

# This Indenture,

Made the 4 day of March nineteen hundred and fifty-nine

**Between** NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS; a Religious Corporation and existing under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of New York, having an office at 373 Argonne Drive, Kenmore, Erie County, New York

*deliberately signed and sealed by the parties*

party of the first part,

and FOURTH UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, a Religious Corporation organized and existing under, and by virtue of the Laws of the State of New York, and with office address at #4 West Seventy-Sixth Street, in the County and City of New York, New York

party of the second part,

**Witnesseth,** that the party of the first part, in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00)

*lawful*, lawful money of the United States,

paid by the party of the second part, does hereby grant and release unto the party of the second part, and its successors and assigns forever.

**All** that quadrangular parcel of land, lying at the South-West corner of the intersection of Central Park West (Formerly Eighth Avenue) and West Seventy-Sixth Street in the Borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York, and consisting of Lots numbered 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38 in Block numbered 1128, in Section 4 as shown on a map dated and approved June 16, 1916 by the Chief Surveyor, and filed in the office of the Register, New York County; and as shown in the Abstract Index of Block 1128; which lots are more particularly described as follows:

Lot #36, lying at the corner of Central Park West and West Seventy-sixth Street, and bounded on the North by said 76 Street, on the East by Central Park West, on the South by Lot #35, and on the West by Lot #37, and having a frontage of approximately 26 feet and two inches on Central Park West, and a frontage on West 76 Street of 100 feet; which Lot was conveyed by William H. Scott and Edward B. and Katherine P. V. T. Crowell to the Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York, by deed, in fee, recorded November 2, 1896 in the said Register's office in Liber 51, Page 465

Lot #35, bounded on the North by Lot #36, above mentioned, on the East by Central Park West, on the South by Lot #34, and on the West by Lot #37, with a frontage on Central Park West of 25 feet, and a depth of 100 feet; which Lot was conveyed by Charles and Josephine Ludington to the Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York by deed, in fee, recorded November 2, 1896 in the said Register's Office in Liber 51, Page 460

Lots ##33 and 34, bounded on the East by Central Park West, each lot having a frontage of 25 feet and 6 inches on Central Park West and a depth of 100 feet; said Lot #34 being bounded on the North by Lot #35, on the East by Central Park West, on the South by Lot #33 and on the West by Lot #37; and said Lot #33 being bounded on the North by Lot #34, on the East by Central Park West, on the South by Lot #32, and on the West by Lot #37, which said Lots ##33 and 34 were conveyed by Margaret E. Putnam as sole acting Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of Albert E. Putnam, deceased, to the Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York by deed, in fee, recorded November 2, 1896 and filed in said Register's Office in Liber 51, Page 460

Lot #37, bounded on the North by West Seventy-sixth Street, on the East by Lots 33, 34, 35, and 36, on the South by Lot #28 and a part of Lot #27, with a frontage of 25 feet on West 76 Street, and a depth of approximately 102 feet, 2 inches; which said Lot was conveyed by the Administrator of the Estate of Richard Somarindike

NO REVENUE STAMPS AFFIXED

C 3024

to the Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York by deed, in fee, recorded April 28, 1896 in the said Register's Office in Liber 54, Page 420

Lot #38, bounded on the North by West 76 Street, on the East by Lot #37, on the South by a part of Lot #27 and a part of Lot #26, and on the West by Lot #39, having a frontage on West 76 Street of 25 feet, and a depth of approximately 100 feet and 2 inches, which Lot was conveyed in two deeds, in fee, one being granted by the Administrator of the Estate of Richard Somarindike to the Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York, recorded April 28, 1896 in the said Register's Office in Liber 54, Page 426, and one deed being granted by Robert C. and Mariana Ferguson to the Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York, recorded November 2, 1896 in Liber 51, Page 463

TOGETHER with the appurtenances and all the estate and rights of the party of the first part in and to said premises.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the premises herein granted unto the party of the second part, and its successors and assigns forever,

THIS DEED IS EXECUTED UPON THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

That the Party of the Second Part shall use the property for church activities and religious ceremonies, teachings, rites and worship in harmony with the general doctrines of the Universalist faith.

That the Party of the Second Part shall maintain services by a clergyman in fellowship with the Universalist Church of America at least twenty weeks in each year in the building now standing on the premises, or in any building erected or obtained by the Party of the Second Part by means of any insurance obtained on account of the destruction in whole or in part of the present building;

That the Party of the Second Part shall itself continue in fellowship with the New York State Convention of Universalists and the Universalist Church of America, and/or its or their successors;

Further, be it provided that should any of the above conditions and covenants be violated by the Party of the Second Part, the premises and all improvements thereon shall revert to the Party of the First Part to be held in trust for the following purposes:

First, to manage, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of said property in the discretion of the Board of Trustees of the said Convention;

Second, to apply any income from said property, or any income from the proceeds of the sale or other disposition thereof, to missionary, educational, and charitable purposes of the Convention within the City of New York, and at the discretion of the Board of Trustees of said Convention;

Third, to apply the principal sum obtained from any sale of said property, within twenty years of the receipt of said property only to the building or obtaining of a Universalist Church in, or adjacent to the Borough of Manhattan in the City of New York, when, in the judgment of the Board of Trustees of said Convention it shall be advisable to do so;

Fourth, after the expiration of said twenty years to apply the said principal sum to the missionary, educational and charitable work of said Convention, preferably in the said Borough of Manhattan.

Be it also understood and agreed that in the event of the reversion of the property to the Party of the First Part as herein above provided, the Party of the Second Part or its successor shall at once, on demand, transfer to the Party of the First Part all furnishings, securities, funds, and intangible assets in its possession or under its control at the time of the making of such demand.

~~Together with the appurtenances and all the estate and rights of the party of the first part in and to said premises.~~

~~To have and to hold the premises herein granted unto the party of the second part~~

and assigns forever,

CON 5075 PAGE 35

And the party of the first part covenants that it has not done or suffered anything whereby the said premises have been incumbered in any way whatever

This conveyance is made and delivered by the party of the first part herein without any previous application to any Judge or Court pursuant to the authority and provisions of Chapter 188 of the Laws of New York State of 1862, as amended by Chapter 356 of the Laws of 1880, by Chapter 398 of the Laws of 1902, by Chapter 48 of the Laws of 1905, by Chapter 33 of the Laws of 1907, and by Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1918.

The grantor, in compliance with Section 118 of the Lien Law, covenants that the grantor will receive the consideration for this conveyance and will hold the right to receive such consideration as a trust fund to be applied first for the purpose of paying the cost of the improvement and that the grantor will apply the same first to the payment of the cost of the improvement before using any part of the total of the same for any other purpose.

In Witness Whereof, the party of the first part has caused its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed, and these presents to be signed by its duly authorized officer the day and year first above written.

In presence of:

New York State Convention of Universalists

by Joseph L. Selman Vice-President



ATTEST:

Howard B. Gilman

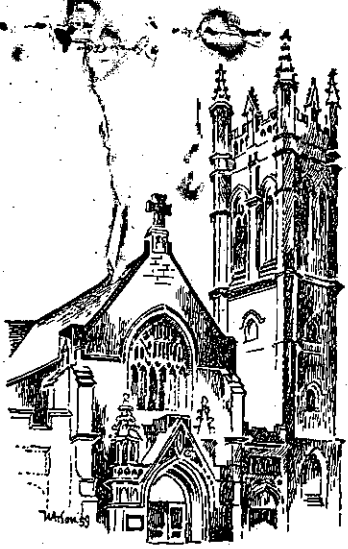
Secretary



Church of the Divine Paternity, New York City

Church of The Divine Paternity, New York City, Central Park, West, and 76th street. Rev. Frank Oliver Hall, D. D., pastor. Entertains National Y. P. C. U. 1910. Value of property \$700,000.00. Funds \$100,000.00. Church membership 400. Annual receipts about \$28,000.00. Church made famous by the long pastorate of Rev. E. H. Chapin, D. D. Rev. Charles H. Eaton, D. D., was his worthy successor under whose ministry the present edifice was erected. Among the many "good works" of the congregation are "The Chapin Home for the Aged and Infirm." The Brevoort mission and the Fresh Air Farm mentioned in another part of this book. The influence of the church extends throughout the city and country. Dr. Hall, the pastor, finds time for lectures, the writing of pamphlets and books, and so greatly extends his ministry. "The Calends" is the monthly church paper.

*What the Universalist Church  
is doing" 1907-1909*



THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF NEW YORK CITY  
(THE CHURCH OF THE DIVINE PATERNITY)

CENTRAL PARK WEST AND 76TH STREET

PARISH HOUSE: 2-4 WEST 76TH STREET

NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

TELEPHONE ENDICOTT 2-1950

REV. LEONARD HELIE  
MINISTER

May 19, 1960

Mr. Donald W. Beebe  
373 Argonne Drive  
Kenmore 23, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Beebe:

Stanley Moore asked me if I would answer your letter of May 9th. The Third Universalist Society, which was located on West 81st Street, was also known as the Eternal Hope Church.

I trust that this additional bit of information will help you to help us.

Sincerely yours,

*Leonard Helie*

Rev. Leonard Helie

LH/jd

May 25, 1960

Mr. Stanley W. Moore  
Chairman, Board of Trustees  
Church of the Divine Paternity  
2-4 West 76th Street  
New York 23, New York

Dear Mr. Moore:

My records yield nothing about the Eternal Hope Fund - except that in a letter to the Finance Committee of the State Convention in March, 1936 from "Louis" whom I assume was Mr. Ames - it appears that Dr. Leining had then in his possession a contract regarding the Fund - which contract the letter goes on to say that "should the Eternal Hope Fund cease to be used for missionary purposes in the City of New York, the final disposition of the Fund would be that it would become the property of the Universalist General Convention."

I fear this is not too helpful to you. I do not find the contract mentioned in the files turned over to me as Treasurer. It may be that Rev. Gilman received this contract in the files Dr. Leining turned over to him in the termination of his Superintendency. You could I suppose write both Rev. Gilman and Dr. Leining about this.

If my recollection serves me correctly - I seem to recall hearing that more recently some further contract regarding the Eternal Hope Fund was entered into between the U.C.A. and your Church. Probably you have that contract in mind if I am correct.

Very truly yours,

Donald W. Beebe,  
Treasurer

DB:MM

*Reported to  
Ex 12 d 6-3-60*

## NEW YORK Day by Day

### Landmark Collaboration On the West Side

Neighbors of the Universalist Church on Central Park West wanted to help fix the steps. Now, they are about to embark on an unusual experiment in the governance of a landmark building.

A nonprofit corporation called SOUL — Save Our Universalist Landmark — is being created to raise money for badly needed repairs to the 88-year-old church, at 76th Street, and to administer funds for its maintenance.

What makes the corporation remarkable is its board: 7 of the 13 members will come from within the congregation and 6 from the neighborhood.

"We are giving a lot of people access to how our building is going to be maintained," said David A. Dunlop, business manager of the church.

A year ago, residents of the Kenilworth apartment building next door asked what could be done about the crumbling front steps. They learned that the steps were the least of the problems faced by the church, problems that could not be fixed with what little money the congregation had.

At the same time, the church was being courted by real-estate developers. "It's so obvious a site, it's painful," Mr. Dunlop said. "It's not like we're a whisker. We're the nose on the face."

But the church elected to go into a partnership with the community to save its building, something that will take at least \$500,000 for the immediate needs.

Judith Moyers, a neighbor of the Universalist Church, contrasted its approach to that taken by Congregation Shearith Israel and the New York Historical Society, which have proposed towers over their landmark homes on Central Park West.

"We've heard members of the community say: 'Why didn't you tell us you needed help? Why did you go to the developers first?'" Mrs. Moyers said. "Well, this is a case where a church is doing just that. I think it can be a wonderful example."

Mr. Dunlop also spoke of being a model for other churches, schools and nonprofit institutions in landmarks:

"They have to relinquish a sense of self-possession and realize that their building is of greater value to the community than it is to themselves. That takes a great leap. But if you want to keep a building alive and if you believe in what you're doing in the neighborhood, it's the only morally responsible step you can take."

"The problem is that moral responsibility runs — crash — head-first into money. Not in our case. At least, so far. I don't want to have egg on our faces years from now and have to say that money beat us."

# Westsider

NEW YORK, NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 26-OCTOBER 2, 1985

## Church Enlists Neighbors

By AL AMATEAU

The Fourth Universalist Society, whose 88-year-old church on Central Park West at 76th Street is badly in need of repair, has turned to the community instead of to developers to solve its problems.

Resisting offers from real estate developers, including Harry Helmsley and Tishman Realty, the congregation has joined with neighbors and preservationists to form Save Our Universalist Landmark (SOUL) to raise money to preserve the building.

The church is one of 49 buildings within the Central Park West-76th Street Historic District that was designated by the Landmarks Preservation Commission. It also provides sanctuary for other congregations ranging from spiritualists to fundamentalists, and is the home of the Winston Preparatory School for learning-disabled children, the Stephen Gaynor School gymnasium, a gay women's group and several programs for single people.

"We're making an extraordinary effort to save the building," said David Dunlop, business manager of the Universalist Society for the past six years.

The first priority is to raise \$67,000 to repair the tower and the roof drainage system. They are reaching a critical point," Dunlop said. For the past nine months, a sidewalk bridge has been maintained at the base of the tower to protect pedestrians from the danger of falling bits of mortar and masonry. Installing the bridge was voluntary, Dunlop noted, but adds to church expenses. "We have to pay rent on the structure," he said.

Longer range needs include repairing stained glass windows, cleaning and repointing the bluestone and limestone walls and maintaining the Tiffany altar and the August

## CHURCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tus St. Gaudens relief sculpture in the sanctuary of the church.

"If we can raise \$500,000, we'll be able to keep the church in repair for 10 years," Dunlop said. The ultimate goal is \$2 million for a permanent preservation fund.

Offers from real estate developers are not unusual, Dunlop said. Inquiries from Gotham Realty, City Center Realty and Brown Harris Stevens, in addition to Helmsley and Tishman, have been received. The most recent offer was \$8.5 million, but the congregation has voted overwhelmingly not to sell, Dunlop said.

Instead, the church has called on neighbors. Landmark West!, a West Side preservation coalition. The Landmark Conservancy and the Municipal Art Society have joined SOUL to save the English Gothic church that was designed by William Stuart Potter.

"It's pretty rare for a church to come to the community for help," said Lori Beckelman. She is a member of the conservancy, which has pledged \$5,000 in matching funds. "It's one of our favorite landmarks and its preservation is very important to the historic district and the city," she added.

Wesley Haynes, director of technical services for the conservancy and an advisor to the Universalist Society, said if crucial roof work is done—a three-month project—"the society should get a lot of years out of this building."

Arlene Simon, president of Landmark West!, said preservation of the church is a key to protecting the architectural integrity of the area. "We hope to have a neighborhood fund-raiser to make more people aware of the

importance of the Universalist Church at Central Park West," she said.

Simon contrasted the efforts of the Universalist Society to enlist community aid with those of St. Bartholemew's, the landmarked church on Park Avenue at East 51st Street that is seeking Landmark Preservation Commission approval to replace its parish house with a high-rise development.

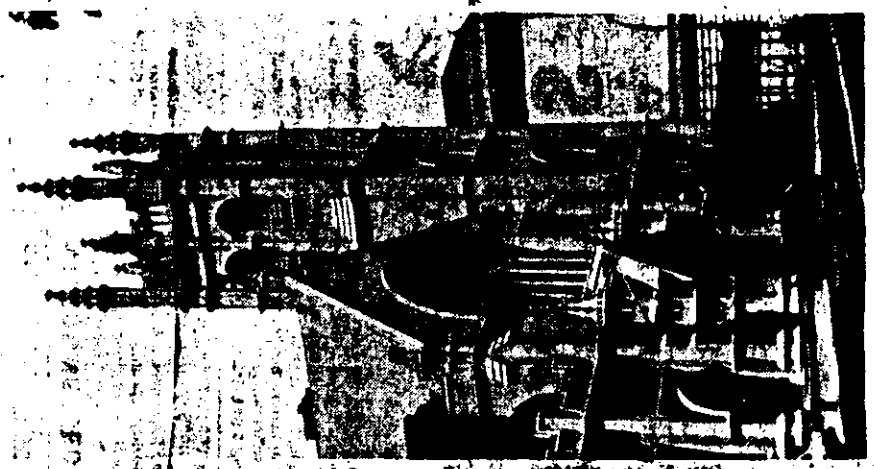
Community involvement, however, is a tradition at the Universalist Church, said Rev. Joyce Smith, who became minister the beginning of this month. But with a membership of about 90, the society has not been able to implement social programs, Rev. Smith said.

Nevertheless, Dunlop said, "We have a tremendous range of activities: from block associations to Iranian students. They talk to us when others have no room for them." Indeed, scheduling the different activities sometimes is "more like coordinating take-offs and landings at LaGuardia Airport," he said. For example, the installation ceremony for Rev. Smith is scheduled for 7 P.M. on September 29, an hour after the Central Park West Church of Christ is supposed to finish its service in the sanctuary.

In the past few years, voices of Baba Ram Das and other swamis have echoed in the sanctuary and meeting rooms of the church that was built in 1897.

Founded in 1838 in lower Manhattan, the Fourth Universalist Society numbers among its early congregants such members as Mrs. Andrew Carnegie, P.T. Barnum and Horace Greeley.

Potter, the architect engaged to build the church when the congregation moved uptown, designed several other Manhattan churches. The Universalist Society is considered one of his major achievements.



The Universalist Church at Central Park West and 77th Street

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



# Community Joins in Aid To a Landmark Church

By WILLIAM G. BLAIR

In what preservationists hope will be a model for saving threatened landmarks, the financially troubled Universalist Church on Central Park West has formed an alliance with the surrounding community to raise \$400,000 for urgently needed repairs.

If the community can raise the money, the small, 88-year-old Gothic church at 76th Street has agreed not to exercise its development, or air, rights for at least 12 years, according to David A. Dunlop, its business manager.

The church is one of 49 buildings that the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission included in 1973 in the Central Park West-76th Street Historic District.

In an effort to preserve it, a nonprofit corporation called Soul — Save Our Universalist Landmark — has been formed, with its board drawn almost equally from the church's congregation and the community.

## Developers Seek Investments

The church and the community are trying to cope with a problem that other nonprofit landmark institutions face — inadequate revenues and decaying buildings — a situation that has attracted real-estate developers seeking investment opportunities.

"The real-estate people have approached just about every tax-free institution on Central Park West," said Arthur Sarnoff, a community member of Soul's board who has lived 51 of his 54 years in the landmark Kenilworth cooperative apartment building, which adjoins the church.

Although the church has been among

those approached, "we do not intend to use our development rights as a fundraiser to allow some developer to replace the existing building," Mr. Dunlop said. "My raison d'être, and that of everybody connected with the church, is to save the building."

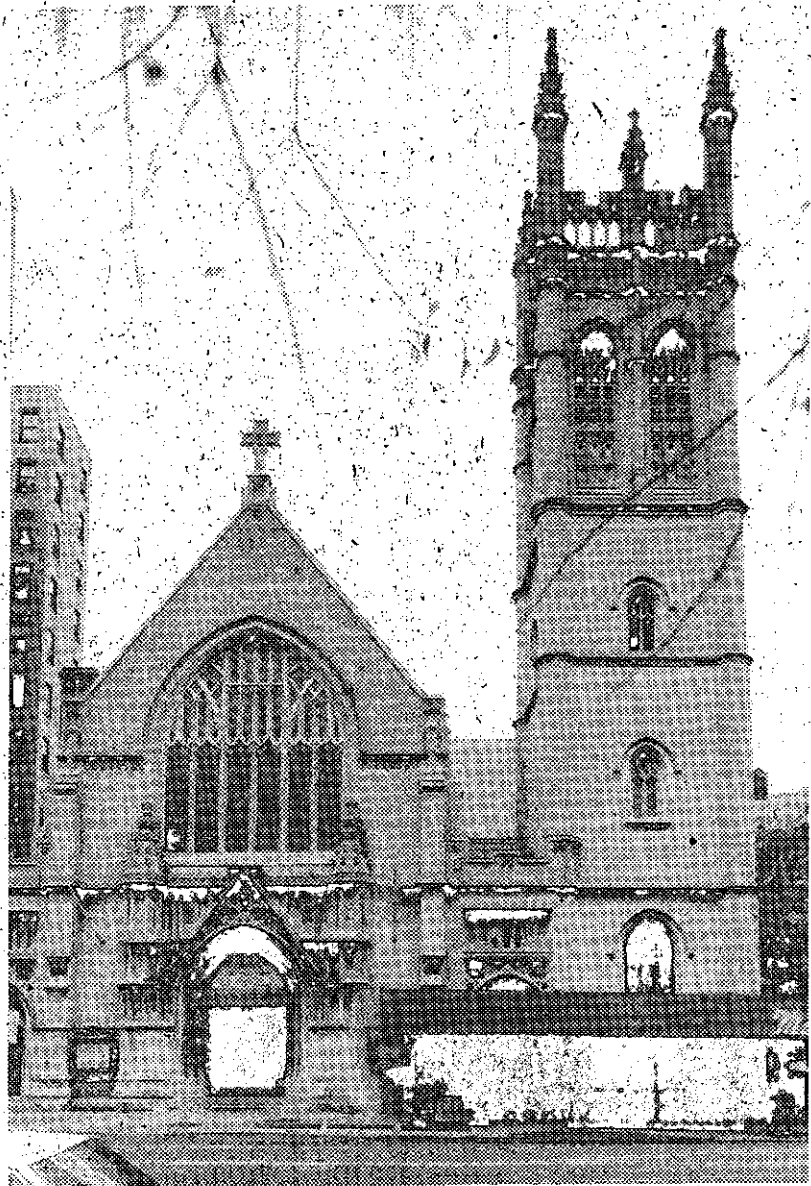
Referring to the controversial plans of such landmark institutions as St. Barthomelew's Episcopal Church to replace all or part of their structures with towers, Mr. Sarnoff said: "This is totally unique, in that it is a community project instead of a community battle."

## 'Could Be a Breakthrough'

The unusual church-community experiment in landmark governance has attracted the support of such preservationist organizations as the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the Municipal Art Society of New York and Landmark West, whose president, Arlene Simon, said, "This could be a breakthrough."

They will join Soul today at a news conference at the church to announce the fund-raising campaign officially. The money is needed to repair the church's leaking roof, crumbling stone entrance steps, deteriorating European stained-glass windows and collapsing Gothic tower that is a copy of the tower at Oxford University's Magdalen College. The building, erected in 1897, was designed by William Stuart Potter.

Mr. Dunlop said the church, with annual income of about \$225,000 from a small endowment and other limited resources, had been operating at a loss for some time and was projecting a loss of \$50,000 for this year.



The New York Times/Jack Manning

The Universalist Church on Central Park West at 76th Street.

## Gambino-Trial Defense Attorneys Assail Credibility of Key Witness

By RONALD SMOTHERS\*



The New York Times/Marilyn Church

Herold Price Fahringer questioning Vito Arena at the Gambino trial. Mr. Fahringer is the attorney for Joseph C. Testa Jr., one of the defendants.

Defense attorneys for the 10 reputed Gambino crime figures on trial for car theft and murder sought to discredit the testimony of a key Government witness yesterday.

In cross-examination of the witness, Vito Arena, the lawyers sought to portray him as someone who tried to manipulate prosecutors to get what he wanted.

Mr. Arena admitted under cross-examination that on several occasions he had warned the prosecutor, Walter S. Mack Jr., that he would not testify unless the authorities at the Federal prison where he was incarcerated did not give him more food, mail not screened by prison authorities, a barber chair, and some music tapes.

In earlier testimony, the 43-year-old witness, who has admitted being a car thief and murderer, had implicated seven of the 10 defendants, including the reputed Gambino crime organization head, Paul Castellano, in the ring's activities. He had also referred to himself as the Government's "star witness."

"You weren't trying to manipulate them, were you, by making these demands?" asked James LaRossa, Mr. Castellano's attorney.

"No," answered the witness. "I just was talking about something that I deserved."

Referring to transcripts of telephone conversations between the witness and the United States Attorney's staff that had been recorded by the Bureau of Prisons and, by law, made available to the defense, Mr. LaRossa asked if Mr. Arena had not demanded that Mr. Mack call Attorney General Edwin Meese 3d's office on these matters.

"Who else was I going to ask to call," said Mr. Arena with a sneer, "You?

Would you call for me. Let's be realistic."

Defense lawyers sought to point out what they found to be inconsistencies in accounts of different crimes that Mr. Arena, gave last week in the courtroom at Foley Square and in what he told a grand jury in 1983, in formal interrogations in 1982 and in 1981 conversations with an F.B.I. agent.

Most of the attorneys sought to bring out that prior to his 1983 grand jury testimony, Mr. Arena had never linked their clients to the car ring or the murders. Only Herold Price Fahringer, the attorney for Joseph C. Testa Jr., 30, focused on differing details of Mr. Arena's accounts of one murder incident.

Mr. Arena had told the jury of five women and seven men that he was outside a Brooklyn garage holding the door shut during the 1979 murders of two legitimate automobile wholesalers by three of the defendants. But in his description to the grand jury and interrogators, he said he was so close that a hot, ejected shell from one of the weapons landed on his neck and that he pushed back one of the victims who tried to get away.

When confronted in court with this, Mr. Arena said that the grand jury stenographer and the stenographer at the 1982 interrogations had made mistakes.

It was also a day in which Judge Kevin Thomas Duffy angrily rebuked both prosecutors for not being adequately prepared for trial and a defense attorney for recklessly opening the door to testimony about the more than 50 additional narcotics, extortion, prostitution and racketeering charges on which some of the defendants have yet to be tried.

yesterday, during the playing of the tapes, one of the defendants broke the silence of the courtroom with an expletive referring to a statement by Mr. Testa, and added: "That's a damn lie." Judge Keenan, who had his own eyes set on, seemed unaware of the outburst.

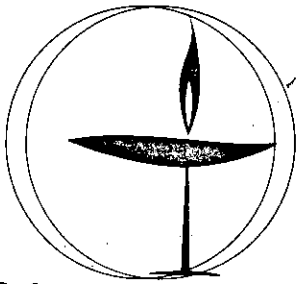
The last of 11 opening statements was given by Barry I. Slotnick, the law-

yer for Ralph Scopo, who was president of the Cement Workers District Council from 1977 to last April. The prosecution says Mr. Scopo extorted construction companies and shared the payments with others in the Colombo group.

Mr. Slotnick told the jury that his client threatened to "close down" a construction job only when labor conditions were not proper.

Fourth Universalist Society

in  
the  
City  
of New York



February 18, 1986

Rev. Joyce H. Smith, D.D., *Minister*  
4 West 76th Street, New York, NY 10023  
(212) 595-8410

Rev. Donald J. Reidell, President  
New York State Convention of Universalists  
5170 Ledge Lane  
Williamsville, New York 14221

Dear Rev. Reidell:

I am pleased to report that the Convention's contribution to our building fund campaign has borne fruit.

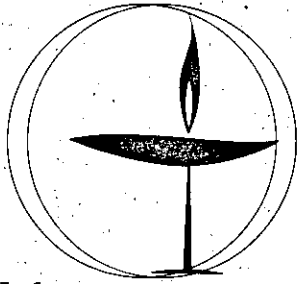
To date we have received \$100,000 in donations and pledges from our neighbors in the community, and next month we will conduct our campaign among members of our own congregation, which is expected to produce another \$100,000. Our Society has also transferred \$100,000 from its modest endowment to an endowment to be administered by Save Our Universalist Landmark, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation whose board is composed in equal numbers of representatives from the community and from our Society. Thus we are well on our way to our campaign goal of \$500,000.

The Convention's contribution has been a significant factor in our success thus far, not only for the administrative support which it has provided but also in establishing our credibility within the community. We have been unable to find any other source of funds within the Unitarian Universalist Association or affiliated organizations, and the Convention's backing has thus been crucial in demonstrating that we have denominational support in our endeavor. The Convention's endorsement of our commitment to the community to make no external changes to the building for 12 years was also, in light of the Convention's reversionary interest in the property, essential to gain the community's confidence.

The campaign is not over, however, as we still face the task of raising some \$200,000 from foundations and other community sources. This effort will occupy our attention for the next year and a half, until the campaign winds up at the end of 1987.

Fourth Universalist Society

in  
the  
City  
of New York

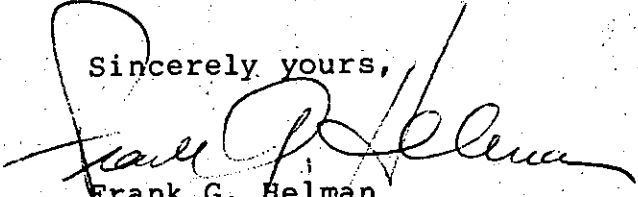


Rev. Donald J. Reidell  
February 18, 1986  
Page 2

Rev. Joyce H. Smith, D.D., *Minister*  
4 West 76th Street, New York, NY 10023  
(212) 595-8410

Grateful for your past support, we ask that you consider continuing that support for another year, to help us insure that the "Cathedral of Universalism" will remain a symbol of our faith into the twenty-first century and beyond. Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Convention renew its \$5,000 contribution to the administrative salaries necessary for the continuation of the campaign.

Sincerely yours,

  
Frank G. Helman  
President

Many years ago someone asked a Universalist minister where he stood on a certain issue. His reply, "We do not stand; we move," has become one of our enduring shibboleths.

Our congregation has literally moved several times since its founding in 1838, beginning on Elizabeth Street, followed by Murray Street, Spring Street and then 45th and 5th Avenue before erecting this building at the end of the nineteenth century.

It was the Victorian era and Americans were in love with the English. Even previously austere New England meeting houses began to reflect anglophilism. The Old Ship Church in Hingham, Massachusetts, as puritan and plain as Cotton Mather's wardrobe, adorned itself with thick drapery and carpeting. This impulse led our congregation to copy the architecture of Oxford University.

This building was called The Church of the Divine Paternity, which then represented the height of liberal Protestant theology: "The Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man." We were considered the Cathedral of Universalism. Though Universalism has never and will never have bishops, ministers like Charles Eaton, Frank Oliver Hall and Joseph Fort Newton spoke with voices heeded throughout the city and the nation.

Now, almost a century later we find ourselves inhabiting a venerable landmark, not only of stone but of spirit. Nearly every Sunday we have visitors from Unitarian Universalist churches throughout the land who ask the inevitable, "Was this built as a Universalist Church?"

The fundamental question for any landmark, of stone or spirit is, "what is its efficacy today?" Part of our efficacy is to preserve the view of Central Park for a few of our neighbors. Important to them, but clearly not a sufficient reason for a building to continue to exist.

However, we also provide a human and spiritual quality to the neighborhood, a relief from the relentlessness of affluent residences. When this building, and most churches in the city were built, they were the highest buildings. They caused us to look up, where divinity symbolically resided.

Now our urban churches are dwarfed in their neighborhoods. But they let light in, give a respite from the marketplace, and therefore still serve an important sacred function.

David Garcia, rector of St Mark's in the Bowery, says the preservation of historic buildings is urban ecology. They also link us to our past in important ways. But this speaks only to our exterior. Our interior is also important, and is not landmarked.

The Charles Street Meeting House still stands in Boston. For several years it was the most forward-looking Universalist Church in the denomination. Now it is an office building, its worship space drawn and quartered into numerous commercial enterprises.

A few years ago our congregation, struggling with decades of deferred maintenance, said, "Our interior is important, too! It is a landmark in the life of our city and our denomination, just as the exterior is a landmark to our geography. Let's keep it a Unitarian Universalist Church inside and out."

A-not-for-profit corporation called Save Our Universalist Landmark (S.O.U.L.) was formed. With great help from our neighbors and the preservation community we were able to complete significant repairs to our exterior. The interior, however, is our business. By this I mean not merely our need for paint and plaster, but the community, spiritual and worship life which gives a church building its real reason for being. Which brings us to the chancel.

A mosaic was added to the chancel in 1914, depicting a human Jesus washing the feet of St. Peter while his disciples look on. This expression of humility was a precise and useful expression of our theology in its time.

However, we do not stand; we move. In recent years the mosaic has become less and less useful, because of the manner in which its truthful message is portrayed.

The vast majority of our congregation no longer identifies itself as exclusively Christian. We could no longer live with an image portrayed only by white males dominating our worship space.

Yet many of us had grown attached to the mosaic for personal or historic reasons. How could we preserve the past yet insure the future? How could we transform the chancel space to reflect an atmosphere with roots in Christianity but with branches in a Universalism which accepts truth and beauty from many sources?

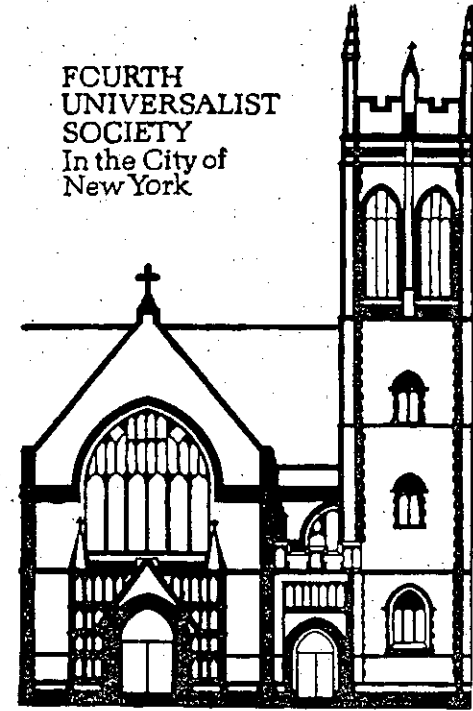
Thanks to the Fashion Institute of Technology, our committee which supervised the project, and the goodwill of the congregation, we dedicate our dossal this evening. Our hope is that this covering will better express the current worship needs of the congregation and tell the world more accurately of the inclusiveness and even mystical nature of our emergent universalism.

It will also give us the flexibility to show and appreciate our historic mosaic when appropriate and finally, it will be a symbol of a church community reconciling its history with its future and coming into harmony with itself.

We hope that this dedication ceremony is another milestone in the history of a unique church which has a long and unique future. We thank those who have assisted us in keeping our exterior beautiful and we thank the Fashion Institute of Technology for doing the same with our interior.

We are also thankful to each other for the tolerance and good will necessary to extend our special message of universal spirituality and justice to those who have not yet come to us but will, because we have worked together creatively to preserve our past and insure our future. We have been true to ourselves. We do not stand. We move.

FOURTH  
UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY  
In the City of  
New York



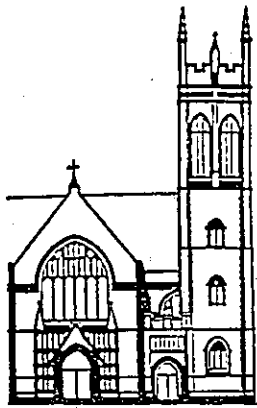
## **INSTALLATION CEREMONY FOR THE DOSSAL**

Theme by Rev. Darrell Berger  
Sunday, February 23, 1991

**THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**  
*(Unitarian Universalist)*  
160 Central Park West  
(at 76th St.)  
New York, NY 10023  
(212) 595 8410

50¢





## The Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York

160 Central Park West, New York, New York 10023 212-595-1658 (Fax) 212-595-0134

The Rev. Darrell Berger, Minister

New York Daily News - Saturday, October 25, 1997

# Finding Universalist appeal

**T**HE REV. DARRELL BERGER wasn't on the scene yet, but a few members of his flock remember the day when — in Berger's phrase — out went the Lord's Prayer and in came Bob Dylan.

This was in the early '60s when, faced with closing the door and walking away, the congregation took a deep collective breath and changed its rituals, liturgy and music to fit the times.

"You can do almost anything if you explain it intellectually before and after the fact," says Berger, whose choir at the Fourth Universalist Society celebrated his 49th birthday last Sunday by singing "Happy Birthday."

Now, Berger is gently prodding his flock in a new direction — involvement in social issues, starting this weekend with an intensive workshop on racism, followed by a Sunday service devoted to the same subject.

The program, called "Toward a Jubilee World," began last night and continues all day today with seminars and workshops.

"I told the congregation that some of us might cry or get mad, but that anti-racism is something we cannot ignore any longer," Berger says. "I see this as a transforming moment in the church's life."

He also sees it as the curtain raiser for a most significant celebration — of the 100th anniversary of the church's current home on Central Park West.

"I've been wanting to do the workshop for three or four years, and I'm really curious to see how it works out," Berger says.

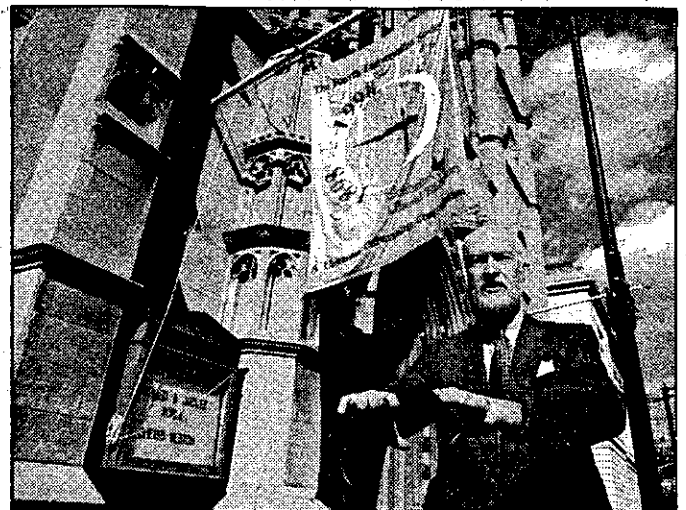
There was a time, not many years ago, when the church could not look far beyond simply surviving. Membership was stuck in the low double digits — it now stands at 100 or so, with a promising number of young couples with children.

When the church was falling apart, a partnership of members and neighbors — among them actor Michael Douglas and the late Peter Allen — raised \$500,000 to make repairs.

Morale is up, too.

Berger, who arrived nine years ago from the Unitarian pulpit in Scituate, Mass., can even joke about the collection plate. According to church records, the first collection came to \$9.01. "That's looked pretty good some Sundays since," he said.

The church itself is an architectural and historical treas-



BILL TURNBULL DAILY NEWS

**TAKING ISSUES:** The Rev. Darrell Berger of the Fourth Universalist Society is encouraging social activism in his flock.

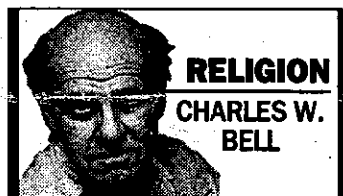
ure — for one thing, it is the only Universalist cathedral ever built. The architect was William Stuart Potter, one of the greats of 19th-century church design. The stained glass is Tiffany, Henry Steinway personally designed the piano, and Mrs. Andrew Carnegie, a member of the congregation, donated the organ.

The crowning glory is the corner tower, modeled on the one at Magdalene College at Oxford University in England. It so impressed Disney execs that they rented the church for a party celebrating "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

The Fourth Society was so named because it was the fourth of seven Universalist societies in the city — the others are long gone — but its official original name was the Church of the Divine Paternity. That name changed about the time "Onward, Christian Soldiers" vanished from its hymnals.

Early this century, the church opened the city's first free kindergarten and its first retirement home. Berger would like to see his flock back on that social-action firing line.

"I decided to become a minister because I saw divinity students taking a lead in the civil rights movement," says Berger, who grew up in Oregon, Ohio, and majored in philosophy at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. "I haven't done nearly enough to pick up their commitment, but now, I hope, I'm ready to make up for lost time."



**RELIGION**  
**CHARLES W. BELL**

Organized 1838. Located on Central Park West at 76th Street

Member: Unitarian Universalist Association and New York Convention of Universalists

**We the member congregations  
of the Unitarian Universalist Association  
covenant to affirm and promote:**

The inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The living tradition we share draws from many sources:

Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which move us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life.

Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.

Wisdom from the world's religions which inspire us in our ethical and spiritual life.

Jewish and Christian teaching which call us to respond to God's love by our loving neighbors as ourselves.

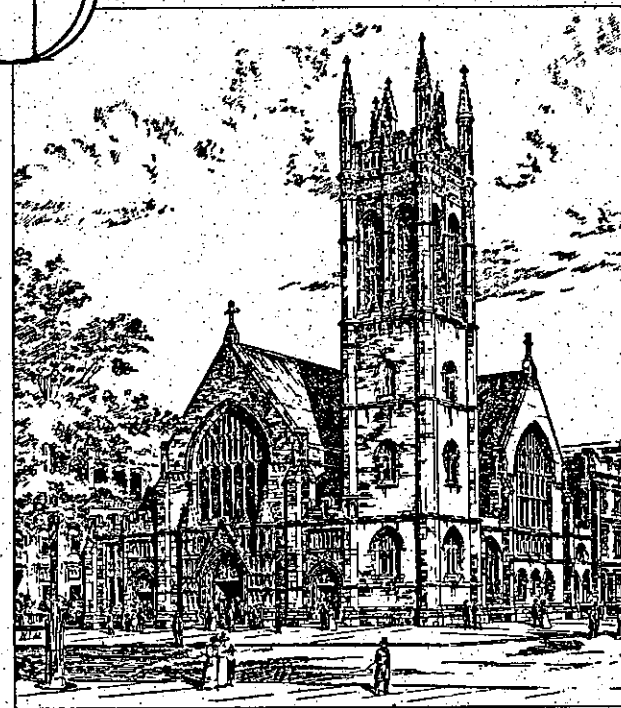
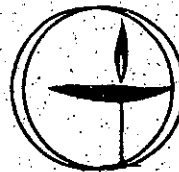
Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.

Spiritual teachings of those Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes.

The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions, and implement its principles.



**CENTENNIAL 1898-1998**

OCTOBER 18, 1998

11:00 AM

**CENTENNIAL OF THE  
FIRST WORSHIP SERVICE**

THE REVEREND DARRELL BERGER, MINISTER,  
GUEST SPEAKER: DENNY DAVIDOFF, UUA MODERATOR

**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 our faith and honor through our action, our Unitarian Universalist heritage of religious pluralism, social justice, reason, and compassion.

**THE FOURTH UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY**  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

160 CENTRAL PARK WEST  
(AT 76TH STREET)

NEW YORK, NY 10023  
212-595-1658

## OUR CATHEDRAL

Our cathedral, an historic landmark in the great City of New York, has stood tall for 100 years. Magnificent in character, strong in support, warm in shelter. Always there when we've needed it. Never leaving us despite the many changes. Weathering the elements and energies of the people who have passed through its doors. From the very first musical hymn, *Onward Christian Soldiers*, to our present Women's Full Moon Circle, to the people we will reach through the modern technology of our web site, we have shared and will continue to share this sacred space with many, seeking the common comfort of a safe spiritual community in order to explore, accept and challenge the questions we ask of life and religion.

It has remained longer than most of us could ever hope to live. I wildly imagine it will be here forever, holding us in times of celebration and turmoil. Asking nothing of us, yet speaking to us all, providing many answers without ever saying a word.

I often wonder of the large congregation who had the creative vision to build this beautiful and unique cathedral. Somehow, I sense and share the joy they received in accomplishing their dreams of providing a loving spiritual home for themselves and congregations beyond their imaginations. I am truly grateful for their efforts and deeply honored to contribute to the preservation of this very special place.

When you walk into this building, its warmth will embrace you as it exemplifies the true meaning of our Mission Statement & The Purposes and Principles. Compassion and respect will be demanded of you when you live in community here, preserving the historical richness for ourselves, our children and future congregations. What can you give to this lovely place, as it respectfully gives to you? Do your actions support your beliefs?

Here, there is room for everyone. This building, a precious dream, is forever committed to providing the security of a spiritually welcoming, liberally religious home. Lovingly and willingly care for it, as it unconditionally cares for you.

Lorena Mann  
Centennial Director

## THE FOURTH UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK (UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST)

THE REVEREND DARRELL BERGER, MINISTER  
JOSETTE BAILEY, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
RAY BURGHARDT, ORGANIST, PIANIST

Prelude	<i>Air from Water Music</i> , G.F. Handel Organ, Ray Burghardt
Chalice Lighting (Unison Reading)	Josette Bailey
	<i>May the light we now kindle, inspire us to use our power to heal with love, to help with compassion, to bless with joy, to serve the spirit of freedom, in the fullness of community.</i>
Welcome	Rev. Darrell Berger
Opening Words	Introduction of the Time Capsule
Hymn	361; <i>Enter, Rejoice and Come In</i>
Church School Anthem	413; <i>Go Now in Peace</i>
Announcements	Jill Carter, President, Board of Trustees
Reading	505; by Thich Nhat Hahn Lorena Mann, Centennial Director
Community Prayer and Meditation	<i>Into the Future</i>
Musical Interlude	<i>Oh, Freedom</i> Choir
Sermon	Denny Davidoff, UUA Moderator
Offering/Musical Interlude	<i>Spirit of Life</i> Choir
Acknowledgements	Lorena Mann
Hymn	8; <i>Mother Spirit, Father Spirit</i>
Closing Words	524; by Star Hawk Elizabeth Martin
Postlude	<i>Finale from Water Music</i> , G.F. Handel Organ, Ray Burghardt