

High Desert Dispatch: July 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.

July 7: Potluck Picnic at 11am! NO 10am program. Bring your dish to share at 10:45. Please put a label on your dish showing ingredients that are allergens to some people, such as wheat, soy, dairy, shellfish, peanuts, tree nuts, seeds, hot peppers, etc. Gluten free & vegetarian labels are helpful. If you wish, bring something to cook on the grill. Condiments and cool beverages will be supplied. Please bring your dishes, cup, and silverware which will help cut down on washing dishes at cleanup. Thanks!

July 14: Mary Ann Sedillo and Linda Ortiz "Fight Like a Girl" The presenters will share the mission and vision of the "Fight Like a Girl" Organization. This group helps support and assist woman and girls in all aspects of their lives including developing mentally, spiritually & physically. They inspire others to understand the value of women's strengths in order to create a stronger community and better world.

Moderator: Heidi Ogas

July 21: Rev Bob Lavallee: Love, Not Legalism

We are a covenantal faith but what does that even mean? The typical UU church has a covenant that has great aspirations but very little on specifics. How do we know when we're out of covenant? How do we return to covenant? Rev. Rev. Bob LaVallee serves as Associate Minister at First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque.

Moderator: Nancy Stephens

July 28: Gerry Scott - "The Child's World Radio Show" Gerry Scott, a friend of a UUFSC member, will discuss a child-centered program that tentatively begins the end of August on local radio. See his website for more info: <https://exploringthechilds.world>

Moderator: Carlos Price

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/Gail Stamler (July-Sept)

Audio/Visual/IT/Listservs

John Mooney & Akien Maciain

Social Justice Volunteer Team

Maree McHugh

Border Justice Volunteer Team

Barbara Gabioud

Office Coordinator

Sandra Michaud

Adult RE Team

Karen Benediktson & Gale Green

Welcoming Congregation Team

Dave Becker, Barbara Bush, Gale Green,
Victoria Reece, Mike Sheffer

Family Programs

Zoey Cronin – Director

Gay Hedges & Ivy Etheridge- Teachers

Newsletter

Lynda Aiman-Smith

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For membership questions, email

Linda Price - lbp650@gmail.com

Join UUFSC Zoom Meeting 10am Sundays

<https://zoom.us/j/3800124194?pwd=QkxTNjV3UFIJONLbHpsSDZ5bUhwZz09>

Meeting ID: 380 012 4194 Passcode: UUFSC

Note from the Board from Nancy Stephens - Art Thorn was appointed interim treasurer. Art has been working on converting information from Quicken to QuickBooks, which offers benefits of ease of use & producing reports. The board reviewed a list of facility needs & priorities including a mini split heating & cooling system. Our unspent 2023-2024 budget surplus was \$15,000. The board unanimously designated this amount to the building fund for needed repairs and upgrades.

July Welcoming Days of Observance from Dave Becker - July 14 is International Non-Binary People's Day. This day celebrates and raises awareness of non-binary people who do not exclusively identify as a man or a woman, or who may identify as both a man and a woman, or may identify outside of these categories altogether. Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and, as of April 2022, the United States, include non-binary options in passports. In 22 U.S. states, including New Mexico, a resident may select "X" to mark their gender on driver licenses, and 27 states, also including New Mexico, will issue a new birth certificate and not require sex reassignment surgery nor court order in order to change the gender marker. This date has been celebrated since 2012 and was chosen as it falls precisely midway between International Women's Day on 8 March and International Men's Day on 19 November. More information is available at <https://www.hrc.org/news/celebrating-the-diversity-of-the-non-binary-community-for-international-non> and <https://www.manygendersonoice.org/non-binary-peoples-day.html>

July 26 is Disability Independence Day. This day celebrates the anniversary of the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The landmark legislation serves as a de facto bill of rights for Americans with disabilities, assuring them access to economic & civic opportunities. Its passage represented an unique bipartisan effort to acknowledge the centuries of discrimination suffered by the disability community, and a fundamental change to how they live their lives. More information is available at <https://www.inclusionhub.com/articles/national-disability-independence-day>

Update to our Welcoming Statement – Changed sentence - see bolded words! "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, according to the release. It is a Welcoming Congregation that celebrates diversity and welcomes all, of every race, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious background, mental and physical ability or disability, **body size or shape, health condition**, socioeconomic condition, and family structure."

Children's Programs: The QUU Hut is open, & childcare is provided all Sundays. Religious exploration programming is on 2nd & 4th Sundays. In July and August they are exploring yoga.

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

Set-up tables & chairs for the potluck - 2:00 on Sat, July 6th. Contact Susan if you can help susan2price@gmail.com

Join us in a very special Dances of Universal Peace July 6, 2024, 4:00-6:00PM, at the Church of Harmony 609 Arizona St. Dances with Arjun Jorge Calero, visiting from Columbia. Simple dances, live music, all ages welcomed!

Bereavement Support Group meeting July 8 2024 at 1:00pm. Women's Club 411 Silver Heights Blvd. All welcome.

"High Tea," "Afternoon Tea and Talk" On July 8 & July 22 at 2pm – Contact Barbara - mudita.ymm@gmail.com

The Soul Collage group will meet on Wed July 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.

Social Justice team meeting July 12 at 11am. For agenda info contact Maree McHugh marypatazonia@gmail.com

Save the date -- Celebrate the Wheel of the Year holiday Lammas on Aug 2, at Lotus Center, 5:45 to 7:15PM.

Want to help encourage more Singing in our Fellowship? Stand up and Sing with us! For more info contact Lynda lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com or Becky becky57harwood@gmail.com

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

July birthdays	George Austin 7/8	Jeanne Martin 7/9	Harriet Rogers 7/11	Zoey Cronin 7/14
	Leah Klearman 7/19	Becky Harwood 7/20	Denise Smith 7/30	

Is a UUFSC Fellowship Member or Friend in need of a Caring card? let Lynda know at lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com

You can make your UUFSC donations online! <https://D4613CBD4D2624D9.chmeetings.com//Giving/D4613CBD4D2624D9>

UUFSC Delegates' Report from UUA General Assembly 2024

Mike Sheffer and Claudia Elferdink, each from her/his own perspective. Please join us on Sunday July 28 after the service in our meeting room to ask questions, enjoy refreshments and hear our first-hand experiences!

Claudia- Preface-More than 3,400 UUs from around the country and world gathered for an all-virtual Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly 2024, June 20–23. GA quickly feels exciting, daunting and inspiring!

Mike and I focused on the 4½ hour delegates' assemblies on Friday and Saturday. They (we) send delegates annually: to decide the important issues, elect Trustees who meet regularly to do UUA business between GAs, and every six years to elect the President/CEO. This year the center was the vote on a by-law revision of Article 2. This vote was the result of a five-year process to articulate a 21st century UUA purpose.

GA programs included the Delegates' Assembly; Young Adults and Life Span Religious Educators; The Ware and Berry Street Lectures by nationally-known progressive leaders; Bridging Youth to Adulthood, welcoming and celebrating new and retiring Ministers; the bookstore and a market with beautifully-crafted UU chalice items. You can read a more thorough account at: [GA Recap](#)

Mike- Revision to Bylaws, Article II, Values and Covenant-These revisions were voted on by delegates to GA 2024 with 80.2% in favor of the revisions and 19.8% opposed. The revisions passed. Both Claudia and I voted in favor. Here is the link, [new statement of values and beliefs for Unitarian Universalism](#). The following should be noted.

*The old 8 Principles are still valid and are not in conflict with the revised Article II

*Other than reformatting, the new values are basically the same with the exception that now there is a call to action for all of our values.

*Accountability and Covenants are new to the Revision to Article II. "We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of love." and "As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation to congregation and through our Association to support and assist one another in our ministries." Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant.

Discussion: Taken from GA 2024 "Thinking about Article II Rewrite"

A number of UU's expressed concern that the Covenant part of the rewrite could be interpreted as being too restrictive. For example: "We covenant to protect all beings from exploitation." Does this mean if we buy fruits and vegetables that are non-organic and non-fair trade that we are in violation of our covenant?" Other Covenants had similar arguments. I don't think this means we promise perfection in our actions and deeds. We do what we can to advance these ideals and strive to get better.

Mike - Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW) An Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) is a statement about a significant action, event, or development in the world that necessitates immediate engagement and action among UU member congregations and groups. All AIW's passed. See links below.

[World on Fire-Humanitarian Work and Climate Change](#) affirm 95.6% not affirm 4.4%
[Centering Love Amidst the Ongoing Impact of COVID-19](#) affirm 86.1% not affirm 13.9%
[Solidarity with Palestinians](#) affirm 73.5% not affirm 26.5%

Claudia- UU Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), Worship Service and More! With the development of the internet CLF has become by far the largest congregation in the UUA. I attended their worship service which focused their new ministry to incarcerated people. Currently, these 15,000 members can attend weekly services and seek pastoral support of life challenges such as death of a parent or maintaining meaningful relations with their families. The testimonies were heartfelt; feeling respect and spiritual growth in community is life-saving.

UUA- wide Sunday Worship Service (open to the public which we attended live-streamed at UUFSC on June 23). This UUA service is the best of the best. It was also 90 minutes; way too long for an on-line program. The musicians, speakers, readings, etc. were excellent. Singing *Spirit of Life* brought us together. This service strives to be inclusive of the wide cultural and religious range of UU congregations- from Pagans, Humanists and liberal Christians to Jewish and Buddhist UU's. My initial impression was to be inspired by theme of being together as one. Across our broad diversity, our UU bond is held by our values centered on love. Our unity is strengthened by the trust and repair we practice in disagreement and reconciliation. The metaphor "Weaving Our Lives" was Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon's moving sermon.