

High Desert Dispatch: October 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 are recommended, but optional. Refreshments and potlucks can take place in the building, as well as (weather permitting) on the patio.

Oct 1: Katherine Feist – “A Service for Peace & Unity” In this simple service honoring various traditions we find that our hearts and minds can shift to a wider perspective to a place of peace and unity. Katherine Feist is a social worker, an ordained minister and meditation teacher. She works to promote healing and understanding.

Moderators/Helpers Lynda Aiman-Smith & Mana’ar Johnson.

Musicians: Daveed & Shunya

Oct 8: Heidi Ogas – “Blessing of the Animals” Our annual critter blessing on the patio (weather permitting). Bring your pet safely leashed or crated or feel free to bring a collar, toy or remembrance of your pet's. If you do not have a pet, please join us anyway!

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

Oct 15: Susan Golightly - "Open Mic on Gender" Join us for lively conversation on this timely topic!

Oct 22: Melissa Amarello – “Rattlesnake Family Life” - Sure elephants, whales, and birds have families and take care of their kids, BUT SNAKES? In fact some do and we will show you videos of wild rattlesnakes exhibiting behaviors you probably didn’t know snakes do. Join us to learn more! Melissa Amarello, Co-founder & Executive Director of Advocates for Snake Preservation

Moderator – Pat Sterling

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

Oct 29: Mike Sheffer - "Dia de los Muertos" - We will be celebrating the Mexican, and Latin American tradition of honoring family members who have passed away. We will have an “Ofrenda” - an altar welcoming the deceased to the altar. We will place altar tables in the Sanctuary or Social Hall with flowers and candles. Bring a photo of the person you wish to honor to place on the altar. Please be prepared to make a brief, 2 minutes or less, statement of the person’s name and something about them.

Moderator – Art Thorn

Board Members

Board Chair - Carlos Price

Vice Chair - Victoria Reece

Treas., Margaret Shoemaker

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

Carol Morrison

Programs Volunteer Team Lead

Sandra Michaud (Aug-Oct)

Audio/Visual/IT/Listservs

John Mooney

Social Justice Volunteer Team

Joe Neri => Maree McHugh (in Nov)

Office Coordinator

Sandra Michaud

Adult RE Team

OPEN

Family Programs

Gay Hedges – Director

Ivy Etheridge- Teacher

Teja Clark – Childcare

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

Linda Price - lbp650@gmail.com

Join UUFSC Zoom Meeting 10am Sundays

<https://zoom.us/j/3800124194?pwd=QkxTNjV3UFIJQXNlbHpsSDZ5bUhvZz09>

Meeting ID: 380 012 4194 Passcode: UUFSC

News from the Board from Board Secretary Susan Price – Big news! Our 12-year-old sound system is going to be replaced. Joe Neri, John Mooney & Paul Michaud brought their proposal to the Board, with full details outlining the selected system to be purchased online from Sweetwater, replacing our now broken system. Sandy Michaud, our Officer Coordinator advocated for a 2nd air filter for the front room since closed doors and cold weather is approaching. These above purchases were unanimously approved by the Board. Needing your consideration, the Board asks for 2 people from our membership to fill the 2 At-Large volunteer positions on the Board that will be vacated at the end of November. Please speak with Carol Morrison, Ron Gabioud, Stephanie Smith or any current Board member for more details.

Note from the Board Chair Carlos Price -- We usually think of spring as a season of new beginnings and new growth. But, here in the Southwest the refreshing rains of the late summer monsoon season also yield new growth. The scorching, dry brown of summer gives way to a flourishing of wildflowers in the high desert. Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, urges us to forgiveness for the wrongs done by us and to us. Just as autumn rains bring new growth, forgiveness gives us a chance for a new personal flourishing before the onset of winter.

October Welcoming Days of Observance – October is LGBT History Month. First celebrated in October 1994, and declared a national History month by President Barack Obama in 2009, LGBT History Month is dedicated to celebrating and teaching the history of the LGBTQIA+ community. LGBT history, unlike other groups, is not taught its history at home, in public schools or in most religious institutions. LGBT History Month offers role models, illustrates LGBTQIA+ extraordinary contributions, and sends a message to school boards, community leaders, and youth about the vital importance of recognizing and exploring the role of LGBTQIA+ people in American history. More information is available at <https://www.lgbthistorymonth.com/background>

October 9 is National Indigenous Peoples' Day in the United States. This day celebrates and honors indigenous American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures. Celebrated across the U.S. on the second Monday in October, it is an official city and state holiday in various localities. First instituted in Berkeley, California in 1992, it was first recognized by presidential proclamation by President Biden in 2021. More information is available in the 2022 Proclamation at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/10/07/a-proclamation-on-indigenous-peoples-day-2022/>

October 11 is National Coming Out Day. National coming out day celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people's coming out experiences & journeys. Info at <https://www.hrc.org/resources/national-coming-out-day>

October 19 is Spirit Day. A day aimed specifically at inspiring LGBTQIA+ youth and what their communities can do to support them in living their truth and authentic lives. You can participate in this day by wearing purple and speaking out against bullying. More information is available at <https://glaad.org/spiritday>

October 26 is Intersex Awareness Day. This day celebrates intersex people (individuals whose physical or genetic makeup does not fit traditional definitions of male and female) and to recognize the unique human rights challenges they face. The first public demonstration by intersex people in North America was in 1996, protesting the high rates of medical interventions being performed on intersex infants and children without the consent or knowledge of the individual. More information is available at <https://heckinunicorn.com/blogs/heckin-unicorn-blog/when-is-intersex-awareness-day-2023>

October is also Filipino-American Heritage Month, German-American Heritage Month, Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month, and Polish-American Heritage Month.

Want to learn more about the LGBTQIA+ community? Remember knowledge is key to everything. In that vein celebrating Oct as LGBTQ month, you can see videos that feature a daily LGBTQ Icon on your website, blog or on social media! These videos will update automatically each day. <https://www.lgbthistorymonth.com/get-embed-code> The daily icon videos are also uploaded to the Equality Forum YouTube Channel. To post the individual daily videos on your Facebook page, just copy and paste the URL from the YouTube Icon video of the day. <https://goo.gl/2qKuMb>
What You'll See Beginning October 1, a 30-second video featuring a different LGBT Icon each day will appear on your site. Before October 1 and after October 31, a two-and-a-half-minute overview video of all 31 LGBT Icons will display.

Please donate food contributions for the Commons Food Pantry in the basket near the front door.

Four free covid tests can be ordered through covidtests.gov

The Four Agreements Discussion Group will meet on Friday Oct 6 at 11 am at the UUFSC Fellowship Hall.

Songs of Social Justice & Protest: A Special Benefit Concert by Susan & Burt Mittelstadt: Friday, October 6 at 7 pm for a poignant evening of songs of social justice and protest at the UUFSC fellowship hall. Suggested donation - \$10 (kids free). All proceeds will support the activities of the UUFSC Social Justice Committee.

October 7 @ 1PM - Seed Cleaning Workshop by the SWNM Seed Library & Center for Frontier Communities, at 609 Arizona St. Come learn/practice how to be a seed-saver!

"High Tea", "Afternoon Tea" or "Tea and Talk" - Call it what you like, but it has come to UUFSC! Brought to you by Barbara Bush & Linda Price. All are welcome. This will be a group activity where everyone who attends can pitch in by bringing a tea, a treat, or a conversation game. Please contact Barbara Bush @ (mudita.ymm@gmail.com) for more information or to be added on the list. Please share what you would like to bring. High Tea will be on the 2nd & 4th Mondays each month from 2-3 OR until 4pm - stay for an hour or longer! In October: Tea on 10/9 & 10/23. Fancy hats and white gloves optional!

The Soul Collage group will meet on Wed Oct 11 from 3-6 pm in-person in the Community Room. All are welcome. All instructions and supplies are provided. Masks are optional, we run the air filter for better ventilation.

Dance! Music by the Big Ditch Crickets! Oct 21, 6:30PM at the Murray Hotel. Donation requested of \$10-\$15, Kids under 12 free! Halloween costumes welcome! Fundraiser for Gila Mimbres Community Radio, KURU 89.1FM.

Join in the "Life Cafe" on Oct 26 at 4PM at the Silver City Public Library. Deep discussion, important topics like "green" or "natural" burials. For more info contact Lisa lmjimenez13@gmail.com or (575) 574-5473.

Celebrate Samhain on Oct 27, 2023 at 5:30PM at Lotus Center. At this time of thinning veils between the worlds, come honor the Ancestors with stories, poems, music, dance. Facilitated by Lynda & Mana'ar. Questions? - lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com

UU Fellowship Trivia Team will launch at the Toad on Wednesday, 11/1. Sharpen your memory as we gather around a table for merriment! We'll laugh through our amazing recall and yuk it up in our senior moments. Mark your calendar! Claudia, John, Mana'ar & David need your unique trivia treasure chest! Let us know you'll come so we get a good table. Look for your UU friends at the Toad on 11/1, 7-9PM! Questions - contact Claudia at celferdink@comcast.net

Oct birthdays	Paul Michaud 10/4	Nancy Stephens 10/21	Susan Price 10/26	Pamela Page 10/31
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Want to see your birthday in the newsletter? Contact Lynda at lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com