

The Landmark

DECEMBER 2010



WWW.4THU.ORG

SUNDAY SERVICES

MORNING SERVICES
10:45 AM

EVENING SERVICES
5 PM



The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt

Life in the Spirit

All this month, we'll be celebrating joyfully, along with millions of people around the world who honor a variety of religious and cultural holidays. What do these holidays have in common? In ways both large and small, they call attention to both light and darkness. Some people light the Advent wreath each week to honor the time of waiting for Christmas; some use a menorah for the eight nights of Hanukkah; some of us who celebrate the midwinter Solstice honor the sacred dark, and some of us honor Kwanzaa with a kinara, with its seven candles to honor principles by which we might live our lives.

As long as there have been human beings, there have been rituals and celebrations to mark these shorter days and longer nights, celebrations that remind us that even when we cannot easily find our way, there is hope and help and renewal close at hand: a promise that the light will come again. This is the time of year when that can be very easy to forget. A difficult economy or the specter of illness can weigh us down. The loss of friends or family can sadden us. Amid a society filled with signs of celebration, we might feel left out or alone.

I know that's one reason I love religious community. Here amid those who

have seen us and know something of our lives, we might find a place to rejoice and to mourn—or simply to be. It was so gratifying to know last month that, thanks to your generosity and hospitality, those who wanted to celebrate Thanksgiving Day found friendly tables at which to gather. We had more people who offered to host a guest than we had guests—a blessed position to be in! And several more of you had some place to go, but were grateful that we would connect congregants and friends with one another.

So I ask again this month that any of you with room at your table during the holidays let our office know, and that any of you wishing to be a guest during the holidays call or email as well. Stormy, our office manager, will be glad to connect guests and hosts, so that you might share an evening of community. Even if your plans for the season are already set, we hope you make time for **Fourth U's Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner on Friday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 pm.** Bring enough of your favorite dessert or side dish to serve six to eight people; we'll supply entrees. There will be tree decorating, and caroling around the neighborhood too.

I look forward to seeing you, and to rejoicing with you, in the promise of the light that always returns. Happy Holidays to all of you!

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Fourth Universalist Worship Themes 2010-2011

September: Promise Faithfully
 October: Love Abundantly
 November: Serve Selflessly
 December: Celebrate Joyfully
 January: Create Peace

February: Act Justly
 March: Give Generously
 April: Go Lightly
 May: Honor Life
 June: Embrace Gratitude

Greetings from the Board President

Dear Members and Friends,

Some of you were able to attend this past Sunday's meeting and learn about the board's intention of pursuing a grant from CERG's (Central Eastern Regional Group) "Threshold Congregation" program for growth. For those who missed the meeting, this three-year program provides guidance on expansion -- in numbers, programming and other aspects of church life. To qualify for a grant, a congregation needs to be healthy and poised for growth. While the board is very interested in pursuing the grant, the CERG consultant we met with earlier this month was quite specific that congregation members need to be fully engaged as well. From the feedback at our meeting on Sunday, we know that there is a core group of members who would like to follow this path and who are willing to step up and take an active role.

Whether we qualify for this program or not, beginning the application process for the Threshold Congregation program has us thinking more about 4th U's membership and growth. A pressing demand for 4th U right now is the formation of a membership team/committee. There are several members who have expressed their willingness to be part of a membership committee, but they could use some additional support. If you are interested in contributing in this area, or if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me or another board member.

Sincerely,
Jon Arancio
President, Board of Trustees

Words from Our Minister of Religious Exploration

December is upon us, and as Charlie Brown has been known to say, "We've got another holiday to worry about!" Indeed, we have a whole collection of holidays and festivals this month, and it is for that reason that our theme for the month at Fourth Universalist Society is "Celebrate Joyfully." Yet, so many of us are inclined to agree with Charlie Brown that the holiday season is more something to "worry about" than to celebrate. We worry about all we have to do, how much time it is going to take, and how much it is all going to cost. We want to join Charlie Brown in throwing back our heads and running from the room, yelling "It's too commercial!"

Surrounded by messages telling us that doing more and consuming more are the only ways to celebrate, church can seem like just one more thing vying for our time, just one more thing to do. It is not. Our liberal religious community is not a product that we sell or consume. The joy, the challenge, the support that we find here are gifts we create and share together.

We do not come together on Sundays or throughout the week to "get" church; we come together to *be* church.

The children of our congregation are no less a part of this than anyone else. In the last few months, we have seen them share insights in worship, lead service projects at coffee hour, and grow in their sense of belonging among us. This month, as they collect change to buy goats through Heifer project and as they put on the annual Holiday Pageant, remember that they are doing so not for adult entertainment, but as vital contributions to the life we share together. Our children, like our church, are not products to consume; they are members of our community and it would not be complete without them. That is something well worth celebrating.

Rev. Laurel W. Koepf
Acting Minister of Religious Exploration

December 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 6:30PM Fourth U Book Club	2	3	4 6PM 4th on 4th Dinner
5 10:45AM Rev. Wendy Pantoja "Gifts? Presents? Or Presence?" 5PM UU Seminarians "Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins"	6	7	8 7PM Board of Trustees Meeting (open to all Fourth U Members)	9 6PM Public Speaking Group	10	11
12 10:45AM Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "Great Expectations" 12:30PM Planning Meeting for The Vagina Monologues Interweave Committee Meeting 5PM Jazz Vespers	13	14	15 7PM Refresh & Revive Service	16	17 6PM Fourth U Holiday Party 7:30PM Humanist Meeting	18
19 10:45AM Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "Be Not Afraid" Holiday Pageant 5PM Choral Chameleon Concert	20	21	22	23	24 7PM Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt Christmas Eve: This Holy Night	25
26 10:45AM Rev. Julie Taylor "Sharing the Light" 12:15PM Young Adult Brunch 12:15PM Spiritual Life Poetry No Soulful Sundown Service	27	28	29	30	31	

ANNOUNCEMENTS & MEMBER EVENTS



Virtues Workshop Returns to Fourth U in 2011!

In fall of 2009, Fourth U first presented the Virtues Workshop as part of our growing Adult RE program. By popular demand, it will be offered again beginning in January 2011 (meeting dates to be announced shortly). It will be held in a series of Sundays, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. It's the perfect self-improvement project to start the New Year!

The Virtues Workshop is an opportunity for Fourth U members and friends to live by our highest values while encouraging our individual moral and spiritual development. In sharing circles, we use self-examination, Virtues cards, and our UU heritage to collectively reflect upon human virtues and draw inspiration for the coming week. Guidelines are provided at the first meeting.

In six Sunday meetings, different virtues are examined, drawing from all the world's religions and faith traditions. They may include creativity, joyousness, loyalty, compassion, or whatever virtues interest the group. Discussions are lively, often fun and always open doors for further thought.

Participants will learn empowering strategies that inspire the practice of virtues in their everyday lives, drawing upon the principles of excellence and simplicity. If you want to live more fully, authentically, and ethically in the New Year, this rewarding Workshop is for you.

When dates are announced, a sign-up sheet will be available in the church office. The Virtues Workshop will be coordinated by Rev. Jennifer Pader. Call her at (212) 765-6340 for more information. No advance readings are required, and the Workshop is free, but there is a requested \$10 materials fee to cover the costs of photocopies. Enrollment will be limited to 10 members and/or friends of Fourth U.

A Season of Giving—and Receiving

Throughout December, Fourth U members and friends will once again have the chance to make a difference in the lives of others, both within and beyond our liberal religious community. Please plan now to give as generously as you are able to these special collections:

Sunday, December 5: Our second collection will be dedicated to the Metro New York District Chalice Lighter call. This call supports our sister congregations in Mt. Kisco, NY as well as Lincroft and East Brunswick, NJ. Chalice Lighter representatives will be our guests on this Sunday as well. Checks can be made out to MNYD, with "Chalice Lighter Call 2010" in the memo line.

Sunday, December 12 & Sunday, December 19: Our second collection on each of these two Sundays will benefit the children of the Regent Family Residence. It's our annual drive to buy toys and gifts for children who might otherwise receive nothing in this holiday season. Checks can be made out to Fourth Universalist Society, with "Holiday Toy Drive 2010" in the memo line.

Friday, December 24: Our Christmas Eve collection is dedicated each year to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, a confidential source of assistance to members and friends of Fourth U. Checks can be made out to Fourth Universalist Society, with "Minister's Discretionary Fund 2010" in the memo line.

If you or anyone you know is facing a financial challenge this holiday season, please let us know how we might help. Please speak to Rev. Rosemary or any of our affiliate ministers, and remember that you are not alone.

Fourth U Building & Grounds Committee Says...Thank You

The Building & Grounds Committee draws your attention to the enhanced gleam on the Eaton plaque over the Tiffany altar and the two plaques under the organ pipes; the fresh polished look of the interfaith chapel altar, universe picture, faith symbols, framed proclamation and the metal entrance doors; the cleaned wall panel surrounding the coffee counter; the fresh and cleaned children's chapel downstairs; and the 76th Street garden raked clear of leaves.

On November 20, ten Fourth U volunteers, and Fourth U Sexton Kenneth Galloway, worked together to clean our treasured building. This continues the renewed tradition of Spring and Fall clean-up days.

Thank you for the efforts and fellowship of all who helped.

Nancy Robillard & Tom Albrecht

Denominational Affairs: UUs Standing on the Side of Love

Unitarian Universalists from the Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Church in Manassas, VA, stood on the side of love in November in a "peaceful witness for love" when the prominent anti-gay hate group, the Westboro Baptist Church, announced they were coming to town. Members stood across the street with a "Standing on the Side of Love" banner and signs with supportive messages such as "God Really Likes You." To read more about this public witness event, visit <http://bit.ly/cY60Lq>. "Standing on the Side of Love" is a UUA-sponsored public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. Visit <http://standingonthesideoflove.org> for more information or to pledge your support.

The Cabaret Committee Is Looking for Talent

SINGERS, DANCERS, PERFORMERS WANTED!

TECH SET-UP, SOUND AND STAGE-MANAGING PEOPLE ALSO SOUGHT.

Come join our Cabaret Crew in putting together 4th U's **Post-Valentine's Week Benefit Show** on Saturday February 19. ***We need all sorts of helpers willing to assist with set-up, food/bartending or decorating*** Come ready to have FUN! Please contact Allen Wrede: allenwrede@yahoo.com 718-204-5919.

New Meeting Time for Youth Group

Youth Group is now meeting from 1PM-3PM on Sunday afternoons. Youth Group is open to students from 6th-12th grade. We combine social justice, learning, service and fun to create and support community here at Fourth U. If you're in 6th-12th grade, head on up to the Youth Group room at 1PM. Youth are encouraged to bring non-Fourth U friends who might be interested.



Fourth U's Interweave Committee

As the Holidays approach please remember our homeless GLBT Youth at Trinity Place Shelter. Perhaps donate a small toiletry item or a pair of new clean socks. Non-perishable foods would be great too.

Our collection bin will be in front of the Sanctuary or in the office. For further info about this or other ways to help the GLBT community, please contact Claudia at claudialorie@gmail.com or 212 706 8884

The Fourth U Book Group—December 1, 6:30PM

Put the December reading on your list. The holiday-centered “Mr. Ives Christmas,” by Oscar Hijueles, will be the selection for our December 1 meeting.

If you would like to join us please be in contact with Rev. Jill Bowden at jbowden16@gmail.com.

Fourth U Fellowship: 4th on 4th Dinners

Fourth U's monthly 4th on 4th Dinners are hosted by Fourth U members and friends in their homes, on the 4th of each month. These potluck dinners provide an opportunity for us to extend our fellowship beyond the Sunday setting, and they're one of several ongoing initiatives to expand and engage our membership.

How it works: After details about each month's dinner are announced, the church office will take RSVPs on a first come, first served basis. When you RSVP, Stormy will ask you what dish you plan to bring (or tell you what dish/es the host has requested), the quantity requested, and any other pertinent details. There may also be a discussion topic or other focus for the evening.

The next 4th on 4th Dinner will be held Saturday, December 4 at 6PM in Liz Wolfe and Jon Arancio's turn-of-the-century townhouse in historic Hamilton Heights (48 Hamilton Terrace, between 141st and 144th Streets). They can accommodate up to 20 guests, so it promises to be a real party!

If you would like to attend the dinner on December 4, please contact stormy@4thu.org. And if you would like to host a 4th on 4th Dinner in the future, please contact stormy@4thu.org.

Public Speaking Group at Fourth U

Come to have fun and develop your speech making skills. Give that important work presentation, deal with challenging colleagues or negotiate a raise. Gain confidence and clarity of thought. First meeting will be Thursday, December 9 at Fourth U in the Children's Chapel: 6-8PM. If you can, bring a motivational speech.

Call or email Don for more information: donaldfarrow@yahoo.com or 212-580-6636.

The “Vagina Monologues” Is Returning!

**The “Vagina Monologues” is returning to Fourth U on April 8 and 9, 2011!
Our first planning meeting is Sunday, December 12, 12:30PM**

That’s right, after our wonderfully successful benefit performance last February (we raised \$9,000 for V-Day and our two local beneficiaries), we’re bringing back Eve Ensler’s powerful, award-winning play-that-has-become-a-movement, and we’re looking for a passionate new team of volunteers! Organized by Deborah Roth, and directed by Erin Bigelow, we will once again join the hundreds of thousands of “Vagina Warriors” around the world who have launched productions in support of V-Day -- a global movement to end violence against women and girls.

In 2009, over 5,100 V-Day benefit events took place, produced by volunteer activists in 1,400 locations in the U.S and 50 countries around the world. And over the last 11 years, the V-Day movement has raised over \$70 million and educated millions about the issue of violence against women and the efforts to end it, crafted international educational, media and PSA campaigns, launched the Karama program in the Middle East, reopened shelters, and funded over 6,000 community-based anti-violence programs and safe houses in Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Kenya, South Dakota, Egypt and Iraq. Our first planning meeting will be Sunday, December 12 at 12:30PM in the Sanctuary. If you would like to be involved, please contact Deborah Roth at 212-665-9660.

Refresh & Revive: Your Mid-Week Spiritual Break

Fourth U’s music and meditation services continue! Join Rev. Beth Putnam, Fourth U Affiliate Community Minister, for brief services of reflection built around music, poetry and silence, offered one Wednesday a month (the next on December 15) at 7PM at Fourth U. Each month will focus on a different spiritual tradition.

The upcoming topic:

- December 15—Winter Solstice
Come celebrate the solstice with chanting, song and candles.



November 2010 Donations

Sunday Plate & Financial Commitments:	\$5,053.00
Electronic Contributions:	\$1,407.05
Total Giving this Month by Members & Friends:	\$6,460.05



Pastoral Care Information

Dear Members,
 If you know of a member or friend of the Fourth U community who is in need, won't you encourage him or her to reach out? We want to help.

Your Pastoral Care Team:
 Rev. Jennifer Pader can be reached at:
 212-765-6340
 Rev. Jill Bowden can be reached at:
 845-641-4694
 If you have any questions, please call the Fourth U Office at: 212-595-1658 ext. 21.

Administrative Staff

212.595.1658

Stormy McNair, Church Administrator
Ext. 21, stormy@4thu.org

Darius Lang, Events Coordinator
Ext. 24, darius@4thu.org

Jeff Collie, Building Engineer
Ext. 23, building@4thu.org

Kenneth Galloway, Sexton
Ext. 26

Gates Thomas, Music Director
musicdirector@4thu.org

Jim Wolford, Night Manager

Pastoral Staff

The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt
Senior Minister
Ext. 22, revrose@4thu.org

The Rev. Laurel Koepf
Acting Minister of Religious Exploration
Ext. 26, MRE@4thu.org

The Rev. Julie Taylor
Acting Youth Minister
Ext. 25, YouthMinister@4thu.org

The Rev. Jill Bowden
Endorsed Community Minister
jbowden16@verizon.net

The Rev. Jennifer Pader
Affiliated Minister for Pastoral Care
jp350@mindspring.com

The Rev. Elizabeth Putnam
Endorsed Community Minister
eaputnam@gmail.com



Committees

Executive Committee of the Church Council:
Karen Chamberlain, Chair

212-749-5541

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Denominational Affairs	Ryan Novosielski	973-792-0497
Finance & Stewardship	Aaron Hamburger	212-758-2623
Ministry Advisory Council	Craig Waletzko	917-509-7419
Music	Allen Wrede	718-204-5919
Religious Exploration	Don Farrow	212-580-6636
Co-Chairs	Elizabeth Hovey	212-349-3476

Board of Trustees

Jon Arancio
President

Ryan Novosielski
Vice-President

Mark Benton
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Connie Baker
Board Member

John Bush
Board Member

Liz Daleske
Board Member

Donna Garfinkel
Board Member

The Humanism of Jesus—Friday, December 17, 7:30PM

In recognition of the season, we will view this unique film of a highly dramatic one-person play, with Joseph Ben-David playing five different roles. The play was performed for four months in New York, and it presents Jesus as a humanistic personality who challenges ancient and contemporary myths about his life and reveals his true aspirations.

Millions of people are awaiting the second coming of Jesus. Prophecies warn of wars, famine, pestilence, and other calamities that will afflict humanity at the time of his second coming. But what would people really do if Jesus returned today? We know what they did to Jesus-like personalities including Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi.

The show's thrust is against the tyrannical designs of fundamentalism and the threat of the Orwellian nightmare. It speaks out freely on some of the most critical issues of life and society.

Spiritual Life Poetry—Sunday, December 26, 12:15PM

Join Tom Kennedy and fellow congregants for a contemplative service of poetry after worship today at 12:15PM. You are welcome to bring poetry that inspires you, connects you to your spiritual life, or just come to listen.

Young Adult Brunch!

The next young adult brunch will be held Sunday, December 26 at 12:15PM. If you identify as a young adult and are interested in hearing about other forthcoming UU young adult events at Fourth U, contact Ryan Novosielski at ryan@novosielski.com.

New Moon Sister Circle—December 6, 6:30PM

The next New Moon Sister Circle will convene on Monday, December 6 at 6:30PM. Our circles provide a safe and sacred space each month to honor our connection to the Earth, to the cycles of the Moon, to our deepest selves and to one another. Call Deborah Roth at (212) 665-9660 or email dsrothny@aol.com for the theme and more information.



Fourth U Members—News and Views:

Looking for a Room to Rent

Fourth U Member Tom Albrecht is looking for a room to rent. If anyone has a bedroom that they would be willing to rent out, please contact Tom at 231-633-7080 or tomaalbrecht@gmail.com.



Check out this view of Fourth U! This vivid photo was taken by Sally and Aaron Hamburger's granddaughter, Leah Mabey, during the Thanksgiving Parade.

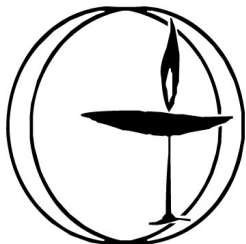




*The Fourth Universalist Society
160 Central Park West
New York, New York 10023*

A Beacon of Liberal Religion on the Upper West Side

WWW.4THU.ORG



LANDMARK SUBMISSIONS
Send *Landmark* submissions to:
Fourth Universalist Society
160 Central Park West
New York, NY 10023
Fax: 212-595-0134
Email: office@4thU.org

The deadline for the next Landmark is December 19!

