Through The Lens

A guide to digital photography for computer enthusiasts.
After the click of your camera, you're only half done!

OpCuG
Users helping users

Using your photos at Christmas
by Lynda Buske

With the inevitable restrictions over Christmas time due to covid, it's nice to think about continuing traditions that don't require contact or even Zoom. Perhaps you can jazz up your usual newsletter or make some special Christmas cards using topical photographs and add some festive clip art. Snowy winter scenes work well or you could take photos of your decorations (and even get some star effects with small apertures if you have lit candles).

For greeting cards, you can purchase packages of blank cards at Michael's, Deserres, and sometimes Walmart. The boxes include envelopes and self-adhesive strips to easily attach your 4x6 photos. There are also on-line stores such as Shutterfly that provide Christmas card templates. You simply insert your photo and they will print them for you.

There are many companies (Walmart, Costco, Shutterfly) that produce a myriad of personalized gifts such as mugs, jigsaw puzzles, cushions, etc. using your photos. I have often created gifts using the recipient's photos and those are always much appreciated.

Free clip art is everywhere and can easily be accessed through programs such as PowerPoint or just downloaded directly. However, much free clip art comes with a white background which means you have to "cut out" the object you wish to overlay on top of your photo. Depending on your photo editing program, it may be finicky or tedious to remove the background An easy solution is to download clip art from the FAVPNG site (favpng.com). Unlike "jpg" format, a "png" format allows for a transparent background. There is a paid version that allows for infinite downloads or you can opt for the free version which offers two clip art downloads per day. For my purposes, that is sufficient. Have fun!