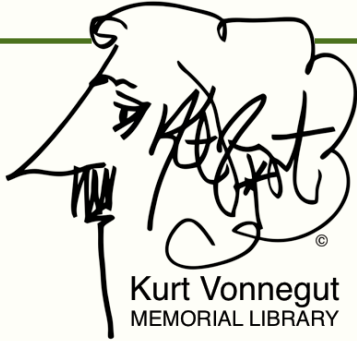


THE Vonnegutian

MARCH/APRIL 2010

VONNEGUTLIBRARY.ORG



Greetings!

The first quarter of 2010 has been action-packed! We received the amazing real estate offer from Katz & Korin. The book club, led by Sylvia Halladay, was kicked off and is entertaining and informing participants.

We had the great honor of hosting Vonnegut scholar and author, Rodney Allen, who engaged Shortridge High School students and members of the community with a presentation and discussion of Vonnegut's life and work.

I also want to recognize two of my colleagues from Eli Lilly & Co. — Corey Dalton and Keri Young. The three of us received a Jefferson Award for Public Service from Lilly for our volunteer work associated with the development of KVML. A big thanks to Corey, Keri and all of you out there volunteering your time.

On a final note, don't forget to RSVP for the May 8th Night of Vonnegut event — hope to see you there!

Best regards,

Julia

JULIA WHITEHEAD
Founder and President

We have a home

The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library is pleased to announce that we've accepted an offer from Katz and Korin, PC to move into a space at the historic Emelie Building on Senate Avenue in Indianapolis. Katz & Korin is sharing this space with KVML for free, as a charitable contribution. This is a tremendous opportunity for us to move forward with our events and fundraising and collection plans. While KVML is relocating, we intend to maintain a positive relationship with the Athenaeum — a building designed by Kurt Vonnegut's grandfather.

The new space, formerly occupied by IMOCA, is in a prime location in downtown Indianapolis and perfect for KVML at this point in our development. The 1,100-square-foot space is updated and ready to house exhibitions, meetings, a gift shop, a reading room and even an art gallery.

Recently, members of the KVML boards met in the new space to discuss all aspects of the library. The meeting was facilitated by Len Mozzi of Dramatic Difference, a company focused on improving the business performance, who brought out new and exciting ideas.

We can't wait to share our plans with you!

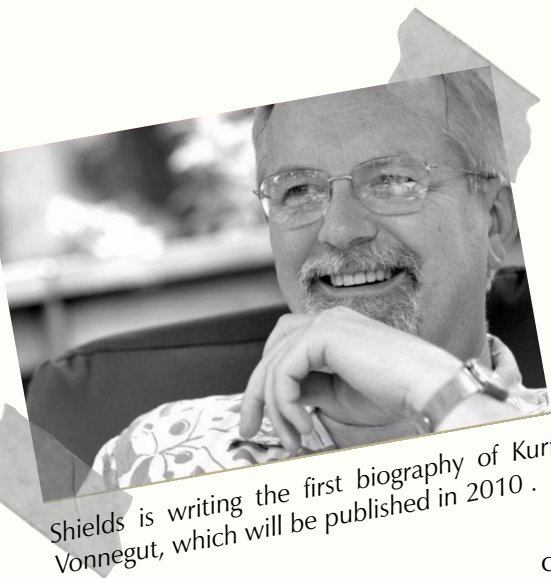


If you'd like to donate, please visit us online at vonnegutlibrary.org or mail a check to:

Kurt Vonnegut
Memorial Library

401 E. Michigan St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Shields is writing the first biography of Kurt Vonnegut, which will be published in 2010.

VONNEGUIDANCE

How did Vonnegut affect YOU?

WE ASKED CHARLES J. SHIELDS, VIRGINIA RESIDENT AND BIOGRAPHER, HOW HIS LIFE WAS INFLUENCED BY KURT VONNEGUT. HERE'S WHAT HE HAD TO SAY.

When I graduated from college with a degree in English, I immediately got a job for which such a credential qualified me. I became a welder in a railroad car factory.

It was good work, dangerous, but it paid well. Inside my welder's helmet I could think a lot, which at twenty-one I needed to do. In fact, I would recommend that every new college graduate consider wearing a welder's helmet for at least six months. Beats career counseling.

Anyway, the flooded bathroom, the filthy cafeteria, and having my socks set on fire several times was delightful, but one summer day I called in sick. And then came the big question: What to do with my time off in mid-week? It's so delicious to have an illicit day off, like when you were small and had a fever of just a degree or two. So I went where I always go to hide out—the library!

Since I only had one day, I needed something short, readable, and entertaining. I selected "Player Piano." I went outside, sat in my car, rolled down the windows, put my feet up on the dash and got busy.

Four hours later, I finished the book and tossed it on the seat beside me. I was parked opposite a baseball field where some boys were playing a dusty pick-up game. As I watched them, I thought of some lines from "The Chimney Sweeper," one of my favorite poems by William Blake:

"... thousands of sweepers, Dick, Joe, Ned, and Jack,
Were all of them locked up in coffins of black.
And by came an angel who had a bright key,
And he opened the coffins and set them all free;
Then down a green plain leaping, laughing, they run,
And wash in a river, and shine in the sun."

Then by one of those ligaments that connects all literature, I thought of a sentence from "Player Piano": "The main business of humanity is to do a good job of being human beings, not to serve as appendages to machines, institutions, and systems."

I knew what I was going to do. I was going to save my money from my welding job and wander around Europe.

I was not going to be a filthy appendage to a machine.

SO IT GOES ...

April

The book club is reading "Mother Night" and the discussion is April 29th. If you haven't reserved your seat in the book club, or have questions please email bookclub@vonnegutlibrary.org.

MAY

Save the Date! A "Night of Vonnegut" event will be held on May 8th at 7 p.m. at the Theatre in the Historic Athenaeum in Indianapolis. The event will include dinner provided by the Rathskeller, jazz, a Vonnegut look-alike contest, dramatic readings of Vonnegut work by local actors, a panel discussion of "My Friend Kurt" by those who knew him well, a silent auction of a piece of Vonnegut art, and a "Family Feud" style Vonnegut trivia game. RSVP now for your seat by e-mailing julia@vonnegutlibrary.org. Tickets are \$75 each.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE YOUR STORY, PLEASE CONTACT US AT NEWSLETTER@VONNEGUTLIBRARY.ORG.

if you'd like to make suggestions for future articles, or have comments, please email newsletter@vonnegutlibrary.org.