

# LINKS

## *Your Link to Lifelong Learning*

Vol.11 No.2 Student Publication of the Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center Dec., 2006

### A Deck for Haven House

Every Tuesday between August 22 and November 14, a group of JobLink and Leon Lynch students, as well as, a few volunteers took a deck building class. Rather than build a mock deck in the parking lot, this class was held at Haven House, a women's shelter in Hammond. For the moms there, this deck will provide a comfortable spot for them to keep an eye on their children who can use the deck as a play area. Despite the fact that ten classes were held in the autumn rain, this group of students who were **Learning to Build and Building to Learn** never let that slow them down. The following article provides a brief glimpse into this wonderful community project. By Carmen Martinez, Machine Shop

I like seeing nothing become something. In this project done for a worthy not-for-profit in our community, we started with a pile of wood in the corner of the yard and we ended up with a beautiful wooden deck. It just amazes me.

I like the challenge of meeting the deadline. The project began in August and we had to finish by November or else it would be too cold working outdoors. Remember, we only met once a week. This project was successful in meeting the deadline because of the cooperation that each and every student and volunteer brought to the project.

Bill Cameon, our instructor, had patience with us. He noticed that we



installed part of the fence wrong so he called us all together and explained why it was wrong and how to fix it without taking it all apart. We all learn by mistakes. We then continued to build the other side of the deck with that new knowledge, and we all successfully learned how to set the fence up level with the deck.

In the end, Haven House got a new deck that greatly improved the appearance of their backyard and will make it more usable. Those of us in the class – what did we get? We walked away with new friends and new knowledge – and the satisfaction of helping others. It doesn't get much better than that.



### Coffee and Donut By Jerry Torres, Mechanic/OMA Trainer; #7 Blast Furnace

The blood of Spain was dominant in the young Mexican lad. His hair was sandy brown, almost dishwater blonde and his complexion was very fair. His hazel eyes stared off into the distance as he sat under a tree on his family's ranch. He was daydreaming again. Jose could just picture the life he would lead in America. The cars, the girls, the beautiful homes... easy street. He could see all of America and it's vastness within his grasp. A golden land of opportunity. It's grass, he pictured so much greener than the grass here in the valley of Nuevo Leon, his home state in Mexico. He was 17 years old, had the swagger of a juvenile baboon and it was his time to leave the confines of this sleepy hamlet to make a life for himself. He would go north, work hard, get paid well and maybe, just maybe, come back home as a rich and learned man.

It was 1956, right smack in the middle of the manufacturing boom in America. Tio Jorge, his mother's brother, (Continued on page 4)



In cooperation with The School City of Hammond



Institute for Career Development

MITTAL



## From Diane's Desk

*Diane Lentz*  
*JobLink Coordinator*

### *Looking forward to 2007*

A coordinator's mission is to always look ahead and plan for the changes that are *slowly evolving*. One of the biggest obstacles to steelworkers participating at many of the career development sites has been longer working days. The overtime or 12-hour workdays have forced steelworkers to decide between work schedules and taking courses. For the steelworkers who are readying themselves for retirement or part-time job employment opportunities, as well as, improving skills for current jobs, this has been a difficult set of choices.

One way that JobLink, Leon Lynch Center, and the Burns Harbor CD are addressing this problem is by investing in **Polycom** technology that will enable us to broadcast **live classes** between the two east/west locations. This will reduce travel time as steelworkers can take the courses closer to home. This technology will also allow us to stream the same class to your home computer. Once that is done, you will be able to view the class on a day and time that is convenient for you. It won't be a live class, but you won't miss the class due to schedule conflicts. *Actually, you can take the entire course through streaming.* The first class offered through Polycom will be Spanish I starting in January. (See John Hartman's article on Page 4 of this newsletter for more details.)

We are always experimenting with new ways to offer classes. If you have any ideas for courses you would like us to transmit to your computer, please do not hesitate calling me to discuss your suggestions. Working and planning together, we will continue to have a program that will meet your needs and remove barriers to your participation.

*Have a safe and happy holiday season. Diane*

## . . . Viewpoints . . .

*Steve Wagner*  
*Local 1010 Representative*

The Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center has continued to be successful over the last 16 plus years because of the efforts of our past and current 1010 members. I congratulate all of you as the real stewards of our Career Development Program.

Remember, it's never too late to request a class. If you have a class that you would like to see taught on site, come to JobLink and add that class to the interested book. In addition, it would help if you could find other members who would like to take the same course. Once there are five names in the interested book, JobLink can begin the process of organizing the class.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the **Friends of JobLink** who put forth a sincere effort on a daily basis to assist 1010 members in understanding what is available to them at Joblink! On behalf of the Local 1010 membership, I would like to thank Diane Lentz and her staff for the many years of dedicated service in providing us with the best Career Development Program in the United States!

I would like to wish everyone a healthy, prosperous and **educational 2007!**

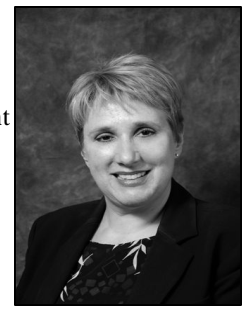


*Deb Proper*  
*Company Representative*

Remember the days when you thought you were through with school (and learning) as soon as you graduated from high school? By now, it's probably abundantly clear that learning is a life-long endeavor – it is, anyway, if you're interested in keeping up with your children, your grandchildren, and society in general.

Today, we can communicate with a few keystrokes with people from all over the world, so we have a reason to learn new technology, new languages, new ways of thinking. We have robots that vacuum and mop our floors while we are away at work or running errands. We have TiVo, which makes it possible to watch our favorite TV shows on our schedules rather than the networks', and even chooses programs for us that we might be interested in but hadn't chosen for ourselves. Who knows what's coming in the next 10 or 20 years? Be prepared by keeping your brain active and able to learn in order to keep up with the changes that are coming!

Take a look at the 100+ courses that are offered in the 2007 Winter Catalog (for Local 1010 and Local 1011). You'll be amazed at how varied and exciting the classes are; there's something for everyone. Spouses and retirees can take advantage of many of these classes as well.



*Links* is a publication of the Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center  
Student Editor: **Tom Zmigrocki** Assistant Student Editor: **Joe Woessner** Editor: **Marcia L. Taylor**  
**JobLink Subcommittee:** **Diane Lentz, Deb Proper, Steve Wagner**

# *New York, New York!*

## **“Steel and Roses” Takes A Bite Out Of “The Big Apple”!**

Metatarsals were clacking down Broadway when Steel and Roses made its way to the Big Apple this past October. The cast of 14 steelworkers, 10 of whom are from JobLink performed for a receptive crowd at the Aaron Davis Hall at the City University of New York.

Actor and musician Rick Barna (#3 Cold Strip East) commented, “This was the highlight of my adult life – walking down Times Square I suddenly felt as if I was home. I am happy to have had a part in the production.”

Actor Dan Vertucci (#3 Cold Strip West ) agreed. “It was a great experience. Never having been to New York before, it was thrilling – especially to be performing in New York. We got to go all over New York. - the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Little Italy, China town, Soho, Greenwich Village, Times Square. I liked the feeling of the whole city. It was a great experience – I think our New York performance was the best we did. We all added something to it.”

Retired steelworker, actor and writer Joe Gutierrez said, “I was reluctant to get involved because all I could think of was standing up in front of a crowd, and I get nervous. But I went ahead with it and I was thrilled to do it. It was a privilege to work with the whole group and with the genius that is John Szostek. He gave us a philosophical look at the play. Everybody looks for validity in their work and John talked about truth – and when we went out on stage that’s what we are doing. It was spiritually uplifting – because of the - you’ve got to act from the gut – and to be honest. John told us to communicate with the audience – to give them your heart and your love.”

Harmon Lisnow executive director of the ICD was the man responsible for getting the production to New York City. “I was really pleased because the competence and the creativity was beyond my expectations. The feedback we got was astonishing – from professionals in the field. They thought the writing and the music was terrific. Really the whole thing was a slamdunk. I don’t think they could have done a better job - they just nailed the performance!”

## **JobLink Writers Shine**

For the last four years the Association of Joint Labor Management Educational Programs has worked on a project to develop worker writers. The National Workers Writing Project culminated this year with the publication of the chapbook and CD, *Kindred Voices*.

JobLink writers were well represented: Bill Corrigan, Herlinda Klug, Ted Kosmatka, Jeff Manes, and Jerry Torres had pieces included in this collection. There were 160 writing submissions from 91 different writers from 10 different unions, yet 11 pieces of writing from our program alone were among the 31 pieces chosen for publication – over one third - that’s an incredible percentage! We are very proud of these writers and hope they continue writing and getting their work published.

*(Editor’s note: These are not the only writers making their mark. New students in Marcia’s current writing classes are awesome!)*



### **Joblink Reminder**



*JobLink closes for the holidays  
starting Dec. 23rd.  
Classes resume January 8th.*



**Happy Holidays  
One And All!**



### **Words To Remember**

**A thankful person is thankful under all  
circumstances. A complaining soul complains  
even if he lives in paradise. Baha’u’llah**

## Staff News

### Who's Doing What at JobLink?

By Linda Golden, #1 Slab Caster

Dale Meiners is our newest member of JobLink. He started about four months ago as our new woodshop instructor. He has been in the carpentry line of work for 12 years and has operated his own business for four years.

Dale is married and has a 5-month old son and a 3 ½ year old daughter. He lives in Chicago and enjoys hanging out with his wife and kids.

Before his woodworking career, Dale ran a recording studio for twelve years and played in a rock band, "Wesley Willis Fiasco". In fact, he toured Europe and even made an appearance on MTV.

Dale has also taught woodshop to high school students. He said there is a big difference between teaching us and those students. His students now are really interested in building a variety of items, where his high school students would lose interest. He just loves his job now. He's willing to help each and every person with their project.

In the short time that he has been here, he has made many improvements to the shop adding various tools, gadgets and equipment. Please stop by to see all the new projects.



**Coming this  
summer! Custom  
Car & Motorcycle  
Show during the**

**JobLink Education Fair July 26, 2007.**

If you are interested in entering your car or motorcycle, please call JobLink at 399-8136 for more information.

The show will give Local 1010 members a chance to show off their creative talents and give JobLink an opportunity to highlight some of their specialty classes! Auto body repair, automotive and motorcycle maintenance, airbrushing, and other related technical courses will be featured.

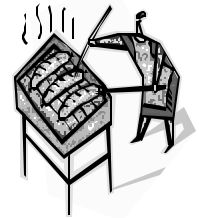
## We can never really thank you enough...

Many thanks to all of the gardeners who gave us the beauty of flowers this summer: Bill Cameon, Mike Nelson, Peter Szasko, John Walker and Pat Humphrey who won the windowbox contest.



## Oh, my, we ate well !

Thanks to our award-winning barbecue team: Jeff Danner, Jim Spasoff and Nick Valle who cooked at our mini-open house this past August.



The big heart award goes to Bill Cameon and everyone who volunteered to help the flood victims in Highland and Griffith: Cary Bein, Tom Frankiewicz, Randy and Adam Hennings, Diane Lentz, Herman Loyd, Carlos Nazario, Cheryl Ramsey and Rudy Zamarocy.

(Continued from page 1) Coffee and donut

had written and said that the steel mills were hiring. Get up here and get up here quick. Tio had a contact. And the contact could assure him of a job. So Jose had packed his meager belongings, secured his work visa and was ready to head to Indiana. Never mind that he knew no English whatsoever. What did he need of English anyway? Shit, the longest part of his trip outside of Mexico was Texas and there were plenty of Mexicans there. A couple of days on a bus and he'd be in the relative safety of his Tio's house. Besides, Tio had given him a survival course in English when they had last spoken on the telephone. To find "los banos", all Jose would have to do was find the door which said "MEN". To eat, Jose would just need to order "coffee and donut" which was a "café y pastel". He could survive on that for a day. The bathroom would probably be the biggest hang-up since Jose's mother had packed him a dozen *chorizo* tacos for the road. If anyone would ask him anything in America, he would feign ignorance or deafness.

He left his home town on a Tuesday, destination "Cheecago", wearing his best pair of slacks (which were significantly shorter than his inseam), with those tacos, a little bit of cash for food and phone calls to his Tio.

Editor's note: To continue reading this story please visit our website ([www.bkjoblink.org](http://www.bkjoblink.org))



*By John Hartman, Leon Lynch Coordinator*

At JobLink and Leon Lynch Learning Centers, we are entering a new technology age. And we know that you are hard pressed to find the time to make it to classes. In answer to your busy schedules, we have purchased the latest state of the art Polycom Teleconferencing system to telecast and receive classes. We also will explore using it to “stream” classes to be viewed at a different time over the Internet.

After the first of the year, we will be broadcasting Spanish 1 classes from Leon Lynch. We will be receiving HVAC I (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) from Burns Harbor Career Development as well as classes from Indiana University Northwest. We hope to be able to use this technology as a communication tool similar to what Burns Harbor did this last summer when family members and loved ones communicated with soldiers in

Iraq. We will be exploring how we can serve the smaller Career Development programs around the country that don’t have the resources that the sites around the Lake have.

There are so many possibilities to access classes from-learning institutes that presently use Polycom equipment to broadcast their classes. We have put a committee together that meets monthly with the different coordinators, instructors, and support people to continually work on improving the offerings.

With the busy schedules everyone has these days, this may just be the ticket to take some classes.



## **UPDATING YOUR COMPUTER** By Tom Zmigrocki, *Plant 1 Machine Shop*

Updates are an important part of keeping your computer running at peak efficiency. They help eliminate bugs and fix problems in both hardware and software. Some updates, like those for your anti-virus and anti-spyware programs, are so important that we need to check for them daily! Other less critical updates include operating system and program updates, new device drivers (for video and sound cards, printers and modems, etc.). Bios and firmware updates (programming code that help your hardware work properly) is usually installed only if you are having problems and nothing else seems to work.

This may seem like a daunting task but fortunately most programs that require continuous critical updating have an automatic update feature that is usually turned on by default! All Microsoft operating systems have an automatic update feature that downloads and installs critical updates in the background so you don’t even have to stop

working. Most of the major anti-virus, firewall, security suites and spyware manufacturers have provisions for some type of automatic updating. They provide a simple means of keeping your software and protection current.

One word of caution. Don’t rely solely on the software to take care of itself. If by some freak chance the program becomes corrupt or crashes, or worse yet some virus or spyware sneaks in and disables the program then you would be left without any protection. Don’t take chances! Get in the habit of manually checking for and downloading updates at least once a week. Better still, check daily or whenever you are going online, especially if you have a connection that is always on! The manufacturers website is the best place to get new drivers and program updates. Most companies issue updates and fixes for their product on a regular basis. If you are not sure where to go, use a search engines like Google to find appropriate websites. The following explains the process:

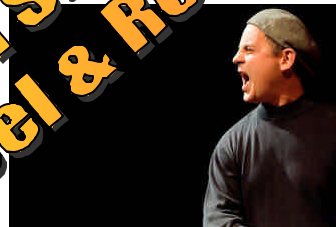
<b>What to update</b>	<b>How often</b>	<b>How to update</b>	<b>Where to get update</b>	<b>Benefits</b>
<b>Operating System</b>	Weekly	Microsoft automatic updates	Microsoft’s update site	Patches security holes and leaks
<b>Security programs anti-virus, spyware</b>	Daily	Automatic update Operator initiated	Company website	Keeps protection current
<b>Programs</b>	Bi-monthly	Download from company website	Company website	Programs are more efficient, fixes bugs
<b>Device drivers</b>	Every couple of months	Download from company website	Company website	Increases efficiency Corrects problems
<b>Firmware Bios</b>	As a last resort when trying to fix problems	Download from website	Manufacturers website	Adds compatibility for new technology

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***JobLink Friends:***

Chris Balzer	[Plt. 4 Maint.]
Rick Barna	[3 C/S E 80" Tandem]
Ken Bogucki	[Utilities 5A/C]
Jaime Calderon	[ #2 Cold Strip]
Tom Christman	[80" Hot Strip]
Jesse Flores	[Plt. 4 Electrical.]
Linda Golden	[#1 Slab Caster]
Julian Gonzales	[MHS]
Bob Guevara	[Plt. 1 Galv.]
Randy Hendrix	[Plant 2 Electrical]
Herman Loyd	[Plt. 1 Galv.]
Ed McHaskell	[Coke Energy]
Mike Nelson	[4BOF Mech Turn]
Gail Richardson	[3 Cold Strip West]
Phillip Rodriguez	[5 AC/Utilities]
John Shultz	[3 Cold Strip West]
GenfuTai	[R & D]
Jerry Torres	[MEU ]
Nick Valle	[ Union Hall ]
Dan Vertucci	[3 Cold Strip, Mechanical]
John Walker	[#4 S.P.]
Joe Woessner	[Plt.1 Machine Shop]
Tom Zmigrocki	[Plt.1 Machine Shop]



Photos Courtesy Of  
**Robert  
Erving  
Potter III**



**Steelworkers On Stage  
Scenes From Steel & Roses**

