



# Common Ground

Social Justice Newsletter UU Church Bloomington In

## Just Peace Task Force talks with Congressman Baron Hill

Members of the Just Peace Task Force and other UU's were on hand April 10<sup>th</sup> as Congressman Baron Hill held an Open House at his office in the Showers Building.

Congressman Hill recently voted for the supplemental appropriation of \$96 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill sets a deadline of September 2008 for U.S. troops to leave Iraq - though there are loopholes allowing troops to stay to train Iraqis and to "fight terrorism." President Bush rejects any restriction on the war and has vowed to veto the bill.

Congressman Hill says he favors a deadline to leave Iraq, but he has also said he will not cut funding as long as U.S. troops remain. Mr. Bush could thus use troops' safety as an excuse to demand funding to keep them fighting, even though that is sure to kill both Americans and Iraqis.

Members of the Just Peace Task Force asked Mr. Hill to insist on a tight timeline for withdrawal and to fund the troops' safety as they do so, not further offensive operations. We also urge Congress to support a political solution, including wide-ranging talks with Syria and Iran, as well as long-term humanitarian assistance.

A provision requiring President Bush to obtain specific Congressional authorization before attacking Iran was dropped from the current bill. Please ask Congressman Hill to support such a requirement and to work for an early end to the occupation of Iraq.

The next meeting of the Just Peace Task Force is Sunday, April 22nd, at Church, following the second service and the brief Congregational Meeting. Please bring a brown bag lunch and join us. For more information, please contact

*Mike Betson forestfolk@aol.com*

*David Keppel keppel@sbcglobal.net 331-2815.*

## SJR-7 Thanks -

Thanks to all who have made the difference in the fight against Senate Joint Resolution (SJR-7), the Marriage Discrimination Amendment.

Take a moment to thank the courageous five by going to <http://eqfed.org/ct/CpzM-CM12XhK/>. The five State Representatives who voted against SJR-7 include Rules Committee Chair Scott Pelath (D-Michigan City), Terri Austin (D-Anderson), Earl Harris (D-East Chicago), Bob Kuzman (D-Crown Point), and Majority Leader Russ Stillwell (D-Boonville). Their votes effectively removed it from consideration for this year. They have spared the state a bruising

battle over this poorly written attempt to amend Indiana's Bill of Rights by inserting discriminatory language. More importantly, their vote shows their true commitment to doing the work of the people this legislative session, at a time when our state has much to do.

*Indiana Equality*

## Funeral Consumers Alliance of Bloomington

Mark Harris (author of "Grave Matter") will be the featured speaker at a meeting of the **Funeral Consumers Alliance of Bloomington** (<http://www.bloomington.in.us/~fcab/>) on Saturday, April 28 from 10 am - 12 noon at St Thomas Lutheran Church (corner of Smith Road and E. Third Street)

Mr. Harris has been traveling the country, exploring more natural alternatives to traditional funeral ceremonies. He will talk about why these alternatives are appearing now, and give a brief, image driven version of his book: a picture of death care in early America, the changes it underwent during the late 1800s, and a look at what modern memorialization has become.

Members of the FCAB include Rev. Bob Epps, Aase Loescher, Iris Kiesling, Susan Dovenmuehle, Carol Seaman and others. For information 335-6633 or 332-5224.

*Iris Kiesling*

## Hoosiers for Commonsense Health Plan <http://www.hchp.info/index.html>

**Sunday, April 22, 2007 4:00 PM:** Kick Off National Cover the Uninsured Week Benefit Concert, First United Methodist Church, 219 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St. Free/Donations Appreciated. Ten IU music students who concertize around the world will be donating their art for this event.

**Wednesday, April 25, 2007, Noon - 2 PM:** Free lecture **Dr. Adewale Troutman**, Healthcare Inequality and Universal Health Care: Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center, IU Campus and **7 PM - 9 PM:** Monroe County Public Library Auditorium, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave.

*Bob Taylor*

**Privatizing IU: Consequenses of Outsourcing:** Panel Discussion; Monday April 23 12:10-1:15 Wylie Hall 005. Panelists: Pat Brantlinger, James Rudy Professor of English at IU, Emeritus; Peter Kaczmarczyk, President, CWA Local 4730; Randy Pardue, Board Member, AFSCME Local 832; Moderator Sylvia Turchyn, Head, Western European Cataloging, Wells Library

*IU Progressive Faculty Coalition*

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## Faith in Action Forums 10:15 am in the library



**April 22:** People and Animal Learning Services, Inc. (PALS) is dedicated to providing high-quality, safe, educational, fun and therapeutic animal assisted activities such as therapeutic horseback riding, hippotherapy, animal care—come hear more about this incredible program.



**April 29:** Decent, Affordable Housing hosted by UU Habitat for Humanity Task Force Decent, affordable housing is a critical need in Monroe County!

Join us at our first forum in a series to learn how Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County and other local groups are addressing this social justice issue.

**Guest: Deb Boudreau**, USDA Rural Development. Deb will share information about a subsidized loan program which helps low income families purchase homes.

**Guest: Victor Gasana**, partner family/homeowner for our Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build in Spring 2001. Victor will share how home ownership has changed his life and the life of his family.

Our UU Task Force is working towards jointly sponsoring another **Interfaith** build.

## Jammin' for Justice!!!!

**What? Peace and Justice Sing-Along** **When? Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 7PM**  
**Where? UU Fellowship Hall** **Who? All of us!**

*Bill and Glenda, and several other musicians, will lead us as we rattle the rafters (and perhaps the planet!) for peace! Please bring your instruments, your voices, your family, your friends, and join in the fun!*

**How Much? If you can—bring some food for the MCUM grocery cart.**

**Snacks? Yes! Snacks & drinks will be provided by the SJ Steering Committee**



## The Children's Task Force

The Children's Task Force would like to thank the Social Justice Funds Committee for awarding a \$1,500 grant to the Templeton/Shalom Free Friday Market for needed supplies for families. This is a wonderful show of support for this agency that does so much for the very needy in our community.

We continue to support Templeton and the Templeton/Shalom Family Resource Center with volunteers and donations of books and diapers. Please continue to bring your donations of children's books (used are great!) and diapers of all sizes to the collection bins by the social justice table in the hall.

Martha Nord



## UU Grounds Now Certified Wildlife Habitat

The Church grounds are now certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation thanks to the green care they receive by the Grounds Committee members and an application submitted by Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change.

The criteria for certification is two-fold; you must provide habitat for wildlife and use of sustainable gardening practices. Providing habitat means that available on the grounds are the four basic elements that all wildlife need to survive and reproduce: food, water, cover and places to raise young. And sustainable gardening practices means the grounds are cared for in a manner that helps to promote healthy habitat for wildlife including birds, butterflies, small mammals, soil microorganisms and people too.

The Grounds Committee has been converting lawn to gardens full of native herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees and maintaining the grounds in a sustainable manner by reducing the need for watering, eliminating the use of chemical fertilizers and nearly eliminating the use of chemical pesticides. The Green Sanctuary had the easy job of filling out a simple application provided by the National Wildlife Federation and improving wildlife access to water by providing a birdbath (thanks to the generosity of Elizabeth Lions) that was placed in the recently added garden on the north east side of the building affectionately named "Luciferous Terra".

The Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change decided to get involved in this project because creating habitats not only helps wildlife, it also helps reduce global warming pollution. Burning fossil fuels to heat and cool our homes and maintain our lawns releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which is the main greenhouse gas responsible for global warming.

Replacing lawns with strategically located trees and other native vegetation can insulate our homes from heat, cold and wind, reducing our heating and cooling needs and thus our carbon emissions. And, unlike lawns, wildlife friendly native plants don't need constant maintenance from gas guzzling lawn mowers and maintaining them without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which are made from fossil fuels, further reduces carbon dioxide emissions. On top of this, plants actually absorb carbon dioxide, helping further reduce the amount in the atmosphere. All of this adds up to increased wildlife habitat, reduction in carbon dioxide that causes global warming and reduced energy bills.

All of us can create yards that are wildlife friendly and reap the rewards of gardening for wildlife. As you're planning you're spring garden think about how you can provide for

Glenda Breeden

wildlife and reduce your greenhouse gases. If you would like help, the Center for Sustainable Living has trained habitat stewards who can provide you with advice. Contact them at 332-8796. They are working to make Bloomington the eighteenth community in the country that is certified as Community Wildlife Habitat and only need about 50 more households to participate. Be the change you want to see!

Make the Connection. Live Green!

Marcia Veldman



## Habitat for Humanity Task Force

Thanks to everyone who supported the Habitat for Humanity Task Force by coming to our fund-raising kick-off breakfast Easter morning. The task force netted \$1,400 from the breakfast and donations. This amount brings our total raised so far to about \$3,900 toward our tentative goal of \$20,000 in order to partially sponsor a house.

Plans have begun with Trinity Episcopal, Beth Shalom and the Quakers to jointly sponsor a house, which costs about \$50,000. The task force has fund-raising plans for the rest of the year and may need to extend to early 2008 in order to raise the necessary funds. Upcoming activities include a car wash on May 20 with the YUUMs. So, take time after church that day to have your car washed!

We also will host a forum from 10:15 to 11 a.m. on April 29 in the church library to discuss the need in Bloomington for housing and hear from Victor Gasana, the homeowner of the house that UU and two other churches co-sponsored in 2001, about how homeownership has affected his life. Anyone is welcome to attend. There will be refreshments.

Task force members also have tentative plans to sponsor an ice cream social and bake sale, as well as charge IU football fans to park cars at church during games this fall. We are excited about creating this Interfaith Build with others churches, as we need in 2001, and involving as many church members as possible. Our "fund-raising hammer" poster will be on display so everyone can see how our fund-raising efforts are paying off.

If you're interested in participating in the task force, contact Barb Berggoetz at [barbberg@bluemarble.net](mailto:barbberg@bluemarble.net), 876-6659, Connie Nelson-Laird, [cnelsonlaird@gmail.com](mailto:cnelsonlaird@gmail.com), 334-1528.

## Congress Debates Action on Global Warming

Ten years after the U.S. Senate unanimously rejected the Kyoto Accord on global warming, Congress is beginning to address the issue seriously – and not so seriously.

In the name of curbing global warming, various lobbies are touting their favorite projects. Ethanol, a darling of farm state legislators, itself often involves large fossil fuel inputs to raise the corn. "Clean Coal" dangles the prospect of carbon sequestration - separating the CO2 from the emissions and storing it underground - though that is an unproven and highly expensive technology; meanwhile, dirty old coal advances under its mantle. Nuclear power rides its horse to the Apocalypse: its risks of terrorism, leaking long-term waste disposal, and weapons proliferation remain unsolved.

Fortunately, some truly excellent initiatives are gaining ground in both the Senate and the House. Senators Bernard Sanders and Barbara Boxer have introduced a comprehensive plan (S.309) to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. Congressman Henry Waxman has introduced a bill (H.R. 1590) with similar goals in the House.

Please ask legislators to take tough, wide-ranging action on global warming. Congress must require increased efficiency from industry; it must promote fuel-efficient vehicles, clean fuel, and public transit; and it must require utilities by a certain date to generate at least 25% of their electricity from zero-pollution, renewable sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal power.

Each of us can change our own lives to lighten our impact on the planet. But we can also insist that government do what it exists to do – bring changes that depend on our acting together.

For more information on the Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change.

David Keppel [keppel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:keppel@sbcglobal.net) 331-2815.

### Coming This Fall!

Susun B. Weed, world acclaimed author, will be one of the keynote speakers and workshop presenters during the Indiana Holistic Health Network (IHNN) Wellness Expo this coming November here at the UU Church. More details to come! This is a project of Greendove.

Patricia C. Coleman



## UUADP For Whom the Bells Toll

The frame on which we hung our banner was destroyed recently by one of our spring windstorms. We hope to erect a new one soon to continue our public witness to executions scheduled in the USA. Please remember the following death row inmates, their families, their victims' families, and all who are connected to and affected by their executions. Take note that Indiana has an execution scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, our task force will be seeking your signatures on a letter to the governor requesting clemency for David Woods. Due to recent stays granted because of the mental illness and lethal injection issues, we are hopeful that this execution will not go forward.

### April

18<sup>th</sup> Texas Cathy Henderson  
24<sup>th</sup> Ohio James Filiaggi  
26<sup>th</sup> Texas Ryan Dickson

### May

4<sup>th</sup> Indiana David Woods  
8<sup>th</sup> Nebraska Carey Dean Moore  
9<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Steven Rollins  
9<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Philip Workman  
10<sup>th</sup> Texas Jose Moreno  
16<sup>th</sup> Tennessee David Ivy  
16<sup>th</sup> Texas Charles Smith  
23<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee William Rogers  
24<sup>th</sup> Ohio Christopher Newton