

Title of Session: Frazel Features - Come to my Picnik!

Moderator: Midge Frazel

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Room: After School Online

MargoP: Hi Midge, is this where we are going to find out about Picnik?

MidgeF: Yes, it is. Would you like lemonade while you wait?

MargoP: Lovely, although coffee would be good - it's 9am in the morning here!

BJB2 would love a glass of lemonade

BJB2 wonders if Midge brought along ants

MidgeF: Yes, I see where you live. Coffee it is. Passing cup to you.

MargoP: Thanks

MidgeF: No ants. (Ants in RI where I came from are those chocolate sprinkles for ice cream.

MidgeF: Passing lemonade to BJB

MidgeF: I see you are a library media specialist, Margo

MargoP: Yes, K-6 in Sydney, Australia

MidgeF: My friend Kathy Schrock has presented there.

MidgeF: We enjoyed her daily photos.

MargoP: Sorry to have missed her - very often see her useful website

MidgeF: I wish I could have gone with her. Looks amazing.

DianaFZ joined the room.

MidgeF: This is a hard time spot to have a chat.

MargoP: Hopefully you will have another opportunity - where are you located?

MidgeF: Bridgewater, MA

MidgeF: Hi, Diana. Did BJ promise you a glass of lemonade?

BJB2: Welcome to today's Frazel Features. Midge is taking you on a picnic for this discussion!

MidgeF: Thanks BJ. Well we will start.

DianaFZ smiles

MidgeF: Passing lemonade to Diana

MidgeF: Picnik is a bit hard to spell.

DianaFZ: thank you

MidgeF: Especially if you are a good speller.

MidgeF: It's an online photo editing Web site. I really love it.

MidgeF: I thought it would be easier if I blogged about it today and we went and read what I said there.

MidgeF: http://midgefrazel.net/blog/2007/04/happy-spring_24.html

MidgeF: You can just read it and come back here.

MidgeF: I just went there and it seems OK.

MidgeF: Except for my one mistake. <grin>

DianaFZ: what mistake

MidgeF: The part about the Web cam. I have read this too many times today

MidgeF: Spring fever.

MidgeF: The daffodils come up this morning.

MidgeF: Now, if you want to later, you can read the review I linked to in the blog

DianaFZ: ok

WuCh joined the room.

MidgeF: Now, what I'd like you to see is the photos I made with the different tools.

MidgeF: Everything OK Diana?

MidgeF: Hi **WuCh!**

MargoP: I'm with you now, thanks

DianaFZ: yes everything go perfect

DianaFZ: I'm with you too

MidgeF: Great!

WuCh: hi~ I'm new here and I'm from Taiwan

MidgeF: OK, I talk pretty fast.

MidgeF: I try to slow down but typing can be faster.

WuCh: it's ok

MidgeF: OK, so I think we will visit my Flickr photos next

MidgeF: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/midgefrazel>

MidgeF: Have you all used Flickr before?

WuCh: yes

DianaFZ: no never

DianaFZ: ok I'm with you

WuCh: oh I mean see it before but ont really use it

MidgeF: Flickr is the best Web 2.0 app. I love it. I used the free version for a long time and then paid the subscription fee.

MidgeF: I like it as it holds all my photos for me (so I can find them)

MidgeF: As you can see, the first photo is a screen shot. Click on the photo

MidgeF: And, there I am! I thought you might not have a Webcam so you might like to see the interface.

MidgeF: The big green button allows you to take a photo of yourself or anyone in the room.

MidgeF: When you use a Webcam, you have to look into the camera and not at the keyboard.

DianaFZ: I do not have a Webcam

MidgeF: It takes practice.

DianaFZ: this will be a problem

WuCh: I don't either

MidgeF: Webcams are fun and very cheap now.

MidgeF: That's why I made the screen shot, just so you could see that feature without having one.

DianaFZ: a ok, thank you for it

MidgeF: You can use the back button on your browser to go back to the bunch of photos

MidgeF: The next shot is the actual photo I took.

MidgeF: Now, there is a series of photos of my wonderful husband taken a few years ago on vacation

DianaFZ: wow I really like the pictures

MidgeF: I tried out the different features of Picnik so you could see the end result.

MidgeF: Thr original photo was very dark. (Under an umbrella) so we never had it printed.

GinaCh: Do you usually take the picture with high resolution?

MidgeF: It was taken in Salem MA where there was witches accused in 1692

MidgeF: No actually, this camera was an old Sony Mavica that saved to floppy.

MidgeF: You don't need a fancy camera to take great photo.

MidgeF: I have a new one but I love to take photos.

DianaFZ: so why does everyone think that a new camera takes better pictures

MidgeF: As you scroll down you will see the dark photo

GinaCh: I don't think so

DianaFZ: me neither

MidgeF: Because, it depends on how BIG you want to blow up photos

BJB2: depends on how the photos are being used, Diana. If they are online, you don't really want very high resolution or the pics will take too long to load

WuCh: I agree too

MidgeF: High resolution is all about the quality of the printed photo and not for online

GinaCh: Yes you are right

MidgeF: I have an 8.2 megapixel camera now so I can take close-ups of gravestones (my hobby)

MidgeF: I wanted to show you how you can make a photo that is kinda bad much better.

DianaFZ: ok I understand now

MargoP: Yes - how do you do that?

MidgeF: Picnik has many of the tools that expensive software does but this is easy to use. I love the vignette and the ability to crop and make black and white.

MidgeF: First, you look for an easy one-step fix.

MidgeF: This Picnik offers...

DianaFZ: yes

MidgeF: Now, I'd like to take you to the Web site.

MidgeF: <http://www.picnik.com/>

MidgeF: After you get there, then come back here

MidgeF: Notice the strange spelling of Picnik

MidgeF: Now, I signed up a long time ago. So, I suggest that you create an account

WuCh: ok

DianaFZ: ok I will try

MidgeF: I will wait here for you. OK?

MidgeF: Sipping lemonade.....

DianaFZ: ok I'm with you now

MargoP: Okay with me too

DianaFZ: yes thanks for the lemonade

BJB2 brushes an ant off the picnic basket

MidgeF: Good, that was fast. Have some lemonade or coffee.

DianaFZ: lemonade please

MidgeF: No ants allowed. After all I AM an insect

BJB2 winks at Midge

MidgeF: a midge is a gnat-like insect native to Scotland

MidgeF: Ok. Now that you have an account, you need a photo to play with.

DianaFZ: ok

MidgeF: At the top are four tabs (they are green)

MidgeF: Click on the one that says Photo

MidgeF: Under that is a bar with some choices

WuCh: I see

MargoP: Yes

DianaFZ: me too

MidgeF: If you have a Flickr account you can access it from Picnik which is how I made all those photos this morning

MidgeF: But, for now, we can choose the one that says Get from Computer

MidgeF: So click on that

MidgeF: This is how you would get a photo from your computer to work with

GinaCh: Wow...wonderful

MidgeF: But, see there are samples to play with. So pick one of those

DianaFZ: wow

DianaFZ: yes

MidgeF: I love it when they give you one to mess up and make mistakes

WuCh: it really helps

MidgeF: The Zoom bar at the right bottom of the screen controls the size of the photo onscreen

MidgeF: So you can see details

MidgeF: or not.

DianaFZ: yes it helps

GinaCh: yes~

MidgeF: Yes, Web 2.0 app can be very intense and make the computer slow.

MidgeF: Mine is moving quite slowly right now.

MargoP: okay - with you now

MidgeF: Anyway, notice, first the green tab that says SAVE

MargoP: Save and share?

MidgeF: That's where you will save (to your computer) the photo you work with

MidgeF: Yes, save and share.

MidgeF: It's important to look for that in an online app so you don't forget to do that.

GinaCh: So, this will be save some changes in my computer??

MidgeF: Now, these photos are very nice.

MidgeF: What this will do "save and share" is save a copy of the photo to your own computer

GinaCh: Oh...I got it

MidgeF: I always save everything to my desktop so I can find it.

MidgeF: Now, notice the bar of tools at the top. The first is Auto-fix

MidgeF: That's where I start to see if I can make a quick change to my photo

MidgeF: A big FIXED will appear.

MidgeF: Pick one of these tools and try it out.

DianaFZ: wow

GinaCh: Do you usually use Auto-fix function?

MidgeF: Yes, I always try it first.

GinaCh: Oh...I see

MidgeF: You haven't really changed a photo until you save it to your computer

DianaFZ: oh I see

MidgeF: Many of these options have an Undo button or Cancel.

MidgeF: Ok, time is getting short. So click on the big green tab that says creative tools.

WuCh: wow I love this

MargoP: Yes, lots of options there!

MidgeF: Each one of these fun things is accessed by the bar on the left.

MidgeF: Some will always be free and some will require payment. They tell me most of the ones here now will stay free

WuCh: oh, I see the goofy one

WuCh: it's nice to stay free

GinaCh: Yeah...I think it is a kind of short Cut

MidgeF: Those crazy ones are the ones you want to try out on your own while they are still free.

MidgeF: I think this is a very good site and easy to use.

MargoP: Yes, I agree

MidgeF: But, we should save one as practice to our own computer

MidgeF: You can play more on your own.

MidgeF: So, click ON the Save and Share green tab

MargoP: Yes

MidgeF: Notice the bar under changes, choose Save to Computer

MidgeF: You can name the photo and change the size of it here

BJB2 looks at the clock on the wall

MargoP: What about the dimensions?

MidgeF: So, try saving this to your own computer.

MargoP: Is this important for if you want to print or publish on website?

MidgeF: I would keep the dimensions until you are using your own photos.

MidgeF: Small dimensions are good for using on the Web

MargoP: For example..?

MidgeF: Most photos you have will not be this big.

MargoP: It's defaulting to 1162 by 768 - is this big or small?

MidgeF: 640x 280 is a good size. I use the crop feature to choose a size before I save here.

MidgeF: This default is quite big

MidgeF: OK, I have to stop now. I hope you enjoyed this look at Picnik

BJB2: thanks, Midge!

MidgeF: Let me know how you like it.

WuCh: yes, very much, thank you

MargoP: Many many thanks for your patience

MidgeF: midgef@midgefrazel.net

GinaCh: Thank you, we like and enjoy it very much

MidgeF: Anytime and thanks for coming