

Lee Knight and The Mountain – by Larry Wheeler 6/20/20

- In the mid-1970's Larry and Mo Wheeler were the Program Directors for the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI) then being held in late July at Radford University in Virginia. Opening day registration was crowded with people of all ages. of Rev. Roger Sizemore, minister of the Columbia, SC UU Congregation surprised the staff by bringing someone with him who was not registered and needed his own housing. That person was folk singer/folklorist/storyteller, Lee Knight. Roger assured the Wheelers that they would be grateful for him having brought Lee along, even without asking.
- Lee brought with him a wealth of knowledge from the Adirondack Mountains of New York State where he grew up and collected the old songs and stories of the mountain people. Lee moved south where he learned from the people in our Southern Appalachian mountains as well as along the lower eastern shores, their islands, and their black populations.
- Lee became a special friend and a regular at SUUSI. When The Mountain property was founded in the late 70's Lee was the first person hired to be on staff for at least the summers. He ended up doing workshops sharing his stories and music with all ages and entertaining regularly. He also worked at various radio stations and performing elsewhere. He continues to have an active presence today and is the ONLY person who has been a constant presence EVERY YEAR!
- Several Mountain people went to New York City to watch him perform at Carnegie Hall with Chinese pipa artist, Wu Man and two other folk musicians – and traveled to different places in the world with them as well.
- He's also become an active Staff Member at the Nantahala Outdoor Center guiding rafts and managing white water river trips.
- See his website for much more info -- **leeknightmusic.com**