

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

### March 5 – “Gwich’in Women Speak” an exploration of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from the voices of the people who live there

Learn more about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, through the film, “Gwich’in Women Speak.” The film is an exploration of this special place through the voices of the women of the Gwich’in Nation in Alaska and western Canada. They educate us about their sacred land, the caribou and their way of life and advocate for permanent protection of the Refuge's coastal plain. Followed by a short discussion with Lois Norrgard, Alaska Wilderness League.

Lois Norrgard, covers the Upper Midwest for Alaska Wilderness League. The League leads the effort nationwide to preserve Alaska's federally managed wild lands and waters.



The program will be followed by Soup Sunday and the Annual Pilgrim House Auction. See article below.



### March 12 – Tunisia Like You've Never Seen It Before!

Experience the beauty of a Mediterranean country and discover its rich culture and history.

Ameni Hajji is a 17 year old exchange student from Tunisia. She is a senior at mounds view high school. She's a grant student with the YES program. The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program, funded by the U.S. Department of State, provides scholarships for secondary school students (age 15-17) from countries with significant Muslim populations to spend one academic year in the United States. She's here to share about her culture.

A new member welcome will be incorporated in the program.

### March 19 – Islam: A Brief Historical Introduction with an Eye to the Contemporary Scene

As part of our cooperative program on neighboring religions with the Youth Religious Education program – Islam with Abdisalam Adam: EL Teacher Central High School St. Paul Public Schools.



### March 26 – Hinduism: A Brief Historical Introduction with an Eye to the Contemporary Scene

As part of our cooperative program on neighboring religions with the Youth Religious Education program – Hinduism with Professor Ned Mohan of the University of Minnesota.

## CALENDAR

**Thursday, March 2, 7:00pm – Great Decisions at Pilgrim House: Nuclear Security.** See article below. All are welcome. Contact Al Potter.

**Sunday, March 5, 12:00pm – Annual Auction after the program at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Carol Green. See article below.

**Sunday, March 12, 12:00pm – Program Committee meets at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Lollie Jensen.

**Sunday, March 19, 11:50am – Sunday Stories at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Les Rogers.

**Sunday, March 19 – Newsletter information due.** Contact Fred Green.

**Thursday, March 23, 5:30pm – Book Club meets at Laura Schommer's.** The book is *River of Earth* by James Still. All are welcome. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

**Sunday, March 26, 12:00pm – Connection Committee Meeting at Pilgrim House – contact Les Rogers.** All are welcome.

## MUSINGS FROM THE CHAIR

### The Pilgrim House Auction

The PH auction is scheduled for March 5 after Soup Sunday. The auction, held each year at Pilgrim House, accounts for the largest single influx of dollars after the pledges by individual members.



Will you be able to resist the urge to bid on that Brewery Tour East, the Guided Tour of the Adoption Center at Feline Rescue Inc, Drone pics of your property, an Authentic Cheese Fondue Dinner, table runners, wall hangings, paintings by Al Potter, fudge, cookies, earrings, a Relaxation Basket, Two Hours of Yard work, and many hand made items? Check the complete list posted in the Social Hall at Pilgrim House and on the Auction page of the website.

There will also be the opportunity to purchase tickets for the Youth/Connections Breakfast, to be held Sunday, April 9, from 8-10AM at Pilgrim House. Ticket price at \$10 minimum per adult, but additional donations accepted.

**We need items to be donated to auction** – current items can be viewed and new items entered on the Auction page of the PH website. A user id is required to view the auction page – any valid PH user id will work – contact Fred Green if you have questions.

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,

### 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:** Carol Green

### Pilgrim's Progress

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

Fred Green

[newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org)

**Material for the March newsletter is due Sunday, March 19 (always the next to the last Sunday).**

they may have value to someone at the auction. There will be a table of "buy it now" items on auction day.

It is Soup Sunday – our meal will be homemade soups with the addition of fruit, veggies and desserts provided by some wonderful volunteers.

If you have any questions about the auction, please contact Carol Green. [chair@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:chair@pilgrimhouseuua.org)

*Items may be brought to Pilgrim House on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> between 10:00am and 12:00pm. If you plan to bring items to the auction, please let Carol or Fred Green know or enter the item on the auction page before the day of the auction – it helps us.*

Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

The youth joined several recent programs to learn about Lutheranism, Buddhism, and Humanism. We are planning a field trip to the Clouds in Water Zen Buddhism center in early April. Planning is also in progress for the annual community building event.

The preschoolers continue to explore UU principles through activities, song, and crafts. They made some wonderful valentines that were widely appreciated by the PH membership.

The youth will host the second annual breakfast at PH for the auction, co-sponsored with Connections Committee on Sunday, April 9, at 9 A.M. We welcome comments and suggestions based on last year's event.

## GREAT DECISIONS AT PILGRIM HOUSE

### March 2 – Nuclear Security

Nuclear nonproliferation was a top priority for the Obama administration. While the Iran Deal was a diplomatic victory toward this end, major threats persist from both state and non-state actors. Countries like North Korea, Russia, and India and Pakistan continue to challenge nonproliferation efforts. The possibility that terrorists will carry out an attack using a “dirty bomb,” made from captured nuclear materials, looks increasingly real.

In a fractious world, which way forward for U.S. nuclear security policy?

Our speaker is Margo Squire, a career diplomat for thirty years with the U.S. Information Agency and the U.S. Department of State, serving in Munich, Moscow, Melbourne, Baku, Ankara and Washington, D.C. She holds a B.A. in Russian Language and Studies from Dartmouth College, and a M.A. from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

## CHAPTER THE NEXT

(in which we examine the Pilgrims' progress)

Since our first Long Range Plan in 1994, Pilgrim House has periodically spent time and effort to think seriously about our future. UUA recommends reviewing the long range plan every five to seven years, and PH has worked on four such efforts in the past, in 1994, 2002, 2009, and 2013. The resulting plans are important milestones in our evolution and have been instrumental in bringing us where we are today. (They are available in the Members area of the website, under "Documents". See me or Fred Green if you do not have access to the Members area.)

The 2013 plan suggested several possible solutions for problems identified by the membership. In particular, the plan called out the need for better counseling services for members (as a minister might provide in a more traditional setting); but the Congregational Care Committee recently told the Board that these needs are still largely unmet. This led to a long discussion at the February Board meeting, which concluded that this is really bound up in the larger issue of what members expect from PH and what kind of organization we want it to be.

The issue specifically with counseling is that volunteer-based attempts to fill this void do not appear to be working: effective counseling services appear to require a more intentional solution, possibly involving paid staff. But we have always been hesitant to expand beyond our basic volunteer organization. This issue was identified already in the 1994 Long Range Plan:

*[T]he Long Range Planning Committee has found no consensus for, and indeed some resistance to, the notion of hiring someone to discharge what might be called leadership functions. This includes not only a minister, but also an executive administrator or an RE director. Many people feel that having volunteers performing these functions is an important part of our grass-roots culture.*

The question the Board would like to address with the membership is whether this is still true -- because the answer would have significant implications for how we approach problems in the future (not just counseling). Do you see PH primarily as a grass-roots, member-participatory organization; or would you like see more services available from paid staff? If the latter, what kind of services?

The Board feels it is important to revisit this because the membership has been changing significantly in the last few years. While it's early to start another formal long range plan, it's not too early to start having this discussion, perhaps via a membership retreat on a weekend this Fall, perhaps in small discussion groups on Sundays after the program. We are looking for feedback, so please button-hole a Board member (see the Contact Us menu item on the website) and sound off!

Dick Shelton Chair-elect

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Chicago Oak Brook -- weekend of April 28-30

The Mid-America Regional Assembly of Unitarian Universalists (UU) will be held near Chicago this year, April 28-30. This is an opportunity for a weekend gathering with UUs from the 13 states that make up our region. More info below and at the provided website links.

There will be workshops, keynote speakers, music, and socializing. There will also be a business meeting on Saturday for which Pilgrim House is allocated two voting delegates.

The theme of the gathering is "Finding Our Partners -- Faith in Action". Components of the theme include

- Find ways for your congregation to put its faith in action.
- Ways to join with other faith communities or community groups to improve something in your locality.
- Share what you have learned about working with partners.

More info:

<https://www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly/2604-regional-assembly-2017>

**Registration:** <https://www.midamericauua.org/register?eventId=67&controller=event&task=individualRegister> (Early bird registration ends April 5. Final registration and discounted hotel rate ends April 12.)

Interested in attending? See or contact Carol Green, Board Chair ([chair@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:chair@pilgrimhouseuua.org)) or Mel Aanerud, Membership Co-Chair ([membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org)).

**MARCH IS MINNESOTA FOODSHARE MONTH**

Each year, the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf anxiously looks forward to the month of March and the Minnesota Foodshare Campaign.

One in ten Minnesotans are currently food insecure on a regular basis. Our food shelf is currently serving over 600 households each month. In fact, suburban poverty is outpacing that of the inner cities here in Minnesota. Last year, we had nearly 18,000 individual requests for help and gave out over 400,000 pounds of food and personal care items – yet another year of increased demand.

A portion of all dollars and pounds donated to our food shelf between March 1 and April 10 will be matched by Minnesota FoodShare.

**DONATE FOOD!** We appreciate all nonperishable Food items – bring items to Pilgrim House or take directly to the food shelf.

**DONATE FUNDS!** With your \$100.00 gift we can provide up to \$800.00 worth of groceries to families in need through our network of suppliers. Donate online now at <http://www.ralphreederfoodshelf.org>, mail your contribution to Ralph Reeder Food Shelf, or bring checks made out to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf to Pilgrim House.

**POEMS FROM THE PROGRAM ON BUDDHISM**

Paul Rouzer (our February 5th speaker) has given us a link of his translations of the Buddhist poet Cold Mountain, for those who are interested.

<https://www.degruyter.com/viewbooktoc/product/449925?rskey=ywsdTN&result=1>

**Pilgrim House Newsletter**  
**1212 W. Hwy 96**  
**Arden Hills, MN 55112**

