Personnel Officer Judith Zemke Retires
Library Personnel Officer Judith Zemke will retire April 17 after more than 33 years of service with the Milwaukee Public Library.

Judith Zemke was hired on June 13, 1977 as a Personnel Analyst I by Personnel Officer Dorcas Vlcansky. Personnel Clerk Rose Borkowicz was the other member of the team. Zemke received promotions in 1982 to Personnel Analyst II and in 1984 to Personnel Analyst III (Personnel Officer).

During her career with MPL, Zemke was consistently relied upon for her excellent judgment and knowledge of labor law and municipal, state and federal legislation related to personnel matters. Human Resources staff throughout the city called on her for her expertise in the field.

Staff development and training were always a priority for Zemke as well. Many staff benefited from her active involvement in bringing job announcements to their attention, as well as classes, training, and workshops in which they might have an interest.

For many years, Zemke led the library’s Affirmative Action Program Advisory Committee which participated in career days at schools and job fairs, produced the Library Career Ladder, and established the Peer Buddy, Short Term Staff Exchange and Career Path Opportunities programs.

Under her direction, the library’s Personnel Office staff have been responsible for planning Staff Recognition Day at Central Library, as well as organizing contributions to Hunger Task Force and the Days of Caring drives.

“Judy is the consummate professional: She knows her stuff, is fair and impartial, an expert in her field,” said Library Director Paula Kiely. “But more than that, Judy cares about this institution and the people who work here – and she has since she joined its ranks. Judy has left her mark on MPL and will not be forgotten. In the future, I know I will think to myself... What would Judy think about this?”

During her tenure, Cárdenas hopes to stage a bilingual poetry reading, a program of poets and their mentors, and maybe a reading of poet-workers, according to her interview with Pabst.

Reservations are due Monday, April 19 for the Spring Literary Luncheon featuring Sue Miller at the Wisconsin Club on Wednesday, April 28. Please call the Library Foundation at 286-8720 for ticket information.
Meet the Author: Ralph Nader

Ralph Nader, author of *Only the Super-Rich Can Save Us!: A Novel* will speak in Central Library’s Centennial Hall, 733 N. Eighth St. on Sunday, April 25 at 1:30 p.m.

*Only the Super-Rich Can Save Us!* is a novel of how wealthy investor Warren Buffet, dismayed by the federal government’s failed response to Hurricane Katrina, leads a conspiracy of 16 other billionaires (also real-life figures) who work together to move the United States in a more progressive direction against the countervailing pressures of the corporations and their allies in the American government.

The talk will be followed immediately by a book signing. Sponsored by the Friends of Milwaukee Public Library and Boswell Book Company.

DIY: Operation T-Shirt

The library’s Teen Advisory Board (TAB) hosted Operation T-Shirt workshops at Atkinson and Zablocki Libraries with help from Amy Finn (Atkinson) and Gail Wilbert (Zablocki). This was the first program TAB members organized for the library along with supervision from Karli Pederson (YCOS) and sponsorship from the Helen Bader Foundation. Teens took old T-shirts and styled them by cutting, decorating and redesigning them. Three more programs have been scheduled for this summer at M.L. King, East and Tippecanoe.

Cataloging Unlimited Possibilities

Dawn Lauber (Administration) came across a great site about recycling card catalogs. Poetic Home (www.poetichome.com) lists more than a dozen uses for them. Poetic Home creator Grace Light writes “If you find a library card catalog for sale, there are a plethora of ways you can repurpose these literary treasures.” Below are just three photos from the page - take a look at www.poetichome.com/2010/04/06/10-uses-for-repurposed-library-card-catalogs/ to see the rest.

A Curiosity Cabinet of the Collective Unconscious was the result of having two dozen artists each given a drawer to explore the collective unconscious at an exhibit at Burning Man.

Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles sisters support themselves by creating beautiful religious works of art, and they store their sewing and embroidery supplies by color in repurposed library card catalogs, via Hooked on Needles. Light and Tana Clark use theirs to organize silver and flatware in their dining room and kitchen.

The Zymoglyphic Museum curator created a “traveling crustacean mini-diorama.”