Help Us Fill These Tables !!!

36th Annual Garage Sale Extravaganza

The Monroe County History Center's 36th annual garage sale extravaganza will be held June 9th and 10th in the warehouse located at 1300 S. Patterson Drive, behind Cook Pharmica. Hours are 8am to 6pm on Friday, June 9th, and 8am to 3pm on Saturday, June 10th. Last year's sale made over $80,000, an important contribution to support the operations and programs of the History Center. We couldn't do it without your generous help.

Please remove and keep the ENCLOSED FLYER containing details regarding your donations. The flyer explains where to take your donations, which items sell well, and which we cannot accept. There is some pick-up available for larger items.

We again are hoping for THE DONATION OF A CAR. All donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

We sincerely thank Cook Pharmica for the use of the warehouse and their help throughout the year.

The last newsletter stated that the Annual Meeting of the Monroe County History Center was scheduled March 20th at Fountain Square, however, this has changed. Please update your calendar as follows.

Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 20th at 5:00 pm
following the regular board meeting at 4:30pm
Location: Monroe County History Center
202 E. 6th Street
Rechter Gallery:

**What We Wore: 20th Century Fashion**

Fashion in the 20th century saw more change and innovation than any other century. Take a walk down memory lane in *What We Wore*, an exhibit about 20th-century fashion featuring clothing, accessories, and photographs from the Monroe County History Center collection. Experience the look of your choice in our interactive Fashion Review with authentic garments.

Exhibit open through June 3rd.

Hill Gallery:

**The Great War: From Ration Lines to the Front Lines**

A traveling exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society showcases Indiana’s contributions to World War I and the war’s long-lasting effects. The exhibit explores the roots of World War I, America’s entrance into the war, Indiana’s participation in and contributions to the war effort, the evolution of warfare, the role of Hoosier women both at home and abroad, Germans in Indiana, efforts for lasting peace, the construction of the American Legion building and the Indiana War Memorial, and more. Made possible by the Indiana Historical Society and Kroger.

Open April 1st through April 26th.

Brown Gallery:

**Dialogues: Contemporary Responses to Marie Webster Quilts**

Indiana’s own Marie Webster (1859-1956) is widely acclaimed as a pioneer in the art of quilt design and construction, publishing in 1915 the first book solely dedicated to the history of the quilt: *Quilts: Their Story and How to Make Them*. Her early 20th-century designs recently inspired artists to create small-scale art quilts for an exhibition, *Dialogues: Contemporary Responses to Marie Webster Quilts*. This juried show is sponsored by the Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA) featuring 26 pieces from eight Midwestern states. Each work reflected a unique perspective on Webster’s traditional patterns some one hundred years after the fact. Exhibit open February 3rd - April 29th.

Join us for a special guest presentation, Marie Webster: Quilt Pioneer and Entrepreneur, April 19th at 6pm.

Dale Drake, local quilt historian and enthusiast, will discuss the life and work of Marie Webster. Drake will highlight the impact her work had on the quilting world of the Colonial Revival, and how Webster’s work has inspired quilters since her time, including the artist quilters of the *Dialogues* quilt exhibit currently on display at MCHC.

Community Voices Showcase: **Middle Way House**

Middle Way House is an organization that provides free, confidential support to women in situations of domestic violence or sexual assault. Their services include a 24-hour crisis line, emergency shelter, affordable transitional housing, legal and personal advocacy, and prevention education. Their mission is “to end violence, both structural and interpersonal, in the lives of women and children.” Visit the Community Voices Showcase exhibit March – May to find out more and see how you can get involved.
From the Vice President

Dear Members,

While in Israel in late February, I learned that our director had taken a new position and that she and the board president had resigned. So I had new responsibilities to the History Center as acting president.

Dana Beth Evans has taken a position as Executive Director of the Cultural Arts Center in Williamsport, PA. We wish her success. Linda Stines resigned as president of the board due to personal reasons. Her excellent service on the board for the past six years and as president this year was important to the progress we have made. They left us with a highly capable staff who carry on the work of the History Center.

We had a very successful gala on February 17th. Angelo Pizzo was the speaker. He spoke about the making of *Hoosiers* and received a standing ovation. Well done, Mr. Pizzo!

We are looking forward to our Annual Meeting on April 20th where we will elect new board members and officers for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. We feel we have a very strong slate of candidates for both board members and officers. We do however, need more members to volunteer on committees. The Annual Meeting will be held in the Education Room at the History Center. Please plan to attend at 5pm.

Don’t forget our annual garage sale which will be held on June 9th and 10th. Donate items now through June 5th.

Thanks to all of you for your continual interest and support of the History Center!

Sincerely,

Sue Ellen Bowman
Vice President, Acting President

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Monroe County Historical Society is pleased to announce our platinum level members.

Smithville Communications, Inc.

and

Rick and Carrie Snapp

---

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
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<tr>
<td>7th, 5pm, Gallery Walk</td>
<td>5th, 5pm, Gallery Walk</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child</td>
<td>9th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th, 2pm, James Whitcomb Riley Performance</td>
<td>13th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th, 11:30am, Volunteer Luncheon</td>
<td>20th, 12pm, Barn Quilts Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table</td>
<td>18th, 4:30pm, Board Meeting</td>
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<td>19th, 6pm, Dialogues: Quilt Lecture</td>
<td>27th, 1pm, HiStory Book Club</td>
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<td>20th, 4:30pm, Board Meeting</td>
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<td>20th, 5:30pm, Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th, 1pm, HiStory Book Club</td>
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Collections’ Corner

The new collections shelving has arrived! The awards we received from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Henry Wahl Charitable Trust were used to purchase two different shelving units – enclosed cabinets to house the Wahl Hendricksville Pottery collection and shelf/drawer combination units to house fragile and breakable artifacts. These shelving systems will securely store our artifacts for many, many years to come. Thank you, NEH and Wahl Charitable Trust!

Collection’s Special Request

The museum collection is currently seeking an antique dry sink and an indoor or outdoor water pump for display in our 1830s log cabin. If you would like to donate or loan a sink or pump for the museum’s collection and display, please contact the Collections Manager, Hilary Fleck, by email at collection@monroehistory.org or by phone at 812-332-2517 ex. 6.

The Teacher’s Desk

By Erin Anderson

The History Center can save kids (and parents) from dreaded summer boredom with our annual Junior Historian Summer Camps. Two different week-long day camps covering Indiana history and art will bring the past to life with fun, hands-on activities, and adventures. Each day will include lessons, crafts, games, and activities. Each week’s activities culminate in a mini-museum project and a field trip. Camp is $150 per camper and includes daily snacks and a t-shirt. Visit http://bit.ly/MCHCCamp for more information and to register.

**Indiana History Camp** is June 12th – 16th. Campers, ages 6-12, will build a log cabin like pioneers, march like Civil War soldiers, dance the Charleston like 1920s flappers and Dapper Dans, and plant a WWII Victory Garden as they time travel through Indiana’s past. Using historical items from the History Center’s collections, hands-on activities, historical re-enactors, and a field trip to the Indiana State Museum, campers will experience history firsthand. Registration deadline: June 2nd.

**Hoosier Art Camp** is June 26th – 30th. Campers, ages 8-12, can unleash their imaginations by learning about Hoosier painters like T.C. Steele, sculptors like Robert Indiana, fiber artists like the many weavers and quilters from Indiana, and photographers like Monroe County’s own John Bowen. Then, they will let out their inner artists by creating their own Hoosier-inspired art! A field trip to the T.C. Steele State Historic Site rounds out the week. Registration deadline: June 12th.
Volunteer Spotlights

Kyle Mitsdarfer

Kyle Mitsdarfer assists with scanning postcards in our Collections Department. He volunteers with us through the BHS South work-study program which gives students an opportunity to volunteer at various places in our community and thereby become familiar with the workplace before they graduate from high school.

Most Wednesday mornings, Kyle can be found in the Collections Department scanning postcards, and he has become an expert scanner!

Kyle loves motorcycles and Marvel comic books and plans to continue to be a lifelong learner and explore different job options after he graduates in May.

Scott Loman

Scott Loman has been volunteering with the History Center since early 2016. He started with four hours per week in our Collections Department updating our PastPerfect collections database. Later in the year, he added some additional volunteer hours to his schedule and now also indexes deed records in the Research Library.

Scott received his BA from Purdue University and an MLS from Indiana University. His career as a Librarian over the years spanned several areas including children’s topics, medical/hospital services, and also the public library setting.

Scott’s volunteering doesn’t stop with the History Center. He also assists the Bloomington Hospital each week and recently volunteered to work the coat check room at the History Center’s Annual Gala February 17th.

Calling All Fabulous History Center Volunteers!

Please join us Monday, April 10 at 11:30 am for the Annual Volunteer Luncheon. We look forward to thanking you in person because the History Center would be lost without you! Location of the luncheon will be at the History Center, 202 E. 6th Street. Before or after lunch, you can visit exhibits in the galleries upstairs.

Please RSVP to mchcvolunteers@gmail.com to be sure you receive your goody bag.

Please let us know if you have dietary restrictions.
Barn Quilt Workshop
May 20th, 2017
Noon - 3pm
Monroe County History Center

Learn about the history of barn quilts and create your own 1'x1' painted quilt block. All supplies will be provided. Pre-registration and payment required by May 5th. Space is limited to twenty participants and last year's workshop sold out quickly, so register today!

$20/members, $25/non-members

Contributors
January and February 2017

The History Center wishes to acknowledge and recognize those who provided financial gifts to support our operations in January and February 2017:

Supporter Membership
Miles and Marjorie Kanne

Donations
John and Polly Tilford

History Path Brick Donations
Becky Hrisomalos
In Honor of Dr. Frank N. Hrisomalos

Welcome to Our New Members
Lisa Kroll
Vivian Counts

Correction
The February/March 2017 issue of the Monroe County Historian incorrectly mentioned Olympic Ice Skater Jill Watson as Jill Wilson. We apologize for this error.
All the cool kids are hanging out in the cemeteries!

The Cemetery Committee meets the first Sunday of each month at 3pm. Call the history center at 812-332-2517 x2 or email mchcoperations@gmail.com for more information.

Museum Store

Stop by the History Center Museum Store to see these new titles.

**IN Writing**

Uncovering the Unexpected Hoosier State

“Fueled by an insider’s view of Indiana and the state’s often surprising connections to the larger world, IN Writing is revelatory. It is Indiana in all its glory: sacred and profane; saints and sinners; war and peace; small towns and big cities; art, architecture, poetry and victuals. It’s about Hoosier talent and Hoosier genius: the courageous farmer-soldiers who ardently try to win the hearts and minds of 21st century Afghan insurgents; the artisans whose work pulses with the aesthetics of far-away homelands; and the famous modernist poet who had to leave to make his mark. It’s about places that speak to a wider world: Columbus and its remarkable architecture; New Harmony and its enduring idealism; Indianapolis and its world-renowned Crown Hill cemetery. IN Writing makes visible the unexpected bonds between Indiana and the world at large.”

Descriptions for both books taken from the book’s cover.

**Stone Country Then and Now**

“Quarrying, cutting, and carving limestone has provided work for thousands of people in Indiana for nearly two centuries. Along highways and backroads, the brawny machinery these workers use to finesse the stone, the humpbacked mills where they shape it, and the rails and roads where they ship it dot the landscape. In this new edition of Stone Country, Scott Russell Sanders and Jeffrey A. Wolin talk with the stone workers, explore the quarries and mills, and tramp along creeks and railroad spurs uncovering the history of the industry and the people who built it. These new stories and photographs are a biography, not of a person—although it is filled with many portraits of individuals—but of a place. It is an up-close look at a singular point on the planet where the miracles of geology have yielded a special kind of stone, and where landscape, towns, and the people themselves bear its mark.”
News from the Library

mchelibrary@gmail.com

Compiled by Emily Noffke and Penelope Mathiesen

Library Updates

We have added a new set of shelves to our Archive Room that houses 35 boxes of court records. More shelving changes will be coming soon as we strive to provide the best storage for our county records.

A transcription of the 1890 Veterans’ Enrollment Record will soon be available in the library and for purchase in the Museum Store.

New in the Library

The following items have been recently accessioned:


In July 1872, Howard Morris, a printer from Cincinnati, Ohio, arrived in Ellettsville with the intention of organizing a newspaper stock company. Enough money was raised to acquire a Franklin hand printing press from Cincinnati, then the investors “got cold feet.” Samuel B. Harris, an Ellettsville miller, put up the funds to go ahead with the enterprise.\(^1\)

The first issue of the *Ellettsville Republican* appeared on 18 August 1872. Morris, the first editor, was soon replaced by John F. Walker. In December 1872, Samuel Harris put his 16-year-old son, William B. Harris, in charge. He showed up for his first day of work in a “cut away coat, a plug hat and a cane.” In March 1873, he became the official editor. In January 1876, he left Ellettsville to start the *Thursday Morning Bee* in Cloverdale.\(^2\)

In January 1877, Harris returned to Ellettsville. He set up the newspaper plant in his father’s mill office, where the *Ellettsville Citizen* was published. “Soon after this the plant was moved to a larger room and a job press was purchased. For several years quite a lot of job work was done for Showers Factory … and other Bloomington firms.”\(^3\) In 1879, Harris started the *Owen County People* in Spencer. When it proved unsuccessful, he returned to Ellettsville and re-established its paper as the *Monroe County Citizen* in December 1882.\(^4\)

In June 1886, Harris inaugurated the *Harrodsburg Review*, the first in a series of “chain” newspapers. He chose small communities located near larger towns whose merchants would compete to purchase advertising space. He selected local editors—a housewife, minister, or teacher—to solicit subscriptions and supply local news. The outer pages featured local information and advertisements. The inner pages contained “boiler plate” articles of general interest. The newspapers were printed at the Ellettsville plant and sent to the editors in the respective communities, who folded the papers and mailed them to subscribers from the local post office, giving the appearance of a hometown product. Harris set up 135 of these weekly papers in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio.\(^5\)

In September 1905, W. B. Harris began publishing a monthly magazine, *Our Boys and Girls*. He “wrote most of the articles and stories himself, using as subjects the doings of his own children.” He offered a Shetland pony (raised on his farm near Ellettsville) “to the boy or girl who sold the most subscriptions during the month. Although the circulation attained 35,000 after giving away eight ponies, this number was not large enough to make it a paying proposition, so the magazine was sold to Colonel Hunter of Chicago, publisher of *The Star Monthly*.\(^6\) The final issue of the magazine includes a photograph of the girl who earned the last pony.

The *Monroe County Citizen* changed its name to the *Farm* in 1895. By 1907, metropolitan papers had expanded rural circulation, and Harris gave up his chain newspaper scheme to concentrate on the *Farm* and job work. He “also edited and published the *Monroe County Farm Bureau News* from April, 1923, to December, 1928.” He started *Quarries and Mills* in 1929, but with the decline of the limestone industry during the depression, the publication ceased in November 1931. In his final years, he “turned over most of the work in the printing office to his son, William B. Harris, Jr.” He retired in July 1939 and died on 9 November 1939 at his Ellettsville residence.\(^8\)

During his many years as editor and publisher, a number of apprentices, sometimes known as “printer’s devils,” worked for William B. Harris. The last “to learn the trade” under Harris’s guiding hand was Maurice E. Endwright,\(^9\) who began his newspaper career under Harris while still a schoolboy and later co-founded the *Journal* in 1939, six weeks after Harris suspended publication of the *Farm*. Endwright sold the *Journal* in 1971,\(^10\) but it is still published today, maintaining the Ellettsville newspaper tradition begun by the Harris family.

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**Notes**

3. Harris publication history, 2.
4. Bickett, 118.
5. Harris publication history, 4; Bickett, 199–21.
6. Bickett, 121.
9. Harris publication history, 8.
Princess Theatre’s Estey Organ Had Second Life in I.U. Studios

By Penelope Mathiesen

The Princess Theatre at 206 North Walnut Street in downtown Bloomington originally opened on 23 June 1913 with the photoplay *Mlle. Coquette*. The 400-seat theatre, owned by Robert H. Harris, was designed by architect John Lincoln Nichols. In the early 1920s, Harris decided to expand the Princess. “Once again, John L. Nichols was the architect. Bedford Steel and Construction Company was the builder. The new layout doubled the square footage [and] enlarged the capacity to 933 seats.” Logs and boxes provided additional seating. A newspaper article, perhaps engaging in hyperbole, anticipated a crowd of 1,500 on opening night! “Every seat in the house is a good one,” another article promised. “There are no posts and all seats are raised enough to give a clear view of the screen.” Other amenities included an elaborate, vari-colored, high-powered lighting system; gold and ivory-tinted interior decorations; and huge oil paintings, tapestries, and rich plush draperies from suppliers in Chicago. The new Princess Theatre opened on Monday, 12 March 1923, with the film *Mighty Lak’ a Rose*.

A main feature of the remodeling had been the installation of a 2-manual, 5-rank Estey pipe organ “especially designed for the Princess Theatre” and shipped from the company’s workshop in Brattleboro, Vermont. According to a newspaper announcement:

“The instrument is one of extreme beauty, in sweet tone, quality, size and volume. The organ will have 52 stops represented at the console, all of different variety to blend together in a sweet and pleasing manner. It is one of the very latest models in theatre organs, with a patented new design console with illuminated stop keys. Some very costly sets of pipes are represented in this instrument, two of which more than deserve unusual comment: the Vox Humana, a reed set of pipes which represents the human voice or a large choir singing at a distance; also the major flute, another set of pipes that only the larger organs possess, adding beautiful and unlimited combinations and coloring to the different styles of music for which the instrument will be used.”

To show off the new Estey, Harris hired an experienced theatre organist, Walter Bidwell, to accompany silent films and perform novelty numbers. Within just a few years, however, the situation for theatre organists and their instruments changed dramatically. In May 1929, following the advent of sound films, “Western Electric Sound Systems, Vitaphone and Movietone, were installed” at the Princess. All across the country, musicians lost their jobs. Theatre organs fell into disuse and were often removed or simply scrapped.

The Estey was spared the latter fate. It remained in the Princess Theater until “sometime in the 1950s,” when it began a new life at Indiana University. It was acquired for the Radio and Television Department by Elmer Sulzer, department chair, who was also an organist. The Estey was “installed in Studio B (TV) in the original, Quonset-hut building.” Sulzer “often would provide noontime entertainment with the studio doors opened to the hallway.” The pipe organ may also have been used in musical television programs produced in Studio B.

When the current Radio-TV Building was built, the new “TV Studio 5 was designed with an organ chamber and organ blower room, specifically to accommodate the Estey theater organ. … The move and refurbishing of the pipe organ was … done by the John Cave Organ Company of Evansville, Indiana. That work included a new wind chest, repair work on pipes, refurbishing of the console and the installation of a new (manual) switching mechanism.” Probably in “late 1964 or early 1965, the refurbished instrument was installed in Studio 5.” The organ was used in occasional noon-hour concerts by Sulzer, often joined by others.

The Estey entered a new phase when Dennis James arrived for his freshman year as an organ student at Indiana University in September 1968. James states:

“After unpacking and spending a few hours on the beautiful I.U. campus I instinctively headed into town to check the four local theatres, hoping to find an organ. To my dismay, all four organs had been removed or destroyed years ago. A few weeks later I happened to meet William Bussell, a member of ATOE [American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts] Central Indiana Chapter. He was tracing the whereabouts of Bloomington’s only surviving theater organ. We ‘found’ the instrument in Studio 5 of the I.U. Radio and Television Building.”
According to James, “Bill and I got permission from the university to work on the organ. Although the instrument was in working order it had not been used for several years.” James and Bussell found other students to help. Many weeks of effort ensued. An afternoon concert had been scheduled for Sunday, 17 December 1968, and at 4:30 a.m., the organ was finally ready. “Then the old selenium rectifier burned out. The concert was saved, however, by an automobile battery boosted by a charger thoughtfully provided by ATOE members. The concert was a resounding success as evidenced by the audience of eighty-six enthusiasts who turned out on a bitterly cold afternoon.”

During his sophomore year, James accompanied a program of silent films on the Estey, presenting the instrument in the context for which it had originally been installed at the Princess Theatre. On Saturday, 7 March 1970, the Indiana Daily Student announced:

“Studio Five of the I.U. Radio and Television Building will be transformed into a silent movie theatre of the 1920’s for a showing of three silent films of that era Sunday night at 8. The films will be accompanied with appropriate music and special sound effects provided by Dennis James at the console of the studio theatre pipe organ. ‘The Great Train Robbery,’ made in 1903 at the Edison Studio, will be part of the program. This was the first dramatic film which featured close-up photography and a complete plot according to James. Two other films, featuring Buster Keaton and Charlie Chase, of the standard comic variety will also be shown. The films are from the private collection of Harry Geduld, associate professor of English. Donley Feddersen, chairman, and professor of radio and television, has made the studio available for the screening. James said that a silent film series in Studio Five may be presented on a regular basis if this program is successful.”

The silent film programs later moved to the Indiana University Auditorium, where the popular event continues to this day, accompanied by Dennis James on the Auditorium’s organ. The Estey organ in Studio 5 fell into disuse, the space it occupied “was deemed more important for TV production and labs,” and the organ was removed from the premises.

In December 1971, Bloomington resident and organ enthusiast Phil Hoskins bought the Estey and installed it in his home, first in a large bedroom and later in the attached garage. In the early 1980s, John Foell of Fort Wayne, a member of the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (CIC-ATOS), became the new owner. He still has most of the organ (minus the console) and hopes to combine it with other organ parts to create a home installation.

Notes
1. This article could not have taken shape without the contributions of Herbert A. Terry, Barrie L. Zimmerman, Dennis James, Phil Hoskins, and John Foell.
3. Ibid.
4. “‘Mighty Lak’ a Rose’ Dedicatory Film at Modern Playhouse,” Bloomington Evening World, March 10, 1923.
6. “Mighty Lak’ a Rose.”
9. Ibid.
11. Leffler.
13. Ibid.
14. Dennis James, “Theatre Organ on Campus,” Theatre Organ Bombarde 11/4 (August 1969), 5. James mentions that a 7th rank (oboe) was added during the installation.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
18. Zimmerman.
20. John Foell, email communication, November 14, 2016.
Knights of Pythias Cemetery

This cemetery is technically called KOFP. This is an active cemetery, with the first burials in the mid-1850s and the most recent burial 2014. There are 74 burials listed on Find-A-Grave, some apparently do not have a marker. This cemetery is on private property but is operated and maintained by the Clear Creek Township Trustee’s office.

The Order of Knights of Pythias is an international, non-sectarian fraternal order, established in 1864 in Washington, DC, by Justus H. Rathbone and was the first fraternal order to be chartered by an Act of Congress. There were several K of P lodges active in Monroe and other southern Indiana counties, beginning in the late 1860s. There is still an active K of P lodge in Indianapolis.

Do you want to help preserve history? If so, call 812-332-2517 ext. 7 to learn about volunteering in one of the many History Center departments.

Membership Form

Annual Membership Levels
- Student/Teacher $10/20
- Individual $35
- Household $50
- Contributor $100
- Supporter $250
- Patron $500
- Sponsor $1000
- Underwriter $2000
- Benefactor $5000

Corporate - Service Organizations
- Bronze $250
- Silver $500
- Gold $1000
- Platinum $2500
- Double Platinum $5000
- Diamond $10000

Check if you are interested in:
- Volunteer Information

Send to:
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202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

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