An Enemy of the People

By Henrik Ibsen, Adapted by Arthur Miller (1950)
A staged dramatic reading directed by Michael Cohen

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley* and Temple Beth Hillel present a staged reading of Arthur Miller’s 1950 adaptation of Henrik Ibsen’s An Enemy of the People, a modern day parable about the cost of truth. When Dr. Stockmann, the resident physician in a small Norwegian town, discovers that the waters in the baths have been contaminated, the idealistic doctor reports the problem to the authorities. However, what Stockmann does not realize is that his good deed has the potential to ruin the town’s livelihood and reputation as a popular spa destination. Instead of being hailed as a hero, Stockmann is labeled an enemy of the people. Miller’s adaptation of Ibsen’s classic drama is a penetrating exploration of what can happen when the truth comes up against the will of the majority. This theatrical work conveys a universal theme with historical significance that applies even today. Most recently, unfavorable news coverage was dismissed as the “fake news media” and described as “the enemy of the American people.”

*Actors Ensemble of Berkeley is a non-profit corporation, which has produced plays for over fifty years, currently in John Hinkel Park Amphitheater and Live Oak Theater.

Open to the Community - $15 suggested donation