American Family
It's about what matters most.

Recordando Nuestra Familia
(Remembering Our Family)

Major funding for the AMERICAN FAMILY television series is provided by Johnson & Johnson, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and PBS.
# American Family Album

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Your family, like the Gonzalez family, has remarkable and treasured stories! The Gonzalez family also represents the enduring value of family that is so important for Latinos. We’ve developed the American Family Album to suggest ways to record and share your family’s stories, understand your heritage, and leave a legacy behind. Best of all, creating a heritage album offers family fun now … and far into the future!

Think of it as the ultimate page-turner: true-to-life characters, heart-stopping events, majestic deeds, and comic mishaps. All are captured in cherished family photographs, cuadros, which you can preserve within an album to be passed down and shared with future generations. Your personal, handcrafted album will record for all time the family, friends, pets, events, and places that have touched your life. It’s your American Family Album – designed with love, thought, and passion to create wonderful memories – mil memorias – to be enjoyed by you and your family now, and for many generations to come!

The first Latino drama series ever to air on broadcast television, AMERICAN FAMILY premieres on PBS in January 2002. This heartwarming drama reveals the enduring strength of family in America today as it chronicles the lives of the Gonzalez family of East Los Angeles. Jess Gonzalez (Edward James Olmos), a Mexican-American barbershop owner is the Gonzalez family patriarch. Berta (Sonia Braga) is his wife of many years. Their grown children include Nina (Constance Marie), Esteban (Esai Morales), Vangie (Rachel Ticotin), Conrado (Kurt Caceres) and Cisco (A.J. Lamas). Nina has moved back home following a family tragedy. She must make the difficult choice between her dreams of a career in Washington, DC, or staying home to help raise Pablito, her brother Esteban’s son. Esteban struggles to rebuild his life after serving time in prison. Flamboyant Aunt Dora (Raquel Welch) lives next door and adds spice to everyone’s life. All the while, Cisco, the youngest sibling, secretly videotapes the family’s antics and posts the “family drama” on his Web site. Together, they form an American family living through the universal struggles and triumphs of daily domestic life.

The 13-part AMERICAN FAMILY series was created by Academy Award-nominated director Gregory Nava (El Norte, Selena), and is produced by his production company, El Norte Productions, and KCET/Hollywood in association with The Greenblatt Janollari Studio and Fox Television Studios. Copyright © 2001 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. The series is filmed in high definition format. Major funding for the AMERICAN FAMILY television series is provided by Johnson & Johnson, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and PBS.
What stories will your album tell ... and where will you begin?

In AMERICAN FAMILY, you meet three generations of the Gonzalez family – patriarch Jess Gonzalez, his children and grandchildren. You, too, may want to tell the history of your family, beginning with your grandparents or great-grandparents. Or, you may want to focus on a single milestone event, such as a marriage, your child’s birth, quinceañera, or 50th wedding anniversary. Perhaps, you want to record all the events in a single year ... or a decade of holiday celebrations.

Which events have brought your family together or marked a turning point ... and how will you commemorate them?

Consider baptism, confirmation, birthday, first day of school, welcoming your child from sixth-grade camp, prom night, graduation, family vacations, special visits with grandparents, going away to college, and buying your first car or a new home.

More than just your priceless photographs, your album will be enriched by art materials and mementos, and you’ll use special patterns, journaling, and graphics to dramatize your stories. You’ll find sample pages and “how-to” information on everything you need ... right here! Since some words may be new to you, we’ve explained their meanings in a glossary at the end. These words are highlighted in red.
Fun For The Whole Family!

All generations of your family can enjoy creating your album together, sharing a sense of family while you share memories of special events.

- Children can provide drawings and help to choose photographs.
- Teens and adults can take photographs, interview relatives, and search the Internet for information, fonts, and clip art.
- Someone may create a family Web site, or contact existing family or hometown Web sites.
- Older family members can share historical knowledge, photographs, and keepsakes.

Your album can express the personality of the family as a whole and of each member individually. Each family member can even have his or her own special page.

When it’s finished, keep your album alive! Read the pages together with your loved ones, share your feelings and memories, and use it for creative storytelling.
Be Creative

Look at the samples of American Family Album pages we’ve created for you, with patterns so that you can copy them – or add your own creative touches. You have endless choices in papers, album techniques, and graphics to highlight your photographs and mementos.

Lasting Memories

Creating a family album or scrapbook is one of those very special activities that offers tons of FUN while, at the same time, you’re doing something meaningful – and lasting. Look for photographs of loved ones and special occasions that stir your memories and tug at your heartstrings. Add treasured mementos – souvenirs you can look at and touch – to make those memories more vivid.
Your American Family Album can be a unique and personal gift for your children, a grandparent, or the whole family, given for a special occasion, such as a birthday, wedding, or holiday. Your album offers people you love a way to relive the special moments you shared – the beautiful smiles and mementos that create the memories of our lives, recuerdos de nuestras vidas.

Family Heritage

Through exploring your connections to the past, you’ll gain a deeper sense of who you are! Pictures and memories merge … and seemingly come alive.

Add family heritage elements to enhance family pride and honor your family. Heritage elements may include a family tree, a timeline, photographs, documents, and memorabilia.

You can also preserve your family’s memories and history in a way that celebrates your cultural heritage. The result – your album will become a cherished family heirloom.
Heritage Quilts

Many ways are available to record and preserve your family history. Heritage quilts, for example, have a long tradition in many cultures, and their use in recording and preserving family history is much like a family album. Quilting is a method of sewing together pieces of fabric, or patches, to form wonderful patterns. Sometimes called “patchwork,” this universal craft is an American tradition that began as a way to recycle woven materials. Similar techniques can be found in the vibrant quilts of handwoven guipiles (blouses) stitched together by Mayan women in Guatemala, as well as in the three-dimensional arpilleras (art quilts) made in Peru.

So, we created patchwork quilt patterns for you to use in your American Family Album … using paper and glue instead of fabric and thread! Each page of your album, and each member of your family, is an integral part of your heritage quilt. Each family in America adds to the richness and diversity of our cultural heritage.

Genealogy

Join the many Americans who are fascinated with genealogy. The Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research (www.SomosPrimos.com) cites the value of “walking in the footsteps of your ancestors.” The Internet makes it easy to find land records, school records, historical maps, and U.S. Census records. You can even take online classes and network with other genealogy researchers. Discover why family members may have left their homelands, and follow their movements once they arrived. Trace any name changes that occurred when your family immigrated to the United States. Sometimes syllables are dropped, letters are changed, names are translated into English or Americanized, or clerical errors are made. Along the way, you’ll expand your knowledge of history, sociology, geography, religion, language, and law.
10 Easy Steps To An Heirloom-Quality Album

Follow these 10 easy steps to create your heirloom-quality *American Family Album*. You'll find sample pages, patchwork quilt and free-form patterns, “how-to” instructions in English and Spanish, and creative ideas to support a range of family and community activities. Enjoy the process as you walk down memory lane to gather your treasured stories. Have fun!

1. Get organized
2. Decide on your theme and color scheme
3. Gather your supplies and materials
4. Plan the order or “flow” of your album
5. Design your pages
6. Create temporary layouts
7. Mount and mat
8. Special effects
9. Add journaling
10. Add the finishing touches
1 Get Organized

Set up Your Work Area

- Ideally, set up a good-sized table in a quiet, clean area with plenty of artificial light. (Sunlight is harmful to paper.)
- Have enough room to lay things out and leave them out, if possible. If necessary, cover the table with a cloth when you are not working. If your materials are out, and easy to access, you’ll find more time to work on your album!
- Provide storage for your supplies when not in use and to protect your work in progress, such as unfinished pages or items that are drying.
- Use lots of scrap paper to protect surfaces and your work when you are cutting and gluing.

Collect and Identify Your Photographs and Memorabilia

The real fun begins when you start to collect and identify the photographs and mementos that you MAY want to include in your album. On the back of each item, using a temporary sticker or writing very lightly along the edge with a pencil, identify the person, the approximate date, and the event, if necessary. It’s okay if some items are too large to fit on the page – these can later be trimmed or photocopied and reduced. Not every item will end up in your finished album, so collect everything that seems meaningful now. Later on, you can pick and choose more carefully.

Here are some ideas to keep in mind when selecting your photos:

- Photos that are meaningful to you
- Photos that tell a story
- Photos that show family history
- Photos that tell who you and your family are
- Photos that fit your theme (if applicable)
- Quality of photos is important, but not essential; keep in mind that photos can be repaired
- Overall your goal should be to capture and keep the moment and make the moment last
- A smile is worth 1000 words

BEFORE YOU CUT OR PASTE:

DO use acid-free, archival papers and adhesives.
DO remove all rubber bands, staples, safety pins, and paper clips.
DO use preservation materials listed in the Resources section.
DON’T cut up or write on original photographs unless you have duplicates or negatives. Make photocopies, if necessary.
DON’T cut up or write on legal documents. Make copies, if necessary.
DON’T trim old Polaroid photographs – they contain a caustic substance.
Along with photographs, be sure to include some mementos, such as:

- Matchbooks, napkins, coasters
- Notes, letters, telegrams, postcards, greeting cards, Valentines, gift tags
- Family recipes, sewing basket notions
- Invitations, announcements, certificates, and documents (birth, graduation, baptism, first communion, marriage, death, immigration, passports, military service)
- Report cards, ribbons and awards, diplomas
- Children’s drawings and/or stories
- Baby teeth, locks of hair
- Currency (paper and coin), tokens
- Ticket stubs, postage stamps, luggage labels
- Maps, sheet music, blueprints
- Keys, charms
- Woven textiles, embroidery, lace
- Buttons, ribbon, fabric, handkerchiefs, feathers
- Fishing lures (snipped for protection!), cigar bands, scorecards
- Confetti, streamers, crepe paper
- Religious mementos, such as escapularios, rosary beads (rosario), or retablos
- See additional ideas under The Cover (Design Your Pages)

For a wedding, look for:

- Wedding invitation
- Swatches from gown or veil, bridesmaid’s dress
- Gift wrap swatches and ribbon
- Pressed flowers or corsage
- Rice collected
- Candid and formal photographs
- List of the guests or table seating chart
- Wedding vows (or a phrase from)
- “Something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue.”
For a **special birthday celebration**, you might want to include:

- Birthday invitation
- Gift wrap swatches and ribbon
- Birthday cards
- Birthday candle
- Candid photos
- List of people and gifts received
- Horoscope, newspaper headline
- Birthday person's special memories of the event
- On This Day (List of top 10 songs, current movies, TV shows, celebrity event, popular expressions)

For a **baby's page**, include memorabilia such as:

- Birth announcement
- Shower invitation
- Gift wrap swatches & ribbon
  - Ultrasound pictures
  - First photo of baby; photo with proud parents
  - Hospital bracelet (mom and baby)
  - Handprints/footprints
  - Cards
  - Gift list
  - Lock of hair
  - Baby bracelet
  - First photo at home, photo of nursery
  - List of possible names, explanation or meaning of chosen name
Create Groupings

Sort your photos and memorabilia into smaller collections, or groupings – items related to a subject or theme such as a person (or persons), an event (for instance, a family gathering or a holiday), anything you choose. If you place each small collection into a clear sheet protector or a folder, you will then be able to see everything in that grouping at a glance. Very old or vintage items should be especially well protected. A color scheme may already be coming together within certain groupings. Now you can begin to see your album taking shape!

2) Decide On Your Theme and Color Scheme

Ideas for Album and/or Page Themes

Decide on the focus or theme of your American Family Album. Here are some suggestions:

- Our Family Tree
- Timeline
- Then & Now
- Mothers and Daughters/Fathers and Sons
- A Special Vacation
- A Loved One
- Everyday Family Traditions (dinner at a certain restaurant, game night, Sunday mornings)
- In Memoriam
- A Day in the Life
- Quinceañera
- Family Pet(s)
- Our Family Reunion
- School Pictures
- Our New Home or Neighborhood
- Special Anniversary
- Youth Sports Teams
- Family Recipes
- Holiday Celebrations
- Our Family
- Cuadros de Familia
What About Color?

Color is a vital part of your album … and offers you many creative choices. You may want to have a unifying color scheme, called a palette, for the entire album; or you may want to use selected colors throughout your album to suit the story told by your photographs.

- If you’re doing a holiday album, for example, you may want to use red, green, and white for your pages on Christmas / Día de Navidad.
- To record a festival or birthday, use vibrant colors such as orange, bright yellow, and magenta.
- If your family enjoyed a summer vacation at the beach, you may want to use blues and beiges.

Whatever you decide, you’ll probably want single pages and two-page spreads to have unifying color schemes.

Use color to illuminate a photograph, set a mood, and provide balance and contrast. Generally speaking, “warm” colors such as red, orange, and yellow seem to jump out at us and make us feel happier. “Cool” colors such as blue, green, and purple seem to move into the background and make us feel calmer.

You can use the color wheel to choose colors in one area for a harmonious effect, or use complementary (opposite) colors for a more dynamic impact. Or, forget the so-called rules and just have fun with color!

### The Color Wheel

Experiment using the color wheel to find the right color scheme, or palette, for your pages. Here are some suggestions:

- **PRIMARY COLORS** – use red, yellow, and blue for a very bold look.
- **COMPLEMENTARY COLORS** – use purple and yellow, blue and orange, or red and green for the most contrast.
- **ADJACENT COLORS** – use colors next to each other on the wheel for harmony.
- **MONOCHROMATIC COLORS** – use lighter and darker tones (tints and shades) of one color for a subtle effect.