

mountain matters

THE MOUNTAIN • HIGHLANDS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

SPRING 1989

There's Music on The Mountain... Welcome to the Jackson-Denham Family!



Good fortune comes to The Mountain in the form of a family of five - Shelley, Ian, Gillian, Megan and Joy. Shelley Jackson Denham has been performing for UU groups for about six years, and many of her compositions are well known in UU circles and songbooks. Shelley will act as "switch hitter" at The Mountain, working with programs, administration and giving concerts on occasion. Shelley has a Bachelor of Music and Voice degree and had been building substitute and creative writing teacher at Cincinnati's School for Creative and Performing Arts.

Ian Denham is a native of Lincolnshire, England and is an engineering designer in his professional life, formerly with American Process Design in Cincinnati. Ian is a woodworker and craftsman, loves gardening, horses and anything out of doors. He is facilities director for The Mountain. He is overseeing the installation of The Mountain's new waste water treatment system and other maintenance and construction projects.

The Jackson-Denham children - Gillian, 12; Megan, 10; and Joy, 8 - all attend Highlands School and are glad to be a part of The Mountain community. Sometimes they perform with their mother, and are often found helping out with many of The Mountain's childcare and music programs.

The Jackson-Denham family had been coming to The Mountain since 1983. "Each time we visited we were more and more drawn to The Mountain," says Shelley. "Moving here was an adventure for all of us - we are delighted with the opportunity to live in the Blue Ridge Mountains and to have such a special UU home."

A Few Spaces Still Available For Medieval Merriment Weekend With Windfall!

Pridee, come to The Mountain for Medieval madness and merriment, May 12-14! Fair damsels, valiant knights, join the fun as Windfall, the infamous UU minstrel, presents an authentic play from the 12th Century, "Iconia." It's a moralistic drama with singing and comedy written by Dr. Fletcher Collins, head of the drama department of Mary Baldwin College and performed at the Oak Grove Theater in Staunton, VA.

Windfall members will also give a workshop on stringed instruments. They will compare a variety of instruments, give their histories and explain how and why they work.

The Mountain kitchen will add to the festivities with menus that include sumptuous Medieval delicacies, and you can try your hand at plink jousting and perhaps mud wrestling if you're so inclined.

Cost for Friday dinner through Sunday lunch is \$89 for members; \$97 for non-members. Non-resident guest program fee is \$20. Child care is available.

Dear Friends,

Clean air, beautiful trees, wonderful mountains and best of all - I live here.

I live at The Mountain, where you can sit and draw to your heart's content. My name is Gillian Eve Denham. I have long brown hair, medium colored brown eyes and I love porcelain dolls and art. I'm 12 years old and have two little sisters. Of course you might think I'm weird, but I really like chocolate chip cookies with medium salsa.

I live on The Mountain and it feels like pure heaven. I work in the kitchen with my sisters and a friend sometimes. I usually hang out, though, with the other seven Mountain kids on top or down at the bottom in the field. It's really nice to meet new people on The Mountain, sing for them or talk to them. But then, they always have to leave. There is one good thing, though. A lot of the elders promise, or say that they want to come here again, and it's so neat because a lot of them do. I'd like to meet more people, and I hope that after reading this you will come here so that you will have a relaxing visit and a pleasant time.

With love,

Gillian

The Mountain
Highlands Camp & Conference Center
841 Highway 106
Highlands, N.C. 28741

(704) 526-5838

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by Dr. Gary Blaine



Come On Up for A Summer Vacation Week... Meet New Friends, Relax and Have Fun!

The temperature rarely goes above 80 degrees at The Mountain in the summer - even in August. The soft summer breezes blow, incredible wildflowers embrace the hillside, mysterious morning mists and spectacular sunrises help start your day. The sight of soaring hawks and eagles over the Blue Ridge Mountains sends shivers down your spine. Combine all that with very fine food, new friendships, an exceptional child care program, an energetic, creative staff, a wide variety of outdoor activities from river rafting to waterfall tours and hikes and you have a vacation week at The Mountain. Won't you come join us for a wonderful time? You deserve it!



June 11 - June 17 - Mountain Get-Away Vacation

This is a great family vacation week - a celebration of school being out and everyone needing to get away and have some fun - together and separately. Virginia Talbot will coordinate the week, with help from Shelley Jackson Denham and other staff members. Cost for this program, Sunday dinner through Saturday breakfast, is \$290 for Mountain adult members; \$326 for non-members. Some off-Mountain activities such as rafting and golf require an extra fee.

June 18 - June 23 - Mountain Get-Away Vacation

This is generally a repeat of the vacation week described above, but is five days instead of six. Cost for this program, Sunday dinner through Friday breakfast is \$256 for adult members; \$286 for non-members.

June 25 - June 30 - Creative Leisure Week

Create and recreate in our cool, quiet mountain environment, with Virginia Talbot as your week's coordinator. This week you can choose among a number of craft, drama, music and outdoor activities to find the ones that suit your fancy. Cost for Sunday dinner through Saturday breakfast is \$290 for adult members; \$326 for adult non-members. Some off-mountain activities such as the Cherokee trip and river rafting require an extra fee.

July 2 - July 8 - Spectacular Singles Week

Dick "Froggy" Bozang, resident artist and musician, and Tina Tockman, social worker and workshop presenter, will lead this vacation week for singles. Cost for the week, Sunday dinner through Saturday breakfast is \$305 for members; \$329 for non-members. There will be an extra fee for whitewater rafting. This program is designed to ensure that singles can get away from their family responsibilities, but child care will be provided for those who need it during major adult program time.

July 30 - August 5 - Adventure for All Ages #1

August 6 - August 12 - Adventure for All Ages #2

This playful week will give you plenty of opportunity to have fun as a family or separately. Dr. Kit Howell of the Unitarian Church of Fort Lauderdale will be guest minister for the first week, July 30 - August 5. He will lead the group in spiritual growth with evening vespers and special services.

Cost for the week of July 30-August 5, Sunday dinner through Saturday breakfast, is \$305 per adult for members; \$329 per adult for non-members.

Cost for the week of August 6-12, Sunday dinner through Friday breakfast, is \$256 for members; \$286 for non-members. There is an extra charge for some off-mountain activities such as rafting.



New Officers Look Forward to a Great Year for The Mountain!

Jim Littlefield, left, newly elected president of The Mountain's Board of Trustees, joins elected officers Margaret Evans, secretary, and Walt Hodges, vice president, in leading a planning session at the February Annual Meeting and board meeting. Littlefield is head of the marketing department at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg; Margaret Evans, long-time member and former president, is from St. Petersburg; and Walt Hodges, who has been on the board since 1996, is from Atlanta.

Also appointed to the board of trustees were Paul Clipp of Clemson as treasurer, Jake Haun of Highlands as

One of the things I find interesting, if not somewhat frustrating, is how many people do not think of me as a minister or my work as ministry. They think of me as an administrator or as a CEO, all in a tone of voice that makes the word bureaucrat sound akin to the "F" word.

I feel like the widow who went to a spiritualist to see if she could contact her husband. The spiritualist went into a trance and soon a voice was heard.

"Mary," it said, "are you there?" The woman was overjoyed. "Elwood...is it really you? Are you all right?"

"I'm fine, I'm fine."

"Is it nice there, dear?" asked the widow.

Elwood replied, "Beautiful. Absolutely beautiful. Blue sky, pure air, green grass. And the cows, Mary. You've never seen such beautiful cows!"

Perplexed, the woman asked, "Elwood...cows in heaven?"

"Who's talking about heaven?" responded

Elwood. "I'm a bull in Texas!"

I suppose there is no way of getting out of the fact that as the executive director of The Mountain, I am an administrator. But I have to tell you that I am proud of that fact. You see, the word administrator literally means "toward ministry." And let's also be reminded that ministry is rooted in the concept of waiting at tables. Yes, ministers are glorified busboys and busgirls, waiters and waitresses at the tableboard of life. The work of the administrator is to facilitate the ministry and service of people.

The tableboard of Unitarian Universalism is richly and amply laid. Not bound by dogma and creed, we may feast on the bounty of the world's great religions and philosophies. We are nourished by such traditions as Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Humanism, Liberation theology, and Feminism. We are fed by a host of providers who range from Moses to Marlow, from Deborah to Dorothea Dix, from Buddha to Bartok and from St. Paul to Linus Pauling.

How we serve such a fare at The Mountain is the administrator's greatest challenge. It is not enough to offer programming on such a rich heritage as Unitarian Universalism. Sometimes I think that is like reading the menu. How do you give people an opportunity to taste and savor the values of our liberal religious heritage? How can the mana of Unitarian Universalism be broken, eaten and embodied by its people?

The feast is spread throughout the entire operation of The Mountain. Every aspect of the organization is directed toward the service of Unitarian Universalism, or, as we say, "service is our sacrament." Obviously food service, but also marketing, maintenance and fund raising are committed to such a sacrament. It is, after all, pretty difficult to prepare a meal without cooks or stoves or revenue to provide the larder and pay the fuel bills. Also, someone needs to send the invitation.

So, I think I have a pretty full ministry at The Mountain as an administrator. In addition to all of the above I also offer a Sunday service weekly, either at The Mountain or in congregations throughout the Southeast. I give an optional UU presentation to Elderhostel participants each week. I am also privileged to offer pastoral care to individuals and families. This year I will offer another workshop at G.A., and two at S.U.U.S.I. This past year I have had the privilege to help form the new T.J. District Youth Program Council.

It is a full ministry, and I would like to invite you to the feast.

Love and peace,

Gary



High Adventure Weekend Features Rafting, Rock Climbing, Camping - and a Mini-Camp for the Children!

If it's adventure you want, adventure you'll get May 19-21 at The Mountain. Board member Jake Hann and Marlene Walker have put together an outstanding family High Adventure Weekend. It starts with dinner and orientation on Friday evening for everyone. There are two options for Saturday's activities for persons 13 and above: rock climbing and rappelling (or climber watching), or white water rafting on the Nantahala River. The two groups will meet at the end of the day for a dinner over the campfire and overnight campout in a nearby campground.

For the children - ages five to twelve - there will be a mini youth camp at The Mountain with outdoor activities and fun during the day and a "lock-in" overnight with trained counselors.

Adults, bring your rain gear, proper shoes, warm socks, camping gear and wool sweaters. Climbers, bring boots or tennis shoes, too. Weekend fee is \$120.50 for Mountain members; \$128.50 for non-members. For the five to twelve year olds, bring your sleeping bag and a sense of adventure! Cost for the mini youth camp is \$38 per child. Photo by Jake Hann.

Highlands Area Antique and Junque Shop Tour, June 23 - 25

Join Nilsa Lebedell in a whirlwind tour of antique and junque shops in the Highlands area. Discover treasures and learn to recognize items of quality and "character." You will visit the local antique section where you can purchase a treasure or just watch the colorful proceedings.

Nilsa, who has acquired tough antiques and junque to fill a warehouse, will provide a wonderful sense of humor and plenty of printed material about antiques and collecting. Program fee for the weekend is \$22 in addition to lodging and meals.

Fireworks and Fun Fourth of July Weekend June 30 - July 5

Spend a safe, cooler Fourth of July weekend in the mountains with UU friends. You'll find plenty of activities, including crafts, a cookout, spectacular fireworks display, hikes and water sports. We'll have music programming by Dick "Froggy" Bozang and his magical, error-free musical instruments. Cost for the Fourth of July Celebration, Friday dinner through Wednesday breakfast is \$160/adult for members; \$176 for non-members. Program fee for drop-in guests is \$6 per day.

"Myth and Symbol" is Topic For Religious Education Week July 16 - 22

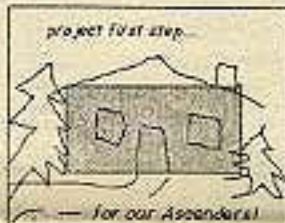
Our minds have the capacity to create fantastic, meaningful images from the commonplace or ordinary. You'll explore how images become fantasies and how fantasies become dreams; dreams and fantasies are then transformed into human language as stories; and stories then become mythologized.

Dr. Roger Otis Kuhn, minister of Tacoma, WA UU Church, and Charity Rowley, minister of religious education, are program leaders for this week for RE Leaders.

Dr. Kuhn will approach the topic from the perspective of language and meaning, demonstrating how our life symbols become the roots of what is sacred. Charity Rowley will focus on the application of myth and story in religious education curricula.

You will have plenty of opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities at The Mountain and the special entertainment by Froggy Bozang, resident musician at The Mountain.

Cost for Sunday dinner through Saturday breakfast is \$305 for members; \$324 for non-members.



"Project First Step" Needs Help Toward Goal of \$20,000

"Money is not coming in as fast as we had hoped, but so far people have contributed a total of \$2630 toward the first step in the new MountainCamp - the building of a new Ascender home," says Brian Wheeler, board member and coordinator of Project First Step.

Brian and a group of youth camp leaders (see above) conducted a mailing at the end of February to former Ascenders and staff and others asking for a donation for the new building. The building is to be constructed near the base of The Mountain, close to the new MountainCamp location as outlined in the 2001 Plan. Most of the labor for the new building would be done on a volunteer basis by youth camp leaders and other interested people.

"This is the first time the young adults at The Mountain have launched a fund raising effort of this magnitude," says Brian. "It's exciting to see the results come in, but it's also a lesson in reality. It is taking longer than we thought."

Project First Step organizers would like to thank the following people for their contributions: Marissa Allen, Sally Bellamy, Ginny Bonner, Paul Clipp, The Community Church in New Orleans, Eric Gallun, Carol Graves, Erik, Nilsa and Betty Green, Kristyn Greenwood, Nancy Heath and Larry Wheeler, Craig Hendershot, Nancy and Elvin Hilyer, Walt and Alicia Hodges, Sylvia Larson, Liz McMaster, Mike Mercer, Larry Lundrum, Beth Patrick, Matt Peterson, Becky Peterson, Nancy Shaw, and Mo Wheeler.

"Contributions are welcome from anyone, in any amount," says Brian. "We'd like to get the Ascender Home built as soon as possible to alleviate the shortage of staff lodging at The Mountain." Anyone interested in making a donation to Project First Step, please send a check made out to "The Mountain - First Step," 841 Highway 106, Highlands, NC 28741.

Dean F. Zuch
Director of Development



Join the Group of 900!

Is The Mountain worth 11 cents a day to you? That's all it costs to become an Annual Member of The Mountain for one year. Just \$40 a year makes you a member of The Mountain with voting rights for all large members of the Board of Trustees and discounts on programs when you visit The Mountain.

"Well," you might be saying, "voting is important, but not worth 11 cents a day. But what's that about discounts?"

Yes, Annual Members receive a \$6 per day discount during their stay at The Mountain. That alone nearly amounts to your membership fee if you stay for a week's program.

But you also get another benefit. Satisfaction. The satisfaction of knowing you are helping to preserve this haven for Unitarians and Universalists. Your Annual Member fee helps us pay our long term debts - the waste water treatment system loan, the mortgage to the Veatch Foundation, and other smaller individual loans - as well as providing for capital improvements to the facility.

To put it in simple terms: our operating budget - your room, board and program fees - pays for running The Mountain. Your membership fees repay our debts.

Individual Annual Memberships start at \$40; \$80 for a dual membership.

Memberships for your entire family cost only \$100.

If you can contribute \$125, I will send you a beautiful cloisonne Mountain pin.

Your gift for a \$150 membership is a wonderful 8"x10" photo of the view from The Mountain.

For a \$200 contribution, an 11"x14" color photo will be your thank you gift.

Over the next three years we are hoping to increase our Annual Member number to 900. A group of 900 dedicated Friends of The Mountain who will annually support this special place.

Won't you join today? Put in your 11 cents a day worth to help The Mountain. Just fill in the coupon below and send your check. You'll be a member in good standing for one year. And you will help The Mountain immensely.

Thank!

Yes. Add my name to the Group of 900 Annual Members!

Enclosed is my check for:

- ☐ \$40 Individual Member
- ☐ \$80 Dual Membership
- ☐ \$100 Family Membership*
- ☐ \$125 Supporting Membership
- ☐ \$150 Contributing Membership
- ☐ \$200 Sustaining Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

* Family memberships include all children under 18 years.

MountainCamp

Pam Phelps, Director of MountainCamp, has announced the senior staff members for the '89 sessions. Andy Harris will direct the Build An Adventure, Beginning Adventure and Greater Adventure camps; Katherine Crum and Peter Benedict will co-direct the Ascender program, Shane Benedict will lead the white water program with Bill Moore as his assistant; Chris Purcell will lead the arts and crafts program with Matt Graves as his assistant; Karen Machler will be the youth camp representative to the kitchen; and Anne Michaelson is coming back for a second year as camp nurse! Other summer counselors and staff members are to be announced.

There are still spaces available for MountainCampers! It's very important, however, that you get your application and payment in right away if you wish to attend one of these spectacular camps. Look for the camp that has the grade you will be entering in the fall.

Beginning Adventurer Camp

for grades two and three.

Sunday, July 30 through Saturday, August 12
Total cost is \$554.

This is the perfect way to introduce your child to a safe, nurturing camp experience. It's appropriate for first or second time campers who are ready to explore the natural world. Children who attend the First Time Out Camp often come back for this two week session.

Campers live in a "family" cabin with two counselors and are encouraged to choose among activities such as rock bounding for precious jewels in the ruby mines of Franklin, visits to Pothole Slide and swimming in the crystal clear waters of Silver Run Falls, "whitewater" rafting on the lake, New Games, adventure and nature hikes, tubing on a gentle river, and visits to the nature center and fishery; crafts including candlemaking, enameling, clay work and woodworking. (All trips are accompanied by trained first aid personnel and any water sports include a lifeguard.)

Each counselor is well prepared to handle the usual occurrences particular to this age group, from bedwetting to homesickness, in a considerate manner that preserves the individual child's self concept. Each child receives as much individual attention as he or she needs.

Greater Adventure Camp

for grades four, five and six.

Sunday, July 16, through Saturday, July 29
Total cost is \$554.

The middle school years are filled with curiosity and energetic exploration. This camp will provide stimulation and adventure at a level designed for individual success. Campers will experience overnight, low-impact camping, canoe and kayak lessons, hiking and a nature acclimatization program. Their arts and crafts choices include ceramics, wood working, candle making, weaving, bead work, copper enameling and more.

Discovery Camp

for grades seven, eight and nine

Sunday, July 2, through Saturday, July 15
Total cost is \$577.

Junior high students are developing more and more skills and are becoming more specialized in their choices. They will experience beginning rock climbing on the Mountain, learn group problem solving skills with the Initiatives course, and take part in backpacking overnights. Advanced arts and crafts choices include tie-dyeing, photography, ceramics, copper enameling and more.

Water sports are a big part of the program, including whitewater rafting, beginning and intermediate canoe and kayak lessons, water sliding and tubing. This highly social group will have plenty of opportunity for fun with talent night and other social events. There will be workshops in relationship development, leadership, human sexuality and religion. Campers choose a Junior Council to represent them in choosing the programming content.



Build An Adventure Camp

for grades eight through twelve.

Sunday, July 2, through Saturday, July 15
Total cost is \$577.

Teamwork, responsibility, adventure, appreciation for nature and fun - these are the goals of the Build An Adventure Camp. Campers are divided into small groups led by competent, qualified counselors. They spend one week in the national forests learning the basics of backpacking, rock climbing and whitewater boating, and gaining an appreciation for the natural world and how to care for it. The other week is spent on a construction project for The Mountain that is especially designed to teach them usable skills, develop cooperativeness and instill a sense of pride in accomplishment of a major task. This camp provides a strenuous, uplifting, growth-enhancing, intense two weeks.

Transformations: Endings/Beginnings

for grades ten, eleven and twelve.

Sunday, June 18, through Saturday, July 1
Total cost is \$577.

This camp experience gives the senior high camper the opportunity to expand physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. There are specific rules concerning personal behavior and the use of intoxicants or drugs is strictly forbidden. This year's camp includes an arts and crafts program that is designed especially for senior high students, special nature programs, theme dinners and evening programs, cookouts, a Halloween costume ball, a traditional Heritage Day, a Moravian Love Feast, "Big Chill" ice cream party and much more.

Advanced adventure activities are available to campers, including rock climbing, rappelling, 24-hour experience and low-impact camping, kayaking and canoeing, whitewater rafting and more.

MountainCamp Registration Form

(Please use separate form for each youth. Reproduce as necessary)

Camper's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Sex _____ Grade in School, fall 1989 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Parent(s) name and addresses:

Mother _____ Father _____

Phone _____ Phone _____

☐ Beginning Adventure Camp, July 30-August 12

☐ Greater Adventure Camp, July 16-29

☐ Discovery Camp, July 2-15

☐ Senior High Transformations-Endings/Beginnings Camp, June 18-July 1

☐ Build-And-Adventure Camp, July 2-15

☐ I'd like to be an Ascender. Please send me an application form. I understand that the Senior High Transformations Camp is a prerequisite to this program.

☐ I'm interested in a Campership. Please send an application form.

☐ I'm coming by plane. Please send information about the "Mountain Express" Atlanta Airport Shuttle.

My total deposit is \$ _____ check enclosed, made payable to The Mountain, or, _____ Mastercard _____ VISA

Card number _____ Exp. Date _____

NEWMEMBERSNEWMEMB

The Mountain would like to welcome our newest Life Members:

Marlene Walker, Highlands, NC
John Burciaga, Clearwater, FL
Patty Torno, Asheville, NC
Amy Elizabeth Karon, Atlanta, GA
Sarah Rachel Karon, Atlanta, GA
Rod & Mary Thompson, Augusta, GA
Nancy Shaw, Rabun Gap, GA

Our newest Annual Members:

Lelia Edwards, Rochester, NY
Daniel & Lily Seccrest, Detroit, MI
Grace Gray, Shoreview, MN
Myrlon & Frances Carmean, Hiwassee, GA
Irwin Golden, Lake Worth, FL
Hilda and Dana Law, Williamsburg, VA
Howard & Helen Bostock, Baton Rouge, LA
John O'Donnell Jr., Indianapolis, IN
F. Vernon Chandler, Columbia, SC
Elizabeth Baker, Atlanta, GA
Ralph Cohen, Horse Shoe, NC
Enid Sheppard, Augusta, GA
Vivica Nicholl, Hockessin, DE
James & Mary Payne, Clarkston, MI
Chad King, Onondaga, TN
Joyce Prewitt, Cullowhee, NC
J. Dale Roussin, Antioch, TN
Dori Martin, Asheville, NC
Jack & Toni Haskins, Cape Canaveral, FL
Jo Connor, Columbia, SC
Ernest & Martha Lou Wood, Highlands, NC
W. Calvin Smith, Aiken, SC
John Bateson, New Orleans, LA
Victoria DeWeese, Columbia, SC
Phyllis McCafferty, Richmond, VA
Judith Patterson, Charlotte, NC
Bob & Molly Oddfield, Bradenton, FL
Eleanor Newark, New Hyde Park, NY
John Webster, Demorest, GA
Charles & Dorothy Andrews, Belmore, NY
Robert Thiel, Germantown, TN
Charles Milone, Chapel Hill, NC
Jeanne Boehlcke, Chapel Hill, NC
Ewin Young, Durham, NC
Holly Kingdom, Durham, NC
Eleanor Sablleski, Chapel Hill, NC



Elderhostel Sessions for Spring and Fall Announced

Come on up! There are still a few openings for spring and fall Elderhostel sessions at The Mountain. Elderhostel is available to people 60 or older who may bring a younger spouse or friend along. It's a real bargain! Spring classes, including room, board and three top-notch classes, are \$210 per person; fall classes are \$230.

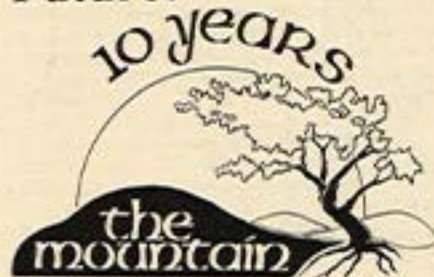
To register for any of the Elderhostel programs you must contact the Elderhostel office in Boston directly. The address is Elderhostel, 80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116; (617) 426-8056.

1989 Ascenders Announced

The Mountain's Ascender program has been a training ground for youth camp leaders for many years. It consists of nine or more young men and women who live in a family setting with two group leaders. They each rotate week-long work assignments such as kitchen assistant, maintenance crew, office helper, store sales, etc. They also participate in group meetings and fun activities on their days off.

This year's leaders, Katherine Crum and Peter Benedics, have announced the participants: Jennifer Soloway, Rachel Brash, Lucy Bivens, Tanya Petron, Karen Klieber, Keith Kottmeyer, Daniel Tasham, Matt Paine, and Daniel Simone.

Come to The Mountain to Help Celebrate the Past...Build for the Future!



Bob Hill and David Rankin Will Be On The Mountain For Labor Day Festivities

Labor Day Weekend, the official kick-off to the 10th Anniversary Festivities, is the celebration for the founders and charter life members of The Mountain. Along with a great deal of reminiscing and friendship renewal, there will be a special session led by Bob Hill, vice president for extension and district services for UUA, to get attendees' ideas and input about the future of The Mountain.

The Rev. David O. Rankin, currently the minister at The Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids, MI, will be the keynote speaker and will give the Sunday morning service.

Among the many activities of this exciting weekend will be a rafting trip, New Games, a banquet and dance. Mailing lists are being compiled and invitation will go out in May. However, if you would like to be assured of a space for this important weekend, please fill out the registration form in this newsletter and send it in with a \$35 deposit per adult.

"Weathering...Well!" is Theme For September 22-24 Weekend

Gordon Patterson, program associate with the Center for Creative Leadership, will be the facilitator for this weekend for older Mountain friends and members. The theme, based on Alastair Reid's poem, "Weathering," will help the group to focus on the many exciting aspects of maturity and experience. The weekend will provide an opportunity to share, learn, plan for The Mountain's future and have fun.

There will be delectable Mountain kitchen cuisine, yoga and relaxation, outdoor activities, a special sharing session with Mota Jones of Greenville, an evening of entertainment with the Warehouse Theater from Greenville, a chance to have a say in what The Mountain's programming should be for this age group and much more. A very big thank you goes to Myra Bregger and others in the Clemson Fellowship for their help in planning this event.

If you're 50 or older, or even approaching that age, The Mountain invites you to come and participate. Former Elderhostel guests are welcome! Fill out the Mountain registration form and send it in with your deposit of \$35 for the weekend.

October 27-29 Weekend - A Reunion for Former Mountain Staff and Ascenders

"Come As You Were!" is the invitation from Pam Phelps, Alicia Hodges and Brian Wheeler for this incredible reunion for all those who have worked at The Mountain over the past ten years and all former Ascenders.

There will be a giant ingathering on Friday evening with plenty of great food and drink. Saturday's activities will involve lots of picture taking, sharing, hugging, reminiscing, planning for The Mountain's future, fun trips and hikes, music, a special dinner and Halloween dress-up party and mystery game. There will be a Sunday service, with slides and photos of yesteryear.

Our mailing list for this group is not complete, so if you know of the whereabouts of a former staffer or Ascender who would like to attend this weekend, please send it to The Mountain. Or, go ahead and fill in the registration form in this newsletter with a \$35 deposit to

"Famous Unitarian Universalist" Silent Bid Auction is Coming! Watch for the List of items in the Mountain Matters Newsletter!

Special Activities Planned For Life Members During Thanksgiving Weekend

One of the benefits of life membership at The Mountain is a special gathering at Thanksgiving. This year, to celebrate our 10th Anniversary, Bonnie Sheppard, Bill Spurgeon and Bobbie Linfield are planning a weekend to remember.

In addition to the holiday feast of all feasts, there will be group sharing sessions to discuss and get input into The Mountain's future from this caring group; there will be entertainment from Shelley Jackson Denham; a Thanksgiving service with Christine Robinson of First Church in Albuquerque; a gala finale to the "Famous UU" Auction; and all the usual outdoor and indoor activities associated with this holiday weekend.

Christmas Around the World Planned for Holiday Season

A lively holiday season is being planned for The Mountain, with the celebration of Christmas as it is done in four different areas of the world. It will be a warm and sharing, caring time for families and Mountain friends. We'll have tree trimming, songs, a special meal and decorations for each...France, Spain, Scandinavia and the United States.

Mary Wynhoff of the Asheville area will lead the festivities and provide the Christmas Eve service. There will be music by John Thigpen, a Christmas day brunch and feast, and much more. This will be the culmination of the 10th Anniversary Celebration - a time to look at where we've been and where we're going. Watch for more details in a future newsletter.



Just Arrived!

Order Yours.

The Mountain's 10th Anniversary limited edition, mighty fine T-Shirts! Get yours now!

100% cotton shirts in powder blue, cool green or navy - sizes small, medium, large and extra large. \$12.50 each (includes postage and handling.) Children's shirts are a 50/50 blend in sizes small, medium, large, royal, powder blue and red. \$12.50 each. Make checks payable to The Mountain, or send your MasterCard or Visa # and expiration date with your name and address to: The Mountain Shirt Offer, 841 Highway 106, Highlands, NC 28741, or call (704) 526-5838 to place your order.



From The Treasurer

Since The Mountain is a major financial undertaking, we plan to share thoughts from the Treasurer on a regular basis.

Dear Mountain Supporter,

This year marks the tenth anniversary of The Mountain. This wonderful dream is also a financial reality. Let's look at some of the figures on The Mountain's ten year history. These figures include 1980-1988 actual results and the 1989 plans. In ten years The Mountain has:

Run operations at about a break even basis once the first year fix up costs were spent.

Met all loan payment deadlines.

Consistently decreased debt through 1988 when a facilities upgrade (duplexing cabins, upgrade of dining hall, waste water treatment fix) was begun.

Raised \$791,300 through development efforts from 1980-1988.

Invested more than \$500,000 in The Mountain in addition to the original purchase.

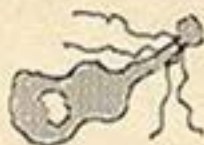
Created a camp and conference center with assets of more than \$1 million and value to the UU community well in excess of this.

Set up a financial tracking system that various bankers call "one of the best, most thorough systems they have seen."

This is not to say we are on a smooth, easy road. In 1988 we had a disappointing year financially. We regrouped and established some tough budget procedures for ourselves. Gary Blaine and the staff have worked hard to hold costs in line with conservative revenue projections. This appears to be working. For the first time in a while we are doing better than budget through February.

The Mountain is much more than the physical plant and financial sheets. But we want you to know that the fiscal and business parts of The Mountain are taken seriously by the staff and the board. Next issue we will discuss our debt policies and long term plans for debt retirement.

Paul Clipp
Treasurer



No Strings Attached!

Annual Memorial Day Celebration for All Members May 26 - 29

It's not too late! You can still become a Mountain member and come to this fantastic weekend for members only.

It will be a memorable time with an old-fashioned picnic, folk dancing with Alicia Hodges, rock climbing and hikes, a dance, and the grand opening of the new store with lots of bargains, prizes and fun. Child care and youth programming will be provided.

"No Strings Attached" the world-famous hammered dulcimer group from Blacksburg, VA will entertain the group with a full concert.

July 8 - 15

This year's Leadership School has a team of dynamic leaders and courses designed to promote good relationships and getting things done in local congregations.

Designed for current and soon-to-be leaders in churches and fellowships, participants will find workshops in organizational development, leadership philosophy, creative worship, personal theology, understanding self and others, and an outdoor leadership training while engaging in an all day raft trip led by The Mountain's whitewater staff.

Roger Comstock is Dean for the eight-day training school, with Sonya Prestridge and Mary Louise DeWolf-Hurt heading the organizational development segments.

Rev. Alice Blair Wesley will present our heritage and values and Rev. Arvid Straube will lead the worship service segment. Rev. John DeWolf-Hurt is Minister of the Week. Group facilitators will include Margaret Beard of Richmond, Gina McMillan of Knoxville and Gretchen Hoskin of Ormond Beach.

Congregations in the Southeast have been set registration forms for Leadership School. Registrations are limited and each attendee must have the endorsement of their congregation or fellowship, so check with your society president if you wish to attend.

Recorder Week at The Mountain July 30 - August 5

The Atlanta Chapter of the American Recorder Society is sponsoring a week of recorder workshops for advanced beginners and players at the intermediate level. There will also be ample opportunity for persons of advanced skills to play under expert leadership.

Workshop leaders are John Nelson, professor of music at Georgia State University and music director of the Atlanta chapter of the American Recorder Society; Nancy Buss, Atlanta area recorder teacher; Emily Adler, Atlanta area recorder teacher for beginners; and Betty Fowler, mountain dulcimer teacher.

If you are interested in attending this program, please contact Emily Adler, 608 King's Bridge, Atlanta, GA 30329 (404) 633-5016.



Asheville's Writers Workshop Plans Weekend at The Mountain August 25 - 27

The Writer's Workshop, a group of distinguished writers from the Asheville area, will have a weekend workshop/retreat at The Mountain August 25 - 27 that will be open to the public.

It's still in the planning stage as of this printing, but there will be workshops in journal writing, poetry and fiction given by guest artists, and the keynote speaker will be Josephine Humphries of Charleston.

If you are interested in attending this unique weekend and would like more information, please write or call The Mountain to request a brochure.

Women's Adventure Weekend Led by Nancy Shaw August 25 - 27

This weekend is a unique combination of backpacking, relaxation and visualization and discussion of Nancy Friday's book "Her Mother's Daughter."

Nancy Shaw, who has taught many courses at The Mountain, will lead this small group of women (no more than 14) along with one of The Mountain's female senior camp counselors. You'll learn backpacking techniques, including what to take, how to pack and what food to carry. You'll pack into one of the beautiful trails and camping areas near The Mountain, enjoying Nancy's vast knowledge of birds, flowers and other natural things.

Once camp is set, you'll have an opportunity to learn relaxation techniques, and the campfire discussion will be centered around the book "Her Mother's Daughter."

Give yourself the gift of a very special weekend to prepare for the rigors of fall routine. Cost for the weekend, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch, is \$89 for members; \$101 for non-members.



Advanced Leadership Conference August 12 - 19

The Mountain is offering a unique experience in advanced leadership training through an experimental program entitled "Unleashing Your Creative Powers: An Advanced Leadership Conference." It is open to anyone who has attended one of the leadership schools offered by the UUA's Leadership School Network.

The course is designed to help leaders find and channel their inner resources - through in-depth exploration of their personal stories and those of their congregations - to enhance their already developed technical leadership skills and propel them into vital and dynamic ministry.

The week will begin with a raft trip on the Ocoee River. Other activities will include dreamwork, meditation, tai chi, journaling, trustwalking, improvisational movement, initiatives, mural painting, volleyball, and much more.

Cost for the week, Sunday dinner through Saturday breakfast is \$400 for members, \$442 for non-members. Enrollment is limited. You may reserve your space by sending a \$100 deposit with the registration form in this newsletter. Or, if you would like more information about this exciting week, please write or call The Mountain office for a brochure.

Leaders of Advanced Leadership Conference plan for their week in August

John Shippee of the Center for Faith and Moral Development at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University; Gary Blaine, Unitarian Universalist minister and executive director of The Mountain; Elizabeth

Live and Work in the Blue Ridge Mountains!

Are you a self-starting, hard working individual who is looking for a community in which to live and work? The Mountain is looking for full time kitchen and maintenance help. Call (704) 526-5838 and leave your name and address so we can send you an application.

Three Week Limit Set for Refunds

When you make a reservation at The Mountain, it starts a long process of paperwork and preparation. We take your reservation seriously. Sometimes it's inevitable that your plans change and you have to cancel. So, in order to be fair to you and our accounting procedures, we have a refund policy. If you give us at least three weeks notice, we will refund \$20 of a \$35 deposit. After that, however, there will be no refund.

Learn to Play Tennis Or Sharpen Your Skills May 19 - 21 Workshop

Whether your goal is a grand slam or an aerobic workout, tennis is the ultimate exercise for persons of any age. John Pitts, winner of the covered championship at the Highlands Recreation Center and avid tennis enthusiast, will teach the fundamentals this weekend.

John has an easy manner and thorough understanding of every aspect of tennis. He'll work with you on basic strokes and style, and teach you how to practice on your own to develop your skills. If you're experienced and want a little challenge, that's OK too.

The workshop is open to anyone above the age of 10. It will begin after dinner on Friday and continue with morning and afternoon sessions on Saturday. Cost is \$25 plus lodging and food at The Mountain. Limit is eight participants.

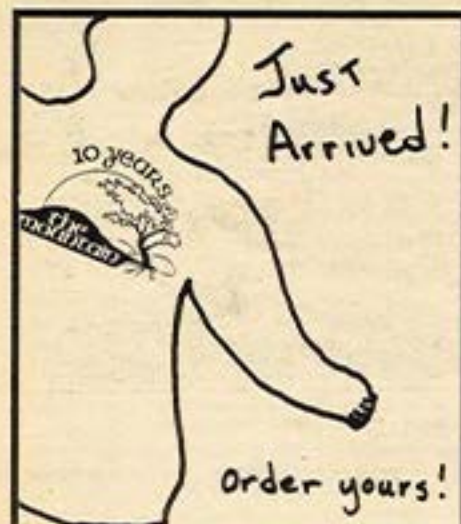


Atlanta Ens and Outs and Other Volunteers Help Make Things Happen at The Mountain!

The word was put out...The Mountain has some major projects to accomplish and we need help. It wasn't long before a group of hardworking, caring folks arrived from Atlanta to pitch in and make things happen. The Ens and Outs - an environmental and outdoor activity oriented group from UUCA - came to The Mountain for the Work Exchange program and gave our maintenance staff a real boost. They did major carpentry work on the new maintenance shop, moved all the plumbing supplies from the lodge basement to the new shop location, cleared out the old maintenance shop to prepare it for remodeling into the new store and helped prepare some new staff quarters in the crafts building.

Ian Denham, facilities director at The Mountain, said, "I was amazed at the amount of work that was accomplished in one day. It's clear that there is a lot of caring and concern about this place by a lot of people."

The Mountain staff would like to thank the following people for their dedicated volunteer work in helping The Mountain move forward: Don and Jan Osgood, Connie Bloom, Bob Whitney, Marcia DeCamp, Lilo Strauss, and Ruth Marston, all of Atlanta; Margaret and Bud Evans of St. Petersburg, Paul Harter of Asheville, Dave King from Clearwater, John Pitts of Asheville, Maria Johnson of Clemson, Chris Purcell, Peter Benedict, Patti Tomo, Marisa Allen, Paul Allen, Nina Nazimowitz, Alan Medvick, Katherine Crum, Bill Moore, and all those who are working so hard to help make The Mountain's 10th Anniversary celebration happen!



10th Anniversary limited edition hooded sweatshirts! Soft, 50/50 cotton-poly blend in royal, purple or red with white design. Adult sizes small, medium, large or extra large. \$23 including postage and handling. Make checks payable to The Mountain, or send your MasterCard or Visa # and expiration date with your name and address to: The Mountain Shirt Offer, 841 Highway 106, Highlands, NC 28741. Or call (704) 526-5838 to place your order.

MOUNTAIN REGISTRATION

Name of Registering Adult:	Date:		
Address:			
Telephone(s):			
Name of Program:	Fee:		
Amount of deposit:	(\$35/ weekend; \$100/ week per adult)		
Method of Payment:	check	VISA/Mastercard No.	Exp.
	Life Member	Annual Member	Non-Member

Lodging Preference:	*Life	Annual	Non-Member	Package fee for specified programs include lodging, food, and program fee.
3 party company	\$0	\$18	\$12	
2 party company	\$7.50	\$15	\$10	
Non-company	\$5.50	\$11	\$8	

*Life member rates apply only in two-program time. Teenagers 15-17 pay 50% of above rates; children 4-12 pay 20%; children 0-3, free.

Arrival Date:	No. of Nights	Departure Date:
First Meal: B L D	date; Last Meal: B L D	date

Food costs are \$16 for ages 13 and over; \$12.50 for 8-12; \$8.50 for 4-7; 0-3 are free.

Roommate preference:	
Linens @ \$4 per person:	Need Mtn. Linens Bringing own (Please check preference.)

Transportation:	From Atlanta Airport	From Dillard Bus
	(\$20 one way; \$35 round trip)	(\$5 each way)
Arrival Date:	Time:	am/pm
Depart Date:	Time:	am/pm

Names of Adults in Party	Names of Youth in Party	Age Youth	Sex Youth
1. _____	1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	5. _____	_____	_____

Special Dietary Needs:	_____
Other Needs (include medical):	_____

Emergency Contact:	Phone(s):
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Your total bill will be based on lodging, food, program fee and a 50 cent per adult fee for our national camping association.

Mountain Explorer Tours, Inc. Produces International Natural History Travel

Mountain Explorer Tours, an organization formed by The Mountain to arrange trips for Mountain members and friends of The Mountain, is beginning a series of international natural history trips to the lesser traveled, more remote areas of the world. These trips are made in order for nature lovers associated with The Mountain.

"We have chosen to work with International Expeditions," says Gary Blaine, executive director of The Mountain, "because it is the premier natural history travel company used by the American Museum of Natural History, The Nature Conservancy and numerous other museums and zoological societies throughout the United States."

"The primary purpose of these trips," Blaine continues, "is to expose and promote an understanding of the great natural wonders of our earth. They are not camping trips. The accommodations are sometimes fancy, sometimes rustic, but always interesting. They will be clean and comfortable, even in the most remote areas."

Trips have been chosen in areas which best exemplify the concept of natural history, emphasizing the delicate ecological balance between plant and animal communities. Knowledgeable local guides will be used, and the emphasis will be on expanding knowledge and maintaining an appreciation for natural and cultural history. Each trip is designed to stimulate in the traveler a desire to conserve our natural wonders and to kindle in local inhabitants a pride in safeguarding their legacy. Each participant receives an advance copy of the comprehensive trip study book that includes traveler information, detailed information about the culture, history, geography, plant and animal life, suggested reading list and more.

"We have planned a two-year program with International Expeditions so that you will have plenty of advance notice of the trips," says Blaine. "The first trip is to the Amazon, and our board vice president, Walt Hodges and his wife, Alicia, who has been an Elderhostel teacher and active member here, are the host and hostess for that trip. (see accompanying article) I hope you will take advantage of these educational, high quality trips since it's an opportunity to travel with other Unitarian Universalists and friends of The Mountain."

MOUNTAIN EXPLORER TOURS NATURAL HISTORY TRAVEL CALENDAR

- Amazon (8 day trip) - Departs November 18, 1989 - \$1598
- Galapagos (10 day trip) - Departs April 26, 1990 - \$2798*
- Costa Rica (10 day trip) - Departs November 2, 1990 - \$1998*
- Kenya (22 day trip) - Departs May 5, 1991 - \$4298*

*prices subject to flight change

The cost of each trip is all inclusive out of the departure city. The Amazon, Galapagos, and Costa Rica trips depart from Miami; the Kenya trip departs from New York City. For more information and a color brochure call Carol Graves at The Mountain, (704) 526-4505, or Nancy Hillyer, in Atlanta, (404) 493-6209.



Experience the Mighty Amazon River and Rain Forest November 18 - 25, 1989

Walt and Alicia Hodges invite you to join our Mountain Explorer Tour group to travel together by plane and river boat to remote lodges on the Amazon River, 50 and 100 miles down river from the jungle frontier town of Iquitos, Peru.

From these two lodges on the Amazon we will explore the river and rain forest and observe the lifestyle of the river people, with expert English speaking native guides whose knowledge of their habitat comes down to them from the past generations of rain forest dwellers.

The lodges are comfortable, the Peruvian style food is good and safe. The Ribereños and Yagua Indians are still warm and unspoiled by the outside world, and the lush tranquility of the area is unequalled outside a remote rain forest.

Travelers will have the option to extend for five additional days to visit the ancient Incan capital city of Cusco and the spectacular Incan ruins at Machu Picchu (undiscovered for 400 years) high in the Peruvian Andes.

Amazon eight day trip is \$1598, all inclusive, out of Miami. Optional five day Machu Picchu extension is \$598. For more information and a color brochure call: Carol Graves at The Mountain (704) 526-4505, Walt and Alicia Hodges in Atlanta (404) 872-8225, or Nancy Hillyer in Atlanta (404) 493-6209.



Another Bahamian Sailing Trip Planned for December...

The July Mountain Explorer Bahamas sailing trip has been such a success that we have added another one - December 23 - 30, 1989.

Sail on the Dolphin, a 65 foot ketch, from Nassau to Eleuthera and the Berry Islands, with trip coordinator Carol Graves and 13 guests, two professional captains and a steward. There will be snorkeling, exploring uninhabited islands, "camping out" on deck under the stars, lots of good wind sailing and great food. No previous sailing experience necessary - you can help crew and even learn the basics of navigation if you're interested.

Cost for the week is \$770 (not including round trip to Nassau.) This is a very popular trip, so if you're interested please call Carol Graves at The Mountain (704) 526-4505 right away.



New England and Canadian Motor Coach Tours Scheduled

Nova Scotia and the Canadian Maritimes Tour September 7 - 19

Explore the ruggedness, excitement and splendor of Maine, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. The Canadian Maritimes await your visit! Highlights include the scenic Cabot Trail, Halifax, Peggy's Cove, lobster dinners, charming fishing villages, Cape Breton Island and more! Tour price will include roundtrip airfare from key cities to Portland, Maine. Trip is limited to 22 guests. Brochures will be available June 1 for this trip. Please call or write Carol Graves at The Mountain (704) 526-4505.

Autumn Trails of New England September 25 - October 5

Experience the stunning array of Northern New England's grand fall foliage. Enjoy three days in Kennebunkport, Maine, Mt. Washington, New Hampshire, Vermont's Green Mountains in their autumn splendor, the Shelburne Museum, Mystic Seaport, Newport's mansions, fresh lobster and the excitement of Boston. This deluxe tour is limited to 22 guests. Price will include roundtrip airfare from key cities to Portland, Maine. Brochures will be available June 1 for this trip. Please call or write Carol Graves at The Mountain (704) 526-4505.