the mountain
HIGHLANDS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

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

Vol. VII No. 6 SPRING NEWSLETTER February 1988

Spring Programs Offer Something For Everyone

Spring in the mountains of Western North Carolina is a very special time and The Mountain has planned weekend programs for all ages and interests. If you enjoy Spring in early April at home, come enjoy Spring again in May on The Mountain. Local residents say you never plant your corn until the leaves of the white oaks are as big as squirrel's ears - that's about May 20th on our Mountain.

Take a look at our lineup below and pick out a program that meets your interests. We promise you a great weekend with fellow UU's from all over the country. You can use the registration form on page 3 to register for these programs.



LOBSTER BASH, a weekend for all ages, as Ryan Stepler demonstrates by devouring his lobster during the 1987 Lobster Bash Weekend. (Photo by Gary Blaine)

East Meets West
March 4-6

This weekend is designed to look at and experience Eastern disciplines in a Western context. We will have three workshops - Yoga with Nancy Shaw, Meditation with Karen Lacy, and Sufi Dancing with Alexis Jones.

Easter On The Mountain
April 1-3

Easter on The Mountain is one of our best holiday weekends as we enjoy early spring weather, experience an Easter sunrise service on our mountaintop, hunt for Easter Eggs and find fellowship among UU's from all parts of the country.

We will be planning a special Easter dinner for Saturday night. Register early, Easter is always very popular. Youth programming will be provided.

Teens & Parents Talking With One Another In A Way That's Real
April 8-10

This weekend aims at helping family members reach each other across the barriers of age, role, and language. As much as possible, we'll stay away from theory and lectures, and allow you to experience real and unreal communication, talk that creates distance and talk that makes closeness more likely. By the conclusion of the weekend you and your teenager(s) should have taken the first steps toward improving your ways of connecting.

Leaders for this weekend will be Carole Light and Alex Redmountain, clinical psychologists in independent practice in Atlanta, and Charter Life Members of The Mountain.

Special package price for the weekend is $74.50 per adult and $48.00 per youth. Price includes room, board (Friday dinner thru Sunday Lunch) and program fee.



5th Annual Lobster Bash
April 15-17

Our 5th Annual Lobster Bash is again being sponsored by the UU Congregation of Gwinnett (Atlanta). We will have wonderful fresh lobster flown in from Maine especially for us on Saturday night with an optional steak if you prefer (why not have both!). We will spend our days enjoying early spring outings and plan a special surprise program for Saturday night.

This weekend has become the most popular in our Spring lineup, bringing UU's from far and wide, so register soon. There is a program fee of $10 per adult for this weekend. If you choose to have more than one lobster or more than one steak alternative, an additional $5 per item will be charged.

Spring Fling With Chuck Larkin
May 6-8

Enjoy our traditional Spring Fling Weekend with your Mountain friends and special guest CHUCK LARKIN of SUUSI and National Fame.

Indoors, Chuck will welcome spring with his storytelling - the tall and the not so tall, and music. He will also offer a mini-workshop entitled **Effective Speaking Through Storytelling.** Aspiring yarn spinners and folk musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments.

Outdoor activities will include a wildflower pilgrimage, rockhounding in Blue Valley and a vespers service on Meditation Rock.

We will plan a SPRING MADNESS party and dance on Saturday night and a special brunch on Sunday. Youth programming will be provided.

High Adventure Weekend
May 13-15

HERE IT IS - THE WEEKEND YOU HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR!

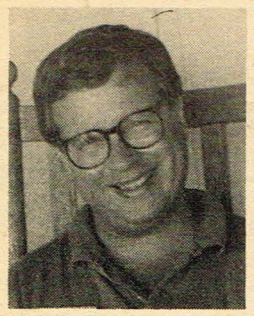
A full weekend of high adventure for the whole family. You can choose from:

- Whitewater rafting
- All day rock climb
- Adventure Hike - All Day

Youth under the age of 13 will have their own special adventure programming or they can join their family in hiking or rafting (11 and up).

Package price for this weekend is $89 for adults, $72.50 for ages 13-17, and $25 for ages 4-12.

Price includes all trip fees, instruction, room and board from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch.



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Dr. Gary Blaine

Moral Reflections

In the fall of 1986, I received a copy of the U.U.A.'s "Code of Ethics - for Persons Working with Children and Youth". I shared the code with The Mountain's Board of Trustees, who adopted it as a part of The Mountain's personnel policy. The code is very consistent with previous Mountain policy prohibiting sexual harassment of guests and sexual involvement with minors. All persons who work with youth in churches and camps should be familiar with the code of ethics.

I have heard a great deal of criticism of the code. I know of some people who refuse to endorse it. Frankly, I think that is nonsense. It reminds me of a husband and wife sitting in a movie theatre. They were engrossed in a suspenseful Hollywood whodunit, in which there were at least a dozen possible murder suspects.

"I bet Paul Newman is the killer", whispered one spouse to the other. "Don't be dumb", came the reply. "Paul Newman isn't even in this picture."

"That's what I mean!" exclaimed the spouse. "What an alibi!"

There is no alibi for the sexual abuse of children. As a moral issue we can not quibble! To be sure, pedophiles have psycholgical needs and require treatment. As a religious movement we are committed to their rehabilitation. But such concern does not condone child abuse.

One of the arguments I have heard against the code states, "This is a moral code that is being imposed on me. Such an imposition is inconsistent with liberal religion and Unitarian Universalism! We have no creeds or codes!" Such a paucity of moral reasoning and historical reflection I have seldom heard. While Unitarian Universalists have steadfastly refused to adopt articles of religion, affirmations of faith, and religious dogma, we have afirmed moral values. Those religious forebears we would emulate are women and men who took clear moral stands on the issues of their day: Parker on slavery, Anthony on suffrage, Dix on mental health, Pauling on nuclear war, Reeb and Young on civil rights. A reading of the U.U.A.'s "Principles and Purposes" reveals some of the most significent and powerful moral values in human history. These include dignity, justice, equity, compassion, peace, love and liberty. The sexual abuse of children is not at all consistent with these values.

A parallel argument against the code states, "The code denies my right to choose. We Unitarian Universalists assert our freedom of conscience". That is all well and good as a general statement. But matters of conscience have a real social context and are not consigned to existential imagination. Matters of conscience impace the lives of men and women, boys and girls. As a matter of conscience no one has yet justified the sexual abuse of children. Freedom of choice implies maturity of judgement and moral responsibility. The imposition of adult sexual needs on the bodies of children is in total disregard for the child's freedom of choice, and retards the maturation of his/her judgement and moral accountability.

We ought to recognize that the code of ethics assers the primary role of adults and older youth in the development of younger children. The code of ethics claims us as stewards of the emotional and spiritual development of children. That stewardship is characterized by nurture, care, support, interdependence, respect, and responsibility. These are the key elements by which we succor the self worth, sexuality, and identity of the children we work with. That is what The Mountain is all about. I expect that is what parents want of us. It is what the children have come to expect of us. Pardon me for being so blunt, but that is why folks who can not endorse the code of ethics do not work at The Mountain. It's not that we think we are superior to those who can not endorse the code of ethics. It's just that we believe the children are worth it.

Love and Peace,

Gary

Reservations and Refunds

Everybody expects The Mountain to be financially responsible. That is especially important when you realize that The Mountain is a $550,000 a year business, and is operationally self supporting. We work very hard to provide the best service possible and to keep our prices as low as possible. The key to making ends meet is to keep The Mountain as full as possible.

Unfortunately we have had some situations where groups have cancelled their reservations with very little notice. Not only has The Mountain lost revenue, it has not had time to sell the space to other individuals or groups. In 1987, The Mountain lost over $15,000 because of groups that cancelled with little or no notice. We were able to recoup those losses through the fall with a great deal of hustle.

To minimize the impact of late cancellations, the Board of Trustees has adopted new policies. **ALL** reservations must accompany a deposit. This can be by cash, check, Visa or Mastercard. A percentage of the deposit is returned based on the amount of notice given. For example 100% of the deposit is returned with 3 weeks notice for individuals, or 121 days for groups; less a small fee. Details of this policy will be sent out in all future confirmation packets. When you receive your confirmation packet from The Mountain, please read the policy carefully.

All of this means that folks are going to have to make solid plans about their use of The Mountain.

We are already booking groups for 1989. We don't want to see your presence at The Mountain lost because of unavailable space. So please, make your plans and give us a call!

The Code of Ethics

Adults and older youth who are in leadership roles are in a position of stewardship and play a key role in fostering the spiritual development of both individuals and the community. It is, therefore, especially important that those in leadership positions be well qualified to provide the special nurture, care, and support that will enable children and youth to develop a positive sense of self and a spirit of independence and responsibility. The relationship between young people and their leaders must be one of mutual respect if the positive potential of their relationship is to be realized.

There are no more important areas of growth than those of self-worth and the development of a healthy identity as a sexual being. Adults play a key role in assisting children and youth in these areas of growth. Wisdom dictates that children, youth and adults suffer damaging effects when leaders become sexually involved with young persons in their care; therefore, leaders will refrain from engaging in sexual, seductive or erotic behavior with children and youth. Neither shall they sexually harass or engage in behavior with children or youth which constitutes verbal, emotional, or physical abuse.

Leaders shall be informed of the code of ethics and agree to it before assuming their role. In cases of violation of this code, appropriate action will be taken.

Campership Available For 1988 Youth Camps

Thanks to the generous folks who have attended Sunday services here at The Mountain over the past year, we will once again have funds available for Campership Assistance this year.

To apply for Campership assistance, you must first register for a youth camp and submit the required deposit. This step is necessary to hold a space in the youth camp. The deposit can be refunded if the amount of the Campership is not sufficient to allow attendance at youth camp.

Look for the Campership request on the Youth Camp Registration Form which will accompany your 1988 Summer Brochure scheduled to be mailed March 1st.

Start A Campership Fund At Your Church

There are always more Campership requests than there is money available. Why not start a Campership Fund at your church.

The Nashville Church has done just this with $1,000 raised from a bake sale and designated to help youth from their congregation attend a two-week session at The Mountain. Congratulations to Life Member Joan Moore and the many others in the Nashville Church. We look forward to having their Campership recipients with us this summer.

Memorial Day Members Weekend

May 27-30

This year Annual Members are being invited to join Life Members for a Memorial Day Members Only Weekend. Special reservation invitations will be mailed March 1st.

This is a great long holiday weekend celebrating the beginning of summer on The Mountain. We are planning a fantastic lineup of activities including dinner on the grounds, a special concert by Lee Knight, and a very special appearance by Steve Day, a UU ministerial student who protrays Thomas Paine in a dramalogue guaranteed to be the highlight of your weekend.

If you are not a Life or Annual Member and would like to participate in this weekend, use the registration form on page 3 of this newsletter to indicate your payment of $35 for Annual Membership or interest in Life Membership and we will see that you get a Memorial Day Registration form.

LOOKING AHEAD

As this Newsletter goes to press, the new Mountain Brochure and Summer Program Schedule is on its way to you. Here's an advance peak at our greatest ever lineup.

Summer Family Program Weeks

To register for these programs, use the form in your 1988 Brochure or send a $75 per adult and $5 per child deposit to The Mountain and we will return a form with your confirmation.

Adult cost for summer weeks is $285, except for Dare to Explore II $412, Dare to Explore I $480, Leadership School $369, RE Week and Transcendentalism $305. Children are less. See the 1988 Summer Brochure for complete details.

June 12-18

Singles Week - A week for singles only.

June 19-25

Nantahala Week - Adults and families outdoors.

June 26-July 2

Single Parents Developmental issues in communication and discipline with a special workshop on "Balancing Home and Career". Childcare provided.

July 2-9

Dare To Explore I - The first of two weeks being offered this year. Join a small group of adults in many challenging experiences.

July 3-9

Dawg Days and Rock Hounds. Back by popular demand - a rockhounding week with John Phelps. Great for the whole family.

July 2-4

Fourth of July Weekend on The Mountain.

July 10-16

Mountain Symposium on Religious Education - with Rev. Gene Navias, Director of UUA's Dept. of Religious Education and Rev. John Shippee of Emory University.

July 17-23

Transcendentalism on the Mountain

July 24-30

Humor in Religion - Theology through Biography.

July 31-August 6
and
August 7-13

Adventures for All Ages - Outdoor fun for the whole family.

August 14-20

Dare to Explore II - Similar to July 2-9, but one day shorter.

August 13-20

Leadership School - Special registration form available from your church.

1988 Youth Camps

June 12-18

Ages 6 to 8. A one week camp.

June 19-July 2

Senior High Camp - Ages 15-18. This year's theme is "Inward Bound - Outward Bound".

July 3-16

Work Adventure Camp for Ages 15-18. Campers spend one week working on The Mountain and one week in the wilderness.

July 3-16

Junior High Camp - Ages 12-14. Our most popular camp.

Visa and Mastercard Now Accepted at The Mountain

Effective immediately, we are pleased to be accepting both VISA and MASTERCARD for all services at The Mountain.

You can use your credit card for weekend reservations - either by mail or by phone, for all charges due when you arrive at The Mountain and for purchases in our camp store.

PLEDGE PAYMENTS can now also be made by credit card. To utilize this service, fill out the form below and return it to The Mountain.

Continuous Support Authorization

TO: The Mountain Development Office

FROM: _____
Name of Life Member or Contributing Member

Please charge my __Visa __Mastercard for a contribution to The Mountain of $_____ each month until _____ I cancel or until _____ date.

Name _____
Card Number _____
Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

July 17-30 11 to 14 Camp August 1-13 7 to 11 Camp

To register for youth camp, send a $95 per child per camp deposit to The Mountain.

Ascender applications (Ages 16-18) accepted until April 30th by checking the appropriate block on the Senior High Camp registration form.

Campership assistance applications will be sent to those requesting this information on their camp registration form.

Cost Schedule:

6 to 8	$244	11 to 14	$497
Sr Hi	$513	7 to 11	$468
Jr Hi	$513	Work Adventure	$462
		Ascenders	$807

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: $18/13+, $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 #

☐☐/☐☐
MONTH / YEAR OF EXPIRATION

REMINDER: HAVE YOU INCLUDED THE EXPIRATION DATE?

SIGNATURE _____



Our 1987 Summer Staff - Just one big happy family

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)
- Assistant Cook
- Crafts Director
- Recreation Staff Members--to work with swimming/boating facilities.
- Kitchen Assistants
- Counselors
- Family Camp Childcare Coordinator

To recieve 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!



WHAT IS THIS MAN DOING? Wink Lucas, Life Member from Richmond, VA, led a winning Thanksgiving Weekend Auction Team with items such as these custom designed boxer shorts. Proceeds from the annual life members weekend exceeded $2,000 - the highest amount ever raised. Thanks to everyone who participated. (Photo by Gary Blaine)

We Wish We Had

The next time you are headed to The Mountain, take a look around and see if anything on our Wish List is available.

For larger donations, remember we are a non-profit corporation and donations are tax deductible (if you can figure out the new tax laws).

We wish we had:

- A Farm Tractor
- A Chevrolet Suburban or similar vehicle
- End Tables
- Lamps
- Carpet
- Riding Lawn Mower
- Pickup Truck
- Radial Arm Saw
- Linens for all Types
- Blankets
- A Surveyor's Transit

Mountain Board Passes Nuclear Free Zone

The Mountain's Board of Trustees passed a petitioned resolution declaring The Mountain a nuclear weapons free zone, at its Board meeting January 16th. The petition was begun in the summer of 1987 by youth camp staff, and was signed by several hundred Unitarian Universalist guests of The Mountain. Organizers of the petition drive included Natalia Taylor, Brian Wheeler, and Chris Purcell.

Natalia Taylor represented the staff and petitioners during the two hour discussion. Natalia argued that the nuclear free zone resolution was The Mountain's witness for peace. She also described the anxiety and dread that many children feel about the possibility of a nuclear holocaust. "Many children do not believe that they will ever grow up to be adults because of the possibility of nuclear war," Natalia said.

The Board amended the resolution to mandate that increased programs in nonviolent conflict resolution be offered at The Mountain. "Otherwise", said Jake Haun, "the petition is only symbolic and weak."

Dr. Gary Blaine, Director of The Mountain, praised Natalia for the distinguished manner in which she presented the petition. Dr. Blaine said, "Natalia is an example of The Mountain's youth camp program, and she represents the very best that we have to offer. We can be proud of the way in which Natalia and these other youth have attempted to be responsible, to participate in the democratic process, and to speak the truth as they understand it."

On a roll call vote the petition was passed seven to one.

Dean Zuck Named Development Officer

For the past nine years The Mountain's Development income has been managed by volunteers. Jake Haun has given several years to raising development income to retire the debt on The Mountain and raise money for new capital projects. We will be forever thankful to people like Jake who nurtured us through the infancy of The Mountain.

Like all children, The Mountain is growing up. The 1988 budget is close to $600,000. The need for development income exceeds $120,000. With the amount of work that it takes to raise this kind of money, the Board, at the recommendation of the Finance Committee made the decision to authorize the Director to employ a full time professional development officer. Jack Haun has been designated Vice President of the Board for Development. He will be available to the development officer to lend his support, while at the same time, will be undertaking special fund-raising projects.

After a long search, The Mountain is proud to announce Dean Zuck as its first professional Development Officer. Dean is presently the Director of Development and Promotion for PKLU Public Radio in Tacoma, Washington.

Dean is a Unitarian Universalist at the Tacoma fellowship, having served as their president for seven years, chaired search committees, been treasurer, and developed Sunday programs. Dean is married to Virginia Talbott, a curriculum specialist and teacher. Virginia is also an active U.U.

Dean will join The Mountain's staff April 1.

THE MOUNTAIN
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