Create a Lasting Digital Legacy from Your (Mountain of) Old Family Photos

Lunch & Learn   **September 10, 2024**

WHAT YOU NEED	- A long table - a box of zip loc bags - package of 3x5 cards - a box for shipping from USPS - a recycle bin - a box of old photos
SET UP YOUR STATION	- label 3x5 cards with the decades of the photos you are sorting - place them across the top of the table - Set box of photos on a chair next to table - place trash can next to box of photos
INITIAL SORT	- First pass at sorting will be to throw away the photos that are flawed: finger in photo, double exposures, duplicates, misfires, no longer meaningful, or unknown to you - Place the keepers in a stack underneath the 3x5 card labeled with the decade of the photo
SECONDARY SORT	- Once you have everything in a pile under the decade labels, start sorting them within the decade by year and/or event–whatever would be easiest to find. - Cull more photos. Keep only the best one or two shots of each pose. - Create a 3x5 card with a label of each stack. - Place each individual stack in a ziploc bag. - Print legibly a 3x5 card with the title of the event that describes the stack of photos - Place in shipping box.

Here is where it gets tricky:
Will I send this box off to a scanning service?
Will I scan my photos myself?

SCANNING SERVICE	- If you choose to use a scanning service, go through every 3x5 card and make sure the label is LEGIBLE! - Is there a local option in your community? - How do you feel about mailing away your family treasures? Overseas? - What are you willing to pay? In money and in time. ScanCafe is currently charging $.48 per photo. - Have all your photos facing the same way, even if it makes your stacks uneven and less manageable. - I recommend ScanCafe because this is an expensive process and their prices were the most affordable. They use real humans and artificial intelligence and at no extra cost enhance to improve the clarity of old photos. - ScanCafe has provided a code for 60% off and $8 tape conversions: **2XDEAL60** - There may be others that are equally good, but I have not used them.
SELF-SCAN	**Your own scanner:** - Buy the best self-feeding scanner you can afford. A flatbed scanner will take you far longer and you run the risk of running out of interest before you run out of photos! Megan O'Hare from The Photo Project recommends the Epson Fast Foto FF-680 Photo & Document Scanning System. It runs $529 on Amazon. **Photomyne** - An app for your phone that scans all your photos and puts them in a family tree that you create. There is a free version and a paid version. I use this with stray photos from family members. Also great for photo albums! It scans the photos on a single page and separates and enhances multiple images automatically. - If you have 35mm slides, the Photomyne Store on Amazon is a great place for low cost tools.