

Monday, September 6, 2010

Boo! Here's a Template for You!

Now that school is back in session, you should be able to find some really great deals on back-to-school supplies. Next time you're out shopping, buy a bunch of clipboards. Tomorrow I'm going to show you how to make this fun Halloween decoration using some of Martha's 2010 Halloween paper and a clipboard. Get ready! I'll see you back here Wednesday! In the meantime, go SHOPPING in our eWillow.com studios and stock up on cards and scrapbooks. They're all handmade, and most of them are one-of-a-kind. How cool is that? Click [HERE](#) for the template for the "B-O-O" letters.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 20:16

Friday, September 3, 2010

Stencil Cutter Giveaway & Tutorial

This giveaway is now closed. Noreen is the winner!

I'm excited to offer you a chance to win a great giveaway from Plaid & Amy of Mod Podge Rocks and Paint Me Plaid. I recently used Plaid's stencil cutter to create a custom stencil of the eWillow.com logo. I wanted to have a stencil of the logo so that I could play around with stenciling the logo onto different things.

I would definitely recommend this tool if you want to make your own stencil, especially if you want to make promotional items to help promote your blog or business. The finished stencil won't be as perfect as a pre-made stencil, but with the stencil cutter you have the ability to make a stencil of any image you want to make. I think it's a good trade-off.

After you read the tutorial, be sure to read my personal list of pros and cons about using the stencil cutter. And don't forget to read the details about how to enter the giveaway!

(FYI...Charlene and eWillow.com are not affiliated in any way with Plaid. We were provided with a complimentary stencil cutter & stencil sheet to conduct this product review. There was no monetary compensation.)

Pros:

- 1) I was surprised at how easy the tool was to use. I don't have a steady hand, but I was happy with how the stencil turned out on my first try.
- 2) It's a great way to make inexpensive promotional items of your blog or business logo, or any other unique image.

Cons:

- 1) The cons I have don't have to do with the tool itself; I was completely happy with it. All of my cons have to do with the packaging and lack of instructions provided by Plaid...
- 2) After reading the general instructions on the back of the package, I was expecting to open the package and find a little pamphlet with additional instructions, but no such luck.
- 3) I was surprised that there was only a brief mention of how HOT the tool gets. I think there should have been more warnings on the packaging about this. It is extremely dangerous to use around children.
- 4) There was no warning to use the tool in a well-ventilated area. The burning stencil plastic gave off a terrible odor. To sum it up, yes, I would recommend this product, but just remember it gets really hot!!! Remember to work in a well-ventilated area, too, and don't expect the finished stencil to be as perfect as a stencil that you would buy.

Now, for the giveaway...How would YOU like to win a stencil cutter & blank stencil from Plaid?!

You have up to six chances to win. To enter, do one or all of the following:

- 1) Leave a comment and tell us what YOU would make with the stencil cutter!
- 2) Take a look around the eWillow.com studios and tell us about the fun stuff you see for sale from our great Design Vendors!
- 3) Become a follower of eWillow.com's blog by subscribing to one of our feeds by clicking [HERE](#), and then let us know that you did by leaving a comment.
- 4) Become a fan of eWillow.com on Facebook by clicking [HERE](#), but make sure you return to this blog and let us know you became a fan.
- 5) Become a follower on Google's Friend Connect.
- 6) Add the "I LOVE eWILLOW.COM" button to your blog (you can find the code on the sidebar) and then come back and leave us your blog's address so we can visit your site.

GOOD LUCK!

Rules: Giveaway is open to USA residents only. Giveaway ends 11:59 p.m. EST on Monday, September 6, 2010.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 19:04

Monday, August 30, 2010

Halloween Party Invitation Template & Tutorial

Let's get started making this fun pocket invitation!

Click [HERE](#) for the template.

For this card, we are going to use the pocket template for a 5" x 7" card. (The template also includes a pocket for a 4 1/4" 5 1/2" card.)

Now you try it!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 20:42

Halloween Party Invitation

I love Martha's 2010 Halloween line. Below is an invitation you can make for a fun party for your daughter and her friends and their dolls. I'll post the template and tutorial for you on Tuesday. I like the color combos, don't you? They are kind of creepy and classy at the same time.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:36

Friday, August 27, 2010

I Can't Wait Any Longer!

Have you seen all of the adorable Halloween decorations that have been popping up in stores all over the place? As soon as the shelves are cleared of back-to-school stuff, ALL of the Halloween stuff will be there for us to buy. I have been trying to put off showing you some fun Halloween paper crafts, but I just can't wait any longer! So, I'll see you back here next week and we'll get started, okay? For the month of September, I'll give you lots of templates and tutorials so you will be ready when October rolls around. Until then, enjoy your next-to-last summer weekend...

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:03

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

Popcorn Box Template for a "Girls' Night In"

****Update:** The links to the templates for the popcorn box and the tiny gift bag are now working**

Imagine making a bunch of these super-easy popcorn boxes, inviting some of your friends over, and sitting around watching movies or just chit-chatting the night away!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Popcorn Box Template found [HERE](#)

Two sheets of paper per box (either two 8 1/2" x 11" pieces, or two 12" pieces)

Adhesive

Scoring tool

Scissors or paper cutter

Ribbon and embellishments

DIRECTIONS:

1) print template and cut out box pieces

2) score boxes along score lines

3) adhere the two box pieces together along the side tabs

4) put the bottom together (you might want to add some tape to make sure the bottom is secure)

5) add embellishments

It would be fun to add a personalized tag with the name of each of your guests. That way everyone will know whose is whose.

Now YOU do it! Make some fun popcorn boxes and upload photos to your eWillow.com studio or to eWillow.com's Facebook page. Can't wait to see what you come up with!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:10

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

An Even Smaller Gift Bag Template

Imagine the great gift that you can give (or receive!) in this small package. It's too small for a gift card, but a diamond ring would fit nicely inside, thank-you-very-much! You can download the template [HERE](#).

I added a HUGE brad to the front, but you can add a flower or button. Any type of embellishment would add a nice accent. Instead of a purse-type handle, I punched a small hole in the flap and added a small loop.

I also added two magnets as a closure. Easy and fun!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 16:10

Sunday, August 22, 2010

Add a Cute Topper to Your Gift Bag

Now that you've made your gift bag, (small gift bag tutorial found [HERE](#)) look at the cute topper you can add to transform the bag into a cute little purse!

I received this cute gift bag in a swap a couple of years ago. (If it's your creation, please send an email to info@ewillow.com so I can give you a shout-out.) You can add a lid to your gift bag with a couple of easy steps. All you have to do is trim the top of the bag down to the size you want and add a top-note die.

You can also add a ribbon handle and a Velcro closure.

Classy, huh?

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:22

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

Tutorial: Small Gift Bag

You can make an unlimited variety of these cute gift bags using any 8 1/2" x 11" piece of cardstock. I like using my embellishment scraps to decorate the bags. The possibilities are endless! These bags are the perfect size for gift cards or jewelry...remember, good things come in small packages.

SUPPLIES:

8 1/2" x 11" cardstock; one sheet of cardstock per bag

scoring tool

assorted ribbons and embellishments

adhesive

TUTORIAL

Decorate, and you're done!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:38

Tuesday, August 17, 2010

Make Your Own Gift Bag

I made a bunch of these small gift bags awhile ago, but I just got around to using one of them. They are the perfect size for you to use if you are giving a gift card or a piece of jewelry. They are also a perfect way for you to use your embellishment scraps. I had a couple of paper flowers and brads left over from the paper cake I made for a bridal shower, so I used them to embellish this small bag. I'm planning on giving it to the bride at her shower. I like how it matches the cake.

Make a bunch of these bags NOW for Halloween and Christmas! You can fill a bunch of them with candy and have your child pass them out to his/her classmates. Make them NOW while you are bored this summer...you'll thank me later when the busy holiday seasons approach and you are out-of-time!

Here's the side view:

Here's a close-up shot of the cute tag and mini envelope:

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:29

And Yet Another Way to Display Your Paper Cake Treat Boxes...

I found a really cool round ceramic beverage tray on clearance at Williams Sonoma for fifteen bucks. It was one of those things that I had no need for (or so I thought) but I bought anyway because the regular price was sixty bucks. I thought that maybe one day it would come in handy. It sure did!

Here is another way to display your paper cake treat boxes. For the top layer, all I did was place some boxes on a ceramic dish from the dollar store. I added some leaves to the tray to make it look a little more sophisticated.

Because the boxes that make up the bottom layer of the cake are INSIDE the tray, I didn't bother embellishing them with ribbon. All I did was add paper flowers to the top of each box.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 12:25

Saturday, August 14, 2010

Easy & Fabulous Paper Cake Treat Boxes

My review is in...THESE pre-cut, pre-scored, pre-hole-punched, already-adhesived paper cake treat boxes are FABULOUS!!!! If you don't mind that they are brown and they are all the same size, I totally recommend that you buy these instead of bothering with the templates and making your own.

All you need to do is make embellishments to decorate your cake. I used paper flowers, doilies, silk roses, and brads. The ribbon that you see comes in the package. It is already pre-cut! The best part is that each piece is cut at the perfect length for you to either make a bow OR wrap around the cake piece like I did.

I can't say enough about how great these are to work with! I made TWO cakes in two hours, and that included adding the embellishments.

*This is NOT a paid endorsement. Neither Charlene Harreveld nor eWillow.com were compensated in any way for this product review.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 12:12

Friday, August 13. 2010

Look At What I Found For You!

If you love, love, love the paper cake, you will love, love, love what I found for you! Did you know that a company called Gartner makes pre-made, pre-scored, and pre-punched paper cake treat boxes??!!! As if that weren't good enough, the boxes come with the adhesive already on them...all you have to do is peel and stick! The ribbon is included, too!

I decided to use my 40% off coupon and buy a box. (F.Y.I. there are 50 pieces in a box, and a box costs around \$20 pre-coupon discount.) I wanted to try them out for myself to see if I should recommend them to you. I haven't finished the entire project yet, but from what I have seen so far, I really like them.

The only cons I can see are: 1) they are only available in brown, so you are limited as to what you can make 2) they are all the same size, so making a layerd cake like the one [HERE](#) isn't really possible 3) the paper is lighter than the 80-lb. cardstock that I like to use, but it is still an acceptable weight.

I'm going to get busy assembling the pieces, filling them, and decorating the cake. See you back here Monday with the finished product!

This is what the box looks like:

Look! They are already cut and scored, and the ribbon is included...

The holes are already punched, and all you have to do to assemble the box is peel and stick...

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 15:40

While You're Outside This Weekend...

...gather up a bunch of flowers and dry them in the sun. If you decide to escape the heat and spend your time indoors shopping, buy some pretty paper and/or silk flowers. I'm working on a paper cake for a bridal shower and I'm going to show you how you can turn a basic silk or paper flower into a fabulous cake decoration. Check back Monday for the tutorial and photos of the finished project.

You can also share [THIS LINK](#) with your friends. Tell them to go shopping and stock up on greeting cards for the rest of the year. They'll be glad they did! No more running to the store at the last minute to buy a (over-priced) card.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 00:39

Monday, August 9, 2010

Taking it to the Next Level

I've been creating things with paper for over eight years. I wish I had some of the first things I made. I didn't make this card, but I've had it for several years. My friend Jen made it as an invitation for her niece's birthday. I call this card my "step-it-up" card. When I saw it, I knew I needed to expand my creativity beyond just stamping an image directly onto cardstock, adding some glitter, and thinking I was fabulous.

You can "step-up" your creations by adding simple embellishments. I love how Jen added small beads to the ends of the twine. Nice touch!

If you love handmade cards, invitations, and scrapbooks, I invite you to SHOP NOW on eWillow.com. Start stocking up on handmade things before school starts and life gets crazy. You'll be glad you did!

To make the tie, first thread the twine through the button holes, leaving two long tails hanging.

Keeping the two hanging tails together, wrap them around the back of the card.

Now wrap the tails around the button. You're done!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:42

Sunday, August 8, 2010

Cute Stuff and Cupcakes

Have you browsed the new studios on eWillow.com? Did you know that there is a studio dedicated to cupcakes? Take a look at the really cute cupcake liners for sale [HERE](#). Aren't they adorable? You can even custom-order cupcake liners for your very special event.

Do you have some fun photos from your summer vacation? Why not buy a small scrapbook, add your photos, and send the book as a thank-you gift to your out-of-town family? There are some really fun scrapbooks and scrapbook embellishments for sale [HERE](#).

Halloween will be here before you know it! Get a jump-start by ordering some handmade Halloween cards for your nieces and nephews. You can find some cute Halloween cards for sale [HERE](#).

Just think about how exciting it is to find a hand-addressed envelope in your mailbox. Why not make someone's day by sending them a handmade card? It's such a small gesture that is guaranteed to put a big smile on someone's face! (not a paid endorsement)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:06

Saturday, July 31. 2010

Not Really Handmade, but

My mom received the thank you card below from my aunt. I snapped it up because it really inspired me. It gave me the idea that you can make cards similar to this with your kids. It's a great way to get kids to develop an appreciation for handmade cards. They don't have to start with rubber stamps and ink! You can find little things around your house, like buttons and stickers, and let your kids decorate blank note cards. They can mail their creations to a friend or family member who lives in a different city or state.

Have fun! Summer is almost over...;(

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:13

Make it Pop!

Here is an easy way to add dimension to your projects and make them POP! On the butterfly card below, I stamped two of the same butterfly image and colored them identically. I cut out one butterfly and adhered the center to the other butterfly with Stampin' Dimensionals. I bent the wings up a little bit, and that's all! You can also achieve this effect with flower petals and leaves.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:05

While You're Out Shopping for School Supplies...

...buy a bunch of two-pocket folders. You know, the ones that are on sale this time of year for ten cents. Buy lots of them in lots of different colors! Look at what you can make! (Although I made the folder shown here, the idea for this is not my original idea. I found it online a few years ago and adapted the theme. If it's yours, please send an email to info@ewillow.com so I can link to your blog.)

All you need to do is make two score lines, fold, and decorate. There is already a score line down the center, so just add a score line down the middle of the front of the folder and another score line down the middle of the back of the folder (see black arrows on the photo below.) Once you've made the score lines, fan-fold the folder as shown.

Now all you have to do is decorate and label each section of the folder. The folder I made is great for planning a party. The different pockets keep everything organized.

Inside left, above. Inside right, below.

Back view.
Now you try it!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:39

How to Make an Invitation Look Vintage

Two years ago I was blessed with the task of creating invitations for our family reunion. Six generations of my mom's family were going to gather at the homestead that my great-grandfather built in 1898. Talk about pressure! I was honored to accept the task. There were so many elements that I wanted to include in the invitation to ensure that the recipients would be filled with nostalgia and be excited to attend.

Here is the finished product. You can easily create the same type of invitation, and you probably already have all of the supplies that you'll need.

Supplies:

Two different colors of cardstock, brads, brown ink (or any dark color that coordinates with the cardstock you're using,) hole punch (for the brads,) corner-rounder

I used a two-column word doc to create the photo and wording of the invitation, and then I printed them onto Very Vanilla cardstock. The photo I used is an actual photo of my great-grandparents, great aunts and uncles, and grandfather in front of the house that my great-grandfather built (and where we had the reunion.) I'll bet when they posed for this photo they had NO IDEA that it would one day end up on the worldwide web. (By the way, that's a baby goat in the photo.)

Try to gather a photo that includes as many generations as possible. I think it adds a nice touch.

Here's the wording I used and you can use, too, since most family reunions include the same type of stuff, right? Food, music, fun, and games!

Now, to create a vintage look, there are three things you can do. First, before you attach the two pieces of cardstock together with the brads, scrape the sides of the cardstock directly against the ink pad. This will put ink along all of the edges. Then take the ink pad and randomly and lightly blot some ink directly onto the paper.

Second, add the brads to fasten the two pieces of cardstock together. After you add the brads, use a hammer and bang them flat. Finally, rub the sides of the cardstock against a metal edge (like a metal ruler or a pair of scissors,) to make the sides wrinkly. Don't worry if you make some little tears; it looks better that way!

That's all there is to it! The only difficult part of this project was creating the word doc. I always go crazy when I have to center things in columns, etc.

Have fun making the invitations for your family reunion.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:50

Friday, July 30, 2010

A Great Invitation Idea

If you're sending an invitation (or any other type of correspondence where you have inserts,) here is a great idea. We received this invitation in the mail yesterday, and my imagination immediately went wild. (I even thought of how to transform this invitation into a refrigerator organizer. Stay tuned.)

Whenever I include an insert inside a card, I have a paranoid fear that when the recipient opens the card, the insert(s) will fall to the floor and never be seen. (Hey, we all have our weird thoughts, right?!) This creation solves that problem in a cute and very simple way.

When you open the card, the beautiful invitation is presented on the right-hand side. I love, love, love how the invitation is attached with ribbon. The ribbon makes the invitation stand out and gives it the importance it deserves.

On the left-hand side, there is a simple pocket to hold the inserts. The pocket helps to organize all of the other "stuff," without detracting from the beautiful message of the invite.

I wish you could see this in person. It is simplistic, elegant, and clever. I can't wait to get started making some! I have so many ideas for you! My blood pressure is racing...see you back here soon. I'll work out the measurements and post them this weekend.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:09

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Another Paper Cake

I'm so happy that so many of you have found the Paper Cake Treat Boxes template and tutorial so helpful. It's a great thing when a new creation is born, and I'm so excited that eWillow.com can help you in your creative endeavours by making your party planning a little easier. I'm also happy that so many of you see the importance of mailing handmade cards. Start thinking ahead about the greeting cards and gifts that you will need in the next few months, and then visit our fabulous studios and purchase some stunning one-of-a-kind handmade cards.

eWillow.com is all about creating, selling, buying, and sharing handmade paper art. I'm happy to share with you another version of the paper cake. It is a great item to make if you are hosting or attending a small luncheon. It would make a great centerpiece or hostess gift. You can fill each piece with delicious chocolate truffles.

For this cake, you will only need to use the template for the top layer of the cake (the smallest template.)

Click [HERE](#) for the template and tutorial.

Click [HERE](#) for photos of the three-layer cake.

If you have a Cricut machine with the ability to connect your machine to your computer, click [HERE](#) for the template.

You will need to print 11 pieces of the top layer.

For the cake plate, I used the lid to a round paper mache box. All I did was wrap strips of cardstock around the edge, cut a circle to cover the top, and added a scalloped trim.

For this cake, I didn't attach the pieces to each other like I did with the three-layer cake. If you are transporting the cake, you could use a little piece of double-sided tape to make sure the cake pieces stay together, but if you aren't moving the cake, there really isn't any need to adhere the pieces to each other.

I die-cut a large scallop circle and then cut out a smaller circle to make a solid layer on the top of the cake. I purchased a box of miniature plastic fruit over a year ago on clearance for under \$2. I knew that they would come in handy one day!

Now you make one! Be sure to show us photos of what you make so we can all see! You can upload the photos to your eWillow.com studio, or become a fan of eWillow.com on Facebook and upload your photos there, too. (But why not open a studio? It's free, and you can sell your stuff, too, if you want!)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 20:52

Sunday, July 25, 2010

A Cricut Freebie from a Featured Guest!

I love the blogging world! Awhile ago I was contacted by Ashley Whipple from Cute As a Fox Creations. Remember the paper cake treat boxes? Well, I have some great news for all of you Cricut-machine owners!

Ashley has made an SVG version of the templates so anyone with a Cricut cutting machine and Sure Cuts a Lot Software can cut out her own cake templates. For those of you that haven't heard of it before, Sure Cuts a Lot(SCAL) allows you to connect your Cricut to your computer and cut fonts and images straight from your computer. My tutorial includes instructions on assembling and decorating the cake; Ashley's tutorial focuses on how to use the SVG files and cut the slices. So, without further ado...here is the Cricut tutorial from Ashley. Thanks again, Ashley, for sharing this with eWillow.com's readers!

Supplies:

Cricut Cutting Machine

Sure Cuts a Lot Software * or other software that connects your Cricut to your computer

Directions:

1. First thing you want to do is download the SVG files. DOWNLOAD the Cake Slice Template. The file is a zip folder containing three SVG files. One file for each layer of cake.
2. Save and unzip the files.
3. Open up your Sure Cuts a Lot and select the option to Import SVG. It should look something like this:

Here are the sizes you want each size slice to be:

PaperCakeSliceSmall.SVG - 8.028" wide x 6.06" tall

PaperCakeSliceMedium.SVG - 8.565" wide x 7.067" tall

PaperCakeSliceLarge.SVG - 10.131" wide x 8.005" tall

These sizes will exactly duplicate the cake Charlene made. If you decide to experiment with the size make sure you lock the aspect ratio so the size stays proportional.

4. Cut 11 of each slice of cake. In the tutorial, Charlene has cut marks and score marks. I decided to perforate the score lines so they would be easy to fold.

Here is a picture of what the middle layer looks like after it has been cut. I have tested several of these, and the perforations make folding this so easy!

Charlene also includes a step in her tutorial to punch holes in the close tabs for ribbon. I added those punch holes so you can skip that step too. Now that your slices are cut, you can use Charlene's tutorial [HERE](#) to construct the cake and decorate. Charlene and I would love to see what you create with this! You can set up a Studio at eWillow.com to show off your beautiful cakes. I will be making one for a baby shower in two weeks and I will definitely be posting some pictures here.

Here is some fine print from Ashley... *Disclaimer: I (Ashley Whipple) am an affiliate of Sure Cuts a Lot which means that I (Ashley Whipple) get a small percentage of sales from people who follow my link and purchase the software. I (Ashley Whipple) look at it as a little thanks for taking time to develop these SVG files and making them available to everyone for free. If you are planning to purchase the software, please go through me (Ashley Whipple.)" Neither eWillow.com nor Charlene Harreveld have been compensated in any way.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:48

Friday, July 23, 2010

For the Bride and Groom

Look at this ultra-fabulous card! My friend Heather sent me the link to Lynn Pratt's blog. I wish I were at the Stampin' Up! convention this weekend! If I were, I would hunt down Lynn so I could swap cards with her. She made a TON of these to swap with other stampers. You can view photos and download the template [HERE](#).

Lynn, thank you so much for sharing the template! I'm off to make one right now. Have a fabulous weekend!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:37

Monday, July 19, 2010

Composition Book with File Folder Tutorial

Here is the tutorial to make this multi-functional composition book with attached file-folder.

Supplies:

Regular-size composition book

Empty cereal box

Eight envelopes, approximately 5" x 7" (but not larger)

Stamp set and permanent ink

12 x 12 card stock, 12 x 12 decorative cardstock, and several pieces of scraps

Tab punch

Corner-rounder punch

Crop-a-Dial

Paper cutter

Glue

Ribbon

Tutorial:

- 1) grab the composition book
- 2 & 3) stamp a fun stamp in permanent ink on 12 x 12 paper
- 4) cut 12 x 12 paper at 9 3/4", then cut the remaining piece at 6", so you will end up with two pieces that are 6" x 9 3/4", and one piece that is 2 1/4" x 12 "
- 5) corner-punch the top and bottom corners on one side only of both 6" x 9 3/4" pieces of cardstock, so they will fit nicely on the corners of the composition book
- 6) glue each piece to the front and the back of the composition book, leaving the binding uncovered
- 7) cut a piece of decorative cardstock 4" x 9 3/4"
- 8) glue the 4" x 9 3/4" piece to the binding of the composition book by wrapping it around from front to back, as shown
THAT'S ALL FOR THE BOOK! NOW ON TO THE FILE FOLDER...

Cut one piece of decorative cardstock 6" x 7 3/4"

Cut a piece out of the cereal box 6" x 7 3/4"

Glue the decorative cardstock to the decorated side of the cereal box

Cut a piece of ribbon 22" long and attach to the backside of the cereal box

Tie a nice bow

NOW YOU'RE DONE WITH THE FILE FOLDER COVER...LET'S MOVE ON TO THE FILE FOLDER...

- 9) cut a piece of cardstock 7 3/8" x 8"
- 10) on the 8" side, make a score line at every 1/2"
- 11) fan-fold the cardstock, folding the first fold "UP"
- 12) glue the fan-folded cardstock to the inside edge of the file folder cover, making sure to glue the "UP" piece to the cover
- 13) another view
- 14) cut the remaining 2 1/4" x 12" stamped piece of cardstock to 2 1/4" x 7 3/4" and glue it to the top inside edge of the cereal box, as shown
NOW LET'S MOVE ON TO THE ENVELOPES AND TABS...

- 15) cut the tops off of the envelopes
- 16) glue each envelope into the "valley" of the fan-folded cardstock
- 17) punch and attach the tabs, then glue the final envelope directly to the cover of the composition book

18) attach tabs to the pages of the composition book and add an elastic tie

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:44

Saturday, July 17, 2010

Coming Up Next Week...

...the tutorial for making this fun notebook with attached file folder. I was given the challenge to come up with a journal/file for the 12-to-18 year-old girls in my church. The requirements were to come up with something that was easy to use and not too bulky; something that they could not only take notes in but also could be a place for them to keep the handouts they receive in class on Sunday.

This is what I came up with. It's a plain composition book that I decorated. The file folder was the fun part to make! Come back next week for more pictures and the tutorial.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:07

Friday, July 16, 2010

An Oldie but Goodie

I have been going through boxes and boxes of projects and swaps from past get-togethers and Stampin' Up conventions. This is a card I received in a swap three years ago!

I want to share it with you because it is a really, really cute invitation idea for a baby shower. Don't you agree? It was made by Cindy Baughman.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:37

Thursday, July 15. 2010

Mini Envelope Scrapbook Tutorial

You will find so many uses for this mini envelope scrapbook. See the original post [HERE](#). Now for the tutorial.

Supplies:

three or four different colors of cardstock, 1 3/8" circle punch, tab punch, paper cutter, scoring tool, a fun stamp set and some ink

Tutorial:

"A" is the scrapbook cover, cut one piece of cardstock 4 1/2" x 12", score at 1 5/8", 2", 5 3/8", 8 6/8"

"B" are the inserts, cut three different colors of cardstock 2 3/4" x 4"

"C" are the backgrounds, cut three of the same color of cardstock 3" x 5 1/4", score each piece at 1"

"D" are the envelopes, you will need three small envelopes 3" x 4", punch a 1/2 circle with the 1 3/8" circle punch

BELLY BAND: to hold the scrapbook closed, you will need a belly-band, made by wrapping a 1" x 8 1/2" piece of cardstock around the scrapbook, decorated as desired; also add a tab if desired

ASSEMBLY:

- 1) After scoring the three background pieces, adhere the envelopes to the 1" scored edge
- 2) Adhere the background pieces/envelopes to the centers of each scored area of the scrapbook cover
- 3) Stamp and decorate as desired

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 19:52

Tuesday, July 13. 2010

Cute Little Envelope Scrapbook

Here is a fun mini scrapbook you can make with cardstock and envelopes. I was going through some boxes of old make-n-takes and I found this little treasure from a Stampin' Up! event.

Not only can you place photos and/or journaling on the paper that you insert into the envelopes, but you can also attach the envelopes in such a way so that you can flip them over and use the backs of the envelopes and the cover, too. This scrapbook might be little, but it holds a ton of stuff! You can carry it around in your purse and use it as a brag book. Tutorial will be up on Wednesday. Come back then to see how you can make this little gem.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld in Giveaway! at 22:32

Monday, July 12. 2010

An Easy Chart for Under \$5.00

Here is an idea for a very easy chart you can make for under \$5.00. I used two pieces of chipboard and a package of shower curtain hooks that I found on clearance for \$2.48. All you have to do is cover each piece of chipboard with designer paper. I added a cute bow to each end. I used Mod Podge to adhere the hooks. I am going to hang the chart on a chalkboard, so I used sticky-back magnets on the back of the chipboard.

I die-cut the tags and labeled each one. It really doesn't get any easier, or cheaper, than this!

Now you try it! When you're finished, add photos of your project to your eWillow.com studio so we can all see. You can even sell your creations, too!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 17:18

Saturday, July 10, 2010

Here's a Simple Sparkly Card

You can add a little bit of bling to your cards by using some two-way glue and some dazzling diamonds glitter. On this card, I used watercolor pencils to color the flower and then added the glitter. Be sure to use watercolor paper when you are working with any type of water-coloring technique. You don't want the water to soak through the cardstock. Watercolor paper is just heavy enough to absorb the water, but still light enough to look nice on your card. I used the edge of my scissors to create the wrinkled effect around the edges of the watercolor paper. I used the direct-to-paper technique to outline the edges with ink.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:40

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

So Many Fabulous Things!

Yow-zee! eWillow.com has added several new studios over the past few days. You need to go shopping NOW! Browse the studios and stock up on greeting cards and gifts for the rest of the year. Who doesn't like to send or receive a card or gift, right? Handmade cards and gifts are even better!

Start the trend among your friends and family. ANYONE can go to the store and buy a card off the rack...but it takes a really cool, trendy, and thoughtful person to give a handmade card!

Try it! Have fun shopping!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:09

Tuesday, July 6, 2010

Yummy Strawberries

I love to add depth to my cards. On this card, I stamped the strawberries onto small pieces of white cardstock. In order to stamp the stems in green, I used the brush side of the marker and then "huffed" on the ink to make sure it was wet before I stamped it onto white scraps. I cut out the stems, and then attached the stems with dimensionals to make them "pop."

Have you been eating strawberries this summer? I hope you're putting lots of whipped cream on top! And chocolate, too!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 19:52

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Paper Cake Treat Boxes: Template and Tutorial

Finally, as promised, the tutorial! Yes, it really did take me two days to get this ready. I hope you enjoy it. Be sure to create a FREE studio on eWillow.com and upload photos of your cakes when you are finished. You can even sell them, too! Click [HERE](#) for more details.

Also, to help spread the word about eWillow.com and to build our community, please link to this tutorial and share the news that eWillow.com is FREE to use. Once you open a studio, you can sell your creations or just upload photos of your paper crafts for all of us to see. Email info@ewillow.com for more information.

Now, on to the tutorial!

Supplies

Download the Template (Print the template directly onto the cardstock. It's much easier that way! You will need to print ELEVEN of each)

[papercaketreatboxestemplate.pdf](#)

If you have a Cricut machine, click [HERE](#) for the template

Scissors

Hole Punch

Bone Folder for Scoring

Double-Sided Tape

Assorted Cardstock, Ribbons, Punches, & Embellishments

Instructions

- 1) Remember, to make it easier, print templates directly onto cardstock
Please note that you need ELEVEN of each piece
- 2) Cut out cake pieces on solid lines and score on dotted lines
- 3) Apply double-sided tape to pointy flap and adhere as shown below
- 4) Apply double-sided tape to side flap and adhere as shown
- 5) Bring flaps together and punch a hole
- 6) Feed ribbon thru one hole, wrap around box, and feed out thru other hole

To make the curly things, cut strips of paper 1/2" wide and curl the end around a pencil.

Decorate each slice any way you want! On the slices below, I punched out different shapes and glued them onto the flaps.

For the cake topper, I painted a wooden knob and added some paper circles. I gathered up some ribbon and adhered it with glue.

Now, you try it! Remember to share the link to this tutorial on your blog. Once you do, come back and leave your blog address with us in the comments section below so we can all visit your blog. Have fun!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 12:12

Monday, June 28, 2010

eWillow.com is now FREE!

~ Update ~

The requests are pouring in for the tutorial for the Paper Cake Treat Boxes.

I'm working on it now, and I'll post it a.s.a.p!!!

In the meantime, read below for a special announcement! Hello Everyone! Before I make the official announcement, I wanted to quickly let you know that in the next few days, eWillow.com will be changing. The site will be free to anyone who would like to list their paper crafts. There will no longer be a monthly fee, and as always, there are no listing and no transaction fees. Our storefronts are changing their names to "studios." Anyone who makes paper crafts is welcome to open a studio. You can upload photos of the things you make. You DON'T have to sell your stuff in order to have a studio. However, if you would like to sell some or all of your stuff, you can decide when you upload your photos. You simply have to check a box that says, "Item is For Sale." Spread the word to all of your paper crafting friends! eWillow.com is THE place to create, sell, buy, and share! Charlene

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 16:58

Saturday, June 26, 2010

Paper Cake Treat Boxes

This three-tier cake is made from paper. Each tier is made up of eleven individual paper cake slices that are attached to each other. The pieces come apart easily, so when the party is over, each guest gets to take a piece of cake home.

Fill each cake slice with candy or any other special treat. You could even fill each slice with money, which would be a fun and new twist on a money tree. (This would make a great end-of-year teacher gift...each child could make one or two slices and fill each slice with a special thank-you note.)

The cake makes a great centerpiece. You can use an infinite amount of color combinations based on the occasion. Imagine how beautiful the cake would look made out of white paper for a wedding! Make it out of pink or blue for a baby shower. Endless possibilities!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 18:53

Friday, June 25, 2010

Butterfly Card

I think I used about 27 different punches to make this card! No, not really, but whoa...I kept pulling out punch after punch. It certainly was a pain to clean up and put everything away. Ok, who am I kidding? I never put anything away. (ticket corner punch, curly label punch, scallop oval punch, large oval punch, small oval punch.)

I stamped the butterflies directly onto the white cardstock. I also stamped two butterflies and cut them out. I attached them on top of the stamped butterflies with dimensionals to make them "pop" off the card.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 19:07

Blog Export: eWillow.com's "Paper Clips", <http://ewillow.com/serendipity/>

Monday, June 21, 2010

Check This Out and Vote!

It's the final round of competition on "So You Think You're Crafty!" Click [HERE](#) to vote for your favorite project. I hope you like mine the best! Have fun looking and don't forget to vote in the little box in the upper right hand corner on the site.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 12:47

Saturday, June 19, 2010

If You're Having a Summer Party

...make cute popsicle invitations! Yummy!

All you need to do is use a circle punch to take a bite out of the side, attach a popsicle stick, and you're good to go!

Did you make some great Father's Day cards? If so, join eWillow.com's FlickrR group and upload your creations. We'd love to see what you made!

Shop eWillow.com's stores for beautiful cards, scrapbooks, and gifts.

I'll be back Monday, asking you to vote, vote, vote in the final round of the "So You Think You're Crafty" competition. I never thought I would make it to the final round!

Enjoy Father's Day!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:18

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Made

Things I've made:

- 1) I made it into the finals in the "So You Think You're Crafty" competition! Thanks to all of you who voted.
- 2) I made lots of cute things over the weekend, but I can't post the photos until the competition is over. Voting for the winner of Session 3 begins Monday, June 21st. I'll remind you. No worries!
- 3) I made myself not quit the competition. Some of the themes really had me stumped. You'll be surprised to know that the "PAPER" thing was the most difficult round for me (go figure, right?) followed by the "SCIENTIFIC" theme. I was about to take myself out of the competition that week because I was so stressed trying to come up with something. Then I thought about my friend Meghan's kids and about how they are always using their imaginations, and that is how I came up with the idea. But it was tough!
- 4) I made myself keep going, even though I was going from doctor to doctor, trying to find out why I was so fatigued. Luckily, the doctors finally made a diagnosis. Now I can work on restoring my health. It turns out that yes, it really is a bad thing to have low blood pressure. How's 60 over 49 sound?
- 5) I made some decisions that will affect eWillow.com. Details coming soon!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:15

Saturday, June 12, 2010

So You Think You're Crafty

Bubble Dress to Book Bag

It doesn't get any easier (or cuter!) than this! All you have to do is start with a bubble dress. The one I used is perfect because it has a nice wide elastic waistband and the skirt is fully lined. That means when you're finished, your book bag will have a secure opening and the inside will be fully lined, too. Because you're using a bubble dress, the top and bottom of the bag are already nicely ruffled.

All you have to do is remove the top part of the dress from the waistband. I added a wide strip of canvas ribbon for the handle. The handle is the only part of the book bag that wasn't made from the dress.

I covered the top of the bubble dress with iron-on vinyl to keep the sides from fraying. I used a Sizzix die to create the flower shapes. You can use whatever shape you want, but just make sure that you carefully place the fabric on the die so you can maximize the number of pieces you can cut. I removed the stitching from the black trim on the bubble dress neckline and flattened it out to make the centers for the flowers. I added some large white grommets to the waistband for a nice extra touch of color.

No kid likes summer homework, but it's a lot more fun to tackle when she can tote her books around in this awesome bubble dress book bag! Or, use it as a beach bag or summer sleepover bag. If you want a small bag, use an infant-sized bubble dress. If you need a REALLY big bag, use a really big bubble dress! Have fun!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:32

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Now That You Have a Basic Template...

...you can make a bunch of "Congrats" cards and then stamp a bunch of specific sentiments. This is an easy way to stock up on your card supply. You can stamp the sentiments now, or assemble the cards and leave the sentiment area blank. That way when an occasion arises, you can just whip out the appropriate saying, stamp it, and you're done! This is especially helpful for cards for rare occasions, like graduations, retirements, and anniversaries.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:03

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Congrats, Grad!

Here's a simple card you can easily adapt for a girl or boy graduate, no matter his or her age. For a boy, just wrap the top piece in ribbon instead of tying a bow, and don't scallop the bottom. I really like all of the different colors.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 16:59

Saturday, June 5, 2010

A Feature and a Shout-Out

Here's a big thank you and a shout out to Kimberley Morris for allowing me to use her animal face templates as the inspiration for these fun Animal Puppets. These animal puppets are a great addition to any bedtime story. You and your child can make up stories for hours and these puppets can be the stars!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:37

Monday, May 31, 2010

Great News! You're Invited!

eWillow.com has some great news for our readers!

We are pleased to announce that we are a participating craft retailer with the Craft and Hobby Association and as such, we are able to offer eWillow.com readers a discount off the regular admission price to the Summer Super Show which will be held July 30 - 31 in Rosemont, Illinois. Just grab the discount code from the CHA ad on our left sidebar and then visit the Craft and Hobby Association's website to enter the code and purchase your tickets.

The web discount code is CREATE40. Use this code to receive the following:

\$5.00 off \$20 two-day ticket to the Craft SuperShow

\$3.00 off \$15 one-day ticket to the Craft SuperShow

OR

Use discount code WORKSHOP to receive the following:

Purchase 2 or more workshop tickets and receive a FREE two-day show ticket.

On-line registration opens June 1st.

Here are a couple of photos from the CHA last summer in Orlando.

Nancy, Me, Erica

With Daven and Lori from Splitcoast Stampers

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:31

Saturday, May 29, 2010

Summer Campout Kit

This is another fun and easy project to make with your kids. All I did was cover a photo storage box with decorative paper, decorated the lid, and filled the box with some camping gear. This kit makes a fun addition to a summertime backyard campout.

On the inside of the box lid, I used four thin strips of paper to make a tic-tac-toe grid. I found the cute glow-in-the-dark bugs for fifty cents. Arent' they the perfect game pieces?

I found the blanket for a dollar, and I covered a mini notebook so it would match and the kids can use it to keep score. What's the best part? The Smores kit!!!! Who wouldn't love making this and camping under the stars on a warm summer night?

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:22

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

What Do You Give the Guy Who Has Everything?

My girls were lucky enough to attend BAK Middle School of the Arts. Tonight is going to be very sad for us because it will be our very last band concert. Adrienne attended the school for three years. When Adrienne moved on to high school, Erica began her middle school years at BAK, and now her three years are coming to an end next week.

Both girls attended the band program at the school. Let me just say that they both began playing instruments in elementary school so that they would be able to attend BAK; they didn't attend BAK because they played instruments. Make sense? Luckily for us, they both love, love, love their instruments, but in the beginning, their instrument-playing was just a means to an end.

So, the question was, what in the world do we give their band teacher? The guy who has everything? And by having everything I mean not only does he have a job that he loves, but he also has a wife that he adores and two little girls who make his eyes twinkle at the mention of their names.

I decided to make him an accordion scrapbook. It's a great way to include some memorable photos without going overboard with a full-blown scrapbook. I actually purchased an accordion scrapbook that was already made, and I added some decorative paper to the cover to make the book look masculine. (I would normally make my own, but I ran out of time. Imagine that!) So, add to my "to do" list a tutorial on how to make an accordion scrapbook.

Here is the final result. Enjoy! I'm off to buy out the supply of tissues from the grocery store. After tonight's concert, I have a feeling I'm going to need them!

Shop our storefronts to find great handmade items for sale, or consider opening your own storefront, sharing a tutorial, or sponsoring a giveaway! Contact info@ewillow.com.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:09

Thursday, May 13, 2010

No-Brainer Note Book

My husband travels quite a bit with his job. Every once in awhile he has to attend conferences. We love when he returns home from a conference because he comes home with lots of goodies for us. He brings us promotional gadgets from different companies, like pens, notebooks, band-aids, combs, shoe polish, tooth brushes, etc. A couple of months ago he brought home this lovely gem: a blank notebook complete with a pen. When I saw the blank cover, I couldn't wait to haul out the Mod Podge and paper and go to town! I think this whole thing took me two minutes (literally) to make.

Is there a medication for when a person sees a blank canvas and breaks out in hives?

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 00:53

Blog Export: eWillow.com's "Paper Clips", <http://ewillow.com/serendipity/>

Tuesday, May 11. 2010

Click
HERE
for Charlene's
Latest Blog Updates

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 10:32

Saturday, May 8, 2010

Teacher Gift

Every teacher I know just loves fun stationary! Imagine how excited your child's teacher will be when she (or he) receive this handmade stationary box filled with cards...and pencils, too! This is the perfect gift for kids of all ages to give to their teachers, from pre-school all the way up through high school.

The inside of the box has a divider to separate the cards and envelopes. Once the cards are all used up, the teacher can use the box as an index card holder for students to use when they check books out of the classroom library. Teachers love writing thank you notes to all of their classroom volunteers. These handmade cards add the perfect personal touch! (Plus, a teacher can never have too many pencils, right?)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:39

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Regrets, I've Had a Few!

...one thing I regret is not buying tons of mulberry paper when I was at THIS fabulous store in NYC. I love mulberry paper. I never knew that it was sold by the yard on a roll! How did I not know that???? Maybe it's better that way...I never would have been able to decide on what colors to get!

Look at their fabulous window display and in-store displays. Very cool!

There never seems to be enough time to do the things you want to do...

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:37

Monday, May 3, 2010

NYC Inspiration

I had a great time bopping around the streets of NYC last weekend! Our daughter Erica's middle school band competed in the Heritage Festival and Neil and I tagged along. Their performances were incredible, to say the least. I was reminded that art takes on many forms...one does not have to put a paintbrush to a canvas to be considered an artist. More on that subject later...

While I was there, I found inspiration all around me. Here is my favorite window display. It's a giant tree made out of rope. Stay tuned...I'm thinking of making one out of paper for the blank wall in our living room. What do you think? (Amy, do you think I can Mod Podge it to the wall?)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:18

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(Amy, do you think I can Mod Podge it to the wall?)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:18

Sunday, May 2, 2010

Bird Bath Centerpiece

Last week's theme for "So You Think You're Crafty" was "Bath Time." I decided to think outside the box, and it nearly did me in! I didn't want to make a typical bath time project, so I thought about it and it dawned on me that birds take baths, too.

You can use this birdbath as a centerpiece and fill it with candy, flowers, or whatever you want!

Supplies:

paper mache flower pot
small round paper mache box with lid
large round paper mache box with lid
acrylic paint
spray acrylic sealer
Mod Podge
embellishments (I used chipboard birds, vines, and leaves and created a bunch of paper flowers)

Instructions:

paint paper mache pieces
Mod Podge pieces together
spray with acrylic sealer and allow to dry
adorn with embellishments

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 18:09

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Taking a Bite

out of the Big Apple! I have really been inspired. I can't wait to get home (well, not really!) because I saw something that I need, need, need to make to go along with the patio table. Stay tuned!!!!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:03

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Ribbon Rose Tutorial

Ribbon roses are very easy to make! You can make them any size, large or small. You can also use any size and type of ribbon. Click [HERE](#) to see a sampling.

To make these roses, all you need is ribbon, scissors, and a very heavy-duty double-sided adhesive. I use Stampin' Up!'s "Sticky Pages." (Note: you can also use sticky strip or double-sided tape; however, if you use either of these two you must first adhere them to a piece of cardstock so that your roses have a supportive backing. Just cut a piece of cardstock a little bit larger than the size of the rose you want to make, and then cover the cardstock in sticky strip or tape. Then you will be ready to go! If you would like to order "Sticky Pages," click [HERE](#), then click on ORDER NOW and enter Item #114300. You get two sheets of 12" x 12" blank sticky sheets per package for \$6.95 USD plus S/H. You can also use the sheets with the Big Shot machine to create custom shapes. Pretty Cool!)

Ok! Now that you have your supplies, let's get started!

- 1) If you're using Sticky Pages, cut out a square a little bit bigger than the size of the rose you want
- 2) Peel off the pink covering to expose the adhesive
- 3) Stick one end of the ribbon onto the adhesive and begin twisting
- 4) Keep twisting and adhering the ribbon while at the same time forming a circle
- 5) Continue twisting and adhering until you make the rose the size you want
- 6) Tuck and adhere the end of the ribbon underneath part of the rose
- 7) Cut out the rose
- 8) Peel off the back of the Sticky Pages and adhere the rose to your project
(If you use the cardstock method, all you need to do is apply the rose to your project with your regular adhesive)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 16:29

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Howdy, Folks!

First, let me just say thank you for voting for me last week in the "So You Think You're Crafty" competition. Luckily, I received enough votes to remain in the competition. Please be sure to place your vote for this week's project. The theme is "Bath Time," and the projects are all fabulous! Can you guess which one is mine? Now that last week's voting is over, I'm allowed to reveal which project was mine. I adorned a basic frame with ribbon roses and embossed chipboard letters to make this guest room pass-along frame. Display it in your guest room and then allow your guests to take it home with them to pass it along to their guests, and so on, and so on. I'll be debuting a new blog in the next few days, so I'll save the ribbon rose tutorial for then! Stay tuned!

P.S. For those of you who emailed me about the pennants for the patio table, I had some family things come up today that I had to take care of. I'll be in touch with you on Tuesday!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 01:16

Sunday, April 25, 2010

Patio Table Tutorial

Here you go! Have fun! If you have any questions, send an email to info@ewillow.com

Supplies for Patio Table: 1) 12" x 12" piece of ½" thick foam board 2) #13 knitting needle 3) 4-7/8" half-ball of florist's foam (or something to stick the knitting needle into in case you make the hole too big in the shaker box; if you are careful when you make the hole, you might not need this) 4) 2 sizes of round dishes for tracing; one with a 10" diameter, the other with a 12" diameter 5) 6" tall x 5" round shaker box with lid 6) this is the UPC code for the shaker box so you know the correct size to buy 7) utility knife mod podge
you'll also need an assortment of 12" x 12" decorative paper

1) Trace the 10" plate onto the foam board 2) Cut out circle with utility knife (don't worry if it looks raggedy; you are going to be covering the ugly part with paper) 3) Draw a little circle in the center 4) Carefully poke a hole in the center with the tip of the knitting needle; remove the needle and set needle aside for later use

1) Drill or punch a hole into the center of the lid to the shaker box. Make sure you make the hole just big enough so that you can insert the knitting needle. (Be careful not to make the hole too big.) 2) Cut two strips of decorative paper 12" x 6" and adhere to shaker box with mod podge 3) Look how pretty! 4) Cut two strips of decorative paper 12" x 1" and adhere to the side of the shaker box lid (you don't have to put any paper on the top of the lid)

1) Cut two strips of decorative paper 12" x ¾" and adhere to the side of the table top (it's not going to look very pretty, but that's okay. You are going to hide it later) 2) Put some Mod Podge on the top of the shaker box lid 3) Attach the table top to the shaker box lid, making sure to line up the holes 4) Allow to dry

1) Trace the 12" plate onto a piece of decorative paper and cut out. Then trace the 10" plate onto the 12" circle that you just cut out. 2) Cut a fringe up to the trace-line around the entire diameter of the 12" circle 3) Punch a hole in the center and adhere to the table top

That's it for the table. Let's move on to the umbrella.
Supplies for umbrella:

Steps for umbrella pieces: 1) Die-cut six large pennants. Cut 2 each of 3 different paper patterns 2) Cut off the side scallops, leaving the top two scallops on each side, as shown 3) Die-cut six large cardboard pennants 4) Cut off the entire bottom and the scallops on the cardboard pieces as shown 5) Die-cut six large pennants from the plain cardstock 6) Glue the decorative-paper pennants onto the plain-paper pennants as shown

Steps for umbrella assembly:1) Fold up scallop edges along perforated lines and apply mini glue dots to scallops2) Attach scallop edges of umbrella pieces together3) This is what it will start to look like as you attach the pieces to each other4) This is what it will look like underneath5 to 7) Continue attaching all umbrella pieces, making sure to rotate colors

Now let's reinforce the umbrella. We're almost finished!

1) This is what the underneath of the umbrella looks like after you attach all of the pieces2) To reinforce the umbrella, we are going to use the cardboard pennant pieces. Apply double-sided tape to each cardboard pennant piece. Adhere each cardboard piece to the underside of the umbrella so that one half of the cardboard piece is attached to one half of an umbrella piece. 3) Line up the score line of the cardboard piece with the place where the umbrella pieces are attached4) Continue until all cardboard pieces are attached5) Apply a couple of pop-up glue dots (or another very strong gummy adhesive) to the top of the knitting needle6) Stick the knitting needle onto the center of the umbrella, insert the needle into the table top, and you're done! Whew!For the place settings, the possibilities are endless. I used plastic shot-glasses for the cups and used some die-cut flowers from the "Baskets and Blooms" die for decorations.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:29

Thursday, April 22, 2010

While You're Out Shopping This Weekend...

pick up these supplies. Next week we'll get started on making this cute patio table...

Supplies for Patio Table:

- 1) 12" x 12" piece of 1/2" thick foam board
 - 2) #13 knitting needle
 - 3) 4-7/8" half-ball of florist's foam (or something to stick the knitting needle into in case you make the hole too big in the shaker box; if you are careful when you make the hole, you might not need this)
 - 4) 2 sizes of round dishes for tracing; one with a 10" diameter, the other with a 12" diameter
 - 5) 6" tall x 5" round shaker box with lid
 - 6) this is the UPC code for the shaker box so you know the correct size to buy
 - 7) utility knife
mod podge
- ***you'll also need an assortment of 12" x 12" decorative paper***

Supplies for umbrella:

Tutorial Coming Monday!!

(I realize it might be difficult to obtain the Sizzix machine and Sizzix pennant die. Send me an email and I can help you with the pennant pieces. info@ewillow.com)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:35

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

My Classroom

When I teach a card class,

I transform our living room into a classroom. You see, in south Florida we don't have basements, so it takes some creative thinking to make room for all of my "stuff." (One day I'll post photos of my craft "room.") Setting up for a class is really easy to do!

All I have to do is slide our couch toward the television. With the couch out of the way, our entire living room is open. I set up three long tables, slide some chairs over, and that's it! I set four places at each table. Each setting has a sheet of grid paper and scissors. Each table has a cleaning pad to clean off the rubber stamps. I usually have one project at each table. The most important part is probably the kitchen, where all of the yummy snacks are! (If a person brings a snack to share, they get to take home a door prize.)

I have it down to a science! The only thing I need help with is hauling the tables in and out of the garage.

When the class is over, the ladies group all like-items together onto one table. That makes putting everything away a breeze for me!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 19:25

Sunday, April 18. 2010

Fun and Easy Paper Clip Toppers

You can use randomly-sized chipboard pieces to make cute toppers for paper clips.

Here's what you do:

- 1) cover the chipboard pieces in decorative paper (make matching pairs)
- 2) file the edges
- 3) glue a paper clip to the backside of one chipboard piece
- 4) glue the matching chipboard piece to the top of the paperclip so that the paper clip is sandwiched in-between the two chipboard pieces
- 5) allow time to dry

You can use any size chipboard and any size paper clip. I made a bunch of large and small paper clip toppers, put them in cellos bags, tied the bags with cute ribbon, and gave them as little gifts.

This is a great project to make with your kids!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:45

Friday, April 16, 2010

Milestones

Tomorrow our baby is going to the prom. While she's at the prom, Neil and I are going out to dinner with my parents to celebrate our anniversaries. It's our 23rd and my parents' 51st. (We were married on their 28th anniversary.) We'll also be celebrating Erica's acceptance into our local high school of the arts. She plays the bassoon and was accepted into the band program.

I am in total denial. There is NO WAY that we've been married for 23 years. There is NO WAY that our daughter is going to the prom, and there is certainly NO WAY that our youngest baby is going into high school.

Time to sniff the Mod Podge...

BTW...

Here is a photo from our 20th anniversary. This is Donny Osmond singing our wedding song to us...You can read all the details about how this came to be on my family blog [HERE](#).

Have a great weekend!

I'll be back Monday, when I'll start asking you to vote for me in the "So You Think You're Crafty" competition!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 18:03

Thursday, April 15, 2010

I Know! I Know!

What does this have to do with paper, right? Well, nothing, but doesn't it look yummy? I have been meaning to post photos of this "Chocolate Peanut Butter Nirvana Cake" since Christmas, but I've had a lot of paper work to do (hee-hee! get it?!) so I never got around to posting it until now. After I poured the frosting, it pooled on the dish and looked gross, so I piled chocolate chips on top and loaded it down with sprinkles.

Recipe coming soon!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 12:14

Tuesday, April 13. 2010

Blast From the Past

For those of you following my journey from the beginning of eWillow.com, you might remember that through it all I have been struggling to get over mono and chronic fatigue. After several tests, I am finally getting some answers as to why I have been so exhausted.

One of the remedies is a weekly B-12 shot, which my great neighbor Rebecca has so graciously agreed to administer to me.

I'm not going to beat around the bush...my arm is killing me tonight!

So, to give myself a little break, I dug into my files and found this card that I created for Stampin' Up!'s Artisan Award contest a couple of years ago. I never worked so hard on any contest before, and I'll never put myself through that again! All entrants had to create two 3-D items, 3 scrapbook layouts, and 6 cards. (I think...something like that...I don't even remember anymore! It's all a blur to me now!)

I liked the color combo of the Basic Black and River Rock cardstocks with the green glitter. (I'm happy that River Rock is now going to be one of Stampin' Up!'s regular colors, starting in July.)

(I laugh now when I look at this photo. This was the first time that I ever put a watermark on one of my photos. I thought I was soooo wonderful when I finally figured out how to do it. Now I look at this watermark and cringe at its tackiness! UGH!!!!)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:52

Monday, April 12, 2010

Come Along with Me...

on a tour of my penthouse...

yeah, right! You all know how much I love miniature things...

Well, isn't this so cute? It's my daughter's American Girl Mini Penthouse Room. American Girl used to sell mini rooms several years ago. This penthouse has been collecting dust in Adrienne's room for eons.

When I cleaned my craft room last week, I decided to dust this off and make room for it on my desk.

It gives me lots of inspiration!

I know it has absolutely nothing to do with paper in particular, but its cuteness speaks volumes to me. When I look at this tiny little room, tons of creative ideas start swirling around in my head.

I toyed around (no pun intended!) with the idea several times of selling this on eBay, but I'm glad I didn't.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:52

Yes, Paper Excites Me

and so does the idea of NEW paper in NEW colors! I was thrilled to find out that when Stampin' Up! releases their new Idea Book and Catalog in July, lots of their current colors will be retired. In their place will be lots of new, beautiful colors. Here is a sneak-peek...

Delicious!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 11:46

Thursday, April 8, 2010

I Forgot...

to eat dinner tonight, and I forgot to post photos of my audition piece for "So You Think You're Crafty." Sorry! I made the "Mod Flower Door Curtain," which, by the way, is still hanging in the doorway that leads from our front foyer into our kitchen. We are having company this weekend, and I really have no plans to take it down!

(Ignore the big strip of missing paint on the door, okay? It's a pocket door, and I guess the fit is just a wee bit too tight.) I'll be back Monday, and I'll be sure to make note of all of the comments our company makes about this lovely piece of decor!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 20:15

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

From Now On

I think I'm only going to make big cards. I showed this card on my blog once before, but here it is again.

This time I made it a little more youthful and fun. It's a Bat Mitzpah card. It fits into a 6 x 9 envelope. Certainly a black-tie Bat Mitzpah calls for a card that is larger than the standard handmade card that is usually 4 1/4" x 5 1/2", right?

I'm going to make a bunch of these for different occasions and keep them on-hand.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:15

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

I Don't Know

where I found this photo,
but what I do know is that I'll be making four of these really cool wreaths (out of paper, of course!) to hang on our French doors this Christmas.

I'm just going to have to make the time. I think they're really cool!

(p.s. if you happen to know where this idea was published, please let me know!)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:30

Blog Export: eWillow.com's "Paper Clips", <http://ewillow.com/serendipity/>

Monday, April 5, 2010

Made It!

thank you for voting! I received enough votes to participate as one of the ten crafters in Session III of "So You Think You're Crafty!" Stay tuned for more details. Session III begins April 19th. I have some really fun ideas planned. Thanks again for voting!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 15:40

Friday, April 2, 2010

What's Inspiring Me This Weekend...

(Note: the giveaway has ended. check back next week for our new giveaway!) In the meantime, read below, and be inspired...

Paper Stack by Drew Cameron, 2008
Photo: Combat Paper
This puts everything into perspective. I NEED to see this exhibit.

photo: combatpaper.org

Have you heard of combatpaper.org? Soldiers transform their used uniforms into handmade paper. They then create works of art with the paper as a way to express themselves and their experiences.

AMAZING. I AM IN AWE.

Have a happy weekend and a peaceful Easter.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:11

Thursday, April 1, 2010

Paper Flower Preview

These flowers are so easy and fun to make! You get to use up lots of scraps, and better yet, you can make them with your kids.

I'll post the tutorial on Saturday. But for now, here are some of the things you can make with them:

A bracelet:

Turn it over and attach a sticky-back pin (just in time for Easter):

Remember to enter our giveaway [HERE](#), and don't forget to vote for me [HERE](#).

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 20:43

I Wish I Could Go Back

and re-shoot all of the photos

on my blog! Who knew that the way to get rid of the "yellow" is to adjust the exposure on the camera? Well, maybe one day I'll get around to reading the book that came with the camera.

I like these photos and I love this project.

It is a game tin that I bought at Target. The tin had some kind of brownish label on it. I covered it with colorful paper, used my crop-a-dile to punch a hole and connect a brad to the corner, and attached a piece of ribbon. I made sure the ribbon was long enough so that a tiny pencil could reach to the score pad.

On the inside lid I put a piece of cardstock and used some strips of paper to make a tic-tac-toe board. (The tin actually came with the game printed on the lid, but it was yucky.)

P.S. Remember to go [HERE](#) to guess which project is mine and vote for me to be one of the final ten on "So You Think You're Crafty."

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 00:32

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

It's a Boy!

First, please go [HERE](#) to vote for me to move on to the final round of ten on "So You Think You're Crafty." I can't tell you which project is mine, but if you read a little bit of my blog you might be able to guess!

Now, for today's post, my daughter was asking me

the other day if I realized that I always make girly things. She's absolutely correct! I never make anything for boys.

Well, why would I? I'm a girly-girl kinda mom, and I have two daughters. 'Nuff said, right?

Of course I thought and thought about what she said and I remembered that I made about fifty baby shower invitations awhile back for a baby boy. The mom decided that she didn't want to have a baby shower, so now I have fifty invitations on my hand! (Know anywhere that I can sell them? hee-hee!)

P.S. Why are my pictures always yellow?

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 20:32

Monday, March 29, 2010

Finding Inspiration From Bloomingdale's

Before I talk about today's project, please take the time to vote for me [HERE](#) on "So You Think You're Crafty." I can't tell you which project is mine (it's against the rules)...but try to guess and then vote!

Now for today's project...

I love my Bloomies.

I received this sale flyer in the mail a couple of weeks ago. I kept it because I thought the color scheme was interesting.

I think these colors are usually really gaudy when they're used together, but somehow they work well together in this ad. I have gobs and gobs of cardstock in these colors (they really are difficult for me to work with...I like to stick with earth tones.)

I used the ad layout as my inspiration for this card. It has turned out to be one of my favorites, which has been a pleasant surprise for me. I'm glad I got to use my gobs and gobs.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:01

Vote 4 Me!

I'm auditioning

to be a contestant in the next round of "So You Think You're Crafty." I need to be one of the top ten in the audition round to be able to participate in the ten-week-long competition. Each week we are given a category and we have to create something based on that category.

I'm not allowed to tell you which project is mine, but I think you'll be able to figure it out!

So click on the button below and vote, vote, vote! You have until Friday.

Thanks, my friends!

[Click Here to Vote](#)

The Ballot is On the Upper-Right-Side of the Page

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 12:56

Sunday, March 28, 2010

What's That Saying...

about the shoemaker and his kids?

Something about how the shoemaker is so caught up in making shoes for other people that his own kids don't have any shoes.

Well, replace 'shoe maker' with 'card maker' and I can relate.

I am so caught up in making cards for my card classes and for my blog and for other people, that when I need a card for me, well...forget it!

I desperately needed a cute baby girl card for our friends who just adopted a baby girl. All I could find was this card that I made a couple of years ago. Hey! It's pink! It even has a cute monkey on it!

Too bad it said this on the inside...

Ugh!!! Can't anything ever be easy?

Well, as a matter of fact, things can be easy!

I just grabbed a piece of white cardstock and a cute little stamp and saved the day!

(p.s. This card design is not my original creation. Unfortunately, I can't remember where I found it. If it's yours, send an email to info@ewillow.com and I will give you credit!)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 01:01

Friday, March 26. 2010

WBL

I just invented a new abbreviation for bloggerland. "WBL."

It stands for "Will Blog Later."

It makes me feel better.

It's my way of easing my guilt for not having a post ready, yet still getting the point across that you're on my mind.

I'm busy today getting my babies ready for their spring-break trip.

I know what I'm going to blog about, I just need to get them packed and help them get their rooms cleaned. You see, I told them that if their rooms aren't clean, they won't be going on their trip. (Yeah, right.)

Oh, and much to my little Erica's delight, my next project involves covering something with paper.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:43

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

{Mod Podge}

Did you know there is a blog in blogger-land that is dedicated to my new BFF, "Mod Podge?" It's the brainchild of a dear gal named Amy. Amy featured my dollhouse tutorial on her site this week. You can see it at "Mod Podge Rocks." I want to make furniture for the dollhouse, and little paper dolls, too. Too bad I have to do the laundry, huh? Oh! Don't forget! Easter is around the corner and Mother's Day is coming up, so shop for some handmade gifts for mom. There are so many cute things in our storefronts! Too many to choose from!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:21

Stuff I Can't Live Without, Part I

I'm working on another top-secret project that you'll be able to view (and vote on!) next week. So while I'm busy with that, I thought I'd share a couple of tools and stuff that I absolutely can't live without.

{Paper Snips}: these sharp little guys make cutting around corners super-easy. I can get into tiny spaces without a problem. The tips are really sharp, too, so I can poke holes with ease if I am too lazy to grab my paper-piercing tool or my punch.

{Ribbon Scissors}: I can't stress to you enough how very important it is to have a nice pair of sharp scissors that are dedicated strictly to cutting ribbon (and nothing else!) It doesn't matter how cool the creation is, if the ends of the ribbon aren't cut properly, well...it's kind of like being all dressed up and smiling and then realizing you have spinach in your teeth. I actually have a funky little keychain hanging on my ribbon scissors and I tell the people in my card classes that an alarm will sound if the scissors are used on anything else besides ribbon! They are petrified of what I will do if I see them using these scissors on paper!

{Adhesive Eraser}: This seems like such a simple thing, but it is BIG! If I make a mistake or change my mind, I can remove something that I have applied with adhesive and then erase any leftover adhesive in an instant! This eraser also gets that nasty gummy price-tag residue off of stuff. This is without-a-doubt the least expensive item in my craft area but one of the items with the most value.

{Mod Podge}: Can't live without it! Looks and feels like good old-fashioned Elmer's glue, but works like magic and works FAST, which is even better. (I still need to figure out how to work with it so that it doesn't get all over my fingers, because that makes everything get really messy and I end up getting really frustrated. Any suggestions?)

Seems kind of boring to talk about scissors and erasers, but the proper tools really do make a HUGE difference. Whenever I create things I get lost in a "zone" and it really helps to have things on hand to help me get the job done. (and remain calm.)

What are some things you can't live without?

Oh, wait! I forgot! Gotta have lots of dark chocolate on hand, too. That's a no-brainer.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 00:15

Tuesday, March 23. 2010

Re-Purposed for a Purpose

Projects for the "Day of Service."

Last year our church participated in the Day of Service. There were lots of different activities to choose from including corn gleaning, sorting clothes, and remodeling homeless shelters.

I organized a group of people who wanted to participate in serving but who had limited physical ability. We made cards that we donated to Ronald McDonald House.

The Day of Service for 2010 will be held again this year at the end of April. I'm planning on organizing another card-making group. This year, the RMH in our area is in need of "Thank You" cards.

I had to cancel my card class for March because I have just been way too exhausted trying to recuperate from this stupid mono (that I've had for months now!) As a result, I have A TON of card kits that need to be assembled. I made a couple of easy changes and turned St. Patrick's Day and Easter cards into thank you notes.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:03

Sunday, March 21. 2010

Good Things Come in Small Packages,

or so the saying goes.

I am constantly inspired by the things I see. A couple of weeks ago I was inspired by the packaging that was wrapped around the makeup-remover cloths I bought. I tore apart the cardboard, traced it, and made these cute little French-fry boxes.

I thought they would be cute Easter gift-card holders or maybe even the packaging for a surprise diamond ring. (Sorry. I had diamonds on the brain at the time. I was watching "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" while I was making them.)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:20

Friday, March 19, 2010

Doll Patio Table Tutorial

Would you like to make one of these?

If so, click [HERE](#). There are lots of steps, but it's not too difficult. If you have any questions, leave a comment below or Formspring.me and I'll get back to you asap.

Make it fun!

I'd love to see yours when your finished, so email me and I'll post your photos and link to your blog.
info@ewillow.com

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 12:38

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Coming This Friday...

I was asked to be a guest blogger on another really popular blog. I'll be sharing a tutorial of my most favorite project. Here is another sneak-peek. This time it's a peek at one of the supplies you'll need.

Check back tomorrow for the link to the tutorial. In the meantime, start gathering some fun decorative 12 x 12 paper, some 1/2"-thick foam board, and some Mod Podge. (Just to name a few of the things you'll need.)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 16:13

Tuesday, March 16. 2010

One Woman's Trash...

is now my treasure!

Last week my friend Chris asked some of us who had gathered for a meeting if anyone wanted this lovely (?) little accordian file folder. Her friend was going to throw it away.

I grabbed it from her so quickly that none of the other ladies ever stood a chance.

They were all a little shocked. Let's face it... it looks nothing like me. (YUCK!)

But in my mind, I immediately thought of the possibilities.

All it took was some paper, ribbon, and Mod Podge. The lucky little box went from this...

...to this...

...to which my daughter responded, "Mommy, why do you cover everything you see with paper?"

I don't know. I just can't help myself. ;)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:37

Monday, March 15, 2010

Doctor, I Need My Head Examined...

You know you've lost your mind when you walk into the examining room, spot these things, and immediately wish you would have brought your stamps, ink, scissors, and glue.

Yup. That was me on Friday when I took my daughter to the doctor. The nurse whipped out the paper examination gown and I instantly started thinking of all the different things I could do with it. Maybe we need a Project Runway for the paper crafting set.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:01

Friday, March 12. 2010

When It Rains,

It Really Does Pour.

And oh, boy, has it been pouring and pouring in south Florida. We've received a month's worth of rain in the past 36 hours. Flooding, flooding, everywhere.

Things have been pouring down on eWillow.com, too, and boy, did I need it! I am so tired of having mono! I needed some good news, and today I received two different pieces.

Last November I took my mom to the b-Cafe' (which is the little restaurant inside Bloomingdales) for her birthday. They had one of those little fish bowls on the counter. You could put your business card in there for a chance to win a free lunch. Well, lo and behold, all these months later I received a letter in the mail telling me that I won! Woo hoo!!! They have the best frozen yogurt. I'll bring my camera and take some pics so I can share the lunch with all of you!

In even bigger news, which directly affects eWillow.com, the site and my blog were accepted to be a part of the Momlogic network. This news deserves a really big Woo Hoo!!! (Richard, I hope to hear your Woo Hoo all the way from Singapore!)

What does it mean to be a part of the Momlogic network? Well, I'm not too sure yet, but expect too see a few good changes in the coming weeks to eWillow.com!

Have a fabulous weekend and stay dry.

And think about all the good that is pouring down on you. Even when you think you have nothing to look forward to or that your luck has run dry, there is always something to be thankful for.

See you back here Monday. I'm off to finish the secret tutorial.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:49

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Snitches Get Stiches!

I totally cracked up when I heard my friend Anna say that last week to a teenage girl who had just tattled on her friend. It's an appropriate saying for me to remember, too. In addition to shopping for the perfect pair of (non-existent) shoes, I have been busy preparing a tutorial for another blog where I will be the guest blogger next week. I am super-excited about it. One of the rules, however, is that I can't reveal my project. I totally understand and I'm more-than-willing to cooperate. So, to tide you over, here is a little sneak-peek of the project. No snitching from me!

Not much of a peek, but if you want to get a head start on the project, this is one of the supplies you will need: a piece of 1/2" foam board, at least 14" x 14".

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:48

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

If the Shoe Fits

My projects have been delayed because I have been on a search for shoes for my daughter. I know. You are thinking, "How hard can it be to find a pair of shoes?" Well, in south Florida, it can be impossible. You see, it's usually always warm here. On the few days when it's not warm, my girls just wear Converse sneakers to school. On all the other days they wear flip flops. Yup. Flip flops almost every single day.

Nearly every single pair of shoes for sale in our stores are for warm weather.

So when we are faced with the task of buying a pair of good walking shoes, we are faced with an impossible challenge. She needs a good pair of shoes for her upcoming school trip to France/Spain.

As her mom, my requirements are shoes...

*That have arch support.*That cover her entire foot.*That will protect her foot from the elements.*That she can walk in.*That are stylish.*That are appropriate for a 14 year old girl and not someone who needs orthopedic support. (Did I say that politically-correct enough? In other words, not "old people" shoes)

Oh, and they can't be made out of paper, either. So I guess these are out...

(paper shoes found [HERE](#))

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 12:06

Monday, March 8, 2010

Make Your Work "POP"

By Adding One Small Extra, Your Creation Can Go From Boring to Amazing

When I first created this card I was happy with it because I thought it had an understated elegance about it and that's why I liked it.

However, I couldn't help but feel that something was missing. I added a cute little butterfly and I'm glad I did. I think the card went from being okay to being an eye-catcher. I'm all for drama and bling!

Which one do you like better?

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:12

Sunday, March 7, 2010

Hello Butterfly

This project passed the test! When I showed it to my daughters, they both asked me to make them one with their names for their bedrooms. Impressing teenage girls is the most difficult thing to do!

I used thin cardboard coasters for the back pieces. I covered them with Stampin' Up!'s "Sweet Pea" Designer Series Paper Pack, and attached them at the corners with Mod Podge.

The "h e l l o" are chipboard letters that I painted with Stampin' Up!'s craft ink in Rose Red. I adhered the letters to the coasters with Mod Podge.

I used my Sizzix Big Shot machine to die cut the butterflies (Stampin Up!'s "Beautiful Butterflies" Bigz Die) and the thin green vine (Sizzlits "Swirly" Decorative Strip Die.) Once again, I used Mod Podge to adhere everything, but as you can see, I only adhered parts of the butterflies and vine so they would be 3-D.

I topped it off with a large brad and some ribbon for hanging.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:21

Friday, March 5, 2010

A Shout-Out for Artisans

Have you heard the news?

eWillow.com is expanding! We have opened new departments and are anxiously awaiting to find artisans who can fill storefronts in the following categories:

handmade paper jewelry
handmade paper fashion
handmade paper home decor
letterpress
quilling

For more info, please contact info@ewillow.com

Here is some inspiration for you...

Paper shoes, by designer Violise Lunn

Oh, how I wish I had all the time in the world and all the space I need to just create things all day long.

But, even though I love to create, I love being a mom even more. This weekend my schedule will be packed full. Erica (who plays the bassoon) is performing into the late hours tomorrow night at the annual band assessment. Adrienne is going to Naples (Florida, not Italy) on Saturday for Junior Statesman. I am cooking Sunday dinner (every Sunday the entire family gets together...my parents, us, and my brother and his family) and this Sunday I am cooking because I refuse to miss even one second of the Oscars. (any menu suggestions?)

I'm also in the middle of putting together a tutorial that will be featured on a delightful blog in two weeks. (I'll let you know when and where.)

SO, have a happy weekend. Spread the word to your artisan friends about eWillow.com's expansion. As Martha would say, "It's a good thing."

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 00:06

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Oh, to have been a fly on the wall

at the Chanel show

last year, when two of my most favorite things, paper and fashion, came together. I know I'm a year behind with this post, but I didn't have this blog back then, so I'm posting about this now.

When I worked as a runway model I modeled for Chanel a few times. I don't remember who designed for them back then; it never really mattered to me. The only thing that mattered was booking the job.

Fast forward to the present day when they have the very talented Karl Lagerfeld as their designer.

Guess what? Mr. Lagerfeld loves paper.

So much so that he had some very lovely paper installation pieces at his show, like this:

photo copyright Chanel

and this, which looks like it is part of the dress, but it's really the backdrop:

Look at this glorious paper headpiece:

photo copyright Chanel

Oh, to have been a fly on the wall. Or a model on the runway...

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:07

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

It's Only One Month Away...

Make a Fun Easter Card

...and ask me questions! see that new box over on the right sidebar? "Formspring.me" some questions (just type the questions in the little box) and I'll answer them for you!

now on to today's post:

I can't believe it, either! Easter is just over one month away. Holy cow!

Here is a card to inspire you and to help get you into the spring spirit.

I stamped the flower with Versa-Mark and used sponge daubers to apply chalk to the image. It's a really simple technique and I like the muted, soft look.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 17:10

Monday, March 1, 2010

Tuesday How-To: Paper Flowers

Use Shredding Scissors to Make Recycled-Paper Flowers

I found a pair of nifty shredding scissors on clearance for a buck at the pharmacy. I couldn't NOT buy them, right? Like almost everything I buy on clearance, I came home and stuck them in a drawer, knowing that one day they would come in handy.

And now, thanks to Maya, I can pull them out and put them to good use!

Look at these cool paper flowers I found on Maya's funky site called Maya * Made.

photo courtesy mayamade.blogspot.com

And look at this!

photo www.restorationhardware.com

I found a pair of shredding scissors on clearance for you [HERE](#).

Oh, and click [HERE](#) for Maya's wonderful paper flower tutorial.

Make it a great day!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 20:34

Saturday, February 27, 2010

Main Feature Monday: Yulia Brodskaya

I've been researching lots and lots of blogs for some exciting additions that are coming soon to eWillow.com. I found some fabulous quilling by Russian artist Yulia Brodskaya.

How cool is this?

Having your designs appear on the Target gift card:

and the Neiman Marcus catalog cover:

photos from <http://www.artyulia.com/>

In my book, you just can't get any cooler than that. What a portfolio! There really aren't any words in the dictionary to describe this work. Really. Check it out.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 15:00

Friday, February 26, 2010

Harps and Angels

Don't you just love them both? Guess what? I have both harps and angels in my family...

My cousin's daughters both play the harp. Her oldest daughter is graduating from college this spring, so they asked me to create invitations for her senior harp recital.

I wanted to show you what I came up with, but I also wanted to protect her identity. Please excuse the gray blocks that are covering her name and the deets of the recital.

I found a harp image online and printed it onto Stampin' Up's beautiful gold cardstock. (It is the best.) Then I printed the recital deets onto vellum cardstock (which is a little heavier than regular vellum, and also available from Stampin' Up.)

I punched a couple of holes, tied a bow with some brown silk ribbon, and punched the corners.

The harp angels love the results!

(Good luck at your recital, monny-mon! Kisses to you.)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 15:44

The Importance of Paper

Paper is so important in our culture that it has been designated as THE gift to give to a couple to celebrate their first wedding anniversary.

Hmmm...that can be pretty tricky. Here are a couple of cool things I found that would be a hit!

1) a "Families Are Forever" scrapbook, found [HERE](#)

2) check out the gifts in our "Home Decor" department [HERE](#), where you'll find over forty items to choose from, including some fabulous frames.

3) be sure to put the finishing touch on your gift with these cute gift tags, found [HERE](#). "Smooches!" That's the perfect sentiment for an anniversary, or for any time!

Want to enter a giveaway? Stay tuned for more info!

FYI...the items/links featured here were chosen at random. No compensation was given and the use of these items in my blog in no way means that I prefer one Design Vendor over another.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 01:10

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Paper Cuts

Have you ever seen the incredible art form of paper cutting? Artists use an exacto knife to create unbelievable masterpieces. Just look at this wall-hanging created by artist Julene Harrison.

This is an art form I don't think I can even begin to attempt. Isn't it incredible? I am always amazed by others' talent.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 11:36

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Pretty Rad Spring Decor

I found these snazzy wooden oval frames for \$1 each. I covered them with decorative paper, added some cut-out designs, and used a window sheet to cover them. They can be used as spring decor before, during, and after Easter...and even into the summer.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:25

Monday, February 22, 2010

Do I HAVE to Sleep?

There just aren't enough hours in the day. I am convinced. Why do I have to waste time sleeping? There are so many things I want to make, and after finding a blog called glazedmud, my list of things to make just grew. I am addicted to doll houses. Look at what I found! This gal is from Malaysia. I'm so sorry that I don't know her name. I am just really amazed by these adorable paper creations! Maybe I can convince her to open a storefront on eWillow! That sure would save me a lot of time...I wouldn't have to make it when I could just log on to eWillow.com and buy it, right?

P.S. We will be adding a new department to eWillow.com soon...stayed tuned! (and believe it or not, it has nothing to do with doll houses.)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:52

Main Feature Monday: The Art of CASING

Here in the papercrafting world we have a little acronym...CASE. It stands for Copy And Steal Everything. In other words, when we have "paper crafters block" we are encouraged to turn to the work of others for inspiration. Casing is a widely accepted, and even encouraged, practice.

Due to my lack of interest in that tacky green St. Patty's Day color, I was more than ready to CASE some St. Patrick's Day cards. I found the inspiration for these two cards from Regina, aka "The Stampin' Bean."

The first card measures 4-3/4" x 4-3/4". I like how it gets the message across without being "too green," even though it is made with all green cardstock (with the exception of a little bit of white.) I also like how the rhinestones add a little bit of bling. Thanks, Regina, for inspiring me! St. Patrick's Day is by far the most challenging category for me.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:34

Friday, February 19, 2010

Lucky Is More than a Clothing Store

Okay, I have been beating around the bush because I don't quite know how to say this. I am just going to come out with it...I don't like making things for St. Patrick's Day! Just the thought gives me hives! Nothing at all against the holiday. It's just the colors! It is almost impossible for me to work with that "St. Patrick's Day" green color. You know the one I mean?

I am going to try my best, just for you, to overcome my fear (because that's what it really is) and come up with some cute Pat's Day things.

Here is one I thought of, playing off of the "Luck of the Irish" theme of the day...

It's a little tag scrapbook, and it's meant for you to put some photos and some journaling about the lucky things in your life.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 20:38

Thursday, February 18, 2010

Euro So Cool

Erica (8th grade) had to do a project for her French class where she had to teach a lesson to the students while speaking French. She taught her lesson on the Euro. She printed out fake Euro bills and coins. Of course I couldn't allow her to just carry in some paper money and talk about it, right?! I had to make her a wallet to hold the loot... Remember THIS gift card holder?

Well, I used it as my inspiration to draw a freehand larger wallet. I attached the smaller gift card holder to the front as the change purse, and used the larger wallet for the bills.

I faux-stitched around the entire outside in the same color marker as the cardstock.

Take a closer look at the cardstock. Can you tell that it looks like suede? All I did was sand the cardstock to achieve the faux-suede look.

Pretty fun, huh?

Well, guess what? Here is the pattern for you! ([walletthree.pdf](#))

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 20:50

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Waitin' for Her Lover to Call...and It's Not Easy Using Green

I thought you might enjoy this cute pic of our cat Serena, waiting for the phone to ring on Val Day.

Now for today's project...I put all of my green scraps to good use and made this home decoration to display during the month of March. St. Patrick's Day is a difficult one for me to create for. I think it might be because green is a really difficult color for me to work with.

Get ready to see several more things made with scraps. I am really, really, REALLY loving this type of creating.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:55

Monday, February 15, 2010

The "Mall Headache" and St. Patrick's Day

While I am in the process of making some delightful projects for St. Patrick's Day, here is a story for you that I copied/pasted from my personal blog that can be found [HERE](#)...please leave a comment and let me know if you experience the same thing...and if you have, what you have done about it.

Erica and I went to the mall today. I hate going to the mall. (I know, I am as shocked as you are.) There is something in the air there that gives me a terrible headache. I call it my "mall headache." I get the same feeling every time I go. Along with the headaches, I experience a very noticeable shortness-of-breath followed by extreme fatigue. (It is a different type of shortness-of-breath than I experience when I find something really cool on clearance at Target.) It is so annoying that if I even think about the mall I start to feel the "mall headache/shortness-of-breath" coming on.

It must be something in the air. I know that Abercrombie and Fitch pipes their fragrance into the mall right outside their store. That might have something to do with it.

Before I give up on the mall all-together, I think I am just going to do a "go to one store" type of thing. Like today for example, all we really needed to do was go to American Eagle. Next time that is all I am going to do.

Better yet, Neil's new office is located in one of the buildings at the PGA entrance to the mall. I'll just send him.

Do any of you experience the "mall headache?" I am not being sarcastic...it really is a physical thing that happens to me every time, and once I get home, it takes a few hours to recover.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 16:31

Friday, February 12, 2010

Val Day ReCap

If you need some last-minute inspiration, here's a look at some of the Val Day projects from the past few weeks. I think I'm going to have to use some of them...I don't remember where I hid the Val Day gifts I bought for my girls. ;(Send gushy love notes back and forth with this cute Love Notes Tube.

Use your scraps and make a Shabby Val Day home decoration:

It's a purse:

Or an animal carrier:

To Sir, With Love:

A bucket of love:

A cute Target dollar frame:

A love card:

And a fan card:

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:41

Thursday, February 11. 2010

Friend Friday: Be Mine

I stumbled upon a fabulous blog called "The Polka Dot Chair" by accident. Isn't that how we all find most blogs? We hop and hop like little bunnies and we stop every now and then to munch on the goodies that catch our eyes. That's what happened to me when I saw a cute little skirt that Melissa made for her daughter's American Girl doll. I have mentioned a few times on here how much I love, love, love dolls and dollhouses, so I knew Melissa's blog was one I wanted to follow.

She'll be hosting an eWillow.com giveaway for you in a couple of weeks, but in the meantime, click [HERE](#) for a great tutorial on how to make this really cool Valentine's Day decoration.

Thanks for inspiring us today, Melissa!

If you would like to be featured on eWillow.com's "Friend Friday," send an email to info@ewillow.com. Can't wait to hear from you!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:27

We Have a Winner! and yes, we can still be friends

First, Congrats to DeAnn, our giveaway winner for this week. Here is what she had to say:

I love seeing everyone's creativity on display at eWillow.com

I'd probably like to try a storefront subscription.

Thanks for the giveaway.

Thank you, DeAnn! Contact us at info@ewillow.com so we can get you set up with your very own storefront!

Second, a few weeks ago my friend Meghan gave birth to a 10 lb. 1oz. baby boy! (holy cow!) Check out the cute warning note she wrote on the back of the envelope to the thank-you note she gave me...

Meghan, how could you? Oh, the horror!

That's okay...I'll give you a pass this time. I'll still be your friend. But next time, that's a different story.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:01

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's a ...

... card holder!

For those of you who don't hold the same obsession with dollhouses and all-things-little like I do, I thought you might like using this dandy little house for something other than re-living your childhood fantasies.

Guess what? This snazzy little gem is the perfect size to hold greeting cards. How 'bout them apples? (For PDF and tutorial, click [HERE](#).)

Last Day to Enter the Giveaway...click [HERE](#) for deets.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 10:15

Monday, February 8, 2010

Paper Dollhouse

Don't forget to enter eWillow.com's giveaway [HERE!](#)
Now, for today's project:

Download the PDF template (dollhouse.pdf)

I absolutely love dolls and dollhouses. I was so excited to find a tutorial on THIS BLOG that showed how to make a small fabric dollhouse. I adapted the pattern to make it work for a house made out of paper. I am pretty happy with the results! I'm not finished yet...now I have to make the people and the furniture. Oh, what fun!

Supplies:

Light-weight cardboard (I used the cardboard that comes with Designer Series Paper)

Mod Podge

Decorative Paper

Paper cutter with a scoring blade

Embellishments

Sticky-back magnets

First, cut and score the light-weight cardboard and lay out the pieces like this:

Here are the pieces with the measurements marked. (Don't panic! Just print the template and trace.)

Second, use Mod Podge to attach the pieces together like shown. Make sure all of the scored edges end up on the inside of the house.

(ignore the decorative paper that you see. this house was an experiment)

Third, is the fun part! Cover the inside and outside of the house with decorative paper.

Fourth, attach two sticky-back magnets, as shown above.

Shop around our fabulous storefronts and order some great Valentine's Day cards. I'll bet the Design Vendors will ship the cards directly to the people you want to send them to! They'll even write a personal message and sign the cards for you! Just request this at check-out.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:38

Sunday, February 7, 2010

Giveaway!

Howdy, folks! (oh, no...I think I've been playing Farmville too much!)
eWillow.com is hosting a giveaway this week right here on this site.

Here is what you need to do:

- 1) Leave a comment telling me...
 - a) what you like most about eWillow.com
 - b) if you would like a \$20 shopping spree or two free months of a storefront subscription

Enter by midnight Wednesday, February 10th (Pacific Time)

That's all!

GOOD LUCK!!!

(the storefront subscription giveaway is open only to new design vendors)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:04

Friday, February 5, 2010

Card File

I made this card file with a group of 'tweens at a summer camp I held two summers ago. It is not my original creation. (I honestly don't remember where I found the idea and pattern, so if it's yours, send an email to info@ewillow.com and I'll give you credit.)

I covered two pieces of 6" x 6" cereal boxes with decorative paper. I connected the two pieces with a fan-fold piece of paper and inserted envelopes into the folds. I attached the envelopes with double-sided tape to make them secure.

Check back tomorrow for more blasts from my past summer camps.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:21

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Love Letters Tube

To read the background info on these tubes, click [HERE](#).
Here is the before picture. Pretty boring, huh?

Here is what I came up with. Pretty simple. I made it in less than five minutes! Think "Message in a Bottle." You can use it as a tube to send love notes back and forth! Another use would be to store kids' Valentine's notes. So many uses, so easy to make, and a great way to recycle.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:10

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

"Think About It Thursday" Coming Soon

Last night a friend of mine gave me two empty plastic tubes with lids. They are about twelve inches long and have about a two-inch opening. They kind of look like those round, narrow incense holders.

I am fervently working on transforming them into something really cool, so check back later this afternoon for the finished project. See you then!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:37

What Will it Be Wednesday? A New Addiction!

Oh, no! I have discovered another way to create that I am now obsessed with! Look out!

I have some chipboard pieces that don't quite fit in my chipboard storage drawer. They are too long and as a result, they stick out and I am always bumping into them. Last night I finally had enough!

I grabbed one, because honestly I have no idea why I am saving them and not putting them to good use, and this is what I made. I want to call it "Vintage Scraps." It kind of has a vintage feel to it, and all I did was cover the chipboard in some decorative paper and then without any pre-planning, I just started glueing down all kinds of scraps that I could find on my desk and in my drawers. I gathered up small pieces of ribbon that I was saving (again, I don't know why I was saving it,) some buttons, some little flowers I had stamped and were left-over from another project...all kinds of stuff.

See that big pink flower? That has been in my drawer for a long time. I'm glad I finally found a home for it.

I hope you like this, because I think I am going to make a TON of these with different themes. It was so much fun. Plus, my girls were really impressed. And we all know how impossible it is to impress teenage girls.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 12:48

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Template Tuesday: Party Favor/Gift Bag

Click here for the template [favorgiftbag.pdf](#).

Step One

Cut a piece a Designer Series Paper or card stock to 8 1/4" x 10 "

Step Two

On the 8 1/4" side, make score lines at 1 1/2" and 7 3/4" (these will become the top and bottom of the bag)

Step Three

On the 10" side, make score lines at 3 1/4", 4", 4 3/4", 8", 8 3/4", and 9 1/2" (these will become the front, back, and indented sides of the bag)

Step Four

Remove the small rectangle piece as shown on the template

Step Five

Make cut lines as shown on the template

Step Six

Fold in bottom of bag and adhere

Step Seven

Fold in side of bag and adhere

Step Eight

Pinch sides together, decorate the outside, add some ribbon and a tag, and enjoy sharing!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:36

Sunday, January 31. 2010

Main Feature Monday

Today I am featuring all of the extremely fabulous Valentine's Day cards, gifts, and scrapbooks available for sale on eWillow.com. Take a look and I'm sure you will agree that we have some very talented and creative Design Vendors. Click [HERE](#) to buy some fun stuff for your Valentine. Happy shopping!

Coming up on Template Tuesday: a fun goodie bag template.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:15

Why Not?

Have an enjoyable and restful Sunday!

While you are enjoying your day, why not...

send a card to a friend?

make a package of cards and give them as a gift to someone who won't expect it?

make a list of all the cards you will need for the month of February?

browse our storefronts and find the perfect cards/gifts that you need?

I'll be back tomorrow with a fun "Main Feature Monday!"

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 00:38

Friday, January 29, 2010

Simply Saturday

Here is another version of the cupcake card that I posted last Saturday. For a reminder, click [HERE](#).

I used a paper crimper on the bottom piece to make it look like a cupcake wrapper-thingy.

Need a paper crimper? Click [HERE](#), then click on the "ORDER NOW" button on the top right-hand corner of the page, then enter item number 101618.

This card is so calming! It must be the soft pink colors. It also makes me really, really hungry for a cupcake. I think I might splurge and go to one of those fancy cupcake shops this afternoon. I have never been to one. Any flavor suggestions?

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:33

Thursday, January 28, 2010

Friend Friday: Picture Frame Message Boards

Wowzie! Take a look at these ultra-cool message boards, created by my friend Kim Medlock.

They are just normal picture frames with dry-erase markers attached. You just write on the glass of the frame and then wipe it off when you want to change the message.

Pretty clever, huh? Thanks for sharing this with us, Kim!

(If you would like to be featured on "Friend Friday," send an email to info@ewillow.com)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:00

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Think About It Thursday: What Can I Do With These Purses of Mine?

UPDATE! Here is the template again! [purse.pdf](#)

After I made a few of the lovely paper purses that I blogged about on Tuesday and Wednesday, I gave them a good, long look and thought to myself, "Hmmm...what I can do with these?"

Well, let's take a look.

I added some rhinestones and added more flowers to the red purse to give it a little bling. I think it has an understated elegance now:

Adding rhinestones got me to thinking...I needed a new purse for a black-tie event that my husband and I were attending. I used some Designer Series Paper that I had left-over from Halloween, added some rhinestones, and cut up an old belt for the handle:

This next purse is my absolute favorite! It ranks second on my list of all-time favorite things I have made:

I like it so much that here it is from another angle:

...and one more...

You can use this design as a mailbox for Valentine's Day cards, or fill it with candy like I did below:

Or, My All-Time Favorite...

You Can Use It As Pet-Carrier for a Sweet, Little Stuffed Animal!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:28

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Purse Tutorial

As promised, here is the purse tutorial from Template Tuesday.

Step One: cut two of each pattern, and remember to score along the score lines (Pattern: [purse.pdf](#))

Step Two: Punch holes in top and bottom of slits

Step Three: Cut out slits

Step Four: Put Sticky Strip (Double-Sided Tape) on both sides of the handle bottoms

Step Five: Punch (or cut) ovals from the tops of the purse sides

Step Six: Don't forget to score along the score lines

Step Seven: Attach the handles to the inside of one of the purse sides

Step Eight: Attach the remaining purse side to the handles

Step Nine: To close purse, bring together both purse sides

Step Ten: Put one purse handle over the top of the purse sides

Step Eleven: Put the remaining purse handle over the purse sides

That's all! I told you it was very, very easy!

I'm not finished with this purse yet... come back Thursday to see more...

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:58

Monday, January 25. 2010

Template Tuesday: Paper Purse

Murphy's Law has struck! I have spent more than two hours trying to upload the tutorial for this adorable paper purse and everything that can go wrong has certainly gone wrong. The pictures are blurry, the cropping I did is all wrong, and on and on and on. So sorry!

It's now way past midnight and I need to get some shut-eye. I'll re-take some photos and try again tomorrow. (So now you already know that "What Will It Be Wednesday" will be the instructions on how to make this little gem)

In the meantime, make sure to download the PDF template by clicking on this link: [purse.pdf](#). It really is very easy to make, so why not give it a try on your own? Believe me, I'm sure you will have a lot more success than I have had! I could have made fifty of these in the time I have wasted trying to post the tutorial!

Supplies:

- *2 sheets of Designer Series Paper (or any 12 x 12 double-sided decorative paper)
- *Paper Cutter with scoring blade
- *Oval Punch
- *Sticky Strip (or any double-sided tape)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:02

Main Feature Monday: And the Winner Is...

We had our first-ever giveaway on UCreate last week, and the lucky winner was Kristina. She could choose a complimentary three-month storefront subscription or a \$30 shopping spree. I'll let Kristina tell you in her own words about the prize she selected and what she had to say about eWillow.com:

Kristina said...

"Wow! Looks like such a fun place! I'm now a fan and can't wait to explore--I'd LOVE the \$30 shopping spree! =) Thanks SO much you guys! =) I'm so excited and love eWillow.com-- what a great idea!"

Keep reading to see what Kristina had to say about her shopping experience on eWillow.com:

"Great! That was easy! I love to make cards, but I'm running low lately and thought this would be a great way to stock up on some of them. =) SO CUTE, too! Thanks again! I'll definitely spread the word about eWillow!! Love it! "

Stay tuned for details on our next giveaway!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 00:01

Friday, January 22, 2010

Simply Saturday

Have a yummy cupcake and make it a great day!

Today's Tip: Use a paper-crimping tool for the cupcake's bottom to make it look like an authentic cupcake wrapper.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 20:12

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Friend Friday: Ahoy, Matey!

My friend Heather Medford created these lovely pirate-themed gifts for the teachers at her sons' elementary school. She covered a composition book and made matching favor boxes that she filled with Hershey's Nuggets. What a great idea! Who doesn't want a box full of chocolate as a treasure? I'm sure the teachers were thrilled to find these in their mailboxes.

Heather is one of the most creative people I know, so expect to see a lot of her projects on future "Friend Friday" posts! If you would like to be featured on Friend Friday, send an email to info@ewillow.com.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:08

Think About It Thursday: Gumballs

I found a TON of little bags of gingerbread house decorating candies on clearance for eighteen cents a bag last week! Eighteen cents? Okay, I know they are leftover from Christmas, GROSS, but how spoiled can a tiny ball of sugar actually get, right? They came in all shapes and sizes. I used some hearts in the Valentine's Day bouquet project [HERE](#). (Look closely at the small flowers in the front...see the tiny hearts in there? Eighteen cents a bag! Yippee! All I had to do was eat the colors that weren't read, white or pink.)

When I saw these little balls, I thought to myself that they looked just like tiny gumballs. Don't you agree?

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:33

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

To Sir, With Love

"What Will It Be Wednesday" is titled "To Sir, With Love" this week for two reasons. The first reason is pretty obvious: it has a flower made out of hearts as the main feature. The second reason is a little more obtuse: I was watching "To Sir, With Love" while I was making it. So now you have a little glimpse inside of how my mind works. (hee-hee!)

What you can't really see from the photos is the texture on the piece of Very Vanilla cardstock that I used as the matte. I used Stampin' Up!'s "Texture Plates Kit#4" because I wanted to enhance the matte; it looks much prettier with texture added to it rather than just as a plain piece of cardstock.

I love the texture of the flower hearts, too! For those, I used Stampin' Up!'s "Scalloped Heart of Hearts" Embossilits Die. This was the first time I have used an Embossilits Die, and of course now I am addicted.

See sidebar for product and company credits

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:48

Monday, January 18. 2010

Template Tuesday: Cup Holder Fun

Click this PDF ([cupholdertemplate.pdf](#)) for the template to create these fun and easy cup holders. You can use your imagination to decorate them for any party or holiday. They are easy enough for kids to make, too. I can't take any credit at all for the template. All I did was trace the cup holder that I used on the cup of burning hot chocolate I bought last week. It was so cold down here in sunny south Florida that there was ice on my windshield. In the twenty-seven years I have lived here, that has never happened. Yowzie!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:04

Main Feature Monday: Ready-Made Scrapbooks

I don't know about you, but for me, the thought of scrapbooking my life or the lives of my children seems completely overwhelming. It seems like such a daunting task that I often think it's better to not even attempt to begin; I live in a fantasy world of thinking that one day I will wake up and every picture will be neatly cropped and journaled in a lovely book where everything matches.

Ha! Then I wake up!

One way to make your scrapbooking an easy task instead of a mountain to climb is by scrapbooking events instead of scrapbooking your entire life.

For instance, instead of scrapbooking every single photo of our lovely Erica hitting a soccer ball for the past ten years, I would just scrapbook the individual photo taken of her by the professional photographer each year, with maybe one or two "action shots" from that year. Whew! That seems so much more do-able to me!

Below is just a very small sampling of some event-type scrapbooks that are available for sale by the talented Design Vendors on eWillow.com. To see more books like the ones shown below, click [HERE](#). To view handmade scrapbook page layouts that you can purchase and add to your own books, click [HERE](#).

Important Note: The items chosen for Main Feature Monday are just a few randomly selected products that are available for sale. These are not paid endorsements, nor are they meant to reflect my personal taste or preference of one Design Vendor or storefront over another.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 11:43

Saturday, January 16. 2010

Coming Up on eWillow.com...

Would you like to have eWillow.com's newsletter, "Paper Clips: News You Can Use from eWillow.com" delivered to your inbox? If so, click [HERE](#) to sign up.

In the up-coming Jan/Feb issue you'll read lots of fun things, in addition to learning how to use this Valentine's Day flower bouquet project as a fundraising opportunity:

Sign up now!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 15:35

Friday, January 15, 2010

Friend Friday

I'm excited to announce "Friend Friday," where I will post projects made by you!

These projects were created by my BFF, Nancy Morris. Aren't they fabulous? Nancy introduced me to stamping over ten years ago. I love having her to share ideas. She knows everything about stamping and scrapbooking. Sometimes I even ask her, "How do you know all of this stuff?" She also has an adorable craft room. Nancy is so creative and I'm glad she was happy to share these projects with all of us. Thanks, Nance!

Enjoy!

If you would like to participate in "Friend Friday," send an email to info@ewillow.com.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 11:20

Thursday, January 14, 2010

Think About It Thursday: Valentine's Day Frame

I think you will all be able to relate to the blog theme I have planned for Thursdays: "Think About It." You know the moment when you're out shopping and you find something really cool and you say to yourself, "I can make something out of this! I just need to think about it for a minute." That is kind of what was behind my past projects that I titled, "Finding Inspiration for Creativity."

A couple of weeks ago I found this cute little frame for \$1.00.

As soon as I picked it up I said, "Hmmm....what can I make out of this?" I removed the glass so that I could create a shadow-box effect by adding some depth to the embellishments. (I used pop-up glue dots. I think they work best with chipboard. They are really sticky.)

Below is the end result. I am really digging the little love birds, aren't you? ;)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 20:52

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

What Will It Be? Wednesday

Be sure to check back every Wednesday for "What Will It Be?" I'll be posting a variety of projects, techniques, and tutorials.

Today's project is a scroll card.

Supply List/Instructions:

- 1) Pencil, cut down to six inches (I think "novelty" pencils work best...you know, the ones that kids get inside their goody bags at school? They are thicker than regular pencils.) Cut off the eraser-end.
- 2) Cover the pencil with Designer Series Paper. Use Sticky Strip (a heavy-duty double-sided tape) to adhere paper to pencil.
- 3) Cut a piece of Designer Series Paper 4 1/2" x 2" longer than the envelope you use.
- 4) Tape one edge of the the envelope to one edge of the Designer Series Paper
- 5) Once you complete Step #4, attach that piece to the pencil using Sticky Strip
- 6) Loosely roll the Designer Series Paper and tie with ribbon

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:37

Tuesday, January 12. 2010

Template Tuesday: Puppet Head

Do you see the "pattern" here? (hee-hee) Today is our first "Template Tuesday." In yesterday's post, I showed you a photo of a Lucille Ball hand puppet that I created.

If you would like the template, click here: [puppetfacepattern.pdf](#) (I am not taking credit for this pattern. I found it here, but it wasn't full-size, so I had to draw it free-hand. If the original pattern is yours, let me know and I will credit it as your work)

I made paper hair, but you can use yarn or put a little hat on it, or whatever floats your boat. You can also use the pattern to make any face you want. (My girls think that "Puppet Lucy" looks kind of creepy.)

Here are the steps:

- 1) Use the pattern to create the head
- 2) Using a paper towel roll for the body, attach the head with strong tape
- 3) Dress the paper towel roll to correspond with whatever puppet face you are making.

Below are some Vogue shots of Miss Lucy.

Here is her lovely body-shot:

Her fabulous mid-shot:

And last but not least, her stunning head-shot:

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:30

Monday, January 11. 2010

Main Feature Monday: Paper Crafts and I Love Lucy

I'm starting something new on my eWillow.com blog. Since this site is dedicated to the buying and selling of handmade paper crafts, I want to make sure I take the time to highlight some of the wonderful creations that are listed for sale in some of the storefronts on eWillow.com. I'll be highlighting these products every Monday in my blog posts titled "Main Feature Monday."

This week I am highlighting a few products that go beyond the typical card or scrapbook. eWillow.com welcomes any type of paper crafter, as long as the craft is handmade and involves paper!

First, let's take a look at some of the items for sale under the "Valentine's Day" category. (To purchase any of these items, simply click on the "Valentine's Day" link located on the left-hand sidebar here).

Next, scroll down to see a "Lucille Ball" hand puppet that I made for a school project.

If you have an original paper craft idea that you would like to have featured on Main Feature Monday, please send an email with photo(s) to info@ewillow.com

Important Note: The items chosen for Main Feature Monday are just a few randomly selected products that are available for sale. These are not paid endorsements, nor are they meant to reflect my personal taste or preference of one Design Vendor or storefront over another.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:03

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Fun Flowers

Here is a fun treat. I used red-hots for one flower and red fruit snacks for the other. The red/white candies in the tin are Dots that I had left over from Christmas. (Gross, I know, but I wanted to finish this project before we left for NJ and I was out of time.) I suggest filling the tin with lots and lots of these flowers-on-a-stick! I gave up after only making two because not only did I run out of time, but because I also ran out of red candy. Just imagine how festive this gift would look if it were overflowing with flowers of different heights and colors!

First, I stamped two hearts from the Sweet Centers stamp set. Next, I cut out the hearts and punched out the centers. Then I filled the candy cups and used the large scallop circle from the Scallop Circle #2 Die as the backing of the candy cup and the actual flower.

I used the punched-out circles to cover where I attached the sticks on the back of the flowers:

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:17

Monday, January 4, 2010

All My Heart

One of my New Year's resolutions is to make bigger cards. You might remember one of my attempts (and the reasoning behind my desire) by taking a look back at this blog entry.

Valentine's Day deserves a big card, don't you agree?

This card is FULL of love! It is 6 x 6 and filled with several layers, different punched shapes, lots of dimension, and several different colors.

It was fun to use so many different tools, which of course brings me to another one of my New Year's resolutions: clean up when I'm done with a project. (yeah, right!)

Here's a list of the things I had to haul out: Sizzix Machine, Scallop Circle #2 Die, Circle Scissors Plus, Scallop Edge Punch, Eyelet Border Punch, 1/16" Circle Punch, Scallop Circle Punch, 1-3/8" Circle Punch, and let's not forget the Real Red and Whisper White Ink Pads, the ribbon, and the Sweet Centers and Holiday Blitz stamp sets. (see sidebar for product credits)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:53

Saturday, January 2, 2010

Valentine's Day Fan Card Tutorial

Supply List: Sizzix Machine, Scallop Circle Die, Paper Cutter, Cutting Blade, Scoring Blade, Tab Punch, Sticky Strip, Mini Glue Dots, Mini Square Envelopes, Assorted Ribbon, Sending Love Specialty Designer Series Paper, Purchased Lollipop Stick (See sidebar for product credits)

Step One: Cut two scallop circles

Step Two: Trim both scallop circles at 3-3/4"

Step Three: Score envelope down the center

Step Four: Punch out two tabs

Step Five: Score tabs at both ends

Step Six: Score tabs down center

Step Seven: Apply Sticky Strip (heavy-duty double-sided tape) to each scored section of both tabs

Step Eight: Place lollipop stick on center score line of both tabs and fold over to adhere tab to lollipop stick and envelope, matching the ends of each tab to each end of the envelope

Step Nine: Place a piece of Sticky Strip on each side of the envelope as shown

Steps Ten and Eleven: Adhere the straight side of each scallop circle to each side of the envelope as shown

Step Twelve: Add ribbon. (I placed mini glue dots on the lollipop stick to prevent the end ribbons from sliding off)

Inside View:

You can fill the envelope with a mini card or tag, folded money, or any type of love note! Have fun!

Posted by Charlene Harrevelld at 23:38

Friday, January 1, 2010

Finding Inspiration for Creativity

While we were in Canada last summer I found this really cool card. I used it as the inspiration for a Valentine's Day card. Here is a sneak-peek. I'll post the tutorial tomorrow. It was a little tricky to make, but I am pretty happy with the results. I still need to think of what type of card to put inside the envelope, since it is an odd size once it is folded. Any suggestions?

Here is the card I bought in Canada:

Canada card inside:

Here is my interpretation:

Here is the inside of mine:

Check back later tomorrow afternoon for the tutorial!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:52

Saturday, December 26, 2009

Simple Fun

Thanks to Natalie over at this blog, I found out about a great offer for tickets to see her perform the lead role on Broadway in *Bye, Bye, Birdie*. (She has been the understudy for Gina Gershon, but she gets to fill in for her!) As luck would have it, we'll be in that neck of the woods, so Santa just couldn't resist giving the girls this very exciting Christmas surprise!

We have to get our tickets at will-call, so I had to come up with a fun way to let the girls know about the show. I had several leftover cello bag toppers from this project, so I whipped up these festive little ornaments in no time.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 00:14

Monday, December 21, 2009

Visions of Sugar Plums Dance in My Head...

...as I try to take in the spirit of the holiday, I can't help but let my mind wonder to my next project!

Coming soon...cute Valentine's Day ideas!

Here's a little something to hold you over for the next few days until I complete some more projects. I really went overboard with the Shimmer Paint on this decorative clipboard display, but I just couldn't resist! Just look at those glitzy love birds giving each other a cute little love peck!

I used an inexpensive clipboard, covered it with Designer Series Paper and lots of ribbon, and adhered lots of chipboard hearts. The hearts are also painted with gold Shimmer Paint. I love, love, love Shimmer Paint. It dries so quickly on chipboard. I used rhinestone brads for the birds' eyes.

I like the colors in this Valentine's Day decoration. It emotes love, but without the typical red, white and pink. Enjoy!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:59

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Our Family Christmas Card

We always look like we are so happy when we take our Christmas picture. Little do you know that this yearly experience is absolutely THE MOST STRESSFUL event of the entire year! You see four fun smiles; what you don't see (or hear!) are the complaints! "I don't like my hair!" "My smile looks stupid!" "Sit this way!" "Stand over there!" "I don't like it!" "Why do we have to do this every year?"

No matter how stressful it is, we put on a happy face (for the camera) and when all is said and done, I make sure to choose a photo that everyone is happy with.

This is our card for 2009. I love the colors...they speak of warm, sunny, Florida to me. And warm it has been! We have been having record-high heat. It's kind of difficult to feel Christmas-y when it is so balmy outside, but the festive colors of this cardstock and ribbon help me forget the heat and remember the reason for the season.

I used Stampin' Up!'s Rich Razzleberry and Blue Bayou cardstock and Blue Bayou ribbon. I stamped the snowflakes with Stampin' Up!'s Whisper White craft ink. I didn't realize that our shirts match the cardstock colors perfectly! If you are making your own cards this year (I hope you are! If not, you can buy some from our fab Design Vendors) make sure to select cardstock and embellishment colors that coordinate with your photo.

This card is really easy to make. (But multiply it by 85 and you'll understand why I'm a little cranky!)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:40

Saturday, December 12. 2009

Laughter and a Cookie Exchange

Here's my contribution for my neighborhood cookie exchange. It was SO MUCH MORE FUN than baking! I used the Scallop #2 Sizzix die and Stampin' Up!'s super-duper, easy-to-use Circle Scissors Plus to cut the circles for the inlay. I added some ribbon and stapled the toppers to small cello bags.

I had to make six dozen of these, so I was happy that the candy was BOGO this week. It made the project that much sweeter!

On another note, if you want a good laugh, you HAVE to check out this video on You-Tube. It was recorded on Friday in my daughter's eleventh-grade history class. Classic! Hysterically funny! You have to watch about thirty seconds and then the fun begins! Click [HERE](#) to watch!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:33

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Tri-Fold Christmas Card

Here is a super-easy card that will certainly impress your friends!

- 1) Cut a piece of 12" x 12" cardstock in half
- 2) Score at 4" and 8"
- 3) Fold
- 4) Cut off one corner in a triangle shape
- 5) Use the cut-off triangle piece as the pattern for the other triangle cuts
- 6) Decorate and stamp and punch and embellish 'til your hearts content! (You can even use this as a mini-scrapbook! Place a photo in each section and do a little journaling. Ver, very cute.)
- 7) Use a 6" x 6" envelope for mailing (requires extra postage)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 16:00

Friday, December 4, 2009

I Needed to Do It

I had to set aside making the invitations for my sister-in-law's baby shower.

I realized that I needed to make a scrapbook to send to my mother-in-law in Canada for Christmas. (How did December get here so quickly?)

Whenever we ship anything to Canada other than a card, the shipping always turns out to take forever.

Even though I am a fan of traditional scrapbooking (I love the embellishments, and I enjoy the warmth of actual photos instead of printed images) I knew in this case, since time was of the essence, I needed to make a digital scrapbook.

I was really surprised at how easy it was. I used the pre-designed pages that are a part of Stampin' Up's "My Digital Studio." Once I got the hang of it, the process was a breeze!

Even though my first choice would have been to print the pages at home, add embellishments, and put the pages in a lovely scrapbook, in this case I chose to submit the project to an online printer that would not only be able to print the book, but also would be able to ship the book directly to Canada. I did not have time for the book to be printed, shipped to me, and then turn around and have to ship it to her.

Here are a few sample pages. The book is titled, "Through the Years," which is why some of the photos are from five years ago. It made me so sad to see how little my babies used to be!

(And yes, that really is Donny Osmond singing to me and my husband! More details on that later!)

Yes, it was fun, but I still love the old-fashioned way!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:57

Monday, November 30, 2009

Projects for This Week

Baby shower stuff!

My 47-year-old confirmed-bachelor brother finally tied the knot, and now I am going to FINALLY become an aunt! (I had given up hope!) Of course I jumped on the band wagon and I'm so thrilled to make the invitations, goody bags, decorations, etc. for the baby shower!

Stay tuned...today I am going to conquer the invitations. Photos coming soon...

If you have any ideas to share for fun baby shower games or fun projects you have made, please do! You can leave a comment below, or post photos of you projects in The Forum.

P.S. It's a boy!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 11:19

Friday, November 27. 2009

Show and Tell

As promised, here is a photo of the turkey fruit kabob I made. (It's not paper, but I thought you might enjoy it!)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 09:12

Wednesday, November 25, 2009

Happy Thanksgiving

I hope you have a fabulous day and take the time to think of the good in everything.

Here's a yummy treat!

I was so excited to find strawberry peanut butter M and M's. The colors match the card stock perfectly!

I used Soft Suede, Real Red, and Crushed Curry.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:53

Monday, November 23, 2009

Floridian Christmas

The only reason I know that it is Thanksgiving week is because the calendar tells me so. It is 90 degrees outside! Erica played in her final soccer game on Saturday and we had to use umbrellas to block the sun from sucking the life out of us.

Needless to say, it is difficult to get into the spirit of the holidays when every day feels like the Fourth of July! I was excited to find this lovely card on SCS. Thanks, Jen Mitchell, for the inspiration! The color combos are perfect for a Floridian Christmas...festive, yet tropical! Perfect, perfect, perfect! I think the next time I make this card I am going to add rhinestone brads to the center of the flowers to add some "bling" to its tropical feel.

(inspired by jen mitchell)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:51

Tuesday, November 17. 2009

...after Thanksgiving Dinner...

...grab your megaphone,
treat bottle,
and pennant flag
and retire to the living room
to enjoy some football!
(...and let the men and boys do the dishes...)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 20:35

Monday, November 16, 2009

Time to Give Thanks...

Wow! What a year it has been! Behind the scenes at eWillow.com we have been working diligently to do all we can to ensure you enjoy your experience while visiting the different areas of the site. We want to provide you with the ability to offer your products for sale, chit-chat and share ideas in the different areas of The Forum, and promote the appreciation of papercrafting. You have been able to see for yourselves how much eWillow.com has grown in these past few months.

What you haven't seen is the stuff going on behind-the-scenes. I was diagnosed with infectious mononucleosis at the beginning of September (just a few days after eWillow.com went live.) The past couple of months have been crazy, to say the least. Much of what you see was conceptualized and brought to fruition while I was laying in bed, barely able to function!

I finally started feeling better, only to have been bitten by a dog on my hand last week. Luckily the injury was minor. So, what am I thankful for?

I am thankful that even though the illness I have is one that is lengthy, it is not serious. I am also thankful that the little dog who bit me didn't cause any serious damage to my hand. I just don't know what I would do if I couldn't make cards and scrapbooks and other paper things anymore.

Here is a Thanksgiving project to give you inspiration for today. I hope it gives you the warm fuzzies and helps you to think of the good things that come by way of your trials. We all have trials. It is up to us to find the silver lining that each one brings.

On the far left is the invitation. I added some silk leaves to give it dimension. The top right-hand photo is the treat box. The bottom left-hand photo is the placecard (cute little turkey, huh?) Finally, the large right-hand photo is the centerpiece.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 11:50

Monday, November 9, 2009

Another Altered Clipboard...

Even though it's about 80 degees outside here in sunny south Florida, I can't help but thinking and feeling that it should be getting COLD! (Please, we need some relief from the heat!) It's funny how my body can sense that the weather should be changing. While I was making this clipboard, I was reminiscing in my mind about all of the fun wintery things I used to do outside as a child growing up in New Jersey.

After I decorated the clipboard, I layered a piece of clear polka-dot Designer Series Paper on top. Finally, I adhered the pop-up Christmas tree to add an even deeper dimension to the 3-D look.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:28

Friday, November 6, 2009

Did You Know...

...you can add re-inker ink to Frost White Shimmer Paint to create an infinite number of colors?

Just look at what you can do!

I painted these plain wooden signs and added Autumn Meadows Designer Series Paper to cover the bottoms.

They were so fun to make! I plan on using them as part of my fall home decor.

(Oh, no! Not ANOTHER addiction!)

I love, love, love Shimmer Paint!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:37

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

While You're Waiting...

...for photos of the project I am working on, here is another altered clipboard. This one would make a great New Year's gift. The recipient can display it in the kitchen on a plate stand or hang it in an office. It's a new twist on the 'ole at-a-glance calendar.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:51

Monday, November 2, 2009

Busy Working On...

...a Thanksgiving table setting. I have so many ideas swirling around in my mind. I found some basic table items like napkins, dishes, and bowls. I'll use these items as the canvas and go from there...I can't wait to see the outcome! I think Thanksgiving deserves special attention. It always seems to get lost in-between Halloween and the religious holidays in December. I hope I can do it justice! Stay tuned.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:44

Friday, October 30, 2009

Welcome, Fall!

I wanted to create a nice home decor item that could extend beyond Halloween.
Making altered clipboards is so very addicting!
This project is very easy and you can even have your kids help you or make their own.
Use a plate stand to display so all can enjoy!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 12:54

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Haunted House Fun...Think Outside the Card

I love that I have become the friendly neighborhood craft store. At least once a week a neighbor calls or stops by in search of some cardstock, a punch, some ribbon...you name it! The thing I love the most is helping the neighborhood kids with ideas for their school projects.

I love the challenge.

Samantha, a fourth-grader, had to come up with a scary house for a book report on a mystery book. (Yes, she was allowed to have help!)

Here is what I came up with:

The windows open to reveal the different parts of the book report, i.e. the title, plot, summary, etc.
The bellies of the the ghost and the bat even open to reveal some info!

You can easily use this for a Halloween decoration in your home.

You can post clues behind the windows,
you can use it as a countdown to Halloween calendar,
a chore chart for October...
the possibilities are endless!!!!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:30

Monday, October 19, 2009

Boo!

This project is a blast from the past. I made it two years ago, but I love to haul it out and use it every year as a Halloween decoration.

I used a three-clip clipboard, but any size clipboard will work.

You can make one for every holiday! What a fun gift!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:22

Monday, October 12, 2009

Rah-Rah! (Part II)

Can you see where I am going with this? Hmm...cheerleading, treats, can you guess? These are empty "Izze Sparkling Juice" bottles (I am totally addicted to Izze!) that I washed out and filled with yummy fall candies! (p.s. the tag on the middle bottle looks like a witches hat in the photo, but it's really a pennant with a little football on the side...hmmm, I think that might just be another hint!)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 10:46

Saturday, October 10, 2009

Rah-Rah!!

A few weeks ago I took my daughters into Chick-fil-A and was delighted to find these cute megaphones on all of the tables. I was even more delighted when the friendly manager said it was okay for me to take one home.

Below is the first part of a big project that it led to. Stayed tuned for more photos over the next few days!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 17:19

Monday, October 5, 2009

Two More Fun Masks!

Here are the final two masks for the fun masquerade doll party.
...a fancy flower...

...and a dazzling butterfly...

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 22:54

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Meow!!

As you can probably tell, I love dolls! I am so glad that I have daughters...I was able to live out my doll obsession through them! Now that they are teenagers, well, guess who gets to play with all the dolls by herself? :) Here is another mask for an American Girl Doll (or any 18" doll) masquerade party. You can adjust the length of the paper band and/or the length of the elastic head band to fit any size doll or stuffed animal. Have fun making some of these adorable masks! Why not make some and sell them in your eWillow store? You could put together a whole party with several masks and invitations!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 18:00

Friday, October 2, 2009

Not-So-Scary Skull Mask

Just add some bling, and even a skull mask won't be scary!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 21:28

Thursday, October 1. 2009

Tah Dah!!!

You were all close! It's a mask that
doubles as the cover of the invitation
for a masquerade party
for American Girl dolls. More designs to come tomorrow!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 16:22

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Hint Number 3!

Hmmm...those of you who guessed "mask" are really close! I'll post the answer tomorrow! In the meantime, here is another hint:

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 17:22

Blog Export: eWillow.com's "Paper Clips", <http://ewillow.com/serendipity/>

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Sneek Peek Part II

Hmmm...any more guesses?

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 14:35

Blog Export: eWillow.com's "Paper Clips", <http://ewillow.com/serendipity/>

Monday, September 28, 2009

Sneek Peek...

Can you guess what this is?? I know it's a spider...but what is it for??

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 16:09

Saturday, September 19, 2009

Glittery Birthday

Here is more glitz...this time I used glitter. Who doesn't like bling?

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 15:21

Thursday, September 17, 2009

A Glassy Dimension

If you look closely, you will see that I used a cool product called "Crystal Effects" and carefully applied it to the flower petals. Once it dries, the effect is a stunning glassy dimension. If you look even closer, you will see that I balanced the bling by applying some glitter to the tiny berries on the left side of the card. I love glitz!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 20:58

Blog Export: eWillow.com's "Paper Clips", <http://ewillow.com/serendipity/>

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Animal Fun!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 16:52

Blog Export: eWillow.com's "Paper Clips", <http://ewillow.com/serendipity/>

Sunday, September 13, 2009

Fun Bookmark/Card Combo

Just create a pocket-fold with your cardstock and insert a bookmark!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 16:36

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Transitions

I love these colors...they speak softly of summer, yet whisper at the hint of fall.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 12:17

Blog Export: eWillow.com's "Paper Clips", <http://ewillow.com/serendipity/>

Saturday, August 29, 2009

Well, Here We Are!

I was so very excited (to say the least) that eWillow.com officially went "live" at 6:30 pm this evening! What a memorable moment for me and my family and for everyone who has been working so tirelessly behind the scenes! Become a Design Vendor now! In a couple of weeks the entire world will be able to buy your lovely creations! Congratulations to all of you as you embark on this new journey of sharing your talents with a whole new audience!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 23:42

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

...are you READY???!!!!!

We are just a couple of days away from launching the live eWillow.com site!!!! Design Vendors, get ready to name your storefront and upload your work! You will also have the opportunity to receive your first month of storefront subscription free!

I have enjoyed reading the messages that so many of you have sent in response to the anticipated launch of the live site! I am excited, too, to open the wonderful new world of eWillow.com, where talented paper crafters can finally offer their fabulous creations for sale to the world! Just imagine the limitless possibilities as we join together to create, sell, buy and share. Jump on board and enjoy the ride with me!

Keep checking back and very soon you will be able to get started!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 12:22

Friday, August 21, 2009

I Hope You Have a Whale of a Good Time...

...creating your own bookmarks!!! Here is another cute one!! Guess what? I've posted the measurements and instructions, too, so have a fun weekend making your own!!! I hope to see lots of your creations for sale on your VERY OWN STOREFRONT on eWillow.com!!!!

Here are the instructions!

Bookmark Case:

*Cut a piece of cardstock 4-1/4" x 7-3/4"

*Draw a pencil line at 1-1/16" (use the outside left edge of the ruler on the paper cutter as a straight-edge guide)

*Score at 2"

*Draw a pencil line at 2-7/16" (once again, use the outside left edge of the ruler on the paper cutter as a straight-edge guide)

*Score at 4"

*Punch two 1-3/8" circles (the width of the punch apart) inside the pencil lines

*Fold on score lines/ *Adhere with sticky strip

Bookmark: *Cut a piece of cardstock 1-7/8" x 8-1/2" (or longer, depending on how long you want the inside piece to be)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 18:58

Blog Export: eWillow.com's "Paper Clips", <http://ewillow.com/serendipity/>

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Another Fun Bookmark!

The possibilities are endless!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 11:31

Monday, August 17, 2009

Really Fun Bookmarks...Part I

I came up with this design a few years ago for a swap. It took me ALL DAY to figure out the correct dimensions. I wanted to be able to make two bookmarks from one piece of 8-1/2" x 11" cardstock. It made my brain hurt trying to figure it all out, but I am happy with the results! I will be posting more designs later this week, followed by the instructions so that you, too, can make these little darlings!!!
Here is a little monkey peeking out at you!!!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 11:44

Saturday, August 15, 2009

I Must Really Love My Job...

...because once again I am going to say that these cute little gift card/money holders were so much fun to make!!!!
Once I started, I couldn't stop!!!!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 00:58

Monday, August 10, 2009

A Few More Gift Card/Money Holders...!

Here are a few more samples...

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 17:30

Tuesday, August 4, 2009

Another Perpetual Birthday Calendar

I tweaked the calendar I was inspired to make by this piece of mail into a stand-alone perpetual calendar that I can keep on my desk.

I adhered two pieces of 8-1/2" x 11" cardstock together to create the base.

Why don't you make one and give it to your child's teacher on the first day of school? It makes a great gift and it's a great tool for teachers to use to record the students' birthdays!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 08:16

Monday, August 3, 2009

CHA Report!

Nancy, Me and Erica in our eWillow.com aprons!

We enjoyed meeting Daven and Lori from Splitcoast Stampers

I auditioned to be "The Next Crafting Diva!"

I didn't know they were holding auditions, so I didn't have a demonstration planned. I found Dave from MuddPuddles.net demonstrating his sand invention (it is a fabulous product that has the glue already mixed in with the sand!) Dave was such a good sport! He agreed to let me interview him for my screen test. We had a blast!!! Hope to see you all next year at The Craft and Hobby Association Summer SuperShow!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 11:00

Blog Export: eWillow.com's "Paper Clips", <http://ewillow.com/serendipity/>

Thursday, July 30, 2009

CHA Summer SuperShow!!!

We'll be there... Friday, July 31st!!!!
The 2009 Craft and Hobby Association, Inc. Summer SuperShow

Be sure to say hello!!!!!!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 10:56

Tuesday, July 28. 2009

Finding Inspiration for Creativity, Part II

I received this piece of mail awhile ago. The minute I saw it I knew it would serve as a fantastic template for so many great projects!

The first thing I made was this perpetual birthday calendar folder. It was so easy!

Here is a look at the inside:

A closer look:

(By the way, the piece of mail was also the inspiration for the card from my previous post)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 09:17

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Changing Things Up a Bit!

I have been wanting to make some cards using a full piece of cardstock. I think special occasions, like weddings for instance, call for a card that is larger than the usual 4-1/4" x 5-1/2". Here are two photos of my first attempt. The measurements of this pocket-card are 5-1/2" x 8-1/2".

You will notice that I didn't stamp a sentiment on the inside note card. I think it is nice to write my own thoughts every now and then!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 11:34

Saturday, July 18. 2009

Pop-Up Birthday Card

When you untie the bow on the front of this card, it pops open to reveal a very cute birthday cake inside! I want to figure out a way to have confetti pop out of the top of the cake. Any suggestions?

Supply List for Pop-up Birthday Card Paper: Bermuda Bay (#115317), Brilliant Blue (#100721), Crushed Curry (#115319), Melon Mambo (#115320) and Whisper White (#100730) cardstock; Tall Tales Designer Series Paper (#115678) Ink: Brilliant Blue (#100691) and Melon Mambo (#115654) Classic Pads Markers: Brilliant Blue (#100057), Crushed Curry (#116329), and Melon Mambo (#116329) Stampin'™ Write Markers Ribbon: Bermuda Bay ½" Polka-Dot Grosgrain Ribbon (#115610), Hemp Twine (#104199) Punches: Eyelet Border (#113692), Scallop Oval (#114889), Large Oval (#107305), ¾" Circle (#107217) and ½" Circle (#104390) Punches/Accessories: Metallic Eyelets (#105319); Sticky Strip (#104294) Tools: Crop-a-Dial (108362); Sizzix Big Shot® Die-Cut Machine, Sizzix® Pop-Up Three-Tier Cake Bigz XL Die, Sizzix® Extended Cutting Pads, Sizzix® Extended Premium Crease Pad

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 15:41

Monday, July 13, 2009

Cute Baby Gift Idea!!!

Even though little Edie is seven months old, I really hope her beautiful mommy can put this fun gift to good use in her nursery! It was tons of fun and very easy to make! When I found these adorable little frames I immediately knew what I was going to do with them!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 17:18

Thursday, July 9, 2009

Quick and Easy Gift Idea

Here's a fun mini clipboard gift idea. It's so fun to make, but even more fun to share! You can clip little love notes or a cute photo on it. You can also attach a magnet to the back, stick it on the fridge, and put a "thought of the day" on it for everyone to see! Leave a comment with some other fun ideas you can think of!

SUPPLIES: Paper: Simply Scrappin' Kit Sunshine Garden Accessories: On Board Book Basics Small (#110712)
Ribbon: Apricot Appeal (#109040) and Whisper White (#109025) 1/4" Grosgrain Ribbon Purchased: Clips

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 17:02

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Yummy!!!

I know this isn't a paper craft, but I just had to share! It's been more than a year since we had the inside of our house freshly painted. One of the walls in our kitchen has remained bare while I have searched and searched for the most perfect thing to hang. I finally found the perfect thing! I purchased blank white canvases and painted them with acrylic paint a couple of shades lighter than the color of the wall. After the canvases dried, I applied Stampin' Up!® Definitely Decorative® "Eat & Decor Elements" in chocolate. I think it was worth the wait! I realized that these wonderful vinyl accessories are very fun and easy to use.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 15:44

Sunday, July 5, 2009

A Look Back...

The only thing I love more than the colors on this scrapbook page is the adorable little girl in the photo!!!! I love how Erica's freckles "pop" when she is in the sun; that's why I named this page "Freckles." Not only does this page remind me of our little freckle girl, but it also reminds me of why it is so important to date my photos...I didn't date this one, so now I have to go back and look through piles of photos to try to figure out when this picture was taken. Shame on me!!!! P.S. This scrapbook layout would also look great framed in a shadow box. (Images copyright Stampin'™ Up!®)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 19:10

Friday, June 26, 2009

A Fun Summer Project You Can Do with Your Kids!

You and your kids can put your lazy summer days to good use by working on this fun project! It's easy, fun, and useful! Just take an inexpensive composition notebook, some decorative paper, some embellishments, and a dash of creative juice and see what you come up with! I used Modge Podge to adhere the paper to the notebook. I also used drywall tape (yes, drywall tape!) to add some flair to the binding. This project is a great way to put your old scraps of paper, ribbon, and embellishments to good use! Just think how stylin' your kids will be when they go back-to-school with these jazzy notebooks! You could even have your kids help you make a bunch and sell them in your very own eWillow.com store!!!! The storefronts will be up and running soon! (Images copyright Stampin' Up!®)

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 04:33

Monday, June 22, 2009

Serendipitous

This beautiful chandelier adorns the ceiling of the wonderful "Serendipity 3" restaurant in NYC.

It is a unique lighting masterpiece that served as my inspiration for this scrapbook layout:

The staff of eWillow.com enjoyed a yummy and fun-filled day. We held our very first board meeting at Serendipity and then bopped around the city. Here I am with Deanna Fox of Baker Public Relations. Deanna is head of PR for eWillow.com.

Sharon Allen and I ventured over to Times Squares to enjoy the hustle and bustle of the city. Sharon is eWillow.com's Vice President of Personal Assurance Leaders and acting Head Personal Assurance Leader.

These are my daughters, Adrienne (16) and Erica (13). They are enjoying Serendipity's famously delicious frozen hot chocolate. Erica will be putting her knowledge of the latest technology to good use as eWillow.com's social networking updater.

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 06:36

Monday, June 1. 2009

Mission: Possible!

My very good friend Beth White has served as the PTO President for our local middle school for the past three years. During that time, she has asked me to create several thank-you gift items to give to the local business partners and volunteers who have so graciously donated their time and money to the school. This year, Beth wanted to express her thanks to her fellow PTO board members at their final meeting of the year. My mission: create a beautiful thank-you item that could not only function as a very special heartfelt gift, but also could serve as a gift-card holder. Below are two photos of what I came up with.

Youâ€™ll notice that I slipped the gift card underneath the bow. Once the recipient removes the gift card, they can replace it with a photograph and then hang the board by the ribbon or place it on a plate stand. I have a feeling my daughters and I are going to spend some rainy summer days creating lots of these in different sizes and styles!

Supply List Paper: Naturals Ivory cardstock; Good Morning Sunshine Designer Series Paper Ink: Chocolate Chip Classic Pad; Chocolate Chip and Old Olive Craft Pads Ribbon: Twill Tape Punches: Designer Label Punch Accessories: Blooms Again Die Cuts; Summer Sun Corduroy Buttons; Styled Vanilla Hodgepodge Hardware; Book Basics Small Tools: Crop-a-Dialâ„¢; Crafterâ€™s Tool Kit; Stampinâ€™ Sponges Purchased: canvas board (bottom layer); coaster (top layer); ribbon for hanging

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 13:06

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Vignettes

When I think back to the cards I made as a new stamper seven years ago, I just cringe! I actually thought I was "so cool" because not only did I stamp a flower onto a piece of cardstock, but also because I used a piece of ribbon! Over the years I have learned more about the art of paper crafting and I have incorporated different techniques and eye-catching elements. I owe most of what I have learned to other stampers. One such stamper who really inspires me is Michelle Fischer from the lovely state of Washington. One reason I really love her cards is because she uses what I like to call "little vignettes" on her creations. Instead of having one focal point, Michelle often has a few different things going on at the same time. What makes her work so magical to me is that her little vignettes all gel together to form a cohesive work of art.

Here are a couple of cards I created using vignettes. Thank you, Michelle, for inspiring me!
"Good Friend" Card One

Stamp Set: Good Friend Paper: Blue Bayou, Chocolate Chip, Kiwi Kiss, Summer Sun and Whisper White cardstock; Good Morning Sunshine Designer Series Paper Ink: Chocolate Chip Classic Pad Markers: Chocolate Chip and Summer Sun Stampin' Write Markers Ribbon: Blue Bayou 5/8" Striped Grosgrain Ribbon Punches: Scallop Edge and Scallop Square Punches Tools: Crafter's Tool Kit
"Good Friend" Card Two

Stamp Set: Good Friend Paper: Blue Bayou, Kiwi Kiss, Summer Sun, Tangerine Tango and Whisper White cardstock; Good Morning Sunshine Designer Series Paper Ink: Tangerine Tango Classic Pad Markers: Chocolate Chip and Old Olive Stampin' Write Markers Ribbon: Tangerine Tango 5/8" Striped Grosgrain Ribbon Punches: Spiral Punch Tools: Big Shot Die-Cut Machine, Texture Plates Kit #4, Texturz Impression Pad, Texturz Silicone Rubber
"Unforgettable Friend" Card

Stamp Set: Happy Heart Day Paper: Kiwi Kiss and Real Red cardstock; Watercolor Paper; Rockabilly Specialty Designer Series Paper Ink: Black Staz-On Ink Pad Ribbon: Real Red 5/8" Grosgrain Ribbon Accessories: Vintage Brads; Watercolor Wonder Crayons; Aqua Painter Punches: Ticket Corner Punch; Tag Punch and Small Tag Punch
"Flower Button" Card

Stamp Set: Baroque Motifs Paper: Basic Black, Cameo Coral, Pink Pirouette, and Whisper White cardstock; Raspberry Tart Designer Series Paper Ink: Kiwi Kiss, Rose Red, and Pink Pirouette Classic Pads Markers: Old Olive and Rose Red Stampin' Write Markers Ribbon: Kiwi Kiss/Very Vanilla Satin Ribbon Accessories: Button Latte Designer Buttons Punches: Scallop Edge Punch Tools: Big Shot Die-Cut Machine, Sizzix "Scallop Circle #2 Die, Coluzzle Cutting System; Crafter's Tool Kit

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 05:48

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Finding Inspiration for Creativity

I found an adorable Valentine's Day gift-box at the local craft store. I fell in love with it; I especially love the folds on the sides and the handbag style on the top. I bought it, brought it home, took it apart, traced it onto a piece of cardstock, and viola! I turned it into a creation of my own! I wanted to give it a purpose other than a gift box. I covered the inside with decorative paper, created some pockets, and filled the pockets with note cards, envelopes, and gift tags! This makes a wonderful hostess or teacher gift!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 16:41

Sunday, May 17, 2009

Welcome to My Blog!

I am so excited to welcome you to eWillow.com! I created eWillow.com to fill a void that is long over-due in the paper-crafting industry. There are websites upon websites that sell all of the gadgets and supplies to make paper crafts, but no site that offers an exclusive place to sell the finished product. I don't know how many times someone has said to me, "Can you do what you do, I'm not creative!" or "I don't have the time!" or my all-time favorite... "Can I just pay you to make it for me?" These reactions tell me that yes indeed, people DO appreciate handmade paper-crafts. Let's face it! In this day and age of email, texting, and instant messaging, how often does someone actually even send a greeting card, let alone a handmade one? On the other hand, how extremely exciting is it to open the mailbox and see a piece of mail that is personally addressed to you! How boring and impersonal is it to look at pictures on a computer! Who wouldn't want a beautifully handmade scrapbook to place on their coffee table to show off their wedding photos, or the birth of their baby, or their trip to Europe? Who wouldn't want to give a beautifully handmade scrapbook as a gift to a new couple, or new parents, or even to grandparents? Scrapbooks are timeless! Handmade ones are even better! I wanted to provide a meeting place where people like me, who love to create paper crafts, can unite with people who appreciate paper crafts but do not have the time to make them; a place where paper crafters can create and sell their products to people who will buy the creations and then share the creations with others by sending a card or showing off their memories! Check back for project ideas, tutorials, and video demonstrations! And don't forget to open your storefront so you too can create and sell to those who wish to buy and share!

Posted by Charlene Harreveld at 18:00