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The Country Register of Ontario

August / September 2020 Issue

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Meet our cover artist: *Deb Strain*

An art teacher for nine years, Deb Strain left teaching in 1994 to devote herself to her family and the development of her own art. Her husband, three children and twin grandsons are her pride and joy. Their beloved Saltbox home is filled with laughter, creativity and love. It is in the peaceful woods surrounding their home where Deb finds her inspiration. Drawing on memories of growing up in Ohio and times spent with family and friends, she seeks to convey a kinder, gentler way of life.

"Art is my passion, but my "real-life" love is my family," explains Deb. "My two daughters are both artists and my husband and son are our biggest supporters. We are very fortunate to share such a wonderfully bonding interest." Deb feels continually blessed by her family's closeness and being able to follow her dream to create art and share it with others. Her art can be found world-wide on a number of products from fabric to greeting cards to figurines.

Our Search for Cover Artwork –

Across Canada and the U.S, you can always tell *The Country Register* by it's cover. Our publishers seek to find cover art or photos from the province/state the paper represents. To that end, we are seeking the work of artists from Ontario to feature on our covers. The art must be in good taste and consistent with the theme of the papers. If you would like your work to be considered, please send an email indicating your interest to OntarioCountryRegister@gmail.com

Dearest Readers,

Our team here at The Ontario Country Register couldn't wait to get back! We have definitely missed bringing you our publication that is always crafted with love!

It goes without saying that these are unprecedented times. In a March that I, personally, will never forget we were ordered to close our doors in order to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. No one knew how long it would take to get back to "normal". Although this was shocking at first, the quilting and crafting community hunkered down and found new & creative ways to serve their customers.

The creative community immediately jumped in to serve and continue to be "all hands on deck" making masks and other PPE for front line workers and those in need. Websites with online shopping, curbside service and even home delivery were offered to be able to get much needed and wanted supplies to their customers. Many shops are also using Facebook, Instagram and email campaigns to keep their customers aware of what is new in their shop. Facebook Live is providing video classes, sewing tips and a way reach out to more of you every day.

Now, with Ontario schools soon reopening, the need for masks is more crucial than ever. Sewists everywhere are hearing the call and are coming together to fill this need to help protect our children and their teachers.

In some ways this crisis has brought us back to a simpler time. We are all banding together for the common good – fighting this pandemic. We are wearing masks to protect others and others are wearing masks to protect us as well. Some of us got to slow down, spend a lot more time with family, home-cooked meals, gardening, working on projects long forgotten, talking with loved ones and appreciating all those in our lives. It is a time to reflect what is truly important in our lives.

We also want you to know that we have learned a lot from this crisis and our advertisers. Starting this issue, we will also be using social media and our website to increase the reach of our excellent advertisers. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram as we strive to become yet one more avenue for you to shop and find the best deals in all things quilting and crafting!

Rest assured, we will get through this and we'll be stronger for it. Keep love in your heart, a smile on your face and keep safe!

Lotsa love,
Harriet

From Lydia's Recipe File:

Checkerboard Cake

Now you can have both chocolate and white cake in one slice.

1 chocolate cake mix

1 white cake mix

3 round cake pans (8- or 9-inch)

divider for cake pans

Chocolate frosting (purchase or prepare homemade)

Directions:

1. Prepare each cake mix in a separate bowl according to package directions. Use the same brand of mix for both cakes so the cakes are similar in density and the colors don't run through.
2. Line 3 cake pans with circles of parchment paper. Add the divider to one pan.
3. Pour chocolate cake batter into the outside ring and center ring. Add white cake batter to the middle ring. Carefully remove divider, lifting it straight up and setting it aside.
4. Wash and dry the divider; fill the second cake pan the same way.
5. Wash and dry the divider. Add the divider to the third cake pan. Pour white cake batter into the outside ring and the center ring. Add chocolate cake batter to the middle ring. Remove divider. (If you prefer more white cake than chocolate, fill two pans this way and fill only one cake pan with chocolate batter in the outer and center rings.)
6. Make cupcakes from any leftover batter.
7. Bake according to package directions.
8. Place cakes on cooling racks and cool completely; remove parchment paper before frosting.
9. Frost with prepared or homemade frosting. Alternate layers with the chocolate and white rings of cake on the outside.
10. Spread frosting between the layers, on top, and around the sides.

Tips: Find cake pans and checkerboard cake divider online and in some stores. Find videos online that demonstrate alternate ways to make a checkerboard cake if you don't have a divider. Also, you can use other colors and cake flavors to make a checkerboard cake.

Homemade Chocolate Frosting

1 cup softened butter

2/3 cup cocoa powder (unsweetened)

1/3 cup milk

1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

3 1/3 cups powdered sugar

Directions:

1. Beat together butter and cocoa powder.
2. Mix in milk and vanilla.
3. Beat in sugar, one cup at a time.
4. If frosting is too soft, add more powdered sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time. If frosting is too thick to spread, add a little milk, 1 tablespoon at a time.



A Cup of Tea with Lydia

by Lydia E. Harris



A Fun and Games Par-TEA

Life isn't always fun and games. And when it isn't, perhaps that's the time to add fun and games to our lives. So, in spite of the pandemic, let the fun begin!

Fun Setting

It's easy to decorate for a fun and games par-TEA. Two tables stood ready on my deck to welcome three of my grandkids (ages 10, 14, and 17), their mother, and my daughter. Floral paper plates, cheery red napkins, boxed card games, and packages of popcorn to take home set a merry mood.

Soon I heard footsteps bounding up the outdoor steps, and my grandson asked, "Did you make the cake?" I've always wanted to bake a checkerboard cake—perfect for a fun and games teatime. Now I had.

Just for fun, I set out a box of hats and a full-length mirror. Guests laughed as they tried on hats and donned ones that suited them.

Fun Food

The simple menu included foods we enjoy: chicken salad served in freshly baked rolls, assorted cheeses and crackers, veggie sticks, fruit, tortilla chips, bean dip, and beverages. Our grandkids like to play the game Apples to Apples, so a tray with four kinds of sliced apples created a new twist as they compared the taste of one variety of apples to another and chose their favorites.

The checkerboard cake was the highlight of the menu since my family had never seen or tasted one. I showed them the three layers of white-and-chocolate cake and the pans and divider I used to make them. They watched me spread the homemade chocolate frosting and eagerly waited to see the brown and white checkerboard design emerge. I cut the first slice—and it did look like a checkerboard! The cake, along with my homemade ice cream, were a hit.

To continue the game theme, I also cut leftover chocolate sheet cake into domino-sized pieces and added a few white chocolate chips to make dots on top. Frosted brownies would make good dominoes too.

Fun Games and Surprises

For entertainment during lunch, I filled an empty tea tin with jokes and sayings I cut from Country Register papers. This one brought loud laughter: "People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do."

I ordered a Chocolate Monopoly game online for a sweet surprise. You play this version with a game board and spinner. Best of all, the properties are pieces of wrapped Belgian chocolate.

The grandkids were excited about the treasure hunt I had planned. Ten clues led them through the front and back yards searching for treasure. The last clue said, "Ring the doorbell and return to the deck. Grandpa will give you your treasure." Grandpa gave each of them money in his traditional and fun way.

Fun Memories

"Thank you, Grandma," the grandkids said as they got into their car to head home. My daughter lingered, and we enjoyed catching up further. The time spent preparing for the party was definitely worth it.

Generally, I allow three days to host a teatime: A day to prepare, the party day to share, and the day after to wash linens, put away decorations, and unwind.

With leftover food from the teatime, two days later I invited my sister Ruth (age 83), who lives in a retirement community, for tea. Rather than play games, we chatted and prayed together for our families and our nation.

Ruth enjoys crafts and sewing but can't get out to purchase supplies now with the virus. So I sent her home with fabrics and sewing kits I had. "I'll have to live a long time to finish all this," she said and laughed.

A fun and games teatime can easily be adapted for any age or stage of life. Guests can bring their favorite card games or board games. Outdoor games like croquet also work well. Prepare a setting with social distancing during this pandemic. Select foods and games your guests will enjoy. Then make memories together.

I'm ready for more fun and games over tea. Will you join me?

Lydia E. Harris holds a master's in home economics and has been writing this tea column for 20 years. No wonder her five grandkids call her "Grandma Tea." She is the author of Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting and In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together. Her books are available at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and Christianbook.com.



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Pound Cakes, an Old Trunk and a \$10 Bill

by Kerri Habben

Baking with Nanna

The child watches Nanna's hand,
farmhouse fingers curled around a wooden spoon
swirling through golden batter in the bowl.
Those younger hands once sifted German soil,
and upon her left hand lingers a band of gold
given to her at the turn of a century
by a grandfather the child would never know.

It is Friday, a day for baking butter yeast cakes
and also a day for making pound cake.
No breeze shimmers the curtains.
Heat holds the room still and heavy.
Moisture glistens upon Nanna's neck
and fabric holds to the child's back
like a second skin.

The child waits with her little bowl
while studying the little Bundt pan
that sits beside the larger one.
Nanna smiles and carefully pours in some batter
for the child to stir, stir and stir some more.
Together they pour their batters,
the child with the little bowl and pan,
and Nanna with her larger bowl and pan.
The child licks off the spoons
and Nanna scrapes the bowls clean.
The cakes slide into the oven.

Nanna wipes her hands on her apron
and holds one hand out to the child
who tucks her own within it
as the calendar reads
July 1945.

Nanna is my great-grandmother and the child is my mother. When she herself was 75 years old, Mom shared this memory from when she was 7 years old. I wrote this poem for the Old Mountain Press anthology, *Mother's Little Helper*.

Nanna was born Sophie Grabemeyer on July 16, 1875. On April 30, 1899, she married Karl Weisgerber. Grandpa Karl died on Nanna's 44th birthday in 1919. They had six children, five of whom were still living when Grandpa Karl passed away. There was a shortage of doctors after the Great War and he could not find care for a hernia that settled in his intestine.

In his pocket was an envelope that read "Sophie" on the front. It contained a \$10 bill, her birthday present. Although that detail reawakens a story from long before my time, I still feel her pain.

I never knew Nanna. She died in 1958, fifteen years before I was born. Yet, it is her rolling pin I reach for and her bread bowl that dough rises in. Garden bouquets sit in her demitasse cup, which reads "Zum Andenken" meaning "To think of you." I believe she carried it in the trunk she packed when she left Germany in 1897.

Recently, with the cleaning out of my childhood home, it became clear that it was time to let go of the large steamer trunk because there just wasn't any room for it in my new home. Now it will make new memories with someone else.

I had imagined it would sadden me to part with this vestige of Nanna's life because I had seen it all of my own. Instead, I thought about a 22-year-old Sophie packing the trunk, deciding what would fit for a journey across an ocean. As she arranged everything, she knew she might never again be with the family she was leaving behind.

Through a different life experience, I felt newly connected to Nanna in a stronger way than any piece of luggage could hold. Granted, I had only moved 45 minutes away via a major highway to a specific life I had chosen with joy and gratitude. So much more was unknown to her as she boarded a ship to another continent to become a house servant.

Like her, though, I had gradually compacted everything tangible that I could keep. All of the family who raised and loved me live beyond me now in a place that is not mine to know. I do not know if I will ever see them again. I just trust that grace always leads us home.

Sometimes, though, I ponder if somewhere little girls and grandmas yet bake pound cakes together. Just for a moment.

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Make a Quarantine Quilt!

During these unprecedented days of stay home and stay safe, what better time to make a Quarantine Quilt to show your support for a loved one, a health care worker, or to present to a doctor or hospital to display in their waiting room. Smaller quilts could be made and given to first responders or local police departments to give to those who may need comfort. Perhaps if you're a member of a quilt guild, suggest your group makes a Quarantine Quilt as a fund raiser and give the proceeds to a charity.

Either made by yourself or done as a group, these expressions of love and appreciated are sure to be welcomed. A quilt is the perfect gift or fund raiser to show your support.

Quilters and sewers care as evidenced by the thousands of masks currently being made as contributions to non-profits and individuals who need them during this time of social distancing. If you sew, making masks and quilts is a great way to support our county and those in need.

As always, stay safe, sanitize, practice social distancing, and enjoy making a Quarantine Quilt to brighten someone's life or raise money to support a charity!

Judy Sharer is the author of *A Plains Life* series published by The Wild Rose Press. Book One, *Settler's Life* and Book Two, *Second Chance Life* are now available wherever online books are sold. Book three will be released Winter of 2020. If you're a quilter, you'll enjoy Judy's sweet historical romances which have a thread of quilting that runs throughout the family saga series. Visit Judy's website for more details. judysharer.com

Barbara Floyd's Current Favorite

Chocolate Chip-Coconut-Almond Cookie Recipe

Cream:

- 1 cup of butter
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- 1/1/2 cups brown sugar
- 4 large eggs or 5 smaller eggs
- 3 teaspoons vanilla

Add:

- 1 1/2 cups unbleached white flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 package dark chocolate chips (2 cups)
- 2 cups sweetened coconut
- 2 chops coarsely chopped toasted almonds

Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees
Use parchment paper or lightly greased cookie sheet
Use middle sized cookie scoop for uniform cookies
Bake for 10-12 minutes, don't overbake
Cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before cooling on rack.

Delicious, soft and chewy and perfect for the freezer.
From frozen state microwave individual cookie for 20 seconds.
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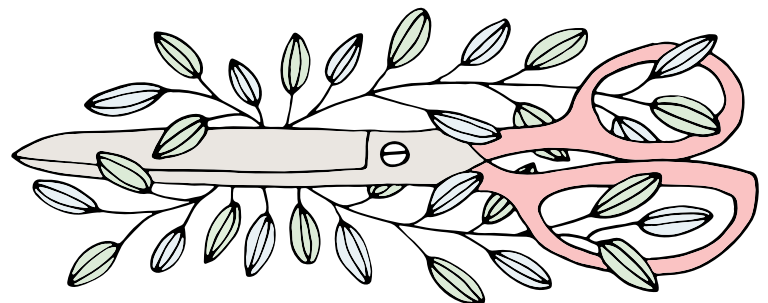
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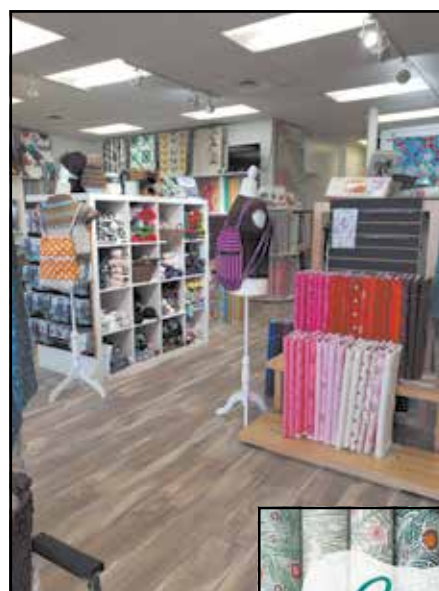
is a store for makers of textile arts and is situated in the Heart of Kanata, a western suburb of Ottawa, Ontario. The store is owned by Wendy and Daniel Fraser. Wendy has been crafting and creating with textiles for as long as she can remember and Daniel takes care of all the technical stuff, including the Bernina Sewing Machines.

Wendy had the good fortune to work for The Running Stitch for a number of years where she specialized with the Bernina Sewing Machines and taught a variety of classes. Dan joined The Running Stitch team when they required a technician for the machines. "It was a great opportunity for us, and we learned so much from Michele and Raymond at The Running Stitch", Wendy stated, "when our journey with The Running Stitch ended, we knew we wanted to change things up a bit and add to the product line. With Michele's help we did just that and Maker Savvy occupied Unit 7." (referring to the address of the shop at 462 Hazeldean Road).

The store is filled with colourful fabrics, sewing notions, quilting accessories and hand dyed yarns and wool. There is a Bernina Sewing Machine area and a separate room with a Bernina Q24 Longarm Quilting machine. Maker Savvy is proud to be an exclusive Bernina Sewing Machine dealer. Beth, is the inhouse longarm quilter and provides the finishing services to many of Maker Savvy's customers on the Bernina Q24.

In addition to Wendy and Beth, there are other friendly and knowledgeable staff available to help you with any of your projects or inspire you to start a new one. JoAnn is an excellent quilter and artist, Beatrice is an extremely precise and prolific sewist, Francine is relatively new to quilting, but she is an expert knitter and a very patient instructor. There is also Maureen and Louise both quilters and knitters who can help guide you through your fabric and yarn selections.

"We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful group of ladies who have joined us in this adventure" Wendy says, "I would be lost without them." Maker Savvy also has a group of very talented instructors that come in to teach specific classes. "It is a real pleasure to have these ladies and gentlemen join us for instruction and they are so willing to share their talent and knowledge. It truly is a wonderful community to be part of."



In addition to the brick and mortar location, Maker Savvy also offers products online at makersavvy.ca. "When the Province went into a state of emergency because of Covid-19, we knew we could provide much needed supplies and projects that could be completed in this new environment. With the help of some very talented people we were able to quickly get our online store up and running." In addition to offering products online, Maker Savvy stayed in contact with their customers and team electronically with weekly sessions on zoom, as well as Facebook Live.

Having recently achieved their second anniversary in the middle of the pandemic, Maker Savvy is looking forward to holding a physically distanced celebration this Fall.

They are also hoping to start classes again in their new studio space. "We are looking to create the right type of workstations that will allow physical distance, but be inclusive to follow instruction and work hands-on. We are almost there, and are looking forward to exciting announcements in September."

A quilt store, a yarn store, a haven for makers of textile arts; Maker Savvy is the shop-to, go-to for supplies, inspiration and of course a friendly smile.

"Never measure your success, or your progress, with someone else's ruler."

The Dropped Stitch

by Sharon Greve

A Patriotic Obsession

During World War I, America thanked its child knitters for their wartime efforts to knit for Allied soldiers in American Red Cross (ARC) bulletins with poems like this one:

*I'm awfully busy working for
the soldier-men in France;
I mean to make them a lot of things,
if I get the chance.
I've made already one face-cloth
and knitted it myself;
But Daddy used it by mistake;
'twas laying on the shelf.*

Knitting poems with the addition of song lyrics continued into World War II, equating knitters with warriors. Bandleader Glen Miller captured knitting's popularity—and promoted its value as a wartime effort—with his catchy rendition of *Knit One, Purl Two*, by Flossie Frills and Ben Lorse:

*Knit One, Purl Two,
This sweater, my darling's for you.
While vigil you're keeping through rain and storm,
This sweater will keep you warm.
Purl Two, Knit One,
Our trials I know have begun,
And while you are fighting each battle through,
My darling, my heart's with you.*

Journalists sponsored knitting poetry contests, and published press releases. News people, in particular, liked stories about unusual knitters: celebrities, men, the elderly, youngsters, and prolific knitters. They even sponsored and/or advertised contests for the most prolific knitters—those who produced record numbers of knitted “comforts.” Journalists also advertised the need for the production of wool, “a critical war material.” Yarn and needlework pattern companies published booklets including or devoted to patterns for fighting men and war victims.

Artists of all types became involved. Graphic artists and cartoonists painted/drew knitters for posters, postcards, magazine covers/illustrations, sheet music covers, and even paper dolls. Photographers captured knitters with their cameras. Poets wrote knitting poetry for poetry contests, for magazines, for printing on knitting tool packaging, as well as for printing on knitting bags. Lyricists wrote lyrics for numerous knitting songs and musicians wrote the music for those songs. Playwrights wrote plays to be presented at knitting bees and other venues. Knitting stories were included in novels. Hats and badges were even designed with knitting themes.

The ARC published *100 Lies of the Hun*, eleven of which countered negative knitting rumors: that ARC was selling donated knitted items, slightly worn socks were being thrown away, and that many of the knitted products were shoddy or unwearable.

Knitting became a patriotic obsession. After the war, knitting contributions were recognized as meeting a critical need. In 1930 President Herbert Hoover dedicated the new ARC North Building in Washington, D.C. to the women's contributions to winning the Great War, enumerating the contributed knitting items of each type in the citation. Participants in the knitting campaign said they felt they did something to help the war effort, that they alleviated suffering, and that they were calmed by the act of knitting.

There are many stories of thankful warriors and victims sometimes writing thank you notes, a few of which made it back to the knitters. The knitting campaign and the propaganda that fueled it, proved to be successful all around: for the warriors, the wounded, the displaced, and even the knitters themselves.

KNITTERS ARE HEROES

©2020 Sharon Greve...Fiber Artist, Writer/Author, Historian



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New Knitting Mystery Arlene Sachitano's Latest Book— *Double Knit Death Murder Mystery*



Knitter Permelia O'Brien is starting over. Her husband has left her for a much younger woman and they are having a baby. She and her cat Fenton move from the family wheat ranch and her beloved fiber co-op to an apartment over the city morgue, taking a job answering the phones at night in exchange for reduced rent.

Permelia meets her curious neighbor, Wilma, who lives behind a high stone wall and proclaims she never leaves the property. She noticed Permelia moving in her spinning wheels and fiber and asks her if she can teach her to knit. Permelia agrees and discovers Wilma has created a beautiful sanctuary behind the wall, but she wonders why Wilma would choose to live that way.

Someone begins a campaign of notes made from letters cut from magazines, warning her to move away. But Permelia laughs it off as a harmless prank. Others are not so sure.

On Permelia's first night on phone duty, the body of a murder victim comes in and is identified as Edward Anderson. The next morning, a distraught woman, Betty Fitzandreu, comes looking for her husband who is missing. She is assured that only Edward is currently in residence.

Permelia brings a hat she found near the dumpsters to the office as Betty is leaving. Betty catches sight of the hat and passes out cold, falling on Permelia and knocking her down. Permelia invites Betty up for tea and points out that her fiber co-op spun, dyed and sold the yarn in the hat to a local yarn store. Betty says she made the hat. What is it doing in the morgue parking lot?

Assistant medical examiner, Dr. Harold Grace, worries about Permelia and while she is not ready to be with any man after her louse of a husband, she does find the doctor very charming.

Permelia knits a duplicate hat and takes it to Edward Anderson's family where it is recognized, confirming what Permelia suspected—Edward is also Eidread Fitzandreu.

She meets Edward's youngest son and the boy is so lacking in attention from his family that he keeps finding excuses to come visit Permelia and her home baked chocolate chip cookies.

Betty's son Red returns from school in Ireland when he's told his father has been murdered and worse—he has another whole family. He wants his mother to return to Ireland where he believes she will be safe from whoever killed his father. She's not having it. She wants to find out why a man would choose to have two families instead of having a simple divorce?

Permelia is worried for her friend but she does not know who among all the new people she is met is Ed/Eid's killer, including Betty herself.

A knitter herself, Arlene Sachitano started life as a military brat. Her dad retired and moved the family to the Pacific Northwest where she still lives. She started knitting, writing and sewing at a young age and still does all three. Until recently, a thirty year diversion into the high tech industry, along with marriage and children, prevented her from taking action on her desire to write novels inspired by her love of Agatha Christie. Arlene spends her days writing her novels, babysitting her grandchildren, quilting, knitting and promoting her books. She is active in the Harriet Vane Chapter of Sisters in Crime in Portland, Oregon.

A New Chapter for an Old Cabinet

by Kerri Habben Bosman

This morning I walked across our front yard to look in a drawer. To my delight something was missing. Then I opened the cabinet door. I smiled when I saw a space where a book had been.

Since early summer we have had a little free library. Both Wayne and I have wanted to share books in this way for a long time. Our library lives in an old pine cabinet my dad put together.

We knew it needed some protection from the elements, Wayne granted me full artistic license to paint it. He understands my occasional and sudden passion for spray paint. The spring after my mother died, I redid the whole shed that way. It was somehow comforting, although it took a while for my nasal passages to recover.

Dad's cabinet fulfilled my spray paint yearnings this summer. I used varying shades of blue, teal, and yellow.

The best part arrived when we invited our favorite artists over one Sunday afternoon. They kindly volunteered their time and talents. We had purchased some art supplies, but their immediate creativity and vision required more. They refused any offer of refreshment and diligently went about their task.

The back of our library presents a breathtaking view of Maroon Bells in Aspen, Colorado. The front has an impressionist seascape while one side has elegant swirls of magenta. The remaining side offers a pastoral scene delicate purple flowers beside a rushing creek. Above this is a nearly cloudless sky broken otherwise only by a male cardinal in flight. Afterward we sprayed it with a clear protective coating.

Although if anything needs a touch-up, the artists live close by. They likely would be swayed by packages of fruit snacks. Or ice cream. What a gift grandchildren are. We contentedly sat in our lawn chairs and watched them create their masterpieces. Now during our morning coffee, we smile at our little library and the memory of that summer afternoon.

The upper part of the cabinet has shelves filled with books for children and adults. There is fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and more. Our first "customer" was a little girl who carried home my childhood copy of Charlotte's Web. Often people leave books. Thus, we've even borrowed from our own library.

We applied chalkboard paint to the inside of the doors. There is chalk if anyone wants to share a thought of their own. Hand sanitizer is on the shelf.

There are two drawers. The bottom one is broken, but in the top one we place little things for a giveaway. I crochet most of it. In the summer it was washcloths. Now I am working on small blankets and hats for the coming months.

We've watched the shadows gradually shift. The shaft of sunlight that slanted across the shade garden in June migrated to the little library in July. Now it dapples upon the bark of the maple tree beside the driveway. As Wayne says, it is like we live on the top of a sundial.

Today what had migrated from the drawer was a blanket of crocheted squares my grandmother and I made. In her later years she gave lap robes to a local hospital. At her passing in 2006, she had earned 6500 volunteer hours.

Our library was assembled by dedicated hands now stilled. It was painted by young hands that already make our world better. It is filled with a variety of books for anyone who wants or needs one. We find enduring joy in sharing this with our neighbors and our community.

We gently turn the page into autumn. And a simple cabinet continues its journey, one book at a time.

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Ajax	<i>Twisted Stitchers Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Ajax Legion at 7pm on the 2nd Tuesday on any month from September to June.
Alliston	<i>Quilting Corners Guild</i> We meet at St Johns United Church at 7pm on the first Tuesday or each month, except January.
Ancaster	<i>Ancaster Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at the Marshall Memorial United Church, 20 Gilbert Ave. at 7pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to June.
Amnprior	<i>Amnprior District Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Christian Education Centre, 257 John St. N. at 6:30 pm on the fourth Wed. of each month from Sept. to June.
Barrie	<i>Simcoe County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Simcoe County Museum, 1151 Hwy 26, Midhurst at 1:00 pm on the Fourth Thursday each month except the 2nd Thursday in Dec and 3rd Thursday in June, from September to June. <i>Kempfenfelt Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Lion's Gate Banquet Hall on Blake Street, the 3rd Thursday of the month from 7-9pm <i>Barrie Modern Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Grace United Church, 350 Grove St. East the last Thursday of the month, on alternate months from September to May - 7pm and on various Saturdays during the alternate months, for Activities and Workshops, from October to June.
Belleville	<i>Quinte Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Recreation Centre, 116 Pinnacle Street. At 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month.
Binbrook	<i>Binbrook Country Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Binbrook United Church, 2623 Binbrook Rd. 7:30 pm the last Monday of the month from Sept - Nov and Jan - June.
Bracebridge	<i>The Pine Tree Quilters' Guild of Muskoka</i> We meet at the Bracebridge Memorial Arena, 169 James St at 1:00 pm on the 2nd. Thursday of the month from September through June.
Brampton	<i>Brampton Quilters Guild</i> We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month from September to June at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held at Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre, 292 Conestoga Dr, Brampton.
Brantford	<i>Brant Heritage Quilters</i> We meet at St George United Church at 7:30 pm. on the second Thursday of the month.
Brockville	<i>The Thousand Islands Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Royal Canadian Legion,180 Park Street at 7 pm on the 4th Thursday evening of the month. No meetings December, January, July and August.
Buckhorn	<i>Buckhorn Area Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Hartley Hall, St. Mathews / St. Adian Anglican Church at 9:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday of the month (excluding July, August and December).
Burlington	<i>Halton Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Mainway Recreation Centre, 4015 Mainway Dr. at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of the month from September through June).
Caledonia	<i>Caledonia Grand River Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at 7pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through June.
Cambridge	<i>Busy Hands Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Preston Scout House, 1580 Queenston Road at 9:30 am on the third Monday of each month.
Chatham	<i>Chatham-Kent Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at St. Paul's Congregational Church, 450 Park Ave W at 7pm on the third Wednesday each month, except December.
Cornwall	<i>Cornwall Quilters Guild</i> We meet at St. Mathews Lutheran Church, 1509 Second St West at 7pm every third Monday evening from September through May.
Courtice	<i>Clarington Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Faith United Church, 1778 Nash Road on at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month.
Dryden	<i>Sunset Country Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at 84 St. Charles Street at 7 pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month.
Elliot Lake	<i>Elliot Lake Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Gentle Shepherd Church, 3 Ottawa Ave. at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays from September through June.
Elmira	<i>The Elmira Needle Sisters</i> We meet at the Elmira Mennonite Church at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday of the month.
Etobicoke	<i>Etobicoke Quilters Guild</i> We meet at Neilson Park Creative Centre - 56 Neilson Dr. at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of the month.
Georgetown	<i>Halton Hills Quilters Guild</i> We Meet at the Cultural Centre, 9 church St. at 7:15 pm on the fourth Monday of the month (Sep-Nov, Jan-Jun)
Gloucester	<i>Common Thread Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Le Mouvement D'Implication Francophone D'Orléans (MIFO), 6600 rue Carriere in Orleans at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month from September through June.
Goderich	<i>Goderich Quilters' Guild</i> We meet once a month on the 2nd Tuesday.
Grimsby	<i>Grimsby Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Livingston Activity Centre at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month.
Guelph	<i>Royal City Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Three Willows United Church, 577 Willow Road at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday each month from September until June.
Gwillinbury	<i>Gwillimbury Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Sharon-Hope United Church, 18648 Leslie St. at 1:00 pm on 4th Monday of the month from September through May.
Hagersville	<i>Haldimand Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at the Hagersville United Church at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of the month from September through June.
Haliburton	<i>Haliburton Highlands Quilter Guild</i> We meet at the Stanhope Community Centre, 1095 North Shore Rd, Algonquin Highlands at 1:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month.
Hamilton	<i>Hamilton Quilters Guild</i> We meet The Church of Resurrection, 435 Mohawk Rd. W.at 7:00 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September through August.
Ingersoll	<i>Oxford Quilters Guild</i> We meet month at the Ingersoll Creative Art Centre, 125 Centennial Lane (in Victoria Park) at 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday and 9:00 am on the first Thursday of each month.
Kanata	<i>The Kanata Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Glen Cairn United Church, 140 Abbeyhill Dr. at 9:30 am on the second Wednesday of the month from September to June.
Kemptville	<i>Kemptville Quilters Guild</i> We meet pm at the Kemptville Pentecostal Church 1964 County Road # 43 at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month (except for holiday Mondays).
Kenora	<i>Lake of the Woods Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at St. Louis Catholic Church, 912 Superior St in Keewatin at 7 PM on the second Thursday of the month.
Kingston	<i>Kingston Heirloom Quilters</i> We meet at St. Johns Anglican Church Hall in Portsmouth Village at 9:30 am on the first Tuesday and 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month.
Kingsville	<i>Erie Shores Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Kingsville Arena, 2nd floor at 7p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month.
Kirkton	<i>Huron, Perth Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Kirktown/Wooddham Community Centre at 9:00 am on the second Tuesday of the month from September through May.
Kitchener - Waterloo	<i>The Waterloo County Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Parkside Community Room of the Parkside Arena in Waterloo at 1:30pm and 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month.
Lambton	<i>North Lambton Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Port Franks Hall on the 4th Wednesday of the month.
Limestone	<i>Limestone Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at The Senior's centre in Kingston at 7:15 pm on the first Wednesday of the month.
Lindsay	<i>Lindsay Creative Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Celebrations, 35 Lindsay St. N at 1:00 pm every 2nd Monday of the month except for October, December and June.
Manitoulin Island	<i>Island Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Community Hall in Mindemoya at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of the month from September though June.
Markdale	<i>Queen's Bush Quilters</i> We meet at Annesley United Church, 82 Toronto St. at 7:00 pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month from September to June.
Meaford	<i>Georgian Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Meaford Opera House, Sykes St. at 1:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month.
Mississauga	<i>Cawthra Senior's Centre</i> We meet at the Cawthra Senior's Centre at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of the month (except July and August). <i>Mississauga Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Tomken Twin Arenas at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month (except July and August).

Miramichi	<i>Miramichi Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Seamans Hospital at 7:00 pm every Tuesday and 10:00 am every Thursday.
Napanee	<i>Heritage Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Strathcona Paper Center at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month from September through to June.
Newmarket	<i>The Region of York Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Newmarket Community Centre, 200 Doug Duncan Drive on the fourth Wednesday of the month from September through May. <i>Moraine Quilt Guild</i> We meet in the hall at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church – 484 Water Street, Newmarket at 9:30 am – 12 Noon for Social Sew and 1:00-3:30 pm for the Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month year round.
Niagara Region	<i>The Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Merrion Community Centre, 7 Park Ave., St. Catharines on the third Wednesday of each month.
Nobleton	A chapter of the <i>Modern Quilting Guild</i> We travel to various locations in Southern Ontario on a rotating basis.
Norwich	<i>Quaker Quilt Guild</i> We meet at 89 Stover St N, Norwich at 9:30 am on the second Monday of the month.
Orangeville	<i>Dufferin Piecemakers' Quilting Guild</i> We meet at the Orangeville Event Centre at 7:30 pm on the third Monday of the month from September through June.
Orilla	<i>Orillia Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Royal Canadian Legion, 215 Mississauga St. E. at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.
Orono	<i>Ganaraska Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Seniors Activity Centre, 200 Station St. W at 7:15 pm on the last Wednesday of the month.
Oshawa	<i>Durham Trillium Quilters'</i> We meet at the Zion Christian Reformed Church 409 Adelaide Ave. E, Oshawa at 7:00pm every second Monday Sept.- June
Ottawa	<i>Almonte Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Almonte Civitan Club, 500 Almonte Street Active at 7:00 pm from September through June (no meeting in December). <i>Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild</i> We meet at St. Anthony's Soccer Club at 7:30 pm on the first Monday of the month. <i>QuiltCo</i> We meet at the Trinity Anglican Church in Old Ottawa South on the second Monday evening of the month except July and August. <i>Owen Sound Bluewater Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, 1900 3rd Av E at 7:00 pm every third Monday from March to December (except May which is on the second).
Perth	<i>Lanark County Quilters Guild</i> We meet at Lions Hall, Perth Fairgrounds at 7pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month.
Pickering	<i>Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Peace Lutheran Church, 928 Liverpool Road, Pickering at 7:00 pm on the 4th Monday of the month September through May, excluding December.
Port Loring	<i>Argyle Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Lions Den in Arnstein on the second Thursday of the month.
Port Perry	<i>Port Perry Patchers</i> We meet at the Hope Christian Reform Church, 14480 Old Simcoe Rd. in Prince Albert at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September to June.
Prince Edward	<i>Prince Edward County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the BCR Church in Bloomfield at 7:00 pm County on the second Wednesday of each month.
Rayside	<i>Rayside Balfour Quilting and Stitchery Guild</i> We meet at the Chelmsford Arena (upstairs) 215 Edward Avenue, Chelmsford, Ontario at 7:00 p.m. every Monday from September to May.
Renfrew	<i>Quilt Guild Renfrew & Area</i> We meet at the Horton Community Centre, 1005 Castleford Road, Horton from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from September to June.
Richmond	<i>Richmond Area Quilters Guild (RAQG)</i> We meet at the Richmond Legion, 6430 Ottawa Street at 7:30 on the third Wednesday of each month.
Ruthven	<i>Erie Shores Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at the Ruthven-Olinda United Church every third Tuesday.
Sarnia	<i>Sarnia Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Redeemer Christian Reformed Church 5814 Blackwell Sdrd, Sarnia at 7pm the first Monday of each month.
Sault St. Marie	<i>Stitches From The Heart Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Senior's Centre on Bay St at 7pm the last Monday of the month.
Scarborough	<i>Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Peace Lutheran Church, 928 Liverpool Road, Pickering at 7:00 pm on the 4th Monday of the month September through May, excluding December.
Simcoe	<i>Twilight Quilters' Guild of Norfolk County</i> We meet at the Old Wyndham Church, 30 Glendale Crescent at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month. <i>Norfolk County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Vittoria & District Community Centre on the first Tuesday of each month except October.
Stittsville	<i>The Quilters Club</i> We meet at the The Pretty Street Community Centre at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of the month.
St Marys	<i>The Stonetowne Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the End Zone Room of the Pyramid Centre at 9:30 am on the third Tuesday of the month from September to May.
Stony Creek	<i>Stoney Creek Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Royal Canadian Legion, 12 King Street East, at 6:30 pm on first Wednesday of the month from September to June.
Sudbury	<i>Sudbury & District Quilting & Stitchery Guild</i> We meet at 140 Durham Street at 7:00 pm on every Tuesday from September to April.
Sutton	<i>The Georgina Pins and Needles</i> We meet at the Knox United Church 34 Market Street at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month from September to June.
Thunder Bay	<i>Thunder Bay Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Calvin Luthern Church on Edward Street at 7:30pm on the 3rd Monday of each month from September to June.
Toronto	<i>Etobicoke Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Neilson Park Creative Centre at 7:15 pm on the third Monday of the month. <i>Toronto Modern Quilt Guild</i> We meet at The Workroom Studio, 46 Nobel St Studio 102 at 3:00 pm on the last Sunday of each month. <i>York Heritage Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Toronto Botanical Gardens on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from September through May.
Wasaga Beach	<i>Yorkshire Rose Quilters' Guild of Toronto</i> We meet at Danforth Mennonite Church, 2174 Danforth Avenue at 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month from September through May.
Waterloo	<i>Slope to Slope Quilters Guild</i> We meet in the Community Hall at the Wasaga Stars Arena at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month September through June. <i>The Waterloo County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet the Albert McCormick Community Centre at 1:30 pm and 7pm on the third Wednesday of each month from September through June
Whitby	<i>Kindred Hearts Guild</i> We meet at the Whitby Baptist Church on the third Tuesday of the month.
Windsor	<i>Windsor's quilters Guild</i> We meet at Fogular Furlan Club, 1800 E.C. Row at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month from September to June.
York Region	<i>The Moraine Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at 1:00 on the first Wednesday of the month.

12 Things Antique Dealers Wished Everyone Knew

by Ed Kindle

Remember Reader's Digest? They are still around and have a series of articles called "What _____ wants you to know." All manner of categories are used, like pets, flight attendants, doctors, mechanics and more. Well I thought you might like to read, "12 things antique dealers want you to know." Let's dig in;

1. Not everything you have is valuable.

Value has many criteria. Age, scarcity, condition, region and more. Dealers know their market and what sells for them and have a general sense of what most things are worth. Many factors can go into the offer a dealer may make on your item.

2. Know how to haggle on an item's price.

We all love a good deal and sometimes we don't always agree with what a seller has an item priced at. Haggling properly without offense is a skill that takes time to master. Asking "What's the least you'll take for this?" is probably not the best way to get that discount.

3. Our time is valuable too.

Owner/operator business owners have many things to do in a day. They are chief cook and bottle washer and don't mind listening to a short anecdote or two, but please don't tie up large blocks of their time if you don't plan on buying anything. They are at work and have a full schedule.

4. We can't buy everything.

Many antique stores have extensive inventories and sometimes more in storage. Some specialize and only buy certain items. Also, buying can be dependent of cash flow as we all have slow seasons. Don't be offended if we don't buy everything you offer, but we are appreciative you did.

5. There is more to the price than just the item.

Antique dealers have much to figure into our pricing. There is the item's value of course, but this can fluctuate. There is also vehicle gas, research time, cleaning, possible repairs, and time to merchandise the items. Sometimes the value of an item may decrease over time, but our original costs don't. Remember that until we sell that item, it is money frozen.

6. Yes, you might find it on eBay.

That doesn't mean it will cost less in the long run, or look like it did in the photo. Also shipping is free only if the seller offers it and shipping takes time. If there is a problem (such as damage) and you have to return it, you pay the return shipping. If the item was insured, you also have to deal with the carrier to get your money back. Not an easy task.

7. We have expenses too.

Many costs are incurred in running an antique store in addition to inventory costs. Rent, electric, advertising, insurance, phone & internet, supplies, other utilities and even with no employees an owner must figure in their time. Sometimes we just can't accept a lesser offer on an item or have many sales events.

8. There is no set markup.

We don't buy inventory at fixed wholesale prices. Sometimes we have to pay a bit more to get better quality or rare items. This will sometimes translate into higher prices to maintain a profit. The jewelry store that offers 50% off sales can do this because their markup can be as high as 800%. Sometimes we make as little as \$2.00 on an item.

9. We don't get our items donated.

Antique stores don't operate like thrift stores. We select and purchase every item in our inventory and have to earn a profit on each item. Thrift stores can afford to sell items at lower costs because items are donated, and they sell in much greater volume.

10. We are not experts in everything.

I have a pretty solid knowledge base as I have been buying and selling items for a long time. That doesn't mean I am an expert in all areas. I learn new things each day in this business. I also try to pass that knowledge along as much as I can. This means sometimes I just can't take a chance buying an expensive item, if I don't know much about it.

11. Condition is everything.

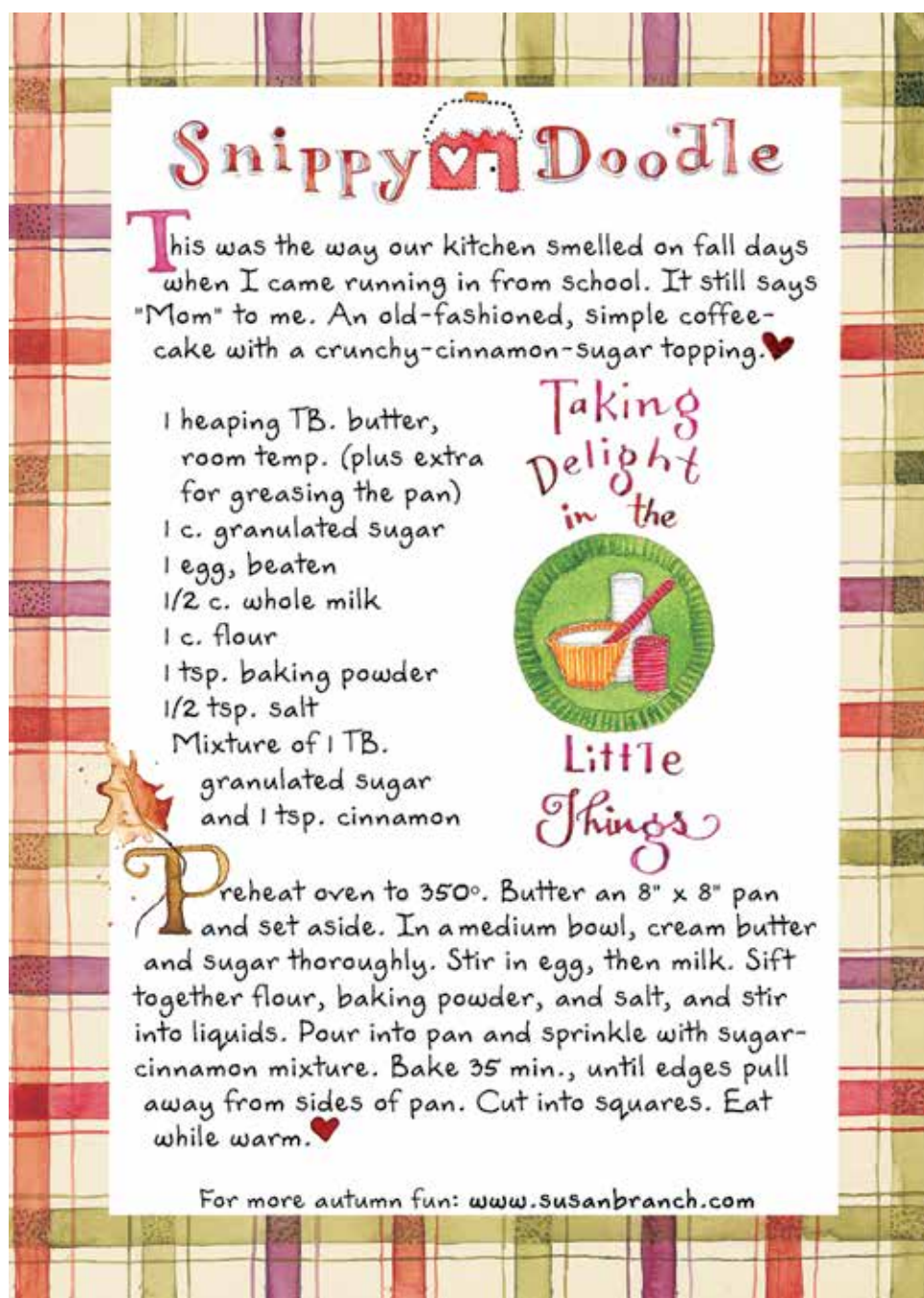
No matter how amazing an item is, or how much we might want to buy it, we can't if it's damaged. Things like broken or missing parts, scratches, dents, chips, nicotine stains or water damage all take away from an item's value. The item in the best condition garners the best price. Mint in the box or new old stock are always best.

12. We can't pay for sentimental value.

We understand some of your items that you offer us have special meaning to you. That being said we can't pay an inflated price for sentimental value. Provenance is a special category and must be documented. If an item was owned by someone famous or had a significant place in history, we have to have proof of that for it to affect the purchase and selling prices. Otherwise it is valued at the same rate as other similar examples.

Owning any small business is difficult. Owning an antique store has special challenges on top of the normal ones (especially now). The nature of this business changes year to year, month to month and sometimes day to day. Values change, item availability changes and customer interest waxes and wanes frequently.

Many of us do this and accept these challenges because we love what we do and for the love of the items. The history, the quality, the connection to, and preservation of the past and the nature of these items become interesting and meaningful. The personal relationships developed can last for years. We love seeing the items we curate and sell go to folks who will cherish them and build their own memories of the items they have found on our stores.



Clutter Happens

My Pandemic View

by Julie Pirtle

Hello to all of you amazing and beautiful survivors out there. Whew. A lot has happened to all of us since I last sat down to share my thoughts with you. In my last article, "Eliminating the ED in Your Life," I discussed how change could come into our lives like a steamroller and create havoc. Little did I know at the time that havoc was on its way into ALL of our lives at the same time.

Life came to an unexpected, screeching halt. The abnormal became normal in this upside down version of our lives. Because of this, I am stepping out of the box a bit to discuss organizing something you may have never even considered—your thoughts.

My personal journey with the pandemic may be something you can relate to. Due to health concerns for my clients as well as myself, I decided early on to cancel all appointments. After all, clutter elimination was not listed as an essential profession (but perhaps it should).

I found myself unemployed and in a state of shock. For the first two weeks, I was paralyzed. Depression quickly set in and I found myself unable to retain a thought. Worry took over and watching the "numbers" that were being reported every day became an obsession. It was as if I was waiting for an invisible nuclear cloud to drop. Honestly, it consumed me and I knew I had to start organizing my thought processes to take back some control and sanity.

When I am confronted with situations in my life that are out of my control, I tend to 'future trip.' My brain races to the worst-case scenario and runs with it. As this happens, other worries begin to filter into my thought process about the possible outcomes I am imagining and they feed on each other. I am trying to predict a future that, in most cases, NEVER HAPPENS. So, in the end, I end up having spent WAY too much time, energy and emotion unnecessarily. In even worse cases, I find myself in the middle of an emotional tornado. I can feel all the worries spinning around me and I literally feel like I am spiraling into the vortex. It is EXHAUSTING! But it happens.

To stop this process, I have learned a technique that helps me immensely. I call it "Switch." When I find myself spinning, I literally think to myself, "switch." Switching becomes a reminder to focus on something else entirely. It helps me to think of something specific that I will switch to in my brain. It can be a favorite memory, such as visualizing ocean waves running over my toes or perhaps a specific thing that I might be grateful for.

Having this thought predetermined is essential so I do not have to think about what I need to think about. I can immediately go to "that place" in my brain and "switch." When I first started doing this, I literally had to say "switch" out loud. Sometimes it would take 3 to 4 times of saying it before my brain could actually climb out of the vortex and into my more desired thought. It is a great way to organize your brain and take back the control from worry.

Watching how the pandemic is affecting people and their emotions (mine included) has been an interesting people study. We have been instructed on how to conduct ourselves in public for the good of society. Social distancing and mask protocol have become the norm. We are asked not to hoard; not to visit other households. We do our best to comply and yet see others on TV and social media not doing as they have been asked.

This can be infuriating and a true stress factor. However, it is possible to organize these thoughts as well. Picture yourself standing on the sidewalk in front of your house. This is your sidewalk and you keep it clean. You only have control of your side of the street. What is happening across the street is out of your control. Focusing on what YOU can and are doing is what matters right now. You can stay on your side of the street without judgment and lead by example. None of us know what another is going through at this time. Giving grace to those whom you may be frustrated with is a gift both to them and to yourself.

With my Professional Organizer's viewpoint, I am seeing many friends and clients being very hard on themselves in regard to high expectations. Having a lot of time on their hands now, they are setting huge goals as to what they want to accomplish within their homes. What starts out as a productive project can quickly turn into defeat. Just because you have the time may not mean that you have the emotional energy.

Seriously. If it was difficult for you to clean your garage before this upside down life, it may be even more so now that is compounded with the stresses that come with all of the change you are experiencing.

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While I am all for setting goals, I encourage everyone to set small goals. If it includes cleaning that garage, make it a goal to do one shelf or cupboard at a time. Do not deconstruct an entire space to organize it as you will most likely lose steam and will then be left with a bigger mess that you do not want to live around. Small goals will ultimately still get the job done and will leave you feeling accomplished on a daily bases.

In reality, I would like to see all of you spending this time doing the things that bring you joy. Finish that scrapbook project. Read those books that have been waiting for you. Sit outside in the middle of the day and breathe it in. Write old-fashioned letters to those you love and miss. Spending this time wisely may not mean how many tasks we can accomplish. Instead, it could all be about finding and rediscovering ourselves. Maybe that is the blessing in all of this chaos.

Am I personally "switching" and "focusing on my side of the street?" Some days, yes. Some days, no. I am a work in progress. I am spending time doing things that I never allowed myself to do without feeling guilty about it. AND...I am giving myself grace. As should YOU. C'mon, we've got this. I know we do.

Hugs to you all...virtually of course!



Town and Country Cooking

By Janette Hess



Just Peachy

Is there any better late summertime treat than a perfectly ripened peach? Some would say you haven't lived until you've eaten one whole, like an apple, with the juices running down your chin and arms. But as amazing as a solo peach may taste, embellishments are sometimes in order.

Peaches, of course, make magnificent pies. The recipe for Pecan Peach Pie calls for traditional peach filling to be nestled between layers of pecan streusel. The combination is hard to resist.

Surprisingly, peaches also blend well with vegetables. In Fresh Peach Salsa, peaches stand in for tomatoes. The resulting concoction is sweet, hot and delicious. Summer Peach and Tomato Salad goes one step further by pairing peaches with tomatoes. When topped with savory cheese, the salad is exceptional in looks as well as taste.

Take note that the easiest way to peel a ripe peach is to score it on the bottom, place it in boiling water for 10 to 20 seconds, and then transfer it into ice water for quick cooling. The skin should slip right off! This method works well for tomatoes, too.

Pecan Peach Pie

1 unbaked, 9-inch pie crust

Pecan streusel:

¼ cup brown sugar

¼ cup flour

¼ cup butter

½ cup chopped pecans

Peach filling:

4 cups peeled, sliced fresh peaches

½ cup sugar

¼ cup flour

¼ teaspoon cinnamon

¼ teaspoon almond extract

Dash of salt

Using pastry cutter or fork, combine brown sugar, flour and butter until crumbly. Using fingertips, work pecans into crumb mixture to create pecan streusel. Sprinkle half of streusel into bottom of unbaked pie crust. Combine filling ingredients and spoon into crust. Sprinkle with remaining streusel. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes. Lower heat to 325 degrees and continue baking for 25 minutes, or until filling is set. If crust browns too quickly, cover with crust shield or strips of aluminum foil. Serve with ice cream, whipped cream or whipped topping, if desired. Makes 6 to 8 servings.



Fresh Peach Salsa

2 tablespoons canola oil

1 tablespoon fresh lime juice

¾ teaspoon kosher salt

½ teaspoon ground cumin

2 medium peaches, peeled, pitted and diced

½ red or yellow bell pepper, seeded and diced

1 jalapeno pepper (ribs and seeds removed), diced

2 tablespoons diced red onion

2 generous tablespoons minced fresh cilantro

Freshly ground pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients. Cover and chill at least 1 hour. Makes approximately 1½ to 2 cups salsa, depending on size of peaches. Serve as a dip for chips or as a garnish for grilled chicken, pork or fish.

Summer Peach and Tomato Salad

3 large peaches, peeled, pitted and cut into wedges

3 tomatoes, peeled and cut into wedges

½ red or yellow bell pepper, seeded and cut into strips

¼ red onion, cut vertically into strips

6 tablespoons canola oil

3 tablespoons white balsamic vinegar

1 tablespoon honey

1 teaspoon kosher salt

½ cup crumbled gorgonzola, blue or feta cheese

Freshly ground pepper to taste

Place peaches and vegetables in large salad bowl. In separate container, whisk together oil, white balsamic vinegar, honey and salt. Pour over peaches and vegetables; toss lightly. Top with crumbled cheese and freshly ground pepper. Makes 6 large servings.

A trained journalist, Janette Hess focuses her writing on interesting people and interesting foods. She is a Master Food Volunteer with her local Extension service and enjoys collecting, testing and sharing recipes.

During These Unprecedented Times
Plan a Safe but Fun
Fabric Shop Hop!

With many of the large and local quilt show venues postponed or canceled this year and your fabric stash probably taking a hit, sacrificed to make some cute masks for social distancing, now may be the perfect time to plan a Fabric Shop Hop. Of course, you'd need to be as safe as possible by wearing your mask in public, keep your social distance mindful, take hand sanitizer, and don't overcrowd the vehicle with too many people. After all, you'll need room for all the bags of fabric you'll no doubt want to buy to replenish your stash.

I'm sure you can identify four or five shops in your local area or neighboring towns that you could map out with a restaurant for a break. Safely get out and enjoy the warm summer weather.

You'll want to plan ahead and call the shops to make sure of their hours. Ask if they have taken precautions in their store. You could even ask if they have received a new shipment of fabric lately and give them the date you plan to arrive.

Even if you pack a picnic lunch or pick up at curbside from a restaurant you can make it fun. Take a quilt along to spread on a nice patch of grass. A picnic lunch with a friend or even by yourself would help break up the day and who doesn't like a picnic. In fact, do you remember the last time you picnicked with a friend?

Plan ahead, shop till you drop, load up the vehicle with lots of packages, enjoy your picnic lunch, take along a cute mask you've made, and social distance, sanitize, and most of all keep safe and have fun!

Judy Sharer is the author of A Plains Life series published by The Wild Rose Press. Book One, Settler's Life and Book Two, Second Chance Life are now available wherever online books are sold. Book three will be released winter of 2020. If you're a quilter, you'll enjoy Judy's sweet historical romances which have a thread of quilting that runs throughout the family saga series. Visit Judy's website for more details. judysharer.com

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



Companionship

defined as an association as a Companion,
a feeling of Fellowship or Friendship.

Companionship is the state of spending time with someone - the state of having a companion or being someone's companion - someone we like to hang out with! These are my characters Charity and Star - they are Quilting Sisters - they like to hang out together and make projects, mostly for charitable giving. Good work for the greater good in their community.

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM:

We are in a place and time to honor the relationships we have with people we call our Companions in deeper Fellowship. Appreciation, Gratitude, Compassion, Companionship. Let's hang out together, and make good things happen!

Joy & Blessings,

Girlfriend Wisdom is written and illustrated by Jody Houghton®. For color files of this writing, contact Jody at: jodyhoughton@msn.com or www.JodyHoughtonDesigns.etsy.com

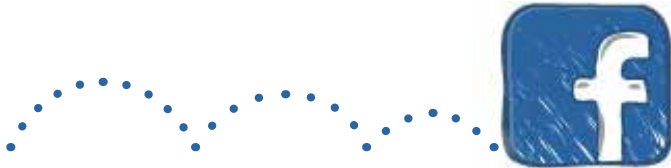
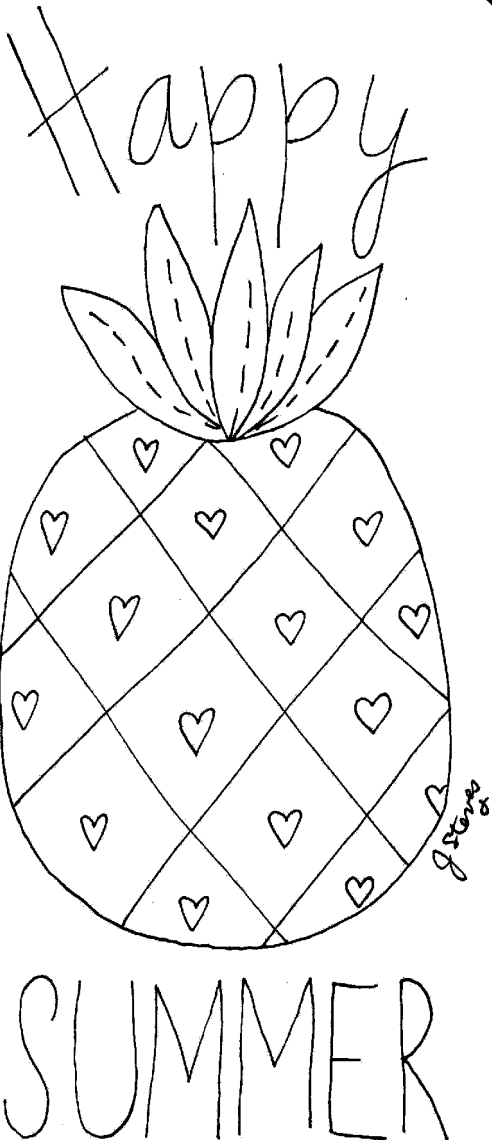
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Follow Along on Facebook!

by Barbara Floyd, Founder

If you are a reader of The Country Register chances are you use Facebook as well in this day of electronics. We have a very large readership that spans the USA and Canada. This next year marks our 30th year Anniversary which means a big thank you to our advertisers, publishers and readers!

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Curtains from Bed Sheets

by Jeanette Lukowski

I don't recall how or when it started, but I've been in the practice of producing tailored curtains from bed sheets for quite some time.

Perhaps I was inspired by stories from my mother, who would tell people about how she had sewn pleated drapes and fitted bed comforters when I was a child (moving into the apartment which housed those items when I was 7 years old). According to her stories, my mother purchased the fabrics from some well-known fabric warehouse in Chicago.

As an adult living in Minnesota, though, I couldn't shop at that famous warehouse. I only had a budget for local fabric stores which sold really pretty cotton fabrics by the yard—most often at widths of 45 inches. For a time, I made lovely curtains from those prints, and carefully hid the seams resulting from stitching together two or three widths of fabric when hanging the curtains from a rod.

Then one day I spotted an interesting set of sheets on clearance at the department store and determined they would work well for budget curtain construction.

I ended up lining those first sheets-as-curtains: I found another cream set of sheets, and meticulously trimmed, pinned, and sewed the fitted sheet together with the fun print to make side panels for the living room windows—saving the cream flat sheet for a “middle” panel. The transformation was successful—the sheets now looked like professional curtains, complete with matching tie-backs.

Twelve years later, my son chose a very specific fabric from the fabric store for his bedroom curtain—but complained that too much light was seeping through the fabric when I tested the curtains for length and (seamed) width. Remembering how I had lined the living room curtains a decade earlier, I pulled his sister's discarded dusty-rose fitted sheet from the box I had planned to donate (she was headed off to college which meant extra-long sheets), and once again manipulated the casing, side-seams, and bottom hemming to incorporate a lining for my son's bedroom curtain.

While many of the curtains I make are still produced from cute cottons I purchase at local fabric stores, often my window-dressings are tailored sheets—which is fascinating to my mother. “How did you ever think about doing that?” she recently asked me, looking at the white sheets I had turned into tailored curtains with tabbed-tops for the living room windows of the house I was selling.

I wanted to tell her it was originally her inspiration and tutelage, but then realized it had been a much more complicated path.

Twenty-some years later, I'm still using those original lined side-panels. They've hung in three more living rooms since then, although I'm not sure if the middle panel is still the original. My son, likewise, is still using his lined bedroom curtain—three bedrooms later. I smile every time I visit him and see it.

Although my daughter may never embrace the art of sewing (preferring acrylic paints, pastels, and charcoal pencils as her media), she *has* used a quilt I made for her as a light-blocker for her home's patio sliding glass door. Thankfully, it was hung so the design faced the family room—and the quilt's plain backing faced the sun's bleaching rays. Noticing my cringe during our visit, my son quietly reminded me of the creative thinking that led me to make curtains from that first set of bed sheets.

© Jeanette Lukowski 2020

Jeanette is a mother, grandmother, teacher and author; she is inspired by the lives of strong women.

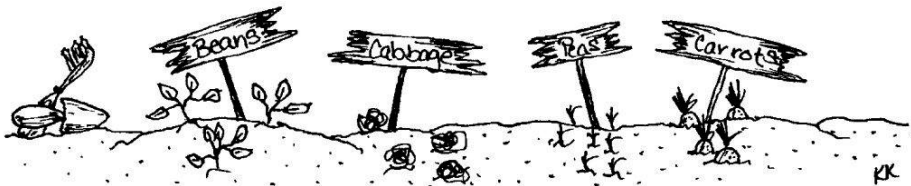


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Growing Kale

by Wendi Rogers, Ph.D.



Kale (*Brassica oleracea* L. var. *acephala*), a headless cabbage, belongs to the Brassicaceae plant family which also includes broccoli and collard greens. Kale thrives in poor soil conditions. For millennia kale was a survival food of European peasants. Now thought to have originated along the European Atlantic Coast, kale reached the Mediterranean region around 2000 B.C. The word "kale" can be traced back to the Old English word "cāl", and Old Norse "kál" which means "cabbage" in modern Icelandic.

As a superfood, raw kale leaves contain significant quantities of Vitamin A, folate (Vitamin B), Vitamin C, Vitamin K, manganese and fiber along with other macro- and micronutrients. Steaming or boiling kale reduces the amounts other vitamins and minerals, but vitamins A, B, C and manganese remain significantly high.

Kale produces health problems in some people. Kale contains high amounts of oxalic acid and Vitamin K. Oxalic acid contributes to the formation of kidney stones. Kale consumption may also trigger gout. An overabundance of Vitamin K, a blood-clotting vitamin can interfere with blood-thinning or anti-coagulant medication such as warfarin. Vitamin K and warfarin work against each other. A sudden increase in Vitamin K because you consumed raw kale while taking a warfarin medication may result in serious health problems. Before eating kale consult your dietician, advanced nurse practitioner, or physician.

Kale plants can be planted in the garden four weeks before the last spring frost or up to six weeks before the first autumn frost. It is best to start seeds indoors or purchase plants from a local garden center. Plant kale plants no less than 18 inches (46 cm) apart in the full sun. Both spring and autumn kale need to be mulched to conserve soil moisture. Cover kale plants if you expect air temperatures at ground level below 25 °F (-4 °C). Air temperature for optimum growth is in the 60s °F (15.5 – 21 °C). Kale will not grow once the weather turns hot.

Soil for kale should be well-drained with a soil pH between 6.5 and 7.0. Test your garden soil at the beginning of spring. While kale is forgiving of poor soil conditions except for poor drainage, it is best to prepare a compost-rich soil for peak production. Do not plant kale where broccoli or other Brassicaceae plants had been planted the previous two growing seasons. Feed kale at the base of the plant with a liquid vegetable fertilizer, such as a seaweed emulsion fertilizer, every two weeks after the soil temperature rises above 70 °F (21 °C). Kale should receive 1 inch (2.5 cm) of water every week. Harvest no more than a handful of leaves from a plant at a time.

Kale is not difficult to grow once it is established. Kale inspired a late 19th-century literary movement, the Kailyard School, that celebrated a romantic and sentimental view of rural Scottish life. In the early 21st century growing kale is no longer a matter of survival, but a healthy vegetable choice.

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Fresh Kale Salad

Makes five 1-cup servings

1 tbsp. finely chopped shallot (not green onions, but the brown bulb sold by the onions and potatoes)

1 tbsp. light-tasting honey, or light corn syrup, or agave nectar

1/3 cup (3 oz) light tasting olive oil

2 tbsp. sherry vinegar

1/2 cup chopped, smoked almonds, toasted pecans, and/or toasted walnuts

5 cups sliced or cut to bite-sized kale leaves

2 cups store-bought large croutons, garlic and butter flavored is good

1/4 cup finely sliced mint leaves

In a medium bowl whisk shallot, honey, olive oil, and vinegar until emulsified. Set aside.

Place the nuts and kale in a large bowl. Massage the kale with the nuts like gently kneading dough, for 30 seconds. This will break down the structure of the kale and make the kale leaves easier to chew. Whisk vinaigrette again, pour over salad and mix thoroughly. Refrigerate for several hours. Crush croutons until they are the same size as the chopped nuts. Mix croutons and mint leaves into the salad before serving.

Wendi Rogers' bio: Wendi Rogers lives in Wabaunsee County, Kansas, and began gardening when she started and sold her first marigold seedlings when she was 8 years old. She has a Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Missouri, a Master of Science in Animal and Range Science from North Dakota State University and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Fort Hays State University. She likes to help people grow their own food.

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LIFE IN SKUNK HOLLOW

*The Heart of a Princess**by Julie A. Druck*

My daughter-in-law has been loaning me movies to watch. Having spent the last 20+ years of life in an all-male household (my husband and I have 3 sons), I'm a little overdue on watching the standard chick flicks. One evening when I returned a few, she suggested that I might like the Disney Tangled movie. Though Sarah knows I'm not an animated movie fan, she assured me that I would enjoy it. And after my son chimed in that even he thought it was pretty good, I agreed to watch. However, my 2 ½ year-old granddaughter, Maggie, wasn't so sure that she wanted their copy of Tangled to leave the house. Though she's only watched it once, she didn't want to part with it that evening. Her mommy suggested instead that maybe the two of us would like to watch it together one morning later in the week, and we both readily agreed.

The morning for our movie date arrived, and Maggie met me at the door with her big brown eyes extra wide and her excited voice: "Hi, Da-ma! Today we're going to watch the moo-vie!! Are you excited?!" I replied enthusiastically that I was and waited patiently while her mommy changed her into a thrift store find of the same princess dress that Rapunzel wears in the movie. Maggie then donned her purple sparkly tiara. (I made the mistake of calling it her crown. It is NOT her crown – she distinctly calls it her "tiara." She can probably even spell it.) Up she climbed onto the sofa, arranged a pillow behind her back, and patted the cushion beside her, inviting me to take a seat.

I confess . . . I liked the movie. A lot. It was funny, spattered with catchy songs, had lovely costumes and scenery, and was about a hidden princess – what's not to like? I laughed and sighed and enjoyed. But mostly, I watched – yes, I watched the movie but I also watched Maggie. I sneaked many a peek at my granddaughter's enthralled face. And every now and again she'd catch me and flash a smile in return.

At the most magical point of the film (for those who have seen it: the boat scene watching the lantern show), Maggie Girl turned her sweet face to me just as I turned my head to see her reaction to the scene. And I knew instinctively what her eyes were saying to me without a word from her lips. She "said": "This is the most magical part, Grandma. And I know it, and I see that you know it, too." A kindred, confident smile lit her face, which in turn ignited mine. And for that moment, her little girl heart beat in unison with my own.

We clapped at the ending and then danced hand-in-hand to the music playing over the credits. Then I walked home and told my husband of the joy. The joy of having a little girl with whom I can enjoy tiaras and tea parties. The joy of pink and purple and sparkles. The joy of flower picking and cookie baking and craft making in girly fashion.

After reflecting on the memory again later in the day, I recognized another joy I received from our movie morning of Tangled. That is, the joy in being reminded that in the heart of every girl – whether my size or Maggie-size – hides the heart of a princess. Dream that dream, girl.

Julie Druck is from York, Pennsylvania, and writes from her farm in Skunk Hollow. She'd welcome your comments at thedrucks@netzero.com.

**Become Inspired!****Decorating, Entertaining and Living in the Early American Style***by Annice Rockwell**The Spectacular Season of Summer*

There is something truly magical about the spectacular season of summer. All around us we see nature's artistic and masterful hand dotting our landscapes with color. Our striking tall blooms of red beebalm unfold each year against our weathered fence just in time for July 4th like nature's version of a fireworks finale at the end of a hot summer day. These same red wonders draw the interest of the ever-eager hummingbirds who visit us each year reminding us of nature's comforting continuity.

The Height of the Year

And as our landscapes are vibrant and alive in the height of the year, so are we. Warm days washed with sun wake us early and beckon us to the outdoors. Our surroundings become a source of newfound joy as the days stretch slowly into night. Our desire to decorate expands to our yards as we carve out spaces to gather and places to linger to enjoy the beauty of a well-tended garden or a carefully created summer vignette.

The Fleeting Magic of Summer

In summer we can live more closely with nature. Our vegetable gardens that once held tiny seeds of wonder have now become abundant beds of produce. Zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes and beans can all be enjoyed more readily now. A crisp cucumber picked right off the vine, cut and eaten on a summer afternoon is a country blessing to be thankful for. Fresh, juicy tomatoes sliced to top a grilled burger on a summer night adds a burst of freshness that can only be homegrown.

Our kitchen clipping gardens that contain hardy perennials to be used all year add zest to our family recipes and their vibrant flavor captures the magic of summer. Perhaps the beauty of summer is enhanced by the fact that it is fleeting. Summertime is a gift that we have for only a short time. So we savor it. We choose to be grateful for all that it has to give. The gift of summer is gained through perseverance and hardiness all year so when it arrives we triumphantly rise to greet it. The sweetness of summer is a reward meant to be soulfully embraced. And when we embrace it, its beauty and its magic create a special spark that ignites within us a desire to truly live in our very own "height of the year."

Annice Bradley Rockwell is an educator and owner of Pomfret Antiques. She is currently working on her book, New England Girl. NewEnglandGirl2012@hotmail.com

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The Squeal Heard By All

by Deb Heatherly

I have six precious fur children—feline girls Lily, Little and Lacey and boys Max and Monroe along with our sweet dog Maggie. The fact that they all have names that begin with an “L” or an “M” was not planned and my husband likes to joke that we will soon run out of names and have to pick a different letter.

We adopted Maggie when she was two and she has never shown any interest in toys. The cats try and encourage her by sharing theirs but, so far, no luck. I’ve seen them proudly carry a toy and place it at her feet or in her bed while looking expectantly at their friend. Maggie just gives them a little “ruff” and turns her back on them. Toy mice and tiny balls do not interest her.

Last week, I distinctly heard Max tell her in his tiny kitty voice, “Fine, just be that way,” as he picked up his toy and went off to play by himself. Poor Max does not understand why she won’t play with him. Now, if he ever learns to bring her doggie biscuits, that will be a different story.

The cats bring toys to me as well. Lily loves to carry tiny pom-pom type balls and will place them beside my sewing machine while I’m working. I always try to stop and praise her for the gift and have learned that Lily wants me to toss the balls for her to play. She actually uses both front paws to catch them. At age eleven, a few good tosses and she is content but, when she was younger, the game would continue until I got tired of tossing. Recently, I must have been really concentrating on the task at hand because, when I finally looked up, she had three balls lined up on the table beside me and sat quietly staring at me, waiting for our game.

Little and Lacey like to bring me presents, too, but these two are not into balls. Instead, they like to place tiny toy mice at my feet while I am getting dressed each morning. Both expect to be petted and praised for their “hard work” and some mornings my bedroom floor is littered with them. If I ever sleep in, they have been known to place them in the bed so that I can wake up to their presents. Lacey has been doing this for years and apparently taught Little when we adopted her last year. I really do feel honored that they want to share their treasures and it never fails to make me smile. At least until last week.

It started out like any normal morning. As I dried my hair and got ready for the day, the tiny mice began to appear. There seemed to be more than usual that morning and I remarked to my husband that our gray girls must have been working all night to find this many. I told them what great mousers they were as I picked up a few and tossed them across the room, much to Little’s delight. My husband and I both watched as she grabbed one by the tail and tossed in the air before running back down the stairs to bring more. I was laughing as the mice continued to multiple. If I only had her energy, I thought to myself and turned back to the mirror.

Soon I heard them both coming back up the stairs and Little making her “I have a present noise.” It was not long before I felt her drop her newest treasure by my foot. Smiling, I reached down to pick it up but soon stopped dead in my tracks. My husband said he really could not describe the noise I made but he was sure that the neighbors heard it a mile away. There, among the toys—and right beside my foot—was an actual dead mouse. For me, time stood still. I’m not sure how long I stared at it trying to make sense of what I was seeing. Eventually I grabbed a paper towel, scooped it up and handed it to my husband. I needed no words; he recognized the look that said, “do something!”

Little seemed quite taken aback with my reaction. She had worked harder than ever to bring this present! Where was the joy? Where the praise? Once I recovered, I told her what a good girl she was, all the while cautiously looking at the other gifts to make sure they were just toys.

As the initial shock wore off, my husband and I had a good laugh and he brought up a very good point. “At least she did not leave that one in the bed for you to wake up to,” he said.

“Thank goodness!” I said. “Instead of a squeal, I might have had a heart attack.”

Deb Heatherly is a designer for Creative Grids tools®. When not in her studio, Deb is normally on the road doing Creative Grids® lectures and workshops for guilds and shops across the country. She is the designer of the Creative Grids Cat’s Cradle tool, Strippy Stars tool, Turbo 4 Patch, Ultimate Flying Geese tool, and Cat’s Cradle XL. She is also the author of the books Cat’titude, Strippy Stars, 4-Patch Panache, The Ultimate flying Geese Book, Cat’titude XL, and Creatively Yours.

Visit her website at www.Debcatsnquilts.com. Creative Grids® fans are invited to join her Facebook group, Grids Girls, for tips and inspiration. Grids Girls members have the opportunity to participate in exclusive Grids Girls mystery quilts two times each year. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/770429649800457/>.



Caught in a Rectangle

Mystery Quilt 2020 for The Country Register
Designed by Ann Jones

If you have any questions contact Erica at Nine Patch Quilt & Fabrics, Nevada, MO
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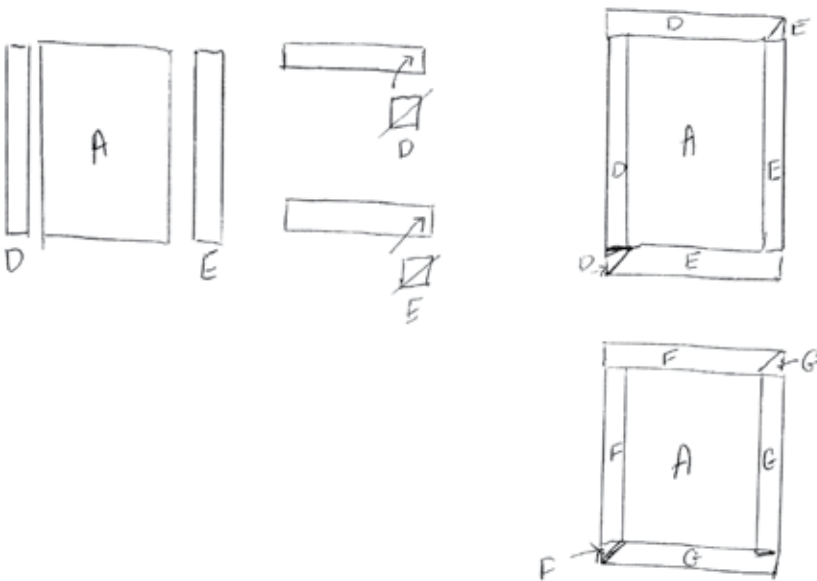
Part 2 – Block 2: 6.5" X 10.5" (make 20)
Cutting Directions for 1 block:

- (1) 4.5 X 8.5" Fabric A
- (1) 1.5 X 8.5" Fabric D
- (1) 1.5 X 6.5" Fabric D
- (1) 1.5 X 1.5" Fabric D
- (1) 1.5 X 8.5" Fabric E
- (1) 1.5 X 6.5" Fabric E
- (1) 1.5 X 1.5" Fabric E

Block 3: 6.5 " X 10.5" (make 20)
Cutting Directions for 1 block:

- (1) 4.5 X 8.5" Fabric A
- (1) 1.5 X 8.5" Fabric F
- (1) 1.5 X 6.5" Fabric F
- (1) 1.5 X 1.5" Fabric F
- (1) 1.5 X 8.5" Fabric G
- (1) 1.5 X 6.5" Fabric G
- (1) 1.5 X 1.5" Fabric G

Mark the diagonal on each of your 1.5" squares. Piece according to the following diagrams. Block 2 and 3 are made exactly the same, but with different fabrics



Bluebirds of Crappiness

Crappy times call for happy bluebirds!

We've all heard of the first bluebirds of Spring. Well, our Spring wasn't typical for sure, so cheer yourself up by knitting some sweet little bluebirds! Then knit more for all your friends and essential workers!

This is a seamless, intermediate-level knitting pattern that calls for double-pointed needles and just a few yards of yarn. There are optional needle felted details and you can watch a video of the techniques needed too.

A link to download the PDF pattern will arrive via email after \$5 purchase. All proceeds from sales of this pattern will go to Chicago-area food banks.

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