



The Mountain Matters

THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT & LEARNING CENTERS, INC.

February 2000



2000 Program Calendar Issue



THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT & LEARNING CENTERS, INC.

Views from The President

By: Tom Warth

Greetings! As we usher in a new year, a new century and to many (but not all) a new millennium, our first *The Mountain Matters* publication will take on a new look. This is a combined edition, The Mountain newsletter and our 2000 Program Calendar. We intend to publish this combined edition twice each year, winter and summer, plus four other "stand alone" *The Mountain*

Matters throughout the year and our Annual Report in June. Please let us know if you like this combined format.

As I write this article, we await the arrival this evening of some 80 junior high youth for their annual winter CONFERENCE. The energy leading up to a weekend like this reflects the overall mood of **The Mountain** – there is a palpable excitement you can literally feel in our staff and guests. We are coming off a very good 1999, positioned well to forge into the new year as we implement our growing vision with a new organization, new programs and new staff. Of course, along with the "new" we continue to apply and honor the "old": our values, the foundation upon which we build; and our mission – *"to embrace the diversity of life, creating an environment to energize people to work for positive change."*

A "highlight film" of 1999 would include the following: **Facilities** – the remodeling of Cabins 7, 11 and 12, complete rebuilds of the Tower and the Milestone Building; purchase of a new home (McCray House) for staff. **Programs** – 1,544 youth in various programs, including 296 in summer camps; 28 UU and 14 other-faith group retreats; 857 Elderhostelers; 95 Milestone participants; hosting the International Indigenous People's Conference, SEUUMA Ministers, Anglican Catholic Youth Camp, two African Drum Dance Conferences, 2 Gay Spirit Visions Conferences and 4 Womenspirit Conferences. **Development** – A record year! \$485,000 in general development gifts (Memberships, response to appeals) and \$429,000 for the purchase of the cabbage patch land – over \$900,000 in total.

Perhaps the most meaningful event for me was our end-of-year **Millennium Celebration**. This multigenerational weekend utilized the arts (music and dance), science (astronomy), activism (workshops on how to be a social justice activist) and spirituality to reflect on the history of the world and our place in it. The community, recreation, visioning, music, and worships all represented **The Mountain** to me – our own evolution into a relevant agent for change. Led by an out-

standing faculty (see photo on next page) – over 135 members, friends and staff created and experienced together a model of what society can and must become.

Most importantly in 1999, MR&LC Trustees and staff developed a new organization: one that will carry us well into the 21st century; one that allows us to more completely fulfill our mission and our vision of a world transformed. Starting with governance, the former President of the Board is now referred to as the "Chair." The Board's one employee, the person responsible for overall management of The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, (formerly called the Executive Director) is now the President and CEO. The corporate name has been changed to **The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, Inc.** – Center with an "s" – as it is made up of four (4) programmatic centers. They are:

- **The Retreat Center:** What we all refer to today as "**The Mountain**" – youth camps and conferences, Elderhostel, retreats, Womenspirit and Gay Spirit Visions, ministers meetings, etc. Its Director is **Bob MacDicken** (see "Focus on The Retreat Center" section for more about Bob and programs planned for 2000).
- **Milestone Learning Center:** Active for just over a year, the Milestone staff is networking, establishing relationships, and running programs for diverse groups. (See "Focus on Milestone"). In addition, Milestone envisions the development of an Intercultural, Creative & Performing Arts Center (built on the newly acquired land). The ICPAC will be devoted to utilizing the Arts for transcending barriers of culture, race, class and creed – and for creating community and trust. The Director of Milestone Learning Center is **Shelley Jackson Denham**.
- **Learning Center for Leadership:** LCL will give us an exciting opportunity to become more involved in the development and delivery of faith-based leadership trainings for UUs and other religious organizations. Components of LCL will be distance learning technology, new curricula, an on-site 21st century library/reference center, and publication activities. LCL will advance the knowledge and skills of lay and professional leaders as they work together on a multifaith basis on issues of social justice in their local communities. The Director of this center has not yet been appointed. (See "Focus on Learning Center for Leadership" for current programs.)
- **Residential Community:** With the land acquisition, we now have the opportunity to develop a residential community at the base of **The Mountain**. This will include residential housing units for staff of MR&LCs, volunteers and retirees. We envision a "values-based" community of life long learners who want to be actively involved with the Retreat Center, Milestone and Learning Center for Leadership. Housing options may include apartments, condo-

miniums, cluster and co-housing units which can be purchased, rented or time-shared. We will be developing a business plan throughout the year. Please let us hear from you if you are interested.

- **Supporting the four centers** is a Corporate Staff including the President, **Tom Warth**, Director of Finance, **Neal Resch**, Director of Development, **Larry Wheeler**, the Director of Facilities, **Ian Denham** and a Marketing Director, yet to be named.

A critical piece of our success is the creation of a long-range land-use and building plan. Working with us on this are two internationally renowned architects: **Richard Rothman**, (land-use architect), and **Bill Pulgram**, Mountain Patron member (building architect). Together with the Board of Trustees and staff, Richard and Bill will be addressing environmental issues, energy conservation, building sizes, sites and design, the establishment of public space and natural preserves, road and pathway systems, budgets and building priorities. The plan will be shared publicly during our Annual Meeting in May (see following article). This is a far-reaching and achievable plan, and I am excited about it – and aim to see it through!

What an incredible journey we are on. We celebrated our **20th Anniversary** last year, acknowledging our past and moving into a future rich in tradition, focused on values, community, spirituality, leadership and activism. We will achieve that vision with: **The Retreat Center** – a place where the “we” allows the “I” to participate ... a community based upon acceptance and encouragement, creating an environment for discovering one’s individual impact on the whole; **Learning Center for Leadership** – where the “I” allows the “we” to contribute ... with education and training empowering individuals as team members to strengthen their congregational communities; **Milestone Learning Center** – Where the “we” unites with “others” ... transformation, education and training incite individuals and groups to form new communities and coalitions working for justice; **Residential Community** – where the “we” comes together ... committed to participating, contributing and uniting an interdependent, motivated and diverse community of life-long learners, activists and collaborators.

The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, Inc. – we are making a difference. Come on up and be a part of it.



Millennium Faculty (left to right) Garry Tisdale, Connie Booth, Nancy Heath, Gene Byrd, Susan Smith, Shelley Denham, Monroe Gilmour, Mary Krysh, Tom Chulak and Robin Becker.

Memorial Day & Annual Meeting Weekend

Friday, May 26 – Monday, May 29, 2000

Memorial Day Weekend is a great opportunity to meet and talk with Trustees of The MR&LCs, Directors of The Mountain Endowment Fund and all staff members. It is an occasion for sharing community, information, visions, and plans, and for participating in meaningful worship together. It's a special time to reconnect with others around our shared commitment to this transformative institution.

Highlights:

Annual Meeting: Saturday, May 27, 2000 – 7:30 p.m.

Much more than a “just a meeting,” this has become a very important, meaningful **event** in The Mountain’s program year. Combining information, message, worship and music in a way that energizes all who participate, the Annual Meeting celebrates and inspires those engaged in the work of **The Mountain**.

Strategic Plan

Details of the new strategic plan for The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, including land development, proposed buildings, new programs, budgets and funding strategies will be shared with all during the weekend. Presentations will include architectural drawings and models, and walking tours of proposed building sites.

Residential/Retirement Community

The strategic plan anticipates the development of a residential/retirement community (see Tom’s article). During the Memorial Day Weekend we will offer workshops on this concept, designed to allow you to share your ideas about what would make it work and what would attract you to such a community. This is a great opportunity for you to be heard early on in the process.

“MountainSong 2”

In a continuation of the 1999 Memorial Weekend Chamber Music Concerts, **Jeffrey Peterson** of the Indiana University School of Music faculty will once again bring some of his extraordinary friends to participate in three concerts. These outstanding musicians joyfully support MR&LC’s integration of the arts into our programs. Concert themes will be “Going for Baroque,” “A Night at the Opera” and “An American Sampler” (from the Civil War on).

For more information and to register, please call **The Mountain’s** registration office at 828-526-5838, ext. 0. We are looking forward to seeing you Memorial Weekend!



THE RETREAT CENTER

Views from The Retreat Center Director

By: Bob MacDicken

There is an oft-repeated story about a public speaker (I'll call him “Jim”) who was invited to give the keynote address for a prestigious national organization. Jim had provided the group with a brief resume and the topic of his presentation, and expected the usual 30-60 second introduction

before he began to speak. Instead, the session moderator, who had researched Jim's academic background and publications, launched into a five-minute speech extolling Jim's virtues, values and oratorical skills. When Jim finally began, he smiled and reflected: “After that introduction, I can hardly wait to hear what I have to say.” Well, after reading the August, October and December '99 issues of *The Mountain Matters* – especially the promise of “an article not to be missed” (to be authored by me), I'm thinking ... “Wow!! I can hardly wait to read what I have to say.”

We first visited **The Mountain** on August 3, 1999. We had heard of **The Mountain** while attending SUUSI, where we were encouraged by many people to visit this incredible place. So we did just that. There followed (depending on your point of view) a series of incredible coincidences, miracles or cosmic jokes that resulted in a carefully orchestrated two-day, 14-hour interview process here. After real soul-searching we decided that **The Mountain** is where we need to be ... and fortunately, Tom and the staff arrived at the same conclusion! As members and guests who participated in the Christmas and “Millennium” weekends already know, **Eileen** and I are enthusiastic about being a part of **The Mountain**. These are exciting times here; times of change and growth, and the challenges – and rewards – will be many.

For those inclined to want specifics about the qualifications/skills I bring to this exciting new role: I have been in the general field of association management (for non-profit organizations) for nearly 20 years. I served for 10 years as Vice President of Human Resources and Executive Development for the American Society of Association Executives, and worked with several other national organizations. Previously I worked as a management consultant and trainer for a wide variety of social programs. As an ordained American Baptist Minister, I have served Baptist, Presbyterian, Congregational, and community churches (many of these on a part-time basis). Recently, the board of our home church, the Unitarian

Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Virginia (UUCF), voted to sponsor my candidacy for the UU ministry. I hope to reach that goal (while here at **The Mountain**) over the next two or three years.

Get Eileen and me going, and we can talk a long time about hopes for the Retreat Center's future (that is not an editorial “we” – Eileen is and will be an important part of whatever contributions I am able to make here). Perhaps these hopes are best summarized in three key categories.

1. Honoring, valuing and retaining the unique nature of this mystical, magical, sacred place. Thousands of people have come to **The Mountain** for retreat, renewal, comfort, relaxation, a “battery recharge,” and for many other important purposes. I believe we need to be careful stewards of both the tangible and intangible resources and history, and to build on this heritage.
2. Maintaining and increasing the contributions of the Retreat Center to the mission of **The Mountain**: “*To embrace the diversity of life, creating an environment to energize people to work for positive change,*” and to our core values. I recently heard UUA President **John Buehrens** say, “Our diversity is our strength” (and, if I may add, our future). To paraphrase an old gospel song, “We've come this far by faith (and vision, and action), and we still have a long way to go.”
3. Making a difference in the world. For many, “the work of **The Mountain** begins when you leave.” I believe we need to listen to the needs, hopes and dreams of our members and guests, both youth and adults. We want to enhance the place and the programs you love, and to develop and offer new programs and services that will help you contribute to the complex and changing world of the 21st century.

For those of you who have been to **The Mountain** once, or many times, we want to make each and every future visit one of the best experiences you have ever had. For those who have not been here before, or who may not have been here for a long time, we want to make your **Mountain** visit one you will long remember and want to repeat often.

So many visionaries and activists have done an outstanding job of getting **The Mountain** to where it is today. We now join those visionaries and activists, hoping to help make it even better. That's all well and good to say, of course, but the proof is in the doing. Already, many people have said how happy they were to have us here — my hope is that they will continue to feel that year after year! As we continue this journey, I want to know how we are doing, and what we can do better. Write, call, or visit. Let us know what you think.

I look forward to greeting all of you on the “summit” at **The Mountain**.

Calendar at a Glance

Note: Programs in **bold print** are open to the public, and, with few exceptions, there is always room for drop-ins or small groups. Call **The Mountain Office** for more information and a detailed brochure – (828) 526-5838, Ext. 201. (Note: The programs marked “***” are not open for drop-ins or other groups.)



FEBRUARY

- 18-20 **Dream Interpretation**
- 18-20 Mountain Board of Trustees Meeting
- 25-27 **Senior High CONFERENCE**
- 25-27 SUUSI Staff

MARCH

- 03-05 Mountain Ambassadors Weekend
- 09-12 OWL Train the Trainer
- 10-12 Living on the Edge of Evolution
- 10-12 Northwest Atlanta UU Women's Retreat
- 11-12 Rutherford LSSJ
- 12-17 **Elderhostel** – Mark Twain, Roots of the Scots-Irish, T'ai Chi Chih
- 15-19 **African Drum and Dance Camp**
- 19-24 **Elderhostel** – A Sense of Place: Appalachian Culture
- 24-26 Spirit Weekend
- 26-31 **MountainScape** – Expanding Your Horizons: Astronomy, Natural History and Magic
- 31-02 Celebrating Spirituality **
- 31-02 **Gay Spirit Visions Retreat** **

APRIL

- 02-07 **Elderhostel** – The Art and Sport of Fly Fishing
- 04-06 Harmony School
- 07-09 Augusta UU Congregational Retreat
- 07-09 Greenville UU Congregational Retreat
- 07-09 **MountainGorp** (Group **Outing Recreation & Pleasure**)
- 07-09 **Spiritual Abilities and Alternative Healing Methods**
- 09-12 **Elderhostel Sampler** – Appalachian Home: Mountain People, Yesterday and Today
- 12-14 Anderson Montessori
- 14-16 **Embracing Our Lesbian Identity** **
- 16-21 **Elderhostel** – Down Home Appalachia
- 16-22 Atma Yoga
- 24-27 SEUUMA
- 28-30 **Mother/Daughter Weekend Retreat**
- 29-30 Enviro-Scope: Project Challenge
- 29-30 Rutherford LSSJ
- 30-05 **Elderhostel** – Wildflowers, Appalachian Music, Roots of the Scotch-Irish

MAY

- 03-05 Enviro-Scope: Charlotte Christian School
- 06-07 Enviro-Scope: Project Challenge
- 07-12 **Elderhostel** – Appalachian Home
- 12-14 **Wisdom Keepers**
- 14-19 **Elderhostel** – For Women Only - Heritage of the Mountain Women
- 17-19 **WomenSpirit Institute**
- 19-21 **WomenSpirit Gathering** **
- 21-26 **Elderhostel** – Hiking the Southern Appalachians
- 24-26 Enviro-Scope: Greensboro Day School
- 26-29 **Memorial Day and Annual Meeting**
- 29-01 Enviro-Scope: General Green School of Science and Technology
- 30-02 **Elderhostel Sampler** – The Joy of Hiking

JUNE

- 02-04 Camp Kagan Wedding Anniversary
- 03-09 Dallas LSSJ
- 04-09 **Elderhostel** – Wealth of the Appalachians
- 09-11 **Native American Spirituality**
- 09-11 SE Energy Psych
- 11-16 **Elderhostel** – Appalachian Adventure!
- 11-17 Anglican Heritage Youth Camp
- 11-7/15 **ASCENDER MountainCamp**
- 14-7/29 **Counselor-in-Training**
- 16-18 Cowgill Reunion
- 18-22 **Pre-General Assembly Retreat**
- 18-7/01 **Junior High MountainCamp**
- 19-21 Enviro-Scope: Teacher Retreat
- 22-25 **MountainScape: Outdoor Adventure**
- 23-25 Gays and Lesbians in Recovery
- 27-30 UUA Post General Assembly

JULY

- 01-08 Girls in Science Summer Camp
- 02-07 **FamilyCamp 2000**
- 02-08 **Beginning MountainCamp**
- 02-15 **Elementary MountainCamp**
- 02-15 **Work & Adventure**
- 07-09 Native Voices
- 09-15 **Religious Education Week**
- 16-21 **Grandparent & Grandchild Adventure Week**
- 16-21 NC Museum of Natural History
- 16-29 **Senior High MountainCamp**
- 20-30 American Ethical Union Lay Leadership School
- 29-04 **Leadership School for Social Justice**

Space Available!



The following dates are still available:

Although a glance at the Calendar might indicate that we are full for the year, there are many times when there is still room for drop-ins, retreats, and conference center meetings. If you have not yet booked your family or group's visit to **The Mountain**, choose one of the dates below. Come for a personal retreat, bring a group with your own agenda or let our experienced staff help you plan activities to support the goals of your gathering. **The Mountain** offers easy access to a variety of recreational activities. Group Building, Leadership, Social Justice Work – put our resources to work for your program!

March 24 – 31
 April 2 – 7
 Easter weekend, April 21 – April 23
 May 5 – May 7
 May 29 – June 2
 June 4 – June 9
 June 16 – 18
 June 25 – June 30 (A great time for a weeklong retreat or adventure!)
 July 7 – July 9
 July 21 – July 23

■ TABLE OF CONTENTS ■

Views from the President	2
Memorial Day & Annual Meeting Weekend	3
Views from The Retreat Center Director	4
Calendar at a Glance	5
Multi-generational Programs	7
Special Purpose / Theme Programs	8
Adult Programs	9
Adventures in Learning: Elderhostel	10
Youth Programs	12
Views from The LCL	13
Views from The Milestone Staff	14
LEAP: Leadership Ethical Action Project	14
Leadership School for Social Justice	15
Milestones Along the Way	16
Residential Community	17
Volunteering	17
Volunteers: 1500 Person Days in 1999	17
Make your Plans Now to Volunteer in 2000!!	17
Views from The Development Director	18
Cabbage Patch Purchase a Huge Success	19
'99 in Review	22
Make a Difference!	23
Travel Information and Map	Back Cover

Positions Available

Retreat Center

- Food Service – full time cook
- Front Office – 2 full time office staff and 1 office supervisor

If interested, please call **Bob MacDicken** (ext. 265).

Finance

- Cashier/Accounts Receivable (must have related experience)

If interested, please call **Neal Resch** (ext. 204).

Development

- Assistant Development Director (must have experience in fund raising)
- Development Assistant (part-time)

If interested, please call **Larry Wheeler** (ext. 230).

Maintenance

- Maintenance Associate (experience in construction, electrical/mechanical required)

If interested, please call **Ian Denham** (ext. 229).

Marketing

- Marketing Director (experience/education in marketing and/or sales and promotion)
- Grant writer (must have experience in writing and securing grants)

If interested, please call **Tom Warth** (ext. 218).

The Mountain Matters is published bimonthly by
 THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT & LEARNING CENTERS, INC.
 P. O. Box 1299, Highlands, NC 28741
 (828) 526-5838 • fax (828) 526-2511
 e-mail: mountain@dnet.net

Shelley Denham, Eileen Ross,
 Susan Smith and Jane Warth Editors
 Walita Olson Production
 Printed by Cashiers Printing of Cashiers, NC

Multi-generational Programs

Multi-generational programs “embrace the diversity” of all ages, through intergenerational events, as well as programs in which the different ages may participate in activities separately or together. In **The Mountain’s** unique educational, spiritual, recreational and natural environment, this wide variety of programs creates opportunities for appreciating and connecting with people of all generations.

Mother/Daughter Weekend Retreat Friday – Sunday, April 28 – 30, 2000

This special annual retreat offers a chance for daughters, age 11 – 18, and mothers to spend quality time together in our peaceful, mountaintop setting. With a clear purpose of strengthening communication and cooperation, this weekend celebrates the unique relationship between mothers and daughters. Program elements include: group initiatives and low Challenge Course elements, mother-daughter relationship led by **Kati Bloedau Haney** and her mom, **Linda Bloedau**, the creation, dedication and planting of a time capsule, worship and, of course, time for hiking and relaxing together.

Cost: Adults: \$133 - \$153 (depending on housing choice);
Youth (17 and under): \$68



Pre-G.A. Retreat Sunday – Thursday, June 18 – 22, 2000

Unitarian Universalists (and friends!) are invited to stop by **The Mountain** on the way to General Assembly in Nashville. Don't miss this opportunity to unwind before getting all wound up in the dynamic UU annual continental conference!

Choose to stay one night ... or four. Call for the special Pre-G.A. rates.

FamilyCamp Sunday – Friday, July 2 – 7, 2000

Always popular, an opportunity for families to go to camp together. Families will experience typical “camp” activities ... take a look at the list! There'll be boating and swimming at the lake; community building within and between families on the Challenge Course; an In-TER-dependence Day celebration; field day of cooperative, non-competitive games; arts and crafts; folk dancing, campfire, singing; hiking, nature study; rock sliding into a river; rafting* or tubing*. Take time to enjoy each other at the peak of our cool mountain summer. Come for the whole week or a few days.

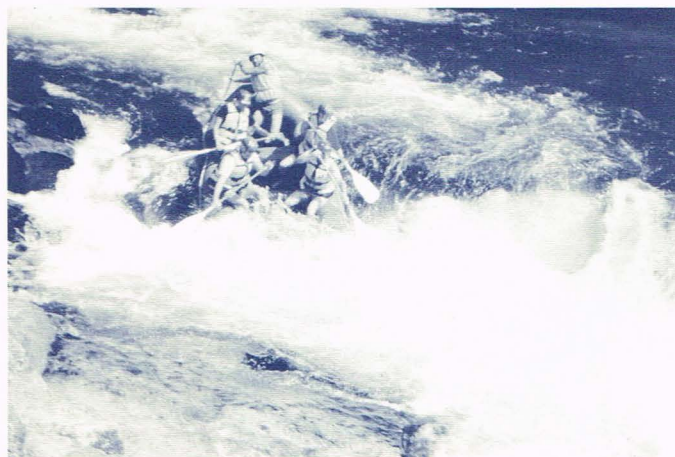
Cost: Adult: 1-day – \$69-\$79; 5-day – \$305-\$360
Youth (4-17) 1-day – \$27; 5-day – \$121;
Youth 0-3 free

Grandparent/Grandchild Adventure Week Sunday – Friday, July 16 – 21, 2000

Especially for grandparents and grandchildren to spend quality time together, building relationship and creating lifetime memories. You'll share the riches of a mountain camp community with crafts, music, evening campfire, hiking, and whitewater rafting* on the Nantahala River or tubing* a local stream. Our expert Adventure staff will assure safety and enjoyment of the trails and rivers with pre-hiking and paddling instruction. **Doris Gove**, naturalist and children's author, will explore Appalachia's natural habitats and wildlife in the field through hands-on experiences. **Lee Knight**, folk-singer and storyteller, will teach and regale us with stories and songs.

Cost: Adults: \$365; Youth (8 and above): \$250

* Rafting is an extra \$32 per person;
tubing is an extra \$12 per person.



Special Purpose / Theme Programs

“Creating an environment to energize people,” Special Purpose Programs evolve around a particular theme or goal. They may be designed and sponsored by Retreat Center staff, such as the Millennium and Lesbian Identity programs, or organized by an individual or group, such as Womenspirit, African Drum & Dance or Gay Spirit Visions Retreat. Also included in the Special Purpose category are Congregational Retreats – and, of course, all faiths are welcome at **The Mountain**. Such retreats may be designed by our staff, the congregation, or may be a collaboration of both. Our program and contract staff will be happy to work with you to create your own special group experience at **The Mountain**. From teacher trainings to board and other business meetings, congregational to family retreats, each program is individually designed, to meet your group’s specific needs. Please contact the office for information.

Upcoming special purpose programs open to all:

Spring African Drum & Dance

Wednesday – Sunday, March 15 – 19, 2000

Drumming and dancing with **Chuck Cogliandro** and his talented faculty are stunning examples of “embracing the diversity of life, creating an environment to energize people to work for positive change.” African Drum & Dance is one of the most uplifting, educational and spiritual experiences that we offer, and we are honored to work with Chuck and his fine team. Advanced, Intermediate, Advanced Beginning and Beginning classes are available, along with a drum-making workshop and a separate track for children and youth. Cost



Chuck Cogliandro and drummers during African Drum & Dance Weekend.

varies according to length of stay and accommodation preference. Please call the office for details – but register soon to assure your space.

Embracing Our Lesbian Identity

Friday – Sunday, April 14 – 16, 2000

Celebrating its 7th year, this annual program has become an essential event for women whose orientation is routinely denied in a conservative society. The theme for this year’s event is “Do Something Different! An Invitation to Change” – but *this* invitation is based on welcoming acceptance of your identity! In a safe environment, the weekend will be filled with workshops, arts and crafts, hiking, film-fest, dancing, and, of course, the annual “Lavender Rock Café Talent Show and Wildwomyn Dance.” The **Rev. Janet Harvey** will facilitate. *This is a closed weekend; no other guests will be on The Mountain at this time.*

Cost: \$115-\$136, depending on accommodations.

Prime Connections

Sunday – Wednesday, September 17 – 20, 2000

The Mountain once again offers Prime Connections ... a program for gay men 40 and over. (Partners or companions under 40 are welcome!) The retreat will provide the opportunity to socialize, network, and learn within a community of older gay men. Workshops fill part of each day, but there will be time for exploring the mountains with hikes and a waterfall tour. Evenings offer community activities, sharing personal stories and relaxing around the fire. For more details, call **The Mountain** office.



Mary Krysh and the children's drumming choir during the Millennium Weekend.

The Retreat Center Program Staff

Susan Smith (ext. 225) • **Jenny Stein** (ext. 263)

Mike Stein (ext. 234) • **Nancy Heath** (ext. 259)

Steve McMurray (ext. 262)

Adult Programs

MountainGORP

(Great Outdoor Recreation & Pleasure)

For young adults, age 21 – 35

Ever try the Kitchen’s incredible GORP?

MountainGORP is a new series of programs for young adults – with as much fun and variety as that wonderful fruit and nuts energy snack that’ll keep us going on our adventures. Come by yourself, or get a group of friends and co-workers together. Register for a current offering, or call program designer **Jenny Stein** to individualize a GORP “recipe” for your group.

MountainGORP 1: Outdoor Recipe!

Friday – Sunday, April 7 – 9, 2000

Make your plans now for this early spring weekend, jam-packed with hiking, the challenge course, an evening campfire with smores ... and more! “Feed” your adventurous spirit and “drink in” the chance to re-energize and relax.

Cost: \$113-\$133 (based on accommodations).

Call or e-mail **The Mountain** office for a program flyer and registration information. Questions? Please call **Jenny Stein** (ext. 263).

Introducing ... *MountainScape!*

MountainScape is an exciting new series of programs designed with the 21st century adult in mind – programs that speak to their energy, quest for enlightenment, and joy for living. All MountainScapes are education-based, with dynamic faculty ... but these hands-on and experiential “classes” are far from traditional! Some address social issues in unique and thought-provoking ways; others are an escape, a break from the usual; most subjects will include



A rocking chair moment.

related field trips. Of course, there is that feeling of warmth and community for which **The Mountain** is known, plus plenty of laughter, good food, music and other arts experiences! Currently there are two MountainScape programs on the calendar:

MountainScape 1: Expanding Your Horizons

Sunday – Friday, March 26 – 31, 2000

Experience first-hand the majesty of these ancient mountains through nature walks, natural history workshops and field trips. Then, look to the heavens and discover the wonders of the spectacular night sky. Finally, transcend beyond earth and sky into the mysterious world of magic.

Cost: \$318-\$373 (based on choice of accommodation).



Noted naturalist George Ellison instructs on a class outing.

MountainScape 2: Outdoor Adventure

Thursday – Sunday, June 22 – 25, 2000

Kids away at camp? A long weekend of outdoor fun at the peak of rhododendron season is planned for adults who wish they could go to camp, too! Hiking, rafting, the challenge course, campfires ... a full slate of adventures for folks of almost any ability. Register soon for the June 22-25, 2000 MountainScape Adventure. Two- and three-night options available.

Cost: \$219-\$252 (based on choice of accommodation, length of stay)

For further information, please call **Susan Smith** (ext. 225).

Adventures in Learning: Elderhostel



Discover Elderhostel – programs for adults 55 years and older! This extraordinary opportunity to expand physical and mental horizons and meet new

friends at **The Mountain** has been a successful part of our programming since 1983. Elderhostel is an educational experience and vacation rolled into five wonderful days and nights. The week may offer three separate courses on unrelated topics; a theme week, with all classes and activities on one topic; or a week of adventure – hiking, rafting, and challenge course. Throughout the years, our outstanding Faculty – whether storytellers, balladeers, naturalists, astronomers, biotechnologists, poets – all instructors participate because of their genuine love of Elderhostel students' keen desire for new and exciting experiences. Included in the week are evening programs, a concert by The Mountain Quartet, good food, fellowship and fun! Check the calendar for the 20+ Elderhostel weeks offered this year.

Elderhostel at The Mountain

The following programs still have space available – but register right away! Please call the International Elderhostel Association.

March 19 – 24, 2000 **\$351**
Program #33272-0319-1

A Sense of Place: Music and Stories of the Appalachian People – Music and stories are inherent in Appalachian culture and have been handed down for generations. **Sheila Kay Adams**, a 7th generation Appalachian ballad singer, banjo player and storyteller, will bring laughter and tears as she shares family anecdotes, beautiful ballads, and music, providing a glimpse into the culture of mountain people.

A Sense of Place: Appalachia in Literature – Explore the Appalachian sense of place, that deep kinship mountain people feel for “home,” through works such as Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain*. Other writers include Thomas Wolfe, Harriet Arnow, Harry Crews, Fred Chappell and Jim Wayne Miller. Your instructor, **Gary Carden**, is a scholar, expert lecturer, and one of the funniest men you'll ever hear.

A Sense of Place: The Civil War in the Mountains – Relive the fierce struggle in the mountains between class and clan, pitting brother against brother, family against family. Through historical narrative and authentic music, explore the unique nature of that struggle and its lasting impact with **Jim Taylor**, an instructor who immerses himself and his students in the history and music of those times.

April 16 – 21, 2000
Program #33272-0416-1

\$360

Down Home Appalachia: Homesteading – The People and Their Mountains – With popular, “home-grown” naturalist and Elderhostel instructor **Bill Hooks**, discover the people who settled the Southern Appalachians and the mountains' influence on them. Through hands-on activities, explore their social, cultural and work experiences, and the human influences on these mountains both then and now.

Down Home Appalachia: History and Culture as Told Through Music – Beloved folksinger and storyteller, **Lee Knight** will share the tall tales, traditional music and instruments that are alive and thriving in the southern mountains. Through the oral traditions of folk songs and stories, become acquainted with the Cherokee, Celtic and Scots-Irish roots of the mountain people.

Down Home Appalachia: Natural History and Appalachian Splendor – The Blue Ridge Mountains become your classroom where you'll see the varied habitats of the southern Blue Ridge Mountains on field trips and short nature walks on moderate mountain trails. **George Ellison**, western North Carolina's most popular naturalist will use field and classroom to emphasize basic identification methods, geologic



Hostelers learn to make rope the old-fashioned way.

origins and appreciation of nature.

April 30 – May 5, 2000
Program #33272-0430-1

\$360

Wildflowers of the Southern Appalachians – Spring's beauty unfolds before you in short walks over moderate mountain trails. With **Murray Evans**, botanist, study the growth, reproduction, evolution, and identification of flowering plants and ferns.

Appalachian Culture Told Through Their Musical Traditions –

Delight in the culture of the Southern Appalachian people through the rich tapestry of their music. **Anne Lough**, a charming professional musician and educator, will bring to life the mountain ballads, folk songs, dulcimer, play parties and shape-note singing.

The Roots of the Scotch-Irish – Explore the origins and history of the Scotch-Irish through their unique tradition of story and song. With **Flora MacDonald Gammon**, an expert lecturer and performer who is steeped in her own rich Scottish heritage, learn of the life of the Scots-Irish in Scotland, and their migration into the Southern Appalachians.

May 7 – 12, 2000

\$360

Program #33272-0507-1

Appalachian Home: Natural History of the Mountaintops and Valleys –

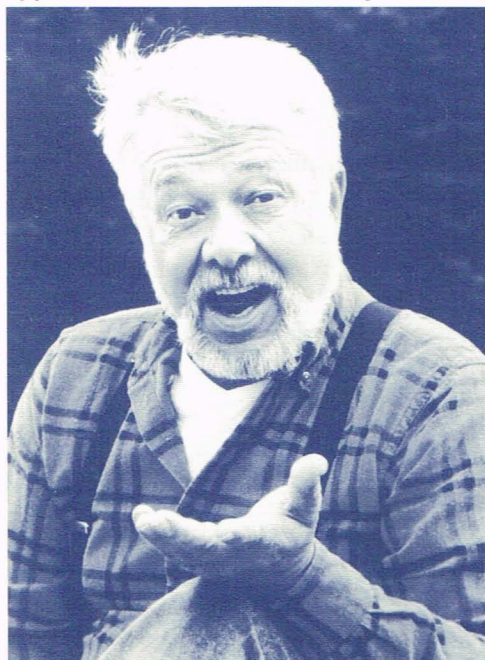
The Blue Ridge Mountains become your classroom as spring emerges with wildflowers and birds. **George Ellison**, western North Carolina's most popular naturalist will use field and classroom experiences to introduce basic identification methods, geologic origins and appreciation of nature. Practice your new skills on short walks over moderate mountain trails.

Appalachian Home: Music and Stories of the Mountain People –

Music and stories are inherent in Appalachian culture and have been handed down for generations. **Sheila Kay Adams**, a 7th generation Appalachian ballad singer, banjo player and storyteller, will bring laughter and tears as she shares family anecdotes, beautiful ballads, and music, providing a glimpse into the culture of mountain people.

Appalachian Home: The Journey Home – Explore the "sense

of place" particular to the people of Appalachia and the theme of the hazardous journey home through works such as Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain* and writers Arnow, Chappell, Benedict, Weller, Norman, Wolfe and Caudill. Your instructor, **Gary Carden**, is a scholar, expert



Gary Carden, instructor and storyteller.

lecturer, and one of the funniest men you'll ever hear.

May 14 – 19, 2000

\$370

Program #33272-0514-1

For Women Only: Hearth and Home, The Heritage of the

Mountain Woman – In this special program for women of all ages, explore the woman's role in the culture of the rugged southern mountains and her influence on hearth and home. Beginning with early Native American culture, learn of the legacy of the medicine woman and the many uses of plants by Appalachian settlers. Practice the ancient craft of finger weaving and decorate your clothing with Cherokee leaf printing. Understand hearth cooking, churning butter and quilting. Make your own candles and sassafras tea. **Ila Hatter**, a naturalist, wildcrafter and gourmet cook, teams up with **Jill Wakenshaw**, Foxfire Museum Coordinator, for a week full of hands-on experiences and nature activities.



Hostelers enjoy a discussion while admiring the view.

June 4 – 9, 2000

\$370

Program #33272-0604-1

Wealth of the Appalachians: An Appalachian Theme Week –

Immerse yourself in the history, culture, folklore, music and natural areas of the Southern Appalachians. Explore early Indian and Cherokee history, and discover the roots of the white pioneers who settled the area. The mountains are your classroom for studying trees and plant life, geology, and distinctive natural habitats on moderate trails. Learn non-technical birding and wildflower identification. **George Ellison** is western North Carolina's most popular naturalist, and **Lee Knight** has been studying and performing Appalachian folk-songs and stories for years. They're an unforgettable team!

Youth Programs

MountainCamp 2000

Camp provides one of the most valuable and fun experiences a young person can have ... memories that last a lifetime! MountainCamp fosters belonging and acceptance in a truly safe environment. We are committed to providing meaningful, quality experiences for youth. A variety of programs are offered, whether you are looking for two weeks of adventure or a summer long experience in leadership training.

MountainCamp Sessions

Junior High MountainCamp (Rising 7th through 9th Grade)
June 18 – July 1, 2000 **\$825**

Beginning MountainCamp (Rising 1st through 3rd Grade)
July 2 – July 8, 2000 **\$387**

Elementary MountainCamp (Rising 3rd through 6th Grade)
July 2 – July 15, 2000 **\$805**

Work and Adventure (Rising 8th through 12th Grade)
July 2 – July 15, 2000 **\$745**

Senior High MountainCamp
(Rising 10th through 2000 Graduates)
July 16 – July 29, 2000 **\$825**

Summer Long Programs

ASCENDER MountainCamp
June 11 – July 15, 2000 **\$719**

Rising 11th through 12th Grades

For young people interested in building skills through work experience. Teens will rotate through various Mountain departments as “apprentices” with 2 days a week dedicated to group building and adventure activities.

Counselor-in-Training (CIT)
June 14 – July 29, 2000 **\$853**

Rising 12th through 2000 Graduates

Interested in working with youth? CIT's learn the skills it takes to be a camp counselor and responsible leader. A rewarding and challenging opportunity that requires patience, compassion, empathy and a commitment to working with youth.

Summer Camp Positions

Cabin Counselor. Get experience for your resume while having a truly rewarding experience this summer. If you have the desire to work with youth of all ages in a leadership role, are a high school graduate and at least 18 years old, please call for more information and an application.

Wellness Center and Camp Minister/Spiritual Leader. Would you like to see what MountainCamp is all about and even participate for a few weeks? Camp is looking for caring people to volunteer for 2 weeks at a time operating the wellness center or being the spiritual leader for a camp session. Anyone with an enthusiasm for camp, working with youth of all ages and is over 21 years of age is welcome to apply. In exchange for your time, you'll get free room and board at **The Mountain**.

Contact **Mike Stein**, Youth Programs Director, at (828) 526-5838, ext. 234.

CONnections ...

CONs, Mountain Youth CONferences, are weekend gatherings of UU youth groups from as far away as Ohio and Florida. CONs offer youth the opportunity to celebrate being UU, provide community, support and an all-around good time! We have witnessed the transformations that take place in many individuals while here in our supportive and accepting space. All Mountain CONs draw on a theme and include group games, Touch Group gatherings, work projects, several workshops to choose from, an evening coffeehouse talent show and dance.

Youth CONs are a wonderful success at **The Mountain**. The programs continuously fill to maximum capacity before the registration deadline. In order to serve more youth, **The Mountain** will offer an additional CON next season. To register for a CON, please contact the RE Director at the UU church near you or **Mike Stein** at **The Mountain**.

Upcoming CONs:

Junior High CON, November 3 – 5, 2000

Senior High CON, December 1 – 3, 2000

*“It’s hard to say what I enjoy most about MountainCamp ... the morning circles, cabin counselors, workshops, trips. Most importantly, there are the campers – friends who return to **The Mountain** every year and have the time of their lives.”*

Dan McCready, Senior High Camper

LEARNING CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP

Views from the LCL

The Learning Center for Leadership is the newest programmatic entity of The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers. LCL's purpose is to build relationships between laity and religious professionals (ministers, religious educators, musicians, etc.) in order to strengthen congregations and enhance their influence in their communities. Serving UU and other faith groups, the LCL envisions that dynamic coalitions of professional and lay leaders will inspire pluralism

(embrace diversity, creating an environment) and empower *(energize)* religious people to contribute to positive change.

As part of its launching of the LCL, The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, Inc. is entering a partnership with the Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA to share a Religious Education Professional. A candidate search is currently underway for this shared R.E. Resource. Call **Tracey Robinson-Harris** at the UUA Department for Congregational, District and Extension Services (617-742-2100) for application information.

Because of their focus on education and training of lay and professional religious leaders, two existing programs, R.E. Week and Congregational Leadership School, will now become part of the LCL annual offerings:

Religious Education Week: July 9 – 15, 2000

RE Week is for learning, networking, worship and recreation for religious educators and their families. This year, **Pat Hoerltoerfer**, Director of Children's Programs and Ministry to

Families at the UUA, will lead daily workshops in which participants will learn ways to nurture, support, educate and advocate for/by/with our UU families. Other highlights include workshops on issues of relevance for religious educators; focus groups to bring up new topics and concerns; intergenerational vespers; play times; evening campfires, etc., programming for teens, youth age 4/5 – 11/12, and childcare for age four and under. Cost (depending on lodging choice):

Adults: \$340 – \$406

Teens: \$225

Youth (age 4–11): \$190

Youth (age 0–4): \$90

Please call **Susan Smith** (ext. 225) if you would like more information or have questions.

The Mountain School for Congregational Leadership: July 30 – August 5, 2000

Formerly known as “Leadership School,” the new name emphasizes the focus on skill-building in order to strengthen overall congregational leadership. The MSCL curriculum consists of modules on Heritage and Values, Worship, Leadership Training, and Credo (a process of examining and clarifying values). MSCL provides an opportunity to increase existing and learn new leadership skills, with a potential for direct positive impact on your congregation. As student **Sandy Kunkle** (Unitarian Coastal Fellowship, Morehead City, North Carolina) wrote, “Thank you for giving me the opportunity to experience one of the richest and most intense weeks of my life. I hope I can give to the fellowship much of what I brought back.” Brochures will be available on or before March 1; if you need a brochure or want to register by phone, contact our Office at (828) 526-5838. **Tuition: \$550.** For scholarship or other additional information, please contact **Robert E. Smith** (ext. 227).



Leadership School participants.

MILESTONE LEARNING CENTER

Views from the Milestone Staff

By: Sarah Walls

Milestone Learning Center, a division of the Mountain Retreat and Learning Centers, Inc., is an organization devoted to empowering the voice and actions of young people to change the world. Experiential education, integration of the arts, and participant-driven programming provide the context for youth and young adults to recognize their passions and strategize how

they can, individually and collectively, positively influence their communities. Milestone programs exemplify *“embracing the diversity of life, creating an environment to energize people to work for positive change.”*

Building coalitions of multifaith and multicultural constituencies is at the heart of our work. When diverse groups come together, their capacity to effect change is dramatically increased. Through the foundation provided by leadership trainings, workshops on specific justice issues and community service, participants gain hands-on experience upon which to expand their base of knowledge and skills.

Milestone's working mission, *“to incite people to contribute to a just and ethical society,”* comes alive primarily through two current program offerings: LEAP (Leadership: Ethical Action Project) and Leadership School for Social Justice. In addition, Milestone is working with a variety of community groups to launch programs in a variety of formats: after school workshops, daylong projects, etc. In everything we do, we are committed to accessibility to all who are interested in participating.

Become one of our partners in bringing these dynamic programs to your communities. We are committed to working with your varying needs and interests! Please contact us if you'd like more information.

Milestone Learning Center Staff

Shelley Denham (ext. 224)

Anne Mayher (ext. 238) • Sarah Walls (ext. 241)

Your Comments are Welcome!

Let us know what you think about Milestone programs, articles and/or other issues of ethics and justice that concern you. Please write or e-mail Milestone staff at MR&LCs' addresses. Be sure to include “Milestone” in the subject line or on the envelope.

LEAP: Leadership Ethical Action Project

By Anne Mayher

What is LEAP?

LEAP is a program for youth of diverse backgrounds from the same community. They spend 1-2 years focusing on leadership development, social justice issues, and planning and implementing a project in their community. The youth spend 5-7 residential weekends for intensive workshops and community building at **The Mountain** and/or at other similar “neutral” sites in natural or retreat settings. Participants also hold regular meetings in their hometown throughout the duration of their LEAP program.

LEAP Asheville

The Asheville, North Carolina LEAP youth continue to affirm the importance and potential of the program. For their community project, the group has decided to host an intercultural community festival (currently pending city approval). Through

this dynamic all-city event, designed to unite diverse groups in a collaborative effort to reduce prejudice in Asheville, the youth show their relentless desire to bring their community together. They have gained skills in community organizing, outreach, event planning, and publicity (to name just a few). The community festival is set for May 2000. Look for news from future LEAP groups in Henderson (NC), Raleigh, Orlando, and Atlanta!



Asheville LEAP participants.

Leadership School for Social Justice

Providing an Opportunity for Leaders to Emerge

“I learned that I have people supporting me on my mission to be a better leader.”

Robert Campbell, LSSJ student, December 1999

Leadership School for Social Justice (LSSJ) provides a context for learning. As youth gather together, whether from the same community or from across the country, they nurture and challenge each other in their quest to make a difference. Their passions become evident and they explore their leadership styles and strategies to effect positive change. LSSJ is offered in a variety of formats in order to maximize participants' potential to serve their communities.

Each summer, youth from all over the U.S. come together for a week at **The Mountain** for LSSJ and learn from their varied experiences and diverse backgrounds. Students broaden their horizons due to exposure to new people and experiential activities that highlight issues of leadership and social justice. There is always a unique synergy that develops during our summer week; faculty and students alike get charged up about changing the world! Parents and adult leaders of youth groups have remarked that the summer program has significantly impacted its participants. This year's program is July 29 through August 4, 2000. Register early!

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who can participate in LEAP?

Groups usually consist of 15-25 youth, from eighth grade up through high school. Participants may come from church youth groups, YWCA/YMCA, school organizations, or community centers. Any interested young person is welcome to participate in LEAP!

Why participate in LEAP?

Youth participate for many reasons, which may include: Gaining leadership and future employment skills; becoming knowledgeable about current social justice issues; enhancing resumes for college applications; fun, and new friendships!

What are some of the possible workshop subjects?

Social issue subjects may include racism, sexism, and economic opportunity. Skill building subjects may include media relations, conflict management, negotiation and presentation.

How can I get more information about starting a LEAP program?

Contact **Anne Mayher**, Program Coordinator at Ext. 238 or mountain@dnet.net (subject line: Anne). She will help you with planning and recruiting for a LEAP program.

“We thank you for helping us to learn how to become empowered to make a difference.” - LEAP participant

Other versions of Leadership School are available. The following are just a few of the possibilities:

- Members of an established youth group (from a congregation or community group) come to **The Mountain** for a 2-14 day program, during any season, based on their needs and interests.
- Multiple youth groups from the same community form a coalition and attend LSSJ.
- Milestone provides a facilitator to come to your local community to run a Leadership School.
- Youth from the same community participate in a series of Leadership Schools that build on each other for a more in-depth experience.
- After school programming.

It is Milestone's goal to be flexible and work with your group's unique circumstances, including financial accessibility. Scholarships are available for all programs. For more information or to start organizing your Leadership School, call **Sarah Walls** at (828) 526-5838, ext. 241 or e-mail her at mountain@dnet.net (subject line: Sarah).

“I feel like a new me emerged that week. I was so inspired by the fact that everyone around me was just as excited about getting involved as I was.”

Leadership School '98 participant



Leadership School for Social Justice –
Charleston and Orlando groups.

Milestones Along the Way

Milestones Along the Way provides a forum for participants, staff and interested individuals to offer perspectives, tell stories and give voice to the passion that inspires us to act on our values and experiences. We are grateful to Geoff Boyce for the following article, which he submitted at our request. Geoff is a high school senior in Birmingham, Michigan and has attended camps and programs since 1982.

Fighting Systems, Not People: A Lesson from the School of the America's Vigil

By Geoff Boyce

In November 1999, I was one of the 4,408 who risked arrest in the largest domestic nonviolent action against the United States government since the end of the Vietnam War. This action, which drew people together from all over the country (indeed, from around the world), was specifically directed at the U.S. Army's School of the America's at Ft. Benning, Georgia. The school, which has been in operation since the beginning of the Cold War, trains Latin American military in combat and counter-intelligence operations. It has been responsible for training some of the individuals behind the worst abuses of human rights in Latin American history (including many of those responsible for the 1989 massacre of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her teenage daughter, the event that the November vigil commemorates). Whether or not (as is alleged) the school has run courses in the past on assassination, espionage, and torture, the fact still remains that some of Latin America's most notorious dictators and military personnel (Manuel Noriega and Omar Torrijos of Panama, for example) have been trained there. All together, thousands of deaths can be attributed to SOA graduates. Because of this, it seems reasonable for a responsible American to be convinced that this school *must* be shut down. The reason that many of us were there at the demonstration was to make these feelings clear to Congress and to the rest of the nation.

One of the strongest memories that I will carry away from the weekend is of an event that occurred the evening before the protest. There had been a mandatory workshop in downtown Columbus for those wishing to be involved in the non-violent action the following day. After this workshop (which took place in a theater), a group of us gathered outside and began singing songs of protest and peace, typical songs you might expect to hear at a protest or a rally. Soon we were all in a circle, and I looked across from me and noticed that one of the people singing was a police officer in uniform, one of the many assigned to “escort” groups of pro-

testers throughout the weekend. I cannot describe how much this moved me; it was one of those moments that no words can really describe, as we all sang the chorus of “We Shall Overcome” together. This incident helped drive home the most important lesson that I learned during the entire weekend. It was not the people we were demonstrating against, from the enlisted men who sat across from us at Denny's the following morning at breakfast, to the Military Police who dragged protesters onto busses inside the military base. It was not the people we were fighting against, but the system, which puts all of us who care about our country and its people against each other. We were fighting against the system that continues to force military intervention in Latin America for American economic interests. I later learned that a friend of mine from continental YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) was at the Ft. Benning military base that same weekend in ROTC training. We weren't against each other; and that is the most important thing to remember when involved in civil disobedient and nonviolent protest; indeed, in activism of any sort. It is not people whom we fight, but their attitudes, and the systems which force us to fight in the first place and which are at the root of the injustice we are fighting against. The military police who escorted all of us away on busses, and the police officers, and even the protesters, were all simply doing their jobs. None of the military who were there held any (at least visible) ill feelings toward us: many of us were joking with them and exchanging stories as the afternoon progressed. This all leads to the fact

that in the end we all do what we think is in everyone's best interests. Often, changing the world and the way that things are done is as simple as changing people's perceptions of what that best interest is.



One of the things that inspired me to be involved in this event in the first place (and which originally set me on the above train of thought) was

Milestone Learning Center's Leadership School for Social Justice, which I attended in 1997. This was where I first learned the power of nonviolence, and where I was first inspired to become involved in many of the issues with which I am involved today. Had I not experienced Leadership school, I would probably still be an activist (after all, how can one *not* be an activist? We are activists in everything we do!). But Leadership School gave me a ground base of knowledge and understanding from which to begin going out into the world and fighting for things I believe in. It has also proved an invaluable resource to me as I have progressed in my activism, through both the experiences it created and the experiences its leaders shared.

RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY

“A vision in progress!”

... where the “we” comes together ... committed to participating, contributing and uniting an interdependent, motivated and diverse community of life-long learners, activists and collaborators.

Right now there may be more questions than answers about the Residential Community. But there is **no** question about the interest and passion that is building around the concept.

a number of weeks, months or even year round in accommodations that reflect a preference for a “flat,” “brownstone,” “townhouse,” co-housing unit, or cottage.

- **The opportunity** to live and work in a “microcosm of the world” where the residents represent financial, cultural, racial, physical and lifestyle diversity — young and old together — learning, growing, contributing, receiving.

Communicate with us about the Residential Community — it is a work in progress, and YOU, the potential residents, will drive the timetable for action! Please get in touch with **Tom Warth** (ext. 218).

The Vision

- A **village** comprised of people of all ages and faiths, whose shared values and commitment to service are the foundation of their involvement in the community.
- **Volunteers, staff, retirees** — all choosing their “menu of residence” as it fits their needs, with options to live for



VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers: 1500 Person Days in 1999

Thanks to many, many folks, members and friends, in 1999 **The Mountain** benefited from about 1500 person days of volunteer help which represents almost 6 additional staff members. This includes every category of volunteer: our Board members, Ambassadors, Elderhostel hosts, Leadership School and

Religious Education Week faculty and support staff, and those who come as individuals and groups to do projects here or at home.

Thanks to you all for the outstanding leadership, promotions, programs and support, and the completion of essential projects that helped make 1999 a great year for **The Mountain**.

Make Your Plans Now to Volunteer in 2000!!

If you've read this far, then you might be wondering if there's a way **you** can be of service as a volunteer in 2000. YES!! It's just a matter of our getting together and working out the details. While you are making other plans for the year, plan some time here. Lodging is free for 4 hours work, and with an additional 4 hours work in a day, meals are also free. Volunteering is like a vacation — schedules can include time off to do your thing. Don't hesitate!

Call, e-mail, or write a brief note to **Robert E. Smith**, Volunteer Coordinator. Let's set this up! Get **The Mountain** on your schedule and know that you'll have a great time. How about that?! Don't delay!!

GIVING

Views from the Development Director

By: Larry Wheeler

For us to accomplish any of what you've read about in the rest of this issue, we must have both program participation and, of course, consistent financial support. 1999 was the strongest year ever for both program and development, especially the financial support. Any way you want to analyze the giving, we set new records. Through your commitments, The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers will continue to grow. It is with great pleasure that we say: "Thank you!"

Trillium Vision Holder (\$100,000+)

Elinor Artman, Cincinnati, OH

White Oak Vision Holders (\$35,000 - \$49,999)

Bill & Mary Nelson, Knoxville, TN

Rhododendron Vision Holders (\$20,000 - \$24,999)

Paul & Sandra Clipp, Clemson, SC
 Alan Hutchinson, Evans, GA
 Cliff & Elmo McCray, Savannah, GA
 Robert E. & Susan Smith, Highlands, NC

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

Anne & Bob Hornberger, Gainesville, FL
 John Lantz & Jane Royall, Avondale Estates, GA
 Jim & Joan Wamsley, Alexandria, VA
 Anne & Bob Hornberger, Gainesville, FL

Flame Azalea Vision Holders (\$10,000 - \$14,999)

Anonymous
 Marcia Bystrom, Muscle Shoals, AL
 Virginia Carver & Hank Raichle, Athens, GA
 Jerolyn & Paul Lowry, Atlanta, GA
 Bob & Dillman Sorrells, Rochester, MN
 Fred & Phyllis Sweeton, Oak Ridge, TN

Patron Members (\$5,000+)

Anonymous
 Anonymous
 Clint Betz, Asheville, NC
 John & Kathy Bohstedt, Knoxville, TN
 Carl Bretz & Rosemary Burns, Oak Ridge, TN
 Lanie Damon & Bruce Kitchell, Atlanta, GA
 Margo Smith Dixon, Atlanta, GA
 Ed & Jean Findley, Avondale Estates, GA

Georgeanne Hoegerman, Asheville, NC
 Betty & Don Hostetler, N. Augusta, SC
 Bill & Margaret Kleiber, Yonkers, NY
 Cliff & Elmo McCray, Savannah, GA
 Donna & Ernie Schmid, Winston-Salem, NC
 Laura & RK Whitehead, Gainesville, GA

Life Members (\$1,600 - \$2,000)

Barbara Belfiglio, Nashville, TN
 Cecil Bennett & Myrtle Staples, Mt. Pleasant, SC
 Paula & Stan Blair, Ft Myers, FL
 Bob & Connie Booth, Cincinnati, OH
 Rick & Yoko Crume, Chapel Hill, NC
 Marguerite David, Tallahassee, FL
 Kim & Warren Dennis, Atlanta, GA
 Victoria DeWeese-Bethea & Glen Bethea, Columbia, SC
 Helen Marie Dixon, Atlanta, GA
 John Francis Dixon, Atlanta, GA
 Margo Smith Dixon, Atlanta, GA
 Diane L. Gardner, Woodstock, VA
 Griff & Susan Gilbert, Blowing Rock, NC
 Adam Griffith, Houston, TX
 Charlie & Joan Kahn-Schneider, Athens, NY
 Sandra Kunkle, Newport, NC
 Mary & Rick Lawson, Boiling Springs, SC
 Melissa Lindholm & Jim Atkinson, Asheville, NC
 Donna & Richard McComas, Smyrna, GA
 Cliff & Elmo McCray, Savannah, GA
 Marsha & Ralph McGovney, Delray Beach, FL
 John & Sudsan McKee, Cottontdale, AL
 Mark Medlin & John DeVault, Nashville, TN
 Nancy Mitchell, Hendersonville, NC
 Nicola Moering, Reston, VA
 Elizabeth Powers, Baton Rouge, LA
 Glenn & Susan Reider, Knoxville, TN
 Nelson Resch, Charlotte, NC
 Rensselear Resch, Washington, DC
 Bruce & Cece Russell-Jayne, Chattanooga, TN
 Danny Ryan, Atlanta, GA
 Alice & Chuck Schneider, Cincinnati, OH
 Judy Shepherd, Winston-Salem, NC
 Win Southworth III, Chevy Chase, MD
 Daidee Springer & Steven Hollingsworth, Chattanooga, TN
 Kathleen Moloney Tarr & Brian Tarr, Charlotte, NC
 Mary Tebo, Knoxville, TN
 Jeff & Julie Tucker, Savannah, GA
 Mark & Susanne Walker, Franklin, NC

Community Life Memberships

Minister, Hendersonville, NC (Jim McKinley)
 RE Director, Hendersonville, NC (Vicki Benavides)

Our profound thanks to . . .

gifts
 since
 last
 issue

Memorial Memberships

David John Smith 1968-1989

Remodeled Tower Donations (Gifts of \$250+)

Harold & Margaret Johnson, Asheville, NC

Elizabeth Simpson & A.A. LaFountain III, Princeton, NJ

In Memoriam

Walter Carter, Atlanta, GA

Margaret Johnson, Asheville, NC

Steve Soloway, Lilburn, GA

Lillian Watt, Atlanta, GA

Cabbage Patch Purchase a Huge Success

On December 22, 1999 we signed the closing documents, delivered a check for almost \$400,000 and took ownership of the 12 acres of land immediately adjacent to the west end of **The Mountain's** property, commonly referred to as "the cabbage patches." The total parcel is 12.11 acres with 9 acres of open land and 3 acres of woodland. This property gives us 750 feet of additional highway frontage, 1,462 feet along existing **Mountain** property and 614 feet along a stream. It is a terrific piece of land. We were able to purchase it because in a little more than 10 weeks the following people and many others stepped forward, gave cash or commitments of \$429,000, an average of more than \$1,100 per gift. Please see the President's article (page 2) that highlights our plans for the use of this land. An exciting step forward in **The Mountains'** evolution.



Tom Warth and Larry Wheeler – after the closing!

Cabbage Patch Land Purchase (Gifts of \$250+)

(NOTE: Gifts of \$1,000+ are shown with an ** symbol)

Sybil & Tom Ackerman, Tybee Island, GA **

Afesa Adams, Jacksonville, FL

Fred & Laurel Amabile, Asheville, NC **

Neal Andreae, Hendersonville, NC **

Anonymous **

Anonymous **

Anonymous **

Anonymous **

Wayne Arnason & Kathleen Rolenz, Charlottesville, VA **

Lem Arnold, Atlanta, GA **

Elinor Artman, Cincinnati, OH **

Emilu Bailes & Gerald Robison, Dunwoody, GA **

Beverly & Bill Baker, Cincinnati, OH

Elly Baker, New Port Richey, FL

Bill & Harriet Ball, Etowah, NC **

Bill Baum, Jr., Stone Mountain, GA **

Lenora Beale, San Diego, CA **

Clint Betz, Asheville, NC **

Marty Beech, Tallahassee, FL **

Sharon Beecher, Norcross, GA **

Louise Birch, Niceville, FL **

Jonathan & Toni Black, King of Prussia, PA **

Lenny Blackwood, Richmond, VA **

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Continues on Page 20

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Annie Campbell, a 17-year-old former camper and 1999 CIT, modestly wrote: *"Enclosed, please find a donation in the total amount of \$365 for your real estate acquisition. This donation was collected from members of the UU Fellowship of the Peninsula (by me)."*

Annie ... your ingenuity and generosity made our day!!! Thank you.

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