



The Landmark

SEPTEMBER 2009

WWW.4THU.ORG

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



The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt

Life in the Spirit

As the summer days begin to shorten, and the dark comes ever sooner each night, my thoughts turn to the changing emotional climate in our communities and our country. The recession is lifting, but very slowly. The conversations about our nation's needs—for jobs and healthcare and education—continue, but with a lot more static and a lot less clarity than we've all wanted.

Most troubling to me, however, has been the poisonous injection of fear and anxiety into every aspect of the national debate. From the individuals bent on intimidation at town halls all over the country, to the threatening ads that promise catastrophe as the logical result of any decision our leaders make, the negativity and fear-mongering has begun to infect citizens as a kind of social virus. Some of the declarations of doom we hear are well-intentioned, and some are not, but the issue of intent has become increasingly irrelevant. Either way, the effect is precisely the same: a populace that is growing more confused, more frightened, more insular and less effective with every passing day.

Are you persuaded that there are few alternatives in our country's future—or in your own? Have you come to believe that life is bad and getting worse? Have you caught the fear virus too? It's awfully tempting to follow the pundits

and the naysayers over the cliff of despair—but before you leap, take a moment to remember who you are: a person of liberal religious faith. Being Unitarian Universalist doesn't protect us from the struggles of life. But our faith, well lived, can shield us from the cynicism and discouragement we experience in other parts of our lives. When we gather, when we worship—which literally means to fashion something of worth—when we spend time with one another in community, we are reminded of the goodness and the beauty of life, even amid its uncertainty and its perils.

If you are having a hard time right now, I hope you'll make it a point of joining us each Sunday morning. In the toughest, scariest moments of our lives, religious community can be a lifeline. If life has been good to you these days, bring your serenity and your joy to share with others who are struggling. When you come, lay down the burden of your fear, and draw from our store of hope and courage. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Faithfully,

Rosemary

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Greetings from the Board President

At this time last year, I asked the Fourth U community for a renewed commitment to our Society. Just as we hope every year for 100% participation in the annual budget drive, we wish the same for every aspect of church life. There is more than enough to do, whether it's helping with coffee on Sunday morning, serving on a committee, or participating in our religious education program. If you don't know what needs doing, ask any member of the church leadership.

Speaking of religious education, we are very excited to welcome our new Director of Religious Education, Tania Torres. She has already made a wonderful impression on those who have met her, and I hope you will introduce yourself to her at the first opportunity come fall. Better yet, why not ask how you can

get involved in the religious education program? You can read more about Tania in the weekly What's New at Fourth U bulletin.

I'll use my bully pulpit to plug one of my favorite non-Sunday events: Game Night. Our bi-monthly (the "every two months" definition) Friday night activity was not so regular this past year, but we game night enthusiasts hope to be more diligent this year. Please join us for fun, fellowship, and a little healthy competition this fall. Keep an eye on What's New and the calendar on the Fourth U website for information about our first get together.

Matt Gilbert

President of the Board

Chalice Lighter Appeal Fall 2009 : Julia Hamilton Returns to Fourth U on October 25

Part of the NY Metro District's Chalice Lighters program's philosophy is to help congregations think outside the boundaries of their immediate faith communities toward a more global vision of Unitarian Universalism. Part of this larger vision is congregations helping congregations.

The opportunity this year is through the UU Legislative Ministry, New Jersey. "UULMNJ" is a network of congregations working together to bring the voice of our UU principles and values into the public arena, impacting public opinion and legislation on crucial social justice issues. Chalice Lighter funds will be dedicated to employing a part time director to facilitate

communication among congregations and strengthen social justice programs, serve as an informational resource and guide our volunteer Congregational teams in advocating our UU positions. Find out more at www.uulmnj.org.

This year's Chalice Lighters is even more personal than usual. Our own Julia Hamilton, former Fourth U Office Manager, is now the new part-time Director of the UULMNJ. She is returning to her home congregation to present the appeal on October 25, 2009. Please be ready with your check books to donate the suggested amount of \$10 or more per congregant.

September 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Rev. Deb Morra "Faith & Prayer for Unitarian Universalists" Interweave Meeting 12:30 p.m.	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "Future Church" Celebration Sunday	14	15	16 Refresh & Revive: Meditation Service 7:00 p.m.	17 New Moon Circle 6:30 p.m.	18	19 Kateri Worship
20 Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "High Holy Days: Having Mercy" Special Collection	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "Standing on the Side of Love" Special Collection	28	29	30			

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
& MEMBER
EVENTS**



Fourth U holding services at West End Synagogue on September 20 at 10:45 a.m.

The Fourth Universalist Society will be holding their September 20, 2009 Sunday Service at the West End Synagogue.

The synagogue is located at 190 Amsterdam Avenue between West 68th and West 69th Streets.

Special Collection for School Supplies on September 20 & 27

In the spirit of putting our faith into action during these difficult economic times, we will once again be holding special collections to buy school supplies for homeless children at the Regent Family Residence on the Upper West Side.

Collections will take place on Sundays September 20 and 27 during the service. Cash and checks (made out to Fourth U, with "school supplies" in the memo line) will both be gratefully accepted.

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

Concert Recital starring our own Alison Davy and Tom McGinnis On October 18 at 3 p.m.

Please join our Music Director and our own Soprano, Alison Davy as they perform in a recital in the Sanctuary of the Fourth Universalist Society.

They will be performing on Sunday October 18, at 3 p.m. Anyone who's heard our Choir will be familiar with the skills of Alison Davy while Tom McGinnis will bring his artistry with the piano to the mix to provide a concert that is not to be missed.

We'll look to see you there.



Yo, Ho Ho! Save The Date!

Batten down the hatches, all you mateys, landlubbers, buccaneers, seadogs and other Fourth U members and friends! It's only three months away: the not-to-be-missed Fourth Universalist Society's DISCOVER THE TREASURE Annual Auction Gala. Mark it down on your calendar!

Pirate #1: "Arrrrrrrr. This sure be good grub! Wher'd ye get it?"

Pirate #2: "Over at the Fourth Universalist Aurrrrrrrrction, matey!"

Pirate # 1: "Shiver me Timbers! And what about that there priceless art object yer a-holdin'?"

Pirate # 2: "This solid gold parrot? I got this here booty for practically nothin' at that there wingding."

Pirate # 1: "Well, blow me down! I better git over there before somebody hornswaggles me out o' me rightful aurrrrrrrrction swag."

Pirate # 2: "You know what else?"

Pirate # 1: "What else?"

Pirate #2: "It's the best time I ever had on dry land!"

WHEN: Saturday, November 21, 2009, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Fourth Universalist Society, 160 Central Park West

Please help make this event bountiful by soliciting donations from your local businesses, professional contacts, friends, and family. Download the auction form at www.4thu.org/auction.

Some ideas for donations include: restaurant certificates; - theater, ballet, music, sports tickets; time at a vacation home; valuable artifacts; sports memorabilia; fine jewelry or designer wear; and gift baskets.

Anyone who wants to be involved in helping with the event should contact Jeanne Martinet at Jeanne@Jeannemartinet.com or Liz Wolfe at lwolfe@wintecgroup.com.

Refresh & Revive: Your Mid-Week Spiritual Break

Fourth U's music and meditation services continue into the Fall. 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 theme; here are the upcoming topics for this fall:

September 16 – Autumnal Equinox— Come celebrate the arrival of fall and the harvest season with chants and meditations.

October 21 — We Begin Again — In the season of Yom Kippur, we gather to reflect on one part of repentance, beginning again.

November 18 — Gratitude — Come join us for an evening of reflection and music celebrating all the gifts that surround us every day and the spirit of gratitude.

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

Please Welcome Our New Director Of Religious Exploration — Tania Torres

Tania was hired this summer to become our new Director of RE. Here's a little bit about herself:

Tania Torres has a B.A. in Theology from Loyola Marymount University and is currently specializing in nonprofit management at NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. As part of the Religion, Faith, and Values Program at the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), Tania has worked with a variety of religious organizations in preparing media training workshops.

In 2005, she co-founded a nonprofit in Guatemala that offers educational and vocational courses for at-risk women and has served on inter-

national committees in raising awareness on gender based violence throughout Central America.

Tania is excited about becoming part of the Fourth U family! She looks forward to collaborating with Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, the RE Committee and all of you in order to further develop the RE program. This year will be an exciting time as we get underway in preparing our holiday pageant and Coming of Age and OWL programs. Here is to a new and exciting year!

Tania can be reached at DRE@4thu.org or at 212-595-1658 ext. 27.

Partners for Sacred Spaces Film Screening

Ever wonder what happens at Fourth U during the rest of the week? Curious about how we take care and seek to improve our beautiful building? Come meet the Fourth U Partners for Sacred Spaces Group. It's a part of a national program designed to help congregations form partnerships with outside groups that provide funds for renovation and restoration.

The Fourth U group will screen the film *After Sunday* which illustrates the challenges of inner-city congregations of maintaining their aging properties. Come join us at 12:30 p.m. on September 27 to learn more about Fourth U during the rest of the week and our building.

Contact Beth Putnam at eaputnam@gmail.com with any questions.

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:
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. 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

Program Staff

Tania Torres
Director of Religious Exploration
Ext. 27, DRE@4thu.org



Committees

Executive Committee of the Church Council:

Claudia Flanagan, Chair 212-533-2807

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Communications	Robert McNatt	646-698-5078
Denominational Affairs	Ryan Novosielski	973-792-0497
Finance & Stewardship	Liz Wolfe	646-334-9427
	Aaron Hamburger	212-758-2623
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	Karen Frojen Chamberlain	212-749-5541
Religious Education	Don Farrow	212-580-6636
Co-Chairs	Elizabeth Hovey	212-349-3476
Worship Arts	Julie Taylor	646-552-5980

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

The deadline for the next Landmark is June 20!

