

THE Mountain matters

The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, Inc.

September 2001

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published bimonthly by

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From The President

Thank you, Members of The Mountain! You voted overwhelmingly in favor of a by-laws change that expands our Board of Trustees from 11 to up-to 22 members. This increase encompasses far more than numbers: it is a signal that we are all ready to embrace the dramatically larger vision of what The Mountain can be—and do—in this world.

The achievement of this vision will require significant changes in the governing structure, as well as the acceptance of greater responsibility on the part of trustees and staff alike.

Many people have brought this Mountain to where it is today with hard work, money, vision, passions and commitments. But we also have been very lucky people to be blessed by this mountain community. And we

are responsible to each other, to this organization, to our local and world communities. It is not just the **acceptance**, but the **joyful embrace** of these responsibilities that energizes us to live our values and achieve our vision.

The Mountain's vision statement—"to actively participate in the creation of a society transformed – a society which promotes

equal rights, removes oppression and enhances the delicate balance between humanity and nature"—calls us to be leaders for change in the world. In their book, *Leading with Soul – An Uncommon Journey of Spirit*, authors Lee G. Bolman and Terrence E. Deal write, "Historically humans have found meaning in work, family, community and shared faith. They have drawn upon collective resources to do what they could not do alone."

And that's what it's all about, this governance change—drawing upon collective re-

sources to do what we cannot do alone, surrounding ourselves with greater diversity of experience, skills and background to achieve the tremendous potential of this organization.

Eighteen of the currently elected or ap-

pointed trustees participated in a meeting August 17-19, 2001. They came from eleven states, and represented the diversity of age, gender, orientation, race, culture and faith that reflects our growing constituencies. They learned about each other, the staff, the programs and The Mountain itself. They engaged in dialogue about why they answered the call



Front row: Warth, McNatt, Senghas, Damon, Johnson, Russell, Shirley, Cotman, Griffith; Back Row: Rothman, Stringer, Keane, Blevins, Parrish, Findley, Courter, Mangiafico.

Continued on page 2

From the President – Continued from page 1

to service, they looked inward and outward to assess where their skills could be put to best use and they created a covenant around how they would work together to assure accountability to one another, the staff and The Mountain.

Our trustees are volunteers. They give of their time and energy because of their belief in the vision of The Mountain. But we clearly heard this weekend from each and every one of them that they are also here to learn, grow and that they consider their trusteeship as one way to fulfill their personal passions for justice, community, spirituality and service.

In addition to the elected trustees profiled in the April 2001 Election Edition of *The Mountain Matters*, three new members were appointed by the Board on August 18. They are:

Gini Courter, a specialist in personal computer applications, is co-owner of TRIAD Consulting, LLC, a computer consulting, database development and training company serving education and industry. She is the author of Sybex Books (1995 – present) and is author/co-author of seventeen personal computer books, including seven academic textbooks. Ginny has been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees since 1995, and is currently the chair of the UUA Finance Committee. She's a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Grand Traverse, Traverse City, Michigan.

Adam Griffith is a 6th grade Science teacher in Houston, Texas. He served as Co-Coordinator of the 2001 **MountainCamp**, and was a counselor in the summers of 1996-1998. Adam started as a camper at The

Mountain in 1992. Adam earned a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Environmental Science at Roanoke College. He says, "I am honored to fill a position on the Board of Trustees. . . . It seems ironic that as I grow, the challenges of The Mountain have grown with me, and my mind wanders to the recurring question: Where will the next 20 years take us?"

Richard Rothman is no stranger to The Mountain, having worked with us for over two years as our Land Use Architect, and his passion for Sustainable Living has inspired and educated staff, trustees and members throughout his relationship with us. Richard is an architect-planner based in the Chattanooga area offering consulting services to governments,

institutions, property owners, land trusts, real estate developers, and fellow planning and design professionals. He has more than 35 years of experience and is committed to the planning and design of communities that are livable, sustainable and aesthetically pleasing.

For a complete list of the Board of Trustees to date, see below.

In the next edition of *The Mountain Matters*, we'll take a look at the Board configuration, the portfolios, and how this dynamic governance model positions The Mountain for the exciting challenges and opportunities ahead!

The Mountain will be served well by this talented, energetic, passionate group of trustees.

Tom

Board of Trustees: 2001-2002

Chair		Trustees	
Tony Stringer	Georgia	John Blevins	Missouri
Secretary & Planning		John Bohstedt	Tennessee
Hildegard Gray	Georgia	Rosemary Bray McNatt	New York
Financial Advisor		Ivan Cotman	Michigan
Jean Findley	Louisiana	Gini Courter	Michigan
Board Leadership		Lanie Damon	Georgia
Ed Mangiafico	Massachusetts	Jewel Graham	Ohio
Recording Secretary		Adam Griffith	Texas
Claire Keane	Georgia	Janice Marie Johnson	New York
President, CEO		Bruce Parrish	Georgia
Tom Warth	North Carolina	Richard Rothman	Georgia
Vice President, CFO		Tom Russell	Missouri
Neal Resch	North Carolina	Dorrie Senghas	Vermont
		Jeanne Shirly	Arizona

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network Conference Highlights

"I was told it would change my life and it did."

"The rating scale should have been from excellent to off the map!"

From all over the United States and Canada, UU musicians, music committee and choir members, and ministers gathered at The Mountain July 31-August 5 for the annual Continental Conference of UUMN. This year's theme was **"Making a Joyful Noise: the Powerful Presence of Music in Congregations!"** This is only the second time in the 18-year history of UUMN that a conference was held in a Retreat Center setting—and both of these were held at The Mountain. Usually, large congregations host the event from coast to coast.

UUMN conference attendees benefited from a collaboration between all three of the Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers' Program Divisions. **The Retreat Center** provided the hospitality, including the wonderful meals, for 150 people! Handling all the logistics of a major conference, the Retreat Center staff received many accolades and thanks in evaluations—they cared about the conference and it showed. **Helen Bishop**, Director of the **Learning Center for Leadership**, provided an intensive training for the UUMN

Board during their pre-conference meeting. She also facilitated a visioning workshop for the conference and a session on conflict management. One result of Helen's sessions was a commitment on the part of many participants to work to achieve a higher profile of music and its role in congregations throughout their communities and Districts. **Milestone Learning Center's** role was to coordinate the entire conference bringing into the theme the message of social justice, service and activism through music and congregational life.

Dr. Kenneth Nafziger, Professor of Music at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, was the choral clinician. Through his sensitive understanding of the power of music, and profound commitment to congregational singing as "the most holy part of worship," Ken allowed participants to take the time to truly enter into the music. He reminded us that "the text is the way to the music, and the music is the way to the soul." And, indeed, a "Joyful Noise" resounded throughout The Mountain!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Bookkeeper/Accountant to work with accounts payable, disbursements, general journal, payroll, financial reports, filing and other office processes.

Qualifications: accounting education and/or training and experience required. IBM-Type computer proficiency required. Will be using computerized accounting program (Peachtree Complete), Excel spreadsheets and some word processing with training available.

Salary range: \$18,000-\$24,000 depending on qualifications.

Email, call or write **Neal Resch**, Chief Financial Officer, neal.resch@mountaincenters.org; **828-526-5838, ext. 204**.

Food Service Associate to work with menu planning, food ordering and food preparation with limited supervisory responsibility for dishwashing staff. This is a year-round position.

Qualifications: experience and interest in volume cooking; vegetarian experience desirable but not required.

Salary in mid-\$20s.

Email, call or write **Jim Short**, Executive Assistant to the President, jim.short@mountaincenters.org; **828-526-5838, ext. 217**.

Full-time position benefits include group insurance (medical, dental, life) and disability insurance, retirement plan, and vacation and sick leave. Staff may eat meals in Dining Hall at reduced rates, and limited staff housing may be possible.

MILESTONE LEARNING CENTER

Leadership Schools for Social Justice (LSSJ) served 115 youth this summer! Here are a few of the highlights:

First Unitarian Church, Dallas, Texas

Back for their third consecutive year, 21 high school youth attended a week long LSSJ at the Mountain, focusing on service. During their program, this group contributed 30 hours to the Atlanta City Mission, 40 hours to Project Open Hand in Atlanta, and 100 hours to the Western North Carolina Rescue Mission. When asked what they were taking home with them, they responded with comments such as:

"My responsibility to be a leader as a UU."

"A better sense of my leadership style."

"The importance of living with intentionality."

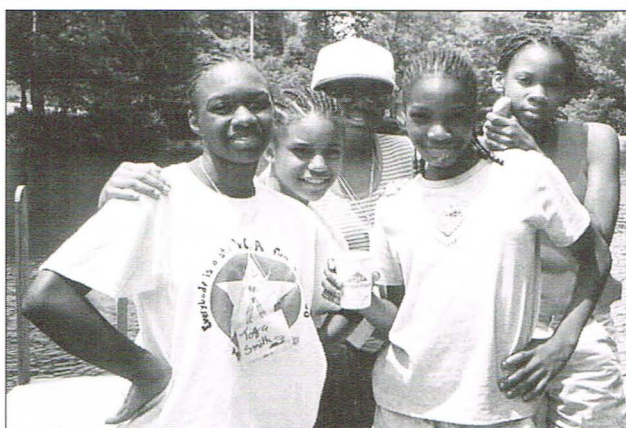
"A commitment to be involved in the Dallas area, because we don't just have to do service at The Mountain."

We look forward to seeing many of these youth again in 2002!

Boys and Girls Club Camp, Sanford-Lee

Thirty-one youth, many of whom had never spent a week away from home—never mind in the mountains!—participated in a "potpourri" of activities here on The Mountain in June. Sponsored by the Kamp Kagan Scholarship Fund, this program was intended to provide a camp experience with leadership and social awareness components. Junior High Mountain Campers welcomed the Boys & Girls Club Campers into morning circles, a rainy-day-dance, and afternoon field-play. Children, Milestone staff, chaperones and

Sanford-Lee, North Carolina Boys & Girls Club Board members who attended all learned a great deal about embracing diversity—and what that truly means. It was an adventure for all—and we hope, just the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship with Boys & Girls Clubs of America!



Boys and Girls Campers enjoy the Lake.

Rowe Camp and Conference Center/DeBenneville Pines

For the first time this year, Milestone staff offered tracks of Leadership School to youth and young adults at two well-known UU camp and conference centers. In June, **Kirstin Maanum** led a two-day leadership and awareness building training for Transitions and Young People's Camp Counselors at Rowe Camp and Conference Center in Rowe, Massachusetts. This was a great beginning to a partnership with Rowe after Felicity Pickett, the Director of Rowe, visited The Mountain in March.

Changing focus and location, Kirstin went to DeBenneville Pines (located outside of Angelus Oaks, Cali-

fornia) from July 1-21, where "Leadership School for Social Justice" was the theme for the Junior High Camp. Sixty-eight youth gathered every morning in both large and small groups to explore their leadership styles, further their understanding of the inequality of wealth in the U.S., the effects of Globalization, and how to take action in

their respective communities. The final day was dedicated to creating a banner entitled "This is what democracy looks like!" It was a true and creative depiction of the everyday opportunities to be responsible, and there is no doubt that these youth left camp with a greater sense, not only of their responsibilities, but also of their capabilities to start taking the steps necessary to effect change . . . NOW!

New Milestone Program Coordinator

We extend a warm welcome to **Samantha Ellis**, new Program Coordinator on the Milestone Team. Samantha just arrived on August 17, after spending a year in Cameroon. In her letter of application, Samantha said, "I fully support the Milestone's mission to empower youth to become voices and catalysts for social change through creative means and I would like to work in this endeavor... In my Masters program, I took courses in Social Change, Conflict Transformation, and designed training and projects in my Training of Trainers: Social Action course. We also practiced extensively the art of group facilitation while ex-

Continued on page 5

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 to mid size groups.

October 2001

Sept. 30–Oct. 5 **Elderhostel**

5-7 **Moving Along Our Spiritual Path of Greatness**

5-7 UU of Hendersonville, UU of Transylvania
County & Franklin UU Fellowship Retreat

7-12 **Elderhostel**

12-14 NWUU Retreat

12-14 UUC Atlanta Men's Retreat

12-14 Presbyterian Student Center

14-19 **Elderhostel**

15-19 Enviroscope

19-21 Winston-Salem UU Retreat

21-26 **Elderhostel**

26-28 **The Church Retreat You Don't Have to Plan!**

28-Nov. 2 **Elderhostel**

November 2001

2-4 **Junior High CON**

2-4 **Gays of Our Lives**

9-11 Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus

12-15 SEUUMA Fall retreat

16-18 **Junior High CON**

16-18 Gay Spirit Visions Planning Committee Retreat

21-24 Thanksgiving

December 2001

Nov. 30-2 **Native Voices**

Mountain Board of Trustees meeting

7-9 **Senior High CON**

20-23 **The Gifts of the Solstice**

23-26 **Christmas: Light in the Dark**

28-Jan. 1 **New Years: Celebrating Interdependence**

January 2002

11-13 **Mountain Volunteer Host Training**

18-20 **Junior High CON**

18-20 Mountain Ambassadors Weekend

25-27 **Adult CON**

25-27 **Gay Spirit Visions Winter Gathering**

A gathering of people on Meditation Rock during the "Native Voices" program.



February 2002

1-3 **Dinner & a Movie**

8-10 **Senior High CON**

15-17 Atlanta Knitters

15-17 Board of Trustees

22-24 **Senior High CON**

March 2002

10-15 **Elderhostel**

17-22 **Elderhostel**

18-22 UU Retired Ministers Association Conference

22-24 **Native Voices**

24-29 **Elderhostel**

April 2002

1-4 SEUUMA

7-12 **Elderhostel**

14-19 **Elderhostel**

19-21 **9th Annual Lesbian Retreat: Staying Power**

21-26 **Elderhostel**

26-28 **GSV Spring Gathering**

28-May 3 **Elderhostel**

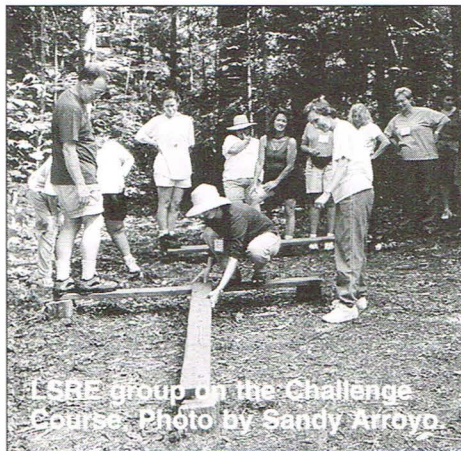
Milestone Learning Center – Continued from page 4

ploring group dynamics and cultivating leadership skills. . . . At Catholic Relief Services in Cameroon, I helped our Cameroonian partners design and implement large-scale projects that focus on Peace and Justice. We did problem analyses to find sustainable and feasible projects that include education, a participatory approach, and advocacy. . . ." Samantha's husband, **Malcolm**, will join The Mountain staff in the IT Group, after he completes his current assignment in Cameroon.

LEARNING CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP

The Learning Center for Leadership ran two residential programs this summer: a new Leadership School for Religious Educators (LSRE), and The Mountain School for Congregational Leadership (MSCL). Both programs were based on traditional Leadership School models, which center around work in small groups, process observation, feedback, and presentations on aspects of congregational life.

Religious educators, for whom this



LSRE group on the Challenge Course. Photo by Sandy Arroyo.

was the first opportunity to attend a Leadership School focused on their professional interests, issues and concerns, were ecstatic about the program. They helped create models of Unitarian Universalist congregations, worked in small groups on tasks and case studies related to the role of religious education in congregational leadership, and explored their own interpersonal styles and behaviors. They shared reflections with one another in Credo groups, and pushed their own limits in the Challenge Course. Unanimously, faculty and participants recommended the continuation of a Leadership School with a special focus on religious education.

Participants at The Mountain School for Congregational Leadership went through the same types of experiences, with one big difference from other schools. The MSCL faculty included a music director, several parish ministers, and a religious educator, so people heard presentations on the roles of all these professions in the creation of congregational leadership teams. Having the opportunity to hear from people who serve in these positions was described as one of the best aspects of this year's MSCL, and plans are to continue this practice, adding church administration as well. Next year's Leadership Schools will build on the strengths of these established and well-regarded programs. We hope to you'll be there next summer!



LSRE 2001 Faculty.

ENROLL – LEARN – SAVE

- You'll receive:
- *Leadership Matters*, a quarterly newsletter on transformational leadership
 - 10% reduction in LCL program fees (residential and on-line) for individuals and up to 3 people for congregations

Name _____ Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone numbers _____ Email address _____

Send my newsletter by: ☐ E-mail ☐ Regular Mail I need: ☐ large print ☐ Spanish ☐ English

☐ Check Enclosed (made payable to **The Mountain**): \$ _____

☐ Charge Credit Card: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard \$ _____

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Annual LCL Subscription Fees

☐ \$40 Individuals

Congregations (adult members):

☐ \$75 Small (up to 150)

☐ \$150 Large (451-750)

☐ \$100 Midsize (151-450)

☐ \$200 Corporate (over 750)

Mail payment and form to:

The Mountain Retreat & Learning Centers, Inc.

P.O. Box 1299, Highlands, NC 28741

(828) 526-5838 • Fax (828) 526-2511 • info@mountaincenters.org

RETREAT CENTER

2001 – One of the Largest MountainCamps Ever

This year was an incredible year for MountainCamp.

Our summer staff had the opportunity to serve 310 campers, the most ever for MountainCamp! Five of our camp sessions served more youth than ever before—it certainly was an exciting year. The numbers only tell half the tale, while certainly experiencing our expected share of camp illness and bumps and bruises, we had zero major injuries or incidents for the summer. This is quite an accomplishment! Additionally, zero campers were sent home due to behavioral issues, a true testament that campers are committed to the community that happens here for eight weeks every summer.



2001 MountainCampers helping build rampway.

New Backcountry Adventure Camp a Big Success

This summer also witnessed the inaugural Backcountry Adventure Camp, where campers spent 10+ days hiking the Great Smoky Mountain National Park covering over 70 miles. It was exciting to see the enthusiasm and support of both Jr. and Sr. High camp sessions (filling to capacity), and based on camper and counselor feedback, both went incredibly well.

MountainCamp touches lives. The Leadership Team, the counselors, and the year round staff all help create experiences and memories that will last a lifetime. Whether it is maintenance building something with the ASCENDERS or the CITs learning leadership and role modeling by working with elementary campers, we are all touching lives. And in the process, having our own lives touched.

Camp Assessments

This year camp made a concentrated effort to gather information about the impact the camp experience is making on the lives of the youth who participate. The goal was to find specific areas that youth felt created a change in their lives in a lasting way due to their camp experience. With the help of **Helen Bishop**, Director of Learning Center for Leadership, a camp assessment form was developed. This form

was issued before and after camp to a random group of individuals in both the Jr. High and Sr. High camp sessions. The sample size was about 10% of the total number of campers participating in those camps. Here are some of the results:

% of youth who believe the reason camp makes a positive lasting impact:

Made friends:	100%
Programs are well planned:	67%
Counselors really care about me:	100%
I've learned to value the environment:	100%
Acquired leadership skills:	100%
Gained knowledge about social change:	75%

Some Testimonials from The Assessments:

Camp will influence me in the future by . . .

"Giving me the chance to meet long lasting friends, helping me learn more about myself, helping me lean more about others, and not judging people."

"Teaching me how to live with others."

"A feeling of love and friendship . . ."

"Gives me more self confidence, and helped me think before I make decisions."

"Being more aware of diversity in people."

MountainCamp Participant Makes The News!

Matt Griffin, a Sr. High BackCountry participant, spent two weeks in June hiking the Great Smoky Mountain National Park with seven other Sr. High Students and two counselors. They covered over 70 miles in ten days of hiking. When Matt got home, he packed his backpack again and walked for 44 more days covering over 800 miles on his trip from Jackson, Michigan to Gordon College in Massachusetts. Matt raised about \$500 in pledges for the American Heart Association.

GIVING

GIFTS SINCE LAST ISSUE

Our profound thanks to . . .

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

Pat Gnagey, Franklin, NC
Char & David Jackson, Cincinnati, OH

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

Ed & Jean Mangiafico, Chatham, MA

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

Ivan & Jeanetta Cotman, Detroit, MI
Claire Keane, Rabun Gap, GA

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

Helen Bishop & Susan Grider, El Sobrante, CA
Bruce Parrish, Atlanta, GA

Patron Members (\$5,000+)

Adam Griffith, Houston, TX
Bob & Dorrie Senghas, Burlington, VT
Emily & Norman Sokoloff, Miami, FL

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

John & Shirley Blevins, Kansas City, MO
Rosemary Bray McNatt & Bob McNatt, New York, NY
Tim Campbell, Tallahassee, FL
Gini Courter, Charlotte Cowtan, Annette Marquis, Flint, MI
Janice Johnson, Brooklyn, NY
Hal Reed & Terry Morales, Orlando, FL
Jeanne Shirley & Sal Nuccio, Tucson, AZ
Jim Short, Highlands, NC

Memorial Memberships (\$1,500)

Rebecca Calhoun Dillard, 1951-2001

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

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

Elinort Artman, Highlands, NC **
Estate of Sally Bellamy, Tallahassee, FL **
Harry & Rene Donavon, McKinney, TX **
Jim, Joan & Marylyn Wamsley, Alexandria, VA
Larry Wheeler & Nancy Heath, Sky Valley, GA
Dan & Xiaojie Zvon, Cincinnati, OH **

Mountain Camp Scholarship Fund (Gifts of \$200+)

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

Katherine Kaiser, Cashiers, NC

Endowment Fund Contributions (Gifts of \$250+)

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

Sue & Dan Boyce, Bloomfield Hills, MI **
Virginia Carver, Athens, GA **
Harry & Rene Donavon, McKinney, TX **

Building Our Vision – Step 1

Dining Hall Remodeling (Gifts of \$250+)

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

Paula & Stan Blair, Ft Myers, FL
Bob & Nancy Duggan, Leesburg, FL
Irv & Millie Kagan, Atlanta, GA **
Sandy Kunkle, Newport, NC **
Verda Little, Richmond, VA
Morrow Insurance Agency, Hendersonville, NC
Donna & Ernie Schmid, Winston, Salem, NC
Nancy Wylie, Atlanta, GA **

New or Renewed Short-Term Loans or Promissory Notes

Susan Bloomfield, Augusta, GA
Bob & Carolyn Hargrove, Macon, GA
Anne Heath, Duluth, GA
Margaret Ann Hogue, Grovetown, GA
Steve Hollingsworth & Daidee Springer, Chattanooga, TN
Marianne Koerner, Sag Harbor, NY
John Lantz, Avondale Estates, GA
Bill Mareska, Augusta, GA
Dixie & Miles McGinty, Sylva, NC
Bobbi Stenstrom, Augusta, GA
Mimi Stevens, Alexandria, VA



In Memoriam

Marjorie (Midge) Bronson, Hendersonville, NC

Frisbee Golf Course Debuts

For years, **Larry Wheeler**, has dreamed that The Mountain would one day have a Frisbee Golf Course for all ages to enjoy. This summer he and wife, **Nancy Heath**, along with several family members and friends, donated the funds to purchase a 9-hole portable course. **Mike Stein**, Youth Programs Director, reports that it was a big hit with the campers.

Many thanks to Larry and Nancy, **Brian and Jean Wheeler**, **Mo Wheeler**, **Margie** and **Paul Wheeler**, **Ken** and **Jeannine Suda**, plus **Ivan** and **Jeanetta Cotman** and **Betty** and **M.H. Rahn** (these latter two made donations in honor of Larry's 60th birthday).

Life Memberships truly impact The Mountain, and The Mountain truly impacts Life Members

Comments from Life Members

When the business plan was established in 1979 for what we now know as The Mountain, a key element was Life Memberships. We knew that for this operation to get off the ground we needed to raise \$330,000 in the first eighteen months. We exceeded that goal, raising \$352,000, much of it from the 280 family units who became Charter Life Members. In many respects they have made it possible for us to be enjoying this wonderful place today.

One of those people, **Sue Folk**, from Columbia, South Carolina was a member of the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI) Board that supported the development of the effort that led to the founding of The Mountain. She says:

"I often refer to The Mountain as Magic Mountain, because I've seen people changed, at least temporarily, and probably permanently, on The Mountain. And I know it has changed me in a variety of ways. One morning while visiting The Mountain, I looked at the view spread out below. I could not breathe for several seconds. Literally. It was that beautiful. Since that time, I see my surroundings more clearly, more deliberately, and I have passed this on to those I love. We really do stop and smell the roses, admire the birds and flowers and trees and sky and so on and so on. This, to me, is magic.

"When I first heard about the dream to purchase a retreat in the mountains, I was, to say the least, skeptical, and I was not alone. As I became more involved in the project, I could see that it would be a wonderful thing, but was still a bit unsure that people would support such an undertaking. It wasn't until the day I first drove to the property, that I really began to believe. I felt it was not only possible, it was, for loss of a better word, imperative. I became a true believer, and when it came time to "sell" The Mountain, I was ready and anxious to begin.

"Prior to that time, I had NOT been a public speaker. For instance, when I was president of my children's school PTA, I would wind up with sweat running down the backs of my legs into my shoes before the meetings had ended. As a Mountain volunteer fund raising coordinator I was assigned to cover South Carolina, East Georgia and eventually some of North Carolina. I was given a "goal" and I remember that I got 157% of that goal the first time around. And I loved talking about The Mountain. I know that my enthusiasm for the undertaking was instrumental in getting

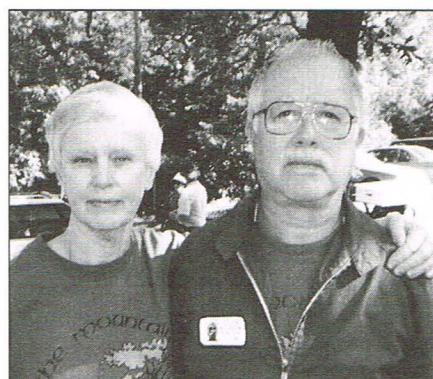
others interested. And today, just try to keep me from speaking out on any subject close to my heart and to anyone at all.

"I can leave my day-to-day problems behind at The Mountain. I know that my blood pressure and pulse are lower as soon as I get there. My family problems do not disappear, but they have the sense to stay in Columbia and I am free on The Mountain. My money problems seem to stand aside, and although I know they'll be waiting for me, I cannot actively worry when I am there.

"There is a spiritual quality at The Mountain that is hard to define. It is a combination of the caring of the people one for another and the acceptance of me as I am, warts and all, as well as the beauty of the surroundings, that brings joy to my heart and peace to my senses."

Carole Light has also been involved from the very beginning, starting as a member of the Feasibility Study Committee. Her service to The Mountain has been very regular. In the early 1990's she chaired the Board of Trustees for two years and she currently serves on the Retreat Center Director Search Committee. She and husband, **Alex Redmountain**, now live in Scaly Mountain, North Carolina, about five miles from The Mountain. Carole says, "Alex and I moved to Scaly Mountain so we could be close to The Mountain. We knew there would be stimulating, meaningful volunteer work to be done here, as well as the context of a community to do it within. When our lives don't allow direct involvement, we contribute passion, money, and commitment that helps ground us in ways that better enable us to live our values."

In 1981, **Todd Hornberger**, the son of **Anne and Bob Hornberger** of Gainesville, Florida, was selected to be a part of



the first ASCENDER program (a summer leadership training program for Senior Highs). Out of that experience, his parents became Life Members and over the years have been among The Mountain's most consistent supporters—both financially and as volunteers. Today they serve as

Continued on page 10

Mountain / Life Member Impact – Continued from page 9

Elderhostel Hosts and are the Mountain Ambassadors in the Gainesville Fellowship. They recently wrote in the Gainesville newsletter, "The Mountain is a place of great natural beauty with panoramic views in all directions. You may be in the clouds or you may look down on birds soaring over the valleys below.... Probably most important is the sense of community which The Mountain engenders. There are no strangers there. You meet wonderful and caring people, staff and guests alike." On a personal note they indicated that, "For us The Mountain is a place of healing and a source of inspiration. It reaffirms our highest ideals and gives us hope in this conflict-torn world."

Pippa Purcell and **Joe Speidel** started as campers in the 1980s and eventually became counselors. Today they live in Charlotte, North Carolina and are the parents of **Clay** and **Jake**. Clay has been part of Beginning Camp the past two summers. They comment, "We grew up visiting The Mountain with our parents and enjoying it as a family resource. In becoming Life Members we have cemented our intention of doing the same with our children for years to come."

In the early 1990s, **Dan** and **Sue Boyce** from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan came to The Mountain for the first time with their three boys, **K.C.** (then 10), **Geoff** (then 7), and **Steven** (then 5). They write, "We were impressed by the facility, the beauty, the staff, and the spirit of the place. We vowed to return to The Mountain often enough that it would become a special place for our kids. Ten years, four more congregational retreats, a family reunion, and various Thanksgivings later, I would say we have succeeded. All of our boys have attended youth camp and Work/Adventure camp. K.C. was a CIT and a counselor for two years. He met his future wife (Michelle Frost) while working in youth camp and an October 2002 wedding is planned—at The Mountain! Our two younger boys have both been ASCENDERS. Geoff has also been a counselor, has worked in housekeeping, and plans to return as a counselor next summer. Steven has similar plans. We have seen our boys grow and develop into capable, sensitive, powerful young men at The Mountain, and we are profoundly grateful. For our entire family, The Mountain is imbued with familiarity and challenge, support, and love. It is for our family a holy place. And with our kids mostly grown and



gone, The Mountain is a setting where we can come together as a family, and where the two of us can recharge and feel nurtured as a couple. There is no adequate way of saying "thank you" to this magic place and all of the wonderful people who have helped shape our family's lives, as well as our own. Our monetary and volunteer support of The Mountain is only a drop in the bucket compared to what we have received from our association with it."

Bob and **Trudy Deyle** live in Tallahassee, Florida. Daughter, Anna, and son, Ethan, have been active in MountainCamp experiences. The parents comment on what this has meant to all of them, "The fun, the learning, the challenges, the opportunities for personal growth, and most importantly, the circle of good friends and caring adults at The Mountain have made an incredible difference in our children's lives. That is why we became Life Members and will continue to support The Mountain in the years ahead."

Dee Medley is the immediate past director of SUUSI and from Augusta, Georgia. She writes, "Once I became a Life Member, I really did feel like I was 'coming home.' . . . The biggest reason for membership in and giving to The Mountain is the wonderful community it provides for us when we visit. I also believe The Mountain is the best investment for my donation money because of the kinds of programming that it provides for bringing about change to our society. I want to 'put my money where my mouth is,' but supporting political groups or candidates does not always have the same promise of supporting my views. By contributing to a UU organization that supports the furthering of UU values in our society, I know that the money I give funds work to propagate those values."

These folks are but a small percentage of the almost 1,000 who have become Life Members. Two hundred of them have now contributed at the Patron level of \$5,000+, with 100 of the Patrons also having moved into the Vision Holder categories that start at \$10,000. While their financial generosity has made a major difference in furthering the vision and mission of The Mountain, it is often their generosity in other ways that results in an even greater impact on The Mountain. It's nice to know that for these people, The Mountain also gives them something in return beyond the very sincere "Thank You."

Think about becoming a Life Member yourself and become more involved in this magical place. You can do so for as little as \$41.67 per month over a five-year period, and can even be deducted automatically from your checking account. For more information check out our web site at www.mountaincenters.org, or contact **Development Director, Larry Wheeler** at larry.wheeler@mountaincenters.org or call him at (828) 526-5838, ext. 230.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

Volunteer Spotlight – Frony Ward

We are very proud to recognize Frony Ward of Knoxville, Tennessee as our newest "Volunteer of Note." Frony just completed four years on the staff of The Mountain School for Congregational Leadership, the last three as Dean. She approached Paul Clipp in 1997, just after she completed Leadership School, and told him she would like to be a member of the faculty. She did a year of under-study, then has held the reigns for the past three years. As part of the reorganization into the Learning Center for Leadership, MSCL faculty will only serve a maximum of three years from now on. Frony led that reorganization over the past two years, and did a marvelous job of helping MSCL and LCL enter a new era. Frony and her husband Alan have become Visionholder supporters of The Mountain, and her granddaughter has attended Beginning MountainCamp.



Mountain Volunteer Host Training



Some of the volunteers who attended the March training class.

Last March we had 23 volunteers come to The Mountain for an intense weekend of training to prepare them to take on responsibilities of program hosts. This training was highly successful, and we now have a cadre of volunteers who are trained to drive vans in the area, have first aid knowledge, know how to do orientation and meet other program and guest needs, and set up and operate Social Time. We are already getting tremendous help from these folks, and because of the success and the fact that several potential volunteers could not come that weekend, we are having this upcoming session on January 11-13, 2002.

The weekend is at no charge, but we do expect each volunteer trained to return to act as Volunteer Host at least once in the calendar year of training. For more information about volunteering, visit our website at www.mountaincenters.org or contact Volunteer Coordinator **Robert E. Smith** at roberte.smith@mountaincenters.org or call him at (828) 526-5838, ext. 227.



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

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

Caitlin Moffatt Supports The Mountain

Caitlin Moffatt, 5-year-old daughter of Anne Garvey and Dave Moffatt, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, has given The Mountain a big boost. Having read in the June 2001 edition of *The Mountain Matters* about our Dining Hall Renovation Project, Caitlin decided to help us out by raising funds at a Lemonade Stand. With the help of her two friends, Meredith Loew and Emily Miller (both age 6), she sold lemonade and cookies one Sunday at the Winston-Salem UU Fellowship and raised \$102.35! Many thanks to these young entrepreneurial fundraisers!! Caitlin is quite realistic; she stated that these funds would "buy them some bricks and a few chairs."

She did, however, the one thing she could do and maybe that will make all the difference (Editor's note).

(From left to right) Emily Miller, Meredith Loew and Caitlin Moffatt staff their "Mountain" lemonade and cookie stand. The fine print reads: "All proceeds go to The Mountain."



THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT & LEARNING CENTERS, INC.

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LATE BREAKING NEWS!

*The Mountain files application
for conditional use permit for the
development of a second campus
in Middletown, VA.*

See our web site for more information:
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