

Macintosh Learning Center--- *Shell Weinberg*

Third Floor, Southeast corner

Laguna Woods Village Community Center

Laguna Woods Town Centre

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday

What do you do with your computer?

Certainly a logical and reasonable question... and as a Supervisor in the Learning Center I ask this question often. Probably more than 90% of the time the answer is, *"I like to browse on the Internet and also send and receive email."*

So, the thought occurred to me that maybe it would be helpful to stimulate more creative computer use if I actually answered the very same question.

I have been operating a Mac computer since 1993, when I first learned the basics from Ned Read and the LW Macintosh Users Group... and I don't think I am too far off if when I say I have probably been on the keyboard once, or more, every day ever since then.

My day begins in the early morning when I use the Mac to connect to the Internet for opening stock market information.... quotes, news items, portfolio value, place buy/sell orders, etc. Always on the prowl for info that might translate into a money making investment opportunity. I can isolate such info using the **Copy and Paste** functions, recording the data in an open document that I can date and time stamp, and then print for future reference.

Off-line, keeping track of my profit/loss record is maintained using a spreadsheet form I designed for this purpose. The **spreadsheet** program also offers me the format for listing the LC Library of books, the club membership Roster, an inventory of clocks (*hobby*), record of clocks sold, and other basic tabular forms for various activities. All of these spreadsheet documents get additions, deletions, and adjustments, as needed.

Making labels of many different sizes and shapes, for a variety of uses, is a special help in keeping things organized and easily identified. The **drawing** program allows me to create any size label I care to design without being restricted to Avery Label sizes. And with the use of a glue stick, or rubber cement, I can make a plain paper label stick almost anywhere.

I use the **iTunes** application to listen to, or download, or custom burn music CD discs for playing on my home stereo, Walkman, or car stereo. And, with the features in the **Garageband** program, I am able to translate analog or digital music from an old style vinyl platter, or audio cassette, into a digital file that can be exported to iTunes and then burned on a CD disc.

Using the **iPhoto** application, I import photos from my digital camera into my Mac and then do editing as needed. I also use **Photoshop Elements** for more sophisticated digital photo editing. I use the photos for emailing, creating albums that can be used for Screen Saver or Desktop images, or a presentation program, or included in a graphic design for any promotional or printed material I may need.

In addition, I write personal and business letters using the **word processing** program included in the versatile AppleWorks bundle of programs. I can also print the related addressed envelope to make a very professional impression. I can also produce shipping labels as well.

I have used word processing for writing poems, jokes, recipes, medical history information, travel agendas, direction and instruction sheets of all kinds, diary information... and other documents I can't even remember to put on this list.

I also enjoy playing games, such as *Solitaire* and *Scramble*, using my Mac. Many is the night when I could not sleep and found myself at the keyboard.

Nowadays, as I pursue a new hobby, abstract painting, I have found that I can create and design images using the **drawing** and **painting** programs, included in AppleWorks, and produce templates to help me paint. Hope to have some of my pieces on display soon in the Clubhouse 4 Art Studio.

So, if you are a Mac computer user and you are only using your computer to surf the net and send/receive email, this editorial may open your eyes to some of the other computer activities waiting for you to explore. Obviously there are many, many, more programs available for your computer use, however, I have simply mentioned those that I regularly work with.

Should you need help or guidance to learn more, you are encouraged to visit us in the Macintosh Computer Learning Center. We will try to help you with your exploration.

