

The Landmark

MAY 2009



WWW.4THU.ORG

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



The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt

Life in the Spirit

As far as I'm concerned, May is a great month for presents. It's the month I was born in, so I can count on birthday presents, and within several days of that, it's Mother's Day, so I often feel doubly blessed. Only my son Daniel reaps similar benefits—his birthday comes five days before Christmas!

This May, however, I started thinking about the gifts I wish I could give our religious community. I ruled out the more directive presents I'd probably give just because I think you ought to have them, and concentrated instead on the gifts I wish we had because I think we'd really enjoy them. What did I come up with?

- a vibrant small-group ministry that involved everyone in the congregation, based on a combination of affinity groups (parents of teenagers, single people, etc.) and general spirituality

- adult religious education that focused on multiracial, multicultural history and theology
- a concert series that brought forward a variety of musical styles for the benefit of our whole community.
- monthly dinners at the church that let us eat together and be together.

Any of these activities would be a wonderful addition to our lives together; all of them would be an extraordinary gift. What might it take to give these things to each other? Only your willing hands and hearts. If these are gifts you'd like to help me give Fourth U—if you think you could help to organize or support these activities—please email or call me. Let's gather together to bring new blessings to our religious community.

Faithfully,
Rosemary

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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.

Greetings from the Board President

In a city of concrete and steel, it is good to have refuges in nature. Central Park is one, and one we are fortunate to have as a neighbor. As a science teacher, I spend the school year talking to my students about the natural world, and then spend much of the summer out enjoying it. Not everyone has this cushy a schedule, if you can really call it cushy – I learned in my first year that summer vacation is not for the children, but for the teachers! The 4th U community provides an opportunity to enjoy nature in at least two ways: the Meditations on Transcendence walks in Central Park, led by Tom Kennedy, Jill Bowden, Beth Putnam and others, and the annual Fourth U retreat in Connecticut.

Unitarian Universalism, more than most faith traditions, honors our connection to the

natural world. While many religions portray nature as something to be feared, or conquered, or as an “other,” we see ourselves as integral parts of nature, and kin to all life. The retreat provides an opportunity to experience a slice of the natural world at a charming church camp in the woods, complete with a small lake. It is a great chance to get to know one another better, and spend time relaxing in a tranquil setting. My co-planners, Kelly Lefebvre and Kate Siepert, will present a workshop which we hope will connect us more with one another and our own theologies. I hope you will join us.

Matt Gilbert,
President, Board of Trustees

Share Your Fourth U and UU Stories on May 17 at 12:30 p.m.

Recently members of the congregation have shared their wonderful stories about their lives at Fourth U and as Unitarian Universalists during Sunday services. We want to hear from more of you and to share your experiences with others, both church members and those seeking a spiritual home, on our website. The 4th U Communications Committee plans to video record church members telling their stories, which will be edited into short segments, each of a minute or so, to be posted on 4thu.org starting late this summer.

We have set aside time from 12:30 to 2:30 on May 17 for our own filmmaker William Pace to video record your story. We want to hear what aspects of your life with

us are most important -- the spiritual, the multicultural community, the religious education, the commitment to social justice or the fun and community. We want to hear why you chose Fourth U, why you are a Unitarian Universalist, what drew you to us and what keeps you here.

So plan to join us to make your story made available to others on our website. We will meet on May 17 at 12:30 p.m. behind the altar. Lunch will be provided. Children are welcome to participate with their parents. Mark your calendars now!

May 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>3</p> <p>Nature Walk 9:00 a.m. Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "Our Godless Roots" Budget Review Newcomer Orientation 12:30 p.m.</p>	4	5	<p>6</p> <p>Board Meeting 7 pm</p>	7	<p>1</p> <p>District Annual Meeting</p> <hr/> <p>8</p>	<p>2</p> <p>District Annual Meeting</p> <hr/> <p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "Loving Susan Boyle"</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	12	13	14	<p>15</p> <p>Humanist Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	16
<p>17</p> <p>Nature Walk 9:00 a.m. Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "Our Multiracial Future" Auction Planning Meeting 12:30 p.m.</p>	18	19	<p>20</p> <p>Refresh & Revive: Meditation Service 7:00 p.m.</p>	21	22	<p>23</p> <p>Kateri Worship</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Rev. Elizabeth Putnam "We Gather In Memory"</p>	25	<p>26</p> <p>New Moon Circle 6:30 p.m.</p>	27	28	29	<p>30</p> <p>New Member Class 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "Things We Ought to Know"</p>						

ANNOUNCEMENTS & MEMBER EVENTS



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

New Member Class on Saturday, May 30 at 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 June 14, 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 May 30, 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 membership, 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. In either case, we're looking forward to seeing you.

Spring Break: Meditations on Transcendence

Come walk in nature, reflecting and meditating on the words of Transcendentalist writers in New York's version of nature's cathedral, Central Park.

There will be meditation walks on four Sundays, at 9:00 a.m. beginning at Fourth U on the corner of 76th Street and Central Park

West, and ending back at Fourth U before 10:45 a.m. So you can be back for the Sunday service to deepen your worship experience.

May 3rd - Henry David Thoreau (lead by Tom Kennedy)

May 17th - Maria Mitchell (co-lead by Jill Bowden and Tom Kennedy)

Humanist Meeting on Friday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Jan Hus, Jan Amos Comenius, Thomas Garrigue Masaryk, and Vaclav Havel. Learn about the life-enhancing ideas and profound humanistic struggles of these unique Czech personalities, and their significance in the world today.

The speaker and moderator, Rev. Joseph Ben-David, was born in Prague. His father, a Czech patriot, gave the signal that started the revolutionary demonstration throughout the city in October 1918, at the time of the creation of

the Czechoslovak Republic. Ben-David is an ordained Minister of the Czech Unitarian Society, and a life-long, leading humanist activist.

Please join us. All are welcome.

Sponsored by the Church of Humanism - Held at: The Fourth Universalist Society, please use 76th St. entrance. Information: 212-877-5662. Email: Humfriend@aol.com Web site: Churchofhumanism.org

On YOUTUBE put in search the words: Ben-David Humanist



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

Refresh and Revive: Your Mid-Week Spiritual Break

Fourth U's music and meditation services return! Join co-leaders Rev. Beth Putnam, Fourth U Affiliate Community Minister, and Tom McGinnis, Fourth U Music Director, for brief services of reflection built around music, poetry and silence offered one Wednesday a month at 7:00 pm at Fourth U.

Each month will focus on a different spiritual tradition; here are the topics for this spring:

May 20th – Islam is a tradition with

many strands, Sufism is often called the mystical tradition of Islam. Sufi's all over the world practice meditation through movement, poetry and music. Come explore this rich tradition through poetry and music.

June 17th – Earth-based traditions can connect us to a sense of our place in time and space, especially by focusing our attention on the changes in the world around us. The Summer Solstice celebrates the beginning of summer, come celebrate with chants and reflection.

Fourth U Auction Meeting On May 17 at 12:30 p.m.

The 4th Annual Fourth U auction will be held on Saturday, November 22, and we are starting to plan for it. Help us pick the theme for our auction! Come to our next planning meeting on Sun-

day, May 17, at 12:30 PM. We welcome your input and/or your volunteer commitment, to help us make the 2009 auction the best one ever! Be there!

Sign Up to Light the Chalice on Sunday Mornings

Beginning in April, we invite Fourth Universalist's members and friends to light the chalice at Sunday morning worship services. Families, individuals, couples, sign up to light the chalice as part of a celebration, commemoration, or in honor of someone.

Sign up will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The sign up sheet is located on the wall next to the coffee service after services. We look forward to your participation on Sunday mornings. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Taylor at UnrulyRev@mac.com.

Fourth U Retreat - May 22-24

The annual Fourth U Retreat is now less than a month away! Please get your registration and payment in as soon as possible. The cost is the same as last year: \$200 for adults and \$110 for children 12 and younger.

What's different is transportation. We will be renting a van for those who are not traveling by car (though carpooling is certainly encouraged!). There will be a modest charge to cover this cost.

Spend the weekend reacquainting yourself with other members of the Fourth U community in the

tranquility of the woods in Connecticut. Hike through the woods, swim in the lake, or just sit and read. We go up the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, and return on Sunday.

For more information, please contact Matt Gilbert (646-209-0033 or matt_gilbert@world.oberlin.edu).

There will be copies of the registration form available on the Fourth U website (www.4thU.org). This is one of the highlights of the Fourth U year, so please join us!

DVD Fundraiser - Please Contribute!

Everyone has DVDs at home that they're not watching any more, and guess what – they're worth money to Fourth U! Bring your new or used DVDs in to church and give them to Alex in the office.

We'll be selling them on Amazon.com. The more you bring in, the more we can sell – and the more

money we can raise to support the programs at Fourth U that mean so much to us. For information, contact Liz Wolfe, Finance Committee Chair, at lwolfe@wintecgroup.com or 212-579-1282 x202.

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



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Who's Who

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212.595.1658

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Ext. 26, bookkeeper@4thu.org

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Ext. 21, office@4thu.org

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Ext. 24, darius@4thu.org

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

Kenneth Galloway, *Sexton*
Ext. 28, sexton@4thu.org

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
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Co-Chairs	Elizabeth Hovey	212-349-3476
Worship Arts	Gordon Bailey	646-533-8283
	Julie Taylor	646-552-5980

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The deadline for the next Landmark is May 20!

