

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

February 4 – A Conversation about Racism

Over the last several years the Unitarian Universalist Association has been on a rigorous mission to confront and transform its own institutional structures and congregational cultures and practices that have marginalized and excluded people of color. The UUA has made a serious reckoning to the mistakes made during the Black Empowerment Controversy in the late 1960's. My talk will include perspectives from the UUA book read, *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*, edited by Mitra Rahnema and *Race in Minnesota: A Good Time for the Truth*, edited by Sun Yung Shin.

Stephanie McCullough-Cain is a 2016 graduate of United Theological Seminary and is working toward fellowship in the UUA as a Chaplain.



February 11 – Dennis Jones – American Indian Religions

Pebaamibines/Dennis Jones is a band member of Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation. He taught the Ojibwe language and Ojibwe History and Culture at the University of Minnesota for twenty years until he retired in 2015. Among his many publications are *“DagaAnishinaabemodaa – Let's Speak Ojibwe” - An Ojibwe Word and Phrase Book*. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies from Trent University and A Master of Arts in Education from UMD, and a Master of Arts in Indigenous Philosophy as well as a Doctorate Degree of Indigenous Education from the Seven Generation Education Institute. Pebaamibines is also a fourth degree member in the Midewiwin Lodge which is the highest level of Ojibwe Priesthood.

February 18 – Microaggressions

Sometimes, casual comments we don't think about can be just as damaging as obvious racial slurs. These kinds of comments are called Microaggressions. When talking about racism, we usually think of open racial insults and prejudices as examples, but unintentional things like making assumptions about a person of color's background based on stereotypes can have a “constant, continual and cumulative” effect.

Jean Strait and a panel of Hamline students will come and share with us what microaggressions are, how we identify them, and how we can change our language to eliminate them.

See the article on Microaggressions below for more information.

February 25 – Dismantling the Gender Binary

What is gender? Gender is the way we experience our bodies, how we identify ourselves, and how we express ourselves. Traditionally, gender has been a binary – male and female. My body is male, I identify as male, I express myself as male. Or female. This is a binary that many assume to be based in genetics. But it is not. There are people all over the gender spectrum. If we think in terms of male and female, people may identify as both male and female, neither male nor female, sometimes male sometimes female. But people may also not even include male or female – no gender. Let us be in conversation about dismantling the binary.

Jane Smith is a ministerial intern at First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis and a student at Meadville Lombard Theological School.

March 4 – Joint Religious Legislative Coalition

The program will be followed by Soup Sunday and the Pilgrim House Auction – see articles below.

CALENDAR

Thursday, February 1, 7:00pm – Great Decisions at Pilgrim House – The Waning of Pax Americana. All are welcome. Contact Al Potter. See article below.

Monday, February 12, 7:00pm – PH Board meeting at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Dick Shelton.

Sunday, February 18, 12:00pm – Sunday Stories at Pilgrim House – Les Rogers story. All are welcome. Contact Gary Borg.

Sunday, February 18 – Newsletter information due. Contact Fred Green.

Thursday, February 22, 5:30pm – Book Club meets at Ron Hitzemann's. The book is *We Are All Completely Besides Ourselves* by Karen Fowler. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

Sunday, March 4 – Annual Pilgrim House Auction at Pilgrim House. See article below.

ANNUAL PH AUCTION

The PH auction is scheduled for March 4 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.

We need items to be donated to auction – There is a signup sheet at PH. Or you can send your information (include a photo, if appropriate) to Fred Green.

Current items can be viewed 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, they may have value to someone at the auction. There will be a table of “buy it now” items on auction day.

Items may be brought to Pilgrim House on Sundays prior to the auction, or on Saturday, March 3th between 10:00am and noon.

Auction volunteers are also needed – contact Les Rogers or sign up at PH if you are interested.

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 Les Rogers.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

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: Dick Shelton

Pilgrim's Progress (Pilgrim House Newsletter)

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

Fred Green

newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org

RE CORNER

The RE committee visited Michael Servetus Unitarian Society in Fridley during an intergenerational program. We plan to join their Earth Day program and periodically throughout the coming year so that our currently small youth class can have a larger group of UU peers.

The Sunday Seekers are continuing in the Wonderful Welcome curriculum.

We will have our annual community building bowling day on Sunday, February 25. All RE students, parents, teachers, and volunteers are welcome.

PILGRIM HOUSE SUNDAY STORIES

Every third Sunday of the month after the program (12:00pm – 12:40pm) a different Pilgrim House member tells their story. Here are some things that are discussed:

Background: Where they grew up, family background, and influences growing up.

The Journey: The paths has taken. The influences and important events on the journey. The principles and values were accepted or rejected. Why Unitarianism and/or Pilgrim House?

Here and Beyond: What is important in now? What is important looking forward?

Come to these stories to become better acquainted with our members. Here is the schedule for the remainder of this program year:

Sunday, February 18 – Les Rogers.

Sunday, March 18 – Stephanie Lica

Sunday, April 15 – Michelle Gardner

Sunday, May 20 – Fred Green

JOINT RELIGIOUS LEGISLATIVE COALITION

Each year the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, a group of Jewish, Lutheran, Catholic and Unitarian Universalist congregations, agree on issues that they want to take to the legislature. This year the issues are

- Bonding for affordable housing and shelters
- Allowing court to waive state fees on traffic tickets
- Increase access to families needing child care
- Enhancing penalties for bias crimes that include property damage

Mel Aanerud will do a short program on the JRLC and their legislative goals for this year on March 4th prior to the Auction.

The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition will have their Day on the Hill March 13. Register at <http://www.jrlc.org/day-on-the-hill/registration>.

MICROAGGRESSIONS

(February 18 Program)

Sometimes, casual comments we don't think about can be just as damaging as obvious racial slurs. These kinds of comments are called Microaggressions. When talking about racism, we usually think of open racial insults and prejudices as examples, but unintentional things like making assumptions about a person of color's background based on stereotypes can have a "constant, continual and cumulative" effect. Microaggressions really are reflections of world-views of beliefs such as inclusion, exclusion, superiority, inferiority and they come out in ways that are outside the level of conscious awareness of an individual. Even though microaggressions can be hard to identify and prove understanding them is the key to addressing the unintentional bias that harms people of color the most.

Jean Strait and a panel of Hamline students will come and share with us what microaggressions are, how we identify them, and how we can change our language to eliminate them. Students will also be sharing personal stories so Pilgrim House can understand the impact these comments have on everyday life.

Vocabulary

Microaggressions – everyday slights, putdowns and insults that people of color, women, LGBT populations experience in their day to day interactions with others

Hate speech – speech that insults, threatens or offends groups of people, based on race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability

Warm up questions

1. Do you think people talk about race the right amount, too little, too much?
2. What do you think the term microaggression means?
3. Can you think of a situation in which someone made a subtle remark of racism, intentionally or unintentionally?

Critical thinking questions

1. Do you agree with that assessment that some microaggressions cause more hurt than flagrant remarks of racism?
2. Critics of microaggressions believe that adults coddle young people too much and that individuals need to learn to be less sensitive. Do you agree or disagree?
3. What are some ways we can address our own unintentional biases towards others?

PRECINCT CAUCUS

Mel Aanerud

You can be part of the game, mess, problem, that is democracy.

The precinct caucuses will be held February 6th.

Personally I have not missed one for over 50 years, but Kathy and I planned our vacation before the legislature moved the date up a month, (generally they have been the first Tuesday in March).

At the caucuses, which begin at 7:00, the political party begins the process to pick party leadership; pick the delegates who will endorse candidates for United State House of Representatives, two United State Senators, and candidate for the State House of Representatives, Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State and State Auditor; and talk about issues. Platform proposals need to begin at the precinct caucus to get into the party platform.

Other will make those decisions if you do not go to your caucus. It lasts about an hour. What better way could you spend in an hour than to be part of the democracy game?

You can find you caucus location at

<http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us>.

THE DELPHI GROUP FREE CONCERT

The Delphi Jazz group has performed at Pilgrim House a number of times in the past. They do a yearly concert at Michael Servetus Unitarian Society in Fridley. It will be Saturday evening February 10th. The address is 6565 Oakley Drive. The concert is free and is very good music. They play two sets with various deserts and socializing in-between.

GREAT DECISIONS AT PILGRIM HOUSE

February 1 – The Waning of Pax Americana

During the first months of Donald Trump's presidency, the U.S. began a historic shift away from Pax Americana, the liberal international order that was established in the wake of World War II. Since 1945, Pax Americana has promised peaceful international relations and an open economy, buttressed by U.S. military power. In championing "America First" isolationism and protectionism, President Trump has shifted the political mood toward selective U.S. engagement, where foreign commitments are limited to areas of vital U.S. interest and economic nationalism is the order of the day. Geopolitical allies and challengers alike are paying close attention.

Our speaker will be: Afsheen John Radsan. 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.

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

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