the mountain

HIGHLANDS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Vol. VIII, No. 2

SPRING NEWSLETTER

March, 1987



Just one big happy family...our 1986 Summer Staff is shown above.

Director's Corner

by Dr. Gary Blaine

The teacher had been talking about the meaning of the word "infinity." She asked her students to come back to class with an example of infinity.

The next day she called for hands. One child offered up a jar of sand. Another produced an astronomical chart flecked with stars. At last Anna was called on. Producing a cereal box, Anna proudly exclained, "Wheaties!"

"Wheaties?" questioned the teacher. "Why that's absolutely ridiculous!"

Ashamed, Anna sat down her eyes brimming with tears.

Later in the morning, an intern who had witnessed this scene approached Anna's desk.

"Anna," he said "Would you mind sharing with me how a box of Wheaties is an example of infinity?" Reluctantly, Anna pulled the box from under her desk. On the box of Wheaties was a photograph of a boy holding a box of Wheaties that had a picture of a boy holding a box of Wheaties that had a picture of a boy holding a box of Wheaties...

One of the joys of The Mountain's summer program is the delight we have in the unique perspective and understanding which our summer campers bring with them. Oh yes, there are rules and routines and expectations. But The Mountain is an institution committed to the power and development of the human mind, regardless of age. We respect the minds of our youth.

From its inception The Mountain has been understood as a harbor for children. A harbor is a place to enter from the storms of life. A harbor is a place to leave treasures and pick up new ones. A harbor is a place to be outfitted and refueled. A harbor is a launching place--back to the sea of life and its inevitable storms. The Mountain is a harbor for a child's wholeness. The Mountain is that port where children's gifts are relished and new talents acquired. The Mountain is that quay from which young people are propelled into greater realms of life and responsibility.

These are not just ideals for our Mountain programs. They are the discipline of our planning, training and practice. We go to great lengths to build our staff on the sound principles of childhood development. We are intentional about enabling our campers to share responsibility for their encampment in a community of trust. Our program maximizes their personal strength in problem solving.

Daily activities become areas for creative decision making. Campers are challenged in a variety of activities which may include crafts, group leadership, horseback riding, or kayaking. Mistakes are made and become seasons of growth.

I love the story of the little girl who was laboring at the kitchen table with paper and crayons. Amused by her child's intensity, Mother asked Sally what she was drawing.

"Oh," Sally said, "It's a picture of God."

Mother protested. "But, Sally, no one has ever seen a picture of God."

"Well, they have now!" announced Sally.

Sally sounds like one of our Mountain children. I hope that she can bring Anna to camp next summer, where every child's face is a picture of God.

How about you and your children? May we see your faces this summer? I hope so!

Love and Peace,

Gary

Summer Staff Openings

Summer is fast approaching, and The Mountain still has some summer staff vacancies. Workers are needed for the summer season (June - August) in the following areas:

- Camp Nurse (RN or LPN)
- Assistant Cook
- Crafts Director
- Recreation Staff Members--to work with horses and swimming/boating facilities.
- Kitchen Assistants
- Counselors

To receive an application, just call or write The Mountain office.

This is an exciting, challenging summer employment opportunity for ages 17 and up--you'll never know unless you apply!

The "2001 Plan"--Your Comments are Invited!

The "2001 Plan," a fifteen-year plan for the growth and development of our Mountain facilities, will be the focus of the Mountain Board meeting to take place at The Mountain Memorial Day Weekend.

This plan, which has been drafted by our Long-Range Planning Committee, provides for the rehabilitation of existing facilities and the building of new facilities to further enhance and accomodate our Mountain programs. Some of the features of the plan are listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

The Mountain Board welcomes the input of our members and friends concerning this plan. If you would like to receive a copy of the draft of the 2001 plan, which includes detailed information on planning principles, ecological concerns, phasing and funding, just request it in writing from the Mountain office. Please enclose a check for $1.50, payable to The Mountain, to cover postage and handling.

Life Members attending the Memorial Day Weekend (which is for Life Members only) should plan to participate in the discussion of this important blueprint for The Mountain's future. Others are encouraged to send comments and suggestions to:

2001
The Mountain
841 Hwy. 106
Highlands, N.C. 28741

Elderhostel Opportunities in May

The Mountain begins its 5th year of Elderhostel programming on March 15th with 227 participants registered for the Spring season.

If you have ever had the pleasure of visiting The Mountain while an Elderhostel week was in progress, you will understand why the staff is looking forward to the start of 12 weeks of programming for this great group of older adults.

The Elderhostel organization is a network of over 800 colleges and other educational institutions which offer low-cost academic programs to participants 60 years of age or older.

The weeklong programs offered by The Mountain feature many courses related to the natural history, culture and arts of the Appalachian Region as well as subjects ranging from nuclear power to creative writing.

While most of our weeks fill up very fast, we do have several vacancies in the weeks of May 25-31 and May 31-June 6. Take a look at the course descriptions below and if you would be interested in attending, we will be glad to put you in touch with the Elderhostel Registration office. Give us a call and we will send you the appropriate forms. You can also contact Elderhostel directly at 80 Boylston Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02116.

Meteorology Without Mathematics
This class is good for sailors, sowers, and soarers. Learn why the wind blows, why it rains or doesn't, what causes storms, and get answers to all those questions you have about the weather and never had a chance to ask.

Highlights of Gardening History
In the history of mankind, stories about plants and man's interest in them abound. Explore some of these stories and meet plantspeople, books, gardens, organizations and institutions that have become our American gardening heritage.

William Bartram's America
William Bartram, naturalist, traveled in the Carolina mountains in 1776. Journey into the past, learning about the Cherokees, very early pioneers and the many wonders, plant and mammals, that Bartram discovered.

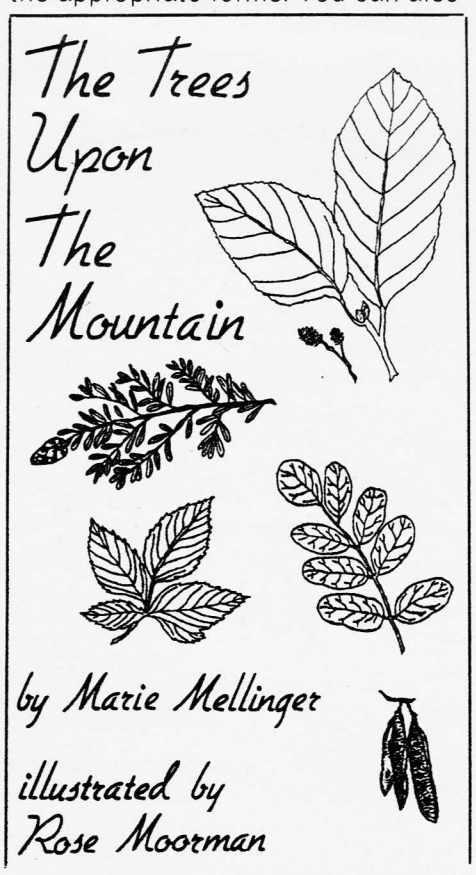
May 31-June 6 #10541-0531

Our 20th-Century Poets and Their Poems
Composers such as Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein have used poetry from such writers as Emily Dickinson, Carl Sandburg, Mark Van Doren. Poetry and music--what effect do they have on each other?

The American Short Story
Explore the American consciousness through the short fiction of this country's best writers.

A Flower Gardening Experience
Sample a potpourri of ideas and information designed to enhance your flower garden enjoyment including flower fact and lore, herb gardens, wildflowers container gardens and much more. Participate in planting a rock garden.
Program Fee **$205.00**





Naturalist Marie Mellinger's illustrated guide to the woods is a tree identification handbook and more. as she discusses the folklore and herbal remedies associated with each tree and shrub. Order one for yourself and one for a woods-loving friend!

Please send me ____ copies of *The Trees Upon The Mountain*. at $4.95 each. plus $1.00 postage and handling.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please allow 3 weeks for delivery.

Meet Our New Food Service Directors

Frances and Eddie Pierce of Alexandria, Virginia have been hired as our new Food Service Directors. Fran and Eddie are professional caterers who will work together in The Mountain Kitchen to create new menus and improve the ambience of our Dining Hall. As Eddie writes, "We complement each other in the kitchen, as our interests vary, but we are both dedicated to 'scratch cooking' whether it is French provincial, Italian or down home. We have eclectic style."

Frances Pierce also has the advantage of being a long-time Unitarian. Frances was the founder and first president of the Tullahoma, Tennessee Unitarian Fellowship.

The Pierces will be moving to The Mountain in March, just in time to delight our Elderhostel guests with the fruits of their experience and talent.

Highlights of the draft of the 2001 Plan

"The ecological intregrity of The Mountain will be maintained."

"The bald will be protected and preserved."

Features of The Conference Center (on Mountain top):

Town Center - including office/reception center, dining hall, store, snack bar, children's nursery, assembly building.

Guest Lodging - includes winterizing through Cabin 12, plus building new lodges which will afford greater privacy, common meeting rooms, visitor's restrooms.

Staff Housing - efficiency apartments located below Cabin 1, plus single family dwellings for senior staff. A staff lounge located nearby.

Other buildings - Library, chapel and ampitheatre, Assembly Hall.

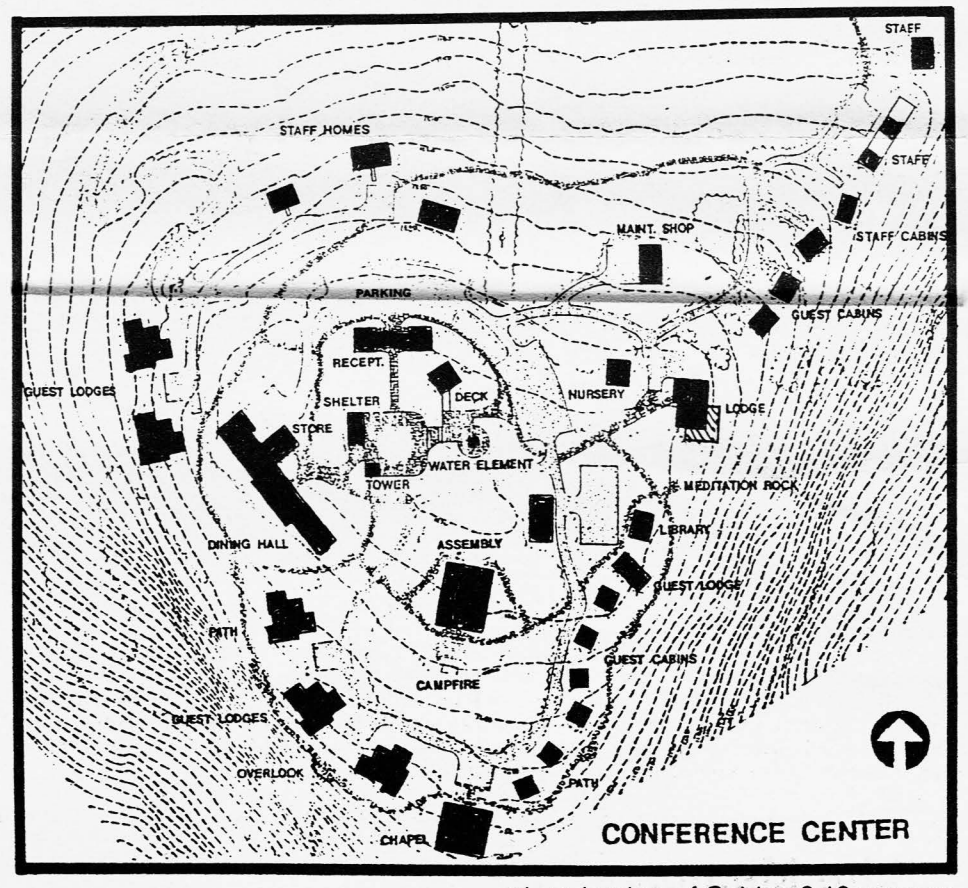
Traffic - Roads and parking to be altered so that the top of The Mountain is closed to vehicular traffic.

Features of the Youth Camp (Located at the base of The Mountain):

-Easy access to improved craft barn, refurbished and fenced playing fields, rehabilitated basketball and tennis courts, and upgraded stables/riding ring.

-Four clusters of four cabins, accomodating 128 campers and 32 counselors, plus a Youth Camp Director's house.

-Infirmary and Nurse's quarters; Dining Hall and reception area; multipurpose building for recreation and evening programs.



Board Meeting

The Mountain Board held a meeting at The Mountain on January 17. Some highlights of the business discussed:

•The Director's report, by Gary Blaine, focused on the development of summer and fall programming, changes in personnel, and facility improvements such as the addition of another bathroom in the Lodge.

•The Development report, presented by Steve Carter, noted an increased level of giving during the past six months. Goals for Development include $130,000 income to be raised in 1987 and a focus on new annual memberships.

•Board voted to complete the winterization of Cabins 8-12 as soon as possible.

Board meetings are open to the public and all The Mountain's members and friends are encouraged to make their voices heard.

The End of the Road

The Bikeathon which we publicized in our past two newsletters came to an early halt just after New Years, when our cyclists decided they could not continue with it. Chris Purcell and Shane Benedict will be writing to all those who pledged during the Bikeathon, and all money received will be returned. Any questions about the Bikeathon should be directed to Chris and Shane, c/o Development Office, The Mountain.

1987 DAILY RATES

Daily rates apply to drop-in visits of any length, and also to weekend programs. These rates to not apply to Program Weeks or Youth Camps.

ROOM RATES:

CATEGORY I: Private and semi-private heated space.	$18.00 Per Person Per Night
CATEGORY II: Shared heated space.	$15.00 Per Person Per Night
CATEGORY III: Unheated space.	$11.00 Per Person Per Night

Above rates are for age 18 and up. Ages 13-17 pay 50% of the adult rate, and ages 12 and under are free. Life Members receive a 50% discount on room rates when attending THE MOUNTAIN on a drop-in or weekend basis. The Life Member discount does not apply to Program Weeks or Youth Camps.

BOARD:

	DAILY
Ages 13 & over	$14.00
Ages 8 to 12	10.50
Ages 5 to 7	7.50
Ages 4 & under	FREE

Group rates are figured on an individual basis, and quoted during the group reservation process. Contact the Director.

CU2C2: Drop-in and weekend visits will have 50 cents per adult per visit added which is used to support the activities of the Council of UU Camps and Conferences, and to make a contribution to the Unitarian Universalist Association.

1987 Youth Camp Fees

Please note: If you want to apply for a Campership, please register for camp now! Deadline for Campership applications is May 1st.

6-8 Camp (June 14-20): **$232**

Senior High (June 21-July 4): **$489**

Ascenders: Senior High fee plus **$280**

Junior High (July 5-18): **$489**

11-14 Camp (July 19-Aug. 1) **$440**

Work/Adventure (July 19-Aug. 1): **$440**

7-11 Camp (Aug. 2-15): **$437**

Church Youth Groups:
Choice of three one-week sessions--Aug. 2-18, Aug. 9-15 or Aug. 16-22): **$226**

Note: During the week of Aug. 9-15, Youth Group Advisors pay $50 to participate in Youth Leadership Training course.

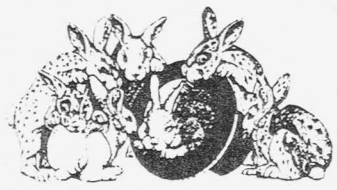
Calendar

MAR

13-15 At this writing, our **Lobster Bash** weekend is fully booked.

15 **Elderhostel** is back for another season! If you or someone you know is a 65-year-old live wire who'd like to learn about anything from Appalachian folklore to astronomy, call us to receive more information on our Elderhostel programs, offered weekly from March 15 through June 6, and Aug. 23-Nov. 13.

APR



3-5 **Northwest Congregation/Emerson Fellowship Joint Retreat.**

10-12 **The Mountain Board** meets at The Mountain. Members are always welcome to sit in and express their views.

17-19 Come celebrate the promise of Spring, and make your **Easter** weekend a truly meaningful occasion this year. Programs for children and adults will be offered.

24-26 **Unitarian Univeralist Congregation of Atlanta Retreat.** Register through UUCA or The Mountain for this early spring experience. Hikes, worship, children's activities, and other treatments for spring fever will be offered.

MAY

8-10 Who deserves a **Spring Fling** more than a mother? This weekend that celebrates Earth's renewal with outdoor activities for all ages coincides with Mother's Day this year. Singles and families of all ages are invited to experience the freshness of the spring woods together--bring your mother, your children, your self.

15-17 At this writing, the **Womanspirit Gathering** sponsored by the TJ Women & Religion Committee is fully booked.

22-25 **Memorial Day Weekend** is our special getaway for Life and Patron Members and their families. This year the emphasis will be on The Mountain's future, something near to the hearts of all our Members, as The Mountain Board meets to discuss the 2001 Plan. Life and Patron Members--use the registration form in this newsletter and enclose the Memorial Day Life Members coupon with it.

Looking ahead....

As this Newsletter goes to press, the new Mountain Brochure and summer program information is in the mail. You should be receiving your brochure and summer program/Youth Camp posters within days, if you haven't already done so. Please call if you do not receive a brochure! We'll be happy to mail another one. Meanwhile, here's a sketch of the summer to tantalize you...

June 7-13	**"The Singular Life"** a week for singles only.
June 14-20	**"Inside Out"** for adults and families. Explore Thoreau, the forests, and UU spirituality. **"Chamber Music Seminar"** for string players. **Youth Camp:** 6-8 year-olds.
June 21-27	**"Nantahala Week:"** adults and families outdoors. **Youth Camp:** Senior High, Week One
June 28-July 4	**"RE Week:"** For RE leaders and their families. **Youth Camp:** Senior High, Week Two.
July 5-11	**"Folks, Lore and Truth"** Songs and storytelling for all ages. **Youth Camp:** Junior High, Week One.
July 12-18	**"Life's Purposes:"** Adult/family stroll through philosophy. **Youth Camp:** Junior High, Week Two
July 18-25	**"1987 Mountain Leadership School"** for adults active in churches or fellowships. **Youth Camps:** Work/Adventure and Ages 11-14, Week One.
July 26-Aug. 1	**"Theology Through Biography"** Adult/family program of reading/discussion. **Youth Camps:** Work/Adventure; 11-14; Week Two.
Aug. 2-8	**"Adventures for All Ages:"** Adults/Families outdoor adventure program. **Youth Camps:** Ages 7-11, Week One Church Youth Groups
Aug. 9-15	**"The Mountain Method of Youth Leadership"** for youth leaders; single parents also invited to participate and bring their kids! **Youth Camps:** Ages 7-11, Week Two Church Youth Groups (Leaders attend seminar.)
Aug. 16-22	**"Celebrating UUism"** with music, history and more for adults/families. **"Dare to Explore"** rigorous wilderness adventure for adults with childcare provided. **Youth Camp:** Church Youth Groups

A Sneak Preview of Fall....



Sept. 4-7	**Annual Labor Day** Craft Fair and Dinner on the Grounds.
Oct. 2-4	**The Elders Circle.** The Council of American Indian Elders meets on The Mountain.
Oct. 9-11	**Oktoberfest**
Oct. 11-16	**A Week with Kenneth Patton.** Prominent UU author Patton keynotes our prime fall color week with a seminar focusing on the celebration of life through our religion.

Life Members Only!

If you are a Life or Patron Member of The Mountain and would like to attend our annual Memorial Day holiday weekend for Life Members only, you may use the registration form at right. Just enclose this Life Member's coupon with it.

This year the focus of our Memorial Day weekend will be the future of The Mountain, as the Mountain Board meets to discuss the 2001 Plan. Come help us kick off our Summer season and look ahead to the next century!

Life Member rates will apply to the weekend for all LM's and their families.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Address _____

_____ _____

Youth _____ Age _____ Sex _____ Phone _____

_____ Age _____ Sex _____

_____ Age _____ Sex _____

Anticipated Arrival Date _____ For First Meal _____

Anticipated Departure Date _____ Last Meal _____

Rooming Preference (Give First, Second and Third Choices):

Category I
____ Double Occupancy/Lodge
____ Bedroom - 2 BR Cabin
____ 1 Bedroom Cabin

Category II
____ Lodge Dorm Style
____ Living Area-2 BR Cabin
____ 1 Bedroom Cabin (Shared)
____ Program Center or Staff Cabin

Category III
____ Unheated Space

Roommate Preference _____
Any special requests or needs _____

Weekend reservations require a $15 per adult deposit. Weeklong reservations require a $30 per adult deposit.

Share the Dream!

Although it is not necessary to be a member of THE MOUNTAIN to enjoy our programs and facilities, many of those who visit us want to become a part of THE MOUNTAIN's future by making a financial committment.

Membership in THE MOUNTAIN makes you a voting member of the corporation, but the most basic benefit is that your contributions make THE MOUNTAIN possible. Without the generous help and vision of many people, THE MOUNTAIN would not have begun, nor could it continue.

The fees you pay when you visit THE MOUNTAIN cover the cost of operations: salaries, utilities, programs. The capital debt for the mortgage and improvements is financed through contributions in the form of Memberships, Deferred Giving (Trusts, Bequests, The Codicil Club), and gifts or property - such as real estate, automobiles, or office equipment.

Life Members and their families receive a 50% discount on room rates when attending on a Weekend or Drop-In basis. Two weekends, Thanksgiving and Memorial Day, are set aside as celebrations for Life and Patron Members only. The names of Life, Patron and Memorial Life Members are permanently inscribed on their respective plaques in the Dining Hall.

A Memorial Life Membership is a way to honor someone close to you at the appropriate rate listed below.

THE MOUNTAIN is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation, and your contributions are tax-deductible.

YES, I'll share the dream! I want to be

- ☐ An Annual Member (Minimum).$35 enclosed
- ☐ A Contributing Member.....$100 enclosed
- ☐ A Supporting Member.....$200 enclosed
- ☐ A Life Member. I'll pay $1600 within 12 months. I enclose my first payment of _____
- ☐ A Life Member. I'll pay $400 per year for 5 years. I enclose my first payment of $_____
- A Patron Member. I'll pay $5000 over 10 years. Payment will be $500 per year inr (month), or $41.66 per month, or $125 per quarter.
- ☐ A Contribution of $_____.
- ☐ Please contact me about putting The Mountain in my will.

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

_____
Signature

Date _____

Phone (Home) ( ) _____
(Work) ( ) _____

Church/fellowship you attend _____

_____
oror

What kinds of programs would you like to see at The Mountain?

_____

_____

_____



Gary Blaine

Labor of Love

Pictured above is Life Member Don Osgood of Atlanta, Georgia, during a recent working vacation at The Mountain. Don has recently retired and has put his extra time to use by helping us to repair, refurbish and generally improve The Mountain.

We'd like to thank Don and others who have come to The Mountain this winter on work weekends. And, we'd like to extend an invitation to groups or individuals who would like to come up for mini-work weekends of Saturday night only on the following dates: March 21, March 28, April 11 and May 2. This is an opportunity to come to The Mountain for a nominal charge and work with us on maintainance projects. Those who would like to visit as workers during the week, as Don did, should contact Gary Blaine.

If you have time and energy for us, we've got a place for you!

Thanks and Welcome to New Life Members

Al Almand, Atlanta, GA
Viola Barclay, Naples, FL
Nina Benedetto, Columbia, SC
Linda Howard, Nashville, TN
John Lantz, Decatur, GA
Hubert & Claudia Martin, Strasburg, VA
Harriet Owens, Tallahassee, FL
Chuck & Susan Sklar, Baton Rouge, LA
Eugene Shepherd & Marilyn Waters, Melbourne, FL

New Patron Life Member:

Ellen Stewart, Lithonia, GA

Mountain Rep Organization Growing

The Mountain's local church representative system is continuing to grow with 62 active representatives in both the Southeast and Midwest.

These representatives will be particularly visible in their church or fellowship this spring as they display posters describing our summer adult and youth programs, provide a means of adding new names to our mailing list and keep their congregations up to date on all of the exciting activities and opportunities offered by The Mountain.

Our staff also looks forward to visiting many churches at times arranged by our representatives.

The current Mountain Rep Staff is listed below. If you don't see a name listed for your congregation and would like to volunteer to be the Mountain Representative at your church or fellowship, just let us know. We would be delighted to have you join our team.

Our goal is to have representatives in each and every UU church in the Southeast and as many as possible in all other areas of the country.

THE MOUNTAIN REPRESENTATIVE NETWORK

Scott Buxton	Auburn, AL
Richard Speck	Birmingham, AL
Robin Scheib	Florence, AL
Mary Ann Ely	Huntsville, AL
Pat & Sam Camp	Montgomery, AL
Fred Westover	Tuscaloosa, AL
Mary Ellen Lundelius	Bradenton, FL
Smitty Hooper	Cocoa, FL
Robert Clabeaux	Deland, FL
Ed & Marge Riley	Ft. Myers, FL
Roy Bundy	Ft. Walton Bch, FL
Alan & Mary McGill	Gainesville, FL
Steve Dante	Miami, FL
Bob & Nancy Duggan	Orlando, FL
Bob & Dixie Haywood	Pensacola, FL
Connie Burgess	Pt. Charlotte, FL
Eveline Jacobs	Sarasota, FL
Bud Evans	St. Petersburg, FL
Ralph Cook	Tallahassee, FL
Gilbert Lange	W. Palm Bch, FL
Kay Fors	Athens, GA
	Atlanta, GA
Manley Allen	Northwest
Steve Soloway	Gwinnett
Alicia Hodges	UUCA
Roane & Peggy Beard	Emerson
Norman Horowitz	Valdosta, GA
Elise Cade	Hinsdale, IL
Marion & Woody Baker	Oak Park, IL
Jo Jameson	Peoria, IL
Maurice & Genie Schwartz	Southbend, IN
Pat Scanlon	Chesterfield, MO
Michael & Chris Kayes	Long Beach, MS
Evelyn Carter	Asheville, NC
Shirley & Ben Edwards	Boone, NC
Dianne Resch	Charleston, SC
Ellie Hogan	Charlotte, NC
Sonya Prestridge	Durham, NC
Myrtle Lockwood	Franklin, NC
Gene Sutton	Greenville, NC
June Preston	Raleigh, NC
Diana Smith	Wilmington, NC
Marge Felmet	Winston Salem, NC
Allie Gooding	Clemson, SC
Joe & Joan Watterson	Columbia, SC
Glen Rowley	Greenville, SC
Don & Mary Myles	Spartanburg, SC
Marcia Jenison	Chattanooga, TN
Nancy Bessler	Knoxville, TN
Walter Diggs	Memphis, TN
Joe & Joan Moore	Nashville, TN
Oddy Curtis	Oak Ridge, TN
Don Male	Tullahoma, TN
Jim & Joan Wamsley	Alexandria, VA
Cecile James	Blacksburg, VA
Bonnie Shepherd & Bill Spurgin	Charlottesville, VA
Don & Becky Reed	Fredericksburg, VA
Ruth Ball	Lynchburg, VA
Barbara Buck	Norfolk, VA
Carol Mertz	Reston, VA
Lewis Walker & Christine Lucas	Richmond, VA
Hubert Martin	Winchester, VA
Carol Taylor	Madison, WI
Lori Pederson	Marshfield, WI
Gordon Gibson	Elkhart, IN
Paul Kuhn	Indianapolis, IN

The Mountain Newsletter is published six times yearly by The Mountain, Highlands Camp and Conference Center, 841 Hwy. 106, Highlands, N.C. 28741, a non-profit organization, and a member of the Council of Unitarian-Universalist Camps and Conference Centers.

Director: Dr. Gary Blaine
Newsletter Editor: Jeannette Cabanis

Please address any correspondance to the Newsletter Editor at the above address. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and submissions. Please note that we cannot return any photos or written materials that you sent to us.

MOVING?

Please let us know three weeks in advance when you plan to move, so that you will not miss any of our mailings.

It is helpful to us if you enclose your old mailing label with your change of address. Also, if you know your 9-digit zip code please include this with your new address.

THE MOUNTAIN
HIGHLANDS CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER
841 Highway 106
Highlands, NC 28741

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THIRD CLASS MAIL

