

**Templeton/Shalom Family Resource Center
Needs Volunteers**

For many years members and friends of our congregation have volunteered at both Templeton School and the Templeton/Shalom Family Resource Center, which serves needy families. Volunteers are needed again this school year. The current needs are:

- 1) Wednesdays, 2:30 to 4:30, to play with kids while their families wait for their turn at the food pantry at the First United Methodist Church downtown.
- 2) Fridays, 1:00 to 3:00, to help with the family market (food pantry) at Templeton School, setting up and distributing food.
- 3) Membership on the PIE (Parent Involvement in Education) Team, a group that meets not more than once a month, August through May.

Nancy Armstrong is the director of the family Resource Center. Please contact her at narmstro@mccsc.edu if you are interested in volunteering or have any questions about the center and its needs.

Martha Nord



**Interfaith Home
almost done!**

The Habitat Interfaith Build is nearing completion, after many hours of work from about 30 UUsers and members of eight other faith communities. We have been building along side of the homeowners, Nicolas Mendes and Cristina Perez, who have three cute daughters, Jacqueline, 7, Mercedes, 5, and Yadira, 1. The parents grew up in the state of Puebla, Mexico, and have lived in Bloomington for 13 years. Nicolas works at Applebee's as a line cook and Cristina cares for her own children and babysits other children.

Dedication is at 3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 14 at the new home, 404 N. Hopewell St., off of 8th Street on the westside. Habitat house dedications are always heart-warming events. All are welcome!

See build pictures at <http://picasaweb.google.com/UUCBSJ2008/HabitatForHumanityTaskForcePhotoAlbum>. Jackie Hall set up Web site & Dorothy Sowell took photos. Thanks to RE students and leaders for helping task

prepare lunch for builders and to several builders and UUsers who contributed food.

Thanks also go to the UU builders:

Linda and John Harper, Mary Andrus-Overley, Mark Esch-Williams, Mary Blizzard, Lloyd Orr, Cyndi Hall, Bill Baus, Scott Burgins, Susan Jones, Mario Rubio, Dave Parkhurst, Raj Reddy, Susan Blake, Megan Arney, Beverly Freese, Anne Starace, Steve Lessmann, Barb Berggoetz, Dorothy Sowell, Jon Chaffin, Tom Nelson-Laird, Heather Hansen, Kelly Rockhill, Amy Taylor, Alex Hoover, Mary Goetze and Jerry Nees.

UUsers financial support and \$4,000 social justice grant we received made it possible for us to be the largest financial contributor to the build.

Next Habitat TF meeting is 10 to 11:15 a.m. on Sun, Sept. 7, Room 112. We welcome new members!
*Barb Berggoetz and Connie Nelson-Laird,
task force co-chairs*



**Thank the City Council
for its Iran Resolution**

On August 6th, the Bloomington City Council adopted a resolution opposing a U.S. attack on Iran and calling for a diplomatic resolution to the nuclear crisis. Seven Council members voted in favor: Dave Rollo, Tim Mayer, Isabel Piedmont, Andy Ruff, Susan Sandberg, Chris Sturbaum, and Steve Volan. Council member Mike Satterfield voted No, and Council member Brad Wisler, who opposed the resolution, left the meeting before discussion began. Three members of the Just Peace Task Force spoke at the meeting in favor of the resolution, which is similar to an Action of Immediate Witness adopted by the UUA 2008 General Assembly. Mark Day, a scholar with expertise in the region, said that attacking Iran would be an even greater disaster than attacking Iraq had been. Rick Holl told the Council that his twelve year-old nephew recently asked him why we are still in Iraq and said he and his friends worry about an attack on Iran. The Council faces sharp criticism for its action. Please contact the Council (email: council@bloomington.in.gov) and let members know you appreciate their courage. Their stand was indeed relevant to Bloomington, which has suffered steep cuts in Community Development Block Grants even as Bloomington taxpayers spent \$100 million in Iraq.

David Keppel, Just Peace Task Force
Keppel@sbcglobal.net



Common Ground

Social Justice Newsletter UU Church Bloomington In

**THE SOCIAL JUSTICE FUNDS COMMITTEE TO
ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS FROM
MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

Each fall, the Social Justice Funds Committee (SJFC) solicits proposals for grants in support of local social justice projects. Grant applications will be available September 1st. **The deadline for applications is October 1st.** The approval process includes several steps and we hope to have decisions on all applications following the December Congregational meeting.

The Lundin Social Justice Small Grant Fund A is designated for grants of up to \$3000.00, and the Lundin Social Justice Large Grant Fund B is used to fund grants above \$3000.00. We expect that the larger grants will be made only when exceptional projects are proposed.

The resources in these funds are limited (see below). The number of grants and amount of funding available is therefore limited.

Social Justice Fund A
\$1291.97
Social Justice Fund B
\$5202.31

Projects must be based in Monroe County and be consistent with the mission of our church. Priority will be given to applications from (1) Social Justice Task Forces, (2) projects that involve a significant number of the congregation, and (3) applications to seed new projects that will have an enduring benefit.

How are grants funded?

A couple years ago, funding for this program dwindled. Determined to keep the program alive, and with hope and vision for the future, the Lundin Endowment was formed. It honors the memory of Mr. Leonard Lundin who bequeathed to our church money specifically for social justice. This along with remaining 3% building funds (originally used for these grants) was utilized to start this endowment. Annual interest earned from the endowment is evenly split between the Lundin Social Justice Small Grant A and the Lundin Social Justice Large Grant B. In addition, our church's annual budget now replenishes both Funds A and B with \$500 each year. The SJFC is proud of our church's commitment to social justice. We now have an endowment which we hope, will continue to grow and inspire social justice projects for future generations.

If you are planning an application, the time is NOW to begin involving the congregation in your project so that you will be able to state on your application the extent of congregational participation.

On September 1st, applications will be available in the Social Justice mailbox in the work room or electronically from Stephanie Estell (nanaysteph@hotmail.com). The committee prefers applications to be electronically filed.

The Social Justice Funds Committee:
Stephanie Estell, Jennifer Blankenship co-chairs
Joan Caulton, Jan Neff, Jerry Neff and Bob Taylor

Help Rebuild Damaged New Orleans Homes Katrina Relief Task Force

The Katrina Relief Task Force has 11 volunteers firmly ready to travel to New Orleans in mid-September to rebuild damaged houses for a week, and another 6 still uncertain. A total of 20 would be ideal, so further volunteers would be welcome. We will car-pool down, leaving Saturday September 13 and returning the following Saturday, and will work on homes Monday through Friday. If interested, please contact David Parkhurst for more information. His phone is 333-2945, or e-mail dfparkhurst@comcast.net.

David put group together based on his experience with 18 people from Washington State (including his sister) last March. Their work on several houses included stripping wires and plumbing, rebuilding poor framing, dry walling, and painting. In some cases, volunteers worked with homeowners, while in others, homeowners were living elsewhere until their houses were made livable. The experience was so powerful that it felt necessary to return. The Little Farms Church (United Church of Christ) where we'll be housed, and which has a well-developed rebuilding program, is at <http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/hurricane/>.

Some volunteers willing to put in their time can't afford the \$400 expense of the trip (for gas, housing, and food), so we seek contributions to the cause. Tax-deductible contributions can be made with checks sent to the church, payable to the UU Church of Bloomington, with "Katrina Relief" in the memo line. The Church address is 2120 N Fee Lane, Bloomington, 47408-1646.

David Parkhurst



International Outreach Task Force (IOTF)

Greetings to all! September is scheduled as the IOTF Social Justice month and we have a lot in the works. There will be an IOTF Info Table set up between services each Sunday in September featuring international service organizations that the IOTF is currently working to support. Members of each group will be there to present information, answer questions, and maybe sell you a bracelet/necklace or two in support of their efforts. We hope you stop by and say hello.

Watch for these Upcoming events:

- Lunch and forum featuring the non-profit Giving Back to Africa presenting details on the recent history of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), their GBA Scholars Program along with other meaningful work they are currently supporting in the DRC
- IOTF fund-raising party at Players Pub featuring live music, fun and fellowship, along with good food and drink.

Unitarian Universalist Friends of Lotus Fund Drive: The Lotus World Music and Arts festival (Oct 2-5) is right on our doorstep. In support of our shared values regarding cultural diversity, acceptance, and love, we encourage you to join the IOTF, along with other annual UU Lotus supporters, in our effort to make the UUCB an official Lotus Sponsor.

Write a personal check to LEAF (Lotus Education & Arts Foundation), get tax credit for your own donation, and create one united UU contribution to make our church a Lotus Festival Sponsor!! Any amount \$5 and over is welcome!! Put "UUs for Lotus" in the memo line to insure our congregations support is recognized. Send to: Deborah Klein, LEAF, Development Director, 103 N. College Ave., Bloomington, IN 47402 (336-6599 / dklein@bluemarble.net) Questions: Deb Hutton (344-4103 / huttond@indiana.edu)

Thanks to all those who came out on July 20th to support the forum presented by Twesigye Jackson Kaguri!!! It was a very moving and informative presentation. Connections were made, old acquaintances rekindled, and groundwork laid for possible future support by members of our UUCB. I never cease to be amazed at the openness, knowledge, and generosity shown by members of this congregation. A special thank you to IOTF member Deb Hutton for making this event happen!

IOTF Outreach Quote of the Month:

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) estimates that over the past decade a total of 5.4 million Congolese have died from easily preventable causes. In Congo people are dying day in and day out from undramatic causes. "Most die for mundane reasons associated with malnutrition, simple diseases, and childbirth. (From the BBC article Congo's Silent Harvest of Death, August 12, 2008)

Jason Blankenship



Earth Care, Bloomington's Interfaith Group for the Environment sponsors the Cut Your Carbon Workshops

Earth Care is an interfaith group that accepts our urgent moral responsibility to protect all life by curbing climate change. The Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change is actively involved with five members involved in organizing and facilitating the **Cut Your Carbon Workshops**.

Hundreds of thousands of pounds of CO2 emissions have already been cut by participants in the **Cut Your Carbon Workshops**. Even if you have already been taking significant steps toward reducing your carbon footprint, the strategic, disciplined, goal oriented and communal aspect of these workshops is sure to help you take one step backward, at least as far as your carbon footprint is concerned.

To participate, pick the workshop that fits your schedule and contact the facilitator. A \$10 suggested donation to cover the cost of the workbook can be given to the facilitator at the workshop. Note: The Monday and Tuesday workshops meet four times to give participants time to share ideas and experiences and put information into action.

Monday evenings (10/6, 10/20, 11/3, & 11/17) from 7:30 to 9 pm at First United Church, 2420 East Third St. Call or email Stephanie Kimball at 333-9324 or Kimball.stephanie@gmail.com.

Tuesday lunch hour (10/7, 10/14, 10/28 & 11/11) from noon to 1:30 pm at First United Methodist Church (219 East Fourth St.). Bring a bag lunch. Call or email Anne Veldman at 988-6241 or anneveldman@yahoo.com.

Wednesday evenings (10/29 & 11/12) from 6 – 8 pm at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 3800 East Third Street. Call or email Benjamin Schultz at 855-5130 or schultzb@indiana.edu.

Saturday afternoon (11/15) from 1 – 5 pm at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 3800 East Third Street. Participants in this power version (the full workshop in one session) of the class will need to con-

tact Benjamin Schultz in advance for instructions on information that attendees will need to bring with them to the workshop. Benjamin can be reached at 855-5130 or schultzb@indiana.edu.

By internet starting on 10/6 – for people who are extremely disciplined. Please email schultzb@indiana.edu.

Join us for a showing of the film "What a Way to Go; Life at the End of Empire" at 1:30 pm at the Monroe County Public Library. Immediately following Greg Travis (Peak Oil Task Force and Vic Kelson (Climate Project) will lead a discussion. To learn more about the film see <http://www.whatawaytogomovie.com>.

Sponsored by Earth Care Bloomington

Marcai Veldman



Rainbow Rights Task Force Taking Off

It may appear as though GLBTQ rights are secure and there is no urgency for action. However, anyone perceived to be GLBT can be fired from their job, hate crimes legislation has yet to be passed and the equivalent of SJR7 may yet rear its ugly head in the next legislative session.

There are GLBTQ youth who are homeless, dropping out of school and committing suicide. There are programs and workshops being planned in the coming year to address these problems.

On September 14 at 12:45 in Rm 105 the Rainbow Rights Task Force will be taking off again! We'll be regrouping and making significant plans for the future. We'll be reorganizing and making decisions on meeting frequency, task assignments, programs and objectives for the coming year.

Come and share with us your ideas on what structure would work for you to participate in some fashion. Please join us and find out how you can help make the world a safer place for GLBT citizens. If not you, who, if not now, when?

Judi Epp