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Sunday Services

**We are meeting at Mano a Mano, 925
Pierce Butler Route, St Paul, 55104.**

Cross street is Milton.

**Services will be on Zoom only on the
third Sunday of the month; all other
services will be in person and
simultaneously on Zoom (hybrid).**

February 5, 10:00 a.m. Update on the Hmong Community in the Twin Cities and Beyond

***Hybrid Service (In person & on
Zoom)***

Presenter: Txongpao Lee

Moderator: Leticia Smith



As of the 2000 U.S. Census, the largest Hmong population by metropolitan area resided in and around Minneapolis-St. Paul, with 40,707 people. Minnesota had the

largest percentage in the country at 1.2 %. Like other Asian American ethnic groups, the Hmong population in this country has a varied background, some having arrived as refugees at the end of the American-sponsored war in Vietnam, others as family members of those already settled in this country, and a growing percentage is American born. While there are many who have succeeded in business, the professions

and politics, serious challenges to achieving the American dream still exist for them. Those challenges and strategies to deal with them will be explored in this presentation. We will learn about the role that the Hmong Cultural Center plays in the Hmong community and share ideas on how individuals and organized groups can help in successfully meeting those challenges.

It took nine years for Txongpao Lee to make his way from Laos to Minnesota. Since then, he has been the executive director of the Hmong Cultural Center on University Avenue in St. Paul for 20 years. In this role he has led the center's Hmong 101 program in which he has shared with thousands of Minnesotans the culture, history and contributions Hmong Americans make to the United States. Txongpao also serves as a cultural resource for social workers, teachers, lawyers, criminal justice officials and health care professionals who are working with Hmong clients.

An advocate and teacher for immigrant and refugee clients since the mid-1990s, Txongpao has also helped thousands of Hmong and other immigrants and refugees earn their U.S. Citizenship. For example, in 2021 the Cultural Center's storefront museum was vandalized with racist White Supremacist graffiti, an incident receiving broad media coverage. As a result of Txongpao's courageous leadership, the Twin Cities community responded to this disturbing vandalism incident with more than \$30,000 in museum support.

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February 12, 10:00 a.m.

**Beyond Agreeing to Disagree:
Nonviolent Communication
Hybrid Service (In person & on
Zoom)**

Presenter: Pam Winthrop Lauer

Moderator: Danielle Gordanier



In this presentation, you will learn some basic principles of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) that will help you tend to your own fears, maintain integrity, and still be able to open your heart to friends and family

members who see the world very differently than you do. It does take some work and practice, though.

Here are some questions for which Pam will suggest coping strategies:

- 1 – Have you given up staying connected to those whose views seem dangerous to you?
- 2 – Do you sometimes nod your head in order to get along, but feel bad about doing so?
- 3 – Do you sometimes feel you MUST set others straight, even though you know they won't believe you?
- 4 – Do you find that "agreeing to disagree" leaves a wall between you?

Believe it or not, it IS possible to stay in compassionate connection without betraying your own integrity.

Pam Winthrop Lauer is a spiritual director and Certified Trainer with the Center for Nonviolent Communication (cnvc.org), based in St. Paul, Minn. Pam has been practicing NVC since 2006, and doing NVC training, mediation and coaching since 2016. For Pam, NVC is a practical "how-to" practice for living with an open heart. She will be presenting to us via Zoom due to health issues in her family.

February 19, 10:00 a.m.
**3 Ways to Upgrade Democracy
for the 21st Century (TED Talk)**
Online Zoom Service only
Presenter: Max Rashbrooke
Moderator: Huron Smith



Democracy needs an update—one that respects and engages citizens by involving them in everyday political decisions, says writer and researcher Max Rashbrooke. He outlines

three global success stories that could help move democratic systems forward and protect society against the new challenges this century is already bringing.

Writer and researcher Max Rashbrooke was the 2020 J.D. Stout Fellow at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Although writing is at the heart of everything he does, he works across multiple media, collaborating with people like award-winning cartoonist Toby Morris and data-visualization expert Keith Ng. Rashbrooke is also a senior associate of the Institute for Governance and Policy Studies, with work in outlets such as The Guardian and Prospect magazine, and appearances as a regular commentator in the New Zealand media.

February 26, 10:00 a.m.
Making Sense of the Madness
**Hybrid Service (In person & on
Zoom)**

Presenter: Tom Esch

Moderator: Lois Hamilton



Victor Turner the great anthropologist once wrote, "In liminality, the underling comes uppermost." Tom Esch, a former catholic priest turned communications

Tom Esch, *continued*

consultant and performance-artist-comic, will help us explore what this anthropological concept of a type of transition period might mean for us. Amid the on-going pandemic, the political polarization, and the current racial unrest, how does the "underling" come "uppermost", and what does it mean for us?

Tom Esch has a master's in Theology from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. He also received a master's in "Conflict Resolution and Organizational Change" from the Process Work Institute in Portland, Oregon

He was a member of a Catholic religious community for 10 years, and worked for three years as Coordinator of Social Justice at First Universalist Church in Minneapolis. His book, *Personal Accountability and POWER*, is a culmination of 25 years of training, consulting and coaching people from a variety of cultures and all walks of life. Esch also does stand-up comedy, from time to time, in the spirit of Fr. Guido Sarducci, as Fr. Vito Incognito.

Looking Ahead...

March 5 10:00 a.m.

**Islam: Basics and Issues
Confronting Muslims in the US
and Elsewhere in the World
Hybrid Service (In person & on
Zoom Presenters: Rashed and
Christina Ferdous
Moderator: Leticia Smith**

Rashed Ferdous is the Islamic Resource Group board chair. He has been involved with various interfaith activities in Rochester, the Twin Cities, and throughout greater Minnesota. Rashed Ferdous is the Islamic Resource Group board chair. He has been involved



with various interfaith activities in Rochester, Rashed serves on the board of directors for the Rochester Mosque. He volunteers at various jails and prisons.

Christina Ferdous was born and raised near Brainerd, Minn. Raised a Christian, she converted to Islam while attending college as



a nursing student. While in college, she served as president of the Student Nurses Association and edited the student newsletter. Christina is an active volunteer and currently serves on the

board of directors of Al Amal School in Fridley.

Groveland Book Group Wednesday, February 15 6:30-8:00 pm – On Zoom



On February 15 we will meet at 6:30 pm on Zoom. Our format is a discussion of books we are

presently reading or have read recently. See our website for the Zoom link information. Please email Sara at leiste@yahoo.com for Zoom help.

Books discussed at the January Book Group Meeting

Once Upon a Wardrobe – Patti Callahan
Becoming Mrs. Lewis – Patty Henry
Blood Hollow – William Kent Krueger
The Department of Sensitive Crimes – Alexander McCall Smith
The Talented Mr. Varg – Alexander McCall Smith
Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living – Krista Tippett
Call of the Wild: How We Heal Trauma, Awaken Our own Power and use it for Good – Kimberly Ann Johnson

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We Need to Talk About Kevin – Lionel Shriver
Confidence Man: The Making of Donald Trump and the Breaking of America – Maggie Haberman
The Fireballer – Mark Stevens
Kindle County – Scott Turow
The Oppermanns – Lion Feuchtwanger
Indigenous Continent: The Epic Contest for North America – Pekka Hämmäläinen
The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee – David Treuer
The Ride of Her Life – Elizabeth Letts
Practical Meditation for Beginners – Benjamin W. Decker
Demon Copperhead – Barbara Kindsolver
The True Believer – Eric Hoffer
Lady Justice – Dahlia Lithwick

February Birthdays



Happy Birthday!

to
Lynne
John M.
Larry
Lesley

Message from Interfaith Action

Phillip Romine, Director of Opportunity St. Paul, would like to remind us that the need for food and volunteers and donations continue unabated. Support is needed for:

- Department of Indian Work needs general, healthy nonperishable food items.
- Volunteers needed to help during food shelf hours at the Little Canada location.

Hours and address:
<https://interfaithaction.org/what-we-do-/diw/emergency-services/>

--Monetary donations directly to the foodshelf. Go to
<https://interfaithaction.org/donate/>

Message from Our Treasurer

Minnesota has long winters. Ample time to snuggle down and consider a donation to Groveland. We always need help for rent and presentations. To donate, please write your check to Groveland UU Fellowship and send it to P.O. Box 40011, Saint Paul, MN 55104-8011. Thank you.

Images from previous services:

On January 8th **Gabrielle Clowdus** spoke to us about the "Full Community" Approach to Homelessness.

Then on January 22nd our own **Larry Herbison's** topic was Water Security and its



Implications for Minnesota
Then we managed to get a photo of all of the people on the Groveland Fellowship Executive Committee: Larry Herbison, past president; Sara Leiste, treasurer; Ceile Hartleib, president; Leticia Smith, program chair and Huron Smith, secretary.



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Services are at 10:00 am Sundays, September through May

Groveland meeting address:

Mano a Mano

925 W Pierce Butler Rte, St Paul, 55104

Groveland UU Mailing address:

Donations: Please address donations to Groveland UU Fellowship, and send them to:
PO Box 40011, St Paul, MN 55104

For more information about **Groveland UU Fellowship**, go to grovelanduu.org