



# UUMAC Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community

Fall/Winter 2004

## UUMAC 2005: July 17- 23 Creating Green Sanctuaries

### The Search For Hope and Healing the Earth

**The Reverend Katherine Jesch**, Director of Environmental Ministry for the Seventh Principle Project, an affiliate organization of the UUA, will deliver this year's theme talk, **Creating Green Sanctuaries**.

The Seventh Principle Project, an affiliate organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association, was established to address environmental issues. The Reverend Jesch coordinates the Green Sanctuary Program, encouraging congregations to expand awareness of environmental issues, connect these issues to our faith, and translate this faith into action for environmental justice in our communities and in the world.

Following are some excerpts from the theme talk description which will appear in the brochure.

We live in extraordinary times. With greater understanding of Earth's systems, our capacities to do good are unmatched in human history. And the flip side is that we also have the ability to destroy virtually all of life on this planet. Thoughtful people know that denial is not an adequate response, and that we must all take responsibility for making change. How can our faith help us to maintain hope in a healthy future for our children? How do we remain energized and motivated to counteract the greed and corruption that threaten to unravel our life support system?

**We're double-checking with the college, but we expect the dates for UUMAC 2006 to be July 16-22.**

## UUMAC Announces Zoë Falkenberg Memorial Fund

A program of subsidies to encourage grandparent-grandchild participation in UUMAC has been announced by the UUMAC Board. The subsidies will come from the Zoë Falkenberg Memorial Fund, contributions made in memory of a child who died in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Here is a description of the program in the words of Benjamin Barrows, 12 when he wrote these words, a contemporary of Zoë's and a UUMAC regular:

"Zoë Falkenberg loved her grandparents, and her grandparents loved her. So in 2001, when she was 9, they brought her with them to UUMAC, the Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community. Zoë had an extremely good time at UUMAC. She made friends, went rafting – she just really enjoyed her time at UUMAC, as most people do. Zoë loved UUMAC.

"Sadly, Zoë did not get the chance to return. The following month, on September 11, she, her little sister and her parents were on one of the planes hijacked and crashed by terrorists. In her name, the people of UUMAC developed a memorial fund, and now we are using it to honor the love that Zoë and her grandparents shared, and that so many other grandparents and grandchildren share in our annual weeklong community.

"To encourage grandparents to bring their grandchildren to UUMAC, or grandchildren to bring their grandparents, subsidies are available from the Zoë Falkenberg Memorial Fund. UUMAC is a great opportunity for grandparents and grandchildren to be together. Many have discovered that. We hope to see a lot more, thanks to this fund.

"UUMAC, held near Allentown, PA, is a chance for Unitarian Universalists to meet and share beliefs. After more than 20 years, UUMAC has held strong as an event that welcomes all. For some, it's a chance to make friends and become part of a nurturing

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community. For others, it's an escape from life's stresses. It's a chance to do what you normally don't do, like rafting or biking with other UUs, or learning Yoga. And it offers intellectual as well spiritual stimulation.

"So if you know grandparents and grandchildren who would enjoy UUMAC, tell them about the Zoë Falkenberg Memorial Fund."

**You can all be ambassadors for UUMAC by talking to your friends about it.**



## Board Calendar

The UUMAC Board met in November at the UU church in Princeton. Both the Rev. Carol Haag, our 2005 Minister of the Week, and Nancy DiGiovanni, 2005 Teen Program Coordinator, were able to join us for at least part of the day. Here is the schedule for the rest of the year:

**January 8 - Board meeting at the Germantown UU church in Philadelphia.**

**March 19 - Board meeting at the Paint Branch UU church in Adelphi, MD, followed by the spring reunion, to be hosted by some of the Paint Branch UUMAC families.**

**June 25 - Board/staff meeting onsite at the DeSales University campus. This meeting traditionally includes a board portion of the day and a walkthrough of the facility with both board and staff members to plan logistical details**

**UUMAC '05: July 17- 23**

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## From the Director

I didn't know Ken Shilling, the Director of UUMAC '04, when I volunteered to be his Assistant Director. I come from a computer science background, where everything is designed and specified in exquisite detail. But that is not Ken Shilling's style! He would say things like "trust the process" and "the community will tell me what I forgot". I could not believe that his approach would work, but UUMAC '04 was a great success and Ken received high praise for his performance. I think I'm finally starting to get it; UUMAC is more of an art than a science, and Ken is a master of the art.



So now our community is well into the creation of UUMAC '05, and I am doing my best to follow Ken's fine example. Thanks to the Board's new policy of planning a year in advance, we already have a wonderful theme speaker and a delightful minister of the week. With the theme as our inspiration, we have filled many of the staff positions, organized a fascinating variety of workshops, and are pursuing some exciting prospects for the entertainment. What a pleasure it is to see UUMAC '05 flourishing.

Of course, UUMAC is not without its challenges. Our Teen Program is large and popular, and runs non-stop from Sunday to Saturday. We are currently estimating that we will need six adults to serve as advisors. Kevin and Robin are not available to work with the teens this year, but I am pleased to report that Nancy DiGiovanni has agreed to repeat as a Teen Program Coordinator in '05. She's already working with our youth to define this year's conference and has started building consensus on the future direction of our teen programming. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining our team of advisors, please let us know.

I'd like to thank each of you for the invaluable feedback you provided on the UUMAC '04 evaluations, for volunteering so readily for the '05 staff positions, and for stepping up to help out as needed during each conference week. UUMAC is a rich and complex process that exists entirely because of the community's collective wisdom, creativity, hard work, and love. You are amazing!

Bill Stratton  
UUMAC '05 Director  
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## Words from the Teen Program Coordinator 2005

UUMAC was a tremendous experience for me. Summer '04 was my first UUMAC experience and in that short week, I made a new, life-long friend, made many new wonderful acquaintances, grew in my experience as a youth advisor and gathered a teen fan base that follows me around like groupies (just kidding). It was a week to remember—and I still lived to tell about it and RETURN for another summer! In fact, I am already greatly anticipating UUMAC 2005.

In October, I was given the great honor to attend the CU2C2 conference as a delegate from UUMAC. No one needed to twist my arm to return to UNICAMP, a UU camp and conference center outside of Toronto, ONT, Canada. I had been transformed there while attending a UU young adult conference in summer of 2003 and I shared a similar experience while attending this fall as a UUMAC representative. That site has such a great aura and I gleaned so much from the brief but intimate CU2C2 conference---I even got a tattoo to commemorate the experience. ☺ Ask me to see it this summer!!!

While at CU2C2 I was inspired to suggest some needed adjustments to the teen program at UUMAC. I bounced some ideas off of Mel Harkrader-Pine and Bill Stratton and we brought those thoughts to the UUMAC board meeting held at my church in Princeton in early November. This summer we seek to empower the youth more--giving them more leadership and creating more of a partnership between youth reps/leaders and adult teen program coordinators. Short-term, we want the teens to help create their ideal program within the structure that currently exists. The long-term objective is to create a teen program that meets the needs and interests of teens, parents and all members of the community. A core visioning team comprised of teens, leaders and various members of the UUMAC community will be in talks this spring to do just that! Trevor Lovette, the teen UUMAC board rep, reunited with four other UUMACers (and me too!!) at a Metro-New York district youth conference the weekend of November 19-21<sup>st</sup> and initiated this dialogue. It was so much fun to see them all together again!!! I am truly grateful that I was brought into this community and I will be so glad to see you all again this summer!

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Teen Program Coordinator 2005  
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Still not on the UUMAC e-mail list? Simply go to the following web page and subscribe to UUMAC-friends:  
<http://lists.uumac.org/listinfo/uumac-friends>

## UUMAC 2005 Workshops: Something for Everyone

People look for different things when selecting a UUMAC workshop, depending on whether they want to stimulate their minds, bodies, or spirits (or some combination of these). This year, Workshop Coordinator Abby Crowley has tried to offer a balance of workshops to address each of these needs. If you are looking for an experience where you can be exposed to new ideas that you can reflect upon in community with others, [you may find yourself drawn to] perhaps *The Ecology of Theology* (leader Roberta Finkelstein), *Conflict Resolution/Anger Management* (leader Naomi Drew), or *A Taste of the Jesus Seminar* (leader John Moore) are for you. If you want to get your body moving, you may want to select *50's Dance* (leader Kay Wylie Jacob). If you want to feed your spirit and your creativity, you may want to join *Building Your Own Theology* (leader Paul Johnson), *Parents as Spiritual Guides* (leaders Rick Klimowicz and Bonnie Salvacion), *Nurturing the Goddess* (leader Cathy Clay) or a brand new *Improvisation* workshop (leader Isaac Linder). There will even be an opportunity to get involved in a service project as part of the *Reflecting on Social Action: Turning Service into Service Learning* (leader Jo Paoletti). Look for the UUMAC brochure for more complete descriptions of these workshops and make your selection! There is still room for one or two more, especially a music or movement related workshop, so, if you have ideas, please contact Abby at [acrowley@comcast.net](mailto:acrowley@comcast.net)

### Informal Workshops to Increase this Year

At the request of the community, we will be trying to revive the one-time informal workshops this year. If you have something that you would like to share with others, please contact Abby Crowley at [acrowley@comcast.net](mailto:acrowley@comcast.net) and she will make sure that there is a time and place for your offering. In the past, we have used these sessions for everything from learning how to play the harmonica to knitting to learning a new card game.



## Minister of the Week

The Minister of the Week for UUMAC 2005 is the Reverend Carol S. Haag. The person serving in this role coordinates morning and early evening worship services each day and provides support to the community in myriad ways.

We are pleased to welcome Carol to our community. Carol, who has recently retired after serving thirteen years as Minister of Religious Education in Summit, NJ, writes these words:

I am looking forward to meeting everyone at UUMAC this summer, as your minister of the week. Gathering for worship each morning and evening, taking time for long talks about issues that matter to you, and engaging in the rich complexity that is UUMAC, all beckon me toward July 17-23, 2005. Since anticipation is the spice of life, please let me know your hopes for worship, community issues that you care about, and some of what makes UUMAC special to you.

In peace,  
Rev. Carol S. Haag



Interdependent Web?



Fun at the Opening Ceremony