

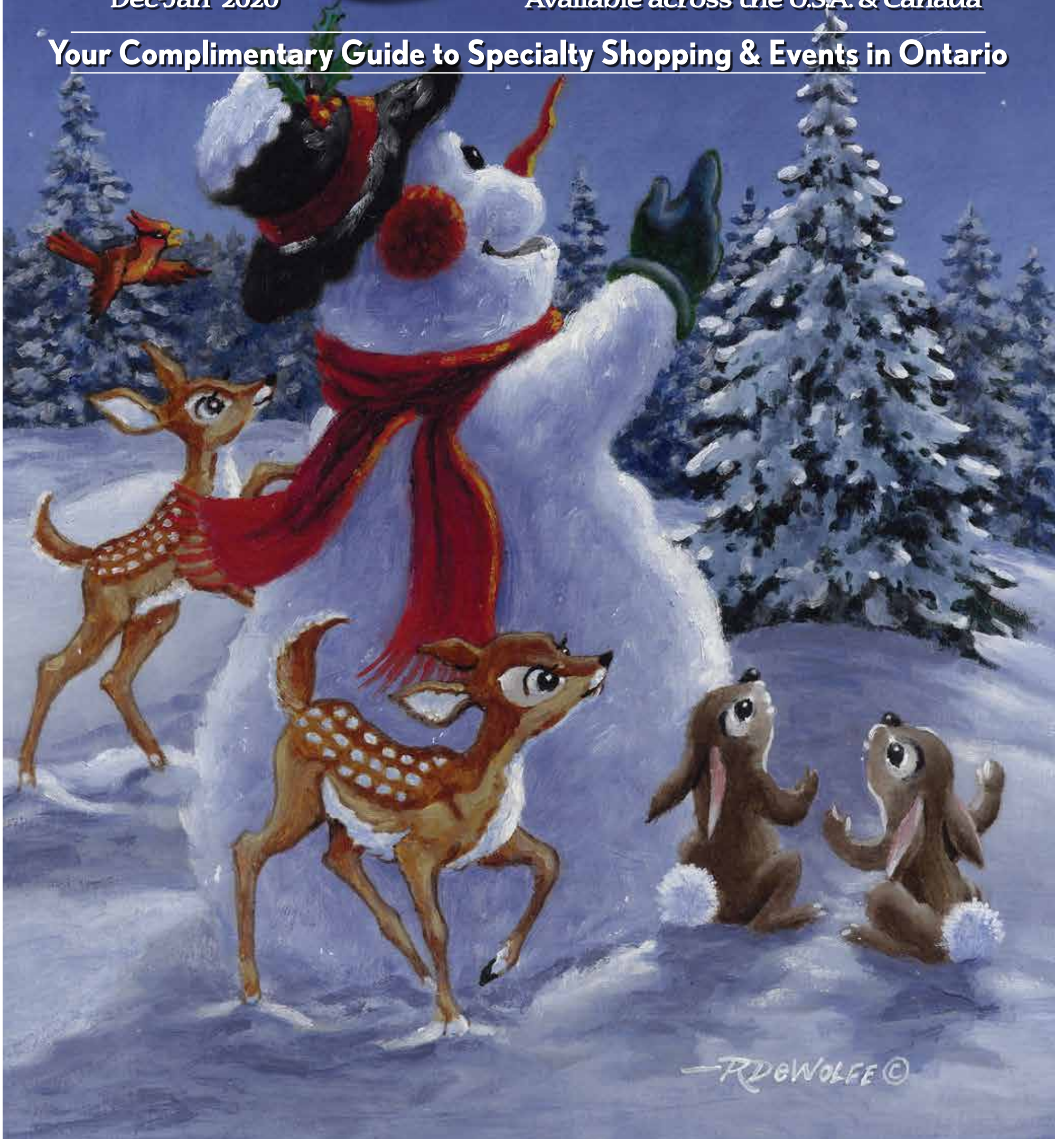
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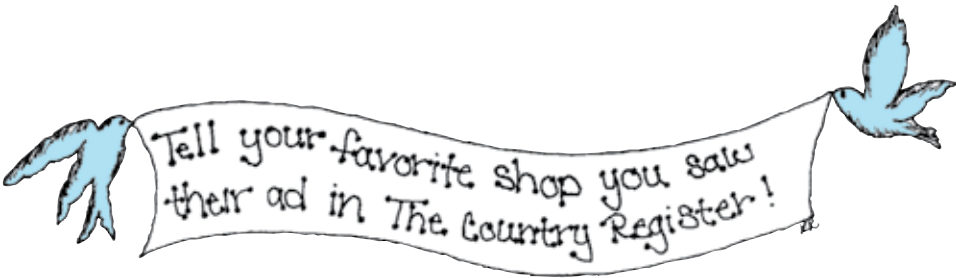
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December / January 2020 Issue

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Meet our cover artist: Richard De Wolfe



The Thousand Islands region of Ontario, Canada, was the perfect backdrop for a childhood filled with adventure for Richard De Wolfe, an artist who still identifies strongly with rural life. The forests, fields, and of course the mighty St. Lawrence River, made the wonders of nature come alive for him.

The art of Richard De Wolfe has been very popular ever since his first one-man show at the age of eighteen. That show was a sell out, supplying him with commissions for many months after. He went on to spend twenty-five years as an illustrator, producing paintings for national and international corporations such as General Motors, Pepsi-Cola, and Sony.

"I believe that working as an illustrator was the best training I could possibly have had. The wide variety of subjects and tight deadlines forced me to hone my skills and become very proficient as a painter. I feel that many of the finest painters alive today are former illustrators," Richard says.

Richard's subject matter is wide-ranging and ever changing. He has painted landscapes and wildlife extensively, but also paints still-life subjects, farm and family scenes, boats, horses and just about anything that catches his eye and imagination. When asked what he wants to accomplish through his art, Richard says, "The important thing is to help people to see what I see and feel what I feel about a subject. What you paint is far less important than how you paint it."

Together with his wife Mary, Richard lives on a horse farm near Kingston, Ontario, where he can study and paint scenes of farm and rural life as well as the wildlife, which is all around him. Richard's work is available in prints as well as originals. He has participated in many prestigious art shows such as Wildlife Habitat Canada Stamp Competition, the Wye Marsh Festival, and Canadian Artist and Photographers in Communication Annual Exhibition. Richard is listed in Who's Who in Ontario.

Richard's originals and prints are available on the web at www.rdewolfe.com, or by email at info@richarddewolfe.com.

Dearest Readers,

This year has just flown by and we are just four weeks away from Christmas! It never ceases to amaze me that year after year I still get that same feeling of wonder and nostalgia around the Christmas Season. These memories and feelings are triggered by the simplest of things...the crisp winter air, the sound of Christmas music starting to play on the radio, the sprinkling of snow covering the rooftops and the festive twinkling of Christmas lights! The simple joys of simple activities...baking Christmas cookies, shopping for Christmas presents, watching Christmas movies and snuggling up with a hot chocolate and my honey in front of the fireplace.

This year I am feeling very grateful for all that means most to me in my life – my husband, my family, our two dogs (Maggie & Cocoa) and my friends. I have decided to take a calm, cool and collective approach to the holidays this year. I have already prepared a list of all I need to do weeks in advance to avoid the stress of trying to get everything done last minute, as I am a procrastinator by nature. I already made my list of what presents to buy, food to prepare and groceries to purchase. I am also trying to focus on the simple this year, as in the past I have fallen prey to the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, the non-stop stress machine of getting everything done for everyone, all at once, and all to perfection! It is so easy to fall into this trap!

In my opinion, the key to wonderful holidays is to strike a healthy balance. This balance of activities is different for every one of us, so what may be super hectic for some is a walk in the park for others! If you take a step back and just have fun this Holiday Season, while appreciating all that you have and all the people who mean most to you, you will have the perfect holiday!

As we are also entering a new year, I want to sincerely thank some key players from our team that helped us throughout this past year. First of all, to our wonderful, excellent advertisers and you, our dear readers (yes, you are part of our team too!) without you we wouldn't have a Country Register of Ontario. To Cathy, our wonderfully talented, dedicated and creative graphic designer. To Metroland Media and Eddie Parkes, our printer extraordinaire, who actually puts the magic on paper! To our cover artists, who contribute their beautiful works each issue. And finally, to our columnists and contributors that bring us the best in entertaining informative crafting content!

Thank you all and have a wonderful and blessed holiday season.

Happy Holidays! Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!

Thanks and best regards,

Harriet

p.s. Go to www.OntarioCountryRegister.com to find our latest issues online. And, we are also on Facebook, so please "like" us there too!

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



Holiday TO-DO List

1. ~~Be~~ Buy presents.
2. Wrap ~~gifts~~. someone in a hug.
3. Send ~~gifts~~. Peace.
4. ~~Shop~~ for food.
5. Make ~~cookies~~. Love.
6. ~~Be~~ See the lights.

by InvitationsInAHurry

Make Shopping Fun and Festive Support Local Businesses this Holiday Season

by Susan Baldani

A few years ago, when I decided to take the train to work every day, my husband and I became a one car family. This was a smart financial choice because it saves a lot of money that would otherwise go to car payments, gas, and insurance costs. But it does take some adjusting to. I can't just pick up and go whenever and wherever I want.

The first year without a vehicle, I decided to do most of my Christmas shopping online. It was convenient and easy and everything was delivered right to my door. But something was missing; I found that I didn't get the same joy out of finding the perfect item on a website that I did in a physical store.

During the holidays, I always loved walking around small shops trying to find that perfect gift while listening to Christmas carols and smelling cinnamon, maple or pine scented holiday candles or potpourri wafting through the aisles. Some of the local stores even had complimentary hot cocoa or cider for their customers. Shopping in these types of establishments always got me into the holiday spirit.

I also missed the customer service and having someone to assist me with picking out gifts for my hard-to-buy-for relatives. I found many of the local owners and managers, the people who actually ordered the merchandise, to be very knowledgeable and helpful. Whether it was the yarn shop where I would choose colors for a cousin who knits, a gift store that sold imported teas for a good friend, or a clothing store that had the most luxurious cashmere sweaters for a dear aunt who was always cold, these local shops provided the most high-quality and unique items.

Luckily, I now work in a town full of small independently-owned businesses. With a shopping mall only 10 minutes away, these store owners have to provide the best of the best in order to inspire people to shop locally. Although I can hear the same music at the large commercial stores, they just don't have the personal service and little extras that make me feel appreciated. I'm just another revenue number to them, and shopping online is even more impersonal.

Now, although I still shop online once in a while, I also make sure to support local stores. Giving my business to them feels right, and it also makes my shopping experiences, especially around the holidays, much more enjoyable and festive.

Happy shopping and happy holidays!

Hot Cranberry-Apple Cider

Ingredients

- 2 quarts apple cider
- 1.5 quarts sugar-free cranberry juice
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 4 sticks cinnamon
- 1 1/2 teaspoons whole cloves
- 1 orange, thinly sliced

Directions:

In 4-quart saucepan, add all the ingredients except for the orange. Heat to boiling, then reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 15 minutes. Strain, then pour into mugs and garnish with fresh orange slices.



Susan Baldani writes articles about small town life, decor and food for various magazines across the U.S., Canada, and the UK. You can contact her at suebaldani@yahoo.com or through her website at www.mywritingwall.com.



The Joys of Winter

by Janet Young

As I prepared to write this article, I knew for a while that I was going to use the winter theme. However, my approach was going to be the same message of a warm, fuzzy feeling that one can conjure up with references of sitting by the fire with a book in one hand and a cup of tea in the other, while snuggled in a warm blanket.

That is when I thought perhaps it was time to slow down and challenge myself. It's time to think of some of the positive things about winter. Obviously, I am not fond of cold weather, but I began to think it can't be all bad. So, I began my quest to discover some of the things I did enjoy about winter.

As I was contemplating some of the virtues of winter, words such as peaceful, calm, quiet, purity came to mind. On a snowy night I can imagine hearing the crunch of the snow-covered ground as I breathe puffs of crisp, cold air. Watching snow falling softly on streetlights, and the tree boughs bowing from the weight of the snow-covered branches, what an exhilarating experience. Of course, I would like to add that a cold crisp walk in the snow are all ways to enjoy the cold outdoor air, as we take in the beauty of the season.

Another by-product of snow, would have to be icicles glistening in the sun on those rare sunny days. They hang in a stately manner all the while glistening, and sparkling, announcing to the world that even frozen water can be a thing of perfectly pristine beauty. Stepping on a frozen puddle of water, I hear it cracking upon the weight that has been exerted on it.

Fun activities exist for those who enjoy being out in the cold. Skiing, ice skating, ice hockey, just walking in the crisp, cold air are all ways to experience the joys of winter. Of course, I would like to add my own version of a fun activity. Walk in the cold to a nearby coffee shop, even if it is only walking in the parking lot to the door of the establishment. If it is a cold windy day...that counts, right? After all you can always park your car in the far end of the lot to add a few more steps and additional exposure to the elements. Seriously, a pumpkin latte, or hot chocolate would be a welcomed treat, as this is the time to add hardy comfort food such as soup or stew etc. to our menus. I got so carried away going to the coffee shop, I forgot to mention snowball fights and making a snowman as other fun activities to do.

The cold weather invites us to stay home and spend more time with family. It is a slowing down time of the year and offers much needed rest after a busy holiday season and the beginning of sports-related activities in which our children are involved.

I must confess as I do not like the cold temperatures or shoveling snow, I do agree there is beauty even in the barren ground. For as the snow melts, we begin to raise our hopes and look forward to the first glimpse of spring.

So, as I sit in front of the fireplace with a book in hand and a cup of tea in another, I will take time to change my perspective as I look at Mother Nature in a different way. There is beauty even in the coldest of dark, dreary days. I will remind myself that God made winter the way He did for a reason. He makes no mistakes. So, I will celebrate my new-found discovery, and may even venture out for a quiet walk on a cold snowy night. Will you join me?

-Janet Young, Certified Tea and Etiquette Consultant, is a founding member of Mid-Atlantic Tea Business Association and freelance writer/national tea presenter. Visit her website at www.overtheteacup.com.



Word Scramble

Unscramble the words.

1. melittsoe	_____	14. ckrtacenur	_____
2. reowodfi	_____	15. tmtnrnewei	_____
3. hoesegetnstr	_____	16. nrnkcsnieaef	_____
4. ogngeg	_____	17. ecipnoen	_____
5. ngseirteg	_____	18. swlaasi	_____
6. sumalprgu	_____	19. ridrebnageg	_____
7. aenlg	_____	20. iglwodlo	_____
8. sfelatvi	_____	21. tsgdiin	_____
9. lnskfoawe	_____	22. dhoilya	_____
10. eihrssdatctim	_____	23. koignsct	_____
11. lieacfrep	_____	24. eeojirc	_____
12. ntaodriti	_____	25. kfucaetri	_____
13. blncoireat	_____		

Answers found on p.23



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QUILT ALONG

by Phyllis Moody

You will need in fabric three different fabrics

I have used red, Brown and a white background with a little red print as my light. You can use what you have in your stash making sure that all your fabric in each colour adds up too or more then the following.

Brown fabric you will need 1.5 meter in total.

Red fabric you will need 1 meter in total

White with a little red print as the light fabric 1.5 meters.



Month 2 unit one

For consistency I will refer to my fabric colours each time I give instructions. Just in put your fabric choices.

My Fabric choices are

Red

Brown

Background

Out of the Red and Brown fabrics cut 6 strips at 1 ¾ inches sew one red and one brown strip together along long side. Iron seam to brown. Cut 24 sub units at 1 ¾ inches repeat with other strips for a total of 128 sub units.

Sew two of these sub units together to make a four Patch. Make 64 of these units. Label them unit one.

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A Cup of Tea with Lydia

by Lydia E. Harris



Easy Holiday Teatime: A Recipe Exchange Brunch

Holidays and hospitality go together like a teacup and saucer. I love sharing time with family and friends from Thanksgiving through the new year. In various seasons of life, sometimes simplicity is best. Here is a simple tea party for your holidays.

Planning Ahead

Cookie exchanges have long been popular. I adapted this idea so each guest brings one festive menu item to share plus copies of the recipe for everyone to take home.

I invited my two prayer partners to come for brunch before our weekly prayer time. With three of us, we planned a menu of an egg dish, salad, and sweet bread. We each volunteered to bring a festive food item and copies of the recipe to share. I prepared my tea ring a week ahead and froze it, so I didn't have much cooking to do on the day of the brunch.

Setting the Table

I set the table with quilted Christmas placemats, glass plates, my mother's silver, and Christmas teacups and saucers. I folded green cloth napkins into trees (find directions online). For fun, I tied Christmas aprons to the backs of the chairs—aprons I'd made for each of my grandkids to wear when we cook together.

Three small teapots and a selection of teabags—with and without caffeine, including holiday blends—stood ready on the table.

Greeting Guests

When my friends arrived, a recording of Handel's Messiah played in the background, and the spicy, sweet aroma of the warm tea ring wafted through the air.

Dianna brought a mouth-watering egg casserole with sausage and veggies. "Smells delicious," I said. "I'm hungry."

"Me too," she said. "I've been smelling this casserole all the way here."

Sara contributed a bowl of salad loaded with crunchy walnuts and juicy fresh fruit. "I've been looking forward to this brunch all week."

We served portions of food onto each plate and selected tea for our individual teapots. As an extra, I also served chilled strawberry soup in glass punch cups with strawberry slices floating on top.

We shared past Christmas memories during brunch and caught up on life's events. I also read "A Cup of Christmas Tea," a touching poem by Tom Hegg.

After our delicious brunch, we prayed together for our kids and grandkids as we do each week. Then I gave my friends each a simple gift.

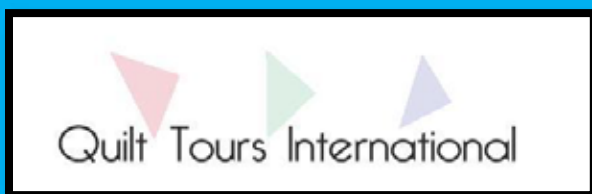
"This was so relaxing and refreshing," Dianna said.

"Let's do it again," Sara added. "How about every week?"

We all laughed.

(story continues on p.18)

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The Christmas Cookies

by Tammy Page

Growing up in the 60's and 70's the microwave was yet to be a staple in everyone's home and the convection oven was not even thought of. When baking our Christmas cookies, we had to do everything the natural way. We had to melt butter in a pan on the stovetop. We had to chop the nuts and fruits by hand because a mini chopper was not in every kitchen. I remember using a big wooden spoon to stir each recipe instead of bakers today who use their Kitchen Aide to do the work. All the little gadgets that make it faster and more convenient in today's kitchens were not at a hands reach like they are in our modern kitchens. Today, we have special cookie scoops, oven gloves that keep our hands from getting burnt when pulling a pan out of the oven, and so many more crowding our kitchen drawers and cupboards.

Holiday cookie baking day was a day of making several different kinds of cookies to enjoy in our home and to share with friends and family. Mom even made a tin of her special Raisin Squares for the mailman. I remember thinking the cookie press was so neat! Mom would make Jello cookie dough of orange, red and green and I was allowed to change the shapes throughout the process. Those cookies had the best orange, cherry and lime flavors and were so pretty. We also made raisin squares. They were the simplest to make. We would mix all the ingredients into one bowl and pour into a sheet cake pan. Boy, did they smell good while baking. With just the right amount of time to cool, a powdered sugar glaze was made and poured over them creating a sweet glaze that hardened as it cooled.

One thing my mom taught us while sharing her kitchen was to clean as we went. While the cookies were baking or cooling on the kitchen table, we would start a sink of hot, sudsy water and wash the bowls and utensils so that by the time we finished up our baking day, the cleanup was almost done. That meant more time to enjoy our cookies!

Another recipe that mom would always make was a 5-layer conglomerate she called Hello Dolly. I have no idea where the name came from but I'm assuming that when you took your first bite of the graham cracker, chocolate chip, coconut, butterscotch chip and sweetened condensed milk bar, you could shout, "Hello dolly, these are good"!

After having my own children, we continued the tradition of holiday cookie baking only changing the type of cookies we liked. We made homemade and decorated sugar cookies, peanut butter blossoms and monster cookies. (see recipe). The sugar cookies were a favorite with all the different cookie cutters I had picked up at craft and antique shops. Making buttercream icing was a hit because the kids got to lick the bowls of red and green icing when we finished. We all had our favorites, my husband loved the sugar cookies, I loved the peanut butter blossoms and the kids loved the monster cookies. Could it be because they contained chocolate chips and M and M's?

I don't make too many cookies these days unless Kennedy, our granddaughter comes over and she talks mamaw into baking a batch. The joys have vanished since my co-bakers have left the nest and made



homes for themselves. But, just the other day, Jacob our son asked me to write down some of his favorite dishes I used to make. I think I'll be sure to include those monster cookies!

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup (1 stick or 115g) salted butter, softened to room temperature*
- 1/2 cup (100g) packed light brown sugar
- 1/4 cup (50g) granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup (185g) creamy peanut butter
- 1 large egg, at room temperature*
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 and 1/4 cups (160g) all-purpose flour (spoon & leveled)
- 1/2 cup (40g) quick oats*
- 3/4 cup (150g) M&Ms (any size or variety)
- 1/2 cup (90g) semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350°F

In a large bowl, using a hand-held mixer or stand mixer with paddle attachment, cream the butter and sugars together on medium speed, about 3 minutes. Mix in the peanut butter, egg, and vanilla (in that order). Scrape down the sides of the bowl as needed. Slowly mix in the baking soda and flour. Do not over-mix. On low speed, beat in the quick oats, M&Ms, and chocolate chips just until incorporated. If the dough is very soft and unmanageable by hand, chill the dough for 30 minutes before rolling.

Rolls balls of dough, about 2 Tablespoons of dough per ball, onto prepared baking sheet. Press a few extra M&Ms on top for looks, if preferred. Bake for 11-13 minutes- the cookies will still look a little soft, which is recommended. Slightly press down the baked cookies with the back of a spoon, since the cookies only slightly spread in the oven. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 10 minutes before transferring to a wire rack. Cookies will firm up as they cool.

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Fabric Scrap Rosette Ornament

by Jacquelynne Steves

So it's one week before Christmas and you think you don't have time to make an ornament? Wrong! These Fabric Scrap Rosette Ornaments are pretty quick.... What a great scrappy project- You know those long skinny scraps left over after you trim the excess backing from your quilt? Perfect! Fat quarters are also perfect for this project. (Oh, and Jelly Rolls will work too, even though they're 2 1/2" wide instead of 3"). You can even use up your scraps of fusible webbing.

If there's no time to make them for Christmas, you could make them in any fabrics and hang them in your window, or attach to gifts as an embellishment. You could tie them around the neck of a Mason Jar mix or bottle of wine or vinegar for a great hostess gift. Make Blue & White ones to mimic snowflakes for January, or try Red & Pink fabrics for adorable Valentine's Day decorating.

You will need: • Scraps of fabric • Fusible Web • Needle and Thread • Button • Glue • Thread or Cord for hanging

To make the ornament, cut 2 strips of fabric about 3 x 19 inches. (Follow photo in order top to bottom for each step.)

Cut fusible webbing so that it is slightly smaller than fabric strip and fuse, according to manufacturer's directions, to **WRONG SIDE** of one fabric strip. (You can piece together scraps of the fusible web, as I did.)

Remove paper backing and fuse the other strip of fabric to the one with the fusible web, **RIGHT SIDES OUT**.

Trim the strip to 2" x 18".

Accordion fold the strip, pressing the creases with your fingers as you go. The creases will stay in the strip, so when the folded piece of fabric becomes too bulky to hold, you can release it and go on to the next section.

Run a needle and thread through all of the pleats except for the first and last ones. Pull thread so it is snug and tie the thread off.

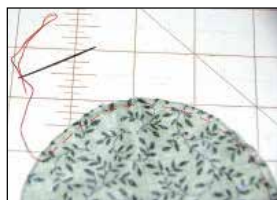
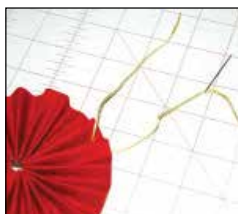
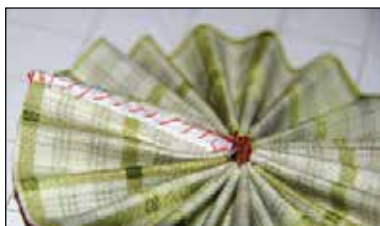
Sew the edges together. Use matching thread (I used contrasting thread so you could see it better in the photo.)

Attach thread or cord to make a hanging loop.

To make the yo-yo for the center, cut a circle that is 4" in diameter. Make a running stitch all the way around, about 1/8" from the edge. (No need to turn the raw edge under, it will be hidden by the button.) Pull thread to gather and tie off.

Sew a button to the yo-yo. Glue the yo-yo to the ornament.

If you would like a double-sided ornament, simply glue another yo-yo and button to the back.



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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. <i>Yorkshire Rose Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at the Birchmount Collegiate Institute on the second Wednesday of every month.
Wasaga Beach	<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.
Waterloo	<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.

Building Harmony Christmas 2019

by Jeff Cappis



There is something about Christmas that can even turn disasters into fond memories. When our grandchildren were young, my wife Cathy and I decided to turn the acreage into a winter wonderland for them over the Christmas season.

We put up robotic deer, planted fireworks, buried inflatable displays in the snow and, above all else, lights. Lots of lights. You could read a

newspaper out there at night. In particular, we did a fir tree just outside our front bay window for full effect.

When the time came, we bundled up and headed outside into the dark for the great show. We were eager to see the looks on the children's faces. To build suspense, we all stood there and did a count down. "Five, four, three, two, one..." and I hit the switch.

I am happy to say that somewhere in the world that night children were laughing and running around a winter wonderland. I am unhappy to say that it wasn't at our place.

One of the deer went "Moo," sparked and popped, then fell over.

Of the five fireworks that actually went off, one knocked a squirrel out of the tree; one went straight up, then straight down onto the snow covered roof of the house before going off; and the last two fired into a snow bank 20 feet away.

The inflatable snowman and Santa began to emerge from the snow like two ghouls rising from their snowy graves. Hunter spilled his hot chocolate all down the front of his coat. Hannah hid behind Cathy. Then one of the candy canes shorted out and everything went dark.

We all stood there stunned for a moment. Then the fireworks went off in the snow bank, blowing snow all over us.

Through the cold, quiet darkness I could hear Hunter say, "I'm hungry. Can I have some potato chips?"

Hannah said, "Let's go watch a movie."

Then water from the other fireworks ran on us from the roof. (Don't worry though. The roof was O.K.)

The one thing that came out of that experience was the tree outside our bay window. Every year after that we would plug it in and it would light up beautifully. The vision of a lit up tree surrounded by virgin snow just outside the bay window of a warm house with a fire going is just superb at Christmas. Try a hot drink as well.

Over the years though, the tree has outgrown the lights. Thick branches hide them, some of the bulbs are broken and squirrels have been chewing on the cords. One time we went to test the lights and there was a "Bang!" and a smoking squirrel fired out of the tree. (Don't worry though. The squirrel was O.K.)

So we set about revamping our tree. We got new low power LED lights to save the environment and the local squirrels. Christmas was coming up in a couple of days so we had to work fast. The tree had gotten much taller so we needed taller ladders and even a long pole with a hook for winding the lights down around the tree. We even managed a star at the very top. It took longer than we thought to get this done (a couple of days) and even the squirrel was chattering at us to finish and get out of his tree.

Finally, everything looked perfect. I was putting away the ladder and various tools just as the family was showing up on Christmas Eve.

Later on, as the night had settled in and a light snow was falling all around, I built a warm fire in the fire place and everyone gathered around the window to watch the lighting of the new tree. The children had grown up, but they still remembered the disaster ten years before. We laughed. For old times sake, we counted down "Five, four, three, two, one..." and I hit the switch.

I am happy to say that somewhere in the world that night a family was looking out over a beautiful Christmas tree and enjoying their warm drinks. Again, I am unhappy to say that it wasn't at our place.

The tree lit up for an instant, then there was a "Bang," The star exploded in a shower of sparks and a smoking squirrel fired out of the tree. I guess those lights weren't as low power as we thought. (Don't worry though. The squirrel was O.K.)

Hunter, startled, spilled his coffee down the front of his clothes. Hannah hid behind Cathy and, just after the house went dark, I heard Hunter say, "I'm hungry. Can I have some potato chips?"

I guess it's a tradition now and we'll try again in another ten years.

Merry Christmas from Jeff and Cathy at Harmony Acres.

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It's Party Time With Lesley

by Lesley R. Nuttall

With the holiday season not too far off, this would be a good time to start thinking about your ideas for your party plans and start to make your lists. We all celebrate the holidays in our own special way; either traditionally, or our own family customs. I always love the holiday season, and Christmas is such a magical time with the Christmas trees lights, decorations, music and of course spending quality time with family and friends.

Every special event, whether it's Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter or birthday parties, it's always best to start with a pre-planning list. This is the secret to your successful entertaining. By writing down all the little details that you can check back on from time to time, will actually ensure a stress-free party for you.

Being organized at this time of the year can make the holiday season so much more enjoyable for both you and your guests. Parties around this time of the year are infectious, so start your invitation list and get your invitations out early, either by phone call, email or a special invitation card.

There are so many different types of parties (gatherings) which give you the opportunity to be adventurous, whether you go with something small or a full blown formal dinner. Look over my following list and see if any of my suggestions would work for your parties.

A Saturday morning gathering for coffee, muffins, croissants, along with a cheese and fruit tray would start the day for those heading out to do some shopping for the day.

A Saturday or Sunday afternoon "Tea" could be a good way to work in some visiting time with your female family or friends. You could even impress your guests with some of your homemade baking.

A Sunday brunch served after guests attend Church would be a welcome treat. A variety of hot and cold food can be served buffet style, which makes it easier for the guests as well as for you. As "brunch" combines a late breakfast with an early lunch, you could plan a quiche or souffle, a hot meat or cheese lasagna dish, some bacon or sausage, an assortment of cold meats along with buns or bread, a salad and a platter of assorted fruit. Set your plates, silverware and napkins on your kitchen table or counter and let the guests serve themselves. Plan on having enough room for all your guests to sit comfortably.

For the working couple, you could opt for a weekend cocktail party with a few hors d'oeuvre's and snack foods. Put on some background music so guests can still mingle and chat. If they want to get more active, you could turn up the volume and dance the night away!

The dinner party is the most time consuming party to plan and arrange. But by being organized, it will be a breeze. Six or eight is the ideal number of guests for a dinner party at home. Most recipes are scaled to 4 or 6 servings so it's easy to adjust. Most of us have table settings for up to 8.

It's difficult to outline a dinner suitable for many different cultures, but you could use the following as a guide: a meat dish, starch, one or two vegetable dishes, a salad dish, and I always like to include a pickle dish, buns or bread, and of course a dessert. In your planning stage for the food, always keep in mind the color combinations so you don't have all one color.

Presentation is very important! Using your best china or dishware and setting an attractive table with a colorful tablecloth and napkins will add to the atmosphere. Add a center piece that could be the topic of conversation.

So, start your preparations early and have a wonderful season of fun and enjoyment with parties for your friends and family!



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Town and Country Cooking

*A Meatball Come-back**By Janette Hess*

A quick overview of the current culinary world reveals an interesting trend – meatballs have made a comeback! Those tasty little nuggets of ground meat are earning respect once again. For many of us, however, meatballs never left our comfort-food repertoire. We have our old favorites, and we're always looking for new favorites.

Ethnically inspired Swedish-American Meatballs might raise a few eyebrows in downtown Stockholm, but they are much-loved by meatball aficionados and present-day descendants of Swedish pioneers.

Serve these meatballs with noodles, mashed potatoes or new potatoes.

When spaghetti is on the dinner menu, bump it up a notch by serving it with Savory Meatballs instead of regular meat sauce. The extra effort is worth it, because parmesan cheese makes these meatballs exceptionally flavorful. And, if you're feeling adventurous, form each meatball around a "pearl" of fresh mozzarella cheese before moving on to the browning step.

A bit out of the ordinary, Asian Chicken Meatballs are proof positive that meatballs are adaptable as well as delicious. A great addition to stir-fried vegetables, these meatballs also may be served as an appetizer with dipping sauces.

Swedish-American Meatballs

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 pound regular ground sausage
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 cup milk
- 1½ cups soft bread crumbs
- ½ teaspoon ground pepper
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 teaspoons beef base
- 2 tablespoons dried onion
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 14½-ounce can lower-sodium beef broth
- 1 cup sour cream with chives
- Fresh or dried dill for garnish, if desired

Prepare 2 rimmed baking sheets or baking dishes with cooking spray. Combine meats, egg, milk, crumbs, pepper, salt, nutmeg, beef base and onion. Shape into moist 1¼ to 1½-inch balls. If needed, moisten hands with water to prevent mixture from sticking. Place meatballs on baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Turn meatballs over and bake an additional 15 minutes. Transfer onto paper towels to drain. Blot excess grease, if necessary. Melt butter in large pan; stir in flour. Allow to cook and bubble for 2 minutes. Whisk in beef broth and stir until thickened and smooth. Decrease heat to low and whisk in sour cream with chives. Add warm meatballs and stir to coat. Sprinkle with dill before serving. Makes approximately 40 meatballs.

Note: A half package of dried onion soup mix may be substituted in meatballs for beef base and dried onion.

Savory Meatballs for Spaghetti

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- ¾ cup soft bread crumbs
- ¼ cup dried parsley flakes
- ½ cup grated parmesan cheese
- ¾ teaspoon garlic salt
- ½ teaspoon ground pepper
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- ½ cup milk
- 1 24-ounce jar marinara sauce

Combine all ingredients except sauce. Shape into 1¼- to 1½-inch balls. Brown on all sides in large, non-stick skillet, cooking meatballs in batches, if needed. When all are browned, add 1 cup water. Bring just to boil. Reduce heat, cover and cook for approximately 15 minutes, or until meatballs are cooked though. Heat sauce in separate pan and add meatballs. Serve with pasta.

Asian Chicken Meatballs

- 1 pound (16 ounces) boneless, skinless, trimmed chicken (mix of breast and thigh meat)
- ¼ cup grated carrot
- 3 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 clove garlic, finely minced
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 2 tablespoons lower-sodium soy sauce
- ¼ cup chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon peanut oil
- ¾ cup panko bread crumbs
- ½ teaspoon Asian hot chili sauce

Prepare rimmed baking sheets or baking dish with cooking spray. Set aside. Taking steps to minimize contact with countertops and other surfaces, cut chicken into chunks and pulse until finely ground in food processor. Transfer chicken to large mixing bowl. Add all remaining ingredients and mix well. Shape mixture into 1½-inch balls. (Some cooks prefer to use disposable kitchen gloves for handling raw chicken.) Place meatballs on baking sheet. Wash hands thoroughly. Bake meatballs at 400 degrees for 10 minutes. Turn meatballs over and bake an additional 10 minutes, or until internal temperature reaches 160 to 165 degrees. (Use an instant-read thermometer.) Add to stir-fried vegetables, or serve warm with Spicy Peanut Dipping Sauce or Asian dipping sauces of choice. Makes approximately 28 meatballs.

Spicy Peanut Dipping Sauce

- ½ cup creamy peanut butter
 - 2 tablespoons lower-sodium soy sauce
 - 1 tablespoon rice vinegar
 - ¼ to ½ teaspoon Asian hot chili sauce, depending on desired "heat"
 - ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
 - 6 tablespoons very hot water
- Whisk together all ingredients and serve warm with meatballs.

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.



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From Lydia’s Recipe File:

Sweet Tea Rings

Our family’s favorite Christmas tea ring. First delivered to us as a surprise one Christmas morning by Hank and Fran Warren. (Recipe can be doubled.)

Yeast Dough

- 1 pkg. dry yeast
- 1 cup warm water (115 degrees), divided
- 1/3 cup plus 1 T. sugar
- 6 tablespoons salad oil (1/4 cup plus 2 T.)
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 beaten egg
- 3 cups flour

1. In a small bowl, combine 1/2 cup water, 1 tablespoon sugar, and yeast. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, combine the sugar, oil, salt, and the additional 1/2 cup water. Stir in egg.
3. Stir in the yeast mixture.
4. Add flour 1 cup at a time, and mix with wooden spoon. Dough will be soft and sticky.
5. Cover and refrigerate the dough for 4 hours or longer.
6. Line 3 or 4 8" pie or cake pans with parchment paper.
7. Prepare filling.

Filling

Mix together:

- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
 - 3/4 cup flour
 - 3/4 cup butter (1 1/2 cubes), softened
 - 2 tsp. cinnamon
 - 3/4 cup chopped walnuts or pecans
- Mixture will be soft, not crumbly.

1. After 4 or more hours, remove the dough from the refrigerator. Divide the dough into 3 or 4 portions.
2. Place one portion of dough on a floured surface. Sprinkle a little flour on top if dough is too sticky. Roll the dough into a rectangle about 12" long and 6" wide. The dough should be very thin, about 1/8" thickness.
3. Divide the filling into 3 or 4 portions. Form each portion into a long roll about the length of the dough, and place it down the center of the dough.
4. Flatten the filling with your hands to make a thin layer of filling down the center of the dough. Leave a small amount of dough without filling at each end.
5. Roll up like a jelly roll. Bring ends together to form a circle and pinch ends together.

6. Place tea ring on a prepared baking pan. Cut 4 or 5 2-inch-long slits horizontally across the top of the tea ring.
7. Repeat to make more tea rings.
8. Cover tea rings and let rise at room temperature for 2 hours. The tea rings will be more flat on top than rounded.
9. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes, until brown. Watch carefully.
10. Remove tea rings from the oven and place them on cooling racks. When cool, remove the parchment paper and place tea rings on plates.
11. Frost and decorate tea rings if desired, or dust with powdered sugar. The tea rings are sweet enough without frosting, but the frosting and decorations make them look festive.

Icing (optional)

Combine:

- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 T. boiling water

1. When the tea ring is cool, use a fork to drizzle the icing on the top and sides in swirls.
2. Decorate with red and green candied cherries for Christmas, or use nuts or sprinkles.
3. Store in airtight containers or resealable bags. You can freeze tea rings for several weeks if not eaten or given away.

(story continued from p.8)

Sharing Our Recipes

Here are the recipes to make the yummy foods we enjoyed at our brunch.

Dianna’s egg dish:

Prepare the Jimmy Dean Sausage Veggie Casserole (<https://www.jimmydean.com/recipes/breakfast/sausage-veggie-casserole>). Substitute

2 cups potatoes O’Brien, omit the onion, and use 1/4 cup fresh chopped broccoli for the frozen.

Sara’s salad:

Combine chopped apples, celery, and nuts plus slices of fresh mandarin oranges and halved red grapes. For the dressing, combine 1/4 cup organic apple juice, 2 tablespoons mayonnaise, 1 teaspoon sugar, 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon, and a dash of salt and coarsely ground pepper.

Chilled Strawberry Soup (See recipe in Lydia’s cookbook In the Kitchen with Grandma.)

Lydia’s Sweet Tea Rings (recipe included).

Planning Your Own Recipe Exchange Tea


Do your holidays include hospitality to guests? If so, try a recipe exchange brunch, which is easy and fun. Or modify it to become a recipe exchange dessert, a recipe exchange lunch, or a recipe exchange for any meal. Invite as many guests as you wish. The more people, the more varieties of food and copies of new recipes you’ll receive.

Hosting this simple recipe exchange teatime makes the holidays more relaxed as you plan ahead, keep it simple, and share the cooking. When you each make only one food item, you’ll have more time to make something special. And you can anticipate sampling new foods with family and friends.

I wish you a simply wonderful holiday season!

Lydia E. Harris, who holds a master’s in home economics, 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 her recent release is *In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together*.

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THE CHRISTMAS TREE ANGEL

by Lesley R. Nuttall


Have you given any thought, or wondered why
An angel adorns our Christmas tree so high?
It all began in the early 16th Century
The first angel sat on top a tree in Germany.

The angel is a symbol of love and everlasting light
A decorated tree with an angel is a beautiful sight!
This holiday tradition has a spiritual touch
In earlier times, it was said to ward off evil spirits, and such.

Our Christmas trees today give off such a mystic glow
The children make decorations, which we never outgrow.
We purchase ornaments of porcelain and fragile glass
And a feather winged angel to give our tree more class!

There are illuminated angels, Santa's and the Bethlehem star
Our sparkling tress can be seen from afar.
Whatever our reason for an angel on top
Some of us will never, anytime stop!

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A map of the province of Ontario, Canada, showing the locations of 14 cities. The cities are marked with red stars and labeled as follows:

- Red Lake
- Kenora
- Dryden
- Sioux Lookout
- Thunderbay
- Marathon
- Cochrane
- Earlton
- New Liskeard
- Sault Ste Marie
- Thessalon
- Espanola
- Corbeil
- Sturgeon Falls

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Pincourt.....	Mad Moody Quilting Fabrics...	pg. 7
Russell	Quilter's Barn & Gifts	pg. 9
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Shakespeare	The Quilt Place	pg. 12
Sioux Lookout	Dori's Sewing Studio	pg. 22
Stittsville.....	Mad About Patchwork.....	pg. 7
St. Marys	Kalidoscope of Quilts.....	pg. 12
Tecumseh	Ella Quilts	pg. 11
Thessalon	The Creative Basket	pg. 19
Thunderbay	Circle of Friends.....	pg. 22
Uxbridge	Quilters Cupboard	pg. 10
Vankleek Hill	Quilt Bees.....	pg. 9
Windsor	Quilting Confections.....	pg. 17
Woodville	Bolts & Bobbins	pg. 7

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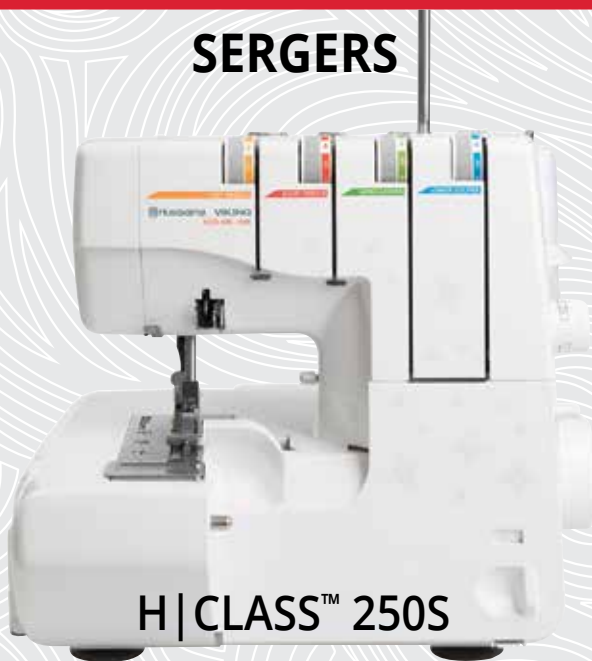
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GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay...

It was simply a manger with hay borrowed from the animals to comfort a newborn babe. Humble beginnings - just the basics - but it was all that was needed that starry-starry night. Maybe we should ask ourselves this Holiday Season, **What do we really need?**

What gifts are really needed to be given? Consider gifts from the heart, a gift of service or from your list of talents like homemade jams or jellies. The service of doing an errand for a neighbor in need. The gift of your time to consider the value of slowing down to really listen to your friends and family.









Girlfriend Wisdom: Prioritize the basics in life, they are more valuable and special than you might think. Your time, your talents, slowing down to really really listen to Christmas carols, to the wisdom in children, to your parents, to your church and community and to the world around you. These might be the gifts that are really needed!

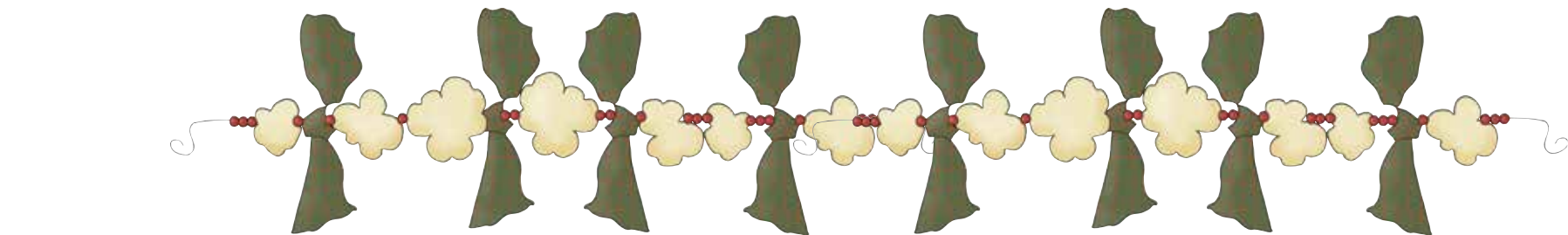
Joy & Blessings, 

Girlfriend Wisdom is written and illustrated by Jody Houghton®.
Color files of this writing and artwork are available: www.JodyHoughtonDesigns.etsy.com

Christmas Word Search

C	H	I	M	N	E	Y	Y	S	C	G	K	N	L	S	V	G	H
E	O	L	O	R	H	A	W	N	B	A	Q	C	U	P	R	I	Z
V	U	P	F	J	H	H	O	O	L	Y	R	O	D	H	K	N	Q
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P	H	T	A	E	R	W	O	O	M	Y	L	L	O	H	K	N	W





HOMEMADE Marshmallows

MAKES 64 1" SQUARE MARSHMALLOWS
YOU WILL NEED A CANDY THERMOMETER

Roast 'em at a hayride bonfire or melt them in hot chocolate. mmm-mm-good!

1/2 c. powdered sugar
1/2 c. cornstarch
3 packets powdered gelatin
(= 21gm. or 2 Tbsp + 3/4 tsp.)
1 c. water
1 3/4 c. sugar
3/4 c. lt. corn syrup
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. vanilla

Lightly spray a 9x9" baking pan w/vegetable oil. Gift together powdered sugar & cornstarch & dust pan w/a spoonful of this mixture. In a lg wide mixing bowl, combine the gelatin w/ 1/2 c. water & set aside. In a med. saucepan, combine the sugar, corn syrup, salt & 1/2 c. water ~ cook over med. heat til sugar melts, stirring occasionally. Turn heat on high & cook til candy thermometer reads 250°. SLOWLY pour hot mixture into gelatin, beating on low speed w/ electric mixer. Turn on high, beat 15 min., add in vanilla & beat another minute ~ pour into baking pan. Sprinkle over reserved powdered sugar & cornstarch. Set aside for 6 hours or overnight. Cut into 1" squares (cold water on knife helps) & make sure each one is rolled in the powdered sugar on top. Keep in airtight container.

FUN TO DO IN YOUR FIRE-PLACE MAKE SOME

MAKES A SWEET GIFT IN AN OLD GLASS JAR

USE A GREEN BRANCH OR A STRETCHED-OUT HANGER

This recipe and more are in my AUTUMN book. Find my books at your local bookstore, library, or my website: www.susanbranch.com. Homemade From the Heart of the Home....

Countryberries Designs

This pattern is free for you to use. Please give the artist credit. Not for commercial use. Enlarge this pattern to your desired size. Paint on wood or canvas. Maybe you'd like to rug hook this heart. It would also be cute applied in wool with embroidered snowflakes. You can do it with a punchneedle too. Whatever technique you choose, have fun! Designed by Kathy Graham

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Free Pattern

Use this pattern for embroidery, wool applique, punch needle or rug hooking, painted projects or whatever your imagination can dream up! Reduce or enlarge pattern as desired.

Free Embroidery Pattern
May not be sold or used for commercial purposes.
For more fun and creative inspiration visit:
www.JacquelynneSteves.com

Answers to puzzle found on p.6

1. meltsoe	14. cktacenu	2. reowdft	15. tmtimeell	3. hoesegetnstr	16. nmksnleaeft	4. ogngeg	17. ecipnoen	5. ngselrteg	18. swlaasi	6. sumalprgu	19. ndrnbnaegeg	7. aenlg	20. igtwodlo	8. sfelatl	9. lnkfoawe	10. elnrsdactlm	11. lleactrep	12. ntadotlt	13. blncolereact
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