

JAN 29TH IS...

It ~~can't~~
every day

NATIONAL FUN AT WORK DAY, 2021

5 WAYS LEADERS LIKE YOU
CAN PLAY, CREATE AND
IDEATE VIRTUALLY WITH
REMOTE TEAMS



KEEPINGITHUMAN.COM
KATHY KLOTZ-GUEST

FUN AT WORK CAN BE EVERY DAY

FUN AND PLAY ARE KEY TO WELL-BEING, PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY, JOY, INCREASED TRUST, CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND SO MUCH MORE. PLAY CAN BE STRATEGIC.

DON'T FORCE FUN IF IT'S NOT WORKING.

LET PEOPLE OPT OUT OF UNSTRUCTURED FUN IF THEY'RE NOT FEELING IT. AND IF IT'S STRUCTURED (BRAINSTORMING FOR EXAMPLE), HAVE RULES TO KEEP FOLKS FEELING SAFE. VS. JUDGED. EX: NO FEEDBACK / UNSOLICITED COMMENTS DURING IDEATION.



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ALLOW FOR STRUCTURED AND UNSTRUCTURED PLAY

UNSTRUCTURED IS MORE SPONTANEOUS AND HAS FEW BOUNDARIES. IT'S TYPICALLY FREE-FORM WITHOUT AN EXPECTATION OF AN 'OUTCOME' OTHER THAN FUN.

STRUCTURED HAS A FEW CONSTRAINTS AND POSSIBLY A SPECIFIC OUTCOME. CONSTRAINTS MIGHT INCLUDE TIME AND FORMAT, SUCH AS PLAYING A SPECIFIC IMPROV GAME TO GENERATE IDEAS AND HAVE FUN.

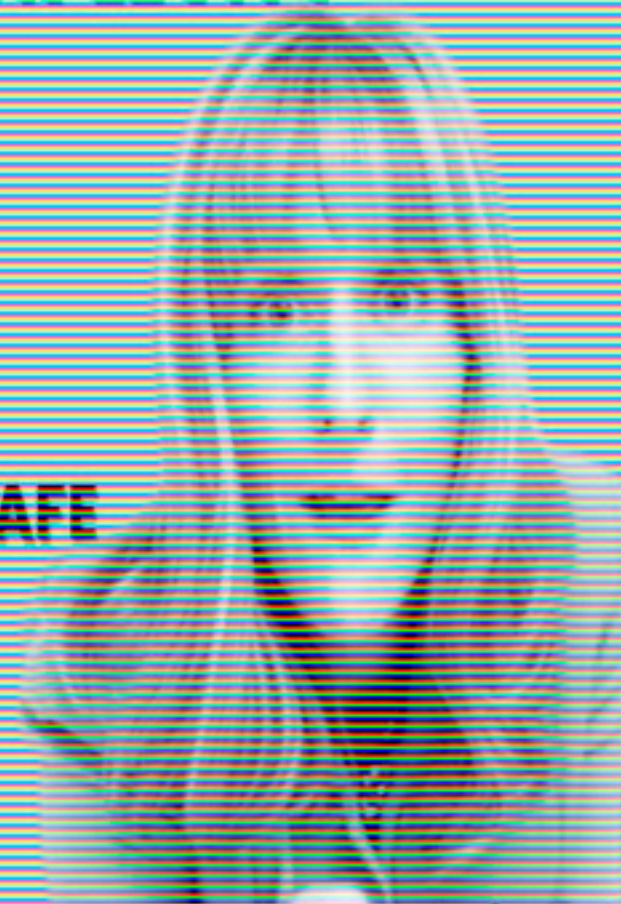
KATHY'S REMINDERS FOR LEVITY

DO:

- ☺ KEEP IT LIGHT, SILLY AND SAFE
- ☺ LET PEOPLE OPT-OUT

DON'T:

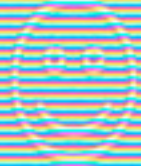
- ☹ "PUT THE 'FU' IN FUN" (A KATHY-ISM!)
- ☹ MAKE IT HIGH-STAKES AND COMPETITIVE
- ☹ BE THAT GUY / GAL THAT KILLS THE BUZZ



WHERE TO INTEGRATE PLAY: IT'S JOY AND CREATIVITY



ZOOM MEETINGS FOR TEAM CHECK-INS



BRAINSTORMING / INNOVATION EFFORTS



STORYTELLING AND COMMUNICATION



SLACK CHANNELS, EMAILS, COMMUNICATIONS



INDIVIDUAL PLAY IN YOUR WORK ENVIRONMENT



TALKS, TOWN HALLS, COMPANY ALL-HANDS

**I PLAY EACH DAY IN MEETINGS
(RANDOM AND PLANNED)**

**ALLOW TIME FOR GAMES, SILLINESS AND
LAUGHTER AT EVERY ZOOM INTERACTION.
(STRUCTURED AND UNSTRUCTURED)**



1. PLAY IN MEETINGS, CONTINUED...

HERE'S A HILARIOUS IMPROV GAME CALLED "SLIDESHOW"

DIRECTIONS:

1) HAVE EVERYONE TURN OFF THEIR CAMERAS.

2) PICK THREE PEOPLE (AT A TIME) TO TURN ON CAMERAS AT THE COUNT OF 3-2-1. EVERYONE ELSE STAYS OFF CAMERA. PICK ONE PERSON TO BE THE NARRATOR AND ASK THAT THE OTHER 2 PEOPLE STRIKE A FROZEN POSE.

3) AT 3-2-1, THOSE PEOPLE TURN CAMERAS ON AND THE NARRATOR CREATES A FEW-SENTENCES STORY INVOLVING THE OTHER PLAYERS. "THIS IS US AT OUR BEACH BBQ. SANDY'S HAIR GOT ALL BLOWN BY THE WIND AND SEE HER HANDS ARE STUCK THAT WAY BECAUSE THE BBQ SAUCE CEMENTED!"

2. USE MASH-UPS FOR CREATIVITY

FOR FUN AND PROBLEM-SOLVING, HAVE YOUR TEAM CREATE SOMETHING NEW BY TAKING TWO IDEAS THAT ON THE SURFACE SEEM UNRELATED AND COMBINE THEM IN NEW WAYS. FOR EXAMPLE, TAKE RIDE-SHARING AND PIES. THIS IS A **KILLER CREATIVITY TOOL. JUST SAYIN!**

IDEAS:

RIDE-SHARING SERVICE THAT DELIVERS PIES AND PEOPLE!

SELL PIES AT STOPS DURING A RIDE-SHARE

PEOPLE CAN EAT PIES WHILE THEY SIGHT-SEE / RIDE-SHARE

FUN MEANS FUN SO IT'S LOW STAKES; NO ANSWERS ARE

3. HAVE STORY SHARE TIME AS WAY TO WARM-UP, BREAK THE ICE AND LAUGH!

ANYTHING FUN OR UNUSUAL HAPPEN?

SHARE IT!

YOU CAN EVEN CO-CREATE STORIES TOGETHER FOR FUN (TRY ONE WORD OR LINE AT A TIME USING THE STORY SPINE ON THE NEXT SLIDE. BTW, THIS WORKS FOR CREATING GREAT STORIES, TOO!)

THE STORY SPINE

YEAH!

FUN FACT: KATHY'S FRIEND KENN ADAMS OF SYNERGY THEATER CREATED THIS!

ONCE UPON A TIME...

AND EVERY DAY...

UNTIL ONE DAY...

BECAUSE OF THAT....

BECAUSE OF THAT....

UNTIL FINALLY...

AND EVER SINCE THAT DAY...

4. HAVE AN OPEN-MIC ON ZOOM

**WHY NOT ORGANIZE A 'TRY SOMETHING NEW'
SHOW AND HAVE EMPLOYEES TELLS JOKES,
STORIES, SING, TRY SOMETHING NEW.**

**JUST FOR FUN AND PLAY. IF YOU DO MAKE IT FOR
PRIZES, GO SILLY.**

**LOW STAKES IS LOW PRESSURE.
LEADERS, KEEP IT SAFE. NO FEEDBACK.**



5. PLAY WITH SOMETHING RANDOM IN YOUR ENVIRONMENT

**ON ZOOM, ASK EVERYONE IN A CALL TO GRAB
SOMETHING IN THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND USE IT FOR
SOMETHING RANDOM THAT IT ISN'T USED FOR.**

EXAMPLES:

YOUR PEN IS A BACK-SCRATCHER



YOUR HAIR SCRUNCHIE IS A FINGER HOOLA-HOOP

ASK PEOPLE TO TELL A 1-MIN STORY ABOUT THE OBJECT

6. PLAY INDIVIDUALLY

PLAYING AS A TEAM STRENGTHENS BONDS. AND IT'S CRITICAL TO PLAY YOUR OWN WAY, TOO. FIND WAYS TO MAKE YOUR DAY PLAYFUL AS YOU CAN. AT YOUR DESK. WITH BREAKS. ANY WAY THAT WORKS FOR YOU.

AS LEADERS, NURTURE IT. MODEL IT. WORK IT, BABY!

PLAY IS NECESSARY FOR YOUR HEALTH

"THE OPPOSITE OF PLAY ISN'T SERIOUS; IT'S DEPRESSION" (DR. STU BROWN).

