



The Mountain Matters

THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT & LEARNING CENTER, INC.

April 1998



Annual Meeting Edition: Trustee Election Ballot Inside

A Memorial Day Weekend Celebration

May 22 – 25, 1998

Late May is one of the prettiest times of the year at The Mountain. With spring finally reaching the peaks of the Blue Ridge, rhododendron, flame azalea and dogwoods are all in bloom and the days are lengthening and warming. Add the fellowship of Mountain members and donors enjoying each other's company, the freedom of a long weekend, plus many events and activities, and you'll have a weekend you don't want to miss.

Plan to stay all three nights and head home after breakfast Monday, or, if you must, leave after lunch on Sunday. Either way, plan now to be a part of this jam-packed weekend. Fill out the enclosed registration form and send it immediately to reserve your spot. Questions? Call Larry Wheeler at The Mountain, EXT. 230.

WHAT'S HAPPENING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND?

- The Mountain's annual meeting at 7:30 p.m. Saturday night.
- The Board of Trustees of The Mountain and The Board of Directors of the Endowment Fund in attendance, holding open meetings.
- The official inauguration of Heritage Hall – the Dining Hall Lounge transformed into a place where The Mountain's history is told in stories and pictures, featuring the many people who have made this place what it is today.



transformed into a place where The Mountain's history is told in stories and pictures, featuring the many people who have made this place what it is today.

- Showing of the new Mountain video.
- Work projects to help Ian and his staff (office jobs, too!).
- Tour of the facility to see the improvements.

- Children's and youth programming.
- Workshop on planned giving (see article below).
- Field Day on Saturday with activities for all ages. Barbecue lunch (meat and veggie) and then a chance to relax and play together. Note, members of the Highlands and Franklin UU Fellowships are invited to join us for this activity.
- A chance to take home, for a reasonable donation, a rhododendron or mountain laurel plant, dug up last Thanksgiving, and ready for planting at your home.
- Sunday worship with **Mary Katherine Morn**, Minister of First UU Church in Nashville, TN.
- "Natural & Cultural Heritage of the Southern Blue Ridge Province"—a Sunday evening program with naturalist, **George Ellison**, and storyteller and singer of traditional music, **Lee Knight**. Together these long-time Mountain friends will explore the close relationship between the natural and cultural heritage of Appalachia.
- Sunday viewing of the wonderful night sky through The Mountain's telescope.
- Plus hikes, social time and much more!

• see page 6 to register •

Planned Giving Workshop

Learn how to maximize the benefit of your charitable gifts.

Hal Reed, a UU from Auburn, AL, and the Director of Planned Giving for Auburn University, will present a workshop on Saturday afternoon, May 23, as part of the members and donors weekend. "With, Trust and Taxes: How you can reap big benefits through planned giving" is a great chance for attendees to obtain up-to-date information from a professional in this field.

A lawyer by trade, Hal spent many years in the banking field before moving to Auburn in 1997. In offering to present this workshop, he said, "Most of us are familiar with outright cash gifts to charitable organizations. But few know much about 'planned gifts', such as charitable annuities, trusts and bequests. This presentation will focus on benefits such as major income tax deductions, lifetime income opportunities and estate tax avoidance through planned giving."

The Alabama Tour

Visiting the Cradle of the Modern Civil Rights Movement

Mountain staff were on the road again in February! Larry Wheeler and Quartet members Jane Warth, Tom Warth, Shelley Denham and Ian Denham were warmly welcomed by all the Alabama UU Congregations visited on the tour. We especially thank the folks who coordinated each event: Rev. Diane Jordan (Auburn), Rev. Elena Rigg (Montgomery), Deb Crocker (Tuscaloosa), Mike Taylor (Birmingham) and Mary Ann Ely and Rev. Doak Mansfield (Huntsville). We also appreciate the Chattanooga congregation and coordinator, Jim MacCouber, who were supportive of our need to cancel their concert at the last minute, as it allowed us to return home in time to be with Buddy Brown and the rest of the staff for the memorial services for Buddy's wife, Marge (see article pg. 4).

It is always a joy to connect with UU congregations, but this tour took on unexpected meaning for us as we visited several sites of significance to the Civil Rights movement. We spent one morning at the Southern Poverty Law Center, and were inspired by the work this organization is doing in the areas of justice and education. Enthusiastic staff gave us a tour of the center and we came away with multiple emotions: gratitude...for the work that the SPLC is doing, despite real physical danger and huge obstacles, anger and frustration...that the intense security measures at the center are necessary, and that more people don't know about and support the SPLC

and motivation... to find meaningful ways to collaborate appropriately in support of our mutual commitment to justice work.

The second site we visited was the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, right down the street from the SPLC. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. filled the pulpit there for six years - his last congregational ministry before he entered into full time Civil Rights activism. Although there was no tour scheduled that day, church staff welcomed us warmly. We were shown a video of the impact the Dexter Avenue congregation has had throughout the years and there was a palpable presence of people like Dr. King, Rosa Parks and Ralph Abernathy within those historic walls. We spent some time alone in the sanctuary and were moved by a sense of urgency: we have come a long way from the 50s and 60s-but we have a long way to go before the inherent worth and dignity of all people is recognized by society as a whole.

On our way to Selma, we tracked the route that brave participants took to Montgomery in that famous march...and we read aloud from history books the dramatic involvement of Unitarian Universalists such as Rev. James Reeb and Clark Olsen (our friend and neighbor in Asheville, NC).

Our Alabama tour became a personal and professional pilgrimage, and we came home changed and inspired. This experience served as a resounding affirmation that The Mountain's vision, mission and values are clearly needed in the world...and we have only just begun to work for positive change!

If you would like more information about the **Southern Poverty Law Center** (including their legal defense work, the Teaching Tolerance educational program or Klanwatch) please write them at: 400 Washington Ave. Montgomery, AL 36104.

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

As I am writing this column today, the 18th of March, the gas company is here installing service to Cabins 18 and 19 in the pouring rain. New ramps and bunk beds were finished last week, flooring was installed yesterday and the plumbing will be done tomorrow morning - all in time to welcome our first occupants Thursday evening, participants in the African Drum & Dance weekend. The other cabins are being worked on too, as Cabins 14 through 19 must be ready for occupancy by April 3rd. The cabin upgrades are an exciting project - and we are meeting our deadlines.

In the last issue of *THE MOUNTAIN MATTERS*, I said I'd like to put a list of staff names and responsibilities in this issue. Due to space limitations (since this is the election issue), the staff feature will not appear this month but will be in our May edition. In the meantime, we have welcomed two new staff members this past month: Windy Capps, a young adult from Rabun Gap has joined our housekeeping staff; Jameson Di Marino, originally from New Mexico, educated

at the Culinary Institute of Vienna, with experiences at the Pentagon and Princess Cruise Lines, has joined our food service staff. In addition, we have hired Brian Horvitz as our second REFUEL mentor, beginning in June. Brian has been a CIT mentor the last two summers, received his M.S. Ed from the University of Pennsylvania and is currently working in Washington, DC, in computer research. This appointment is a real testament to the success of the REFUEL program as we expect to have eight students joining us in August.

As for future editions of *THE MOUNTAIN MATTERS*, I've decided to rename my column "Mountain View." In this space I'd like to share with you some of my thoughts about issues of ethics and justice based upon my experiences here at The Mountain, my readings, conversations I've had with guests, feedback I've heard from people during our travels and ideas from Milestone program participants. I hope you will find these interesting and thought provoking.

And lastly, PLEASE VOTE!

- Tom

A Program for Mind, Body and Spirit!

UU Week 1998, June 3-7

The Mountain offers again this year a four-day program for Unitarian Universalists and other religious liberals. Explore the life of the mind - through stimulating workshops addressing contemporary issues, the body - with outdoor activities and trips around the Highlands area, and the spirit - spending an evening with The Mountain Quartet.

Dr. John Cairns, preeminent authority on ecological restoration, and a UU from Blacksburg, VA, will offer energizing new ways of thinking about environmental issues. John loves to speak to groups of all ages, trying out new ideas and learning from his class participants in return. His workshop, *Sustaining Our Legacy*, examines what it could mean to truly embrace the 7th Principle of Unitarian Universalism. Topics for discussion will include: "Individual Rights vs. The Rights of Future Generations"; "Targeted Compassion vs. General Compassion: The Influence Of Bambi And How We View Natural Systems"; "Respecting the Interdependent Web: Can we make our environment more hospitable?"

John Jeffrey Stein, a UU from Nashville, TN, will lead *Searching For Character*, a workshop exploring recent national concerns about the character, values and ethics of our

leaders and assumptions about the defining attributes of character. Jeff uses clips from classic movies as a stimulus for exploring idealism, individualism, integrity and the ethics of character. Currently professor of screenwriting and motion picture production at Tennessee State University and the Waskins Institute Film School, Jeff is also the author of *Gentlemen of Decision*, a political thriller.

Music is a universal tool for communication: it is the language of the spirit that knows no cultural, religious or social barriers. Members of **The Mountain Quartet** will share an evening of musical reflection based in their commitment to putting their UU values into action. We can all be change agents, whether in our interactions with family and friends, in specific social justice activities or in the study of political issues. The Quartet shares a selection of music to offer inspiration, joy and strength in our struggle to translate ideals into reality.

Enjoy The Mountain in one of the best of seasons! We never know what will be blooming the first week of June - early spring, late spring or summer wildflowers - but you can be sure Mother Nature will be putting on a splendid, delicate show. Depending on the weather and the group's wishes, additional activities may include nature hikes, fun and games on the lake, group-building challenges on the Initiatives Course, an excursion to the Botanical Gardens and the world's third largest tulip poplar, or an afternoon of simply enjoying the spectacular views. Please call The Mountain for registration information.

The Endowment Fund

Leave a Legacy for The Mountain

The Mountain Endowment Fund, Inc. was established in early 1997 to "enhance the current and long-term financial viability of The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center." The Endowment is a permanent fund; its purpose is to preserve and protect the irreplaceable resources of The Mountain, now and for future generations.

As of April 1998, the Endowment Board has documentation that twenty one people have made provisions for the Mountain Endowment through their estate. A broad range of beneficiary vehicles are available, including wills or trusts, insurance policies, or IRA-qualified retirement plans. Many of these gifts have been matched by an anonymous donor. The holdings of the Endowment Fund are currently \$143,867. Our deepest thanks go to these donors who are making The Mountain a part of their personal legacy.

If you are interested in finding out how you might join this growing list of participants (see below)-it's really quite easy. Just contact Robert E. Smith at The Mountain (828-526-5838 ext. 227), Endowment Board President, Bill Pulgram (404-255-8514) or Vice President, Dan Boyce (248-539-9178, e-mail: DTWS46A@prodigy.com).

It's bold. It's significant. It's here. Join us...

Emily Adler	Alex Redmountain
Virginia Carver	Agnes Sanborn
Beverly Cree	Robert E. & Susan Smith
Ann Creech	Anne Staley
Hildegärde Gray	John Vacher
Bob & Anne Hornberger	Tom & Jane Warth
David & Char Jackson	Bob & Sue Whitney
Kirsten Krone	Sally Bellamy Wigginton
Carole Light	

The Mountain's Promissory Notes Make Saving Easier

Now is a great time to put your money to work for you and for The Mountain. For many, the Mountain's Promissory Notes have made saving for homes, college tuition or nest eggs possible. The interest paid is equal to the current Five-Year Treasury Note rate plus an additional half percent for Notes up to \$5,000 or an additional one percent for those \$6,000 and above. Notes are issued in increments of \$1,000 for periods of sixty months. Four interest payment options are available: simple or compounded, accrued until maturity, paid semiannually or gifted to The Mountain. Contact Robert E. Smith (ext. 227) today for more information.

A New Dishwasher for the Kitchen!



Thanks to long-time supporters, John and Margaret Norris of Nashville, TN, The Mountain's dish crew will be smiling a lot more. The new dishwasher, soon to be installed, will be wonderfully efficient and the \$5000 gift from the Norris's made it all

possible. Next time you visit The Mountain and are returning dishes, admire this important new piece of equipment. Thanks John and Margaret!

NEW LIFE MEMBERS (\$1,600-\$2,000)

Ed & Jean Mangialico
Ceci Bonfield & Al Loebe
Webb & Fran Howard
Janine Sathpen
Carl & Jenna Melissas

Borrego Springs, CA
Atlanta, GA
Ormond Beach, FL
Charlotte, NC
Woodstock, GA

IN MEMORIAM

Bea Percival
Art Lockwood
Annette Van Howe

Cincinnati, OH
Stuart, FL
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Congratulations!

Mary Katherine Morn and Nashville UUC



The Mountain Quartet enthusiastically accepted the invitation to participate in the Installation Service of Patron Member Mary Katherine Morn as the fourth minister of First UU Church of Nashville. We wish both this special congregation and Mary Katherine all the best. For those who may not know, Mary Katherine's husband, John Rakestraw, will be the next president of The Mountain's Board of Trustees. Come see his "installation" at the Annual Meeting in May!

Susanne and Mark Walker

On March 17, staff members Susanne and Mark welcomed their first child into the world. Lincoln Brent Walker (seven pounds, nine ounces) was born just after noon on St. Patrick's Day. Susanne, Lincoln and Mark are all doing well.



✦ In Memoriam

Marge Brown 1940-1998

All staff and trustees extend deepest sympathies to Buddy Brown, whose wife Marge died suddenly on Friday, February 20, 1998. Buddy has served in the maintenance department since May 1992, and his humor, commitment to service and gentle nature have endeared him to all of us and to many guests through the years. A memorial service for Marge took place on Monday, February 23 in Sylva, NC. The Mountain was honored to be asked by Buddy and his family to hold a memorial service the next day. Marge's ashes were scattered off Meditation Rock, and Buddy says it's a comfort to come to The Mountain each day and know that she's here. You may write to Buddy in care of The Mountain.

Art Lockwood 1916-1998

Art Lockwood, Charter Life Member, and supporter of The Mountain in so many ways, died March 17 at his home in Stuart, Florida, following a long and painful bout with stomach cancer. He is survived by his wife, Myrtle. The Lockwoods were vital to The Mountain in its early years—as enthusiastic, ready-at-a-moment's-notice volunteers. Their activism in the Civil Rights movement brought to life their commitment to UU values. With a true generosity of spirit, they have contributed time, energy and financial resources to their UU communities in the many years since. When funding was needed to remodel the REC Hall, the Lockwoods were the first to step forward. Their substantial support launched the project and saw it to completion. Art's good humor, memories and devotion to The Mountain will be missed. Anyone wishing to communicate with Myrtle may do so at 1271 Southeast Parkview Place, H-5, Stuart, FL 34994. Her phone number is (561) 220-0138.

Youth Camp Cabin Support Grows!



Who would have guessed that The Mountain's "old" youth camp cabins could look so good? When you receive this issue, all of the cabins should be completed and ready for youth campers to experience improved living conditions this summer. Because of a commitment to rebuild the cabins before camp starts, The Mountain borrowed the funds to complete the work.

Recently, a request has been sent to many on The Mountain's mailing list, requesting financial support for the project. The response has been immediate. Many thanks to all of the contributors below - you've got us off to a great start. But there is still a long way to go! If you are interested in helping, please fill out the form in this issue or respond to the mailing you will be receiving.



An Appreciated Gift

Avoid capital gains taxes and benefit The Mountain.

As this issue goes to press, the stock market continues to hit new highs. But, as June 30, 1998 draws near, so does the expiration date of the tax regulation which allows holders of appreciated stocks to contribute their investment to a non-profit organization at full market value without having to pay taxes on capital gains. While the regulation may once again be extended, there are no guarantees. Now is a great time to take advantage of the tax code and donate appreciated stocks to The Mountain. Here's an example of how it works:

Original purchase price: \$10 per share x 20 shares = \$200 initial investment

Today's price: \$100 per share x 40 shares (split 1:1) = \$4,000 current value

The capital gain which must be claimed upon the sale of this example investment is \$3,800. But, if the stock is donated to a nonprofit like The Mountain, the investor takes a tax deduction on the entire \$4,000. Think about it! The Mountain is a great investment and now is the ideal time to consider making such a donation. Call (828) 526-5838 to talk with Larry Wheeler (EXT. 230) or Robert E. Smith (EXT. 227).

Cabin 13

Christine Lucas & Lewis Walker, Richmond, VA	\$750
Bonnie Shepard & Bill Spurgin, Charlottesville, VA	\$1000
Allie & Matt Gooding, Asheville, NC	\$250
Claire Keane, Clarkston, GA	\$500

Cabin 18

Ellie & Herb Pomerance, Oak Ridge, TN	\$5000
Frony Ward & Alan Morgan, Knoxville, TN	\$7000
(for their children, former campers Cynthia Ward McLeod, Helen Ward and Peter Morgan)	

Cabin 19

Mo Wheeler, Highlands, NC	\$6000
Carole Light & Alex Redmountain, Atlanta, GA	\$6000



Yes! I want to make a donation to support The Mountain's Vision!

Apply my contribution to: ☐ Cabins 13 - 19 Renovation ☐ General Fund

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

PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION ON:

☐ The Endowment Fund ☐ Charitable Gift Annuities ☐ Charitable Remainder Trust ☐ Membership

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone: (day) (evening)

Members & Donors Memorial Day Weekend

(8052230)

☐ Three-night option:

ARRIVE: Fri. May 22 before supper at 7:30 pm

DEPART: Mon. May 25 after breakfast

☐ Two-night option:

ARRIVE: Fri. May 22 before supper at 7:30 pm

DEPART: Sun. May 24 after lunch

Registrant: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Evening Phone: (_____) _____ Day Phone: (_____) _____

Enter names of all registrants as you want them to appear on the namelist:

Adults	Gender	Youth / Children	Age	Gender

Lodging preference (indicate 1st, 2nd, 3rd choices). Rates are based on double occupancy and are a package price. Register by 4/27/98 to ensure space.

☐ Lodge

private bath (adults only)

2 night \$134/ person

3 night \$176/ person

☐ Cabin

private bath

2 night \$124/ person

3 night \$161/ person

☐ Cabin

shared bath

2 night \$114/ person

3 night \$146/ person

Ages 4 - 17 2 night: \$64 / 3 night: \$71 Ages 3 and under: No Charge (unless child care needed)
*** 5% discount of total bill for all Life Members ***

 Bed Preference (subject to availability) ☐ Twin ☐ Double (for two) ☐ Crib

Mobility considerations: _____


Dietary Preferences ☐ No special needs

 I do not eat: ☐ fish ☐ poultry ☐ dairy ☐ eggs ☐ red meat ☐ pork

Special dietary considerations: Allergies? Special Diet? Vegan? Please be specific: _____

☐ Need wheelchair accessible.

☐ Please check here if you have made a donation on the reverse side of this form.

NONREFUNDABLE DEPOSIT ENCLOSED: \$_____ A \$50 nonrefundable deposit is required for each adult and a \$25 nonrefundable deposit is required for each youth ages 4 - 17. Your check payable to The Mountain is preferred: Visa and Mastercard are also accepted. The deposit is applied to your final bill. Deposit is nonrefundable in the event of cancellation.

Visa/ Mastercard #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's name: _____ Cardholder's signature: _____

Office use only (8052230) deposit received housing data confirmed

Report of the Nominating Committee

7

10

All current Members and Donors of The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, Inc.

From: *The 1997-1998 Nominating Committee,
Betty Green, Chair (Florida)*

The business of The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, Inc. is managed under the direction of the Board of Trustees. The Board has the responsibility for setting the long term direction of The Mountain, articulating the organization's values, vision and mission, and establishing broad management policies. Members of The Board of Trustees are not involved in the day-to-day operations of The Mountain.

The Board is currently composed of nine members, six elected and three appointed. Four of the elected trustees will continue to serve for the year 1998-99. They are: Gretchen Bremer-Hoskin (Florida), John Lantz (Georgia), President-Elect John Rakestraw (Tennessee) and Melanie Sullivan (Tennessee). In line with The Mountain's Bylaws, two Trustees must be elected this year, for three year terms each, bringing

to six the total number of elected trustees for 1998-99.

Therefore, the Nominating Committee submits two candidates for this year's single slate: John Bohstedt (Tennessee) and Jeri Moulder (California). We believe these two people bring the needed skills, energy and commitment to the work of the Board of Trustees. Your supportive vote for these two nominees is recommended.

In addition, the Board has appointed Ed Mangiafico (California) to a three year term beginning in May, 1998. Ed is a long time Unitarian Universalist, who has served on many for-profit and not-for-profit boards, nationwide. He is past Chairman and CEO of Gruen Marketing Corporation and past Chairman of the May Company of California and Nevada. We are very fortunate to have someone of Ed's background, experiences and commitment to Unitarian Universalism agree to serve on the board of The Mountain.

Other appointed Trustees who have agreed to continue to serve for the coming year are Financial Advisor to the Board, Joannette Manning (North Carolina) and Recording Secretary, Claire Keane (Georgia).

Meet the Nominees *in their own words...*

Jeri Moulder

"I am currently serving on the Board of Trustees for The Mountain. The Mountain is such a special place for me and is doing such important work in the world that I want to continue to be a part of it. With the addition of Milestone and the Endowment Fund, exciting new steps are being taken in fostering the growth of The Mountain. I am seeking a second term as a Trustee so that I can do my part to help these dreams become reality. In my other life, I am an independent consultant for the UUA and local districts in the areas of fund-raising, capital campaigns and church growth and leadership. I consider myself an evangelical Unitarian Universalist and love the work I do. Santa Barbara, CA is again our home, after a fourteen year adventure in New Orleans. My spare time is spent gardening, playing games and, with my husband, Paul Murray, being a "groupie" for our youngest daughter's budding theatrical career at UCSB."

John Bohstedt

"John Bohstedt grew up as an Iowa Methodist, but started attending David O. Rankin's First UU Church of Watertown, MA. Coming to the University of Tennessee to teach British history, he joined Knoxville's Tennessee Valley UU Church in 1980, and has served on the church Board as well as the auctions, social action, adult program and finance committees. He helped lead the process whereby TVUUC built a new church and revitalized itself. He looks forward to supporting the continued health and growth of The Mountain, the precious place where he attended Leadership School and has enjoyed personal retreats. He has two grown children and one very new granddaughter."



Annual Meeting Edition:
Trustee Election Ballot Inside



THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT & LEARNING CENTER, INC.

PO Box 1299 • Highlands, NC 28741 • (828) 526-5838 • fax (828) 526-2511

e-mail: mountain@dnet.net • <http://themountain.uua.org/mountain/>

Note the new area code!