

# High Desert Dispatch: February 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.**

**Feb 5: Civic Engagement** with Lynda Aiman-Smith  
Civic Engagement entails individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of community, or the greater public, concern. Join in the conversation on various aspects of being engaged citizens.

**Feb 12: What we call our reality is conditional** with Michael Freeman of the Southwest Sangha. As the co-founder and caretaker of Southwest Sangha, Michael Freeman has extensive experience as a practitioner, teacher and retreat leader.

**Moderator Carlos Price**

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

**Feb 19: Walt Whitman: Bard of Democracy:** Who he was, what he did, why it matters - with Nancy Cliff.

Nancy Cliff is a long-time member of UUFSC. She has long-term interests in history and political science.

**Moderator Art Thorn**

**Feb 26: Community, Covenant, and a Dash of Comedy!** --

Rev Claudia Elferdink will be leading the service with lively music by Bayou Seco. The Rev. Claudia Elferdink is a retired UU minister, and the Co-Coordinator of the Reckoning International Unitarian Histories Project. Bayou Seco's brand of Southwestern Chilegumbo is cross-cultural, multi-lingual and transcends labels and pigeon holes.

**Moderator Nancy Stephens**

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

## 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

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

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

Email address is  
[uufellowshipofsilvercity@gmail.com](mailto:uufellowshipofsilvercity@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 from Susan Price, Secretary** -- Our new *Church Management Software* program has just been implemented. This software program was well-researched, discussed with our Financial Advisory Team and Board members, and finally voted upon last month to purchase for only \$100/year. There are many facets available to use, which will be implemented over time. Members will be hearing about how to donate online, access their giving, find volunteer forms, events schedules, Children's programs, etc. The Board voted to open a Building Fund specifically for large expenditures. Lastly, Amazon has discontinued the Amazon Smile program. We were receiving small donations from it, so would like to thank all those who had signed up with Amazon Smile for UUFSC.

**Note from your Board Chair Carlos Price** -- Is self-denial a practice you engage in? If so, is it a spiritual practice, a practice in willpower, or for some other reason? I know of a person who gives up drinking every January just to prove to himself that he really doesn't need to drink. Sober January is so common that the practice is having an impact on the profits of liquor stores. I know another who abstains from alcohol as a Lenten observance. Another approach is to refocus your money or effort to a worthy cause. I am sure most of us have heard the appeals to give up one trip to Starbucks or some other luxury once a week and send that money to a charity. That would improve our own health and benefit a charity. Of course, that raises the question of whether it is really self-denial if the outcome is to make us feel better. Just something to think about!

**Note from your Board Treasurer Joanne DeMichele** – Everyone who donated to the Fellowship in 2022 should have received an email from me (treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com) with your donor statement attached for IRS purposes. If you have any questions about donations, contact me: Joanne DeMichele - call or text 575-654-5469 or email [treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com](mailto: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. Thanks!



**February Welcoming Day of Observance - February 7th is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.**

The National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) was first observed in 1999 as a grassroots education effort to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS prevention and medical treatment in Black/African American communities. Today, NBHAAD is dedicated to raising awareness about the disproportionate impact of HIV on Blacks/African Americans, and the importance of increasing access to HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services. According to the CDC, national HIV prevention efforts have reduced the incidence of HIV infection among Black/African American people by 8% from 2015 to 2019. However, much work needs to be done. In 2019, 41% of the estimated 34,800 total new infections in the United States were Blacks/African Americans, while Blacks/African Americans comprise 12.4% of all people living in the United States. The problem is worse in the South, where Blacks/African Americans accounted for more than 50% of new HIV diagnoses in 2020 but are 19% of the Southern population. More information is available at: <https://hivinfo.nih.gov/understanding-hiv/hiv-aids-awareness-days/national-black-hiv-aids-awareness-day>

**Our *The Four Agreements Discussion Group's*** first official meeting will be Feb 3 at 11am. Meetings will be on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 11 am in the community room. All are welcome to attend.

**The UUFSC Soul Collage group** will meet in-person at the Fellowship on Wednesday, February 8, at 3 pm. Friends from the community are welcome. All materials and instructions are provided. Masks optional, but distancing is practiced.

**Imbolc is a cross-quarter** holiday, celebrated on February 1 in the Gaelic/ Celtic pagan Wheel of the Year. Imbolc is the main day dedicated to the Goddess Brigid, the Goddess of poetry, song, healing, and smithing.

**Carnival/Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday is Feb 21.** The last opportunity for outrageous eating, drinking, dancing, and giddiness before the Christian-observed time of Lent begins.

**February Birthdays** Beatriz Giraldo 2/21; Lynda Aiman-Smith 2/28; Mairi Cronin 2/29. *Want to see your birthday in the newsletter?* Contact Denise Smith at [denisesmith09@gmail](mailto:denisesmith09@gmail.com)