the mountain
HIGHLANDS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

841 Highway 106 Highlands, NC 28741 704/526-5838

Vol. IX No. 3

NEWSLETTER

April 1988

Sponsored By TJ Women In Religion

Women's Gathering Scheduled For June

The Thomas Jefferson District Women in Religion Committee will sponsor the Second Annual Women's Gathering on The Mountain June 8-12. At our first gathering last spring, 172 women met on The Mountain for two days of workshops, celebration and togetherness. We all felt the energy and happiness of that weekend and look forward with great enthusiasm to an expanded 1988 program.

This year, the Women's Gathering will be held in two parts - each designed to provide UU women unique opportunities to be together.

JUNE 8-10 (Wednesday through Friday)
THE INSTITUTE OF THE GATHERING

The Wednesday through Friday program will provide an opportunity for women to either participate in intensive leadership training or just come to The Mountain to relax with other UU women for a few days. Four programs are being offered during these two days before the weekend Gathering, giving participants time to learn and relax with women of like spirit. Here is what you can choose from:

THEOLOGY/WORSHIP & RITUALS - coordinated by Alice Blair Wesley and Francis West, both UU ministers. This program will heighten awareness of women's historical experience and how that shapes our lives.

LEADERSHIP - with Mary Andrus-Overly (UUA Staff-Boston) and Sonya Prestridge (Consultant in Organizational Development). This program will expose us to our unique abilities as women leaders

FINANCE SKILLS - coordinated by Lanie Damon and Lynn Nault, both with extensive backgrounds in church and business finances. We will talk about such topics as church canvasing, planned giving, fund raising and personal financial planning.

OUTDOORS - with Anne Heath of The Mountain Staff. This is your chance to spend quality time in the outdoors with others or plan things on your own for rest and relaxation.

JUNE 10-12 (Friday Through Sunday)
WOMEN'S GATHERING: REACHING FOR OUR ROOTS

We are hoping to have 200 UU women on The Mountain for our weekend gathering enjoying workshops, hikes, music, rites and worship and celebrations, waterfalls, flowers, stunning views, warm hugs, and crafts - all intended to support, nuture, renew friendships and further develop our network.

Plan for cool, dark nights, sunny days, dorm-style living (packed cabins, sleeping bags) and for communion with other UU women - a spiritual opportunity and great fun!

COST FOR THE GATHERING

Wednesday through Friday Institute - $85

Friday through Sunday Gathering - $95

Cost includes room, program and board for 2 days beginning with dinner on the first day of the program and ending with lunch on the last day of the program.

Need more information? Call Christine Lucas (804) 264-1223.

HOW TO REGISTER

Use the form below to register for any or all parts of The Gathering. The registration form should be returned to The Mountain along with your deposit check payable to the TJ Women In Religion Committee.

WOMEN'S GATHERING REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone ( ) _____

- I want to attend the Institute June 8-10
- I want to attend the Women's Gathering June 10-12
- I want to attend BOTH activities arriving June 8th and departing June 12th

Registration Fee: $30 for June 8-10 Institute
$40 for Women's Gathering
$70 for both activities

Make deposit checks payable to TJ Women In Religion Committee and send to The Mountain Deposits not refundable after May 6th.

A late registration fee of $20 per event is required by the District after April 15th. However, those receiving notice of this gathering by means of this newsletter will be allowed to register through May 15th without penalty.



1987 Leadership School Participants representing congregations from the southeast and southwest. (Staff photo by Gary Blaine)

Seventh Annual Leadership School Scheduled August 13-20

The Mountain's Leadership School offers an unparalleled opportunity to spend 7 days with other congregational leaders from throughout the southeast in an intensive learning experience.

Coordinated by Roger Comstock, UUA District Executive, and a team of leadership and development experts, this week-long program offers programs in leadership philosophy integrating concern for getting things done with concern for good relationships among those working on the task.

Designed for current and soon-to-be leaders in churches and fellowships, participants will find workshops in organizational development, leadership philosophy, creative worship, personal theology, understanding self and others with MBTI, and an outdoor leadership training while engaging in an all-day raft trip led by The Mountain's Whitewater Staff.

HOW TO REGISTER - Congregations in the Southeast have been sent special registration forms for the Leadership School. Check with your society President. If you need additional forms, contact the Mountain office. Registrations are limited to 42 students and each registrant must have the endorsement of their congregation or fellowship.

Calendar

APR

April 22 - 24
Two groups will share our Mountain - The Atlanta Institute for Family Studies and SE Center for the Arts. Call if you would like to just come up on your own for the weekend. We may have space.

April 29 - 30
Spring Wildflower Extravaganza. Bring cameras and hiking shoes and we'll chase wildflowers from valleys to mountaintops. Special concert by The Mountain's own Lee Knight.

MAY

May 6 - 8
Spring Fling with Chuck Larkin, story-teller and troubadour. Rockhounding and a wildflower pilgrimage will also highlight the weekend.

May 13 - 15
High Adventure Weekend - Choose from whitewater rafting, rock climbing or adventure hiking on the West Fork of the Chattooga River. Activities for all ages.

May 20-22
UUCA, Atlanta, will hold their annual board retreat at The Mountain. This weekend may also have some individual space. Give us a call.

May 27 - 30
Members Only Memorial Day Weekend. Members should have received their special registration form by now. If not, give us a call. Special guest performance by Steve Day as Thomas Paine in a dramalogue you won't forget.

1988 Program Brochure Reaches 13,000

Two weeks of hard work and many volunteer hours resulted in 13,000 1988 Brochures stuffed into 90 mail bags and sent on their way to you February 22nd.

We couldn't have done it without Steve & Pricilla Phillips, Christine Reynolds, Pat Gnagey, Elizabeth Cooper, Bob Polk, Ellen Heath, Steve & Sue-Ann Soloway, Maria Johnson, Bob Snelsire and Paula Heusinkveld.

Thanks also to The Mountain Staff who spent many nights stuffing brochures until they dropped.

DIDN'T GET YOUR BROCHURE? Give us a call and we will send one out by First Class Mail.

Adult/Family Program Weeks

June 12-18 "The Single You.U"

June 19-25 Nantahala Week

June 26-July 2 Single Parenting

July 2-9 Dare to Explore

July 3-9 Rock Hounds and Dawg Days

July 10-16 Mountain Symposium on Religious Education

July 17-23 Transcendentalism on The Mountain

July 24-30 Humor in Religion - Theology through Biography

July 31-August 6

August 7-13 Adventure For All Ages

August 13-20 1988 Leadership School

August 14-20 Dare to Explore II

August 21 - 27
Creative Leisure On The Mountain

A week of relaxing with Minister of the Week Roger Cowan, 1st Unitarian Church, Miami, Florida. Enjoy workshops with Nancy Shaw learning basic yoga and relaxation techniques and spend time enjoying crafts, cool breezes, easy walks, and evening on the deck of the lodge. A great way to end summer.

A Sneak Preview of Fall....

SEPT

September 2-5
Labor Day Celebration featuring Windfall, a UU folk group of SUUSI fame. A terrific 3 day celebration of the end of summer. Always full - register early.

September 23-25
UUCA, Atlanta, all-church retreat. SE Center for the Arts.

September 30-October 2
Understanding Ourselves-A Retreat For and About Men conducted by Dr. Bill Sutton of Athens, GA. Explore who we are as men, especially in our roles as husband, lover, friend, father and bread winner.

OCT

October 7-9
Oktoberfest - One of our most popular weekends. Register early for this prime leaf color weekend featuring German beer, music and food.

Youth Camps

Ages 6-8: June 12-18

Senior High (Ages 15-18):
June 19-July 2

Junior High (Ages 12-14):
July 3-16

Work/Adventure (Ages 15-18):
July 3-16

Ages 11-14: July 17-30
Ages 7-11: August 1-13

October 14-16
Marriage Enrichment Program with Dr. Mike Lillibridge. First presented at The Mountain in February 1988, this program has met with outstanding success. Look for more details in upcoming newsletter. Reservations are being accepted now.

October 21-23
Senior High Weekend on The Mountain. Bring your friends, and your hiking shoes. A great chance to enjoy old and new friends - Mountaincamp revisited.

October 30-November 5
UU Week on The Mountain with John Burciaga, Minister of the Clearwater, FL Unitarian Universalist Church and Bill Hammond, Minister Emeritus of the Asheville, NC Church.

Two Open Dates For Church Retreats

We are still holding two weekends open for UU church retreats in the fall - October 21-23 and October 27-30. Contact us soon if you are interested in reserving either of these dates for your church.

Registration Form

Name _____ Address _____

_____ _____ zip _____

Youth _____ age__ sex__ _____

_____ age__ sex__ Phone (___) _____

_____ age__ sex__

Anticipated Arrival Date: _____ First Meal: _____

Anticipated Departure Date: _____ Last Meal: _____

Rooming Request: (give 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices)

Catagory I ___	Catagory II ___	Catagory III ___
winterized	winterized	unwinterized
semi-private	shared	semi-private/shared
$18/adult/night	$15/adult/night	$11/adult/night

Roommate Preference(s): _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Vegetarian (Y,N): ___ Chicken/Turkey (Y,N): ___ Fish (Y,N): ___

Other Needs (include physical): _____

FOOD COST/Day/Age: $16/13+, $12.50/8-12, $9.50/5-7, $0/0-4

Your TOTAL COST is based on Room + Board + Program Fee if applicable.

DEPOSIT REQUIRED:
$20/adult on weekend or drop-in visits
$75/adult on weeklong visits

__ Please enroll me as an ANNUAL MEMBER in The Mountain at a Cost of $35.00 per year.

_____ Please send me information on becoming a LIFE MEMBER of The Mountain.

Method of payment:

☐ Payment enclosed $ _____ ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐
CREDIT CARD #

☐☐/☐☐ REMINDER: HAVE YOU INCLUDED THE EXPIRATION DATE?
MONTH / YEAR OF EXPIRATION

SIGNATURE _____



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Dr. Gary Blaine

I noticed something about my daughter, Heather, right away. Soon after her birth we had paid the hopital and doctor's bills. But that wasn't going to be the end of it. In no time at all she was in the habit of eating - three meals a day! Heather also insisted on dry diapers. I tried to convince her that some children had no diapers at all, and that she should be thankful for what she had. She wasn't convinced. Her social circle quickly expanded beyond Mom and Dad to include pediatricians, pharmacists, dentists, and orthodontists. At fourteen she is frequently seen with a couple of guys named Calvin Kline and Christian Dior. They are very close to Heather. I tried to convince all of these people to bill Heather when she is twenty-one. You know, run up a tab and let her be responsible. It would teach her self reliance. They were not convinced.

Of course it is not over yet. She's got plans for college and graduate school. She'll probably need clothes, a dorm room, and food while she's there. Reading books by candlelight and writing with charcoal on shovel blades seems to be lost to the upcoming collegiate generation.

But do you know what? Heather is worth every penny we spend on her. She is a responsible kid with a great sense of humor. Her head is on straight and she cares about the human community. Next fall she will be entering the International Baccalaureate program at my alma matter, St. Petersburg High School. In fact, Heather is one of the best investments of my life.

Buying The Mountain was very much like having a baby. In 1979, we paid roughly $500,000 for The Mountain. That money gave us the keys to the property. The purchase did not include renovations, a business plan with a guaranteed future, or expansion. The purchase gave us the keys to the property. Since then we have been winterizing, remodeling, and repairing. Last year we spent $41,638 on capital improvements. With that money we have increased comfort and privacy. Cabins were duplexed which not only increased privacy, but also income potential. Our vehicular fleet has been less that satisfactory, costing us $15,000 in parts alone in 1987. We are now in the process of replacing these old vehicles with safe and reliable ones.

As you have already guessed, The Mountain will continue to need your support and financial investment. How can you help us now?

1. Become a life member of The Mountain. You can do that for as little as $33.00 a month.
2. Enhance your life membership to patron status. In can cost you less than $50.00 per month.
3. If you are a paid up member of The Mountain consider becoming a Silver Patron, or make annual giving to The Mountain a regular part of your annual charitable contribution.

As a parent, I will do whatever I have to financially to insure Heather's future. The joy of witnessing her maturity is well worth the cost. Like many other members of The Mountain, Karla and I enjoy the satisfaction that our financial commitment to The Mountain insures its develoment and maturity. Won't you join us in the joy?

Love and Peace

Gary

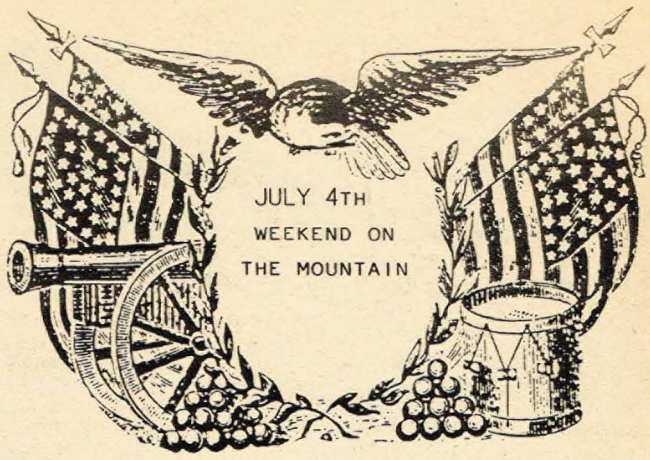
lopment

Annual Meeting Highlights

The Mountain's Annual Meeting was held February 26-28. **Sonya Prestridge** was elected to the three year term, and **Phil Sterner** to the one year term. Both Sonya and Phil have been active members of The Mountain, SUUSI, and their local UU Congregations. **Walt Pirie** was elected to the Board's Presidency, and **Jim Littlefield** to the Vice Presidency.

Dr. Gary Glaine, Director of The Mountain reported that The Mountain's philosophy and practice of youth ministry has been highly successful but was one of the denominations best kept secrets.

The highlight of the day came with a banquet prepared by Food Service Directors Ed and Frances Pierce. The banquet address was given by Mountain member and U.U.A. Executive Vice President Kay Montgomery. Kay spoke of the important role that Camp and Conference Centers play in the lives of Unitarian Universalists. She urged The Mountain to continue its work in providing an **alternative community to the everyday hustle and bustle of urban living.**



If you would like to come to The Mountain during the summer but can't come for an entire week, here's a great solution -- come spend the 4th of July holiday with us.

We are planning a special celebration beginning with dinner on Saturday, July 2nd and continuing through breakfast on Tuesday, July 5th.

Special price for this weekend is $108 for adults and $59 for youth 5 to 17.

There is always a big crowd on The Mountain for the 4th of July. This year, we will enjoy our own fireworks display, a special concert by our own Lee Knight, a picnic on Sunday and lots of other activities suited to all ages.

Take advantage of this mini-summer vacation on The Mountain. You can use the registration form on page 3 of this Newsletter to register for July 4th Weekend.

Spring Wildflower Extravaganza April 29-May 1

A weekend dedicated to wildflowers. Bring cameras and hiking shoes and we'll take trips to valleys and mountaintops in search of early wildflowers in bloom. Photography experts will be available to help you get the best picture.

Part of the weekend will also be devoted to helping catalog wildflowers and migratory birds on our Mountain.

A special evening concert by **Lee Knight** is planned for Saturday.

Don't miss this great outdoor weekend as we welcome Springtime to the mountains.

60 or Older? Try A Spring Elderhostel Program On The Mountain

Elderhostel programs are a stimulating and inexpensive way to visit The Mountain and programs in May still have plenty of space.

Elderhostel is an international organization sponsoring educational programs for those 60 and older. The Mountain is entering its 7th year as an Elderhostel campus, offering courses in the Spring and Fall of each year.

Programs weeks begin on Sunday and end on Friday of each week. Courses cover a wide range of subjects and each week features field trips and social activities. Costs are $205 per person. Registration is made through the Elderhostel office in Boston. If interested, you can also contact us at The Mountain and we will send you the necessary Elderhostel registration forms.

Take a look at this lineup of Elderhostel Weeks and plan to take part in a special experience at The Mountain.

May 1 - 6 # 10541—0501
(Begins on Sunday, Ends on Friday)
Rehabilitating the Earth
Discovering Woodland Nature
Appalachian Folk History

May 8 - 13 # 10541—0508
(Begins on Sunday, Ends on Friday)
Geology—Reading Rocks and Measuring Time
Contemporary Poetry of the Appalachians
Historic View of Codes, Ciphers and Secret Messages

May 15 - 20 # 10541—0515
(Begins on Sunday, Ends on Friday)
Astronomy for the Layman
The History of Appalachia
William Bartram's America

May 22 - 27 # 10541—0522
(Begins on Sunday, Ends on Friday)
Birdwatching for Everyone
Southern Appalachian Literature
Choosing a Wellness Lifestyle

May 30 - Jun 4 # 10541—0530
(Begins on Monday, Ends on Saturday)
Justice and the Law
Poems Worthy of Note
The American Short Story

To register, contact:
ELDERHOSTEL
80 Boylston St., Suite 400
Boston, MA 02116
Or contact us at The Mountain and we will send you an application blank.

MOUNTAIN WATCH

A Naturalist's Notebook

April and May are wildflower months on the Mountain as we begin our second year of cataloging blooming plants on our property.

During 1987, we verified over 60 varieties of wildflowers plus many blooming shrubs and trees. With the help of Marie Mellinger, we have published our second identification book entitled "Wildflowers, Ferns, and Mosses of The Mountain". This new book joins Marie's "Trees Upon The Mountain" for sale in our camp store.

During 1988 we will continue to publish weekly lists of blooming plants for our guests and schedule wildflower walks on the weekends.

Interested in Nature Photography? So are we. Bring your cameras to our Spring weekends and we'll trade techniques and go looking for photo opportunities together on our scheduled outings.

TO ORDER "WILDFLOWERS, FERNS AND MOSSES OF THE MOUNTAIN send us a check for $4 ($3 for the book and $1 for postage and handling), or pick up a copy in the camp store.

Anne Heath

Photography Workshops Scheduled For Spring

Southeastern Center for the Arts, an Atlanta based professional photography school, will be holding three photography workshops at The Mountain this spring, offering some of the finest photographic opportunities available in the East.

April 22-24 - Master Workshop With Morley Baer
A combination of field instruction, shooting, lecture and demonstration. This workshop is open to photographers working in any format - black and white or color. Cost for the weekend is $295 which includes all instruction, room and board at The Mountain.

May 13-15 - Wildflower Photography
With instructor Richard Green, a geneticist, nature photographer and naturalist. Cost for the weekend is $185.

May 13-15 - Black and White Zone System
Learn the highest level technique that currently exists for producing fine black and white images. Instructor Jim Tingle is a fulltime instructor in the Professional Career Program at SCA.

HOW TO REGISTER - Registration for these weekend workshops at The Mountain can be made through Southeastern Center for the Arts, 1935 Cliff Valley Way, Atlanta, GA 30329. Call (404) 633-1990 for further information.

Memberships during the last year

LIFE MEMBERS

Martha & Dixon Burns
Joseph & Martha Usatine
Christine & Robert Reynolds
Paul & Sandra Clipp
Bob & Marge Hybels
Joy & Paul McClellan
Nancy Bessler
AC & Janet Marshall
Jim & Bobbie Littlefield
Doug Walters
Jeffrey & Linda Blum
Myra Bregger
Madeline Watt
Catherine Kellough
Bernadine Evans
Ralph Cook
Adam Schwartz
Ben Schwartz
Charlotte Danly

PATRONS

Pam & John Phelps
Betty Green
Gary & Karla Blaine
Carol Graves
Merrill & Charlotte Palmer
Jim & Wendie Highsmith
Frances & Howard Boozer
Pat Gnagey

MEMORIAL LIFE MEMBERS

Bruce W. Conlon

Mountain Staff Positions Available

ASSISTANT COOK - Full-time permanent employment as Assistant to the Food Service Directors. Prior commercial kitchen experience preferred. Knowledge of vegetarian diets and menus a definite plus. Position includes, salary, benefits, room and board on the Mountain.

CAMP NURSE - Summer employment June-August as Nurse for the Mountain's youth camp. RN degree and ability to secure NC license required. Position includes salary, room and board.

Contact the Director for further information.

Mountain Promotion Tours

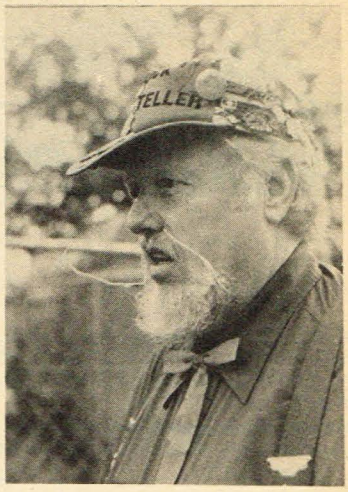
We at the Mountain have decided not to wait for your first visit here. We are coming out to see you in your Churches and Fellowships to describe our programs and through the use of our new video, "Mountain Magic," show off our beautiful environment. We want as many UUs as possible to know just how proud we all are of the place and how much we love it.

From the Florida Keys to central Michigan the response to The Mountain has been extraordinary. Would you believe that 50 interested UUs turned out for a Mountain Program inadvertently scheduled for the 6:00 PM kick off time on Super Bowl Sunday Night in East Lansing, Michigan? Well they did and some of those same people will be spending their vacations on The Mountain this coming summer for the first time.

When the Mountain goes out to see you, we also learn about ourselves. At each stop, unsolicited testimonials remind us just what a difference we make in people's lives and how significant an experience a week on The Mountain really is.

This year's tours have centered upon the Midwest and the Greater Washington DC area. Our goals have been to heighten awareness of the Mountain, promote our summer offerings for adults and youth, identify the key role played by our UU camps and conferences in our denomination, and help people realize that The Mountain is really quite accessible.

If you would like The Mountain to come and do a progam for your society, contact Louis Bregger, Guest Relations Director. If a personal visit is not possible this year, we can at least share a copy of the "Mountain Magic" video until a visit is possible.



Spring Fling To Feature Chuck Larkin

Our Spring extravaganza the weekend of May 6-8 will be truly memorable with the special addition of Chuck Larkin, a master traditional folk storyteller entertainer from Atlanta.

Chuck is well known in the Southeast and has been a key personality at SUUSI for more years than any of us can remember.

Chuck says he is half horse and half alligator - a real southern stump orator humorist who believes "It ain't hardly worth talking if'n your're gonna tell the truth."

Our annual spring flower display will have to compete for time with Chuck this year as he entertains with folk tunes on his musical saw and jaw harp and offers a mini-workshop on storytelling.

We are filling up fast for this best of spring weekend, so register soon.

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

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