

mountain matters

THE MOUNTAIN • HIGHLANDS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

SUMMER, 1989



Fire Destroys Our Lodge, But Programs Go On!



May 13 was a day The Mountain staff and guests will always remember. The Lodge burned to the ground, there was a Medieval wedding in full costume on Meditation Rock, and Windfall gave one of their finest concerts that evening in the dining hall lounge. It was a day of grieving and loss, balanced in part by joy and celebration for the happy couple, and a few musicians who made the best of a disaster.

It all began when Marc Taylor of Staunton, VA, a member of Windfall, came running out of the Lodge yelling "Bad fire!" Mark had been in the shower and noticed smoke pouring out of the fixtures. He looked into his room and saw thick smoke and flames coming from the ceiling. He ran from the room, leaving his eye glasses and all his belongings, to warn others.

The Mountain staff and nearby guests went into immediate action to clear the area, call the fire department and hose down nearby trees and buildings to prevent the fire from spreading. Within 15 minutes of the call Highlands and Sealy Mountain fire departments were there, followed by Sky Valley and other volunteers. The Lodge was a complete loss, but fortunately no one was hurt and other damage was prevented.

Meanwhile, at 3 p.m. on Meditation Rock, Lord Robert "Ziggy" Zickwille and Lady Ramona Concinni, both of Atlanta, "joined hands in the ritual of marriage in the majestic splendor of The Mountain," as described in their invitation to their Medieval wedding in full costume. Fortunately the winds shifted to the east so that the smell of lingering smoke did not interfere with the celebration.

That evening, Windfall gave a perfect concert, allowing the entire camp to rejoice in the fact that no one was injured and the rest of the facility remained undamaged.



The Mountain
Highlands Camp and Conference Center
841 Highway 106
Highlands, NC 28741
(704) 526-5838

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 46
Highlands, NC 28741

Drawings by Matt Graves and Gillian Denham
Editor, Carol Graves

FORWARDING AND RETURN
POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Director's Corner



Dr. Gary Blaine

An Interview with Gary...

Gary Blaine, executive director, will be leaving The Mountain in September. His family's needs have changed considerably, and he has been given an exciting new post in Ohio. As with any leave-taking, Gary's departure brings a time of analysis of past actions and dreams, and careful consideration of hopes for the future. Gary consented to this interview with the hope that it will help summarize what he has accomplished during his three year administration and help others realize what he sees as important needs of The Mountain for a successful future.

Q: What are some of the tangible results of the past three years?

A: There are several areas in which I have seen major change since I have been here. The most visible is in capital expenditures. We have winterized and duplexed five cabins, refinished the floors in the dining facility, put in a new ceiling in the Lounge, put in a new maintenance shop and store, added additional staff quarters, including two new modular homes, and, by the time I am gone, I hope to say that the new waste water treatment facility will be installed. All of these projects are done according to code. Oh yes, and we've added three new vehicles, giving a grand total investment of more than \$300,000.

I believe we have substantially improved our relationship with the "outside world" with the addition of a marketing professional on staff. We've expanded our use of media through advertising and public relations efforts and have developed a promotional video tape that has been shown all over the country. It's helped us move from being a regional facility to one that serves a much wider market.

Every year our budgeting process has become more effective and reflective of reality. Each department now does a thorough cost analysis of income and expenses, and we can see more clearly where our money is going. It also allows us to project expenses so we can determine just what our needs will be in the future. This past winter is the first time that The Mountain has not had to borrow from individuals to make it through the quiet months.

We've been promoting The Mountain as a conference center outside our denomination so that we are assured of business during times when we have no programming. The Elderhostel program is a tremendous help in keeping The Mountain occupied. And both of these are excellent ways to let people know about Unitarian Universalism.

Another area that has changed is in personnel management. We now have a major medical plan, current personnel files, and a policy manual consistent with Federal and state rules and regulations. As a result we are attracting more employees who see their stay at The Mountain as part of their career track. We've also made a great effort to use community resources and to join organizations that help The Mountain be more visible.

Q: What has been your emphasis in programming, and what kinds of programs would you like to see continue at The Mountain?

A: We have had many successful UU programs over the past three years. Our RE Weeks have provided cutting-edge materials; the convocation weeks have been incredibly thought-provoking; The Mountain will have two leadership schools and perhaps another advanced leadership school next year; and our Sunday Services are well attended. We have just begun to weave the traditions of Unitarian Universalism into our everyday existence at The Mountain by naming the buildings after famous UUs and providing historical

information about the individuals. My wish for a universal retreat center at The Mountain has not come to fruition, but at least the seed has been planted with UUMA. Perhaps it will develop one day.

I believe The Mountain has the potential to become a facility where liberal religious people of any denomination can come for program ideas, faith and moral development, pastoral care - a "think tank" if you will, or a UU "institute." I'd like to see general programming that helps UUs realize their religious heritage and feel a part of a larger UU community.

Q: What are the big challenges facing The Mountain in the future?

A: We have no choice but to grow. The biggest challenge I see is to be able to expand The Mountain community and at the same time retain the sense of intimacy. Like any organization, there is a lot of change. Our members see new faces at The Mountain, and it takes a while to get to know new staff members. It sometimes takes continued visits and building a history at The Mountain in order to feel that it is "your place." I hope that our membership and our congregations will continue to support The Mountain with not only their contributions but their attendance and caring. It means a lot to our staff, too, to see the same people come back again and again.

I would hope that the new administrator will be greeted with a sense of excitement about what she or he has to offer The Mountain. I have the greatest confidence that our board of trustees will choose a person with just the right set of skills and talents, and then allow them to make their contributions with autonomy and with full support.



There's a New Baby At The Mountain!

Gary and Karla Blaine would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Jamie Lynn. The first "Mountain Baby" was born in the Senior section on May 9, three weeks early in the Sylva Hospital. Jamie weighed six pounds nine ounces at birth and was 21 inches long. Karla and Jamie are both doing fine, with plenty of Elderhostel surrogate grandparents and staff babysitters!

Gary Blaine Resigns as Executive Director

Gary Blaine, executive director of The Mountain for the past three years, has announced that he will be serving the Dublin Unitarian Universalist Church outside of Columbus, Ohio as of September 1. The congregation is in the Extension Ministry program of the UUA.

"Karla and I have had a major change in our family situation. Along with Jeremy and our new baby, Jamie, we will have my other two children, Christopher and Heather, on a permanent basis," explained Gary. "As director of The Mountain I would not have the time and energy to maintain my family life, nor would the educational opportunities in Highlands meet our family's needs. It was a difficult decision for us, but we feel that it is the right one and look forward to a bright future in Ohio."

Gary will continue his work at The Mountain through the summer. The board of trustees has appointed a committee to begin a search for a new director, and an interim management committee of four has been chosen from staff members at The Mountain to carry on Mountain business until a new director is chosen.



The Mountain Store Has New Look and Purpose

The Mountain Store, affectionately dubbed "Bellamy Boutique," has a new look and some definite goals for the future. Its recent move from the tiny building behind the tower to what used to be the maintenance shop has provided more visibility and space for merchandise and an interesting, inviting ambience.

Sally Bellamy, store salesperson, notices a big difference in the attitude of shoppers. "People enjoy coming into the store to do their gift and souvenir shopping instead of going elsewhere. They seem to want to spend their money in our store since the income goes to help The Mountain. They like the variety of items we now have."

Carol Graves, marketing director for The Mountain, manages the store. She has made an effort to support Unitarian Universalist crafts persons, artists, writers and jewelers in the selection of store merchandise. "We carry the highest quality consignment and purchased items from UUs and friends of The Mountain as well as selected merchandise that is appropriate to our values," she says.

The Mountain Store is a distributor for SERVY, a self-help organization sponsored by Church of the Brethren. SERVY supports craftspeople from 40 countries, imports their wares, creates a catalog and sells the items wholesale or on consignment. "We are able to provide lovely hand-crafted items at a reasonable cost - everything from silk scarves to silver jewelry and brass candleholders," says Carol.

Many of the Mountain Store's T-shirts and sweat shirts carry designs by UU artists such as Sherry Jorgensen, Karen Lacey, Matt Graves and Sandy Aldum. You'll find a wide variety of chalices and other jewelry made by UU artists from around the country; exquisite bird carvings by Orchid Davis; calligraphy artwork by Laura Leiden; and pottery by Odly Curtis. Other items such as educational toys, Guatemalan bags and jewelry, imported bead necklaces, utility items from the students at Berea College and more round out the selection for shoppers.

"The store has done remarkably well in the first quarter and probably will do even better in the renovated building," says Carol. "Our long-term plan is to produce a mail order catalog from The Mountain. Elderhostel and UU guests and others have been very supportive of the idea - it's just getting the up-front money and time to produce it."

Thank You, Volunteers!

The new store opened for business on the weekend of June 9 due to the efforts of many volunteers. Carol and Sally and the rest of The Mountain staff wish to thank all of you who helped with fetching and carrying, carpentry, cleaning up, and moving. We couldn't have done it without you!

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.

The Heat Is On! Pack a Sweater and Vacation at The Mountain!

It's hot in the lowlands...how about a refreshing dip in a cool mountain stream? Or a trip to one of the Highlands area waterfalls? Or a white water rafting adventure?

The days are sunny and bright at The Mountain and the evenings are cool with starry skies. Won't you join other UU friends - families, singles, young and old - for a wonderful vacation week in August. We'll provide hikes, tours, crafts, games, swimming, rafting, quality child care, good food and great company.

Adventure For All Ages #1 July 30 - August 5

Dr. Kit Howell of the Unitarian Church of First Landendale will be guest minister for this first Adventure For All Ages Week. Package cost for the week, Sunday dinner through Saturday breakfast, is \$395 per adult for members; \$329 for non-members. Optional rafting trip is extra.

Adventure For All Ages #2 August 6 - 11

This is a shorter week for those who have busy weekends elsewhere. Sunday dinner through Friday breakfast package cost is \$256 for members; \$286 for non-members. Optional rafting trip is extra.

Hikers Enjoy Natural Wonders Near The Mountain

by Virginia Talbot

The Mountain is surrounded by thousands of acres of national forest and therefore has access to hundreds of beautiful trails that lead to mountainsides, waterfalls, swimming holes on sparkling mountain rivers and cave-like rock houses where prehistoric peoples were sheltered. Our staff could take you on a different trail every day of the year and never run out of fascinating spots to explore.

This summer we are featuring three new hikes that are guaranteed to be delightful:

The Narrows. The drive to the trailhead is in itself an exciting experience as you wind your way down the hairpin turns of Horse Cove Road, past the giant yellow poplar tree, into a beautiful grassy valley sheltered by the dramatic sheer rock cliffs of Black Mountain and Whitesides. A gently descending two mile forest trail leads to an enchanted spot on the Chattooga River where a small island splits the stream into a cascade on one side and a long narrow channel on the other. Both empty into a lovely pool, bordered by sunny rocks to sit on and a sandy beach from which you can wade into the cool waters and take a swim or inner tube down swift-moving water of "The Narrows."

Hidden Falls. An impressive falls with swimming hole below is known only to a few locals, including The Mountain Staff. A short walk of approximately a mile leads through the forest to the top of the falls and a steep descent down a bank (hang onto the Rhododendrons!) brings you to a sandy beach by the swimming hole below the falls. There's even a small side falls under which you can take a refreshing shower.

Big Scaly Mountain. For the serious hiker, there's a challenging three-mile round trip climb up and down a 5,000 foot peak that has inspiring views from several rocky "holes" at the top. Each bald spot provides a different view of the mountains and valleys of our Blue Ridge range and supports a crop of delicious wild blackberries.



photo by Edwin Symmes

MOUNTAIN REGISTRATION FORM			
Name of Registering Adult: _____		Date: _____	
Address: _____			
Telephone(s): _____		Fee: _____	
Name of Program: _____		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:	Member	Non-Member	Package does not include special program and site lodging, food, and program fee.
_____ 3 party occupancy	\$18	\$24	
_____ Shared occupancy	\$15	\$21	
_____ Two-weekend	\$11	\$17	
*Special Life member rates apply only to non-program trips. Teenagers 13-17 pay 50% of above rates; children 4-12 pay 25%; children 3-4, free. (1/3 from rates will increase by \$1.00 on September 1.)			
Arrival Date: _____		No. of Nights: _____	
First Meal: B L D _____ date: _____		Departure Date: _____	
Last Meal: B L D _____ date: _____			
Food costs are \$16 for ages 13 and over; \$12.50 for 8-12; \$9.50 for 4-7; 0-3 are free.			
Roommate preference: _____			
Liners @ \$4 per person: _____ Need Min. Liners _____ Bringing own (Please check preference.)			
Transportation: _____ From Atlanta Airport _____ From Dillard Bus		(520 one way; \$35 round trip)	
Arrival Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm		Flight # _____ Carrier _____	
Depart Date: _____ Time: _____ am/pm		Flight # _____ Carrier _____	
Names of Adults in Party		Names of Youth in Party	
1. _____	2. _____	Age Youth	Sex Youth
2. _____	3. _____		
3. _____	4. _____		
4. _____	5. _____		
5. _____			
Special Dietary Needs: _____			
Other Needs (include medical): _____			
Emergency Contact: _____ (Phone(s)) _____			
50% of a \$35 deposit will be refunded with at least three weeks notice. No refund after that. A \$15 fee is levied on all bad checks. Your total bill will be based on lodging, food, program fee and a 50 cent per adult fee for our national camping association.			

Celebrating the Past...Building for the Future

Join Us on Labor Day to "Celebrate The Past and Build for the Future."

Labor Day Weekend, the official kick-off to the 10th Anniversary Festivities, is the celebration honoring the founders and charter life members of The Mountain and we hope that many other friends and recent members will join in the fun.

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 Foreman 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 banquet and dance, hikes, skits, slide show of "the olden times," old T-shirt parade and much more. Please come celebrate The Mountain's tenth year. Cost for adult members, Friday dinner through Monday breakfast, is \$136; non-member adult cost is \$154. Just fill out the registration form in this newsletter and send it in with a \$35 deposit per adult. We'll send you a confirmation packet with all the details.



Gordon Patterson

Older Adults to Help in Planning The Mountain's Future - September 22-24

As our population ages it becomes more evident that we need programs and special events for those experiencing the second half of life.

Gordon Patterson, program associate with the Center for Creative Leadership, and Ann Durfee of Raleigh, an accomplished facilitator in the field of adult education are the leaders for this weekend for older Mountain friends and members. The theme, "Weathering - Well?", 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, outdoor activities, a special sharing session with Meta Jones of Greenville, and an evening of entertainment with the Warehouse Theater from Greenville. 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! Cost for the weekend from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch is \$90 for members and \$102 for non-members. Please fill out the Mountain registration form and send it in with your deposit of \$35.



Former Mountain Staffers Celebrate and Help Plan The Mountain's Future

"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, including counselors and Ascenders.

It's going to happen on the weekend of October 27-29. 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!

But most important for The Mountain is the time we will spend in a special brainstorming session to get your input into what kinds of things you think The Mountain should offer in the future. Please come help us with this important task!

Cost for the weekend, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch, is \$80 for members, \$92 for non-members. If you know of the whereabouts of a former staffer or Ascender who would like to attend this weekend, please tell him or her about it. To register, just fill in the registration form in this newsletter with a \$35 deposit to assure your space for this wonderful weekend.

10th Anniversary Planning Committee

- Juanita Polk, chairperson
- Myra Bregger
- Meta Jones
- Gordon Patterson
- Pam Phelps
- Alicia Hodges
- Brian Wheeler
- Bonnie Shephard
- Bill Spurgin
- Bobbie Littlefield
- Melanie Morel Sullivan
- Pat Gnagey

Special Activities Planned For Life Members During Thanksgiving Weekend

Thanksgiving weekend is always a fun-filled time for Mountain Life Members, with great festive food, outdoor activities, entertainment and lots of caring.

This year the emphasis is on our 10th Anniversary, and Bonnie Shephard, Bill Spurgin and Bobbie Littlefield have planned a spectacular weekend. In addition to all the outdoor activities, gingerbread house making for the kids, etc., there will be square dancing, a Shelley Denham concert, Thanksgiving service with Rev. Christine Robinson of Albuquerque (formerly of Columbia, SC) and important "reflection and brainstorming" sessions to help determine the future direction of The Mountain. Life members - please put Thanksgiving at The Mountain on your calendars!

"Famous UU" Silent Bid Auction is Coming!

Gifts are arriving daily at The Mountain from famous UU's and other celebrities who are donating some prized possession for the "Famous UU" Silent Bid Auction. A monogrammed travel alarm from Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman - a signed album from Ramsey Lewis - an autographed M*A*S*H script from Alan Alda - unbelievable treasures! Wait till you see the list! Also, many famous UU craftspeople and artists are donating items for the big event.

Melanie Morel Sullivan has done a fantastic job of making the contacts and gathering items, and is now putting together a catalog for the silent bid auction which will be finalized during Life Member Thanksgiving Weekend.

All Mountain annual and life members will be sent a copy of the catalog. If you are not a member, and wish to receive a copy of the catalog, please send \$2 with your name, address and phone number to: Auction, The Mountain, 841 Highway 106, Highlands, NC 28741.

Christmas Around the World Planned for Holiday Season

A lively holiday season is being planned by Juanita Polk and Pat Gnagey for The Mountain, with the celebration of Christmas as it is done in four different areas of the world. We'll have a French, Latin American, Scandinavian and American Christmas, complete with decorations, songs, stories, customary food and tree trimming for each. It will be a warm and sharing, eating time for families and Mountain friends.

Mary Wynthoff 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.



"A Love Letter to the Staff At The Mountain in North Carolina"

I have just returned from an Elderhostel week at the beautiful Mountain. About 40 of us gathered to share the experience.

Can you imagine a teacher so wise and witty that she can make us laugh in a class on "New Genetics"? There was never a dull moment with Joan Lorch. Marie Mellinger was our teacher in flora and fauna. She knows every bud and branch and the history of the area. Hazel Boden gave the inspiring journal writers challenging assignments and a long bibliography of famous journal readings.

There were two other big reasons we had a grand time. The staff and their families seemed eager to get acquainted, and they bent every effort for our pleasure. And the quality and quantity of the food! It was delicious. An effort is made to have low cholesterol and low salt meals and a vegetarian alternative is offered.

Many Thanks,
Marge Ackley
Tulsa, OK

MountainCamp

Hoorah! They're Here!

MountainCamp began with a bang with the arrival of the summer youth staff on June 11. Amidst the hugs and laughter, Pam Phelps, director, and her core staff organized the group for orientation and a week of intense training in preparation for the summer and the arrival of 69 senior high campers on June 18.

"We have a cadre of marvelous young people from around the country," said Pam. "They bring The Mountain to life with their various talents and interests. It's going to be a great summer!"

"I'd like to tell everyone about my core staff. My co-director, Andy Harris, has worked on The Mountain for eight summers. He brings us a rich background of knowledge in safety and first aid, nature and ecology, outdoor adventure sports of all kinds. He has worked at Wolf Creek, Outward Bound and with inner city delinquent youth," Pam continued. "Andy is a songwriter, singer and guitarist as well as an expert problem solver. I'm so lucky to have him and all my core staffers. I finally got the satisfaction of seeing the results of our program - young people who aspire to go on to work with children and others in the human services area."

The Ascender program is being led by Katherine Crum and Peter Benedict. Katherine will graduate in the fall of '89 from Warren Wilson College in the field of social work and will give age-appropriate workshops to campers about AIDS and sexual development. Peter is the first person to work his way up from being a camper to directing the Ascenders. He plans to be a UU minister one day.

Shane Benedict and Bill Moore will lead campers in whitewater adventure this year. They're looking forward to plenty of action, and to using some brand new equipment.

Chris Purcell is arts and crafts director - he has prepared some new and exciting crafts for campers at various age levels - from marbled t-shirts to carpentry box-making to enameling and journal making.

Rene Cline and Ken Kortemeier are back to lead rock climbing activities with Matt Peterson, and they will also lead the largest-ever Build-A-Day Adventure camp (26 senior high students). Ken, by the way, has just received a B.F.A. from Atlanta College of Art with the highest student award. Rene has just graduated from Warren Wilson College where she majored in psychology with a minor in biology.

Karen Machler is MountainCamp coordinator in the kitchen. She has just received her degree in early childhood education from Florida State University after interning her last semester in London with the British Infant Schools.

Celeste Dickson and her mom, Lee Cowart-Hoffman have formed a team to work with campers on a nature program called "Web of Life." They have developed nature activities appropriate for each age group.

MountainCamp Welcomes Inner-City Children

This year, through a generous gift from a friend of The Mountain, we welcome five inner-city children to the MountainCamp program. "We are so happy to be able to give full camperships to five truly needy children in the Beginning Adventurer Camp for grades two and three," said Pam Phelps. "These are children who have never seen mountains and who have really never been to camp, or for that matter, away from home. It will be good for all of us to have them here."



1989 Summer Youth Staff

Peter Benedict
Shane Benedict
Benjamin Brau
Mark Clark
Rene Cline
Lee Cowart-Hoffman
Katherine Crum
Kirsten Davis
Celeste Dickson
Wendy Flerx
Colene Flynn
Erick Gollan
Catherine Hamlin
Andy Harris
Craig Henderson
Maggie Imhoff
Heidi Johnson
Ken Kortemeier
Gwendolyn Larrick
Karen Machler

Anne Michaelson
Bill Moore
Ramona Moore
Chad Nielsen
Timothy Parker
Sean Peck
Matt Peterson
Pam Phelps
Patrick Pohl
Chris Purcell
Kenneth Rickard
Stacy Rumph
Jeanne Shirley
Gregory Walters
Lisa Waters
Jonathan Waterson
Susanne Whitehead
James Yoon

The Spirits of '89!

This is the group of young people who were chosen by their fellow campers last year to help plan the '89 senior high camping session. They chose the name "Transformations: Endings/Beginnings" and have spent a great deal of time in preparation for this year's camp. Those who were active in the planning are:

Lucy Bivins
Cindy Brannon
John Devenport
Erin Graves
Torie Hilton

Colin McRae
Mike Mercer
Debbie Nowak
Hillary Sherrill
Alyson Van Duyn

Those not active or no present for the '89 camp session are:

Harry Archer
Ben Brau
Erick Gollan
Wendy Madrick

Ramona Moore
Chad Nielsen
Tara Stopfel

Beginning Adventurer Camp for Grades 1 - 4 Still Has Spaces

There's still time to register your child for Beginning Adventurer Camp! It's open to children in grades one through four and is appropriate for children who are ready to explore the natural world.

"We've expanded the ages for this camp since many of the little children came to our 'First Time Out' camp in June," said Pam Phelps, MountainCamp Director. "It will be ideal for first-time campers or those who have been to camp before. Our counselors are well trained to help this age child to feel comfortable and part of a positive camp experience."

Campers live in a "family" cabin with two counselors and are encouraged to choose among activities such as rock hounding for precious jewels in the ruby mines of Franklin, visits to Pothole Slide and swimming in the crystal clear water 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.

Beginning Adventurer Camp runs from Sunday, July 30 through Saturday, August 12. Total cost is \$554. Please call The Mountain office (704) 526-5838 to register.

In Memory of Our Friend



Michael Todd Ezell, age 12, died instantly on April 8, 1989 of a pulmonary embolism as a result of a highly unusual vascular problem. Michael, the son of Gretchen and Michael Ezell, and the brother of Tucker Ezell, 9, of Atlanta, was a camper at The Mountain for two years.

His mother recalls that Michael loved all the activities at The Mountain, but especially making new friends, rock hounding and archery. "We had no idea of his vascular problem," said Gretchen. "He had a hard time with hiking and running activities, but he loved The Mountain and was extremely loyal to the camp and his friends there."

There has been a memorial fund set up in Michael Todd's name, and contributions so far have gone toward new archery equipment and other improvements for MountainCamp. If you wish to contribute, please send a check to the Michael Todd Ezell Memorial Fund, c/o The Mountain, 841 Highway 106, Highlands, NC 28741.



Get Away From It All... Women's Backpacking Weekend August 25 - 27

Learn the basics of backpacking (use our equipment or yours), relaxation and visualization techniques, and enjoy the beauty of one of our nearby trails and campsites on this weekend just for women.

Nancy Shaw, retired college professor, nature lover, wildflower expert, yoga instructor and long-time friend of The Mountain, has boundless enthusiasm for leading groups - especially women's groups - in the wilderness. She will teach 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, 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 discuss your favorite book and other important things. Nancy's book discussion will focus on Nancy Friday's book, "Her Mother's Daughter."

Give yourself the gift of a very special weekend to prepare for the fall routine. Cost for the weekend, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch is \$89 for members; \$101 for non-members. Limit: 9.

Singles Camping Weekend With Pete Leary! September 8 - 10

If you're single and have been to either SUUSI or SWIM, you probably know Pete Leary. And if you know Pete, you know that this singles weekend will be wild and woolly and fun. Assisting Pete will be Diane Castle, hiker, camper, party girl and the ex-guru of the new Charlotte singles group!

We'll spend Friday night at The Mountain with a bit of revelry, music, dancing and mixing. On Saturday we'll head out for a local campground. There will be lots of hiking, swimming, singing around the campfire, and general camaraderie. Bring your favorite song or story to share and be prepared to make lots of new friends.

Cost for this fabulous weekend, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch, is \$60 for members; \$66 for non-members. Get your reservation in right away!



Tennis Anyone?

Tennis Workshop
at The Mountain
for anyone, ages 10+

September 15 - 17

\$25 workshop fee

Ken Schmidt Leads Backpacking Clinic September 15 - 17

If you've always wanted to know more about backpacking and would like to learn in a safe environment where it's ok to be inexperienced, this workshop will be just right for you. You can even use The Mountain's packs if you like!

Ken Schmidt, known for his nature leadership at SUUSI, will lead this group of up to nine people. He'll go over backpacking techniques and equipment on Friday evening (and car-camping techniques) at The Mountain. Then on Saturday you'll head for one of the beautiful trails in the Smokey Mountains. You'll eat a packed lunch on the trail, cook Saturday night supper and Sunday breakfast at your campsite. After more hiking and lunch on the trail, you'll return to The Mountain with new skills and confidence that you can go out on your own!

Cost for this informative weekend, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch, is \$71 for members; \$77 for non-members. Limit: 9 people.

Unleash Your Creative Powers

Advanced Leadership School at The Mountain August 12 - 19

- *learning
- *discovery
- *fun
- *comradery

Leaders are Jeremy Taylor, Liz
McMaster and John Shippee

\$400/members
\$442/non-members

Call The Mountain, (704) 526-5838
for more information

Work Weekends Scheduled

If you like to work - any kind of work from data processing to carpentry or cleaning cabins - and would like to exchange your skills for lodging and/or meals at The Mountain, please give us a call.

Regularly scheduled work weekends are:
August 25-27
September 3-10
November 10-12

However, you can come any time there is space available during non-program time.
Call (704) 526-5838 for more information.

Polkas, Bratwurst and Beer for Annual Oktoberfest Weekend October 6-8

Get out your dancing shoes, a German costume and the desire for a good time and come to The Mountain for our annual Oktoberfest! There will be beer tasting with Steve Johnson, polka lessons with our head cook, Jeanne Ingelhart, a costume party and dance, the finest German cuisine and plenty of outdoor activities. There will be more information in the next newsletter, but you can register now if you want to ensure your space. Package cost for the weekend, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch, is \$89 for adult members; \$101 for non-members. Child care will be provided.



"Action" is the Goal for Peace Conference October 13-15

"Praying Feet and Dirty Hands" - A Weekend on Peacemaking - is the title of an Intergenerational Peace Conference for people of all ages at The Mountain in October. It's being led by Bob Alpern, director of the Washington Office for Social Justice and Stephanie Nichols and Carol Powers, co-directors of the Peace Network.

The weekend is designed to promote action among those attending. You'll have hands on experience with programs and available resources, you'll learn how to help people find personal ways to action in order to create a more peaceful world, and you'll share the experience of helping to build a community of peace. You'll have time for education, reflection, participation, celebration and ACTION!

Programs and workshops for the weekend include Sexism and Peacemaking, Overcoming Stereotypes, US/USSR Cooperation, and Conflict Resolution and Non-Violence.

Package cost for the weekend, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch, is \$88 for adult members; \$100 for non-members; youth cost (age 20 and below) is \$63. Child care will be provided.

CODEPENDENT?

GLORIA WRIGHT WILL LEAD
A WEEKEND WORKSHOP
AT THE MOUNTAIN

OCTOBER 20 - 22

\$129/MEMBERS
\$141/NON-MEMBERS

DON'T MISS IT!

Our Thanks to Congregations That Rallied For The Mountain!

Members of congregations throughout the three Southeast districts contributed more than \$5400 to The Mountain in special collections taken by their churches and fellowships.

"We are extremely pleased with the results of this first time appeal to congregations," said Dean Zach, director of development. "The donations from large and small congregations lets us know there is broad support for The Mountain."

"We hope that congregations will consider taking a special collection or putting The Mountain in their budgets each year," Zach said. The funds collected will help repay outstanding capital debts.

Individuals from the following congregations participated in the appeal:

Eno River UU Fellowship, Durham, NC
UU Church, Spartanburg, SC
UU Society of the Daytona Beach Area, Ormond Beach, FL
UU Fellowship of Panama City, FL
UU Church of Arlington, VA
Mt. Vernon UU Church, Alexandria, VA
Unitarian Church of Birmingham, AL
UU Fellowship of Marion County, Ocala, FL
First UU Church, Nashville, TN
Unitarian Church, Augusta, GA
UU Fellowship of Middle Georgia, Macon
UU Church of Reston, VA
UU Fellowship, Athens, GA
UU Church, Asheville, NC
UU Church of Ft. Lauderdale, Oakland Park, FL
Piedmont UU Church, Concord, NC
UU Church of Clearwater, FL
UU Fellowship of West Volusia, De Land
UU Church, Chattahoochee, TN
UU Fellowship, Vero Beach, FL
Tennessee Valley UU Church, Knoxville, TN
UU Fellowship of Montgomery, AL
Unitarian Coastal Fellowship, Morehead, C. Lee UU Fellowship

In addition to these gifts, The Mountain has received major contributions from the Thomas Jefferson District and the SUUSI Board of Directors. Our thanks to all who have so generously helped The Mountain.



Did you know that...

The Mountain is one of Elderhostel's "super sites?"

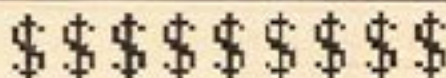
Elderhostel is an international program for students 60 and older to study in residence at a university or conference center for a week?

The Mountain has stimulating Elderhostel courses scheduled for the weeks of August 20 through the first week in November?

Elderhostel is remarkably low cost - \$230 to \$240 for five days of food, lodging, three courses and area trips?

The Mountain has "hostelships" to award to those needing financial help to attend?

To register or to request a catalog, please contact the Elderhostel office in Boston: Elderhostel, 80 Boylston Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02116. (617) 426-8056. To inquire about hostelships, please contact Virginia Talbot at The Mountain (704) 526-5838.



From the Treasurer

This is a good news/bad newsletter. First the bad news. The Lodge fire is a serious problem. The staff has responded in an exemplary manner to the space problems created by the fire. Through rearrangement of staff housing and shifting guests into former staff quarters we have lost no revenue. There has been a cost to this - a cost we hope our insurance will at least partially cover.

The Lodge itself and its contents were insured. Unfortunately, as any of you who have been through an insurance loss know, the insurance cannot fully cover the loss. We will rebuild on the Lodge site, but the design will meet the Mountain's needs better, even if it costs more.

Now the good news! The Mountain's budget process is being well managed by the staff. For the first time in years we are ahead of budget. My personal congratulations to Gary and each staff member for the hard work (and sacrifice) it has taken to accomplish this.

How can you help? First, fight the rumors of the Mountain's demise. We are fine. We will do well.

Second, support us through your contributions. If every member could send \$100 in this time of emergency it would go a long way to help. Finally, keep coming to The Mountain. We are here to serve and our budget is based on your coming. Please do!

Sincerely,

Paul Clipp
Treasurer

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 or large: royal, powder blue and red. \$11.50 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.

Fire Fund Contributions

We will need to raise at least \$125,000 to build a new building to replace our Lodge. So far, we have had contributions of about \$10,000 from members and friends.

If you would like to help in the rebuilding of our Lodge, please send checks to The Mountain, 841 Highway 106, Highlands, NC 28741, designated to the Fire Fund.

Thank you!

Development Corner



Dean F. Zach
Director of Development

Emerson Society Founded For Mountain Contributors

As a means of recognizing devoted contributors, The Mountain has established the Emerson Society. Membership in the society is extended to all annual donors of \$1000 or more and may be renewed each year with a \$1000 donation. Gifts may be made in cash or securities.

Eleven individuals have accepted the invitation to become members of the society. In addition to a certificate of membership and a specially designed Mountain pin, Emerson Society members receive a ten percent discount on items purchased from The Mountain Store and an invitation to the annual society banquet. Founding members of the Emerson Society are:

Mary Ann and Dick Ely
June Cravens Sholin
Harold and Margaret Johnson
Robert and Josephine Birdsall
Sally Bellamy
Mo Wheeler
Howard and Frances Booser

If you are interested in Emerson Society membership, please contact me at (704) 526-4505.

Who's In Charge?

by Jim Littlefield, President, Board of Trustees

When there is a changeover in management there is always a tendency to ask "Who's in charge?" Well, I am here to tell you that the management of The Mountain will be in good hands when Gary Blaine leaves for his excellent opportunity in Ohio.

The interim management team will consist of: Barbara Bewkes, bookkeeper, Ian Denham, facilities director, Carol Graves, marketing director and Dean Zach, development director. This team has a wealth of experience in managing The Mountain and places like it, and I know will do an outstanding job of representing Mountain members until a new executive director is chosen.

Some of the duties of the team will be:

1. General oversight of the operation of The Mountain.
2. Working with directors of the various parts of The Mountain's operation.
3. Making decisions which cannot be made by the directors as a group, and facilitating conflict resolution when necessary.
4. Reviewing promotional and advertising material.
5. Reviewing construction projects underway on The Mountain.

The interim management team will be in at least weekly contact with Paul Clipp as treasurer and me as president of the board.

In short, it is clear to me that the management of The Mountain will be in good hands when we no longer have an executive director. I hope you agree and will do your best to back up and reassure this excellent group of individuals.

In spite of some recent disappointments (Lodge fire, executive director leaving) the mission and reality of The Mountain are as strong as ever. I believe we will come out of these difficulties a stronger, more successful organization. Remember, problems are only opportunities in disguise! If you would like to talk any of this over with me, please feel free to call me during the day at (703) 231-6949, evenings at (703) 961-1418, or write to me at 112 Deer Run, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

Mountain Explorer Tours - Travel With Friends From The Mountain

Natural History Tours Increase Awareness

by Carol Graves

Last fall we started a travel program we call Mountain Explorer Tours. It made sense that Unitarian Universalists and friends of The Mountain enjoy each other's company and would enjoy taking trips together. The tours also provide another avenue for our staff and trip leaders to share the values we hold dear at The Mountain - a love for nature, a deep concern about our environment, and a wish to provide intergenerational activities that promote The Mountain and UUism in general. We're not providing travel experiences to make big money, but it's a good solid public relations program that helps people realize that The Mountain is more than just a facility.

I've just returned from a trip to Costa Rica with International Expeditions, Inc., the company that we have selected to provide our natural history trips. I was there with museum, natural history, zoo and aquarium directors from all over the country - people who will be sponsoring and promoting natural history travel. The purpose of the trip was for us to get a feel for how International Expeditions does business, but the trip did far more for me than that.

Costa Rica is a beautiful country, with more than eleven percent of their land designated as national parks. They have placed a high value on their natural resources, on democratic government and on peaceful coexistence, and have been a showcase for the rest of the world to emulate. We traveled from the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, a jungle in the mountains, to the gorgeous and lush central valley where the capital of San Jose is, to Tortuguero National Park on the Atlantic Coast where the turtles go to lay their eggs on the beach.

International Expeditions is a small company with a big interest in people and natural history. They conduct tours in a wide variety of countries - mostly third world countries - where there is an abundance of natural history to study. They use the resources of the country, from airlines to guides and accommodations. They provide travelers with a study book for the country they are visiting - everything you'd ever want to know about the culture, history, geography, plant and animal life, checklists of things to watch for and much more. They provide comfortable lodging with a concern for economy, the finest native cuisines and natural settings, and their staff in Birmingham is knowledgeable and very helpful.

It's a good fit - The Mountain and International Expeditions, and I feel that the four trips we have scheduled will provide friends of The Mountain with a wonderful opportunity to travel with those of similar interests and to learn a great deal. Please call me at (704) 526-4505 if you have any questions about Mountain Explorer Tours.



Blue & yellow Macaws in the Amazon



Machu Picchu

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 Inca 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 \$158. 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 Hilyer in Atlanta (404) 493-6209. photos by R. Ryd

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 slight change

Color brochures will be available six months prior to each trip.

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 call Carol Graves at The Mountain (704) 526-4505, or Nancy Hilyer in Atlanta (404) 493-6209.



Mountain Explorer Tours to Explore Galapagos Islands

Mountain Explorer Tours will embark on a unique expedition to the Galapagos Islands in a quest to understand and experience the environment of this remote Pacific Ocean archipelago, 600 miles due west of Ecuador, S.A. The ten-day trip begins April 26, 1990. Brochures will be available in the fall. Please contact Carol Graves at The Mountain to get on the mailing list for information about this exciting trip. Or, watch for more detail in the fall issue of Mountain Matters!

Nova Scotia and the Canadian Maritimes Tour Sept. 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 of \$1895 per person, double occupancy, includes roundtrip airfare from key cities to Portland, Maine. Trip is limited to 22. Please call or write Carol Graves at The Mountain, (704) 526-4505 for a brochure.

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 catch, 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.