

High Desert Dispatch: February 2025

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. It is a Welcoming Congregation that celebrates diversity and welcomes all, of every race, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious background, mental and physical ability or disability, body size or shape, health condition, socioeconomic condition, and family structure. **Please join us.**

UUFSC Safety Protocol: On Sundays, masks are recommended, but optional. Refreshments & potlucks can take place in the building, as well as (weather permitting) on the patio.

Feb 2: Gale Green - "Jesus Was Not a Carpenter, He was more of a Gardener" Gale Green will examine the early life of adult Jesus & his journeys in the ancient world. She will share a few of the things he learned about garden wisdom from teachers all through his travels and how that might apply to our lives.

Moderator: Carol Morrison/Carley Preusch

Feb 9: Lynne Zotalis - "Get Back Up" Like so many of us, Lynne finds herself struggling to have the positive attitude & outlook we need to weather our present societal miasma. Every day, maybe every hour, we need to give ourselves a pep talk & find a way to survive & even thrive these next years. A pep talk is what she will try to offer us!

Moderator: Kris Neri

Feb 16: Martha Cooper "The Nature Conservancy" Martha moved to New Mexico after receiving her Master's in Forest Ecology from the University of Maine. She worked with the NM Forest Stewards Guild, & then moved to working with The Nature Conservancy. Martha fell in love with our Gila River, and this love for the Gila & for her neighbors motivates her to tangle with the water crises in New Mexico.

Moderator: Art Thorn

Feb 23: Joshua Wells - "The Great Migration" Joshua Wells, a now retired educator of the Cobre Schools & Los Alamos Schools, creates massive, welded metal & ceramic sculptures. The exodus of blacks out of the South, *The Great Migration*, has been his artistic focus since 2017.

Moderator: Barbara Gabioud

Board Members

Board Chair – Joe Neri

Vice Chair – Lynda Aiman-Smith;

Treas.- Art Thorn

treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com

Sec – Nancy Stephens

At large Members - Victoria Reece,

Bill Paff, Leah Klearman

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

Mana'ar Johnson (Feb-Apr)

Audio/Visual/IT/Listserv

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

Welcoming Congregation Team

Barbara Bush, Gale Green, Victoria

Reece, Mike Sheffer

Family Programs

Zoey Cronin

Newsletter

Lynda Aiman-Smith

Website www.uufsc.com

Email address is

uufellowshipofsilvercity@gmail.com

Our mailing address is

P.O. Box 4034

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=QkxTNjV3UFIJOXNlbHpsSDZ5bUhvZz09>

Meeting ID: 380 012 4194 Passcode: UUFSC

Note from Board Chair Joe Neri – We are living in very dangerous times. The potential legal & physical threats to our Fellowship & its individual members are real. Your Board of Directors is actively discussing ways to ensure our safety without compromising our values. Please email me at joe12bar@gmail.com if you have any suggestions and/or wish to be included in this ongoing dialog.

Note from Board Secretary Nancy Stephens – At the 1/17 meeting the Board discussed our Fellowship Team org chart & where there are gaps; developing a Safety Protocol; intro to UUFSC workshops, & our budget. Next Board mtg. 2/21/25 at 1pm.

Update from the “Welcoming” Team: Barbara Bush & Michael Sheffer agreed to be co-leads & liaisons. If you have questions please reach out to them. New meetings will be the 3rd Sunday of each month at 11:30am. Significant LGBTQ+ dates will be sent to the moderator each week to go into the announcements & into the monthly newsletter. The team is looking into the process for renewal of our “Welcoming” designation & bringing in presentations, webinars.



February Welcoming Days of Observance - Feb is Black History Month. Every Feb, the U.S. honors the contributions & sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the nation. More information is available at: <https://asalh.org/about-us/about-black-history-month/> ****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. More information is available at: <https://hivinfo.nih.gov/understanding-hiv/hiv-aids-awareness-days/national-black-hiv-aids-awareness-day> ****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.” Info at: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/social-justice-day>

A Brief Book Review by Elaine Carlson “When the clown car burst from the underground garage.” The narrator is upset because whenever she talks about clowns, people think she is talking about the people in her neighborhood. To read about a bogus psychic concerned about real clowns be sure to read *High Crimes on the Magical Plane* by Kris Neri.

HOT PICKS! UUFSC Library by Claudia Elferdink, *Out of the Flames*, This page-turner-thriller follows two brilliant young thinkers as they compete for the truth! A controversy it jolted 16th century Europe and sparked the founding of Unitarianism. The relationship between Frenchman Jean Calvin & Spaniard Miguel Servetus met a shocking end! Written for the general public, it is historical fiction by Yale historians, Nancy & Lawrence Goldstone.

Children's Programs: The QUU Hut is open, & childcare is provided all Sundays. Religious exploration programming is on 2nd & 4th Sundays. Our theme for 2025 is "A Year of Holy Days."

Remembering Frank Ogas – Sunday Feb 2, 2025 3pm-4pm, UUFSC sanctuary. Come remember Frank with a story, & to support Heidi with a caring hug.

The Four Agreements Discussion Group will meet on Feb 7 at 11am, in UUFSC Fellowship Hall. All welcome.

Silver City Indivisible meets the second Monday of the month (February 10) at The Hearth, 1915 Swan, 5:30-6:30 pm. Want on our email list? Send your email address to: silvercityindivisible@gmail.com

Afternoon Tea & Talk On Feb 10 at 2pm – Teas will be ongoing on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2:00. Join us for tea, snacks & neighborly conversation! Contact Susan Price for info: susan2price@gmail.com

Soul Collage - Wednesday, Feb 12, from 3-5:30 pm. Newcomers welcome.

Welcoming Team meeting 2/16/25 at 11:30am after the program. All are invited to join.

Social Justice Team meeting Feb 14 at 11am. For agenda info contact Maree McHugh marypatazonia@gmail.com

LGBTQ Grant County Spaghetti potluck 2/14, 5 to 7pm. Spaghetti supplied, bring potluck! The Hearth, 1915 Swan.

Grant County Death Café, Feb 24 at 4PM at the Silver City Public Library. Info contact Lisa Jimenez at (575) 574-5473.

Men's Group meets on the 1st & 3rd Thurs of each month at UUFSC at 6:30 pm. Explore topics from light to deep. Join us. All men are welcome. Questions? contact Carlos Price at cgp775@gmail.com

Want to see your birthday in the newsletter? Contact Lynda at lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com

Feb b-days	Maria Casler 2/1	Joyce M.Jaime 2/5	Gail Stamler 2/5	Aubrey Thomas 2/20
Beatriz Giraldo 2/21	Dennis A. Hamilton 2/22	Lynda Aiman-Smith 2/28	CathleenNorman 2/28	Mairi Cronin 2/29

You can make your UUFSC donations online!

<https://D4613CBD4D2624D9.chmeetings.com//Giving/D4613CBD4D2624D9>