

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

All programs are via Zoom. The Zoom link for these programs will be sent to Pilgrim House members. If you do not receive a link, but would like to participate, please contact pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org.

February 7 – Can Truth Save Democracy – Use of Science Courts

Professor Ellad (Brad) Tadmor of the University of Minnesota has developed Science Courts as a way to save Democracy – a thing only truth can do. He is a speaker of national fame.



February 14 – Freedom for Mother's Day – Reverend Kayla Parker

This program is inspired by a project called Mama's Day Bail out, that helps to bail black mothers and caregivers out of prison for Mother's Day. In the sermon, Kayla will talk about the theological grounding for this work as Unitarian Universalists, and discuss an event that was organized by BLUU (Black Lives of Unitarian Universalists)

February 21 – What We Need to do to Transform Ourselves to Chart a Bold Future in an Inclusive Democracy

Professor Sylvester Johnson is from Star King California and is Director of the Center for Humanities at Virginia Tech.

This is the program that most of us at GA attended. We then unanimously decided that we wanted him at Pilgrim House. This presentation examines structural disparities caused by race, wealth and technology. What we need to do to transform ourselves to chart a bold future in an inclusive democracy.



February 28 – The Decline of American Democracy and the Rule of Law

Professor Austin Sarat is Associate Provost and Associate Dean of the Faculty, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Jurisprudence & Political Science at Amherst College, Amherst Massachusetts. As part of UUA series on "Our Democracy Uncorrupted" Professor Sarat is a national expert.

March 7 – What Happened in the Election and its Aftermath

Professor David Schultz of Hamline and Saint Thomas Universities in Saint Paul is a regular national commentator and a presenter at Pilgrim House.



CALENDAR

Thursday, February 4, 7:00pm – Great Decisions meets via Zoom. The topic is China in Africa. All are welcome. Contact Al Potter. See article below.

Monday, February 8, 7:00pm – Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Contact Adam Aanerud.

Wednesday, February 10, 2:00pm – Coffee Hour via Zoom. All are welcome. Contact Nancy Olson. See article below.

Monday, February 15, 2:00pm – A covenant group meets via Zoom. Contact Nancy Olson.

Tuesday, February 16, 2:00pm – Congregational Care meets via Zoom. Contact Nancy Olson.

Sunday, February 21 – Newsletter information is due for March. Contact Fred Green.

Wednesday, February 24, 1:30pm – Novel Exchange Book Club meets via Zoom. The book is *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson. Contact Sharon Borg.

Thursday, February 25, 4:00pm – Book Club meets via Zoom. The book is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

WHAT IS COFFEE HOUR??

Congregational Care is planning our first coffee hour during the week.

WHO: Anyone who would like a casual get together with your Pilgrim House friends to:

- Show off your home workspace.
- Introduce your pets on camera.
- Swap recipes for what you had for dinner the night before.
- Discuss a movie or book you like.
- Talk about your children and grandchildren.
- Share a picture of your favorite vacations.
- Show your new hair do.
- The list goes on...

WHEN: Feb 10

TIME: 2 pm

WHERE: Zoom

Contact Nancy Olson at to get your Zoom invite.

SOCIAL ACTION

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf donations from Pilgrim House recently have totaled \$250.

Many of us have recently received \$600/person from the second round of COVID-19 relief. If you are able, consider donating some or all of your relief money to help those less fortunate.

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: Adam Aanerud

Pilgrim's Progress (Pilgrim House Newsletter)

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

Fred Green

newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org

COOKIE CART

Need some good cookies? Place an order with COOKIE CART. Cookie Cart provides leadership training and job experience to disadvantaged youth. You can order these delicious cookies directly from Cookie Cart for pick-up or a delivery charge or order through Nancy Olson for delivery to your door. You can write a check to Nancy when your treats are delivered to your porch.

The Social Action Committee (with help from the Hospitality Committee) made a \$200 donation to Cookie Cart last fall. Pilgrim House got a nice thank you letter.

By the way, don't forget to order some cookies – Nancy Olson is taking orders through February 8 to be delivered on February 12.

Check out the choices on www.cookiecart.org. These are big cookies and freeze well. Consider the individual wrapping of the cookies that's available.

Nancy Olson

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

We invite anyone interested in joining our discussions in our Congregational Care Meetings. Our next meeting is February 16 at 2:00pm via Zoom. Contact Nancy Olson to receive Zoom info.

GREAT DECISIONS AT PILGRIM HOUSE

February 4, 7:00pm – China in Africa via Zoom.

Zoom details will be sent nearer the date.

The Covid-19 crisis has put a massive strain on what was a growing economic and political relationship between China and the continent of Africa. As Chinese President Xi Jinping's centerpiece "Belt and Road initiative" continues to expand Chinese power, the response to the spread of Covid-19, as well as the African government's growing debt to China, has seen pushback. What are some of the economic and political issues between China and Africa?

Our speaker will be Andrew Latham, Macalester College. Professor Andrew Latham's primary scholarly interests are in the areas of international relations and political thought. He regularly teaches courses on international security, Chinese foreign policy, regional conflict in the Middle East, regional conflict in the Asia-Pacific, medieval political thought, US foreign policy, and conservative political theory. His most recent publication is *Theorizing Medieval Geopolitics: War and World Order in the Age of the Crusades*. He has also recently published a novel about the Third Crusade entitled *The Holy Lance*.

THE PROPOSED EIGHTH PRINCIPLE OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

Pilgrim House Discussion About Acting on Racial Justice

At our January 24 Sunday program, Mya Wade of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, KY presented her work with their congregation's adoption of the proposed eighth principle of Unitarian Universalism -- "Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

We won't try to summarize all the supportive information provided by Mya, a very accomplished Black, biracial young adult, but rather we'd urge you to check out the website: www.8thprincipleuu.org. There you'll find: What's the origin and background? Why single out racism? What is Beloved Community? What does it mean to be accountable?...and more.

While the discussion following the program included wording suggestions and a query as to whether the principles don't already state this -- the focus of the discussion moved to "But what can Pilgrim House do to fulfill the principle by more actively promoting racial equity and justice."

Nancy Olson, our congregational care chair, asked that ideas for related volunteer activities in our community

be shared with her.. We talked about the social action projects we're currently involved in, including supporting Cookie Cart. We recalled the white supremacy discussions and book talks led by Ellen Shelton and her Sunday program on the Black Lives UU symposium that she attended as an ally. There are UU programs we could be involved in such as Beloved Conversations...and more.

Got other ideas? Ready to lead an activity? Make your interests known to our Social Action Chair, Fred Green, at socialaction@pilgrimhouseuuu.org, and/or our Congregational Care Chair, Nancy Olson, at nancyolson@comcast.net and/or our Board Chair, Adam Aanerud, at chair@pilgrimhouseuuu.org.

NEWS FROM THE UU -- FOR YOU

Save the date -- June 23-27 -- and attend General Assembly from the comfort of your home via Zoom. This annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists from across the country features a wide array of workshops, music, keynote speakers, discussion, and sessions to act on business decisions affecting our Association. While originally scheduled to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this year, the pandemic has necessitated this virtual option.

More information at <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

Four of us attended last year's virtual General Assembly that was also necessitated by the pandemic. We found the event to be quite fulfilling despite missing the opportunities for in-person mingling. Ask any of us about our experience -- Nancy Olson, Mary Ryan, Kathy Aanerud and Mel Aanerud.

Pilgrim House reimburses the registration fee for two attendees who take the role of Voting Delegate. And it's affordable to more without any travel and lodging costs.

And look ahead to October 8-9 -- when the five regions of UUA will hold simultaneous virtual Regional Assemblies. This will be an experience in gathering together on the same date to share programming, conduct some national Unitarian Universalist Association business, while still connecting and building relationships with the congregations closest to us. Much planning is still in process for what these simultaneous Regional Assemblies will look like. (This will replace the springtime Regional Assemblies held in the past.)

SMALL CONGREGATIONS --

ONGOING SUPPORT FROM MIDAMERICA REGION

Our MidAmerica Region continues to provide sharing and learning opportunities for its smaller congregations.

About three of us (Bill R., Kathy A. and Mel) quite regularly attend the twice-monthly Small Congregations

meet-ups led by Phil Lund from MidAmerica staff.. There are always good sharing opportunities, resources, and conversations. Join us! Read more, and register for one or more of the meet-ups at:

<https://www.uua.org/midamerica/events/small-congregation-check-feb-11>.

There are three webinars for Smaller Congregations coming up.

Sharing Worship in Smaller Congregations on Feb 18 -- Hear three examples of smaller congregations from around the country sharing worship with neighbors and collaborators. Tips, pros, cons, and lessons learned.

Sharing Staff in Smaller Congregations on March 18 -- Advantages of sharing staff and the new UUA platforms for finding and offering shared staff.

Sharing Youth Programming in Smaller Congregations on April 22 -- Ways to enhance youth programming by joining with other congregations.

You can register for one or more of these at <https://www.uua.org/leadership/events/sharing-worship>.

A POEM BY ANN BUSHNELL

As many of you have heard, Pilgrim House friend and former member Ann Bushnell passed away recently. Her daughter has requested that we share this poem Ann wrote:

When the Piper Pipes Me Down

When the Piper pipes me down
Across that last long sloping ground
To where my bones shall rest,
All of you who shaped my life,
Parents, children, friends and wife,
Must know I loved you best.

As the Piper pipes me by,
Past the earth, out toward the sky,
I'll glance back through the trees
And hold your faces in my sight,
Then turn to climb up through the light,
Old dogs around my knees.

When the Piper pipes me free
And green earth arms fold over me,
I will not lay there long.
For earth will send me out again
In trout or tree, in stream or stone--
So sings the piper's song.

THE ZOBITZ FAMILY HAS MOVED TO FINLAND

John and Shannon Zobitz are our past co-chairs. They and their three children have gone to Finland for six months (a pandemic-shortened year). If you are interested in following their adventures, John's blog is <https://engage.augsburg.edu/zobitz/> (Their children are taking ski jumping!). Shannon's blog is <https://shannonoftheteam.tumblr.com/>.

PILGRIM HOUSE MEMBER IN THE STARTRIBUNE

A letter from Lisa Wersal was the top letter in StarTribune on January 23:

<https://www.startribune.com/readers-write-inaugural-events-and-klobuchar-s-role-water-quality-election-integrity-campaign-reform/600014382/>

THE RADIANT LIVES OF ANIMALS

The Radiant Lives of Animals is one of the latest books from Beacon Press. Linda Hogan, the author will speak at Pilgrim House on May 9th. She is (Chickasaw) Former Faculty at Indian Arts Institute, Writer in Residence for The Chickasaw Nation, and Professor Emerita from the University of Colorado, and an internationally recognized public reader, speaker, and writer of poetry, fiction, and essays.

Concerned that human lives and the natural world are too often defined by people who are separated from the land and its inhabitants, Indigenous writer and environmentalist Linda Hogan depicts her own intense relationships with animals as an example we all can follow to heal our souls and reconnect with the spirit of the world. From her modest forest home in Colorado, and venturing throughout the region, especially to her beloved Oklahoma, she introduces us to horses, packrats, snakes, mountain lions, elks, wolves, bees, and so many others whose presence has changed her life. In this illuminating collection of essays and poems, lightly sprinkled with elegant drawings, Hogan draws on many Native nations' ancient stories and spiritual traditions to show us that the soul exists in those delicate places where the natural world extends into human consciousness—in the mist of morning, the grass that grew a little through the night, the first warmth of this morning's sunlight. Altogether, this beautifully packaged gift is a reverential reminder for all of us to witness and appreciate "the radiant lives of animals." The book may be a good read to do before she comes and talks with us.