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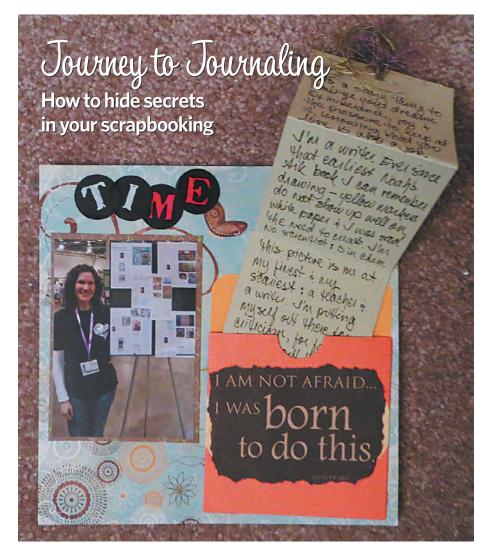
Your Hostess: Claudia Giannini Sponsored by: The Paper Hollow For questions or to register call 586-803-1099

Retreat Location: Hampton Inn, Sterling Heights, MI

Does not include lodging. Call hotel at 586-276-0600 for room reservations before April 9th for discounted rates.ID:CLR Room prices \$89 sleeps 4 and \$99 sleeps 6 (with pull out couch)

Seating based on availability so sign up early.

Meals: Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner. Sunday breakfast and lunch Bring your own beverages and a snack for the snack table. Coffee and water supplied. Arrival time Friday after 4 pm Departure time by 3 pm on Sunday 



I had a longer story to tell than I had space for, so I created an accordion fold journaling strip that I tucked in the envelope.

Hirsch

crapbooks are visual diaries of our lives. We love to show them off and share them with others. You may feel a dilemma, however, when you scrapbook something of a more personal nature. How do you draw a line about what to share? You may also have documents, long stories, or historical records you want accessible but take up too much

room on layouts. Hidden journaling is the answer and it can add some fun to your albums.

The simplest way to hide information in your scrapbooks is to sandwich sensitive documents between existing layouts. The page protectors will keep then safe and hidden, and you can even tape documents safely to the back of pages.

Envelopes are another perfect solution since they are available in

colorful designs and many sizes. Tuck notes inside envelopes while providing a surface for a photo or embellishment. Self-adhesive envelopes or those with magnetic closures add an extra level of security. You can also staple them directly to your page.

I incorporated multiple techniques into an album I made about my father. I was especially close to my dad, and when he died, I needed to document his passing as well. I would have regretted not chronicling it in some way, so I took pictures of the funeral home, the hastilyassembled photo tribute display board and the flowers. My friends know how important he was to me, but even some of them might think the pictures I took of the marble cremation

box itself are creepy.

I do not want to be reminded of his death all the time, but I want the memories available. I tucked extra photos in small plastic sleeves and placed them in an envelope with a tie closure. I made a pocket page to save all of the sympathy cards. I adhered one of the thank you cards directly to the page and wrote my journaling inside. Someone might think it was just another piece of

ephemera I saved, but I know it is something more. Now, eight years after his death, I do not mind if other people read my notes or see the photos, but only if they want to. Hidden journaling gives people a choice to look or

You always have the power to share or not to share. If you will you be disappointed that no one ever finds what you write, then write on an embellishment, or a die cut arrow shape, that there is more to see. This is a good technique to use when you have a letter of advice to pass on to future generations. Write "Open on Your Wedding Day" on an envelope, or create a time capsule embellishment saying, "Open in the Year 2050."

For journaling that is not as private, try pockets. You can create a pocket by using pop-



This page title is on a tag which flips open to reveal journaling behind it.



To record memories after my father's death, I wrote journaling inside a funeral thank you card. This saved ephemera and kept sensitive journaling private.

up dots behind the top corners of a matted photo or large embellishment. A horizontal or corner pocket page is a bit more exposed, but works well for tickets, business cards, napkins, and other ephemera.

### **Interactive options**

Make hidden journaling an interactive treasure hunt with just a smidge of creativity. Children love looking at albums like these!

Create a page-length flap and attach it to the layout. By adding embellishments or a title, you give the page a complete, polished look, yet viewers know they need to fold it back to read more. Explain that there are some things hidden throughout the album. Here are some ways to get your viewers interacting with the album.

Attach hinges to a photo or embellishment to create a flap. Secure a chipboard embellishment with a brad or button so that it swings and swivels open. Create a spinner that shows individual sentences as it swirls. Make an accordion book into a mini-album tied with a ribbon within an album.

Let the journaling be a puzzle. After you write out your journaling, cut the paper into funky shapes. Tuck these scraps into a clear envelope or shaker box so the pieces can be reassembled. Play a game and journal in a code on a photo mat and slip the decoder sheet in an envelope.

Using a photo tab, secure a small file folder to your page, start the journaling on the outside and end with an arrow or ellipsis to show that it continues inside. Punch a hole in an open-ended coin envelope or bag to indicate there is something inside, since it will show through. Inserting a tag with a ribbon or string attached is a welcome invitation for someone to pull. Make that obvious by writing "Pull me!" on the outside.

Whatever your reasons for incorporating hidden journaling on your pages, have fun with it and know that you can control how much others see in your albums.

Diana Hirsch is a Certified Zentangle Teacher and an award-winning writer. She can be reached at diwolf@aol.com or www.wolfhowlings.wordpress.com.



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