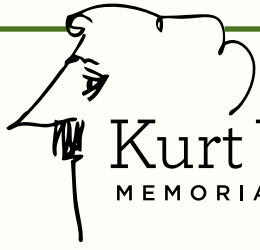


THE Vonnegutian

JULY/AUGUST 2010

V O N N E G U T L I B R A R Y . O R G



Kurt Vonnegut
MEMORIAL LIBRARY®

Greetings!

There is so much good news these days for the Vonnegut Library, I don't know where to start. First, we received the \$50,000 grant from Lilly Endowment that we so very much need for operating expenses and to develop our business plan. We also received great news from Nanny, Edie, and Mark Vonnegut that they are willing to donate and loan several of Vonnegut's personal items including his purple heart, Nazi sword, the typewriter he used in the '70s, a portrait of Vonnegut by artist John Hirsch, and additional items. We did not anticipate receiving so many personal items so this news is tremendously exciting for us! Thanks a million to the Vonneguts!

I also want to thank Rebecca Glass, Sylvia Halladay, Keri Young, Sara Lunsford, Jackie Norris, Kathleen Angelone, Kris Pike, and Robert Glass for volunteering for the Noodles and Co. fundraiser. We raised nearly \$250 that day. Are there restaurants in your neighborhood that would sponsor a Vonnegut fundraiser? Please find out and give me a call to discuss how it works (317.652.1954).

Best regards,

Julia

JULIA WHITEHEAD
Founder and President

KVML Receives \$50,000 Grant from Lilly Endowment

The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library announced they have been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment for operational expenses. The Vonnegut Library will use the grant for long-range business planning and related expenses. K.C. Norwalk, charter member and Treasurer of the Vonnegut Library Board of Directors said, "We are thrilled with Lilly Endowment's Grant which will enable the library to devote resources to fundraising, working on a business plan, and beginning construction on the library's space." We very much needed this vote of confidence from an organization as respected as the Lilly Endowment. We are also seeking funds and donations of items for our library, which we would like to open later this year. Please go to vonnegutlibrary.org/donations to make your contribution. Our exhibit designers are just now developing the exhibits for the library, and your contribution now will go directly toward developing an exhibit. If you have items you would like to loan or donate that may be used in a display, please contact Julia Whitehead at julia@vonnegutlibraryorg or call (317) 652-1954.

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

Kurt Vonnegut
Memorial Library
340 North Senate Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



VONNEGUIDANCE

How did Vonnegut affect YOU?

COL. WARREN LACY, U.S. ARMY - RETIRED, DIRECTOR AND EDITOR IN CHIEF, PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA, MILITARY OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

“Screw you, Jasper, and screw Mother’s Day and Christmas, too.”

With that quote from *Cat’s Cradle*, Kurt Vonnegut won the life-long following of a group of enthusiastic high school students.

Not thrilled about memorizing lines from *Macbeth*, a number of twelfth-graders turned their attention to Vonnegut’s works. We were particularly inspired by what we considered daring dialog in *Cat’s Cradle*. Before long, calls of “Screw You, Jasper” were echoing about our English classroom. As you can imagine, high school students could find many more practical applications for that quote than, say, “Is this a dagger which I see before me ...”

Unfortunately, our English teacher didn’t see it quite the same way. In fact, she quickly took steps to cause us Vonnegut fans to go underground. At that point, we decided that our now-banished society needed a membership sign. Luckily, a carnival had just come to town. And on the midway we discovered an awesome machine. With many pulls on its long lever, we could stamp characters along the circumference of a shiny medallion about the size of a silver dollar. It took a lot of lever pulling to print “Screw you, Jasper” on a handful of disks. But eventually we had our official membership badges!

I can tell you it was much safer to discretely flash that token than to say the offending words within hearing of a teacher. But beyond encouraging a juvenile fascination with a risqué phrase, *Cat’s Cradle* spurred us to lengthy discussions about Bokononism, Truth, and the science behind ice-nine.



Before long we moved on to other topics, such as achieving social equality by handicapping the more intelligent, athletic, or beautiful members of society (“Harrison Bergeron”). Vonnegut’s insights, delivered with his unique brand of satire and humor, expanded our horizons and caused us to look at human nature and society in a new light.

Today, some 40 years later, the founding members of this Vonnegut fan club continue to treasure their tokens and – outside the hearing of authority figures – still greet each other with a hearty, “Screw You, Jasper!”

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

Planned Gifts will preserve the Vonnegut Library for Years to Come

There are many ways you can leave a legacy to sustain the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library, while at the same time providing yourself and your family (or other beneficiaries) with significant tax benefits. In addition to outright, tax-deductible cash gifts, there are other creative ways to give, including:

- Gifts of stock or other assets
- A bequest in your Will
- A beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy

Planned gifts can offer many advantages to help you meet your overall financial goals, and help the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library in its long-term financial planning. Planned gifts provide special opportunities that enable the KVML to strengthen and improve its programs.

Please consult with your attorney and/or tax advisor to discuss your charitable contributions and the tax consequences of planned giving options for you.

september

The book club is reading “Jailbird.” The discussion, which will be held in the Emelie building, is September 30 at 11:30 a.m. If you haven’t reserved your seat in the book club, or have questions please email bookclub@vonnegutlibrary.org.

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