

Upcoming Sunday Programs (10:15 to 11:30 am)

January 7 – Minnesota from the Road

Travel with photographer/storyteller Doug Ohman as he photographs many of Minnesota's most interesting landmarks and Icons. Doug will share the stories of how landmarks became so famous. His pictures and stories will be sure to entertain and bring new interest in more road trips around our great state. Doug has shared many of his books with Pilgrim House. He has done the series of books of Minnesota churches, cabins, librarians, courthouses, schools, etc.



January 14 – Leaping Tall Buildings in a Single Bound: Finding Your Superpower in Tumultuous Times

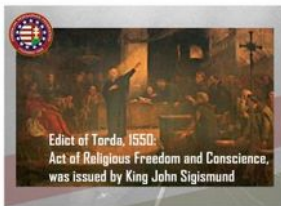
Presented by Tom Esch.

You are Wonder Woman! You are Superman! You just don't always feel very courageous. Many of us feel small, helpless and ineffective against the powerful-worldly forces.

There seem to be a lot of "tall buildings" in our way these days. We are smack dab in the middle of some very tumultuous times--on multiple levels. It is time to be courageous and access our super powers. And there is always that kryptonite, those things that make us weak. What if our strength was not where we thought it was? What if our power was somehow hiding in our weakness? And what can we do, practically, about our current dilemmas? Come prepared to explore the questions.

January 21 – Richard Terrell and Larry McDonough Return with The Music of Resistance

Their program includes songs of injustice, encouragement, and personal change.



January 28 – Dick Shelton – The Edict of Torda

The 500th anniversary of Luther's Theses at Wittenberg fell in 2017, and the 450th anniversary of the Edict of Torda falls in 2018. The 50 years intervening between Wittenberg and Torda witnessed a revolution in the cultural and spiritual life of Europe and Western Civilization. The Edict of Torda, promulgated in the unlikely province of Transylvania, has become one of the defining moments of Unitarianism, and while modern UUs have attached a rather overly-heroic mythology to that event, it remains a remarkable moment in the history of religious freedom -- one whose lessons we are still fighting to realize even today. This program examines the background that led to that moment, and what it really meant in the context of the religious upheaval in Europe of the 16th century and beyond.

February 4 – Being an Agent for Social Change

Stephanie McCullough-Cain is a 2016 graduate of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Stephanie is working toward fellowship in the UUA as a Chaplain.



CALENDAR

Monday, January 8, 7:00pm – Pilgrim House Board meeting at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Dick Shelton.

Sunday, January 14, noon – Last day to turn in Guest at Your Table boxes and donations. Contact Carol Green.

Sunday, January 21, 11:50am – Sunday Stories at Pilgrim House – Bill Rohde. All are welcome. Contact Les Rogers.

Sunday, January 21 – Newsletter information due. Contact Fred Green.

Thursday, January 25, 5:30pm – Book Club meets at Laura Schommer's. The book is *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf.

Sunday, January 28, 12:00pm – Connections Committee meeting at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Kathy Aanerud or Les Rogers.

Thursday, February 1, 7:00pm – Great Decisions at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Al Potter.

Sunday, March 4 – Annual Pilgrim House Auction at Pilgrim House. See article below.

ANNUAL PH AUCTION

The Pilgrim House (PH) auction is scheduled for March 4. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

The auction, held each year at Pilgrim House, is a major fund-raising event. It accounts for the largest single influx of dollars after the pledges by individual members.

- Auction volunteers are needed – contact Les Rogers or sign up at PH if you are interested.
- We need items to be donated to auction. The best items generally are services or homemade – babysitting, tours, making furniture, dinners in your home, baked items, performances, and crafts. If you have other things about the house that still have value, they may have value to someone at the auction. There will be a table of “buy it now” items on auction day.
- Send your item descriptions and, optionally, a picture, to Fred at newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org. Also, there will be a sign-up sheet at PH.

An auction page on which items can be viewed will be created on the PH website. This page will be created in mid-January. A userid is required to view the auction page – any valid PH userid will work – contact Fred Green if you have questions or corrections.

Pilgrim House

We seek to carry out the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association of churches and fellowships, with which we are affiliated. These principles affirm the worth of everyone, freedom and the right of conscience in search of truth, encouragement of one another's spiritual growth, and the wonder and mystery of the web of all life. Membership in Pilgrim House is open to everyone who is in sympathy with our purposes and principles and wants to join.

Phone: 651-631-2582

Internet: <http://www.pilgrimhouseuua.org>

Board Chair: Dick Shelton

Pilgrim's Progress

If you have any items for the newsletter, please contact:

Fred Green

newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org

NOVEMBER FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

In November, Pilgrim House donated 37 pounds of food and \$200 to the Ralph Reeder Foodshelf in New Brighton. Thank you for your donations and your support of the foodshelf, both with donations and by volunteering at the foodshelf!

RICE CREEK COMMONS

Matthew Bachler, Arden Hills city planner, has provided the following summary of the master plan and current development progress for the former munitions site north of Highway 96 west of Pilgrim House. The highlighted items are questions that Mina Adsit asked him to address. If enough Pilgrim House members are interested in the project, Matthew would present at a weeknight meeting at Pilgrim House.

Summary Of The Master Plan And Method Of Development

The City began the planning process for the Rice Creek Commons development in 2013. A consultant team comprised of Kimley-Horn, Cunningham Group, and Gateway Planning was hired to develop the master plan, Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR), and development regulations. The City held several public meetings, met with stakeholders, and solicited input from developers representing different industry sectors in developing the master plan. A few of the goals for the redevelopment identified by the community included having well-defined residential neighborhoods, a mix of housing options, abundant park space, a trail system

linking neighborhoods and commercial areas, and high-quality commercial development and amenities.

The master plan was approved by the City in 2015 and was recently updated in December 2016 based on proposed amendments by the master developer, Alatus LLC. The master plan includes:

- 146 acres of land for residential uses
- 34 acres of land for retail uses
- 100 acres of land for office and light industrial uses
- 16 acres of land for the "Town Center" that will include a mix of residential, retail, restaurant, and entertainment uses
- 24 acres of land for City parks and open space

Proposed Housing Mix Including Workforce/Affordable Housing Components

The master plan and development regulations for the site support a wide range of different housing types, including single-family residential, twin homes, townhomes, multi-family residential, and senior housing. Based on the development regulations, a maximum of approximately 1,460 housing units could be constructed in the development. The City has adopted a goal that ten percent of all new housing units on the site should be affordable to households earning 80 percent or less of area median income as established by the Metropolitan Council.

Environmental Impact Of The Development And Green Space Set Asides

As part of the planning process, an Alternative Urban Area-wide Review (AUAR) was completed for the redevelopment area. The AUAR process is a hybrid of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet and an Environmental Impact Statement. The AUAR looks at the cumulative impacts of anticipated development scenarios within a given geographic area. It can be used as a planning tool for cities to understand how development will affect the environment before development occurs. Areas examined include geology, soils, and topography; water resources; contamination and hazardous materials; fish, plant communities, and sensitive ecological resources; historic properties; visual; air; noise; transportation; and cumulative potential impacts. The completed AUAR includes a mitigation plan with actions that are advisable, recommended, or necessary to protect the environment and minimize potential impacts of development. The findings in the AUAR were incorporated into the master plan and development regulations for the site.

The master plan includes 24 acres of land set aside for City parks and open space. It is anticipated that the developer will include additional small open space areas

within the residential neighborhoods. The site also includes approximately 45 acres of land that would be kept as open space and used for regional stormwater management purposes.

Environmental Cleanup Requirements

The 427-acre redevelopment area has been cleaned to residential standards and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has issued a Certificate of Completion for the soil remediation work. The U.S. Army will continue to operate the existing groundwater cleanup system for many years to come. The groundwater contamination will have no impact on the Rice Creek Commons development as the City provides drinking water to residents from St. Paul Regional Water Services.

Benefit to the City of Arden Hills

The Rice Creek Commons project will have numerous benefits to the City, including but not limited to:

- Returning the land to productive use
- Cleaning up the state's largest Superfund site
- Stimulating regional economic development and creating high wage jobs
 - Add to the local property tax base
- Providing a variety of housing options that address affordability and life-cycle needs

Current Project Status

Representatives from Ramsey County, Arden Hills, and Alatus spoke with the Army in mid-November about the optimization study underway at the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP), now referred to as the Rice Creek Commons development. The study is examining how to best continue to treat the groundwater on the site. The Army shared that the study will not be released until the first quarter of 2018. Their consultant's initial fieldwork resulted in the need to conduct a more detailed evaluation, which has caused this delay. The Army did not disclose any initial findings from the study to date.

The development was included as a possible site in Minnesota's regional bid for Amazon's second headquarters. Amazon is seeking a 100-acre site, which would take up less than one-fourth of the full 427-acre Rice Creek Commons site. Amazon is not expected to select a final site until 2018.

In the meantime, Ramsey County, the City of Arden Hills, the Joint Development Authority, and Alatus continue to move forward with a mixed-use development as originally planned. Infrastructure development (roads, sewer, water treatment, etc.) is expected to begin in 2019, and houses could begin to be constructed as early as 2020.

SING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

A fundraiser for the Community Support Center

January 28, 2:00pm

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

Come hear choirs and musicians from Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Faith Christian Reformed Church, Grace Point, Messiah Lutheran Church, and United Church of Christ. With a donation to the CSC, take home homemade soup and/or a chance to win a door prize from the world of the arts.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME HERE!

We enjoy the friends and visitors who join us for Sunday programs. If you're ready to consider going the next step of becoming a member of Pilgrim House, we would enjoy talking with you.

Kathy and Mel Aanerud, Membership Committee

membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org.

Pilgrim House Newsletter

1212 W. Hwy 96

Arden Hills, MN 55112

