

High Desert Dispatch: January 2023

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 must be worn in the building at ALL times. We will not be consuming food or drinks in the building, but (weather permitting) will continue enjoying refreshments on the patio.

Jan 1: Open Mic with Susan Golightly - the theme is Gender. Join in the lively conversation on this timely topic
Moderator Carlos Price

Jan 8: Priscilla Lucero on "Water Matters" -- Priscilla Lucero will speak to us about water projects and other matters related to water. Priscilla Lucero is the Executive Director of the Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments. She provides technical assistance to our region in matters related to economic development, transportation, housing, water and wastewater.

Moderator Art Thorn

This is a Family/Childrens' Program Sunday – children 4 yrs and older have their own special activities.

Jan 15: UUFSC Welcoming Congregation Work Group will present a program on their plans. **Join in!**

Jan 22: Lynne Zotalis' will speak and read from Mysterious Existence her new poetry collection. This unflinching compilation of poetry explores affirmations of honesty and heartfelt emotion speaking to our shared humanity. Lynne is an award winning author, garnering a Firebird Book Award and a finalist from Best Book Awards.

Moderator Pat Sterling

This is a Family/Childrens' Program Sunday – children 4 yrs and older have their own special activities.

Jan 29: Unfortunately today's scheduled program "Igniting the Power & Promise of Youth" needed to be canceled due to illness. Zia Davis, our scheduled speaker from Big Brothers/Big Sisters, gives her apologies to all and is willing to present this program to the UUFSC at a later date.

Instead today's program will be "Learning from Islam" a video sermon by Rev. Bob LaVallee, Associate Minister of First Unitarian of Albuquerque.

Moderator Ron Gabioud

The program team does not plan to renew our UUA paid Zoom subscription at the end of the year. The link sent out previously will no longer work in January. Please contact Nancy Stephens (with as much lead time as possible) if you have a special circumstance requiring Zoom access.

Board Members

Board Chair - Carlos Price

Vice Chair - Victoria Reece

Treas., Joanne DeMichele

Sec - Susan Price

At large Members - DeAnna Mooney,

Kris Neri, Nancy Stephens

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

Ron Gabioud (Jan-Mar)

Audio/Visual/IT

John Mooney

Social Justice Volunteer Team

Joe Neri

Office Coordinator

Sandra Michaud

Adult RE Team

OPEN

Family Programs

Gay Hedges – Director

Ivy Etheridge- Teacher

Teja Clark – Childcare

Newsletter

Lynda Aiman-Smith

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For membership questions, email
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News from the Board from Susan Price, Secretary -- The Board had their yearly retreat in December with our new Board members, welcoming our Chair, Carlos Price and Vice Chair, Victoria Reece. The retreat is a brief time to reflect on our strengths as a Fellowship, our needs, goals, etc. Prior to Retreat reflections, we took care of a few items of business, one which we feel is a positive step forward for our fellowship members. After considerable research by our treasurer and board discussion, we agreed to buy into a well-known software program designed for churches for an inexpensive yearly fee, that will provide an online giving payment platform for members, track data, provide a church digital calendar, event registration, Zoom link for meetings, and other benefits. When we get started with it you'll be hearing more about it! Until then, Be Well, and Happy New Year!

Notes from your Board Chair Carlos Price -- Another New Year is dawning. This time of year is great for the fitness and diet industries. Do you make resolutions? Many people make them and keep them for a while and then lapse into old habits. Living a whole year with only willpower to sustain you is difficult. Some find it easier to break the year down into smaller segments. There are several other important dates that we can use to renew or modify our goals or resolutions. If your resolution fails quickly, make it again on the Chinese New Year (Jan. 22). Mardi Gras is Feb. 21 followed by the 40 days of Lent, another time to renew resolutions. How about Nowruz, the Persian New Year that begins March 21. Then there are birthdays, anniversaries, equinoxes, and holidays that have special meaning to you. The point is not being perfect. It is the willingness to assess oneself and continue to strive for improvement. Letting someone important to you know of your efforts adds accountability and support. May we all support each other as we strive to be our best selves.

Note from your Board Treasurer – Before the end of January 2023, you will receive the total amount of your donations/pledges for all of 2022. If you are ready to file your tax return before our UUFSC Treasurer, Joanne DeMichele gets the figures to you, feel free to ask. If you have any questions at any time about donations, our Treasurer is ready to help! Contact Joanne DeMichele. Call or text 575-654-5469 or email treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com

A reminder – when writing a donation check, please note on the memo line where you want your UUFSC donation directed, e.g. Pledge, Social Justice, Borders, or other area. If there is no note, it will go into the General Fund.

Hold your hats and save the date- Coming next month! Family Sunday February 26, 2023

"Community, Covenant, and a Dash of Comedy!" -- Rev Claudia Elferdink will be leading the service with lively music by Bayou Seco. February 26, 10am. Watch for more details in the February newsletter.

January is named after the Roman God Janus, the Roman deity of transitions: beginnings and endings; openings and closings; transitions. Traditionally Janus holds sway at thresholds and doorways, the liminal spaces of 'in-between.'

January Birthdays

Geri Sanders Jan 6

Azima Lila Forest Jan 21

Jane RIger Jan 11

Melinda Austin Jan 26

Juniper Armstrong Jan 20

Want to see your birthday in the newsletter? Contact Denise Smith at denisesmith09@gmail.com