

High Desert Dispatch: September 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.**

Updated: UUFSC Safety Protocol (pursuant to our most recent UUA Guidelines)

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

Sept 12th -- Nancy Cliff -- "Did the Global Response to 9/11 Make Us Safer?"

The 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attack is an appropriate time to reflect on the aftermath of the US response. Following a thoughtful TED Talk by Benedetta Berti, conflict and security researcher with a PhD. in International Relations from the Fletcher School (Tufts University), we will explore our reactions and take time to consider alternative possibilities that might result in a better and safer future for ourselves and the world. **Moderator: Nancy Stephens**

Sept 19th – Jack Crocker “The Algorithm of I”

Jack Crocker of WNMU is bringing out a book of poems, *The Algorithm of I*, to be published in September - the very first book from Mimbres Press of WNMU. The poems touch on many themes such as escaping the racism of the south, where he grew up; art vs. artifice; and ageing. He is also a past Poet Laureate for Silver City.

Moderator: Heidi Ogas

Sept 26th – Tyler Taylor “Can an Anti-racism Pledge Help Us Find a New Path?”

For decades, white people in America have been challenged to come to terms with the nation’s history of frequent cruelty to non-whites. Since 2014, a reckoning with the past - and finding a road to a far more just future - has seemed steadily more essential.

Yet, in our era of bitter divisions, achieving much greater racial justice can seem hopeless. Harsh voices on one end of the spectrum insist on dramatic changes in how whites approach most race-related issues & that huge, prompt steps be taken to remedy systemic racism. At the other end, most whites are deeply resentful and prone to massive denial. (cont’d page 2)

Board Members

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

Susan Price, Sec.

Paul Michaud

Susan Golightly

Kris Neri

Membership

Nancy Cliff, Heidi Ogas

Caring

OPEN

Facilities

Paul Michaud

Hospitality

Zoey Cronin

Newsletter

John Mooney

Programming

Ron Gabioud

Social Justice Committee

Joe Neri

Office Coordinator

Sandra Michaud

Adult RE

OPEN

Family Programs

Chellee Chase

Website

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Our mailing address is

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For membership questions,
email Nancy Cliff

ncliff49@gmail.com

For a Caring Call, email John

Heslip Unplannedjourney@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.

Sep 26th cont'd

Is there a middle path that can get us beyond this fruitless & dangerous argument? One that focuses honestly on our history, while also recognizing that white guilt & shame are actually obstacles in our path toward racial justice? An **Anti-racism Pledge**, created by several New Mexicans, offers a step in that direction. **Moderator: Ron Gabioud**

Tyler Taylor, a UU from Los Alamos, will explain more about the origin and philosophy of this pledge. He grew up near Birmingham, Alabama in the '50s & '60s. He's a history buff and retired family physician.

NUUs From The Board:

Two outstanding reasons for the early Board meeting this month was to discuss and decide on what is best for our fellowship in protecting each other from Covid, with a protocol for either a vaccination mandate or a mask mandate, or both. Looking to our UUA 7 Principles as guidance, we decided not to institute a vaccination protocol to attend services and activities.

Wearing a face mask, on the other hand, has been proven by science to be an effective deterrent to contracting the virus & it's a non-invasive tool that we can use to help protect each other. Therefore, all people entering the building need wear a mask while indoors, or may sit on the patio outside without a mask. We also decided to offer post-service refreshments outside on the patio as well as indoors as usual. Paul gave a maintenance update detailing some jobs to be done. The Mural also still has a little work to do, touch ups, etc. The board appreciates his excellent service.

The Board recognized that several members will be ending terms at the end of this fall and will be going off. They are Carol Morrison, Paul Michaud and Susan Golightly. Our treasurer, DeAnna Mooney, is due to go off but will be staying on to train a new person. Two other people have options to start a 2nd term or go off. Our Nominations people have begun to seek volunteers for the Board as well as other areas of the Fellowship as needed. Please seriously consider your ability to serve in areas that may be fulfilling for you as well as the Fellowship. Respectfully submitted, Susan Price, Board Secretary

Membership 2021-2022: Please remember to sign the annual membership list in the lobby if you are a returning member of the UUFSC. If you wish to sign as a returning member but are NOT attending programs at present, you may request that your name be added by proxy. Please let Board Chair Carol Morrison or Office Coordinator Sandra Michaud know by sending an email request: carolmorr@gmail.com; sandramichaud1981@gmail.com. If you are wanting to become a NEW member, please contact Nancy Cliff, Carol Morrison or any member of the UU Board. Thank you!

The Social Justice Committee meets on the first Friday of every month at 11am at the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend and participate. Contact is Joe Neri (Joe12Bar@gmail.com).

How to get on the UU Forum: Send your email to John Mooney (jmoonsilver@gmail.com). The forum is for non-business topics.

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

September 7 Martin Denny
September 8 Nancy Cliff
September 11 Fran Browne
September 11 Stephanie Smith
September 20 Joanne DeMichele
September 29 Pat Sterling

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