

THE Mountain MATTERS

Spring/Summer 2007



The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, Inc.

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Universalist Association

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The Mountain - A Place To Which We Are Called

By: Alisa Pykett, Peace and Senior Programs Manager

In the words of Frederick Buechner, "The place to which we are called is where our deep gladness meets the world's deep hunger." The Mountain strives to be a place where individuals' deep gladness is fostered and awareness of the world's deep hunger is increased, in other words, a place to hear your call.

In this place, people renew, discover, and celebrate their deep gladness. The natural beauty of The Mountain encourages growth. Visitors drive up The Mountain road and find themselves looking out upon an ocean of mountains with light dancing up peaks and down valleys. They climb the tower and, immersed in awe, breathe in a natural splendor overflowing with ancient wisdom. This is indeed a sacred place.

Deep gladness also involves fun and learning. Our programs allow people to explore and embrace different aspects of themselves. A twelve-year-old discovers a passion for knitting in elementary MountainCamp as he sits with his peers and counselors on Meditation Rock, while in the same week an eighty-year-old realizes that she loves to hike as she reaches a summit on the Appalachian Trail with her Elderhostel companions. They both start the day with laughter as they sing the Moose Song at Morning Circle before heading out on creative adventures. During another program, a group of people gather to learn about liberal religion and discuss what is most sacred to them so that they may better live from that core of meaning.

Programs inspire people to foster deep gladness during sessions and during personal time when ideas settle into the authentic spaces within. Hours spent reflecting and writing on the lodge deck, hiking over to Chingapin Mountain, conversing with a new friend over a meal, walking the labyrinth, or being creative in a favored medium all contribute to the overall experience here. Through contemplation, play, and community, we discover the deep gladness we have to offer to a hungry world.

The Mountain works to increase the circle of awareness around the "world's deep hunger" to which Frederick Buechner refers. In a safe and loving environment, there is space to create discomfort with the status quo. Programs incite questioning of current realities and empower participants to create positive change. We want people to leave The Mountain feeling inspired



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Mission Statement

"...to embrace the diversity of life, creating an environment to energize people to work for positive change."

About The Mountain

Through the development and facilitation of leadership and community-building programs, The Mountain serves over 5,000 people annually. Located at 4200' elevation high in the Blue Ridge of the southern Appalachians, The Mountain has been dedicated to creating transformational programs since 1979. Nestled in an ancient dwarf white oak forest, this unusual site is ideal for getting away from the "common place." The talented staff, spectacular vistas, quiet forests, trails and challenge courses are an asset to any program or conference needing a setting that will enhance mental and physical focus and provide unique visual and spiritual perspective. Open year round, The Mountain offers excellent programming for all ages, and welcomes people of all faiths, cultures, lifestyle and ability.



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and supported in that work. "That work" can range from trying to communicate more thoughtfully with loved ones, to participating in service projects in your community, to organizing a campaign for global human rights. **The work of peace and justice is about reaching out from the place of our best selves towards that same essence in others and in the community.** Together we can heal the wounds of injustice and create dialogue, relationships, systems, and governments that hold up humanity with compassion and wisdom. The Mountain is here to do that work.

We focus on the issues of peace, justice, and compassion intentionally in both specific initiatives and also as an underlying current running through all of our programs and practices. We invite everyone who comes here to help create a community that embraces diversity from the common ground of respect, awareness, curiosity, meaning, and natural beauty. One Elderhostel guest shared the following sentiment after discussions on Unitarian Universalism and The Mountain Quartet's message-laden concert: "I want you to know that I disagree with almost everything that you believe and stand for . . . and I want you to know that you have given me something to think about for the rest of my life. Thank you." The experience of this dynamic, thoughtful community of staff and guests — past, present and in generations to come — can give strength to individuals as they raise awareness and address needs during their time at The Mountain and back in their communities.

Whether you are an eight year-old or an eighty year-old, The Mountain is an ideal place to gain perspective — both literally and metaphorically. The view of the world from the top is both beautiful and challenging with its complex mix of injustice and human compassion. It is also hopeful. This is a place to increase your circle of awareness, and then, with the wisdom gained from The Mountain's perch at 4200 feet and the tools gained from practice, return home to enact change in the sacred space where your deep gladness intersects with the world's deep hunger. Please join us; we'll be waiting at the top.

At The Mountain

(c) 2006 by Rosalyn Will

*I walk today in the living air of the mountain
Surrounded by all that is now and forever,
And wait to see what will happen.
Here there is no tyranny of clocks,
I only need to be present in each moment
To accept the changing borders of who I am.
I sit on the little porch of an ancient cabin
Enveloped slowly by mist and mystery —
Thus sweetly held, I look back on the universe
And feel at home.
Thus firmly held, I join my strength with the universe
Out of the mists of the mountain
I am reborn.*

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS – Adult & Family Programs

From its founding in 1979, The Mountain has offered programs for families. And nowadays, far from the bustle of busy schedules, the constant "clatter" of cell phones, computers, television and video games, The Mountain is a perfect setting for families just to "BE" together. This spring and summer, we have two wonderful programs that are totally intergenerational.

Mother's Day – May 11 - 13

Family Camp – June 15 - 17



Mother's Day weekend and Family Camp (which falls on Father's Day weekend) honor parents and grandparents by providing an opportunity for families to hike together to stunning overlooks, create special crafts to take home, and share family stories around an old-fashioned camp-

fire. And there's no decision-making about who cooks and cleans up after meals! Of course, there will be plenty of time to experience the extraordinary peace and wonder of nature in The Mountain's glorious setting.

Come to one or both of these wonderful events for traditional, "non-traditional" and extended families!

Program is intergenerational.

Adults
\$168 each

Youth 4-17
\$88 each

As a way to honor mothers on Mother's Day weekend and fathers on Family Camp weekend, a parent or grandparent can come for no fee when accompanied by another adult. For more information, please visit our website at:

www.mountaincenters.org/2007_MothersDay.html or
www.mountaincenters.org/2007_FamilyCamp.html

You may download registration forms from our website, or call or email our Guest Services Office. Please register soon – spaces are limited!



Chamber Music in The Mountains Friday, July 13 - Wednesday, July 18, 2007 *Chamber Music – The Mountain Style!*

The first annual "Chamber Music – The Mountain Style!" will be offered in partnership with the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival. This fascinating program will weave together classical and traditional Appalachian music, and provide opportunities to experience the music of nature in these ancient mountains.

Chamber Music Festival Artistic Director **Dr. William Ransom** (photo at right) has offered a very special invitation to hear the **Alexander String Quartet**, **Jonathan Shames**, pianist, and **Christopher Martin**, trumpet, in their performances at the Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival!



In addition, **Dr. Richard Prior**, Director of Orchestras and Chamber Music at Emory (musician, composer and teacher), will offer a class before each of the Saturday and Sunday concerts. Throughout the week, our own **Lee Knight** will share both his well-known and loved folk music and his in-depth knowledge of chamber music. And William Ransom, a world-class pianist himself, will close our week with a combination concert (playing our own Steinway) and discussion.

The evening concerts are: Saturday, July 14 in Cashiers and Sunday, July 15 in Highlands, both taking place at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner with the musicians at The Mountain. There also will be a morning Family Concert in Highlands on Monday, July 16 at 11:00 a.m. featuring "Young Artists from Brevard," and a class on "What to Listen for in Chamber Music."

Of course, no program at The Mountain would be complete without time to experience the panoramic mountain-top setting, and the lush forest with innumerable paths for walking and hiking.

There will be no separate youth program; however, we would welcome young people to participate with their parents!

Adults - Option 1	Adults - Option 2	Youth 4-17
(July 13 - 18)	(July 13 - 17)	
\$517 each	\$415 each	\$342 each

For more information, please visit our website at:
www.mountaincenters.org/2007_ChamberMusic.html

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS – Adult & Family Programs

Women's Weekend Retreat

September 7-9, 2007

\$138

We're reserving these dates as a special women's retreat for physical, spiritual, and emotional rejuvenation. Women of all ages will come together for community, hikes, reflection in nature, discussion, and fun. Check back on the website in spring for more specific details about this program.



2007 Holiday Programs

Thanksgiving

November 21-25, 2007

Come join us for our traditional Mountain Thanksgiving. Leave the cooking to us and spend more time with family and friends for this very special holiday. Thanksgiving Day is one of service and camaraderie, with, of course, a scrumptious meal followed by the traditional Meditation Concert with The Mountain Quartet. The whole weekend is filled with a spirit of gratitude as the community focuses on each other and the blessings of our lives.

Cost of the Program:

Adults: \$267 — Youth Ages 4-17: \$150

Thanksgiving is open to all of our members – and you may become a member (beginning at \$50) when you register.

Preparing for The Solstice – Emerging into Light December 14-16, 2007

This magical program is a celebration of how we as 21st century people might explore our ancient connections to the earth as we delve into the mysteries and metaphors of the long nights of winter emerging into light-filled days of spring. Included in the weekend will be a candlelight Labyrinth walk, music, crafts and time to experience the beauty of winter at The Mountain. This program is totally intergenerational . . . a gift of the season for all!

Cost of the Program:

Adults: \$141 — Youth Ages 4-17: \$81

Celebrating The New Year

Option 1: December 28, 2007 – January 1, 2008

Option 2: December 29, 2007 – January 1, 2008

Once you've experienced New Year's at The Mountain, you may never want to sing "Auld Lange Syne" any other place at midnight on December 31. **Randy and Sandra Locke**, special guest faculty, will be back by popular demand! Please mark your calendar, and plan to join us for this quiet, simple, and totally enchanting program. For more details, check out our website.

Cost of the Program:

Option 1: Adults: \$280 — Youth age 4-17: \$130

Option 2: Adults: \$210 — Youth age 4-17: \$99

For more information on all of these holiday programs, visit our website at www.mountaincenters.org/holidaypgms.html or contact the **Guest Services Office** at 828-526-5838.

"When I think of New Year's Eve, I think of The Mountain. I can't ever decide what the highlight is – the beautiful candle lighting and singing in the new year, the quiet, spirituality of that spectacular place, the FOOD or the many opportunities for laughter, reflection and renewal. It all adds up to one simple conclusion: I must go "home" to The Mountain for New Years!"

— 2006 Participant

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS – Leadership & Peace Programs

The Mountain School for Congregational Leadership

July 22 - 28, 2007 \$750

Expand your leadership skills at The Mountain. MSCL focuses on skill-building in order to strengthen overall congregational leadership, and provides opportunities to explore your own leadership style, gain interpersonal and organizational skills, deepen your spiritual life, and network with people from small, mid-size and large Unitarian Universalist congregations.

Areas of focus will include: small group dynamics; temperaments and styles; organizational development for UU congregations; systems thinking; size dynamics; working with staff; conflict management; UU heritage and values; interreligious relationships; and worship.

MSCL is especially helpful for leaders in UU congregations and districts (officers, board members and committee chairs) and others with a commitment to leadership and Unitarian Universalism.

MSCL is an intensive learning experience demanding your full attention for the week. It offers twenty-four years of excellence in preparing laity for leadership roles in UU congregations; qualified, dedicated faculty; development of support networks to access resources and share ideas; and, of course, The Mountain's spiritual and nature-centered setting.

For more information, either contact **Dr. Scott Dillard**, Faculty Dean, at 478-414-2084 or visit our website at: www.mountaincenters.org/leadership.html

Compassionate Communications

October 5 - 7, 2007 Adult: \$211 – Youth: \$161
Commuter Rate: \$206

In our second annual weekend with **Mary MacKenzie**, author of the book *Peaceful Living: Daily Meditations for Living with Love, Healing and Compassion*, she will provide tools to help bring more peace and ease into our lives. "In any moment," MacKenzie says, "we can choose to live peacefully or we can choose to wage war against what is. Our state of being and behaviors stem from the choice we make moment to moment." This exciting weekend will focus on transforming our relationships and allowing them to thrive.

For more information, contact our **Guest Services Office** or visit our website at: www.mountaincenters.org/peaceworks.html

Spiritual Practices for Peacemaking

August 6 - 11, 2007 \$522

Spiritual practices provide peacemakers respite, insight and time for introspection. Whether you wish to foster peace on a global, local or personal basis, and whether your daily routines include spiritual practices or rituals, this program will offer time for perspective and growing.

Together, people of diverse faiths will gather at The Mountain, a safe and nurturing space. We will share experiences, spiritual values and stories, creating a beloved community among individuals who might not often have the opportunity to sing, worship and struggle together.

For the third year in a row, **Dr. Kenneth Nafziger** and **Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt** have graciously (and enthusiastically!) agreed to return as guest facilitators for Spiritual Practices for Peacemaking (formerly known as Interfaith Visions for Peace). Ken and Rosemary's vast knowledge, deep spiritual centers, collaborative and celebrative styles all combine to create a magical experience for participants. They will bring us to laughter through their unexpected sense of humor, and they will bring us to tears with their depth, compassion, and, of course, with the music that Ken draws out of us all.

This year for the first time there is a special incentive for participants to bring others from their local community - folks who are of the same faith or from other religious backgrounds. If three participants come at your invitation, you may attend for no fee - or offer your friends a reduced rate by registering together - four for the price of three. This is The Mountain's way of supporting people working together from a common experience. Please be sure to note your companions on your registration form.

For more information, contact our **Guest Services Office** or visit our website at: www.mountaincenters.org/peaceworks.html

"I cannot find the words to express how meaningful this experience has been for me. I feel both uplifted and motivated to truly try to 'be the peace I wish to see.' Ken and Rosemary are remarkable - their depth of spiritual awareness combined with their bursts of humor and fun create a safe and welcoming space for people of all faiths and backgrounds."
— 2006 participant

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS – Elderhostel Programs

April 1-4	#13216	\$390
April 10-13	#13216	\$390

SNAPSHOT — 3-DAY PROGRAM

Appalachian Sampler: Appalachian Culture through Music & Stories

with Sheila Kay Adams, Jim Taylor & Laura Boosinger

Three musician-storytellers join together to bring you the best of Appalachia. Enjoy the old country ballads and hymns, learn about and hear the traditional instruments used and the different vocal styles of the region, and join a simple, old-fashioned square dance or play-party.

April 22 - 27	#14608	\$508
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Appalachian Folklore: Jack Tales, Outlaws & Tsali

with Gary Carden

A Musical Tour of Scottish History & Culture

with Flora MacDonald Gammon

Appalachian Spring: The Nature of The Southern Mountains

with George Ellison

April 29 - May 4	#4893	\$525
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Appalachia – The People & The Place

with George Ellison and Lee Knight

Immerse yourself in the history, culture, folklore and natural areas of the Southern Appalachians.

May 6 - 11	#14607	\$508
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America's History through Folk Music

with Anne Lough

Getting to Know Mark Twain

with Candace Ridington

Early Spring Hikes in The Mountains

with Mountain Adventure Staff

May 13 - 16	#14801	\$396
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May 31 - June 3	#14801	\$396
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SNAPSHOT — 3-DAY PROGRAM

NEW! Hiking Towards Optimal Health

with Diane Williams

Learn about flexibility, conditioning for injury prevention, and nutrition in the classroom. Hike on moderate mountain trails with a fitness instructor, enhancing your knowledge of safe exercise while experiencing the beauty of the mountains.

Wildflowers of The Southern Appalachians

with George Ellison

As spring erupts, explore the varied habitats of the Southern Mountains and discover the wildflowers on short nature walks along moderate mountain trails.

Appalachian Folksongs & Stories

with Lee Knight

Explore the music and tales of Southern Appalachia with a musician who has collected songs across the mountains. Hear the sounds of the banjo, guitar, dulcimer, and mouth bow, and engage in Appalachian history through the beautiful old ballads.

Summer Adventure Programs

June 3 - 8	#2249	\$560
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July 29 - August 3	#2249	\$560
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Appalachian Outdoor Adventure!

with Lee Knight and Liz Domingue for the June program; Lee Knight and Doris Gove for the July program

August 5 - 10	#9001	\$617
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Appalachian Whitewater & Hiking Adventure

with Lee Knight and Doris Gove



August 12 - 17	#2248	\$535
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Nature Hiking in The Southern Appalachians

with Lee Knight, Liz Domingue and Doris Gove.

August 19 - 24	#4891	\$535
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September 30 - October 5	#4891	\$535
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Hiking Adventures in The Southern Appalachian Mountains

with Lee Knight & Doris Gove for the August program; with Liz Domingue & Doris Gove for the Sept-Oct. program

August 26 - 31	#14824	\$525
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NEW! Healthy Living through Nutrition & Exercise

with Diane Williams

Learn about flexibility, conditioning for injury prevention, and nutrition in the classroom. Walk on moderate mountain trails with a fitness instructor, enhancing your knowledge of safe exercise while experiencing the beauty of the mountains.

Mountain Ballads & Stories with Sheila Kay Adams
A native Appalachian storyteller shares authentic ballads and family stories, delightfully illustrating the culture of the region. Laugh and cry with tales of Granny and her "old love songs."

The Fascinating World of Mythology: Nymphs, Satyrs, Bizarre Creatures

with Gary Carden

Romp through a fascinating world of nymphs, satyrs, heroes and bizarre creatures – by turns, hilarious, erotic and touchingly beautiful.

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September 4 – 7 #15174 \$381

SNAPSHOT— 3-DAY PROGRAM

NEW! The People's Songs: The American Labor Movement with Lee Knight

Using powerful songs of American working people as a guide, learn about the influence of Joe Hill, the Wobblies, and others in an examination of labor movements from pre-colonial times into the 1900's.

Appalachian Culture through Character Portrayal

with Pat Hammond Greenwald

A dynamic performer shares stories of real and fictional people through character portrayals. Rich in cultural insights, humor and poignancy, performances center on lifestyles faced with humor, social repression, courage and determination.

Voices in the Plough: The Work Songs of Scotland

with Flora MacDonald Gammon

Music in the Scottish tradition was meant to accompany work. Our ancestors- the sailors, weavers, distillers, soldiers, miners, and ministers – have a story to tell.

September 9 – 12 #15175 \$382

SNAPSHOT— 3-DAY PROGRAM

We'll Sing the Songs of Scotland

with Flora MacDonald Gammon

Sounds of Appalachia with Lee Knight

Natural History in the Southern Mountains

with George Ellison

Save These Dates for 2007 Fall Elderhostels

September 16 - 21 #9331 \$617

Women's Hiking & Whitewater Adventure: Appalachian Fun

September 23 - 28 #12000 \$508

Sweet Home Appalachia: Natural History & Culture

September 30 - October 5 #4891 \$535

Hiking Adventures in The Appalachians

October 7 - 12 #15337 \$508

NEW! — One Country Many Religions; Fall in the Southern Appalachian Mountains; and Bonfires, Magic Wells, Spirits of The Air

October 14 - 17 #12380 \$385

3-Day Program — Natural History in The Southern Mountains; Southern Appalachian Culture through Stories; and Culture through Character Portrayal

October 21 - 26 #15338 \$508

Appalachian Heart: Songs & Stories of The Mountains; The Real Story of Gone with The Wind; and Learning to Play The Dulcimer

October 28 - November 2 #15339 \$508

Appalachian Wonders

For information on space availability or to register, call **Elderhostel** at **1-877-426-8056** or visit their website at www.elderhostel.org. For more information on our Elderhostel programs, visit our website at www.mountaincenters.org/elderhostel.html.



The Mountain Matters – Saving Paper, Saving The Environment!

The Mountain continues to increase its commitment to environmental stewardship. To that end, we have made a conscious decision to decrease paper copies of *The Mountain Matters*. Instead, we will send future copies electronically, via our website and mass-distributed emails. If you wish to continue receiving a hard copy, please let us know by calling our Office at **828-526-5383 ext. 0** or email us at info@mountaincenters.org and we'll happily oblige!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS – Youth/Young Adult Programs

Beginning Camp (Rising 1st-3rd grade)

July 1 - 7 (1 week) \$530

This camp is a perfect way for our youngest friends to be introduced to and fall in love with camp. Keeping the camper numbers low offers the opportunity for one-on-one interactions between the participants and counselors.

Elementary Camp (Rising 4th-6th grade)

July 1 - 13 (2 weeks) \$980

This session is dedicated to fostering choice and responsibility, giving youth the ability to sign-up for daily workshops and trips, working as smaller groups in designing end-of-the-day activities, and allowing plenty of time for play and adventure.



Junior High Camp (Rising 7th-9th grade)

June 17 - 29 (2 weeks) \$1,010

MountainCamp meets the high-energy needs of this special time in adolescents' lives by providing opportunities to learn, grow, and be in a community of supportive friends through the multiple choices of workshops, trips, evening programs, and cabin activities.

Senior High Camp (Rising 10th-12th grade)

July 15 - 28 (2 weeks) \$1,090

Highly intensive trips and workshops give the Sr. High campers the opportunity to challenge their bodies, mind, and spirit. Daily activities allow the youth to expand their knowledge and understanding in a safe and fun environment.

Work & Adventure Camp (Rising 8th-12th grade)

July 1 - 13 (2 weeks) \$1,010

One of our most challenging and rewarding sessions, focused on environmentally low impact activities & learning life skills through work and wilderness experiences. The first week is

spent creating a team working in service projects at The Mountain. The second week is out on the trail, backpacking in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

ASCENDERS (Rising 11th-12th grade)

June 10 - July 13 (5 weeks) \$970

5-week "apprenticeship," providing youth both work and life experiences through participation in various trainings and leadership activities, and assisting in the daily functions of Mountain departments.

CITs (Counselors In Training) (Rising 12th graders-2007 graduates)

June 10 - July 28 (7 weeks) \$1,140

7-week training program designed to enhance leadership capacities in a camp environment, provide opportunities to work effectively with youth and develop personal skills.

Youth & Young Adult Peace Programs

Youth and young adults throughout the country are contributing to peace initiatives and social action. The Mountain wants to act as a catalyst for this important involvement. Throughout the year, we will facilitate young adult and youth programs focused on justice, leadership, peace and service — both at The Mountain and off-site at congregations, universities, and community centers. These dynamic programs will include experiential activities, artistic expression, and opportunities for discussion with an overall focus on better understanding self and the world so that we may contribute in a meaningful way to our communities.

The cost for each weekend is a very affordable
\$90 per person

Program Dates

May 4-6	Youth Leadership Weekend I
Sept. 21-23	Youth and Young Adult Service Weekend
Oct. 26-28	Youth Leadership Weekend II

For more information, call the **Guest Services Office** at **828-526-5838**.

The Mountain

...for generations to come



An Opportunity...

- To stand atop a granite cliff on the Highlands Plateau overlooking the majestic Blue Valley...
- To breathe in the pure mist of clouds swirling amidst an ancient forest of elegant dwarf white oaks...
- To feel a heightened sense of wonder replacing time...
- The Mountain and the spectacular views alone invoke spirit.
- So begins the work of The Mountain:
 - Energizing people for positive change
 - Embracing diversity
 - Maintaining a healthy environment
 - Engaging multigenerational, multicultural and multifaith communities
 - Living simply and sustainably
 - Practicing civility
 - Providing adventure in leadership, spirituality and education for youth
 - Working for peace and justice
 - Promoting the inherent worth and interdependent web of all existence

You are Invited...

- To join us at The Mountain with the knowledge that your gift is for generations to come.
- To engage in our programs and experience your gift in process.
- To visit The Mountain and share nature's gift to us all.

Annual Giving Levels...

Membership	\$ 50
Friend	\$ 250
Supporter	\$ 500
Sponsor	\$ 1,000
Steward	\$ 2,000
Sustainer	\$ 5,000 +

Your tax-deductible gift enables us to pursue our mission to *create an environment to energize people to work for positive change*. The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. The vital work of The Mountain depends on your presence and your financial support for its continuation. If you would like to discuss details of your involvement or level of giving, please contact **Christy Kelly**, Director of Marketing & Development.
828-526-5838, Ext. 230



Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

- ☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
- ☐ Please charge my credit card in the amount of \$ _____
Visa/Master Card # _____ Exp: Date _____
- ☐ I would like to set up recurring monthly deductions from my bank account or credit card. Please contact me to make arrangements.

Our Common Ground – Why I Work at The Mountain

Comments from Staff In-Service – January 2007

- ~ I work here because I enjoy the diversity in all the people who come here - the depth of knowledge of all who visit and work here. I love the concern for the environment, the care and concern for guests and staff.
- ~ I work here because it allows me to maximize my limited skills and resources to make a difference intergenerationally, across faith, cultures, and financial ability, and it allows me to work with like-committed people.
- ~ Opportunities to expand circle of awareness – my own and others.
- ~ I stay at The Mountain because I believe the possibilities for us to influence change in the world are unlimited.
 - ~ Job satisfaction. Feeling of accomplishment.
 - ~ Building a legacy.
- ~ I stay at The Mountain because we are committed to a path to create justice while fostering and celebrating compassion, reflection, and creativity. Certainly we falter at times in our commitment to that path and to each other, but, more often, we shine.
- ~ I am here to help The Mountain continue its interfaith work, especially the work it does with youth and young adults. I still believe the only way we will head towards peace in the world is when people of faith learn to hear one another.
- ~ The mission and values of The Mountain, returning guests, laughter with staff, look on the face when someone "gets it," seeing kids grow up, the beauty of this place.
- ~ Because my work isn't finished – there is much more I want to do. Because it is good, challenging work in a relevant place.