

# SPARK

THE SIMPLE SCRAPER MEMBERSHIP MAGAZINE | #111





## Leadership Team

OWNER + INTERIM SPARK DESIGNER  
Jennifer Wilson

TEAM LEADER  
Amy Melniczenko

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER  
Amy Randell

SKETCH + TEMPLATE DESIGN  
Lynnette Penacho Jackman

COMMUNITY MANAGER  
Amy Zwart

PROGRAM ASSISTANT  
Peggy Collins

SPARK CONTRIBUTOR  
Shannan Manton

SPARK COPY EDITOR  
Melissa Magnuson-Cannady

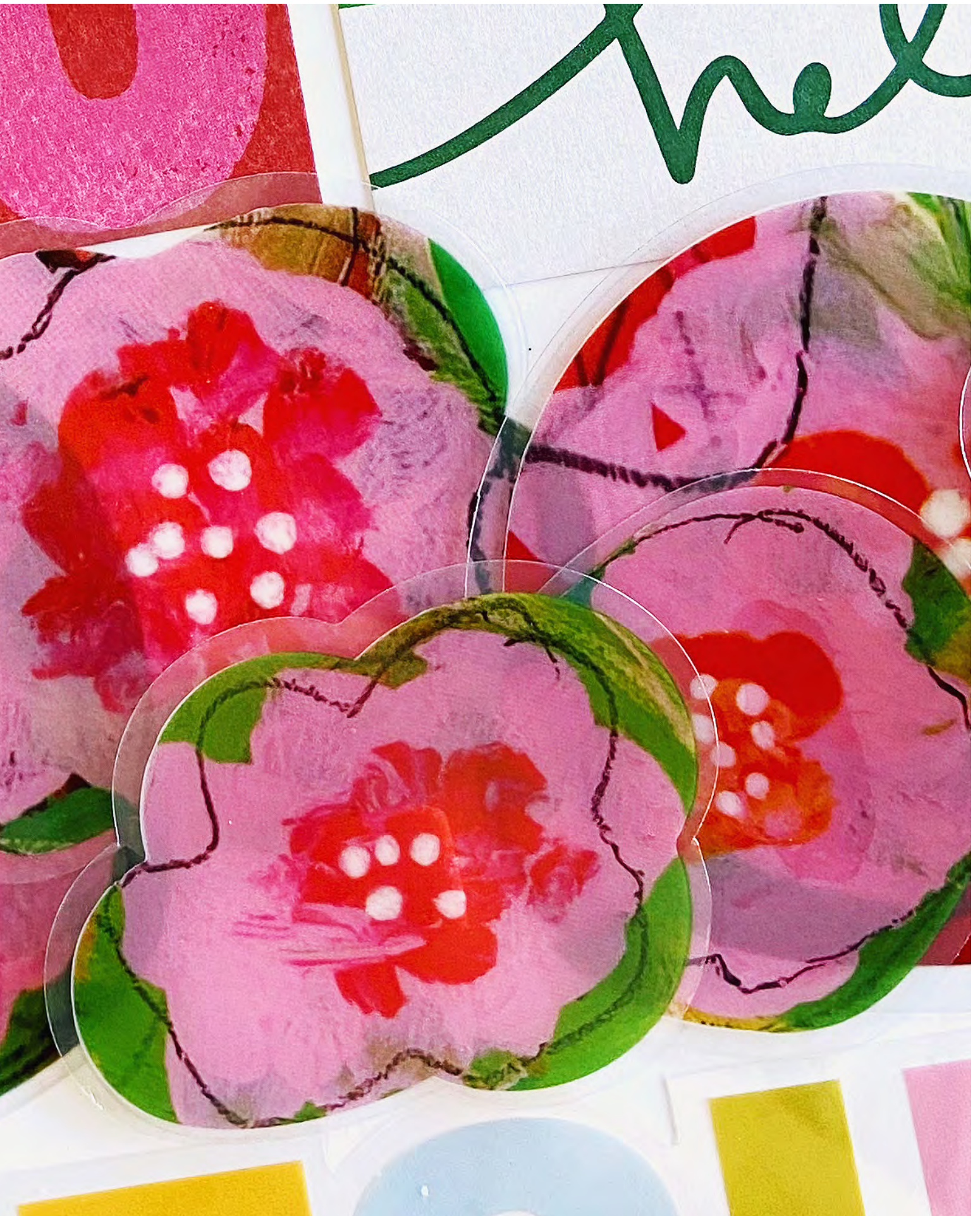
## Creative Team

Monica Alvarez	Jennifer Larson
Cathy Caines	Janine Mattis
Sara Case	Amy Melniczenko
Anandi Raman Creath	Monica Moriak
Helen DeRam	Breon Randon
Tracey Fox	Ettiene Rickels
Rachael Giallongo	Stefanie Semple
Lisa Hausmann	Angie Turek
Janelle Horsley	Marci Villanueva
Jennifer Johnson	Denine Zielinski
LeeAnne Jones	

COVER LAYOUT: 52 BY HELEN DERAM  
THIS PAGE: BEGIN AGAIN BY TRACEY FOX









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Be Wild by Jennifer Wilson

*Do the best you can, with what you can,  
while you can, and success is inevitable.*

STEVE MARABOLI



## THE STORYTELLING JOURNEY

# Focus on the Best

Many scrapbookers experience feelings of overwhelm when it comes to their stories, pictures, and supplies. It can feel like you'll never make a dent.

**I want to argue that we're looking at this problem upside down.**

Instead of trying to reduce the size of our stash, narrow down our photo libraries, and finally catch up with our storytelling, what if we just focused on the best of it all?

I would even bet you already do this in another area of your life: your closet. Tell me you don't know exactly which outfits are your favorite! I bet you even know which pair of black pants has the best fabric and fits the best. See? You've got this.

### THE BEST MEMORIES

As much as I can discover some worthy stories by browsing my entire photographic record, I know that if I start in my own head I will pick out the very best.

Think about a completed season of life, a time period you can define by the years. Then consider what stands out from that season. Start with what you know by heart and then ask family members, if you can.

Plan your scrapbooking by considering what matters most, a la The Lazy Genius, and start there. The brainstorming worksheets from the Before Your Story project can be a fun tool to lean on here as well.

### THE BEST PHOTOS

This concept really gelled for me when thinking about how I approach hundreds or thousands of images for a project. While I might do a quick browse for obvious deletions, I definitely focus on the best when starting to scrapbook.

I create maybe 6-10 categories of photos I'm looking for and then choose what I need from the whole batch. It is much easier to spot the very best shots than to decide which of two mediocre ones is the worst.

If your hobby currently feels daunting, look at your objectives with this "upside down" perspective and simply focus on the best!

XOXO  
Jennifer



ON BEING A BEGINNER

# Streamlined Storytelling

Learn directed storytelling and, optionally, practice your digital skills with the Streamlined Storytelling challenge from contributor Shannan Manton. Each issue, Shannon will bring us a new minimalist design in three sizes, plus a video tutorial featuring her example page.

also looking forward to

on BEING a





bringing homemade pizza back to Fridays.



# BEGINNER



Since learning that both of my kids have celiac disease, I have been researching and learning. I have to take my glasses to the supermarket now so I can see the tiny print on labels and we are trying lots of new things (thank goodness for gluten free Tim Tams). I am also doing so much cooking as we just can't rely on restaurants or fast foods. One of the hardest parts for me has been gluten free baking. I am a very experienced and good cook but working without gluten is a whole new world and I have to learn new habits and unlearn old ones. The textures and ingredients are often strange and I can't rely on my intuition anymore. I started with some shortbread biscuits for Christmas which were a bit dry but much better on attempt two. Then tried a donut recipe because there aren't a lot of gluten free options for those. The dough was so wet and not stretchy at all but I followed the instructions even when it felt all wrong and they turned out pretty good - even to the gluten eaters of the family. Pizza is next on the list to conquer. I am kind of terrified (they want me to shape the dough before the rise!?) but also looking forward to bringing homemade pizza back to Fridays.



on BEING a



BEGINNER

# On Being a Beginner

We all start somewhere. Taking permission to be a beginner can offer enriching and empowering experiences. This prompt offers an invitation to combine your own story with a simple layout.

Sketches by Shannan Manton



You can find these three options in [the Sketch & Template Library](#). Plus, there's a Streamlined Storytelling section in the [Pop-Up Workshops](#) classroom with short video tutorials from Shannan.



781



782



783

After weeks of dabbling with watercolor and practicing using various amounts of water, mixing colors, and trying different brushes, I decided it was time to dive in and just make something. I have been trying different tutorials from YouTube. I'm am feeling more comfortable. The lily was based on a photo I took. I love that it looks like it is smiling. The butterfly and robin were just following a tutorial and using different brushes and brush strokes. I tend to be a methodical learner. Practice techniques, see how different parts interact with each other. But eventually I need to jump in and create something. I also need to remember that the more often and close together I use a new skill, the easier it will become and the more confident I will become.

MAR 2025



on Being a

BEGINNER

ON BEING A BEGINNER BY MONICA MORIAK

This layout tells the story of my learning to watercolor.

LAYOUT TIP: Adding a full 6x8 template to a 12x12 page gives the option for plenty of white space on the page.





#### ON BEING A BEGINNER IN PARENTING BY JANELLE HORSLEY

This layout tells the story of the revelation I had about being a newbie to each age/stage that our kids go through.

LAYOUT TIP: The photos and journaling blocks on the template “bled” off the page, but I felt like I wanted a margin around them for this page that tied together my current thoughts/realization, so I shrank everything down a little to make it feel more contained.



#### BEGIN AGAIN BY TRACEY FOX

This layout tells the story of the excitement and hopefulness of ringing in a new year, and what I am hoping to get out of 2025.

LAYOUT TIP: I combined two different scrapbook kits to make this page, even though the colors were slightly different between the products in each kit. To make this work, I made sure to use embellishments that helped spread the colors of the big title piece around the page so that it no longer felt like it was competing with the other items on the layout.



In my top 5 strengths I have Learner which means I am constantly trying to jump into new things. For the Fall the girls and I are learning to watercolor. We started by watching a few youtube videos to get started. Then we spent a million dollars on all the supplies so we would have everything we would ever need. We bring our supplies everywhere and practice painting what we see around ourselves and lots of flowers. Its been a great way to hang out with the girls and do something besides watching TV. Its also been a lot of fun to paint the same things and laugh about our struggles and smile about the wins. In the end watercoloring is easier than I thought it would be and I have been surprised by our results. I also love that the girls get to see that I am a learner too and can make lots of mistakes alongside them. I think there are a million life lessons in trying something and going through the cycle of failure and success that I hope they continue to carry with them through life.

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BEGINNER

#### ON BEING A BEGINNER BY ETTIENE RICKELS

This layout tells the story of our journey to learning how to watercolor.

LAYOUT TIP: This is my first fully-digital layout. In order to make things easy I tried to select just one kit to use. I'm still new to Photoshop, but I made clipping masks to create the papers. It was very easy once I got started and easier than I thought.



#### ON BEING A BEGINNER BY SARA CASE

This layout tells the story of the birth of my daughter and me learning to be a mama.

LAYOUT TIP: Since I scrapbook 8.5x11 pages, I always have extra pieces of paper from the off cuts of the page. Since I know the A and B sides of those papers will coordinate, those off cuts are perfect for photo mats and flags, adding more pattern and interest to the page.



This layout tells the story of how my creativity has evolved over the last year. I find myself more willing to try new things, and that excitement is everything!

17





## ON BEGINNING BY ANGIE TUREK

This layout tells the story of starting a new phase in my medical treatment.

LAYOUT TIP: Don't be afraid to switch things up! In my physical stash I didn't have the correct size photos for this template. So I adjusted the size and placement of my photos and added some embellishments to make it work for me.





## ON BEING A BEGINNER BY STEFANIE SEMPLE

This layout tells the story of my daughter's preparation to run a half marathon.

LAYOUT TIP: I added woodgrain behind the smaller-sized template to create a 12x12 size for my albums. I have a flower and journal card extending beyond the template boundary to symbolize a journey in progress.





#### ON BEING A BEGINNER BY HELEN DERAM

This layout tells the story of my beginnings in several different hobbies over the years.

LAYOUT TIP: I wanted to add lots of embellishments to this page while at the same time keeping true to the overall design of the sketch. I kept things simple by making two embellishment collages on pattern paper.





#### ON BEING A BEGINNER BY JENNIFER LARSON

This layout tells the story of my general dislike for being a beginner, but how I need to get over that if I am to accomplish some things right now.

LAYOUT TIP: Give yourself permission to scrapbook what you don't like as well as what you like.





#### JUST BEGIN BY DENINE ZIELINSKI

This layout tells the story of how I have been having a difficult time starting things recently.

LAYOUT TIP: Document all the things going on in your life right now, even if it is not so great.





#### ON BEING A BEGINNER BY LISA HAUSMANN

This layout tells the story of starting a new life in a new home.

LAYOUT TIP: The streamlined storytelling prompt challenged me to think of what I have “begun” recently, and my move from the city to the countryside came to mind. This allowed me to approach this topic from a slightly different angle to other layouts I have made about the move and use two of the very first photos I took when we arrived. I stayed relatively close to the template, but added my own touch.



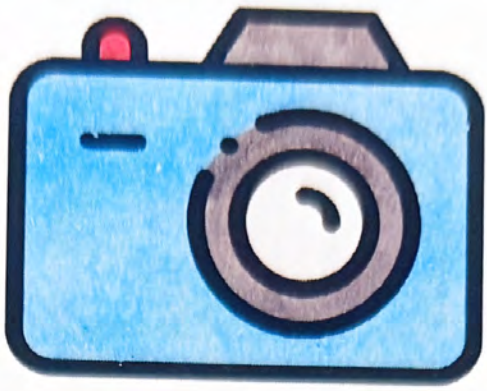


#### ON BEING A FRESHMAN BY MARCI VILLANUEVA

This layout tells the story of my son's interests during his first year of high school.

LAYOUT TIP: I used the pieces of the digital template and reimaged them in a physical format.





4. Exercise. If you can't  
ride the bike, walk.



3. Take pictures of  
something. Every Day.

7. Spring cleaning.  
One thing a day.



6. Cook. Stop eating  
processed junk.



# JUST BEGIN

ONE STEP  
AT A TIME

MAR 1 8 2025



MAY/JUNE 2025

# New Collection



Left: 52 by Helen DeRam Right: Nothin' But Star Wars by Tracey Fox







\* DETAILS \*  
NOV 18 2024







NEW COLLECTION  
FEATURED ARTIST

# Shannon Allor



Single-photo scrapbookers who love all the embellishments are going to flip over our new collection of sketches and templates. Featured artist Shannon Allor is a master of layering to create drama and movement on her pages.

*Editor's Note: Close to press time Shannon elected to discontinue her participation as a Featured Artist to address family needs. She has made her Instagram private, so we're electing not to include it.*



OK  
Inspiration for #773



SMILE  
Inspiration for #774







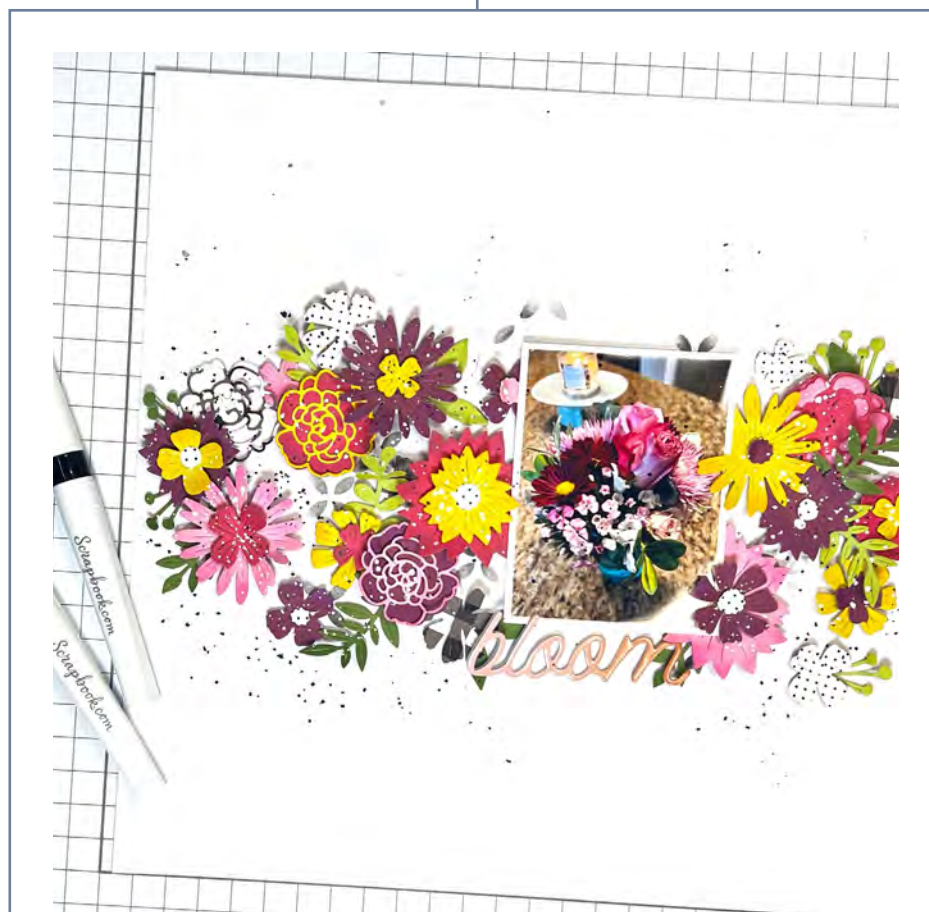
FALL IS CALLING  
Inspiration for #775



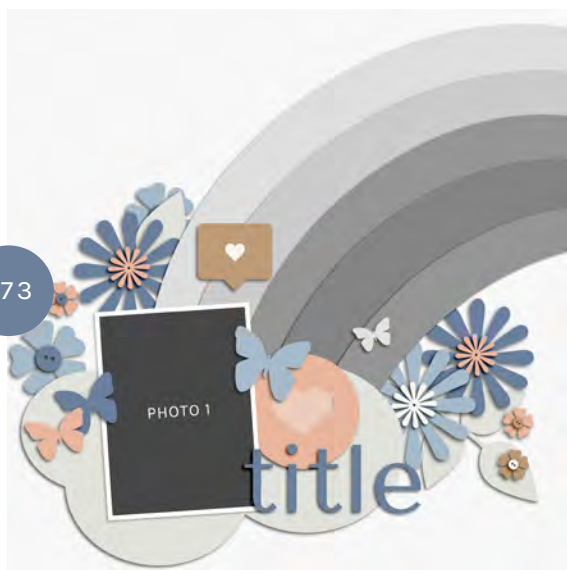


Left:  
HELLO AUTUMN  
Inspiration for #776

Below:  
BLOOM  
Inspiration for #777







773



774



775



776



777

## New Collection Templates

### INSTRUCTIONS

Visit the Sketches & Templates library at My Simple Scrapper to download the new collection as individual sketches and layered templates.

*All sketches based on layouts by Shannon Allor and made into templates by Lynnette Penacho Jackman.*





#773



### LAYOUT TIP

34



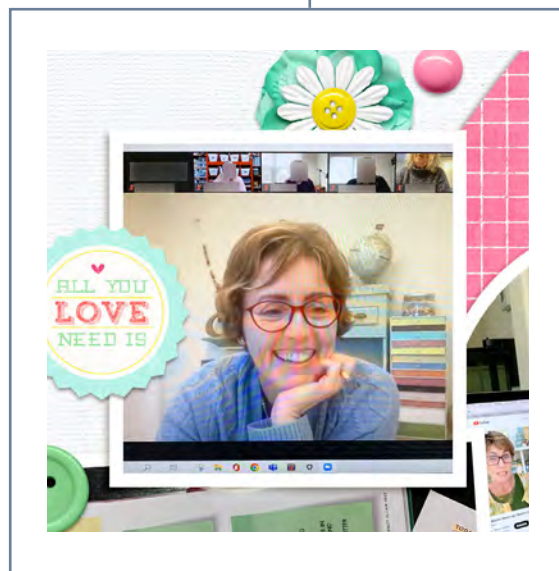
# Live Your Story Membership by Janelle Horsley



This layout tells the story of my participation in Stacy Julian's Live Your Story Membership as it comes to an end in December 2025.

## LAYOUT TIP

As soon as I saw the template, I knew it would be perfect for this colorful story about happy colors inspired by Stacy, cloudy/sad things, and rainbows of hope.







#774



## Dandelion Days by Breon Randon



This layout tells the story of how spring might be pollen season in some parts, but for a home with a white dog, it's more like dandelion season with puffs of white fuzz floating on the (HVAC) wind.

### LAYOUT TIP

When you are at a loss for design ideas, a diagonal line of embellishments leading to your photo is always a good idea.



# Black Friday by Jennifer Larson



This layout tells the story of our family's annual trip to the Mall of America on Black Friday.

## LAYOUT TIP

Feel free to substitute shapes that fit your story better. Since I had made a page about the kickoff to the holiday season, I dug into my Christmas die cuts instead of using flowers.







#775



## A Symbol of Letting Go by Lisa Hausmann



This layout tells the story of working my way through memory boxes as I prepare for a downsizing house move.

ALSO USING  
STORY STARTER  
SIMPLE #1

### LAYOUT TIP

I made some adjustments to the sketch to fit more journaling, a longer title and less busy embellishments. The layout is about letting go of older things related to my past, so I used a very old BasicGrey collection and distressed the edges a little as well as using lots of ribbon which reminded me of my older scrapbooking style.



## Senior by Marci Villanueva



This layout tells the story of my daughter's senior picture.

### LAYOUT TIP

I combined sketch number #775 with the Refresh Challenge to make a double-page layout.





## Home by Sara Case



This layout tells the story of the feeling of home at the cabin—my favourite place, with favourite flowers from a friend.

### LAYOUT TIP

Remember that a sketch template is a prompt, not a “must do”! I didn’t have flower or leaf die cuts, but I did have a bunch of circle punches that worked perfectly to fill in the cluster part of this layout.





#776



## Moment Captured by Stefanie Semple



This layout tells the story of how an ordinary photo of my daughter and her cat conjures up so many thoughts and emotions, including saying goodbye when she emigrates later this year.

### LAYOUT TIP

Adding the journaling is what lifts this from a pretty photo and some flowers to a meaningful emotionally-charged layout about impending change and loss.

## Nothin' But Star Wars by Tracey Fox



This layout tells the story of enjoying all of the Star Wars-themed attractions on our last visit to Disney's Hollywood Studios.

### LAYOUT TIP

*I used a constellation-themed transparency for the background of this layout, and I layered colorful acetate stars underneath and on top of the transparency to create lots of see-through layers.*







#777

# Grateful by Denine Zielinski



This layout tells the story of a few things that I am grateful for today.

## LAYOUT TIP

Inspiration that you take from a sketch doesn't always need to be literal. You can take what you need from a sketch and make it yours.



## Create by Ettiene Rickels



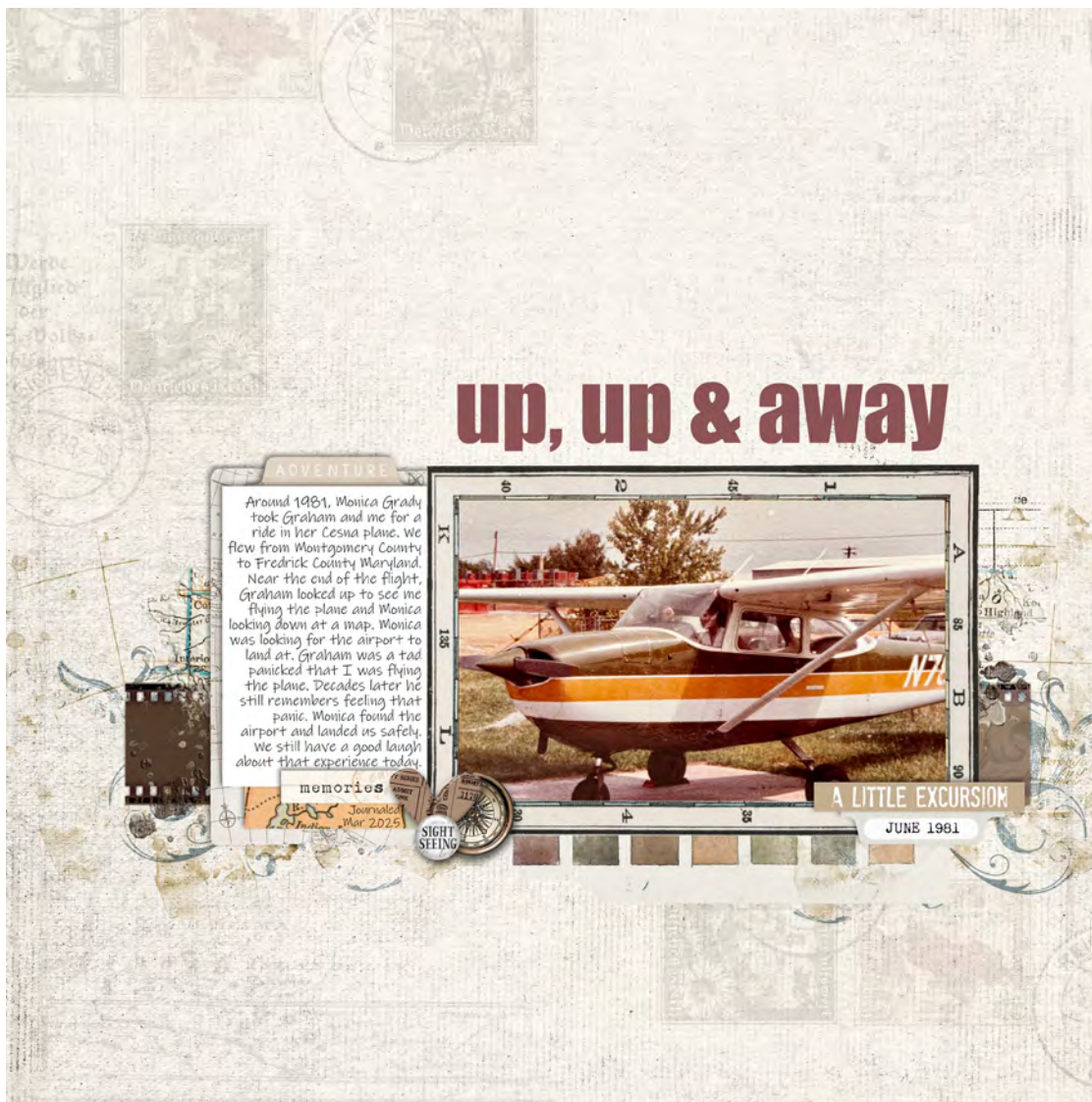
This layout tells the story of my new habit of creating in mini albums while traveling.

### LAYOUT TIP

*This is a great layout for stash-busting. I found a package of unopened ephemera and used that to drive my page. I tried to use as many of the bigger pieces as possible to create this layout so that they would be out of my stash and on a page since those are harder for me to use.*



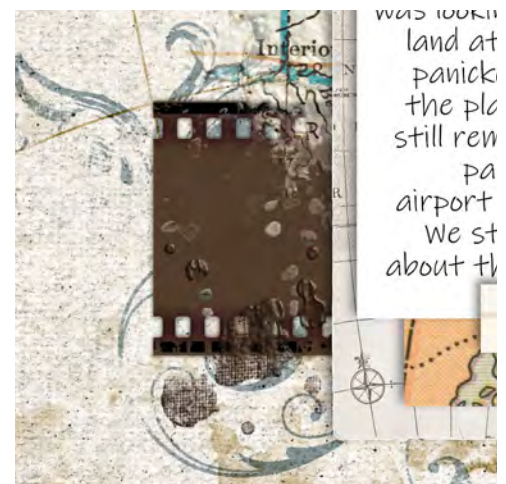
# Up, Up & Away by Monica Moriak



This layout tells the story of my brother and me taking a plane ride with our aunt, and me “flying” the plane.

## LAYOUT TIP

Remember that stamping and mixed media make great embellishments. Instead of the flowers I added a variety of stamps and mixed media behind my photo.







9+ PHOTOS

# Refresh Challenge



Previous page: Happy Soul by Angie Turek This page: Random Thoughts from the Desk by Helen DeRam



9+ PHOTOS

You might choose to include pictures you've already scrapbooked, e.g. Halloween costumes, or those you likely would not use by themselves, e.g. outfit selfies, but create an impact when viewed together.

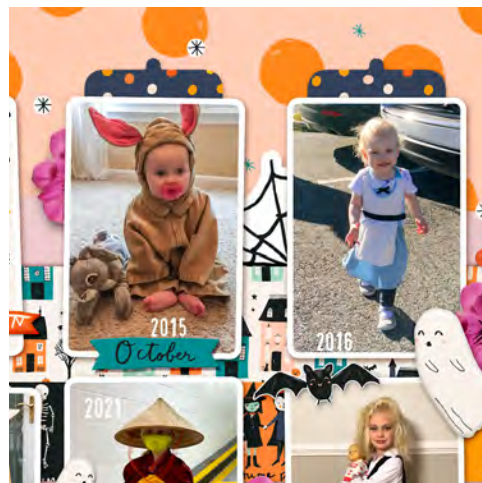
52



## 10 YRS OF HAPPY HALLOWEEN BY BREON RANDON

This layout tells the story of ten years of my daughter's Halloween costume. I'd been wanting to capture them all on one layout, but wanted to wait for a solid block of ten to move forward. This challenge was the perfect inspiration to get this done!

Tip: If you don't want your grid of photos to feel too formal, try tilting them a few degrees right or left, up or down, alternating as needed for balance.







## R&E BY DENINE ZIELINSKI

This layout tells the story of my son's relationship with his cousin over time.

Tip: Combine a current story in your life with reflections of the past.







## HAPPY SOUL BY ANGIE TUREK

This layout tells the story of my son's groove for soccer from 3 years old through today.

Tip: At first, I was a bit overwhelmed thinking about how to include so many photos. Finding this simple cut file to contain all the photos made it so much easier!





## RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE DESK BY HELEN DERAM

This layout tells the story of some random thoughts about my job and the office I've worked in for so long.

Tip: This is a great opportunity to use those Week in the Life photos you may have taken and not documented. I have documented several of these but seeing them all together offers a different perspective and an opportunity to tell a different story.



## NINE THINGS BY ETTIENE RICKELS

This layout tells the story of nine details from March 9th.

Tip: I wanted an excuse to use up a bunch of frames and banners from my stash. I pulled from one manufacturer to keep things cohesive and then made my pictures all black and white since the layout itself had so much color.







## ELF ON A SHELF 2024 BY JANELLE HORSLEY

This layout tells the story of the Elf on the Shelf visits to our house in 2024.

Tip: I made a series of pages about Christmas 2024, so the first thing I did was gather all the Christmas-related photos from 2024 in a Collection in Lightroom. It was much easier to dig through those few hundred photos to find photos for this page, rather than the 1,119 photos I took in December!





## SORRY NOT SORRY BY LISA HAUSMANN

This layout tells the story of my need to take photos of my sleepy puppy.

Tip: It was fun to find nine photos of Mabel sleeping from a trip we made to the UK. I take a lot of sleepy shots! I kept my journaling brief because I wanted the main focus to be the pictures, and by staying close to the sketch, this process was so fast. I will be trying this technique again—this was an easy layout to make!





## FAMILY MEMORIES BY JENNIFER LARSON

This layout tells the story of my parents' old tradition of visiting when my boys were growing up. These were doubles printed from their visits that I had saved and rediscovered when I purged old photos. I put them together to tell a new story since my parents don't travel anymore.

Tip: Old 4x6 photos are nice to trim into similar sizes to put on a page in a line. Flip the patterns on both sides of the layout to add energy to the page.







## FRANCESCA K-12 BY MARCI VILLANUEVA

This layout tells the story of my daughter's school pictures through the years.

Tip: When using multiple pictures, laying them out in a grid format can be a convenient and easy way to fit them all on the page.





## EPIC MAGIC MOMENTS BY SARA CASE

This layout tells the story of the first Disney trip for my daughter and me and our love for the “magic” photos.

Tip: I love using a play on words in my titles. These were Magic Shots taken at Epcot, so “Epic Magic Moments” was a great way to get in extra information about the layout.







## OH WHAT FUN BY MONICA MORIAK

This layout tells the story of opening gifts Christmas morning.

Tip: Framing the photos in filmstrips along the edge of the page allows for a large photo, title, or lots of journaling in the center. The filmstrips are a great way to use both portrait and landscape photos on your page.







## A DRAG QUEEN CHRISTMAS BY TRACEY FOX

This layout tells the story of attending a Drag Queen Christmas variety show featuring eight of my favorite performers and loving every minute.

Tip: A double or multi-page layout is a great way to feature a series of lots of photos. This show had 8 drag queens who each performed two numbers, so I ended up with 18 stage photos to go with my two larger photos. Stretching them across two pages helped ensure I could include and enjoy them all on this layout.





## FURBABY BY STEFANIE SEMPLE

This layout tells the story of my daughter and her cat through the years.

Tip: A variety of photos, with different colours and orientations can still create a cohesive story; a neutral background with a tone-on-tone pattern helps to create a unified look.



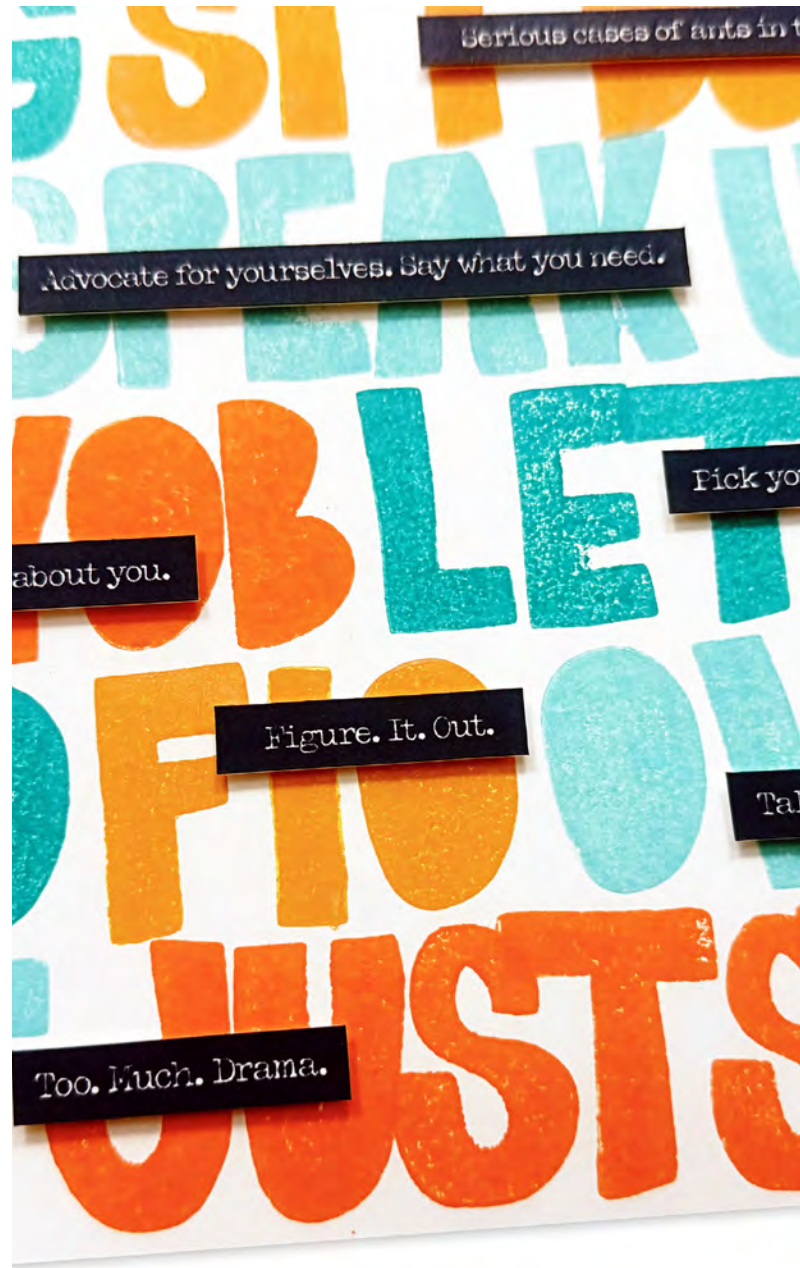






# Scrapbook Style

COMPLEMENTARY COLORS



Previous Page: Sorry Not Sorry by Lisa Hausmann

This Page: Miss Z. on Repeat by Denine Zielinski





Jingle Cruise by Tracey Fox



WE'RE INSPIRED BY

# Emiley Steinbruegge



We're excited to welcome scrapbooker Emiley Steinbruegge as our June Featured Artist. A selection of her colorful layouts served as inspiration for our style-focused member challenge. We noticed that Emiley often pairs complementary colors to create contrast. This creates a dynamic energy on her pages, whether the colors are bold or more muted. You will be able to meet Emiley on an upcoming episode of Scrapbook Your Way.

[INSTAGRAM](#)



Complementary colors like blue and orange add contrast and energy to a page.



Thankful & Beautiful



Use the color wheel to pair colors that are across from one another.



This Boy





Life is Good

Take a  
Closer Look





Don't forget that pastels can be complementary too.



Shine On





1986

Take a  
Closer Look





# Say Sarcoidosis by Breon Randon

This layout tells the story of celebrating a day of advocacy at my job.

Layout Tip: Try starting with a pre-layered or mixed media paper to add visual interest and texture—no need to start from scratch all the time!







## Jingle Cruise by Tracey Fox

This layout tells the story of the famous ride at Disney World during the holidays, where it becomes the “Jingle” Cruise!

Layout Tip: Nothing beats the fun contrast of red and green for a Christmas-themed layout. In this case, most of the green came from the many trees and plants in my photos, and I continued that motif by adding plant-themed patterned paper and embellishments before bringing in a bright red title, paper, and puffy stickers.





# Door County Highlights by Helen DeRam

This layout tells the story of some highlights of a recent trip to a favorite place.

Layout Tip: After deciding on orange and blue as my complimentary colors, I selected some scrap papers to help direct my layout. It led me to these predominantly blue selfies from a recent trip. Keeping most of the embellishments in the same color scheme further guided my choices which helped me complete this page fairly quickly. It was fun to let the colors guide my layout and decisions, which is not something I would normally do.



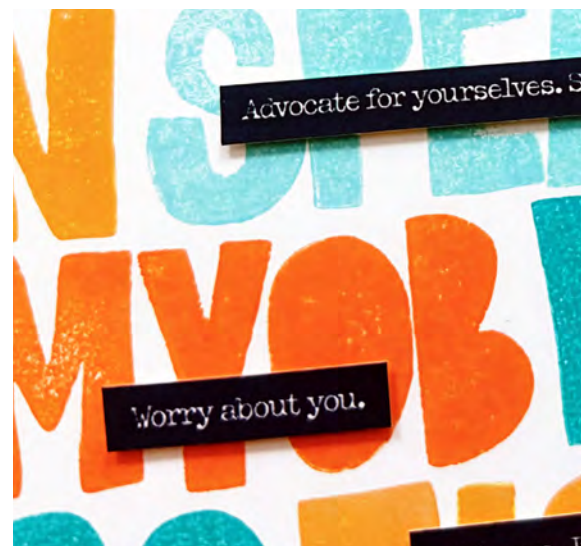




## Miss Z. on Repeat by Denine Zielinski

This layout tells the story of things I say on repeat day after day at school.

Layout Tip: Tell a quick story about some things that you say or a loved one says on repeat.





# Rob's Apple Pandowdy on Pi Day

## by Janelle Horsley



This layout tells the story of how my son made an apple pandowdy for an extra credit project in English class, coincidentally on Pi Day.

Layout Tip: I'd picked this kit for the food-themed elements, but when it came time to choose the alpha letters, I was torn between the five options. I picked the gold ones because my son's class "name" is Gold!





## Mabel is 5!

by Lisa Hausmann

This layout tells the story of how my puppy always gets a dog-friendly birthday cake on her special day.

Layout Tip: I knew I wanted to make a pretty, pink layout which has a complementary colour on the blue/green border which I interpreted as aqua. I picked out a Valentine collection which provided both of these and added in some solid papers. I kept the sketch and design relatively simple so that the colours and photo dominate, keeping the embellishments minimal.

ALSO USING:  
TIME AFTER TIME #10  
SKETCH #449



Layout Tip: To avoid red and green looking like Christmas, add another color to fit the season. Since it was spring, I used touches of yellow.







## Bump for Joy by Stefanie Semple

This layout tells the story of finding out I am going to be a granny and the wait to find out if the baby will be a boy or girl.

Layout Tip: I used both pink and blue patterned papers to represent the traditional colour schemes for girls and boys. These six photos help tell the story of the anticipation and excitement I am experiencing as a new grandma.





# Hello by Marci Villanueva

This layout tells the story of the opening page of my annual journal. I made AI-generated cartoon images of each family member. Using sticker paper, I added the names and ages of each family member.

Layout Tip: For specific color combinations, like complementary colors, look to a curated kit for assistance. Designers do all the work for you by choosing pleasing color combinations, leaving us more time to create.





# Theory of Arithmetic by Monica Moriak

This layout tells the story of Aaron being excited to explain a new math theory he had learned and his continued excitement around higher order mathematics concepts.

Layout Tip: When choosing complementary colors, try “bending” the line a little. I choose a mauve color to complement the green instead of a true red.







## Let Your Light Shine by Sara Case

This layout tells the story of turning 50!

Layout Tip: Contrasting colours don't have to be as saturated as we're used to seeing in a colour wheel. I went with a lighter blue and softer (almost yellow) orange, instead of vibrant hues.





## STYLE TIPS

# Complementary Colors

### BRING IT TOGETHER

Use white or black strategically to add cohesiveness to the two complementary colors chosen.

1

### PLAY WITH PROPORTION

Choose a dominant color and add in the complement for extra pops of contrast.

2

### MIX LIGHT AND DARK

Pair more muted items of one color with more saturated items of your complement.

3

### STRETCH THE RULES

Achieve similar results by choosing a complementary color that's just a nudge off.

4

### MULTIPLY MONOCHROMATIC

Choose two groups of supplies in varying shades of the two chosen complementary colors.

5





A BUNCH OF HOCUS POCUS



# Member Challenge

Each Creative Journey includes a Creative Challenge for our members. You may enter up to four submissions total, one for each category listed below. Three participants will be selected at random to win a \$25 gift card to Amazon or a store of their choosing.

**Option #1** - Create a project using a new sketch or template inspired by Shannon Allor.

**Option #2** - Create a page or project using the Streamlined Storytelling template.

**Option #3** - Create a page featuring complementary colors as inspired by Emiley Steinbruegge.

**Option #4** - Create a page or project using 9 or more photos and double-dip with the Refresh Retreat!



## Congrats!

Thank you to all who submitted layouts for our March/April challenge! Congratulations to our winners who submitted these layouts.

ABOVE LEFT: [EMILY SEA](#)

ABOVE RIGHT: [LEANNE SPETCH](#)

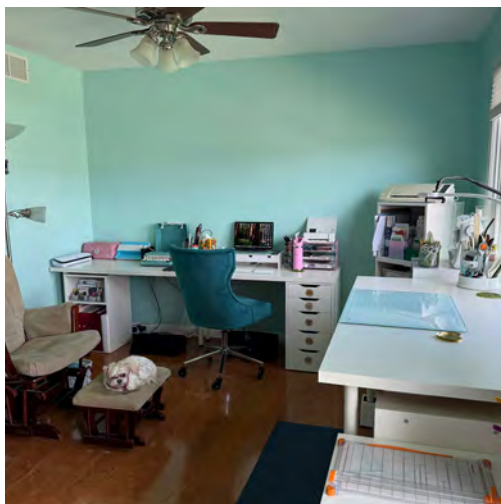
LEFT: [TINA JOHANNESON SMEDEGAARD](#)



# Show & Share Showcase

A selection of outstanding wins posted in the My Simple Scrapper community.

[MELISSA BURNETT](#)  
[TIFFANY MITCHELL](#)



[JUDI PARTLO](#)  
[JO GUIHOT](#)



[BREON RANDON](#)  
[TERRI TORREZ](#)





MAY/JUNE 2025

# Bonus Templates



The sketches and templates in this section are created from layout submissions by the Simple Scrapper team for SPARK features.

R&E BY DENINE ZIELINSKI



778



Inspired by:  
R&E  
by Denine Zielinski

779



Inspired by:  
Family Memories  
by Jennifer Larson

780



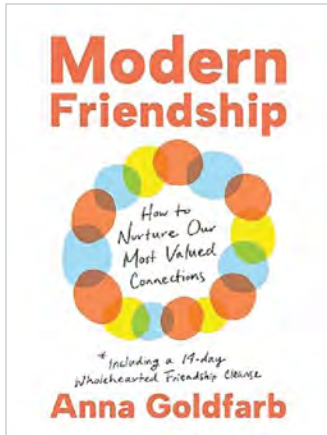
Inspired by:  
A Drag Queen Christmas  
by Tracey Fox

Visit the Sketches & Templates library at My Simple Scrapper to download the sketch remix templates as individual sketches and layered templates. *Designed by Lynnette Penacho Jackman.*



# SIMPLE SCRAPER BOOK CLUB

## 2025 Selections



**Modern Friendship: How to Nurture Our Most Valued Connections**

by Anna Goldfarb

*How can we apply the principles of Modern Friendship to strengthening online communities?*

Discussion in February

[Buy on Amazon](#)



**The PLAN: Manage Your Time Like a Lazy Genius**

by Kendra Adachi

*How do Lazy Genius strategies help us find and use time for our hobbies like scrapbooking?*

Discussion in April

[Buy on Amazon](#)



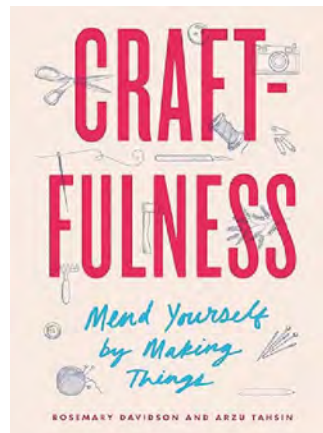
**Unlocking the Heart: Writing for Mindfulness, Courage, and Self-Compassion**

by James Crews

*Can these writing strategies make scrapbook journaling feel easier and/or more rewarding?*

Discussion in June

[Buy on Amazon](#)



**Craftfulness: Mend Yourself by Making Things**

by Rosemary Davidson and Arzu Tahsin

*What intangible benefits from our hobbies do we need to observe and celebrate?*

Discussion in August

[Buy on Amazon](#)



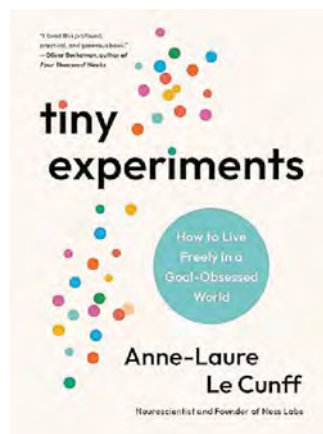
**We Need Your Art: Stop Messing Around and Make Something**

by Amie McNee

*Does considering yourself an Artist change how you approach making time for scrapbooking and/or the process of it?*

Discussion in October

[Buy on Amazon](#)



**Tiny Experiments: How to Live Freely in a Goal-Obsessed World**

by Anne-Laure Le Cunff

*How can we improve our Journey Plan process to invite more freedom while offering satisfaction?*

Discussion in December

[Buy on Amazon](#)



UNLOCKING THE HEART BY JAMES CREWS

# Discussion Guide

1. Do you enjoy reading poetry?
2. “I never feel worse after journaling or writing down my experience.” How do you feel about writing? How does writing make you feel?
3. Have you used prompts before to inspire personal journaling or journaling for your memory keeping projects? Do you have a favorite source?
4. The varied themes in this book made me think about One Little Word. Have you participated in this project? How has it helped you explore more about yourself through writing?
5. More obviously, there are connections with Aligned. Have you worked on any of the prompts for this project? Why or why not? If you have, what has been the biggest benefit?
6. What are some other projects or practices that invite you to seek wonder in small moments?
7. When you feel stressed or anxious, do you turn toward scrapbooking/journaling/creativity or away from it?
8. “We tend to our souls most by slowing down.” Do you feel like you “should” be scrapbooking faster?
9. “If we approach our creative and spiritual lives with reverence, then nothing is separate, nothing is ordinary.” What is one small step you can take to find more joy and connection in your scrapbooking?

Book Club discussions will take place on Zoom during the second month of each Creative Journey as part of the Member Meeting. The discussion guides are also archived in Book Club community space. Please note that all are welcome to contribute. It is not necessary to have read the book or be otherwise prepared to attend a live discussion or participate in the online conversation.



# Member Resources

Our long history as a community means there are a wealth of resources for you to access. That said, the content in our Classroom and Libraries should never be viewed as a checklist. These are options to enhance your experience as you focus on your personal priorities.

## Classrooms

- Celebrate Every Victory
- Square One
- Creative Hub Essentials
- Aligned
- The Trello Habit
- Bucket List Bootcamp
- Simple Scrapbooking School
- The Pop-Up Workshops
- Before Your Story
- The Finishing Project
- Photo Crush 2.0

## Libraries

- Member Quests
- Sketch & Template Search
- Story Starters
- SPARK Magazine
- Tools & Tutorials

## Customer Care

We are always ready to help out. You can email [help@simplescrapper.com](mailto:help@simplescrapper.com) for assistance with:

- Updating your credit card information
- Switching to an annual plan
- Discontinuing your membership



## Calendar

MAY 5 MEMBER MEETING  
MAY 10 CREATIVE HUB HAPPY HOUR  
MAY 15-18 REFRESH RETREAT

JUN 4 MEMBER MEETING / BOOK CLUB  
JUN 7 CREATIVE HUB HAPPY HOUR  
JUN 20 CHALLENGE DEADLINE  
JUN 25 PLAN, PREP, & PEP  
JUN 28 FINISHING DAY

Check out the [master calendar](#) for the community to view more scheduled crops and events.

## Podcast

Scrapbook Your Way is the weekly audio show of Simple Scrapper. You can listen on the web or subscribe in your favorite podcast player.

The show is on hiatus during this Creative Journey, but we're revisiting 10 of our favorite episodes each week. Scrapbook Your Way will return with new episodes in July 2025.

## Community Collabs

### SQUARE ONE

Peggy C. is leading a three-part collab focused on using our sketch and template library in conjunction with the Square One classes, which have moved into a new classroom of their own.


### SHIMELLE'S USE WHAT YOU BUY

Melissa B. is leading interested members through Shimelle's Use What You Buy classes, four of them, in our Extended Family space for the creator. This collab kicked off in March 2025.

### ALIGNED 2025

Though the live workshop has concluded, there's a new cohort led by Terri T. working together through the seasonal series of prompts this year. They started in December, but you can jump in anytime.

## Accountability

You are buying products elsewhere and probably even taking classes from other teachers, but our hope is that Simple Scrapper is your favorite, cozy online space. We want to be the place you always come home to and lean on to guide your whole creative journey. With that in mind, we have a number of ways you can connect and receive support no matter what you're working on. 





[my.simplescrapper.com](http://my.simplescrapper.com)