

First **Scrapbook Crop Fest**
helps preserve memories
for a good cause

Creative expressions

By **SUSAN BLOOM**/CORRESPONDENT

EDITOR'S NOTE:
Shortly before press time,
this scrapbooking event
was postponed until the
spring due to expected
bad weather.

Whether you're a scrapbooking enthusiast, have precious memories you'd like to preserve in a creative way or just want to take up a fun new hobby, LBI has just the event for you – St. Francis Community Center's first Scrapbook Crop Fest.

The 12-hour extravaganza, dedicated to the enjoyment of scrapbooking, was to have taken place Saturday, but has been postponed.

Providing 4 to 6 feet of working space, basic materials, breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks to each registrant as well as instructional classes and raffle prizes, the event is designed to inspire personal creativity while raising funds to help support the St. Francis Center's community outreach.

"Scrapbooking is such a wonderful, reflective hobby that offers a creative outlet through which to express your personal memories and experiences," said volunteer, scrapbook veteran, and Scrapbooking Crop Fest event co-manager Kathleen Thuline.

An enthusiastic champion of the popular pastime to which an estimated 25 million Americans are devoted, Thuline recalls "getting hooked 10 years ago after doing just one page."

An intensely personal expression of your life, scrapbooking involves the creative layout of mementos such as pictures, ticket stubs and

other memorabilia as well as the use of cropping and trimming techniques and various tools such as stamps, punches, shapes, paper products, stickers, ribbons and other enhancements to create a unique display of your memories.

Registrants can bring their own materials to the Crop Fest or can buy them from vendors who will be on the premises that day.

Colleen Mazzella, owner of Paper Wings in Brant Beach, will be making adhesives, ink, ribbons, designer paper and other embellishments available on site as well as teaching a class for a nominal fee and offering a "make & take" – a five-minute project that highlights a particular tool or technique.

"We're excited to be participating in the Crop Fest," Mazzella said. "So many people are involved in scrapbooking these days. It's a nice way to bring everyone together for a fun time and a good cause."

Run through St. Francis' Special Events office, proceeds from the first Scrapbooking Crop Fest will benefit St. Francis

Center and Parish, which provides year-round community services such as counseling, senior support, Meals on Wheels, English as a Second Language, assistance to low income families, food and clothing donations, violence prevention and anger-management programs, and preschool and summer camp programs for children. "We hope people will come to the scrapbooking event and have a great time," Thuline said. "It's so nice when something you enjoy can bring a benefit to others."

Attendees can register for \$45 by calling 609-494-8861 or visiting www.stfranciscenterlbi.org. St. Francis Center gym is at 4700 Long Beach Blvd. in Long Beach Township.

