

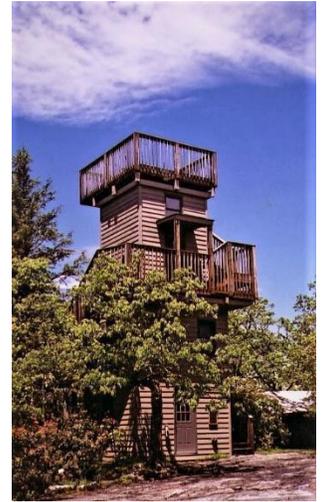
# Homecoming Gathering at The Mountain

Friday May 27 - Monday May 30, 2022

Join us at The Mountain for our 42nd Annual Gathering of Members and Friends. 2022 is a time of transitions with our Executive Director, Steph Anderson; program development; and building upgrades and renovations.

We will have three days of renewing connections with old friends and making new connections, being immersed in this extraordinary natural environment, learning about current projects and possibilities for the future, in addition to workshops, entertainment, Annual Meeting, and Endowment Dessert Reception.

Children and youth do not typically participate in the Homecoming Program, though this is an intergenerational program - it is Homecoming for all ages. We are prepared to offer a nature-based program for our younger participants – please let us know if children and youth will be attending.



## Friday, May 27

**2:00 - 6:30** Check in – The Commons

Scavenger hunt – when you check in, please pick up the information about this event. A scavenger hunt of places at The Mountain and discovering historic trivia will be done throughout the weekend. Everyone who completes the scavenger hunt will be entered into a drawing for two nights at The Mountain or two tickets for a Farm to Table Dinner and foraging tour.

**3:00 – 5:00 Tour of Mountain Facilities** – Steph Anderson, Executive Director  
Meet at the main office

The Mountain Matters newsletter has had several updates with photos and videos. However, there is nothing like seeing these changes in person. Steph will lead a tour of renovations on the top of the Mountain – the duplex cabin upgrade, Riley cabin, bunkhouses, Cliff Haven (small group housing and meeting space), White Oak (meeting space), and maintenance shop. The Craft Barn, which is undergoing a major renovation as staff or guest housing is near the farm at the base. A tour of the Craft Barn will be done later in the weekend. Tour repeated Sunday afternoon.

**3:00 - 5:00 Gathering at the Volleyball Court** – Beverly Cree, Mountain Advancement and Tanner Csonka, Communications. There will be parachute activities, volleyball, and conversation.

Gather to make connections with program participants and staff, be involved in movement after sitting on-route to The Mountain, and immerse ourselves in the magic of The Mountain. Seating is available.

**5:30 Social Time** – Great Room of the Lodge

**6:30 Dinner** – Dining Hall

**7:30 Welcome and Program Orientation** – Tree House

All weekend participants are encouraged to be present for this session to learn more about weekend opportunities. This first session will include exploring our values as individuals and as an organization, and how these values relate to our Homecoming Program – what we are doing at The Mountain and what we can do.

## Saturday, May 28

**8:00 - 9:00 – Breakfast** -- dining hall

**9:00 - 12:00 - Board meeting** of current board -- Commons      Open to all.

## Workshops

**9:30 – 12:00 Tour of Many Hands Peace Farm** – Joey Kyle, Farm Manager meet at the poultry yard at the Farm

Learn about our poultry (chickens and ducks), greenhouse, food forest, garden, shiitake logs, apiary, and mountain meadow. Our farm incorporates organic practices, with our farm team providing a variety of workshops as well as foraging dinners.

**10:00 - 12:00 Viewing the Sun** Knox Worde, President, Astronomy Club of Asheville  
Parking lot beside the maintenance shop Rain date: Sunday, May 29,

Knox will provide information about the stars, and we will set up specialized telescopes for people to view the Sun. The closest star to us is our very own Sun at 93,000,000 miles (150,000,000 km). The next closest star is Proxima Centauri. It lies at a distance of about 4.3 light-years or about 25,300,000,000,000 miles (about 39,900,000,000,000 kilometers). A car traveling at a speed of 60 miles per hour would take more than 48 million years to reach this closest star.

A star is a huge sphere of very hot, glowing gas. Stars produce their own light and energy by a process called nuclear fusion. Fusion happens when lighter elements are forced to become heavier elements. When this happens, a tremendous amount of energy is created causing the star to heat up and shine. Stars come in a variety of sizes and colors. Our Sun is an average sized yellowish star. Stars which are smaller than our Sun are reddish and larger stars are blue.

The dark skies at The Mountain create amazing opportunities to view the night sky, especially impressive from the top of the tower.

**10:00 - 12:00 Endowment Board Meeting**, open to all White Oak

The Mountain Endowment is at \$600,000, giving a minimal annual gift to The Mountain while the Fund grows. The 2021 gift was \$13,784 toward the acoustic ceiling for noise reduction in the dining hall. For more information about the Endowment, see <https://www.themountainrlc.org/the-mountain-endowment-fund>

**12:00 - 1:00** – Lunch – dining hall

**1:30 - 3:30 – Workshops**

**Looking Forward at The Mountain** – Mountain Leadership – Steph Anderson, Executive Director and KC Boyce, Board Chair Commons deck

This session is an opportunity to share our hopes, dreams, and intentions for the future, as well as to ask questions of Mountain leadership. As we work together for The Mountain mission, we have great potential to make a difference in the world.

**Eighth Unitarian Universalist Principle at The Mountain** - facilitated by Jesse Palidovsky and Beverly Cree Lodge deck

This workshop will be a conversation about how The Mountain can incorporate the 8th principle into our relationships and programming. How might we work together to embrace and apply opportunities to dismantle racism and oppression?

*"We.... covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse and multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."*

In 1997, the General Assembly voted to commit to intentionally becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural institution.

The 8th Principle Project, a grassroots movement started in 2013, is aimed at articulating a commitment to dismantle racism and other forms of oppression.

In February 2022, the Mountain Board voted to adopt the 8th Principle as part of the Mountain's core values, which are based on the seven UU Principles.

**4:00 - Annual Meeting** – Tree House

Business meeting with updates on the state of The Mountain as we look to the future.

**5:30 Social Time** – Lodge Great Room and Deck

**6:00 Dinner** – Dining Hall

**6:45 Endowment Dessert Reception** – Tree House

**8:00 - 9:00 Concert with Jesse Palidovsky** – Tree House

Azalea City Recordings multi-instrumentalist Jesse Palidovsky performs his songs in folk clubs, at social justice rallies, in hospitals, hospices and in prisons. Jesse has performed his original songs at the National Theatre, for Samaritans in the Desert in Arizona, and on the sloop Clearwater with Pete Seeger. Jesse's "I Am an Immigrant" reached #1 on the International Folk Radio charts and "Dancing Toward the Light" was the #5 album. Jesse's updated "America the Beautiful: 2020" with Claire Lynch and Lea Gilmore has received 68,000 views on YouTube. He's the recipient of numerous songwriting awards. Jesse founded the highly successful *Carroll Café* concert series in Washington, D.C as well as *Compared To What!* coffeehouse in his native Detroit, Michigan.

**Sunday, May 29**

**8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast**

Check out the farm produce in the dining hall. This is a great opportunity to treat yourselves, as well as to support our Many Hands Peace Farm. There will be chicken and duck eggs, mushroom or ginseng tincture, herbal teas, herbal salves, mushroom book and seasonal produce from the farm. Many of these items are also on sale in the gift shop.

**9:00-10:00 - Memorial Service** – *We Remember You* facilitated by Jesse Palidovsky  
Memorial Garden, meet in Dining Hall parking lot

**10:00 - 11:00 Walking tour of Mountain history**

Meet in the Commons after the Memorial Service, arriving at the Tree House for the service.  
Larry Wheeler and Nancy Heath

**11:00 - 11:45 Worship Service** with Jesse Palidovsky Tree House

**10:00-12:00 - Board Meeting** of new board The Commons Open to all

**12:00-1:00 – Lunch** – Dining Hall

**1:00-2:30 - Board meeting** of new board The Commons Open to all

**2:30 – 4:30 Workshops**

**This is Your Mind on Plants** – Joey Kyle, Many Hands Peace Farm Manager Tree House

An exploration into the history of humankind and its use of plants and mushrooms to alter consciousness. Lecture and discussion.

**2:30 – 4:30 Tour of Mountain Facilities** – Steph Anderson, Executive Director

Meet at the main office This tour is a repeat of the Friday afternoon tour.

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**5:00 Social Time** – Lodge Great Room and Deck

**6:00 – 7:00 Dinner** – Dining Hall

**7:30 Labyrinth Walk and scatter ashes**

Meet at the labyrinth, parking lot at the base beside the craft barn. Gather at the labyrinth for a remembrance and scattering of ashes for our late Mountain employee, Russell Hunnewell.

After that, Julia Jamieson will lead the labyrinth walk, an ancient practice used by many for spiritual centering, contemplation, and prayer.

**Monday, May 30**

**8:00 – 9:00 Breakfast** – Dining Hall

**9:30 – 12:00 Workshops**

**Tour of Many Hands Peace Farm** – Joey Kyle, Farm Manager

Learn about our poultry (chickens, ducks, turkey), greenhouse, food forest, garden, shiitake logs, apiary, and mountain meadow. Our farm incorporates organic practices, with our farm team providing a variety of workshops as well as foraging dinners.

**9:00 – 4:00 Volunteer with Mountain projects**

There is much excitement about the progress being made on various projects at The Mountain. For the volunteer project, we are considering rebuilding the boardwalk at the lake. Together we can make this happen.

*"Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."* -  
Mattie Stepanek

**12:00-1:00** – Lunch – Dining Hall

If you did not get any farm produce - it is available in the Gift Shop at the Office, and fresh items in the red refrigerator at the farm building.

***Thank you for being here, we look forward to The Mountain being an ongoing part of your life!!***

***Join us soon for a Mountain program or personal retreat.***

***Please review Mountain programming at <https://www.themountainrlc.org/upcoming-events>.***