

# The Landmark

MARCH 2009



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



The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt

## Life in the Spirit

The best part of winter, to my mind, is the idea that spring will surely come. Spring is my kind of season, perhaps because I was a spring baby, perhaps because it is the season of new life, and another opportunity to refresh and renew ourselves. Or perhaps it is simply my Universalist sensibility—I'll take any opportunity to begin again! Whatever the inspiration, I am feeling spring-like and re-newed. There is lots of renewing work going on here at Fourth U. The Ministerial Advisory Committee is poring over your deep, rich, and fascinating responses to its mission statement workshop. The Worship Study Group and Worship Arts Committee are refashioning our Sunday mornings with an eye toward your comments from January's worship conversation. Most important to me, however, is the faithful work of our leadership around what is now known as our Annual Budget Drive.

All of us will have an opportunity to learn more about this cultural change about money and stewardship, thanks to the good work of our Finance Chair, Liz Wolfe. Partnering with Liz Daleske, Aaron Hamburger and Pam Plate, these four members comprise the Annual Budget Drive team, and they are inviting all of us to learn more about this new move toward greater generosity at Fourth U. Our UUA financial consultant, Mark Ewert, will be joining us here on the weekend of

March 7th and 8th for information sessions about the Budget Drive. I urge everyone to attend one of these sessions, not only to learn more about this shift in our financial lives, but to discover whether you would like to be part of that shift by becoming a steward in this year's campaign.

The very idea of engaging in a conversation about money with other Fourth U members and friends might make you nervous, and that's ok. Any change in the way we do things here can make us all a bit nervous. But Mark has promised to speak candidly and with encouragement about what a difference any one of us can make by telling the stories of our love for Fourth U and helping others to express their love for our religious home by giving generously.

I'll have a lot more to say about this year's Annual Budget Drive in the coming weeks, but allow me to leave you with this thought, one I will repeat throughout this season. We are living in a time that requires real discernment; we must make good choices about where we will invest our time, talent and treasure. I continue to believe with all my heart that the best investment each one of us can make is the investment in the liberal religious community we love, the spiritual home that uplifts us and upholds us. I hope you'll join me in that investment, with all the generosity you can bring.

Faithfully,  
Rosemary

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## Greetings from the Board President

One of Fourth U's deepest concerns is how we raise our children. In the excerpt from Charles Darwin's autobiography read during Rosemary's Darwin service, Darwin recognized that beliefs with which we are raised can have profound influences on our world view, beliefs which may be resistant to change even in the face of contradictory evidence.

The challenge to liberal religious people is how to raise children with our values, without impressing upon them our beliefs, which they must develop on their own. We don't expect our children to believe what we believe, but what they believe. One of our biggest decisions in the coming months is the selection of a new settled Director of Religious Education.

The Board has recently established a search committee to fill this position. The RE committee and our parents are still in

the middle of a difficult year without a DRE, and now have one more burden to bear. As we approach the Annual Budget Drive, I hope you will remember that the selection and hiring of a DRE is not just a spiritual decision, but a financial commitment as well.

We pride ourselves on being a multigenerational congregation, but after Not For Children Only during services, it can be easy to forget the children are there, as their religious exploration classes do not recess until 12:30.

Let us remember that our children are always with us, even if they are not present, and remember our commitment to them when we review our financial commitment to the work and mission of Fourth U.

Matt Gilbert

## It's Time to Think about General Assembly

Many of you may have participated in the recent congregational poll to decide whether or not to consider the Draft Statement of Conscience on the subject of Peacemaking. As springtime nears, it is time for Fourth U to start to consider its delegates to our district's Annual Meeting and the UUA General Assembly.

While we would consider May and June to be the end of the church year, the larger scale denominational activities are just getting started. The Metro NY District's annual meeting is a great place to get your feet wet with denominational connections without having to travel very far. This year's meeting will take place right across the river in Jersey City. See <http://uumetrony.org/am09> for more information on how to register.

In June, we have the largest annual gathering of UU's -- General Assembly --

being held this year in Salt Lake City. As per the UUA, "General Assemblies shall make overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association and shall direct and control its affairs.

"Voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by accredited delegates from certified member congregations, certified associate member organizations, and trustees." At GA, not only do we further the work of our denomination, but one can meet a lot of great fellow UU's and share ideas in a way in which we are not often able.

If you would like to be considered for selection as a delegate for Fourth U to either of these events, please contact me if you have not done so already.

Ryan Novosielski

Chair, Denominational Affairs Committee

# March 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "The Power of Women" Newcomer Orientation Interweave Meeting &amp; Vagina Monologues Rehearsal 12:30 pm</p>	2	3	<p>4</p> <p>Board Meeting 7 pm</p>	5	6	<p>7</p> <p>Kateri Worship</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Rev. Michelle Nickens "It's a Woman Thing"</p>	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "Sandwiched"</p>	16	17	18	<p>19</p> <p>Spirituality of Leadership 6:30 pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Humanist Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Kateri Worship</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "What Really Counts" Commitment Sunday  Congo Teach-In 12:30 p.m.</p>	23	24	25	<p>26</p> <p>New Moon Circle 6:30 pm</p>	27	<p>28</p> <p>Dance Party 8:00 pm</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "Food for the Journey"</p>	30	31				

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
& MEMBER  
EVENTS**



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



## **Stewards Needed for Annual Budget Drive: Orientation Meeting on March 8 at 1 p.m.**

Something new and promising is in the works at Fourth U – it's our renamed, restructured Annual Budget Drive (ABD). In follow-up to December's UUA Assessment visit and thanks to a generous UUA grant, Fourth U's ABD for 2009/10 will follow the "Visiting Steward" model and strive for "Fair Share Giving" in our individual financial commitments to Fourth U.

Mark Ewert, our UUA Stewardship Consultant, will train visiting stewards, who will then initiate fellowship conversations with Fourth U members and friends. These conversations are an opportunity to exchange our stories – what Fourth U means in our lives, and what we want from and for its future. In effect, every member and friend, not just those in leadership roles, is a steward of Fourth U, and the Visiting Steward

model reflects that community commitment.

Our personal involvement and investment in Fourth U give us each an opportunity to determine its future. Think what we can accomplish if we all contribute our fair share. That is the philosophy behind Fair Share Giving, and we hope that you will join us in embracing this opportunity to support the sacred values that we all share.

You are invited to attend the Visiting Steward workshop to learn more about how to take part in our Annual Budget Drive, on Sunday, March 8th, from 1-3:30. Lunch will be served, and childcare will be provided on request.

To let us know you can be there, or for more information, please contact one of the ABD Co-Chairs: Liz Daleske (lizdaleske@gmail.com -- 212-280-0736) or Liz Wolfe (lwolfe@wintecgroup.com).

## **Join The Humanist Group On March 20, 7:00 p.m.**

**Zionism and the Israel/Palestine  
Conflict--**

**A Compassionate Assessment**

The Jewish and the Muslim people have a glorious history. Could the present Israel/Palestine conflict ever be truly resolved? A resounding "YES!" says our speaker, the Rev. Joseph Ben-David.

To the surprise of many, he doesn't see the solution in the application of violence, or even non-violence. He emphasizes that only their common, shared humanity can be the catalyst for the resolution of the conflict.

After living under the early Nazi occupation in Czechoslovakia, Ben-David lived in Palestine and Israel where he was a conscientious objector in the Israeli army medical corps. A close friend of the Muslim Qadi of Haifa, Ben-David founded the Society of the Lovers of Jerusalem. He is a co-chair of the New York Association for Religious Freedom and a member of the Fourth U.

Information: 212-877-5662.

Email: Humfriend@aol.com

Web site: Churchofhumanism.org

On YOUTUBE put in search: Ben-David Humanist

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

## Dance! Dance! Revolution — UU Style

The annual dance party hosted by the Narwhals will take place in the sanctuary at Fourth U on March 28 at 8:00 p.m. The vocalists with this exciting R&B cover band are Tom Sahagian, Fourth U's energy consultant, and Birdy Sahagian, daughter of Tom, and also of Lois Coleman, Fourth U's webmaster and Church Council chair.

The Narwhals provide munchies, soft drinks and — best of all —

live music for your dancing and listening pleasure. Adult beverages are BYOB.

To cover the cost of renting this terrific venue, there is a suggested donation of \$10 for each person 13 and over. Kids are welcome, so feel free to bring the entire family. For more information, contact Lois Coleman at [lois.coleman@gmail.com](mailto:lois.coleman@gmail.com).

## Congo Teach-In at Fourth U on March 22 at 12:30 p.m.

Want to work to end sexual atrocities against women and girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo? In preparation for our April 4th production of *The Vagina Monologues* here at Fourth U, and to show our opposition to violence against women in the DRC and elsewhere, please join Rev. Rosemary and other Vagina Warriors

for a Congo Teach-In on Sunday, March 22 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fourth U sanctuary.

Learn how you can lend your voice to the effort to protect women and girls in this war-torn region of the world. We look forward to seeing and working with you!

## 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 [tomfox2535@aol.com](mailto:tomfox2535@aol.com).

## 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

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

## Interweave Thanks Fourth U for a Great Valentine's Day

This past Valentine's Day, our group held its first fundraiser- a "Divine Drag and Outrageous Talent Cabaret" benefit drew many people from our congregation and from outside. Hopes were exceeded! Our beautiful sanctuary glowed in candlelight. Twinkle lights flickered as our church became transformed into a merry, cabaret hall. Enthusiastic bartenders and greeters welcomed visitors. Black-attired stagehands accomplished daunting technical tasks. Our talented Director, Allen Wrede not only performed two numbers, but put together a rousing night of entertainment. Performers included delightful drag artists, dancers, singers and even a sensuously undulating belly dancer. Our emcee, Anastasia aka Jim Saslow captivated us in what had to be the most original tiara ever worn in a church.



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



## 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.

Minister Rosemary even joined in, reading poetry. When the show ended, 70's disco music filled our sanctuary inspiring people to dance. We raised over 1,200 dollars! That night, one of our newer Interweave members remarked that she had been involved with Interweave groups at other churches and was so surprised and delighted to find out that not all of our members are gay. She had never encountered this before. But that is exactly in the spirit of all of us here at Fourth U. We are not gay, straight, bi or trans congregants. We are one in our advocacy of civil rights for all. Our congregation surely has this to be proud of! Thank you all.

Interweave is a network of UU GLBT advocacy groups with chapters in UU congregations from coast to coast. Fourth U's own Interweave started a little more than a year ago. We are a group of Fourth U members and friends, of all sexual orientations working together towards equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

Claudia Lorie  
Chair, Interweave Committee

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.

# 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*

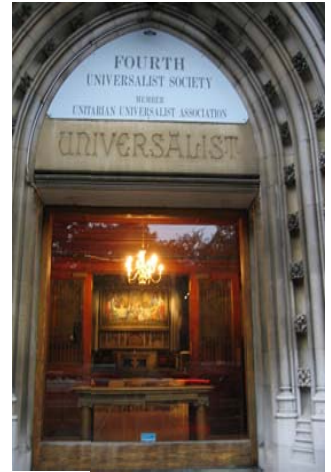
## Pastoral Staff

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

**The Rev. 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

**Matthew Gilbert**  
*President*

**Karen Chamberlain**  
*Vice-President*

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

**Bob Jones**  
*Treasurer*

**Greg Severance**  
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**Jon Arancio**  
*Board Member*

**Ryan Novosielski**  
*Board Member*



**The Fourth Universalist Society**  
**160 Central Park West**  
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*A Beacon of Liberal Religion on the Upper West Side*

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160 Central Park West  
New York, NY 10023  
Fax: 212-595-0134  
Email: office@4thU.org

***The deadline for the next Landmark is March 20!***

