

High Desert Dispatch: February 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.

Feb 1: Brian Stengel - SC Street Warming Center. Learn about serving our unhoused neighbors on the front lines through our drop-in center & street outreach. Brian J. Stengel is a mental health counselor-in-training, harm reduction advocate, & community-help advocate. Drawing from extensive lived experience with both homelessness & addiction, Brian has dedicated his career to serving unhoused & marginalized populations through a blend of direct service, advocacy, & education. **Moderator: Art Thorn**

Feb 8: Wise Choices - As the proverb goes, we are surely blessed by living in interesting times! But a blessing? Joanna Macy writes of the Great Turning; research reminds us that humans are evolutionarily decent & friendly. What kind of world will we create? Together, as we calm our fears, we recognize the deep Wisdom within. Presented by Rev. Elaine Strawn, UUA Congregational Life Staff in the Central East Region. **Moderator: Nancy Stephens**

Feb 15: Kris Neri- Releasing Negative Feelings for Emotional Freedom. People say "I'm sad" or "I'm angry," as if those negative emotions were part of them. But sadness, anger, or other emotions are merely feelings that some of us stuff down inside, where their presence negatively impacts our health, spirits, & lives. Kris Neri will discuss her experiences with "The Sedona Method," a simple but effective technique for releasing the negative baggage inside. **Moderator: Joe Neri**

Feb 22: Joanie Connors - Notable People from Silver City's History 1860-1895. This presentation will briefly cover some of the amazing men & women who lived in this area from 1860 to 1895, when Silver City was the heart of the Wild West & the Indian Wars. Famous people who lived in this area include Chiricahua warriors, civic leaders, lawmen, outlaws & others. Several were remarkable heroes or left legacies that are worth examining. **Moderator: Cathleen Norman**

You can make your UUFSC donations online!

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

Board Members

Board Chair – Joe Neri; Vice Chair – Lynda Aiman-Smith; Treas- Art Thorn
treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com

Sec – Susan Guillory
At Large: Victoria Reece, Bill Paff, Anita Williams

Membership Team Lead

Kris Neri -info

krisneri@gmail.com

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)

Social Justice Volunteer Team

Ron Gabioud

Border Justice Volunteer Team

Barbara Gabioud

Adult RE Team Leads

Karen Benediktson & Gale Green

Welcoming Congregation Team

Barbara Bush, Gale Green, Victoria Reece, Mike Sheffer

Office & Website Coordinator

Leah Klearman info@uufsc.com

Website www.uufsc.com

Audio/Visual/IT

John Mooney & Akien Maciain

Newsletter

Lynda Aiman-Smith

UUFSC mailing address is

P.O. Box 4034

Silver City, NM 88062

Fellowship email info@uufsc.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 - Legacy Gifting to UUFSC: You can make testamentary gifts of cash, investments, & real or personal property to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Silver City. Simply list UUFSC as one of the beneficiaries of your estate in your will or trust. All gifts, regardless of type & size, are greatly appreciated, & can serve as a legacy in perpetuity to you & your commitment to our Fellowship.

Note from Board Secretary Susan Guillory – The UUFSC is in good fiscal shape. The separate Family/Children’s Program has closed, multigenerational Programs & Activities are planned. We are preparing for May’s 2026 semi-annual meeting. New business topics: determining if there is a viable lower cost internet service; developing processes for Testamentary giving; working on a Facilities Use Agreement for outside groups using the building.

Feb Welcoming Days of Observance – **Feb is Black History Month. In Feb, the U.S. honors the contributions & sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the nation. Black History Month had its start in 1926, when historian Carter G. Woodson announced the second week of February as “Negro History Week.” Black History Month was first celebrated at Kent State in 1970. President Ford recognized Black History Month in 1976 during the national bicentennial. More information 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) is to raise awareness about HIV & AIDS prevention & medical treatment in Black/African American communities. HIV disproportionately affects Black/African American communities. 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. More information is available at: <https://www.nbhaad.org/> ****Feb 20 is the World Day of Social Justice.** Since 2008, every Feb 20th has been the UN’s observance of “World Day of Social Justice.” The purpose is to focus on the plight of social injustice throughout the world & to press for improvements & solutions to combat unemployment, social exclusion, & poverty. More information at <https://www.un.org/en/observances/social-justice-day>

Children’s Programs Closed Jan 31, 2026: We have fresh “Busy Bags” to use with children during programs. We are also planning multi-generational Programs – the first will be March 22, 2026. And a special series of multi-generational activities will be offered in April 2026. Questions? Ask Zoey Cronin, DeAnna Mooney, or Lynda Aiman-Smith.

Shared Self Help is a place to share wisdom among peers wanting to make small every-day improvements to our lives. Led by Akien & Leah, the group is currently exploring good times & places for our meeting. If you'd like to attend, please see Leah (lkirmn@gmail.com) or Akien (akienm@gmail.com) to discuss times.

The Four Agreements Discussion Group meets on Feb 6 at 11 am in the Community Room. Discussion based on the core teachings of *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz. Reading the book not required. Info -Carole carmichaeluu@gmail.com

Soul Collage – Wednesday Feb 11, from 3-5:30 pm. All materials supplied. Newcomers welcome.

From the Social Justice Team: Our next meeting will be on Fri Feb 13th at the UUFSC at 11:00. All are welcome.

Current Moderators & those “thinking about it” – on Feb 15 join DeAnna Mooney & Lynda Aiman-Smith for an “Ask Us Anything” on Moderating after the Sunday Program. Grab your coffee! We will gather in the sanctuary for Q&A.

KUNDALINI YOGA for BEGINNERS, Starting Feb. 06, FRIDAYS 3:30 – 4:30 pm, The Hearth, 1915 N. Swan St. Please bring your own mat & blanket (or cushion), \$5.00 donation suggested. Info - Colleen Jiron, ccjiron@yahoo.com

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

Desert Home Companion - KURU 2nd Sunday variety show & live stream Sunday, February 8. Doors open 1:30 pm for live audience @ The Hearth 1915 N. Swan St. 2:00 pm Live Stream on KURU 89.1 FM, or online at kuru891.org

Silver City Indivisible meeting, Feb 9 (2nd Mondays) the Hearth, 1915 Swan, get there at 5 for half an hour social time. Meeting is 5:30-6:30 & may go over some.

The Vagina Monologues – February 2026 for our third year, benefiting Fight Like a Girl. Feb 13th @ 7:00pm, Feb 14th @ 2:00 pm & Feb 15th @ 2:00 pm at El Sol Theater, 406 N. Bullard St.

If you wish to be added to either or both of the UUFSC list servs (google groups), please contact Leah Klearman info@uufsc.com either after a UUFSC program, or via email, & she will get the process going.

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

Feb b-days	John Flack 2/5	Joyce M. Jaime 2/5	Gail Stamler 2/5	Aubrey Thomas 2/20
	Beatriz Giraldo 2/21	John Bush 2/24	George Harrison 2/25*	Lynda Aiman-Smith 2/28
	Cathleen Norman 2/28	Mairi Cronin 2/29		

*Most popular song was *My Sweet Lord*, tho’ *Here Comes the Sun* is loved. What song of George’s is your favorite?