

A Memorable Memorial Day for Mountain Members

At the Mountain's Annual Meeting weekend over Memorial Day, the staff blew whistles to say thank you and goodbye to President **Walt Hodges**, who completed his sixth year on the Board. Walt was given an engraved silver whistle, symbol of many hikes and outstanding leadership.

Over 75 members shared in this weekend's varied fare: a formal banquet and installation of Executive Director **Tom Warth**, business meetings, elections, dancing led by **Alicia Hodges**, games and a barbecue on the field.

Shelley Denham led the new staff choir in the beautifully decorated Lodge Great Room, and the **Denham** girls, **Gillian, Megan, and Joy** sang several songs with **Shelley**, accompanied by **Alicia Hodges**. At the installation, **John DeWolf-Hurt**, Co-District Executive for Mid-South and Florida, welcomed and entertained the members with his witticisms. Greetings were presented by representatives of the denomination's Mid-South District, Thomas Jefferson District, Florida District and SUUSI--Southeastern Unitarian-Universalist Summer Institute.

A charter Life and staff Member, **Sue Male** (former Unitarian-Universalist Association Trustee) gave the keynote address, tracing the sometimes perilous growth of The Mountain to its current strength and its healthy future. With tears and hugs thanks were given to outgoing Board members, **Brian Wheeler** and **Bill Gimby**.

The members approved the 1990 Annual Report and a new Statement of Purposes and Principles. New officers and Board members were chosen: **Allie Gooding**, elected-at-large, appointed President; **Wink Lucas**, SUUSI Rep., appointed Vice President; **Betty Green**, Florida Rep., appointed Secretary; **Paul Clipp**, appointed Treasurer until 12/91. New Board members are **Carol Light**, Mid-South, and **Bob Whitney**, elected-at-large.

But the weekend clearly was not all business. The spiritual life of members was enhanced at evening vespers by the Rev. **Elinor Artman**, with accompanying music by **David Jackson**. At Sunday service Rev. **Elizabeth McMaster** explained the connection between climbing mountains in Nepal (her recent exploit) and "Showing Up for the Miracle" on our Mountain, again with music from **Shelley** and the staff choir.

Members and staff agreed that during this special weekend we accomplished a great deal and strengthened our ties to one another and to The Mountain.

Alumni Work in Key Positions



1991 Staff Ascender Grads: Paul Allen ('83), Suzanne Whitehead ('82), Meredith Machler ('91), Bill Moore ('83), Rene' Cline ('81), Ken Kottmeier ('83), Peter Benedict ('83), and Alicia & Walt Hodges share many Ascender memories and experiences.

Staff photo by Ken Kottmeier

There must be some kind of magic in the Ascender training that Walt and Alicia Hodges gave to seven of The Mountain's current staff back in the early 80s!

The first summer, 1981, included Rene' Cline, now our Youth Camp Director, and Meredith Machler, of the summer kitchen staff. They joined other Hodges-led Ascenders now on staff in a recent "Family Reunion" photo shown here.

Reminder: ASCENDER is an acronym for All-Summer Campers Enjoying Nature's Delight & Experiencing Recreation. The Hodges' alumni set a great example for the Class of '91 now spending a busy 6 weeks here.

Summer 1991



Celebrate the End of Summer at Our Labor Day Bash!!

Our annual Labor Day weekend celebration will begin Friday, August 30, with a "pub" -- refreshments and candlelit tables--perhaps even a rousing dart game!

Saturday will be an outdoor play day: we have ordered perfect weather! We'll have games for all and an old-fashioned fair: booths for food, arts and crafts, and games, with field activities. When you want to just relax, we'll provide shelter and chairs.

Saturday night we'll have a campfire, where Gary Carden, a popular regional storyteller, will recapture earlier days of Appa-

luchian life with his authentic humor.

Sunday will include a special morning worship service and afternoon tubing and hikes. That night you can participate in a gala coffee house, sharing your favorite jokes, stories or songs. A closing circle after breakfast on Monday will end our special weekend with warmth and companionship.

Be sure to register early for this very popular weekend. You may do so by phone, using Master Charge or Visa, or by mail. The cost is \$85 to \$137, based on membership status and lodging.

Special Skill Sought for Environmental Awareness Project

If you have read The Mountain's 1990 Annual Report, you know that the Environmental Concerns Committee has taken on the task of further elaboration of the environmental assessment and planning begun by Dr. Tom Martin in 1987-88. Although Tom is working with our committee, we also need others who can help in one or more of these areas:

1. Customizing or developing printed matter in a form suitable for presentation to various age groups;
2. Videotape recording and editing expertise;
3. Botany, ornithology or zoology (identification

of species and impact assessment);

4. Knowledge of geology and erosion;

5. Innovative development of experiential programming to highlight The Mountain's ecology while preserving its special character.

Resource people may be drawn from those who are not currently Mountain members. If you know anyone who would be willing to help us, we would appreciate hearing from you. Please send your suggestions to:

Wink Lucas, Chair
Environmental Concerns Committee
1913 Southcliff Road
Richmond, VA 23225

Welcome to These New Life Members

Bravos to these Mountain supporters who signed up to be patron and life members since the enclosed Annual Report:

PATRON MEMBERS: Edward C. Riley, Marjorie C. Riley.

LIFE MEMBERS: Leslie & Joni Grady; Lindsay Holliday; Doug & Darlene Reister;

David Sweet & Kay Gause; Anna Uhde; Emily Van Valkenburgh; Lindsay Williams.

Patrons' and Life members' presence and continued support are among the vital components that assure the continued success and growth of our Mountain. Thanks from all of the Mountain community!

Are You Represented at The Mountain?

Do you know who the Mountain Rep is in your congregation? If not, you may not have this vital link to The Mountain. Mountain Reps keep you informed about programs and special events here.

Our goal is to have a Rep in every congregation, beginning with the "tri-district" area (T.J., Mid-South, and Florida) and reaching outward. We need your help! Please check with your minister or board president. If you do not have a Mountain Rep, send us a postcard with your congregation's name and address, (include your own name if you would like to be a Rep), or call Shelley Denham (704-526-4505).

Our "Supersite" Mountain Invites Seniors

If the onetime "Elderexcitement" program doesn't fit in with your summer plans, keep in mind the Mountain's status as an Elderhostel Supersite, with a choice of 30 programs each year. (Elderhostel defines a supersite as one that offers more than 20 annual programs. The Mountain is one of 37 out of 1700 in the United States.)

Each week is unique; subjects range from A to Z (Appalachian Folklore to Zoology). Our student-guests from all over the country delight in the Mountain environment and often return.

So join us. Bring your friends (UU or others) and capture the magic of "life after 60." For information, call or write Dean Zach (704-526-4505) at The Mountain, or contact Elderhostel headquarters, 75 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110.

The Mountain's in the Running!

We were well represented in Atlanta's July 4th Peachtree Race by staff members Tom Warth, Jim Ingram, Paul Allen, Bill Moore, and Debbie Nowak, as well as ex-Pres. Walt Hodges and many of Walt's family. No reports on their times in this 10K race, run in 90 degree heat, were available at press time.

New ELDEREXCITEMENT for Mature UUs

If you are 55 or older, and you are looking for others who share your need for intellectual stimulation and a community experience, our new "Elderexcitement" may be the answer for you!

Melanie Sullivan of New Orleans will be Minister of the Week, leading our spiritual seminar titled "The Story of You/Our Life." She's planning to help us find commonality in our stories, and begin a written version of your spiritual autobiography to take home to use and share with others.

With Marilyn McMinn McCredie we will study Appalachian history and culture. Although primarily self-taught, Marilyn is a highly-rated seminar leader because she is a delightful musician and story-teller, so popular that many have returned to hear her sing and retell fascinating, humorous stories of her native Appalachia.

Our outdoor program staff will also lead hikes, nature walks, trips to waterfalls, and an optional white-water rafting trip (\$26), to take advantage of our environment.

Finally, if you want to extend your stay, please join our Labor Day Weekend Summer's-End festivities. This is one of our favorite weekends, and you'll want to celebrate with us! Be sure to note the dates you plan to arrive and leave us on your registration form.

Reserve by phone (704-526-5838) using your credit card for the deposit. Elderexcitement week will cost just \$260 per person. Labor Day weekend will cost an additional \$85 to \$137, depending on your membership status and room choice.

The Wish List!

To beautify and improve The Mountain's cabins, we need the following items:

- Cafe curtain rods, sizes 24" - 60"
- Lamps and lampshades -- all sizes
- Desks, dressers, side chairs
- Two sofas
- Pictures and hangings

Items should be in good condition and suitable to our locale.

Should you have any of these things to donate, please contact Fran Gimby, of the Board's Aesthetics Subcommittee at 404-992-5274.

Rock Your Way to Mountain Immortality!



Photo by Anne Heath

Mountain members and visitors in recent years are well aware of a pressing need on the Lodge deck and cabin porches: ROCKING CHAIRS!! Our supply is dwindling, many beyond repair.

For a donation of \$100, you can help solve the problem, and have your name on a plaque attached to YOUR chair. Others who sit in this chair will thank you, and The Mountain will be very grateful.

Send your donation, marked "Rocking Chair" to Joe Tomczyk, Business Manager, and our Facilities Director, Ian Denham, will order your chair.

Then come home to The Mountain and rock away your cares with an easy conscience.

Blue Valley Wilderness Status

On May 23, N.C. Rep. Charles Taylor introduced H.R. 2471, "The Craggy Mountain Wilderness Act." Although the bill establishes a 2,400 acre Craggy Mountain preserve outside Asheville, it would also release the Overflow Wilderness Study Area from continued protection against logging roads and clearcutting. Since 1984 this area included the basin of Overflow Creek and the Blue Valley, visible from our Mountain, as well as the Glen Falls Scenic Area and parts of the Bartram Trail.

After hearing strong opposition to his bill, Congressman Taylor has temporarily shelved it. A large group of residents in the vicinity of Highlands and The Mountain are asking that the bill be withdrawn, with possible substitution of a new bill permanently designating the Basin as Scenic Wilderness.

If you have an opinion about this bill, you may want to write to your own representative or Rep. Taylor.



ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT CLEAR CUTS!

ART BY ANNE HEATH

Our New Lodge Completed! Memberships and Donations Needed for Improvements

As noted elsewhere, the final phase of our new lodge - 6 rooms with private baths and a large meeting room - was completed just in time for the Cincinnati First Church week-long retreat. This was thanks to coordinated effort by a skilled facilities staff (headed by Jan Denham), many volunteer hours (Dave King - St. Petersburg, Ed Bell - Atlanta, and others) and with special assistance from youth camp counselors and Ascenders. Their good work saved us much time and money in the final weeks of the project.

Western Builders of Sylva were able to complete the job they had begun over a year ago with the first phase of construction. Our own small facilities staff could have completed the project with well-trained and organized volunteers, but we would have missed at least a full season.

Our Board has made the decision to use interim bank financing for more than \$50,000 as a temporary source of funds for completion of the lodge. But only temporarily!

As we look with pride on the results of these efforts and our investment since the lodge fire occurred in May of 1989, we are reminded again how vital membership commitment is to our community. We have accomplished much, but this energy and involvement must continue to grow.

The Mountain exists because our members and friends have chosen to make it a focal point of their lives. It will continue to grow and improve in quality only so long as we continue to support it with our time, talents, and finances.

Historically, financial support is shown in four ways: memberships, gifts, loans (Mountain "bonds"), and guest fees.

Membership payments and pledges were the foundation of the original property purchase and renovation plan, while new and renewal memberships can offset the drain of loan interest payments. But cash donations, whether specifically designated for the lodge or for general operations, are crucial to the

reduction of our capital debt for permanent improvements.

So -- Please renew or upgrade your own membership; think about a special donation; or make gifts of membership to relatives or friends and let them know what The Mountain means to you!

Also, if you can lend money (buying a

Mountain "bond"), we will pay you more interest than a bank can, but less than the bank costs us. We all win!

Finally, you can provide the most important program support by coming to programs yourself and bringing your family and friends to share our community.

Thanks to YOU, we'll be here.

How to Spend a Wonderful Weekend and Strengthen Your Congregation



Birmingham (MI) share 1989 weeklong retreat smiles.

Staff photo

QUESTION: How can we plan a special weekend (or week) during the coming year that will combine fun and spirituality?

ANSWER: Come to the Mountain!

As your congregation plans future activities, we suggest you consult the many groups who have spent fruitful and enjoyable week-end retreats at The Mountain. Among these are: UUCA (Atlanta), Tuscaloosa, Greenville, Winston-Salem, Gwinnett, Columbia, Tennessee Valley (Knoxville), Charlotte, Hendersonville, Athens, Macon, and Charleston.

Although our busy camping schedule does not allow for many summer weekend retreats, Northwest (Atlanta) is coming in

August, and many have already reserved for next fall and spring. Several congregations scheduled week-long retreats this summer; members of First Church of Cincinnati in July were the first to use the newly completed first floor of the Lodge, which added twelve beds and six baths to our accommodations. In August, First Church of Chicago, in combination with Community Church of New York will visit. Also in August, a large group from Birmingham (MI) returns for their fourth week.

Join these UUs who have found that The Mountain is a special place where their congregation can "recharge" and recommit to our UU values. Call now to make your plans with Dan King or Shelley Denham.

Photo Contest

Help Decorate the New Lodge Bedrooms

Attention all photographers! To help us acquire high quality pictures to decorate the bedrooms in the new Lodge, the Aesthetics Sub-committee of The Mountain Board is sponsoring a Photography Contest. The deadline for delivery of entries to The Mountain--up to five per person--is August 31, 1991.

The Committee is looking for Mountain themes or nature and landscape subjects that suggest our immediate region. Judging will be based on quality and appropriateness of the photos.

The ideal entry would be an enlargement, ready for matting and framing, but black and white or color prints or slides (in plastic protective sleeves) will be accepted. The name and address of the photographer should be on a concealed sheet of paper on the back of prints or slide sleeves. Mark the outside of the package or envelope "Photo Contest." We are requesting a donation of \$10 from each artist to help defray printing and framing costs.

The winning entries will be matted and framed to blend with the bedroom design, probably 11" x 14" and 16" x 20", but larger entries would be welcome. The photographer's name will be displayed with the picture, to remain in the bedrooms for at least three years.

Winners will be announced in the Fall issue of *Mountain Matters*. All entrants will also be notified by mail and advised how to reclaim their submissions.

The Aesthetics Committee (Alicia Hodges, Fran Gimby, Evelyn Carnot, and Ottobide White) is looking forward to your participation.

Notes from The Mountain New Staff Members

Jack Slate has joined the staff as Director of Program. Jack and staffer **Laura Miller** were married on the Lodge deck. Laura plans to go on part-time status in the near future, in anticipation of motherhood.

Dan King is the new Director of Marketing and his wife, **Nina Benedetto**, is Coordinator of the Arts and Crafts Program. Dan and Nina, long-time Mountain supporters, moved here from Columbia, SC, with their son, **Ben**, and daughter, **Eden**.

Rene Cline is back, serving as Youth Camp Director. She and fellow staffer, **Ken Kortmeyer**, plan an October wedding.

KUDOS TO gloria! Congratulations to **gloria wright** on her recent completion of a PhD in Human Resource Development from Georgia State University.

THANKS to Lewis Walker and the T.J. District for sponsoring a Mountain Program at GA. We had a standing-room only crowd of wonderful, familiar friends and new faces. Performed by **Shelley Denham**, **Tom and Jane Warth**, and **Dan King**, with assistance from **Rod Thompson**, the program consisted of readings, songs and slides, all combining to bring the magic of The Mountain to the sultry Florida coast! And thanks also to **Susan Kimball** (and piano!) for assisting Shelley and **Gene Navias** during the UUA's "Timeless Themes Curriculum" Workshop at GA.

CONGRATULATIONS to Liz McMaster, Patron member and continuing Mountain Board member, who was called to the Fort Lauderdale congregation.

CONGRATULATIONS to Janet Harvey for completion of the Independent Study Program toward her preliminary Ministry in Religious Education. She is serving the Asheville congregation. Also, congratulations to **Mary Katherine Morn**, who was admitted to final fellowship at High Street UU Church in Macon, GA.



Nicole and Marip share a quiet moment on Meditation Rock.

Photo by P. Collison

Be a Mountain Neighbor!

House for sale near THE MOUNTAIN, 3BR/2BA, beautiful wooded 2/3 acre borders USFS land. Spacious covered deck, carport, garden. 5% proceeds to THE MOUNTAIN. \$105,000. Call **Mo Wheeler** at 704/526-9561.

What Are You Doing for The Mountain's Campers? Let Us Know!

It pays to read all those congregational newsletters we receive! They tell us how hard some of our congregations are working to support The Mountain's summer camp programs. We learn that Tennessee Valley and Westside in Knoxville, the Asheville and Columbia (SC) Fellowships, the Florida District Board, and First Church in Nashville are among the groups that help send UU youth to our camp.

We appreciate this support and hope all of our congregations will find creative ways to send campers here for a very special summer experience. If your congregation is doing this, be sure we know about it. We want to thank you and to let others know of your generosity and your belief in The Mountain's programs.

1991 Fall/Winter Calendar

August

- 1-4 TJ Board Retreat
- 4-10 Birmingham Retreat
- 10-17 Leadership School
- 11-17 Outdoor Fun for All
- 16-18 NW Board Retreat
- 18-24 Outdoor Adventure I*
- 19-24 Chicago Retreat
- 25-31 Outdoor Adventure I*
- 25-30 Outdoor Adventure II*
- 25-30 UU Elders' Retreat*
- 31- September 2
- Labor Day Weekend*

September

- 2-8 Outdoor Adventure II
- 12-15 American Forum
- 20-22 Men's Retreat
- 27-29 Asheville Work Weekend
- 27-29 WNCA Annual Meeting

** call us to reserve your space
soon for these exciting programs*

October

- 4-6 UUCA Wedding/UCB Retreat
- Octoberfest (limited)
- 11-13 Staff Wedding
- 11-13 UUCA Retreat
- 12-13 Earth Literacy Program
- 18-20 CUUPS Annual Meeting
- 25-27 Weekend Retreats- Macon, Columbia, & UUCA
- 30- November 3
- CUUC2 Meeting

November

- 1-3 Richmond Retreat
- 8-14 SEU/UMA Meetings
- 15-17 Charleston/Adams Work Weekend
- 22-24 NW Retreat
- 27- December 1
- Life Members Thanksgiving!

December

- 20-22 Solstice Spirituality Weekend*
- 23-25 Mountain Family Christmas*
- 28- January 1
- New Year's Awakening & Revel*



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