

have to go through security. Parking may be hard to find. The Circle Center Mall garage is only a few blocks away and relatively inexpensive.

Show our legislators that words do matter! Help ensure that Indiana:

- retains its ability to protect unmarried couples from domestic abuse
- recognizes care agreements between unmarried senior citizens
- protects the best interests of children in adoption and foster care
- continues the high quality of our colleges and universities
- promotes the best environment for creating new jobs in Indiana

Learn more at www.stoptheamendment.org/ and discover why the so-called "marriage amendment" has nothing to do with marriage, but threatens many protections already relied upon by hundreds of thousands of unmarried Hoosier adults and why the proposed amendment fails to make a distinction between any unmarried couple, regardless of orientation.

With the amendment being debated again during this year's legislative session, it is more important than ever to help educate your legislators on its hidden dangers. While increasing numbers of representatives are becoming aware of growing unintended problems with a marriage amendments passed by other states, let them know how they can make the best decision for Indiana.

Help cast the widest net possible by ALERTING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS to this important opportunity to make a difference and voice your concerns. Join us in asking our legislators if they have 'Read the Fine Print.'

RALLY! RALLY! RALLY!

Support I.U. Jobs and Stop Outsourcing!

Help us rally support to stop the IU Administration and the Board of Trustees from outsourcing university jobs!

The Administration and the Board of Trustees at IU Bloomington are trying to cut university jobs by outsourcing vital services provided by our dedicated staff. Outsourcing is bad for our IU faculty, students and employees.

When: Saturday, January 27, 9:30 A.M. Before The IU - Michigan game.

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington; 2120 North Fee Lane, Bloomington, then moving to Assembly Hall.

Who: Staged by South Central Jobs With Justice, Concerned Citizens of Indiana, CWA Local 4730 and AFSCME Local 832.

The Unitarian Universalist Church's Social Justice Steering Committee will host the rally participants. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

Speakers will include Milton Fisk from Jobs With Justice, Peter Kaczmarczyk from CWA Local 4730, and David Warrick from AFSCME Council 62.

Please RSVP to CWA Local 4730 at 812-855-8508 or AFSCME at 317-917-0723, extension 30.

RALLY! RALLY! RALLY!

Common Ground is published monthly by the Social Justice Steering Committee Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana; 2120 N. Fee Lane; Jackie Hall, editor



Common Ground

Social Justice Newsletter UU Church Bloomington In

Faith in Action Forums

Sunday Mornings 10:15 a.m. in the library. Contact Jackie Hall to schedule.



Global Warming: From Understanding to Action

"When you pray, move your feet." This African proverb

flashes on the screen at the end of An Inconvenient Truth, Al Gore's film about global warming. More than a hundred people joined the Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change this month for a showing of the film. In the brief discussion afterwards, people shared their feelings. "Pure terror," said Adam Leite of the crack in the Arctic Ward Hunt ice shelf. If half of the ice on Greenland and half on Antarctica melt, sea level would rise 18 to 20 feet, leaving hundreds of millions homeless.

Our next gathering will explore how each of us, individually and together, can move to action. What are our options in transportation, housing, food, energy use? What do those choices mean? How can we change?

On Sunday, February 11th at 5 PM, the Green Sanctuary Task Force will host another vegetarian potluck dinner followed by a discussion. Speakers will include David Rollo, Keith Vogelsang, and Jeff Reigal. There will be ample time for questions and comments. Come help us cross the threshold from understanding to action.

Contact Marcia Veldman meadowlk@bloomington.in.us



The Civil Marriage is a Civil Right Task Force would like to thank everyone who signed a post card petition to

help stop the discriminatory marriage amendment to the Indiana State Constitution. The post cards were hand delivered to the Governor. As members of this liberal religious community, it is essential that we make our voices heard to stop discrimination.

This church is a Welcoming Congregation, which includes a commitment to education on BGLT topics. As part of the adult RE program, "Welcoming Congregation-Refresher II" will take place during seven Tuesday sessions, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Jan. 16, 23 and 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27 in the Library. We will explore BGLT knowledge, homophobia, and heterosexism. Participants are encouraged to attend all sessions, but drop ins for individual sessions are also welcomed. Child care is available for these classes, please reserve early.

Sunday, Feb 18 is date for the "It's All About Love" fundraiser breakfast at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Arrive hungry and enjoy delicious food, good friends, and help the Task Force raise funds.



Children's Task Force

Our connection with Templeton and the Templeton/Shalom Family Resource Center continues to grow. We are very grateful to the Social

Justice Funds Committee and the board for funding a grant that we sponsored for the Templeton Free Family Market. The money will be used to buy needed supplies and also activities for children while they are there with their parents to pick up groceries. The money will be used wisely and go a long way in helping needy families.

On MLK Day seven of our Coming of Age youth and their mentors strengthened this connection with Templeton/Shalom by volunteering their time to do crafts and games with children during Shalom's Children's Health Day. They also encouraged each child to take home a book from among the many good used children's books members and friends have doanted. Once again, we thank you!

Still needed are diapers of all sizes to be given to families at the Templeton Market. Drop them off by the Social Justice Table outside the meeting room. Thank you!



The Habitat for Humanity Task Force is gearing up for sponsoring a Habitat house in

2008, along with one or more other congregations in the community. The UU Church sponsored a house previously with Trinity Episcopal and the Quaker church and the task force believes working with other churches is a wonderful way to build stronger connections with people of other faiths in the community.

This is a huge commitment for which the task force will need the support of many people in the congregation. We need to raise approximately \$15,000, depending on how many churches decide to join us. Trinity Episcopal already has made that commitment. The total cost of sponsoring a house is \$50,000. We are planning a series of fund-raising events throughout the year that will start soon. We are also in discussion with several other churches to finalize our plans. Sponsoring a Habitat house for someone in need in the community is a tangible and visible way for our church to make a positive impact on providing sorely needed housing for low-income people in the local community.

Please consider joining the task force and/or support our fund-raising efforts. Our next meeting is Feb. 11 at 10 a.m. in Room 112. We will be brainstorming fund-raising ideas for the year. If you can't come to the meeting, but would like to help, contact Barb Berggoetz at barbberg@bluemarble.net, or Connie Nelson-Laird, at cnelsonlaird@gmail.com. If you'd like to help at a construction site, Habitat needs help in remodeling its new office, the Campbell House, at 213 E. Kirkwood. Ten people are needed to work on Feb. 17. We would like to send a group of church members to help that day. Several have already signed up. Call Barb at 876-6659 or email her, if you are interested in working a half-day or full day. Lunch and drinks are provided. Barb Berggoetz, task force co-chairperson

President Bush's Three Escalations

In his January 10th address on Iraq, President Bush announced escalation of three kinds, not just sending more troops. The other two are lifting "restrictions" on the firepower we use in civilian districts and, second, considering it a regional war.

Sending more troops will only fuel the insurgency. The overwhelming majority of Iraqis want us to leave, and 61% support attacks on our forces. How then can Mr. Bush claim the U.S. occupation fosters "democracy"?

Escalating our firepower is even more dangerous. On January 9th, U.S. F18 fighter jets bombed buildings in Baghdad's Karkh district where we thought there might be insurgents. Very probably they housed many innocent ordinary residents as well. An assault on the densely populated Shiite district of Sadr City might well produce a bloodbath. Our adoption of such tactics will likely intensify the rage not only of Iraqis but also of the Islamic world.

Mr. Bush also transparently threatened Iran. He mentioned the deployment of the USS Stennis carrier group joining the USS Eisenhower in the Persian Gulf. His appointment of an admiral, William J. Fallon, to head the Central Command also hints at a U.S. or Israeli attack on Iran.

Congress must block all three kinds of escalation by cutting off funds for the Iraq war and banning a preventive war on Iran. The current war bears no relation to the war dubiously authorized in 2002 on the pretext of weapons of mass destruction. Please call Senator Lugar and Senator Bayh and Congressman Baron Hill and tell them to end the war.

David Keppel for the Task Force on a Just Peace. keppel@sbcglobal.net



Fair Trade Bloomington is an IU student-run initiative to inspire the Bloomington Community to open a nonprofit, fair trade retail store. The Community Call-Out Meeting will be

held for the purposes of educating about the growing scope of the fair trade movement, more fully involving interested community members in our initiative, and identifying members for the start-up Advisory Board necessary to make this a reality. If you're looking to make a difference in the world, this is your opportunity!

February 10, 2007 10:30 am-11:30 am
Indiana Memorial Union: Maple Room
Room M020 on the Mezzanine Level of the IMU, 900 E. 7th St. Bloomington, IN 47408
Presentation Followed by Open Discussion
Coffee and snacks served.

Contact for information: Mary Embry, Project Director at mcebry@indiana.edu

HELP Stop Constitutional Mistake

WHAT: "Read the Fine Print!" Rally at the Statehouse
WHEN: Monday, February 19th, 2007 from 1:00pm - 2:30pm (President's Day)
WHERE: Indiana Statehouse, North Atrium, 200 W. Washington St.

Enter the Statehouse using the Ohio St. entrance. Please allow extra time, you will

MCUM

Bountiful Sunday February 4th
Benefit Concert: Sally Todd Sunday,
February 18th, 4 pm

UUs say NO to surge

March on Washington
January 27th