

Program Calendar



February - August 1997



evolution

of



a

dream



The magic of the mountain is contagious . . .
you never know what you may experience here

evolution of a dream... where are we now ?

the mountain is a year-round facility with a proud tradition of dynamic, meaningful programs, efficient operations and quality services. We are committed to building strong, connected communities, embracing differences, recognizing similarities, and exploring our inner and outer worlds. . . .
that's what **the mountain** is all about.

Our programs reflect and promote what we value...

- *The training of strong, motivated leaders
- *The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- *The celebration of diversity of individuals, communities and cultures
- *The interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part
- *Peace, justice and communication through the arts and experiential learning
- *Acceptance of one another as we explore our individual spiritual paths
- *Opportunities for conversations and connections between multi-faith communities

We believe in the programs we offer...

from Elderhostel to **mountaincamp**
from Congregational Retreats to Conference Center Groups
from exhilarating Drum & Dance to introspective Spirituality
from Adventure Education to Adventurous Fun...

the mountain's programs serve a broad population with a wide variety of needs and interests.

As one of our guests said in our New Year's closing circle..."Each time I leave **the mountain** I'm almost afraid to come back because I just KNOW the next time can't be as wonderful as this time. . . and then I come back, and it is different . . . but it really is just as wonderful."

where are we going?



the sound of a harp through the morning mist . . .

a new way to think about an issue . . .

19

Program Highlights

97

Winter African Drumming & Dancing Weekend

Feb. 27 - Mar. 2

\$142 - \$196

Stone Montgomery returns for another powerful weekend! He'll have been in Africa twice since our last weekend and will have lots of new things to teach us. As always, he'll talk a bit about African culture and philosophy, but mostly **we will drum** and **we will dance!** We're offering two-night and three-night options to suit varying schedules, time for individualized instruction at whatever level it's needed, and free time to hike, read, loaf - or drum some more! **the mountain** has a limited number of rental drums—call for details. There will be no Youth Program, but older youth are welcome to participate. Of course, we'll offer our Summer African Drumming & Dancing Weekend in August—call for dates!

Youth CONs (Conferences)

Senior High (Grades 10 - 12) March 7 -9

\$60

Junior High (Grades 7 - 9) Feb. 21 - 23

\$60

CONs are times for youth to gather at **the mountain** for CONnection with friends old and new (UU and non-UU alike), CONcentration on an important theme, CONsideration of values and what's important, and lots of good CONversation. This year's theme is "CONscious Community". Through a variety of workshops and activities, a community work project, and lots of fun and excitement, youth will have the opportunity to learn how to build intentional community with one another. Check with your youth advisors, or DRE and sign up with your group now!

*for a look at where the mountain is going,
turn to the last page.....*



an old friend you didn't expect to see . . .

a new friend you didn't expect to meet . . .

Singing on the mountain

March 7 - 9

\$113 - 133

the mountain is happy to present another of our popular choral singing weekends. **Dr. David Jackson**, director of music at Cincinnati's First UU Church will guide us as we learn techniques to improve both individual and group singing. We'll continue to explore the UU Hymnbook, seeking out unfamiliar pieces with which to "spice up" the music at our home churches. And we'll prepare several selections to present at our closing worship service on Sunday. Whether you're a choir member, a choir director, or someone who just likes to sing, you're invited to join us for **Singing on the mountain**. No youth program is planned; older youth may participate under parental supervision.

Ethics in Action or Ethical Inaction?

March 16 - 21

\$260 - 310

Many UUs have asked for week-long **mountain** programs where they can study issues of relevance in today's world. In response, we offer this fascinating week of intellectual and spiritual stimulation designed to look at some of the most pressing moral and ethical challenges we face. We'll be led by two long-time Unitarian Universalists - Tom Turnipseed, liberal talk show host and attorney, and Dr. John Cairns, world authority on ecological restoration. During the week, we'll look at our own political, ethical and spiritual evolutions while examining conditions necessary for sustainable use of this planet. Although the program is designed primarily for retirees, anyone able to join us for the week is welcome, whatever age or faith.

Family Easter Weekend

March 28 - 30

\$107 - 127

Traditionally, Easter is a time to celebrate new life and re-awakenings. We've designed our **mountain** Easter program to add new life to your family by providing great intergenerational activities to share together. We'll hike, experience **the mountain** climbing wall, decorate eggs, and folk dance together. Leave the long winter behind and spend the first weekend of Spring with your family on **the mountain**.

Senior High Spring Break

April 18 - 20

\$80

High school Juniors and Seniors are invited to "come home" to **the mountain** for the ultimate 42 Hour Outdoor Experience. Challenge your physical and spiritual stamina as you trek out into the natural beauty surrounding **the mountain** on our first ever "VisionQuest".

Spring Fling (Family Fun Weekend)

May 2 - 4

\$115 - 145

What could be more fun for the family than a great spring weekend at **the mountain**? The emphasis will be on outdoor and physical activities with separate adult and youth programs on

the sound of muffled giggling coming from a cabin . . .

Saturday morning and intergenerational play in the afternoon. In between, we'll have a picnic lunch as only **the mountain** kitchen can provide. Saturday night will feature a campfire (weather permitting). Don't miss this great action weekend!

Spring Native American Spirituality Weekend

May 9 - 11

\$120 - 150

In 1995, the UUA officially recognized Earth-centered religions, including Native American Spirituality. Responding to a growing interest, **the mountain** held the first of a series of Native American Spirituality weekends in 1996. Participants were unanimous in praising the experience, and based on their suggestions, our '97 Spring Weekend will feature almost exclusive leadership by Native Americans. Our leaders, **Freeman Owle** and **Nancy Basket**, will teach and guide us as we come to understand Native practices and experience Native ritual and ceremony. We'll also discuss how knowledge thus gained can become part of our "regular" UU worship. No youth programming. Open to a limited number—so register early!

Memorial Weekend '97

May 23 - 25

\$102 - 132

Members and friends of **the mountain** you won't want to miss this one: **the mountain's** future will be unveiled. In addition to our traditional celebration heralding the arrival of summer, we will be presenting the dramatic direction in which we are headed—including a new name and a new institution added to the existing one we know and love! Be part of Memorial Weekend 97—it will hold a clear place in **the mountain's** history.

Summer mountaincamps

Various (June 11 - August 9)

From the beginning, summer **mountaincamp** has been a major focus of **the mountain's** programming. We continue that tradition in 1997 with camp opportunities designed for youth from first grade through '97 graduates. Our **First-Time Out mountaincamp** for the youngest campers has been reintroduced later in the summer, our **Work & Adventure mountaincamp** has been revamped, and an exciting new week, **Leadership School for Social Justice**, has been added for a limited number of Senior High youth. Write or call **the mountain** immediately for a complete **mountaincamp 97** brochure. But hurry! We're filling fast!

Religious Education Week

July 6 - 11

\$285

This week of training and fun is designed for DRE's, teachers, and others involved in children's religious education. Rev. Jeannellen Ryan and Rev. Patricia Hoerdoerfer from the UUA Religious Education Department, and Alice Syltie of Birmingham, AL will lead a Renaissance Module on Administration (which can be taken for or without credit) for both new and experienced RE workers. Also scheduled are workshops on intergenerational programming and an outstanding Youth Program based on Foxfire activities, "Pioneer Days".

an exuberant dance . . .

a silent walk through the forest . . .

Leadership School

July 27 - August 2

\$500

Leadership School is designed for both new and experienced congregational leaders, either holding positions or preparing to take a new role. **the mountain's** Leadership School is a one of a kind learning experience which covers topics of building teams, managing conflict, understanding our UU heritage and values, working on our individual credos, and exploring and creating worship practices. The faculty is comprised of both ministers and lay leaders. Past participants tell us this program not only enhances their contributions to their congregations, but literally changes their lives.

Adventures for Grandparents & Grandchildren

August 2 - 7

Adults \$330 / Youth \$200

If you ever wanted to spend quality time having fun with your grandchildren without having to be responsible for ALL the fun, this is the program for you! **the mountain** staff will provide educational and adventure activities specifically designed for grandparents and grandchildren/nieces/nephews age 8 and above. Learn to paddle and go rafting on the Nantahala River, make crafts, relax around the campfire, and experience the natural history of this spectacular area. A week you & your grandchildren won't ever forget!

and Introducing . . .

REFUEL! Residential Education For Unique Experiential Learning Sept 1997 - May 1998

A Work/Serve/Study Residency for Young Adults, Ages 18 - 22

REFUEL is a 9 month residency for young people seeking direction in defining goals for their future as they move toward independence. In a structured, supportive and creative environment, **REFUEL** participants will develop personal, interpersonal and professional skills. This residency is not a "break" in their studies: it is a demanding program intended to stretch limits mentally, physically and spiritually. The program is intended for, but not limited to UUs who are: 1) High school graduates for whom college does not seem to be the next step; 2) People who may have experienced some college and are disenchanted; 3) Young adults who are clear that they need to make some changes but are uncertain as to how to proceed. The primary components of **REFUEL** are:

- Personal Growth, including:
 - Goal Setting, Values Assessment, Outdoor Adventure & Education, Journal Writing, Career Search and Resume Writing
- Academics/Continuing Education, which includes:
 - Access to the Arts, an individualized reading program, "Hard Skills" Building in areas of specific interest to the participant, and Leadership Training
- Work Service: on-site and in the Larger Community
 - All participants will be given quality training in various job areas at **the mountain**; they will research needs in local communities and work on a long-term project

"Semester" and Final self-evaluations will be completed by individuals and measured by goals set at the beginning of the program.

To apply, call **the mountain** and request an application. For more information, call Shelley Denham (704) 526-5838 ext. 224.

a breathtaking sunset followed by crystal clear, star-streaked skies . . .

evolution of a dream...



where are we going?

Milestone
Learning
Center

the mountain began as a dream in the hearts and minds of only a few people with a huge vision. In less than two decades, that dream has become a reality of greater breadth and scope than most of us could have imagined in the early years. At the Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, we are guided by a passionate belief that it is our responsibility to provide opportunities for transformation, the consequences of which empower individuals and communities to work toward a just, compassionate, and ethical society. We answer a call to service underscoring our belief that it is possible to make a difference in the world . . . one life at a time.

Beginning this year, we're putting that dream into action once again...

with the

Mountain Retreat & Learning Center

the mountain

&

Milestone Learning Center

What's in a name? We believe that **the mountain** is no longer *just* a camp and conference center—it's become a special place where people come to grow, learn, experience new ideas, and have fun in a place apart from their everyday lives.

What is the Milestone Learning Center? We believe there is a need for the work that **the mountain** does—inside the Unitarian Universalist denomination and beyond—and we want to continue that work.

The Mission – to inspire people of all ages to actively practice ethical behavior in the pursuit of socioeconomic justice

Primary Theme – ethical decision-making in times of turbulent change

Areas of concentration – include, but are not limited to, ethical issues surrounding individuality, politics, religion, leadership and the environment.

Tools for learning – Milestone programs utilize the arts and experiential learning

Constituency – Multi-generational, multi-cultural, multi-faith

To learn more about **the mountain's** new direction, please plan to attend Memorial Day Weekend. (See description in Program Highlights section)

visit us on the internet!!
we love hearing from YOU

e-mail

the mountain at —
mountain@dnet.net

and don't forget our www home page
<http://themountain.uua.org/mountain/>



PO Box 1299, Highlands, NC 28741-1299

the mountain

Non Profit Organization
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Highlands, NC
Permit No. 46