

# High Desert Dispatch: December 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 & potlucks can take place in the building, as well as (weather permitting) on the patio.**

**Dec 1: UU Video - Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon** "How to Survive the End of the World" <https://vimeo.com/1006684018>

**Moderator: Carlos Price**

**Dec 8: Heidi Ogas** - "The Five People You Meet In Heaven" is a best-selling fantasy novel by Mitch Albom that attempts to answer the basic questions as to the meaning of life. Heidi Ogas, UU member will read a summary of the story of Eddie, a man who believes his life was unfulfilling until his death brings him answers to key events in his life that shaped the man he became. An open discussion of what life's meaning may be to us and what our concepts of heaven may or may not be will follow. It is not necessary to have read the book to join or participate in the service.

**Dec 15: Akien Maciain** - "The Pagan Solstice"-- What is this paganism stuff anyway? Why was / is the solstice important to pagans? How was and is it observed? (Will there be candies after?) Akien Maciain will discuss historical pagans & the persecutions they suffered, as well as what the meaning of some historical pagan sites, such as Stonehenge, might have meant. He will address how the ancients inspired today's neo-pagans, also addressing some modern pagan rituals.

**Moderator: Kris Neri**

**Dec 22: Solstice Drumming on patio 3:30PM & Holiday Gathering 4:00PM--** Come & drum in the Winter Solstice with us, & then join in enjoying a merry and delicious time with friends! Coffee, juice & tea will be provided. Please bring your own plates & utensils. Please label your dinner potluck contribution with the ingredients.

**Dec 29: Carol McMurrain & Tom Wingo** - "Samaritans W/O Borders". After moving to Ajo, Arizona, Carol & Tom & like-minded friends formed their own nonprofit to provide requested support to several migrant shelters. Tom & Carol will share their experiences and suggestions for providing humanitarian aid to migrant shelters in Mexico.

**Moderator: Pat Sterling**

## Board Members

Board Chair – Joe Neri

Vice Chair – Lynda Aiman-Smith;

Treas.- Art Thorn

[treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com)

Sec – Nancy Stephens

At large Members - Victoria Reece,

Bill Paff, Leah Klearman

## 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

Sandra Michaud (Oct-Dec)

## 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

Barbara Bush, Gale Green, Victoria

Reece, Mike Sheffer

## Family Programs

Zoey Cronin

## 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 - [lp650@gmail.com](mailto:lp650@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 Joe Neri** - Jimmy Carter once described America, not as a melting pot, but as a mosaic comprised of individuals united & interlocked for a common good. I feel the same way about our Fellowship. America has fallen on very dark times. Although we are a community of like-minded individuals, our strength comes from the combined individual mosaics that define us as a Fellowship. Unfortunately, our new reality is that our very existence as a Welcoming Congregation, as well as the work of our Border Justice Project, might make us a target for governmental intervention and/or political vandalism & violence. This Fellowship has always been & will always be a beacon of determined hope & compassion. We are all under a tremendous amount of stress, which is all the more reason to be especially kind & accepting of each other, & respect our individual methods of coping. We are all in this together.

**Note from Board Secretary Nancy Stephens** – Thanks to everyone who attended the Fall 2024 Annual Meeting!



**Dec Welcoming Days of Observance - December 1<sup>st</sup> is World AIDS Day** – an opportunity to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for approx. 38 million people living with HIV, & to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV/AIDS related illnesses. Scientific advances have been made in HIV treatment, there are laws to protect people living with HIV, & we understand much more about the virus. Yet stigma & discrimination are reality for many people living with the condition. World AIDS Day is important, reminding the public & government that HIV has not gone away – there is still a need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice & improve education. More information at <https://worldaidsday.org/> **\*\*December 3<sup>rd</sup> is International Day of Persons with Disabilities.** This day raises awareness for the rights of individuals with disabilities. The estimated 1.3 billion persons with disabilities worldwide continue to face systemic discrimination & barriers to their meaningful inclusion in all areas of society. More information at <https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/events/2024-international-day-persons-with-disabilities> **\*\*December 10<sup>th</sup> - celebrated worldwide as Human Rights Day.** The date was chosen to honor the UN General Assembly's proclamation (December 10, 1948) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first global enunciation of human rights. The day is marked by high-level political conferences, by cultural events & exhibitions related to human rights issues. The UN Prize in the Field of Human Rights & the Nobel Peace Prize are traditionally awarded on Human Rights Day. More information available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/get-involved/campaign/hrd2024> **\*\*December 18<sup>th</sup> is International Migrants Day.** This day recognizes the contributions of migrants while highlighting the challenges they face. Conflict, insecurity, war, & the effects of climate change have contributed to forced movement of people within countries or across borders. In 2020, over 281 million people were international migrants, while over 74 million people were internally displaced in 2024. Since 2014 more than 50,000 migrants have lost their lives on migratory routes around the world. Migrants & displaced people represent some of the most vulnerable & marginalized groups in society, & are often exposed to abuse & exploitation, have limited access to essential services including healthcare, & are faced with xenophobic attacks & stigma fueled by misinformation. Many migrant workers are often in temporary, informal, or unprotected jobs, which exposes them to a greater risk of insecurity, layoffs, & poor working conditions. More information at <https://sdg.iisd.org/events/international-migrants-day-2024>

**Children's Programs:** The QUU Hut is open, & childcare is provided all Sundays. Religious exploration programming is on 2nd & 4th Sundays. In Dec we will be exploring winter holidays with the theme "Light in the Dark."

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

**Silver Chorale Winter Concerts,** Dec.6, 7pm at Terrazas Funeral Chapel & Dec 8, 3 pm at Cross Point Church.

**Silver City Indivisible has restarted!** First meeting Mon Dec 9, 5-7 pm, the Hearth, 1915 Swan, just past the Valero gas station on the left. Bring your own brown bag snack with drink. We ask for a small donation to pay for the space. Join us!

**Soul Collage: Wed, Dec 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.

**Social Justice Team meeting** Dec 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. Explore topics from light to deep. Join us. All men are welcome. Questions? contact Carlos Price at [cgp775@gmail.com](mailto:cgp775@gmail.com)

**Bereavement Support Group** mtg. Mon Dec 9, 2024 at 1:00pm. Women's Club 411 Silver Heights Blvd. All welcome

**Grant County Death Café, Dec 12, 11:00am -12 :30pm** at the Silver City Public Library. We will be discussing estate planning with local attorney Gillian Sherwood. Free. Info -- contact Lisa Jimenez at (575) 574-5473.

**Aramaic Prayer of Jesus** body prayer & chanting, Dec 24, 2pm Church of Harmony 609 N. Arizona St.

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

<b>Dec b-days</b>	Jim Armstrong 12/2	Ron Gabioud 12/3	Karen Benedickton 12/7	Patricia de Naranjo 12/15
	Victoria Reece 12/19	Liam Etheridge 12/19	Elaine Carlson 12/22	Ted Whittemore 12/26

**You can make your UUFSC donations online!**

<https://D4613CBD4D2624D9.chmeetings.com//Giving/D4613CBD4D2624D9>