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Cards to Remember

What Would Martha Stewart Do With Holiday Cards Still Sitting Around?

By BETH DECARBO

Problem: You have a stack of cards you got for the holidays and they're just too pretty to throw away.

Solution: Preserve your favorites as keepsakes and inspiration, says omnidecorator Martha Stewart. "I'm a saver, I'm a filer and I have an archive that fills a whole building," she says.

Ms. Stewart says she receives more than 1,000 cards at her two homes and office. Each is opened and cataloged to ensure the sender gets a card in return. The cards are filed in a box, then culled at the end of the holidays. "I save my favorite 20 cards for the year. I save my card from the White House." She also keeps the photos of her friends and their families. "I like to track the growth of my friends' children," she says.

Some are also used as inspiration for her work. "There might be a design on the card that we love and we might incorporate that in a card for *Crane*," she says of her stationery line with Crane & Co. She says some cards have designs that could be decouped in craft projects. Her staff at Martha Stewart Living suggests cutting out letter shapes to make monogram gift tags. Other shapes, like a dove, snowman or wreath can be cut out and affixed to gift boxes or made into ornaments.

Not a crafter? Those used holiday cards can be turned into new cards as part of the St. Jude's Ranch for Children Recycled Card Program. Mail the fronts of your cards to 100 St. Jude's St., Boulder City, Nev., 89005 before Feb. 28. For more information, go to stjudesranch.org.

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