



FREDA FILMS

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3/06/2021 - Newsletter

Don Freda - What have I been up to?

Hello! I just want to touch base with folks to let you know what's been going on with me during this disruptive pandemic. What problems have I faced over the past year, and how I have attacked them with solutions for coping with the disruptions.

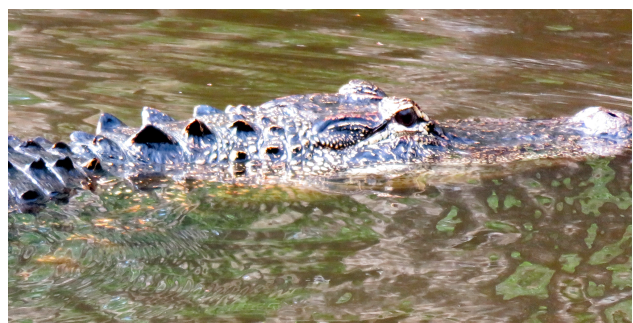
My wife, Debbie, and I arrived home after a month in Fort Myers Beach, Florida last March 2020 to realize that our group of friends would not be returning to Florida for 2021 due to the threat of COVID-19. We had rented a new property near Englewood for 2021, but collectively we chose to cancel out and lose part of our deposits. In one respect, that wasn't so bothersome because of the alligators we saw on a visit to the new property, who were walking around that neighborhood like they were the landlords.

2020 Rental on Estero Bay



(Don Freda Photo)

2021 Rental Near Englewood



(Don Freda Photo)

And to recently have read that a 9-Foot Burmese Python was captured in Englewood, it makes me feel quite cozy up here in the cold during the winter in Leominster, Massachusetts.

(Photo by: yoursun.com)



Back home in March 2020, I was able to jump right into the business of Digitizing and Archiving Family Histories by converting 8mm/Super8 Home Movie Film, Video Tapes such as VHS - Hi8 - DV and Betamax to DVDs or MP4 Computer Files, as well as Digitizing old 35mm Slide Film to JPG or TIFF files, and Restoring Moldy Tapes and Film. Basically through word of mouth, I've been busy doing this for a full year now.



(Don Freda Photos and Screen Captures)

2020 Wedding Season

Filming weddings has been a key element for the business of **FREDA FILMS**. August 2020 provided the only wedding contract we had for the entire year, and we almost lost it. One week before the wedding day, Governor Baker reduced the allowed crowd limit to 50 guests due to COVID precautions. The Bridal Family was counting on 150 guests. They canceled their chosen venue and instead opted to host the ceremony and reception in their own backyard. But they had to cut out two-thirds of their guests - That was one tough decision for them. But the wedding was a huge success and our cinematic video production was as good as any we've done in the past. Nobody I know claimed to have been COVID sick from attending it.



Since then our wedding event schedule has pretty much dried up - so we continue on with other solutions...

Like **Digitizing Weddings** from long ago that have been stored for many ages on film or video tape. One of my clients was so thrilled to be able to watch for the first time, the 16mm Black & White film of her parents' Wedding from 1946 on her own TV Screen! How special was that! Never seen before footage bringing her parents back to life in her own home. (Images on this page are Screen Captures)



And then moments later watching her own Wedding Event with her husband from 1975.



(Images on this page are Screen Captures)

These events and stories are very rewarding and special to me which keep up my enthusiasm for making the transformations happen for people.

Like converting old film or video of loved ones who have passed away too soon and bringing memories of them back to life. Many of my clients say they'd waited for many years to digitize the content they had stored away and were ecstatic to finally get it done.

Grandparents - Parents - Siblings - Relatives - Friends - Teammates - Games - Events - Classmates - Trips - Vacations - Holidays - Celebrations - Anniversaries - Milestones - Hobbies - Memories





(Above: My Grandparents - Joe and Cecile Freda - The kid is not me!)

These topics drive me to preserve my own family histories for future generations. My only regret is that the home movie film I have of my grandparents from the 1950's do not have audio sound tracks, so their voices are not preserved. But at least seeing them on the screen is still a precious thing for me.

I try to connect my own daughters and grand-daughters to their family histories and also build, archive, and preserve their memories for future nostalgic recall.

One big plus during this pandemic has been a decision by my in-laws to rent a local Cinema Theater to celebrate a birthday and to show movies on the big screen. "Wonder Woman" was the first of 6 dates and it was a tremendous thrill for me to open the first Double-Feature with one of my own videos - the first time any of my films have Premiered on a BIG SCREEN in a Real Movie Theater with a Real Audience!

Before "Wonder Woman" began, I showed a brief musical documentary of my grand-daughter's basketball game highlights, which happened to be her best career game to date - It was a Smash Hit



(Photo by Don Freda)

And at home I digitized some 16mm soccer game film to show my grandkids how I scored the game-winning goal in 1971 to beat a team that had a 28-game unbeaten streak up to that point....



(Screen Capture - Leominster High School 1971)

And my clients have been thrilled as well to see old content they hadn't seen in years, or had never seen before.

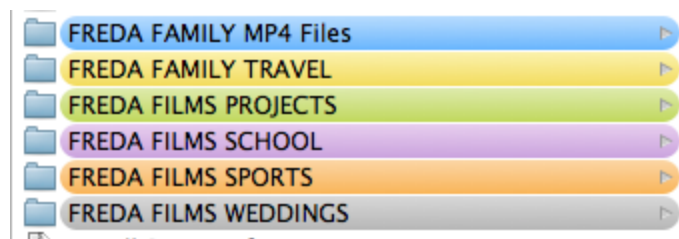
One asked me to digitize a film of Daily Life in Fitchburg, Massachusetts from 1941.



In between business projects, I have been converting all my own DVDs and Blu-ray family content to MP4 Computer Files that I can easily duplicate and share with as many people interested in them. Not only have I converted family videos, but also most of my educational videos produced while I was teaching.

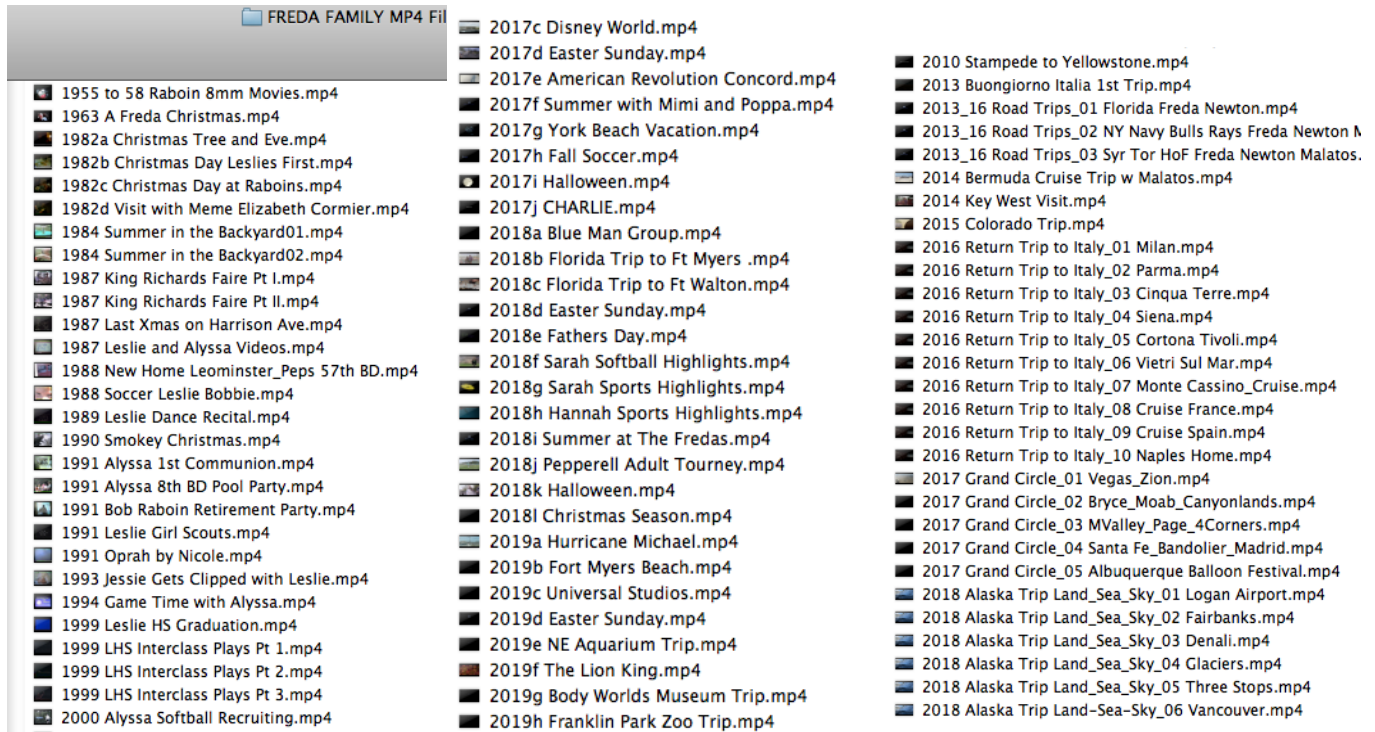


I have been using this 1-TB SanDisk Solid State Drive to store all my videos which I converted to .MP4 files. I have collected and converted over 300 movies of my family events, travel, school video projects, athletics, and wedding highlights



(Images on this page are Screen Captures)

Some of the Content Topics



And finally, I have a portfolio of my photography which I've collected, and I turned several of my better images into Metal Wall Art. Here is a sample of one I have hanging on my living room wall, taken from Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. The colors are absolutely brilliant on metal.



(Photo by Don Freda)

A close friend of mine wanted to return a favor for an 85 year old gentleman who took a photo of a pond setting with reflections of trees along the shore mirroring in the water. He gave the digital image to her and she asked me to help make a High Definition Metal Wall Art enlargement print. I was thrilled to be asked, configured the image, and uploaded it at an online print company to produce a dazzling 24x12 inch panoramic print. The gentleman had no clue this was in the works, and when she gave it to him, he was absolutely thrilled -

So. That's what I've been doing throughout this pandemic - got vaccinated - still wear a mask - social distancing - still digitizing old stuff - solving problems for myself and others.

- Let me know if I can help you out in any way.
- Do you have a problem that you could use my help with?
- Just ask.

Thank you for reading my summary of life during this pandemic and best wishes getting through all this and back to normalcy.

Don Freda

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If all else fails trying to solve your problems, then try a cold glass of Limoncello!



(Photo by Don Freda)