

# the mountain HIGHLANDS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Star Route — Box 40-A

Highlands, NC 28741

704/526-5838

Volume IV, No. 1

Wendie Highsmith, *Editor*

February/March 1983

## Universalists Meet At The Mountain

Starting with an idea from interim Interdistrict Representative (IDR) Sid Peterman, and with some funding help from the Thomas Jefferson and Mid-South Districts, an important meeting was held at THE MOUNTAIN in mid-December. Attending were ministers who serve Universalist origin societies in the two Districts, the presidents of the North Carolina and Georgia Universalist Conventions, UUA Director of Extension, Joan Goodwin, and IDR Sid Peterman.

Sid's goals in suggesting this gathering included both strengthening Universalist based societies and nurturing the growth of Unitarian Universalism in the Southeast. Universalism has a rich history in the Southeast dating back to the early 1800s, long before most of the growth of Unitarianism in the region. It is hoped this heritage will not be lost, and that this group can have an impact on seeing it remain.

A second meeting has been scheduled at THE MOUNTAIN for May. We're proud to be associated with this effort.



Attending 1st Universalist meeting at THE MOUNTAIN were: (left to right): Brad Carrier, Horace Ward, Bill David, Bill Balkan, Gordon Gibson, Joan Goodwin (UUA), Sid Peterman (IDR) and A.J. Matill.

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\*\*Our faces are red . . . Sincere apologies to Estelle Green, a Charter Life Member, whose name was inadvertently left off the list of Charter Life Members included in the last MOUNTAIN newsletter.

## Directors' Corner

Mo  
Larry

As we write this we have just returned from a bustling Christmas/New Years period at THE MOUNTAIN. This Fall and early Winter were busy ones for us . . . Construction on our new cabin/office has begun; the summer brochure is at the printers; our trips to talk about THE MOUNTAIN in churches and fellowship in Florida, North Carolina and Virginia are set for February and March; our correspondence is even caught up; and we're ready to go on vacation for two weeks to St. John in the Virgin Islands.

We leave tired but still with an exhilaration about THE MOUNTAIN. We think about all that has been done in our first 3 years, the people who have committed themselves to the dream, the smiling faces of UU children who have discovered the joys of camp with other UU youth and the special times so many of us have had together at THE MOUNTAIN. We're only just beginning! We can see the potential which exists in this magical place—more people to discover it, physical improvements as more funds are available, and real service to our churches and fellowships through programming to stimulate their growth.

As we begin a new year we want to thank all of you who have formed our "support group" in the early years. You've challenged and encouraged us and shared your own excitement about THE MOUNTAIN with us. You and those who will come after you help us to keep going. Being Directors of THE MOUNTAIN has given us opportunities as a couple, and with Brian, as a family, which we could only have dreamed about before. To be able to share our experiences with so many others makes it that much more special.

Our best to all of you for a great 1983. We look forward to being with you on THE MOUNTAIN!

Mo & Larry

## Summer '83 Brochure On The Way

Coming to your mailbox in February is the 1983 Summer Program brochure, an unbelievable array of events, programs, workshops and festivities for all ages. If you received this newsletter, you should receive a brochure also.

## What If?

If everyone on our mailing list (5,000) were annual members at a minimum of \$35 per year in 1983, we could pay off our mortgage for the next two years! Each person doing a little bit, can make it happen. SHARE THE DREAM!! Remember— ALL MEMBERSHIPS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!



## Membership Drive Passes \$100,000 Mark So Far

THE MOUNTAIN'S "SHARE THE DREAM" Membership Drive is currently being conducted to raise \$400,000 to help retire our mortgage.

Since our last newsletter the following Life Memberships have been pledged: Clarie Keane, Eva Metcalf, Ed & Marge Riley, Angela Theisen (Position of Minister, Tallahassee, FL), Ken & Jill Ihlo, John & Ruth Tori, Bill Moore, Carol Pate, Don & Mary Miles, Melissa Amos, Dillman & Bob Sorrells, Melynda Ely, Jay Abernathy (Position of Minister, Chattanooga, TN), Ray and Helen Solomon, Ray & Dary Shenefelt.

The following have purchased second or third life memberships: Deborah Highsmith, Nikki Highsmith, Melynda Ely, Merrill & Charlotte Palmer, Fred and Phyllis Sweeton.

Of special note—The Board of the Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI) made a gift of \$2500 to THE MOUNTAIN at its November meeting, marking the 4th consecutive year in which SUUSI has given THE MOUNTAIN financial support. Many thanks!

## Special Weekends Set For Spring

Mark your calendars now to visit THE MOUNTAIN for one of these two special Springs weekends.

### May 6-8 SPRING FLING

The Oktoberfest was so successful that we can't wait till October to celebrate. So we're going to throw a SPRING FLING—a party weekend to celebrate the end of winter and the beginning of Spring. The wildflowers are beginning to bloom and the waterfalls and rivers are full with beautiful white water. We'll explore this beauty during the day and dance and party at night. The usual room/board rates apply plus a \$5 per adult Spring Flinger's fee for hospitality supplies.

### May 27-30 MEMORIAL DAY LIFE MEMBERS WEEKEND

This is a great time for Life Members and their families to join together for the long Memorial Day weekend. See the pink rhododendron, mountain laurel and flame azalea in bloom and help THE MOUNTAIN staff celebrate the arrival of summer. A special mailing with registration information will be sent to all Life Members in early Spring.

## Astronomical Project Reaches the Sky

Early on the morning of December 30, the lunar eclipse was in clear view thanks to our new Celestron 8" telescope. The purchase of this marvelous piece of equipment was in part made possible by the contributions of many people via our Sunday service offerings this past summer. The Astronomical Fund was completed as a result of 4 significant gifts from the Greenville, SC Fellowship and its minister, Pete Tolleson, Don Hostetler, Don Male and the Wheelers.

We look forward to many days and nights of viewing the sky and being able to use astro photography for pictures of the sun, planets, moon and stars.

## Keepers Of The Pledge Payments Praised

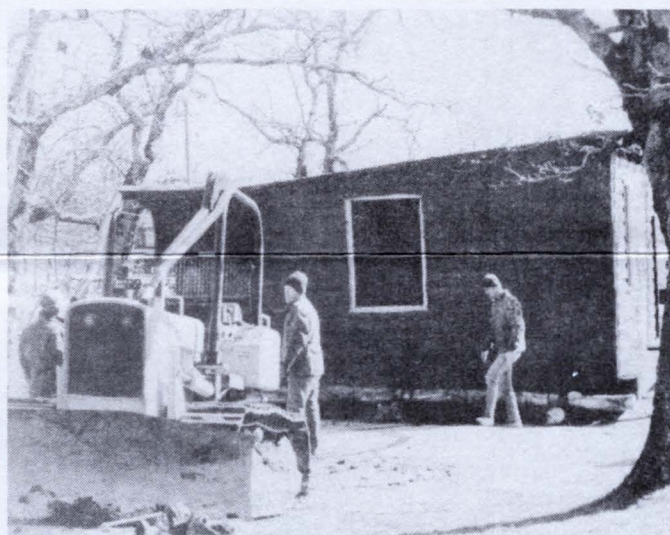
Ed and Anne Heath are now handling all incoming pledge money, and we are forever grateful to them for their work and for their computer! Payments should be sent to THE MOUNTAIN, Star Route, Box 40-A, Highlands, NC 28741.

A special note of appreciation to Don Osgood, who was previously doing this difficult task—without a computer. Thanks, Don, for your many hard-working hours.

## Construction Begins, Or What Happened To Cabin #6?

Construction has begun on a new office and directors' cabin on the site between cabins 5 and 7. Bill Moore, UU from Asheville, is the architect for this passive solar building with office space separate from the Wheeler's residence.

Cabin 6, by the way, was preserved, almost intact sans porch, and moved to the end of the shop parking lot to provide much needed staff housing. Cabin 5 will soon be available for guests.



*Cabin six on the move.*

## Tree Found To Be Over 420 Years Old

Unfortunately the moving of cabin 6 necessitated the cutting down of a tree which was later discovered to be over 420 years old! Duncan Howlett, interim minister at UUCA (Atlanta), took a slab of the tree to Clemson University for analysis. This slab will be preserved with dates on the rings noting significant events in the area.

We grieved over the loss of this wonderful old tree and renew our determination to preserve the natural beauty of THE MOUNTAIN for future generations.

## Cison Places In Golden Age Games

It pays to train at THE MOUNTAIN! Joe Cison, age 74, came in third in the 50 yard back stroke at the Sanford, Florida Golden Age Games. Congratulations Joe! And thanks to our Recreation Director, Sally Gaines, who helped Joe with his turns when he was training at THE MOUNTAIN.



## A Project Is Hoping...

Last time we reported on a solar energy project it was a solar energy project hoping for a \$1000 donation to be completed. This project is still hoping.

This issue's project is on a somewhat smaller scale. Cabin 3, with exposed fiberglass insulation in its ceiling, is really embarrassed about its appearance. For \$350 we could give it a new wood ceiling, a new look, and raise its morale ever so much. Won't you adopt one of these projects for 1983?

## Camperships/83

In 1982, thanks to generous donations from the Thomas Jefferson and Mid-South districts, the Mark C. Zeiler, Jr. Memorial Fund, and congregations and individuals throughout the Southeast, a fund was established to enable youth camp attendance at THE MOUNTAIN for those who might not otherwise be able to attend.

Last summer partial camperships were granted to six UU children and four children from disadvantaged center city neighborhoods. In several cases, local societies sponsored the applications and supplemented the camperships.

Some funds have already been received to continue the program for 1983, and more are anticipated.

If you would like to contribute to THE MOUNTAIN campership fund, or nominate a youngster for a campership, write to one of the coordinators listed below. The cost of a two week camping experience is \$325.

Camperships are awarded primarily on the basis of need, with special consideration given to letters of support from society RE directors, ministers and presidents.

Evelyn Carter  
Star Route, Box 40-A  
Highlands, NC 28741

Walter R. Pirie  
306 Eakin E  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

## Spirits Meet On The Mountain

The Spirits-Of-THE MOUNTAIN met in November to help plan the program for the 1983 Senior High Camp.

The Spirits were chosen from among the 1982 Senior High campers by the counselors because they act in accordance with the goals of the youth program at THE MOUNTAIN by fostering the *spirit* of family and community.

The 1982-83 Spirits are: Peter Benedict, Lizzie Cook, Joey Grist, Keif Morris, Karen Parker, Chris Purcell, Kathleen Smith and Cynthia Ward. Congratulations!

## Never Enough Vehicles!

We're indebted to Dot and Dick Holland of the Atlanta NW congregation, for the donation of a 9 passenger station wagon. We really needed it, and can still use another van or station wagon before the summer season begins. From a tax point of view, it's often better to donate a vehicle than trade it in.

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\*\*The Crafts department of THE MOUNTAIN needs the following: old shirts suitable for wearing when painting or working with clay, and scraps of material suitable for sewing patchwork pillows. Donations can be delivered or mailed to THE MOUNTAIN.

## Youth Camp Growth Expected To Continue

THE MOUNTAIN's youth camps have grown quickly in their first three years, as the figures below illustrate:

No. Of Camper Weeks		
1980: 154	1981: 266	1982: 425

This growth is surely due to their overwhelming success and popularity among UU youth in the Southeast and beyond. Campers are returning year after year to renew old friendships and make new ones.



*Youth campers trying their hands at art and crafts.*

## Still Available

Although many of our wonderful staff are returning in 1983, we still have openings for the camp facility staff (maintenance, kitchen, bookkeeping, nurse, music) (ages 18 and up) and for youth camp junior (ages 17 and up) and senior (ages 19 and up) counselors. We also have some possibilities for *short term* assignments in the kitchen and on child care. If you're under 17, why not become an Ascender and learn something about all the different jobs?

Please write Mo & Larry Wheeler if you're interested.



# the mountain

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## Summer 1983 Program Preview

<b>YOUTH CAMPS:</b>	July 3-July 16 (ages 7-10) July 17-July 30 (ages 7-13) July 31-Aug. 13 (ages 11-13)	<b>ADULT &amp; FAMILY PROGRAMS:</b> Continued July 17-23	Backpacking Leadership School Let's Explore Rejuvenation Meet You on THE MOUNTAIN I
<b>SENIOR HIGH CAMP:</b>	June 19-July 2 (ages 14-17)		
<b>ADVENTURE &amp; WORK CAMP:</b>	July 3-16 (ages 14-17)	July 24-30	Not Just Trees Contemporary Short Stories Theology Through Biography Mime Let's Explore Computers Meet You on THE MOUNTAIN II
<b>ELDERHOSTEL:</b>	May 15-June 18 Aug. 28-Sept. 3		
<b>ADULT &amp; FAMILY PROGRAMS:</b>			
May 30-June 4	High Energy/Low Energy Wonder & Mindfulness Yoga Crafts Let's Explore Backpacking for Women Work Week	July 31-Aug. 6	Astronomy & Religion Reading the Landscape Nature Photography Mini-Course in Spanish Clogging Let's Explore
June 5-June 11	Recovering Our UU Past Natural History of Birds Whitewater Let's Explore	August 7-13	Yoga Institute Let's Explore Dear Abby . . . Hands on Quilting Stress Management A Unitarian's View
June 12-18	Visions Wild Edibles Foraging Couple Enrichment Program Rhythm in Everyday Life Let's Explore	August 14-20	Adventure Week Walker Percy Adventures for All Ages Men, Masculinity
June 19-25	Creating Worship Music in UU Services String Quartet Whittling Let's Explore	August 21-27	Worship, Music & Art Crafts/Pottery Rug Hooking Expression Fiction Writing Let's Explore 18-25??
June 26-July 2	RE Conference String Quartet Let's Explore	August 28-Sept. 2	Introduction to Dark Room Creative Retirement Theological Map Making Gonna Build a Mountain Sailing Baskets/Potters R & R Let's Explore Labor Day Weekend
July 4-9	Living Outside the Hedge Mountain Mushrooms Listening as Your Body Speaks Let's Explore Southern Appalachia Fourth of July!		
July 10-16	Adventures for All Ages		

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