

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)

-Jason Blankenship



Cut Your Carbon Workshops

Earth Care is an inter-faith group that accepts our urgent moral responsibility to protect all life by curbing climate change. The Unitarian Universalist Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change is actively involved with five members involved in organizing and facilitating the Cut Your Carbon Workshops. A \$10 suggested donation to cover the cost of the workbook can be given to the facilitator at the workshop.

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

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

Wednesday evenings (10/29 & 11/12)
6 – 8 pm, St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 3800 East
3rd St. Contact Benjamin Schultz, 855-5130
schultzb@indiana.edu

Saturday afternoon (11/15) 1 – 5 pm at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 3800 East Third Street. Contact Benjamin Schultz in advance for instructions on information that attendees will need to bring; 855-5130 or schultzb@indiana.edu.

Online starting 10/6 – for people who are extremely disciplined. Email schultzb@indiana.edu.

Film Showing at Library
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
-Marcia Veldman

3rd annual 'Simply Healthy: Creating Sustainable Communities' Simply Living Fair and Wellness Expo 2008 -

"Local Food and Aging Well"
November 13-15
Judy Wicks - keynote



Local Food Dinner!
Healing Sound Concert with
Bil Whitefeather, Darkside
Tribal Belly Dancers, Ryan

Anderson - Sacred Healing Drums, Baraka,
Janice Jaffe, Patricia C. Coleman and Paul Swanson.

Opportunities for Volunteers, Sponsors,
Speakers, Vendors, Children's Activities!
Details at
<http://indianaholistichealth.net/wellnessesxpo.htm>.

Contact Patricia C. Coleman
mail.ihhn@gmail.com



Common Ground

Social Justice Newsletter UU Church Bloomington In

**Katrina Relief Task Force:
Helping Rebuild Damaged
New Orleans Homes**

The Katrina Relief Task Force took 10 volunteers to New Orleans to rebuild damaged houses during the week of September 13-20. We car-pooled down and worked on two homes Monday through Friday. At one we replaced most of the carport roof and mudded drywall. At the other we installed kitchen cabinets and did other tasks.



David Parkhurst put this 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, drywalling, and painting. In some cases, the volunteers worked with the homeowners, while in others, the homeowners were living elsewhere until their houses were made livable. The experience was so powerful that it felt necessary to return. Information about the



Little Farms Church (United Church of Christ) where we were housed, and which has a well developed rebuilding program, is at <http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/hurricane/>



**Help in New Orleans March 14-20th
Volunteers Needed**

We now seek volunteers for another trip during Indiana University's spring break, March 14-20, 2009. Also, some volunteers willing to put in their time cannot afford the expense of the trip (about \$400 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.

For more information, please contact David Parkhurst at 333-2945, or by e-mail, nola.dfp@comcast.net.

-David Parkhurst, Katrina Taskforce

**Social Justice Coordinating Circle
Meeting Monday October 6, 2008 7pm**
All social justice task forces should send a representative.
-Glenda Breeden
ggbreeden@att.net

Friends of Prisoners Task Force



Men incarcerated at Monroe County Jail were specifically asked to comment on how

they have benefited from the programming offered by RSVP volunteers (church members are among these volunteers.) Responses included the following:

- *I have benefited a lot through the addiction and anger management classes we have. I can truly say I have seen a change in my way of thinking lately and am extremely grateful for the program and the volunteers who offer their time and effort to support us.*
- *It's really great to know people care. Sometimes the only thing people have to look forward to are the great volunteers we have. You all bring so much to this program and our lives. Thank you.*
- *The programs have helped me understand all the people and things I have are so important and that I need to do something about my life before I lose it all.*
- *They give support where many others just turn their backs.*
- *I benefit most from the recovery program learning about myself and my addictions and by getting the tools I need to stay sober and out of jail.*

Did you Know?

The Friends of Prisoners Task Force will be highlighted at the bulletin board and Social Justice table in October. Please check us out; you might want to get involved!

-Glenda Breeden bgbreeden@att.net

Inmates Thank NewLeaf -NewLife

New Leaf-New Life is a non-profit organization that assists inmates in the Monroe County Jail.

"Thanks for hittin' like a hammer and showin' me I can see my own emotions." -inmate

"Thank you all for believing in me and helping me turn this critical corner in my life." -inmate

Become A Pen Pal !

"I obtained a death-row pen pal through this taskforce. He is a remarkable person and our correspondence is enriching both our lives. There are many more prisoners, on and off death row, who would appreciate a pen pal."

-UU pen pal Chris Haynes



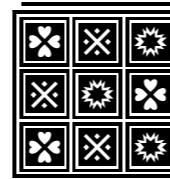
"Visiting and corresponding with Phillip, a young man incarcerated at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, feeds my spirit. He spent three years on death row in Michigan City before being transferred to WVCF, spent three years in isolation there, and is now a teacher, a poet, a singer/songwriter, an artist, a leader in the PLUS program—an amazing individual who has turned his life around under the harshest of circumstances. He is truly an inspiration to me."

-UU pen pal
Glenda Breeden

Quilt Project

Friends of Prisoners

Earlier this year, the Women's Alliance and Friends of Prisoners Task Force collected quilting material and money for the Quilt Project at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. Because of your generosity, the men in the program donated thirteen beautiful quilts to the Shalom Community



Center, a day resource center for persons experiencing homelessness and poverty. Now the project has asked that we present them with another request for quilts to an organization of our choice. We have chosen Middle Way House, a model domestic violence program and rape crisis center. We are putting out another call for fabric, batting, scraps, and/or money. There will be a box near the social justice table earmarked for quilting supplies. Thank you so much for insuring that this cycle of compassion and generosity will keep on rolling.

-Glenda Breeden, Friends of Prisoners

Interfaith Habitat For Humanity Build Completed

The dedication for the Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build on Sept. 14 was a wonderful culmination of lots of hard work and more than two years of fund-raising by the UU Habitat Task Force and nine other churches. In her remarks during the ceremony, Habitat director Kerry Thomson thanked the UU Church for its lead role in organizing the build. More than 30 Unitarian Universalists helped build the west-side house for Nicolas Mendes and Cristina Perez and their three girls.

We presented a beautiful quilt to the family made by a group of UU women and their friends. Thanks to Karla Kunoff, Sandy Churchill, Silvia King, Arzeta Lymkowski, Catherine Shipp, Jackie Hall and Martha Nord and non-UU friends Terrie Bower, Monica Bonner and Jane Pitts for spending many hours making this gift. We also presented the family with a framed photo collage of photographs taken by Dorothy Sowell. Thanks again to all the Unitarian Universalists who donated money, time and effort to make the interfaith build become a reality. It was truly a communities of faith effort.

-Barb Berggoetz, Habitat Taskforce



Habitat More Than Houses Breakfast Nov. 6th, 7:30am

The Habitat's More Than Houses Breakfast is coming up soon, Nov. 6, and we're hoping to again fill a table with UUs. The fund-raising event always serves as a good reminder of why we need to keep supporting Habitat and its good work in the community.



For those who haven't attended, this is a free breakfast for anyone to come and learn more about the organization. You will be asked to consider making a contribution, but there is no obligation or minimum gift requested. Several hundred people from the community attend. Typically, a homeowner speaks about how important his or her home has been and Habitat spokespeople tell about the organization's successes and challenges.

The light breakfast is from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 6, at the Bloomington Convention Center, 302 S. College Ave. It starts and ends promptly. If you would like to sit at the UU table, please contact co-chair Barb Berggoetz at barbberg@bluemarble.net by Oct. 14.

-Barb Berggoetz, Habitat Taskforce

Social Justice Coordinating Circle Meeting October 6th, 7pm

Mark your calendars! The SJCC will meet Monday, October 6th, 7PM, in Fellowship Hall. All social justice task forces should please plan to send a representative to report on the work you're doing and meet others from our church community who are involved in social justice activities. See you there.

-Glenda Breeden, SJCC facilitator