

High Desert Dispatch: April 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.

Apr 2: A Video Presentation by David Foster Wallace, a professor and writer. "This Is "Water" is considered one of the most significant speeches of its kind and is a trove of practical wisdom.

Moderator Joe Neri

Apr 9: New Earth project: High School kids panel on their New Earth Kids project & radio program with Carol Ann Fugagli

Moderator Nancy Stephens

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

Apr 16: Valerie Kling from CHI (Center for Health Innovation) "Substance Misuse Prevention: Dealing with Stress and avoiding a lifelong mess." Dealing with stress in daily life can be challenging but hope is found with awareness, self-care and stress management techniques. **Moderator Art Thorn**

Apr 23: Javier Marrufo from Silver City Museum on "Through the Lens of Arturo Flores" **Moderator Ron Gabioud**
This is a Family/Childrens' Program Sunday – children 4 yrs and older have their own special activities.

Apr 30: Ellen (Man'aar) Johnson (UUFSC member) on "Language and Privilege" **Moderator Pat Sterling**

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

Carol Morrison

Programs Volunteer Team Lead

Nancy Stephens (Apr-June)

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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Our mailing address is
P.O. Box 4034
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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 -- Working toward making mask wearing optional, we now have 3 new air filters. Two are located at opposite ends of the main, front room, and 1 is in the Q-Hut. We decided to wait until the weather warms up to relax our masking policy. When the weather is warm again, we can have the doors open, with outside seating for our programs, and then masks will be optional.

News from our Treasurer, Joanne DeMichele: We now have PayPal options for making donations and pledges. In the new *Church Management Software*, members will have the option of a personal account in which they can access a calendar of programs and events, make online donations, email other members, and see their pledge amount and donations year-to-date. Through the new software system, the pledge letter has been emailed to members.

In a revision of the 1987 Bylaws, UUA has completed an extensive 2-year study commission that has re-written a new way of presenting our UUA Principles instead of a list of 7, or 8. See the UUA.org front page, to learn about the petal image diagram of 6 covenants around Love in the middle. Currently open for member comments and review, and will be voted on at 2024 General Assembly.

Note from your Board Chair Carlos Price -- "Everybody's business is nobody's business." That usually means that even if everyone in an organization thinks there is a need to be taken care of, if it is not explicitly assigned to a person or group - it doesn't get done. We think, "THEY (meaning someone other than me) should do something about that!" In a lay-led fellowship we have no paid regular minister to take care of things on our behalf. If members need help or community events need support, our membership must do it. Many members are engaged in fellowship activities and a variety of local organizations. Our impact on the community is extensive for such a small fellowship. Are there things you see that need doing in our fellowship or community? Change the script from "they need to do it" to "I WILL DO IT."

Note from your Board Treasurer Joanne DeMichele – The ongoing generosity of UUFSC members allows for the viability and sustainability of our Fellowship. We are in the midst of our pledge drive that will not only allow us to keep the lights on, but will determine our programs and commitments for the upcoming year. We have already demonstrated what we can accomplish together. We invite you to add your pledge if you have not already done so. Email your monthly or annual commitment for the fiscal year June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024 to treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com or submit this digital form: <https://D4613CBD4D2624D9.chmeetings.com/forms/893F1DEFF34B3520>

From Welcoming Committee -- Days of Observance -- April 14th is GLSEN's Day of Silence. The Day of Silence is a national student-led demonstration where LGBTQ students and allies all around the country—and the world—take a vow of silence to protest the harmful effects of harassment and discrimination of LGBTQ people in schools. Every April, students go through the school day without speaking, ending the day with Breaking the Silence rallies and events to share their experiences during the protest and bring attention to ways their schools and communities can become more inclusive. Started in the mid-1990s by two college students, the Day of Silence now reaches hundreds of thousands of students each year and serves as an organizing tool to end the silencing effect of anti-LGBTQ bias. More information is available at: <https://www.glsen.org/day-of-silence>. GLSEN (pronounced "glisten") is an educational non-profit formerly known as the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network.

April 26 is Lesbian Visibility Day. Celebrated annually on April 26 since its inception in 2008, and expanded to Lesbian Visibility Week in 2020 (April 24 to 30 this year), is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the incredible contributions and vibrancy of the lesbian community within the larger LGBTQIA+ community. It serves as a way of acknowledging perceived erasure of lesbian spaces and the need to preserve and celebrate lesbian culture, distinct as it is from other gay, bi, trans, and queer experiences. Lesbian Visibility Day/Week highlights lesbian figures in sports, entertainment, and history, and creates a level of awareness for a segment of the LGBTQIA+ community that does not really get a lot of attention and which is not monolithic or homogenous, recognizing that each facet of the lesbian community comes with its own sense of struggle and issues. More information - <https://www.lesbianvisibilityweek.com/>.

Food contributions for the Commons Food Pantry can be left in the basket near the front door. Please donate!

Holy Time - Passover is April 5- April 13. Good Friday April 7; Easter April 9. Ramadan March 22 - April 20

The Soul Collage group will meet on Wednesday, April 12, from 3-6 pm in-person in the Community Room. All are welcome. All instructions and supplies are provided. Masks are optional.

Join the conversation at the next "Life Cafe" April 27, 2023 meeting 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm at the Silver City Public Library. Group discussions on hospice, advance planning/directives, memorials, green burials, death doulas, and more. Facilitated by Lisa Jimenez. For more info lmjimenez13@gmail.com or (575) 574-5473.

April birthdays Lorna Ruebelmann April 13 Mike Ferris April 19 Heidi Ogas April 19
Want to see your birthday in the newsletter? Contact Denise Smith at denisesmith09@gmail.com