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Strike a pose Say cheese!

Away with clutter



By Dana Korey

Throughout our lives, images of friends, family and ourselves have been documented.

From our birth to a bar mitzvah, from a bris to a communion, from birthdays to graduations, from ballet recitals to soccer tournaments, from

weddings to anniversaries and everything in between.

Each of these Kodak moments has been historically captured on film for many of us throughout our lives. Here comes the challenging part - all of those events and special moments that we were all so proud of and cherished so much are either stacked away in boxes, thrown in bins, tucked under beds or even remain as a collection of undeveloped film. How do we organize them? Where do we start?

Over time, we've amassed volumes of photos - some precious, some great, many out of focus, some with bad composition, several with red-eye, etc. In one of my previous articles, I had mentioned how clutter is a postponed decision. Many times we choose not to get rid of things because we don't take the time to decide to decide. Hence, a pile of pictures, many that don't hold any value, only to accumu-

late to unbelievably large proportions over the years.

First, go to your attic, garage, closets or wherever that heap of photos are. Go through them to identify the basic contents. Sort your photos by topics that you relate to (such as each child, vacations, birthdays, special events and times in your life). Upon doing so, you'll notice many duplications, and many images that just aren't flattering. Who wants to keep memories of things that don't evoke something positive? You have my blessing to throw them away, and if guilt arises, send them to Aunt Bubbie!

Now that the worst has been eliminated, it's time to focus on the best! The best smile, the best picture of you laughing with friends, the best bathing suit picture, etc. Now that you've chosen these highlights, here's an idea to really capture those memories and breathe life back into them.

I was recently at an event and saw a spectacular visual presentation. It showed cherished photos from the past, brought to life, by incorporating music, special effects and creative movement. I was so impressed with how simple photographs could be created to look like a moving video...the experience evoked powerful emotions by all who viewed it. The crowd squealed with delight.

I found it so compelling, that I got in

contact with the artist, Rachael Paddock of Image Graphic Design & Video, to find out more about her talents. Because so many of my clients are challenged by what to do with all of their old memories, I felt this was the perfect opportunity to make them aware of this kind of unique service to organize their cherished mementos. While chatting with Rachael at her studio, she showed me some examples of how she can digitally restore damaged, scratched, yellowed or torn photos. She can also enhance the color content of the photos, and make you look years younger by smoothing out those lines and wrinkles...no more expensive Botox! It's visual magic!

If you treasure your memories, and want to see them dancing on your own home version of the silver screen, an innovative video montage is definitely the way to go.

Dana Korey, a Del Mar resident, is founder of Away With Clutter and is a nationally recognized speaker & member of the National Association of Professional Organizers. Visit www.awaywithclutter.com for more information.

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