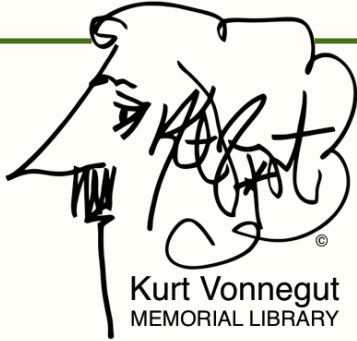


THE vonnegutian

* JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

VONNEGUTLIBRARY.ORG



Greetings!

Welcome to the 1st edition of The Vonnegutian. In this bimonthly newsletter, we'll attempt to include articles of interest, as well as regular features that we hope you'll enjoy.

For this issue, I'd like to share some exciting events we have planned (please see reverse page). Find out more details and learn about future events, in the newsletters and on the website.

I would also like to mention the behind-the-scene activities. Committees are working hard to: determine the location of the library, seek donors, develop strong grant-writing abilities, create a solid business plan, and plan fun events for Friends of the Library, the Wampeter Society and others.

Many individuals support the KVML through volunteer work, financial contributions, and other support. A small group of individuals worked hard last year to create this organization, and this group is quickly growing into a great, big Kurt Vonnegut karass. *

Best regards,

Julia

JULIA WHITEHEAD
Founder and President

Vonnegut Library Receives IRS Approval for 501(c)(3) Designation

Following months of planning and input from many involved, Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library attorneys Adam Shields and David Jose of Krieg DeVault LLP filed required legal documents with the IRS for tax exemption in October 2009. Less than two months later, they received a determination from the IRS granting tax exempt status. The KVML is now officially an Indiana nonprofit corporation and a tax exempt public charity! While tax exemption review by the IRS can take as long as a year to complete, the quick turnaround has many convinced that our IRS reviewer must be a big fan of Kurt Vonnegut. Or it could be the professional work of the attorneys was so exceptional, the IRS didn't feel the need to ask further questions or require additional information. We like to think it's a combination of the two.

In addition to the tax implications of being a nonprofit organization, this status allows the KVML to apply for grants from many foundations and will make individual donations more appealing as they're now tax deductible. Contributions will generally be tax deductible. Please note, however, there are certain limitations on the deductibility of contributions to all Code Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Accordingly, you're urged to consult your own tax advisor in determining the federal, state, local and/or foreign tax consequences of your contribution.

For those who contributed to KVML before December 31, 2009 — the IRS provides the tax-exempt status back to the date of the KVML's formation on August 27, 2009.

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!



Mike Oles is the lay leader of Lockerbie Central United Methodist Church and is a founder of Earth House Collective.

VONNEGUIDANCE

How did Vonnegut affect YOU?

WE ASKED 32-YEAR-OLD INDY RESIDENT MIKE OLES TO SHARE WITH US HOW HIS LIFE WAS INFLUENCED BY KURT VONNEGUT. HERE'S WHAT HE HAD TO SAY.

Indiana gets a bad rap for being small minded and bigoted. There's definitely a part of our history that's embarrassing. Kurt Vonnegut was the antidote for me. He made me proud to call Indiana home.

I grew up in the suburbs of Indianapolis, and started reading him in high school when I discovered progressive politics. Reading Vonnegut made me want to stay in Indiana and help make it better. Without reading Vonnegut, I probably would've never returned home after college.

Vonnegut also made me a better theologian. Though his religious views can be considered agnostic, humanist or even atheist, I started to identify with his riffs on God. There's so much to love and to be challenged by in his books.

Years later, when I helped redevelop an old downtown-Indianapolis church, I made sure we had a Vonnegut quote permanently engraved onto the church sign. It's my favorite Vonnegut quote and story. It reads:

"I did get to know...Powers Hapgood of Indianapolis. After graduating from Harvard he went to work as a coal miner, urging his working-class brothers to organize, in order to get better pay and safer working conditions...

We met in Indianapolis after the end of World War Two, and he had become an official in the CIO. There had been some sort of dust-up on a picket line, and he had just testified about it in court. The judge had interrupted the proceedings to ask Powers Hapgood why, with all his social and economic and educational advantages, he had chosen to lead such a life. And Powers Hapgood replied, 'Why, because of the Sermon on the Mount, sir.'"

Our church also hosts an annual event called, "The Gospel According To Vonnegut" on Kurt's birthday in November. It's a way to keep his powerful and humane theology in the public sphere. It's always a powerful night, and I invite others to join us next November.

January

KVML Advisory Board member, Sylvia Halladay has organized the first book club meeting. The inaugural gathering will be held at the Athenaeum Theatre on January 28, at 7 p.m. "Slaughterhouse-Five" is the book up for discussion and a showing of the film will follow, as well as an organizational meeting. Participation in the meeting will help determine the type of club this will be and set the tone for future meetings. We hope to see you there! To reserve your spot, please RSVP by emailing bookclub@vonnegutlibrary.org.

February

On February 18, William "Rodney" Allen, author of "Conversations with Kurt Vonnegut," will be traveling from Louisiana to Indianapolis to teach ninth grade students at Shortridge High School about Kurt's life and works. Rodney will deliver the same speech to supporters of the KVML at the historic Athenaeum the same day at 7 p.m. This free event is open to the public, but anyone interested must RSVP at info@vonnegutlibrary.org to attend.

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.