations for information and advice on what their programming and processes looked like; working to make LGBTQIA+ issues and history a regular part of our calendar, outreach, and congregational year; and adding welcoming language to our newsletter, website, and other social media and promotional materials. Second, we are working on ideas for how the UUFSC can become more “welcoming” in a broader sense, to reach out to and welcome people of diverse religious, spiritual, racial, and ethnic backgrounds. More information on the guidelines and formal action steps for recognition as a Welcoming Congregation is available on the UUA website at <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program/guidelines>, and ideas on how the fellowship can become more welcoming are at <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/ways/10-ways>. The Committee is meeting immediately after the fellowship on the fourth Sunday of each month – please stop by to join in our work or to offer ideas and suggestions!

**November is Native American Heritage Month** – There are 574 federally recognized tribes in the United States. November is a good time to learn about the rich heritage of one or more of these tribes.

**November Birthdays** -- Nov 8 - Ann Lowe, Nov 17 - Chellee Chase, Nov 19 - Paula Lynch, Nov 23 - George Ruebelmann, Nov 28 - Bob Bryant Want to see your birthday in the newsletter? Contact Denise Smith at denisesmith09@gmail.com

