



September/October, 1992

MOUNTAIN MATTERS

Fall Calendar Edition

The Mountain • Highlands Camp & Conference Center, Inc.



CELEBRATING YOUTH CAMP...

"Dear Friends":

With those words we close our Mountain youth camps each summer in song together—campers, counselors, and staff. As we reflect on the highlights of this summer just past, we want to emphasize again the importance of Youth Camp, not only as the original basis for *the mountain*, but also as the continuing centerpiece of our annual programs for promoting UU values, spirituality, and environmental awareness through experiential education.

But what does this mean to you, and to *the mountain*?

"Let me tell you how I feel" I know from personal observation that we have built relationships and self confidence among our campers and their counselors. I believe we are mutually enriched.

"You have given me your treasures" Parents who have entrusted their campers to us have shared the most precious part of themselves. Some of those parents have shared their thoughts about the summer of '92. Life Member Joe Watterson, who has had two sons in our camps "since the beginning", wrote us to say that our new "First-Time Camp" for his 6 year-old stepdaughter was exactly what she needed to gain confidence before beginning first grade. Another (non-UU) parent commented that "Because my shy 12 year-old pianist daughter had grown so much in developing healthy peer relationships at *MountainCamp*, I felt confident enough to try "First-Time Camp" for her twin brothers, (who love lizards and collect rocks). They all say they *have* to come back next year!"

These are among the reports we receive: whether from Junior and Senior High, ASCENDERS, Build & Adventure "worker/hikers", or the younger ones—both campers and parents tell us that René and the counselor staff are working well together with our year-round staff to provide a meaningful growth experience for us all.

But even a most successful program must continue to grow and improve to meet your changing needs and preferences. We're working now to fit our camp schedule into a more manageable outline; clarifying counselor responsibilities; improving airport shuttle procedures, communication, and driver training to reduce the chances of misunderstanding about flight times, etc.

Other programs are important, too. In this fall issue, we wanted to bring your attention to our updated winter calendar—there's at least one program for each family member! And we hope you'll take a moment to review our 1991 Annual Report and our development efforts to ensure *the mountain's* financial health.

Our front cover for this issue of MOUNTAIN MATTERS has two photos: the first shows our Camp Director, René Cline, modeling good camper behavior. The second is perhaps the most touching moment of camp—on Saturday morning after the closing circle, when the airport shuttle drives away and the campers really have to say "Goodbye—but only 'til next time!"

Tom



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DARE TO VOTE





"It's wonderful that you were able to take it with you. Now what do you plan to do with it?"

YOU CAN SAVE TAXES IN MANY WAYS WHILE HELPING *your mountain*

Many of us have, and continue to provide the financial support needed since beginning *the mountain*, by using our current funds. We can also plan to do so in the future, usually more easily.

Through Planned Giving, *the mountain* can facilitate whatever fits your situation. Estate planning and updating is critical to everyone.

The mountain's Will Bequests & Gift Annuities brochure is now available. Please write or call for one, or call J. Tomezyk (704) 526-4505 for answers to your questions.

**YOUR DEVELOPMENT EFFORT
HELPED TO ACQUIRE ...
AND CONTINUES TO BUILD**



FUUN (Fowler UU Network) at *the mountain*

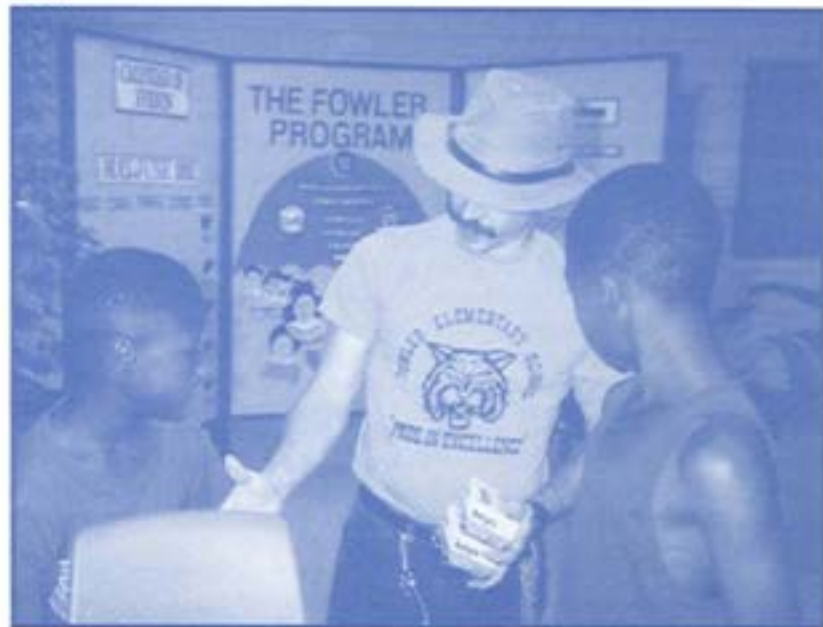
Thanks to the energetic initial work by long-term volunteers Alicia and Walter Hodges, Project FUUN with the UU Congregation of Atlanta included our new Earthkeepers Program as an integral part of their outreach to inner-city youth.

The first groups of students to come to *the mountain* were 5th graders from the Fowler Elementary School in Atlanta. For each class of 25 students, accompanied by their teachers and other school personnel, this hands-on, outdoor experiential education created lasting impressions.

The emphasis is on learning about the Earth's systems which are being impacted the most by our human activity. As we learned about these systems, we also learned things we can do to benefit the Energy Cycle, the Water Cycle, and the Decomposition Cycle.

Walter, Jack Slate, and Nina Benedetto were fully-certified as Earthkeeper instructors ("Guardians") after a cold, wet Winter training session near Birmingham, and they shared their expertise with Alicia and staffers René Cline, Ken Kortemeier, Dick Bozung and Paul Allen as the intensive, two-week pilot program evolved. Feedback from the students and their accompanying teachers was both heartwarming and inspirational, and follow-up programs are envisioned for other classes as models for the future.

This program's start up phase was made possible with critical financial support of the UUA Grants Panel and sponsorship from the congregation.



Earthkeeper Guardian, Jack Slate, explains part of the "Secrets of EM" to Fowler students in the Earthkeepers Program

Volunteers Unite!



What do Elissa Allen, Manley Allen, Peg Collison, Elizabeth Barrett Hardner, Alicia Hodges, Walter Hodges, Joe Moore, Don Osgood, Bob Polk, Juanita Polk, Mary Quadfasel, Emily Van Valkenburg, and Mo Wheeler all have in common?

These Life Members and Patrons, along with many other energetic friends of *the mountain* like Frissy Peden of Highlands, are working with your staff as VOLUNTEERS. Whether in Highlands or in their own communities, these dedicated and talented folks have been able to fit their abilities to support the wide variety of continually-emerging "person-power" needs for maintenance, office work, programming and marketing.

These volunteers have diverse skills and interests: carpentry, direct mail preparation, hike leadership, fund-raising, recruiting Elderhostel students and hosting Elderhostel programs, grant-writing, organizing conferences and retreats, or working a relief shift in the office to answer your phone inquiries. Their contributions have always been vitally important to the success of *the mountain*, and never more than now, as we build together to expand our retreat for families and individuals.

If you are available for volunteer jobs or work-exchange opportunities (four hours work for free overnight lodging and discounted meal costs), please call Beaupré Preston for a really **meaningful** good time (704) 526-4505 or 526-4266.

Member's Gallery

Nina Benedetto's opening show in the Members Gallery of the Lodge has been a great success, and we are now open to proposals for additional shows. The Asheville Church has volunteered to have a show ready soon, under the direction of Evelyn Carter. While one-person shows of members' work can be considered, we especially appreciate churches sponsoring group shows.

The major purpose of the Gallery's exhibitions of art work is to enhance the aesthetics of our *mountain* Lodge; however, work can be for sale, with a 25% commission to The Mountain. Our space (the upstairs residential hallway) is only suitable for hanging wall art that would protrude less than 6 inches from the wall so as to minimize obstacles in the hallway. The exhibitors will need to help with the hanging. No insurance can be provided by The Mountain.

Please submit ideas to Beaupré Preston at *the mountain*.

Bonding with *the mountain*

The people listed below hold "MountainBonds", having made new or renewed loans in the form of one or more 5-year \$5,000 Promissory Notes. Interest is paid quarterly, and can accrue until maturity, or be waived as a gift. This reflects a special confidence in *the mountain*.

Ray & Lynn Baumel
Sally Bellamy-Wigginton
Tim & Lennie Blackwood
Viola Brian

Clemson UU Fellowship
Ellen Heath

Georgeanne Hoegerman
David & Charlyn Jackson

Monique Jackson
John M. Karon

Susan Land Kimball,

custodian for: Julia Chanson
Dillon Chanson

Merrill & Charlotte Palmer
Janet Patterson

Peter Raoul
Ruth & Arthur Schwartz
June Cravens Sholin
Bob & Judy Shaklee

Correction to 1991 Annual Report

In the Environmental Concerns Committee Report, paragraph two, it is Sandra Clipp and not Paul who will work with staff on the environmental survey intended to reduce resource consumption.

Fall/Winter 1992

For reservations, call 704/526-4505, 4266, or 5838



October

- 2- 4 **Oktoberfest has no more room for '92! Plan now for October 8-10, 1993!**
Congregational Retreats: Jacksonville; Gwinnett; Emerson (GA)
- 4- 9 Elderhostel: Spoon River; Estate Plans; Appalachian Natural History
- 9-11 **Womenspirit Fall Institute is Full! Plan now for May 12-16 or Sept 29-Oct 3, 1993!**
- 11-16 Elderhostel: Appalachian Literature; Estate Plans; Walk in the Woods
- 16-18 Congregational Retreats: Greenville, Macon (High Street)
- 18-23 Elderhostel: Folk History; Power of Myth; Mountains & Valleys
- 23-25 Congregational Retreats: Northwest; Columbia; Greensboro
- 25-30 Elderhostel: Myths Today; O'Connor Stories; Mountain Women

30- 1 **MAUI - Mountain Autumn UU Institute (SUUSI/SWIM Reunions)**

(Fri dinner - Sun lunch: \$106 - \$136 Double Occupancy)

A few spaces remain for our big Halloween party. This version of Cabaret, Serendipity, workshops, and fun will give you a chance to form or renew friendships.

November

- 1- 6 Elderhostel: Walk with a Mountain Woman; Folk Dance; Scottish Songs
- 6- 8 UGA WQR Faculty Women Retreat
Men in Touch (Private)
New Minister Orientation
- 8- 9 UU Clergy Spirituality Retreat
- 9-12 SEUUMA Fall Retreat (Rebecca Parker of Starr King Seminary is our featured speaker)
- 8-13 Elderhostel: Appalachian Culture; Geology; Sandburg
- 13-15 NEW PROGRAM: Individual Quiet Weekend Retreat Opportunity
Brackett/Tucker Wedding (Private)
- 15-20 Elderhostel: Appalachian Poetry; Roots of Language; First Amendment
- 17-20 *Environmental Education: Sure Bet Youth Retreat*
- 20-22 *Youth Conference: Junior High*

25-29 **Holiday Program (Life Members Only): Thanksgiving**



(Wed after dinner-Sun breakfast: \$129-\$159 or if space remains, 3 nights \$99-\$129; 2 nights \$79-\$109)
Come home to *the mountain*, Life Members, for one of the most cherished celebrations of the year. We'll have another of our "new traditional" intergenerational Thanksgiving services just before our sumptuous feast. We'll have a new kind of fun auction, and a musical concert by an expanded staff, which we'll record to produce the first, official Mountain Album. Experience the excitement with us! Throughout the weekend we will play, work, relax, and worship together in this rich community event.

December

- 4- 6 *Youth Conference: Senior High*
Mountain Board Meeting
SUUSI Board Meeting
Grand Canyon Expedition Reunion (private)

Holiday Highlights

Dec 11-13

Creativity Weekend: Writers' Workshop & Creative Crafts

(Fri dinner-Sun breakfast: \$99-\$119, depending on accommodations, plus a small materials fee)
Everyone has stories inside that must be told, and scenes that must be shared. O'Henry Award-winning author and professional writer Claudia Brinson will work together with Artist-in-Residence Nina Benedetto to help you find how to tell those stories and draw those scenes.

Dec 18-22

Holiday Program: West African Drumming Workshop and Solstice Celebration

Priority registration until 12/1 for full program (Fri dinner- Tues breakfast: \$210 - \$225, minimum 20 **ADULTS ONLY**); if space remains, weekend drumming experience cost will be \$125 (this will include Fri dinner - Sun 3 PM, after class and a joint Sunday performance) Please let us know when you register if you need to rent one of the authentic drums for the workshops (\$10 each.)

Martha Overlock will work with the Moons (women) and Dean Buchanan will take the Suns (men) to help bond groups with separate daytime hikes and drumming workshops. These groups will reunite in starlight for shared evening rhythms as we work together to celebrate the universal harmonies of the Solstice. Class sizes will be limited, so call now!

Dec 24-26

Family Holiday: Christmas on The Mountain

(Thurs dinner-Sat lunch: \$89-\$109, minimum 20 family members)
Our second annual old fashioned "Family Reunion", complete with ornament-making, cookie baking, tree decorating, and a Christmas Eve candlelight service. Invigorating hikes followed by warm fireplaces will complete this very special holiday as we celebrate the beauty of *the mountain* and one another's company.

NOTES:

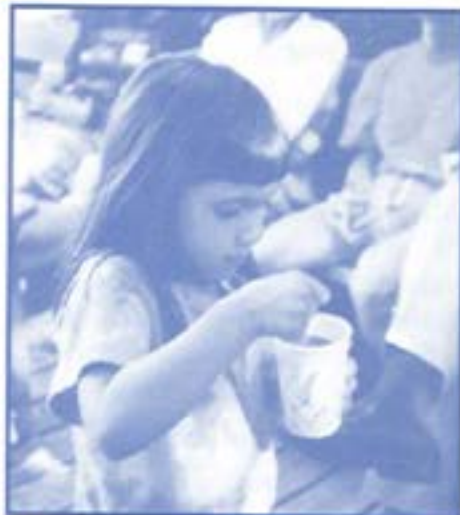
Youth Programs are in Italic

Open Enrollment Programs are in Reverse

Mountain Sponsored Programs are in Bold

All prices stated are per adult, double occupancy. Children in shared space sleep free with reduced-cost meals. Senior members (ages 60+) may be eligible to participate in Elderhostel programs at reduced cost and/or with low-cost transportation provided from your city.

Please call or write for details about any program.



Dec 27-30

UU Young Adult Network Holiday Conference

(Sun dinner-Wed breakfast: Super Price \$75 per person (ages 18-25 only) in heated, shared bath cabins)
A new *mountain* tradition--find old and new friends in a social and spiritual refuge away from the shopping frenzy. This will be a wonderful opportunity to get together with other UU's to compare college "stories" in informal workshops, experience nature, or just cuddle up in front of a warm fire.

Dec 28-30

NEW PROGRAM: Mid-Holiday Retreat for Singles

(Tuesday dinner through Thursday breakfast, single or double occupancy in heated, private-bath cabins, \$75 per person)
Teachers, grad students, and others who would like to get a little time away from the seasonal rush are welcome to this time for solitude (or togetherness- you choose!) We'll provide the scenery, good hot meals, and a cozy fire. (ages 25+ please)

Dec 31- Jan 2

Family Holiday: New Year's Celebration

Many of the folks who came to *the mountain* for our 1991 New Year's Celebration have decided to make this an annual event in their lives. You will be a welcomed member of our community whether you come as a single, with your partner, or with your entire family! Join us under the stars as we celebrate this year's culminating rite of passage.

Look for announcements about new winter *mountain* programs for January - March soon!

Membership News

New Categories—New Options

Welcome to our 35 new Life Members in 1992!!

Did you know that there are three new categories of membership this year? **Additional Life Memberships** are for the children and grandchildren in our lives who are under the age of 18. For \$1200 in cash, or \$1500 over 5 years, you may give a life-long gift to a young person, and enhance *the mountain* community at the same time.

Our second new category is **Young Adult Membership**. The Board, recognizing that young people in school or beginning careers may have very limited resources for several years, has created a new payment plan over 9 years for those ages 18-35 who wish to make progressive payments toward a \$2,000 total membership commitment.

Our third new category is the **Sustaining Circle of Friends**. When you become a Sustaining Friend, you allow us to count on your continuing financial support through the years. Joining the **Sustaining Circle** is a wonderful way for us all to contribute to our future. For details, call *the mountain*.

Member Recognition Boards are receiving a "face-lift"! We're in the process of adding new boards, updating the existing ones, adding a **Sustaining Circle** board, and generally improving the lighting. It is one of the ways in which we want to show our appreciation to all of you who are so generous and important to *the mountain*. Look at them on your next visit.

Kudos

To Alicia and Walter Hodges, who took on the tremendous task of organizing an entire Social Justice project called FUUN (can you guess what it stands for? See related story)

To Don Osgood, whose skills helped the maintenance department go a long way in winterizing and improving staff housing.

To Elissa Allen, Sue Boyce, Evelyn Carter, Joan and Joe Moore, and Don Osgood, all of whom served on a panel for our Mountain Reps during Rep Weekend in March. These members, who also tirelessly serve *the mountain* as Mountain Reps, were inspirational speakers, covering the topics of organizing congregational work weekends, general retreats, specific retreats, youth camp fund-raising, and developing partnerships with *the mountain* and the larger community.

And speaking of Reps...do you have a Mountain Rep in your congregation? We need a Rep in every possible congregation, from Florida to Chicago, from D.C. to Alaska! Our Reps are vital ambassadors for *the mountain* as we work toward building partnerships with our UU Congregations. If you know your congregation is not represented, if you don't know if you have a Rep, or if **YOU** are interested in serving *the mountain* in this important way please write or call Shelley Denham at (704) 526-4505.

1992 Mountain Cookbook

Famous Mountain Recipes from Richard's kitchen will be available mid November. In its 5x9" looseleaf binder format, the cookbook makes a WONDERFUL Christmas gift as well as a tasty way to recall those mountain memories. To order your copy, fill out name and address information below. Enclose \$14.95* for the cookbook plus \$3.00 shipping & handling, or list a Visa/MC card number.

Holiday Note cards with familiar mountain scenes will also be available from *the mountain* store at \$4.95* per box of 8 cards plus \$1.00 shipping & handling. (*N.C. Residents add 6% sales tax)

VISA / MC _____ EXPIRES _____

SIGNATURE _____

_____ COPIES OF *THE MOUNTAIN COOKBOOK* _____ BOXES OF HOLIDAY NOTE CARDS

NAME _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST ZIP _____