

High Desert Dispatch: January 2025

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.

Jan 5: Cathleen Norman - "Starting the Year with Light" The New Year is a time to reflect on what's gone by as well as envision what might be coming in. We may want to claim peace as a vision for the upcoming seasons. Cathleen Norman will share a few tools & practices she's used over the years to create meaning from the year gone by & help envision what the next 12 months will bring. Mana'ar Johnson will guide us in a ritual for releasing & clearing. Joining as a community & sharing experience is valuable in this process.

Jan 12: Martha Del Rio - "Climate Change Lobby Update" Martha Martinez DelRio brings a love & passion for this Beautiful Earth to her volunteer work with Citizen Climate Lobby. The Citizens' Climate Lobby is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization that aims to create political will for climate solutions. Their mission statement is to "enable individual breakthroughs in the exercise of personal & political power" to create a livable world. **Moderator: Maree McHugh**

Jan 19: Emily Aversa - "The Hearth" The Hearth, a nonprofit housed in the former First Presbyterian Church on Swan Street in Silver City, seeks to provide rest, restoration, & reconnection for all who are weary. This involves partnering with local groups who share our values who can rent spaces of various sizes for workshops, meetings, musical performances, fundraisers, social & family gatherings, & day-long retreats. We have the future goal of preparing rooms for overnight retreats for people who are feeling depleted from their work for humanitarian & environmental well-being. **Moderator: Denise Jones**

Jan 26: Diana Lozano/Jessica Salaiz - "Big Brothers/Big Sisters" Silver City native Jessica Salaiz is the program specialist for Big Brothers Big Sisters & will talk about reestablishing a presence in the community. BBBS hopes to create & support one-to-one mentoring relationships between adult volunteers & children to help youth reach their full potential: Ignite the power of youth, Create meaningful matches, Develop positive relationships, & Have a lasting effect on young people's lives. **Moderator: Heidi Ogas**

Join UUFSC Zoom Meeting 10am Sundays
<https://zoom.us/j/3800124194?pwd=QkxTNjV3UFIJOXNlLHpsSDZ5bUhhVz09>

Meeting ID: 380 012 4194 Passcode: UUFSC

Board Members

Board Chair – Joe Neri

Vice Chair – Lynda Aiman-Smith;

Treas.- Art Thorn

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-Jan)

Audio/Visual/IT/Listserv

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

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Our mailing address is

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Silver City, NM 88062

For membership questions, email

Linda Price - lp650@gmail.com

Note from Board Chair Joe Neri – My personal best wishes to you & yours for health, safety & happiness in the New Year. The dark cultural, political, & economic challenges that have been lurking on the horizon are now quickly approaching & we, the UUFSC, will meet them with compassion, dignity & strength, as we always have & as we always will. Take care of yourselves & take care of each other. Blessed be.

Note from Board Secretary Nancy Stephens – The UUFSC Board meets 3rd Fridays at 1:00pm. At the Dec. meeting, newly elected board Chair, Joe Neri, welcomed new & returning board members: Art Thorn, Victoria Reece, Lynda Aiman-Smith, Bill Paff, Leah Klearman, & Nancy Stephens.

The board voted to 1) combine the Financial Advisory Team & Audit Team; 2) pay off both the Building & Q-Hut loans to save interest & administrative burden. UUFSC is in good shape financially & will likely run a surplus for the year, which will help address building improvements such as new siding for the Q Hut. The new mini-splits are working well now for heat & will also provide cooling after a bit more work on them.

The board discussed recent conflicts on the UU Forum & agreed to post guidelines. Joanie Connors has agreed to monitor. The board also discussed letters to the editor & encourages individual letters to the editor but not letters representing UUFSC as an organization. Leah will update the board roster on the UUFSC website & add covenant language & a link to UUA's position statements on social justice issues. Joe Neri & Barbara Gabioud will offer *Getting to Know UU(FSC)* classes in the New Year.

January Welcoming Days of Observance - January 4 is World Braille Day. Celebrated on the birthday of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille, to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication for blind & partially sighted people. More information at: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/braille-day>

****January 20 is Martin Luther King Jr. Day.** Commemorating the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the recipient of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize & an activist for nonviolent social change until his assassination in 1968. The King Center provides a variety of education opportunities about his life & work in non-violence. More information at: <https://thekingcenter.org/king-holiday-2025/>

****January 27 is the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust.** Registered by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005, this day honors the six million Jews & countless members of other minorities murdered during World War II. The date marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi Concentration & Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet troops on January 27, 1945. Remembrance plays a critical role in fighting the forces of antisemitism & Holocaust denial & distortion by tying us fundamentally to the facts, to what took place, & the people it affected. More information at: <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/holocaust-remembrance> & <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/international-holocaust-remembrance-day>

Children's Programs: The QUU Hut is open, & childcare is provided all Sundays. Religious exploration programming is on 2nd & 4th Sundays. Our theme for 2025 will be "A Year of Holy Days."

The Four Agreements Discussion Group will meet on Jan 3 at 11am, in UUFSC Fellowship Hall. All welcome.

2nd Annual: Collage/Create a 2025 Vision Board. Wed. Jan 8, 2:00 pm - 4:30ish. 8 spots open. All materials provided. Confirm to Carole Czujko Carmichaeluu@gmail.com

Social Justice Team meeting Jan 10 at 11am. For agenda info contact Maree McHugh marypatazonia@gmail.com

Afternoon Tea & Talk On Jan 13 at 2pm – Contact Susan Price for info: susan2price@gmail.com

Grant County Death Café, Jan 16, 11:00am -12:30pm at the Silver City Public Library. Topic – Estate Planning. Free. Info -- contact Lisa Jimenez at (575) 574-5473.

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

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

Jan b-days		Geri Sanders 1/6	Art Thorn 1/6	Jane Riger 1/11
	Juniper Armstrong 1/21	Melinda Austin 1/21	Azima Forest 1/21	

You can make your UUFSC donations online!

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