

Alliance: 2018 – 2019 Program

The Alliance is a multi-generational group of men and women who meet monthly as they present programs of broad interest, encourage friendships with the community, and bask in the camaraderie of friends and newcomers.

Over many decades, the Alliance has received gifts and bequests that are now part of the FRS Endowment Fund. During the past several pledge campaigns, the Alliance has given its annual distribution, averaging \$4,000, back to the church.

From a modest savings account and our members' annual free-will offerings, the Alliance, with a vote of its members, is able to contribute to meeting needs within our church and the greater community, such as the Organ Restoration Fund, the Jean Wilson Music Series, holiday decorations for the sanctuary, and other worthy causes such as summer camp or music lessons for a child.

September 12, 2018
Albanian Experiences

Bettina Turner's presentation will be about Albania, a small developing country in the Mediterranean that was isolated until the early nineties after decades of being ruled by a communist dictator.

More than four years ago, Bettina's husband, David Turner, entered the Peace Corps and was stationed in Albania to teach English at the college level. After two years with the Peace Corps, he continues to live part of the year in Tirana, the capital and most populous city of Albania, where he works for an Albanian educational organization as a consultant. Bettina has visited Albania several times and will speak about her husband's experiences as well as her own, as he will be back in Albania!



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October 10, 2018

The Current Rules for Immigration to the United States

Until recently, discussion about immigration has centered on illegal immigrants. But now, President Trump is threatening to shut down the government unless the rules governing legal immigration are not changed. What are these rules?

Michael Sandberg, MD, has worked as a civil surgeon for the US Citizenship

and Immigration Service for 17 years and has helped over 30,000 legal immigrants apply for permanent residency in the United States. He will explain how the current system works, and what changes the President is proposing.

November 14, 2018
A Trip to Guizhou



Ellen Golden of Day's Ferry, Maine, will present highlights from a recent trip to Southern and Southwest China with a focus on Guizhou, one of China's most remote provinces. Guizhou is known for its minority people and landscapes filled with mountains and sculpted rice

terraces. Its relative isolation has helped preserve traditional lifestyles and villages, making travel there visually beautiful and culturally rich.



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March 13, 2019

Religion in the Soviet Union

Mukhayo Portmann was born in the Soviet Union. It was expected that she would be an atheist. She was 16 when the communist country collapsed, and her Muslim family members were free to express their religious identities and practice their faith openly. Mukhayo will share her experience of witnessing and being a part of a transformational journey.

Mukhayo is a specialist in international development. She worked in conflict-affected Central Asia and Middle East to tackle issues of poverty and to promote equality and peace-building. She lives in Newburyport with her husband and two young daughters.



April 10, 2019

Olivia Langdon Clemens, Mark Twain's Wife

Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, and his wife Olivia came from dramatically different backgrounds. Yet they shared a love that was deep, tender and mutually supportive. Mark Twain admired his wife's intellect and respected her judgment. **Mary Haslinger** will explore the significant role Mrs. Clemens played in her husband's becoming what William Faulkner called the "first truly American writer."

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The Alliance

What's in it for you?

- Experience programs narrated by experts in education, culture or art which inform, amuse and connect us
- Strengthen friendships and make new friends in a welcoming, unhurried, relaxed ambience.

All are welcome to Alliance programs, at which a business meeting at noon is followed by a presentation at 1:00 p.m. Bring a bag lunch. Snacks and drinks are available.

All programs and business meetings are on Wednesdays in the Lower Meetinghouse, 26 Pleasant Street, Newburyport.

SPECIAL EVENTS 2018-19

December 12, 2018

Holiday luncheon

Location to be announced

May 8, 2019

Off-site gathering

Location to be announced

June 12, 2019

Picnic

Location to be announced

Check the Steeple Biweekly newsletter for information on signing up for these events.

Alliance Officers 2018-2019

John Mercer, President

Patty King, Vice President

Carol Kilty, Treasurer

Maureen Condon, Recording Secretary

Wendy Ford, Corresponding Secretary

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