

Dear Senior Fellows and Friends,

A book I know, entitled "Free Play: Improvisation in Life and Art," sums up the way we will convene at the end of the month. Since we did not have a Christmas session in December, we are going to eat, talk, and have Su Jewell tell us briefly how she has written several very readable books in her discipline. Su, a Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, and her latest effort are featured on the new Senior Fellows and Friends blog at <http://seniorfellowsandfriends.blogspot.com/2008/12/gators-gourdheads-and-pufflings.html>

Because Su has served relentlessly in the public interest for years, anyone who buys an autographed paperback at the dinner will also receive one of the remaining "Senior Fellows and Friends 2008" mugs (now a collector's item!). In addition, we will have a few low-tech games on hand, as well as an OLPC (One Laptop Per Child), for those who would like to spend some time in play. Our 2007 Deep Web speaker, David Pachter, has cheerfully consented to let his OLPC - which has been making the rounds at the Library of Congress - come over for the evening.

This invitation is non-transferable so that a proper welcome can be prepared for each participant. If a colleague would like to be invited, please ask him or her to contact me.

We'll convene in Vie de France's meeting room, right rear off the center atrium in the USDA Graduate School building. There will be one dinner tab per table. Make it easy on yourself by bringing small bills! Please contribute \$5 toward room rent as you pick up your nametag. The room opens at 5:30 p.m. and order-taking will begin at 6:30. Please RSVP by Friday, January 23rd.

Sincerely, Kitty Wooley
U.S. Department of Education