

# High Desert Dispatch: January 2026

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 & opportunities for service to others. Our programs encompass humanism, liberal Christianity, earth-based spirituality, Buddhism & many other traditions. The members themselves plan & present the Sunday programs. We are a Welcoming Congregation that celebrates diversity & welcomes all, of every race, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious background, mental & physical ability or disability, body size or shape, health condition, socioeconomic condition, & 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.**

**Jan 4: Akien Maciain** – Truths and Myths of AI - In this program Aiken will share practical ways to use AI, when not to use it, and how to get the best results from doing so. If there's time, he will talk about how he uses AI as part of writing.

**Moderator: Art Thorn**

**Jan 11: Nora Trammell** – An Update on Housing for Seniors- hear about the team working to improve local senior living options, and working to change the mission of Bridge Community to include the Village-to-Village program

**Moderator: Nancy Stephens**

**Jan 18: Jason Burke** – SWAG - We will learn about Southwest Adolescent Group (SWAG) and its work in Silver City. SWAG operates a local thrift store, whose profits all go to support youth programs.

**Moderator: Denise Jones**

**Jan 25: Elise Stuart-** Elise, Silver City and Grant County poet laureate 2014-2017, will speak about her new book *Across a Field of Stars*

**Moderator: Kris Neri**

## Board Members

Board Chair – Joe Neri

Vice Chair – Lynda Aiman-Smith

Treas- Art Thorn

[treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com)

Sec – Susan Guillory

At Large: Victoria Reece, Bill Paff, Anita Williams

## Membership Team Lead

Kris Neri

## Caring Team Leads

Carol Morrison & Lynda Aiman-Smith

## Facilities Team Lead

Paul Michaud

## Hospitality Volunteer Team Lead

Susan Price

## Outreach Team Lead

Gene Jones

## Programs Volunteer Team Lead

Gail Stamler (Jan-Feb)

## Audio/Visual/IT/Listserv

John Mooney & Akien Maciain

## Social Justice Volunteer Team

Ron Gabioud

## Border Justice Volunteer Team

Barbara Gabioud

## Office Coordinator

Leah Klearman

## Adult RE Team Leads

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

**Email** address is

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

**Our mailing address is**

**P.O. Box 4034**

**Silver City, NM 88062**

For membership questions, email

Kris Neri [krisneri@gmail.com](mailto:krisneri@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** - Some good advice from the recently deceased & legendary guitarist ("Green Onions"), Steve Cropper, that not only applies to performing music but also to life in general: ***"Play your part, play it simple, listen to what the other guys are doing & complement them. Make them look good, too."*** Happy & healthy New Year's greetings to all.

**Note from new Board Secretary Susan Guillory** - We welcomed new members Anita Williams & Susan Guillory. The UUFSC is in good fiscal shape. We discussed needed infrastructure work. Zoey Cronin & DeAnna Mooney joined & we discussed upcoming change to Family Programs.

**Jan Welcoming Days of Observance – January 4 is World Braille Day.** Celebrated on the birthday of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille, to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication for blind & partially sighted people. More information is available at: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/braille-day> **\*\*January 19 is Martin Luther King Jr. Day.** Commemorating the birth & legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the recipient of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize & an activist for nonviolent social change until his assassination in 1968. As we witness our own country & other nations around the world continue to struggle with violence, hate & poverty, today's social, political & economic landscape reveals the urgent necessity of Dr. King's approach of Nonviolence. More information is available at: <https://thekingcenter.org/king-holiday-2026/> **\*\*January 27 is the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust.** Registered by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005, this day remembers the approximately six million Jews & countless members of other minorities murdered during World War II. The date marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet troops on January 27, 1945. Such a Remembrance plays a critical role of tying us to the facts, to what took place, & the people it affected. These facts matter more than ever with growing antisemitism & neo-Nazis in the USA. More information is available at: <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/holocaust-remembrance>

**Children's Programs:** Because of demographic changes, the current director Zoey Cronin, & the UUFSC Board, will be suspending/closing the Children's Programs in its current form by the end of January 2026. A team is looking at ways to include children & youth into our programs & our Fellowship community.

**Shared self-help group hosts a drop-in meeting after service.** We explore making things suck less.

**The Four Agreements Discussion Group** meets on January 2 at 11 am in the Community Room. This first session of the New Year, hopefully a better year than last, will emphasize the core teachings of *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz. All are welcome - reading the book is not a prerequisite. Contact Joe ([joe12bar@gmail.com](mailto:joe12bar@gmail.com)) with questions.

**Dances of Universal Peace** Sunday January 4, 2026 at 4:00 PM Church of Harmony 7th & Arizona. Simple circle dances, live music, open hearts!

**You are invited to the 3rd Annual Vision Board Gathering** Wednesday January 7th 2:30pm -about 5 pm. in the UUFSC community room. Materials & support provided - large poster board, lots of magazine images, & glue for you to create a 2026 vision board. RSVP to reserve your spot: Carole Czujko, [carmichaeluu@gmail.com](mailto:carmichaeluu@gmail.com). Questions? Call Carole at 707-490-4367.

**The Raging Grannies** meet Mondays at 3:30pm at our UUFSC to practice singing protest. All welcome!

**Silver City Indivisible** Indivisible monthly meeting, Jan 5 (first Mondays) at the Hearth, 1915 Swan, get there at 5 for half an hour social time. Meeting is 5:30-6:30 & may go over some.

**Soul Collage** - Wednesday, Jan 14, from 3-5:30 pm. All materials supplied. Newcomers welcome.

**From the Social Justice Team:** We drew 6 folks winning 3-month Daily Press subscriptions. The Press hopes the new management of Snappy Marts will again carry the paper in their stores. In Dec. Gayle Simmons updated us on the NM Health Care Act. Our next meeting will be on Fri Jan. 9th, 2026 at the UUFSC at 11:00. All are welcome.

**If you wish to be added to either or both of the UUFSC list servs (google groups),** please contact Leah Klearman either after a UUFSC program, or via email to provide her some info [lkrmn@gmail.com](mailto:lkrmn@gmail.com), & she will get the process going.

*Want to see your birthday in the newsletter? Contact Lynda at [lynda\\_aimansmith@yahoo.com](mailto:lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com)*

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|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| <b>Jan b-days</b> | JRR Tolkien* 1/3  | Geri Sanders 1/6 | Art Thorn 1/6 | Melinda Austin 1/21 |
|                   | Azima Forest 1/21 |                  |               |                     |

\*JRR Tolkien's works about Middle Earth have fascinated many of us UUs for decades.

**You can make your UUFSC donations online!**

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