

The Landmark

JANUARY 2009



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ALL SUNDAY
SERVICES
BEGIN AT
10:45 A.M.



The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt

Life in the Spirit

It's the beginning of a New Year, and I love the symbolism that comes along with it: new calendars and datebooks, the promise of approaching spring, and the chance to begin again, if we should choose to take it. I used to make (and break) resolutions by the dozen, a habit that sometimes left me in a funk by February. But over time, I've revised my view of starting over at the start of the year—I don't make lists anymore, but identify instead a theme for the year, some idea that I hope will inspire me and give me new perspective in the next 12 months.

This year, the choice was easy: I've chosen clarity as my watchword for 2009. My inspiration comes directly from the recent visit of our Association's Director for Congregational Stewardship Services, Wayne Clark. Along with his associate, Mark Ewert, Wayne took a good look at our congregation, staff, building and ministry, and he had a lot of wonderful things to say about Fourth U and the ways we do church. He also had several things to say about the ways we could do church even better. Chief among his recommendations: we need to be much more focused and clear about who does what and why. Please

read the whole inspiring report (if you haven't already); it did my heart good to know how successful we already are, and to see concrete suggestions about things we can do to get even better!

Wayne and Mark's work with us last month renewed my own commitment to help us to grow in our clarity of role and our clarity of purpose. I hope that you will join me! Our first big opportunity to do this will come on January 25, when we embark on the revision of our Mission Statement. Make no mistake about it: that will be a full and busy Sunday, but it will be a fun Sunday, too. We'll welcome new members during the Sunday morning service; we'll have a chance to talk about this report during our quarterly congregational meeting. Best of all, led by our Ministerial Advisory Committee, we'll begin the process of crafting a Mission Statement that will inform the work and the life of our congregation in the years ahead. Food and childcare will be available, so please save the date!

In the meantime, may you and all those you love embrace this coming year with a sense of hope and possibility. I'm already clear about one thing—I'm honored and delighted to serve our liberal faith through serving all of you. Many blessings; Happy New Year.

Faithfully,

Rosemary

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Greetings from the Board President

The results are in. As many of you know, and all of you will soon learn, we met with a financial consultant from the UUA, Wayne Clark, and his colleague, Mark Ewert. They spent the weekend of December 12-14 with us, meeting with the Board, the Church Council, the Finance Committee, Rosemary and others, including those who stayed after the service that Sunday. The report on their assessment visit has been finalized, and it is now in our hands. They have asked that the report be made available to the entire congregation, and we will soon give you the opportunity to get a copy. How to address the observations, conclusions and recommendations in this document is one of the things that will be on the agenda of our next Congregational Meeting, scheduled for January 25. I hope you will be there to

weigh in.

There is another reason I hope you will be there. One of the big projects we have planned for this year is a revision of our Mission Statement. The Ministerial Advisory Council has been tasked with this, and will work with the congregation to draw up a new document. While it may be tempting to view this as a tempest in a teacup, the Mission Statement is a direct reflection of who we are as a congregation, and how we wish to present ourselves to the community. In conference after conference, we have heard this refrain: make sure everything you do as a church is in the service of your mission. Happy Holidays!

Matt Gilbert
President, Board of Trustees

A Message From Denominational Affairs

As you may remember from our congregational meeting earlier this year, delegates of the 2008 General Assembly selected "Ethical Eating" as our 2008-2012 Congregational Study Action Issue. While I would urge us take interest in most aspects of denominational life, this CSAI is one I think we can get particularly excited about.

The idea of eating ethically is one that has a broad meaning. To one UU, it might mean the humane treatment of animals for human consumption or eating no animal products at all. To another, it might mean eating only sustainably farmed produce, or foods prepared by workers that were compensated fairly. Another still might consider how many people go hungry on a daily basis in a country like ours with a serious obesity problem. One could even consider the environmental

effects of the serving materials or cups sometimes used at coffee hour. This is an issue we can all have a personal connection with because, as Rev. Rosemary put it to me recently, we all have to eat!

The UUA has recently published a document called the "Ethical Eating Study Guide" to help congregations talk about ethical eating and what it means to them. You can download a copy at <http://uua.org/socialjustice/>.

I hope you will join us in the new year as we start to talk about this issue at Fourth U. Please contact me if you have any specific ideas for how you'd like to participate in this conversation.

Ryan Novosielski
Chair, Denominational Affairs Committee

January 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "Challenge of 100 Things"	5	6	7 Board Meeting 7 pm	8 Spirituality of Leadership 6:30 pm	9	10 New Member Class 12:00 pm
11 Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "Dreams Fulfilled" Worship Conversation 12:30 pm	12	13	14	15	16 Humanist Meeting 7 p.m.	17
18 Rev. Jill Bowden & Robert Martin "Ministry as a Life Vocation"	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "World 2.0" New Member Sunday Congregational Meeting 12:30 p.m. Mission Statement Workshop 2:30 p.m.	26 New Moon Circle 7 pm	27	28	29	30	31

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
& MEMBER
EVENTS**



Please refer to the calendar on page 3 for exact times and dates for our recurring member events!



New Member Class Scheduled for Jan. 10, 12 Noon

Have you been coming to Fourth U for a while now? We'd love to invite you to take the next step—becoming a member of our liberal religious community. Our next New Member Sunday celebration is January 25, and we'd like to welcome you!

If you're new to Unitarian Universalism, or it's been a while since you've been part of our free faith, this New Member class on Jan. 10, 12 Noon will help ground you in the history of our faith as well as this historic congregation. You'll learn about the privileges and responsibilities of member-

ship, and hear from Rev. Rosemary and other congregational leaders about the many ways you can become more involved in community life. This two-hour class will include a light lunch, so please call Alex in the church office (212-595-1658, x21) to let us know you're coming, so we'll have enough for everyone.

If you are already a Unitarian Universalist who simply wants to transfer your membership, you're welcome to attend this class or, alternatively, feel free to make an appointment with Rev. Rosemary for a conversation. In either case, we're looking forward to seeing you.

Speaking of Worship:

A Congregational Conversation Begins Jan. 11

It's been a fascinating fall, with a new structure for Sunday services as well as new worship opportunities. Now that we've had some months to experience the changes, it's time to take stock, to reflect on our worship life together, and to talk about what's working well and what isn't. You're invited to join the conversation at 12:30 p.m. on Sun., January 11 in the sanctuary.

This informal meeting will include selected members of our

Worship Arts Study Group, Ministerial Advisory Committee and Board of Trustees, as well as Rev. Rosemary and affiliate ministers. Both members and friends are welcomed and encouraged to come and participate! We are especially interested in hearing about your experience of worship, both week to week, and over time throughout the fall. Your reflections will provide Rev. Rosemary with important information as she continues to shape Fourth U's worship experiences. Please come and let us know your thoughts!

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Humanist Meeting on January 16 at 7 p.m.

The Life and Struggle of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Join us for a SPECIAL PRIVATE SHOWING of a thought-provoking film about Bonhoeffer, a young German theologian who offered one of the first clear voices of resistance to Nazism and who eventually joined his family in plots to kill Hitler. Bonhoeffer openly challenged his church to stand with the Jews in their time of need. After two years

in jail, he was hanged by the Nazis on April 9, 1945, less than a month before the end of the war.

Held at:

The Fourth Universalist Society
4 West 76 Street, New York, NY
(76th St. entrance)

Sponsored by the Church of Humanism. All are invited. There is no charge.

Information: 212-877-5662
www.humanistfoundation.org.

Congregational Meeting on January 25, 12:30 p.m.

All members, please clear your calendars. The next Congregational Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary

at 12:30 p.m. on January 25. A letter will go out early this month listing the items on the agenda.

Mission Statement Workshop on January 25, 2:30 p.m.

The Ministerial Advisory Council is having a workshop on January 25 to get input on the revision of our Mission Statement. The Council will seek to send out a questionnaire this month to focus the conversation.

Then, we will explore your ideas more fully, and lay the foundation for the new statement. Once we have heard from everyone, we will craft the new statement and present it to the congregation in the Spring.

Call For Performers!

Interweave, Fourth U's GLBT advocacy group is looking for church members, friends and even friends of friends to donate their talent to our Valentine's Day Variety Cabaret Benefit.

Our "Divine Drag and Outrageous Talent Cabaret" will be held Saturday, February 14 from 8-10 m. Short upbeat songs, dances, comedy skits

are all welcome.

Drag is an option — not a requirement! Our ticket sales will go toward Fourth U's GLBT outreach projects including the Trinity Place Shelter for homeless GLBT youth.

Please contact our Cabaret Director, Allen Wrede, at allenwrede@yahoo.com or 718-204-5919 for details.

The Vagina Monologues at Fourth U on April 4th!

That's right, Eve Ensler's powerful, award-winning-play-that-has-become-a-movement will be presented right here at Fourth Universalist this Spring and we're looking for a passionate team of volunteers! Organized by Deborah Roth, and directed by Nancy Robilliard, we will 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. Over the last 10 years, the V-Day movement has raised over \$60 million and

educated millions about the issue of violence against women and the efforts to end it, reopened shelters, and funded over 6000 community-based anti-violence programs and safe houses in Democratic Republic Of Congo, Haiti, Kenya, South Dakota, Egypt and Iraq. Watch the Order of Service for the dates of our next planning meeting and auditions in January, or contact Deborah Roth at 212-665-9660 or dsrothny@aol.com for more information. Women and men of all ages are invited to participate!

A Word from the Worship Arts Committee

The Worship Arts Committee has added something new to Sunday worship; a Pictorial Order of Service. The Pictorial Order of Service is a simplified Order of Service that uses pictures and icons which represent the flow of the service. It also provides space on the front and back to interact visually with the topic of the day's worship. The Pictorial Order of Service is not just for kids, but also for anyone who would benefit from larger print, who is not comfortable with written English or who would like to interact

with the service visually. For the kids, there will be crayons available to allow for coloring and drawing. The Pictorial Order of Service allows congregants to participate with the service more fully regardless of age or ability to follow written English. If you don't see them when you get your hymnal, just ask the ushers. This is one more way Fourth U is working to expand worship to be welcoming to all.

Julie Taylor
Chair, Worship Arts

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:

Donna Garfinkel can be reached at 212-662-6375, Rev. Pader can be reached at: 212-765-6340. Rev. 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.

Please refer to the calendar on page 3 for exact times and dates for our recurring member events!

Who's Who

Administrative Staff

212.595.1658

Lois Briggs, *Administrator*
Ext. 25, loismarie@4thu.org

Kathryn Marrow, *Bookkeeper*
Ext. 25, bookkeeper@4thu.org

Alexander Glass, *Office Manager*
Ext. 21, office@4thu.org

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

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

Sexton
Ext. 26

Jim Wolford, *Night Manager*

Pastoral Staff

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

The Rev. Ed Bolella
Endorsed Community Minister
ebolella@webtv.net

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:

Lois Coleman, Chair 646-924-6466

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Communications	Robert McNatt	646-698-5078
Denominational Affairs	Ryan Novosielski	973-792-0497
Faith-in-Action	Claudia Flanagan	212-533-2807
Finance & Stewardship	Liz Wolfe	646-334-9427
Hospitality/Coffee Hour	Spencer Salzberg	718-757-6110
	Claudia Lorie	212-706-8884
Interweave	Ashley Burczak	646-369-8929
Membership	Sally Hamburger	212-758-2623
Ministry Advisory Council	Craig Waletzko	917-509-7419
Music	Alan Wrede	718-204-5919
Nominating	Spiritt Taylor	212-865-3712
Pastoral Care	Donna Garfinkel	212-662-6375
Religious Education	Don Farrow	212-580-6636
Co-Chairs	Elizabeth Hovey	212-349-3476
Worship Arts	Gordon Bailey	646-533-8283
	Julie Taylor	646-552-5980

Board of Trustees

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The Fourth Universalist Society
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Send *Landmark* submissions to:
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Fax: 212-595-0134
Email: office@4thU.org

The deadline for the next Landmark is January 19!

