

Conveying the most important messages between the DIY, fashion and independent arts communities and yours

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## El Día e los Muertos - A Celebration of Life!

When the Spanish Conquistadors arrived in South America, they were disturbed by an ancient ritual being performed by the indigenous Aztec people. To them, these rituals seemed to mock death, but in reality it was the way in which the Aztecs honored the dead. The Aztecs viewed death as a continuation of life and celebrated the spirits of those who had died. The Spaniards deemed this ritual as sacrilegious and tried, unsuccessfully, to end this practice. Today we celebrate El Día de los Muertos, or "Day of the Dead". It has become a much more widely known celebration and is gaining popularity throughout the United States.

El Día de los Muertos is a festival which is mainly celebrated in Central and South America, but is also celebrated in many states in the U.S. where a Mexican-American heritage is found. The festivities occur between October 31st and November 2nd, which corresponds with the Catholic All Saints Day & All Souls Day. Though the Aztec ritual was merged with Catholicism, some elements still remain, most especially, the use of skulls. El Día de los Muertos is a time to honor family members & friends who have passed to the spirit world. It is not a time for mourning, but rather a time for celebrating their lives with food, music, dancing, and fun. Bright colored flowers and other decorative items bring an element of joy to the festivities.

Most households will put up offrendas, or altars, to honor their loved ones. These often display photos, some of their personal items, favorite foods, and cherished possessions. Pan de muertos, or "bread of the dead" (see pg. 3 for recipe) is enjoyed and offered to the deceased by placing it on the altar. The sweet loaves are shaped into skeletons or decorated with crosses or bone shapes. Superstitions hold that the spirits of the dead will seek revenge on the living if they are treated poorly during the celebration times. Failure to leave offerings on an altar could bring displeasure to the spirits. Rather than take a chance with upsetting the spirits, the offerings are plentiful and carefully placed on the offrenda for all to see.

Visiting with the deceased is another tradition of the festival. Families and friends visit the gravesites of their loved ones and decorate them with flowers and offerings of food. Picnics are held where those favorite foods are enjoyed by visiting guests. Grave stones are decorated with the traditional cempasúchil flower, or orange marigold. Families will grow their own flowers especially for decorating the altars and gravesites during this time. All-night candle vigils are organized and families will visit with the deceased through the night while enjoying music, played by local musicians, and dancing the traditional folk dances.

So, come and celebrate El Día de los Muertos with the Craft Mafia on Sunday, November 1st at the Ruby Room. The festivities run from 2 pm - 7 pm and include crafty vendors, a "Muertos" costume contest (come dressed in your best "dead" attire & maybe win a bar tab courtesy of the Ruby Room), a horror movie trivia game, and a DIY craft booth where you can decorate a Day of the Dead skull to take home. Also, enjoy a \$3 Margarita on the Rocks, tequila shot, or special shot of the day - the Pink Posada! The Ruby Kitchen will be offering food specials too! Just ask any Mafia member for the password and you can get a free appetizer when you order any entrée! There's no cover charge and you must be 21+ to enter the bar area! The Ruby Room is located in Hillcrest at 1271 University Ave. 92103.



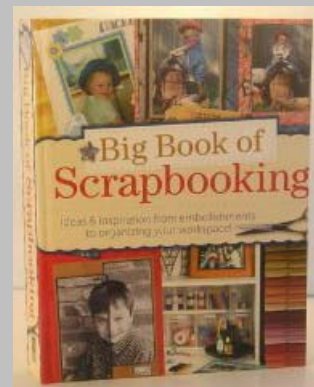
"Gran fandango y francachela de todas las Calaveras" - by Jose Guadalupe Posada, 1913

## CRAFTY BOOK REVIEW:

## BIG BOOK OF SCRAPBOOKING BY MAKING MEMORIES

With the Holidays coming up it is a great time to think about scrapbooking! The very first thing you need to do when scrapbooking is take pictures! So this year when you sit down to Thanksgiving dinner, or any other holiday celebration, make sure to grab a camera and get a few shots of Dad cutting the turkey, or Grandma's famous pumpkin pie. Then when you are ready to start scrapbooking your photos I recommend looking at the Big Book of Scrapbooking by Making Memories. This book has several things going for it. First of all it is HUGE! I am a

thrifty person so when I buy a book I really like to get the most bang for my buck and with 500 pages of ideas this one has a lot to offer! The other great thing about it is this book doesn't require you to go out and buy a whole bunch of supplies. Go into any craft store and the amount of scrapbooking supplies you can find is just overwhelming. In true DIY fashion, this book shows you how to make great layouts using just paper, scissors and glue! Well, and photos of course!



Published 2005  
ISBN-10: 1892127628  
Available at Amazon.com

## CRAFTY HOW-TO:

### DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS SHOEBOX ALTAR

This is a fun altar to make that can be place just about anywhere. Plus, it will recycle an old shoe box, so that's good too!

#### What You Need:

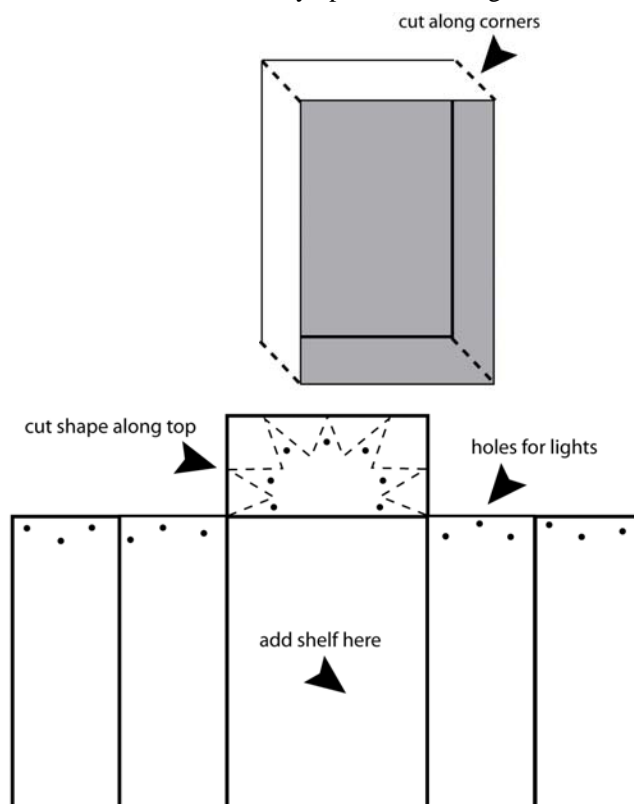
- 1 shoebox, any size
- Masking tape
- White glue (or Modge Podge)
- Glitter
- Small plastic bowls or dishes
- Paintbrushes
- Photos of the loved one to whom your altar will be dedicated



#### How to Make It:

Remove lid from the shoebox. Use scissors to cut box open at the corners and cut off one of the box ends as well. Extend the remaining box end flat and use masking tape to help keep the end flat. This will become the top of your altar where the lights will be placed. Now you should be able to lay the box flat. Take the box lid and cut off the sides. Cut the lid in half lengthwise and attach these pieces to each end of your flattened box using masking tape. This will create a wider altar with folding sides. The sides add stability and keep it standing upright. If you wish to add a "shelf" to the altar, you may use the remaining box end that was cut away. Use masking tape to attach that to the altar and make a shelf. Now, create a nice shape for the top of your altar. You might want to cut a star shape or maybe a nice curve. Choose your design and cut away! Next, you are ready to add some color to the altar. Using your Modge Podge and tissue paper, start layering the colored paper to create the desired color. Once that has dried, you can add more colors by using the craft paints. Once the paint has dried, add Modge Podge where you want the photos. Lay the photos down and add a layer over the photos as well. Glitter can also be added by sprinkling over a layer of Modge Podge and rhinestones can be glued where you like. This is where you can let go with your creativity and make it as colorful as you like! Once everything has dried completely, you are ready to add the lights. Using your hole punch, make the holes along the top of the altar where you want the lights to be. We used the "seed" sized lights and a 1/16" punch worked well. Push the lights through the holes and secure with tape, if necessary. Finally, add sugar skulls, flowers, and other offerings to your altar. Turn on the lights and there you have it! It's a beautiful altar honoring your loved one for this Día de los Muertos!

- Sequins, rhinestones, or other embellishments
- Colored tissue paper, in your choice of colors, cut or torn into 2" squares
- Craft paints in different colors
- Hole Punch
- Small sugar skulls, can be found at various shops - or make your own out of clay!
- 1 Set of small battery operated LED lights



## MADAME CRAFTINA'S HOROSCOPE

## Be Sure to Thank Your Lucky Stars!

In addition to celebrating Fall this November, I want to remind you of the importance of Giving Thanks and appreciation for the blessings that every day of life brings. -Madame Craftina

**Scorpio:** Happy birthday Scorpio! This month it is especially important for you to focus on the blessing of feeling confident, focused and ambitious. Give thanks for your recent accomplishments and your successes to come and don't let any obstacles get in your way!

**Sagittarius:** Now is the time to give thanks for your private time. Don't take advantage of being able to relax, appreciate it! For you have some up and coming developments in regards to business and relationship interests.

**Capricorn:** Give thanks for the friendships in your life Cap. Networking, group activities and outings are blessings for you this month. Enjoy the world around you rather than worrying how you are influencing it.

**Aquarius:** Although you may be dealing with questionable relationships, appreciate the experiences! With every experience comes a

worthy lesson learned. It is important to appreciate the wisdom you have accumulated over the years.

**Pisces:** All your hard work is paying off Pisces, so spend a moment to give thanks for your deserved success. At times your job may seem extremely draining but you are lucky to be in an environment that proves to be rewarding in the end!

**Aries:** While your emotions may seem to be over-flowing this month, take a moment to appreciate this cleansing process. One cannot bury the weight of the world for long, while some try. Release all of the excess baggage and give thanks for a new and fresh perspective.

**Taurus:** It is time to appreciate your new found intimacy. While sometimes it may seem beneficial to remain guarded, you are now in a position to be open and vulnerable with your special someone. Give thanks for new beginnings and/or strong partnerships in your relationships.

**Gemini:** Give thanks for up and coming vacation time Gemini! It is always great to have

something to look forward to and you very blessed right now in that department. Don't forget to appreciate the invaluable freedom that comes along with all your hard work.

**Cancer:** You Crabs are so creative! Give thanks for your creativity and the fulfillment it brings to every aspect of your life. Appreciate that you see things differently than others, it is a blessing!

**Leo:** Now is the time to give thanks for your family and for your home. You Leos work very hard to keep your home and family matters in order, stop worrying and start appreciating the blessings right in front of you.

**Virgo:** Appreciate the day, dear Virgo. Your goals will still be there at dawn. It is the little things throughout the day that keep you going towards your end goal after all. Give thanks for the day-to-day activities.

**Libra:** Your new found ideas and goals are such a blessing Libra! Appreciate your greater sense of self that is still fully developing and congratulate yourself on your accomplishments thus far. Don't forget to give thanks for life every day.

## MA MANGIA

## “BREAD OF THE DEAD” FOR DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS!

This bread is one of the traditional offerings that is made and placed on the altars of the deceased loved ones. It's a sweet treat that's can also be enjoyed by the living! Even if you don't celebrate the “Day of the Dead”, it's fun to try new recipes!

**Recipe Source:** <http://www.mexgrocer.com>

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup water
- 5 - 5 1/2 cups flour
- 2 packages dry yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 4 eggs

Pan de Muerto recipe is prepared in celebration of Mexico's Day of the Dead. The Bread of the Dead is shaped into skulls or round loaves with strips of dough rolled out to resemble bones attached to the loaves.

Preheat oven to 350 F. In a saucepan over medium flame, heat the butter, milk and water until very warm but not boiling. In a mixing bowl, combine 3 cups flour, yeast, salt, anise seed and sugar. Beat in the warm liquid until well combined. Add the eggs. Beat in another 2 cups of

flour, then add more flour until the dough is soft but not sticky. Knead this mixture on a lightly floured board for ten minutes until smooth and elastic. Lightly grease a mixing bowl with 1 tbsp of butter. Place dough in bowl, cover with plastic wrap and let rise in warm place until doubled in size (1-2 hours). Punch the dough down with your hands lightly. At this point, shape the dough into your choice of skulls, skeletons or round loaves with bones placed ornamentally around the top. Allow the loaves to rise for about 1 hour. Bake in oven for 40 minutes. Remove from oven, paint on the glaze and enjoy.

**Glaze instructions:** Bring to a boil for 2 minutes. Apply to bread with a pastry brush. If desired sprinkled on colored sugar with glaze is still damp.



**Photo Source:** [www.2camels.com](http://www.2camels.com)  
**Photographer:** Mary Andrade







**WHO IS KEEPING SAN DIEGO CRAFTY?**

Teresa Salazar of *Velvet Klaw*  
www.velvetklaw.com

Svea Komori-Ang of *Belle Pepper Couture*  
www.bellepeppercouture.com

Amy Smock of *Designs de Luna*  
www.designsdeluna.com

Meagan Rae Longtin of *Meagan Rae Designs*  
www.meaganraedesigns.com

**THE SAN DIEGO NORTH PARK CRAFT MAFIA WAS FOUNDED IN SEPTEMBER 2007 AND IS DEDICATED TO CRAFTING, FASHIONING, STYLING AND CREATING THEIR SAN DIEGO.**

www.SanDiegoNorthParkCraftMafia.com  
info@sandiegonoorthparkcraftmafia.com

P.O.Box 711464  
San Diego, CA 92171

## Crafty Black Book: Upcoming Events for November

November is National Peanut Butter Lovers Month!



**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1ST:**

**SUNDAY, CRAFTY SUNDAY - DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION!**

Sunday Crafty Sunday will be at the Ruby Room for a special Dia de los Muertos event! What will you find there? We'll have a DIY crafting booth where you can decorate a Día de los Muertos skull to take home, a horror movie trivia game where you can win some prizes, and a "Muertos" costume contest! Come dressed in your "best dead" attire and try for a prize! You might win a bar tab from the Ruby Room! Plus - our group of crafty vendors will be there for your shoppin' pleasure! Then, stick around for some live music by Bill Cardinal & the Canyon Band plus guests at 9 pm. Sound good? We'll see you there!  
**The Ruby Room, 1271 University Ave. - 92103. 2 pm - 7 pm. Costume contest to be held at 4 pm.**

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10TH:**

The Craft Mafia will be vending at the San Diego Geranium Society's monthly meeting in Balboa Park. Interested in finding out more about the SDGS? They meet each month at the Balboa Park Casa del Prado. Visit their website for more info about their group: [www.sdgeranium.org](http://www.sdgeranium.org)  
**Balboa Park Casa del Prado, Room 101 - 6 pm - 8 pm.**

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24TH:**

**CRAFTY CONSPIRACY CRAFT NIGHT**

Consider yourself crafty or want to learn to be? Join the NPCM at **Filter** on the fourth Tuesday of each month for a fun night of crafting! Our next get together is happening **Tuesday, November 24th**. Take a break from all the holiday preparations! Bring your own project to work on and craft with us! (This is our time to relax and take a break from all Mafia business. Please direct all business inquiries to us via email at: [info@sandiegonoorthparkcraftmafia.com](mailto:info@sandiegonoorthparkcraftmafia.com))

**LOOKING AHEAD!**

**Dec. 6th** - The 3rd Annual Holiday Hit List event is happening at the McMillin Companies Event Center in Liberty Station! Don't miss this shopping extravaganza! Visit **HolidayHitList.com** for all the latest info!

**Dec. - Date TBA** - Need to do some last minute gift shopping! You'll be sure to find some at our "Last Stop Shopping" event at the U-31! Shopping, drink specials, and some Holiday fun! Check our website for updated info!

### SUNDAY, CRAFTY SUNDAY CELEBRATES EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS!



JOIN US FOR SOME "DAY OF THE DEAD" FUN!  
- CRAFTY VENDORS  
- DRINK & FOOD SPECIALS  
- COSTUME CONTEST  
- DIY CRAFT BOOTH  
...AND MORE!

**SUNDAY, NOV. 1ST**  
**@ THE RUBY ROOM (21+)**  
**1271 UNIVERSITY AVE. - 92104**  
**2 PM-7 PM**

PRESENTED BY THE SAN DIEGO NORTH PARK CRAFT MAFIA