

Continued from page 16
days ahead and stored in the refrigerator.)

Pairs with Mirassou California Pinot Noir

Prosciutto-Wrapped Figs With Blue Cheese

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: about 5 minutes
Makes 4 servings



16 California dried or fresh figs, stems removed and halved
8 teaspoons blue cheese
16 (6 x 1/2-inch) strips prosciutto
Equal parts melted seedless raspberry jam and white balsamic vinegar to taste
Chopped fresh thyme

Press the center of each fig half to make a small space for cheese. Place 1/2 teaspoon cheese onto half of the figs and press halves together to enclose. Wrap each with a strip of prosciutto and thread figs onto skewers. Grill over high heat for about 5 minutes, turning frequently, until lightly charred on all sides; remove from grill. Stir together preserves and vinegar. Drizzle over skewers then top with herbs. Serve warm.

Pairs with Mirassou California Chardonnay

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Bringing Vonnegut Back from Indy, Yet Finding He's Already Here

The name Kurt Vonnegut is one of those that most Americans at least recognize, even if they aren't quite sure what he did. But I'm rapidly learning that there are millions of people throughout the world of various generations that feel that some book, essay, or article by this writer spoke to them in such a personal and meaningful way that they regard him as a significant force in shaping or even changing who they became.

I have just returned from an educational and entertaining stay in Indianapolis where the National Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library is alive and taking giant steps. The main event that prompted this jaunt was

THE NIGHT OF VONNEGUT held in downtown Indianapolis at The Athenaeum, a local beautiful landmark building designed and built under the guidance of Kurt Vonnegut's grandfather. The main event and mini-meetings leading up to it were both a celebration of Vonnegut's work and also of the recent acquisition of a new permanent home for The National Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library.

but her associate, am honored to work with her by serving on the Board of Advisors.

I know many neighbors share my enthusiasm for the writer who brought us such works as Man Without a Country, Mother Night, Hocus Pocus, Cat's Cradel and Dead-eye Dick. One of our early goals is a Vonnegut presence at The Book Escape on Light Street, just the kind of place the writer would have loved. There is talk of a book club which would read the same works being read at the National Headquarters in Indianapolis with comparative exchanges on-line. Book Escape owner Andrew Stonebarger says he immediately sells every Vonnegut book that he gets in, more evidence that once you taste the satirical, hilarious, yet somehow sad food of Vonnegut, you never wish to forget it. Those books once purchased remain in personal libraries for life. I hope you'll take a bite soon and join the excitement. His wit and honesty will speak to you, whether you first noticed the error of our human ways in the sixties or just recently. Never before have the works of Kurt Vonnegut had so much to say to us.

So, why is a twenty-year Federal Hill resident telling you about a writer from Indianapolis?

Long, long ago I attempted to introduce young history students to concepts such as "questioning authority," "the writers' point of view," "the mob mentality," "independent thinking," "satire," "the power of the pen," and "the strength of humor." As it turns out, one of those students read the suggested Slaughterhouse Five and, as Kurt Vonnegut would say, "And so it goes." That student is now the Founder and President of the National Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library and I, now no longer her teacher,

Photo By Danielle Maggio

By Jane Wehrle



"Kurt Vonnegut would say,

'And so it goes.' "

Federal Hill Main Street's Jane Seebold and Steve Cole show their support for the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library.