

High Desert Dispatch: August 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.

Aug 2: Heidi Ogas - "When Your Ship Won't Come In." Heidi presents a favorite sermon from her stepfather, Rev. Joe Willis. What do you do when things don't go as you hoped, planned or expected? Maybe there is a reason for it -- what can we learn from it? Can we keep moving forward & look at the bright side?

Aug 9: UUA Video "Tending Our Tradition." Throughout UU history, there have been times when UUs courageously lived our values, & times when UUs betrayed our values. How can we learn from both the high points & the low points of our history as we seek to make our values real in the world today? Rev. Erica Baron is a Congregational Life Consultant for the New England Region of the UUA. **Moderator: Nancy Stephens**

Aug 16: Jenny Ferranti "Beginning Years." Jenny Ferranti is the Program Director & part of a team at Beginning Years working with Grant County families to help & support them. The programs cover pregnancy through age 5. It is free & voluntary with no income requirements. Come hear about their programs! **Moderator: Gillian Sherwood**

Aug 23: Dave Becker & Welcoming Team "Preparing for Pride" Anticipating the Pride in the Gila Festival on September 12 - a video of UUA & other religious professionals sharing observations about an uptick in disruptive tactics across the country aimed at UU congregations & Pride celebrations. Offering wisdom & resources to help congregations to respond, foster connection, & better support the LGBTQIA+ community. **Moderator: Art Thorn**

Aug 30: Zoey Cronin "Multigenerational Program." Together we will explore the UU Shared Value of pluralism through story, sharing, & playful interaction designed to be meaningful for all ages. Let's see how our different histories & beliefs come together to create one vibrant UU community. **Moderator: Akien Maciain**

Board Members

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

Sec – Susan Guillory
At Large: Paul Michaud, Victoria Reece, 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

Gillian Sherwood (May-Aug)

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

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Join UUFSC Zoom Meeting 10am Sundays

<https://zoom.us/j/3800124194?pwd=QkxTNjV3UFIJOXNlbHpsSDZ5bUhvZz09>

Meeting ID: 380 012 4194 Passcode: UUFSC

If you wish to be added to either or both of the UUFSC google groups please contact Leah Klearman info@uufsc.com

Note from Board Chair Joe Neri – “They call us ‘The Left’ because when you take away the fascists, billionaires, corporate sycophants, willfully ignorant, racists, & bigots ...we’re what’s left.” — Robert F. Kennedy (the original, not Jr.)**Enjoy the last month of summer. After Labor Day, the season of Good Trouble begins. Including “A Big Beautiful Blue Wave Dance Party” in October, sponsored by your very own UUFSC. Details next month.

Note from Board Secretary Susan Guillory – We welcome Paul Michaud to the board. Please remember to sign the membership list in the lobby, on the clipboard. You must annually renew your membership in order to be eligible vote in the annual meeting coming up in Nov.

Welcoming Days of Observance – August 9 is International Day of the World’s Indigenous People An estimated 476 million indigenous peoples live in the world, across 90 countries. Less than 5 per cent of the world's population, they account for 15 per cent of the poorest. They speak the majority of the world’s estimated 7,000 languages & represent 5,000 different cultures. Indigenous peoples are inheritors & practitioners of unique cultures & ways of relating to people & the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic & political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live. Despite cultural differences, indigenous peoples around the world share common problems related to the protection of their rights as distinct peoples: recognition of their identities, their way of life & their right to traditional lands, territories, & natural resources. They remain among the most disadvantaged & vulnerable groups of people in the world. To raise awareness of the needs of these populations, every August 9th commemorates the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, chosen in recognition of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held in Geneva in 1982. This year there is a focus on the wisdom of indigenous midwives! More info - <https://www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day> ****August 26 is Women’s Equality Day.** This day celebrates the anniversary of the 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Consitution granting women the right to vote! More information available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_Equality_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 sign at the May 2026 semi-annual meeting.

Hospitality team needs your help to partner with the current Hospitality host on the 2nd or 3rd Sunday of the month. Please contact Susan Price at susan2price@gmail.com Also, a sign-up sheet will be on the round table. Thank you.

Help! - The Sunday morning refreshments pantry is getting low on stock! If you can, bring in some juice, unsweetened iced tea, cookies, gluten free sweets, nuts, etc. Deliver to the Sunday morning host.

Celebrate the Wheel of the Year day of Lammas, the festival of Harvest Sat Aug 1, 5:30 - 7:00pm, Lotus Center. Songs, dances, poems, playful activities. Everyone is welcome. Info: Lynda lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com

Aug 1-2 8:00AM-3:00PM, Hummingbird Festival, Mimbres Culture Heritage Site, <http://www.mimbrescultureheritagesite.org/>

The Four Agreements Discussion Group You are invited to the regular Four Agreements group meeting Friday, Aug 7 at 11 am ‘til 12:30. Open to all. Questions? Please contact Carole Carmichaeluu@gmail.com

Soul Collage Wed Aug 12 3-5:30 pm. Materials supplied. Newcomers welcome. Questions? Carole carmichaeluu@gmail.com

Cancer Support Group Aug 13 & Aug 27 – 2pm-3:15pm at UUFSC. Info dianesmithlcs@gmail.com or 520-245-7096

Silver City Indivisible meeting, Aug 10 (2nd Mondays) the Hearth, 1915 Swan, 5pm for social time, mtg 5:30.

Dances of Universal Peace Aug 23 @ 5:30pm 609 Arizona St. Simple movements, words from world spiritual traditions, open hearts, joyous experience! info: lynda_aimansmith@yahoo.com

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

You can make your UUFSC donations online! <https://D4613CBD4D2624D9.chmeetings.com//Giving/D4613CBD4D2624D9>

Aug b-days	Harry Kellerman 8/1	Marshall Hirsch 8/2	Gay Hedges 8/5	Marty Eberhardt 8/6
David Kent 8/6	David Krisch 8/8	*Ray Bradbury 8/22	Karen Murphy 8/28	Bea McKinney 8/31

*Fantasy/sci-fi writer, author of *Fahrenheit 451*