

**Volume 55 Number 8**

**April 2025**

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

**April 6 – Vision: A Memoir of Blindness and Justice via Zoom.**

Judge Tatel was a judge in the DC circuit for thirty years, the most influential of all the circuit courts. He was a very active liberal civil rights lawyer before being appointed to the court. He was the only blind circuit judge in the United States. He wrote a book called “Vision” (see separate article). Hear from this accomplished public servant and legal scholar.

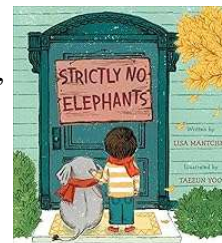


**April 13 – Soil Health – Maks Sandor Kopish**

Maks Kopish is a second-year student at One Spirit Interfaith Seminary and was trained through Dr. Elaine Ingham's Soil Food Web School. They are a gardener, writer, compost-enthusiast, and all-around lover of soil and earth. Maks lives in southwest Wisconsin, on the land of the Ho-Chunk, with their spouse and many animal friends, including cats, goats, and chickens.

**April 20 – Annual Spring Program ... "We Welcome All"**

As a lay-led fellowship welcoming all regardless of race, gender, sexual or spiritual orientation, please join us for our annual Spring program around the theme of **welcoming all** (even elephants), with family-friendly songs, videos, a book, a performance by the Pilgrim House Chorale, readings, poetry, possibly dance ... and more! Please let Mel Aanerud know ASAP how you'd like to contribute to the program and approximate time. As you plan, remember that Earth Day is April 22, just two days away! And don't forget to stay for a light brunch of foods provided by the Hospitality Committee.



**April 27 – Healing Streets Project – Mark Campbell**

Healing Streets focuses on disrupting long-term cycles of violence and has helped hundreds of residents heal and work through their grief when group and gun violence occurs.

Community mediators use a community-centered, healing-based approach to violence prevention and intervention that centers the narratives and lived experiences of those most impacted by violence.

When an act of group or gun violence occurs, Healing Streets community mediators work in the community to provide healing and support services to the families of people involved.

Our speaker, Mark Campbell is the program director.

**May**

**4 – Ticks – Gary Averbeck**

## PILGRIM HOUSE UU FELLOWSHIP

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 (leave a message)

**Email:** [pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org)

**Internet:** <http://www.pilgrimhouseuua.org>

**Board Chair:** Marcie Jefferys

### The Land Acknowledgment

*Pilgrim House acknowledges that we gather on the ancestral land(s) of the Dakota People. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have been stewards throughout the generations, including the Ojibwe.*

### Pilgrim's Progress (Pilgrim House Newsletter)

If you have any items for the newsletter, please contact Fred Green [newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org). Newsletter information is always due the next to the last Sunday of the month.

## CALENDAR

**Thursday, April 3, 7:00pm – Great Decisions via Zoom – American Foreign Policy in the Middle East: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead.** All are welcome. Contact Al Potter.

**Saturday, April 5,**

**10:00am – Reserved for cleaning.** Contact Al Potter.

**1:00pm – Reserved for member event.** Contact Stephanie Lica.

**5:30pm – MWUUC Coffee House, 5:30 potluck, 6:30 hybrid Coffee House at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. To be on the list for Coffee House, contact Chad Synder.

**Saturday, April 12,**

**10:00am – First Pilgrim House Chorale Practice for our spring program at Bill and Judy Rohde's home.** All adults, high school and college students who like to sing are invited to participate. For those who haven't sung with the Chorale

before, we especially urge you to come and join in the fun. See you there!

**2:00pm – Writing group meets at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Bruce France. See article below.

**Sunday, April 13, 12:00pm – Sunday Stories at Pilgrim House with presenter Paul Kirst.** All are welcome. Contact Mary Eskelson.

**Monday, April 14, 7:00pm – Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom.** Everyone is welcome. Contact Marcie Jefferys.

**Saturday, April 19,**

**10:00am – Second Pilgrim House Chorale Practice for our spring program at Bill and Judy Rohde's home.**

**1:30pm – Soul Matters meets at Pilgrim House.** Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

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

**Wednesday, April 23, 12:30pm – Novel exchange book club meets at a local library.** The book is *Translations* by Brian Friel. Contact Les Rogers.

**Thursday, April 24, 1:30pm – Book Club meets at various locations.** The book is *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

**Saturday, April 26, 3 pm – Springtime Social for all ages at Pilgrim House.** Tentative starting time of 3:00 with a 5:30 supper. All are welcome. Contact Kathy Aanerud. See article below.

## PILGRIM HOUSE CHILD CARE PROGRAM

Pilgrim House is happy to announce childcare will be available for children aged 2 through 12 years on Sunday mornings. The goal is to provide a safe and stimulating environment, allowing parents to participate more fully in the Sunday programs.

Starting April 6, children will have a dedicated space downstairs for activities and supervision with Kristin Dins. Kristin brings several years of experience working with children, currently with the Columbia Heights school district. She has worked with young through school age children.

It is expected that most children will be with their parents at the start of the program and go downstairs before the meditation. For children who want to go directly downstairs, Kristin will be available starting at 10:15am.

**Volunteers Needed** [see next page]

At least one other adult must also be present, according to UUA rules. Volunteers can sign up on the clipboard located in the Fellowship Hall or communicate their interest to Lollie Jensen or Kathy Aanerud.

### Other options

For parents of infants and young toddlers, the nursery at the back of the Fellowship Hall will continue to be available. Additionally, the “nest” in the back of the Meeting Room, which is equipped with pillows and a few activities to engage children, will continue to serve families who prefer to stay throughout the entire program.

Increasing our childcare options comes from conversations with families currently attending Pilgrim House. It supports our mission to be a “welcoming community where people of all ages come to learn together joyfully and feel safe, accepted and supported to develop their own understanding of life’s meaning and their place in the wider world.”

## 2025 FINANCIAL PLEDGE DRIVE

It’s that time again for our annual pledge drive!

The requests will be mailed out the first week of April, with a requested return date of April 28. The process is explained below:

### What is the Process?

- We ask members and supporters to pledge their support for the coming fiscal year (begins June 1st.). The board treats these pledges as advisory statements.
- In May, the board develops a budget for the next fiscal year based on pledges received.
- At the annual meeting (May/June), the membership elects a new board of directors and adopts a budget. The approved budget is used to guide expenditures throughout the year.

### What does it cost to keep Pilgrim House running?

Our 2024-2025 operating budget was \$46,806. We planned \$24,378 for building and grounds, including repairs, utilities, plowing/mowing, cleaning, etc. The remainder was divided among adult programs & speakers, children’s programs, social action, and UUA dues & conferences. In addition, we budgeted \$8,100 to fund our capital investment (CI) account.

Additional revenue is needed for expected cost increases across our entire program. At present over half our budget goes to mowing, snow removal, heating, repairs, cleaning, insurance, and technology to support our programming. All of these are expected to increase even though we have no major building and ground

expenses planned.

The board of directors thank you for your continued support.

Thank you,

Finance Committee

### Time and Talent Opportunities

Pilgrim House is a lay-led, all volunteer fellowship.

We encourage you to deepen your connections to the fellowship by contributing your time and talent to one of our committees.

- Membership
  - Social Action
  - Connections
  - Children's Religious Education
  - Program Committee
  - Program Facilitation
  - Music
  - Sunday Hospitality
  - Congregational Care
  - Technology
  - Building & Grounds
  - Finance
  - Be the featured speaker on Sunday mornings!
- Member-provided programs on topics of interest are much appreciated.

## UUA SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The Universalist Unitarian Association is active in several social and environmental justice arenas. To support its social and environmental justice initiatives, the UUA offers resources for congregations and individual members. Here is a link to one of them--Side With Love’s Action Center Weekly Update: <https://bit.ly/31125-action-center-weekly-update>.

The newsletter intends to “provide a brief analysis of critical issues in this political moment, share immediate actions you can take, and provide helpful resources to deepen knowledge and practice of our collective work to side with love.” It’s worth checking out. --Marcie Jefferys

## SPRING SOCIAL AT PILGRIM HOUSE

### Saturday, April 26

Save the Date: We’re planning a Springtime Social for all ages at Pilgrim House on Saturday, April 26.



Tentative starting time of 3:00pm with a 5:30pm supper. Activity ideas include board game tables, planting table for kids, sing-alongs, fellowship. More ideas welcome! Join us for a planning meeting tentatively scheduled for March 30 after the program.

--Kathy Aanerud for the Connections Committee

## WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Regardless of political swings, Pilgrim House lives by its mission to be a welcoming community, where people of all ages come learn together joyfully and feel safe, accepted, and supported to develop their own understanding of life's meaning and their place in the wider world.

In keeping with this community of mutual support, we will be uplifting two days of observance in April that reaffirm the rights of all people to live and love in the ways that recognize their own internal truths.

### April 6: Day of (No) Silence:

This is a student-led observance to protest the harmful effects of harassment and discrimination of LGBTQ+ people in schools, and to spread awareness about bullying and its effects on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students. It began as a day when participating students would be silent throughout the entire day to draw attention to the importance of each person's voice. However, in 2024, the national steering committee determined that "Being silent is no longer an option. We must use our voices throughout the week leading up to Date of (No) Silence."



### April 21: Lesbian Visibility Day:

This day is part of a full week (which in 2025 is April 20-27) to counter the perceived erasure of lesbian spaces from the usual Pride efforts, and to preserve and celebrate lesbian culture, distinct as it is from other

gay, bi, trans, and queer experiences. It is a quite decentralized observance, celebrated in many countries around the world. Look for social media posts, speakers, business recognition, and events in our area.

## SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

Thanks for your generosity the past 3 months. On the past Soup Sundays you contributed a total of \$615.00 which were delivered to Ralph Reeder Food Shelf Monday. Shane Johnson, Program Manager, sent an acknowledgment stating donations like ours go a long way to ensure that all our neighbors in need have access to nutritious food, essential supplies and support services.

Again, thanks for past donations and we appreciate dollars for remaining April and May Soup Sundays.

Harlene Hagen, Chair

Marilyn Jones

### Community Support Center's Annual Luncheon

Tuesday, April 29th, 2025

Enjoy a free lunch (soup and sandwich). Learn how the increased cost of living makes financial stability harder to achieve.

Donate to the mission of CSC-- prevent homelessness in our local community.

where:

Atonement Lutheran Church

1980 Silver Lake Rd NW New Brighton, MN 55112

date: Tuesday, April 29th, 2025

time:

Lunch Served: 11:30am-12:00pm

Program: 12:00-1:00pm

RSVP by April 24th:

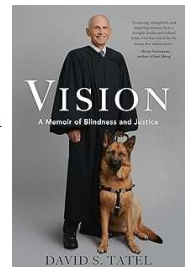
Call: 651-387-8050 (leave a message)

Email: [staff@communitysupportcenter.org](mailto:staff@communitysupportcenter.org)

Come to lunch! Learn how we work!

## VISION: A MEMOIR OF BLINDNESS AND JUSTICE

Join us for a Zoom program with retired Judge David Tatel on April 6<sup>th</sup>. You have seen the statue of justice, the woman with the scale who is blindfolded. Judge Tatel takes that image to the extreme; he was the only blind circuit judge in the United States. He wrote a book called "Vision": a memoir of Blindness and Justice.



We have heard for years about the activist liberal court, which probably was true from the conservative point of view, but now the conservatives have the power and are making judicial activism the norm.

A conservative judge was asked who among his colleagues was the model of judicial conservatism, and he did not say any of the conservative judges, he said Judge David Tatel, a political progressive who follows the law and precedence even when he does not agree with it.

Judge Tatel was a judge in the DC circuit for thirty years, the most influential of all the circuit courts. He was a very active liberal civil rights lawyer before being appointed to the court.

I am very pleased to have convinced Judge Tatel to visit with us via Zoom on April 6th. I would suggest



his book to you before he comes. Copies of the book are available at Pilgrim House.

Mel Aanerud

Program Committee

## GREAT DECISIONS VIA ZOOM

### April 3, 7:00pm – American Foreign Policy in the Middle East: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead

The war in Gaza has brought the region to a crossroads. What are the possible outcomes of the war, and how might the United States use its influence to shape a long-term settlement that leaves both Israel and the Palestinians in a better position? How might Arab states in the wider region be brought into a settlement? What are America's interests in the Middle East and how can it advance them?

Our speaker is Henry Berman, a retired businessman with personal ties to the Middle East Region who has spent much time there in the last decade. He has a strong interest in the ever-changing dynamics in this turbulent part of the world, including the emerging continent of Africa and Southeast Asia. Henry is a member of the Council of Foreign Relations and is active in a local Great Decisions Group. He has given popular presentations throughout Minnesota on such varied topics as Saudi Arabia, Future of the Kurds, Egypt and the Arab Spring, Syrian Refugee Crisis and the U.S.- Israel relationship. Henry has a BA from Hamilton College and an MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.

## PH SUNDAY STORIES

Happy Spring! Our next Sunday Stories speaker will be Paul Kirst on April 13, 2025. There are still one more date open before summer (May 11th, 2025) for sharing your story. Note, this date is also Mothers Day. Please let Mary Eskelson know if you are interested in sharing your story.

Here is how it works:

Approximately once a month, we gather after the Sunday program to hear a member/friend tell their story.

Speakers will be able to share in a relaxed setting. Timewise, it can be up to about half an hour to forty five minutes (with questions) starting at 12 noon.

You may be thinking, how do I begin? or what could I share? Here are suggested topics and questions others have used as a guideline for preparing a Sunday Story:

1. Your background. Tell us about where/when you grew up, your family background, and what influenced you as you grew up.

2. Your journey. Tell us about the path(s) your life has taken. What influenced you and what were some important events? What principles or values were meaningful or not a good fit? What drew you to Unitarianism and/or Pilgrim House?

3. Here and beyond. What is important in your life now? What has meaning for you as you look forward?

If you would like to sign up to tell your story the following date is available:

May 11, 2025 (also Mother's Day)

Please contact Mary Eskelson from the Connections Committee if you are interested or have more questions.

## COMMON READ GATHERING

We had a good turnout for our discussion of *Authentic Selves, Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families*. Our discussion leader was Reverend Laura Thompson of Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship, herself a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

Laura's facilitation skills allowed us to comfortably ask questions, clarify issues, share chapters read, and participate in a lighthearted written response activity that could be shared with others in the circle. Enjoyable discussion and sharing continued over chili supper.

If you weren't able to be part of the Common Read, copies of the book will remain available on the table in the back of the fellowship room. It's not necessary to read it cover to cover to benefit from the content. Read the introduction, and then pick some of the stand-alone chapters for insight to celebrating lives of trans and nonbinary people.

Kathy Aanerud, Connections Committee

Ellen Shelton, Welcoming Congregation

## PILGRIM HOUSE WRITING GROUP

Dear Pilgrim House Friends,

I like to write, but I am very sporadic, and then, whatever I do write ends up with no group to share it with other than on the occasional Sunday at PH. I have sent out an email to gauge how many writers, readers, and listeners, might be interested in getting together monthly for a couple of hours at PH to share their words or the words of writers that inspire them. We have set a time and date for an introductory meeting to iron out whatever details we might want to implement for our group!

Cheers,

Bruce France

*The group will meet at 2:00pm on April 12 at PH. All are welcome.*

## SAFETY AT PH, CAN YOU HELP? FIRST AID? OTHER HELP?



A few of us are looking at safety at PH and I'd like to ask if anyone has First Aid or First Responder training who would like to be identified and help? Where I worked, there was a First Responder Brigade where a group of people were trained in First Aid and knew where the First Aid kits were and they knew what to do. I'd like to see if we might identify some people (whether you been trained in First Aid or not) at PH to help: To know where the First Aid kit is, the AED, and the Fire Extinguishers. An informal PH Brigade. It is not a commitment to a committee, it's just an attempt to improve Safety at PH. Let Wayne LeBlanc know if you would be willing to be part of that, to further improve a response to a potential medical or other safety issue at PH. If anyone has any suggestions or can offer any help in this area, let us know! THANKS! – Wayne

## COMING IN JUNE – GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists from across the country. There are workshops, music, keynote speakers, discussions., and business meetings that make decisions affecting the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).



Attend virtually or in person. Dates are June 18-22. For in-person, this year's location is the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, MD. The event is open to all, but note that Pilgrim House will reimburse the registration fees for our two voting delegates.

Read more about General Assembly here: [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga) Let Mel or Kathy Aanerud know if you have questions or are thinking of attending. Registration fees increase April 1 and again after May 15.

## RALPH REEDER FOOD SHELF

Help Us Help Others!  
We need BROWN GROCERY BAGS WITH HANDLES to continue serving our community efficiently. These bags are crucial for packing and distributing food to those in need.



If you have any clean and sturdy brown grocery bags lying around, please consider donating them! Drop them off at Pilgrim House or at the back entrance of the food shelf anytime and place in the donation bin on the

backside of building Monday thru Friday. Spread the word. 2544 Mounds View Blvd, Mounds View.

Thank you for your support!

## DELPHI QUINTET AND FRIENDS

An evening of wonderful music including:

Jazz Standards, Show Tunes, Latin/Brazilian, Popular, Movie Hits, and More

Saturday, April 26th 2025 @ 7:00 PM

Location:

United Church of Christ New Brighton

1000 Long Lake Road

New Brighton, MN 55112

Hosted by Merging Waters UUC

Special Fundraiser for

SACA Food Shelf

This is a free concert for all

100% of donations of cash and check will be gratefully accepted for SACA

This is a family friendly venue.

\*\*\*Please no alcohol on premises

## UPDATED COVID-SAFETY CRITERIA WE FOLLOW AS OF 9/11/2023:

- Masks are optional – Masks and hand sanitizer are available.
- Attendees are vaccinated, with exception for children too young to be vaccinated.
- Air purifiers will continue to be run in Program and Fellowship Rooms.
- Food and beverages are provided by our Hospitality Committee.

## NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME HERE!

We enjoy the visitors and friends who join us for Sunday programs. If you're interested in taking the next step of becoming a member of Pilgrim House, we'd would enjoy talking with you and sharing a short, live Power Point introduction – in person or via Zoom.

Kathy & Mel Aanerud, Membership Committee

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



*"If you think you are too small to make an impact, you have never spent a night with a mosquito." Fransiska Kangombe, University of Namibia (via the Back Yard Biology blog)*