

The Scrapbook Sentinel

A Free Newsletter For The Friends of: **Imagine That! Scrapbooks & Gifts**

“Organizing is what you do before you do something, so that when you do it, it’s not all mixed up.”

– A.A. Milne

The Smart Approach To An Organized Year!

Don’t you just love the ritual of putting up the new calendar, and the fresh possibilities it contains? All those clean, still-empty (hopefully!) boxes just tempting us with the notion that This Year, we can do life better. We WILL manage our schedule, rather than allowing it to manage us... we WILL focus on what really matters, and not allow the Urgent to overwhelm the Important. Nothing like a new calendar to see what Can Be.

Scrapbooking is no different than anything else in our lives. The more organized we are – the more we feel like we have a handle on it – the more we will enjoy the process, and want to partake.

So having said all that, what are your goals for your scrapbooks this year? Do you want to complete an album as a gift for a child’s 18th birthday, or your parent’s wedding anniversary? Would you like to finish a family album or two... how would it feel to finally get your own childhood photos preserved in an album?

One big way to find fulfillment in our hobby is by taking the reins and taking a stand for organization. Nothing says happiness like tidy paper bins. And nothing motivates like rediscovering what you already have and are now excited again to use.

What An Effective Storage System Should Do:

- Provide easy access
- Allow you to take a quick inventory
- Protect your papers
- Accommodate different paper sizes and types
- Make cleanup a snap, and
 - Fit the space you have.



My favorite “easy access” solution is the handled tote. I keep one next to me at all times, so my essentials are never more than an arm’s length away.

It has spaces for all my most-used “go-to” supplies – adhesives, sharp scissors, corner rounder, Cropadile,

pens, and even an emergency pack of gum.



Another essential tool of the trade is the expandable 12” paper organizer. This is where I keep the paper packs I’m currently using, as well as my ABC stickers and quote stacks. The handle makes it easy to bring with me when I go out to crop, and its clear plastic dividers allow me to easily see what’s inside.

When it comes to scrapbooking, the one thing we have the most of, naturally, is paper.

So if we want to be Organized and Fulfilled this year, an excellent solution to our paper storage issues is key. I love the 12” vertical paper holders. They hold a ton, and are made of sturdy clear plastic so they keep my paper from getting damaged and I can easily tell what I have inside.

Another great option is the paper storage cube system. We have many storage solutions to choose from.

Tips To Maximize Your Workspace

How Do I Organize My ALBUMS?

This is a question I hear all the time. Should I make books for each of my children, or just stick to one family album? What about Vacations, or Holidays? Should I organize my scrapbooks chronologically, or by theme?

My answer to this question is always to take the path of least-resistance. For example, although most scrapbookers arrange their albums chronologically, if you have a huge back-log of pictures and find it would be easier to just create pages centered on a certain person or theme – have at it!

Now, if you wish to make albums for your kids, don’t feel like you have to re-invent the wheel. Ideally, children’s albums should simply include their own personal events. Class pictures and parties, sports and activities that pertain just to that one child can be kept in their albums, while family activities and vacations stay centrally located in a family book. Doing 2 or more layouts for a single event just so everyone has a copy is just brutal, and way more than most people can possibly keep up with.

Other popular specialty album categories include vacations and big holidays. It’s a fun tradition to go through Christmas albums and reminisce and laugh about how much we all have grown and changed over the years

How do I organize my pictures?

All the storage solutions in the world won't do you any good if you can't get to the photos you need. In this digital age, we happily TAKE more photos than ever before, but struggle to actually PRINT them. Here are a few tips to get those photos where you need them when you want them.

1. Purchase good Organizing Software. We carry several brands.
2. Delete bad photos. You'll be doing yourself a favor every time you go back and don't have to hunt through virtual mountains of duds to find what you are looking for.
3. In the same vein, LABEL AND TAG your photos for easy locating when you are ready to print.
4. Make a back-up, either on CD or better, an external hard drive. If you use CDs, ask your local photo shop to make a thumbnail index that you can keep with your CD for easier retrieval later.
5. Of course, your best back-up is a hard copy, so... PRINT YOUR PICTURES! Do NOT wait until you have exhausted the space in all your memory cards to sit down and print out 5000 photos. This is NOT good use of your time, and will only suck you dry of any motivation you may have once felt. Instead, print your photos in manageable batches at least once a week, until you are caught up. After that, make it a part of your routine to process them monthly – say on the first of the month, when you pay your bills.
6. And when you get your photos back, don't just toss them on the kitchen counter... be sure to keep track of them by putting them into photo storage boxes! Our STORAGE SOLUTIONS photo case comes with 12 dividers and will keep 2000 4x6 photos neatly organized until you are ready for them.

won't have to go hunting through lots of bins to find (or NOT find!) all the elements you want to use.

- Store generic shades of solid colors – reds, greens, browns, etc separately, as they are more versatile and can be used with a variety of patterns and themes.
- Dealing with limited workspace? Take a look at your bedroom or hall closet. Create a modular storage space using what's already there, or add shelves and bins to customize to your needs.
- Love to stamp? Check out our acrylic stamp binders, totes and stamp pad racks. Bottom line, whatever supplies you like to use, chances are, we have a storage solution to meet your needs.



And remember, it's not necessarily HOW you organize your supplies, but THAT you organize them... in a way which makes sense to you.

I promise... if you get that workspace cleared off, and your supplies neatly stacked and binned, your motivation to work on your albums will go through the roof, and by the time you pull out your shiny-new 2010 calendar, you will be amazed at your own new-found genius for productivity, and in the process, discover that scrapbooking has become more fun than it ever was.

And Your Scrapping Enjoyment...



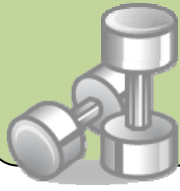
- Like I always say, nothing inspires creativity like a new bag. Our bags/totes are not only beautiful; they are incredibly practical. Low

on workspace? Easy-access compartments make it a breeze to work right out of your bag. Look at it this way – you don't continue carrying the same purse year in and year out – isn't it time to spruce up your Scrapbooking "Purse" too?

- Hang shelves or storage bins to keep your most-used supplies next to your workspace so that they stay within reach and easily accessible.
- Or screw them right to the edge of your desk.
- Keep spools of ribbon on a decorative rack- Come see what we have. Poke a pin into the roll to keep the ends from unwinding.
- Store ribbon scraps, silk flowers, beads and other unwieldy items on a shelf in clear glass jars by Making Memories, Ranger or one of the others we have to offer. The result will be both pretty and practical (my favorite!)
- Use a 12" accordion file to store left-over pieces from kits or themes you haven't used up. Store printed papers and matching embellishments TOGETHER so when you are ready to make a card or layout, you



Dene with Michael Martin Murphey!
CONGRATULATIONS: Monica Gallagher- She was our lucky customer who won tickets to see Michael Martin Murphey- It's always fun to see what the girls at IT are up to.



A Woman's Week at the Gym

Dear Diary,

For Christmas this year, my daughter (the dear) purchased a week of personal training at the local health club for me. Although I am still in great shape from being a high school football cheerleader 43 years ago, I decided it would be a good idea to go ahead and give it a try. I called the club and made my reservations with a personal trainer named Belinda, who identified herself as a 26-year-old aerobics instructor and model for athletic clothing and swim wear. My daughter seemed pleased with my enthusiasm to get started! The club encouraged me to keep a diary to chart my progress.

MONDAY: Started my day at 6:00 a.m. Tough to get out of bed, but found it was well worth it when I arrived at the health club to find Belinda waiting for me. She is something of a Greek goddess - with blond hair, dancing eyes and a dazzling white smile. Belinda gave me a tour and showed me the machines. I enjoyed watching the skillful way in which she conducted her aerobics class after my workout today. Very inspiring! Belinda was encouraging as I did my sit-ups, although my gut was already aching from holding it in the whole time she was around. This is going to be a FANTASTIC week!

TUESDAY: I drank a whole pot of coffee, but I finally made it out the door. Belinda made me lie on my back and push a heavy iron bar into the air – then she put weights on it! My legs were a little wobbly on the treadmill, but I finished the full mile. Belinda's rewarding smile made it all worthwhile. I feel GREAT! It's a whole new life for me.

WEDNESDAY: The only way I can brush my teeth is by laying the toothbrush on the counter and moving my mouth back and forth over it. I believe I have a hernia in both pectorals. Driving was OK as long as I didn't try to steer or stop. I parked on top of a GEO in the club parking lot. Belinda was impatient with me, insisting that my screams bothered other club members. Her voice is a little too perky for that early in the morning and when she scolds, she gets this nasally whine that is VERY annoying. My chest hurt when I got on the treadmill, so Belinda put me on the stair monster. Why in the world would anyone invent a machine to simulate an activity rendered obsolete by elevators? Belinda told me it would help me get in shape and enjoy life. She said some other baloney too.

THURSDAY: Belinda was waiting for me with her vampire-like teeth exposed as her thin, cruel lips were pulled back in a full snarl. I couldn't help being a half an hour late – it took me that long to tie my shoes. Belinda took me to work out with dumbbells. When she was not looking, I ran and hid in the restroom. Eventually she found me... then, as punishment, she put me on the rowing machine – which I sank.

FRIDAY: I hate that Belinda more than any human being has ever hated any other human being in the history of the world. Stupid, skinny, anemic, anorexic little Barbie doll. If there was a part of my body I could move without unbearable pain, I would beat her with it. Belinda wanted me to work on my triceps. I don't have any triceps! And if you don't want dents in the floor, don't hand me the stupid barbells or anything that weighs more than a sandwich. The treadmill flung me off and I landed on a health and nutrition teacher. Why couldn't it have been someone softer, like the drama coach or the choir director?

SATURDAY: Belinda left a message on my answering machine in her grating, shrilly voice wondering why I did not show up today. Just hearing her voice made me want to smash the machine with my planner; however, I lacked the strength to even use the TV remote and ended up watching eleven straight hours of the Weather Channel.

SUNDAY: I'm having the Church van pick me up for services today so I can go and thank GOD that this week is over. I will also pray that next year my daughter (the little brat) will choose a gift for me that is fun – like a root canal or a hysterectomy. I still say if God had wanted me to bend over, he would have sprinkled the floor with diamonds!!!

Top New Year's Resolutions:

I had to share this list of most-popular New Year's Resolutions with you. Just take a look and see how our scrapbooking classes and crops can help you reach your goals...

Spend more time with family and friends

(Our store schedule is included, and there is always room for more!)

Get in shape and/or lose weight

(Do you have any idea how much your scrap bags weigh – just make sure you carry one on each arm – don't want to be lopsided!)

Quit smoking and/or drinking

(No problem – our scrap room is smoke free, and everyone knows you should NEVER Drink and Journal!)

Learn something new

(Did I mention our Class Schedule is also included with this newsletter?)

Get Organized!

(Well, that's an easy one... just check out those coupons below!)

Help Others

(And yes, we've included an extra one for a friend...)

Enjoy life more.

(We are here to serve – At Imagine That!, Scrapbookiing IS Happiness!)

DOUBLE January BONUS!

Kicking Off Our Annual January

“The Smart Approach to an Organized Year” Sale!!

**Imagine That! Scrapbooks & Gifts
JANUARY GIFT TO YOU!
Buy 1, Get 1 15% Off
On All Our Organizational
Supplies and Totes!**

Offer good through 1-31-10. Item must be of equal or lesser value. May not be used in combination with any other coupons or special offers.

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