



MOUNTAIN MATTERS

THE MOUNTAIN -- HIGHLANDS CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

A Quarterly Newsletter for Members of The Mountain ❁ Fall 1990

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THE NEW LODGE!



Phase I of our new 6100 square foot Lodge is complete! This beautiful new structure is 74% larger than our former Lodge. Thanks to the vision of The Mountain's board of trustees, the building committee, the cooperation of architect Gene Burr, Western Builders (Sylva, NC) and the financial support of our members and the Veatch Project of the Plandome UU Church, the doors were opened on October 21.

Phase I includes the exterior as well as the first floor which consists of a foyer, six private rooms with baths, great room and kitchenette. The great room and bedrooms are carpeted, bathroom and kitchen floors are laid with ceramic tiles.

According to Mountain director, Tom Warth, Phase II, the lower level interior, will come later. "We need to pay for Phase I first," he says. "To date we have \$285,000 toward a total Phase I cost of \$321,000. Once we have raised the remaining \$36,000, we will look to the funding and completion of Phase II."

Tom continues, "The Lodge is a symbol of our commitment to provide service and comfort to our members and other guests. During Labor Day Weekend's dedication ceremony it was clear that the efforts of everyone involved throughout our 11 years have provided us with a firm foundation on which to build this newest element of our Mountain home."

TOM'S COLUMN

I'm happy to say that we've made some major improvements at The Mountain this fall thanks to a lot of volunteer and staff effort.

Safety, cleanliness and aesthetics have been the major concerns, and to that effect we have made changes in the waste water treatment system to meet county sanitation levels, installed unobtrusive trail lighting to cabins 1-4 and the rec hall, reconstructed cabin 13, winterized cabin 20 and improved its outside approach, and improved signage throughout the camp.

In response to loud cries on evaluations, we've tried to improve the comfort of our cabins - 32 new beds where they were needed; 382 yards of new carpet, and hanging hooks and shelving in all guest spaces.

We've been working hard behind the scenes, too, with changes in the organization of work functions and processes. Each staff member has an opportunity to be trained in jobs other than their own to achieve variety and to avoid our dependence on key people.

Our biggest need from Mountain members is still financial support. Anyone can see that the cost of insurance, vehicles, food and utilities has gone up, but rather than rate increase alone, we need to increase guest numbers to get away from the red ink problem. In the coming year the best thing you

can do for The Mountain is to come up here - for a weekend - and for a week in the summer. Bring a group or encourage friends or business associates to use The Mountain's new Lodge as a conference center.

On the back page of this newsletter you will find a gift certificate application...we hope you'll use it and help us get more people up here to enjoy this wonderful place.

A P.S. - I'd like to wish Carol Graves well - her leaving is a substantial loss to The Mountain, but a happy move for her. She and I agree that such changes are inevitable and give rise to opportunity for growth and new ways of doing things.



Thank you, Asheville friends for all your hard work and financial support!

LET BOARD COMMITTEES HEAR FROM YOU!

by Walt Hodges, president, board of trustees

This is an exciting time for The Mountain's board of trustees. There is a strong commitment from all board members, and there's a positive, team feeling with Tom and the staff. We're making progress on major issues. We would like to hear from you, however. Committees and chairpersons that were set up at the annual meeting are

By-Laws- Betty Green
Environmental Concerns and Education- Wink Lucas
Celebration and Recognition- Walt Hodges
Archives- Allie Gooding
Personnel- Liz McMaster
Mission and Planning- Brian Wheeler

Please contact these chairpersons if you have comments or questions. Their phone numbers are on the front cover.

The November 2-4 board meeting is designated as a working meeting and we will have some substantial results to report to you in the next newsletter.

ACCOUNT-ABILITY!

If you are a CPA (retired or someone with some free time) and you'd like to volunteer two weeks of your time in December or January, we need you at The Mountain! Please call Joe Tomczyk at (704) 526-

4505 or 526-5838.

THANKSGIVING AUCTION TO RAISE MONEY FOR LODGE

Thanks to hard work from this year's auction chairpersons Jim and Bobbie Littlefield and Linda Sterner, we'll have another raucous evening of competitive bidding, fun and money given to pay for the new Lodge!

The outstanding gift as of this printing is an autographed Senate mug donated by Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina. According to one source it should bring at least \$500 for the new Lodge which will house many liberal endeavors.

Other items up for bid are:

handmade sweaters
in many sizes

beautiful crocheted
afghans

bed and breakfasts

books by famous UUs

chalice jewelry in gold
and silver

Jack Lemmon's key-
chain

two original Cabbage
Patch dolls

a church service by
Shelley Denham

and much more!

Call us if you'd
like to have a complete
list from which to bid
(704) 526-5838.

Hello, and Goodbye...

You might hear some new sounds coming from The Mountain. It's just our new accountant, Joe Tomczyk, whys more than just computer keyboards. Joe joined The Mountain staff last summer and has managed to lead programs, develop new systems, and keep a friendly smile while working with our finances and procedures. Joe comes from Michigan, loves the out-of-doors and is anxious to meet you all.

Carol Graves, marketing director for The Mountain for the past two and a half years, is beginning a new life with her friend John Collins in Springfield, Illinois. Her new address is: P.O. Box 11011, Springfield, IL 62791 Phone (217) 529-4420. Anyone passing through the mid-west is invited to visit Carol and John!



The New Mountain Flag, shown here with its designer and creator, Velma Smith of Orangeburg, is now displayed daily on a pine pole in front of the office. Thank you, Velma!

A Note from Carol...

Saying goodbye is impossible! The opportunity to work and live at The Mountain has been a gift to me and my family, and I'm grateful to all of you for your friendship and support for this wonderful place. However, as new opportunities arise we all must make changes and move on. The important thing, for me, is to stay connected, so I've chosen to be a Mountain Rep in the mid-west area.

As marketing director I saw the excitement that people from the flatlands experience when they visit The Mountain. Yes, it's a long drive, but often those who travel long distances are the ones who most appreciate what The Mountain has to offer...a greater UU community for children and adults...dynamic programs and unique outdoor activities that rejuvenate and affirm what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist.

From my new home in Springfield I hope to let people know about the wonders of this place. Perhaps I can help organize groups to come here in the summer. And I hope to help plan meaningful programs that will attract UUs to The Mountain for growth experiences. It will be strange to come back as a "guest," but I have a sense that my family and I will always be part of the spirit of The Mountain. Hope to see you soon!



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WELCOME NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Doug & Pat Beers
Dan & Suzanne Boyce
Eugene Brooks
Carl & Pat Clements
Carole Colley
Mark Evans
Chris Fenniger
Arnold & Marjorie
Gelbin
Scotty & Dorothy Hiles
Cheri Jorgenson
Lee Knight
Sally & Chris
Macmillan
Elizabeth Lee Moore
Lynn & Hubert
Normile Jr.
Brian & Deborah
Osgood
Bill & Jan Palich
Arthur & Ruth
Schwartz
Jennifer Thorn
Laura Thorn
Sally Tidyman
Joan Willey

**Thanks for your
support!**

THE MOUNTAIN
HIGHLANDS CAMP
& CONFERENCE CENTER
841 Highway 106
Highlands, NC 28741
(704) 526-5838



Cheri Jorgenson Design,
Knoxville, Tennessee

GIVE A GIFT OF THE MOUNTAIN

Are you looking for a unique gift for a birthday, holiday or anniversary? Some "Mountain Magic" may be the perfect thing. You can give a Mountain gift certificate for any amount, to be used within the next 12 months, for anything at The Mountain. Just send us the coupon below with your payment (minimum \$10) and we'll send your recipient a beautiful certificate for the amount designated with a gift card from you.

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone () _____

Gift Amount \$ _____ for (optional) _____

_____ MountainCamp
_____ Mountain Programs
_____ Mountain Store
_____ Mountain Membership

_____ check enclosed _____ Visa or MC # _____ exp. date _____
card in the name of _____

Gift to be sent to:

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Message _____

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