

# High Desert Dispatch: April 2024

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.**

**April 7: Frank Merritt** "The Keys to a Happy, Healthy Long Life in Silver City" This talk is based on a recent assessment of senior health needs in Grant County, recent national research on what individuals can do to secure their own happy, healthy, long life, and on a WILL course that Frank taught in 2023. Frank Merritt is past president of WILL, and a long-time community activist.

**Moderator: Nancy Stephens**

**April 14: Luke Koenig** "A Short History of Wild and Scenic Rivers and why the Gila River Should be Next" What exactly does Wild and Scenic River Designation do? And why do we have this system? Come learn what it means for the Gila River. Luke Koenig is a grassroots organizer for the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, based in Silver City.

**Moderator: Barbara Bush**

**April 21: Poetry Month** "Upward Spiral" from 4 women poets: Shelly Barnett, Leonore Hildebrandt, Pamela Warren Williams, & Lynne Zotalis. The poems in the anthology *Upward Spiral* evoke transformation and the power of the natural world.

**Moderator: Pat Sterling**

**April 28: Jamie & Marion Newton** "The El Salvador Project" The mission of the El Salvador Projects (of the Palo Alto Friends) is raising the level of education for the young people of the poorest communities in El Salvador. The Projects assist students from poor rural families to complete their education in teaching, medicine, nursing, physical therapy, law, business administration, agricultural engineering, and other disciplines. Graduates lift their families from poverty, and they enhance the quality of life in their communities. Jamie & Marion have been members of The Project for 30 years.

**Moderator: Joe Neri**

## Board Members

Board Chair - Carlos Price  
Vice Chair - DeAnna Mooney;  
Treas., Margaret Shoemaker  
[treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com)

Sec – Nancy Stephens

At large Members - Victoria Reece,  
Bill Paff, Ted Whittemore

## 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

DeAnna Mooney/Gail Stamler (Mar-June)

## Audio/Visual/IT/Listservs

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

## Family Programs

Zoey Cronin – Director

Gay Hedges & Ivy Etheridge-  
Teachers

## Newsletter

Lynda Aiman-Smith

## Website [www.uufsc.com](http://www.uufsc.com)

Email address is

[uufellowshippofsilvercity@gmail.com](mailto:uufellowshippofsilvercity@gmail.com)

**Our mailing address is**

**P.O. Box 4034**

**Silver City, NM 88062**

For membership questions, email  
Linda Price - [lbp650@gmail.com](mailto: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 by Board Secretary Nancy Stephens** – The UUFSC Board met 3/22 and found the fellowship’s finances to be in good order. It’s time for the annual pledge drive, so expect a letter from Carlos soon. Ted agreed to be our new Involvement Coordinator- thanks Ted! Board will be working with Paul on developing priorities for building infrastructure upgrades. We’re looking for a new insurance provider, so let us know if you have suggestions for brokers/providers.

**Note from the Board Chair** – Carlos will resume his notes after he returns from travels in South America

**Welcoming Days of Observance from Dave Becker - April 12th is GLSEN’s Day of (No) Silence.** GLSEN (pronounced “glisten”) is an educational non-profit formerly known as the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network. GLSEN’s Day of NO Silence is a nationally-recognized student-led demonstration where LGBTQ+ students and allies all around the country—and the world—protest the harmful effects of harassment & discrimination of LGBTQ+ people in schools. In previous years, students would go through the school day without speaking, ending the day with Breaking the Silence rallies and events; sharing their experiences during the protest; bringing attention to ways their schools and communities can become more inclusive. Now, with more than 800 anti-LGBTQ+ bills introduced last year, this year’s Day of (No) Silence will be a day of active protest. Started in the mid-1990s by two college students, the Day of (No) Silence now reaches hundreds of thousands of students each year, serving as an organizing tool to end the silencing effect of anti-LGBTQ bias. More information at: <https://www.glsen.org/dayofnosilence>

**April 22–28 is Lesbian Visibility Week.** Celebrated annually on April 26 from its start in 2008 through 2019, and expanded to Lesbian Visibility Week in 2020, this week is an opportunity to recognize & celebrate the incredible contributions & vibrancy of the lesbian community within the larger LGBTQIA+ community. It serves as a way of acknowledging erasure of lesbian spaces & the need to preserve & celebrate lesbian culture, distinct as it is from other gay, bi, trans, & queer experiences. Lesbian Visibility Day/Week highlights lesbian figures in sports, entertainment, & history, & 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 at <https://www.lesbianvisibilityweekusa.com/>

**Children's Programs:** The QUU Hut is now open all Sundays. Childcare provided on 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays, and religious exploration programming on 2nd & 4th Sundays. Children are invited to bring a small item representing someone or something they are grateful for each 2nd and 4th Sunday.

**The Four Agreements Discussion Group** will meet on Friday Apr 5 at 11am, in UUFSC Fellowship Hall. All welcome.

**Recovery Dharma** meetings at 6:00 PM, Sundays at UUFSC, in the Community room. Recovery from addiction(s), of any and/or all including process addictions - using the Buddhist four noble truths and eight-fold path. By donation.

**Bereavement Support Group** meeting April 8, 2024 at 1:00pm. Women’s Club 411 Silver Heights Blvd. All welcome.

**"High Tea," "Afternoon Tea and Talk"** On Apr 8 & Apr 22 at 2pm – Contact Barbara - [mudita.ymm@gmail.com](mailto:mudita.ymm@gmail.com)

**The Soul Collage** group will meet on Wed Apr 10 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.

**Mimbres Valley Health Action League Annual Membership Meeting**, Sunday April 14, 2024, 2 - 4 PM. At the Round-Up Lodge – 91 Acklin Hill Rd, San Lorenzo. MVHAL Board of Directors will provide an update on activities, and our future plans. Call 575-536-9836 for more information.

**Earth Day at Gough Park, Saturday, April 20**, 10-2 p.m. UUFSC will have a booth!

**Life Cafe** - Thur, April 26, 4:00 pm location TBD. Contact Lisa Jimenez, certified death doula, at (575) 574-5473.

[ Want to see your birthday in the newsletter? Contact Lynda at [lynda\\_aimansmith@yahoo.com](mailto:lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com)

<b>April birthdays</b>	B. Michael Sheffer 4/5	Lorna Ruebelmann 4/13	Mike Ferris 4/19	Heidi Ogas 4/19
<b>UUFSC Friends</b>	Alicia Edwards 4/8	Jeff Goin 4/11		

**Is a UUFSC Fellowship Member or Friend in need of a Caring card?** If you find out a member is ill or has a concern that might be eased by a caring card, let any board member know, or let Lynda know at [lynda\\_aimansmith@yahoo.com](mailto:lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com)

**You can make your UUFSC donations online!** <https://D4613CBD4D2624D9.chmeetings.com//Giving/D4613CBD4D2624D9>