

High Desert Dispatch: March 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.
Note- March 10 we "Spring Forward" into Daylight Savings Time!

March 3: Susan Golightly "New Beginnings" Let's have a lively conversation and share our insights about New Beginnings. Susan Golightly has a Masters in Counseling & a wealth of experience as a facilitator. She hosts a local radio show.

March 10: Akien Maciain "Five Languages of Love" - What is it? Does it work? How to use it? When to use it? Is it just bunk? Are there going to be candies after? These and more questions may get themselves answered! Akien Maciain has been a pagan priest, an ordained minister, a computer guy, a DIYer, a volunteer, a random fixer of things, or maybe a fixer of random things... and might be headed to being a chocolatier.

Moderator: Carlos Price

March 17: Samantha Fields "Planned Parenthood" Samantha Fields [she/her/ella] is a Raíz Organizing Specialist with Planned Parenthood in Las Cruces. She does community outreach re the services provided at the newly opened health center. She'll be speaking on reproductive justice, the state of New Mexico's support, and ways you can join in. Free Planned Parenthood swag will be available!

Moderator: Carol Morrison Please note – Dedicated offering

March 24: Dave McDonald & Beth Cable "SW NM Bird Alliance" Beth and Dave will discuss aspects of the Conservation and Education events and programs available here in Grant County. They are Co-Secretaries of the SWNM Bird Alliance, and both enjoy all kinds of outdoor-nature activities.

Moderator: Cathleen Norman

March 31: (Easter) video with Robin Wall Kimmerer "Gifts of the Land: A guided Nature Tour" Robin Wall Kimmerer takes us on a guided nature tour of Clark Reservation State Park in Jamesville, NY as Spring welcomes back migrating creatures. Kimmerer is the author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

Moderator: Art Thorn

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/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

Email address is

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Our mailing address is

P.O. Box 4034

Silver City, NM 88062

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 Nancy Stephens – The board met 2/16/24. The Treasurer’s monthly report for January showed the Fellowship's finances to be in good shape. The Social Justice report showed a healthy balance. The board continued discussion of Building Use Guidelines. Sandy agreed to make a simplified list of expectations for building users. The board adopted the Proposed Budget Perpetual Calendar for 2024 & reviewed upcoming items. Barbara Bush & Joanne DeMichele presented a preview of ChMeetings training sessions. We are currently without an Involvement Coordinator and Caring Team Leader so if you have a personal need of any kind, please let a board member know.

Note from the Board Chair Carlos Price – *Transformation* is one of the values described in the proposed revision of the UUA’s Article II, described thus: “Transformation. We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.” March is a good month to start personal transformations, offering convenient days for new beginnings. For Christians there is the Lenten season culminating in Easter, for Muslims Ramadan, the Jewish holiday of Purim, and the Vernal Equinox on March 20.

Welcoming Days of Observance from Dave Becker - March is Women’s History Month, highlighting the contribution of women to events in history & contemporary society. First celebrated as “Women’s History Day” in Sonoma County, CA, in 1978. More information is available at <https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/womens-history-month> ***March 8th is International Women’s Day**, a global holiday celebrated annually as part of the women’s rights movement; focusing on issues that include gender equality, reproductive rights, violence & abuse against women. The earliest reported version was a “Women’s Day” organized by the Socialist Party of America in New York City in 1909. The United Nations adopted it as holiday in 1977. The United Nations’ theme for International Women’s Day 2024 is “Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress,” recognizing the worldwide need for gender-responsive budgeting that increases funding for programs aimed at achieving gender equality & investing in prevention of gender-based violence. More information is available at <https://www.un.org/en/observances/womens-day> ***March 31st is International Transgender Day of Visibility**, an annual event celebrating transgender people and their identities, raising awareness of the discrimination and violence faced by transgender people worldwide, and recognizing those who have fought for the rights of transgender people. Transgender activist Rachel Crandall founded this celebration in 2009 as a reaction to the lack of LGBTQ+ recognition of transgender people & in response to widespread media stories about transgender people involving violence, misrepresentation, & stereotyping. She hoped to create a day where people could re-focus on celebrating the lives of transgender people, empowering them to live authentically, while still acknowledging that, due to discrimination, not every trans person can or wants to be visible. Joe Biden issued a formal proclamation of Transgender Day of Visibility, on March 31, 2021, calling “upon all Americans to join in the fight for full equality for all transgender people.” However, in 2024, over 465 anti-trans bills have already been introduced in 41 states (after 85 bills passed in 2023). This hypervisibility typically comes at the expense of trans people who are demonized and scapegoated by politicians and in media—making this day of elevating transgender people and their authentic experiences that much more important. More information is available at: <https://www.hrc.org/resources/international-transgender-day-of-visibility> <https://www.glaad.org/blog/transgender-day-visibility> and <https://translegislation.com/>

Children's Programs: The QUU Hut will now be open all Sundays. Childcare provided on 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays, and religious exploration programming on 2nd & 4th Sundays. In Mar we explore the rituals we use to begin our time together throughout the year: chalice lighting, deep breathing, gratitude altars, and songs. 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 Mar 1 at 11am, in UUFSC Fellowship Hall. All welcome.

The Social Justice team will meet Friday March 8th at 11 a.m. All are welcome to attend!

"High Tea", "Afternoon Tea and Talk" On Mar 12 & Mar 26 at 2pm – Contact Barbara - mudita.ymm@gmail.com

The Soul Collage group will meet on Wed Mar 13 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.

Life Cafe - Thur, March 28, 4:00 pm at SC Public Library. 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]

March birthdays	Paul Riger	3/5	Carley Preusch	3/12	Carlos Price	3/21	
Carol Morrison	3/26	John Mooney	3/29	Sandra Michaud	3/30	Gwen Payne	3/31

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