

## Remembering & Honoring Your Loved Ones This Thanksgiving

Shine On – Inspiration from Chelsea Hansen ~ WithSympathyGifts.com

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### How can you enjoy this Thanksgiving in honor of a loved one?

- Would you like to write a note of thanks to your beloved and read it at Thanksgiving?
- Would you like to have a special place setting at your Thanksgiving table for where your loved one sat?
- Would you like to start new traditions while still honoring past customs as you move towards living again?

Consider the idea of being grateful for all the things your loved one brought to your life...these gifts are yours forever. This newsletter contains unique ideas to express gratitude during the Thanksgiving season.

In appreciation of you,  
Chelsea

P.S. - Below is my 9-year old son's Thanksgiving master piece from last year.

Do you remember making turkeys like this with your hand print?

Have some fun and try it - whether you are an adult or kid!

Put the date on the drawing and save the keepsake.



## Tree of Thanks

**When your Thanksgiving guests arrive, invite them to write “one word” about what they are thankful for and hang their note on the tree.**

Or display your tree year round, and personally add blessings each week as you realize them. Every time you walk by your new décor, you can feel the gratitude!



## Blessings Counted

Take a moment with the important people in your life, or by yourself, and reflect on the blessings you already have in your life.

Simply print out this tree template and cut out circles to write your blessings (or use scrap book paper for different colors.) Grab some magazines or photos and make a visual blessings tree, instead of writing things down. Or do both! That way, little ones who can't read or write can participate, too! Tree template courtesy of [somewhatsimple.com](http://somewhatsimple.com).



## Thankful Heart

Make it a tradition. Go around the table, and have everyone write down what they appreciate.

Or print out an activity sheet and have the activity on hand for the kids, so the parents can have a moment away. Save these from year to year and have a memorable keepsake!



## Put the “Thanks” in Giving

Make it easy. Tell others what you appreciate about them.

Simply put a thank you note on each place setting. Thank them for giving their support, making you smile when you couldn't or providing a listening ear.



## Piece of My Heart

Let's acknowledge the love that *other people show towards us*.

Give a hand-made heart to recognize when a friend, family member, or neighbor does anything you appreciated – big or small. People want to be seen, heard and acknowledged. Mary Kay Ash suggests when talking to someone, make them feel as they are the most important person in the world. Imagine a sign around the person that says, please make me feel important. Give a token of your recognition and make someone's day!



## We Remember Them

Give a toast or say this poem at your Thanksgiving celebration to honor those you will always remember and love.

Sharing tales of those we lost is how we keep them close, so go around the table and share your favorite memories. You will feel the love through the laughter and the tears.

We Remember Them...

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, **We remember them;**  
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, **We remember them;**  
In the opening of buds and in the warmth of the summer, **We remember them;**  
In the rustling of leaves and the beauty of autumn, **We remember them;**  
In the beginning of the year and when it ends, **We remember them;**  
When we are weary and in need of strength, **We remember them;**  
When we are lost and sick at heart, **We remember them;**  
When we have joys we yearn to share, **We remember them;**  
So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us as **We remember them.**

From "Gates of Prayer, Judson Prayerbook"