

Oak Leaves

Employees Honored on Staff Appreciation Day

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2009

Staff members were thanked for their service and dedication to the library on Staff Appreciation Day, Wednesday, January 14. Cake and refreshments were provided during the celebration, and Peggy Butcher and Dr. Casey handed out Length-of-Service and Reliable Substitute Awards.

Length-of-Service Recipients 2008

5 Years (2003)

Laura Griswold
Patricia Novosel
Paula Sennett
Angelita Smith
Cynthia Waisanen

10 Years (1998)

Dorothy Heisler
Lana Magnavite
Maritza Ruiz

15 Years (1993)

Verlyn Biere
Mary Donovan
Pedro Robledo

20 Years (1988)

Deborah Cocanig
Kay Gibson
Mary Lynn Mysz

(Reliable Sub award recipients on back page)



Some of this year's award recipients.
Top row (L to R): Mary Donovan, Verlyn Biere, Laura Griswold, and Lana Magnavite. Bottom row (L to R): Mary O'Mara and Mary Lynn Mysz.

Dorothy Heisler Retires and Deborah Cocanig Celebrates 20 Years of Service

It's been a time of recognition and celebration as we honored Reference Services Librarian Deborah Cocanig and Periodicals Page (previously Assistant) Dorothy Heisler on their service to the library. On November 11, a celebration was held for Deborah Cocanig's 20th anniversary in Reference Services. On December 17, staff members gathered to congratulate Dorothy Heisler on her retirement at the end of this month.



Left: Dorothy Heisler accepts her pin from Dr. Casey. Right: Deborah Cocanig poses with her celebratory cake.



Staff Spreads Cheer at Christmas Party

The Staff Association held their annual Christmas party on Friday, December 12 at the Stony Creek Clubhouse in Oak Lawn. More than 60 partygoers enjoyed plenty of food and festive fun! Here are some photos from the party—More inside this issue!



All Christmas party photos courtesy of Joanne Neff

Oak Leaves Editor: Melissa Apple

In A Winter



*“If we had no winter, the
spring would not be so
pleasant.”*

Anne Bradstreet

Christmas Party Snapshots



Your Favorite Winter Activities...

- Building a Snowman—9
- Sledding and Making Snow
Angels—8
- Ice skating—6
- Snowball fights—4
- Skiing—3



- Other:
- Walking in the woods
 - Tobogganing
 - Making an igloo
 - Jumping in piles of
snow
 - Snowmobiling

Winter Memories...

“Being near the fire in a fireplace; hot cocoa with whipped cream; reading; taking a walk after a recent snowfall when everything looks like a winter wonderland; wearing warm sweaters, warm socks and corduroy pants.”

—*Jean Day, Youth Services*

“Growing up in front of the Oak Lawn Lake, I have countless memories of skating for hours and hours. We would also sled down the lake shores and only go back home when we could no longer feel our fingers and toes. Ah, great times!”

—*Kathleen Szott, Administration*

“Growing up on the Southside of Chicago had its benefits for kids. The parks made ice ponds to skate on (with free hot cocoa in the park house) and hills to sled on.”

—*Joanne Neff, Administration*



Wonderland...



More Memories...

“Making snowmen in our front yard in Joliet in 1978 with my sons and daughter (Gene, Lynnette, and Tony). They are now 45, 42, and 36. When Gene was 2, he and I sledded down a hill in Westover, Massachusetts. It was both of our first time sledding. He got the sled for Christmas and still has the same sled.”

—*Harriet O’Malley, Patron Services*

“Syracuse, New York generally experiences a very heavy snowfall. The snow from Lake Ontario is often so heavy that the accumulation is measured in feet rather than inches. One snowfall in 1966 was so bad that schools were closed for a week. When I opened our garage door to begin shoveling, I was confronted by a solid wall of snow and couldn’t even see daylight. The snow had drifted on to the roof. I began tunneling to the street only to learn that snowmobiles were the only viable form of transportation.”

—*Jim Casey, Administration*

“The best was the blizzard in 1967. I had been off school with a cold and then the blizzard hit and we were off school, so I wound up with a two week vacation. That was unheard of as we NEVER got out of school for the snow, only a few days when the old furnace didn’t work and it was too cold in the classrooms! This was in Chicago in the Catholic grammar schools.”

—*Beth Walsh, Periodicals*

“Lying on the couch reading a good book with a cat on my lap!”

—*Fiona Lindenbusch, Patron Services*

“Staying inside in my pajamas all day, reading and crocheting! It doesn’t happen very often, though!”

—*Janet Goetz, Technical Services*



“Sometimes our fate resembles a fruit tree in winter. Who would think that those branches would turn green again and blossom again, but we hope it, we know it.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Christmas Party Snapshots



STAFF ASSOCIATION

The Staff Association treated us to apple and pumpkin slices in November—Yum!



(L to R) Carol Arndt, Iris Dykstra and Carol Krueger enjoy their dessert.



(L to R) Mary Donovan, Ramona Garcia and Janet Orzech gather around the goodies.



(L to R) Ray Dardemez, Lorraine Grivakis and Kevin Korst stop by for a slice.

"New" officers for 2009

President Janet Goetz
 Vice President Louise Pfeiffer
 Treasurer Donna Buckley
 Social Chair Jody Harkabus (who is looking for members to serve on her Social Committee)

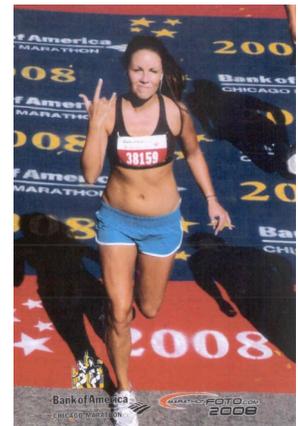
Just a few upcoming events: January 30 retirement party for Mary Lynn
 February Valentine's day treats provided by S.A.
 March "green treats" provided by all of us

Also, please start bringing in items for our White Elephant Sale which will be held sometime in the Spring. This Fund Raiser will benefit the Staff Association! Only (new) or gently used items (no clothes, shoes or books) will be accepted. Thank you in advance!

Staffing News

Congrats, Meg!

This past fall, our own receptionist, Megan Kowalski, completed the 26 mile Chicago Marathon! She finished the run in 4:06:45 and placed 7,525 among the 31,401 finishers. What an accomplishment!!



Reliable Substitute Awards 2008

- Kaitlin Crotty
- Jenny DeVivo
- Jean Kross
- Fiona Lindenbusch
- Mary O'Mara
- Theresa Oliver
- Kristy Ozminkowski
- Rita Schumm
- Lauren Szarzynski



Out of the mouths of babes...

"I once heard the voice of God. It said 'Vrrrrmmmm.' Unless it was just a lawn mower." --Age 11



"Often, when I am reading a good book, I stop and thank my teacher. That is, I used to, until she got an unlisted number." --Age 15

"Give me the strength to change the things I can, the grace to accept the things I cannot, and a great big bag of money." --Age 13

"Think of the biggest number you can. Now add five. Then, imagine if you had that many Twinkies. Wow, that's five more than the biggest number you could come up with." --Age 6

When asked what's so great about explorer Ferdinand Magellan, one young library patron answered, "Nothing. The book just started and in the first chapter he is already dead!" (Thanks Jean Day for sharing this gem!)

Oak Leaves

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2009

Mary Lynn Mysz Retires

Patron Services Department Head Mary Lynn Mysz retired in January after 20 years of dedicated service to the library. During her time here, she supervised Circulation, Adult Fiction, Audio Visual, Interlibrary Loan and Homebound Services. For the past five years, Mary Lynn served as the Department Head of Patron Services, putting her fully in charge of the abovementioned service areas.

On January 30, friends, family members, and co-workers gathered for Mary Lynn's retirement celebration. The guest of honor was greeted with many happy faces who came to bid her farewell and wish her luck in the next chapter of her life. Everyone enjoyed a delicious catered lunch, cake, and tasty sweets.

Staff Celebrates St. Patrick and St. Joseph with Festive Goodies

The Staff Association hosted "The Sharin' of the Green and Red" on Wednesday, March 18 in honor of both St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Day. Members contributed green and red treats for all to enjoy!

Good luck, Mary Lynn!
You will be missed!



Above: Mary Lynn enjoys the party with her husband, daughters, and grandchildren. Below: Mary Lynn displays one of the many gifts she received.



Above: Mary Lynn cuts her cake with the help of her daughter. Below: Fellow employees celebrate in honor of Mary Lynn's retirement.



Top: Joanne Neff and Melissa Apple pose by the goodies. Bottom (L to R): Rosemarie Lozanski, Iris Dykstra, and Janet Goetz enjoy their red and green lunches.

Oak Leaves Editor: Melissa Apple



Remembering your

For 15 days in July 2003, I had the best vacation of a lifetime in Alaska! My best friend, Christine, and I left O'Hare Airport, changed planes in Minneapolis and then flew straight to Fairbanks. Fairbanks is almost in the exact middle of the state. In Fairbanks we visited the El Dorado Gold Mine, where we learned how they originally dug up the gold, and took a river boat cruise down the Chena River which stopped at various points where we learned about the frontier life of the city. After Fairbanks we took the "Midnight Sun Express" train to Denali (Mt. McKinley) National Park. The train has special cars which are all glass so you can see all of Alaska. At Denali we were given a guided bus tour of a small part of the National Park where we learned about the park, the wild-life that lives there, and the native peoples who still live off the land. There were many things to do at Denali, but Chris and I chose the 7 mile trek on Kesugi Ridge. We learned about the local history and wildlife of the area. It was amazing to learn about all the medicinal and daily life uses for all the plants and trees. I spent some time panning for gold and I also got to try on a pair of antlers - the female antlers were only 30 lbs.! After Denali we again boarded the train this time to Anchorage. There was the mad dash of 3 hours of shopping in Anchorage before we crashed at our hotel.



The following day we took a bus from Anchorage to Seward to board the Princess cruise ship. On our first day out at sea we passed through the College Fjord. The 20 mile long fjord has 16 glaciers that melt into it. It was a beautiful site. Our first land stop was Skagway where we took the historic railroad up the White Pass & Yukon Route. Not for the slight of heart as the railroad travels

up the mountains on the very edge of the cliff! Once at the top of the mountain in British Columbia, Canada, we boarded a bus to go down the mountain and to a lunch of freshly caught Alaskan salmon, then back to the ship. Our second land stop was Juneau. In the morning we went whale watching - and yes I did see whales. That afternoon was the highlight of our trip. Chris and I boarded a helicopter and flew over the temperate rain forest and granite peaks to the Juneau ice fields. We landed on one of the 36 glaciers that form this massive 1,500 square mile terrain. We spent an hour atop the glacier learning all about the glacier environment - and of course drinking fresh glacier water, then back to the ship. Our third and final land stop was in Ketchikan. There we visited a living Tlingit village where we learned about their native heritage, through dance and wood carving, then back to the ship for our voyage home. These are just some of the highlights of the vacation. If you would like further information about Alaska, or would like to see my pictures - just let me know.

-Debbie Cocanig, Reference Services

The best vacation that I ever took was my week-long honeymoon at an adults-only all-inclusive resort in Cancun Mexico. It was an absolute paradise! For once in my life, I didn't take the cheapest option! Everyone deserves a major splurge, at least once in a lifetime.

-Linda Atkins, Administration

In September 1997, I was afforded the opportunity to sail from New York to Southampton aboard the QE II on a special travel agent familiarization trip. Departing from the Port of New York and sailing out towards the Atlantic Ocean, we passed by Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. All I could imagine was what my grandparents were thinking as they arrived there from Ireland back in 1904 and 1906. These would have been the sights they had seen before disembarking at Ellis Island for the immigration process. Continuing across the ocean, we passed by the spot where the Titanic had sunk in 1912, some 85 years prior. That was interesting, albeit a bit disconcerting to say the least! While aboard, we had the pleasure of attending the 30th anniversary of the QE II's Atlantic crossings. Since this was work-related, I did have to attend a few seminars and had a tour of the ship - very hard to have to put up with all that! We also were invited to a special pre-dinner reception in the captain's quarters on the formal dress evening. Cruise ships have professional ballroom dancers (male) to dance with unaccompanied female guests. One of the nights we attended the nightly dancing in the Queen's ballroom, I was able to dance the Vienna Waltz with a professional dancer - how cool was that? There was so much about this that made it special and just not enough room to tell all the stories that come to mind. All too soon we arrived in Southampton, England for a week's stay in London. Since this was just a few weeks following Princess Diana's death, the many memorials were still in place, especially at Kensington Palace and Harrod's department store. On one of our days, we had made reservations to take the high speed train through the Chunnel for a day trip to Paris. Again, we saw more Diana reminders, most importantly and sadly, we saw the actual spot where the car had crashed in the underpass. Probably one of the things that stands out after this trip is the fact that I am still friends with a couple of fellow travel agents that I met aboard ship. I have visited them in Idaho, they have come here to Chicago and we keep in touch with phone calls, emails and Christmas cards. That in and of itself makes for a memorable vacation.

-Beth Walsh, Reference Services

favorite vaca-



Every summer for the past four years, around the 4th of July, I've gone to something called a Rainbow Gathering. Imagine 20,000+ people meeting up in the middle of absolutely nowhere, popping their tents, constructing kitchens of wood, rocks, and mud, and living together in the wilderness as a family praying for peace for about a month. People from all walks of life—Jews to Christians to Krishnas and everything in between—show up to pray for and celebrate peace. There is no money—only barter and good will. It is family, after all. It takes place in a different place every year, but it's always in the mountains. The first year I went it was in West Virginia. The next year was in Colorado, followed by Arkansas, and most recently in Wyoming. This upcoming summer's Rainbow Gathering will be held in New Mexico and I can't wait! They all tie for best vacation ever.

-Jeffrey Lein, Patron Services

Despite the 95-105 degree heat everyday for two weeks, my favorite vacation was to the Tuscany region in Italy in July 2007 to celebrate my parents-in-law's 50th wedding anniversary. Twenty-one of us went—all of their children and grandchildren, and we rented a six apartment villa together in the beautiful Tuscan hills! We ate delicious and fresh Italian meals together (mostly prepared by us), traveled day trips in the Sienna area and got together every evening—all 21 of us—to share stories and Tuscan sunsets.

-Mary Williams, Patron Services

Just before my husband took the CPA exam, I insisted that we go somewhere for a few days. We ended up going to Spring Green, Wisconsin, home to House on the Rock and a Frank Lloyd Wright home. We stayed at a very quiet inn and had a very relaxing time. My husband thought that this might have helped him pass the exam on his first try. I just think he is very smart!

-Julia Churchill, Patron Services

Sanibel Island, Florida: From Fort Meyers, a long bridge takes you into a quaint little town. Staying in a condo on the beach is paradise—you can watch the dolphins jumping out of the water, look for sea shells, just lay out and get a tan or walk the beach. The sunsets are spectacular and there are many restaurants with fresh fish, lobster and coconut shrimp. I've traveled all over the United States and Mexico, but there's no place like Sanibel Island. I'm going back again this year.

-Diane Sutko, Administration

I am a history buff and my wife is into English literature of the 19th Century, so we enjoyed traveling to London, Hampton Court and Oxford during 1999 and 2001. We plan to go back later this year and see more of the sites and revisit some favorites. We ate lunch in a restaurant called the "Old Cheshire Cheese" that had been a "hang out" of famous literary figures. My wife sat in the spot that had been frequented by Charles Dickens and I sat in Dr. Samuel Johnson's chair (eating my fish and chips).

-Jim Casey, Administration

Vacation stories continued on back page...

Your dream vacation spots...

- A cruise...anywhere
- Maui
- Bermuda
- London
- Europe
- The Great Pyramid
- Mediterranean cruise & beach bumming on the Greek Islands
- Anywhere with mountains and a stream
- Home—with loved ones and a good book to get away from the loved ones
- Anywhere with friends
- Ireland
- Paris
- Sanibel Island, Florida
- Hawaii
- Belize
- Ice Hotel in Scandinavia
- Canada (Shakespeare Festival area)
- Italy
- Dubai
- Mt. Shasta, CA
- Tibet
- The Northern Scottish Islands
- Jade Mountain at St. Lucia

More vacation memories....

Going to Malibu, California to stay at a mansion where the Plain White T's were recording their album "Big Bad World."

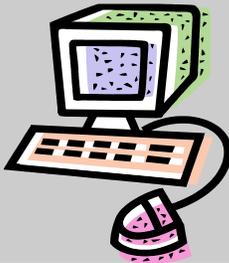
-Megan Kowalski, Administration

The best vacation I ever took was to Austria with my mom in Nov. 2001 (after 9-11). We stayed in the town of St. Johanns and traveled throughout the country touring in Salzburg, Vienna and Innsbruck. The Austrian people expressed their sympathy to the U.S. on our entire tour.

-Joanne Neff, Administration

Oak Lawn Memories Blog

The Oak Lawn Memories blog, created by the Reference Department for the 100th Anniversary of the village, is now on our Home Page! Anyone can stop by to visit the blog and post a comment. If you have any ideas for additions to the blog, please contact Periodicals Librarian Cindy Kelly!



Some of our upcoming events include: Hot Dog Day, Ice Cream Social, and Picnic

STAFF ASSOCIATION

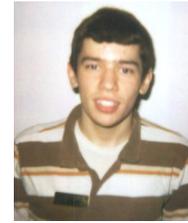
On April 14 staff will be able to shop at our Rummage Sale from 10:30a.m.-2:30p.m. and 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the Mary Nelson Room. There is something for everyone! Please support your Staff Association by shopping at the sale! Thanks so much to all of you for donating such nice items!

Happy Spring!

Staffing News

Wel-

Mary Pasek Williams started on 1/15/09 as the Department Head of Patron Services. Mary enjoys music, writing, Amtrak, the woods, wildflowers, socializing with friends and family, domestic and international politics, and the Detroit Tigers. Mary says she is thrilled to join this staff and looks forward to getting to know everyone!



Matthew Richardson started on 3/10/09 as a Page in Youth Services. Matt is a student at Oak Lawn Community High School and likes working with computers in his

spare time.

Rhonda Cipriani-Faragoi started on 3/17/09 as a Substitute Library Assistant in Patron Services, in the Circulation/Audiovisual Unit.



Jesse Caban started on 3/10/09 as a Substitute Page in Youth Services. Jesse attends Oak Lawn Community High School and his interests include the military (Marines).



Dear Landlord...

Funny letters sent to landlords

The toilet is blocked and we cannot bathe the children until it is clear.

The toilet seat is cracked: where do I stand?

I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is running away from the wall.

I request your permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.

Our lavatory seat is broken in half and is now in three pieces.

Will you please send someone to mend our cracked sidewalk. Yesterday my wife tripped on it and is now pregnant.

Our kitchen floor is very damp, we have two children and would like a third, so will you please send someone to do something about it.

Could you please send someone to fix our bath tap. My wife got her toe stuck in it and it is very uncomfortable for us.

Will you please send a man to look at my water, it is a funny color and not fit to

drink.

I want some repairs done to my stove as it has backfired and burnt my knob off.





Staff Members Rummage for Good Deals



Carol Arndt and Carol Krueger check out the goods for sale.



Iris Dykstra is pleased with her purchase.

The Staff Association sponsored a rummage sale on Tuesday, April 14. Proving that one person's trash is another's treasure, staff members enjoyed rummaging through items donated by fellow employees. A total of \$176.21 was collected for the Staff Association!



L to R: Patty Lerner, Nancy Rendek and Lorraine Grivakis do some browsing.



L to R: Verlyn Biere, Dorothy Zmich, Carol Krueger, Laura Griswold, and Carol Arndt show off their finds.



Dr. Casey admires one of the paintings for sale.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Staff Association members enjoy a hot dog luncheon in preparation of baseball season...

On Monday, April 6, the Staff Association had everyone feeling like they were at the ballpark with their delicious luncheon of hot dogs, chips, and all the trimmings. What a great way to kick off the spring season!

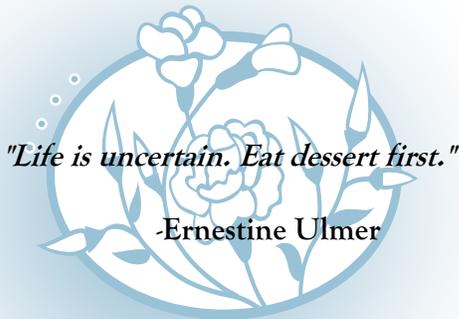


Above (L to R): Ramona Garcia, Janet Orzech, and Mary Donovan relax at the luncheon.



Above (L to R): Jean Day and Mary Pasek Williams enjoy their hot dogs.

Oak Leaves Editor: Melissa Apple



Favorite Ice Cream Flavors

The 'Scoop' on Ice Cream

The first frozen dessert is credited to Emperor Nero of Rome, who mixed snow from the mountains with nectar, fruit pulp and honey.

In 1700 Governor Bladen of Maryland served ice cream to his guests.

The first ice cream parlor in America opened in New York City in 1776.

Dolly Madison first served ice cream as a dessert in the White House at the second inaugural ball in 1812.

Italo Marchiony sold his home-made ice cream from a pushcart on Wall Street. He reduced his overhead caused by customers breaking or wandering off with his serving glasses by baking edible waffle cups with sloping sides and a flat bottom. He patented his idea in 1903.

Robert M. Green is credited with the invention of the ice cream soda. When he ran out of cream for his soda water concession, he substituted ice cream, and his daily sales climbed from \$6 to \$600.



Vanilla—7
 Chocolate—6
 Butter pecan—5
 Mint chocolate chip—4
 Strawberry—3
 Rocky road—2
 Neopolitan, Cookie dough, and Cookies & cream—1

Other:
 Jamoca Almond Fudge—2
 Plush Horse Hawaiian Delight
 Orange sherbet
 Pistachio
 Peanut butter chocolate
 Chocolate malt
 Moosetracks
 Cherry
 Edy's Slow Churned Chocolate Fudge
 Chunk
 Toffee
 Anything with nuts!

I have conducted very extensive research on chocolate shakes and have determined that Oberweis chocolate shakes are the best! (Millie's Top Notch tied for second place).

-Deborah Cocanig, Reference Services

Favorite Ice Cream Toppings



- Hot fudge—12
- Caramel—6
- Whipped cream—5
- Chocolate syrup—3
- Nuts and sprinkles—2
- Strawberries
- Chopped pecans
- Chocolate chips
- Reese's
- Heath
- Marshmallows
- Cherry
- Everything!

Favorite Ice Cream Shops

- Plush Horse—7
- Gertie's—6
- Coldstone Creamery—5
- Oberweis—4
- Cupid Candies—3
- Rainbow Cone—2
- Premo's—2
- Millie's—2
- Dove Candies—2
- TCBY
- Tastee Freeze
- Wojos
- Purple Cow
- Graeter's of Cincinnati, OH
- Andrisi's
- Shermans of South Haven, MI



The 'Scoop' on Ice Cream

During the Victorian period, drinking soda water was considered improper, so some towns banned its sale on Sundays. A druggist in Evanston, IN, reportedly created a legal Sunday alternative containing ice cream and syrup, but no soda. He later changed the spelling to "sundae."

In 1843, New England housewife Nancy Johnson invented the hand-cranked ice cream churn. She patented her invention, and sold it for \$200 to a Philadelphia kitchen wholesaler who, by 1847, made enough freezers to satisfy the high demand.

The first commercial ice cream plant was established in Baltimore in 1851 by Jacob Fussell.

In 1983, Cookies 'N Cream, made with real Oreo cookies, became an instant hit, climbing to number five on the list of best-selling ice cream flavors. It also holds the distinction of being the fastest growing new flavor in the history of the ice cream industry.

Thanks to Kathy O'Leary for the tidbits!

Staff Blog

Janet Orzech, Web Services Coordinator, has created a new Staff Blog entitled *Behind the Desk*.

<http://olplstaff.wordpress.com>

In Janet's words: The blog may be used for personal messages and announcements as well as library related events and announcements.

You don't need to login to read the blog, only to make a contribution. Comments and posts will be reviewed before they are published. Please remember that this is a public forum. Refrain from saying negative things about fellow staff and the library. You need to finish your comment or post with your name (or it will not be published).

All other staff will use this login and password:

Login staffer
Password Library (be sure to use an upper case "L")

STAFF ASSOCIATION

The Staff Association is having one of its busier years. Bill Goodfellow will be retiring in June and Cindy Kelly will retire in December. Our organization will be hosting retirement parties for both of these dedicated Reference Department employees. Bill's retirement party will be held on Wednesday, June 24.

On Thursday, May 14, members were treated to a Bakery/Bagel/Fruit Day.

Wedding bells will be ringing for Kevin Korst in June and for Sarah Schroeder in August of this year. We will have a cake to celebrate both occasions at a date yet to be determined.

The Ice Cream Social will be held in the second half of July and our picnic is set for Sunday, August 2 at the Wolfe Wildlife Park. Save the date!

The prices on the candy and soda had to be adjusted because of their rising market prices. We now carry Pop Tarts in the candy machine. If you have any other suggestions, let us know and we will check availability and prices.

Staffing News

Rhonda Faragoi was hired on 03/17/09 as a Sub Library Assistant, Grade III, in the Patron Services Department, Circ/AV Unit.



Lyndsay Duslak was hired on 04/08/09 as a part-time Page, Grade I, in the Patron Services Department, AV Unit. Lyndsay is studying Criminal Justice at Moraine Valley Community College.

Welcome!



Remember these thoughts for a healthier life...

- *If you're too open minded, your brains will fall out.
- *Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.
- *If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.
- * If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.
- * Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.
- * By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.
- * Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.
- * Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.
- * Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.
- * A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- * Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.



Bill Goodfellow Retires After 35 Years of Service

Reference Services Department Head William D. Goodfellow retired on June 30, 2009, and a celebration was held on June 24 to honor Bill and his many accomplishments over the years.

In a written statement about Bill's dedicated service, Library Director James Casey said: "The significant, long term contributions made by Bill Goodfellow during the past 35 years of his service to the Oak Lawn Public Library cannot easily be enumerated or described in any single document or recollection, but perhaps their impact can be felt more readily in the corporate memory of the dozens of board members, hundreds of staff members, and many thousands of patrons with whom he has worked."

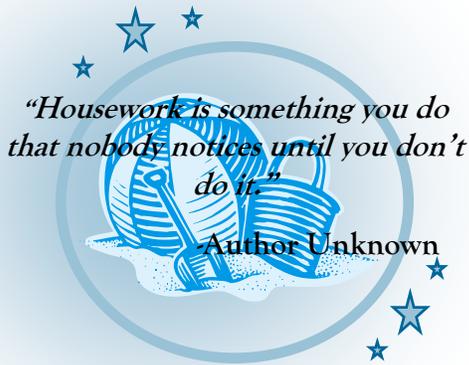
Megan Kowalski Leaves OLPL After 10 Years of Service

Receptionist Megan Kowalski was honored with a party on July 10 to recognize her ten years of dedicated service to the library. Megan leaves us to commit to a full-time position in the Art Department of Saint Xavier University.



Top left: Dr. Casey discusses Bill's many contributions to the library; Top right: Bill takes on the task of cutting his cake; Bottom left (L to R): Lana Magnavite, Ramona Garcia, and Jennifer Lechert admire the collage made by Sarah Schroeder; Bottom right: Bill opens one of his gifts while his granddaughter watches.

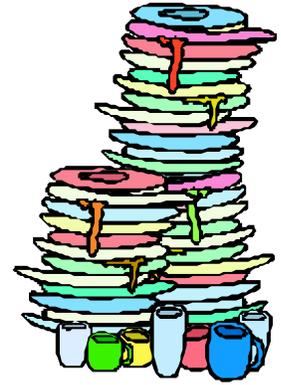
Top: Megan gets ready to celebrate with delicious salads and cake; Middle: Megan enjoys lunch with her parents and Melissa Apple; Bottom: Linda Atkins, Judy Sandberg, and Jean Day congratulate Meg on her achievements.



Housework Habits

Chores you hate:

- Cleaning the bathroom - 4
- Washing dishes – 3
- Cleaning the toilet - 2
- Dusting
- Emptying the dishwasher
- Taking out the trash
- Laundry



Bakery/Bagel Day

Staff Association members were treated to an assortment of donuts, bagels, and fruit on Thursday, May 14. Below, Verlyn Biere and Melissa Apple chow down on some fresh fruit, while Judy Texter gets ready to enjoy her bagel.



I hate the sound of the vacuum, also, cleaning bathrooms that boys use – definitely the WORST thing EVER.
 – *Dena Duslak, Patron Services*

- Cleaning the cat food bowls
- Oven cleaning
- Housecleaning
- Cleaning up after a child has been sick
- Scrubbing the scuzzy shower/tub areas
- Cleaning the crawl space
- Cleaning cat hair on the furniture
- Ironing

- Cutting the grass
- Mopping floors

Cooking is a chore to me – I have a tiny kitchen – *Louise Pfeiffer, Reference Services*

SAVE THE DATE
 Staff In-Service Day
 Friday, September 11, 2009
 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
 This year's agenda includes

Chores you mind the least:

Laundry - 7

Washing dishes - 6

Vacuuming - 4

Grocery shopping - 3

Gardening - 2

Dusting

Yard work

Shoveling snow

Ironing

Hanging clothes on clothesline

Cutting the lawn- my husband does the front and I do the back. I love being outside! – *Judy Texter, Admin*

Cooking

Cleaning out the cabinets – organizing

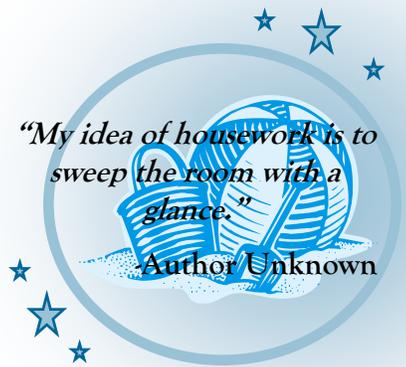
Making the bed



I asked...and you answered...do you make the bed every morning?

18 said yes—with one adding “if there’s time”

13 responded “no!”



Staff News

Fiona Lindenbusch in Patron Services spent a wonderful week with her granddaughter, Kathy, who was visiting from Colorado.

“We went to Navy Pier and saw the Cirque Shanghai show which was spectacular. We bought books and saw movies and hung out in the library. It was a very short week but maybe she'll stay longer next time.”

Fiona said she was exhausted trying to keep up with a fourteen-year-old!

Human Resources Corner



The 10 Most Popular Excuses for Being Late:

- “I got stuck in traffic.”
- “I overslept” (or “I didn’t hear the alarm go off”).
- “I had a doctor’s (or dentist’s) appointment.”
- “I had to drop my child off at school.”
- “Hardly anybody’s here on time.”
- “I worked late last night, so I thought I’d come in late this morning.”
- “I told (a co-worker) I’d be a little late.”
- “I’m in a carpool, and one of our members was late.”
- “I was waiting for the babysitter to arrive.”
- “I didn’t think anyone would notice.”

Tardiness is a form of absenteeism that can seriously undermine a department’s effectiveness – if it gets out of control. Patron service standards cannot be met if key people aren’t in their jobs when patrons or other staff members expect them to be. When an employee is late, it either means that a vital function comes to a halt or a co-worker must step in. We are all part of a service team where we must be able to count on each other.

Occasionally an employee is late for reasons beyond his/her control, which is understandable. However, an employee who is frequently late will trigger the resentment of other co-workers.

Our library policy states: “Employees are expected to be at their work station ready to begin work at their assigned time. Employees shall remain at their work station until their work shift ends or until their replacement arrives.” In addition, library policy states: “Employees are expected to make every effort to notify their supervisor(s) as soon as possible when they are unable to report for work on schedule. **When employees know that they will be late or unable to report for work they should call the main switchboard (708) 422-4990, by 9:05 a.m. or proceed as directed by his/her supervisor or department head.**”

-Peggy Butcher,
Human Resources Coordinator

STAFF ASSOCIATION

The Staff Association Picnic will be held on Sunday August 2 at Wolfe Wildlife. Anyone want to help with games?

Members start planning your Halloween Costumes.....there are CASH prizes!

The Staff Association Christmas Party will be held at Fox’s on Friday December 11. Members are “free” and Non-Members/Guests will be \$20.00. More info will follow, but the menu looks great!

On the Move

Mary Dunneback, Senior Librarian in the Reference Services Department, accepted the position of Reference Services Department Head and assumed that position on July 1, 2009. She is pictured below with her predecessor Bill Goodfellow.



Staffing News

Welcome

Jessica Guerrero started on 6/29 as a page in Youth Services. She is a student at Oak Lawn High School and her interests include music.



Signs You’ve Chosen a “No Frills” Airline...

They don’t sell tickets, they sell chances.

Before the flight, the passengers get together and elect a pilot.

Before takeoff, the stewardess asks you to fasten your Velcro.

You ask the Captain how often their planes crash and he says, “Just once.”

Each plane is equipped with a bathroom—and a chapel!



Oak Leaves

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 5

SEPT/OCT, 2009

Staff Enjoys Simply Sensa-

On Thursday, September 24, the Staff Association sponsored a "Simply Sensational Salad Day." Members brought in their favorite salads to share, and enjoyed a



Above: Mary Donovan and Ramona Garcia fill up their plates.

Below (L to R): Verlyn Biere, Janet Goetz, and Jean Day check out the salads.



Below: Mary Donovan and Mary Williams enjoy the salad lunch.



Above: Lana Magnavite scopes out the salad buffet.



Baby News

Julia Churchill, Patron Services, is excited to announce the birth of her grandchild! Her daughter, Theresa, gave birth to a 7lbs 12 oz. baby boy named Riley on August 4th. Julia reports that mom, baby, and father David are all doing well!



Miguel Angel Pacheco, Maintenance, and his wife welcomed a new baby boy into the world on September 3. Baby Miguel Angel Pacheco weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 20 inches long at birth.



Oak Leaves Editor: Melissa Apple

School Bells



“The larger the island of knowledge, the longer the shoreline of wonder.”

-Ralph W. Sockman

Favorite Subjects

Art – 5

English – 3

History – 2

Math – 2

Choir – 2

Gym – 2

Writing – 2

Spelling – 2

Biology

French

Physics

English Composition

Library time

Geography

Science

Reading

All of them!

Most students dreaded when September came around and it was time to go back to school, but not me. I couldn't wait to return to the classroom and see what new things I would learn that year. I think the only thing I didn't like about school was the homework – and fractions, ugh!

Based on your surveys, it looks like I am not the only one who eagerly awaited the school bells to ring. I'm glad to see that the list of favorite subjects is much longer than the least favorites!

-Melissa Apple, Administration

In music class at my Catholic elementary school, I remember reading songbooks/hymnbooks in early grade school where the songs had several repeated verses. While everyone else was singing or reading the lines all the way through for verse 1 and then starting back at the beginning for verse 2 and so on, I was lost! I was singing each section of verse in the line so that I was reading/singing 1,2,3,4 and then I moved down to the next line and read all four lines and so on. The good news is I took piano lessons and can read music perfectly now!

-Mary Williams, Patron Services

Are Ringing



I hated spelling bees so much that I misspelled my first word every time so that I could sit down right away. Hooray for spell check!

-Linda Atkins, Administration

Everything about high school or previous grades was horrible. I had to sit there not learning, studying or doing any work while I listened to a tenth grader mispronounce first grade vocabulary. It was a test of how much boredom, insult, violence, fear and being beaten down you could stand. If I had to do it all over again, I'd do anything to be homeschooled, unschooled or whatever – just not public school.

-Guinevere Churchill, Youth Services

School was enjoyable even though it was a lot of work.

-Louise Pfeiffer, Periodicals



"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."

-Malcolm S. Forbes

Least Favorite Subjects

Math – 7

Science – 5

Physics

Chemistry

Geometry

English

Calculus

Gym

Algebra

None of them!

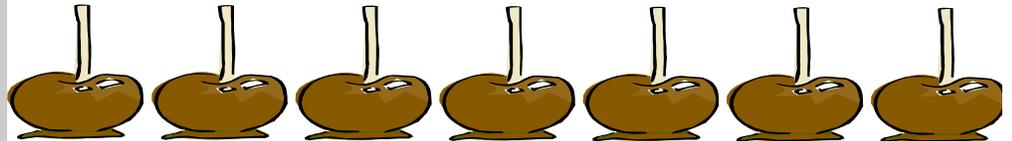
Tips for Staying Healthy at Work

- ✱ **Wash Your Hands. Often.**
Also keep hand sanitizer nearby for when you can't get to a sink.
- ✱ **Keep your workspace clean.**
Clean your phone, computer keyboard and anything else that you use frequently.
- ✱ **Eat balanced meals every day – including breakfast!**
It has been proven that people who eat breakfast are healthier and more likely to remain at a healthy weight.
- ✱ **Avoid coworkers who are sick.**
Try to avoid direct contact (without being rude, of course!)
- ✱ **Drink AT LEAST 8 glasses of water a day.**
Just keep a water bottle with you all the time, drink throughout the day and you will probably get what you need.
- ✱ **Take frequent breaks throughout the day.**
When you are feeling tired or sore, get up and walk around for a few minutes.
- ✱ **Use your vacation days.**
Vacations are a good way to relieve stress, which has been proven to contribute to illness.

STAFF ASSOCIATION

This year, instead of having a Halloween Costume Contest, all Staff Association members will have their name entered in a drawing for 3 gift certificates. You could win a \$20 gift card to Fasel's Nursery, a \$15 gift card to Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory or a \$10 gift card to the Book Ends Cafe. Taffy Apples will be distributed to all members on Thursday, October 29. In November, members will be treated to Pumpkin and/or Apple Slices.

This year's Christmas Party will be at Fox's in Oak Lawn on Friday December 11.



Staffing News

Antonio Fernandez started on 9/28/09 as Senior Maintenance Assistant.

~Welcome~



Patricia Pryal started on 8/18/09 as a Part-Time Receptionist in Administration. Patty's hobbies include gardening and cooking.



Jason Vasquez started 9/09 as a Page in the Reference Services Department.



~On the Move~



Margaret McConnell started on 8/21/09 as a Substitute Receptionist in Administration.

Former Senior Maintenance Assistant Pedro Robledo accepted the position of Maintenance Supervisor on 9/1/09. Pedro has worked on a part-time basis as a Maintenance Assistant at OLPL since about 1993. Congrats, Pedro!



Is That Your Final Answer??

...actual answers from students on music exams

The principal singer of nineteenth century opera was called pre-Madonna.

Gregorian chant has no music, just singers singing the same lines.

A harp is a nude piano.

All female parts were sung by castrati. We don't know exactly what they sounded like because there are no known descendants.

Young scholars have expressed their rapture for the Bronze Lullaby, the Taco Bell Cannon, Beethoven's Erotica, Tchaikovsky Cracknutter Suite, and Gershwin's Rap City in Blue.

Music sung by two people at the same time is called a duel; if they sing without music it is called Acapulco.

Refrain means don't do it. A refrain in music is the part you'd better not try to sing.

A virtuoso is a musician with real high morals.



Staff Association members thankful for tasty treats

On Wednesday, November 18, Staff Association members were treated to pumpkin and apple slices from Tuzik's Bakery. Thanks to the Staff Association for the many opportunities that members are offered to enjoy delicious food throughout the year!



Nicolina Alfonso and Lorraine Grivakis enjoy a slice for their morning break.



Melissa Apple and Jean Day sample the desserts.



Donna Buckley and Diane Sutko scope out the treats.

Lorraine Grivakis celebrates 25 years of service

On Thursday, November 19, Lorraine Grivakis, Senior Library Assistant in Technical Services, reached a significant milestone in her career at the Oak Lawn Public Library – 25 years of service! Fellow staff members stopped by to congratulate Lorraine on this great achievement.



Carol Arndt, Linda Dudlicek, and Janet Goetz help Lorraine celebrate her accomplishments.

Dr. Casey presents Lorraine with a gift for her 25 years of service.



The Technical Services Department congratulate Lorraine. Back row (L to R): Karen Kettelson, Janet Goetz, Marcin, and James Baker. Front row (L to R): Linda Dudlicek and Lorraine Grivakis.

The season for giving never ends!

In order to better help those who may be depending on the food pantry this year, the library will be selling "gift tags" for a \$1 donation. The money collected will be given to the local food pantry.

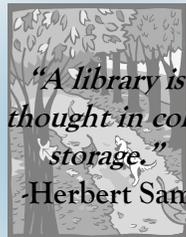
Each sheet has 33 colorful labels and there are 3 styles to choose from. Samples will be posted in the staff lounge.

The sale begins Monday, November 2 and will continue till December 30. Staff members can purchase them from Donna Buckley in Administration. Patrons will be able to make their purchase at the Reception Booth or the Computer Center (exact change would be most helpful).

Thanks to Dr. Casey, Linda Atkins, Administration, Reception and Computer Center staff for their assistance in this endeavor.

-Janet Orzech, Web Services Librarian

Oak Leaves Editor: Melissa Apple



"A library is
thought in cold
storage."
-Herbert Samuel

Giving Thanks

"I am one of the lucky ones. I have family and friends, a great job, my health and I live in a great country. I am thankful for it all..."

-Janet Orzech, Reference Services

"I am ever so thankful for being able to work in this beautiful library."

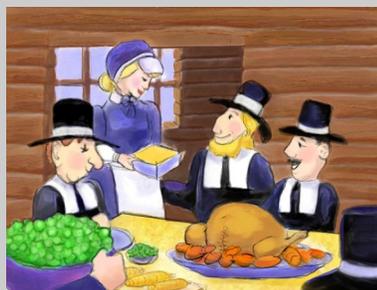
-Louise Pfeiffer, Periodicals

"I am thankful that my wife (Diane) and I celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary on November 16."

-Jim Casey, Administration

"That we have a job and wonderful co-workers."

-Mary Donovan, Technical Services



The Books We Love



"Works by Charlotte and Emily Bronte. *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* were two of my favorites when I was a young reader. Both authors were adept at putting their feelings into words; very perceptive. Reading is one of my favorite pastimes. I read every night before retiring to bed."

-Louise Pfeiffer, Periodicals

"Anything by Madeleine L'Engle. I continue to learn from them and be inspired by them."

-Jenny DeVivo, Youth Services

"*Shattered Hopes* by Barbara Schaff—local true crime about the murder of Diane Masters. My Economics professor was one of the main

subjects in the book. I used to work with Mary Nelson who was also in the book, and the author also presented at the library. Very interesting story."

-Shari Padula, Administration

"*Thorn Birds*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *The Exorcist*. I could not put these books down until I finished them."

-Kay Gibson, Reference Services

"*To Kill A Mockingbird* because Atticus Finch reminded me of my father. Also, the books my mother read to me: *To Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street* (Dr. Seuss), *Ferdinand* (Leaf), *Madeline* (Bemelmans), and *Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel* (Burton).

Other favorites are the books I read to my children over and over because they loved them: *Good Night Moon* and *Hush Little Baby*."

-Jean Day, Youth Services

"Books by Jodi Picoult (*Handle With Care*, *Nineteen Minutes*, *Plain Truth*). Picoult is a wonderful writer; her stories capture your attention and keep you guessing until the end."

-Jennifer Trotta, Youth Services

"*Atlas Shrugged* and other Ayn Rand books. I couldn't put the books down—wonderful, compelling stories."

-Diane Sutko, Administration

"Stories about horses and dogs for the powerful bond between people and pets."

-Linda Pliska, Periodicals

“Anything by Janet Evanovich (mystery) or Frances Parkinson Keyes (historical fiction). I love the wit and how she gets in and out of trouble without difficulty.”

-Harriet O'Malley, Patron Services

“*Resident Evil*. It's based off of games that I played as a child and gives more information about what is missing from the games.”

-Roy Heintz, Patron Services

“Fiction works about the Black Plague. There just aren't enough of those written. It would be my choice of time period and situation if I ever wrote a novel. The built-in suspense, despair and triumph over insurmountable odds in a time period far-removed from the present. 'Real' but not my reality.”

-Linda Atkins, Administration

“I have a problem with fiction. I never read it because when I do I always hate it or am disappointed. So, I stick with non-fiction. Non-fiction is cool, I mostly just read biographies of whoever I'm currently interested in, or books about art. The last book I read was a biography of Robert Mapplethorpe.”

-Dena Duslak, Patron Services

“*The Great Gatsby*.”

-Emily Zmek, Patron Services



“The Bible. How many good stories are in it? So many! *Boxes for Katja*—about sharing your blessings, *100 Dresses*—what a great book, *Snow Walker*—what determination from a 12-year-old boy.”

-Ramona Garcia, Patron Services

“*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *The Empty World* by D.E. Stevenson, *The Blue Sapphire* by D.E. Stevenson, *Night Play* by Sherrilyn Kenyon and *Elizabeth's Wolf* by Lora Leigh. They all have romance and justice.”

-Julia Churchill, Patron Services

“Janet Evanovich series because they are humorous with great characters.”

-Anonymous

“*World Almanac*, *Almanac of American Politics*. These books are packed with interesting information. I open them up and obtain nuggets of information several times a week and probably hundreds of times in a year. For about 20 years, the *World Almanac* has been a

“We may sit in our library and yet be in all quarters of the earth.”

-John Lubbock

Christmas Trivia



~ The first president to decorate the White House Christmas tree in the United States was Franklin Pierce.

~ Christmas caroling began as an old English custom called Wassailing - toasting neighbors to a long and healthy life.

~ Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in 1895. The idea for using electric Christmas lights came from an American, Ralph E. Morris. The new lights proved safer than the traditional candles.

~ Long before it was used as a "kiss encourager" during the Christmas season, mistletoe had long been considered to have magic powers by Celtic and Teutonic peoples. It was said to have the ability to heal wounds and increase fertility.

~ The first commercial Christmas card sold was designed by London artist John Calcott Horsley. He was hired by a wealthy British man to design a card that showed people feeding and clothing the poor with another picture of a Christmas party.

~The popular Christmas song "Jingle Bells" was composed in 1857 by James Pierpont, and was originally called "One-Horse Open Sleigh."

Human Resources Corner



Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

The FMLA was enacted to afford employees “job protection” for time they MUST take off from work (NTE 12 weeks per year) due to: 1) their own serious health condition; 2) the serious health condition of their spouse, parent, or child, or 3) to care for the employee’s child after birth or placement of a child for adoption or foster care. Before this law was enacted, many employers were dismissing employees for taking necessary time off under the three categories above.

Not all Library employees are covered by this act. Full-time staff and some part-time Level 2 staff may be eligible. To be eligible, employees must have worked for the Library for at least 12 months AND they must have worked at least 1,250 hours during the 12 months preceding the leave.

FMLA leave is not leave status in addition to the paid sick and vacation leave provided to eligible employees. Under the provisions of FMLA, the Library requires its employees to use sick leave benefits towards the 12 weeks of time permitted by law. Library employees may choose to use vacation leave or other benefits (birthday holiday, personal business leave, etc.) as well. The use of benefits allows the employee to be PAID for some or all of the time off rather than be unpaid.

Section 504 of our current Personnel Policy gives more information about FMLA.

-Peggy Butcher, Human Resources Coordinator

Get your ticket now!

STAFF ASSOCIATION



The Staff Association is sponsoring their annual Christmas party on Friday, December 11 at Fox’s Pizza in Oak Lawn. No charge for members, and \$20 for non-members/guests.

Come enjoy a family style dinner and celebrate the holiday season with your fellow co-workers!

The 2010 Staff Association Election of officers will be held in December. This election is open to any member from November 15-December 1 of this year. If you are a member and are interested in becoming an officer, there is a sign-up sheet in the Staff Lounge posted on the Staff Association Board. Your name will be entered on the ballot that will be distributed in December.

Staffing News

Welcome

Edward Remus started on 12/1/09 as a Substitute Library Assistant in the Computer Center.

On the Move

Laura Trotta changed from a substitute position to a part-time Page in Youth Services.

Tim Hoogland changed from a substitute position to a part-time Technical Maintenance Assistant position in Technical Services.

Giggle

Actual Questions Asked of Librarians:

Where in the library can I find a power socket for my hair dryer?

Do you have any books with photographs of dinosaurs?

I am seeking a directory of laws that I can break, so that I would be returned to jail for a couple of years.



Do you have books here?

Do you have that book by Rushdie ‘Satanic Nurses’? [Actual title: ‘Satanic Verses’]

Can you tell me why so many famous Civil War battles were fought on National Park sites?

* Thanks to Kathy Szott for sharing these great giggles! *