

# High Desert Dispatch: July 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.**

**July 5: July 4<sup>th</sup> Potluck Picnic 11am. NO 10am program.** Bring your dish to share at 10:45. Please put a label on your dish showing ingredients that are potential allergens (e.g. wheat, soy, dairy, shellfish, peanuts, nuts, seeds, hot peppers, etc). Gluten free & vegetarian labels are helpful. Condiments & cool beverages will be supplied. Please bring your dishes, cup, & silverware which will help cut down on washing dishes at cleanup. Thanks!

**July 12: Vladimir Gnilozubov:** Financial Literacy: topics of savings, investing, retirement distributions, planning for the unexpected, & estate planning. Vlad was born & raised in Kazakhstan, coming to Silver City in 2014. A student athlete, he played tennis for WNMU.

**Moderator:** Art Thorn

**July 19: Jim Charleston & Wendy Spurgeon** will speak about the arts & economies related to community theater in Silver City. Wendy Spurgeon is an actor, director, producer, theatre educator, & founder of TheActrix Studio LLC. Jim Charleston has acted in over forty films & several stage plays. His screenplays have placed in numerous festivals & have won several awards. His most recent project Soul Mates looks at romance from entirely different perspective. **Moderator:** Akien Maciain

**July 26: Vicky Barnett:** Firewise: This presentation will provide information & resources about the National Fire Prevention Association's (NFPA) Firewise USA® program & how you can get involved. Becoming a Firewise Community is a wonderful opportunity to join your neighbors & work together to accomplish a shared goal of increasing community safety & your home's chance of survival during a wildfire.

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

Sec – Susan Guillory  
At Large: Victoria Reece, 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

P.O. Box 4034

Silver City, NM 88062

Fellowship email [info@uufsc.com](mailto:info@uufsc.com)

If you wish to be added to either or both of the UUFSC google groups please contact Leah Klearman [info@uufsc.com](mailto:info@uufsc.com)

Join UUFSC Zoom Meeting 10am Sundays

<https://zoom.us/j/3800124194?pwd=QkxTNjV3UFIJJOXNLbHpsSDZ5bUhvZz09>

Meeting ID: 380 012 4194 Passcode: UUFSC

**Note from Board Chair Joe Neri** – 250 years after the beginning of the greatest experiment in self-rule & democracy, our work is not done. We have never quite achieved that “more perfect union” dreamed of by our fore fathers, but we have never stopped trying either. Our nation was founded on the principle that “all men are created equal,” although it took a hundred years & more to acknowledge the inclusion of slaves & women under that principle. We as a nation have been guilty of the sins of slavery, genocide, & manifest destiny, but we have also been a consistent beacon of individual freedom throughout the world. Dark times are upon us, but the enemies of democracy have no idea what we are capable of when we stand united. November 3, 2026 will go down in history as the second most important date in U.S. history. Vote like your life depends on it, *because it does*. It is not too soon to begin prepping for the midterms.

Celebrate July 4th. Celebrate our flag. Celebrate our Bill of Rights. Celebrate our UU Principles. Don't let the enemies of democracy take them away from us. Be kind to yourself and others.

**Note from Board Secretary Susan Guillory** – Board meetings are usually the third Friday at 1:00pm in the UUFSC community room. Our next meeting will be July 17. Any member is welcome to attend. Info [susanguillory97@gmail.com](mailto:susanguillory97@gmail.com)

**Welcoming Days of Observance – July 14 is International Non-Binary People’s Day.** This day celebrates & raises awareness of non-binary people who do not exclusively identify as a man or a woman, or who may identify as both a man & a woman, or may identify outside of these categories altogether. Various countries include non-binary options in passports, & the US used to also. In a backlash, the Trump administration in 2025 stopped including non-binary options on passports. In 22 U.S. states, including New Mexico, a resident may select “X” to mark their gender on driver licenses, & 27 states, also including New Mexico, will issue a new birth certificate & not require sex reassignment surgery nor court order in order to change the gender marker. More information is available <https://www.manygendersonoice.org/non-binary-peoples-day.html> **\*\*July 26 is Disability Independence Day.** This day celebrates the anniversary of the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The landmark legislation serves as a de facto bill of rights for Americans with disabilities, assuring them access to economic & civic opportunities. Its passage represented an unique bipartisan effort to acknowledge the centuries of discrimination suffered by the disability community & a fundamental change to how they live their lives. More information available at <https://www.inclusionhub.com/articles/national-disability-independence-day>

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

**PLEASE sign the MEMBERSHIP list** (in the foyer) if you did not attend the May 2026 semi-annual meeting.

**The Four Agreements Discussion Group** You are invited to the regular Four Agreements group meeting Friday, July 3 at 11 am ‘til 12:30. Open to all. Questions? Please contact Carole [Carmichaeluu@gmail.com](mailto:Carmichaeluu@gmail.com)

**Our UUFSC “booth” will be set up at the 4th of July** in Gough Park with brochures & handouts, plus balloons & face painting. We're (almost) fully staffed from 07:00am set up until take down after 4pm.Come by & visit! It'll be fun!

**The Circle of the Sun Singers will be having a free, one-time singing evening on Monday, July 6th** at 5:30 pm, Church of Harmony 609 Arizona St Silver City. Joyful & low-pressure. All songs taught by call & response, no music reading or previous singing experience needed. It will be simply fun. Join us!

**Soul Collage – Wednesday July 8,** from 3-5:30 pm. All materials supplied. Newcomers welcome.

**Cancer Support Group July 9 & July 23** – 2pm-3:15pm at UUFSC. Info [dianesmithlcsw@gmail.com](mailto:dianesmithlcsw@gmail.com) or 520-245-7096

**Family Day at Silva Creek Botanical Garden, 9 AM-noon on Sat. July 11,** Virginia & State streets. Come yourself or bring the family to enjoy activity booths, music, & information on various parts of the garden! Free!! Please consider joining the new Docent Training Class. Learn about the garden so you can share it on scheduled tours! Contact Dana at [vcgardens.gnps@gmail.com](mailto:vcgardens.gnps@gmail.com)

**Silver City Indivisible meeting, July 13** (2nd Mondays) the Hearth, 1915 Swan, 5pm for social time, mtg 5:30.

**Dances of Universal Peace July 26** @ 5:30pm 609 Arizona St. Simple movements, words from world spiritual traditions, open hearts, joyous experience! info: [lynda\\_aimansmith@yahoo.com](mailto:lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com)

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

<b>July b-days</b>	Catherine Bialopiotrowicz 7/5	George Austin 7/8	Harriet Rogers 7/11	Zoey Cronin 7/14
	Leah Klearman 7/19	Becky Harwood 7/20	*Beatrix Potter7/28	Denise Smith 7/30

\*Beatrix Potter, creator of *Peter Rabbit*, was a faithful Unitarian!