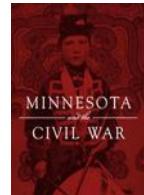

Volume 46 Number 8

April 2016

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

April 3 – The First Volunteer for the Union Army

Did you know that Minnesota had the first volunteer in the Union Army for the Civil War? As a matter of fact we had two. How can that be you ask? Come and listen to a troop of Pilgrim House members tell the tale of this unusual designation.



April 10 – Returning to the Source with Rev. Kristin Maier

In our often fragmented world, are there places that help you feel connected and grounded? To what source do you find yourself longing to return to again and again? What can such longing tell us about our connection to this beautiful, fragile planet? Rev. Kristin Maier will explore these questions through story and sermon.

Rev. Kristin Maier is the minister at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield.



April 17 – Roseville Alzheimer's and Dementia Community Action

Sara Barsel of the Roseville Alzheimer and Dementia Community Action Team presents this program. The Roseville Alzheimer and Dementia Community Action Team is designed to increase services for people with dementia and their caregivers, and build greater community awareness of dementia issues.

April 24 – Oil and Natural Gas Extraction Methods [With Emphasis on Fracking]

In Honor of Earth Day, this program will have an environmental focus. The objective is to alleviate the confusion surrounding oil and natural gas exploration methods. This confusion is often a result of the fact that there are three types of extraction: conventional oil and gas, tar sands oil, and fracking oil and gas. We will start by discussing all three types of extraction methods and then proceed to focus on fracking.



Over the last 30 years Louis Asher has had a very strong interest in the areas of conventional and renewable energy and has greatly researched those areas. Louis is a retired Researcher, Statistician and instructor. He worked at 3M Co. for 39 years and was known as a very practical, motivating and extremely entertaining/fun instructor. He created and presented countless of classes on statistical, mathematical and procedural subjects. He now volunteers in organizations that deal with habitat conservation, climate change and renewable energy.

May 1 – Community Support Center (CSC)

Every year, Pilgrim House participates in the Walk a Mile for Our Neighbors fundraiser for the CSC (see the article below). What is the organization and what does it do for the community? Iris McGinnis and Karen Meyer discuss the CSC.



CALENDAR

Thursday, April 7, 7:00pm – Great Decisions at Pilgrim House – International Migration. All are welcome. See article below.

Sunday, April 10, 12:00pm – Program Committee Meeting at PH.

Thursday, April 14, 7:00pm – Pilgrim House Board Meeting at Pilgrim House – all members welcome.

Sunday, April 17, 11:50am – Sunday Stories at Pilgrim House. Members share their personal stories.

Sunday, April 17 – Newsletter information is due.

Sunday, April 24, 12:00pm – Connections Committee Mtg. at Pilgrim House. All are welcome.

Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1 – Mid America Regional Assembly in Saint Paul.

RE CORNER

The religious education committee requests that all parents join us over soup on Sunday, April 3, for a brief discussion of the year in progress and the year to come.

We are excited to announce that the curriculum plan for 2016-17 is Neighboring Faiths! The PH school-aged class will learn about numerous religions and visit local churches to experience different services and talk to the youth there. We will need support to complete these plans, both in the classroom and on field trips.

Please consider volunteering as you are able, to assist in the classroom on a regular, irregular, or substitute basis, and also to help chaperon and drive on field trips.

Thanks,

RE Committee

PH PLEDGE DRIVE

It's time for the annual Pilgrim House pledge drive. For those of you who are new to PH, each year we ask members and supporters to consider making a pledge contribution for the coming fiscal year (June 1 – May 31). This year we are going to conduct the pledge drive electronically. Your pledge materials will arrive by e-mail sometime in early April. The various emails will include a pledge letter and, if applicable, information on how much you pledged in 2015 including how much of that has been paid and instructions on how to submit your 2016 pledge. In addition to the ongoing operating expenses, the cost of maintaining our old building is rising and we need adequate funds to achieve our long range planning goals. PH needs to build a contingency fund for future replacements of furnaces, kitchen appliances, roofing, etc. We'd also like to improve our

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: Kutluhan Erol

Pilgrim's Progress

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

Fred Green

newsletteeditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org

Material for the next Newsletter is due Sunday, April 17 (always the next to the last Sunday).

program room lighting. Please take this information into consideration when determining your pledge.

The PH board needs to know the pledge total in May to finalize a proposed budget for our next fiscal year. This new budget will be presented at the PH Annual Meeting June 5. Please take the time to submit your pledge no later than Sunday, April 24th. If you are unable to pledge or decline to pledge please submit a pledge of \$0. If you are unable to submit your pledge electronically, please contact Jean Strait or Carol Green for an alternative method.

GREAT DECISIONS

April 7 – International Migration

As a record number of migrants cross the Mediterranean Sea, seeking refuge in Europe, the continent is struggling to come up with an adequate response. Although Europe's refugees are largely fleeing conflicts in Syria, Iraq and parts of Africa, their struggle is hardly unique. Today, with the number of displaced people at an all-time high, a number of world powers find themselves facing a difficult question: how can they balance border security with humanitarian concerns? More importantly, what can they do to resolve these crises so as to limit the number of displaced persons?

Our speaker is Mohamed Idris, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa (ARAHA), based in Minneapolis. Mr. Idris travels frequently within the US speaking about the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa, and also regularly visits the Horn of Africa region to follow up on

humanitarian projects. He was born in Eritrea and experienced refugee life during his native country's war for independence. Mr. Idris holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Saint Mary's University (Minneapolis), a M.A. in Management from Hamline University (St. Paul), and is currently pursuing a doctoral program in leadership at the University of St. Thomas.

REMINDER – EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FOR REGIONAL ASSEMBLY ENDS MARCH 31

As reported in previous issues of *Pilgrim's Progress*, the Mid-America Regional Assembly of Unitarian Universalists will be held in St. Paul this year -- **April 29 to May 1**. Several Pilgrim House members traveled to Naperville near Chicago last year for this event and found it to be a very fulfilling weekend. You'll enjoy workshops, keynote speakers, music and meeting with Unitarian Universalists from across middle America.

Early bird registration ends March 31; and regular registration, if you want to order meals, ends April 22. There are discounted hotel rooms until April 11. All are encouraged to attend -- even if you can attend only parts of the weekend. Get more information about Regional Assembly and registration at:

<https://midamericaaua.org/events/regional-assembly>.

Pilgrim House will reimburse registration fees for its two voting delegates. Let Kut Erol or Mel Aanerud know if you're planning to attend and whether you'd like to be a voting delegate.

AN INTRODUCTION/ORIENTATION TO PILGRIM HOUSE

Noon-- following Soup Sunday, April 3

For visitors, friends and members who would like to learn more about Pilgrim House, we'll be offering *Orientation/Introduction to Pilgrim House* on April 3, at noon following Soup Sunday. It's about 30-45 minutes in length, depending upon group size and discussion.

Topics include: A Brief History of Pilgrim House; Our Unitarian Universalist Connection; The Fellowship Experience; Getting Involved as a Volunteer; Our Finances and Governance; Children's Religious Education; Being a Member or Friend of Pilgrim House.

Alternatively to this session, we can set an individual time with you, or we can let you know when another group time is being organized. Just let us know of your interest.

Mel and Kathy Aanerud

Co-Chairs, Membership Committee

PILGRIM HOUSE NIGHT OUT

Night Out dinners are an opportunity to visit with your friends and to meet members of the PH community you may not know. PH Night Out dates for this spring are as follows. Signups sheets will be passed in April.

Saturday May 14, 2016

Saturday May 21, 2016

WALK A MILE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS to prevent homelessness in our community

Sunday, July 31, 2016 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

(Silver Lake Rd and County Road E)

The Community Support Center (the subject of the May 1 Pilgrim House program, see the front page) helps families in our community stay in their homes by:

- Providing (one time) assistance with rent
- Providing long-term relationships to help families achieve stability
- Referring families to other places to receive help

Walk a Mile for Our Neighbors is a fund raising event to provide resources. Last year 400 people walked 775 miles. \$12,000 was donated. Many businesses offered door prizes. More than 35 families received help!

Pilgrim House participates in this annual event. Mark your calendars and save the date.

PILGRIM HOUSE ANNUAL MEETING:

JUNE 5 – SAVE THE DATE!

June 5th is the our traditional Flower Communion program, followed by lunch and our Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is an important opportunity for members to elect officers for the coming year and to vote on a budget. This event sets our course for the coming year at Pilgrim House. Please plan to attend. Details will follow in the May newsletter.



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May 1 - Community Support Center (CSC)

Pilgrim House Newsletter

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Arden Hills, MN 55112

