

High Desert Dispatch: December 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 & opportunities for service to others. Our programs encompass humanism, liberal Christianity, earth-based spirituality, Buddhism & many other traditions. The members themselves plan & present the Sunday programs. We are a Welcoming Congregation that celebrates diversity & welcomes all, of every race, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious background, mental & physical ability or disability, body size or shape, health condition, socioeconomic condition, & 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 7: Karen Beckenbach – “Grant County Community Concert Association” Karen Beckenbach will speak about the Grant County Community Concert Association’s history, current situation & what the future might hold.

Moderator: Cathleen Norman

Dec 14: Maria Casler – “Let Us Sing!” join us as Maria Casler skillfully teaches us & leads us in a number of uplifting & joyous songs. Maria has been singing since she could talk, first with her large & musical family, & then in various choirs, bands, & theater productions. She is on a mission to bring singing back into the everyday lives of everyday people.

Moderator: Lynda Aiman-Smith

Dec 21 - Join us at 9:30 on the patio to Drum in the Solstice

Dec 21: Gillian Sherwood – “A Course in Miracles” Gillian Sherwood will present a brief history & context for the spiritual classic A Course in Miracles & her own experience & insights with the self-study course. A Course in Miracles emphasizes an awakening to the constant & eternal presence of love through forgiveness, self awareness & truth. The presentation will include discussion about the three parts of the Course including the text, the daily lessons & the teacher’s manual.

Moderator: Carley Preusch

Dec 28: Holiday Gathering at 4pm- NO 10am program!

Join in enjoying a merry & delicious time with friends! Coffee, juice & tea will be provided. Please bring your own plates & utensils. Please label your potluck contribution with the ingredients. Help with set up on Saturday Dec 27 will be appreciated.

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 Lead

Kris Neri

Caring Team Leads

Carol Morrison & Lynda Aiman-Smith

Facilities Team Lead

Paul Michaud

Hospitality Volunteer Team Lead

Susan Price

Outreach Team Lead

Gene Jones

Programs Volunteer Team Lead

Gail Stamler (Nov-Feb)

Audio/Visual/IT/Listserv

John Mooney & Akien Maciain

Social Justice Volunteer Team

Ron Gabioud

Border Justice Volunteer Team

Barbara Gabioud

Office Coordinator

Sandra Michaud

Adult RE Team Leads

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

Email address is

uufellowshipofsilvercity@gmail.com

Our mailing address is

P.O. Box 4034

Silver City, NM 88062

For membership questions, email

Kris Neri krisneri@gmail.com


Join UUFSC Zoom Meeting 10am Sundays

<https://zoom.us/j/3800124194?pwd=QkxTNjV3UFIJQXNlbnBpsSDZ5bUhwZz09>

Meeting ID: 380 012 4194 Passcode: UUFSC

Note from Board Chair Joe Neri – Most of the several thousand religions & spiritual paths in our world honor days of celebration & ritual during the month of December. Our Fellowship, appropriately, is a mosaic of many individuals on many different spiritual paths, yet we are united in our dedication to humanity & justice. I hope we all find peace & serenity as we wind down the current calendar year, & I wish you all good health - emotional & physical - in the year to come.

Note from Board Secretary Nancy Stephens - Board members met immediately following the annual meeting to welcome new members, Anita & Susan. They reviewed board rules & procedures. The primary responsibility of the board is to advise & consent on matters concerning the Fellowship.

Dec Welcoming Days of Observance - December 1st is World AIDS Day – we can unite in the fight against HIV,  show support for approx. 38 million people living with HIV, & commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day. More than 35 million people have died of HIV/AIDS related illnesses. Despite the current administration's denying to support, 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 3rd is International Day of Persons 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. <https://www.who.int/campaigns/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities> ****December 10th - celebrated worldwide as Human Rights Day.** This date honors the UN General Assembly's proclamation (December 10, 1948) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first global enunciation of human rights. 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.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day> ****December 18th is International Migrants Day.** This day recognizes the contributions of migrants while highlighting the challenges they face. 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. The current federal administration's hostility to migrants makes this day more vital. More information at <https://nnirr.org/programs/international-migrant-rights-global-justice/international-migrants-day-december-18/>

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 is "A Year of Holy Days."

Shared self-help group hosts a drop-in meeting after service. We explore making things suck less.

Our UUFSC member Athena Wolf is part of a project organizing volunteers to call each day people who live alone. Getting a regular call should improve their safety & give them the feeling that the community cares for them. If you might be interested in this community service, contact Athena at athenawolf@gmail.com

The Four Agreements Discussion Group meets on Friday, Dec 5 at 11 am in the Community Room. All welcome.

The Raging Grannies meet Mondays at 3:30pm to practice singing protest at our UUFSC. All welcome!

Silver City Indivisible meets 2nd Mondays (12/8) at The Hearth, 1915 Swan, 5:30pm. Come at 5pm to socialize.

Soul Collage - Wednesday, Dec 10, from 3-5:30 pm. All materials supplied. Newcomers welcome.

The UUFSC Social Justice Team will meet on Friday, December 12th at 11:00 at the UUFSC. Gayle Simmons will be presenting on the NM Health Care Security Act updates. All are welcomed to join us.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS has a NEW NAME!!! The Silver City Museum presents *Tapestry of Traditions: A Celebration of the Season* Saturday, December 13, 2025 - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Info 575-597-0227 events@silvercitymuseum.org

Auditions for *Jake's Women* by Neil Simon, December 11 at 7pm & Saturday, December 13 at 1pm at The Hearth, 1915 N Swan. Performances will be March 13-15 & 20-22, 2026 at the El Sol Theater. A copy of the play script will be available at the Silver City Library. For more information, contact Phyllis McQuaide at 575 654-0196

Virus Theater Original play Dec 12 & 13 -7pm, Dec 14 -2pm; Dec 19 & 20 - 7pm, Dec 20- 2pm

Dec 16, 2025 5pm-9pm. Community Celebration of Hanukkah with Kehilat Shiloh of Silver City an event by Ben Terry, at The Hearth - 1915 N Swan St. Candle lighting, food, games, music, & explanation of the significance of the holiday. Info <https://www.facebook.com/events/2230486964125637>

Book Launch/Reading/Signing for UUFSC member Collen Jiron's 3 newly released titles at Avalon Bookstore on Sat. Dec. 20, starting at 11:00am. The theme is: "A little magic goes a long way." More info at <https://www.cjiron.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 Akien Maciain akienm@gmail.com

UUFSC Friend Beatriz Giraldo invites us to the Global Harmonization Ceremony for Winter Solstice on Sunday December 21 at 11:00 AM at Gough Park.

You are invited to the 3rd Annual Vision Board Gathering Wednesday January 7th 2:30pm until about 5 pm. in the UUFSC community room. Materials & support provided - large poster board, lots of magazine images, & glue for you to create a 2026 vision board. RSVP to reserve your spot: Carole Czujko, carmichaeluu@gmail.com. Questions? Call Carole at 707-490-4367. A fun, fruitful event each year!

If you wish to be added to either or both of the UUFSC list servs (google groups), please contact Sandra Michaud either after a UUFSC program, or via email sandramichaud1981@gmail.com, provide her some info, & she will get the process going.

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

Dec b-days	Ron Gabioud 12/3	Karen Benedicktson 12/7	Grace Hopper* 12/9	Patricia de Naranjo 12/15
	Victoria Reece 12/1	Liam Etheridge 12/19	Elaine Carlson 12/22	Ted Whittemore 12/26
	Judy van Naerssen 12/27			

*Grace Hopper (1906-1992) an amazing computer scientist who developed the 1st computer manual, compiler, & COBOL. Thanks to Elaine Carlson for highlighting Grace's b-day for a bit of history!

The Zoom video recordings of programs are only archived for two weeks. If you want to keep a video, you will need to download it & archive it in your own data space.

You can make your UUFSC donations online!

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