

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.

December 6 – The Story of Hanukkah with Louis Asher

This presentation will include the traditional story of Hanukkah but will not stop there. It will provide additional information on the rich and long history of the Jewish people leading up to the Jewish rebellion, which is the story of Hanukkah.



December 13 – Fix What You Can by Mindy Greiling

A frank account of a mother, who was a state legislator, when her son Jim's first psychotic episode manifested itself in a delusion demanding he kill her. Her seat at the table in the Legislature helped her to change the policies that would have barred her from saving his life. She first had to overcome her fear that Jim would be like her beloved grandmother who disappeared into a mental hospital when she was 10. Given the heightened national interest in mental illness today and the millions of people affected, this book is timely. It spans 20 years and covers new ground about living with schizophrenia, adding understanding and new appreciation of the challenges.

December 20 – Our traditional Holiday Celebration with contributions from members and friends of Pilgrim House

Please let Mel Aanerud or Bill Rohde know what talent, music, reading, etc., you would be willing to share. See article below.



December 27 – Your Favorite Photo

This is your opportunity to tell us about your favorite photograph(s). We will show your photo on the screen and you will have several minutes to tell about the image(s). Your photo may be an artistic shot, or it may reflect your passion or hobby, be a highlight of a trip, or be an old family picture. Your story is as important as the photograph. Each person can share up to three photos. If you would like to be part of the program, email photos (.jpg file) to Les Rogers no later than December 18. Contact Les if you have questions or need technical help.

January 3 – What happened in the election?

Professor David Schultz will try to explain. If you are happy or not there are reasons why the election turned out as it did.



CALENDAR

Thursday, December 3, 7:00pm – Great Decisions via Zoom – U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle. All are welcome. Contact Al Potter. See article below.

Monday, December 14, 7:00pm – Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Contact Adam Aanerud.

Tuesday, December 15, 2:00pm – Congregational Care meets via Zoom. Contact Nancy Olson.

Wednesday, December 16, 1:30pm – Novel Exchange Book Club meets via Zoom. We are reading from *Bodega*, a book of poetry by Su Hwang. Contact Sharon Borg.

Thursday, December 17, 4:00pm – Book club meets via Zoom. The book is *The Life We Bury* by Allen Eskens. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

Sunday, December 20 – Newsletter information is due. Contact Fred Green.

Monday, December 21, 2:00pm – A covenant group meets via Zoom. Contact Nancy Olson.

HELP NEEDED FOR HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Doing programs via Zoom, makes doing some of our traditional programming more of a challenge. You can help. The Holiday program will be December 20th. To have it be successful we need your idea and your talents. If you have a story, a song, a tribute, or even just an idea that might lead us to finding other ways to make the program more fulfilling for all, please let us know. Contact Mel Aanerud, Bill Rohde, or Lollie Jensen. WE can do this, but we need your help.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Pilgrim House received an inspirational service from Kelli Clement on 11/22. This is my own interpretation of what she said so elegantly of which I'm sure you have your own. Kelli spoke of "Grief and Gratitude" and "gifts wrapped in sticky paper" and how we as individuals can look at sadness and losses in many perspectives. I thought of our congregation and how we are coping with the challenges to remain connected. I think we are gaining more insights about ourselves and our congregation. Many of us are reaching out now to others in a more personal way and seeing friends in other states via Zoom. Something we didn't do before the pandemic. We are contacting members we may not have had the opportunity to know via email and phone calls. I am getting to know PH members that I have admired and enjoyed during our "coffee hour". I hope you are having some of the same experiences through the various zoom opportunities offered by Pilgrim House and the community around us.

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

If you know of an interesting zoom meeting about art, music or books please feel free to share with others. You can tell Fred to post (thank you Fred) or share it on Facebook. If you do not know how to get in contact with Fred, you can give me a call. Our congregation is gifted with our remarkable leaders and members who share their thoughts, talents and skills.

Happy Holidays from Congregational Care and Welcoming Committee and stay safe!

Nancy Olson

SOCIAL ACTION

Social Concerns Network (SCN) and Community Support Center (CSC) News:

As the representative from PH for the SCN, I attended a zoom meeting where we discussed "adopting" families over the holidays. The larger families were "adopted" by the large congregations. There were 3 single participants who also have needs and would benefit from some assistance over the holidays. I took on the task to provide these 3 individuals with gift cards and "goodies".

I would like to thank those who participated with this outreach. Each individual will receive a \$50 gift card to Target and a bag of goodies including chocolates, warm socks and other essentials. You are all so giving and kind.

To learn more about the work that Community Support Center does to connect families with long-term solutions to prevent homelessness, visit their website at <http://www.communitysupportcenter.org/>.

Thank you

Judy Bloom Martinez

Signs

We still have one We Believe sign available from Nancy Olson. (see graphic). Nancy is willing to deliver the sign to members.

Contact

pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org if you are interested.



Ralph Reeder Food Shelf

Remember the Food Shelf this holiday season. With the current food shelf no contact pick up, Pilgrim House volunteers are no longer working on Tuesday night. However, the food shelf still needs donations. Visit the website <https://www.moundviewschools.org/foodshelf> for more information.

COOKIE CART

Do you want to make all the cookies for the Holiday!? How about cutting some time instead of cookies by ordering cookies from COOKIE CART. A dozen cookies come in a cute box with the Cookie Cart logo and a note on how this organization 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. Place your order by December 3rd and your cookies will be delivered by Nancy on December 5th, or place your order by December 15th and your cookies will be delivered by Nancy on December 17th! You can write a check to Nancy when your treats are delivered to your porch.

Check out the choices on www.cookiecart.org -- including special holiday cookies. These are big cookies and freeze well. Consider the individual wrapping of the cookies that's available. Makes great gifts and are easy to share!

Nancy Olson

Nancyolson@comcast.net

PILGRIM HOUSE GREAT DECISIONS

December 3 – U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle

Combatting illegal immigration has become a priority of the Trump administration. The Northern Triangle of Central America, made up of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, is a special target of the administration, which hold the nations responsible for the large flow of migrants from Latin America to the U.S. With funds from the U.S. cut, how can the Northern Triangle countries curtail migration?

Our program will be led by Rob Scarlett, a long-time friend of Pilgrim House and frequent Great Decisions speaker.

Our December meeting will start with 2021 planning.

FROM EVIL GENIUSES BY KURT ANDERSON

Alan Greenspan served as Chair of the Federal Reserve of the United States from 1987 to 2006. He indicated concern about the economic inequality. He said “Inequality is increasing. You can not have the benefits of capitalist market growth without support of a significant proportion and indeed virtually all of the people, and if you have an increasing sense that the rewards of capitalism are being distributed unjustly, the system will not stand.”

His solution however was disturbing, he said, “We pay the highest skilled-labor wages in the world. If we open up our borders to skilled labor far more than we do...If we bring in number of workers to suppress the level of wages of the skilled relative to the lesser-skilled, we will reduce the degree of inequity.”

I think any one of us can think of a better way to reduce the inequity.

NEWSLETTER INPUT NEEDED

Do you have an idea to improve the newsletter? Is there anything you'd like to see that isn't being included? Do you have a topic that motivates you to write an article?

As newsletter editor, I feel that the newsletter is getting a bit stale. We're missing opinion articles, poetry, and other things that have made Pilgrim's Progress special over the past 50 years (Yes, we're starting our 51st year!) So let me know your ideas, and send in some original articles, poetry, essays, and whatever. (Don't forget, however, that we're a tax exempt organization and cannot accept articles criticizing or endorsing political candidates.) Mel has done several contributions like the previous article. We would like to see submissions from other people too.

Thanks for your support.

Fred Green (newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org)

PLEDGE CONTRIBUTION PROCESS

Even though we are not currently meeting at Pilgrim House and therefore unable to drop off pledge checks in the building, we still have expenses to pay and appreciate getting your pledge contributions in a timely manner. Please mail your financial pledge contributions to Pilgrim House, 1212 W. Highway 96, Arden Hills, MN 55112