

# LINKS

*Your Link to Lifelong Learning*

Vol.12 No.1 Student Publication of the Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center June, 2007

## THE HOUSE BECOMES A HOME

By Marcia Taylor

Many of you have been part of the solution for one block on Olcott Avenue in East Chicago. JobLink students and volunteers spent hundreds, if not thousands, of



hours rehabbing a former crackhouse that plagued the neighborhood. That house,

which looked beyond repair, got such a makeover that now a Chicago policeman and his family are in the process of purchasing the house and will soon be moving in.

Between the not-for-profit organization Christmas in April and "Operation Crackdown", a federally-funded program to eradicate crack houses from Northwest Indiana, the stage was set for salvaging the house. Add to the mix, the first group of Local 1010 steelworkers and this house and surrounding neighborhood underwent a metamorphosis.

"We thought this project was going to be a two-year project, but it ended up taking five years," said Dave Ryan director of the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce and the man who spearheaded the project. "We had help from many organizations besides JobLink- BP, Central High School and Harrah's to name a few."

Ryan knows it was not just the house that changed but the neighborhood. "Ten

houses in the neighborhood were rehabbed once the crackhouse project was under way."

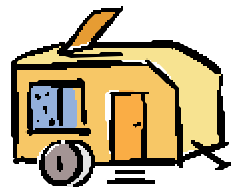
We salute our JobLink students, who while learning residential wiring, plumbing, HVAC as well as framing and deck building, this house went from hovel to home.



**The Summer Of '57** By Linda Klug, Service Crane Operator at the 4BOF  
Editor's note: This was first published in *Kindred Voices: An Anthology of Workers' Writing*

The movement of the car on the gravel road awoke me. The full moon illuminated our way, and I could see wire fencing as I rolled the window down and breathed in the cool damp air. I knew that we finally arrived to our destination. My ten year-old imagination was running on all eight cylinders, because this vacation was going to be unlike all the others. We were going to spend this summer on a farm. A real honest to goodness farm. Every year, for as long as I can remember mom and dad would take my two sisters, my brother and I to Laredo and San Antonio, Texas to see our relatives.

In the summer of 1947 the Johnson family was transplanted to Northwest Indiana where dad found employment as a laborer at Inland Steel Co. That new world contained an abundance of asphalt, small yards to play in and small gardens to plant. The neighborhood was very diverse; we had Polish, Italian, Hungarian, Romanian, African Americans and Hispanics. We never experienced prejudice in this very small world of ours. The backdrop of this little world was made of tall black stacks that loomed over cold obscure structures below them, which seemed to embrace these ominous towers that spewed



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## From Diane's Desk

*Diane Lentz*  
*JobLink Coordinator*

### Where are they now?

This July JobLink will complete 17 years of serving the educational needs of Local 1010 workers. Despite all the competition for steelworkers' time and the large number of retirees over the years, our 2006 participation rate of 24% speaks to the continued success of JobLink. However, to get a real picture of what is really happening one has only to look on the **Success Board at JobLink**. What is success? Ask these individuals, as each of them attained a personal goal. Some of these goals impacted financial security, some fueled personal goals, and others helped solve personal problems. Even without using the names, I wonder if you know whose JobLink success stories these are.

?This individual was terrified of using a saw, now she has completed a beautiful wooden book shelf with doors.

?This individual overcame a true dislike of algebra but needed it for his culinary degree. He got an A in algebra.

?This individual used his computer skills to teach at Prairie State College.

?This individual took the label making course, and now she is making business cards, post cards, flyers, etc.

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## . . . Viewpoints . . .

**Steve Wagner**  
*Local 1010 Representative*

In keeping with our theme of looking back and seeing the effect that JobLink has had on people's lives, I would like to submit some of my observations.

There are many people at the hall doing their work on behalf of Local 1010 members with more confidence and skills due to the courses that they took at JobLink. Personally, my IUN courses in Labor Studies have increased my awareness of how important the union is to all workers in today's workforce.

One of my co-workers achieved her bachelor's degree and certainly is applying those skills everyday. Her increased confidence helps her deal with the challenges that she faces daily. Another one of my co-workers was introduced to computers through JobLink and now heads up our newsletter and webpage. We are very thankful that his initial interest in computers enabled him to learn the skills to help us in this important area. One of our newest officers has taken many labor studies courses over the years and brings those insights to her new responsibilities. One officer's Grievance Handling class no doubt is used often. These are just a few examples of how JobLink affected your representatives at the hall.



**Kevin Robinson**  
*Management Representative*

I am relatively new to the company, my role being Division Manager Human Resources. I'm even newer to the JobLink subcommittee. As a new subcommittee member, I've learned a great deal about JobLink. In addressing the theme of how JobLink has impacted personal lives, I'll discuss the larger issue of education itself.

We all know that what we learn does not stay in a box. Learning one set of skills for a given task has a way of being there when we need it for other needs. People often acquire skills for today's needs not really knowing how this same learning will benefit them in the future. For example, if a student masters the use of measurement and accuracy while taking a woodworking course at JobLink, those same skills will play out on the job when needed; especially now with cross training, steelworkers need to be multi-skilled. In addition, JobLink successes build individual confidence. Individual confidence helps one succeed in any future learning task.

As I review the catalogs and courses that JobLink has offered in the last 17 years, I sense that Mittal Steel has a better educated, better skilled workforce because of those learning experiences. JobLink continues to stay abreast of the newest technology and offers courses that address those changes.



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

# Small Engine Repair Then & Now

Remember where small engine repair courses used to be taught at JobLink? Those classes shared the space with carpentry. It's the best that JobLink had to offer **at the time**, but it had many disadvantages.

Now, there is a new, better equipped space dedicated to small engine repair and ornamental metalworking. The new tables and equipment make taking apart engines so much easier. The following repair courses are taught in this newly designed space: small engine, push and self-propelled lawnmower, riding mowers, chainsaws, snowblowers, generators, weed-wackers, and roto-tillers.

The main advantage of these courses is that you get to bring in your equipment for repair or tune up. Not only do you end up with the knowledge, but leave the class with your items in top shape.

Keep in mind that this series of classes can be repeated. If you took the courses before and want a refresher, you can take them again.

Metalworking continues to grow in popularity. Some of the recent projects included several large plant holders, an address holder with numbers and a metal bench, just to name a few.

According to Mike Daly, classroom instructor, "The parts washer has been a welcome addition; the new air compressor is always used; the new welding machines will complement the program; the new bender creates new opportunities and adds a level of precision, and the plasma cutter will increase the metal capacities and versatility.

So if you were in class **before**... make sure you come **now** after all these nice changes. Surely, you have some equipment at home that could use some improvement. Make some positive before and after changes in yourself as well as your equipment!

## Digital Magic: Before and After

Ever wish you could fix up those old photographs. We all have them, bent, torn, discolored, over or under exposed. Treasures none the less. Too precious to part with. Don't despair! Joblink and Photoshop Elements can help save the day. Below are just a few examples of what students are doing in Bill Staniec's Photoshop I & II classes.



Old Photo Restored by Melanie Bales - PhotoShop Elements Student



Greek Drivers License From 1963



Portrait Cropped & Restored

Luis Rodriguez - PhotoShop Elements Student



Two Individual Photos

Combined Using  
PhotoShop Elements



James Palicke - PhotoShop Elements Student

### Remember

These pictures were all done by students with little or no previous experience! If they can do it, so can you. Come into Joblink and find out for yourself how to make your own digital masterpieces.



Damaged Photo - Before



Restored Using  
PhotoShop Elements

Juan Camarillo - PhotoShop Elements Student

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## Staff News

### Who's Doing What at JobLink?

## Introducing Dr. Robert Smith

By Joe Gutierrez



Someone said that education is a continuing process and JobLink certainly is testament to that through its dedication and inspiration to workers who aspire to excellence. JobLink has been able to its range of classes over the years while providing extremely capable instructors to ensure continued success not only for Joblink, but also for the student.

And once again, JobLink has exemplified that mindset in hiring the best of the best. We are fortunate to have Dr. Robert Smith who has been teaching for over 30 years, mostly in adult education, and has been with JobLink for approximately a year and a half. Bob worked in education with three giant unions, the Auto Workers, Rubber Workers and Steel Workers. He has a doctorate in education and presently teaches "Grant Writing Classes" which essentially '*shows you how to get money for business projects or church projects.*' His classes encompass three states where he teaches in mills all the way from Cleveland Works in Ohio, through Indiana to Riverdale, Illinois.

Recently, Robert brought a new and exciting class to JobLink - 'Personal Organizing Strategy.' Bob says that it's a fun class that is attended by both spouses and single adults who want to learn how to organize their life. Something we all need.

On a personal note, Bob has been an inspiration for me as a writer and author. His words of encouragement have kept me focused and involved with my art. Thank you Bob, and thank you, JobLink.

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(Continued from page 2)

?This individual served as a role model to his local Cub Scout group by teaching them how to build birdhouses.

?This individual overcame his fear and obtained his GED. He's been a steelworker for 30 years.

?This individual saved \$2200 by building his own shed after taking the shed building class.

?After this individual took many HVAC courses, He retired and moved to Florida where he oversees an HVAC business for a very successful contractor.

?This individual got her associate degree. She had a great deal of anxiety over some of her courses, but ended up with A's in most of them.

?This individual's grade point was so high that he got inducted into the National Honor Society for Engineering Technology, Tau Alpha Pi, Indiana Delta Chapter.

?This individual's poem appeared in the Workers' Writing Project, Kindred Voices. He also had a large role in Steel & Roses.

These are just some of the recent JobLink successes. The list of accomplishments continues to grow each semester.

**Please give yourself an opportunity to be on this list as it is all about your future and your success. To create your success story, check the current catalog on our website, [www.bkjoblink.org](http://www.bkjoblink.org) and register for a class.**

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(Continued from page 1) Summer of '57

black and white clouds of dust onto our world. Our social life was limited to museums, zoos, parks, beaches and the activities of mom and dad's Hispanic clubs.

The closest we ever came to a farm was in the summer time, when truck loads of fresh fruit and vegetables were sold on the streets of our neighborhoods. So you can imagine my excitement when dad made the big announcement.

I was the second child of four siblings by now. Yolanda, the oldest at fourteen, was four years older than me and I can't say that she was very excited. In fact, I'd say she was pissed. My brother, Tuddy was nine then and just as excited as I. Then there was Terry, the youngest of the girls, who didn't have an opinion. Besides, it didn't matter anyway because she always followed my lead.

In this circle of siblings there was a pecking order. Here was the chain of command and the underlings. I gave the orders and they followed. I used threats, scare tactics, intimidation and the promise of revenge. It never failed, it worked for me. Yolanda was too old for my little army, besides, she had a mind of her own.

Looking back now, I'm not so sure that mom was as sold on the vacation as I. I remember watching her pack everyone's belongings and then starting in on packing her kitchen gear. She wasn't singing or humming as she so often did when she went about doing her daily chores. *Editor's Note: To finish reading this story go to [www.bkjoblink.org](http://www.bkjoblink.org)*

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(Continued from page 2) Steve Wagner

All of us at the hall know that JobLink is there for us if we need a course or two to help us with something new; particularly in the technology field. New technology certainly helps us do our jobs more efficiently, but it takes personal time to keep up with the new changes. Many of us value education enough to give that personal time to take classes at JobLink. We've used our negotiated educational benefits to improve our skills for various reasons, but certainly none is more important than making us better stewards for you.



## Polycom: See It and Believe It!

Have you heard of PolyCom classes and wondered what they are? Since this past January, Spanish classes and heating and air conditioning classes have connected learners from East Chicago to Portage and beyond. How? Technology that connects students at remote sites to the teacher's classroom via teleconferencing. Those who are watching the class live can fully participate as if they were in the classroom with the teacher. Those watching a videostreamed recording at home via the internet can see and hear the class, get handouts and communicate over email with the instructor.

Student reaction to the classes has been very positive. Here is a sampling of comments from their evaluations:

### HVAC Students:

I like this because my classes are closer for me and videoconferencing gives me more flexibility.

If you miss class, you can still watch it.

### Spanish students:

The concept is great, especially if you miss a class.

I prefer this setup because you can reach more students. Good interaction!

## Get with the Program! IC3 = Internet and Computing Certification Core

By Joe Zaragoza



Joblink is offering a new certification program meant to enhance an individual's job skills. The IC3 certification is an internationally recognized certification aimed at job seekers who may need to verify their computer skills. Classes are as flexible as we can make them: attend only the classes you need and when it is convenient for you. All IC3 classes are self-paced and ongoing; you can join a class whenever you like since they are individualized to each student's needs. Once you are ready, you just take the tests right here at JobLink.

Each test takes about one hour:

*Computing Fundamentals:* Hardware, software, and using an operating system

*Key applications:* Windows, word processing, spreadsheet functions, and presentation software

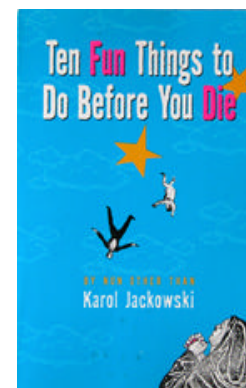
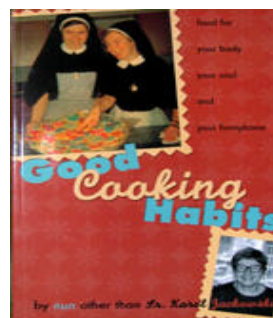
*Living Online:* Networks, using the internet and e-mail.

Call JobLink if you are interested in pursuing this certification or would like to schedule the tests. 399-1712.

## Joblink Presents: Sister Karol Jackowski



Monday, July 9 at 3:30  
Sister Karol Jackowski, author and, painter will be at JobLink to talk about the writing process. Sister Jackowski has appeared in numerous articles and TV programs and has a wonderful view of life, living, and writing.



### Words To Remember

True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country!

*Kurt Vonnegut (1922 to 2007, graduated from Shortridge High School, Indianapolis)*

### Joblink Reminder



Our center will be closed  
on July 4th  
Happy Holidays!

**Bernard Kleiman *JobLink* Learning Center**

Mittal Steel Indiana Harbor  
3210 Watling Street (7-200)  
East Chicago, IN 46312

***JobLink Friends:***

Rick Barna	[3 C/S E 80" Tandem]
Ken Boguki	[Utilities 5A/C]
Jaime Calderon	[#2 Cold Strip]
Tom Christman	[80" Hot Strip]
Jesse Flores	[Plt. 4 Maint.]
Linda Golden	[#1 Slab Caster]
Julian Gonzales	[MHS]
Bob Guevara	[Plt. 1 Galv.]
Randy Hendrix	[Plt. 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]
Genfu Tai	[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]

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**Joblink's**

# Registration

**Starting  
July 9th**

**Each active Local 1010 member**  
*who registers for a class will receive a*  
*JobLink hat.*



Join us  
**Monday, July 9**  
For ***Sister Jackowski!***  
(See page 5)

**Tuesday, July 10**  
Computer demos 12:00 to 2:00  
Making wooden pens 3:30  
Grilling tips 3:30  
*Food by Nick Valle & Jeff Danner*

**BRING IN A FRIEND\***  
**TO REGISTER,**  
**BOTH GET PRIZES!!!**  
**For active members only**  
(\*who has not taken a class in 2007)

**Wednesday, July 11**  
Digital photo tips 1:00  
Making wooden pens 3:30  
*Food by Chef Ernie*

**Thursday, July 12**  
Appetizer demo  
12:00 and 3:00  
*Food by Chef Elida*

**Friday, July 13**  
Make this a good luck day  
At Leon Lynch—  
visit and enjoy the center.  
*Food provided.*