



**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 February 20!**



# The Landmark

FEBRUARY 2009



WWW.4THU.ORG

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



The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt

## Life in the Spirit

I'm writing this column on a weekday morning between the two memorial services honoring the death of my father in law, Isaac McNatt. It's snowy and gray, which seems fitting somehow. Winter is the hardest season, in weather and in life, and though I try always to be aware of that as your minister, these last few weeks have renewed my understanding of it in my own life.

Sooner or later, we lose all that we love, and many times we live our lives in fear of those losses. But we are not meant to live life in fear, but in purpose and in joy, and so we struggle to strike a balance between shielding ourselves from the pain of this world and moving forward to embrace and to participate in the life of this world. It's easier to strike that balance when we are not alone, when we have friends and family, colleagues and companions on the journey. Life, with all its sadness and all of its pleasure, is more fully lived in community, and I especially believe that we live more fully in religious community than we do on our own.

Several of us here at Fourth U are in what some folks call "the sandwich season" of our lives: we are caring for

children of differing ages, as well as our elderly parents or other family members. Some of us have finished our child-rearing, but are still tending to our parents' needs. And some of us are faithful friends to people in our lives who need us intensely. Wherever we are on the continuum, it can be a hard and isolating and lonely thing to be a caregiver, to commit so faithfully to love.

Please know that you are not alone in your struggles. Our pastoral staff is ready to support you as you navigate whatever winter is occurring in your life right now; just give us a call, and allow us to help. And if you are a member of our community who is willing to join in the pastoral ministry at Fourth U, Donna Garfinkle, who heads our lay pastoral care team, would welcome your call.

For all of you who have called, sent emails and written notes to Bob and the rest of our family, thank you for your sensitivity and kindness. You have made a sad time in our lives less sad, and have reminded us why people seek out a religious home. In your care for us, and your care for each other, you reflect brilliantly the Greater Love that always holds us, and never leaves us, even in the depths of winter.

Faithfully,  
 Rosemary

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## Greetings from the Board President

It may just be my own perception, but it seems that the level of involvement at church has been quite high recently. A great number of people participated in the assessment visit by Wayne Clark, Director of Congregational Stewardship Services of the UUA.

Many also participated in the meeting about how we lead our worship services, the recent congregational meeting (in which we discussed Wayne's report), and the meeting led by the Ministerial Advisory Council about rewriting our mission statement.

The upcoming performance of the Vagina Monologues has had an outpouring of interest, and Sunday attendance is up. Our new member Sunday was well attended and added vibrant new members to our community.

What all of this demonstrates is the commitment of our members and friends to our community. There is no better time for this than now, as we are rapidly approaching the season of our annual budget drive.

I'm surprised to watch myself type this (I'm not someone who is comfortable talking about money), but I'm actually looking forward to this year's campaign. We will be taking a new approach to fundraising which will be far more grassroots than previous drives.

Volunteers will be trained as "stewards" who will have one-on-one conversations with other members and friends about our personal financial commitment to Fourth U. I will be one of these volunteers, and I hope everyone will consider becoming one as well.

Matt Gilbert

## Mission Statement Update — Meeting Recap

Thanks to all who stayed behind after service last week for our Mission Statement Workshop. Twenty-three of you joined Ministerial Advisory Committee members Bob Kreisler, Kimberly Steinhorn, Kate Hinds and Craig Waletzko along with Rev. McNatt in the next phase of creating the new Fourth U Mission Statement.

Last month, members received a series of questions in the Order of Service. These questions centered on personal visions of Fourth U, and the answers were categorized and posted. Participants were then divided into several small groups and worked together to answer another series of questions centered on group vision for the church. After each group shared and posted their answers, the groups incorporated both the personal and group vision responses into several first-draft mission statements.

These first drafts are wonderful, thoughtful, wide-ranging statements that get to the heart of who we are and where we're going. The MAC's next job is to take these drafts created by the membership and condense them into one final document which will be submitted to the board for approval. Upon board approval, it will be presented for an up-or-down vote at the congregational meeting in June.

Thanks again to all who participated in the workshop and all those who filled in the initial questionnaire. Your participation is a vital part of the democratic process as we work together to lead Fourth U into a vibrant future.

Craig Waletzko  
Ministry Advisory Council

## 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

Committee	Chairperson	Telephone
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

**Matthew Gilbert**  
*President*

**Karen Chamberlain**  
*Vice-President*

**Phyllis Stock-Morton**  
*Parish Clerk*

**Bob Jones**  
*Treasurer*

**Greg Severance**  
*Board Member*

**Jon Arancio**  
*Board Member*

**Ryan Novosielski**  
*Board Member*

## Calling All Campers

Time for Fourth Universalist Campers (and prospective staff) to apply to Camp Unirondack for Summer 2009.

Offering your child a chance to spend time at Camp Unirondack this coming summer is a gift indeed. Our highly skilled and talented staff turn our beautiful niche in the Adirondack Mountains into the home of a loving and affirming community where young people can collectively practice Unitarian Universalist values. We offer week-long sessions that are specifically tailored to meet the needs of age groups of children entering grades 4-9. Workshops and activities that blend education, creativity, skill-building and silliness are offered throughout the day.

Surrounded by woods, a lake of unsurpassed beauty, an athletic field that stretches the length of the camp, and rustic Adirondack-style buildings, campers can't help but be inspired to connect with the web of life. The Unirondack leadership is dedicated to

## Kateri Home Service

Fourth U conducts a worship service for the residents of this nursing home on the first and third Saturday of every month. If you are interested in

## 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.

offering a unique UU outdoor experience that often leaves campers feeling it was the best time of their lives.

If your child is a prospective camper, you can find registration forms and more details at [www.unirondack.org](http://www.unirondack.org)

If your teenager or young adult is interested in working as staff (minimum age 18 for counselors and age 16 for kitchen and maintenance staff) please have them explore the summer employment page on our website. Adults are invited to apply for positions also, including Waterfront Director, Cook and Art Shop Director.

All applicants can download an application form, fill it out and email/mail it back to the Directors at [director@unirondack.org](mailto:director@unirondack.org) or at our off-season address:

Unirondack  
P.O. Box 795  
Nyack, NY 10960

helping out, please contact Robert Martin at 212-580-7782. Kateri is located at 151 Riverside Drive (at 87<sup>th</sup> St).

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!

<h1>February 2009</h1>						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <small>Rev. Jill Bowden</small> "Bad Words" <small>Vagina Monologues Meeting 12:30 pm</small>	2	3	4 <small>Board Meeting 7 pm</small>	5	6	7 <small>Kateri Worship</small>
8 <small>Julie Taylor</small> "The Web of Covenant" <small>Vagina Monologues Auditions</small>	9	10	11	12	13	14 <small>Divine Drag and Outrageous Talent Cabaret 8:00 pm</small>
15 <small>Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt</small> "What Love Has to Do With It"	16	17	18 <small>Finance Committee Meeting 6 pm</small>	19 <small>Spirituality of Leadership 6:30 pm</small>	20 <small>Humanist Meeting 7:00 p.m.</small>	21 <small>Kateri Worship</small>
22 <small>Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt</small> "Darwin's Religious Adventures"	23	24	25	26	27	28

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
& MEMBER  
EVENTS**



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

**Next "Vagina Monologues" meeting on February 1 at 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary**

We now have an enthusiastic team of thirty Vagina Warriors, including several who heard about us from the V-DAY website. Our next planning meeting will take place on February 1 at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Anyone who has completed an application has received the group email list by now, but it's not too late to participate -- you can contact Deborah Roth at 212-665-9660 or dsrothny@aol.com for more information.

**IMPORTANT DATES for The Vagina Monologues:**  
Performance of TVM –  
Saturday, April 4 8:00 p.m.

Planning meetings –  
Sunday, February 1, 12:30 p.m.  
(children's chapel downstairs)

Auditions –  
Sunday, February 8 1:00 p.m.

Rehearsals (mandatory) –  
Sunday, March 1 (Time TBD)  
Sunday, March 15 (Time TBD)

Dress rehearsal  
Friday, April 3 (Time TBD) (in gym unless sanctuary is available)

**\*\* All meetings and rehearsals (as well as the performance) will take place in the sanctuary unless otherwise indicated.**

**Divine Drag and Outrageous Talent Cabaret on February 14, at 8 p.m.**

Coming Soon to a Church Near You!

Join us this Valentine's Day for "Divine Drag and Outrageous Talent Cabaret," a fabulous, family-friendly night. Performers from the Fourth U community (including many of our children!) and beyond will wow us with a night of music, dance, poetry and more.

A bar and snacks will be available, and all proceeds will

benefit Trinity Place, a shelter for LGBT youth and Interweave, a Fourth Universalist committee devoted to gaining civil rights for LGBT people and celebrating Fourth U's LGBT members. The night promises to be a celebration of life and love, just in time for Valentine's!

Come meet that special someone or to celebrate with the someone(s) already in your life.



**A Message From the Finance Committee**

What interesting times we live in! I know for myself that I fluctuate back and forth between exhilaration about the change in our government to anxiety surrounding the enormity of the economic collapse.

It's natural that these emotions would apply to our church life as well. On the one hand, we had an absolutely amazing and successful auction in the fall, raising just over \$21,000. With this money we will renovate our children's chapel, donate \$2,100 to The Wedding Party, and fulfill a large part of our fundraising goal for this year's budget. On the other hand, pledge donations are down from recent years, and with the economy faltering, our rental income is uncertain.

This is the time of year when we prepare for the annual appeal to our congregants to make a monetary commitment to our church life. What we've known in the past as the "pledge" drive has a new name: the Annual Budget Drive. This and many other changes that you'll be hearing about is coming because we've received a grant from the UUA to hire Wayne Clark, Director of Congregational Stewardship Services for the UUA, to lead us in the appeal effort this year.

One of the important concepts that he'll be bringing to the forefront is the idea of fair share giving. Fourth U has proudly been a fair share congregation in our commitment to the UUA for many years. However, our own pledge donations consistently fall short of fair share giving. While the average pledge in UU congregations is around \$1,500, ours is \$950, with a median of only \$600. This year, rather than focus on the amount of your pledge, we ask you to refer to the fair share giving guide we'll be providing. If we all raise our consciousness around fair share giving, we'll all be better off.

How do we reconcile giving more to Fourth U in a year of such economic uncertainty? Deepak Chopra wrote, "The universe operates through dynamic exchange... The more you give, the more you will receive because you will keep the abundance of the universe circulating in your life." We hope you will take this to heart when you consider what your financial commitment will be to Fourth U in the 2009/2010 fiscal year.

In abundance,  
Liz Wolfe  
Finance Committee Chair

**Central Park Liberante Walk**

The first Sunday of each month, folks from Fourth U meet at 9 am in front of the church. This circular walk through Central Park starts at the front doors of Fourth U, with a stop at Strawberry Fields, breakfast at the boathouse (about \$5), a visit to the Tree of Life, the Rock of

Ages, and a trip through the Ramble, exiting at 78th Street in time for Sunday morning service.

For more info contact Tom Kennedy 212.362.2010 or tom-fox2535@aol.com.

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