

# High Desert Dispatch: March 2022

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. **Please join us.**

**UUFSC Safety Protocol: We will not be serving food or drinks in the building until further notice. Masks will need to be worn in the building at ALL times. We will continue to serve refreshments on the patio, weather permitting.**

**Mar 6<sup>th</sup> -- Karen Benediktson -- "There is no hierarchy of oppression" ~ Audrey Lourde** Audre Lorde was an American writer, feminist, womanist, librarian, and civil rights activist. She was a self-described "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet," who "dedicated both her life and her creative talent to confronting and addressing injustices of racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia." (Wikipedia) **Cont'd pg 2 Moderator, Nancy Stephens**

**Mar 13<sup>th</sup> -- Don Graves -- "Local Pollinators and Host Plants"** Using the beautiful photography of Elroy Limmer, this Gila Native Plant Society program will explore the lives of local pollinators from native bees to long-nosed bats. Elroy Limmer & Don Graves will discuss the variety of native plants necessary to attract pollinators & who act as host plants for the caterpillars that provide the majority of nutrition for our spring/summer fledgling birds. **Cont'd pg 2 Moderator, Jane Riger**

**Mar 20<sup>th</sup> -- Ellen "Mana'ar" Johnson -- "How to Know God Without Believing in God"** As fewer and fewer people believe in miracles or in a supernatural power, will religion continue to exist? Is there any reason to hold onto the concept of God after one has let go of beliefs that don't seem to make sense anymore? **Cont'd pg 2 Moderator, Ron Gabioud**

**Mar 27<sup>th</sup> -- Jim Smith -- "History, Progress, Hope, and the Tinker Bell Effect"**  
Although history exposes us to a great deal of racism, sexism, genocide, war, and environmental destruction, it also provides us with stories of people who found a way to move humanity forward & make the world a little more humane. This talk will explore the art of teaching history as a way to inspire students with evidence that humanity, every once in a while, in spite of itself, can stumble forward & do the right thing. **Cont'd pg 2 Moderator, Pat Sterling**

## Board Members

Carol Morrison, Board Chair  
Steph Smith, Vice Chair  
DeAnna Mooney, Treas.

Joanne DeMichele  
Susan Price, Sec.  
Nancy Stephens  
Kris Neri

## Membership

Nancy Cliff, Heidi Ogas

## Caring

OPEN

## Facilities

Paul Michaud

## Hospitality

Zoey Cronin

## Newsletter

John Mooney

## Programming

Sandra Michaud

## Social Justice Committee

OPEN

## Office Coordinator

Sandra Michaud

## Adult RE

OPEN

## Family Programs

ON HOLD

## 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 Nancy Cliff

[ncliff49@gmail.com](mailto:ncliff49@gmail.com)

## Calendar of Building Events

(Please note the schedule in the building and on the website.) Contact the office coordinator [uufellowshipofsilvercity@gmail.com](mailto:uufellowshipofsilvercity@gmail.com) for scheduling.

**Mar 6<sup>th</sup> contd** Let's learn/revisit how continuing to change our thinking & expression of so many -isms benefits us all. We'll use this time as a bridge to exploring intersectionality. Karen has more than 60 years of life experience, much of which she has learned to see through the lens of intersectionality.

**Mar 13<sup>th</sup> contd** You will come away with a whole new perspective on the world of life in your own backyard & learn how you can help promote the diversity of pollinators, native plants & birds right here at home.

**Mar 20<sup>th</sup> contd** Essentially, I am talking about tapping into a state of human consciousness beyond ordinary everyday reality that allows us to feel a vast sense of awe, peace, being loved, bliss. We will look at the many ways to achieve this state of mind & how they may allow us to transcend divisive opinions and feel a sense of oneness with other people and indeed with all life. Bring a drum with you if you have one.

Ellen Mana'ar Johnson, an interfaith minister & leader of Dances of Universal Peace, has studied religion all her life. Besides being very religious, she has a Ph.D. in the social sciences (linguistics). In working to integrate these two sometimes competing sides of life, she has thought a lot about the relationship between science and religion. Rev. Dr. Johnson moved to Silver City three years ago from Georgia. She is active in the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning program as well as various local spiritual groups.

**Mar 27<sup>th</sup> contd** Jim Smith is a retired history teacher & education consultant who has made presentations on history & writing throughout the USA, Europe & Asia. Jim has been recognized as a NM Teacher of the Year & a Finalist for National Teachers Hall of Fame.

**Notes from your Chair:** Thanks to our tech team for ordering new equipment for our programs & screen projections. Thanks to Nancy Stephens & her husband, Dr. Brian Etheridge, for donating our "Zoom" computer to bring in our at-home UU members and friends on Sundays. And thanks to all our members and friends for your patience as we work with our new equipment. You're the best!

**UUFSC OUTREACH THROUGH KURU:** Our own Lynda Aiman-Smith has generously funded the continuation of our UUFSC announcements that run on KURU. Thank you, Lynda!  
Carol Morrison, Board Chair (575-223-8972) [carolmorr@gmail.com](mailto:carolmorr@gmail.com).

**News from the Board** Kris Neri reported \$400 donations from the **Social Justice** Committee to these local non-profits: SPIN, The Commons, & the Gospel Mission homeless shelter for women & children. SJC continues their commitment to sending funding, as well as Go-Bags and collected community contributions for the migrant shelters in Deming & Palomas.

Approved by the Board, John Mooney ordered a **new computer** for the Sunday services that will upgrade our Zoom connections. For the last 3 Sundays we had 15, 11 & 8 people on Zoom. We appreciate the patience of those on Zoom and in-person on Sunday during our media/audio challenges.

**In order to vote** at the May 15 Semi-Annual Meeting, members must have signed the Membership list by March 16. If you signed the list since last July 2021, you do not need to renew your signature until the meeting in May or thereafter.

Board members discussed their concerns regarding **the many volunteer vacancy positions** in the fellowship that need to be filled in order to keep our fellowship running smoothly, & to prevent burn-out of those already doing more than one or more on-going tasks. In the back of the Fellowship room there is an information table that has a 3-ring binder & more info on the wall about available "service opportunities". Please take a look and ask questions from any board member. More info to come.

Susan Price, secretary

**Here's a big shout out for our March babies!**

If you'd like to see your birthday here, please send an email to: [carolmorr@gmail.com](mailto:carolmorr@gmail.com).

March 23: Craig Freas (husband to Nancy Cliff)

March 26: Carol Morrison

March 29: John Mooney

March 30: Sandra Michaud

March 31: Gwen Payne