



# Common Ground

Social Justice Newsletter UU Church Bloomington In

**Faith in Action Forums - 10:15 am in the library**

**Friends of Prisoners**, Glenda Breenden chair, formerly UUADP/Toll the Bells Task Force will continue their work on alternatives to the death penalty and also offer other volunteer opportunities for those interested in assisting the incarcerated and their families. Several projects are already in progress including Crafig Bridges, Christine McKenna coordinator which helps prisoners make items for their children, furnishing children's books for jail waiting room, Martha Nord coordinator, and visiting the prisons in the area.

**Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change** chaired by Marcia Veldman and Stephanie Kimball. This past year they led the church through the process in becoming a certified Green Sanctuary. The goals of this task force are to explore ways of reducing the ecological footprint of the UU Church of Bloomington, its members and the broader community and to fulfill our commitment as a certified Green Sanctuary.

**Habitat for Humanity Task Force** which is working towards an Interfaith Build in fall of 2008 is chaired by Barb Berggoez and Connie Nelson Laird. Their goals are to work with

other churches in Bloomington to raise funds and furnish volunteers for the Interfaith Build. They are working with several groups in our church to provide programming focusing on housing needs. They have publicity plans as well as fund raising plans that focus on assuring that the entire congregation has opportunities to participate in the Interfaith Build.

**The Task Force on Just Peace** goals are to serve as a nucleus for peace activism within the congregation, to give us visibility and voice in peace activism in the community, to take positions, and to nurture and develop a vision of peace with justice. David Keppel and Mike Betson are co-chairs

**Rainbow Rights Task Force** was formerly know as the Civil Marriage is a Civil Rights Task Force. They changed their name to more accurately reflect their direction. They will begin scheduling events toward the goal of involving the entire congregation in Living the Welcoming Congregation. They are also working with other congregations in Bloomington to co-host a film showing of Inlaws & Outlaws. Co-chairs are Judi Epp, Chris Clothier and Mike Betson.

**The True Cost of War: A Moral Balance Sheet**  
**Sent to members of the United States Congress by Rev. William G. Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association March 9, 2007**

One Month in Iraq	One Year in Iraq
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to the tens of thousands of injuries American service members have sustained in fighting in Iraq, more than 500 have undergone "major amputations"—the loss of arms or legs. In the four years of fighting in Iraq, that totals ten servicemen and women losing a limb every month (or one every three days).</li> <li>For less than the amount spent in one month in Iraq, New Orleans' neighborhoods could be completely rebuilt and improved to meet standards that would better protect them against another hurricane.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 34,000 Iraqi civilians were killed in Iraq in 2006 alone. That is equivalent to 93 civilians killed every day.</li> <li>The money spent in Iraq in one year could have paid the health insurance premiums for half of all uninsured Americans, including all uninsured American children.</li> </ul>

**The Lundin Social Justice Endowment Fund**  
**Who was Leonard Lundin?**

I was fortunate to know Leonard Lundin near the end of his life, when I often drove him to church. This week I viewed the interview of Leonard filmed in 1994 for the church's oral history project. I have a new appreciation for Leonard Lundin as well as for the importance of the oral history project.

Leonard Lundin was born in 1907. He grew up in New Bedford, Massachusetts and was educated at Harvard and Princeton. He was raised a religious liberal, attending the Universalist Church in New Bedford as a child and then the Unitarian Church during high school. Leonard came to Bloomington in 1937 to join the History Department at I.U. He describes Bloomington at that time as a charming small town with a university of 6000 students who had little awareness of the rest of the world.

Until the 1940's, Bloomington was segregated and Leonard was active in the desegregation movement and involved in the founding of a local branch of the NAACP. He was a peace activist prior to WW II and served in the Army during that war. He was a protestor during the Vietnam War and participated in teach-ins for the antiwar movement.

Leonard was a founding member of this church in 1948. Over the years he saw many changes as we grew and always looked back with fondness to the small group that held lively discussions on philosophical and ethical concerns with no ritual and no singing! Social action issues were of paramount importance to Leonard. He was pleased to see the church become a Welcoming Congregation and take a stand for gay rights in the city of Bloomington.

At the conclusion of the interview he stated that he would like to see the continued involvement of individuals in the church in social action. Upon his death in 1998, he left a bequest to the church. A social justice endowment was established as well as a fund that would make money available for needed church projects. The fund has been used to pay for our elevator as well as our 2001 sponsorship of a Habitat for Humanity interfaith build.

Today Leonard Lundin would be pleased to see how the social justice grants that the church offers support individual projects in the community. We have been able to support such diverse activities the shade grown coffee project, a community parenting support project, admin-

istrative start up money for Stepping Stones, a UUA social justice empowerment workshop, the Templeton/Shalom Family Market, and others.

To begin with, this grant money came from funds set aside during the capital campaign of 1998. This year the remainder of these funds was transferred to the Special Purposes Fund. The social justice endowment from the capital campaign was fused with the Lundin Social Justice Endowment. From now on the interest from the Lundin Endowment along with money designated in the operating budget will fund our Large Grant Fund A and our Small Grant Fund B.

Hopefully, the Lundin Social Justice Endowment will grow over time with additional contributions from planned giving and individual contributions. Fund A and B will also grow with our continued support of the operating budget through our annual pledge. We will continue to realize our commitment to social justice work in the larger community...just what Leonard Lundin wished for us.

*Joan Caulton*

*Member Social Justice Funds Committee*



## **Friends of Prisoners New name New projects!**

The **UUADP/Toll the Bells Task Force** is in the process of expansion. Our new name will be **Friends of Prisoners**. We will continue to advocate for persons on death row in Indiana and beyond and will widen our educational and volunteer opportunities to include the Monroe County Jail (MCJ) and the Wabash Valley Correctional Institute (WVCI). Martha Nord and the *Children's Task Force* has been collecting children's books for the MCJ waiting room for years—this will now be part of

*Friends of Prisoners*. Christine McKenna has made volunteer opportunities available with the *Crafting Bridges* project at MCJ through a UU Social Justice grant; she is excited about joining this task force. And, besides our choir's annual Martin Luther King Day concert, we will pursue other ways to assist those incarcerated at WCVI.

We want our first UU principle—we affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person—to be embodied in the work we do as we recognize people who are incarcerated, both close to home and beyond, as part of our human family. Watch for our table at the *Getting Involved Fair* on September 23<sup>rd</sup>... and...get involved!

*Thanks, Glenda Breeden*

## **CROP Walk October 21, 2007**

CROP or Communities Responding to Overcome Hunger is an organization of Church World Service. Our congregation has participated in this event in past years, and this year the MCUM Committee of the Feed our Hungry Neighbors Task Force will sponsor our involvement. We will have sign-up for the walk Sundays in October. Harriet Pfister and Sarah Schwartzel will co-chair the walk for MCUM. Put the date on your calendar and additional information will be in future Prologues.

*Beth Hollingsworth, MCUM Committee*

## **Common Ground needs co-editor**

Common Ground our monthly Social Justice newsletter is looking for a co-editor. Current editor, Jackie Hall, would like to have a partner that can put together some of the newsletters. Microsoft Publisher is the software used. Email [jmhall@indiana.edu](mailto:jmhall@indiana.edu) or 332-6451.

## **Habitat Task Force planning Halloween bake sale!**

The Habitat for Humanity Task Force is sponsoring a bake sale on Sunday, Oct. 28, between the services to benefit our planned Interfaith Build. It's the Sunday before Halloween, so we'll have some Halloween-related goodies. We hope to sell muffins, cakes, pumpkin and other breads, cupcakes and other goodies for UU members to eat at church or take home. We are continuing to plan periodic fund-raisers to reach our goal of up to \$20,000 for the UU share of an Interfaith Build. At this time, we have raised about \$5,000, so we have a ways to go.

This is truly going to be a wonderful joint effort, bringing together divergent faith communities. Churches involved are Beth Shalom, Trinity Episcopal, Quakers, Baha'i, and possibly others. In 2001, the UU church and Trinity Episcopal and the Quakers sponsored a Habitat house together and it proved to be a great experience for all involved. We hope many UU members will contribute financially, support our fund-raisers and when the time comes help build this house for a deserving local family.

Please mark Oct. 28 on your calendar and bring a little extra money to buy some treats for a good cause. If you're interested in contributing some baked or other goods, please contact Barb Berggoetz at [barbberg@bluemarble.net](mailto:barbberg@bluemarble.net) or call 876-6659.

*Barb Berggoetz and Connie Nelson-Laird  
co-chairs of the Habitat Task Force*

## **Universal Health Care for All Hoosiers**

You may know someone without health insurance (one in seven Hoosiers does not have

health insurance). After gathering signatures to **petition legislators** from attendees at the Indiana State Fair, we are even more aware of working people who cannot afford insurance, do not qualify, or their company has dropped them. We heard so many sad stories of people who could not have an insurance plan. On the next few Sundays we will offer an opportunity for you to **sign a petition** calling for the Indiana General Assembly to create a public system of health insurance that provides all Indiana residents with comprehensive coverage (including prescription drugs, and long-term care). The insurance companies already are lobbying to defeat this concept so we must be strong in number to let our needs be known to legislators. Our lobby is small but our number is great **if you are willing to be counted**.

*Bob Taylor*

*Monroe County United Ministry Committee*

## **Task Forces making plans!**

Every year, we ask our task forces to review their accomplishments of the previous year and to set goals and make plans for the upcoming church year. In several cases we asked task forces to join with other projects and broaden the scope of their task force. We also asked them to consider how they might be able to reach beyond the congregation and join with other faith communities and organizations in the community.

Currently we have the following task forces:

**Feeding our Hungry Neighbors Task Force**, Beth Hollingsworth chair, is last year's MCUM task force and more. Volunteering at Community Kitchen, Libby Devoe coordinator, and working at Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Sarah Owens coordinator, are now service opportunities for the task force.