

Check It Out Column for week of June 21-27

Say Cheese! Photography Resources.

By Kathy Stutzman, Community Relations Assistant

Yes. I am the family photographer. You know, the one that people run away from or hide from at family events? Love me or avoid me, but somehow I will get your picture to preserve family memories. Years later, as you look through photographs of cherished times, you will appreciate me. And believe it or not, I have had people seeking me out, pleading for me to take a picture.

I think I have always been the family photographer, starting in 4-H. There's just something about finding the right angle to catch that one-of-a-kind moment, that Kodak moment is what I call it. Currently, I have a Canon Powershot. I love that camera! I have had it for years and it gives me great photos. Although recently, I have found myself salivating over some of the newer models.

I've experimented leaving my camera behind when I've gone to events. And guess what? Every time someone has come up to me and asked accusingly where my camera was. They had left their's at home because they knew I would be bringing mine. Go figure.

In the meantime, I thought some of you might be in the same situation – an unofficial family photographer on the prowl—and could use some pointers to get those first-rate photos. Here are some great books to assist you:

Digital photography masterclass / Tom Ang. Learn how to look at the world with a photographer's eye. Offers tutorials, photographic assignments, and step-by-step image-manipulation exercises.

Paper + pixels : scrapbook layouts / May Flaum and Audrey Neal. Use your computer programs to their fullest potential to produce digital elements, and then combine these digital elements with the actual papers, fibers and embellishments they love. Step-by-step instructions and screen captures provide the how-to for creating simple digital elements with Microsoft Word and Office Publisher and Photoshop Elements in a way that is as fun and creative as using scissors and glue.

Photos, video and music with Windows Vista for seniors. Yvette Huijsman and Henk Mol. Step-by-step instructions accompanied by vivid illustrations.

The digital photographer's guide to exposure / Peter Cope. This user-friendly guide demystifies digital exposure for the amateur. Learn how to transform an average photo into a first-rate one by mastering in-camera exposure controls. Contains clear, jargon-free explanations of techniques.

Got a great photo you'd like to share? Send it to me at kstutzman@warsawlibrary.org.

The guide to Internet job searching

Sell yourself in any interview : use proven sales techniques to land your dream job / Oscar Adler.