

# COMMEMORATING THE CRAZY



Dear Homekeeper,  
 As we welcome May, it's time to embrace a whirlwind of activities. If you have children, friends with children, or extended family

with children, these are crazy months. I mean crazy in the most positive sense: expressing admiration as I use it, excitement, or enthusiasm informally or colloquially. In this context, "crazy" is used to convey a sense of intense or extraordinary energy, creativity, or passion highlighting the remarkable and impressive.

The two months mentioned culminate in the annual year or end-of-school-year festivities. To save these cherished memories is heightened by keeping a token of remembrance to display in the home.

Photos and video of course are the first go-to to do what with mobile phone accessibility. But don't forget a few of the souvenirs, ticket stubs, maybe a program or two. After you are done sharing or posting them, a hard copy of the photo seldom seems to be kept. Cull through your digital photos, pick a favorite to print on your home computer, and frame for display.

There is a seven-year difference between my oldest and youngest child. In each one's high school graduation pictures, their dad is wearing the same shirt (he didn't like to give up on a garment). It turned into such a funny coincidence. I would always put each similar milestone photo in a row when that time rolls around.

I didn't think I was a collector but turns out I did have things that went together, gathered unintentionally over time. My two girls performed in the play "Wizard of Oz". One was the character Glinda, and the other was Dorothy in different

productions performed that particular autumn season. There were a lot of small token gifts the performers exchanged, and I kept them. When I rediscovered them here and there, I put them all together in one themed spot in a corner small cabinet.

To extend the moment of an event (like choir performances) I would host a light snack and drink for all participants to commemorate. Or we'd host spaghetti feeds the night before or pancakes early a.m. of running events so runners could get their carbohydrate load.

Where to keep these treasures/ Often I would find these old secondhand trunks and turn them into the kid's treasure chests. I placed the treasure chests in each one's bedroom. Sometimes I discovered something they included. Later when they had their first apartment or home away from home, I gave it to them. Their artifacts would bring smiles to their face: from letter jackets to yearbooks, newspaper clippings, and even the first little dress or christening gown they wore. One of my boys ran track when all the medals (no matter where they placed were given out) were gold colored. He put them all on his letter jacket, at least 50 of them, on the front and back. His dad said he looked like a general of bygone years. All I know is that it must have weighed at least 50 lbs. I gave returned it to him a couple of years ago, he laughed in delight when he saw it, immediately put it on then started strutting around.

By commemorating life events and preserving simple memorabilia and keepsakes (old theater ticket stubs or matchbooks from favorite restaurant live in a small clutch I typically also carry when attending). We honor ourselves and the sense of home created.

How do you preserve memories? Please share with me in my email, "Dear Homekeeper" in the subject line.

Until next time, warmest regards,  
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P. S. Preserve your memories, keep them well, what you forget you can never retell. ~ Louisa May Alcott.