

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.

May 2 – How the Presidents are Rated

How the presidents are rated; who is the on the top; who at the bottom – presented by Professor Robert Watson of Lynn University of Boca Raton, FL. He presented a program earlier this year on Truman. He is one of those Political Science Professors who rank the presidents.



May 9 – This is Mother's Day – Extraordinary Women

Presented by Kate Roberts, Senior Exhibit Developer, Minnesota Historical Society. This is the newest exhibit at the Minnesota History Center. Walk among extraordinary Minnesota women who changed their communities..

May 16 – Bill and Kate Isle

Bill and Kate Isle – are an acoustic singer/songwriter duo based in Duluth, Minnesota. Using a wide variety of musical styles, their performances carry audiences through a broad landscape of experiences from metaphorical worlds to small town family stories and to zany comedy.



May 23 – Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Business

Presented by Professor Bobby Donaldson University of South Carolina – After the Civil War blacks actually ran for and won seats in both the federal house and senate and in local state elections. But with the 1876 election, federal troops were withdrawn from the south and Jim Crow came in and reconstruction was halted.

May 30 – Memorial Day weekend – no program

June 6 – Annual Meeting

Please plan to attend. See article below.

See next pages for Summer Programs and other important information.



CALENDAR

Thursday, May 6, 7:00pm – Great Decisions via Zoom – Persian Gulf Security. All are welcome. Contact Al Potter. See article below.

Monday, May 10, 7:00pm – Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Contact Adam Aanerud.

Tuesday, May 18, 2:00pm – Congregational Care meets via Zoom. Contact Nancy Olson.

Wednesday, May 26, 1:30pm – Novel Exchange Book Club meets via Zoom. The book is *The Life We Bury* by Allen Eskens. Contact Sharon Borg.

Thursday, May 27, 4:00pm – Book Club meets via Zoom. The book is *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

Sunday, June 6, 10:15am – Annual Meeting via Zoom. All are welcome. Contact Adam Aanerud. See article at right.

Sunday, July 25, 10:00am – Community Support Center Walk at Silver View Park. All are welcome. Contact Judy Bloom-Martinez. See article below.

PLANNING FOR IN-PERSON MEETINGS

The board has started to discuss the topic of opening Pilgrim House to in-person meetings. There are many decisions that will have to be made. Many decisions we do make may very well change. We will continue to communicate who is discussing these topics, how choices are being made, and how membership can contribute.

At this time, we are concentrating on adopting a policy that would dictate when and under what circumstances Pilgrim House might allow members to meet at our physical location again. At Pilgrim House, it is the responsibility of the Safety Committee to propose a policy to the Board for approval.

A draft of this proposal will be emailed to the Pilgrim House membership. Please note that this is not a final document. We are trying to share what kinds of considerations are being made. If you have input on this policy or want to know how you can become more involved, please contact Dick Shelton.

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

PILGRIM HOUSE ANNUAL MEETING 2021

The Pilgrim House Annual Meeting will be via Zoom again this year. There will be no program before the meeting. The Annual Meeting is the opportunity to elect officers for the coming year, vote on the Pilgrim House budget, and briefly discuss our goals for the coming year. Please plan to attend!

The Pilgrim House Board is soliciting nominations for Board Membership (At-Large candidates, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair-elect) as well as delegates to the UU General Assembly this June. Self-nominations are welcomed. Please contact Adam Aanerud (chair@pilgrimhouseuua.org) with your nomination.

A Zoom link will be sent via email closer to the meeting.

AGENDA FOR PILGRIM HOUSE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 6, 2021 VIA ZOOM

- Opening Words
- Approve Agenda for 2021 Annual Meeting
- Approve Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting
- Chair comments / summary of the year
- Treasurer's Report
- Committee Reports

- Outgoing Chair passes gavel to new Chair
- Board Membership for coming year:
 - Present the slate of officers for Chair Elect, Secretary, Treasurer
 - Nominations from the Floor
 - Vote
 - Present candidates for Standing Committee Chairs (to be approved at next board meeting)
 - Present At-Large candidates (to be approved at next board meeting)
- Nominations for Delegates to UU General Assembly (Virtually June 23-27)
- Presentation of Proposed Budget 2021-22
- Motion to Approve the Budget
- Closing Words

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

In years past, you may have seen clipboards at the front door of Pilgrim House or Committee Chairs wandering the room after a Sunday Program recruiting volunteers for their committees for the following year. Like everything else, this year we have to find a way to do it all remotely.

We are starting with a general call here in the newsletter.

The operation of Pilgrim House relies almost entirely on volunteers from the membership. While I'm sure you can expect some reaching out from Committee Chairs, we are relying more than ever on our membership actively to actively seek out these volunteer opportunities.

The Pilgrim House Committees are listed below. Even if you do not believe you have as much time as you would like to devote to a committee, we can find a place for anyone looking to help.

If you have interest in participating in the committees at any level, please contact Adam Aanerud at chair@pilgrimhouseuua.org. We will connect interested members with the Committee Chairs.

In addition to volunteers, we are also seeking leaders. Many of our existing Committee Chairs have already agreed to stay on next year, but there are a few new leadership opportunities available in the coming year. Many long-time chairs and members of those committees are still active on those or closely related committees. If you have interest in a leadership position at Pilgrim House, this is a great time to start and benefit from their collective experience.

Building and Grounds – Chair – Al Potter

Perform interior and exterior building maintenance; Supervise mowing, plowing, and cleaning contractors; Maintain grounds landscaping

Membership Committee – Chair – Mel Aanerud and Kathy Aanerud

Coordinate activities to welcome visitors and new members; Provide orientation to prospective members; Maintain the official list of members.

Connections Committee – Open Chair

Support activities that promote a sense of community at PH, which includes Sunday Stories, Night Out Suppers, Harvest Festival, Book Club, Great Decisions, Adult Education, Covenant Groups, Thanksgiving Day Dinner, and Game Night.

We are currently seeking a chair for the Connections Committee. This is a Committee Chair that also serves on the Pilgrim House Board.

Congregational Care Committee – Nancy Olson

Help and support Pilgrim House members and families in times of need; provide references to community resources and services for weddings, dedication services and funerals.

Program Committee – Chair – Lollie Jensen

Schedule programs for each Sunday; recruit and share ideas for possible speakers.

Finance Committee – Les Rogers

Sustain Pilgrim House operations via fundraising (the annual auction and pledge drive), ensure fiduciary compliance, collection and disbursement of funds.

Children's Religious Education – Chair – Carol Green

Plan curriculum annually, Plan social action projects, lead the youth class, and volunteer.

Carol Green has indicated she is willing to continue as chair of the Children's Religious Education Committee, but is actively seeking a replacement to mentor.

Technology Committee – Chair – Wayne LeBlanc

Coordinate and train on tech products and services; watch for areas where technology could enhance PH; Anticipate, head off, or fix technical problems.

Music Committee – Chair – Bill Rohde

Schedule lead musician and other accompanists, select music and provide accompaniment, Provide Meditation music and music for special occasions.

Communications Committee – Open Chair

Participate in an informal collection of tasks focused on communication, which includes website and social media, mail, email, and voicemail, and photography.

We are currently seeking a chair for the Communications Committee.

Social Action – Chair – Fred Green

Provide volunteers for the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf; Represent PH at Community Support Center (CSC) and Social Concerns Network; Organize Pilgrim House participation in local events in our community; Support other opportunities throughout the year.

Fred Green has indicated that he is open to another volunteer taking over as chair of the Social Action Committee.

Sunday Hospitality Committee – Kathy Aanerud and Nancy Olson

Support Sunday fellowship time, which includes coffee and tea before the program, Soup Sunday, and coordinate potluck meals for special occasion programs.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

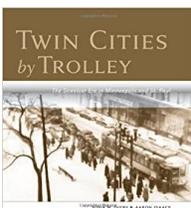
June 20 – Minnesota Institute of Art Virtual Tour – There will be two tours and you will have to sign up for one or the other. More information will be coming as we get closer to the date.



July 18 – The Landmark Center – the former Federal Courts Building in Saint Paul continues to operate. A beautiful building to see and they continue to conduct many varied programs



August 1 – Once the Twin Cities had a Great Trolley System – author Aaron Isaacs of Twin City Street Car Museum tells us about the age of the Twin City Trolleys.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Look ☞ in your PH email for upcoming walks in the park and coffee hours this summer. ☺

SOCIAL ACTION

Volunteers needed for the Walk a Mile for the CSC

Mark your calendar for the Walk a Mile to support the Community Support Center

Silver View Park has been reserved for Walk a Mile on July 25. The board of the Community Support Center is planning the walk with the understanding that cancellation is possible due to COVID.

Previously it has been a fun day, walking around the lake, listening to music and visiting with others while walking.

Two years ago, the date of the last walk, PH staffed a check point. We have been asked to do this again for the walk. I am asking for 2-3 volunteers for each shift 9:45 – 12 and 11:45 – 2. I will provide chairs, you only need to bring water and hopefully it won't rain like 2 years ago!!

Please contact me if you are able to volunteer for this event. You can also walk after or before your shift.

Thank you for your consideration

Judy Bloom-Martinez

Donate Unneeded COVID-19 Relief

Many of us have recently received \$1400 per person from the third round of COVID-19 relief. If you are able, consider donating some or all of your relief money to help those less fortunate.

COOKIE CART 🍪

Cookie Cart provides teenagers “with lasting and meaningful work, life and leadership skills through employment and training in urban nonprofit bakeries.”

If you are interested in supporting this organization you can order cookies on-line to pick up or be delivered. Nancy Olson currently is not planning to do deliveries. If you don't want cookies consider ordering a dozen for your friends or family, or make a donation to Cookie Cart (there's a Donate button on the website).

Check out cookiecart.org

If you have questions, contact Nancy Olson.

VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART

On June 20 we will have a virtual tour of the Minneapolis Institute of Art – They are asking that we stay around 30 people. That is people and not call-ins. They could add a second tour if we have the interest. So I will need to know if there is significantly more interest in this tour. Please e-mail me ASAP at membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org to let me know if you are interested.



GREAT DECISIONS AT PILGRIM HOUSE

May 6 – Persian Gulf Security

As oil prices plummet and fatigue mounts from two decades of war, policymakers are reevaluating long-held assumptions about American engagement in the Persian Gulf. Great Decisions asks whether the United States remains the dominant power in a changing region.

Our speaker will be Afsheen John Radsan, professor at Mitchell-Hamline School of law.

John was assistant general counsel at the CIA and a federal prosecutor. His government assignments included legal assistance projects in Central Asia and Russia. As a professor, he has taught courses in Chile, England, Ireland, and Turkey, plus seminars on campus tied to Cuba, Iran, and Spain. His publications and media appearances commonly relate to bringing the rule of law to American intelligence activities.

FANTASTIC PH RECORDINGS

PH is recording excellent programs from professors and experts all over the country. If you missed any of these programs, you can still partake. These recordings are available to all PH members and friends in the member area of the PH website. It's also available to visitors who ask. There is a newly created area in the PH website just for that purpose. Just send a request to pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org. (If there are any questions on accessing the recordings, contact, Wayne LeBlanc.) These recordings are edited and only contain program related content and comments. Here are the recordings we have so far.

April 18 – How To Talk With Those With Whom We Disagree, Samuel Englander

April 11 – One America Movement – We are not as divided as we might think, Chandra Whetstine

April 4 – Spring Celebration (Participation from Finland and Turkey!), Many Participants!

March 28 – More Than Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Accordion, Dan “Daddy Squeeze” Newton

March 21 – Turnout – Making Minnesota the State That Votes, Lori Sturdevant and Mel Aanerud

Note: Don't miss Mel Aanerud and famed columnist Lori Sturdevant interact spontaneously in a 1/2 hour amazing exchange. You can see our own political "Chuck Todd, Meet the Press" personality, Mel, in action on this recording!

March 14 – What Happened to the News? Daniel Hallin

March 7 – What Happened in the Election and its Aftermath?

(Presentation was mostly on the Derrick Chauvin upcoming trial.), Professor David Schultz

February 28 – The Decline of American Democracy and the Rule of Law, Professor Austin Sarat

February 21 – Creating a future for an Inclusive Democracy, Doctor Sylvester Johnson

February 14 – Freedom for Mother's Day (Covered some Bail Topics), Reverend Kayla Parker

February 7 – Can Truth Save Democracy – Use of Science Courts, Professor Ellad (Brad) Tadmor

(PH was not able to record this program directly but there are links to the professor's talk.)

QCD – HOW TO LEVERAGE YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING TO PILGRIM HOUSE!

Using Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD), you may be able to leverage the money you donate to Pilgrim House (PH) about 30% MORE (assuming 22% Fed, & 8% Mn tax rates) without affecting your bottom line. A QCD uses your tax deferred account and moves your money straight to PH without causing you a tax hit. You must be 70½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD. In addition, for those over 72, it qualifies as part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

If you use Fidelity, just type in QCD in their search box and be directed on exactly what to do. For others, check with your tax deferred account company because the money must be sent directly to PH. If you distribute it to yourself first, you will have to pay taxes on that money. So, check out QCD!

Les Rogers

Finance Committee

GLENNIE'S WALK ON APRIL 23

A fun group of PH folks gathered at Tony Schmitt Park for a stroll and conversation with our Master Naturalist, Glennie Gilleen. There will be more parks for us to explore! Look for email invites this summer.





June 23-27 -- Attend via Zoom

Stacy Abrams Will Be Featured Speaker At General Assembly

The annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists from across the country will be held via Zoom (rather than the originally-scheduled location of Milwaukee, WI). There will still be a wide array of workshops, music, keynote speakers, discussions and business sessions affecting our association.



This year's Ware lecture will be presented by Stacy Abrams of Georgia and Desmond Meade of Florida. Read their inspiring backgrounds and the history of the Ware Lecture at:

<https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/ware-lecture>.

General Assembly is open to all! – Registration is required with the exception of a few events that include the Sunday morning gathering on June 27. Save the date to enjoy the abundance of music and inspiration – no registration is needed for it. The link for virtual attendance for the Sunday program will be available at a closer date.

Pilgrim House has budgeted funds to reimburse the registration fees for our two voting delegates. Interested in attending, being a voting delegate, or just have some questions? Contact us!

membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org

Get more info about General Assembly here:

<https://www.uua.org/ga>

Mel & Kathy Aanerud
Membership Committee

SUNDAY, JUNE 27 -- LIVE STREAM THE SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

All are invited to attend this nationwide annual gathering of UUs for an abundance of music and inspirational messages --11:00 CDT. Save the date -- the link will be forthcoming. Many of us enjoyed this event last year

Recognizing the importance of shared ministry and the many innovative approaches to worship created by congregations during the pandemic, the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis was chosen to serve as worship leaders for this year's Sunday Morning Service. Music will be offered through collaboration with 2021 GA Choir Director, the GA virtual choir, and musicians from First Universalist.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME HERE!

Introduction to Pilgrim House

We're enjoying the friends and visitors who join us for Sunday programs. If you'd like to know more about Pilgrim House -- and maybe even consider becoming a Member or Friend -- we invite you to join us for an interactive Zoom program, "An Introduction to Pilgrim House."

We will be sending out email invitations with dates and times to visitors for whom we have email addresses. The session will be about an hour in length. If you'd like to join us but don't receive an invitation, let us know at membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org.

Know that you're always a welcome visitor to Pilgrim House whether or not you choose to attend an introduction program.

Mel and Kathy Aanerud
Membership and Visitors Committee