

The Gift of a Hand Made Card

By Barbara Eastwick

Have you noticed the large assortment of card making magazines on the market today? They offer you stylish options for making cards that look like pieces of art. There's a good reason why these magazines have become so popular of late, and it's really psychological. In our world of email and quick cell phone calls, we're beginning to miss our connections to the people we care about.

It is a part of human nature to need social interaction – family and friends. In most societies these people live together, or in the same community, and are a part of each other's every day life. There is ample opportunity to express how you feel (good or bad), and share the events of your day, whether they be momentous or mundane. When people are interacting on a basis this personal, they are filling the need to care about others, and to be cared for, as well.

I see many of the people I know living far from their families, and the people they grew up with. Their daily lives are full, and almost

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every minute is accounted for. And yet, there is still the need to connect to their people 'back home'. And here, I believe, is a part of the reason why card making has become so popular.

Card making is a grassroots, hand made projects that anyone can do. All the while the card creator is designing, crafting, and writing in the card – they are doing so with the warm feelings for the recipient. The time, the thought, the energy are not lost. The person opening the card receives all of the care and consideration the sender enclosed.

A friend makes the point "Ask yourself one question: A pile of mail sits on your counter, which envelope are you going to open first? – it's always the handmade personalized envelope." And he's right - your first thought won't be to open the office supply standard envelope, with the computer generated mail inside. Your hand is going to reach for the envelope that says "someone was thinking of me, and took the time to make me this card." And those feelings that person gets, when they reach for that envelope, make it worth every minute of the card maker's time.