



The Landmark

DECEMBER 2009

WWW.4THU.ORG

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



The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt

Life in the Spirit

If my conversations with many of you are any indication, 2009 hasn't been the easiest year. Many of us have endured significant personal losses, big disruptions in our lives, received a disturbing diagnosis, lost a job or still haven't found one. The last thing you may feel like is celebrating, especially in this season where joy is all too often tied to retail therapy. Add to that the annual nativist arguments about why people say Happy Holidays instead of Merry Christmas, and you might be persuaded to hide under your blankets until February.

What's a liberal religious person to do? Here's what I think we do: we find reasons to rejoice just the same. I find myself growing away from an either/or sense of the holiday season, the idea that you're either totally immersed in shopping and caroling and partying, or you're wallowing in regret and misery about the holidays you never had. I believe we should celebrate and appreciate what is good in our lives, even as we acknowledge and mourn what's not so good.

There's an old saying that if all of us were to place our troubles on a common table with the notion of trading them for different ones, we'd all walk away with the troubles we have. Our spiritual task, though, is larger. We are called to balance those troubles with the gifts that we have, however small they

appear. We are called to a sense of gratitude that allows us to place our sorrows in perspective.

Throughout this season of celebration for so many people, it's all right to celebrate what we do have, the people we do love, the parts of our lives that are good. That capacity to appreciate our blessings can strengthen us to deal with the parts of our lives that are painful and frightening. Even in the midst of sorrow, we should reach out wherever we can for joy.

I hope you find ways to do that this holiday season; that's a goal I'm setting for myself. So let me end with my love and gratitude for all of you members and friends of Fourth U. You've made a wonderful difference in my life, and in the life of my family. May you find many blessings in the coming days, and many reasons for joy. Happy Holidays!

Faithfully,

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Greetings from the Board President

It feels good to have Fourth U's sanctuary abuzz on a Sunday morning, and feels even better on any other occasion. Thanks to all who made our Annual Auction successful, from those who planned it to those who contributed by just being there. Fourth U isn't a social club, but fellowship is an important part of who we are, both as a community and as a denomination. You'll have another chance to spend time together on Friday, December 11, at our annual holiday party. More information will be on its way to you soon. As always, we will celebrate the many ways humans have acknowledged the darkest time of the year (at least in the northern hemisphere...).

Our religious education program continues to expand, both in numbers and in the programs we are able to offer. Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a Unitarian Univer-

salist sexual education program for people of all ages (sorry, adults, you will have to get your information elsewhere). Consistent with our principles and purposes, the program promotes no religious doctrines, and deals responsibly with every aspect of human sexuality. More information about our OWL programs will be made available in the near future.

I am pleased to report that the financial health of Fourth U is greatly improved. We are implementing the changes in the budget you approved in October, and are abiding by the tightened fiscal controls the board established over the summer. We on the board appreciate the trust you have placed in us to oversee Fourth U's finances.

Matt Gilbert
President of the Board

CNN Joins Us for Child Dedication and Worship on December 6

Fourth U members Gary Spino and Anthony Brown will be dedicating their son Nicholas on Dec. 6, and CNN Productions will be here to film their dedication as well as portions of our Sunday service as part of

their forthcoming series on being gay in America. We're delighted to welcome them; seating will be available for those who would prefer not to be filmed.

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.

December 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "How Is It With Your Spirit?" interweave Meeting 12:30 p.m.	7	8	9 Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.	10	11 Holiday Party 6:30 p.m.	12
13 Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt "Conscience in War & Peace"	14	15 New Moon Circle 6:30 p.m.	16 Refresh & Revive: Meditation Service 7:00 p.m.	17	18 Humanist Meeting 7:00 p.m.	19
20 Holiday Pagaant "The Changing Light"	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service "The Blessing of a Child" 7:00 p.m.	25	26
27 Daniel Gregoire "The Flight Home From Bethlehem "	28	29	30	31		

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
& MEMBER
EVENTS**



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

Announcing The Fourth U RE Program's Annual Holiday Pageant

The RE program is proud to present this year's holiday pageant, a solstice celebration featuring our own original song, "The Light In Me." Our kids will be dancing, singing, rapping, clapping and stomping the church into

a holiday frenzy! Sunday December 20, during the "Story for All Ages" part of the service. (Hint - that part comes early in the service. Don't hit the snooze bar too many times!)

Save The Date For Fourth U's Pre-Valentine's Day Midwinter Celebration

Fourth U is hosting the critically acclaimed "Divine Drag and Outrageous Talent Cabaret" once more, Saturday January 23 from 7:00 p.m. - Midnight. Performers from the Fourth U community and

beyond will wow us with a night of family friendly music, dance and more.

There will be time to party and dance in the candle lit sanctuary and to enjoy the show! A bar and snacks will be available. All proceeds will

Special Humanist Christmas Program

Friday, December 18, 2009
7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

The Humanism of Jesus

This is a video of a highly dramatic one-person play, with Joseph Ben-David in five different roles. It was performed for four months in New York. Jesus is presented as a humanistic personality who challenges ancient and contemporary myths about his life and aspirations.

Millions of people are awaiting the second coming of Jesus. Prophecies warn of wars, famine, pestilence, and other calamities

that will afflict humanity at the time of his second coming. But what would people really do if Jesus returned today? We know what they did to Jesus-like personalities like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi.

The show's thrust is against the tyrannical designs of fundamentalism and the threat of the Orwellian nightmare. It speaks out freely on some of the most critical issues of life and society. All are welcome.

Information: 212-877-5662

Web: www.humanistfoundation.org

Youtube: search—humanist ben-david





Ahoy all ye members, friends and fellow pirates of Fourth U!

Your participation in our auction made it a huge success.

All that pirate booty added up to 20,000!!

Because of you, we will be able to donate \$2,000 to The Wedding Party, and get a beautiful new banner to fly in front of the church!

Thank you!!



With much appreciation to everyone who came and volunteered –

Your Auction Steering Committee

Jeanne Martinet, Liz Wolfe, Alyson Ben-David, Anthony Brown, Barbara Chiminello, and Aaron Hamburger



Celebrate The Season at Fourth U's Holiday Party

Join the festivities with your Fourth U friends at our annual Holiday Party, Friday December 11 at 6:30 p.m.

We'll gather to eat, drink, sing & socialize. The children will trim the tree. Later, we go out caroling in the neighborhood (75th & 76th Streets).

Just show up with a favorite appetizer or dessert to share. While we won't have a full dinner, there will plenty of "finger food" to satisfy you. Fourth U will supply cheese, wine, beer, soft drinks and a bracing hot drink (especially good after caroling).

Everyone is welcomed!

The Vagina Monologues are returning to Fourth U on February 27

Next planning meeting:

Sunday, December 13 12:30 p.m.— 2:30 p.m.

Come help us plan for our 2010 production which will be presented on Saturday, February 27. Affectionately known as "Vaginas 4U", we raised over \$5000 through our April 2009 benefit performance for V-Day's Congo campaign, and for two local beneficiaries, Nite Star and DayOne.

We want to raise even more \$\$\$ next time and need lots of volunteers to help with publicity, merchan-

dise sales and raffles, set design, and of course, actors. Remember, the fight to end violence against women is for EVERYONE – at least 1/3 of our audience for the 2009 performance were men!

So, if you have a vagina or know someone who does, please do join us for our next planning meeting on December 13 or contact Deborah Roth at dsrothny@aol.com or 212-665-9660 and she'll be happy to suggest lots of different ways you can be involved. To learn more about V-Day's mission and why YOU should become a Vagina Warrior, check out their website at www.VDAY.org.

Refresh & Revive: Your Mid-Week Spiritual Break

Fourth U's music and meditation services continue into the Fall. Join Rev. Beth Putnam, Fourth U Affiliate Community Minister 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:

December 16 — Celebrating Light: As we celebrate Winter Solstice, come join us for a moment of reflection about light. We'll share songs and chants for Solstice along with meditations on light and darkness.

January 20 — Remembering the Dream: Using the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the music that was so a part of the movement for justice for which he provided the vision, we will remember his dream and spark our own.

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

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@gmail.com

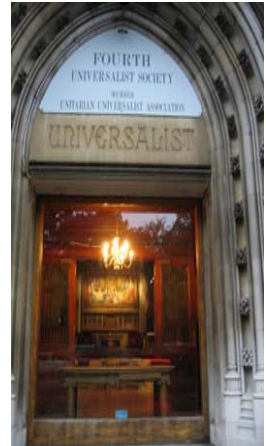
The Rev. Jennifer Pader
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jp350@mindspring.com

The Rev. Elizabeth Putnam
Endorsed Community Minister
eaputnam@gmail.com

Program Staff

Tom McGinnis
Music Director
Ext. 29
marktom0397@gmail.com

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



Committees

Executive Committee of the Church Council:

Claudia Flanagan, Chair 917-697-7428

<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
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

Board of Trustees

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Send *Landmark* submissions to:
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New York, NY 10023
Fax: 212-595-0134
Email: office@4thU.org

The deadline for the next Landmark is December 20!

