

Faded photographs help preserve the memories

FUND-RAISING

BY TIM SMITH
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It could be something as seemingly insignificant as a scrap of paper, with a drawing or the handwriting of a loved one. Perhaps it's a faded photograph of a forgotten family member or happy childhood excursion.

But too many people throw their memories into a box, where they can lose luster and meaning.

Enter Farmington Hills resident and Creative Memories consultant Amy Lazare, who helps folks preserve yesterday and today for tomorrow. Lazare teaches a class at home to give tips on how to make scrapbooks that will stand the test of time.

"I know someone who only has a piece of paper with her mother's handwriting on it," Lazare said. "She carries it around in her wallet... It's the only sample of her mother's writing that she has. And I don't want that to happen to my kids. That's why I make these albums and teach these classes."

Lazare wants other moms and dads to also get into the habit of chronicling life. Meanwhile, an area school will benefit from those who do.

"Fifty percent of enrollment fees (from Lazare's March 20 and March 23 classes) and orders for scrapbook-making materials placed this week through her office will be ear-

marked for the Wood Creek Elementary School PTA.

Lazare, whose 6-year-old daughter Cara attends kindergarten at Wood Creek, emphasized, however, that the orders must be placed by Monday, Feb. 22.

In her classes, participants such as Dina Pinsky of Bloomfield Hills learn the "safe" way to create keepsakes that don't deteriorate over the years.

It's one thing to put pictures in a book. But to tell the story behind the pictures... the memory will fade if you don't write it down.

Amy Lazare
—Creative Memories consultant

Journaling, as it is called, is another important point stressed by Lazare at her classes.

"It's one thing to put pictures in a book," she explained. "But to tell the story behind the pictures, the memory will fade if you don't write it down."

She suggests doing just that,



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRECHLER

Preserving the memories: Amy Lazare works on a scrapbook while her son Jarrett, 4 years old, looks through completed books.

as soon as photos are brought home from the film developer.

But Creative Memories is a heartstring-tugging endeavor even for those who never chronicled each episode of their lives. Pinsky was at Lazare's home recently, working on scrapbooks for both of her daughters, including Rachel, who graduated in

1998 from the Wayne State University Law School.

For the scrapbooks, Pinsky was going back to when her daughters were born, poring over all kinds of photos and other memorabilia.

"It's nostalgic looking back," Pinsky said. "It's probably more fun to do it while it's happening,

though."

During one of Lazare's classes, Pinsky decided to "give each a book, instead of a box" of stuff.

But Pinsky's also getting something out of it. Not only is she recalling a big, important part of her life, she's taking steps to make sure family history is documented for future generations.

Otherwise, "You can have pictures of family members, and you don't know who they are," Pinsky added.

For more information about Creative Memories classes and materials, call Lazare at (248) 489-0089.

Mother from page A1

about whether or not there was some kind of mix-up. "All I did was make the identification."

About Carol Thompson not being notified, even despite her son having ID on his body, Hulet said, "The reasons for that, I do not know."

According to Farmington police, Carol Thompson filed a

missing person's report on Feb. 2. Such reports are broadcast to all area police departments, including Detroit's.

She didn't stop there in her quest for an answer.

"I called five hospitals asking for his name, plus (any) John Does, and they had nothing," said Carol Thompson, a 45-year-

Farmington resident.

Thursday, Jan. 28 was the last time Carol Thompson spoke with Larry — a roofer who lived with her the past four years after his divorce. "He was in good spirits, he wasn't depressed."

Then, about 4:20 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29, Larry Thompson called his ex-wife from a Royal Oak pay phone, asking to be picked up at 6:30 p.m., police reports said.

But Larry Thompson, who had a history of drug and alcohol abuse dating back to his youth in Farmington, failed to show up at the appointed time.

His body was found the next day, Saturday, Jan. 30, in a motel room on Woodward Avenue in Detroit. He apparently died of an accidental overdose of narcotics and alcohol, stated police reports. Autopsy and toxicology reports were still pending as of Friday.

Meanwhile, Carol Thompson filed the missing person's report

at the Farmington Public Safety Department on the following Tuesday, Feb. 2, and went back a few days later, asking police to check their computers for any match.

Even though Larry by that time was already in the morgue, with identification, nobody bothered to contact her until more than a week later, on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

"He had ID on him," she said. "That's what makes me so upset... Why didn't someone call me?"

The fact Larry Thompson was a drug user during his life shouldn't have influenced any decision about notification of his death, she emphasized. He was still a human being, a son and a dad, deserving of dignity and compassion.

"Regardless of what he did, or what happened, why wasn't the family notified?" Carol Thompson continued. "Ten days... Can you imagine what we went through in 10 days?"

Services for Larry Thompson were held Friday, Feb. 19, at Oakland Hills Memorial. In addition to Carol, his survivors include sons Larry and Derek, sister Pam Ross and grand daughter Ashley. He is the son of the late Ron Thompson and brother of the late Mark Thompson.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Orthodontics

by Josephine Pinazzo, D.M.D.

SOONER OR LATER?

Generally speaking, parents may consider their children to be likely candidates for early orthodontic treatment if they have protruding teeth, severe overbite, or if the child has a thumb sucking habit. If the lips cannot close, it may encourage mouth breathing, which can lead to dry gums and subsequent problems. Whether parents notice these bite problems or not, it is a good idea to schedule an appointment with the orthodontist to assess their children's possible need for braces. This early situation can afford identification of a treatment plan to not only correct the problem but also prevent small problems from becoming larger ones.

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TENNIS ELBOW

Tennis elbow is a condition in which you develop a pain that runs from the outside part of the elbow down to your fingers. Lifting an object with your hand and wrist, or grasping something firmly with your hand brings on the pain. The culprit in this condition is the extensor tendon. It anchors at the outside of the elbow as the muscle runs down to the fingers. At the wrist the muscle divides again into tendons which go from the 2nd to the 5th digits. When you grasp firmly or pull up an object, the extensor tendon anchoring into the elbow tenses. If the tendon is torn or injured at that site, you can feel pain with any movement that strains the tendon. Eventually the constant stress on the tendon causes it to ache at night, disrupting your sleep, that usually brings you to your physician. Treatment includes a medication for pain, and one for inflammation. Often, to eliminate the need for two medicines, your doctor will inject the tendon at the site it inserts to the bone. He may have you try physical therapy with heat and massage as the mainstay of treatment. Therapy helps, but most provides the ultimate cure. Therefore it is important to engineer your pulling and lifting activities by using two hands and arm flexion for at least 2 weeks after starting treatment. If your elbow pain truly comes from playing tennis, then you should not see a doctor but schedule a session with a tennis coach.

in the 90s

by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S.

WORD OF MOUTH

Anyone who views gum disease as an isolated infection that is unrelated to the rest of the body should view the problem within the context of the body's entire skeletal system. Teeth are rooted in bone, and there is a close link between the health of the jawbones and general bone strength. This is of particular importance to older people (especially postmenopausal women) who experience weakened bones due to the bone-thinning disease osteoporosis. According to a recent study, women with osteoporosis of the hip were nearly twice as likely to have loose teeth, and were more likely to have lost teeth than women with healthy bones. Thus, systemic bone loss increases susceptibility to tooth loss due to gum disease. This informative column on gum disease has been brought to you in the interest of better dental health. At LIVONIA VILLAGE DENTAL ASSOCIATES, we believe in preventive dentistry. Oral health is a long-term commitment we share with each patient. Your teeth with proper care should last a lifetime. We're located at 19171 Meridian Road where we are sensitive to the needs of all age groups, giving everyone the patience and empathy they require. For superior quality dental care that will take you into the next millennium, call 478-2110 to schedule an appointment. Smiles are our business.

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P.S. According to the American Academy of Periodontology, about 60% of people in the U.S. over age 12 have some gum disease.

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