



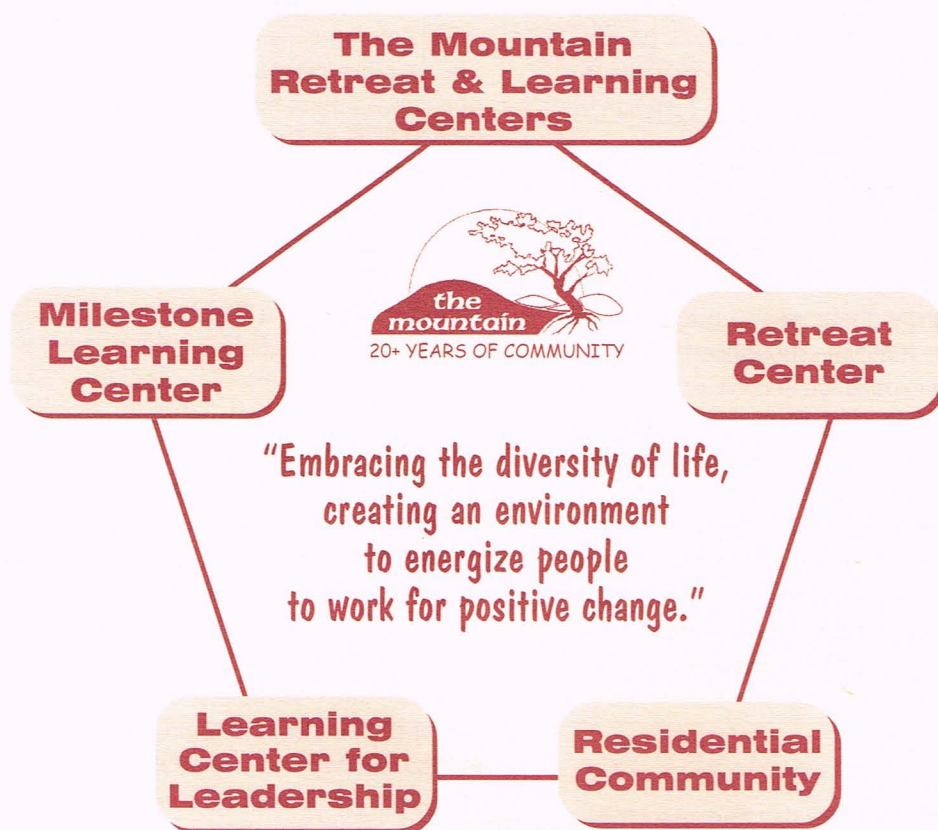
The Mountain Matters

THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT & LEARNING CENTERS, INC.

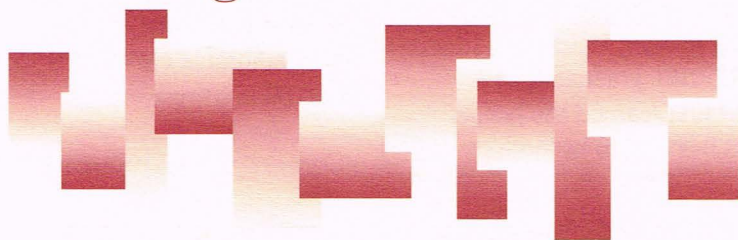
June 2000



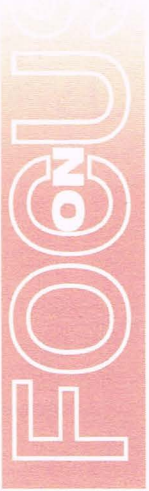
Mid-2000 PROGRAM CALENDAR



Our building blocks for the future.



THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT & LEARNING CENTERS, INC.



Views from The President

By: Tom Warth

The Mountain — *for the experience, the difference and the potential.*

These words were the basis for my report to the membership during our 2000 Annual Meeting, May 27. I'd like to share some of that report with you.

... The Experience

Last year over 6,000 people participated in one **Mountain** program or another — the good food, the friendly, capable staff, the new cabins and tower. Not a week goes by that someone doesn't say to me, "I notice the changes, the place looks better every time I'm here." People experience things getting done. Staff and guests experience meaningful relationships all the time: African Drum & Dancers, Anglican Catholic youth, Indigenous people, gays and lesbians, UUs, other faiths, Republicans, Democrats and Independents, ordinary and extraordinary people of all kinds; with trustees, architects, volunteers, new members, new contributors. We experience the changing weather, the rhododendrons in bloom, the night skies. We experience successes — the growth of Milestone, over \$800,000 in development, the hiring of a Retreat Center Director, the acquisition of new land. And by listening to people's stories we experience sadness through our heightened awareness that guns are still killing people, that men are still violent toward women, that people are starving, that gay and lesbians do not enjoy the benefits of our society, that kids are homeless, that people just aren't kind to each other. **The Mountain** is a place to experience.

... The Difference

People's lives are changed every day because of their **Mountain** experience. A youth wrote "... once again I want you all to know that I am eternally grateful to you and **The Mountain** for all you have done for me. The longer I am away the more I realize what an impact that place had on me and how it is shaping the things I am doing in my life now. You will be glad to know that I am still struggling on the front lines of social justice and am trying to keep focused on the things that are important ..." (a REFUEL graduate).

And another, "This is where I first learned the power of nonviolence, and where I was first inspired to become in-

volved ... Leadership School for Social Justice 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."

And this, "My child comes home from camp every year a changed person ... he believes in himself, and he knows he's not alone."

From an Elderhostel guest, "This is my first venture out since my husband died 6 months ago. We were here for Elderhostel about a year ago, and I knew that, hard as this first trip would be, I'd find safety, friends and support here."

I could fill this, and many more, **Mountain Matters** with such stories — **The Mountain**, making a difference, one life at a time.

... The Potential

A commencement speaker said to the graduates, "you are now leaving college prepared to enlarge your tent, to encompass more experiences, more challenges — make the best of it. But as you put up this larger tent, you will need to lengthen your ropes and deepen your stakes." **The Mountain** can widen **its** tent — be more inclusive, pay attention and respond to the issues of justice, be a living, breathing, functioning organization and community that others would and could replicate. But if we are to do so we need to lengthen our ropes and deepen our stakes. Let's begin with the longer ropes.

I want us to seek with intentionality a more diverse staff and board. For example, the young adults on our staff are making a huge difference, but young adults need their voice at the **board table, too**. And we must reach out to the Hispanic and black communities for staff. We have great job opportunities; we just need to be more resourceful in finding candidates. I'd like to develop a strong internship program — 2 or 3 interns a year, here, working, learning and contributing to our unique community. Volunteers — we are developing one of the best volunteer programs in the country — recruitment, training, meaningful work, effective supervision, timely evaluation and meaningful recognition. It will be a program that others want to and can replicate. And speaking of replicating, we have an opportunity to develop our physical plant — land, buildings, pathways, roadways — in such a way that it, too, we will be a model that other's would want to replicate. We will spend the time and money to plan properly. We will be innovative and good stewards of the environment as we build with great intentionality an energizing, sustainable and memorable community that truly embraces the diversity of all life.

Continues on Page 4

The Annual Meeting May 27, 2000

This year's Annual Meeting, attended by members, Trustees, staff and friends was an uplifting time, as together, we heard about the finances, election results, recognition of volunteers, a special tribute, words from the Board Chair and the President's report (see related article). A summary of the reports is as follows:

Jean Findley, Financial Advisor to the Board: "I am pleased to report that 1999 was a year of significant accomplishments for The MR&LCs, Inc. Asset growth was strong with total assets increasing 28.7%. Our Development revenues were outstanding, showing a 91.45% increase over 1998. The review of its liquidity, capital resources and results of operations, shows it is a healthy, growing, robust organization. Improvements in the level of working capital, the decreased amount of total assets financed by debt, and increased productivity of our assets, all point to increased financial strength of The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, Inc."

Election Results: The Board was pleased to announce that **Hildegarde Gray** (Atlanta, Georgia) and **Dorrie Senghas** (Burlington, Vermont) were both elected to 3-year terms as Trustees of The MR&LCs, Inc.

Robert E. Smith acknowledged Members **Bob** and **Juanita Polk**, **Bill Baum** and **Joan Moore** for their volunteer contributions. **Shelley Denham** gave a special recognition to



Dorrie Senghas and Hildegarde Gray

Laurel Amabile who was such an important contributor to the success of Milestone Learning Center's first LEAP program in Asheville (see related article).

Board Chair, John Rakestraw delivered a very inspiring talk about "sharing and shaping" vision. In part he said, "I was struck by a phrase in Sarah's presentation this afternoon about the residential community. She talked about shaping and sharing a vision. It seemed to me that the phrase pointed to something very important that we're about here. ... What I want to talk about tonight is not so much the vision as the sharing and shaping of it. What occurred to me is that in our sharing of the vision we cannot but shape it. The sharing shapes it. And in our shaping of the vision we are led to share it, because the shaping itself leads to our rehearsing it out loud. **Richard Rothman**, our land-use architect, shaped a vision after listening to us share our vision. And this weekend it was his turn to share his vision. Those of you who saw his two models, I suspect, were caught by the power of sharing. Of course there will be much shaping and sharing before that vision — our vision — is realized. Many of you played crucial roles in the early visioning of **The Mountain**, and others joined later to play your own significant roles. Celebrating Richard's contributions builds on what has gone before. The crucial point I want to make here is that it's imperative that we continue to share the vision, recognizing that we shape it as we share it. We shape it in the sharing because when we share it we put it into different words. We shape it in the sharing because those with whom we share it come to play their own roles in the visioning. I urge you to share the vision you have of **The Mountain**. It will grow in the sharing. It will be shaped in the sharing. We shape it best if we share it far and wide, inviting those with whom we share it to join with us in shaping it. It will become ours in the sharing, and the we who share it will become larger and richer for the sharing."

The Annual Meeting concluded with the singing of "Light One Candle."

Officers

John Rakestraw Chair, Board of Trustees
Jeri Moulder Corporate Secretary
Tom Warth President & CEO
Neal Resch Vice President & CFO

Trustees

John Bohstedt Elected-At-Large
Ivan Cotman Board Appointment
Lanie Damon Elected-At-Large
Jim Fason Board Appointment
Jean Findley Financial Advisor, Board Appointment
Hildegarde Gray Elected-At-Large
Claire Keane Recording Secretary, Board Appointment
Ed Mangiafico Board Appointment
Dorothy Senghas Elected-At-Large

Staff Directors

Shelley Jackson Denham Director, Milestone Learning Center
Bob MacDicken Director, The Retreat Center
Larry Wheeler Director, Development

Views from the President – Continued from page 2

We will build under our larger tent with longer ropes a residential community of staff, volunteers and retirees like no other — a community of activists that value each other and share a common vision of working to create a just society for all people. What an opportunity this is!

And we shouldn't limit our thinking to this Mountaintop. We can and must be an organization that reaches far beyond our 96 acres as we are already doing with Milestone. But I see more — I believe that in the next couple years Milestone might have a satellite organization, people in a distant location working at the grassroots level for social change. And I see **The Mountain** being a major contributor to the growth of Unitarian Universalism through the Learning Center for Leadership — innovative, transformational leadership trainings, distributed learning, a library/reference center and widely distributed, cost effective publications.

And speaking of distributed learning, not only will we be able to host multi-point video conferences, but we will have some employees working in locations other than at **The Mountain**, reducing the need for housing, offices and work stations on site. We will maximize technology to our benefit while at the same time extending our reach, just as we will do with Milestone, with staff living and working in other communities, creating more and more multipliers of **The Mountain's** vision, every day. As we develop the Learning Center we need to give serious consideration to obtaining academic accreditation for our curriculum — this will greatly reduce costs and open up many new markets for our services. All exciting, all enlarging our tent and lengthening our ropes.

But as the commencement speaker added, "as you enlarge your tent and lengthen your ropes, you need to deepen your stakes." The same is true for us, too. We will deepen our commitment to that which we value most, our core values:

*The inherent worth and dignity of every individual;
Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth (and we mean it — we will encourage our staff, guests and members to engage in new patterns of thinking, to reach out and embrace other*

spiritual traditions while remaining true to their own);

We value a free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all; and

We value respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Our stakes must go deeper in our resolve to be accessible — to mobility, sight and hearing challenged people. It **will** be difficult, it **will** cost more, but it is the right thing to do.

And our financial stake must go deeper, too. We must begin to earn on our significant investments in physical plant and people. Our upgraded and additional buildings must result in increased occupancy at a higher price; staff wage and benefit improvements must translate into higher productivity. I am proud of our financial performance to date and am committed to doing what's right for the years to come.

The Mountain potential — a larger tent, longer ropes, deeper stakes.

I close with this simple thought — "The foolish person sees happiness in the distance. The wise person grows it under their feet." Author Unknown.

The Mountain is an **experience**, the experience does make a **difference** and because of that difference we have the **potential** to turn the world around. We have great plans, a strong board and staff and significant member and donor support. But we must be sure to enjoy the present moment. When you visit **The Mountain** again, be conscious of this place, of the people that are here, everyone. Take a minute and look at the stars, smell the trees, feel the granite rock bald, extend a hand or a hug to a friend — happiness is truly under your feet. Value that!

The Mountain ... The Experience ... The Difference ... The Potential ...

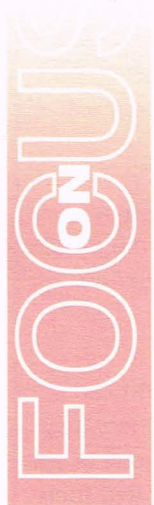
We are lucky people. We are looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Tom



Memorial Day/Annual Meeting Weekend lunch at the base.

THE RETREAT CENTER



Views from The Retreat Center Director

By: Bob MacDicken

One of the most evocative books I have read recently is *God Was in This Place and I, I Did Not Know* by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner. According to the book jacket, Rabbi Kushner is “widely regarded as one of the most creative Jewish theologians in America.” The book, whose

format reminds me of Kierkegaard’s *Fear and Trembling*, uses the story of Jacob’s ladder (Genesis 28) to explore various facets of the relationship between God and self in Jewish mysticism.

Kushner’s book includes such interesting chapter sub-headings as “If I had known God was here, I wouldn’t have gone to sleep,” or “God was here because I was able to subdue my ego,” or “I didn’t know that my name was part of God’s name,” or even “I have climbed the ladder of history.” The book seems valuable to me for several reasons: (1) it helped me understand a little more of contemporary Jewish thought, (2) it has historical value because it draws on the wisdom of Rabbis from many different centuries, and (3) it explores in a series of fascinating commentaries a question that has echoed throughout human history: what is the relationship of the individual, the self, to the universe?

How does all of this relate to The Mountain Retreat and Learning Centers in general, or to the Retreat Center in particular? I can think of many areas that could be explored, of course. **The Mountain** does cause people to wake up, to look at our place in the world and in history (the interdependent web of all existence), and to discover a more complete self, a self that understands the importance of each individual in the midst of incredible diversity (the inherent worth and dignity).

However, what really struck me about this book was its emphasis on place — “God was in this place.” Jacob’s dream was linked to a place. In much the same way, I believe that **The Mountain’s** vision is linked to a place. True, the distance learning and electronic communication that are part of our lives and integral to the Learning Center for Leadership is a huge part of the vision. Similarly, the work of Milestone in an ever increasing circle of cities and towns across the country is a vital part of our future. The residential center promises to add focus, dimension and definition to both our mission of

activism and our sense of place.

Equally important, however, is the “place” that is the Retreat Center. Over and over, guests at **The Mountain** emphasize how important this place is. First time visitors remark about the mystery and spirit they find here, and returning guests talk of how important this place is to them. Program evaluations within the past two or three months have included many comments like:

- *It’s like being in another world being here.*
- *This is a wonderful place . . . treasure it.*
- *. . . surrounded by sheer beauty . . .*
- *. . . inspiring setting . . .*
- *Primary factor in the enjoyment of this program was **The Mountain** experience — the beauty, the quietness, the comfort.*

Like the site of Jacob’s dream, however, there is more to the Retreat Center than the location. Part of what people say about this place is about the community, the programs and the people:

- *I’ve seldom been in a place where everything was so consistently well planned and well executed and everyone works together so well and is so friendly.*
- *I wouldn’t have missed one minute of one class.*
- *Cheerful, friendly and helpful staff.*
- *There are more than enough things to do, the staff are available but not hovering, and the food is magnificent. What more can one ask?*
- *You were gracious, welcoming and helpful.*

Some members have expressed some concern that the Retreat Center’s important place will be neglected or diminished by **The Mountain’s** expansion and growth. I believe that the need for this place, this Retreat Center, will be even greater in the future than it is today.

Recently I attended a conference where the question of virtual organizations and on-line conferences was a topic of the major plenary session. One large national organization had reported on the success of a new “virtual organization” they had formed. Members were active, involved and enthusiastic. They had learned a great deal without leaving their desks. But to me, the most interesting fact about this new organization was that, after operating for less than 5 months, the single most frequently asked question in this “virtual organization” was “when and where can we meet face-to-face?”

The success of this organization had increased the need for place. Similarly, I believe that the success of the LCL and Milestone will increase, not decrease, the need for the Retreat Center.

Continues on page 6

View from the Retreat Center Director – Continued from page 5

There is much to be done, of course. Within the next several months, the Retreat Center will be completing a new strategic plan. Included in this plan will be considerations of how we can do a better job of reaching more children and youth in camp programs, how we can increase the diversity of programs offered, and how we can increase and expand the use of the outstanding facilities of the center in teaching team work, cooperation, and understanding. All of this needs to take place within the context of an ever-stronger commitment to ecology and the environment, a commitment to the world of future generations. As one recent Elderhostel participant noted, “*The facility has more than buildings. There is purpose, planning, commitment to vision.*”

To me the most rewarding comments we receive are those that talk of how people are changed by this place:

- *Exceptionally friendly and helpful staff . . . , beautiful setting conducive to intellectual and spiritual renewal.*
- *Refreshing, revitalizing place that I will return to many times.*
- *I am a UU and have been looking forward to coming*

*to **The Mountain** for a long time. It exceeded my expectations and I return home with a sense of renewal.*

- *These programs gave me a greater appreciation of cultural diversity and what our nation would lose if we ever become totally homogenized.*
- *I have a great respect for what you are doing on **The Mountain**, both saving such a precious environment and sharing with all ages It makes me proud to be a Unitarian to know what is happening here — an organized demonstration of belief.*

In the coming months, we will welcome youth campers, congregations, singers, drummers, ministers, teachers, psychologists and more to **The Mountain**. We expect one of our busiest years ever. We look forward to welcoming first time visitors and returning members and guests alike. Look over the program calendar and make your plans; come to **The Mountain**; share with us your vision of the Retreat Center in the coming years.



Christmas 2000 on The Mountain

Friday, Dec. 22 – Tuesday, Dec. 26
2-4 night options available

Bring just yourself or bring your whole extended family for **Christmas on The Mountain**. We'll do traditional Christmas activities in a low-key, non-commercial style. This can be a thoughtful, spiritual way to spend the holiday no matter where you are on your spiritual journey.

- Winter hikes, wreath making, tree decorating.
- Games and puzzles.
- Relaxing by the fire place with a good book or with new or old friends.
- Candlelight Christmas Eve service with The Mountain Quartet.
- Fun and funny gift exchange. Just bring something fun (inexpensive or pre-owned). Who knows what you might get to take home in exchange?
- Caroling on Christmas Day at the Highlands Hospital Nursing Home.

Give yourself, your family and friends the gift of a truly meaningful holiday – join us at **The Mountain**.



Youth attending an Art Workshop in the Crafts area during Memorial Day Weekend.

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www.mrlc.org

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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.)



JULY

- 01-08 Girls in Science Summer Camp – NC Museum of Natural Science
- 02-07 **FamilyCamp**
- 02-08 **Beginning MountainCamp**
- 02-15 **Elementary MountainCamp**
- 02-15 **Work & Adventure MountainCamp**
- 07-09 **Native Voices**
- 09-15 **Religious Education Week**
- 16-21 **Intergenerational Camp for Grandparents & Grandchildren**
- 16-29 **Senior High MountainCamp**
- 17-21 NC Museum of Natural History
- 20-30 American Ethical Union School Lay Leadership Faculty
- 22-29 American Ethical Union School Lay Leadership
- 29-04 **Senior High Leadership School for Social Justice**
- 30-05 **Mountain School for Congregational Leadership**

AUGUST

- 03-06 Thomas Jefferson District Board Meeting
- 06-12 Birmingham, MI Unitarian Church Retreat
- 13-18 **Elderhostel – FULL**
- 16-20 **African Drum & Dance**
- 20-25 **Elderhostel – Appalachian Outdoor Adventure**
- 25-27 Enviro-Scope – Pines of Carolina Girl Scouts
- 25-27 Ambassador Weekend
- 25-27 Jubilee Weekend for Women
- 27-01 **Elderhostel – Paddles, Packs and Boots: Chattooga Adventure**

SEPTEMBER

- 01-03 **WolfSong XI**
- 03-08 **Elderhostel – FULL**
- 08-10 Atlanta Unity Church Women
- 10-15 **Elderhostel – Appalachian Home: Natural History & Culture of the Appalachian People**
- 15-17 Winston-Salem, NC Congregational Retreat
- 15-17 **Yoga Meditation with Karen Thompson**
- 15-17 Lindholm & Atkinson Wedding
- 17-20 **Prime Connections: Retreat for Gay Men over 40**
- 21-24 Gay Spirit Visions (3 & 4 night options) **
- 24-29 **Elderhostel – FULL**
- 27-29 Womenspirit Institute
- 29-01 Womenspirit Gathering **

OCTOBER

- 01-06 **Elderhostel – Natural History, Scottish History, Tai Chi**
- 06-08 UGA's SE Population & Ecological Genetics Group
- 08-13 **Elderhostel – The Journey Home: Appalachian People**
- 12-15 **Exploring & Expanding**
- 13-15 Northwest UU Congregational Retreat, Atlanta, GA
- 13-15 Asheville, NC Congregational Retreat
- 13-15 UUCA Men's Retreat from Atlanta, GA
- 15-20 **Elderhostel — Hiking, Genetics, Appalachian Music**
- 17-19 Enviro-Scope – Children's School
- 20-22 Presbyterian Student Center Retreat, Athens, GA
- 20-22 Hendersonville, NC UU Retreat
- 20-22 Redeemer Lutheran Retreat from Atlanta, GA
- 20-22 Milestone – Leadership Graduates' Conference
- 22-27 **Elderhostel – Down Home Appalachia**
- 25-27 Enviro-Scope – Pace Academy
- 27-29 First Existentialist Retreat from Atlanta, GA
- 27-29 Soloway Work Weekend from UUC of Gwinnett, GA
- 29-03 **Elderhostel – Appalachian Homeland**

NOVEMBER

- 03-05 **Junior High Youth CON**
- 03-05 UU Metro Atlanta Congregation Retreat
- 10-12 Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus
- 13-16 Southeastern Unitarian Universalist Minister's Assoc.
- 17-19 **Junior High Youth CON**
- 22-26 Thanksgiving for Mountain Life Members

DECEMBER

- 01-03 **Senior High Youth CON**
- 08-10 Native Voices
- 08-10 Light Redmountain Therapy Group
- 22-26 **Christmas 2000 on The Mountain**
- 26-29 **Senior High Winter Break**
- 29-02 **Millennium II on The Mountain**

JANUARY

- 19-21 **Junior High Youth CON**
- 26-28 NWUU Men's Retreat from Atlanta, GA
- 26-28 Mountain Board Workshop on Anti-Racism

FEBRUARY

- 09-11 **Senior High Youth CON**
- 16-18 Mountain Board Meeting
- 16-19 Atlanta Knitters
- 23-25 **Senior High Youth CON**

Adult Programs

African Drum & Dance

Wednesday, August 16 – Sunday, August 20

2-4 night options available.

Discounts for early registration.

Spend a long weekend immersed in the sights and sounds of African drumming and dancing! **Chuck Cogliandro** and his talented faculty return again to **The Mountain** to share their experiences and percussive energy with drummers and dancers of all ages and abilities.

Beginning through advanced drumming classes will be offered. Open drum circles and Western African cultural presentations will be available to everyone. And, of course, you can show off YOUR skills at the talent show on Saturday night, as well as be blown away by the skills of lead instructors, **Mohamed** and **Aisha Diaby**.

Make your own drum with the skilled help of master



\$219-\$407

drum making instructor, **Tom Harris**. (Extra fees and supply orders must be arranged in advance.)

Prepare for each day with a 7:00 a.m. yoga class.

\$260

Prime Connections

Sunday, September 17 – Wednesday, September 20

For gay men 40 and over.

Program will include a morning class on Appalachian Culture – Music, Stories, and History taught by **Lee Knight**. That evening we'll enjoy a concert and birthday party celebration for everyone led by Lee using old-time Appalachian play-party games. A field trip to Foxfire Museum and village will let the group see the kind of creativity and hard work that

was required in a time when most of what people owned was made by themselves. An opportunity to participate in the Challenge Course as a way to face some of the changes required by our lives. Time will be available for hiking, shopping in Highlands, arts and crafts, quiet meditations, as well as for camaraderie among new or old friends.

MountainScape!

Week-long and weekend learning adventures for adults.

The March MountainScape, *Expanding Your Horizons*, was considered very successful by the participants. The program included workshops in astronomy, and natural and cultural history of the Appalachians, along with free time to just enjoy **The Mountain** and fellowship with the group. Many commented on the excellent instructors, along with the balance of workshops and free time.

"There was a good balance of classes and free time, the topics were very interesting. It was a great learning experience – I needed to come to camp!"

Plans are being made now for four new MountainScape programs for 2001. Some of the topics for these learning adventures may include:

- One-act character portrayals of personalities, both fictional and non-fictional, brought to life in stage interpretations;
- An active outdoor program focusing on the history and nature of the Nantahala Gorge, followed by a raft trip down the Nantahala River;
- A study of the Civil War in these mountains, including the music of that time;
- A course on the concepts of evil, heaven and hell in world religions by **Gary Carden**, a scholar and a humorist;
- A study of murder mysteries;
- T'ai Chi; and
- Our always popular Challenge Course.



Adventures in Learning: Elderhostel

Elderhostel at The Mountain —

A unique way to experience Elderhostel, a unique way to experience The Mountain!

Join others who have the same desire for learning, community and fun that you have. These programs are attended by vibrant and energetic “elders” (what a misnamed group!), 55 years and up, and their partner or spouse of any adult age. Programs run mid-August through October 2000.

Coordinator's Picks:

September 10 – 15, 2000

\$380

Program #33272-0910-1

Appalachian Home – A program of three related courses which explore the culture of the Appalachian people.

Natural History's Heritage and Traditions with Ila Hatter.



Gary Carden

Natural resources at hand heavily influenced the life of the mountain people. Through nature walks, hands-on activities, and a field trip to Foxfire, an educational site devoted to the preservation of Appalachian culture, discover the medicinals, edibles, tools and materials derived from Mother Nature. **Ila Hatter**, a descendant of Pocahontas, is a naturalist and expert on the native uses of plants. **Music and Stories of the Mountain People** –

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

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. **Gary Carden**, playwright and storyteller, will bring the fiction of Appalachia to life, and tickle your funny bone in the process.

October 15 – 20, 2000

\$380

Program #33272-1015-1

Autumn Colors Up Close: Hiking In The Beautiful Blue

Ridge – Combine the splendor of the Southern Appalachians in fall color with the benefits of moderate exercise as you leisurely hike mountain trails. With our expert outdoor educators, you will choose from two daily hike levels before exploring the vistas and valleys of the Nantahala National Forest.

Designer Genes: How Genetic Technology Changes Our Lives – In

terms everyone can understand, noted biologist **Joan Lorch** will explore the basics of DNA technology. You will be involved in the decision-making process regarding its applications, discuss the creation of new plants and animals, cloning, computerized gene inventory, gene therapy and other marvels.

Appalachian Culture Through Musical Traditions – Delight in the culture of the Southern Appalachian people through the rich tapestry of their music. A professional musician, **Anne Lough** will bring to life the balladry, folk songs, dulcimer, play parties and shape-note singing that have shaped the present.



Anne Lough

August and September programs are filling, but there is still room in most weeks. Registrations begin for October programs on June 23.

To register or receive an Elderhostel catalog, call toll-free (877) 426-8056, or access the Elderhostel web site: www.elderhostel.org

To receive more information about **The Mountain's** Elderhostel programs, request the Elderhostel brochure by calling (828) 526-5838, or email us at mountain@dnet.net

“What an incredible joy this week has been! I came here with preconceived notions that nothing could compare with Star Island or Ferry Beach – Boy, was I wrong!...”

Youth Programs

CON Schedule 2000-2001

The upcoming Youth CONFERENCE "season" will bring some exciting changes to the program which will attempt to ensure that more youth will have the opportunity to attend each year. Youth CONs at **The Mountain** are extremely popular.

Two additional CONs will be added to the season: Jr. High CON in November and a Sr. High CON in February. This will provide an additional 40 slots for youth in each age group.

Registration letters will be sent out in September to DREs and those who request to be on the CON mailing list. If you are not on the CON mailing list, please contact **The Mountain** to ensure you get the materials on time. Anyone

can get a group of youth organized and registered. Although the additional CONs will provide more opportunities for youth, they do not guarantee space, so please **return your registration as soon as possible, as CONs will fill early.**

Finally, the CONs rely on volunteers to lead programs and share experiences with the youth. Your time and energy are greatly appreciated! If you are interested in spending a weekend at **The Mountain** and leading a program, contact **Mike Stein** at (828) 526-5838, ext. 234.

Fall 2000/Winter 2001 Schedule

November 3-5, 2000	Jr. High CON
November 17-19, 2000	Jr. High CON
December 1-3, 2000	Sr. High CON
January 19-21, 2001	Jr. High CON
February 9-11, 2001	Sr. High CON
February 23-25, 2001	Sr. High CON

Congregational Retreats at The Mountain

WHO

Each year congregations from all over hold a retreat at **The Mountain**. Programs are developed by individuals within a church or fellowship, designed to serve either the entire congregation or a specific group within the congregation.

WHAT

The programs designed can range from primarily recreational or spiritual to specifically center on a particular congregational issue which people would like to see addressed in a retreat setting. Focus on building community, sharing theology, developing leadership skills, exploring social concerns or utilize the unique setting of **The Mountain** to do some outdoor adventuring.

WE CAN HELP

The Mountain has the resources and staff to help you design activities that support the goals of your retreat. Retreat planners may choose from a variety of program offerings to match the interests and needs of participants, including: **hikes, low and high challenge course, canoeing, vespers, worship services, social justice seminars, earth education, storytelling, campfires, trust walks, concerts, arts and crafts and much, much more!**

Space is limited so **PLAN AHEAD!** Get your congregational retreat on **The Mountain** calendar soon! A few weekends between October 27 and December 17 are still avail-

able, and several congregations are already scheduling dates for **2001**. Call **The Mountain's** Contract Coordinator at (828) 526-5838, ext. 217.

Upcoming Congregational Retreats

August 6-12	Birmingham Unitarian Church (Birmingham, MI)
September 15-17	UU Fellowship (Winston-Salem, NC)
October 13-15	NWUU Congregation (Atlanta, GA) Asheville UU (Asheville, NC) UUCA Men's Fellowship (Atlanta, GA)
October 20-22	Redeemer Lutheran (Atlanta, GA) UU Fellowship of Hendersonville (Hendersonville, NC)
October 27-29	First Existentialist Congregation (Atlanta, GA) Soloway Work Weekend (Gwinnett - Lawrenceville, GA)
November 3-5	UU Metro Atlanta North (Roswell, GA)
January 26-28, 2001	NWUU Men (Atlanta, GA)

MILESTONE LEARNING CENTER

Views from the Milestone Staff

By: Shelley Denham

The Milestone Learning Center celebrates a “Milestone” of our own!

The first LEAP participants (in Asheville, North Carolina) have completed their project – a city-wide Festival which they called “Come-Unity” – as they near the end of their program! One LEAP participant wrote the following perspective on her experience: “What is diversity? To a group of local teens, it’s a goal for our community. Started in September 1998, a pilot group called LEAP (Leadership: Ethical Action Project) currently has about 20 high school students from around the area who have been working for a common goal: “Prejudice reduction in hopes of elimination.”

“So why have these students participated in LEAP?

For many it’s because they want to see a more diverse group come together and make change happen around Asheville. The students have been concerned about social problems and wanted to raise awareness about concerns as well as promote tolerance and reduce prejudice. The group was looking for ways to build permanent bridges in the community, hoping to inspire teens to work for a positive change and challenge the stereotype that teens aren’t doing anything productive.”

Excerpt from an article by **Erin Curtis**, which was printed in *The Hoofbeat*, the student-published newspaper at Charles D. Owen High School in Black Mountain, North Carolina.

Milestone’s **Anne Mayher**, LEAP Coordinator, said, “We are very proud of all the Asheville LEAP participants! We witnessed significant changes in these young people as they gained invaluable skills, knowledge and awareness in the area of leadership development and social justice.”

The Festival was the culmination of concentrated efforts by these determined LEAP participants, who were undaunted by the process of ascertaining requirements, applying for and obtaining city permits, enrolling the many corporate, community and business sponsors, procuring the professional entertainers, and managing the mind-boggling details of this major undertaking. One of the beneficiaries of the Festival project was **Manna Food Bank**. Throughout the year, LEAP participants enrolled local children in the making of pottery bowls. With a purchase of one of these bowls at the festival, the buyer was welcomed to the *Empty Bowls Luncheon*, which was a symbolic meal of soup and bread. All of the proceeds from the luncheon and the sale of Pepsi products (generously donated by Pepsi, one of the sponsors) went to Manna Food Bank in Asheville – a grand total of approximately \$1,500.

And what a diverse assembly of professionals who committed their time and energy! Among those who shared their talents: a professional **African Drumming & Dancing ensemble**; “**Womansong**” – a popular local group of musicians; Russian folk singer, **Jamuna**; and Spanish musician, **Francisco**. **Glennis Redmond**, an African-American poet, gave an extraordinary dramatic presentation of some of her pieces. “Festival” and “poetry reading” may sound like an unusual

combination, but people of all ages were spellbound by Glennis’ performance. Rock band “**Mini Void**” played enthusiastically even when it began to rain near the end of the event, and **Francis the Clown** arrived in time to offer origami paper peace cranes to the remaining audience members and festival volunteers.

Some “snapshots” of the Festival scene: LEAP participants leading the opening parade, joyfully waving and throwing candy to Mountain

staff and Asheville residents lining the street; people of many races swaying rhythmically to the African Drumming and Dance; families eating together at the *Empty Bowls Luncheon*; children of all ages and their parents wandering together from booth to booth, talking to volunteers and discussing a multitude of justice issues.

Mayor Leni Sitnick gave a moving message of appreciation to the LEAP youth, acknowledging their efforts and marveling at their achievements. “THIS is the city of Asheville!” she exclaimed. **Ed Mangiafico**, (Massachusetts) Trustee of



Come-Unity Festival in Asheville – LEAP participants take a bow.

Continues on page 12

Milestone – Continued from page 11

the Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers board said, “I think it’s an inspiring tribute to the kids who made all this happen, and to the Milestone staff.” **Dr. Maureen Killoran**, Asheville, said, “Oh WOW! I really mean that! WOW!” as she tried to describe her pride in the youth. **Robin Wells** of Asheville Friends Meeting, who helped organize and plan for the festival said she was “thrilled to see the efforts of these teens come to fruition. It was inspiring watching the concept ‘hatch’



LEAP Booth at the Come-Unity Festival in Asheville.

and to now see it a huge success. It’s truly touching.” And LEAP Local Coordinator, **Laurel Amabile**, simply beamed when asked how she felt about the Festival. “Isn’t this just terrific? They DID it!”

It was a long, challenging process these past two years. Throughout all the difficulties and the excitement, LEAP youth achieved what many of us have never dared to do – to take a great “LEAP of faith” and turn a vision into reality. So, thanks, Asheville “LEAP-ers” for your commitment and persistence, and for your willingness to embark on this great journey.



Leni Sitnick, Mayor of Asheville, praises LEAP participants.

Milestone Awarded Grants from State of North Carolina

This spring, we had the opportunity to apply for funding from Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPC) in four different counties of North Carolina. An initiative out of North Carolina’s Office of Juvenile Justice, JCPCs are set up in each county to fund initiatives that either will help prevent juvenile crime or serve as intervention for those already involved in the court system. From four different counties (Franklin, Granville, Caswell and Vance), Milestone Learning Center was awarded approximately \$33,000 to provide a hybrid program that combines components of LEAP and LSSJ. Being funded by JCPCs not only provides a new constituency base, but it also provides an opportunity to try a new program model.

The hybrid program, called Community Leadership School, will combine local gatherings with workshop sessions here at **The Mountain**. Drawing upon 15 youth from each county, the program is intended to develop leadership skills and help participants figure out ways to positively influence their peers and the community as a whole. The Councils recognized the programs’ potential to create a “multiplier

effect,” impacting beyond the participant base.

Each program will also include an action project. Community Leadership School helps participants see themselves differently – as positive change agents and leaders among peers. Consequently, community members will gain new contexts in which to view and work with the youth. Stay tuned for updates about this ongoing opportunity!

Attention Leadership School for Social Justice Graduates:

E-mail **Sarah** at **The Mountain** (mountain@dnet.net subject line: Sarah) to find out how to sign up for the LSSJ E-mail Discussion List. We’re building the list in order to share ideas, stories and to spread the word about specific events. **ALL** of you have important things to say! Log on soon!

Quotes from LEAP Graduates

In the LEAP program I've learned how to work better with my peers. I have also gained more tolerance for all people.

Erin

I learned to be a better listener.

Kail

I learned through this program how to interact better with the media and my peers and how to take a confrontational role in leadership to organize an event.

Erica

It was a learning experience.

David

It taught me how to deal with difficult situations.

Melanie

For me, LEAP has provided me with the opportunity to develop and exercise my leadership capabilities. The experience has been invaluable, and the information I have learned will be carried with me for the rest of my life. I thank The Mountain Staff, Laurel, Asheville LEAP members, advisors, and the wonderfully supportive community we have become more involved in.

Christine

I learned how to work together as a group and plan a large-scale project.

Eric

Okay, not everything went exactly the way we planned, but we still had fun, and I think we made an influence on society. Here's to accomplishing what we didn't think we could at first!

Marc

I've learned through LEAP that anything is possible if you take it on with determination and enthusiasm.

However, breaks can be very refreshing!

Jeni

I've learned through the LEAP program that anything can be accomplished with inspiration.

Sarah

LEAP was an eye-opening experience that allowed me to experience first-hand the satisfaction of making a positive difference in the community.

Amy

Youth can make a change, when they take a leadership role.

Forrest

Over 100 people celebrated
New Year's 1999-2000 in the
“**Millennium I On The Mountain**” program.

It's time to begin thinking about **Millennium II**

Announcing

Milestone Learning Center's
New Year's Program 2000-2001
Millennium II On The Mountain
December 29, 2000 – January 2, 2001

Once again, Milestone Learning Center is bringing together a fine faculty, headed up by **Dr. Anthony Stringer**. You won't want to miss the full program description in the Milestone section of the August **The Mountain Matters**. Mark your calendars – this is **A NOT-TO-BE-MISSED EVENT!!!**

Last Call for Registrations! **Leadership School for Social Justice** **July 29 – August 4, 2000**

Do you want to become a better leader? Do you want to make a difference in your community? Are you thinking – “I'm not a leader at all!”? Do you want to get together with a group of youth at **The Mountain** to learn and have fun for a week? Sign up now for the summer week of LSSJ. If you need a scholarship, we'll help you out. Call **Sarah (ext. 241)** for more information about the program or the main office (**ext. 201**) to register. See you this summer!

LEARNING CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP

Views from the LCL

At the 2000 Annual Meeting, **Laurel Amabile** was recognized for her tireless contributions to Milestone Learning Center's charter Asheville LEAP program. A certificate was presented to Laurel, which read: "You will always stand out in the history of Milestone Learning Center for your great 'LEAP of Faith!' You transformed a vision into realities

that surpassed all expectations. Thank you for your energy, dedication, and genuine love of youth. Through your gentle guidance, humor and determination, many people are forever changed and inspired to contribute to a more just and ethical society."

And now, it is with great pleasure that MR&LCs' Learning Center for Leadership welcomes Laurel Amabile to the staff team in the role of Program Consultant — a position that is shared between LCL and the Thomas

Jefferson District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. As a member of the UUA's Field Staff, Laurel will invest 50% of her time in Life Span Religious Education Programs consulting for congregations throughout the TJ District. The other

half of her unique role will be working in LCL as a resource to the current Religious Education and Leadership School programs. She'll also be facilitating new leadership curricula, designing multi-faith leadership initiatives, and assisting in the development and assessments of web-based trainings for religious and/or community educators. Laurel will also work with Milestone as a resource in marketing, design and assessments, and will assist Milestone staff in their work with religious educators in their local communities. She'll serve as a resource to Retreat Center staff for securing professional and lay ministers for camps, and will help develop some education/training modules for specific Retreat Center programs.

Laurel is well known to the Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers staff. In addition to her Local Coordination of the Asheville LEAP program (see *highlights of the Asheville LEAP Festival*, page 11-12), she has a long history of working with our R.E. Weeks, Youth Cons, and has participated in other numerous programs and conferences. She has served as the full-time Director of Religious Education at the UU Church of Asheville since August 1994, and she will be sorely missed there. Laurel's

resume reflects a broad range of experience, interests and skills, and we are fortunate that she has accepted the enthusiastic job invitation extended to her by LCL, TJ District and the UUA. Welcome, Laurel!



Laurel Amabile applauds efforts of LEAP youth.

Religious Education Week 2000

Sunday, July 9 — Saturday, July 15, 2000

Each year, in the spectacular natural environment of **The Mountain**, religious educators come together to refresh themselves and their religious education ideas, and leave renewed and eager to meet new challenges. This year's theme, "Ministry with Families," will be led by **Pat Hoerl**, Director of Children's Programs and Ministry to Families at the UUA. Pat will direct a series of six workshops that includes philosophy and reflection and how-to information and skills training. In fun activities, participants will be engaged around general themes of FAMILY definition and celebration, FAMILY VALUES and UU identity/programs, and FAMILY MINISTRY—assessing needs of UU families and building resources/programs based on the strengths of families, as well as addressing the challenges and stresses of families. Pat will be assisted by **Phillip Lund**, a religious

education and Meadville-Lombard ministerial student.

Also on tap this week are workshops and focus groups on areas of concern to all religious educators. Topics include The Professional DRE; Compensation for Religious Educators; LEAP (Leadership: Ethical Action Project)—a program on the Asheville youth's experiences and success; district meetings. Other highlights include networking with other religious educators, intergenerational vespers, an evening campfire, music, and two afternoons of recreation. Teens and younger will have programming during adult programming.

Cost for the week (depending on lodging choice) includes food, lodging and programming. **Tubing is \$3-\$5 extra; high ropes for teens, \$25.**

Adults:	\$340-\$406	Youth 4-11:	\$190
Teens:	\$225	Youth 0-4:	\$90

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

ATTENTION! Time is Running Out — Register NOW!!!

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 stu-

dent **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.” 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).**

*“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.”*

Sandy Kunkle - Morehead City, NC



1999 Leadership School participants.

VOLUNTEERING

New Volunteers of Note

Robert E. Smith, Volunteer Coordinator, announced four new Volunteers of Note during the 2000 Annual Meeting:

Bob and Juanita Polk, Visionholders from Brevard, North Carolina, were recognized for service that extends over 20 plus years and

includes numerous work assignments, both as individuals and with UUC Asheville work parties, **Mountain** promotional work that brought many new

guests and members, and Juanita's service on the Board.

Bill Baum, Stone Mountain, Georgia, once Elderhostel guest and now steady volunteer, has been a regular presence for several months. We have taken advantage of his career

long background in construction management to

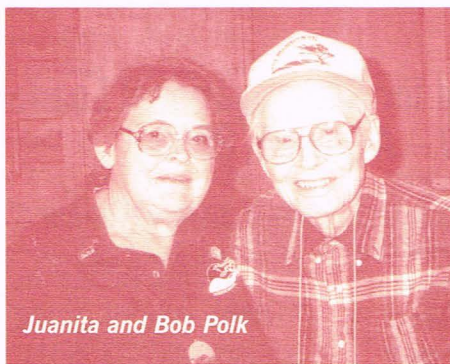
work on many facilities projects.

Joan Moore, Patron

member from Nashville, Tennessee, has been a Mountain Ambassador in her church, First UU of Nashville, for many years. She and husband **Joe**, who passed away last year, sold baked goods during coffee hour to fund scholarships for many youth to attend

camp. She unfailingly wrote news of **The Mountain** in her church newsletter and promoted all our programs.

Congratulations to these four and many thanks to all our Volunteers past and present.



Volunteers Working in Record Numbers

Through May, an unofficial tally shows that our volunteers have worked close to 2,800 hours thus far in 2000. This is almost what we record in a year for volunteers who don't fit into the Board, Ambassador and Faculty categories. This pace will keep up as **Bob and Diane Baum**, Lakeland Florida, join us on a full-time basis this summer, as did **John Hurn** and **Neal Andrae** in summers past. Bob Baum, normally a Biology Professor at Florida Southern University, has volunteered to be our "vegetarian" cook, particularly for camp. Diane is going to be assisting Tom on special projects.

Asked to account for this increase, **Robert E. Smith**, Volunteer Coordinator, stated "Our supporters have responded to our call because this is a great way to help **The Mountain** and have an almost vacation-like experience. We asked for help in our facilities work, and the response has been gratifying." Thus far, we have remodeled Cabin 8, painted the Development Office and the Ross/MacDicken home, completed a shed over the trailer and painted it, too. Also, our decks and railings have been pressure washed and treated. There are many more small but essential items of work that have been done. In addition, we have had volunteers in the Office, Housekeeping and Program Implementation.

If you want to join in on the "work-adventure," call or write **Robert E. Smith**, and he will help you arrange your

volunteer experience. Housing will be limited during camp sessions, but by mid-August and later we will have our usual flexibility in scheduling volunteers. Make your plans now.



Youth CON volunteers do road cleaning project.

GIVING

FOCUS

Our profound thanks to . . .
gifts
since
last
issue

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

Harry & Rene Donavon, McKinney, TX

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

Anonymous

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

Betty & Phil Green, Ormond Beach, FL

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

Carl & Pat Clements, Northport, AL

Patron Members (\$5,000+)

Bob MacDicken & Eileen Ross, Highlands, NC

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

Helen Bishop & Susan Gridel, Forest Park, IL

Tom Clephane, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Mary Frazier, Franklin, NC

Susanne McKelvey, Jacksonville, FL

George Miller, Atlanta, GA

Dolly Richmond, Franklin, NC

Dorothy & Robert Senghas, Burlington, VT

Ralph Thomas & Marcia Menard, Soddy Daisy, TN

Learning Center for Leadership (Gifts of \$250+)

Anonymous - \$5,000

Tom & Jane Warth, Highlands, NC - \$500

Milestone Learning Center (Gifts of \$250+)

Georgeanne Hoegerman, Niagara Falls, NY - \$2,000

Dan Zavan, Cincinnati, OH - \$500

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

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

Chet Hamilton, Ormond Beach, FL **

Gordon & Phyllis McKeeman, Charlottesville, VA

Scholarship Fund (Gifts of \$250+)

Margot Chapman, Atlanta, GA

Maralyn & Chris Christofferson, Scaly Mountain, NC

Joe DiBona, Nashville, TN

Richard & Cathryn Dubow, Atlanta, GA

Norma Huff, Atlanta, GA

Stephen & Caryl Kaplan, Oak Ridge, TN

Harold Johnson, Black Mountain, NC

Jack & Mary Ann Lawrence, Whispering Pines, NC

William & Virginia Nickerson, Atlanta, GA

Howard & Carole Ory, Atlanta, GA

Daniel Rosenbaum, Bethesda, MD

Stan & Jo Ann Rosenbaum, Ormond Beach, FL

Wendy Suzman, Atlanta, GA

Ralph W. Thomas, Soddy Daisy, TN

Tula, Inc., Atlanta, GA

Newton & Martha Turk, Atlanta, GA

Special Gifts/General Fund (Gifts of \$250+)

Lilo Strauss, Atlanta, GA

Gifts to the Endowment Fund

June Cravens Sholin, Marietta, GA

Memorial Memberships

Garry L. Tisdale - 1943-2000

In Memoriam

Rick Bloedau, Oak Ridge, TN
Garry L. Tisdale, Alexandria, LA

Additional Short-Term Loans to Help Maintain The Mountain

Ian & Shelley Denham, Highlands, NC

Betty & Don Hostetler, N. Augusta, SC

Doug & Ouida Hotch, Sky Valley, GA

Tom & Jane Warth, Highlands, NC

Jerri & John Wood, Hellertown, PA

Life Membership Options

- Single payment of \$2,000 (check, credit card or stock/mutual funds)
- Five year payments totaling \$2,500
 - Annually at \$500
 - Quarterly at \$125
 - Monthly at \$41.67

Remember our Bank Draft Options!

The Mountain will deduct your monthly or quarterly membership payment from your designated account. Contact **Larry Wheeler** at **Ext. 230** for more information.

Projects to Help Get Ready for Summer

Every summer requires a review of what needs to be done to give our campers and guests the best experience they can possibly have here. This year is a bit extraordinary in that regard, with several "high ticket" items needing to be replaced or added:

■ **Bunk Beds/Guard Rails – 48 @ \$220 = \$10,500**



Our current bunk beds were purchased in 1980 – they no longer meet OSHA standards. The new bunks are environmentally friendly, constructed of recycled materials and guaranteed to never split or crack. They also will have guard rails.

■ **Large Steam Table =**

\$2,000

■ **Small Steam Table = \$1,000**

The current steam table was also purchased in 1980 **AND** we need a second one so we can do a more complete job with vegetarian entrees.



■ **Challenge Course/Rock**

• **Climbing Equipment = \$1,500**

The new challenge course was a major hit last summer and we need more equipment for it and a revitalized rock climbing program.

■ **Youth Camp Athletic Equipment = \$500**

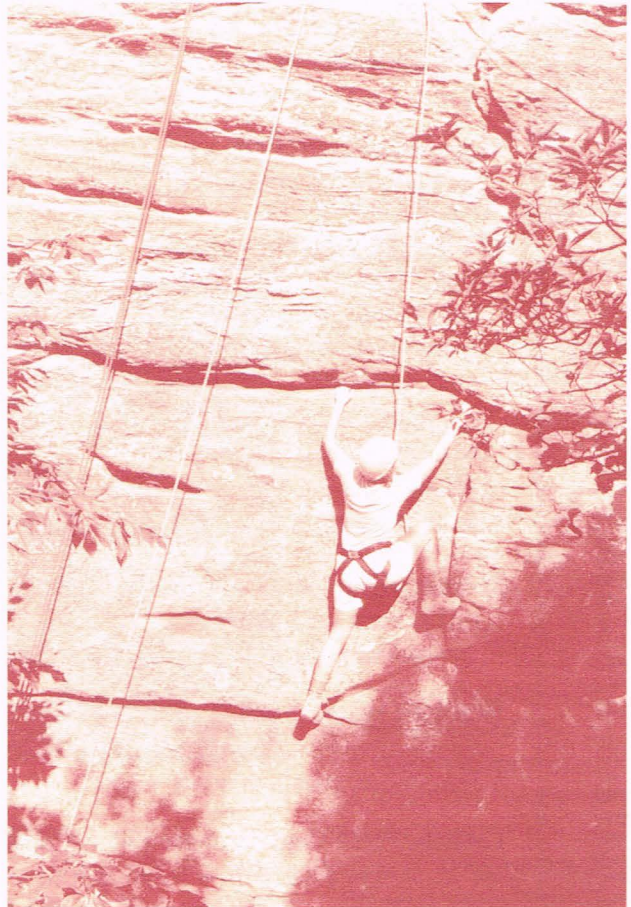
■ **Shade Canopy for Athletic Field = \$500**

We regularly need to replace athletic equipment, and a 10' x 20' shade canopy will be a great addition for warm, sunny days.

■ **Whitewater Rafts – 2 @ \$2,000 = \$4,000**

With increased emphasis on our whitewater program, we need two new rafts.

Please help us have this equipment in place for the summer programming. You can send a check or use a credit card. You can also pledge an amount to be paid by December 31, 2000. Use the form at the bottom of page 19.



Rock climbing equipment must be carefully maintained and replaced regularly to meet **Mountain** safety requirements.

Shelter Neck Needs Our Help

Shelter Neck, a Camp and Conference Center in rural southeastern North Carolina, has been a meeting place for Unitarians and Universalists for almost a century. Last year several historic buildings were severely damaged by the devastation left in the wake of Hurricane Floyd, and the property was not covered by flood insurance. A repair plan has been undertaken that is estimated at \$65,000 and will take several months to complete. In addition, there is, and will be, plenty of work for volunteers.

We encourage our readers to consider a financial donation and/or one of time to help out the Shelter Neck facility. To do so:

Make checks out to:

UCONCI (Unitarian Convention of North Carolina, Inc.)

Memo: **Shelter Neck Repair**

Send to/contact:

Pete Leary, P.O. Box 31184, Raleigh, NC 27622-1184
(919) 781-6494 — guildmasters@mindspring.com

Have you included The Mountain in your estate plan?

If you have and aren't sure that we know this, please let us know. If you haven't, consider doing so with a planned gift to either **The Mountain** or **The Mountain's Endowment Fund**.

Your planned gift could be a bequest in your will (which can easily be accomplished through a codicil), a future donation during your lifetime, or something more complex such as a Charitable Remainder Trust.

Contact **Larry Wheeler** at **Ext 230** for more information.

The President's Society

Please consider joining **Mountain** members and friends who have demonstrated their commitment to the long-term financial viability of The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers. By making or committing to a planned gift for either **The Mountain** or **The Mountain Endowment Fund**, you will become a member of **The President's Society**. Recognition of the Society members (with their permission) will be via a special plaque, a handsome pin, in written materials, and at events hosted by the President of **The Mountain**, **Tom Warth**.

Development Questions?

Contact **Larry Wheeler** at (828) 526-5838, Ext. 230 or e-mail him at mountain@dnet.net (with **attn: Larry** in the subject line).



Thanksgiving on The Mountain

The Life Members Thanksgiving will be held November 22-26, 2000. This extended weekend features the fabulous Thanksgiving Dinner, Meditation Concert on Thanksgiving evening, and a "giving-back-to-The Mountain Work Party" Thanksgiving morning. The other days are full of our favorite activities and the latest news on what's up at **The Mountain**.

We are delighted that **Reverend Jim McKinley** from the Hendersonville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will be our Minister for the weekend.

This is a "feeless" program open to all Life Members and their families. Other family members who are not dependents or Life Members will pay a program fee. Reservations will be taken starting in September, but if you are interested, start planning ahead so you can have all the arrangements made and can register right away. Registrations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mountain lovers who aren't yet Life Members should consider a Life Membership and join us for one of the most special times of the year on **The Mountain**. Call us or complete the tear-off coupon below and send it in.

Matching Gifts Can Make a Real Difference

In 1999, Mountain Donors discovered that their places of work are often likely to match their gifts to **The Mountain**. We received more than \$20,000 in matching funds as a result.

We mention this to encourage more of you to check in to your own work place situation in this regard. Matching Gift programs are becoming more flexible about eligibility for matching funds. With the addition of Milestone Learning Center's focus on educational programs, we have a good chance to qualify for matching grant programs.

Contact **Larry Wheeler** to explore your own situation and help to double your gift to **The Mountain**!



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

Apply my contribution to:

☐ Life Member ☐ Summer Projects ☐ Scholarship Fund ☐ General Fund

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$750 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$_____

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

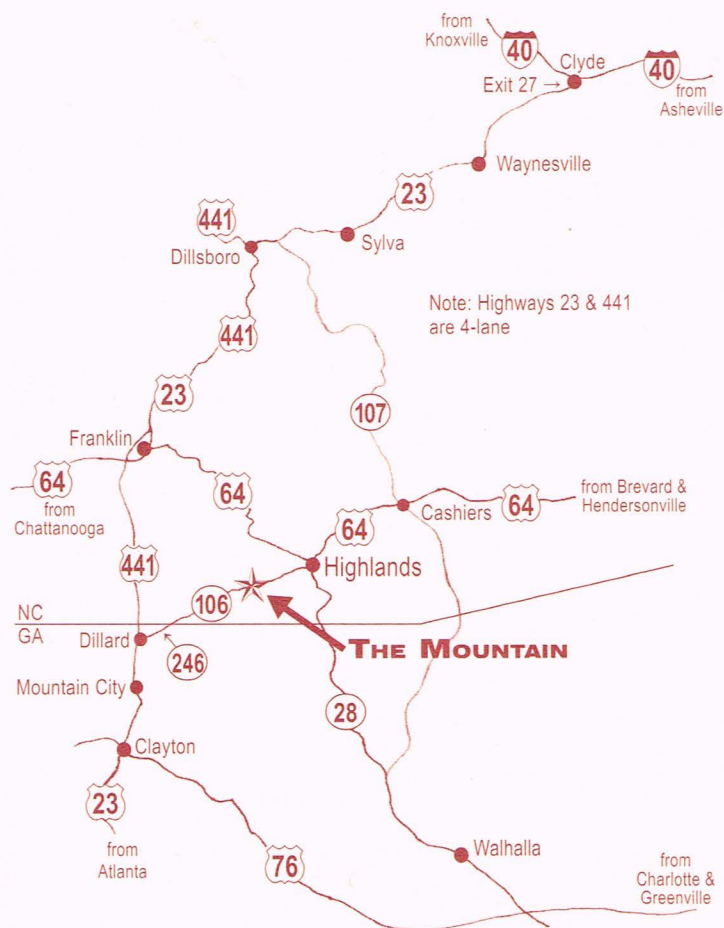
Name: _____ Signature on Card: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

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



Travel Information

The Mountain is located on NC 106 (Dillard Road) and is 4 miles southwest of Highlands, NC. Our recommended route is from Dillard, GA. At the Dillard traffic light, turn east from US 23/441 onto GA Hwy. 246 (NC 106). Our entrance is 10 miles on the right from the Dillard stoplight, just over a hilltop. When you see the Lick Log Mill store, you are close; our entrance is just over the next big hill.



THE MOUNTAIN
 RETREAT & LEARNING CENTERS, INC.
 P.O. Box 1299 • Highlands, NC 28741
 (828) 526-5838 • fax (828) 526-2511
 e-mail: mountain@dnnet.net • www.mrlc.org

Presorted
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 Highlands, NC
 Permit No. 46

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