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**The Mountain Matters**  
published bimonthly by

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Printed by  
Cashiers Printing



## New Heritage Hall Receives Rave Reviews

**H**eritage Hall has been transformed! Those who have seen and used the newly remodeled Heritage Hall sing its praises. Now a wonderful classroom with large windows, the room is much quieter and will even stay that way when the heat is turned on. The new gas furnace is located under the building and will hardly be noticed—a **major** change. The ceiling features many different types of lighting and fans for summer cooling. Heritage Hall will continue to host social time. A built-in sink and counter with sliding windows make serving guests outside on the porch a breeze.

The new entrance to the building is also impressive. Walking down through the rhododendron thicket on our new walkway built with special recycled decking, you come to the entrance built with rough hewn black locust timbers. You can also enter via accessible ramping from either the Dining Hall parking lot or the Cabin Ring Road. In fact, the ramping has been extended all the way to the Lower REC Hall (a project completed by this year's ASCENDERS), making it much easier for those with mobility issues to go between the Lower REC and the Dining Hall buildings. The Entry Hallway has ample coat hanging hooks, three new accessible bathrooms, and leads to the Dining Hall.

Sandy Arroyo



Heritage Hall transformed.

Continued on page 4

## The (Ramped) Path to Accessibility *Anti-Oppression Action Report*

**I**f you've been to The Mountain recently, you've no doubt noticed that new boardwalks and ramps have sprung up all over the campus. These structures, along with the design of the renovations to Heritage Hall and other improvements to Mountain facilities are a manifestation of The Mountain's commitment to act on our belief of "the inherent worth and dignity of every person" by providing accessible space to people with physical disabilities. What you may not know is that this commitment both includes and goes beyond the improvements you can see.

Over the past two years, The Mountain board has demonstrated its dedication to anti-oppression of all types. In May 2001, The Mountain board resolved to support and encourage the UUA to be proactive in honoring its commitment to accessibility. In late November/early December of 2001, the board and staff members participated in anti-racism training at The

Continued on page 4

## About The Mountain

Located high in the Blue Ridge of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers is a place to expand your horizons—explore new ideas, meet new people and re-connect with yourself, community and the natural world.

Surrounded by the Nantahala National Forest, our home is Little Scaly Mountain—four miles southwest of Highlands, North Carolina. At 4200' elevation, perched atop striking granite cliffs and nestled in an ancient dwarf white oak wind forest, our site is spectacular.

Open year-round, The Mountain offers excellent programming for all ages. Inspiration mixes with renewal as you challenge yourself to grow and learn.

### Board of Trustees: 2002-2003

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Making A Difference Midsummer 2002

#### MountainCamp – The Right Place for Youth This Summer

From a lead story in *The Atlanta Constitution*, July 14, 2002: "Camps feeling more pressure. A slumping economy and concerns about terrorism makes running those bucolic summer retreats a little tougher this year. Enrollment throughout the industry is expected to remain flat this year." The article goes on to say that because of "what's happening in the outside world," parents' and kids' "concerns are more extreme than ever. The emotional aspects, they are enormous."

As I write this column, we are in the middle of a very successful summer camp season at The Mountain. Our enrollments are up 6% over last year and our campers daily express to me and other staff members how important this place is to them. "The emotional aspects, they are enormous" is true and we have a very capable, caring staff dealing with these complexities. The Milestone article about MountainCamp 2002 (see page 6) is worth reading.

#### The Mountain as a Continental Resource

In June we had a most successful time at the annual General Assembly of Unitarian Universalists. Our display booth, staffed by staff members **Larry Wheeler** and **Susan Grider** was visited by more than 450 during the 5-day assembly. There is a lot of interest in The Mountain and what we have to offer. **Helen Bishop** and I conducted a workshop on "Transformational Leadership: Skills and Knowledge" before a standing-room-only crowd. From the attendance and their participation, it is obvious that many people are seriously interested in developing leadership skills.

For us, the highlight of GA was being there to receive a grant of \$6,000 from the Liberal Religious Educator's Association's "Twenty First Century Fund." This was the first they have ever awarded and as they presented it to us, they shared these words, "We celebrate the dreamers, we celebrate the innovators, we celebrate the doers and we celebrate the faithful." The money will be used by Helen to develop a web-based curriculum "How Church Systems Work" for religious educators.

Quality youth camps, continental-wide interest, a hunger for leadership skill development, innovative use of the web, The Mountain is alive and well and making a difference. Most importantly, we are "paying attention to business," too.

#### Accounting Matters More Than Ever

The Mountain's Controller **Robin Canady** states, "Recent disclosures by major corporations have caused investors to have concerns about the accounting practices used. This has resulted in many major corporations reviewing and re-certifying their financial statements. The Financial Staff and The Mountain wants to assure its investors that the financial statements issued December 31, 2001, are true and correct."

Continued on page 4

## Perspectives — *Rocking Chair Meditation*

By Tom Tyre

Some recent Elderhostel participants gave me some insight about how first-time guests view The Mountain with their written evaluations. One said, "The beauty which surrounds you in this place fills you up and makes your soul sing and your heart happy." Another stated, "We loved our little cabin but I needed more free time to sit on the porch in the rocking chair." The comment is very telling. Have we lost our sense of the value of just sitting and rocking?

Sometimes frequent visitors to The Mountain and we folks who work here forget what it's like to be here for the first time. We forget about the awesome beauty of the cliffs and clouds and seemingly endless blue waves of mountains. We forget that we need time to contemplate in a rocking chair, watching the clouds nestle down into smoky blue valleys. We forget about the sweet, dreamy feeling that descends upon us as we watch ravens float on the thermal up-drafts just a few feet away above the cliffs.

Perhaps, too, at The Mountain, we get a little overzealous in our planning, wanting so much to make sure our guests have a good time that we give them too much to do. Of course, we never force anyone to do anything, but to the credit of our first-time guests, they don't want to disappoint us and they oblige us by doing all the activities on their schedule. It's only later, when we read the evaluations that we learn

that we didn't give them enough rocking chair time to simply enjoy being here.

We take guest evaluation comments, both good and bad, seriously. We always enjoy reading comments like the following: "I want to thank the staff, especially the kitchen, for the beautiful cake presented to us for our anniversary. It made us feel very special." And, how

about this one: "You ask about improvements? — Not a thing! You go above and beyond already." It's our first time visitors that say the most complimentary things about The Mountain.

One former guest who had spent a very rainy first weekend here commented that it was a wonderful weekend for reading, day-dreaming and snuggling into her cozy cabin and that she loved the food in the Dining Hall. On that same weekend another guest stated that he was miserable because he wanted to go hiking and the weather was "uncooperative" and besides that, we didn't serve the kind of vegetables that he likes for dinner. It was the same weekend, just different ways of thinking about it. When we're emotionally lucid we know that it's not the weather that is uncooperative, it's our inability to cooperate with the weather that causes us problems. We know it's not the wrong vegetables for dinner that create our discontent, but our unwillingness to be content with what life presents us. Isn't

**Isn't it peculiar that we are sometimes so willing to forfeit our happiness and contentment for our desire for lima beans?**



Sandy Arroyo

*Enjoying the scenery from the deck.*

it peculiar that we are sometimes so willing to forfeit our happiness and contentment for our desire for lima beans?

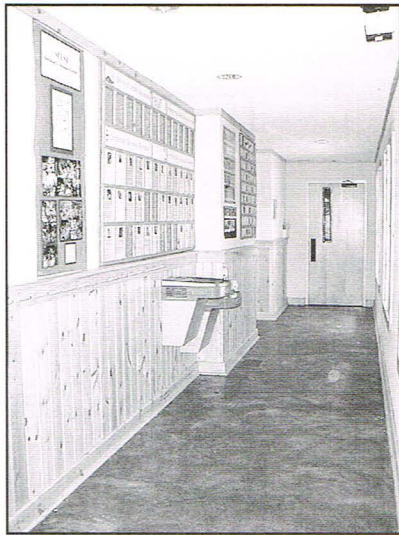
### Testing the Waters

The Elderhostel Program\* is one of the most successful ongoing programs offered at The Mountain. Sometimes we offer a short three- or four-day program specifically for people who have never participated in an Elderhostel program. It provides an opportunity for them to get a feel for what Elderhostel programs are like without obligating themselves for a long stay. It's a great way for people to "test the waters." And test the waters they do by rafting, canoeing, and hiking — some of them for the first time.

\* To qualify for an Elderhostel program, at least one person in a couple needs to be 55 or older. The other could be a younger spouse, partner or friend.

## New Heritage Hall - Continued from page 1

Still to come is the inclusion of our history and those who are significant to our vision and mission. This will be available via an interactive computer screen. The project was completed on time and under budget. The total costs came to \$239,000 against a budget of \$250,000—great work by **Ian Denham** who supervised the project and



*Hallway to the Dining Hall.*

the outside contractor crew that completed the job.

The rest of the Dining Hall is yet to be remodeled. This is a much bigger project approaching \$750,000. But based on people's comments, they can't wait!

## From The President - Continued from page 2

The Mountain retained the accounting firm of Greene, Finney and Horton to perform an audit of the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. The report issued by this firm stated that their review did not identify any material deficiencies. Their report also stated that "the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, Inc. as of December 31, 2001, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended are in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America." The accounting practices currently employed by The Mountain are ethical, conservative and will remain consistent with those that have been used in the past.

The Mountain does matter. Your ongoing interest in and support of The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers is vital to our ongoing successes and contributions to the world community. Stay connected!

*Tom*

## The (Ramped) Path - Continued from page 1



*Ramped access to Heritage Hall and the Dining Hall.*

working groups have been formed to address accessibility, antiracism, economic justice, faith-based inclusivity, gender equality, and preparation to become a Welcoming Organization. This winter, the Accessibility Working Group will present a workshop for staff to explore the twin issues of disability and accessibility.

### Accessibility Improvements and Actions to Date

- Blacktop roadway to cabins
- Ramped access to Cabins 7 through 20
- Ramped access to development offices and Milestone building

Mountain. Performance objectives for the CEO require the development and implementation of a plan to embrace anti-oppression. In response to this objective, anti-oppression

- Ramped access to lodge, Tree House and Dining Hall/Heritage Hall, all with accessible bathroom facilities
- Braille signs on bathrooms in Heritage Hall
- Accessible Cabins (7 and 20), and lodge room (#3)
- Ramped access to The Mountain library
- Golf cart access to Memorial Garden
- Wheelchair access to Reception Office
- President's home (main floor) wheelchair accessible
- Electric scooters and golf carts available for staff/guest use
- Access brochure describing access at The Mountain
- Incorporation of access information into orientation and marketing presentations
- Amendment of program evaluation forms to include questions about accessibility
- Signage and physical barriers to prevent blocking ramp access with parked cars, etc.
- Ramped access to lower level of Tower as additional conference room/breakout space

### Scheduled Improvements and Actions

- Ramped access to Lower Rec Hall
- ADA accessible bathroom in Milestone building
- Completion of library access with 36" door from ramp
- Ramped access to dock at the lake

*Continued on page 12*

# UU Funding Program Supporting Our Work

**T**he Mountain continues to offer quality, transformative programs for people of all ages. Our ability to do so is, in part, due to much appreciated financial support from the Unitarian Universalist Funding Program (UUFPP).

Past and present support from the Funding Program has enabled The Mountain to build strong programs that are responsive to the needs of youth, adults, and their congregations, and also serves as an indication of the value the UU Funding Program places on our work. Beginning with a 1992 grant for an environmental education program for an under-served population of youth, which was presented in partnership with Fowler School and UU Church of Atlanta, The Mountain has received a generous share of UUFPP resources over the past ten years.

## REFUEL

In 1998, the Milestone Learning Center received a grant for scholarships for its REFUEL program for young adults (18 and older) in transition. The REFUEL experience included community service, apprenticeships, academics, counseling, outdoor adventure and leadership training. Students were challenged to clarify their values, articulate and act on them, and gain a greater awareness of the larger community and society.

## Leadership School for Social Justice

A 1999 grant for Senior High Leadership School for Social Justice (SHLS) helped cultivate and inspire the voices of youth by providing program scholarships. Youth acquired the tools and leadership skills to act on their increased awareness around issues of social concern. Scholarships for Milestone's sequel to the SHLS program, the Leadership Schools for Social Justice, were provided through a 2001 grant from the Fund for UU Social Responsibility (one of four UUFPP Funds). This allowed minority and low- and middle-income youth to attend these programs at little or no cost.

Also in 2001, Milestone and the Learning Center for Leadership (LCL) collaborated to launch another Funding Program-sponsored project for young adults, "2001: A Leadership Odyssey for UU Young Adults." The Mountain was able to offer an affordable program for 25 young UU adults to participate in intensive leadership training, helping them

develop a stronger UU young adult network while learning a variety of skills to engage actively in social justice work.

Currently, two LCL projects are being funded, in part, through UUFPP grants: "Working Together," a curriculum to assist congregations working with church staff; and, through a grant to Starr King School for the Ministry, a collaborative project that will design a series of courses to be offered through Starr King and The Mountain leading to a certificate program for lay leaders.

## Special Grant

The Funding Program's Fund for Unitarian Universalism is designed for project and program funding. However, the panel made an exception in the spring of 2002 to grant \$15,000 for operating support to be divided between the

Learning Center for Leadership and Milestone Learning Center. These funds will support the continued development of the unique, values-based programs for youth and adults that are the hallmark of the Learning Center for Leadership and Milestone Learning Center. In the award letter for this unusual grant, UUFPP Director Hillary Goodridge said, "This is a one-time grant that is being made with appreciation for the wonderful resource you bring to our denomination." In further communication, Goodridge said, "The UU Funding Program has made several very exciting grants to The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, starting ten

years ago. . . . The Mountain provides incredible resources to Unitarian Universalists and we are proud to play a small part in their work. We hope our funding will inspire additional generosity from UUs across the continent to support The Mountain."

**"The Mountain provides incredible resources to Unitarian Universalists and we are proud to play a small part in their work. We hope our funding will inspire additional generosity from UUs across the continent to support The Mountain."**

## About the UU Funding Program

**The UU Funding Program's mission is to promote the influence of UU principles through grantmaking. With funding provided by the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock, and the invaluable assistance of UUFPP staff, four volunteer panels review applications and award grants to Unitarian Universalist congregations, affiliates, districts and organizations, and non-UU grassroots groups organizing for work that puts UU values into action. More information is available at the UUFPP website: [www.uua.org/uufpp](http://www.uua.org/uufpp).**

# MILESTONE LEARNING CENTER

## Magic in the Making

By Shelley Jackson Denham



A camper gets a hug.

But it seems that there also has been a sense of anxiety and tension this summer. We have seen more illness than any year in memory, cropping up in the second week of both Jr. High and Elementary camps. We have also seen more

'acting out' behavior. There have been nightmares and sleep disturbances this year, too. All of this has affirmed our 23-year policy of having a 4-to-1 ratio of campers to counselors, so that the children can receive the attention and nurturing they need. We cannot help but wonder about the extent of the children's physical and emotional health issues this summer. Is this a reflection of their sense of uncer-

### MountainCamp . . .

It is remarkable to watch it all unfold. In a year of significant changes at The Mountain and in the world, there is comfort in the traditions of camp that inspire memory, hope and a sense of stability. **Kimberly Ingram**, our Camp & CON Coordinator, recently said to counselors, "Let's try to really see and understand the amazing things that are happening here—I want you to know what a wonderful job you all are doing to bring the magic of camp to all of our children."

It is magical. An elementary camper said in closing circle, "I love camp—and The Mountain. I'm going to be here forever . . . I'm going to go to all the camps and then be a counselor!"

tainty in a world that has drastically changed since September 11?

This question came to mind when sitting with a group of young elementary campers and their counselors on the day it was their turn to prepare the evening worship. The picture book contained the familiar verse of Ecclesiastics . . . "to everything there is a season . . ." The boys each took a turn reading a line and passing the book to the next person. When the child read, "a time to kill," another little boy cried out, "NO! There is NEVER a time to kill! We can't kill *anyone*!" He was nearly in tears . . . and across the circle another boy said "Oh, yes you can—when somebody comes and blows you

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### ASCENDERS Learn Much from Program

ASCENDERS who completed their 5-week program on July 13, talked about what this apprenticeship program has taught them:

*"I've been coming to The Mountain all my life – and I just took it for granted when it came to going to the Dining Hall for meals. Now I've actually helped prepare those meals and I understand what it takes – and it takes a lot."*

*"This was so different from career days at school – we didn't get talked to about other people's work here – we got to DO it."*

*"I love working with the staff – thinking that I'm helping them 'breathe' by doing some of their work is a privilege."*

ASCENDERS must apply to participate in this special program. While at The Mountain, each ASCENDER rotates through working in the kitchen, maintenance, housekeeping, the office, the youth camp office and completing special projects as needed by staff. They live with two mentors in the ASCENDER home. They also participate in group work projects and go on trips on their days off.



ASCENDERS hard at work.

## LEARNING CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP

# Second Leadership School for Religious Educators Makes a Big Impact

By Helen Bishop

When religious educators get together, a buzz is likely to develop. "You're the engines of growth for our faith community," UUA President William Sinkford told religious educators at General Assembly in Québec City, and the people who care for and administer those engines have much to talk about with each other.

Leadership School for Religious Educators (LSRE), presented at The Mountain July 7-13 this year, helped to move the train down the track in the direction of professional capabilities and skills. Skilled faculty worked with religious educators on small group skills by helping participants find a balance among task, maintenance and process. Lectures



*It's not all hard work.*

covered systems thinking, UU heritage, values and worship, volunteer management, and conflict management. Participants learned about the role of music in UU congregations and spent time considering how the arts "strengthen the heart" as people planned for leadership together in areas of social justice.

Small groups of participants did team-building exercises on The Mountain's Challenge Course, and individuals went on to build confidence in themselves on the High Ropes. More than half the students tackled the High Ropes course,

reporting back that whether they went up a few steps or made it all the way across to the platform 30 feet up in the air, they were proud of what they had accomplished.



*Bob Fox leads a discussion on the deck.*

**"I have been transformed; my faith has deepened, my commitment has grown stronger, my hope renewed."**

Comments from final evaluations included:

- "Attending LSRE has made me realize the importance of my job, and the necessity of doing it intentionally . . . LSRE has provided me some of the skills and knowledge [I need]. Gracias obrigada!"
- "I was truly inspired and moved by the dedication and passion to religious education and Unitarian Universalism by the people I've met here, especially the leaders."
- "Thank you all for an incredible experience. I have been transformed; my faith has deepened, my commitment has grown stronger, my hope renewed."
- "¡Muchísimos gracias a todos!"
- "It was so well-orchestrated that we experienced education and at the same time grew into a supportive community. Every part of the experience was useful."
- "My future conversations with other directors of religious education in my district and in neighboring districts will speak in glowing terms of this program and its potential for real change."

### LSRE 2003 Moves to Northern California

Leadership School for Religious Educators is a valuable educational resource. To be sure that members of the religious education community all have the opportunity to participate in LSRE, the School will be offered in northern California August 3-7, 2003, at Walker Creek Ranch. Contact **Helen Bishop** ([helen.bishop@mountaincenters.org](mailto:helen.bishop@mountaincenters.org)) or **Susan Smith** ([susan.smith@mountaincenters.org](mailto:susan.smith@mountaincenters.org)) for further information about LSRE 2003.

## Volunteers of Note Honored at Annual Meeting

**V**olunteers are the lifeblood of this organization, and The Mountain proudly recognized five stalwarts who have helped us so much. Our newest Volunteers of Note, **Tom Delux**, **Russ Hunnewell** and **Jim Urbanski**, **Don** and **Jan Osgood**, and **Bruce Parrish**, were each honored at The Mountain's Annual Meeting held during Memorial Day Weekend.

**Tom Delux**, and his wife **Nancy**, became Life Members in 2000. They came up for Thanksgiving and it was hard to keep this former Marine Corps officer from helping any way he could throughout the weekend. Last year he worked numerous times as an Elderhostel program assistant, and helped on construction projects in his spare time. He and Nancy are also volunteer Program Hosts. Tom certainly makes our work easier and more fun.

**Russ** and **Jim** first came to The Mountain about three years ago, and immediately told us that they could be a big help with housekeeping. Our eyes lit up, as they could revitalize a cabin cheerfully. They renovate older and neglected homes in Atlanta, so they know buildings and construction, too. Not only have they pitched in on many Housekeeping projects, such as cabin changeover for Camp, and teaching us about plumbing, they have donated much needed equipment. This spring, they became members of the Challenge Course team, by joining us

for that training. We're glad they've found a fixer-upper in nearby Clayton to keep them close by.

**Don** and **Jan Osgood** are long-time supporters of The Mountain. They were here from the very beginning, and it's great to hear them tell us about when they worked on 'this cabin' or 'that building.' Don likes to keep his hand in the construction work here, and he's helped on several cabin remodeling projects and recently with Heritage Hall.



*Robert E. Smith presents Jim Urbanski and Russ Hunnewell their certificates.*

**Bruce Parrish** got his start here in the 'dish-pit.' First coming to The Mountain with Gay Spirit Vision, Bruce, who had recently retired, asked if he could volunteer in an area that required 'relatively mindless activity.' We couldn't turn that down. Later Bruce became the Development Assistant to Larry Wheeler. Most recently, Bruce was elected to the Board of Trustees. Bruce has been a loyal friend and constant supporter to all the staff and The Mountain community.

Thanks to all these wonderful volunteers and many others who have made The Mountain thrive in 2001.



*Tom Delux hard at work.*

### Milestone-Magic - Continued from page 6

up, you have to kill him." It was heart-breaking. The child who couldn't bear the thought of killing lives in Manhattan; we didn't know the story behind the other child's response. So we focused on the feelings in that moment. A few minutes later, they were all laughing and playing again with the typical resilience of childhood.

Safe spaces where our children can blossom, test their emotions, and take the time to just "be" in community are more vital than ever. At The Mountain, we know it is a blessing to be in the position to offer such space, and we are thankful for being able to contribute to children's lives in some small way, especially during these precarious times. So we do try to stop each and every day to soak up the magic of all that is happening in MountainCamp.

### Counselor Leadership Training

One such "magical happening" occurred for counselors during their training weeks as they experienced leadership empowerment with the help of **Helen Bishop**, Director of the Learning Center for Leadership. Through Helen's dynamic sessions, counselors learned more about organizational systems and conflict management in order to help them understand and cope with the stressful demands on their energy all summer. One counselor said, "Wow—I've been learning some of this stuff in some of my college courses. But now I have something real that I can apply it to. I never thought about "systems thinking" in direct relationship to my work in camp—or anywhere else in 'real life!'"

**Be sure to check out all the upcoming events in the Program Calendar.**

## Lodge Room #2 Named for Joan & Joe Moore

During the UU Womenspirit conference in May, **Joan Moore** was surprised with the announcement that Lodge Room #2 was being named in honor of her and her late husband, **Joe**.

This effort has been spearheaded by **Steve Jones** in Nashville as a way to honor Joan and Joe for their many years of service to Unitarian Universalism – much of it centered at their home congregation, First Unitarian Universalist



Sandy Arroyo

Church in Nashville, Tennessee. But Joan and Joe also have been involved with the Thomas Jefferson and Mid-South UU Districts, the Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI), and Joan has been a Board member of the UU Women's Federation and active in UU Womenspirit. Here at The Mountain, they are Charter Life Members and their children have been

active in our youth camps, both as campers and counselors.

The cost of a Lodge Room is \$10,000 and almost \$6,000 has been donated to date. We are hopeful that more people will wish to participate in this effort.

Please use the coupon in this newsletter to send your tax deductible donation and have your name(s) included on the special plaque that will be placed in the room recognizing all of the donors. Joan will also place some personal mementos in the room.

As of now, 10 of the 12 rooms have been named. If you're interested in naming one of the two remaining rooms, please contact **Larry Wheeler** at ext. 230 or via e-mail at [larry.wheeler@mountaincenters.org](mailto:larry.wheeler@mountaincenters.org).



Larry Wheeler presents Joan Moore with her plaque during UU Womenspirit.

## Matching Funds Program Helping The Mountain turn \$50,000 into \$100,000

This Spring, a small group of Mountain members pledged \$50,000 for us to use as a dollar-for-dollar match to encourage **first time** donations of \$50 or greater to The Mountain.

This was done to help strengthen our donor base and allow The Mountain to further advance our vision, mission and core values. Only about 2,500 on our 7,500 active household mailing list had previously made donations to us. With the increasing complications of today's world, the feeling is that people need The Mountain now more than ever.

Our responses to date are encouraging with \$15,000 in donations received. Over 150 people became new donors this calendar year. This compares with only 120 for all of 2001. Another 20 people gave for the first time in several years.

BUT, there's still a long way to go to qualify for ALL \$50,000 in Matching Funds, so if you haven't given already, please do so now. **Please note: those of you who are current donors, the people who put up the matching gift have agreed to let us count your gifts as well, so any of your donations of \$50 or over will be matched, too!**

Complete the coupon on page 11 and make as generous a donation as you can so that we can, indeed, turn \$50,000 into \$100,000!

All donations of at least \$100 will receive a special book, *Little Victories – Tales From a World Without End* by the late Kit Howell. A truly gifted storyteller, Kit weaves the threads of his and others' lives into a colorful fabric of tales that speak to people of all ages.

# GIVING

GIFTS SINCE LAST ISSUE

## Our profound thanks to . . .

### Trillium Vision Holders (\$100,000 +)

Jane & Tom Warth, Highlands, NC

### Fraser Magnolia Vision Holders (\$50,000 - \$74,999)

Bill & Mary Nelson, Knoxville, TN

### Chinquapin Vision Holders (\$25,000 - \$34,999)

Judy Shaklee, Norcross, GA

Linda & Phil Sterner, Winston-Salem, NC

### Mountain Laurel Vision Holders (\$15,000 - \$19,999)

Arnold & Marjorie Gelbin, Winston-Salem, NC

Mary Spivey & Dan Teslow, Plantation, FL

### Patron Members (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

George & Zed Kesner, Port Washington, NY

### Life Members (\$2,000 - \$2,500)

Brian Irwin, Raleigh, NC

David & Kate Lambeth, Winston-Salem, NC

Paula Lautzenheiser, Springfield, VA

Susanne & Keely Milroy, Highlands, NC

Danielle Teslow, Rockford, IL

### Memorial Memberships (\$1,500)

Denise Judge - 1960-2001

(Donated by her mother, Janet Judge)

Rebecca Prillaman - 1955-2002

Sean Spivey - 1977-1994

### Living Memorial Memberships

Bob Linsenmayer, 1931-

Sherly Linsenmayer, 1937-

Myrtle Lockwood, 1919-

Mary Spivey Teslow, 1946-

Dan Teslow, 1946-

### Irv & Millie Kagan Scholarship Fund for Underprivileged Youth (Gifts of \$250+) (Note: All gifts of \$1,000+ shown with \*\*)

Irv & Millie Kagan, Scaly Mountain, NC \*\*

### Special Gifts/Gifts-In-Kind/General Fund (Gifts of \$250+)

(Note: All gifts of \$1,000+ shown with \*\*)

Anonymous \*\*

Tim Blackwood, Deltaville, VA \*\*

John & Sharon Blevins, Kansas City, MO

Bradford & Yvonne Brown, Houston, TX\*\*

Marcia Bystrom, Muscle Shoals, AL

Jean & Ralph Cazort, Nashville, TN

Dorothy Conkin, Nashville, TN

Paul Conkin, Nashville, TN

Gay Spirit Visions, Decatur, GA

Arnold & Marjorie Gelbin, Winston-Salem, NC\*\*

Elvin & Nancy Hilyer, Dahlonga, GA

Karl & Olivia Kappus, Decatur, GA

Dick & Jane Kenan, Dunwoody, GA

Jack Lawrence, Whispering Pines, NC

Jay Matthews, Daytona Beach, FL

Krista Meinersmann, Memphis, TN

John & Margaret Norris, Nashville, TN

June Cravens Sholin, Apache Junction, AZ

Mimi Stevens, Alexandria, VA

UU Church of Tullahoma, TN

Dianne Wells, Snellville, GA

Larry Wheeler & Nancy Heath, Sky Valley, GA\*\*

### MountainCamp Scholarship Fund (Gifts of \$200+)

(Note: All gifts of \$1,000+ shown with \*\*)

Bob & Trudy Deyle, Tallahassee, FL

Harry & Rene Donavon, McKinney, TX\*\*

Richard & Cathryn DuBow, Atlanta, GA

Caryl & Steve Kaplan, Oak Ridge, TN

Jack Lawrence, Whispering Pines, NC

Treasure Coast UU Society, Stuart, FL

### Building Our Vision—Step 1/Dining Hall Remodeling (Gifts of \$250+) (Note: All gifts of \$1,000+ shown with \*\*)

Savie Underhill, Hendersonville, NC

### Endowment Fund Contributions (Gifts of \$250+)

(Note: All gifts of \$1,000+ shown with \*\*)

Dan & Sue Boyce, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Arnold & Marjorie Gelbin, Winston-Salem, NC

Hal Reed, Orlando, FL

### New or Renewed Short-Term Loans or Promissory Notes

Tim Blackwood, Deltaville, VA

Susan Bloomfield, Augusta, GA

Barbara & Ron Buck, Norfolk, VA

Peg Collison, Davis, CA

Ann & Joe Creech, Roswell, GA

Ian & Shelley Denham, Highlands, NC

Margaret Ann Hogue, Grovetown, GA

Lindsay & Marie Holliday, Macon, GA

Steve Hollingsworth & Daidee Springer, Chattanooga, TN

Betty & Don Hostetler, N. Augusta, SC

Doug & Ouida Hotch, Sky Valley, GA

Char & David Jackson, Cincinnati, OH

Jean & Roger Johnson, Atlanta, GA

Harriet Jones, Topsham, ME

Lee & Marion Leiserson, Black Mountain, NC

Don & Sue Male, Murfreesboro, TN

Bill Mareska, Augusta, GA

Jeri Moulder, Santa Barbara, CA

Linda & Mike Plummer, Jacksonville, FL

Joan Staple, Williamsville, NY

Bobbi Stenstrom, Augusta, GA

Mary Toulmin, Fairhope, AL

John Vacher, Atlanta, GA

Nancy Wylie, Atlanta, GA



## In Memoriam

Ellen Anderson, Dataw Island, SC  
Hoyt Goodson, Waynesboro, GA  
Evelyn Winchester, Largo, FL

## Now's The Time To Become A Charter Member of The President's Society

By now you have likely heard about the **President's Society**, which recognizes gifts to benefit The Mountain through **The Mountain Endowment Fund**. Planned gifts—a major way to develop the Endowment Fund—include bequests, trusts, life insurance beneficiary designations, retirement plan beneficiary designations and other estate planning vehicles. Those who notify us of inclusion in their estate plans by June 30, 2003, will be honored as charter members of the Society and will be invited to a special inaugural recognition event during Memorial Day Weekend 2003. Outright gifts to the Endowment Fund also qualify a donor for membership in the President's Society.

**The Mountain Endowment Fund, Inc.**, was established in 1996 to encourage planned and outright gifts that will develop a healthy endowment fund providing a significant measure of extra support to The Mountain on a permanent basis. The Mountain Endowment Fund now has a value of about \$300,000, but supporters of The Mountain have the potential to increase the endowment well into millions of dollars through planned gifts. A planned gift to the Endow-

ment Fund is an excellent way to "endow" your support of The Mountain on a perpetual basis. To include the Endowment Fund in your estate planning, the following designation should be used: **The Mountain Endowment Fund, Inc., Highlands, North Carolina.**

Please consider becoming a **charter member** of the **President's Society** by letting us know of your planned gift for the future of The Mountain. To notify us of your gift or find out more about how easy it can be to make such a commitment, please contact **Larry Wheeler** at (828) 526-5838, ext. 230.

### Charter Members of the President's Society

Dan & Sue Boyce	Margrit Nash
Marty Beech	Don & Jan Osgood
Virginia Carver & Hank Raichle	Bruce Parrish
Jim Colby	Juanita Polk
Beverly Cree & Charlie West	Bill & Lucia Pulgram
Ann & Joe Creech	Helga Reaves
Ian & Shelley Denham	Agnes Sanborn
Hildegard Gray & John Vacher	June Cravens Sholin
Hilary Hamlin	Robert E. & Susan Smith
Jake Haun, Jr.	Anne Staley
Ann & Bob Hornberger	Linda & Phil Sterner
Char & David Jackson	Melanie Morel Sullivan
Maureen Killoran & Peter Hyatt	Lewis Walker
Carole Light &	Tom & Jane Warth
Alex Redmountain	Larry Wheeler & Nancy Heath
Margaret Ann Link	Bob & Sue Whitney
Larry & Juana Mae Long	

This is the list of names that we believe have qualified for the President's Society. We apologize if we've received prior information about your intentions and not included your name. Please let Larry Wheeler know of the omission.



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

### Apply my contribution to:

☐ Life Member      ☐ Matching Funds      ☐ Moore Room      ☐ General Fund  
☐ \$50    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$250    ☐ \$500    ☐ \$1,000    ☐ \$2,000    ☐ \$5,000    ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pay By: ☐ Check    ☐ VISA/Master Card    Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_ (e-mail) \_\_\_\_\_

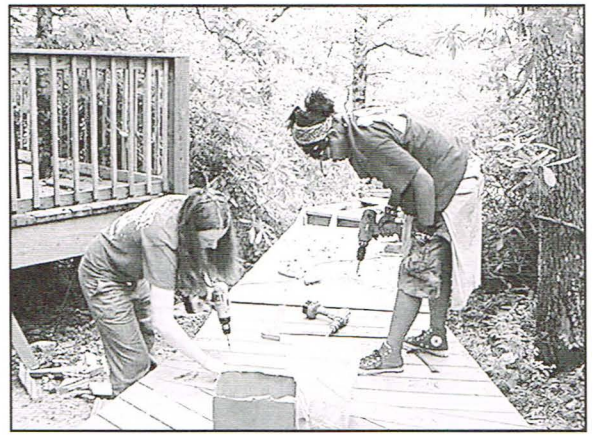
The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, Inc., P. O. Box 1299, Highlands, NC 28741-1299

### The (Ramped) Path - Continued from page 4

- Reflective tape to make outdoor stairs more visible
- Additional signage at road marker indicating accessibility of facility
- Additional large print and Braille hymnals and library resources
- Staff training

### Proposed Future Improvements and Actions

- Accessible food lines and tables in Dining Hall
- Volume adjustable telephones
- Accessible staff housing
- Sound system improvements and portable sound receivers in meeting rooms
- Strobe light fire alarm systems
- Rails/grab bars where needed to make other areas accessible
- Additional ramping where needed to make other areas accessible
- Guide ropes and raised maps to make paths and hiking trails available to people with visual impairments
- Signage (including Braille) to assist program participants



*ASCENDERS work to complete the ramping to the Lower REC Hall.*

### Annual Report Available On Line

The Mountain's 2001 Annual Report is available on our website ([www.mountaincenters.org/whatsnew.html](http://www.mountaincenters.org/whatsnew.html)). If you would like a hardcopy mailed to you, please contact **Larry Wheeler** at (828) 526-5838, x230 or [larry.wheeler@mountaincenters.org](mailto:larry.wheeler@mountaincenters.org).

## THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT & LEARNING CENTERS, INC.

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