



The Mountain Matters

THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT & LEARNING CENTER, INC.

June 1998



MOUNTAIN VIEWS

Tom Warth, Executive Director

We have all been stunned and saddened by the recent school shootings in Paducah, KY, Jonesboro, AR, and Springfield, OR. According to the National School Safety Center, "of the 52 million students in school this year about two dozen will be killed by other students, a number that is *not* rising." An alarming statistic, but what's more disturbing is this from the National Commission on Child Abuse and Neglect: "Every year 2,000 to 3,000 children and youth are slain by parents, a toll that is rising." These facts are sobering but they also underscore that fact that all of us who are connected with The Mountain can be proud of the work we do with youth. In many ways we sincerely believe that we are making a difference.

Our latest initiative is the creation of Milestone Learning Center, Inc. Its mission is to *incite people of all ages to actively practice ethical behavior in their pursuit of socioeconomic justice in local, community and worldwide endeavors.* Based upon the core value of the inherent worth and dignity of every person, this multi-faith, multi-cultural, multi-generational organization is focused upon working with youth groups from communities across the country to develop talented leadership. The goal is for participants to apply newly acquired skills to

local community justice work. We have assembled an impressive Board of Directors from coast to coast, representing many faith traditions and experiences in the fields of medical, environmental, religious, leadership, political, labor and communications ethics. Youth groups participating in Milestone programs, through a series of 6 sessions over 18 months, will be exposed to experiential education in various media: academics, arts and outdoor adventures. Through these interrelated experiences they will collaborate with one another and faculty in developing, articulating and promoting ethical behavior. They will learn about many of the ethical dilemmas confronting us all, focus on a specific issue within their own community and develop a program to work for change. They will also publish a final product that will reflect their journey and be available for youth in other communities, that they too might embark on a similar endeavor.

Our first two programs, beginning this fall, involve youth groups from Asheville and Winston Salem, NC. We are excited about this venture and encourage any of you who are interested in working with us, either as a faculty resource or by involving your local youth group, to please call or write us at The Mountain, c/o Milestone.

As Milestone Board member, Dr. Kathy Bohstedt, said after the first board meeting, "These students will learn, as we did, that moral strangers become a moral community by sharing feelings, experiences, passions and pains. Ultimately, the heart is the medium of moral change."

Why we do what we do...

Mountain Programs in Action



The mission of The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center is to embrace the diversity of life, creating an environment to energize people to work for positive change. Our programs are the means by which we

bring that mission to life. We often say "the work of The Mountain begins when you leave here." The Mountain's vision motivates an approach to programming that creates a

challenging measurement of success: our goal is that long after our guests go home, they will continue to work for positive change in their own lives and in their larger communities. Transformation is born of commitment, passion and discomfort with the status quo. Mountain programs have three primary goals: 1) Provide safe space - emotionally, spiritually and physically - in order to foster the kind of personal and community transformation that can only happen in the absence of fear and in the presence of respect 2) Promote learning, insight and understanding of self and others 3) Endeavor to inspire people to experience transformations, large and small.

Together, the setting and program experiences combine to create tremendous potential for the extraordinary to emerge from the ordinary. Mountain experiences make a difference in people's lives! In this issue of The Mountain Matters, the focus is on programs. Turn the page for a glimpse at the work The Mountain is doing in 1998.

A Retreat to Take Back Home



The Mountain owes its inception and existence to Unitarian Universalism, and we "owe with joy!" Mountain programs always strive to make a difference in how people approach their personal, family and community experiences by bringing people together in unique ways. Congregational Retreats continue to be a meaningful part of Mountain programming and the majority of retreats each year are planned by UU organizations. In line with a

firm belief in the potential of interfaith alliances, The Mountain also continues to welcome congregations of other faiths for retreats.

This past May, UUC Atlanta and UUC Auburn came to The Mountain for a joint retreat. The Rev. Diana Jordan Allende's Sunday service, entitled "Wild Places and Community," gathered the strands of the weekend together. The homily centered on the intentionality of the "Mountain experience" that combines the wonderful familiar routines of communal living with the wildness of this location. Remembering their workshops, *Everyday Zen*, *What Happens to You Happens Through You*, and *Intentional Parenting*, participants reflected on the connections between their weekend experiences and their lives back home. They also shared expanded perspectives on personal and family life and the commitment to take the feeling of openhearted fellowship that they experienced over the weekend home to their congregational communities.

Current CONcerns

UU youth groups gather from all around the southeast four times a year to attend conferences, otherwise known as a CONs, at The Mountain. Every CON has a theme—from building community to exploring interpersonal communication, from fostering creativity to just plain fun.

This spring, the CON theme, "Current CONcerns," addressed a handful of the social issues that directly touch the lives of middle and high school students: religious beliefs and tolerance, race relations, gender roles, sexual identity and environmental stewardship. In addition, all participants in the Junior High CON took part in a cultural exchange workshop. They "created" a culture, defined the social norms, then took turns entering the culture of another group as an outsider. This activity allowed them to tap into their own experiences with cliques and exclusion in order to explore cultural divisions and diversity in society.

Often the first step for youth in becoming involved in social justice issues is to examine their own identity and values. In many ways the CON activities were not overtly political or justice related, but each allowed the personal to become the political – and set participants to thinking about their role in creating social change.



Focus on Elderhostel

Sometimes we are asked why The Mountain runs Elderhostel throughout the spring and fall...and the reasons could fill many editions of *The Mountain Matters*. Elderhostel participants bring their diverse backgrounds, energy and sense of adventure to our community. Elderhostel classes, from the *Natural and Cultural History of Appalachia* to *Foreign Policy and Outdoor Adventuring*, emphasize that exploring new ideas and new places is a lifelong process. Participants not only experience The Mountain's beautiful location and stimulating educational course offerings; Elderhostel annually provides over 800 guests the opportunity to learn about Unitarian Universalism in optional weekly sessions. Consider these two snapshots:

A guest tells us he is retired minister of the United

Church of Christ. On the last morning of his visit, he's talking with several staff members about how moved he is by The Mountain's mission and values statements. He talks about the message of the concert the night before – the fun, the passion and the interfaith approach to addressing issues. Before he leaves, he and his wife become Life Members because they want to be a part of this institution that is bound and determined to make a difference in the world.

A woman stands with a stack of books she bought in The Mountain store following the weekly UU talk. She says she'd never be able to find books like this in stores – or even the library – in her small Mississippi town. As she shows us what she's taking – from *Our Chosen Faith* to *Heather Has Two Daddies* – she suddenly stomps her foot on the ground and exclaims "I'm 75 years old and I've been looking for Unitarian Universalism all my life!"

REFUEL: Spring Term '98

The first semester of REFUEL has had remarkable impact on its students and in the Mountain: REFUEL has truly been a journey. From the challenge of seeking to define personal goals and values to the difficult and rewarding experience of learning to live in community, the personal transformations REFUEL students created for themselves were inspiring. Here are some of the remarks from the students' commencement on May 10, 1998:



"My literary journey into social issues went hand-in-hand with the real life journey that I shared with my peers. I learned many things about living and communicating with people who have differing personalities and interests." *Cary Andser*

"Four people came together here in this sacred place for similar yet different reasons. We came here with vision, with hope and with fear. None of us knew what was in store for us. I haven't yet processed all that has happened here. I remember saying early in the program that no matter what happened, I knew that I would be forever changed and now I know this to be truth." *Ketumah Orr*

"On this journey, I have experienced pain and joy, loss and growth. I have been introduced to many new ideas and along the way, I have become much more aware of who I am. A part of my heart will always be here at my second home, The Mountain." *Naomi Thomas*

"In the past five months, I have grown more than I thought possible to grow in such a short time. I know where my life is going and for once, it's going on a path that I set for myself." *Jesse Poole-Van Soel*

As we say good-bye to the class of spring '98, we are also looking ahead to the fall program. Applications are still being accepted for the fall session. Please call Sarah Walls (ext 241) or Brian Horvitz, the new co-mentor, (ext 226) for more information.



African Drum and Dance

During the weekend of March 19, the hills vibrated with the rhythm and energy of drumming. The Mountain, along with Chuck Cogliandro and his talented staff, created a joyous, uplifting and spirited weekend with various levels of drumming and dancing classes, community drum circles, workshops on drum care, a talent show, and as part of the closing circle, a meditation on peace and nonviolence. For the first time, children and youth had the opportunity to experience their own classes under the careful guidance of Dan Schaufele.

Always among the most successful programs at The Mountain, African Drum and Dance weekends speak to our values of exploring spirituality on our own and with each other, to celebrating the diversity of life, and to coming together with the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. One of our guests said it best, "If everyone had a chance to participate in this program, there would be world peace."

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Enviro-Scope!

This spring The Mountain has begun a new working partnership with Enviro-Scope, a local organization dedicated to developing and implementing environmental education programs for the 4th-12th grades. In keeping with the mission of Enviro-Scope, this program inspires young people to practice stewardship for the environment. With the Mountain as their laboratory, students explore nature's complex and ever-changing ecosystems under the gentle guidance of talented instructors. Together Fred and Sally Dicharry, the founding directors of Enviro-Scope, have over 20 years of experience in outdoor education and recreation.

To date, close to 300 students and teachers have participated in hands-on ecological exploration through Enviro-Scope at The Mountain. Program components have included forest and freshwater ecology, nocturnal awareness, outdoor living skills, group initiatives, astronomy and archaeology. Teachers can select from a menu of program components or design a unique Enviro-Scope experience that enhances their classroom curriculum.





The eight-minute Mountain video offers an overview of The Mountain, its location and programs, set to the music of Shelley Jackson Denham and Jane Warth.

The Mountain Ambassador Weekend

What do energy, learning, fellowship, fun and commitment describe? – the Mountain Ambassador Weekend of March 27! Thirty-two Mountain Ambassadors gathered to learn about the current work of The Mountain and participate in supporting the mission into the future. Ambassadors received a notebook of information and suggestions for promoting The Mountain and its programs in their congregations.

Highlights of the weekend included a tour of the newly remodeled bunkhouses (wow!), a concert by the Quartet that moved us all and a preview of the new Mountain video. The video was developed as an easy way for Ambassadors to introduce The Mountain to those who have never been here. This eight minute piece was sent to Ambassadors in May; it is available for purchase by individuals or congregations for \$15. If you haven't been to The Mountain in a while and want a way to recreate those wonderful feelings and thoughts we all have when here, ask your Ambassador for a viewing.

We are expanding the Ambassador program so that congregation members can learn about their UU retreat and learning center, and participate in The Mountain experience, which continues to make a difference in many, many lives. Do you know your Mountain Ambassador? If not, your congregation may not have one! Please call Susan Smith at ext. 225 for information on how you and your congregation can become a part of this exciting program.

Millennium on The Mountain

The Millennium – What does it mean:
And when is it, anyway?

We can answer the question when right now – it's New Year's 1999 and 2000 – and we'll be celebrating it right here on top of The Mountain (doesn't everyone want to ring in the new century from a mountain top?) As for what the millennium means – that's the focus of these two special programs. We'll consider some of the ethical issues facing our world as we enter the new century, examining philosophical, theological and spiritual perspectives on new beginnings. We'll study the mystique of the turning cosmos (where better to view the stars than in our crystal clear, dark winter skies?) And no event at The Mountain would be complete without outdoor adventures, so there will be plenty of time for exploring the winter face of the Blue Ridge. Exciting and knowledgeable faculty will join The Mountain staff to facilitate the programs.

The Mountain is taking a unique approach to this twice-in-a-lifetime celebration. We encourage you to register now and, if possible, for both events...December 30 – January 2, 1999 and 2000. These programs will be fund-raisers for The Mountain, and the prices reflect that intention – approximately \$500 for each program or \$900 for both. All non-fundable deposits will be recognized as a '98 contribution to The Mountain. All you have to do is contact our office; your name will be placed on the list of participants and you'll receive confirmation of your gift. Make your plans early and don't miss your chance to attend these significant events! (Deposit for the '99 or '00 program is \$150; for both is \$250.)

FamilyCamp 1998

One of the best ways for a family to get to know The Mountain is to come together for a week. During Family Camp (July 5-10), all activities are intergenerational, so you'll have a chance to enjoy some of the activities that make Youth Camp so much fun as a whole family. Spend time along area rivers hiking, swimming or playing on natural water slides. Go tubing or explore Granite City (a natural rock formation). You can toast marshmallows around the campfire as Lee Knight shares his traditional songs and spend an afternoon puzzling at a magician's tricks (and then learn for yourself how they're done). These are just a few of the activities offered during this wonderful week!

Parents-come with your children; grandparents-bring your grandchildren. The Mountain Adventure Staff and talented faculty will lead you on an experience you won't forget. Scholarship funds are available if cost is an issue.

Many times I hear someone say, "I'd like to be a Life Member but I can't afford it!" The thought of a \$1,600 one time gift or a \$2,000 pledge over five years may seem overwhelming. It did to Janine Sutphen of Charlotte, NC. Very committed to the mission of The Mountain, Janine wanted to show that commitment by becoming a Life Member, but she couldn't see how membership was financially possible. On a drive home from The Mountain, she thought about the \$2,000 membership: five years at \$400 per year. Suddenly it hit her that \$400 per year was very close to just \$1 per day. That was all it took! She knew that she could afford that and so she signed up as a Life Member paying \$100 each quarter!

I share this story for two reasons. Many of us need to break big numbers down into manageable bites to understand how a larger payment can fit into our budget. Also, some people have not known that a membership can be paid in installments (for instance, \$400 per year in monthly, quarterly or semiannual installments). Membership is flexible, making it easier for many people to support The Mountain. So give me a call and learn how you, too, can become a Life Member!

Larry



Charter Members met at The Mountain April 10-12. Posing from their weekend reunion, they pose on the Lodge deck.

The Mountain Celebrates its Twentieth

Can you believe it? The Mountain will be 20 years old in 1999! We're already in the planning stages to recognize this hallmark anniversary. No matter how you've been involved in The Mountain - as guest, staff or trustee - your presence is important because you are a part of the amazing evolution of this organization. This anniversary celebration is open to all! We'll share memories and stories of the first and second decades, celebrate where The Mountain is now, and share our excitement about the vision for the next twenty years.

You won't want to miss it! Set aside Labor Day Weekend 1999 (September 3 - 6) and watch for more information in future issues of The Mountain Matters.

Heritage Hall Inaugurated

A highlight of Members and Donors Weekend was the inauguration of *Heritage Hall*, the Dining Hall Lounge transformed into a showplace for Mountain history. Beginning with the natural history of Little Scaly, the wall documents the years before The Mountain was founded. Then, key people and moments are highlighted in two to four year segments, starting with the preparations for our purchase of the property and concluding with events of 1997. Heritage Hall truly captures the highlights of The Mountain's past...and there is plenty of space remaining to document the stories of tomorrow.

Come browse through *Heritage Hall* and learn about the Unitarian presence in Highlands in the late 1800s, Camp Parrydis for Girls, Camp Highlander, Country Mountain, the 10th Anniversary Year Celebration, the burning of the original lodge and the building of the new lodge.

Also now located in the Hall is the Memorial Member Plaque (moved because more space was needed to add another Life Member Plaque in the Dining Hall) and the new *Vision Holders* Plaques (see article, page 6).

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

Apply my contribution to: ☐ Program Scholarship Fund ☐ General Fund ☐ Cabin Renovation

☐ \$ ☐ \$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) _____

NEW PATRON MEMBERS (\$5,000)

Elinor Artman	Cincinnati, OH
Missy James & Jack Nolan	Atlantic Beach, FL
Mary Ann Lawrence	Whispering Pines, NC
Jay Noe	Jacksonville, FL
Priscilla & Steve Phillips	Clemson, SC

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

Joe DiBona	Nashville, TN
Jim & Nan Hobart	Denver, CO
Albert & Bernice Holt	Clemson, SC
Lee Knight	Upper Crabtree, NC
Laura & Lance Carter	Perry, GA
Ed & Jean Mangialico	Borrego Springs, CA
Geneva Nelson	Norcross, GA
Sidney Watson	Macon, GA
Francis & Savie Underhill	Flat Rock, NC
UU Women Spirit Gathering	

SPECIAL GIFTS

Tom & Sybil Ackerman	Tybee Island, GA
Trailer, solar collectors, kayaks	
Elinor Artman	Cincinnati, OH
Staff development workshop, expenses, materials	
Nikki Brown, Penni Dudley,	
Pam Eidson, Jill Patterson	Atlanta, GA
Rocking chairs	
Nancy Heath & Larry Wheeler	Sky Valley, GA
Furniture, equipment	
Nilsa Lobdell	Pisgah Forest, NC
Candles, ribbons, and craft paper	
Myrtle Lockwood	Stuart, FL
Memorial Garden development	
Jim Littlefield	Blacksburg, VA
Consulting time, mileage	
Carl & Jenna Melissas	Woodstock, GA
Bassinet	
Jim Mooney & Robbin Ryan	Lithonia, GA
Children's videos	
Jay Noe	Jacksonville, FL
Computers, furniture	
Tom Tyre	Daytona Beach, FL
Video	
UU Youth Group	Memphis, TN
Rocking Chair	

Introducing Mountain Vision Holders

In the early 1980s, The Mountain established the Patron Member giving level of \$5,000. While the generosity of those who contributed larger amounts was recognized, there were no established giving levels above \$5,000. That all changed Members and Donors Weekend as forty one people were officially recognized for their generosity to The Mountain.

Located under a large wooden plaque proclaiming *Mountain Vision Holders* are separate plaques for each of the categories with individual name listings. Each Vision Holder will receive a beautiful framed and matted photograph of a Mountain scene (several to choose from) with the size of the photo determined by the giving level.

When you see any of these *Mountain Vision Holders* be sure to thank them for their support of The Mountain!

FLAME AZALEA

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Neal Andreas
Stan* & Louise Birch
Dan & Sue Boyce
Paul & Sandra Clipp
Ann & Joe Creech
Claire Keane
Betty Ellis & James Lawrence
Pat Gnagy
Hildegard Gray & John Vacher
Betty & Phil Green
Alice Grinnell
Anne & Bob Hornberger
Charlyn & David Jackson
Barb Jamestone & Ben Martin

Kay & Mike Kami
Bobbie & Jim Littlefield
Bob & Juanita Polk
Maurice & Genie Schwartz
Ellen Stewart
Frony Ward & Alan Morgan

MOUNTAIN LAUREL

\$15,000 - \$19,999

Ellen Heath*
Elizabeth McMaster
Bill & Lucia Pulgram
Helen Ranney

Robert E. & Susan Smith

RHODODENDRON

\$20,000 - \$24,999

Faith & Roger Comstock
Jake Haun, Jr.
Nancy Heath & Larry Wheeler
Margaret Schilling

CHINQUAPIN

\$25,000 - \$34,999

Harry & Rene Donovan
Dick* & Mary Ann Fly
Bill & Mary Nelson
Bob & Sue Whitney

WHITE OAK

\$35,000 +

Elinor Artman
Sally Bellamy
Harold & Margaret Johnson
Carole Light & Alex Redmountain
Art* & Myrtle Lockwood
John & Margaret Norris
Ed & Marge Riley
June Cravens Sholen
Jane & Tom Warch
Mo Wheeler

* = deceased

Generous Support for the Cabin Renovation Project

As we go to press, the renovation of Cabins 13-19 is completed and the cabins are occupied by guests. Cabin 20 is next in line to be finished! They look great—safe, comfortable and attractive—and we really appreciate the support from The Mountain family for this project. Come see what these cabins look like! Even with the generous response, some funds are still needed for this project. Use the enclosed form or contact Larry Wheeler if you would like to contribute.

The following individuals have given \$250 or more to the project:

CABIN 13

Christine Lucas & Lewis Walker	Richmond, VA	\$750
Bonnie Sheppard & Bill Spurgin	Charlottesville, VA	\$1,000
Allie & Matt Gooding	Asheville, NC	\$250
Claire Keane	Clarkston, GA	\$500
Bonnie & Fred Forte	Atlanta, GA	\$1,000
Harold & Margaret Johnson	Black Mountain, NC	\$1,500
Bill & Fran Hollister	Chapel Hill, NC	\$250
Landon & Rebecca Elswick	Fredericksburg, VA	\$500
Ann & Joe Creech	Roswell, GA	\$500
Irv & Millie Kagan	Atlanta, GA	\$1,000
June Preston & Mary Noor	Raleigh, NC	\$500
Henry & Virginia Sayles	Black Mountain, NC	\$1,000
Debra Schillo	Asheville, NC	\$1,500
Jan & Ruth Teet	W Palm Beach, FL	\$1,000

(And several other smaller gifts)

CABIN 15

Elinor Artman	Cincinnati, OH	\$12,000
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CABIN 16

Louise Birch	Bonita Springs, FL	\$500
Robert E & Susan Smith	Highlands, NC	\$1,500
Jim & Joan Warnley	Alexandria, VA	\$350
K.C. & John Yakemovic	Dunwoody, GA	\$500
Ed & Marge Riley	Ft Myers, FL	\$1,400
Joannette Manning & Jim Sullivan	Charlotte, NC	\$500
Lily & Tim Eble	Isle of Palms, SC	\$1,500
Mary Ann Ely	Huntsville, AL	\$1,900
Carlton & Joyce Fleming King	Atlanta, GA	\$2,800

(And several other smaller gifts)

CABIN 17

UUU Womenspirit Gathering		\$5,000
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CABIN 18

Elbe & Herb Pomerance	Oak Ridge, TN	\$5,000
Frony Ward & Alan Morgan	Knoxville, TN	\$7,000

(for their children, former campers Cynthia Ward Hackney, Helen McCleod Ward and Peter Morgan)

CABIN 19

on Wheeler	Highlands, NC	\$6,000
Carole Light & Alex Redmountain	Atlanta, GA	\$6,000

CABIN 20

The Comstock Family: Roger, Faith, Karen, Russ, and Kathy	Yarmouth, ME	\$12,000
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Call On Us!

The first installment of The Mountain Matters staff directory: the senior staff. If you have a question for a particular department, here's the person to call.

Clockwise from lower right corner:

Robert E. Smith ext. 227

Human Resources Director

Nancy Heath ext. 217

Guest Services Director

KJ Frelin ext. 232

Food Service Director

Ian Denham ext. 229

Facilities Director

Shelley Jackson Denham ext. 224

Marketing Director

Tom Warth ext. 218

Executive Director

Neal Resch ext. 204

Finance Director

Larry Wheeler ext. 230

Development Director

When calling a Mountain staff member dial (878) 526-5838, wait for the message and dial the extension. Check the next edition for a complete listing of staff members!

Work at The Mountain!

Positions are available in the Registration Office (year-round) and in the Kitchen - Prep/Dishwasher (summer position that may become permanent). Contact Robert E. at The Mountain for full details. Mountain Matters readers are our most effective means of recruiting staff. Pass along the information to someone you think might be a good candidate. We keep an active file and will contact each prospect.

Memorial Day Board Meetings

Board of Trustees

**The Mountain
Retreat & Learning Center, Inc.**

During their meeting on Saturday, May 23rd, the Trustees viewed The Mountain's new, eight minute, promotional video (copies may be obtained by calling The Mountain office). They heard about growing operating revenue and development receipts, the completion of Cabins 13 through 19 (these have already generated \$48,000 of incremental, off-season revenue in 1998 and are more than 75% paid for by member/donor gifts) and were given an update on Milestone Learning Center activities (see Mountain Views pg. 1). The highlight of the afternoon was a thorough discussion about the new "Business Plan - An Evolutionary Process." This plan is the culmination of two years of work beginning with the adoption of the "Strategic Vision" in the fall of 1996.

The Plan begins with mission, vision and core values, a summary of the evolution of the mission statement and a brief history of The Mountain. It then addresses issues of Governance, Marketing, Programs, Guest Services, Facilities, Information Systems, Human Resources, Finance and Development. Each subject begins with an overarching vision, articulates guiding principles and details strategic initiatives. The last section of the Plan highlights specific "work plans" for the next year (this section will be updated every year) identifying activities that will be implemented in support of the strategic initiatives.

When it is published, a public copy of the document will be available at The Mountain and any individuals wishing to have their own, may call the office. As President, Hildegard Gray said during the meeting, "The Business Plan embodies our values and our mission and shows an exciting road map toward achieving our future visions." We are all proud to have this road map for all to understand and participate in the achievement of our goals.

Board of Directors

**The Mountain
Endowment Fund, Inc.**

On Sunday, May 24, 1998, The Mountain Endowment Fund Board held its annual meeting. The Endowment Board reviewed year-end 1997 and year-to-date 1998 financial statements (included in The MR&LC, Inc. Annual Report). The Board agreed to update the Fund's bylaws, contact all current codicil club members to encourage commitments to The Endowment Fund and discussed ways of recognizing those who have made pledges to date. They decided to stay in touch with each other throughout the year and set their next meeting date to coincide once again with the 1999 Annual Meeting of The MR&LC, Inc. For more information about The Mountain Endowment Fund, please call The Mountain's main office.

Voting Results Board of Directors

Bill Pulgram	<i>President</i>	1 Year Term
Dan Boyce	<i>Vice President</i>	2 Year Term
Ann Creech	<i>Secretary</i>	1 Year Term
Jeri Moulder	<i>Member</i>	1 Year Term
June Sholin	<i>Member</i>	1 Year Term
Bob Whitney	<i>Member</i>	2 Year Term

Memorial Day Member & Donor Weekend

Members, Staff, Trustees and Guests joined together during the weekend to do work projects, share stories, music, good food and worship as they created a community that nurtured all. The weekend also included an outdoor barbecue, games on the field and an informative workshop

by Hal Reed on planned giving. (Hal is Director of Planned Giving at Auburn University.)

Sunday evening was fun and educational - Lee Knight and George Ellison, both colorful and popular program leaders and experts on the Southern Appalachians, presented music, myths and memorabilia about The Mountain's ecological heritage.

The Sunday worship service, offered by The Mountain Quartet, was a strong statement of commitment to Ullian and multi-faith work. The service included a moving tribute to our deceased Life Members of the past year: Ellen Heath, Annette Van Howe, Montique Jackson, Win Leiserson, Art Lockwood, Mary Ellen Lundelius, Tom Martin, Bea Percival and Mary Leta Tolleson.

Notes from the Annual Meeting

Opening

A Native American Celebration

Jamison DiMarino (The Mountain's new cook) began the evening on the Lodge deck by sharing his stories, poems and music. It was a moving tribute to Native Americans and set the right tone for the annual meeting of an organization that truly embraces diversity.

Voting Results

Trustee Election

New Trustees elected by The Mountain membership are:

John Bohstedt, Knoxville, TN 3 yr. term

Jeri Moulder, Santa Barbara, CA 3 yr. term reelected

New Officers for 1998 are:

President

John Rakestraw, Nashville, TN

Corporate Secretary

Gretchen Bremer-Hoskin, Daytona Beach, FL

Recognitions

MVPs of 1997

During the meeting, a new tradition was begun of recognizing people who have volunteered significant time during the past year to The Mountain. In addition to a personalized certificate of appreciation, each of these MVPs (Mountain Volunteer Person) was given a new Mountain volunteer shirt. Recognized this year were:

Anne Staley Piano covers and draperies for the cabins

Pat Gnagay Work in the development effort

Bill Pulgram Architectural designs for Cabins 13-19 and office space.

John Yacher Wiring of Cabins 13-19 and Director's Home

Reports:

Finance: Jeannette Manning

Financial Advisor, Jeannette Manning, reviewed 1997's financial performance and encouraged participants to refer to Financial Statements presented in the Annual Report. Notes: Copies of the Annual Report will be mailed soon to all members and donors of record as of 5/26/98. If you would like an additional copy please call The Mountain.

President: Hildegard Gray

President, Hildegard Gray, in her farewell comments said, "To me, as I leave this board, the most exciting theme of The Mountain, running through this great leap forward, is the concept of the interfaith mission. What better way to live out our core values of a world community with peace, liberty and justice for all, than to 'synergize' with other faiths. We know the job of building just societies is too great to be

done by UU's alone. The Mountain is an exciting place for multi-faith work to happen."

Executive: Tom Warth

Executive Director, Tom Warth, focused on how far The Mountain has come in just 19 years. "From mature governance to credible financial plans, facility and staff development and growth to increasing revenues and development receipts, we have accomplished so much in such a short period of time. And most importantly, and the reason we do all of the other, is that our programs are of real quality, they are transformative experiences for young and old alike - we truly embrace the diversity of life, creating an environment to energize people to work for positive change."

Charge to New Trustees

The meeting concluded with words from incoming President, John Rakestraw. "Cherish the excitement of this place and of the work we have to do. We exist because we believe that living our UU values can make a positive difference in people's lives. I challenge all of us to remember the roots of our excitement, to stay in touch with what has brought us here, and to remember that in our excitement we stand on the shoulders of many Mountain members, staff and friends before us and around us. I challenge all of us to dream about where the excitement can take us, to reach out to touch possibilities not yet realized and to remember that in our excitement we need to stand solidly enough that others after us can stand on our shoulders."

Member Responses

The response from members was truly energizing. Patrick Pohl, our newest Young Adult Life Member, and a former camp counselor, said, "I really now understand what The Mountain is about and I'm glad I'm a part of it." Others said, "it was a spiritual annual meeting." Sally and Fred Decharry, invited guests who have brought their Enviro-Scope program to The Mountain said, "we were moved to tears and feel so lucky to be partnering with The Mountain as we work together with our children." And Charter Life Member Oddy Curtis, "this is my heaven." The Annual Meeting is an important event in The Mountain's calendar. Make plans now to be a part of it in 1999!



Trustees with initiative!



Do you have friends who would be interested in learning about The Mountain? Let us put them on our mailing list!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail address _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail address _____

Your name (optional) _____

Mountain Matters 6/98

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