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**The Important Extra Step In Scrapbooking Your Photos**

**By Annette Yen**

Ten years ago my best friend died of cancer. It all happened very fast and was pretty unbelievable.

In a whirlwind her husband was charged with the terrible task of picking out a grave plot, a headstone and planning a funeral. All that on top of caring for two young girls and making sure he didn't lose his full time job.

About two days after she passed away my husband and I stopped by his house to drop off a meal. He was in the dining room, photographs spread all over the table, sobbing. " I want the right ones," he was saying, "I want the ones where people will see her... the real her." He was intent on getting a video of various photos of his young wife's life together for the funeral so that everyone would remember what a wonderful woman she was. Back in those days that was no easy task.

Photographs hold powerful memories. That's why we all have so many of them in boxes in our closets, under our beds and in our basements.

And that's why the scrapbooking trend continues to grow at an enormous rate. People want to keep their photos for generations. They want those family memories to stay alive for their progeny and beyond.

If you're like my friend and like me, many of your photos are bent, old and just plain tired looking. It's estimated that there are billions of photographs stuck in shoe and other boxes all over the world because people want to hang onto them. But shoeboxes are not the best places for your photos. At the very least, you should have your pictures in archival boxes and preferably in archival safe photo albums and scrapbooks.

But did you know that there's another way now to keep your old print photos safe. With all the digital imaging companies out there and scanners, the best way to insure that those photos are kept for many generations to come is to store them digitally. Several companies on the Internet will convert your print pictures to digital and there are even companies that will store copies of the digital images in vaults for a lifetime. Before you take the time to scrapbook them, you'd be wise to take this additional step in photo archiving.

## The Important Extra Step In Scrapbooking Your Photos

But don't just trust your hard drive or CDs. Hard drives can crash and CDs can break or be scratched. Make sure you find a good lifetime storage company so that those memories will be easy to access should something happen with your computer.

Another great benefit to digitizing your old paper prints is that they can be easily shared with others. Once you've scanned and uploaded them to an online photo sharing site, you can email those photos to loved ones all over the world. Imagine all the smiles and joy as the memories of days pass are rekindled for friends and family alike. Most of these companies also allow you to make not only prints but products with those pictures as well. And even a DVD like my friend wanted for his wife's funeral.

Many scrapbook instructors encourage their clients to start scrapbooking from the current pictures and move backward in time, so the task doesn't seem so overwhelming. I'd like to suggest for a project like this, that you start from the beginning – your oldest paper photos – and move forward. Take a 15-minute

time slot one day a month and work through 20, 50 or even 100 pictures, turning them into digital images and archiving them. Imagine the joy you'll have as you remember old times, old friends and fun memories.

Take the time to save your photos. Your children's great-grandchildren will be glad you did.

Annette Yen is the owner of the website

<http://www.familymemoriesalive.com>

where she encourages

families to record memories in word and photo. Get free digital prints and sign up for her free family memories ecourse when you visit her site today.

### **Bound For a Lifetime**

**By Marcus Harbert**

There are few truly special and unique days in our lives. Everyone has unique days, such as birthdays and births in the family. Many people are fanatically scrapbooking their family photos into heirlooms for their children and grandchildren. However, there is one day that many of us experience that are truly unique—our wedding day.

Weddings are unique in many aspects; it's difficult to have two weddings exactly the same. There is always some variable in how weddings differ from each other, but no matter what the differences are between your wedding and the Joneses down the street, this is YOUR day and it is special. This is a day you will likely treasure for the rest of your life. What better way to capture the entire event than by scrapbooking the event into a bound book that will last for decades?

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There are of course the `normal' scrapbooking practices—taking your photos and arranging them on pages. Pictures are cut out using special scissors and templates so that they fit best on the page you are creating. Pages are also adorned with backgrounds and stickers, buttons and baubles and many, many other creative ideas. The possibilities when scrapbooking your special wedding day are endless.

Think about your wedding, or your upcoming wedding, as the case may be. There are photos galore and photo opportunities galore. Photos of the wedding party, of the bride and groom, of the bride's and groom's families, as well as photos of the first dance the bride and groom share. There is also the opportunity for photos of the people in attendance at the wedding and at the reception. A photo of the bride's mom crying gently into her hankie. A photo of the groom's brother giving a toast at the reception. The cute little girl throwing flowers on the aisle.

Yes, there are a million photos that go along with your wedding day, but there are other things that are a part of your wedding that you can scrapbook and bind into a book.

Have you thought about including the invitation card, the table placard, the lace that those little chocolates were wrapped in, a piece of the plastic that made up the flowers that adorned your `just married' sign on your car or the gold ring that held the wedding announcements together? These are all things that you can include in your book binding and scrapbooking of your wedding day.

Scrapbooks are beautiful pieces of artwork. The pages can last an eternity—especially if you bind them in a book. This form of altered book will be a keepsake for your family for decades to come. By book binding your scrapbooking pages, you can ensure that the fairy tale story of your wedding will remain intact and in proper order so that future generations of your family can relive your special day.

By organizing your photos and other sundries from your special wedding day, you can create organized and clear scrapbook pages that will tell the wonderful story of your special day. By scrapbooking and then book binding the scrapbooking pages, your hard work and creativity will create a family heirloom piece of art that tells a story.

Can you picture your great—granddaughter sitting down with her young child, your great—great—granddaughter decades from now and sharing the special story of your wedding? By book

binding your scrapbooking pages, this beautiful scenario can be your family 60 years from now.

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