



No Shoebox Required!

Now that you have taken so many family photos over the holidays, the question I have for you is: What are you going to do with all those precious pictures?

It can be a bit overwhelming to delve into the shoebox of photo prints or go through all the photos saved on your digital camera. Thanks to computers and the Internet we now have many options to answer the question of what to do with all those photos.

Two sites that my friends and family have used to share their photos with others are: www.kodakgallery.com and www.shutterfly.com

My friend sent us photos from Sacramento after he ran a marathon up there this September. He loads up his photos on the Kodak gallery site to share with family and friends. My niece living in India loads up her photos on the Shutterfly website and we can view them.

You can also create photo books on these websites with your photos. You can make theme books using digital photos from a trip or a special event. You can choose from hardcover or soft cover books and design a layout using different template styles.

These make great keepsakes for friends and family members that they are sure to treasure. I give often give these as gifts after an event that I cover and people love them.

I asked some of my friends how they share their photos.

My friend Sharon enjoys creating scrapbooks with her pho-



tos. Each of her scrapbooks has a special theme.

She starts with an intro page that helps her with the rest of the book. It helps her get creative with the scrapbook because as she says "travel books are the most fun to put together" and suggests that you keep a journal during your trip to help you remember. Sharon combines her journal entries with photos from the trip. She then embellishes the pages with thematic stickers and cut-outs. She has even started making scrapbooks as gifts for birthdays, retirements, and anniversaries. Sharon recently completed an 80th birthday book for a relative who was thrilled to see it! Sharon surprised her by getting cards, photos, and poems from out-of-town family and friends to include in the scrapbook.

Sharon's advice on the shoebox full of photos: "It doesn't do anyone any good in a shoebox. Put the photos in a book to share and pass down to others." **HB**



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