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The Country Register of Ontario October/November 2020 Issue

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Meet our cover artist: Karen L. Colbert

Tahoe Quilts

Perfect for lovers of fall colors, this landscape art quilt is sure to bring a smile to your face. I used a field of red, yellow and orange flowers at the bottom of the piece with some small orange and yellow poppy flower accents. A strip of grass and autumn colored shrubs is nestled beneath mountain peaks topped off by a purple sky. The border (not shown) is a light rust fabric. Small rings were sewn on the top back for hanging. Measurements: 24 x 30".

Karen L. Colbert, Incline Village, NV 89451, 775-833-0637 www.tahoequilts.com

Karen created her first piece of fabric art in 1999. When you view Karen's work, her quilts, at a glance, look like paintings. Stepping closer, you see the small squares of fabric she uses to create a magnificent landscape or abstract color transitional piece. Her work truly captures the essence of art, in both composition and vibrancy of color. It forces the viewer to want to get a closer look, then step back to see the beauty of the whole piece.

Although quilting is a traditional medium, Karen's impressionistic quilts take on a different flavor than those of our ancestors. Each piece is functional, and her unique twist of using color instead of complicated quilt patterns make her pieces stand apart visually from more traditional

Fabric provides a wonderful medium to create subtle shading in Karen's quilts. Playing with the fabric colors allow the pieces to transition through the entire color wheel, providing a unique bold landscape or abstract picture. Using simple squares when creating her quilts, she can focus on the artistic elements of the quilt versus the intricacies of the patterns. It is the play with the colors that fascinates Karen and gives her quilts their individuality.

Karen's work has been featured in Art Quilting Studio magazine, Australian Patchwork and Quilting, the Tahoe Quarterly magazine, and the San Francisco Chronicle. Her work is available at tahoequilts.com, on Etsy and Amazon - shop name TahoeQuilts.

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Dearest Readers,

Let's be there for one another Let's be a good friend Let's stick together Let's give encouragement Let's show our support Let's show patience and kindness Together we will get through this!

Please stay safe!

Hugs, Harriet

The Blessings of 2020 by Kerri Habben Bosman

The last thing I do before going to sleep is to count. The first thing I do upon waking is to count.

I listen to the rhythm of my own breathing and feel gratitude for another day. I count my blessings.

When I realize that I cannot count that high, I just say thank you.

Certainly, pesky details try to creep into my mind. However, all throughout this year we have had enough of everything we needed. We know that is a gift unto itself. We've also had time to foster small and large joys. Which brings me to the blessings of 2020.

My husband, Wayne, and I planted a garden in mid-March. There were a couple of patches with flowers and herbs and also a vegetable garden. We had little bouquets in the house all spring, summer, and fall, and we cooked using the herbs. In July we had about fifteen beautiful green tomatoes. We eagerly awaited for them to ripen. One day we went outside, only to discover that they were all gone. Except for one that had the tiniest bite taken out of it. Although we never got to eat them, they were still beautiful green tomatoes. Even greedy and finicky squirrels have to eat.

We put up bird feeders and also humming bird feeders. We find that we can easily get lost in watching the many different kinds of birds. One male cardinal is of the clearest scarlet we've ever seen. One female cardinal we've named Mrs. Frumple. For a long time she looked like she'd just rolled out of bed. About that time there were lots of new young cardinals about, so we figure she didn't have time for a shower and to comb her hair. Perhaps she too fights off the pesky details and counts her blessings.

We finished sorting through everything at the house I grew up in and succeeded in selling it late this year. This house sheltered my family for four decades. I am happy that it has a whole new life ahead. It was a valuable philosophical journey to ponder the tangible vestiges of those who loved me so well. Those whose love I always carry with me and which manifests in everything I do.

Because of the circumstances of these past months, we have been able to spend more days with the grandchildren. They can work on remote school from here, and on their breaks we do crafts, make things for their dollhouse, and bake. We've had the youngest (age 3) spend some nights with us. We play cars and dinosaurs with him and have pancakes for breakfast. We made memories we will treasure even more when they are grown and pursuing their dreams.

I have enjoyed writing to Wayne's mom. Twice a week I write letters to my mother-in-law. I print photographs, ones that we have taken or I download them from Facebook or Instagram. Then I create cards using the pictures of the family. My letters usually start out with this kind of vital information:

"I am sitting at the kitchen table and the dryer is humming as I write. I have water up for noodles for our tuna casserole tonight. This morning Wayne and I sat outside and had our coffee. We saw our first gold finch."

The highest blessing of 2020 is that on December 17th, Wayne's mom celebrates her 100th birthday.

She appreciates good health, radiates joy and faith, and her love bolsters our entire family. In whatever way we can in these unique times, we will be all together.

And we'll count. Then we'll count some more. And then we'll say thank you a hundred times over.

Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer in Chapel Hill, NC. She is currently working on a book of essays and poetry. She can be reached at 913 jeeves@ gmail.com.



October / November 2020 5





Holiday Zingerbread Teatimes

"Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"

What could be more inviting than the spicy aroma of gingerbread baking? Since young and old savor gingerbread, let's capture the gingerbread man and plan a fun and festive holiday par-TEA or two!

Children's Gingerbread Tea

When I learned the family temporarily staying next door bought a home in my son's neighborhood, I invited them along with my son's family for a gingerbread tea party. The dads were at work and already knew each other from childhood, but the moms and five children (ages 10 to 17) came to become acquainted. Because of the COVID virus, I hosted the tea outdoors on our deck and seated the families at separate tables.

The deck looked festive with red and green fabrics draped over the railing and tied with sashes. A fabric tablecloth with gingerbread men and teapot designs offered a cheery welcome. Red plates, Christmas teacups, and felt gingerbread men stickers added to the decor.

My grandkids' new Havenese puppy, Paisley Mae, also joined the outdoor party. She made a good icebreaker for the kids as they played with her in the backyard before teatime. Then Paisley joined us on the deck in her crate.

We started our teatime with a blessing. Then we enjoyed scones and toppings, fresh fruit, strawberry soup, individual bottles of sparkling cider, and herbal tea. Each table had its own pot of tea. Our guests chose Davidson's Children's Tea, a fruity herbal blend, and my family enjoyed their usual Celestial Seasonings Country Peach Passion.

Next it was time to decorate and nibble gingerbread cookies. I had baked our family's favorite gingerbread recipe (recipe included). Using three different-sized cookie cutters, I made enough gingerbread people so each person could have a family: a dad, mom, and two kids. Since both families have dogs, I also placed a Scottie dog (Walkers Shortbread) on each plate.

The neighbor brought five small piping bags of homemade cream cheese frosting—one for each child. While they expressed their creativi-TEA with the frosting and sprinkles, I read the "Gingerbread Man" tale aloud. And then, just like the story ends, soon it was "snip, snap"—and the cookies were eaten. But those that got away whole were taken home to enjoy later.

This turned out to be a fun get-acquainted teatime. My daughter-inlaw emailed, "Thanks for hosting a fabulous holiday tea. It was good for the kids to meet our new neighbors!" Whether you have new neighbors or not, hosting a holiday gingerbread tea makes a fun par-TEA.

Gentleman's Gingerbread Tea

Children aren't the only ones who love tea and gingerbread. Yes, real men take tea. Sipping tea by the fire makes fall and winter days feel warm and cozy.

My husband, Milt, enjoyed his gingerbread tea as he sat in his favorite burgundy recliner in the living room. I set a wooden tray with gingerbread cake and whipped cream on his lap. He had a choice of three toppings: applesauce, apricot jam, and lemon curd. He sampled all three, but lemon was his favorite. I preferred the apricot jam for an accent. Orange marmalade would taste good too.

Apricot tea tasted just right with the gingerbread cake. If you don't have apricot tea, you could add a splash of apricot nectar to black tea. Chai tea or an orange spice tea would be delicious as well.

Often I join my husband for tea. We sit on the sofa, turn on music, and enjoy a lady and gentleman's tea together. When the tea and treats are

gone, sweet memories linger.

Why not put on your favorite carols, brew a pot of tea, and create sweet and spicy memories with gingerbread teatimes? You'll be glad you did. Merry Christmas!

Lydia E. Harris is a tea enthusiast, grandmother, and author of Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting and In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together.



From Lydia's Recipe File:

Grandma Tea's Gingerbread Cookies

Crisp, spicy, and yummy.

Cream together:

- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 1 1/2 cups sugar

Add and beat until light and fluffy:

1 egg

Add and mix well:

- 2 tablespoons dark corn syrup
- 1 tablespoon finely grated orange peel

Sift together and stir into creamed mixture:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Chill dough if too soft. Roll dough 1/4-inch thick between two pieces of waxed paper. Cut into desired shapes. Place 1-inch apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes until lightly browned. Cool one minute before removing from baking sheet. Cool. Decorate, if desired. Makes 2 dozen large cookies; more if they are medium-sized or small.

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Moving Forward Block Pattern

Fast forward, move on, swipe right! This modern quilt block pattern makes one 12 1/2" x 12 1/2" block. Let's sew together! Use #sliceofpiquilts on Instagram!

Fabric & Supply Requirements

Background Fabric—fat quarter

Arrow 1—fat eight Arrow 2—fat eighth

Arrow 2—tat eighth

Arrow 3—fat eighth Fabric marking pen/pencil

Optional: 2 1/2" HST Bloc-Loc ruler

Optional: ViviLux green sewing machine laser

Let's begin!

1. Cut fabrics into the following sizes and quantities.

Background fabric	(2) 2 1/2" x 12 1/2" rectangles
	(6) 2 1/2" squares
	(9) 3" squares
Arrow 1	(3) 3" squares
Arrow 2	(3) 3" squares
Arrow 3	(3) 3" squares



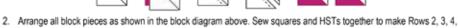
Use a fabric marking pen/pencil to draw a diagonal line on the back of all Arrow fabric squares. (A sewing machine
laser can be used in place of drawing lines.) Place one background 3" square right sides together with an Arrow
square. Sew 1/4" on either side of the drawn line. Cut apart on the drawn line and press seam toward the colored fabric to make two half square triangles (HSTs). Trim to 2 1/2" square. Repeat to make six HSTs of each Arrow color.











- and 5. Press seams in rows 2 and 4 to the right and the seams in rows 3 and 5 to the left.

 3. Sew rows together, nesting seams between squares, to make block. Press seams as desired.
- Block measures 12 1/2" square. Use in combination with other blocks to make a sampler quilt, or make several Moving
 Forward blocks to make a quilt!

Moving Forward quilt block

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Laura is a quilter, pattern designer,

and homeschooling mom of three young boys. She's also an ex-math teacher and with a last name of Piland - there's a strong love of pi in her house! Laura is also a self-proclaimed deal hunter and posts sales, deals, and coupon codes from shops all around the web in the Quilting & Sewing Deals Facebook group!

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LIFE IN SKUNK HOLLOW

Spreading Christmas Cheer

For as long as I can remember, my husband and I have enjoyed the simple pleasure of driving around to look at Christmas light displays. The practice has gone from a thrifty date night to a keep-three-little-boysoccupied activity to a family-togetherness-thing with teenagers to a nostalgic event that we (now as empty-nesters) keep alive.

After choosing our favorite display a few years ago, my husband suggested that we should take our tradition a step further and start giving an award to the winning house. I jumped on board, and we started brainstorming ideas of how we would do that. We decided to buy a big gift bag and fill it with fun goodies - stuff like good snacks, seasonal napkins, British Christmas crackers to pull and pop at their holiday table, and whatever else we could find that spoke to us. Marty suggested we hand deliver the bag close to Christmas. Just in case our winners weren't home at the time, we tucked in a little card explaining our tradition, thanking them for their time and creativity in blessing others with their display and, of course, congratulating them. We decided to include our names and address in order to make them feel more comfortable about getting a gift from strangers!

The first year we delivered our bag, I was nervous as I had NO idea how this was going to be received. Would they think it weird? Would they accept the gift from strangers? Would they even open the door? Marty pulled up to the small home decorated with white lights and wreaths in every window. We loved the traditional and simple elegance of it, which is the reason they won our contest. I walked up to the door and, thankfully, someone opened it. A 30ish man listened to my explanation of why I was there, and when I explained that his house was the winner, his face lit up like a Christmas tree! He quickly called his wife to the room and repeated to her what I said. She was just as thrilled and was so tickled to accept the award. We chatted for a couple of minutes and then I climbed back in the car totally elated. I shared the exchange with my husband and we drove home, basking in the joyous glow of spreading some holiday cheer.

Every year of doing this has been a delight, but last year was one of my favorites. I knocked at the door of a large home that was uniquely decorated - front yard and back. A couple answered the knock, and I explained our tradition. They were just incredulous. The man - who apparently was the one in charge of decorations - excitedly encouraged me to come in and see all the inside decorations as well! He eagerly motioned to Marty in the car to come inside and gave us a room-by-room tour of their beautiful home in which he had decorated every room with a seasonal theme. The two of them were so gracious to total strangers and just thrilled that they won our award. (But the story doesn't end there: this past summer we ran into the couple at a yard sale. Upon proclaiming that our award had been the highlight of their holiday, the gentleman told us that he had purchased some new decorations, and that we were to come back this year and visit them again so we could see their updated display!)

Who knew that such a simple tradition that we've enjoyed down through the years as a family would become a way for us to bless others and, in the process, again be blessed? This new twist on an old tradition has brought us so much joy, and we look forward in anticipation to future Christmas seasons of bringing a little portion of that same joy to others. It really is true that what you give returns to you, pressed down and brimming

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

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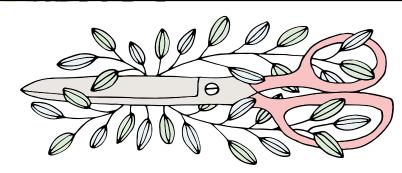




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It's Party Time with Lesley

by Lesley R. Nuttall

A Party for Two

I have always thought of 'parties' as fun, kindness, affection, and love towards your party guests—family or friends. As our country isn't quite back to normal, this party plan won't be including a lot of people; but there will still be a lot of love in my heart as I prepare for the smallest party of my life, for 'the love of my life.'

My husband has serious heart issues and the doctors are concerned, because of his age, 83, they won't be able to do a by-pass or even an Angioplasty because most of his arteries are blocked. Another stent may be the solution but I find myself on a mission to try to unblock some of his arteries with a menu change.

Now, this won't sound like much of a party but we can make it a 'party for two' every night; and I have always loved to plan parties, so what better way to help save the one you love! On August 4, 2020, we celebrated our 59th wedding anniversary.

I admit, I have no medical or nutritional training, but I have done extensive research on what could help clear a person's arteries to help the heart. My husband had a heart attack in 2017 while visiting our daughter in Kamloops, BC. The doctor who attended to him recommended he go on the Mediterranean diet. He followed his instructions, and over 8 months, he lost close to 50 pounds.

My quest was not about losing weight—but more about helping to open the arteries and boost nitric oxide which will cause the blood vessels to relax. Foods with nitric oxide also decrease inflammation, lower belly fat, which will lower heart disease. So many foods are good for the body. I had purchased the book: How Not To Die by Michael Greger, MD, FACLM, with Gene Stone and recipes by Robin Robertson. The book is about how to prevent and reverse disease. And their basic conclusion is through nutrition.

I discovered some of the foods best to boost nitric oxide levels in the body are: watermelon, garlic, pomegranate, beets, dark chocolate, leafy greens, citrus fruit, nuts and seeds, and meat. There are many other items which help including, flax seed, turmeric, green tea, orange juice, pomegranate juice, extra virgin olive oil and many more herbs and spices. Meat, poultry and seafood are high in Co-Q10, which is another key compound to help preserve nitric oxide in the body.

Nitric oxide degrades quickly in the blood stream so must be replenished daily. One way to increase its stability and limit its breakdown is by eating more antioxidants, which are actually found in all foods, but the best source is plant origin, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds and grains. Antioxidants help decrease the breakdown and extend the life of nitric oxide in the body! Vitamin D, (the sunshine vitamin) is very good for the immune system, and is an energy booster too.

A word of caution: anyone, and expecially those taking medications for blood thinners, high blood pressure or other conditions, should always check with their physician before making any dietary changes.

Now, every evening is our party for two! Although we are eating a lot more fruits and vegetables, we still include some beef and fish which we both love. Beans and lentils have now become a staple in our meals. I have been enjoying trying so many new recipes and different vegetables. I made us a black bean burger a few nights ago, which we both loved!

I've always loved this quote from the Medium, James Van Praagh: Following the path of love, is always your soul's desire!

Take care everyone, and always keep yourself and your loved ones safe!

MIXED BEAN SALAD

1 can Yellow Beans1 can Green Beans1 can Garbanzo Beans (Chick Peas)1 can 6 Bean Medley1 can Black Beans1 can Kernel (or baby) Corn

1 large Spanish, Red or Sweet Onion, diced

You can add, delete or change any of the above ingredients.

MARINADE:

salt & pepper to taste

Drain and rinse all beans, and corn. Add diced onions. Stir in marinade and mix well. Stir occasionally. Refrigerate overnight. Keeps well in refrigerate for 3-5 days. Yield: 12-16 servings.

©Lesley R Nuttall is the Author of Secrets of Party Planning. She lives in Dryden, ON Canada with her husband.

Orleans • Russell



The Dropped Stitch



by Sharon Greve

Knitting Fights Aging

It's not surprising that women make up the vast majority in the Century Club. It's been predicted the United States will have 5.3 million people aged over 100 in year 2100. The United Nations projects life expectancies in most developed countries, up to year 2300, will be between 100 and 106 years. In short, people will live longer and longer.

The repetitive action of hand-knitting is generally relaxing and can be well-suited for meditational or spiritual practice. Rhythmic and repetitive action can help prevent and manage stress, pain, and depression, which in turn, strengthens the body's immune system, as well as creating a relaxation response in the body which can decrease blood pressure, heart rate, help prevent illness, and have a calming effect. Pain specialists have found that the brain chemistry is changed when one knits, resulting in an increase in "feel good" hormones (serotonin, depomine, and endorphin) and a decrease in stress hormone.

Knitting has also been linked to reducing the risk of developing dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Mental exercise makes the brain more resilient. While there is still a lot not known about the prevention of age-related memory loss, the Mayo Clinic found knitting is a cognitive exercise that may reduce Alzheimer's risk by 30-50%.

How can that be you ask?

- 1. Improved hand-eye coordination helps build up neural networks, which can serve as a neuro-protective reserve against Alzheimer's.
- 2. Learning new things helps prevent Alzheimer's, due to always learning new skills and techniques.
- 3. Knitting is a form of emotional self-care, which helps reduce stress, a key component of reducing early Alzheimer's.
- 4. There is a correlation between depression and Alzheimer's. Knitting battles depression. Engaging the brain with challenging tasks can help ward off dementia and reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease. So add some complexity to your knit project from time to time.

Many things can be done to improve the individual's quality of life. These tasks are based on repetitive motion so the individual can continue to remember how to do them through body memory even when cognitive memory is failing.

- 1. Making things helps the older person feel productive even when Alzheimer's takes other skills away.
- 2. Knitting keeps the "fidgety hands" busy to avoid picking at themselves or destroying things as a result.
- 3. Yarn is great for sensory stimulation that evokes positive feelings and serves as a form of self-expression. Touching something soft elicits a calming response.
- 4. Calming activities, of which knitting is one, are relaxing to reduce Alzheimer's stress and anxiety.
- 5. Teaching kids to knit helps the person feel they can still offer something to the younger generation.
- 6. Sustained social contacts have been shown to support health and longevity join a group, big or small.

Maximize the health benefits of knitting by staving off stress, and ultimately, stress-related illnesses such as depression, Alzheime's and heart disease. Knitting can provide immediate relief no matter where you are. Knitting can travel with you, so a powerful tool is at your fingertips all the time. Eleanor Roosevelt took her knitting bag everywhere.

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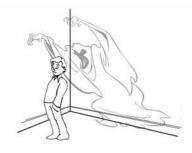


Oldcastle



Building Harmony

The Creaking Floor Boards a Haunting by Jeff Cappis



This is a story that always sends chills and a warning. It was told to me by a friend of mine. Her name is Carmen and she grew up in a rather large family of five children and, of course, two parents.

Carmen's father, Ted, took a new job and it moved them to a small town in the mountains called Buzzardville. He went ahead to secure them a suitable place to live.

Buzzardville had a population of about 1800 people. Ted was impressed with the town's scenic beauty as he rode around it with a Realtor looking for a house to buy. All the places they looked at were nice, but too expensive. Ted was worried he wouldn't be able to buy a home for his family.

"Surely there must be a place around here within my price range," Ted insisted.

"Well, there is one," answered the Realtor, "But I don't recommend it." Ted gave him a surprised look.

"Okay, I'll show it too you, but It's not a good place."

So they went. The Realtor drove him up to the end of a nice street and there stood the house. A handsome-looking two story made of brick with a wrap around front porch. Even the grounds were spacious for the kids. Ted was smitten.

Once inside, Ted looked around for a half hour and said, "I'll take it!" The Realtor shook his head and stared at the floor.

Carmen and the family would be along in a few days with the furniture. Meanwhile, Ted slept in a sleeping bag on the living room hardwood floor.

The first night he had trouble sleeping. The full moon shone in through every un-curtained window. It was hot and the hardwood floor was pretty hard.

As he lay there awake thinking about how happy the family would be there, he was startled by a noise. It sounded like someone came in through the back door to the kitchen. Ted immediately got up. He grabbed the only thing around he had to use as a weapon. There he stood, ready to fling his pillow at the intruder and he listened.

The hardwood creaked as if someone was walking across it. The creaking started in the kitchen, then through the dining room. Then it got louder as it moved across the living room and right up to Ted. Then it stopped. Just stopped.

This freaked Ted. He screamed and threw his pillow across the room. He didn't hear another thing all night. He didn't sleep either. By sunrise, though, he'd convinced himself it was all his imagination. He even laughed to himself about it. Many houses creak and settle.

A couple of days later the family showed up with a moving truck and everyone got settled. They were all thrilled. A week later they had gotten into their new routines and Ted had all but forgotten the incident on the first night. They all truly loved their new home.

One night, while they were all watching TV, it happened again and everyone heard. It sounded as if someone had come in through the back door, walked through the kitchen, the dining room and up to the middle of the living room and stopped. They all just sat there with their mouths open.

"Oh, ya," said Ted, "There's something I forgot to tell you."

"You put all our money into a haunted house?" demanded his wife.

"Well, I wasn't sure it was haunted..."

Every evening about nine-thirty the same thing happed and soon they just plain got used to it. They even named the intruder Henry.

Henry was getting more comfortable, too. Sometimes he creaked his way up the stairs to the bedrooms or down to the basement. A couple of times, on his way through the kitchen, he checked the fridge.

One day, Carmen's Grandmother came for a visit. They had a great dinner together followed by an evening of visiting with coffee and tea. They were all happy to see her. At around nine o'clock she yawned and decided it was time for bed. She blew a kiss to them all as she made her way up the stairs. They turned on the TV.

At about nine-thirty, Carmen said, "Do you think we should have told Grandma about Henry?"

Just then a blood-curdling scream came from upstairs. It took an hour to calm the old lady down. The next day Grandma was outta there.

Carmen figured Henry wasn't happy being ignored. He began to get mischievous. One morning they got up to find the caps off all their toothpaste tubes and toothpaste all over the counters. One night they listened to all the toilet paper in the house unroll in each of the bathrooms. The radios would only tune into hip-hop stations.

The final straw came to Carmen's mother when she found the silverware and laundry scattered around the kitchen. She blew a gasket. "This is getting to be too much!" she yelled out loud.

This must have startled Henry because the floor creaked away from her for a few feet. She went with it.

"I'm tired of you messing up my house!"

The floor creaked to the dining room.

She followed it, still shouting. "The next time you scare the dog, you can clean up the mess!"

The floor began quickly creaking across the living room and up the stairs.

She chased it. "I can have you exorcised! Call a priest!"

Henry even creaked into a closet and slammed the door shut behind him.

"And another thing...!" she yelled at the door. Carmen's mother's was obviously mad and never going to let up.

No way he was going to rest in peace in that house. Eventually Henry relented.

According to Carmen, after that, the dog remained calm so the carpets were safe; toilet paper never seemed to run out; the silverware and laundry are always put away—even when people left them out. And when Grandma came to visit, Henry quietly creaked into her room, turned down her bed and Grandma always got a soft warm hug to put her to sleep.

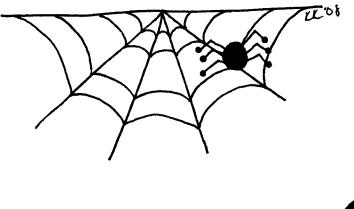
As I said in the beginning, this is a story that always sends chills and a warning—to all the ghosts out there.

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~Barbara Kalkis





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Twisted Stitchers Quilt Guild
We meet at the Ajax Legion at 7pm on the 2nd Tuesday on any month from September to June. *Quilting Corners Guild*We meet at St Johns United Church at 7pm on the first Tuesday or each month, except January.

Ancaster Quilter's Guild
We meet at the Marshall Memorial United Church, 20 Gilbert Ave. at 7pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to June.

Amprior District Quilt Guild
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

Simcoe County Quilters' Guild
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.

Kempenfelt Quilt Guild
We meet at the Lion's Gate Banquet Hall on Blake Street, the 3rd Thursday of the month from 7-9pm Barrie Modern Quilt Guild

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.

Quinte Quilters' Guild
We meet at the Recreation Centre, 116 Pinnacle Street. At 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each Belleville

Binbrook Country Quilters' Guild
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.

The Pine Tree Quilters' Guild of Muskoka
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 Quilters Guild
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. **Brampton**

Brant Heritage Quilters
We meet at \$1 George United Church at 7:30 pm. on the second Thursday of the month. **Brantford**

Brockville

The Thousand Islands Quilters' Guild
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 Area Quilters' Guild
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). Buckhorn

Halton Quilters Guild
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). Burlington

Caledonia Grand River Quilters' Guild
We meet at 7pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through June. Caledonia

Busy Hands Quilters Guild We meet at the Preston Scout House, 1580 Queenston Road at 9:30 am on the third Monday of each month.

Chatham-Kent Quilters' Guild
We meet at St. Paul's Congregational Church, 450 Park Ave W at 7pm on the third Wednesday each month, except December. Chatham

Cornwall

Cornwall Quilters Guild
We meet at St. Mathews Lutheran Church, 1509 Second St West at 7pm every third Monday evening from September through May.

Courtice Clarington Quilt Guild We meet at Faith United Church, 1778 Nash Road on at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month.

Dryden

Sunset Country Quilters' Guild
We meet at 84 St. Charles Street at 7 pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

Elliot Lake Quilt Guild
We meet at Gentle Shepherd Church, 3 Ottawa Ave. at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays from September through Elliot Lake

The Elmira Needle Sisters
We meet at the Elmira Mennonite Church at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday of the month. Elmira

Etobicoke Quilters Guild
We meet at Neilson Park Creative Centre - 56 Neilson Dr. at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of the month. Georgetown

Halton Hills Quilters Guild
We Meet at the Cultural Centre, 9 church St. at 7:15 pm on the fourth Monday of the month (Sep-Nov,

Gloucester

Goderich

Gwillinbury

Ingersoll

Kanata

Kemptville

Kingston

Common Thread Quilt Guild
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 Quilters' Guild We meet once a month on the 2nd Tuesday.

Grimsby Quilters' Guild Grimsby

We meet at the Livingston Activity Centre at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month. Guelph

Royal City Quilters' Guild
We meet at Three Willows United Church, 577 Willow Road at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday each month from September until June.

Gwillimbury Quilt Guild

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.

Haldimand Quilter's Guild Hagersville We meet at the Hagersville United Church at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of the month from September through June.

Haliburton Highlands Quilter Guild We meet at the Stanhope Community Centre, 1095 North Shore Rd, Algonquin Highlands at 1:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Haliburton

Hamilton Quilters Guild We meet The Church of Resurrection, 435 Mohawk Rd. W.at 7:00 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each Hamilton

month from September through August. Oxford Quilters Guild

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.

The Kanata Quilt Guild 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.

Kemphville Quilters Guild
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). Lake of the Woods Quilter's Guild
We meet at St. Louis Catholic Church, 912 Superior St in Keewatin at 7 PM on the second Thursday of the
month.

We meet at the Kirktown/Wooddham Community Centre at 9:00 am on the second Tuesday of the

Kenora

Kingston Heirloom Quilters
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 Erie Shores Quilters' Guild We meet at the Kingsville Arena, 2nd floor at 7p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month

Kirkton Huron, Perth Quilters Guild

month from September through May Kitchener - Waterloo The Waterloo County Quilters Guild

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 We meet at the Port Franks Hall on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

We meet at The Senior's centre in Kingston at 7:15 pm on the first Wednesday of the month.

Lindsay Lindsay Creative Quilters' Guild
We meet at Celebrations, 35 Lindsay St. N at 1:00 pm every 2nd Monday of the month except for

Manitoulin Island Island Quilters Guild

Community Hall in Mindemoya at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of the month from September though June Markdale Queen's Bush Quilters

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 Georgian Quilters Guild We meet at the Meaford Opera House, Sykes St. at 1:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Cawthra Senior's Centre Mississauga We meet at the Cawthra Senior's Centre at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of the month (except July and

August).

Mississaga Quilters Guild
We meet at the Tomken Twin Arenas at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month (except July and August).

Miramichi Miramichi Quilt Guild We meet at the Seamans Hospital at 7:00 pm every Tuesday and 10:00 am every Thursday

Heritage Quilters Guild Napanee We meet at the Strathcona Paper Center at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month from

September through to June.

The Region of York Quilters Guild We meet at the Newmarket Community Centre, 200 Doug Duncan Drive on the fourth Wednesday of the month from September through May.

Moraine Quilt Guild

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

The Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild We meet at Merrion Community Centre, 7 Park Ave., St. Catharines on the third Wednesday of each Niagara Region

month.

A chapter of the Modern Quilting Guild Nobleton We travel to various locations in Southern Ontario on a rotating basis.

Quaker Quilt Guild We meet at 89 Stover St N, Norwich at 9:30 am on the second Monday of the month.

Orangeville Dufferin Piecemakers' Quilting Guild We meet at the Orangeville Event Centre at 7:30 pm on the third Monday of the month from September

through June.

We meet at the Royal Canadian Legion, 215 Mississauga St. E. at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Ganaraska Quilters Guild Orono

We meet at the Seniors Activity Centre. 200 Station St. W at 7:15 pm on the last Wednesday of the

Durham Trillium Quilters' We meet at the Zion Christian Reformed Church 409 Adelaide Ave. E, Oshawa at 7:00pm every second

Monday Sept.- June Almonte Quilters Guild Ottawa

We meet at the Almonte Civitan Club, 500 Almonte Street Active at 7:00 pm from September through June (no meeting in December).

month except July and August.

Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild We meet at St. Anthony's Soccer Club at 7:30 pm on the first Monday of the month.

We meet at the Trinity Anglican Church in Old Ottawa South on the second Monday evening of the

Owen Sound Bluewater Quilters' Guild 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). Lanark County Quilters Guild

Perth We meet at Lions Hall, Perth Fairgrounds at 7pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

Pickering Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild 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. Argyle Quilters Guild Port Loring

We meet at the Lions Den in Arnstein on the second Thursday of the month. Port Perry Patchers Port Perry

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 Prince Edward County Quilters' Guild

We meet at the BCR Church in Bloomfield at 7:00 pm County on the second Wednesday of each

Rayside Balfour Quilting and Stitchery Guild

We meet at the Chelmsford Arena (upstairs) 215 Edward Avenue, Chelmsford, Ontario at 7:00 p.m. every Monday from September to May. Quilt Guild Renfrew & Area

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 Area Quilters Guild (RAQG) Richmond We meet at the Richmond Legion, 6430 Ottawa Street at 7:30 on the third Wednesday of each month.

Ruthven Erie Shores Quilter's Guild

We meet at the Ruthven-Olinda United Church every third Tuesday Sarnia Quilters' Guild Sarnia

We meet at the Redeemer Christian Reformed Church 5814 Blackwell Sdrd, Sarnia at 7pm the first Monday of each month.

Sault St. Marie Stitches From The Heart Quilt Guild We meet at the Senior's Centre on Bay St at 7pm the last Monday of the month.

Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild Scarborough 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.

Twilight Quilters' Guild of Norfolk County Simcoe We meet at the Old Wyndham Church, 30 Glendale Crescent at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the

We meet at the Vittoria & District Community Centre on the first Tuesday of each month except October.

Stittsville The Quilters Club We meet at the The Pretty Street Community Centre at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of the month.

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.

Stoney Creek Quilters Guild

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 & District Quilting & Stitchery Guild We meet at 140 Durham Street at 7:00 pm on every Tuesday from September to April.

The Georgina Pins and Needles We meet at the Knox United Church 34 Market Street at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month from Sutton September to June.

Thunder Bay Quilters' Guild Thunder Bay We meet at Calvin Luthern Church on Edward Street at 7:30pm on the 3rd Monday of each month from September to June

Etobicoke Quilters' Guild Toronto We meet at the Neilson Park Creative Centre at 7:15 pm on the third Monday of the month.

> Toronto Modern Quilt Guild We meet at The Workroom Studio, 46 Nobel St Studio 102 at 3:00 pm on the last Sunday of each month.

> York Heritage Quilters Guild We meet at the Toronto Botanical Gardens on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from September through

We meet at Danforth Mennonite Church, 2174 Danforth Avenue at 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday

of the month from September through May Slope to Slope Quilters Guild

Wasaga Beach We meet in the Community Hall at the Wasaga Stars Arena at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month

September through June. The Waterloo County Quilters' Guild Waterloo

We meet the Albert McCormick Community Centre at 1:30 pm and 7pm on the third Wednesday of each month from September through June

Kindred Hearts Guild Whitby We meet at the Whitby Baptist Church on the third Tuesday of the month

Windsor's quilters Guild
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 Windsor from September to June

The Moraine Quilt Guild We meet at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at 1:00 on the first Wednesday of the month.

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Collectors' Corner

Handmade vs. Handcrafted

by Jim Olson

Why is it important to know the difference between handmade and hand-assembled (or handcrafted)? Value! The differences can sometimes be slight but it's worth knowing if you want to be an informed collector.

As savvy collectors, we anticipate the items we collect will appreciate over time or, at the very least, retain their value. Sometimes that can be difficult to predict with market changes and what not but one of the things we can do to help sway chances in our favor is to collect better stuff.

An example is the so-called Fred Harvey era jewelry. We know this refers to turquoise and silver items (mostly jewelry) made in the first half of the 20th century. In recent years, Fred Harvey era items have been very popular with collectors. However, there are some (bracelets for example) from that time period that sell in the \$100 to \$200 range while others may sell for \$1,000 and up. The difference? The higher valued ones are completely handmade—and discerning collectors know the difference. Which would you rather have had grandma buy back in the day—the ones now worth \$100 or the ones now worth \$1,000 or more?

So, what constitutes "handmade?" Google dictionary says, "handmade (adjective) made by hand, not by machine and typically therefore a superior quality."

Hand-wrought and hand-forged are synonyms. Basically, it means the artist or maker made the item from scratch and did not buy precast parts and assemble them together.

Hand-assembled or handcrafted items generally consist of items put together from two or more pre-made or precast pieces (most of the time precasting is done by machine or in mass-produced methods).

As a matter of disclosure, very, very few things are completely handmade anymore but the closer you can get to being purely handmade, the better off you are.

For example, you can have a pair of spurs using precast spur blanks cast in a factory somewhere or you can make a pair of spurs by forging them from a single piece of steel. You can have belt buckles made using precast buckle blanks bought from a supplier or you can hand-forge them from silver (or other metals). You can have a turquoise bracelet made from a bracelet blank (bought at the jewelry supply store) or you can start with ingots of silver and create it yourself. All of the above can then be decorated with precast silver, gold or other non-precious embellishments or the artist can cut the embellishments out by hand or even hand engrave the items.

As a collector, it is important to know the difference between completely handmade and the various stages of hand-assembled for yourself. Do not take anyone's word for it unless you know the person knows what he or she is talking about and you trust that person's judgment. A lot of items will be presented to you as "handmade" when in fact they are mostly hand-assembled. To some, that is a small difference and they may think we are splitting hairs but, down the road, it will most definitely make a difference in value when you present those items to the collector marketplace for resale.

Just know this—if the item you are buying was assembled using parts the artist purchased at the store, it is NOT completely handmade. Sure, it may have a good look to it and may be hard to tell at a glance the difference from a completely handmade item but you will most assuredly realize the difference when you want to resell (if your buyer is a knowledgeable collector).

In the realm of so-called handmade items, there is a big difference between a true craftsman who can take raw materials and build a piece of art from scratch vs. the person who, although he or she may have an artistic eye, is merely assembling pieces together and saying it is handmade. And the advanced collectors know the difference.

One of the best ways to describe it that I can think of is a paint by numbers piece of art. If you have a piece of art whereby the "artist" sat down with a paint by numbers kit and it told where to paint and what colors went where and basically some blanks were just being filled in, you could argue (weakly in my opinion) that it is hand-painted. However, a paint by numbers artwork will never be valued in the collectors' world in the same way a piece of art is where the artist sat down with a blank canvas and painted a wonderful scene from imagination using a mental image or perhaps a photo.

What is worse than not even being hand-assembled, however, is if a piece is completely machine made. With technology the way it is today, items can be mass-produced, which to the untrained eye look like the real deal. My advice is to avoid those types of items completely as they are almost never "collectible" in the long run. Hand-assembled is much better than machine-made, but the purist prefers as close to completely handmade as possible. If you are not sure how to tell the difference, start talking to reputable dealers and collectors who can show you the little telltale signs.

So the next time you see a belt buckle that was made using a buckle blank and then had precast embellishments applied to it or perhaps a bracelet made in a similar manner, think of the difference between a paint by numbers piece of art vs. a truly hand drawn, hand-painted masterpiece. Both may have a good look to them but when you go to sell the items in the market of collectibles, there will be a big difference in price.

Of course, you will likely have to pay more for the completely handmade item in the beginning. But you are a lot more likely to see appreciation or at least have it hold its value when you buy handmade over hand-assembled.

Jim Olson is a published author, historian and co-owner of historic Western Trading Post in Casa Grande, AZ, which traces its roots back to 1877! Visit www.WesternTradingPost.com to see what it offers. Jim Olson © 2020

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KISSed Quilts

Travel Virtually!

With quilt shows and market events cancelled, we've all been needing an excuse to see new ideas. Kathryn LeBlanc of www.dragonflysquiltshop.com and I both belong to a quilt designers group on Facebook. This is where Kathryn suggested that we conspire together to share designs on a block hop around the United States.



Each Sunday, a new 6" finished quilt block design is shared for free from one state. Each designer shares a bit about their state and how it inspired their block design.

Want to get in on the action?

Join us at https://blockofthemo.com/us-tour/ or on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/325504101782606/ for links to the featured designer each week.

Here are some of the blocks that have been issued so far:









It is not too late to get in on this year-long event. Some designers have kits available and there is the opportunity to learn about new designers and all they have to offer. So zip back and forth across the country on a unique virtual voyage complete with complimentary 6" blocks, state and designer trivia and stories, giveaways and bonus blocks, too! Join us!

Marlene Oddie (marlene@kissedquilts.com) is an engineer by education, project manager by profession and now a quilter by passion in Grand Coulee, WA, at her quilt shop, KISSed Quilts. She quilts for hire on a Gammill Optimum Plus, but especially enjoys designing quilts and assisting in the creation of a meaningful treasure for the recipient. Patterns, kits and fabric are available at http://www.kissedquilts.com. Follow Marlene's adventures via http://www.facebook.com/kissedquilts and https://www.instagram.com/marlene.kissedquilts/.

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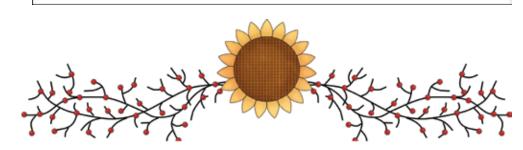
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Few meals are more daunting for a cook - especially an inexperienced cook or a space-challenged cook - than a traditional Thanksgiving feast. From roast turkey with perfect gravy to manifold sides and multiple pies, the meal knows no bound as it dirties every dish in the house. This November, perhaps it's time to streamline.

As a starter, Butternut Squash soup is sure to impress. But no one needs to know that it was prepared the day before from packaged, frozen

squash – in a slow cooker, no less. Next allow Thanksgiving Rice to stand in for both mashed potatoes and dressing. This dish starts with a box of long grain and wild rice. Then poultry seasoning, onion, celery and mushrooms give it a distinct Turkey Day vibe. To save on last-minute prep time, consider chopping the vegetables in advance and storing them in the refrigerator.

Pumpkin Crumble also may be made ahead of time. In this dessert, pumpkin filling is tucked between layers of rich, buttery crumbs. A traditional pie, with the same amount of pumpkin filling, serves 6 to 8 people. Pumpkin Crumble serves that many plus a few more. Bring on the seconds!

Slow-cooker Butternut Squash Soup

3 or 4 shallots, peeled and diced

¼ cup (1/2 stick) butter, cut into pieces

2 10-oz packages "steam in bag" frozen butternut squash

2 cups chicken broth

½ teaspoon paprika

½ teaspoon turmeric

½ teaspoon dried thyme, crushed

½ teaspoon salt

Dash cayenne pepper

½ cup cream

Flavored vinegar, such as tarragon or sherry

Set slow cooker on high. Add shallots and butter. In microwave oven, cook squash (one package at a time) according to package instructions. Add to slow cooker, along with broth, paprika, turmeric, thyme and salt. Cover and reduce heat to low. Cook 3 hours, or until squash has completely fallen apart. Using immersion blender or regular blender, process to smooth.* Add cayenne pepper and cream. Just before serving, add a few drops of vinegar to brighten flavor of soup. Makes approximately 4 cups.

*Mixture may be refrigerated at this point. To serve, heat on stovetop or in microwave oven and then add cayenne pepper, cream and vinegar.

Thanksgiving Rice

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

OR 1 tablespoon unsalted butter and 1 tablespoon olive oil

34 cup chopped celery

34 cup chopped onion

8 ounces fresh mushrooms, sliced

1-1/2 teaspoons poultry seasoning

2-1/4 cups water (or amount specified on box)

1 6-0z (3-4 serving) box long grain and wild rice mix, with seasoning packet

Over medium heat, melt butter in large, non-stick pot. Add celery and onion; saute until just beginning to soften, about 5 minutes. Add mushrooms and saute additional minutes. Stir in poultry seasoning, rice, water and contents of seasoning packet. Increase heat and bring to boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 25 minutes, or until moisture is absorbed. Transfer to serving dish and toss with fork. Makes 6 to 7 servings.

Pumpkin Crumble

1 box butter-recipe yellow cake mix

2-1/2 cups quick oats

34 cup melted butter

½ cup roughly chopped pecans

1 15-ounce can pumpkin

1 12-ounce can evaporated milk

34 cup sugar

2 eggs

1 teaspoon cinnamon

¼ teaspoon salt

Whipped cream or whipped topping for serving

Combine cake mix, oats and melted butter to make crumb mixture. Press half into bottom of lightly sprayed, 9- by 13-inch baking dish. Add pecans to remaining crumb mixture and set aside. Beat together pumpkin, evaporated milk, sugar, eggs, cinnamon and salt. Pour into baking dish. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle with remaining crumb mixture. Reduce heat to 350 degrees and bake an additional 25 minutes, or until center is set. Serve warm or chilled with topping. Makes 12 servings. Refrigerate leftovers.

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.

October / November 2020



Laura is a quilter, pattern designer, and homeschooling mom of three young boys. She's also an ex-math teacher - and with a last name of Piland - there's a strong love of pi in her house! Laura is also a self-proclaimed deal hunter and posts sales, deals, and coupon codes from shops all around the web in the Quilting & Sewing Deals Facebook group!

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Santa's Belt Quilt Block

Ho, ho, ho! Santa's coming! This modern Christmas quilt block pattern makes one 12 1/2" x 12 1/2" block. Let's sew together!

Fabric Requirements

Red:

(4) 4 1/2" x 5 1/2"

(2) 4 1/2" x 4 1/2"

Black:

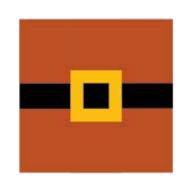
(2) 2 1/2" x 4 1/2"

(1) 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"

Buckle (silver, gold, or yellow):

(2) 1 1/2" x 2 1/2"

(2) 1 1/2" x 4 1/2"



Lorem Ipsum

Block Instructions

- 1. Sew a buckle 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" rectangle to either side of the black 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" square. Press towards the buckle fabric.
- 2. Sew a buckle 1 1/2" x 4 1/2" rectangle to the top and bottom of the unit from step 1. Press toward the buckle fabric
- Sew a red 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" square to the top and bottom of the unit from step 2. Press toward the red fabric.
- 4. Sew a red 4 1/2" x 5 1/2" rectangle to the top and bottom of a black 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" rectangle. Press toward the black fabric. Make two.
- Sew the units from step 4 to the left and right of the unit from step 3, nesting the seams of the belt and buckle. Press seams away from buckle.
- 6. Block measures 12 1/2" x 12 1/2". Use in combination with other blocks to make a sampler quilt, or use just one block to make a fun throw pillow!

nta Belt quilt block © 2020 Slice of Pi Quilts www.sliceofpiquilts.com Laura@sliceofpiquilts.com



Espanola • Sault Ste. Marie





Back Porch Break

by Nancy Brummett

In Case You Didn't Know

Sometimes scientific research produces results that are amazing, and sometimes the end result of all that time and money spent is simply duh-mazing. The conclusion is so obvious any one of us could have arrived at it ourselves.

For example, friendship has been the topic of many research studies over the past few decades. One Harvard study followed a class of graduates for 80 years to determine, among other lifestyle factors, how friendship affected their well-being. Other friendship studies Google lists cover how long it takes to make a friend, what attracts one person to another in a friendship-building sort of way, how marriage partners often value their friendship over their sex life, and even how friendship can make the difference in later years in the fight against isolation and loneliness. This is all well and good, but didn't we know this before? Anyone with even one friend reaps the benefits and knows the value of friendship. Do we really need scientists to tell us it's important?

Another topic for research? Gratitude. Studies show that grateful people are generally less depressed, less stressed, and for the most part happier than people who fail to recognize all the many things in their lives for which to be thankful. Robert A. Emmons, Ph.D., wrote a book titled *Thanks! How Practicing Gratitude Can Make You Happier*. In the book the author, who is editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Positive Psychology*—examines "what it means to think and feel gratefully and invites readers to learn how to put this powerful emotion into practice." Scientifically speaking, Emmons states, "regular grateful thinking can increase happiness by as much as 25 percent." I read enough of the book to say the material is well-presented and interesting, and I'm sure his study is empirically sound, but for the most part I already knew that. You?

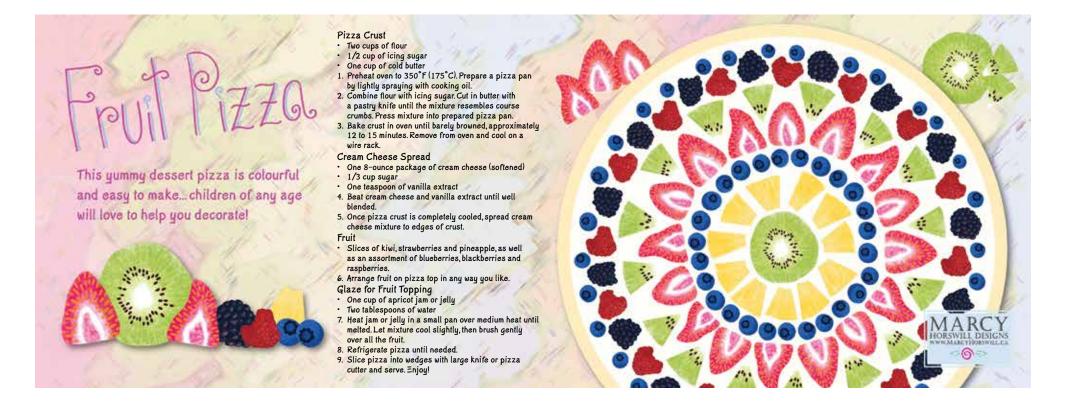
And then there's the subject of kindness. A recent AP article on kindness reported that a University of California Riverside psychology professor conducted

numerous experiments over 20 years and "repeatedly found that people feel better when they are kind to others, even more than when they are kind to themselves." Subjects who went out of their way to do an extra three acts of kindness each week for others, even small things like opening a door, "became happier and felt more connected to the world." OK, then. No surprises there!



As I read the results from all these studies I couldn't help but think our mothers were right. To make a friend be a friend. Be thankful for what you have and express your gratitude to others. Treat people the way you want to be treated (The Golden Rule). In other words, find a friend, be grateful for that friend, do something kind for that friend...and be happy! No scientific study required.

Nancy Parker Brummett is an author and freelance writer in Colorado Springs, CO. Finnegan is her grand-dog. "Like" her author page on Facebook, or to learn more about her life and work, visit www.nancyparkerbrummett.com.



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Decorating, Entertaining and Living in the Early American Style

by Annice Rockwell



Anticipation for Change

The season of fall is a time of traditional transformation. It brings with it a sense of anticipation for change. For the country homeowner this includes making our home's interior even more warm and inviting as the evenings come upon us more quickly and the comfort of our home wards off the chill of change.

Fall is a perfect time to decorate our homes with the abundance of autumn. Dried herbs that retain warm colors can be bundled and tucked into our early antiques to add texture and a subtle reminder of summer's hard work. Sweet marjoram when harvested late, provides a deep, warm purple color which blends beautifully with the tiny, dried mustard blooms of the once wide-open coreopsis, suggesting that nature's beauty in all of its phases is a treasure to be enjoyed. Dried gourds in common or unusual varieties and cornstalks picked at our local farm along with autumn blooms can grace our side porch to welcome us home to spectacular fall.

Warmth Unrivaled

Layers of fall's bounty can be easily incorporated into our country displays. Dried bittersweet tucked in and around our aged pewter and early redware adds simple warmth and distinct beauty. Large, primitive trenchers etched with age can be filled with dried cornhusks and petite pumpkins right from our own gardens. Country jar candles in scents such as Colonial Hearth Bread, Pumpkin Butter or Spiced Apple Cider bring the aromas of the season to life and remind us that within our home is warmth unrivaled.

Without a doubt, the season of fall surrounds us with a sense of wonder as nature washes our landscape with radiant colors all aglow. Nature's transformation leaves us truly inspired and as we are greeted by her increasingly crisp, cold days, we are ever-grateful for the country comfort of home.

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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Ms. Griselda, the Witch, Decides

Ms. Griselda, the witch, stroked her long black nails Over her kitty's back all the way to its tail And stared at the calendar's number 'thirty-one' Like she was cooking a brew that just wouldn't get done.

"Now what can I wear this Halloween? It must be trendy and sparkly for this yearly scene. It must be glamorous, enchanting, shiny and bright, Something that's comfy for the long spooky night While I ride my broomstick over city and vale --Yet something to match my kitty's noir tale."

Then she cackled and winked and suddenly knew Just the accessories that would perfectly do. Solid gold buckles on pointy-toed heels;

Leggings with stripes 'round her legs like wheels

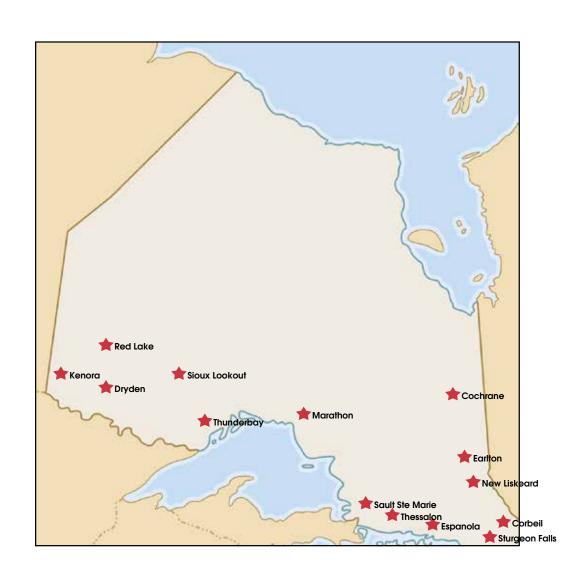
Make broom rides cozy on Halloween night!

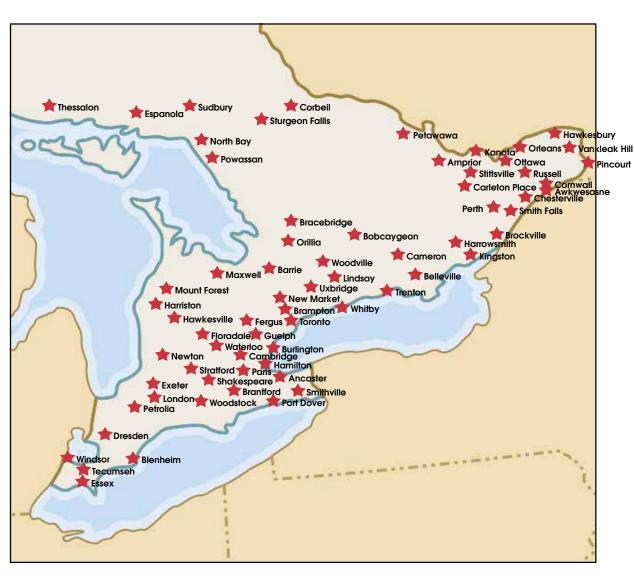
Add a broom and a hat -- Ms. Griselda looks right!



~Barbara S. B. Kalkis

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Quilting with Barbara Dream Big! Dream Bigger!

Retreat... such an evocative word for quilters, implying a break from routine, cooking and annoying phone calls, replaced by relaxation, enjoyment, learning something new, friends, and even some selfindulgence. A good quilting retreat (is there ever one that's not good?) includes all these and sometimes more. Prevented from attending a longstanding annual retreat this year, I began visualizing my ideal retreat. My dream retreat would not suit everyone, but this is my dream, remember. As a man on TV says, "Dream big! Dream bigger!" So I did.

First the location: preferably a scenic area with pleasant walkways for breaks, maybe on a lake. The rooms would be private (no dorms or bunkbeds) with ensuite bathrooms, a good reading light and comfortable bed. Even the most gregarious people need some downtime and it may as well be restful. The quilting area would have a roomy table for each participant to spread out the necessary paraphernalia; the lighting and temperature would be adjusted for (my) comfort and irons would be plentiful. As a bonus, steam irons and bobbins would magically never need filling. (Told you it was a dream!) A masseuse might be on call. A friendly dog or cat wandering around the premises would be great. Even the most organized quilter (not me) can forget something vital to her project, so an ideal retreat would include at least one vendor of fabric and notions. Patterns, kits and new fabric can inspire further creativity. We all welcome new ideas.

Meals would be light, nourishing and tasty, maybe gazpacho or vichyssoise for lunch on hot days. It goes without saying that there would be fresh hot coffee available from early morning until nightfall, with tea, herbal and otherwise, at the ready. To counteract the four o'clock slump, tasty energizing snacks would appear at the appropriate time. A brisk brief walk and some fresh air might be useful too. Dinners would finish with indulgent, gooey desserts with lots of chocolate. A wine and cheese evening function as either a get-acquainted or farewell to new friends would be a pleasant addition.

The program would include at least one class resulting in a finished product common to all attendees, but it must be non-competitive! (My psyche remains deeply scarred from the time I finished dead last in a strip-quilt race). Some time would be devoted to charitable work, but the majority would be spent on personal projects or UFOs with a grand showand-tell on the last day.

It goes without saying, however, that the most important component of my dream retreat would be the people. There must be one who wanders around chatting to everyone; she doesn't get much done on her projects, but she is a pleasant temporary diversion. Notable for their absence would be back-biting, telephone calls taken where we can all hear, gossip, and especially—personal medical information! All of the attendees would be congenial and friendly, giving opinions when asked, full of ideas and good humour, helpful, interested and interesting, enthusiastic, generous and thoughtful of others—in other words, typical quilters!

Hopefully, someday soon we'll be able to attend retreats again. In the meantime, dream on!

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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 ericaskouby@gmail.com or 417-667-7100. Miss one of the parts? Check www.countryregister.com

Part 3 - Making the BIG BLOCK (Make 20) Following the diagram below, sew Block 2 to Block 3. Press seam. Sew Block 1 to the Block 2/3 pair.



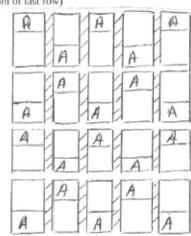


For your Sashing strips: Note: you may need to measure you blocks before actually cutting these strips as everyone does not have perfect seam allowances when sewing! Erica doesn't like to use such long strips on the horizontal sashing so cornerstones are an option to help you keep your quilt columns

(16) - 1.5 X 18.5" Fabric B

(5) - 1.5 X 64.5" Fabric B (includes top of first row and bottom of last row)

(2) - 1.5 X 77.5" Fabric B (use for left and right sides)



First Border: (you may choose to piece your borders) Again MEASURE your quilt before cutting Cut (2) 3.5" X 70.5" Fabric E

Cut 2(2) 3.5" X 83.5" Fabric E

Sew 70.5" strips to top and bottom of your quilt and press towards Fabric E.

Then sew sides. Press towards E

Second Border: (you may choose to piece your borders) Again MEASURE your quilt before cutting Cut (2) 6.5' X 82.5" Fabric A

Cut (2) 6.5" X 95.5" Fabric A

Sew top and bottom borders and then sew side borders. Press towards Fabric A



The Best of Intentions

by Julie Pirtle

Pumped with caffeine and armed with another 20-ounce mug in your hand, you are confident and determined. Today is the day. You are ready. To face. The CLOSET. Not just any closet, mind you, but THE closet. The one filled with everything that does not have a home of its own. The one filled with gadgets, gizmos, whosits and whatsits galore. (If you are a Little Mermaid fan, you get it. Right?)

Diligently, you remove everything from the closet. It is a task but you are on a roll and, within 30 minutes, the closet is empty. Now comes the hard part—the purge. Looking down at it all, you can't help but feel nostalgic. There are your first-born child's baby shoes. Underneath that pile of paper towel rolls is the (lovely?) oil painting of a monkey that Great Aunt Gertrude painted for you as a wedding present 30 years ago. (Isn't it odd that you never could find the right place to hang it?)

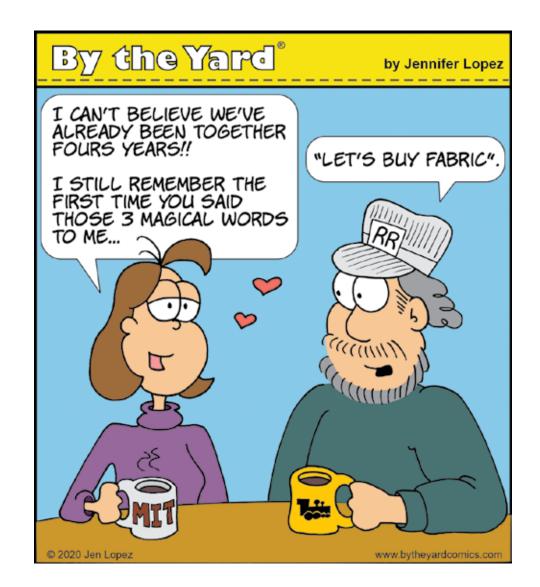
Lo and behold, there is the silver beer stein from college looking a bit uncared for. You think to yourself that a bit of silver polish would bring it back to its former glory and you head to the kitchen to grab the polish and a rag. The rag drawer is difficult to open because it is too full so you decide to purge a few of them and proceed to fold the rest and replace them in the drawer. Dang! This is the drawer that has a loose handle. Out you go to the garage to grab a screwdriver to take care of that once and for all.

On your way back inside, the dryer goes off and you head over to grab the clean towels and sit down to fold them. With the folded towels stacked in your arms you head toward the closet. THAT closet. You see all of the items that you emptied out of it earlier and the now-cold cup of caffeinated courage. With a heavy sigh, you sit down exhausted and defeated. Not only did you not get the closet done, you don't even have the fortitude to take care of the mess you made emptying it. You decide to just leave it out and live around it until you can find time to finish the project. Before you know it, a week has passed and you finally stuff it all back inside the dark dungeon. You quickly shut the door before things can fall out and you hear the dark laughter from the closet as it mocks your attempt to win the clutter battle.

If this sounds familiar, don't think you are alone. The dark spaces in your home that hide the things you don't know what to do with are the most difficult to deal with. Face it...those items were already a problem before you tucked them away. For whatever reason, you could not make a decision about the validity of keeping them. Unfortunately, they do not leave on their own accord and you only delayed the inevitable task of making that decision.

Professional Organizers will help you slay that closet demon. When I work with my clients, I spend a bit of time getting to know them and their possessions. With a different set of eyes, I help them decide what they want to keep and what no longer serves a purpose in their lives. With care, I guide them toward their goal (in the above case, the closet) and teach them skill sets that will help prevent them from duplicating the clutter in the future.





Many families have had me come in to help them downsize a loved one's household as they prepare to move into a transitional living situation. This is one of the most difficult times for both the family and the person that is downsizing. Everything has a memory. Everything has a story. There is fear of letting go. Fear of change.

Having an Organizer involved allows the family to be just that—family. They don't have to be the instigator. Instead, I work alongside the family member. As I am not emotionally involved, I am able to have patience and listen to important stories while gently helping them let go. In the end, the person transitioning has been given the grace and dignity to know that THEY are the one that made the decisions. In turn, the family can focus on loving that person through their new journey.

Clients also hire me to assist them when there is a loss or change in their life. Be it a divorce, empty nesting or the death of a loved one, it is important to clear your physical space to allow your mental space to heal. Claiming back your surroundings and creating something new within them is powerful. In the case of the death of a loved one, I help my clients determine what of their belongings brings them happy memories. Together, we find a way to incorporate the items into their own space in a way that they can enjoy them on a daily basis (and not have them end up in a closet).

In other instances, some clients just need some fresh ideas. Most people (even the clutter challenged) are able to maintain order if the system they have makes sense to them. After seeing what is not working for them and then discussing their ultimate goal, I am able to set them up for success.

Living in the days of Covid, I have had to rely on Virtual Organizing. For many, this works well. Sessions are held via video chat and I work with the client one on one. At the end of the session, I set them up with an easy "I Can Do This!" list of tasks they can accomplish before our next appointment. Working this way can be cost productive as well because many of the tasks are handled without my being there. It is fun for me as I get to see their progress each time we chat and I am able to work with clients around the country.

I challenge you to let someone else into your dark corners, whether it's an Organizer or even a best friend. A different perspective and caring encouragement can make a daunting task much easier. So, reach out! You've got this. I know you do!

Julie Pirtle is a Professional Organizer and owner/operator of Clutter Happens in Mesa, AZ. She also works with clients nationally through Video Consultations. The Clutter Challenged can reach her at: clutterhappens@gmail.com, Facebook:/clutterhappens or her website www.clutterhappens.com.











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