



the mountain
Highlands Camp & Conference Center, Inc.

March, 1996

The Mountain Matters

1996 Annual Meeting Edition

from the Director's chair . . .

"If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this."—Spencer Silver on the work that led to the unique adhesives for 3-M "Post-It" Notepads.

As **the mountain** begins its 17th full year, I'm sure there are many saying, "if we had thought about it—this incredible venture—we wouldn't have done it," for the "literature" is full of examples that say it can't be done. But it has and is being done because of the strong, sustaining support of our members, returning guests and the efforts of the skilled and caring staffs over the years. We may not be "earning" at the rate of 3-M with their Post-Its, but we are changing lives, for the better, every day.

We've been all too long in producing **the mountain** Matters and sharing with you our stories—stories about programs, long range visions and plans, staff changes, finances, facility challenges, development needs, guest experiences, member inputs, and much, much more. We realize that all of this can't be communicated in a single issue. So, we've got to do more and we will—at least four this year, count on it.

And we want to hear more from you. Working at **the mountain** in many ways is like "keeping our balance in permanent white-water." As many of us know from rafting the Nantahala, this isn't easy to do. Whether it's dealing with water problems and new wells, leaking roofs on old buildings, changing markets and program demands, ever expanding guest expectations for larger summer camps, multiple group meeting spaces, "modern cabins", year-round "comfort", balance in the "permanent white-water" is essential. And you, our members, can help. Call us, write us notes, participate in our programs, support us financially—let us know what you are thinking, what you are wanting from **the mountain**. Keeping our balance requires support from you.

Please take time to carefully read *The Mountain Matters*. It is the election issue, so consider the candidates and then send in your ballots. Read the piece about our new staff, take seriously Robert E.'s development appeal and send in the coupon (next page) for a copy of the wonderful book *Little Victories*, by Kit Howell, **the mountain's** first publication. And as you are reading this issue, take a moment, get out your calendars and write down the dates of the Annual Meeting and Members Memorial Weekend. Both are important programs in the "life-cycle" of **the mountain**—both call out for your attendance.

As we move into this 17th year, I feel really energized by all that is ahead of us. We have a budget plan that pays our bills, provides quality guest experiences, makes the necessary capital improvements and reduces, albeit modestly, the overall debt. We have designed a strong summer youth camp program (we already have waiting lists for Jr. and Sr. High camps) with very skilled, returning summer staff—we've planned a multifaith, justice activists week, are offering a new minister's leadership training week with John Bushmons (President, Unitarian Universalist Association) as Dean, and have plans for many other strong youth, adult, and intergenerational programs throughout the year. Re-read our program calendar and find one or more that meets your needs and register now.

the mountain is special, I'm proud that we have all "done the experiment" for it does work—and our work goes on. As our vision statement says, "**the mountain** has a calling: to be an intergenerational center for learning, based upon UU values, whose participants share of themselves, experience spiritual renewal, acquire skills and give voice to the passion that inspires them to lovingly work for justice and transformation in the world." It takes us all to achieve this vision.

"I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper"—Gary Cooper explaining his decision not to take the leading role in "Gone With The Wind." Don't worry about falling on your face—take a leading role in the ongoing development of **the mountain** epic. Don't put yourself in the position years from now of looking back and saying, "I wish I had done more, I wish I had been more involved in **the mountain**." This is your year, your time—be involved.

To a good year



Kit's Stories — a new mountain venture

A frequent visitor and guest Minister at **the mountain** for many years, Kit Howell, Senior Minister of the Lancaster, PA Unitarian Universalist Church, has delighted youth and adult campers with his poignant and moving stories. During his sojourn here in the summer of 1995, an idea was hatched which has since become reality and marks the beginning of an exciting new venture for the mountain: **Mountain Publications**.

Kit agreed to the project; he sent us twenty-two of his stories, we edited and prepared them for publication and this past December, "**Little Victories, Tales from a World Without End**" was published. (We must acknowledge that the success of this project is due in large part to the quality and content of Kit's stories themselves; but, in addition, Kit, Laura Howell, Laura Rutt and others from the Lancaster Church have been enormously helpful in the production and distribution of the product).

Kit grew up in the south (Texas) and never intended to be a minister. While working as a plumber and participating in AA, he decided to go into drug and alcohol counseling. During his years at Grinnell (Iowa) College and Perkins School of Theology, Kit learned that he liked people and he liked telling stories -- which led him to pastoral ministry. He has served churches in Arlington, Texas, Providence, RI and Fort Lauderdale, FL. He came to Lancaster in 1990.

During the past year, Kit, his wife Laura and daughters, Megan and Rachel, have been dealing with the realities of Kit's lung cancer. These realities are the 'victories' that are celebrated in Kit's book. The book is a delightful testament to Kit's faith and his work as a minister.



In his introduction, Kit says:

... life is perverse but it is also full of grace. The grace is in the preponderance of all the things that go right. It is in life itself. The perversity is in the wear and tear it causes. ... The front line of my wear and tear is lung cancer. But even as this eddy wears a hole in my being, I have no doubt but that I live in heaven, pure grace. I have fought for this world of grace all my life. ... trying to be true to my relationships with my family, my congregations, my self and my God. In this, as with most of us, I have been graced with little victories.

"In a world without end, amen", is Kit's signature closing to the stories and reflects his belief that: "life goes on, no matter what [and] everything ends, no matter what. But the victories and the triumphs go on." Kit celebrates life with great insight, humor, acceptance, anger, sadness and great exhilaration -- all evidenced in his stories. He says about his stories:

The book is full of things I always intuited about life. I've always said, as a statement of faith, that people are precious -- knowing how annoying they are. And so, in a way, the book is nice because it's filled with things I know. Then, I said it with faith. Now, I know. The stories are all about love, about people caring about each other, finding ways to make it through life.

The stories are essentially oral meant to be read aloud, shared in community. We have worked hard to preserve the oral character of the material so that the stories will sound just like Kit talking to you in his endearing and intimate way. We are grateful to Kit for his generosity in permitting us to perform a service to those of us who need his stories on our religious journey.



ORDER FORM — Little Victories, Tales from a World Without End

Clip and send this Order Form, or call the mountain at (704) 526-4505. Books are priced at \$14.95 plus \$3.50 for packaging and shipping US Mail book rate. PLEASE SEND _____ Books to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

My check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed or

charge to my Visa/MasterCard #: _____

Signature: _____

EXP. _____



the mountain
PO Box 1299
Highlands, NC
28741-1299

Special thanks to Larry Wheeler for sharing his expertise in planning "The Dream . . ." Campaign!

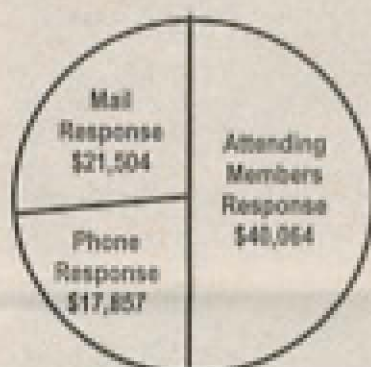


"The Dream Flows On . . ." Thanksgiving Telethon

A huge thanks to all those who helped make "The Dream Flows On . . ." telethon at Thanksgiving a huge success for **the mountain**. A special thanks to all the members who came up to **the mountain** and gave generously of their time as well as their dollars. They came from as close as Black Mountain and Hendersonville, North Carolina and from as far away as Jacksonville and Miami, Florida.

Member dedication never ceases to amaze and invigorate us. Everyone here saw first-hand how close we are to completing the REC Hall. Their excitement must have been contagious judging from the member response to "The Dream Flows On . . ." phone calls. Almost \$80,000 was given or pledged. That is exceptional but still slightly short of our goal of \$100,000.

Our only regret from the 1995 "Dream Flows On . . ." campaign is that we couldn't share the excitement and joy by talking with everyone. If we want to complete the REC Hall and get a good start on our water system, we must make that last 20% of our goal.



\$ Given in Response to the
"Dream" Appeal



This is the closest I'll ever get to a heaven!



Our members know how to work hard and play hard! (Oddy Curtiss)

Looking for New Members!

This year's Development goal is to add about **100 new members!**

We'd like to see at least 44 new Life Members join the vision of **the mountain**. Our Development staff is working away, but **we need your help!**

Here's a list of what you can do:

- Encourage others to visit **the mountain**
- Talk to your friends about membership
- Call us if you know of someone who's interested in membership
- Bring a friend to a program

Hello to all of you—

members, friends, and **mountain** supporters.

Our future looks great! Your passion to make the world a better place by making **the mountain** better for those dedicated to UU values and principles is exciting. Improvements to facilities, stronger Youth experiences, better training in congregational leadership, and connecting with other religious liberals strengthens our voice and actions. In turn we create a better future for all people.

None of this would be possible without you! Our programs continue to make an important difference for all who come here. You can be proud of the tremendously positive impact your generosity allows.

My heartfelt thanks to you all for making the future possible at **the mountain**.

Robert E. Smith, Director of Development

members matter!



the mountain salutes!

Margaret and Harold Johnson of Black Mountain, NC

Margaret and Harold continue in their strong support of *the mountain* by making a donation for Lodge Room 6 to be named in their honor. "It is very fitting that Margaret and Harold have a permanent designation of their tremendous mountain support, for they have certainly been ever-present with their generosity since the beginning," said Robert E. Smith, Director of Development.

"I visited with the Johnsons at their church in Asheville on St. Patrick's Day, taking the picture and asking about their love of *the mountain*. With typical understatement Margaret said '*the mountain* is a wonderful place to visit' and Harold added 'Just give a statement of the fact that we are glad for people to come and share in the joy of being there'."

Talk about being there, Margaret and Harold have come to *the mountain* often through the years and made numerous contributions. They are both Life and Patron Members, have made sustaining pledges, and have supported the Lodge, road resurfacing, and the "new well" appeal.

volunteers

the mountain staff has always known that without our dedicated volunteers we could never make *the mountain* dream come true. The staff believes this so strongly that a coordinator will now be working with all volunteer efforts both big and small! We welcome Alitha Palich to this challenge. If you have a weekend you'd like to work or just want to know what needs to be done at *the mountain*:

Give Alitha a call at
(704) 526-5405 ext 302.
You can also E-mail her at
7305388@mcimail.com

Great Ways of Giving to the mountain

the mountain Endowment is now officially in place. To make this type of gift you need simply submit a codicil or letter to that effect with the amount you wish to commit. Your commitment will be enhanced by a matching gift from an anonymous donor who has established a matching fund of up to \$50,000 per year. Last year we matched the entire fund. Let's do it again!

Gifts of Appreciated Securities are a fantastic way to help yourself and *the mountain* at the same time! You get to ease some of your tax burden and *the mountain* receives the benefit of the ever growing stock market. To save us both even more make a direct transfer of the stock through our account. Call us for the details! (704) 526-4505 ext. 202

a special mountain thank-you!

Sarah Palmore, Life Member since 1993 and Mountain Rep in the Tuscaloosa, Alabama Fellowship, made one of her too infrequent trips to *the mountain* at New Years. (We want to have Sarah visit more than once a year—same goes for all of you). At our customary program presentation about *the mountain*, Sarah heard Tom describe some of the lingering fix-up projects that we have, among them better lighting in the cabins. Sarah asked how much it would take, and Tom said "about \$15 a lamp." That's all it took!

Sarah rallied the troops and got Marge & Arnie Gelbin and Ed & Natalie Fiess to help in her crusade. The result was new lamps in four cabins—just in time for the beginning of the season.

Sarah is the Lamplighter of *the mountain*. Thanks Sarah, Gelbin's and Fiess's for the light you gave!



Please parting his hair

To: All current Members of the mountain
 From: 1995/96 Nominating Committee:
 Phil Sterner, Chair (Winston-Salem)
 Betty Green (Florida)
 Richard Eason (Gwinnett)
 Paul Clipp (Clemson)
 Linda Plummer, Trustee (Jacksonville, Florida)

We are submitting two nominations for this year's single slate: John Lantz of Atlanta and John Rakestraw of Macon. We believe these people will bring the needed skill clusters to **the mountain** Board of Trustees.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Meet the Nominees



John Lantz —

A Property Manager from Decatur, Georgia, John has been a Life Member of **the mountain** since 1986. John has had experience in fund raising at UUCA (Atlanta) and on the Board of Trustees of the UU Endowment Fund of Atlanta. As a lawyer, John has also helped to plan estates and gifts for the giving of major assets to charitable institutions. He practiced law for over 20 years and has a "good sense of how to avoid trouble and how to minimize the adverse affects of problems when they occur as well as good business sense and management experience."

John would like to be a Mountain trustee in order to: "... help preserve and enhance the physical facility of **the mountain** so that it can be as special to others as it is to me. I believe that **the mountain** has done an excellent job in the past of using the best assets of a naturally beautiful setting to help me to be connected to other people, connected to the earth, and to be connected to more important issues and ideas in life."



John Rakestraw —

A Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Wesleyan, a small liberal arts college for women in Macon, Georgia, John and his wife, Mary Katherine Moon, have been Life Members of the mountain since 1993. John is and has been heavily involved in curriculum development and implementation as well as in the development of student life programming at Wesleyan. John introduced an innovative idea at Wesleyan that resulted in a Fall Retreat for the Wesleyan Freshman class at **the mountain** for the past four years; this program has served as a model for other institutions and has been very beneficial, both for the students and for the Mountain staff.

John would like to be a mountain trustee because: "I appreciate greatly what **the mountain** has been for me these past eight years: a place for renewal and growth, for learning and play. I would like **the mountain** to continue to develop and strengthen its programs not only for Unitarian Universalist congregations and individuals but also for other groups and individuals. I believe that my experience as a college professor, together with my appreciation for Unitarian Universalist ideas and values, enable me to help the mountain's staff and other board members in this task."

BALLOT

Indicate with a ☒ below:

- ☐ John Lantz
☐ John Rakestraw

You may vote for no more than two candidates.

Please detach and return to the address on the other side — to count, your vote must be received at that address by April 24, 1996.

(Using your envelope and stamp helps us reduce costs! Thanks for your cooperation.)

The Annual Meeting Weekend

The Annual Meeting Weekend is your weekend—your opportunity to get to know the staff and learn first-hand about 1995 successes and challenges. We encourage your attendance.

To Register —

Call the office at (704) 526-5838 — we will be glad to take your registration over the phone.

The package prices for the weekend which starts with supper on Friday, May 3rd and runs through breakfast on Sunday, May 5th are:

Adults:	Lodge (Private Bath)	\$113/person	Youth:	12-17	\$66 each
	Cabin (Private Bath)	\$103/person		4-11	\$61 each
	Cabin (Shared Bath)	\$ 93/person		1-3	\$10 each

Charges are based on double occupancy. Housing preferences are not guaranteed but are honored on a first come, first serve basis. Handicapped accommodations and accessibility are available.



Snip, Fold and mail to: →

From:

To:

Phil Sterner
Chair—Nominating Committee
2208 Buena Vista Road
Winston-Salem, NC

27104

BALLOT

"Accounting has been my field all my life and I'm glad to be able to use my skills for the benefit of the mountains. I've been coming here since 1979 and am very happy to now be able to work here."

Neal Reisch



"The mountain kitchen is my balliwick — keeping up with hungry guests is a big job and I love it — though I missed New Orleans during the snows this winter!"

KJ Frelin



"I recently finished my Masters Degree in Non-Profit management and have joined the mountain's development team. I look forward to getting to know our members!"

Altha Palich



"Running the office is a daily challenge — it keeps me almost as busy as my daughter, Kattin."

Rae-gan Harouff



"I love working with youth and have had lot's of great experiences in my work here. I'm also handling contracts — helping groups plan their mountain visit."

Pam Bachman—new Life Member



"As Elderhostel Coordinator I meet and work with a lot of wonderful people — guests, instructors and hosts. I'm also involved in youth program design and environmental programs."

Susan Smith

"I'm glad Spring is finally here — I've got lot's of ideas for environmental projects for the mountain. I'm glad to be part of both the programming and the kitchen teams."

Slobohan Rigg



"I'm enjoying working with the maintenance team — it's a big job to keep the mountain buildings looking their best for our guests."

Eileen McKinney

Our New Staff

mountain embers' emorial Day Weekend

May 24 - 26, 1996

mountain members, their families and guests are invited to join us for this traditional celebration at the start of summer. It'll be a great opportunity to put the long winter behind, to get into the outdoors, and to just "take a break".

Saturday morning will feature an old-fashioned field day with games, activities and fun for all. The mountain kitchen will serve up a beautiful picnic lunch before we move on to afternoon activities - a hike to Chinquapin plus a crafts option for the less-active.



Saturday night there'll be a concert featuring Nashville musicians Barry and Holly Tashian. They haven't been to the mountain for several years so you won't want to miss them. All activities during the weekend will be intergenerational with no separate youth programming except during the concert. Parents desiring some free time often are able to work out a "co-op" arrangement with other parents. Childcare for the very young may be available if arrangements are made in advance. Call the mountain office for details.

Springtime, friends, family and fun in the mountains - what could be better? Make your plans now to join us for this special holiday celebration!

Barry & Holly Tashian are folk/country/bluegrass musicians living in Nashville, TN. Barry's professional career began when his band, "Barry and The Remains" opened for the Beatles' North American tour in 1966. In 1980 he joined Emmylou Harris' Hot Band as vocalist and guitarist, replacing Ricky Skaggs. He and Holly began a new career, singing traditional style duets in 1989. They have been praised from coast to coast for their "extraordinary vocal blend". Married in 1972, they are the parents of two sons.

The minimum number to run this program is 25. A \$15 late fee will be applied to all registrations received after April 25, 1996.

Registration Form



Program:

Members' Memorial Day

Arrive: Fri, May 24, 1996 before supper at 7:30

Depart: Sun, May 26, 1996 after breakfast.

Registrant: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Day Phone (____) _____ Evening Phone (____) _____

Enter names of ALL registrants as you want them to appear on namelists:

Adults	Gender	Member (Y/N)	Youth, children, infants	Age	Gender	Childcare (Y/N)



Lodging preference: indicate 1st, 2nd, 3rd choices

LODGE _____
PVT. BATH
(for adults)

CABIN _____
PVT. BATH

CABIN _____
SHARED BATH

BUNKHOUSE _____
SHARED BATH
(private, unheated)

Charges: Adult: \$123/person \$113/person \$103/person \$93/person

Youth: ages 12-17: \$65 ea. ages 4-11: \$60 ea. ages 1-3: \$8 ea.

(Childcare may be available with 6 weeks advanced notice)

Charges are based on double occupancy; housing preferences are not guaranteed but honored on first come, first serve basis.



in any building

Mobility limitations: (describe) _____

Bed preference: (subject to availability) Single _____ Double (for 2): _____ Crib _____

Dietary preference:

☐ Check this box if you have NO special dietary needs.

Indicate food you **DO NOT** eat:

fish _____ poultry _____ dairy _____ eggs _____ red meat _____ pork _____

Special dietary considerations: Allergies? Special diets? Vegan? (Please be specific) _____

Late Registration Fee: After April 25, 1996 add \$15.00 per person.

NONREFUNDABLE DEPOSIT ENCLOSED \$ _____

A \$35 nonrefundable deposit is required for each adult and a \$20 nonrefundable deposit for each youth ages 4-17. Your check payable to The Mountain is preferred; Visa and MasterCard can be used by legibly printing your complete card number and expiration date below, and signing the space provided. The deposit is applied to your final bill.

Please add \$ _____ to my bill for: (check all appropriate boxes)

- ☐ The Mountain Scholarship Fund
- ☐ A tax deductible Contribution to The Mountain
- ☐ Mountain Membership -- Please call me about a Mountain membership!

Visa/MasterCard #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

(Please print name & number on credit card.)

Cardholder's signature: _____

office: (605)244-10
usa only (N)

deposit received

housing

date

confirmed

the mountain • PO Box 1299 • Highlands, NC • 28741-1299 • (704) 526-9787