

# Star-Telegram The Dallas Morning News



## Media Memories

By BOB RAY SANDERS  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

Julia Ann Napier is the founder of Napier Presentations, a company offering artistic expressions of good feelings for sale. She calls her compositions that are compiled on a CD or DVD a VideoTreasure™ because she composes them with poetry, graphic art, and music to convey heartfelt messages that the recipient will treasure for years to come.

Julia is of Italian extraction, which means that she was born with a knack for expressing herself with her hands. She also has a knack for operating computers.

These days, she quickly brings complex computer graphics programs to their knees. In earlier days, she had to earn a living like the rest of us, and she came face to face with her first computer in 1991. They struggled briefly, but she soon showed it who was boss by making it earn her living doing word processing, spreadsheets, and accounting for her first employer.

She attended workshops and studied tutorials voraciously to polish her computer skills. The time saved in doing routine tasks amazed her; what it could be made to do fascinated her. She sought and absorbed programs that allowed her to work with photographs and began creating photographic compositions in PowerPoint for her family and friends in 1993.

A music and film lover since early childhood, Julia added music to her compositions in 1994, and then, to add interesting commentary to her

photographs, she began animating her graphics in 1995. By 1996, her reputation as the person to see for creative, family photographic recordings on e-media led to increasing amounts of work outside her circle of friends by referral.

One day, in 1998, Julia was searching feverishly through Wal-Mart's greeting cards to find the right combination of cover and verse for an ailing friend, when she heard a friend accompanying her say,

"Julia, you write better poems than these, why don't you write it yourself?"

"Great idea" Julia said to herself, as she replaced a card to the display, turned, and walked out. "She's right. I'll use one of my own poems."

Julia went through her library of poems that she had been writing since childhood, but couldn't find one that worked. So, she wrote a new, appropriately expressive poem, found some memorable photographs, and arranged the poem on the photographs in PowerPoint. Afterward, converting to .wmv format for viewing, Julia had produced her first, very special video treasure for her friend. What a neat way to say special things to special people!

By 2001, she had experimented with numerous applications and had learned how to produce a wide range of visual and audio effects in order to create the particular mood she sought. Buying new equipment and upgrading her software as hobby income and family finances could afford,

### News

- Breaking News
- Local
- State
- News 2 Use
- Watchdog
- Nation
- Weird News
- World
- Iraq
- Your Commute
- Special Reports
- Columnists

# Star-Telegram    The Dallas Morning News

Julia continuously broadened her repertoire of compositional skills. She wrote poems with added purpose: one day she might even turn her hobby into a profession.

In 2005, Julia moved to Van Alstyne, Texas, with two of her four sons and enrolled her younger son, Philip, in Van Alstyne Middle School. Philip's size would seem to make football a natural sport for him, but he is far more interested in computers than sports. However, after some coaxing, he joined the team; Mom could hardly wait to video-record him in action. Joining the team toward the end of the season, Philip didn't expect to play much; but Mom attended the games, recorded most of his moves, and recorded enough of the games to produce a special video meant to inspire Philip about the game.

A long story short is that Julia created an exciting video that, in her bubbly enthusiasm, she showed to the coaches and some of the parents.

Consequently, she was asked to create a video presentation of the middle school's championship football game, which she did. This effort, along with accolades from several parents and faculty, gave Julia the idea for creating a new type of VideoTreasure™: a Video Yearbook.

Currently, Julia is in the middle of her second year of college seeking her Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. She has taken on quite an additional load, starting her new company and hoping to produce a Video Yearbook; but, she is optimistic.

She believes that her years of workshops, tutorials, writing, and composing, as well as having some of the finest graphics equipment and software available, find her well prepared to create special VideoTreasure™ for any occasion.

Julia is recognized for her poetry by many. She is acknowledged in several places on the Internet as the author of several poems, and she is the actual author of a number of other poems that must have been passed along by friends until someone anonymously posted them on the Internet. She regularly receives requests for permission to post her work, and poetry read nationally called "Land of the Free" See <http://atimetogrieve.net/>, where two of her poems have helped people cope with the loss of life of a family member in Iraq. Julia also donates much of her work to other worthwhile causes, such as organizations providing aid and comfort to cancer patients and their families and friends.

She has composed video business cards and created video productions for non-profit organizations such as Disability Resource Centers and Independent Living USA.