

# High Desert Dispatch: May 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.**

**May 3: Diane Kleiss:** "Learning to Fly." Diane has been an artist from the time she could hold a crayon. Her presentation will be about the process of writing her art journey in her book; that would not have happened without years of journal writing. **Moderator:** Akien Maciain

**May 10: Ben Rasmussen:** "Director of The Commons – Update" Ben is now the Executive Director of the Commons. He brings over a decade of experience advancing food security, economic development, & community resilience in rural & frontier communities across southwest New Mexico. **Moderator:** Gillian Sherwood

**May 17: Reverend Ali Bell:** "Joy When the World Is on Fire." Joy is not the absence of struggle. It is what keeps us alive within it. This program explores joy not as denial, but as resistance; not as luxury, but as spiritual discipline. Bell explores why choosing joy is a radical act. Rev. Bell is the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces. **Moderator:** Nancy Stephens

**May 24: Semi-annual Mtg. & Memorial Day potluck**  
Come for the potluck & meeting! Following our tradition, we will have a potluck brunch in the front room before & during the meeting. If you are willing & able, please bring a brunch dish, a sweet bread, or a pastry to share. Bring your own plates & utensils for ease of clean-up. We will be discussing & voting on important items, including the budget.

**May 31: Zoey Cronin:** "Multigenerational program" Gratitude is good for our bodies, minds, & spirits. We will explore gratitude & gratitude practices through playful, interactive, & embodied activities designed to be engaging & meaningful for all ages. *Attendees are invited to bring a small item that represents something for which you are grateful.*  
**Moderator:** Lynda Aiman-Smith

**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](mailto:treasurer.uufsc@gmail.com)  
Sec – Susan Guillory  
At Large: Victoria Reece, Bill Paff, Anita Williams

## Membership Team Lead

Kris Neri -info

[krisneri@gmail.com](mailto: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

Gillian Sherwood (May-July)

## 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](mailto:info@uufsc.com)

Website [www.uufsc.com](http://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](mailto: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 & Board Secretary Susan Guillory** - Our Semi-Annual Meeting will be on May 24, in conjunction with a potluck brunch. The board will present financials & the new budget (on which we will vote). We will also welcome new members & receive a volunteer team update. We hope you can attend this important meeting, one of two business meetings required by our bylaws. Look for more information coming to your inbox soon.

**Welcoming Days of Observance - May 17 is International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, & Biphobia.**

This observance raises awareness of violence, discrimination, & repression of LGBTQIA+ persons & communities around the world, promoting interest in work on behalf of LGBTQIA+ worldwide. The date commemorates the 1990 decision by the World Health Organization to remove homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases. May 17 is particularly strong in Europe & Latin America; commemorated with marches, parades, festivals, & arts & culture events. The U.S. past-president Joe Biden reaffirmed his commitment to LGBTQIA+ rights by a proclamation on May 17, 2024. **\*\*May is Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month** (<https://fapac.org/AAPI-Resources>) & **Jewish American Heritage Month** (<https://jewishamericanheritage.org/>).

**When Adults with Children come in 2026:** We have fresh "Busy Bags" to use with children during programs.

**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. If you'd like to attend, please see Leah ([lkirmn@gmail.com](mailto:lkirmn@gmail.com)) or Akien ([akienm@gmail.com](mailto:akienm@gmail.com)).

**The Four Agreements Discussion Group** meets on May 1 at 11 am. Discussion based on the core teachings of *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz. Reading the book not required. Info -Carole [carmichaeluu@gmail.com](mailto:carmichaeluu@gmail.com)

**Ask Us Anything about Moderating May 10** after the program –DeAnna & Lynda will be delighted to talk with you about what Moderators do, & to discuss the tips & tricks of moderating. We would love to welcome you to the role of Moderator!

**Silver City Indivisible meeting, May 11** (2nd Mondays) the Hearth, 1915 Swan, get there at 5 for social time, mtg 5:30.

**Soul Collage – Wednesday May 13**, from 3-5:30 pm. All materials supplied. Newcomers welcome.

**Cancer Support Group May 14 & May 28** – 2pm-3:15pm at UUFSC. Info [dianesmithlcsw@gmail.com](mailto:dianesmithlcsw@gmail.com) or 520-245-7096

**DitchSpeare performances will run for two weeks:** Fridays, May 15 & 22, at 6pm; Saturdays, May 16 & 23 at both 4pm & 6pm; Sundays, May 17 & 24 at 6pm; & Tuesday & Thursday, May 19 & 21 at 6pm in Big Ditch Park. Info <https://givebutter.com/LeEMbb>

**The UUA is expanding Mosaic** an online hub of connection, resources, & support for dismantling racism & oppression. To learn more, you can subscribe to the newsletter: <https://www.uua.org/mosaic/blog/subscribe>

**May 9, 2026 - 2pm - 4pm New Exhibit Opening "20 Years of Lifelong Learning"** Silver City Museum

**May 20, 2026 - 12pm - 1pm** Chinese Immigration Silver City. Global Resource Center, ABC Room. Dr. Karen Leong shares her research on Chinese immigration & the Chinese American community in Silver City

**Dances of Universal Peace May 24** @ 5:30pm 609 Arizona St, info: [lynda\\_aimansmith@yahoo.com](mailto:lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com)

**The Death Cafe meets Monday, May 25th**, 4:00-5:30 pm at the Silver City Public Library.

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

**KUNDALINI YOGA for BEGINNERS**, FRIDAYS 3:30 – 4:30 pm, The Hearth, 1915 N. Swan St. Info - Colleen Jiron, [ccjiron@yahoo.com](mailto:ccjiron@yahoo.com)

**If you wish to be added to either or both of the UUFSC google groups** (one for UUFSC business, one for general discussion), please contact Leah Klearman [info@uufsc.com](mailto:info@uufsc.com) & she will get the process going.

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

Denise Jones 5/4	Dave Becker 5/12	Katherine Feist 5/16	DeAnna Mooney 5/16	Wendy Graves5/18	Alayna Cronin5/22
Bob Dylan 5/24*	Joe Neri 5/24	Don Graves 5/25	Anita Williams 5/28	Mary Beth Chrest5/31	Ronald Gole5/31

\*Famous poet/songwriter... "Don't criticize what you can't understand."