



# The Mountain Matters

THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT & LEARNING CENTERS, INC.

November 2000



The fall colors are brilliant as I write this. Elderhostel, Enviroscope and weekend programs are full and our upcoming Thanksgiving celebration may have the largest attendance we've had in some time. More and more people are experiencing **The Mountain** and all that it has to offer. Lots of maintenance is getting done, buildings are being repainted and the complete renovation of Cabin 9 will be finished by Thanksgiving. We are busy and it feels good.

As I have written in previous articles, we have engaged a civil engineering firm and a land-use architect to help us plan for the development of the base and the newly acquired 12 acres of land. They are finishing their work and will issue a final report by November 1. With this report in hand we can begin a timely, considered, financially viable development of the entire **Mountain** facility that will support the programmatic direction of the future. The Board of Trustees will be reviewing a detailed plan during their December board meeting. I look forward to sharing the highlights of this plan with all of you in our next *The Mountain Matters*.

## President's Report

However, two things are already clear. First, a complete **remodeling of the Dining Hall** must be our next major capital project. If we are to grow our programs and continue to be the personal and organizational transformative center that we are, we need better dining facilities for, in many ways, mealtime is at the center of our community experience. We also need to step up to our commitment to accessibility in the Dining Hall—accessible to the hearing, sight and mobility challenged, as well as to our youngest guests, many of whom can barely reach our serving line today. The time is right, before we embark on new buildings at the base, a welcome center, ASCENDER Home, gardens and walkways at the summit. Most of you by now have received a special appeal for the support of the Dining Hall remodeling. I ask you to seriously consider as large a gift as possible. In considering your gift, please remember that you have until December 31, **2001**, to complete your payments. However, because we want to start work this December the

Continued on page 2

## Sally Bellamy 1913-2000

**Sally Bellamy**, a very special person to The Mountain, suffered a severe stroke in late September and never recovered. She died peacefully on October 20 in Tallahassee, Florida. A Memorial Service was held in Tallahassee on October 23 with many Mountain friends in attendance. The Mountain Quartet sang and Larry Wheeler spoke. We have plans during the Thanksgiving Weekend to hold our own Memorial Service here on The Mountain.

Sally's history with The Mountain started in the Spring of 1980. Our very first week-long program attracted exactly one guest: Sally! Sixteen staff members took turns entertaining and talking with her, but mostly offering themselves up as sacrificial opponents on the tennis court.

Mountain lore is that Sally never really left us after that first visit, and, indeed, for about 15 years she arrived in April and left in November. She will always be known as the "popcorn lady" who for many years ran our social time, was in charge of the store, and made the daily trip to Highlands to handle mail, banking, groceries, etc. She also was the one who regularly convinced others to walk down The Mountain and engage in significant conversations in the process. Many of our staff can tell



Sally Bellamy – photo by Paula Heusinkveld.

Continued on page 2

**LATE 2000 - EARLY 2001 PROGRAMS - SEE INSIDE!  
UPDATE ON THE MILLENNIUM II PROGRAM**



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### Sally Bellamy — Continued from page 1

of countless visits from Sally during which she would offer her thoughts on what needed to be done or inquire about **when** some of the things she previously had mentioned would be done. She wasn't hesitant to do things herself, either. In her most recent visits we often found her going from cabin to cabin spraying WD40 on squeaking screen doors.

Her legacy will live on here in so many ways—the deck at the Lodge is dedicated to “Sally and her many children.” As her 70th birthday was approaching, she explained to all who would listen that the Lodge needed a deck for social hour. She convinced her own children to send The Mountain \$70 in honor of her birthday and designated it for a Lodge Deck Building Fund. The momentum built as Mountain guests of all ages decided they, too, would sign on as “Sally’s children.” By the summer of 1984, Sally had her deck to “properly” conduct social hour—and it survived intact the Lodge fire of 1989! The story is that Sally stood on that deck during the fire and with arms crossed said, “not MY deck!”

The Mountain store has never quite been the same since Sally stopped being its proprietor. Where else could you go and have the person behind the cash register ask you to help figure the bill and make change? Sally had many interesting experiences with her daily trips to town as well. We remember the day the garter snake, carefully placed in a tied pillow case for delivery to the Nature Center, got mixed up with the regular laundry. Yes, the snake was washed along with the rest of the laundry but somehow survived the experience. The next week, the Highlands paper had a front page picture of Sally, the woman at the laundry and the Nature

Center Director, under the headline, “Cleanest Snake in Town.”

Through all these years what stood out was her commitment to The Mountain and her generous support. She became a Charter Life Member at the end of her first visit in 1980. A year later she donated a Life Membership for the Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee, and in 1983 became one of our very first Patron Members. In requesting that a certain project be completed she regularly was first in line with a check to help ensure that it happened. The last big celebration here with Sally was on the occasion of her 85th birthday in September 1998. Many friends participated or sent cards. At Sally’s request, in lieu of gifts, people were encouraged to send money in increments of 85—dimes, quarters, dollars, etc. The purpose was to raise money to clean, repair and stain “her” deck and its rocking chairs.

At some point in every visit to The Mountain, Sally would find time during the day to go to the top of the tower and look out over the entire Mountain and surrounding peaks and valleys. She, as much as anyone up here, valued the uniqueness and importance of this place. Her energy and commitment personify for many of us the spirit of The Mountain.

Sally’s heart was bigger than The Mountain, too; she spoke always of her work with her UU Church of Tallahassee, her lifelong commitment to Planned Parenthood and how proud she was of her children and family.

Please join us in pausing to remember this very special person who did so much to shape the history of The Mountain through its first 21 years.

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### President’s Report — Continued from page 1

greater your payments this year, the more we will be able to accomplish over the winter. Jane and I have already personally pledged \$2,500 to this project. If you have any questions, please call me on **ext. 218** or **Larry Wheeler** on **ext. 230**.

Secondly, it is clear that as we move forward we have an opportunity and a responsibility to be an **organization that believes in and models environmental stewardship**—not just a “think tank,” but a living laboratory. Frederick Steiner, writing in *The Living Landscape* says, “Our responsibility is to retain what we treasure, because we are merely guests on those spaces of the earth that we inhabit. We should leave good impressions about our visit.” And from William McDonough, Dean, University of Virginia School of Architecture, “It’s time we started living as if we were staying.”

All buildings will be constructed to minimize harmful impacts on people, plants and wildlife, while reducing waste and depletion of resources. Energy-efficiency will be a core value. We can develop a sustainable infrastructure—roads, utilities, storm drains, landscapes. We can do much more

with recycling—rainwater for irrigation, washing vehicles, etc.—and composting. Central parking can be developed to reduce emissions. By employing professional designers with expertise in environmental initiatives, we can develop a truly unique plan, and if we resolve to take the time and invest the dollars required, we can “live as if we are staying” and “leave good impressions about our visit.”

As our land-use architect Richard Rothman has written, “Done right, all of us involved with **The Mountain** will derive real enjoyment and a sense of belonging and fulfillment from **membership** and **citizenship** in the interdependent web of all existence.” The challenges and the opportunities are ours. The leadership is committed, we ask you to join us on this exciting journey.

One more request. Although many of you might receive this TMM edition after November 7, for those of you who get it in time, **please VOTE**. The issues are critical, the differences between the candidates (local, state and federal) are clear. **We must all be a voice on November 7.**

*Tom*



## THE RETREAT CENTER



### A View from the Summit – *What’s spiritual got to do with it?*

By Bob MacDicken, Director

As I write this, there is so much going on at the Retreat Center: Elderhostel, church retreats, personal growth groups, Milestone programs, Enviroscope (an environmental education program based at **The Mountain**), and many others, together with great plans and visions reaching into the future. It is easy to get caught up in the busy-ness, or to find oneself thinking ahead to the quieter, more peaceful days of winter.

I think of how full of contrasts life is. Eileen and I have just returned from a glorious week celebrating our son’s marriage in Maine. These events brought to life what Paul said in that letter to Corinth that “three things abide: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love.”

We returned to the news of the conflict in the Middle East that has again heated to the brink of all-out war. The situation both worries and saddens me as I look to what it may portend for the world that my grandchildren will inherit.

There are strands that link these events to each other and to **The Mountain**—religion (our son and his wife have made a new commitment to Conservative Judaism), the importance of place (here, in Maine, in Jerusalem). But other than these, what have the wedding and the Middle East got to do with **The Mountain** in general and the Retreat Center in particular? For me, it is “spiritual.”

Every day I am reminded of what a special place **The Mountain** is. The description that keeps coming back to me is “spiritual place, sacred space.” Special things happen here. One Elderhosteler said, “we have been to 28 Elderhostel programs; thanks to this place and these people, this is the best one we have ever attended.” And one Gay Spirit Vision leader wrote, “I don’t laugh as deeply or weep as sweetly anywhere else.”

Recently it occurred to me that, at **The Mountain**, when a miracle needs to happen, it happens. **The Mountain** is a place where, over and over again, people find what they need “to renew their soul.” It is a place where people rediscover faith, hope and love. It is a place where people gain

new insights in working for peace and justice. In our strategic planning, **Mountain** staff are excited about our future, and we are committed to maintaining the special nature of this place.

As a UU, I know how strange some of this can sound to those who are perhaps more rational, logical thinkers. But spirituality is personal and can have many meanings. Here at **The Mountain** we are committed to helping each person who visits here find, explore and build his or her own sense of spirit. What it means for us is reflected in **The Mountain** Mission Statement that we are about “creating an environment to energize people to work for positive change.”

I encourage you to visit **The Mountain** this winter. I particularly invite those of you who have only been here in the summer to see the wonder of the Retreat Center in winter. Maybe we can sit down over a cup of coffee (or soup?) and share what spiritual has to do with it—and in so doing energize both of us to keep on working for positive change.

Shalom – Bob MacDicken

### Watch for the Spring 2001 Mountain Program Catalogue!

The Spring 2001 Mountain program catalogue will be arriving in your mailbox just after the first of the year. Keep an eye out — programs described in this issue of **Mountain Matters** are just a preview of what is to come. Make sure **The Mountain** is part of your 2001!

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P. O. Box 1299, Highlands, NC 28741  
(828) 526-5838 • fax (828) 526-2511  
e-mail: mountain@dnet.net • www.mrlc.org

Robert E. Smith ..... Editor  
Walita Olson ..... Production

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## Upcoming Programs

### Celebrate the First Christmas of the 21st Century at the Mountain

December 22 –26, 2000

(Two, three and four night options — \$153 - \$279 depending on length of stay; call for youth rates)

Unplug the Christmas Machine at **The Mountain**! Looking for a simple but satisfying way to celebrate Christmas? Join **The Mountain** staff and **Lee Knight** for a low-key, non-commercial traditional Christmas. Learn how the people of Appalachia celebrated with simple activities. Enjoy hiking, crafts, reading and quiet. A spiritual hike will serve as a silent prelude to the Candlelight Christmas Eve service, led by the Mountain Quartet. Bring something fun for the gift exchange (inexpensive or pre-owned) the next morning. Then share the delights of the season by caroling at the Highlands Hospital Nursing Home. After a traditional feast, Lee will share music and stories with an emphasis on Appalachian Christmas customs. Make it a family affair—all programs are intergenerational.

### Senior High WinterCamp

December 26-29, 2000

\$95; \$105 if registered after 12/1/00

Join new friends, old friends, camp and CON friends for WinterCamp at **The Mountain**. WinterCamp is a relaxing, rejuvenating experience. Activities will be low-key and fun. There will be time for you to share new experiences in your life, explore relationship and set your goals for 2001. Spend your days between the holidays with your **Mountain** family.

### 8th Annual – Embracing Our Lesbian Identity

April 20-22, 2001

(Rates \$134 - \$162)

Plan on enjoying this special weekend of spirited fun, laughter, exploration, companionship and dancing. A time for lesbian women of all ages to come together in community. You will feel welcomed and appreciated at this private weekend. Return home renewed and emboldened after a weekend of sharing your stories and challenges, your joys and concerns; and your hopes for the future. Open for singles and couples.

**Use the Registration Form on Page 13 for any Retreat Center, Milestone Learning Center or Learning Center for Leadership Program.**

### Mother Daughter Spring Retreat

May 4 – 6, 2001

(Rates \$145 - \$165)

Get a jump on Mother's Day by spending the weekend before Mother's Day at **The Mountain**. This unique weekend for mothers and their daughters, age 11 – 18, is designed to provide shared experiences in a community of acceptance, warmth, comfort and the serene natural beauty of the Southern Mountains. Plan now to celebrate your mother-daughter relationship at **The Mountain** next May!

### MountainScape

Exploring the Nantahala Wilderness

June 17 – 21, 2001

(Rates \$315 - \$365)

Come to **The Mountain** at the height of the rhododendron season for a Nantahala Wilderness Adventure. Join naturalist **George Ellison** and folklorist **Lee Knight** who team up to lead you into a most unusual part of western North Carolina, the Nantahala River watershed, home to many rare and unusual plants. You'll spend two days exploring: learning the wildflowers, birds, and some of the human history of the area, visiting scenic areas and walking a bit on the Appalachian Trail. And for more fun, you'll raft the Nantahala River! So pack your walking shoes and your adventurer's spirit and join us for a Nantahala Wilderness adventure.

### Family MountainCamp

July 1-7, 2001

(Rates \$395 - \$465 for adults; \$155 for youth)

Go to camp together! Your family will experience typical “camp” activities—boating and swimming on the lake; community building within and between families on the challenge courses; non-competitive games, arts & crafts; folk dancing,

hiking, nature study and much more.

Beat the heat and take time out this summer to enjoy your family **Mountain** style.



*Many generations together.*



## Calendar at a Glance

**Note:** Programs in **bold print** are open to the public and, with few exceptions, there is always room for drop-ins or small groups. Descriptions of programs open to the public can be found throughout this issue of *Mountain Matters* – page numbers are indicated after the program title.



### DECEMBER 2000

- 1-3 Board Meeting
- 1-3 **Senior High Youth CON**
- 8-10 Native Voices
- 8-10 Light Redmountain Therapy Group
- 8-10 Milestone LSSJ/Community in Schools
- 8-10 Milestone LEAP
- 15-17 Milestone LEAP
- 22-26 **Christmas at The Mountain** (pg. 4)
- 26-29 **Senior High WinterCamp** (pg. 4)
- 29 –2 **Millennium II on The Mountain** (pg. 10)

### JANUARY 2001

- 9-10 Coweeta Hydro Lab Long-Term Ecological Research
- 19-21 **Junior High Youth CON**
- 26-28 NWUU Men's Retreat from Atlanta, GA

### FEBRUARY 2001

- 9-11 **Senior High Youth CON**
- 16-18 Mountain Board Meeting
- 16-19 Atlanta Knitters
- 23-25 **Senior High Youth CON**

### MARCH 2001

- 9-11 Native Voices
- 9-11 NWUU Women's Retreat from Atlanta, GA
- 11-16 **Elderhostel – Mark Twain, Emily Dickinson and T'ai Chi** (pg. 9)
- 16-18 Spirit Weekend
- 18-23 **Elderhostel – Roots of the Appalachians** (pg. 9)
- 21-25 **African Drum & Dance** (Call office for brochure)
- 25-30 **Elderhostel – Appalachian Home: Homesteaders, Stories and Music** (pg. 9)

### APRIL 2001

- 1-6 **Elderhostel – Southern Appalachian Culture, Folk Music and T'ai Chi** (pg. 8)
- 6-8 Mountain Ambassador's Weekend
- 8-13 **Elderhostel – Down Home Appalachia: Homesteading, Music and Natural History** (pg. 8)
- 16-19 SEUUMA Conference
- 20-22 **Embracing Our Lesbian Identity** (pg. 4)
- 22-27 **Elderhostel – Walking the Appalachians, Music, and Roots of Scotch-Irish** (pg. 8)
- 29-4 **Elderhostel – Appalachian Home: Mountain People, Natural History and Civil War** (pg. 8)

## Create Your Own Retreat This Winter

Take advantage of our off-season rates and create your own retreat at **The Mountain** this winter. Revel in the quiet. Hike the trails during a season when you can see for miles through the bare trees. Then kick off your shoes in front of the fireplace, find a book from the library and warm your hands with a hot mug of cocoa. Call the office for drop-in rates and create your personal winter retreat today!

Don't worry unnecessarily about our winter weather. Yes, it will probably be colder than where you are, but we seldom get snow. If we do, **The Mountain** has its own snow plow and the states do an excellent job keeping Highways 246/106 open between Dillard and Highlands.



# Get Geared Up for MountainCamp 2001

It's one of the most valuable and fun experiences a young person can have! Your camper will come away with memories that last a lifetime. MountainCamp fosters belonging and acceptance in a truly safe environment. Committed to providing meaningful, quality experiences for all youth, MountainCamp offers a variety of programs. Whether you are looking for two weeks of adventure or a summer-long experience in leadership training, you'll find your niche at **The Mountain**.

**The Mountain** promotes individual choice and responsibility. Starting with Elementary MountainCamp, your camper will determine his/her own schedule based on the activities offered and what is appealing. This allows us to offer support and to challenge each camper at his/her level of development and interest. Our counselor-to-camper ratio is 1 to 4 ensuring



A MountainCamp 2000 group preparing for an outing.

that youth receive the attention needed to promote community and well being.

Haven't seen a MountainCamp 2001 brochure in your mailbox? Call the office today to receive a copy. Don't delay—camps fill up fast.

Camp	Dates	Ages	Price
Beginning MountainCamp	July 1 - 7	Rising 1st thru 3rd graders	\$399
Elementary MountainCamp	July 1 -14	Rising 3rd thru 6th graders	\$844
Jr. High MountainCamp	June 17 - 30	Rising 7th thru 9th Graders	\$864
Jr. High Backcountry Adventure Camp	July 15 - 28	Jr. High	\$864
Work & Adventure Camp	July 1 - 14	Rising 8th through 12th Graders	\$784
Sr. High MountainCamp	July 15 - 28	Rising 10th Thru 2001 Graduates	\$864
Sr. High Backcountry Adventure Camp	June 17 - 30	Sr. High	\$864
ASCENDER MountainCamp	June 10 - July 14	Rising 11th thru 12th Graders	\$754
Counselors-in-Training (CIT)	June 10 - July 28	Rising 12th thru 2001 graduates	\$894

## Creating at MountainCamp 2000

*“...we take chances, risk great odds, love, laugh, dance...in short, we play. The people who play are the creators.”*

Holbrook Jackson



Campers participating in a project of service.

I read this quote and thought it applied to our experience here at MountainCamp. Yes, we do play. But, what is really happening when we interact in ways that let us laugh and cry, hop, skip and jump, play in a running river, listen to wind of the mountain tops, dance with a friend, and create art and music? I agree with Holbrook, we **are** creating. We are creating a community; we are creating experiences and memories, but mostly we are creating ourselves. Creating who we are and who we will be.

It is easy for a director of a camp to stand up and say all the great things camp offers youth; however, it won't mean a thing unless it comes from our campers. What is camp anyway? The trips, the activities, the games all make up what a camp offers. But it is the campers that create the experience. What follows are some examples of the experiences shared by the campers of MountainCamp 2000.

Mike Stein  
Youth Programs Director

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MountainCamp 2000 was a challenging, but very successful summer for me. I was at a rather transitional point in my life, having just graduated from college and preparing to start law school in California in the fall. I was looking for a safe place to belong in the interim. I chose The Mountain. I



Incredible views of the Southern BlueRidge!

returned because I wanted to give back on a new level to this amazing place that gave me so much as camper, CIT, and counselor. However, this summer certainly was not just about my giving. The summer also provided me with countless new experiences that pushed me to grow on multiple levels, just as The Mountain has always pushed me before. I am stronger, more confident, and a richer person for it.

I think camp was extremely successful. We handled our challenges responsibly and effectively while continuing to provide all of our youth with a safe, positive, and fun envi-



MountainCamp leadership.

ronment. It makes me smile to think of all the ways that each and every camper was impacted by the counselors and the support that was provided here. We touched lives this summer and we made a difference. I believe that this is what camp at The Mountain is all about. Kids might tell you they come back because it's fun, but there's more to it than that.

Our staff cares about our campers and their development. We are interested in nurturing who they are as people and encouraging them to grow, just as each of us is encouraged to grow while working here. These are the reasons that I am proud of the work that I did here and glad that I chose to spend this summer on The Mountain. Through our commitment this summer we continued the amazing legacy of MountainCamp and ensured that it is a place in which both parents and children will continue to feel nothing but the utmost confidence.

Bronwen Blass  
Youth Camp Coordinator

## Quotes

*“The Mountain Rocks! We cannot describe in words all of the gifts MountainCamp has provided for us. The love, support, friendship and growth are only a few aspects of this amazing community. Since 1990, MountainCamp has served as a milestone, not only in our childhood, but also in our coming of age.”*

Kathryn Kohl and Heather Frost  
Sr. High Campers

*“Camp is the best part of my year. I look forward to it all year. I've met my closest friends at MountainCamp.”*

Steven Sullivan  
Sr. High Camper

*“Camp means a place to be and find yourself. A place to meet special unique people who accept you as you are.”*

Laura Groves  
Sr. High Camper

## Scholarships Available to All!

We never want cost to be the factor that prohibits anyone from coming to **The Mountain**. Accordingly, we're willing to provide partial scholarship support to youth, adults or families.

If you want to apply for a scholarship, just contact **Larry Wheeler**, explain your situation, and request a **specific** amount of support. Larry may be contacted by phone at **ext. 230**, by regular mail at the address listed in this newsletter, or via e-mail at [mountain@dnet.net](mailto:mountain@dnet.net), (subject line, “ATTN: Larry”).





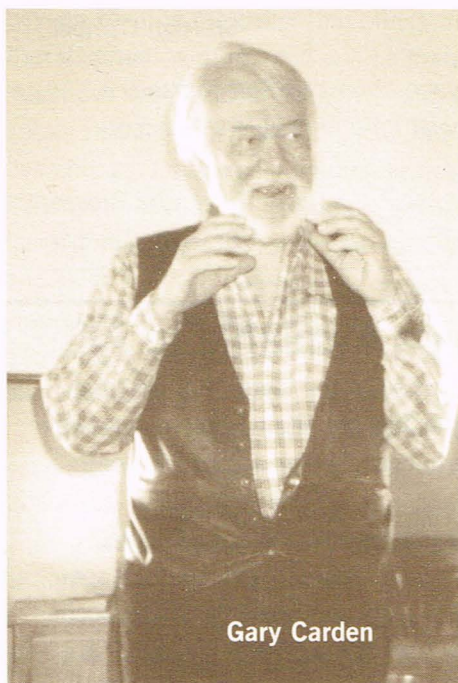
## Adventures in Learning Elderhostel at The Mountain

Plan to experience an *Adventure in Learning* program this spring. It's an educational experience and vacation rolled into five days and nights. A part of The Mountain's programming since 1983, Elderhostel weeks offer adults age 55 and older extraordinary opportunities to expand their physical and mental horizons and to meet new friends. Program weeks typically offer three courses on various topics ranging from nature studies and politics to astronomy and Appalachian culture. Each course has a minimum of seven hours of instruction and instructors come from all over the country.



### Spring 2001 Elderhostel Calendar

Dates	Price	Program
March 11 – 16	\$380	Mark Twain; The World of Emily Dickinson; and T'ai Chi
March 18 – 23	\$395	Roots of the Appalachians: History and Culture of the Mountain People
March 25 – 30	\$380	Appalachian Home: The Homesteaders; Stories of the Mountain People; and Appalachian Culture through Musical Traditions
April 1 – 6	\$380	Southern Appalachian Culture through Stories; America's History Through Folk Music; and T'ai Chi
April 8 – 13	\$385	Down Home Appalachia: Homesteading; History and Culture as Told Through Music; and Natural History and Appalachian Splendor
April 22 – 27	\$390	Walking the Southern Appalachians; Appalachian Culture through Musical Traditions; and The Roots of the Scotch-Irish
April 29 – May 4	\$385	Appalachian Home: Mountain People, Yesterday and Today; Natural History and Appalachian Splendor; and The Civil War in The Mountains



Gary Carden

Call The Mountain Office (828/526-5838) for your copy of the *Spring 2001 Adventures in Learning: Elderhostel at The Mountain* brochure. You will find full descriptions of each of the weeks listed above.

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### Have You Booked Your 2001 Retreat at The Mountain?

Call now! Dates in 2001 are filling up fast. **Mountain** staff is ready, willing and able to help you plan a retreat to remember! Whether you are planning your congregation's retreat, your workplace staff retreat or a retreat for the organization you volunteer with, **The Mountain** is the place to do it! From trust walks to team building on the challenge courses, whitewater rafting to a stroll down **The Mountain** trail, sitting on the lodge deck to singing by the campfire, your retreat can have it all. Make sure you do not miss out. Call **Carol Hamilton** at **(828) 526-5838, ext. 217** to reserve your group's space.



## Happening in March!

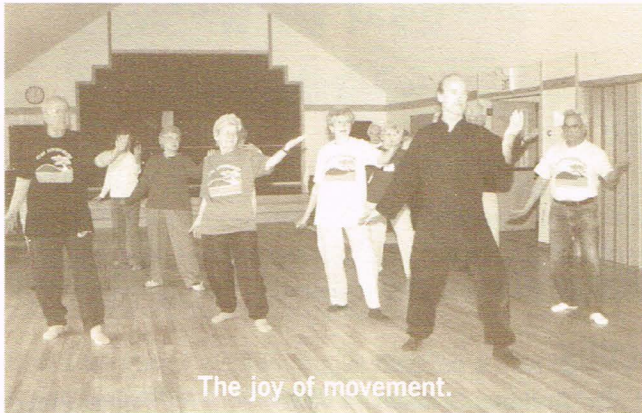
Call Elderhostel toll-free to register: 877-426-8056

March 11 – 16, 2001

\$380

Program # 33272-0311-1

Join us for three wonderful courses that will energize your mind and body. With **Bill Lawrence**, performer extraordinaire, explore the unique wit, social philosophy and life of Mark Twain through dramatic readings, lecture, and anecd-



The joy of movement.

dots rich with humor and biographical detail. **Candace Ridington**, author and UU from Maryland, will share the world of Emily Dickinson, painlessly exploring her poetry through the story of Dickinson's brother's love affair. Then **Kathy Fletcher** will energize your body and your sense of humor with a series of simple T'ai Chi movements that are slow, gentle and easy.

March 18 – 23, 2001

\$395

Program # 33272-0318-1



Ila Hatter

**Roots of the Appalachians:** Experience a week of field trips and classroom activities to learn the history and culture of the native and white settlers of these Southern mountains. With **George Ellison**, naturalist, **Ila Hatter**, a descendant of Pocahontas, and **Flora MacDonald Gammon**, a true Scots woman, learn of the early and late settlers, and visit the

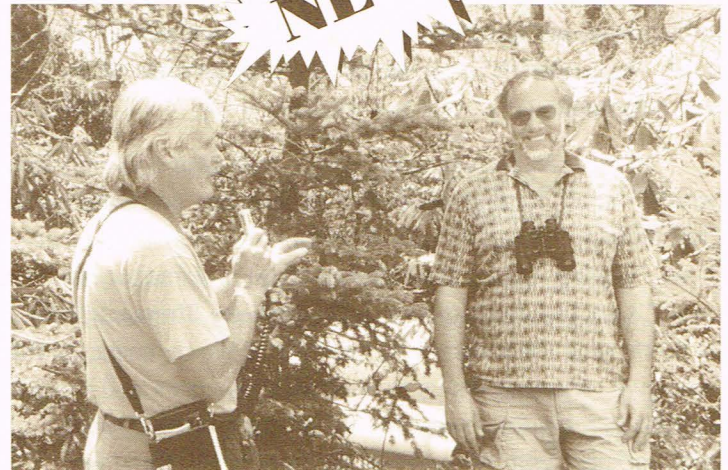
Cherokee Museum, a re-created 1800's farm, and more.

March 25 – 30, 2001

\$380

Program # 33272-0325-1

**Appalachian Home:** Three courses provide insight into the culture and history of the mountain people and their life. Mountain born and bred **Bill Hooks** will delight you with the culture, tools and life of the homesteaders. The ever popular, always funny **Gary Carden** will share touching, humorous stories about growing up in a small mountain town. Then **Anne Lough** will delight you with a participatory exploration of the balladry and folk songs that are Appalachia.



George Ellison and Lee Knight on the trail of William Bartram  
(Photo by Gladys Christianson.)

### In The Footsteps of William Bartram:

**Cherokee and Natural History with George Ellison and**

**Lee Knight**

May 27 – June 1, 2001

\$400

Program # 33272-2-0527-1

Immerse yourself in the beauty and culture of the Southern Appalachians following in the footsteps of naturalist William Bartram who, in 1775 – 1778, explored Cherokee country, cataloguing and describing new species of plants and birds, and documenting the Cherokee culture. Take early morning bird walks and afternoon nature hikes on the Bartram Trail. In morning classes learn of Bartram, the history and culture of the Cherokee, and his love for these mountains and its inhabitants. An outstanding program based on an outstanding explorer.



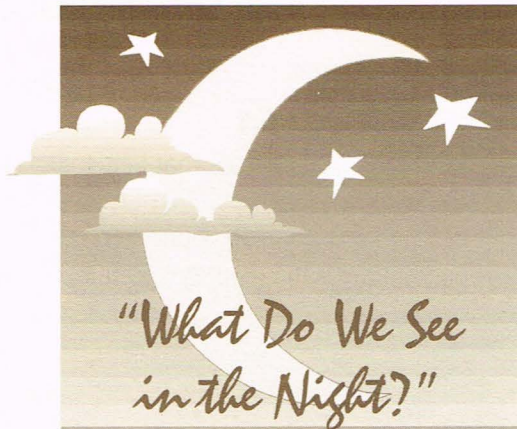
# Millennium II

*on The Mountain*

Dec. 29, 2000 — Jan. 2, 2001

Sponsored by

**M**ILESTONE  
LEARNING CENTER



**T**here's nothing quite like experiencing the turning of the year at **The Mountain!** This year, as we celebrate what many scholars consider to be the REAL beginning of a new millennium, we'll envision the world as we believe it can and must be — and find ways to “*Be the change we wish to see.*” (Ghandi)

In order to articulate our vision, we'll take a journey into recent history, through terror and uncertainty, and experience that journey through African American and Jewish perspectives. “Getting around the cultural, racial and imagery issues,” says Faculty Coordinator **Dr. Anthony Stringer**, “there is no denying the inherent human fear of the darkness, of the unknown. What allows us to confront those fears and move beyond them is the belief that others are moving through that darkness with us, and will be there for us when we reach out into our unknown.” We will, in effect, walk together into the night, and create community, hope and positive change. Of course, any program contemplating the new Millennium would be incomplete without opportunities to take “guided tours” through the stars. We'll also learn tools and skills that will empower us to participate in building a world community that implements the embrace of diversity, and models acceptance of the inherent worth and dignity of all inhabitants of the interdependent web.

With their contagious energy, enthusiasm and wisdom, our youth will lead one of the adult workshops, allowing us to see the world through their eyes. We'll hear their voices of hope and determination and we'll follow them as they lead an intergenerational community service project.

As in every Milestone program, there will be interactive workshops, creative arts, and fun! Once again, we will toast one another and the New Year under the stars of the spec-

ular night sky (weather permitting — and it almost always does!). Don't miss this event — but register soon before all the spaces are filled. (See registration form on page 13.)

## Faculty

**Dr. Anthony Stringer** — Associate Prof. Rehabilitation Medicine (Emory University); Lay Minister for UU Congregation of Atlanta; cofounder of Thurman Hamer Ellington Percussion Choir

**The Rev. Marti Keller** — Minister, Georgia Mountains UU Church; community minister for Decatur Cooperative Ministry, serving homeless and other low-income families

**Monroe Gilmour** — Community Organizer, Coordinator of Western North Carolina Citizens for an End to Institutional Bigotry

**Dr. Eugene Byrd** — Professor of Astronomy at the University of Alabama; Gene excels in teaching students of all ages, from elementary through seniors

**Ayanna Stringer** — Rising 9th grader in Atlanta, Ayanna will serve on the faculty as our Youth Program Coordinator

**Shelley Jackson Denham** — Director, Milestone Learning Center

Please fill out the form on page 13 and

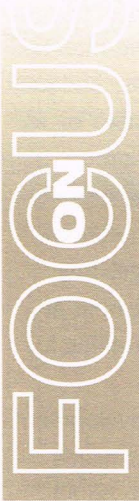
## REGISTER SOON!

There are limited spaces remaining!

Plan to be at The Mountain to  
help us ring in the real  
**New Millennium!**



# MILESTONE LEARNING CENTER



## Views from Milestone – “Milestones” Among Us

By: Shelley Denham, Director

**M**ilestone's 2nd “Anniversary” was September 1, 2000! We are proud of our accomplishments: There is much work yet to be done—the challenges are huge, and so are the rewards!

### Staff Milestones

This fall we are celebrating two staff transitions—a significant “goodbye,” and a warm “hello.” Milestone has been fortunate—and intentional—in hiring dynamic people who are willing to risk embarking on a “road less traveled” in order to contribute their existing skills and learn new ones through their work. Those very qualities—creativity, hunger to make a difference in the world, energy and determination—almost guarantee that at some point our staff will want to move on and act in new ways on their experiences and values.

So, with mixed emotions, we say farewell (for now!) to “Charter” Milestone staffer **Sarah Walls**, who will be moving on in November. Of course, Sarah wouldn't be Sarah unless she continued to pursue her passion for social justice work. While her next steps remain uncertain at this point, her intentionality about seeking her next path has made this leaving a joyful—if poignant—one for us all. Sarah has been involved every step of the way with the creation of Milestone, having joined **The Mountain** staff in May of 1997. She conceived and developed **LSSJ**; she coordinated two semesters of **REFUEL** (Residential Education for Unique Experiential Learning). Sarah's commitment to socioeconomic justice and to youth has unquestionably influenced Milestone's standards of excellence.

Some of Sarah's thoughts as she prepares to embark on the next part of her journey: “I'm grateful to staff, trustees and members for their warm support of my decision. This is the right time for me to move on, but of course I am sad to be leaving this community. I trust I'll be involved in the future of Milestone and MR&LCs as a volunteer, faculty resource and Life Member. It's exciting to see Milestone's development into a sustainable organization, with a solid staff, reputable

programs, and growing base of constituents. I've been consistently challenged and have learned an incredible amount; each year I feel smarter and wiser for having been here. I believe I've given a solid commitment to justice, hard work, new ideas, and collaboration. And I've gained so much: a wide range of professional experiences, opportunities to grow, and many important relationships. I will stay in touch!”

And welcome to **Kirstin Maanum** who joined our staff in August! “I was initially drawn to Milestone because of its commitment to engage youth to work for social change,” she said. “I bring a variety of experiences working with youth groups and young adults in marginalized communities throughout the country. Most recently, I was living in an intentional community on the U.S./Mexico Border and working as the Projects Coordinator at an Immigrant Advocacy Organization in El Paso, Texas. My passion for this job comes from witnessing too many youth that are left disillusioned by being disenfranchised and scapegoated in communities. I



*Kirstin Maanum and Sarah Walls.*

truly believe that youth and young adults are the greatest untapped social change agents in our communities: We have energy, commitment, and longing to be part of a movement. I am most excited about being part of a young organization like Milestone and participating in building relationships with young people and grassroots organizations on regional, national and international basis.” We are lucky to have Kirstin on our team!

In some ways, Sarah's departure, Kirstin's arrival and **Anne Mayher's** continuing service as LEAP Coordinator all serve to remind us to keep the past and the future balanced with the needs of today. And Milestone moves forward!



## LEARNING CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP

### Views from the LCL New! A Leadership School for Religious Educators

By Dr. Helen Bishop, Acting Director

*"We're growing, not just in numbers, but also in the depth of our spiritual explorations, our outreach to the community in which we are located, and in our willingness to deal with organizational complexity."*

*"We're back to the days when we had as many children and youth involved in this congregation as adults."*

*"Since we went to two services, we've expanded our vision of the uses we can put this facility to — the calendar fills up pretty rapidly these days."*

What do all these congregations have in common? High-quality religious education plays a key role. A dedicated religious education minister or director has the training, knowledge and experience to wear many hats, most days at the same time. They are true congregational leaders.

Could you find a better definition of a congregational leader? Religious educators devote their energies, passions, time and commitment to this vital part of congregational life. All too often, the congregations they serve think they were born knowing how to do all of this!

Leaders, however, are made, not born. Leadership training is one component of the creation and nurturing of religious educators, and **The Mountain** has taken a giant step in providing that training for ministers and directors of religious education.

Leadership School is widely regarded as one of the most effective programs ever implemented for UU leaders, but many religious educators have felt shut out of the process, which is intended for lay leaders of UU congregations. Starting next July, ministers and directors of religious education will have their own Leadership School!

The Leadership School for Religious Educators, scheduled for July 8 - 14, 2001, at **The Mountain**, will offer all the usual exciting experiences of a Leadership School, with a special twist. Religious educators will have the opportunity to learn about their own preferred behaviors and styles, explore the ins and outs of congregational life, tackle tough issues

through effective conflict management, examine the interactions between their congregations and communities, and look at ways to help their congregations thrive, surrounded by RE colleagues and friends. Every session, every small group, every exercise will be planned with the experiences of religious educators in mind. What an opportunity for networking, teambuilding, learning and fun! And don't forget this outstanding leadership training experience is being held at **The Mountain**, so spectacular scenery and opportunities for outdoor experiences are built right in.

A key part of the 2001 LSRE involves the development of action plans tailored to each religious educator's needs and wants. Leadership without action doesn't exist, so all participants at the School will leave with a solid planning foundation in hand.

Faculty for the Leadership School for Religious Educators 2001 includes:

- **The Rev. Cynthia Breen**, Director of the UUA's Religious Education Department
- **The Rev. Linda Olson Peebles**, Minister of Religious Education from Virginia and trustee to the UUA Board for Joseph Priestley District
- **The Rev. Susan V. Rak**, religious education Program Consultant for Joseph Priestley District
- **Dr. Helen Bishop**, Acting Director of **The Mountain's** Learning Center for Leadership and past District Executive for Central Midwest District
- **Laurel Amabile**, Religious Education Program Consultant for Thomas Jefferson District and **The Mountain's** Learning Center for Leadership, and past Director of Religious Education in Asheville, North Carolina

If you are a minister or director of religious education, or if you chair your congregation's Religious Education Committee, put these dates on your calendar now and plan to participate. If you are a parish minister working with an MRE or DRE, encourage her or him to attend the Leadership School for Religious Educators 2001, along with the Chair of the RE Committee or Task Group. If you're a board president or member, make sure your congregation's budget includes a line item for continuing education for the MRE or DRE, and earmark those funds for the 2001 LSRE.

Be sure your congregation is represented at this groundbreaking event. Spaces will be limited, so look for fliers and registration materials early in 2001. See you at **The Mountain** JULY 8 - 14 for LSRE 2001!





# REGISTRATION FORM

This registration form may be used to register for ALL programs (whether sponsored by Retreat Center, Milestone Learning Center of Learning Center for Leadership) listed in this issue of *The Mountain Matters* (except Elderhostel).

Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Enter names of ALL registrants as you want them to appear on namelists:

Adults	Gender	Life Member?	Youth, children, infants*	Age	Gender

\*Lodging Preference: Indicate 1st, 2nd, 3rd choices. Please contact The Mountain office for lodging descriptions.

◆ Housing preferences are not guaranteed but honored by date registration is received.

**LODGE** \_\_\_\_\_  
Private bath (for adults)

**CABIN** \_\_\_\_\_  
Private bath

**DORM** \_\_\_\_\_  
Shared bath

Roommate Preference (if not registering together): \_\_\_\_\_

Bed Preference (subject to availability): Twin \_\_\_\_\_ Double (for 2) \_\_\_\_\_ Crib \_\_\_\_\_

Mobility Considerations: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Preference:

Check this box if you have NO special dietary needs.

Indicate food you DO NOT eat:  
fish\_\_\_\_ poultry\_\_\_\_ dairy\_\_\_\_ eggs\_\_\_\_ red meat\_\_\_\_ pork\_\_\_\_  
Special dietary considerations: Allergies? Special diets? Vegan? (Please be specific)



**NONREFUNDABLE DEPOSIT ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_. A \$50 nonrefundable deposit is required for each adult, and a \$25 nonrefundable deposit is required for each youth ages 4 - 17. **Your check payable to The Mountain is preferred;** Visa and MasterCard can be used by legibly printing your complete card number and expiration date below, and signing the space provided. The deposit is applied to your final bill. Deposit is nonrefundable in the event of cancellation.

Visa/MasterCard #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name (as appears on card): \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

1100MTNM

Office use only:	Deposit received:	Housing:	Date:	Confirmed:
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# GIVING

FOCUS

Our profound thanks to . . .  
gifts since last issue

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

John & Jerri Wood, Hellertown, PA

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

Fred & Phyllis Sweeton, Oak Ridge, TN

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

Alan & Janis Wilcox, Atlanta, GA

## Patron Members (\$5,000+)

Joni & Les Grady, Clemson, SC

Donna Schmitt, Birmingham, MI

Darcy & Gary Wolfson, Bloomfield Hills, MI

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

Ellen Anderson & Bill Baker, W. Bloomfield, MI

Sheryll & Stephen Daniel, Durham, NC

Lillian & Walter Dean, Huntington Woods, MI

Arlene & Ron Fredrick, Birmingham, MI

Jenny Fairburn-Kropf & Robert Kropf, Auburn Hills, MI

Susanne Loar & Emily Diaz-Loar, Asheville, NC

Carol McCarus, East Jordan, MI

Stan & Lauren Mudd, Huntington Woods, MI

Qiyamah Rahman, Charlotte, NC

Ed & Julie Sallin, Charlotte, NC

Rachel Secrest, Norfolk, VA

Boris Silberberg & Frances Williams, Troy, MI

John & Sue Stoll, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Mani & Ruth Subramanian, Atlanta, GA

Vince Teeter & Kathee Williams, Woodstock, GA

Darcy & Gary Wolfson, Bloomfield Hills, MI

## Irv & Millie Kagan Scholarship Fund for Underprivileged Youth (Gifts of \$250+)

Tuesday Night Group, Atlanta, GA

Irv & Millie Kagan, Atlanta, GA

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

David Anderson, Boca Raton, FL

Roger & Faith Comstock, Yarmouth, ME

Jim & Barbara Kobacker, Pensacola, FL

Russell Hunnewell & Jim Urbanski, Atlanta, GA

## Fall Projects (Gifts of \$250+)

Mary Ann Ely, Huntsville, AL

Arnold & Marjorie Gelbin, Winston-Salem, NC

Harold & Charlotte Johnson, Black Mountain, NC

Jack Lawrence, Whispering Pines, NC

(In loving memory of **Mary Ann Lawrence**)

Dick & Dorothy Wertzler, Highlands, NC

Laura & R.K. Whitehead, Gainesville, GA

## Dining Hall Remodeling (Gifts of \$250+)

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

Sharon Beecher, Norcross, GA

Helen Bishop & Susan Grider, El Sobrante, CA

John & Kathy Bohstedt, Knoxville, TN \*\*

Ivan & Jeanetta Cotman, Detroit, MI \*\*

Lanie Damon & Bruce Kitchell, Atlanta, GA \*\*

Shelley & Ian Denham, Highlands, NC

Jean & Ed Findley, Avondale Estates, GA \*\*

Pat Gnagey, Franklin, NC \*\*

Hildegard Gray & John Vacher, Atlanta, GA \*\*

Claire Keane, Clarkston, GA \*\*

Bob MacDicken & Eileen Ross, Highlands, NC

Ed & Jean Mangiafico, Chatham, MA \*\*

Liz McMaster, Los Alamos, NM

Jeri Moulder, Santa Barbara, CA

John Rakestraw & Mary Katherine Morn, Nashville, TN \*\*

Neal Resch & Don Smith, Sky Valley, GA

Dorothy & Robert Senghas, Burlington, VT \*\*

Robert E. & Susan Smith, Highlands, NC \*\*

Tom & Jane Warth, Highlands, NC \*\*

Larry Wheeler & Nancy Heath, Sky Valley, GA \*\*

Alan & Janis Wilcox, Atlanta, GA \*\*

John & Jerri Wood, Hellertown, PA \*\*

### *In Memoriam*

Sally Bellamy, Tallahassee, FL

Harold Goodman, Winston-Salem, NC

Thomas Keane, Davidsonville, MD

Mary Ann Lawrence, Whispering Pines, NC

Elinore McCandless, Decatur, GA

Lillian Wheeler, Canandaigua, NY

## New or Renewed Short-Term Loans or Promissory Notes

Bill Buckley, Atlanta, GA

Nancy Heath & Larry Wheeler, Sky Valley, GA

Eleanor Johnson, Lilburn, GA

Jeri Moulder, Santa Barbara, CA

Bobbi Stenstrom, Augusta, GA

Becky Tisdale, Alexandria, LA

## Mountain Endowment Fund Update

*By Bob Whitney*

The fund is off to a good start. As of 9/30/00 its assets are \$248,964, with \$172,663 currently loaned to The Mountain. The Board of Directors of the Endowment Fund has developed an Investment Policy, finalized bylaws and worked on other housekeeping matters. Under the Investment Policy, the percentage the Fund can loan to **The Mountain** will reduce as its assets grow and top off at 50% of the first \$1,000,000. Actually, **The Mountain** does not expect to increase its loan from the amount noted above. The Board is now working on ways to increase its funds and most of this increase will be invested prudently in the Stock Market. You can help by remembering the Endowment Fund in your will, if you haven't already done so. This is easy to do: call **Larry Wheeler** if you'd like any help.



# Planning for End-of-the-Year Giving

## Holiday Giving – Feel Good and Help The Mountain

We increasingly hear people say that they have many on their holiday shopping lists that really don't need anything. We have a suggestion for all who find themselves in such a situation: **Make a gift to The Mountain in their names and we will send special holiday greetings to the named people announcing that the donor has made a gift in their name.**

The donor will receive an acknowledgment of the gift, a sample of the greeting which will say a little about us, a sincere thank you, AND a tax deduction!

If you want to participate, please contact **Larry Wheeler** by December 10 with your list of names with addresses and how you want your name(s) listed as donating the gift, plus the amount of the gift. The recipient will NOT be told the amount of the gift.

If you prefer to have the greetings sent to you so you can mail it directly to the recipient, that's fine, too.

### Life Membership Options

Another great holiday gift for an offspring, a friend or yourself!

- Single payment of \$2,000 (check, credit card or stock/mutual funds)
- Five year payments totaling \$2,500
  - Annually at \$500
  - Quarterly at \$125
  - Monthly at \$41.67
 (And, we can do bank drafts for your quarterly or monthly payments)
- And it's tax-deductible!!

If you want, we're happy to do a special holiday certificate and send it to you for inclusion with your other holiday gifts.

### End-of-the-Year Giving in General

Please do remember **The Mountain** as you prepare your end-of-the-year giving lists. You can help ensure that the Dining Hall project gets off to a flying start, you can help with scholarships, or just give to the general fund.

There are lots of ways for you to give:

- **Gifts of cash** – a check or credit card
- **Gifts of stock** – assuming the stock has grown in value, you normally will receive a twofold tax saving—avoid paying capital gains taxes and receive a tax deduction on the FULL market value of the stock at the time of the gift. Remember, however, to donate the stock to us and let us sell it.
- **Gifts of real estate** – this is another way to avoid capital gains taxes while receiving a tax deduction on the full fair market value of the property.
- **Life Income Gifts** – think about a charitable remainder unitrust or a charitable remainder annuity trust. Both will provide you with annual income while making a tax deductible contribution to us.

With any of the above you can donate directly to **The Mountain** or to The Mountain Endowment Fund.

Thanks for thinking about **The Mountain!**

### Development Questions?

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

**Don't forget to mail your Dining Hall Remodeling contribution NOW!**



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

### Apply my contribution to:

- Life Member    
  Dining Hall Remodeling    
  Scholarship Fund    
  General Fund  
 \$50   
  \$100   
  \$250   
  \$500   
  \$750   
  \$1,000   
  \$5,000   
  \$\_\_\_\_\_

Pay By:  Check     VISA/Master Card    Card #: \_\_\_\_\_    Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_    Signature on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_    State: \_\_\_\_\_    Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_    (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

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



## Founding Family of Camp Parrydisse Visits

In mid-October, we had a special treat as the daughter-in-law and grandson of founder, **Maude Parry**, paid us a visit with their respective spouses. **Dot Wilson** and husband, **Ray**, are from Orinda, California. Her first husband, **Harvey Parry, Jr.** was the son of **Maude** and **Harvey Parry**. Their son, **Laird Parry** and his wife, **Shawna**, from Seattle, Washington, completed the foursome.

Many of you will remember that the Parry Family, the above four and Laird's sisters, **Ann Heller** and **Mary Alice Pinkham**, contributed \$20,000 to the rebuilding of the Tower in 1999, in honor of Maude and Harvey Parry.

They left us with some more pictures of the Camp Parrydisse girls and still more relatives to contact to learn more about what this place was like during the first half of the 20th century. On your next visit, look at the Camp Parrydisse display in Heritage Hall to see some of the new pictures.



*Shawna and Laird Parry along with Dot and Ray Wilson.*

### **FOR SALE!** Health food store in Highlands.

It has been in the same location for 20 years, with a loyal customer base and reasonable lease. \$90,000 plus inventory. If sold through **The Mountain Matters**, the seller will donate a Life Membership to **The Mountain**. For more information, contact **Peter Raoul** at **(828) 526-2015** or e-mail [wholelifesupply@juno.com](mailto:wholelifesupply@juno.com).



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