

# High Desert Dispatch: September 2024 (Revised 9/6/2024)

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. 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. **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.**

**Sept 1: Labor Day Picnic AT 11:00AM – NO 10AM service.** Tables on the Patio (weather permitting) and inside. Bring a side dish to share, and anything you want to grill. Please bring your own plates & utensils. The Fellowship will provide non-alcoholic drinks. Help taking down the tables after and setting things aright for next Sunday will be appreciated. Set-up (tables and chairs) for the potluck will be at 2pm on Saturday, August 31. Please let Susan Price know if you can come help that day.

**Sept 8: Mana’ar Ellen Johnson** - "The Flower Ceremony" Today we have a special UU "ritual" in a Fellowship that doesn't have traditional sacraments. Rev. Mana’ar Johnson will explain the inspiring history behind the ceremony. Bring a single flower with you. Don't worry if you forget, we will have extras!  
**Moderator: Lynda Aiman-Smith**

**Sept 15: Welcoming Team** - Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families – The book *Authentic Selves* celebrates life stories of trans & nonbinary people, and their partners, parents, children, siblings, & chosen family members. A person portrayed in *Authentic Selves* is Robert Williams, a young nonbinary who grew up in the South & was fortunate to enjoy the love & support of parents & their liberal church. UUFSC's Michael Sheffer, interviewed Robert & their parents for this service. We will be drawing from Robert's story, anticipating the Silver City Pride Festival on 9/21.

**Moderator: Carol Morrison**

**Sept 22: The Enlightening Power of Nature** - Jeff Goin- Communing with nature affirms a deep, fundamental connection between our human existence and nature - a connection that can not only heal us, but lead to our complete awakening. Lotus Center director Jeff Goin will explore the path of awakening via the natural world.

**Moderator: Art Thorn**

**Sept 29 The Nurturing and Caring Community: End of Life**

The Team that planned and delivered two series of workshops between January 2024 and August 2024 will report on what they covered in those workshops, what they learned, and invite discussion from the Fellowship. The overall goal of the two series was the "Good Death," preparing for our own dying, and for the deaths of loved ones.

## Board Members

Board Chair - Carlos Price  
Vice Chair - DeAnna Mooney;  
Treas., Art Thorn

[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

Nancy Stephens/Gail Stampler (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

**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=QkxTNjV3UFIJOXNlbHpsSDZ5bUhvZz09>

Meeting ID: 380 012 4194 Passcode: UUFSC

**Note from Board Chair Carlos Price** – Some UU congregations have adopted what are called a “right relations covenants.” For example: “We will consider other perspectives & will strive not for unanimity but for mutual respect.” Not a bad thought in our current political & social environment. If we do not listen to other perspectives, we can fall into what is known as the “confirmation bias” trap. That is, we listen only to news & opinion sources that conform to our previously held beliefs. We either dismiss diverging views as ill-informed or prejudiced. Sometimes we even get upset with friends who are not as engaged in our pet issues as we are.

**Note from Board Secretary Nancy Stephens** -- Art Thorn provided financial reports – we have an unencumbered cash balance of \$58,453. DeAnna provided the Social Justice financial report for June & July showing balances of \$17,386 & \$19,208 respectively. The board reviewed Perpetual Calendar items. The membership list needs to be signed by September 15<sup>th</sup>. DeAnna showed the board features of the new website including calendar, donate option, etc.; group agreed to add vision and mission at the top and LOVE image to the principles page.

Carlos met with our insurance rep who did the walk through. They want exit signs & a new back door that swings out with panic hardware. That would require a different landing. The board voted to authorize use of building funds for a new back door & landing. Several people have asked about replacing the heating & cooling with a mini-split. This was added to the building improvement priority list. It may require an electrical upgrade. Carlos will obtain pricing information & present at the next meeting. Ted & Bill met with Sandra & went through the coordinator responsibilities. Sandra wants to train someone in handling money & messages. The board discussed interest to be paid on loans. The current interest rate is 4.7% but rates have varied. The board voted to use variable rates according to Wells Fargo 6 month CD rate.

**Sept Welcoming Days of Observance from Dave Becker - Sept 21 is the Silver City Pride Festival** at Gough Park from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Live performances, booths, food vendors, beer garden, & a safe & welcoming space for all members of the LGBTQIA+ community & their allies. More information at <https://lgbtqcc.org/event/2024-pride-festival/>  
**September 23 is Celebrate Bisexuality Day.** Also referred to as Bisexual Pride Day & Bi Visibility Day, this day celebrates diverse bi identities, raises the voices of bi people, educates people on obstacles faced by the bisexual community, & calls for positive change. The challenges bi people face, often unshared by their lesbian & gay peers, can have a huge impact on their lives & frequently mean they feel unable to be themselves, even among their closest friends & family. This annual celebration began in 1999 as International Celebrate Bisexuality Day, created by three bi activists in the U.S. It was marked that year in the U.S., U.K., & South Africa, & is now celebrated in more than 30 countries around the world. A precursor to the first official observance was the formation in 1990 of the oldest national bisexuality organization in the U.S., BiNet USA. In 2021, Pennsylvania governor Tom Wolf became the first governor in the United States to issue a statement recognizing Bisexual Pride Day. More information on this day its history is available at <https://bivisibilityday.com/about/> & <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/news/why-do-we-need-bi-visibility-day> & [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celebrate\\_Bisexuality\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celebrate_Bisexuality_Day)  
**National Hispanic Heritage Month (Mes nacional de la herencia hispana) runs from September 15 to October 15.** This celebration recognizes the contributions & influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, & achievements for the United States. In 1968, Congress passed legislation (signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson) designating the week of September 15 as “National Hispanic Heritage Week.” In 1988, the celebration was expanded to a full month in a law signed by President Ronald Reagan. September 15 is significant as the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras & Nicaragua. Mexico celebrates its independence on September 16, & Chile its independence on September 18. The Día de la Raza, on October 12, also falls within this 30-day period. More information is available at <https://history.house.gov/HistoricalHighlight/Detail/15032398402> & <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about.html>

**Request from a number of members – please don’t wear strong scents** (cologne, perfume) to UUFSC on Sundays! We have members & friends who are extra sensitive (especially folks doing chemo). *Thank you in advance.*

**Children's Programs:** The QUU Hut is open, & childcare is provided all Sundays. Religious exploration programming is on 2nd & 4th Sundays. In Sept & Oct we will be exploring different ways to use labyrinths.

**The Four Agreements Discussion Group** will meet on Friday Sept 6 at 11am, in UUFSC Fellowship Hall. All welcome.

**Social Justice Team meeting** Sept 13 at 11am. For agenda info contact Maree McHugh [marypatazonia@gmail.com](mailto:marypatazonia@gmail.com).

**Men’s Group meets on the 1st & 3rd Thurs of each month at UUFSC** at 6:30 pm. Our topics vary from light such as “What were your favorite activities as a child?” to deeper ones such as “What are your spiritual connections” Join us. All men are welcome. Questions? contact Carlos Price at [cgp775@gmail.com](mailto:cgp775@gmail.com)

**Bereavement Support Group** meeting Sept 9, 2024 at 1:00pm. Women’s Club 411 Silver Heights Blvd. All welcome

**"Afternoon Tea & Talk"** On Sept 9 & Sept 23 at 2pm – Contact Barbara - [mudita.ymm@gmail.com](mailto:mudita.ymm@gmail.com)

**Soul Collage: Wed, Sept 11, 3-5:30 pm:** Through an intuitive process of cutting & pasting images, collagers address their own life questions; collages are then shared in a trusted, supportive community.

**Drum in the Equinox Sept 22 before our program, 9:30am on our patio!** Join us in this day of balance. Bring any percussion instrument, with your chanting voices!

**Autumn Equinox Honoring the Elements Celebration. Gough Park, 9-22-2024 11am, under the Sacred Sycamore Tree.** Bring a friend a chair, rattles, drums, crystal bowls, didgeridoos. Hosted by Beatriz Giraldo - nobleamiga@yahoo.com

**The Gila River Festival** will be taking place 9-26-2024 thru 9-29-2024. <https://www.gilariverfestival.org/>

**The UUFSC Hospitality Team Needs You!** We need another Sunday morning monthly host to set up beverages & refreshments at 9:30, & do clean up beginning at 11:30. We need your help, either the 1st or 2nd Sunday of every month. There is a possibility to volunteer on the 4th Sunday if the 1st or 2nd Sunday doesn't work for you. You won't be responsible for doing this alone, because every Sunday has 2 people on a team, & you can arrange how you want to work together. Please email Susan Price at [susan2price@gmail.com](mailto:susan2price@gmail.com) to volunteer, or for any questions.

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

<b>Sept birthdays</b>	Janett Hoke 9/1	Stephanie Smith 9/11	Margaret Shoemaker 9/13	Bill Paff 9/17
	Mana'ar Johnson 9/17	Joanne DeMichele 9/20	Pat Sterling 9/29	

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