

The Landmark

Upcoming Services:

**All Sunday Services
begin at 10:45 a.m.**

January 6, 2008

“The Next Big Thing”
The Rev. Dr.
William G. Sinkford
President Unitarian
Universalist Association

January 13, 2008

“The Faith of a Scientist”
The Rev. Dr. Michael Tino
UU Fellowship of Northern
Westchester

January 20, 2008

“Living Life Despite Your Fears”
Linda Blackmon Lowry

January 27, 2008

“Thresholds”
The Rev. Nicole Kirk
Doctoral Candidate



*The Fourth Universalist Society
160 Central Park West
New York, NY 10023*

Happy New Year! Now what?

Beth Putnam

Welcome to 2008! 2007 was a year full of changes, with both new adventures and new successes. I'm one of the changes for 2008. For anyone who hasn't heard, the Rev. Rosemary Bray-McNatt began her sabbatical with the start of 2008 and will return in May 2008. While she is away, a team of ministers is assuming her responsibilities. I am the assistant to the minister for administration. What does that mean? It means I am doing the ministry of administration at Fourth U while Rosemary is away, supporting the work of the Board of Trustees, Fourth U staff, and certain committees. While a variety of amazing speakers are filling the pulpit, and guest musicians are adding beautiful music, I am the minister helping support the work that keeps our congregation vital.

And I need your help for this work, because its not my work, it is our work. Beginning in February,

there will be a series of forum to plan for our future. We created a Long-Range Plan several years ago now, and we have made progress toward achieving that vision. Now it is time to see what parts of that plan we can work on next, what it will take to make that vision a reality. As Rosemary said in a sermon years ago, it is time to build roots under our castles in the air. We have done much since she gave that sermon, building traditions and programs where we once had dreams. Now it is time to see how to deepen those roots, and see which roots need some extra fertilizer.

So, look at your announcements, there will be meetings coming up that will shape the future of Fourth U. This will begin with an Open Forum and Working Group on the RE Program, helping to shape the organization of Religious Education at Fourth U. Andrea Lerner, the District Executive, will join us on Saturday, January 19th, to discuss the process of plan-

ning for our new larger program. If you are a parent or teacher, please plan on being there on 10:00 am on Saturday morning to let us hear from you about RE at Fourth U.

Then, the next day, January 20th, there is a Congregational meeting, your first chance to vote in 2008. So come and take part in the work of Unitarian Universalism. Support democracy by voting early and often, and we embrace democracy as part of our vision for a world made free.

I will set office hours for those with questions, but I will be here most Sunday's. But remember, as I said in my sermon in December, I am not Rosemary, I am Beth. But it brings me great joy to be supporting the work of this congregation until Rosemary returns.

May 2008 be filled with moments of great joy and blessing.

~Beth Putnam
Assistant to the Minister for Administration

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>My View—Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt</i>	1
<i>Light Up The Night Auction Results</i>	2
<i>Message from the Auction Committee</i>	3
<i>Greetings from the Board President</i>	4
<i>From the Director of Religious Education</i>	4
<i>Upcoming Member Events</i>	5
<i>Opportunities For Giving</i>	5
<i>December Calendar</i>	6
<i>Among Ourselves</i>	7
<i>Sabbatical FAQs</i>	8-9
<i>Upcoming Sunday Services</i>	10
<i>Who's Who @ Fourth U</i>	11

Fundraising update from the Finance Committee Chair

Liz Wolfe

Hello Fourth U!

I want to start by thanking everyone for your incredible support during this year's auction. We grossed \$22,000 for this event, with a net of \$15,000. Out of that \$15,000, we will be sending the Coalition for the Homeless a check for \$2,200 (plus about \$600 that has been collected during the offertory and coffee hour) and purchasing a beautiful new chalice for our sanctuary. The rest of the funds will go towards our goal of raising \$17,500 towards a balanced budget.

We have done two other fundraisers this year so far, including selling Mets tickets during the summer (a rousing success

that made us over \$1,000) and the poinsettia sale during Christmas (which was a disappointing break-even situation. The church sure looked fabulous for the holidays, though!

We still have to raise another \$5,000 to get us to our goal. In order to accomplish this, I will need a lot of support from you. I need more than ideas (got plenty of those, though I am always interested in hearing more) – I need your active participation! This can look many different ways. Ideally we would partner on an idea that you have, such that you take the lead and myself and the members of the Finance Committee would assist you. If you're not sure you can commit that much

time, that's ok – come to me with your idea anyway and we'll figure out how to make it happen.

Most importantly, the culture at 4th U has evolved from a "scarcity mentality" to one of abundance. We've recently signed a 20 year lease for our parish hall; we had the most successful fundraiser in memory; people are paying their pledges on time; and our rental income is \$12,000 ahead of where we were last year at this time. It is making a difference. Thanks!!

In abundance,

Liz Wolfe

From the Director of Religious Education

Aisha Hauser

What shall I ask You for, God?

I have everything.

There's nothing I lack.

I ask only for one thing

And not for myself alone;

It's for many mothers, children and fathers-

Not just in this land, but in many lands hostile to each other.

I'd like to ask for Peace.

Yes, it's Peace I want,

And You, You won't deny the single wish of a child.

You created the Land of Peace,

Where stands the City of Peace,

Where stood the Temple of Peace,

But where there is still no Peace...

What shall I ask for God? I have everything.

Peace is what I ask for,

Only Peace.

Shlomit, Age 13, Jerusalem, From the Shabbat Vehagim

The New Year brings with it new possibilities for affirming how a community that focuses on the needs of the whole can thrive in spirit and health. The religious education program has undergone growing pains over the last few months. It is safe to say that some of those "pains" have subsided

due to the success of the pageant, where we actually had the story of the birth of Jesus told at 4th Universalist with a UU perspective. One member told me that she found the pageant healing and was appreciative of that. I hope that we can work together in the spirit of trust and mutual respect and create a vision of what religious education at 4th Universalist can be. This vision would not be mine, but that of the members of this congregation. One way to make that vision of a long term plan a reality is to have the curriculum for the program mapped for the next three years. A task force consisting of three to five people will be formed to help choose curriculum and create a comprehensive RE program that encompasses the search for truth and meaning through world religions, our principles and through how they view and experience life. If you are interested in joining this task force, please email me at Aisha@4thu.org.

I wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

Peace,

Aisha

Peace, Aisha Hauser, MSW

Director of Religious Education

Upcoming Events

Fourth U Game Night

Friday, January 18

It's time to dust off your dice and get ready for a little relaxation after the hectic holiday season! On Friday, January 18th from 6:30 - 9:00 pm, please join your fellow Fourth Uers, friends and family for our next GAME NIGHT! We will be playing games of every stripe -- board games, card games, party games -- you name it, we'll play it! Many games are provided and feel free to bring your favorites as well.

All are welcome, so please invite your friends and remember to bring the kids for this intergenerational evening of FUN and laughter. Refreshments will be served and donations for pizza are encouraged. Childcare will be provided. Please contact Jennifer Jackson at jennjack@mac.com or 718-783-8757 for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

RE Program

Saturday, January 19

With the introduction of a new DRE have come a number of questions about how our community would like the RE program at Fourth U to work as we grow. On Saturday January 19th, Andrea Lerner will come to Fourth U to lead a discussion and working group that will examine the structure of the RE program and create a plan for the future. Andrea Lerner is the Metro-New York District Executive and a woman with vast experience in RE and RE administration. On the morning of the 19th, an open forum for all interested parents and RE teachers will begin at 10:00 am. After this open discussion, we will break for lunch. After lunch, the Board of Trustees, the Ministry Advisory Council and the RE committee will meet to create a plan based on the morning's discussion. Again, Saturday, January 19th is the date, 10:00 am is the time, Fourth U is the place!

January 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES-	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						5 Kateri Residence 9:30 am
6 "The Next Big Thing" The Rev. Dr. William G. Sinkford President Unitarian Universalist Association 10:45 a.m.	7	8	9	10 First Thursdays: "Silence: A redis- covery of self" 6 p.m.	11 New Moon Sister Circle	12
13 "The Faith of a Scientist" The Rev Dr. Michael Tino UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester 10:45 a.m.	14	15	16	17	18 Fourth U Game Night 6:30 - 9:00 p.m Deadline for all Landmark sub- missions!	19 Kateri Residence 9:30 am RE: Open Fo- rum and work- ing group 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.
20 "Living Life Despite Your Fears" Linda Blackmon Lowry 10:45 a.m. <i>Congregational Meeting</i> (Beth's Orientation) 12:30 p.m.	21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	22	23	24	25	26
27 "Thresholds" The Rev. Nicole Kirk Doctoral Candidate 10:45 a.m.	28	29	30	31		

Among Ourselves: Activities For 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. All are welcome! For more info contact Tom Kennedy 212.362.2010 or tomfox2535@aol.com

FOURTH U GAME NIGHT

It's time to dust off your dice and get ready for a little relaxation after the hectic holiday season! On Friday, January 18th from 6:30 - 9:00 pm, please join your fellow 4th Uers, friends and family for our next GAME NIGHT! We will be playing games of every stripe -- board games, card games, party games -- you name it, we'll play it! Many games are provided and feel free to bring your favorites as well. All are welcome, so please invite your friends and remember to bring the kids for this intergenerational evening of FUN and laughter. Refreshments will be served and donations for pizza are encouraged. Childcare will be provided. Please contact Jennifer Jackson at jennjack@mac.com or 718-783-8757 for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

FOURTH U MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group at Fourth U was created to build community among us and to explore issues of spiritual and personal growth. If you're interested in joining, contact Bob McNatt at robert1954@earthlink.net.

NEW MOON SISTER CIRCLES

The New Moon Sister Circles (for women only) provide a safe and sacred space each month to honor our connection to the Earth, to the cycles of the Moon, to our deepest selves and to each other. Call Deborah Roth at 212-665-9660 for upcoming dates and more information.

DREAM CIRCLE

We're building an Active Dreaming Circle to share our dreams- from the night and our life dreams- with caring and supportive partners who can help us unlock their meanings and bring their energy to heal and empower our everyday lives. A dream circle develops a wonderful energy of its own. Contact co-chairs: Phyllis Damon 347-675-3482 and fastphyl32@yahoo.com or Claudia Lorie 212-706-8884 and Ishariel@aol.com

LANDMARK SUBMISSIONS

Send *Landmark* submissions to:

Fourth Universalist Society
160 Central Park West
New York, NY 10023
Fax: 212-595-0134
Email: info@4thu.org

***The deadline for the next
Landmark is Thursday,
January 18th!***

KATERI HOME SERVICE

Fourth U conducts a worship service for the residents of this nursing home on the 1st & 3rd 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 Dr. (at 87th St).

FOURTH U ORIENTATION

We have our newcomers orientation on the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Any one who has an interest in Fourth U, has questions about Unitarian Universalism or wants to share their spiritual journey is welcome to attend. For information, contact Seana Anderson, 718-623-0933 or seana@4thu.org.

GREETINGS!

You are invited to join us in warmly welcoming the many folks who are new to Fourth U. Come share your talents in the important ministry of welcoming, ushering and greeting. Volunteers are needed! Contact Seana Anderson at 718-623-0933 or seana@4thu.org to find out more.

Frequently Asked Questions About Rosemary's Sabbatical

Our senior minister, The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, will be taking approximately four and one-half months of her six months of sabbatical time this coming year, from January 1 through May 15, 2008. While Rosemary is on sabbatical, life at Fourth U will be just as busy as ever, with worship, adult and children's religious education, committee meetings and special events. But our newer members and newcomers might be confused about how things will proceed, so more seasoned members of the Fourth U community have put together this guide to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about Rosemary's sabbatical and about our congregation.

What will Sunday Services be like in Rosemary's absence?

They'll be wonderful! We'll have a chance to hear from leaders in our liberal religious movement, including the President of our association, The Rev. Bill Sinkford, and the Moderator of the UUA, Gini Courter; some of Unitarian Universalism's very best preachers; and provocative thinkers who will challenge us on issues ranging from religion and science, to living fearlessly, to liberation theology. In addition, we'll hear fantastic music from Meg Barnhouse and Olympia's Daughters. We plan to have a great time every Sunday, and we hope you'll join us!

Who's in charge around here?

The same people who've always been in charge: **The Board of Trustees**. The Board, along with Rosemary as Chief Executive Officer, has always created policy for Fourth U and conducted the business of the church. While Rosemary is gone, **Beth Putnam**, assistant to the minister for administration, will take up Rosemary's role, and work with the board and other committees.

Still, some of you may have more specific concerns. For example:

If you have a pastoral concern or a pastoral emergency:

Our affiliate minister for pastoral care, the **Rev. Jennifer Pader**, as well as our affiliate community ministers, the **Rev. Edmund Bolella** and the **Rev. Jill Bowden**, will all share pastoral care responsibility on a rotating basis while Rosemary is gone. In addition, either Jennifer, Ed or Jill will be present at each Sunday service and coffee hour throughout the sabbatical period; feel free to touch base with them during those times as well. Contact information for the "on-call" minister will be available each week in all Fourth U communications, including the order of service and church phone messages.

If you are interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism, about Fourth Universalist, or are considering membership:

Our membership coordinator, Seana Anderson, will be happy to talk with you about our liberal faith, about Fourth U, and about the privileges and responsibilities of membership; look for her each Sunday at the Welcome Table, or email her at seana@4thu.org. Our affiliate ministers, Jill and Ed, are also available to speak with you. Please call or email the church office to schedule an appointment with either one of them: 212-595-1658, ext. 21, or office@4thu.org.

Frequently Asked Questions About Rosemary's Sabbatical

If you have questions or concerns about Fourth U's Sunday services, the building, or a member of the staff:

Please speak to Beth Putnam, assistant to the minister for administration; Beth can be reached at 646-920-2262 or at bputnam@4thu.org.

If you have news or information about an event to be shared with the Fourth Universalist community:

To ensure that your news or information is distributed, please email your information to our Office Manager at office@4thu.org, our Webmaster, Lois Coleman, at lois.coleman@gmail.com, **and** our Membership Coordinator, Seana Anderson, at seana@4thu.org. To post an event in our 76th St. sign box, please email Seana with your space request.

The deadline for our weekly email, "What's New..." is Wednesday at noon; deadline for our order of service is Thursday at noon; deadline for our monthly newsletter, The Landmark, is the 20th of each month. Please be aware that we can't guarantee repeat listings of every activity or event.

If you are seeking information on rites of passage (child dedications; weddings/services of union; funerals/memorial services):

Members of Fourth Universalist Society may call upon any of our affiliate ministers to preside at these important events. Non-members of the society also may call upon our affiliate ministers for assistance, with fees to be negotiated between themselves and the minister. In addition, the church maintains a list of additional Unitarian Universalist clergy who may be called in the event that Ed, Jill or Jennifer is unavailable; please contact the Office Manager for more information.

If you're having difficulty with a Fourth U staff member or congregant:

Our Fourth U covenant calls for each one of us to speak directly to the person with whom we have a problem, whether it's a congregant or a staff member. If direct conversation doesn't solve the difficulty with a staff member, your next step is to speak to Beth Putnam, who supervises all staff in Rosemary's absence. If neither of these options proves helpful, please contact a member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC), which helps to facilitate the resolution of conflict when traditional channels of communication have been unsuccessful. Current members of MAC include Bri Matsuoka, chair (briatnyc@gmail.com); Robert Kreisler (rskreisler@msn.com); Craig Waletzko (craigwaletzko@mac.com); and Kimberly Steinhorn (on parental leave).

If I have more questions, whom should I ask?

Feel free to speak to any of us in leadership roles here at Fourth U, but especially Beth Putnam, assistant to the minister for administration; Lois Coleman, president of the Board of Trustees; Jennifer Jackson, vice president of the Board of Trustees (jenncjack@mac.com) or Bri Matsuoka, MAC chair. We look forward to talking with you.

Fourth Universalist Society Sunday Schedule Winter/Spring 2008 "Transitions and Transformations"

January 6, 2008

The Rev. Dr. William G. Sinkford
President, Unitarian Universalist Association
"The Next Big Thing"

January 13, 2008

The Rev. Dr. Michael Tino, Minister
UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester, NY
"The Faith of a Scientist"

January 20, 2008

MARTIN LUTHER KING SUNDAY
Linda Blackmon Lowry, Selma AL
"Living Life Despite Your Fears"

January 27, 2008

The Rev. Nicole Kirk, Doctoral Candidate,
Princeton Theological Seminary

February 3, 2008

Olympia's Daughters
"Living Out Loud!"
A Service in Song

February 10, 2008

Tom Stites, former editor,
UU World Magazine
"What Can Liberate Us?"

February 17, 2008

The Rev. Deb Morra, Community Minister
Community Unitarian Church, White Plains NY
"Calling All Religious Progressives"

February 24, 2008

Aisha Hauser,
Director of Religious Education,
Fourth Universalist Society
"Eating Bacon as a Spiritual Practice"

March 2, 2008

The Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert, Minister Emeritus,
First Unitarian Society of Rochester, NY

March 9, 2008

CANVASS SUNDAY
Gini Courter, Moderator,
Unitarian Universalist Association

March 16, 2008

The Rev. Susan Moran, Spiritual Director
Swampscott, MA.
Julia Teitel, guest soloist
Eastman School of Music, Rochester NY

March 23, 2008

EASTER SUNDAY
The Rev. Ed Bolella,
Affiliated Community Minister
Fourth Universalist Society of NY

March 30, 2008

The Rev. Addae Watson
First Universalist Church of Southold, NY

April 6, 2008

The Rev. Kate Braestrup,
author of *Here If You Need Me*
"Beautiful Feet"
PLUS Coffee hour Book signing

April 13, 2008

The Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, minister
UUs of Clearwater, Florida
"Sharing Ministry"

April 20, 2008

The Rev. Rebecca Parker, President,
Starr King School for the Ministry, and
Rita Nakashima Brock, co-founder, Faith Voices for the Common
Good, authors of *Saving Paradise*
PLUS Coffee hour Book signing

April 27, 2008

NPR Commentator, author, performer
The Rev. Meg Barnhouse
(benefit concert on April 26)

May 4, 2008

Fourth U Coming of Age Service
Rev. Rosemary Returns to Church!

May 11, 2008

Mother's Day Service



The Fourth Universalist Society
160 Central Park West
New York, NY 10023

A Beacon of Liberal Religion on the Upper West Side

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
New York, NY

WWW.4THU.ORG



The Fourth Universalist Society

Mission Statement

To provide a welcoming religious community
for all who affirm the inherent worth
and dignity of every person.

To nurture the spiritual growth of one another and of our
children, and to reach beyond our doors with love and
openness that we may more fully embrace, with our faith, and
honor, through our action, our Unitarian Universalist heritage of
religious pluralism, social justice, reason and compassion.