



# UUMAC Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community

Fall 2003

## Save the dates: UUMAC 2004 Will Begin July 18

Please note that UUMAC is earlier than usual: July 18-24, 2004, the third full week in the month.

Because of a schedule conflict with another conference, we accepted a week that is more suitable to our community. We understand that this may cause scheduling conflicts for some of you. We do hope that you will choose UUMAC for your vacation next year.



### A Hopeful Theme for UUMAC 2004

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that the theme speaker for UUMAC 2004 will be the Reverend **John Morehouse** from the UU Congregation of Frederick, MD. and the theme talks will be entitled, "**Finding Hope in Times Such as These.**" Please see page 2 for more information on the theme talks.

Did you get your UUMAC directory for 2003? We still have a few CD's with many wonderful moments of UUMAC. If you still need a directory, E-mail [pinball157@aol.com](mailto:pinball157@aol.com) or call Ken Shilling at 301-464-0021.

### Don't Miss the Fall Reunion on November 15

#### A UUMAC First –Reunion with a Hot Tub!

The Fall Reunion will be in Joseph Priestley District this year, reversing the pattern of recent years. The Board of Trustees will meet at Paint Branch Church from 9:00 to 4:00 or thereabouts, then will break.

At 6:30 UUMACers will begin to congregate at the home of Kathy Clay and family in Clarksville, Maryland, which Kathy tells us is just west of Columbia. The reunion is pot luck style, so bring a dish to share and a bathing suit if you'd like to enjoy the hot tub.

*Directions to Kathy's are on the back page.*

### A little about this year's theme speaker . . .

The **Reverend John Morehouse** is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist whose spiritual journey has taken him through Christianity, Buddhism and mysticism. Widely regarded as one of the best preachers in our movement today, John earned his BA in Anthropology from Grinnell College in 1979 and did his graduate work at the University of Chicago and Meadville/Lombard Theological School. Along with his wife and partner Francis, John has helped churches grow in Indiana, Ohio and now Maryland. John came to the UU Congregation of Frederick, MD in 1994 through a special growth program of the denomination and was called to permanent ministry there in 1996.

## Finding Hope in Times Such as These

The first years of the new millennium have been difficult and challenging ones for religious liberals. Many of us fear that our voices are being overwhelmed in a rapidly changing world – a world that seems headed for more conservatism, more fundamentalism, more danger. We grapple for answers. How do we maintain our faith and our balance? What do we tell our children?

As a community organizer who seeks to bring a spiritual dimension in the broadest sense to the work of changing our communities, the **Rev. John Morehouse** insists that starting with our own ground of meaning is vital to finding hope and changing our world. His theme talks will help us work toward a UU theology that just might change the world.



John, a fourth generation UU and a minister of many years, brings his extensive social justice and spiritual experience, as well as his sense of humor, to bear on the issues that are shaking, and shaping, our lives. John has lived in India and traveled around the world. He is the founder of the Frederick Interfaith Network as well as an evangelist for Unitarian Universalism. John, along with his wife Frances and their five daughters, spent the last ten years growing by fourfold the membership of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick, MD. In May of 2003 the congregation moved into its new 11,000-square-foot church. John also serves as the consulting minister of the UU Church of Loudoun, VA.

Among the subjects John will cover, as we work toward our theology of hope, are inherent worth and dignity; the complexity of religion, culture and politics in the world today and how we fit in; individualism and the importance of communities; and balancing our lives with the need to make a difference.

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## President's Corner

The theme and theme speaker make a big impact on UUMAC, so I'm delighted that the Rev. John Morehouse will join us at UUMAC 2004 to help us sort through these very unsettling times. I know John as a man of great warmth, hope, humor and a hearty laugh, so while the subject is serious, I can assure you that, to quote from our hymnal, "ours is no caravan of despair."

As important as the theme speaker is, I can think of no one element of UUMAC more important than the teen program. That's why we spent most of our September board meeting going over changes to the teen contract that had been suggested by this year's teen program coordinators, Kevin Drewery and Robin Slaw. Kevin had been kind enough to write a long letter to the board with his suggestions, and Robin was kind enough to give up a Saturday to work through some of the issues with the board. We decided to call it a covenant instead of a contract, but all of our decisions were tentative because the teen representative on the board, Kaye Dee Barrows, was not able to be present. So we'll finalize our work at the November 15 meeting, before the reunion.

Robin also offered to help us draft a Family Covenant, for the entire adult community, and Brenda Lovette is working with her on a draft of that for board approval. It is intended that one element of the covenant will be to make UUMAC a video-game-free zone, as Gail Compton had suggested at the last general membership meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at the reunion. Come early and attend part of the board meeting at Paint Branch, if you like. And I especially look forward to seeing you and some new friends at UUMAC 2004. Come, come, whoever you are.

Mel Harkrader Pine



Above left: Pete Leary entertaining at Night Owls. right: Teen Night Owls had an Egyptian theme this year.

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## Musings from Director Ken Shilling

### UUMAC – A Spiritual Community for Those Who Choose

UUMAC is community. Getting together with close friends for another week-year. Enjoying a spontaneous and carefree week. Placing pieces in the life puzzle, or walking across the bridge to the next stage of life. Children of all ages learning and playing together.

My twelve year-old son, Kelson, faced a difficult choice when two of his favorite camps were scheduled for the same week this past summer. Kelson really loved karate camp. He also knew that UUMAC was a special community in his life. To his credit, he explained his choice to attend UUMAC to his karate instructor.

UUMAC is living life together. My son impishly announced my over-the-hill age (50) to the entire community. Yet, he chose to walk up the mountain with me during Mike's hike on my birthday. He looks forward to the Bridging Ceremony next year. Other life passages are more difficult to understand. Like many of us, he struggles to make sense of tragic deaths from senseless acts of violence. Here, our UU practices enable him to express his thoughts and feelings. Attending UUMAC with friends of all ages provides him with a continuity of life.

We had a long ride home from UUMAC. Kelson rushed into the house — to play video games? Surprise! He looked at the UUMAC picture directory for hours. And then a Hogwarts owl delivered a special tween directory. (So, we are planning for two tween groups in 2004.)

We all experience so much of life in one week. The moments of silence quiet the busy soul. The magic of fun brings healing and renewal. The dance of happy feet builds community. Ready for wonder and mystery in so many ways? Come to UUMAC 2004. Tell a friend about UUMAC. Share your experience of UUMAC community with them.



Ken at last summer's carnival.

### Special Event in Columbia MD

At the time of the UUMAC reunion on November 15th in Columbia (MD) you also have an opportunity to see the (very) newly renovated Owen Brown Interfaith Center, home of the UU Congregation of Columbia, and attend a Gala Dedicatory Piano Recital debuting UUC's brand new Mason & Hamlin Artist Grand piano. The pianist is Michael Adcock, who is UUC's choir accompanist and a really gifted artist. On the program are Beethoven, Liszt, Chopin, and Tom Benjamin (UUC's choir director).

The event begins at 8 pm (\$15), so we can enjoy our potluck at Kathy Clay's and also do the concert. For more information or to order your tickets in advance, call or e-mail Inge Hyder:

ingehy@erols.com, or  
410-730-5522.

#### Confidential to Crocheters '03

Hi — I'd love to hear from all of my Crocheters -- our Crazy Patch blanket was finished and sent off to Ken and Alexa and they loved it, and I hope the friend they gave it to did also. I made a little hat to go with it. So, how are you doing? E-mail me at ingehy@erols.com or call at 410-730-5522. I can do some phone help if needed.

Love, Inge

#### UUMAC Staff Opportunities

It takes many hands to organize and sustain UUMAC throughout the year and the UUMAC week. We are currently looking for Children's Program Coordinator, Night Owl Entertainment Coordinator, teachers, and teen dorm parents for UUMAC 04. Staff in these positions do receive a subsidy for their efforts. E-mail [pinball157@aol.com](mailto:pinball157@aol.com) or call Ken Shilling at 301-464-0021 if you want to know more about a specific staff job. We are grateful to the many people who have already volunteered for UUMAC staff positions.

### UUMAC Website on the Move

The UUMAC website will now be hosted by Darrell Duane, who will set up some new features, including new, easier to use mailing lists. The existing UUMAC Yahoo Group should have been migrated to the new host by the time you're reading this.

If you'd like to be on the new UUMAC

list, please go to:

<http://lists.uumac.org/listinfo/UUMAC-announce>. If you need an e-mail list specific to the UUMAC Community (for UUMAC-related messages only, please) or you're interested in helping maintain or add design elements to the site, please contact Darrell at [dduane@duane.com](mailto:dduane@duane.com).

right: Inge and friends



## Directions to the Fall Reunion

From I-95 get off at **Route 32** going **west**, exit **38B**. The Clays are about 15 minutes from 95.

Pass Columbia exits. After you pass Route 29 the exits are numbered. (They start at 17, Kathy thinks.) Get off at exit **20**, **Route 108**. Make a left at the light.

There are 3 quick lights. Make a left at the 3rd light. Guilford Road. It is well marked. Make your first left on Thompson Rd. Follow that until it ends, about 10 houses. Make a left on Wake Forest Dr. Make your first right on Georgetown Court. The Clays are the 3rd house on the left. You can park on Wake Forest if the court is full.

Address: 6009 Georgetown Ct., Clarksville, MD. If you have a problem, call Kathy Clay at 443-535-9448.

### SAVE THESE DIRECTIONS

*Ed. note:* Reservations are not required, but the host always likes to know about how many people to expect.

## UUMAC Board 2003-2004

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(Pres)

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Susie Eastridge

Brenda Lovette

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Kaye Dee  
(teen rep)



*Above* A quiet moment at the carnival.  
*Below* Board members Brenda (left) and Emily (right), with friends Alisa Powers and Kate Makai.

