

## Digital Doctor

## What To Do With Your Digital Images?

By Stu Gershon

One of the wonderful features of digital photography is the creativity you can bring to bear on your digital images. In future articles we will discuss basic and intermediate editing techniques, but now we will discuss special projects that can be easily done with your digital images. Appropriate software may be found at [www.digitaldoconline.com](http://www.digitaldoconline.com) and [www.photo-freeware.net/](http://www.photo-freeware.net/)

T-shirts are the most fun to create, but require some practice. The first step would be to take a photo and put it on your computer. Then you could go to a "Projects" or "Compose" mode of most software programs and add text to the photo (such as, "I love Grandma"). Once you have the text in place, the critical step is to flip the image so that it is a "mirror" image; easier than it sounds if you explore your software. Once the photo is edited and the text is in place and the entire image is reversed, it is easy enough to print out this image on iron-on transfer paper (usually found in packages of 10 for about \$10). After you print to the transfer paper, you are ready to iron the image onto a blank T-shirt. This is easier said than done and is where practice is important. You should experiment with print quality (usually good, better and best) to get the right amount of ink on the sheet, and experiment with the right temperature for the iron. It is a good idea to practice on an old T-shirt before going for the finished product.



picture overlapping the left edge of the next photo. You also should make sure your camera is held straight on the horizontal; a tripod is recommended. Once you've shot the series (anywhere from three to 12 images) you load them into your "stitching" software — usually included in most photo-editing software except Picasa — and then click "OK." After you have "stitched" the photo, you can then crop to the size you want and enhance to enrich the colors of the photo. You cannot print larger than 11 inches wide on most home printers, but if the scene is really spectacular, you might save the file to a CD and go to a quality photo-finishing place like Cameta camera which can print to poster size (20-by-30 inches), or you can upload the file to an online service and have them do it.

Then there are projects I consider fun stuff. These would include creating calendars, collages, greeting cards, magazine covers, gift tags and related items. Some software packages have this function included, or you can buy "stand alone" programs from American Greeting Cards, Hallmark, etc. All of

for you to enjoy this hobby so much, you will buy more card "stock" (paper) from them!

Collages are compilations of photos in various groups. You can place from one to 15 images onto one page and even Picasa (which is a free program) let's you make these.

Finally, in my opinion, the best way to display your digital images is with Slideshows — either on CD or DVD. If you have attended any of my classes, you've heard me decry the use of prints on paper because paper yellows, cracks and bends. Putting images on a DVD or CD makes them more convenient to view (you can put them in your DVD player and watch them on your TV) and makes the images last much longer

because digital media is more sturdy than paper. Many programs allow you to compile many images into slideshows, add transitions and special effects and make specialized titles. Personally, I do a DVD slideshow of my granddaughter every three months, which is then sent by mail to members of the family. This way, everyone in the family can watch her grow and they don't have to pour through cumbersome albums or sit in front of a computer. Just open the envelope, pop it in your DVD, sit on the couch and enjoy! There is an entire essay on how to make slideshows, and which software to use on my Website, [www.digitaldoconline.com](http://www.digitaldoconline.com). Go to "LEARN," "Special Projects Lesson 3," and "Recommended Software."

Next month we will begin exploring basic editing techniques.

*Stuart Gershon is known as "The Digital Doctor." He has given over 200 classes at 53 different libraries in Nassau and Suffolk. You can get more information and the schedule of his classes at: [www.DigitalDocOnline.com](http://www.DigitalDocOnline.com).*



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Panoramas are the second project, which, when done correctly, look spectacular. Anyone who visits my home is often mesmerized by my spectacular landscape panoramas. The panorama process is called "stitching" in digital photography circles. You take a series of pictures continuously (I usually go from left to right) with the right edge of one

alone" programs from American Greeting Cards, Hallmark, etc. All of these programs work in a similar fashion — you select a template (the type of item you want to compose) and then insert the photo. It's that easy! Some programs even allow you to edit the sayings on the cards and change the fonts (the style of type). Keep in mind, that although these programs cost very little (about \$20 to \$30), the ultimate goal of the company is

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## Caruso Honored

Ralph Caruso, Deputy Commissioner of the Nassau County Department of Senior Citizen Affairs, receives the Rose Kryzak Award citation from Nassau County Department of Senior Citizen Affairs Commissioner Sharon Mullan. Caruso was honored by the United Adult Ministries with the award for his outstanding work on behalf of older adults in Nassau County. Caruso became involved in Nassau County's senior programs in 1988, became deputy commissioner in the Department of Senior Citizens Affairs in 1993, and again in 2001 under the administration of County Executive Thomas Suozzi. Mr. Caruso resides with his family in Wantagh.