

Celebrate Your Graduate!



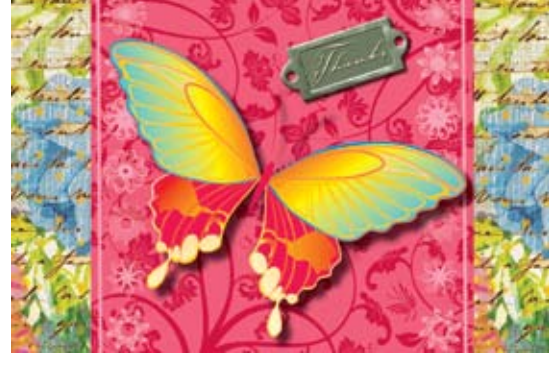
Celebrate your graduate's uniqueness with custom-made graduation announcements! Plan ahead now so you can have your announcements in plenty of time for the big day!

Wedding Bells in Your Future?



Relax your wedding stationery worries by letting Shadeflower Designs custom-create the stationery of your dreams. Feel assured with our professional, affordable solutions, original ideas, etiquette advice and the latest trends. Choose from a variety of budget-friendly packages. Click here to learn more!

Spring's Latest Notecard Designs



Joan's Butterflies: These vintage designs were made in honor of my late friend, Joan who loved everything butterflies. 8-card packs in 4 designs are just \$13.95!

Carol's Birdfeeder: Another design inspired by my mother, these images will turn anyone into a bird lover! 8-card packs in 4 designs are just \$13.95!



Flourishing Daydreams: These verdant, swirling cards celebrate the birth of spring. 8-card packs featuring two designs are available in a variety of sizes, priced \$11.95 - \$15.95



All cards may be personalized, made into thank you notes or left blank.

Client News

Something Blue Soon to Debut

The bridal industry has found its way back to my world again with a new magazine, due out this summer, Something Blue magazine, based out of Charleston, SC. Shadeflower is proud to join this stellar production team as Editor and Ad Designer. A small team of us, including Publisher, James Molnar, and Art Director, Larry Preslar (SPARK Publications), are busy putting together the promotional issue. For information on advertising or a sneak peek, please visit: www.blogspot.somethingblueonline.com or www.somethingblueonline.com.



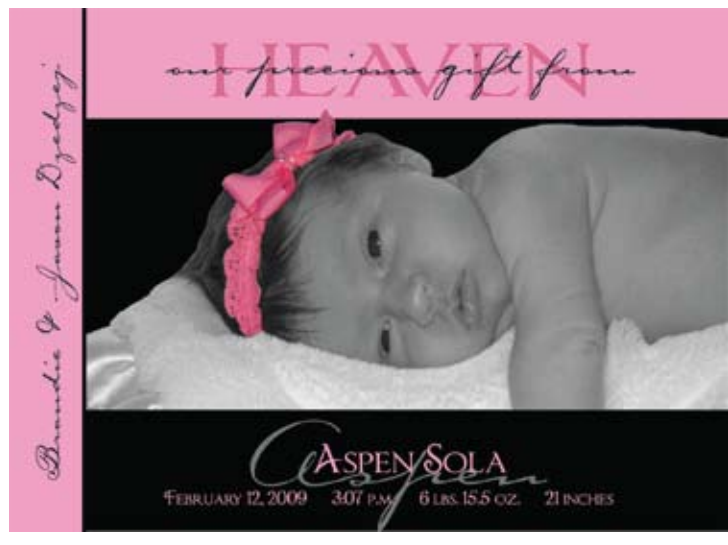
Website Premier

Photographer, Mandy French, announces the premier of her new website. Shadeflower had great fun designing this whimsical site, filled with Mandy's talented work. Based out of Charlotte, NC, Mandy's passion for photography is focused on children. Says

Mandy, "I love their joyfulness and grumpiness. I love their cute notes and pouty lips. I love belly laughs and funny faces, and cautious smiles and thoughtful moments." Check out Mandy's gorgeous images at www.afrenchphoto.com!

Baby News

Congratulations to Jason & Brandie Dzedzej who welcomed a beautiful little girl, Aspen Sola on February 12th!



Shadeflower News: She's Having a Baby!

We're on the home stretch now - Baby Hickman is expected to make his or her arrival on May 9th. My husband and I have been busy on the weekends with preparing the nursery and shopping for baby supplies!



After Baby's arrival, I will be taking about two weeks to recover and get to know our new little person, taking only emergency Shadeflower requests. **So please plan ahead with any orders or work requests.**

My belly isn't the only thing growing - Shadeflower is expanding every day! I have gathered

a variety of new clients and projects, including websites for a.frenchphotography and SKP Music (coming soon), and am working on a gorgeous wedding stationery package for a lovely young couple, due to marry in October of this year.

In January, I had the pleasure to speak to a communications class at St. Kate's College in St. Paul about graphic design, advertisements and company branding.

And you've seen the vibrant scrapbook brochure Shadeflower did for Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation last fall... now we're working on full-color tile coasters for their annual banquet taking place in May!

Finally, be sure to check out the 2008 Annual Report Shadeflower wrote for the Minnesota State Services For the Blind.

Please continue spreading the word - Shadeflower Designs is celebrating a year in business, with many thanks to you. Your recommendations have helped me grow my dream! Don't forget - any paying clients you send my way, I will offer you a **5% discount on your next order!**

Melissa

Design Trends

Does Your Paper Complement Your Message?

Paper is an integral element of print design. Before your audience reads a word of your printed piece, the paper is speaking to them — hopefully conveying the message you want to send. Paper can also be a significant part of your printing costs.



If you're designing a simple, no-frills price sheet, for example, you may decide to simply spec the printer's house sheet, which is usually a very cost-effective choice. You'll probably be perfectly happy with the final piece that says, "I'm a functional document. Nothing special here." But say you're designing a direct mail piece for an exclusive, black-tie fundraising event. You need to choose a paper that communicates exclusivity, elegance, luxury, sophistication — something that says, "Yes, I'm asking you to pay \$1000 per plate, and it will be worth every penny."



The latter situation calls for a premium paper to convey the

message. Don't automatically assume this will bust your budget. Many times the paper alone is enough to carry your message, and you can save money by using simpler printing techniques. For example, one- or two-color on a metallic surface can have stunning results, or one-color on a colored sheet could project just the right tone.

Another way to stay within your budget and still create impact is to use a premium paper as a cover or accent element and use a less expensive sheet for the guts of the piece. The first impression of a metallic, embossed sheet used as a cover, for example, sets a sophisticated tone for the rest of the piece. Similarly, a translucent used as a cover or fly sheet instantly adds prominence to a piece.

Story and Images courtesy of The Paper Mill Store.

Recipe of the Month

Dried Cherry & Almond Rice Pilaf

The delicate, sweet flavors of cherries and orange coupled with the saltiness of the almonds will keep you lickin' your lips long after dinner!

- Ingredients:
- 3 tbsp butter
 - 1/4 cup onion, chopped
 - 3/4 tsp. salt
 - 1-1/2 cup uncooked Kalijira or Jasmine rice
 - 2-1/4 cup hot water
 - 2 tbsp chicken stock
 - 3 tsp orange zest
 - 3/4 cup dried cherries
 - 1/2 cup sliced, freshly toasted almonds
 - 2 tbsp snipped Italian parsley

Directions:
In a large skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Cook until onions are soft (about 5 minutes). Season with salt. Stir in rice; cook until edges become translucent (about 3 minutes).

Combine water and chicken stock, stirring until dissolved. Add to skillet along with orange zest. Bring to boil over medium-high heat. Reduce to low. Continue cooking, covered until rice is tender (15 to 20 minutes). Add cherries to pan; remove from heat. Let stand covered for 10 minutes. Sprinkle with almonds and parsley. Toss with a fork. Serve immediately.

Serves 6

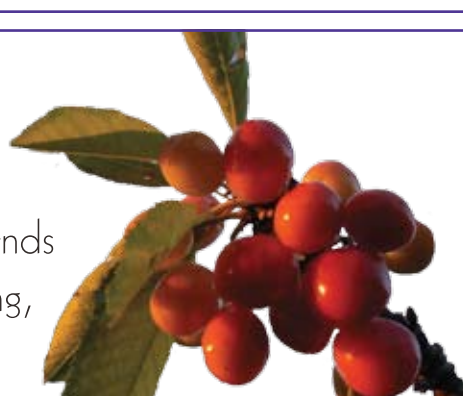


Did you miss last month's Crabcakes with Spicy Avocado Sauce? Click here to view recipe archives!

Going Green

Edible Landscaping

With all the news about e.coli in our vegetables and fruits, one tends to get nervous about what's safe to eat or not. Instead of worrying, consider planting an edible garden this spring with fresh herbs, broccoli, tomatoes, onions, peas and corn. Instead of boring shrubs, plant raspberry, blueberry or red currant bushes. Depending on your climate, pear or cherry trees are easy to grow and provide an abundance of fruit. Not sure how to get started? Contact your local nursery for ideas. Also be sure to ask for "green" ways to promote plant growth and keep critters at bay instead of relying on chemicals.



Give the Gift of a Flower... Shadeflower!

Need some fresh ideas for your loved ones or party hostess? Shadeflower personalized notecards and matted photographs make the perfect gifts! Gift cards are also available in any denomination! Start shopping now at ShadeflowerDesigns.com!

Invigorate Your Walls with Spring Prints



All images are printed on high-quality archival paper and come with a black or white high-quality matte (other matte colors available upon request). Print prices start at just \$10! You can also order notecards of 10 to share with your family and friends. Click here to see more photography options, pricing and ordering information.



Have you enjoyed this newsletter? If so, please let your friends know about Shadeflower Designs.

www.shadeflowerdesigns.com
651/304.7953

What does your business need?

No business too big, no business too small - Shadeflower wants to work with your company to design stellar business cards, stationery, logos, print ads and more. NPO discounts available. Contact Shadeflower Designs for your **free** consultation.