



February, 1993

# The Mountain Matters

## Winter Edition

The Mountain • Highlands Camp &amp; Conference Center, Inc.

### BOARD NOMINATIONS NEEDED NOW!

Nominations are now being solicited for one Trustee-at-large and one Nominating Committee member. Each position is for a three-year term beginning at the annual meeting in May, 1993. Each candidate must be a current member of The Mountain for at least two years; s/he may be nominated by any member or by a UU congregation.

Each Trustee is expected to attend five or more weekend meetings of the full Board each year as well as being active on committees and participating in various Mountain functions. Policy-making, planning, financial, or personnel management experience is an asset.

According to our By-Laws, the Nominating Committee recruits nominees, reviews qualifications, and makes recommendations to the membership. Commitment to accept this role will imply a willingness to work by mail and telephone, particularly in the first quarter of each year, to seek out qualified candidates. Attendance at one Board meeting may be needed.

All members will be mailed a notice of election by April 27 reflecting the Committee's recommendations and any other nominees, and a ballot, which may be returned by mail or personally delivered prior to the Memberships's Annual Meeting during the Memorial Day Weekend Program, May 28-31. **PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!**

Nominations with identifying data must be postmarked by March 15 to: Ms. Savie Underhill (Chair), P.O. Box 412, Flat Rock, NC 28731. Phone (704) 692-7726.

### 1992/93 Board of Trustees: \* term expires May '93

Allie Gooding, Pres.	Asheville	Board-appointed *
Carole Light, V. Pres.	Atlanta	Mid-South District
Betty Green, Sec.	Ormond Beach	Florida District *
Randy Whitt, Tres.	Charlotte	Board-appointed
Wink Lucas	Richmond	SUUSI *
Rev. Liz McMaster	Ft. Lauderdale	At-large '93 *
Bill Pulgram	Atlanta	At-large '95
June Cravens Sholin	Marietta	Board-appointed
Phil Sterner	Winston-Salem	TJ District *
Bob Whitney	Atlanta	At-large '94

### 1992/93 Nominating Committee

Savie Underhill, Chair	Flat Rock	'93 *
Steve Soloway	Lilburn	'94
Bud Evans	St. Petersburg	'95

### SPECIAL THANKS AGAIN...

to Sally Bellamy Wigginton (our favorite "popcorn lady") and Mary Quadfasel (the lively perennial Elder-hostel "hostess with the mostest") whose generous contributions provided new bedspreads for all our rooms. The soft teal spreads are a warm and welcome addition, creating a cozy atmosphere.

### Life Member Discount Increase

Your Board of Trustees has approved an increase in the discount percentage applicable to all billings for room, meals, and program fees (not including store sales or the special Life Member Thanksgiving rates.) For 1993, the new discount for current Life Members is **7%!**

Come home again soon to enjoy our programs at affordable rates!

### Store Scholarship Program

New in 1993! Although prices will **not** be increased, **ten per cent** of all sales in our Store will now be dedicated to a *mountain* Scholarship fund to enable more youth and adults to enjoy *the mountain*.





## FROM THE DIRECTOR

You may have noticed the addition of the word "The" to our masthead. This is a small but significant change as we communicate news through our official newsletter, "The Mountain Matters," while at the same time reminding us that "The Mountain Matters" to us all.

This past year we had over 5200 guests participating in youth programs, Elderhostel, congregational retreats, women's gatherings, gay spirit retreats, and as "drop-ins." All experienced The Mountain in their own ways, giving to and receiving something from it, each enriched for having had time to be together at this wonderful place. Indeed, *the mountain* mattered! (look for more information about our most successful 1992 in our upcoming Annual Report).

One of the highlights of this past year and focus of the new year, is a process of "visioning" - building a new long range plan for The Mountain. Trustees, staff, Mountain members and denominational leaders, all gathered together to talk about what The Mountain is and is becoming. We are planning a special "The Mountain Matters" edition in April to explain, in detail, all that is happening in this process. However, a first step has been taken with a series of program themes for 1993. We call them "Transformations" and they are highlighted in our 1993 Calendar. A preliminary edition was mailed to you in December and a revised edition should be in your mail any day now. Please take time to become familiar with them.

And, as we move forward with our "visioning," we want to celebrate the importance of youth programming at the mountain, for we realize that our future will be built by our children. Let me share some exciting initiatives that will be undertaken this year. First, we are going to rebuild our

REC Hall, making it a two story, year-around building with classrooms, rest rooms and general assembly areas. We will be doing this on the site of our existing building, retaining its current "character," increasing usable space without jeopardizing the environment, and incurring no new debt in the process. We also plan to have volunteers

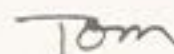
do as much of the work as possible (see related articles). When we are finished we will have an excellent youth program facility.

In addition, we plan to publish a youth camp "alumni news," expand our Junior and Senior High weekend conferences, and continue all of our summer camps including the one-week, First Time camp for our youngest. We will also enhance programs for youth and children during Mountain weekends, continue the Fowler School project, and offer an intensive seminar for Religious Educators (check the program calendar). All underscore that youth matter to The Mountain and in turn, "The Mountain Matters!"

Lastly, I'd like to mention our MVPs, The Mountain Volunteer Program. Volunteers launched The Mountain in our early years, sustained us in the mid '80s and are more important than ever as we move through the '90s. We value

you and need you, please respond to our "call." And one of the most rewarding volunteer opportunities we have is to serve on our Board of Trustees or Nominating Committee. These two groups are vital to the long term success of The Mountain and we need *you* to be involved!

Come and see us in 1993, participate in our programs, volunteer to help us, and spend time experiencing all of the sights, sounds and spirit of The Mountain community. The staff is looking forward to saying, "welcome home."



### *Mountain Growth and Joy*

by Barbara Blythe-Arends © 1993

*Come to The Mountain and visit*

*Come to The Mountain and see*

*Visions and programs in action*

*Great things are coming to be*

*Singing and hiking and dreaming*

*Campfires and good food and fun*

*Come to The Mountain for living*

*Together in spirit as one*

*Dawnlight is daily breaking*

*And trails lie high and lie low*

*Fostering a new awareness*

*Stretching physical limits to grow*

*So come to The Mountain and share it*

*Whether walking or sitting to play*

*There's fun and action and spirit*

*When you join in The Mountain's  
new day.*

## Memorable quotes

K.C. at Christmas: "We're always saying, 'Come home to The Mountain', but I'll remember 1992 as the year my home came to The Mountain." (She's referring to the cold November day that her mobile home was delivered to the "Staff Village" near the tennis courts.)

Nina's favorite quote came from an aghast pre-schooler who announced, "There's no TV in our 'cabinet'!" That about sums up the spirit of child programming at The Mountain. Whatever happens up here is a result of our own creative energies. We think it doesn't get much better than spending time together playing, laughing, hiking, doing arts and crafts, and singing!

And, from an anonymous Elderhostel evaluation form: "The most important thing I experienced this week was that your staff *live* their UU beliefs."



**The Store:** Unique craft items wanted for expanded floor space -- pottery, knitted wear, jewelry, folk crafts, unusual creations. Purchase or consignment. Contact Beaupré.

**Youth Camp:** Dynamic, responsible counselors sought for *the mountain* youth camp program June 12 - August 8. Will supervise youth from seven to eighteen years of age for 24 hours each day. Must have physical and emotional stamina and honest, clear communication style. Apply by March 7. For an application, call the office NOW!

**Maintenance:** Ever dreamed of participating in an old fashioned barn raising? We are planning *the mountain's* sequel. Bring

your carpentry, plumbing, electrical, roofing, painting, and general helper skills and help rebuild the Recreation Hall. For more details, see the Director's article in this issue. To sign up, call Beaupré.

**Food Services:** Committed, independent worker needed as head cook to work with Richard and K.C. Willing to train a hard worker in our comprehensive food service operation for youth and adult programming. Sensitivity to guest needs (especially vegetarian) a must. Full-time, year-round (January vacation possible), 5 days on, 2 days off. Contact Richard Arends, Food Service Director at (704) 526-4266.

**Elderhostel:** Enjoy a week or more as a valuable *mountain* volunteer staff by "hosting"

an Elderhostel program. "Hosts" attend classes and respond to the needs of guests and instructors to assist in implementing these week-long programs. Beautiful location and good food. Stimulating company. Contact Beaupré, MVP Coordinator.

**Art Gallery:** Individual members and congregations invited to hang art exhibits in our Lodge gallery. Photographs, paintings, and tapestry welcome. For items sold, 75% commission to the artist. Interested? Contact Beaupré.



PO Box 1299  
Highlands, NC 28741

**Attention Mountain Reps!** We are currently updating our files. If you are responsible for this position for your congregation, we need an updated congregational profile from you. If you have been inactive, we would appreciate a note giving us possible alternative volunteers for this position. If you'd like to serve in this capacity, call Beaupré.

Reps are extremely important to us, because you are our voice **TO** your congregation and our eyes and ears **FROM** your congregation. Don't forget, the Rep Weekend for 1993 is scheduled March 5-7.

Please come for this special for weekend as we plan together for the coming year, celebrate our accomplishments, and have some fun while we thank you for all that you do!



## at the mountain

Come home and celebrate our Tenth Anniversary Year of hosting Elderhostel. Join our fine faculty, many **Mountain** members, UUs, and diverse participants in stimulating 5-night programs.

Course topics include Earth Education, water color, Appalachian folklore, wildflowers, biotechnology, myths, heroes, Civil War, genealogy, First Ladies, woodcraft (whittling), astronomy, foreign policy, memoirs, Scottish music, folk dancing, and financial planning.

Consult the Elderhostel catalog in the reference section of your public library for course offerings and costs. Write or call **The Mountain** for more information about programs, a current calendar, or applications for hostelships (financial assistance).

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Opportunities for the March- May "academic quarter" are even more attractive for **Mountain** members and UU-affiliated groups. Call Martha Fowler now!

## PLANNED GIVING HIGHLIGHTS

This past year, *the mountain* renewed its appeal for future gifts known as Planned Giving. These gifts, combined with current donations (primarily membership payments), constitute a sound basis for building a steady stream of support. Here are some encouraging recent results.

*Two Charter Members have executed a living trust naming The Mountain as one of the beneficiaries of its substantial corpus.*

*Of six Charitable Gift Annuity proposals requested and under consideration, three have been consummated, totalling approximately \$105,000. Two of those were cash gifts and the third consists of real estate adjacent to the mountain.*

These developments are exciting in many ways. First, they reflect and inspire confidence in *the mountain*, and secondly, they highlight the increasing number of options available for our Mountain donors.

This is an opportunity to obtain financial, estate, and tax planning directly and confidentially from an independent professional advisor without obligation.

For more information, call Joe Tomczyk, our Development/Financial Coordinator.

Years ago, I began my association with *the mountain* as a volunteer. Many of us worked together repairing the road, plucking turkeys, insulating, painting and cleaning cabins, helping carpenters, and decorating for holidays. But more importantly during those visits, I developed friendships with an interesting and fun group of other members and staff; I became attached to this beautiful mountain top. The friendships and attachment have continued for many years (and, I hope, for many more).

As coordinator of the Volunteer Program, I now invite others to become **MVPs** and give of their time, energy, skills, and talent. Help us maintain and upgrade our facility; augment our staff as workshop presenter, hike leader, Elderhostel host, or coordinator for a week-end program; handle the details of a bulk mailing; assist in the rebuilding of the Ree Hall as carpenter, electrician, or plumber; collate the cookbook. The list of possibilities is long. Please call or write to let me know about *your special skills and interests*. The rewards can be much greater than you imagine as you feel that special glow of satisfaction at a job well-done and establish for yourself that intangible attachment to a meaningful place.

So fill out the information below and mail it, or give me a call. When arranged in advance and coordinated with our staff, four hours of your energy and time is rewarded with a free nights lodging and an introduction to some delightful people! Meals can be purchased at regular rates.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Travel time to Mountain \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

What type of volunteer work are you interested in doing? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of workshops have you enjoyed teaching? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you available: Week-ends only? \_\_\_\_\_ Week at a time? \_\_\_\_\_ Both? \_\_\_\_\_

Specific time periods? \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU: have access to materials or supplies that we might buy at a reduced rate or that might be donated to The Mountain? \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO:  
***Mountain Volunteer Programs (MVPs)***  
P.O. Box 1299 • Highlands, NC 28741  
Phone: (704) 526-4505 or 526-4266

