

**Volume 16, Issue 4, April 2023, page 1**

## **Sunday Services**

We are meeting at Mano a Mano, 925 Pierce Butler Route, at Milton St., St Paul, 55104. Services will be on Zoom only on the third Sunday of each month; all other services will be in person and simultaneously on Zoom (hybrid).

### **April 2, 10:00 a.m. Building Community Capacity to Engage with Food System *Hybrid service – in person and on Zoom***

**Speaker: Michelle Horovitz**

**Moderator: Lois Hamilton**

Minnesota Native Michelle Horovitz will share the story of how Appetite for Change was



founded, a bit about what they do, and the context for why food justice should be a focus across the community. Michelle will also talk about AFC's future as they work to address current issues such as

youth unemployment and mental health issues. Another challenge is the recent closure of a grocery store and a pharmacy on Minneapolis' north side.

Michelle Horovitz is a co-founder and now Vice-President of Innovation at Appetite for Change (AFC), a nonprofit social enterprise organization dedicated to using food as a tool to build health, wealth and social change.

Michelle graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Bioethics and Spanish and earned a J.D. from the

University of Minnesota Law School. She worked as an Assistant Public Defender in Miami-Dade County before working for James Beard Award winning Chef Michelle Bernstein.

After returning to Minneapolis, she co-founded Appetite for Change. She is a dedicated leader, passionate about social and racial justice, and advocates for criminal justice reform, and equity. Michelle enjoys yoga, biking and spending time with her family and friends. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband and two children.

### **April 9, 10 a.m. The Rise Above: An Evangelical Minister Finds Salvation in Our Humanity *Hybrid service – in person and on Zoom***

**Speaker: Drew Bekius**

**Moderator: John Christensen**

Our presenter will share with us his



experience and perspectives as one who transitioned from being an evangelical minister into being a humanist. Drew Bekius is a humanist speaker,

writer, and coach based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is the author of *The Rise and Fall of Faith* and *Your Next Life Now*. After starting an award-winning interfaith ministry at the age of 16, Drew went on to earn two theological degrees and pastored two Evangelical Christian churches in the Chicago area. After leaving the pastorate and becoming an atheist, he served as president

*Continued on page 2*

of The Clergy Project, a nonprofit providing peer support, community resourcing, and career transition assistance to de-converted religious leaders in more than 35 countries around the world.

Drew has a Master of Divinity degree from Moody Theological Seminary, a Bachelor of Arts in pastoral studies from Moody Bible Institute, personal and business coaching certificates from Life Purpose Institute, and a Humanist Celebrant endorsement from The Humanist Society. He is a member of the American Humanist Association, Freedom From Religion Foundation, Unitarian-Universalist Association, and The Loft Literary Center, among others. Drew and his two teenage daughters live in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**April 16, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Confronting Christian Nationalism in Minnesota**  
**Speaker: Matt Lewellyn-Otten**  
**Virtual Service on Zoom Only**  
**Speaker: Matt Lewellyn-Otten**  
**Moderator: Ceile Hartleib**



Matt is the Associate Director of Religious Organizing at OutFront Minnesota and works with faith-based and non-faith-based groups to think deeply about their

inclusion of LGBTQIA2+ folk. He is co-leader of a coalition of four organizations (OutFront Minnesota, along with Gender Justice, Jewish Community Action, and TakeAction MN) seeking to drive messaging against the codification of Christianity into law.

Matt is a Minnesota transplant originally from South Carolina where he attended Erskine College and studied Bible and Religion. Later, he earned their Master of Public Administration degree from the College of Charleston and his Master of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology. In his

studies and career, Matt has sought ways to build better understanding across faith communities and create spaces of connection and growth.

**April 23, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Doctor, What Should I Do?**  
**A Physician Responds to Difficult and Controversial Issues Affecting Women's Lives**  
**Hybrid service – in person and on Zoom**  
**Speaker: Jeffrey D. Nelson, M.D.**  
**Moderator: Leticia Smith**

Dr. Jeffrey Nelson will speak to us about how he dealt with the serious and often controversial topics of abortion, religious freedom, and other difficult decisions with his patients. He will also share his views on what society needs to do to provide healthier and safer choices for women.



Dr. Nelson was a family physician who served the Cottage Grove, Minnesota area for over 38 years, retiring in 2020. His professional career saw many

changes, including the transformation from small independent clinics to our current large health systems. A constant theme for each patient was having a personal connection with a physician to handle what are often difficult decisions when it comes to healthcare. How to handle an unintended pregnancy was sometimes one of the most difficult of those decisions.

Dr. Nelson is the author of two books: *I Got to Live with An Angel*, the story of his wife who was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2014 and died in 2016. His second book, *What Should I Do?* speaks to the topic for today.

*Continued on page 3*

**April 30 10:00 a.m.**  
**Answering Your Questions on**  
**Critical Race Theory: a PBS**  
**program *Hybrid service – in***  
***person and on Zoom***  
**Speaker: Prudence Carter, Ph.D.**  
**Moderator: Abby Struck**

Republican lawmakers are aiming to prevent schools at the K-12 level from teaching critical race theory, even though it's been



part of academic discourse in higher education for decades. What is it, and why has it become a political flashpoint? PBS NewsHour's Amna Nawaz speaks with Prudence Carter, a

Professor of Sociology at Brown University. After the presentation, our moderator Abby Struck will help us further explore the topic.

Dr. Carter has been on the faculty of Harvard, and Stanford Universities, Carter also served as the Faculty Director of John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities, and the Director of the Research Institute for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity. From 2016 to 2021, she was Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Professor at the University of California at Berkeley.

## Looking Ahead...

**May 7 10:00 a.m.**  
**Overview of Alternatives for**  
**Pain and Stress Relief and a**  
**Demonstration of Acupressure**  
***Hybrid service – in person and***  
***on Zoom***  
**Speaker: Chandler Yorkhall, NCTMB,**  
**AOBTA**  
**Moderator: Huron Smith**

Chandler will briefly share with us various alternative modalities for the treatment of pain and relief of stress, and then lead us in performing a sample of self-treatment using acupressure.



Chandler Yorkhall is a board-certified massage therapist, as well as an experienced clinician and holistic educator. He also works as an integrative therapies practitioner at Allina

Hospice. His main modalities are shiatsu and craniosacral therapy. Specialties of his include chronic pain, trauma, and pediatrics. He especially enjoys working with practitioners of complementary and alternative therapies who are interested in deepening their own experience and understanding of the healing process.

**Groveland Book Group**  
**Wednesday, April 19**  
**6:30-8:00 p.m. – On Zoom**



On April 19 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](mailto:leiste@yahoo.com) for Zoom help.

**Books discussed at the March Book**  
**Group Meeting**

*The Cultural Toolbox: Traditional Ojibwa Living in the Modern World* - Anton Treuer  
*Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining the Future* - Patty Krawec  
*Unlearning God: How Unbelieving Helped Me Believe* - Phillip Gulley  
*Lost and Found* - Orson Scott Card  
*The Joy and Light Bus Company* - Alexander McCall Smith



*IBM and the Holocaust: Alliance between Nazi Germany and America's Most Powerful Corporation* - Edwin Black  
*Whose Names are Unknown* - Sanora Babb  
*The Death of Vivek Oji* - A Novel by Akwaeke Emezi  
*The Price of Greatness: Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and the Creation of American Oligarchy* - Jay Cost  
*For One More Day* - Mitch Albom  
*The Wonder: A Novel* - Emma Donoghue  
*The Rose Code: A Novel* - Kate Quinn

## Member News



Leticia and Huron Smith visited with Groveland member, Jerry at the Memory Care Unit of Ecumen Seasons at Maplewood. She said he recognized them as soon as he saw them and that they stayed with him as he ate his

lunch in the dining room.

Jerry has had several strokes and has been in the nursing home for a few months. "He was sitting in a wheelchair and was able to feed himself", states Leticia.

Leticia goes on, "It was good to see him looking healthy and calm. At the same time, I was filled with sorrow to see one who had a stubborn, active mind and who loved walking and biking outdoors in this condition where he struggles to communicate and is unable to walk."

He certainly helped us a lot in the past with our Sunday services when we were at Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul - shoveling snow, putting out our Groveland sign, setting up our sound system, and making presentations.

Leticia and Huron are encouraging all of us to visit Jerry.

## April Birthdays



**Happy Birthday  
Karen and Mike!**

## Camp Unistar 2023 season

Would you enjoy a week on a beautiful island retreat where you can unplug, unwind, and enjoy nature?

There are nine program weeks, beginning June 10<sup>th</sup>. Click on their link [campunistar.org](http://campunistar.org) for more information.

## Message from Our Treasurer

Spring could arrive soon. Think of Groveland as the snow disappears and the first flowers show up. 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!

## Pictures from Prior Services



**Rashed and Christina Ferdous** spoke to us on March 5 about Muslim basics and issues confronting Muslims in the US and in other parts of the world.

*Continued on page 5.*

## Jim Bear Jacobs

At our March 12 service Jim Bear discussed the most significant issues confronting American Indians in Minnesota; what is being done to tackle those issues and what is the effectiveness of such actions.



A candid shot from Alternatives to Violence service on March 26.

## Nia To Go There

Nia was with us on Zoom on March 19th to speak about Iskotev Kahmahch Opikik: an Indigenous Journey of Trauma Healing. Nia is a former Groveland Fellowship member who now lives in Montana. She is a strong advocate for individual, ancestral and collective trauma healing.



The Groveland Group with our March 26<sup>th</sup> speakers.

Left to Right: Ceile Hartleib, Terry Kayser, David Islam, Rose Dorer, Lois Hamilton, Alan Lando, Leticia Smith, Huron Smith, Paul Hjelmstad and Larry Herbison.

## Terry Kayser and David Islam

On March 26<sup>th</sup> Terry Kayser and David Islam spoke about the effectiveness of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). David Islam shared his experiences with AVP as a former inmate who has made it a basis of his life.



Paul Hjelmstad and David Islam

### Groveland E-Wire Editors:

**Martha Anderson**

Email: [mhaa427@aol.com](mailto:mhaa427@aol.com)

**Lois Hamilton**

Email: [hamiltonlando@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonlando@gmail.com)

**Ceile Hartleib**

Email: [ceceilehartleib@gmail.com](mailto:ceceilehartleib@gmail.com)

**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](http://grovelanduu.org)