



MOUNTAIN MATTERS

THE MOUNTAIN -- HIGHLANDS CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

A Quarterly Newsletter for Members of The Mountain

Summer 1990

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(704) 526-5838

MEET TOM WARTH...

THE MOUNTAIN'S NEW DIRECTOR

Tom has lived in Michigan all his life. He and his wife Jane will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in October. Their two sons are David, who will begin his junior year at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI, and Todd, who will be a junior at Highlands High School.

Tom's career has included 19 years with Michigan Bell Telephone, four years with Ameritech Publishing and two and a half years as owner/operator of a full-service restaurant and dinner theatre in northern Michigan.

He enjoys hiking, running, golf, racquet sports and volley ball, and hopes to do lots of hiking, biking and whitewater rafting in North Carolina.



A MESSAGE FROM TOM...

As director I am excited about the opportunities, sobered by the work and buoyed by the enthusiasm and talents of the staff and newly-elected board. I see my responsibilities in three areas. First is to insure the financial and philosophical integrity of The Mountain, one never at the expense of the other.

The Statement of Purpose of The Mountain is to "be a center for religious, personal and educational enrichment of Unitarian Universalists, and to demonstrate in our community UU values..." I am committed to that. But, I'm also committed to obtaining and maintaining a financially sound organization, for without black ink we cannot maintain our facilities, attract and retain qualified leadership, nurture and grow quality programs, nor protect the investments of our members. Without black ink we won't be able to attract conferees to experience the magic of The Mountain.

Second is to communicate effectively, promptly and personally with the board, members, staff, guests, and the community at large. I intend to tell each of these groups what we are doing and planning, and that we need them, and continually ask "how are we doing and what can we do for you?"

Third is to develop the staff - to enroll them in the mission of The Mountain and participation in the development of its objectives. Each staff member will be offered the opportunity for professional and personal growth so that they can be professional yet personable, accessible yet focused, and stretched yet comfortable.

As for my vision: I want to help The Mountain become a major force in the denomination for promoting UU values. I see us becoming a first class conference/training center, not for amenities but for our programs, organization, approaches and staff. Professional as well as lay leadership will think of and depend upon The Mountain as a unique, qualified training facility as well as a place to have fun. The Mountain and the UU movement will be an interlocking, self-sustaining partnership.

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TOM'S MESSAGE...

I also would like to see The Mountain become rich in its worship life, with an outstanding music program and a ministerial preaching center second to none. I'd like our staff to train others in kitchen, facility, camp and conference center and youth camp management. We could become a center for young people in transition between high school and adult years, with opportunity to work and grow with The Mountain staff while receiving job and other counseling.

Of course I will nurture the programs in which we have already achieved success - Elderhostel, MountainCamp, family camps, and conferences. My most sincere vision is that The Mountain will be here for my grandchildren to enjoy, to be nurtured by, to take from and give back as much as Jane, my sons and I have been able to. I am respectful of the jewel that we have here at The Mountain and realize that it needs to be nurtured and cared for. I pledge to you that I will do that.

The Mountain's 'Famous Unitarian Universalist' Thanksgiving Auction is coming!

If you have items to donate to the auction, please contact Jim and Bobbie Littlefield at 112 Deer Run, Blacksburg, VA 24060 or Carol Graves at The Mountain, (704) 526-4505.

From your president...

I'm happy to report some real progress at The Mountain and that our new motto, "Reaching New Heights," has taken hold. We, as trustees, have pledged ourselves to become policy makers and fund raisers; many members and friends who have been away for a while have come back as guests and volunteers; leadership is strong and we have a loyal staff who are focused on guest relations.



**The Mountain Staff
Summer '90**

Our facility is getting better. The waste water system is on-line, the Ascender Home is renovated, and many of the cabins and staff areas have been winterized and remodeled. The Lodge construction is on schedule and we're planning a dedication ceremony on Labor Day Weekend.

A reality that we are faced with is our enormous debt. We have exhausted our capacity to borrow due to the waste water and other projects, so now

our emphasis must be on increasing the number of guests, memberships and donors. We truly have a treasure worth investing in here at The Mountain, for ourselves and for our denomination. I sincerely hope that each of you will consider what this place has meant or can mean to you and be generous when you are asked to help.

Sincerely,
Walter Hodges

Put Your Name on Part of the New Lodge!

The walls are rising on the new lodge. September 15 is the completion date for phase I, which will give us six finished lodging rooms and the top level meeting space. Our fund raising goal for the entire project is \$382,000, and the actual amount collected and pledged to date, is about \$240,000, including insurance payments and a generous matching gift from the Veatch Program of the Northshore UU Church in Plandome, NY.

You will be receiving a special mailing soon that gives details about how you can designate your gift to the Lodge to a specific item, and how your gift will be matched by the Veatch contribution.





CONGRATULATIONS SHELLEY!

Mountain staffer Shelley Jackson Denham won the Vincent B. Silliman Anthem Award for her anthem "Holy Spirit." The award, given biannually at the Musician's Network, honors the composer with the best anthem for church choirs. Shelley's work was selected from more than 30 contestants.



WANTED: HEAD COOK

Do you know someone who would be an asset to The Mountain's kitchen staff? We're looking for an experienced head cook. Please contact the office at (704) 526-5838 for information and an application form.



The Mountain's 1990 Board of Trustees
Front row (left to right): Phil Sterner and Walter Hodges
Second row: Sonya Prestridge, Brian Wheeler, Tom Warth, Paul Clipp
Third row: Allie Gooding, Pat Gnagey, Betty Green, Liz McMaster, Wink Lucas

NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS INSTALLED AT ANNUAL MEETING

New officers and three new members of the board of trustees were installed at the Memorial Day Annual Meeting at The Mountain. **Walter Hodges** (mid-south district representative) is the new president; **Brian Wheeler** (appointed) is vice president; **Allie Gooding** (at-large) is secretary; and **Paul Clipp** (appointed) continues as treasurer.

Betty Green of Ormond Beach replaces **Margaret Evens** as representative from the Florida district. **Wink Lucas** of Richmond, VA replaces **Jim Littlefield** as the SUUSI representative. The at-large election results (replacing **Larry Landrum**) brought **Liz McMaster** of Concord, NC to the board. A special thanks to **Bill Pulgrum**, **Nancy Shaw** and **Rod Thompson** for their participation in the at-large election.

LET US WORK SOME MOUNTAIN MAGIC!

As you can see by the list of fall activities, we're hosting more groups at The Mountain - all-church retreats, board retreats, work weekends, and conferences. Our Mountain Reps have done a great job of promoting and organizing these weekend activities, and we do a great job of making them happen! Having a **new Lodge** for meetings and private accommodations makes a big difference in our ability to attract large groups.

If you would like to bring your church, business, or volunteer group to The Mountain next spring or summer for a weekend or longer visit, we can help you design the perfect "Mountain Magic" experience. We have a lively, talented staff who really like to be with people and to show off our beautiful environment. We have great food, very competitive prices, and we want to help you accomplish your goals. Please call me at (704) 526-4505 right away to find out about availability and prices for groups.

Carol Graves, Marketing Director



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Best Wishes Brian and Jean!

Mountain board vice president Brian Wheeler and Jean Milam were married on June 16 in a ceremony conducted by Rev. Don Male. The newlyweds are living in Charlottesville, VA.

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



Editor, Carol Graves

Cheri Jorgenson Design,
Knoxville, Tennessee

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MOUNTAIN?

August 18-24 YRUU Continental Conference
August 24-26 Working With Youth Can Be Fun
August 25-31 Advanced Leadership School
August 26-31 Elderhostel weeks begin, running through Nov.
August 31-September 3 Labor Day Weekend, board meeting and Lodge Dedication
September 8-9 Wild Edibles with Marie Mellinger
September 14-16 Piedmont UU Congregation Retreat and Clemson Fellowship Retreat
September 21-23 UUCA All-Church Vacation
September 28-30 Wonderful Women Gathering
UU Church of Asheville Retreat
October 5-7 Oktoberfest on The Mountain
October 12-14 UU Fellowship of Columbia Retreat
UU Fellowship of Macon Retreat
October 19-21 Senior High Weekend
October 26-28 Northwest Congregation of Atlanta Retreat
November 2-4 Board of Trustees Meeting
Youth For Understanding Conference
November 9-11 Junior High Weekend
SEUUMA New Ministers Retreat
November 12-15 SEUUMA
November 16-18 Senior High Spirits Retreat
November 21-15 Life Member Thanksgiving and Famous UU Auction

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