

AHCC *Wilderness Companions* Series

This series of conversations is offered to the community by Asylum Hill Congregational Church for the five consecutive Thursday evenings of Lent, a period of preparation for Easter. “Wilderness” refers to the place where Jesus went to fast before he began his public life. For us it can mean a place of limited distractions in a spiritual sense and the “companions” in this quest are the speakers and community that come together to share their experiences.

The series began with an interfaith dialogue among Dr. Joel Lohr, president of Hartford Seminary, Dr. Reza Mansoor, founding president of the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut and Rabbi Michael Pincus, senior rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel. Each was asked what was the greatest challenge facing their community. Each in turn spoke and the others were then able to ask questions while the audience listened in. It wasn’t until the second part that the audience was able to ask questions of any of the three regarding what they had said.

In all, it was very inspiring.

Then on Thursday the 21st, Chion Wolf spoke. She is a familiar WNPR voice, especially for the Colin McEnroe Show, and also technical producer for much of what goes on there as well as producer and host of *The Mouth-Off* and *Asking for a Friend*. They could not have found a better neighbor/homeowner to speak about community than Chion. She told several stories, three with instances where religion had a significant impact on her life. I won’t go into all of that here as it’s much more enjoyable to hear her tell it live, and I really hope there are more opportunities for all of us.



What’s really important is that she took significant events from her life and used them to show the strength of community and the goodness of people. And that was really the point of her talk. “Hartford is a small pond with some very big fish in it” she said at one point, and we should be proud of this City that has so much to offer.

The third of her “religious” experiences was being able to buy a NINA house built on property donated by AHCC. Both are treasures for our neighborhood.

As for this Speaker Series, when you read this, there will still be two speakers remaining, April 4, Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, the Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago and April 11, Rev. Dr. James Forbes, the Senior Minister Emeritus of The Riverside Church in Manhattan.

Complimentary tickets are available for Asylum Hill residents. For more info email staffadmin@asylumhill.org or call 860-944-6614 Photos from the first two events are available at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/5TuDPQh1a6eRwEyw9>