

# PLUGGED in

FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE MUSEUM EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND ART

## This Month's Theme: Archiving Your Family History

The holidays are over, but each of us has memories that stay with us for a long time. In celebrating the joyous holidays, whether they be Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Ramadan or the upcoming Chinese New Year, it is people, music, heirlooms, gifts, letters, photographs, and traditions that create memories which stand out as the happiest times of our lives. This page will help you hold on to your memories, organize them and

preserve them so you will have them to enjoy and share for years to come. These treasures will be anchors in your life - sparkling as brightly as your favorite holiday decorations. Family records, photographs, scrapbooks, stories and your family tree are all archives or tools that you can use to build, shape, color, and most importantly, save your family history and your happiest memories!

### Photographs

The old saying is true: "One picture is worth a thousand words." You want to make sure each photo tells as complete a story as possible. Here is what to look for: 1) Try to identify people in the picture; what's the use of looking at a bunch of strange faces? Ask family members to help you with this. 2) Try to date the photos. Maybe you can tell by the age of someone in the picture. Clothes can be a clue because fashions change. Also look at any cars in the picture for clues to the date. If you write on the back of the photograph, use a soft pencil (#1) or a ballpoint pen for glossy, coated photos. Take good care of your photos; store them away from light, heat, and dust, all of which can damage them. Photos are great for triggering memories and bringing out stories about your family.



### Oral History

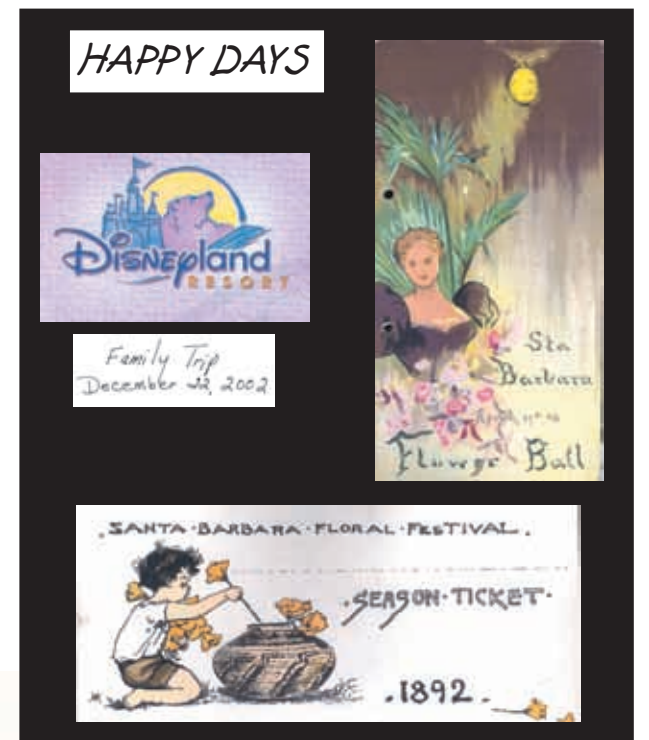
Who knows the history of your family better than your own family members? Interviewing your family can be a wonderful way to get some great stories. Use a tape recorder when you talk to your grandparents, parents, etc., or take notes when you interview them. Then take a little time to write out your notes while the interview is fresh in your mind. The stories your family has to tell can be full of surprises!

### Scrapbooks

A scrapbook is a wonderful collection of important times in your life. You can start from the time you were a small child and continue for many years.

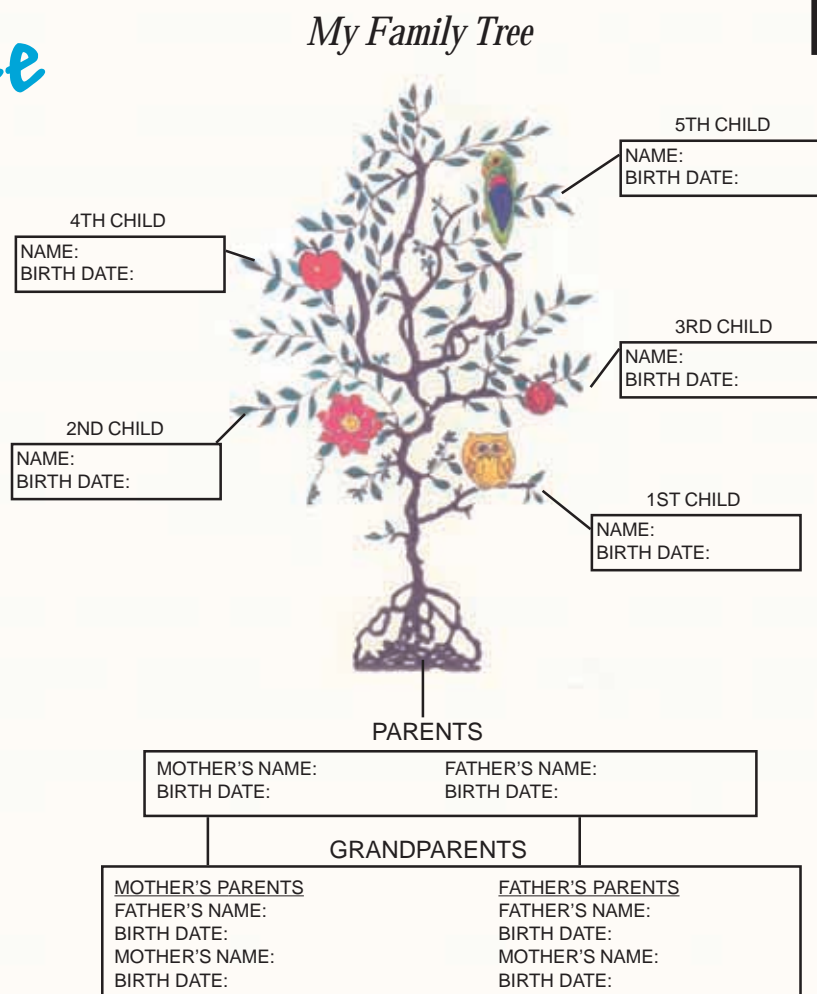
For example, the birthday party when you were 5 and your best friend knocked the cake on the floor. Your Mom gathered everyone in the car and drove to Baskin-Robbins for fabulous ice cream cones - everyone choosing their favorite flavor. Remember your first bicycle? What happened the day that you received it? Do you still have the blue ribbon that you won at the county fair or the welcome sheet from that wonderful summer camp? The ticket stub from your visit to Disneyland or the gift card from the necklace or rollerblades from your grandparents are also good items for your scrapbook.

In your scrapbook, you can write the dates of your memorable events along with a photograph or memento and a short story about that specific time. Family scrapbooks can be one of the best ways to show the special occasions that you share with your brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins. A family scrapbook could be divided by holidays or seasons of the year to make it easier to organize.



### Family Tree

The following example of a family tree will give you a start in genealogy, which is the recording of your ancestry. Draw your own tree or use this example and print the names of your grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters and their birth dates. Ask your parents if someone in your family has already started a family tree or if they will help you with names and birth dates. You can start with your grandparents or go back to your great grand-parents or great great grandparents if you wish.



The most important part of assembling your family's history is to have fun with it! Enjoy the magic of your family and the wonderful history that you create from all of your lives, adventures and memories!

By Jeanne Buchanan & Michael Redmon,  
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Next Issue: Feb. 23

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