

UU Mid-Atlantic Community Features Jim Scott and Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon

This magical place seems to appear out of nothing for a week each summer. The Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community (UUMAC) is surely one of the most intentionally happy, thoughtful and open places. We are many things—a spiritual retreat, a family summer camp, an institute for learning and exploration, a weeklong party and reunion of kindred souls. We play games and instruments, sing, listen, discuss, learn, worship, visit, laugh, work, eat, (and sometimes sleep), shop for books in the UUMAC bookstore, dance and nosh at Night Owls, and paint faces and toenails at the Carnival. One recent teen described his new college as “UUMAC with homework”—high praise for both his college and for UUMAC. Come as you are; all are welcome.

For the week of UUMAC, we live on the campus of DeSales University, in Center Valley, Pennsylvania, near Allentown. The University has air-conditioned dorms, classrooms and some of the best cafeteria food you can imagine. No joke, we work with the staff on the food and it is wonderful! DeSales has a commitment to serving people with different abilities, and consequently, appropriate space is available with prior notice.

Programming at UUMAC is a balance of activity according to age grouping and across age barriers. Children, teens and adults each have programming geared to their interests. As well, ages mingle for off-campus trips, evening activities and those impromptu moments that WILL keep on happening!

Like the fabled Scottish town of Brigadoon, UUMAC appears once a year, to the delight of all its participants, and then disappears, except in memory, until the next year. Join us this July 19-25.

For Our 2009 Theme Speaker: Jim Scot, UU Activist/ UU Artist

Over the past 24 years Jim Scott visited approximately 500 UU Churches across the US, Canada and the United Kingdom, leading services, providing special music for services, presenting benefit concerts, and offering workshops. His new CD, Gather the Spirit features many of his songs included in the UU Hymnbook and the new Singing the Journey songbook. Gather the Spirit has become one of the most used hymns across the denomination and Jim's music is sung from church choirs to campfires.



Formerly the Co-Chair of the UU Ministry for the Earth, Jim helped create the "Green Sanctuary" program. He was awarded a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism to create The Earth and Spirit Songbook, a collection of over 100 songs of earth and peace by many contemporary composers, providing worship and RE materials that celebrate these ideals. A past board member of the UU Musicians' Network as well, Jim has long been at the forefront of the movement for new music in the denomination.

Years of activism reflect in Jim's work. His songs, poetry and short stories address issues of ecology, justice and peace with insight and gentle wit. As a member of the Paul Winter Consort,

Jim was co-creator of the monumental choral work Missa Gaia/Earth Mass. His list of published choral works continues to grow and his musical creativity includes soundtracks for PBS, a stage musical, and many recordings of songs.

Jim's musical-activist journeys include concert collaborations with renowned Jazz, Classical, and Folk artists as well as numerous concerts with choirs. He regularly performs his engaging songs for children in schools and intergenerational concerts.

For Our 2009 Minister of the Week: Rev Bob Janis-Dillon



Minister of First Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hunterdon County in Baptistown, NJ, the Reverend Bob Janis Dillon first served that congregation as part-time Consulting Minister 2006-2007, and now serves that congregation as full-time Acting Minister. Bob was raised UU and studied Philosophy and English Literature at Birmingham University in England. Before entering the ministry, he worked as an administrative assistant in a civil rights law firm, a staff reporter for several newspapers, and as Membership Coordinator of the Universalist Church of West Hartford.

Bob attended the Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago where he was an Intern Chaplain at Montgomery Place Retirement Community and co-founded the “Now what?” committee, which planned a conference devoted to interfaith dialogue. He has served on Interfaith Councils for Hyde Park and Kenwood, IL and Summit, NJ, and currently on the Community Diversity Council of Hunterdon County, Inc.