



The Mountain Matters

The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, Inc.

December 1997



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN...

Thanksgiving! A wonderful holiday - a time to take a break from our routines and give thanks for all that we have been blessed with - family, friends, health, work, sunrises and sunsets and, for many of us, The Mountain. For it is this Mountain, this real estate and state of mind, that so many of us have committed our energies and dollars to through the years, that gives us a place to be ourselves, to experience communities that form and reform like no other, a place of spirituality, music, laughter, adventure and youth. As Rev. Dan Aldrich says, "the meaning of life for me is to be authentically human." At The Mountain we can be authentically human and for this we can all give thanks.

This *The Mountain Matters* is being written a day after our **Thanksgiving Member Weekend**, details of which you will find on page two. What a wonderful time - a time for all that The Mountain is, a time to look back with thankfulness and to look forward with hopefulness. It was a time when I was able to step away from the ordinary and reflect on this place, to watch the work parties, to hear the stories, experience the sunrises, feel the music, be a part of the communities - and, having done all that, to really GIVE THANKS!

The highlights were many but the one I want to comment on in this column is the **Cabin 13-19 Renovation**. The Trustees gave approval this past month for us to remodel our summer cabins, our bunkhouses as we commonly refer to them, which house summer campers. They have truly outlived their usefulness - they aren't safe or practical and it's time we did something about it. Like the REC Hall upgrade, it's our clear statement to our youth: you matter!

The project involves new entrances (safer), new decks with safe railings, new roofs (probably metal for long life), insulated, heated (propane gas units - safe and efficient), new sinks (two rather than one), a shower (rather than a bathtub), new interior walls and ceilings, vinyl tile floors (easier to keep clean), new bunk beds (built-in with new mattresses) and individual storage units for each occupant (8 campers and two counselors per cabin).

By doing this now it will also afford us the opportunity to respond to those groups wanting space in our winter months. The demand is growing and includes interest from a group planning to do environmental education programs for 5th graders.

The upgrades are a great project, long over due and necessary to fulfill our ongoing commitment to safety and comfort for all our guests. We anticipate the project will cost about \$110,000 and ask that you give serious consideration to helping us fund it. As part of our Thanksgiving day work project, we asked for volunteers to begin this undertaking by removing all of the interior furniture, plumbing and walls. **Bill Moore**, a youth camper and counselor for many years signed on for this project (Bill is pictured here with former camper **Nils Green** and Patron Members **Joe Creech** and **Nancy Heath**). When I stopped by to take this picture I asked Bill



what he thought about the project and he said, "It seems strange that I am in here tearing out walls that I just put up a few years ago. But, I'm glad we are doing it." This says so much about us now. Yes,

we must make changes if we are to keep up with our responsibilities to our guests; how exciting that a young adult, once a camper, is still connected with The Mountain and lending his energies to make it a better place for us all.

And speaking about the facility, **Bill Pulgram**, an internationally known architect, the designer of our new REC Hall, a former Trustee and, along with his wife **Lucia**, Patron member of The Mountain, has made us an exceptional offer. He has agreed to devote much of his time the next four months developing a long range **Facilities Occupancy Program**. He will be interviewing each staff member as to their space needs and long term program plans. Based upon their input, he will identify the best usage for each of our buildings, both on top and at the bottom of The Mountain. This is an exciting undertaking - I'll keep you well informed as we progress.

And finally a brief update about **Milestone Learning Center**. We have assembled fourteen members of the new Board of Directors with invitations outstanding to another eight candidates. We have also developed a first draft of the Milestone philosophies and guiding principles, are preparing our first publication project and are in active dialogue with a youth group for a pilot Milestone program. In addition, we have received our first financial gift for Milestone as our Trustee, **John Lantz** (pictured here), gave a \$10,000 check to help us launch the undertaking. Thank you John, what a great vote of confidence. Milestone, although in its infancy, is alive and well. I will give you more details in our February *The Mountain Matters*. In the meantime, if any of you want to know more about Milestone, please call or write me anytime.



Please take the time to read this *The Mountain Matters* cover to cover. It's our year-end issue and our appeals for support are sincere and necessary. The work of The Mountain can only go forward with the generosity of you, its members. From all the staff, we wish you and your families a healthy, happy and safe holiday season!

Tom



A Thanksgiving

to remember. . .

November
26 - 30, 1997

Thanksgiving 1979—our very first Mountain gathering—was a special time and this holiday continues to be an annual tradition like no other. This year over 100 Life Members and their families gathered on The Mountain for meaningful community, great meals, spirituality, entertainment, work projects, updates and outdoor activities. In addition, we welcomed as our special guests the **Rev. Dan King** (recent graduate of the Starr King School for the Ministry) with his wife **Nina** (both former staff members and Mountain Patron Members) and their daughter **Eden**. Dan lead us in two wonderful vesper services. **Kay Montgomery**, Executive Vice President of the UUA, Charter Life Member of The Mountain (and brand new Patron member), was also on hand with her son, daughter-in-law and 3 grandchildren to present the Sunday morning worship service and an informal discussion about the UUA on Saturday morning.



Folding The Mountain's new marketing brochure for mailing...

Thanksgiving Day began with a great brunch, an energizing morning circle and a renewal of the traditional work parties. Projects included winterizing cabins (skirting and sealing windows), organizing the library, rebuilding computers, sorting slides, installing new storm windows on the dining hall, getting a Mountain brochure ready for mailing, organizing our board games, carefully clearing views in front of cabins 1 through 4, helping in the kitchen, potting rhododendrons and laurels for future sales to Mountain guests, closing up the craft barn, helping out with youth programs and "readying" cabins 13 through 19 for renovation (see Director's Column). So much was accomplished and thanks to everyone who worked so joyfully - it's a Mountain tradition of real significance to us all.

After a full day of work we sat down together to a wonderfully prepared dinner: turkey, all the fixings and vegetarian delights. Our food service staff did us all proud. Then, after "cleaning up after ourselves" (The Mountain way) we joined together in the Tree House for a very moving meditation concert. Staff members **Ian, Shelley, Karen, Gillian, Adam, Sunshine, Holly, Maria, Susan, Robert E., Sarah, Jane** and **Tom** formed a staff choir, new staffer **Scott** sang two guitar accompanied solos, the quartet shared their songs, **Shelley** and **Jane** a duet, **Shelley** and daughter **Gillian** a clarinet/piano duet and **Shelley** a solo. **Jeanne Marie** and **Maria** created a sense of spirituality through their decorations of the hall. The Meditation Concert is now a 6 year tradition, and one that has also become a meaningful part of our Thanksgiving weekend. All in all, the day was a wonderful time together, all generations, as we gave thanks for the many blessings we all have as Mountain members.

Friday and Saturday were filled with hikes, presentations (**Tom** on Mountain visions, **Kay** on the UUA), continued work projects during the day, a **Bill & Lorraine Harouff** concert Friday evening and a **Gary Carden** (Appalachian storyteller) concert Saturday evening. In addition, throughout the weekend our youth had many opportunities to participate in quality youth programs and intergenerational activities - thanks to **Karen, Sarah, Gillian, Jack, Maria** and the members who gave a helping hand. Our senior highers helped with cabins 13-19, participated in initiatives and generally "hung tight."

This Thanksgiving was truly a weekend of renewing old relationships and making new ones - a time for quiet talks and walks, working together, eating, singing and rejoicing. Plan now to be a part of our Thanksgiving (November 25-29) celebration in 1998!



THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT & LEARNING CENTER, INC.

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THE MOUNTAIN TRUSTEES HARD AT WORK

The Mountain Board of Trustees has been very active these past two years working on issues of governance (how do we work together to be an effective Board), articulating Mountain values (mission, vision and strategic plans) and organization (name change to The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, incorporation of the Endowment Fund and Milestone Learning Center). We are energized by our work and feel that we are contributing to the very steady, thoughtful growth of The Mountain.

One of our governance initiatives was to assign portfolio responsibilities to each trustee and we have listed those below for your reference. Please call (or write c/o of The Mountain and it will be forwarded) at any time with your questions and/or comments. We would be glad to hear from you!

In addition, as you may remember, next year during our May annual meeting, we will be asking the members to elect two new Trustees to The Mountain Board. Candidate information will be coming to you in our February *THE MOUNTAIN MARTIN*.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT & LEARNING CENTER, INC.

- Hildegard Gray** ~ President ☎ 404-873-1151
- John Rakestraw** ~ President-Elect & Milestone Bd. Member
☎ 615-269-3092
- Gretchen Bremer-Hoskin** ~ Liaison to the Nominating Committee ☎ 904-304-3761
- John Lantz** ~ Legal Counsel to the Board ☎ 404-298-7691
- Jeannette Manning** ~ Financial Advisor to the Board
☎ 704-365-3125
- Jeri Moulder** ~ Trustee Representative to the Endowment Board ☎ 805-966-6461
- Robert Sorrells** ~ Secretary of the Board ☎ 507-289-0997
- Melanie Sullivan** ~ Liaison to the Board of Friends
☎ 423-624-7451
- Claire Keane** ~ Recording Secretary of the Board
☎ 404-299-3664



THE MOUNTAIN QUARTET ON TOUR!



Come hear the wonderful voices of **Shelley, Ian, Jane and Tom** as they spread the message of The Mountain through song. To help promote The Mountain with old friends, make new ones and encourage folks to come visit us in Highlands, The Mountain Quartet will be "on the road" this winter. Music has been an integral part of social movements throughout history. The Mountain Quartet shares the ideals and aspirations of UU social & environmental justice movements with a moving selection of original songs and arrangements.

If you live in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, or Tennessee, you may have a chance to experience The Mountain right in your own area!

GEORGIA/FLORIDA

Evening Programs:

Savannah	Jan 8
Jacksonville	Jan 9
Ormond Beach	Jan 10
Stuart	Jan 13
Ft Myers	Jan 14
Sarasota	Jan 15
Clearwater	Jan 16
Tallahassee	Jan 19

Sunday Services:

Orlando	Jan 11
Gainesville	Jan 18

ALABAMA/TENNESSEE

Evening Programs:

Auburn	Feb 18
Montgomery	Feb 19
Tuscaloosa	Feb 21
Huntsville	Feb 22
Chattanooga	Feb 23

Sunday Services:

Birmingham	Feb 22
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Questions? Contact Larry at
The Mountain, Extension 230.

REFUEL UPDATE

REFUEL (Residential Education For Unique Experiential Learning) is just about full for our January start date. If you are interested, please call Sarah Walls (ext. 241) right away for an application!

from the Development Director



Where has the Fall gone? It's been busy here on The Mountain and so gratifying to see many of you stepping forward and saying: "I want to help The Mountain move to the next level and here is my financial commitment!"

Thank you for your support. I hope many more of you will follow suit. We are developing new levels of giving beyond the \$5000 Patron Membership - look for the February *The Mountain Matrios* for more details and exciting news of a new Member Recognition Room at The Mountain.

Want to give The Mountain a Large gift (but think you can't afford it?)

More and more people are giving much larger gifts to The Mountain and having it cost them less! How? Through a gift of appreciated assets.

Typically, one has to pay capital gains taxes when selling or gifting away assets which have appreciated over the years. However, this is **NOT** the case when you donate to a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit tax deductible organization like The Mountain.

For example, stock purchased some time ago for \$1,000, now worth \$10,000, that is given to The Mountain (and then sold) realizes a large cash gift for The Mountain. You receive a \$10,000 tax deduction for a gift that only cost \$1,000. Interested? Contact me now!

Lodge Room Named

THANKSGIVING, 1996

The
Elinor Artman
Room



Our apologies to Elinor Artman!

The last issue of *Mountain Matrios* neglected to recognize Elinor Artman for her \$10,000 gift last Thanksgiving, allowing us to name Lodge Room #12 in her honor. Elinor, of Cincinnati, OH, is a UU minister, Life Member and long-time Mountain supporter. She helped coordinate our Leadership School and has led a number of other workshops. Elinor, please accept our apologies for missing you last time!

PLEASE DO CALL...

I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:
AT THE MOUNTAIN (704) 526-5838 EXT. 230, IN
ATLANTA (404) 378-9537, OR VIA E-MAIL,
CLWHEELER@AOL.COM. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

- Larry

NEW PATRON MEMBERS (\$5,000+)

Tom & Sybil Ackerman, Tybee Island, GA
Bob & Carolyn Hargrove, Macon, GA
Tom Larson & Janine Leland, Jacksonville, FL
Kay Montgomery, Boston, MA
Robbin Ryan & Jim Mooney, Lithonia, GA
Dillman & Bob Sorrells, Rochester, MN
Sekayi and Tony Stringer, Stone Mountain, GA
Melanie Morel Sullivan, Chattanooga, TN
Randy & Barbara Whitt, Charlotte, NC
Suzanne Wright, Cumming, GA

By the way, congratulations to Patron Members
Virginia Carver and Hank Raichle of Athens, GA
who were married this Fall.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS (\$1600 - \$2000)

Lenora Beale, Mechanicsville, VA
Eunice Milton Benton, Oxford, MS
Gretchen Bremer-Hosken, Daytona Beach, FL
Hugh Fordyce, Atlanta, GA
Miles and Dixie McGinty, Cullowhee, NC

SPECIAL GIFTS

Pat Gnagney, Rocking chair & copies of the Highlands video
Grace Gray, Wheelchair Fund
Ernie & Jan Hoffman, Seniors Programs
Albert & Bernice Holt, Scholarship Fund
Ruth & Shep Kinsman, Scholarship Fund
John Lantz & Jane Royall, Milestone Learning Center
UU Congregation of Shelter Rock, NY, Rocking chair
UU Fellowship of Clemson, SC, Annual Unrestricted Gift
Mo Wheeler, REC Hall Fund

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FRIENDS AND FAMILY
WHO GAVE A GIFT IN HONOR OF JOHN LANTZ &
JANE ROYALL'S WEDDING, FUNDED THE DENHAM
CABIN RENOVATION, GAVE TO THE ANNUAL
CAMPAIGN, THE WATER PROJECT, OR DONATED
A DEPOSIT IN 1997!! DONORS WILL BE
LISTED IN THE 1997 ANNUAL REPORT.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE SUPPORT!

MOUNTAIN PROMISSORY NOTES



Many years ago, **Jake Haun**, then the Mountain's Development Director, said "I bet that Mountain Members are willing to invest in The Mountain by loaning us money for a fair interest rate in return." Well, Jake was certainly right. Over the years, thousands of dollars have been loaned to The Mountain in the form of Promissory Notes and interest has been paid as agreed.

Currently, we have Promissory Note holders who have loaned a total of \$478,000. Help The Mountain reduce its dependence on bank loans; please consider joining note holders listed below. Contact **Robert E.** at ext. 227 and he'll give you the details.

1997 NEW NOTE HOLDERS

Virginia Adams	Maureen Killoran
Marcia Bystrom	Mary Kiner
Pat & Carl Clements	Lee & Marion Lohrson
Dorothy Conlon	Jeri Moulder
Mary Ann Fly	Margaret Schmidt
Doris Froehlich	Charley Stehman & Joan Willey
Lindsay & Marie Holliday	Mary Toulmin
Roger & Jean Johnson	Nancy Wylie
Harriet Jones	

1997 RENEWAL NOTE HOLDERS

Ray & Lin Baumel	Merrill & Charlotte Palmer
Tim & Lennie Blackwood	Janet Patterson
Emerson UU Fellowship	UU Endowment Fund, Inc.
Endowment Fund, Inc.	(UUC Atlanta)
David & Char Jackson	Mary Toulmin
Monique Jackson	
Kate & John Karon	



Leave a Legacy for THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT & LEARNING CENTER

As you update or create your will, consider a bequest to The Mountain. Or make The Mountain a beneficiary of your life or your insurance policy or IRA.

You can reduce your estate taxes - and support The Mountain's Mountain with the stroke of a pen. Your bequest to The Mountain's Mountain becomes your legacy for future generations.

Please contact any member of the Endowment Board (or Board for The Mountain) or **Robert E.** at ext. 227 for details on including The Mountain in your estate planning.

It's bold...it's significant...it's mine...join us!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS THE MOUNTAIN ENDOWMENT FUND, INC.

Bill Fulgram, President
Dan Boyce, Vice President
Ann Creech
Jeri Moulder
June Sholin
Lewis Walker
Claire Keane, Recording Secretary

Yes! I want to make a year-end donation to support The Mountain's Vision/mission

My contribution to the fund

☐ \$ ☐ \$1000 ☐ \$750 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$300 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50

PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION ON:

- ☐ The Mountain Endowment Fund ☐ Charitable Gift Annuities
☐ Charitable Remainder Trust ☐ Life Memberships

☐ Enclosed

☐ Pledge to be paid by 12/31/97

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Credit Card: Visa / Mastercard # _____ Exp. Date _____

Make your tax deductible check payable to The Mountain.

New in 1997...

SPECIAL RECOGNITION for LIFE MEMBERS WHO DIE

Each year, beginning in 1997, The Mountain will honor those Life Members who have passed during the year with a personalized plaque on a rocking chair indicating their name, their Life Member category and the year of their death.

Life Members who have died this year (known to us at the moment) are **Ellen Heath**, Columbia, SC, **Win Leiserson**, Nashville, TN, **Mary Ellen Lundelius**, Bradenton, FL, **Monique Jackson**, Cincinnati, OH, mother of staff member Shelley Denham, and **Tom Martin**, Athens, GA. Tom was a former staff member.

If you know of someone we've missed, please contact Larry.

CHARTER LIFE MEMBER WEEKEND

Apr. 10 -12, 1998

Easter weekend 1998 has been set aside as a special weekend at The Mountain for all Charter Life Members. This group represents people who were involved in the beginnings of The Mountain in 1979 and 1980 (they contributed over \$350,000 to enable the purchase of the property and refurbishment).

Because of our Charter Members, we were able to open for full programming on The Mountain during the summer of 1980.

More information will be coming soon to all Charter Life Members, but mark the dates now on your calendar! Plan to join together for a weekend of reminiscing and connection with those who were there at the start. At the same time, you'll have a wonderful opportunity to be updated on The Mountain today!

*We drink from wells we did not dig. We are warmed by fires we did not build.
The Mountain exists because of its supporters!!*

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