

High Desert Dispatch: February 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.

Feb 4: Dora Rodriguez "Salvavision non-profit." Dora Rodriguez's personal story of surviving tragedy in the desert is the base of her presentation. She will present the truth of the brutal desert and what migrants face. Through the telling of her own journey, as well as her day-to-day experiences while volunteering at the southwest border towns, Dora will shed light on current immigration issues and the realities

Moderator: Barbara Bush

Feb 11 Stephen Lindsey "The Future Forge." The Future Forge Makerspace provides community access to tools, equipment, knowledge, skills, and space to empower our local innovators. We make resources accessible, allowing exploration, innovation, entrepreneurship, and creative growth. Equipment resources include metal working, 3D printing, a wood shop, laser cutting, water cutting, a computer lab, art space for jewelry and lapidary, as well as classroom space.

Moderator: Pat Sterling

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

Feb 18: Beth Leuck – "The Evolutionary Psychology of Religion." This presentation will introduce explaining religious beliefs as a product of natural biological processes and brain functioning; as an intriguing way to study religion. Beth Leuck is a retired biology professor who has always had an interest in evolutionary biology.

Moderator: Heidi Ogas

Feb 25: Dave Becker – "Environmental Law, Lawyering, & Local Issues." This program will describe what's involved in suing the federal government to protect public lands and imperiled species and discuss environmental issues in the Silver City area, including how to get involved in action on these issues. David Becker is a mostly-retired Oregon public interest environmental lawyer.

Moderator: Jane Riger

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 - DeAnna Mooney;
Treas., Margaret Shoemaker
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 (Nov-Feb)

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

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Our mailing address is

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Silver City, NM 88062

For membership questions, email
Linda Price - lp650@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 Nancy Stephens – at the meeting on 1/19/2024 the board went over financial reports,; discussed changes in the Family & Children’s Programs (see info from Zoey in this newsletter); began a project to work on building use guidelines/checklist for use; reviewed an updated perpetual calendar and will initiate work on budgets, membership, and identify upgrade needs for the QUU Hut.

Note from the Board Chair Carlos Price – Winter-time blues are often associated with long cold winter nights and gloomy overcast skies. People talk of having “cabin fever.” Web searches for getaways to warmer sunnier places are common among those with means to travel. We can be very thankful that in our little corner of New Mexico, we are blessed with many sunny days and temperate afternoons throughout most of the winter. Getting out to visit our library, museum, parks, hiking trails, coffee shops and other nearby attractions offer prevention, or a cure, for winter-time blues.



Welcoming Days of Observance from Dave Becker - February 7th is National Black HIV/AIDS

Awareness Day. National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD), first observed in 1999, to raise awareness about HIV & AIDS prevention & medical treatment in Black/African American communities. NBHAAD highlights the disproportionate impact of HIV on Blacks/African Americans and the importance of increasing access to HIV prevention, testing, & treatment services. According to the CDC, national HIV prevention efforts led to a 10 percent decrease in the number of Black or African American people diagnosed with HIV between 2017 -- 2021. However, HIV disproportionately affects Black/African American communities. The CDC reports that, in 2021, 40% of new HIV infections in the United States occurred in Black/African American people, although they make up only 13% of the population. The problem is worse in the South, where Blacks/African Americans accounted for 49% of new HIV diagnoses in 2021 but comprised only 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>

****Feb is Black History Month.** Every Feb, the U.S. honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the nation. Black History Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs & adversities that are an indelible part of our country’s history. Black History Month had its genesis in 1926, when historian Carter G. Woodson announced the second week of February as “Negro History Week.” Black educators and students at Kent State University proposed a first Black History Month, which was first celebrated there in 1970. President Ford recognized Black History Month in 1976 during the national bicentennial. More information is available at: <https://asah.org/about-us/about-black-history-month/> ****Feb 20 is the World Day of Social Justice.** Since 2008, every Feb 20th has been the United Nations observance known as “World Day of Social Justice.” The purpose is to focus on the plight of social injustice throughout the world and to press for improvements and solutions to combat unemployment, social exclusion, and poverty. More information at: <https://www.peace-ed-campaign.org/event/world-day-of-social-justice/2024-02-20/>

Children's Programs Update from Zoey Cronin: We are pleased to announce that the QUU Hut will now be open all Sundays. Gay and a helper will provide childcare on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays. Zoey and Ivy will provide religious exploration programming on 2nd and 4th Sundays. In Feb and Mar we will explore in depth the rituals we use to begin our time together throughout the year: chalice lighting, deep breathing, gratitude altars, and song. 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 Feb 2 at 11am, in UUFSC Fellowship Hall. All welcome.

Collage/Create a 2024 Vision Board. Feb 2, 2:30 pm - 5-ish. Confirm to Carole Czujko Carmichaeluu@gmail.com

Celebrate Imbolc, Feb 2, 2024 5:45-7:15PM, Lotus Center. Celebration sacred to the Goddess Brigid. Stories, songs, poetry, dance! Contact Lynda for more info, lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com

The Social Justice team will meet Friday February 9th at 11 a.m. All are welcome to attend!

"High Tea", "Afternoon Tea" or "Tea and Talk" On Feb 12 & Feb 26 – Brought to you by Barbara Bush & Linda Price, join us & bring tea, a treat, or a conversation game. Contact Barbara - mudita.ymm@gmail.com for info.

The Soul Collage group will meet on Wed Feb 14 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.

February birthdays [*Want to see your birthday in the newsletter? Contact Lynda at lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com]*

Joyce M. Jaime 2/5	Gail Stampler 2/5	Aubrey Thomas 2/20	Beatriz Giraldo 2/21
Dennis A. Hamilton 2/22	Lynda Aiman-Smith 2/28	Cathleen Norman 2/28	Mairi Cronin 2/29

You can make your UUFSC donations online! You can direct donations to go toward your Annual Pledge, Social Justice (General or Border), our Building Fund, etc. <https://D4613CBD4D2624D9.chmeetings.com//Giving/D4613CBD4D2624D9>