

The Landmark

JUNE 2009

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

Life in the Spirit

We've had many conversations this spring about community—what it means to be together, whether we are closer to becoming the powerful community we dream of being, and what it will take to get us there. Many of you speak to me about your desire to spend more time with one another, about getting to know one another in ways that are different than simply the casual conversations that come from coffee hour, or the task-focused talk we engage in during a committee meeting.

One of the very best ways to grow as a community of faith is through more intentional conversation with one another. This summer, you'll have the opportunity to do that through a series of gatherings called Heart to Heart, based on a wonderful book by the same name authored by Rev. Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins. The book provides a wonderful guide to small group sharing through readings, journaling, and personal reflection. What I love best about this model is its reliance on uninterrupted listening as each person speaks (Those of us with experience in 12-Step programs will know this technique as "no crosstalk!")

I have the privilege both of knowing Christine as a colleague, and of having visited her lively, thriving congregation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The members speak highly of the small group model they've developed, and the evidence of its effect can be found in

the warm and welcoming quality I've found there.

We'll be introducing the complete Heart to Heart program this fall, but I encourage you to preview these sessions by taking part over the summer months. The group will be facilitated by our affiliate community minister Rev. Beth Putnam. Please call the church office to register, so that our office manager can order your copy of the book in time for the first meeting. For those of you who aren't able to participate this summer, no worries! Just let Alex know you're planning to join a group this fall, and we'll make a place for you.

As I step out of the stream of congregational life for vacation and study time, please know that our doors and our hearts remain open! Summer services will include new voices from the pulpit as well as familiar ones, and we'll have special musical guests, too. Finally, pastoral care is always available by calling our church office; we'll be pleased to put you in touch with Rev. Jennifer Pader, Rev. Jill Bowden, or Rev. Beth Putnam. Have a joyful summer; I look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Faithfully,

Rosemary



The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt

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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 June 20!



Greetings from the Board President

Over the past several months, the finance committee has been working diligently to put together next year's budget. After much wrangling, we finally have a proposed budget which we feel is responsible, and gives us things that we want, and which is consistent with our values. Among these are a new Director of Religious Education, pay raises for our staff, and money set aside for building maintenance. Please attend the June 7th Annual Meeting to vote on this budget.

As you undoubtedly know, the vast majority of our income comes from the rental of the sanctuary, the gym, and the parish house. This has been a fairly stable and reliable source of income over the years, and we project it to remain this way.

The rest of our income comes mostly from the pledges of our members and

friends. In our meetings with Wayne Clark and Mark Ewert from UUA Congregational Stewardship Services, we were given a simple dictum: let the building take care of the building, and have the programs supported by the membership.

This is beyond our reach at present, but it gives us something to strive towards. I am reminded of the parable of stone soup, in which one person's modest contribution inspires others to contribute as well. If you have not yet pledged to Fourth U, please do so. The absence of a DRE has been sorely felt by us this past year – especially the parents – and our commitment to restoring this position has a deep financial impact on us.

Matt Gilbert
President of the Board

Heart to Heart Conversations- Summer Session

This summer Rev. Beth Putnam will begin the first set of Heart to Heart Conversations at Fourth U. Heart to Heart is a model for spiritual listening, where participants read shared materials and reflect on a topic before entering a circle of sharing and listening.

This summer's session will focus on issues of balance, success and failure, money and sustainable living. The Heart to Heart Summer Session will be limited to 10 participants, there will be a sign up sheet in the entry way at Sunday Service or e-mail the Fourth U office.

The sessions will meet on the following Thursday nights at 7:00 pm: June 25, July 9 and 23, Aug. 13 and 27, and will end Sept. 10.

Each session will last an hour and a half, participants must agree to miss no more than one circle and to read all materials in advance. The Heart to Heart books will be available for loan or purchase from Fourth U. Come enter the circle of listening and sharing.

Who's Who

Administrative Staff

212.595.1658

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

Kathryn Marrow, *Bookkeeper*
Ext. 26, 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

Kenneth Galloway, *Sexton*
Ext. 28, sexton@4thu.org
Jim Wolford, *Night Manager*

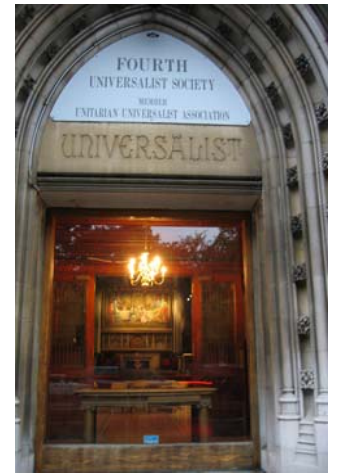
Pastoral Staff

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
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

Fourth U Represented at Lobby Day



A huge all-day conference including an inspiring midday rally in front of the Capitol Building followed. We came away knowing we are part of history and our time is coming.

Interweave is Fourth U's GLBT advocacy group. We meet the first Sunday of each month after service. We are gay and straight and together committed to gaining equality for all — a true UU value. If you would like your chance to be part of the effort to bring justice, come join us.

Claudia Lorie - Ishariel@aol.com

In Late April, members of Interweave, along with thousands of civil rights advocates traveled to our state capitol to lobby our legislatures for equal rights and protections for GLBT people. Many church and synagogue groups joined together to demonstrate that the religious right does not have the authority to speak for all the "faithful" on GLBT issues.

Governor Patterson opened our gathering with a moving speech supporting equal marriage rights for same-sex couples and legal protections for GLBT students and transgender people. His heartfelt and rousing speech drew four standing ovations.



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!

June 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Religious Exploration Service "One Piece of a Larger Puzzle" Annual Meeting & Interweave Meeting 12:30 p.m.	8	9	10	11	12 End of the Year Party & Game Night 6:30 p.m.	13
14 Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "Songs of Praise" New Member & Recognition Sunday	15	16	17 Refresh & Revive: Meditation Service 7:00 p.m.	18	19 Humanist Meeting 7:00 p.m.	20 Kateri Worship
21 Ashley Burczak Interweave Pride Sunday "Putting Love First"	22 New Moon Circle 6:30 p.m.	23	24	25 Heart to Heart 7:00 p.m.	26	27
28 Rev. Jennifer Pader "My Receding Hairline"	29	30				

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
& MEMBER
EVENTS**



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

Join us for the Annual Meeting on June 7, 12:30 p.m.

The Fourth Universalist Society's Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, June 7 directly after services. We will be voting on a slate of candidates both for the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee.

A letter announcing this and providing the candidates' bios and

other information was sent out earlier last month.

The other items to be voted on at the June 7th meeting are the 2009-2010 Budget and the new Mission Statement. All members please come and participate in this important event in our community's life.

End of Year Party & Game Night on June 12, 6:30 p.m.

Join us on Friday, June 12, from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. for an inter-generational evening of fun and community. We'll be playing games, eating, drinking and celebrating the accomplishments of the past church year.

Bring a dish or drink to share, or you can contribute to the

pizza fund. Invite your friends and family to join us. The party will take place downstairs in the gym. Assistance is needed for set up and breakdown.

Please contact Liz Wolfe at lwolfe@wintecgroup.com to volunteer. Be there!

Refresh and Revive: Your Mid-Week Spiritual Break

Fourth U's music and meditation services continue! 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 p.m. at Fourth U.

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

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.

July 15th- In many Buddhist traditions, sitting meditation combines chant meditation and silent meditation to expand each participant's consciousness of themselves and their connection to the world. Come share an evening of mantra chanting and silent meditation with others.

August 19th- Summer is time when many of us explore nature, come explore nature inside our own heads at Refresh and Revive. This nature meditation will combine simple songs with the poetry of Mary Oliver and times of silence.



Humanist Meeting on Friday, June 19, 7 p.m.

Is God Great?

There are three ways people perceive God:

- 1) as an illusion
- 2) as a metaphor
- 3) as reality

The clash of the world's religions is a greater threat to society than ever, and this discussion will present a positive way to deal with this challenge. It will include a discussion of the determining role that the Jesus symbol plays in the Western civilization.

Rev. Joseph Ben-David who wrote a not yet published path breaking essay on this important subject will be the speaker and moderator of the meeting. He is a life-long humanist Unitarian and human rights activist.

Please join us. All are welcome.

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!

Join fellow Fourth U-ers at the Pride Parade on June 28

Join Fourth U members on Sunday, June 28, after services as we gather together to march in the Pride Parade! It's a joyous event you will remember for a lifetime and a great

chance to let the public know what a great congregation we have. Family and kid friendly! Contact Claudia Lorie: Ishariel@aol.com 212-706-8884

Sign Up to Light the Chalice on Sunday Mornings

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.

Discover The Treasure at Fourth U's Auction Gala

Circle November 21, 2009 in your calendar, a night to celebrate all that's wonderful about Fourth U. Mingle, eat and drink while bidding on an amazing variety of items.

Now is also the time for you to think about what you or someone you

know might have to donate -- to help us make 2009 the best event ever!

Look for a link to the donation form in upcoming "What's New" emails, and contact Liz Wolfe at lwolfe@wintecgroup.com or 646-334-9427 with questions.