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The Country Register of Ontario February / March 2020 Issue

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Meet our cover artist: Rebecca Barker

Art has always been a part of Rebecca's life. Her Father was a dairy farmer and her Mother was an artist since she was a baby, painting Christmas tree ornaments. Consequently, she grew up with paint and paper in-hand. She attended the Fine Arts program at Ohio University (Athens, Ohio) and received her BFA degree.

On her family's dairy farm quilting and collecting old quilts was a pastime for the Barker women. Rebecca's natural appreciation for quilts and the country landscapes became the subject she chose to paint. She developed a line of paintings she calls "QUILTSCAPES". The old-time quilt pattern is depicted in the painting with the quilt. For example, the LOG CABIN quilt has a painting of a log cabin in the background. Several paintings have the quilt images subtly mixed into the landscapes while others have the quilt hanging on a clothesline in the foreground. Rebecca paints her quiltscapes in acrylic on masonite board. The quilt patterns come from quilt history books and quilt shows. "I do not make up the patterns. I love the designs of old-time quilts". She creates her own colors and materials in the fabrics. "I do not work from real quilts because the colors have to match the landscapes". Her style is described as realistic, with clean, clear colors and sensitivity to composition and texture.

She shows her work on her web page and has produced a line of note cards, limited edition prints, two books and gift items.

 $``\mbox{My}$ work is meant to honor the beauty of the old-time quilts and their makers"

Rebecca Barker's Quiltscapes • www.barkerquiltscapes.com

Our Search for Cover Artwork -

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

Dearest Readers,

Winter is here, but luckily it has been a mild one so far this year! I certainly hope that you are all enjoying some outdoor activities this season. This year we have traded-in our cross-country skis for snowshoes. It is always fun to try something new. We also went tobogganing last week after a nice snowfall and boy that was fun!

As beautiful as Winter can be, of course we always end up spending so much more time indoors. I find that this is a great time to start new projects or finish up ones that have been put off. This year I'm starting a new quilt for our bedroom, which will probably be finished by summer. I am not a quick quilter, that is for sure! First, I must choose a pattern and colors that we both like! I am thinking something modern and fresh, but with calming colors to help wind down the day.

Not everything is work though! This winter many of our evenings have been spent binge watching our favorite series on TV. We just started watching a show called Grace & Frankie from Season 1 and if you haven't seen it, I highly recommend it. It is very funny and entertaining. Other nights we just unwind by our crackling fire while sipping a glass of red, chatting about our day and planning for future vacations and family outings.

On another note, Valentine's day is soon approaching. Time to buy the special people (and pets!) in your life a little something to remind them that you love them. This year, as always, I am so grateful for the people in my life and I am going to take this season to make sure that they all know it! Of course, also don't forget self-love on Valentine's day and do something special for yourself as well.

As always, we are extremely grateful for your readership and continuing support. It is only through you, dear reader, and your support of our group of excellent advertisers, that allows us to bring the Country Register of Ontario to life! We appreciate you!

Happy Valentine's Day to you all!





Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

Feb. 9	Heritage Antique Market at Improve Canada - Vaughan
Feb. 14	Happy Valentine's Day
Feb. 17	Heritage Antique Market at Centerpoint Mall - Totonto
Feb. 19	TKG February Meeting, Toronto Knitters Guild - Toronto

..... MARCH

Mar. 8	Heritage Antique Market at Improve Canada - Vaughan
Mar. 12 - Apr. 2	Genesisi - An Exhibition of Quits by the encounters Art Quilt Group of Israel - Londor
Mar. 13 - Mar. 22	Canada Blooms: the Flower and Garden Festival Toronto
Mar. 14	Peterborough Fibrefest 2020 - Peterborough
Mar. 14 - Mar. 15	Spring Home & Outdoor Show - Lindsey
Mar. 19	Studio Art Quilt Associates Annual Conference - Toronto
Mar. 25 - Mar. 29	One of a Kind Canada - Spring Show - Toronto
Mar. 26 - Mar. 29	Ottawa Home + Garden Show - Ottawa
Mar. 27	Etobicoke Quilters Guild – Quilt Fever 2020 - Etobicoke
Mar. 28	Dye Pastel Yarns Like An Indie Pro - Cambridge
Mar. 28 - Mar. 29	Spring Ottawa Craft Show - Ottawa
Mar. 29	Ottawa Vintage Clothing Show - Ottawa

..... APRIL

Apr. 25

Happy Endings New Beginnings, London District Weavers and Spinners -Register Jan. 13 - Apr. 17 - London



Wouldn't it be nice, if we could manage our minds to think positively. Managing our daily thoughts is the same as managing our lives. Good thoughts show up in our behavior, negative thoughts show up in our words and on our faces! Every action begins as a thought. If we don't think thoughts of worry, stressful situations or past disappointments, to name of few - our good thoughts of gratitude, kindness, open mindedness, joy - joy - joy, to name a few - can grow and thrive to become a part of who we choose to be in a productive and confident life. Bad Habits, Hurts and Hang-ups are where our biggest challenges live. Holding thoughts in those areas will defeat positive changes.

Retelling those old stories keep them alive when they should be moving on to allow thoughts which lead to actions toward Peace and Harmony. GIRLFRIEND WISDOM:

The key to Peace and Happiness is a well-managed Mind! Happy Thoughts!

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



The Lesson of the Bird's Nest

by Barbara Polston

One Saturday morning in early summer, my son-in-law, Eric, and I spent time watching a little bird build a nest in our Palo Verde tree. We laughed at the precarious place she chose for her work. It seemed that there was little support for the nest. What would happen, we wondered, during monsoon storms? Surely, the nest would blow to the ground as the branches were whipped about by the wind.

Our Palo Verde is mature and, admittedly, the canopy should be thinned. Eric had already employed his new chain saw to chop up branches that had plummeted to the ground due to their weight. We wanted to advise her to pick a more stable and suitable spot. Yet, this tiny bird was undeterred and she continued to build throughout the day. By evening, the nest appeared to be complete.

We watched her come and go for a time. We assumed that eggs were laid and hatched. Storms, although they were few, came, did their worst, and left. All too soon, she stopped visiting and we saw no activity. Weeks later, the nest remains, empty and abandoned, adorning the branches of the tree.

Thoughts about what we observed linger. Why was this little brown bird so willing to place her home and raise her children in a seemingly risky place? What knowledge did she have that eludes me? Was there a message in what we saw and how we worried over the nest?

I must conclude that, in some way, she calculated the risk and decided it was worth taking. It seems to me that she also had faith, a belief that this was the right place and the right time and that all would be well.

We take risks every day. Some are small. Beating it through the intersection when the light turns yellow. Hoping that the bobbin thread will last until the end of the seam. Drinking the milk that is more than a few days beyond the freshness code.

Some risks are bigger. Starting a new business. Buying a house and obligating ourselves to 30 years of payments. Getting married. Having a child. Every time a risk is taken, there is no guarantee what the result will be. Just like the little brown bird, we assess the risk and decide it is worth taking. We have faith that the positive will outweigh the negative. We believe that all will be well.

As you go about your day, and calculate the risks both great and small, I hope that the branches will be stable enough to hold you.

Barbara Polston is the author of Quilting with Doilies: Inspiration, Techniques, and Projects (Schiffer Books, 2015) and an award-winning quiltmaker. When not quilting, Barbara is the Grants Manager for Child Crisis Arizona, a child welfare agency. She lives in Phoenix, AZ. ©Barbara Polston, Phoenix, AZ, November 2019.



Cathy went on a trip to see her sister for a week. Knowing how much I love my sister in law, Cathy decided to leave me alone at home with the dog but, to tell you the truth, I

was looking forward to it. I haven't lived on my own as a bachelor for years.

Imagine, sleeping in and staying up ultra late—guilt free. I could put on all the guy movies I could handle. Crumbs could actually live on our counter for days instead of minutes. I could even pass wind without apologizing.

There was, of course, the list of things I needed to get done while she was gone. Cathy seems worried that I will become lazy and she'll have to train me all over again—she's probably right—so she keeps me busy.

I came up with a plan. I would work my tail off for six of those days, then relax and do nothing for the last day. Just watch movies all day in my robe and underwear. That is something I haven't done for years. It's a guy thing.

In this plan, when Cathy got home she would be amazed at all I've gotten done, bestow heaps of praise and gratitude upon me, and forgive the fact that I spent a day watching movies in my robe.

First job: keep the house clean. No problem, I would just "clean as I go." Right? Right. That was the first plan to go off the rails. I am more of a slob than I thought. Eventually I decided to just leave all the house cleaning to the end. Just do it once to save time and effort. Sounded good on paper, but it's amazing how fast a house can become a dump.

Water the flowers every day: Cathy has flowers everywhere outside and it generally takes an hour and 20 watering pots of water. I not only did that, but as an added bonus I sprayed synthetic coyote urine on all the pots to keep the deer away. That stuff stinks real bad but it works. I wouldn't eat around it either. Problem is the nights were hot so I would open the windows to cool the house off. With flowerpots by each window, the house instantly smelled like a coyote's bathroom. Drove the dog crazy.

Laundry: Another job that Cathy usually does but I've watched her do it and I've washed my blue jeans before so how hard can it be? Well, we now have matching pink sheets and towels all throughout the house. Also, who knew that some clothes shrink if you don't dry them properly? It wasn't my fault. Quite frankly, all those knobs on the dryer are confusing. O.K., it's actually only one knob and one button, but it's still confusing. At least the dog has some new sweaters to wear in the wintertime.

I decided, as a bonus, to do maintenance on the hot water tank. This is a 20-minute job that took me 20 hours including the time it took to fix the water damage. I couldn't shower for five days. I got to smell so bad that the dog actually preferred hanging around the flowerpots.

After five days, the house was a disaster, there was no hot water, the place stank of me and coyote urine, and I ran out of groceries. The dog and I were fighting over the last of the cereal. If I knew how to cook, we could have eaten any number of dishes but, unfortunately, I tried to make noodles and I burnt the water so I gave up cooking. I'd also been wearing the same bright purple jeans and pink T-shirt for four days.

On day six the push was on. If I could get everything fixed in one day, I could still have a day of relaxation and bask in Cathy's impressitude when she got home. I started early and worked through the day. I cleaned, I scrubbed, I air freshened and, finally, fixed the hot water tank and took a shower. By midnight I was exhausted and collapsed on the bed.

On the seventh day even God rested. That was my plan, too, but funny thing, I couldn't do it. I felt guilty and couldn't relax. I guess years of keeping busy and always having something to do was catching up with me. After half of a guy movie, I got off the couch, put on some pants and went to find something to do. I guess my bachelor days are long since gone. Watching movies in a pin k robe and matching underwear just isn't my thing anymore.

I really missed Cathy for a lot of reasons. Me, the dog, and our home just can't do without her. So, the next time she decides to go away, I'll go with her. Even if we're going to see her sister because (as they say) a man alone is in bad company.

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Everyone Loves Pyrex by Dave Emigh

Perhaps it's not appropriate to say that everyone loves Pyrex. However, it is safe to say that (most) everyone knows what it is. In fact, when you hear the word Pyrex, a visual image instantly comes to mind.

My image is of the primary colored mixing bowl set with the yellow, green, red and blue bowls that my mother had. For others, it might be the measuring cup (with the red markings) that looks more like a small

glass pitcher. Whatever visual image comes to mind, it is likely to be family related.

Pyrex branded glassware has been around a lot longer than you might imagine. In the early 1900s, the Corning Glass Works developed industrial glass that was resistant to sudden extreme heat and temperature changes. Corning then used this glass to produce clear Pyrex glass cookware in 1915.

In 1947, Pyrex introduced the first colored kitchenware. It was the primary colored mixing bowl set that I remember. That was the beginning of the colored kitchenware that is so popular today.

Corning Glass had an excellent marketing program that included changing the colors of their Pyrex products to match the times. In 1956 they produced pink, turquoise and yellow colored products. Those remain some of the most popular colors today. Orange, green and gold were introduced in the 1960s.

Pyrex marketing also included the production of a promotional line. The majority of the promotional pieces were produced from the mid-1950s through the mid-1960s but the line continued through 1983. Each piece was only available for a limited time. It was released in the spring for the "wedding gift-giving season" and in the fall for the "holiday gift-giving season." The fall release often featured holiday themes such as snowflakes or pinecones.

These promotional items seem to be primarily serving type pieces or casseroles, especially the type with a divider in it. They featured unique colors and designs that were never used again. This has made the promotional pieces popular with collectors.

We maintain an extensive inventory of Pyrex glass kitchenware at Shady Lawn Antiques. Therefore we interact with shoppers that have a wide variety of reasons for purchasing Pyrex.

There are those who are looking to replace a broken piece or to fill out a set. Others purchase Pyrex for purely family-related nostalgic reasons. Recently we have seen an uptick in those who feel that using glass is a healthier option than using plastic. Then there are those who have extensive collections.

The condition of the piece is the primary consideration for these collectors. They are looking for complete designs, with minimal scratches or wear, and especially want bright shiny colors. They also like to have "complete sets." That is, they want to have the lids for the pieces that originally had lids, such as casseroles and refrigerator dishes.

At least initially, collectors seem to be searching for patterns that they remember from their youth. Since Pyrex changed their colors and patterns over time, each generation is looking for different pieces. Then they branch out into collecting the different Pyrex themes.

We have seen collectors who focus on specific design patterns, colors or on a range of similar colors. Sets of mixing bowls are also popular, most likely because they nest together. Recently there was an individual who was looking for only the half-pint covered casseroles in different patterns. She was developing a consistently sized display that didn't take up a lot of shelf space.

There is, in fact, much to love about Pyrex. You can cook in it and it also looks good when it is used as a serving piece. The glass is durable and the color is, too, unless you wash it in a dishwasher. Additionally, my grandmother used a Pyrex measuring cup and a large Pyrex bowl to mix up batches of cookies. Who doesn't love cookies along with a dash of nostalgia?

Dave Emigh and his wife Jill are the owners of Shady Lawn Antiques in Walla Walla, WA, perfectly located in the 1870s wood frame creamery



buildings that Dave's great-grandfather purchased in 1897. A professionally trained woodworker, Dave, along with his son Nick, specialize in the restoration of oak furniture. Shady Lawn, in its 25th year, has become a regional destination for oak furniture and is also known for a well-curated display of country, rustic and rare and unique "small" antiques. Glimpses of the ever-changing Shady Lawn inventory can be seen on Facebook and at www.shadylawnantiques. com

My Ferfect Quilt

How did this happen? My perfect quilt almost finished when with a second look I see my blocks are out of line, the pattern all askew.

Hours, choosing colours, fourteen different hues, in blended shades from darkest green to palest brown. Such careful work to get this far.

Hours, cutting pieces 'cross the fabric's grain three-hundred strips in all, then, cut again in different shapes. Precision cutting at its best. How did I go so wrong?

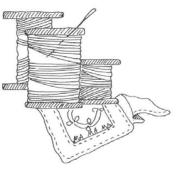
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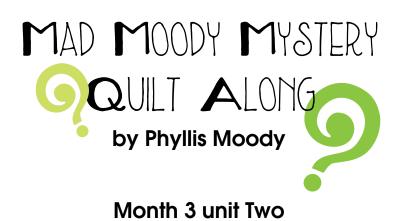
stitching pieces~~ a quilter's special seam, the "scant" one-quarter inch to make those lovely blocks all perfectly aligned every quilter's dream.

I'm in despair~~ a sleepless night. Do I toss away this thing and start anew or rip it all apart and fix this crooked quilt? I go for help.

Kind hands and words restore my faith the quilt is re-aligned. Does one forget when aid is needed most that angels are about giving hope and mending our despair.

Louise Love's home is Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, but she spends several months each year in Mesa, AZ. She has been quilting and writing poetry since her retirement ten years ago. Louise says that quilting keeps her mind active, nurtures her creative side and, perhaps most important of all, has helped her make kind and stimulating friends.





Out of the Background and Red fabrics cut 6 strips at 1 ³⁄₄ inches sew one red and one Background strip together along long side. Iron seam to dark fabric. Cut 24 sub units at 1 ³⁄₄ 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 two.

Bring them to the next meeting to show off.

Month 4 unit Three and unit Four

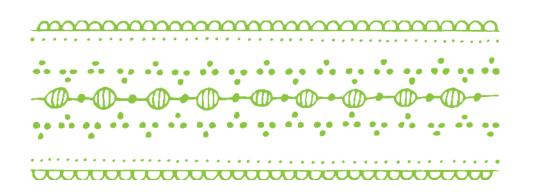
Unit 3

Out of Brown Fabric cut 6 strips 3 inches wide and width of fabric. Out of each strip cut 14 3 inch squares to have 80 3 inch squares put them aside.

Unit 4

Out of each of the background and brown fabrics cut 6 strips 3 ¾ inches and width of fabric out of each strip cut 11 squares of 3 ¾ inches you will need 64 squares of each. Put one background and one brown fabric together right side facing mark a line diagonal corner to corner. Sew on either side of this line and then cut on line to give you two half square triangles. Square up to 3 inches.

Repeat with rest of the squares to have 128 unit 4's Bring to next meeting to show off.



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Working With Essential Oils

Roman Chamomile (Anthemis nobilis)



"The Chamomile shall teach thee patience, that rises best when trodden upon," An Old English saying.

About this time of the winter season, I am become anxious for spring, warm sunny days, working in the garden and flower beds. Because of these feelings, I have been trying different essential oils in blends to help with relaxation and the generalized feeling of "just hurry up and get this over." One of the oils that seems to end up in most of my blends lately is Roman Chamomile! There are several types of Chamomile essential oil, but two

types are commonly used - Roman and German. In this article Roman Chamomile (Anthemis nobilis) will be discussed.

Roman Chamomile essential oil is a pale-yellow colored liquid with a warm, sweet herbaceous, fruity tea-leaf-like odor. The pure essential oil is distilled from the flowering tops of the Roman chamomile (Anthemis nobilis) plant. This flowering plant is a pleasant-smelling perennial with feathery fern-like leaves and small daisy-like flowers. Roman chamomile is a native of Western Europe, where it is still cultivated for commercial use today. It is also grown in Australia, the United States, plus many other countries -- and even in my flower garden!!!

Roman chamomile was used by the Ancient Egyptians, by Hippocrates to reduce fevers, in Tudor times in England as an aromatic herb and trodden into household floors to scent their homes. Today it is commonly used as a tea to help with relaxation, sleep and even colds and flu. The name chamomile is derived from the Greek words meaning "ground-apple."

There are multiple chemical components in all pure essential oils. One of the chemical components considered most beneficial in Roman chamomile essential oil is a Sesquiterpene alcohol, azuline. Roman chamomile essential oil is considered to have the therapeutic actions of an analgesic, antiseptic, antispasmodic, bactericidal, carminative, cholagogue, digestive, emmenagogue, febrifuge, hepatic, sedative, stomachic and others.

One of my favorite uses for Roman chamomile essential oil is stopping migraine headaches, by placing a drop of the pure oil on each side of the spinal column at the base of the head where it connects with the neck.



Also, place a drop at each temple, under each ear and under your nose. For me, it brings relief and sleep in less than 15 minutes.

Other favorite uses include:

*blend Roman chamomile essential oil in lotions for dry, sensitive skin,

* sunburns (along with lavender),

* apply to burns (with Lavender Essential Oil and Rose Essential Oil),

 * add in blends for relaxation, and for strained, sore, tight, painful muscles.

Roman chamomile essential oil is considered safe for babies after they are 48 hours old (along with lavender) and blends nicely with lavender essential oil. Roman chamomile essential oil is also considered an emergency rescue for asthma. Roman chamomile essential oil is considered non-toxic, non-irritant and non-sensitizing. As with all pure essential oils, it is always wise to test them on your skin before applying them to multiple areas.

Wipe away the Grumpy Winter Blues Blend

Sweet Orange Essential Oil	250 drops
Roman Chamomile Essential Oil	70 drops
Lavender Essential Oil	90 drops
Spearmint Essential Oil	20 drops
Patchouli Essential Oil	20 drops

Blend the above pure essential oils in a 15mL amber bottle with a eurodropper lid. To use, add a few drops to a room diffuser, to cotton balls in a glass cup or small dish, to a warm soaking bath or a Kleenex to carry with you throughout the day. Start with 3-6 drops and add more to your own liking. Renew the oils as needed throughout the day. Remember it takes four days for the oils to blend (synergize) to their true essence. You can always add more of one oil or the other to make the blend to your specific liking.

For Pure Essential Oils and other natural products or empty containers go to www.flinthillsaromatherapy.com.

Youmayalsocall:call620-394-2250ore-mailinfo@flinthillsaromatherapy. com. This blend will also be provided "pre-blended" upon request.

Wanda Headrick, owner of Flinthills Aromatherapy, draws on her extensive knowledge of essential oils to share non-chemical remedies to keep readers and their homes healthy.

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Here we are - not only a new year but a new decade. We brace ourselves for a spate of optical (20/20) witticisms!

To many of us, even though we wouldn't enter the world until much later, "the twenties" brings to mind the 1920s, often referred to as the Roaring Twenties. The first part of that decade was spent recovering from the losses and deprivations of four years of the most deadly war the world had ever known, then morphing for many into the time of prosperity, excess and conspicuous consumption portrayed so vividly by F. Scott Fitzgerald in his books about the rich. However, 1929 brought this to a crashing halt (pun more or less intended).

What will people of the future call our twenties? For those of us entering this decade the future is uncertain. The number of homeless people, veterans and refugees is increasing. Food banks report higher usage every year. Worldwide, political leaders manipulate their people; we feel powerless.

What can we do as quilters and makers? As a rule we are neither rich nor influential. We can make ourselves aware of problems in our communities and abroad, and do our bit to help as many ways as possible. Remember

...in this world of darkness, let us shine,

you in your small corner, and I in mine

As quilters we can support new housing for homeless veterans and such programs as Habitat for Humanity, Blankets Canada and so many others. These places need bedding and furnishings as do temporary residences for victims of misfortune like cancer patients and their families. A colourful quilt or wall hanging beats a grey institutional blanket any day! There are innumerable organizations and situations that welcome and need contributions. We can inquire at elementary schools if there are needy children lacking the warm mittens and toques so necessary in our cold winters. Their teachers may well be grateful too, as many of them quietly supply these items to some children in their classrooms, paying for them out of their own pockets.

We can spend time with a lonely or isolated young mother or an elderly friend (and maybe persuade them to join the quilting sisterhood?). One of our guild members teaches a quilting class at a local seniors' residence, a regular event anticipated by all concerned. Our seniors are from a giving/ volunteering generation; they appreciate the opportunity to continue.

As citizens we can volunteer or contribute to food banks, even though we wish it were not necessary for them to exist. As citizens we can make ourselves aware of what our political leaders do, not what they say – and react appropriately. We can actively search for places where our actions – no matter how small – will make a difference. If each of us makes a difference for only one other person, that alone could change the lives of thousands of people. We have more power than we think.

What will our descendants call this decade? We've got a lot to do. Let's get started. The world needs us!

Barbara Conquest writes her column from Blue Sky Quilting in Tofield, AB. © Barbara Conquest.



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Uxbridge



>ink Quilt Block Pattern

Block size 12" finished (12 1/2" unfinished) For each block, you will need:

- Pink- 32 assorted rectangles, 1 1/2 x 2 3/4"
- Dark Pink- 4 squares, 2 3/4"
- Scrap for applique (about 6" square)
- White- 8 1/2" square

• Medium Pink- scrap for applique (about 6" square)

• Embroidery floss- dark pink

• Fusible webbing, washout embroidery marker, pink thread for machine applique

Basic sewing supplies

Sew the assorted rectangles together (along long edges) into 4 rows of 8. Your rows should be $8 \ 1/2$ " long. Press toward darker fabrics.

Sew 2 of the rows to opposite sides of white square. Press towards scrappy row.

Sew Dark Pink Squares to ends of remaining 2 scrappy rows. Press toward Dark Pink Squares. Sew rows to remaining sides of block. Press toward scrappy rows.

Trace smaller heart and "hope" onto RIGHT side of medium pink scrap using washout embroidery marker. Embroider letters with a chain stitch or split stitch with 3 strands of floss. (Increase pattern size to 8" x 11")

Trace large heart (increase image size on a copieronto paper side of fusible webbing. Cut out, leaving about 1/8" border around the heart. Iron onto WRONG side of dark pink scrap according to manufacturer's instructions. Cut out heart on line. Remove paper backing.

Following manufacturer's instructions, iron large dark pink heart to white square in center of block.

Cut a 6" square of fusible webbing. Iron to WRONG side of medium pink fabric (with embroidery), making sure that the fusible webbing covers the entire area of the heart. Cut out heart on line (which you drew on fabric with embroidery marker.) Peel away paper backing.

Iron the embroidered heart to the center of the dark pink heart. Use pink thread to machine applique around both hearts.

Trim block to 12 1/2" square.





It's Party Time with Lesley by Lesley R. Nuttall

Winter Wonderland

I always think of this time of the year as a "winter wonderland!" And what is a winter wonderland you say? Here, where I live in Canada, we have the white glistening snow and the tree branches are sprinkled with a dusting of light snow. Of course, we do get huge dumps of snow where you can hardly see over the snowbanks. Some of us "snow birds" flock to British Columbia in Canada, or to warmer weather in the United States.

Myself, being born in January, I always enjoyed the winter and have been skating since I was old enough to wear the old fashioned "bob skates." As an adult, I continued skating with our children, and even the grandchildren.

Growing up on a small farm, there was a creek near our house that froze over which made the perfect place to skate. My Dad would spend hours flooding it to make a good smooth skating rink out of it. There was always a gang of neighbor kids sharing the rink and it was like a party after the skating. As there was always cold fingers and toes, my Mom would have hot chocolate and a plate of gingersnaps and sugar cookies ready to munch on.

On other days after school, the same bunch of kids would come to our house as we had a little hill out behind our house. We would slide down this hill using cardboard and it was as good as any toboggan around. I think the kids loved to come over as they knew what my Mom offered after we were all shivering from the cold. On occasion, Mom would make a Cinnamon Rice Pudding. It would be hot, or still warm, and because we had a couple of cows, we always had fresh cream to put on the pudding. Everyone loved it!

On the weekends, my sister, Julie and I would ski over to our friends, Wilma and Patsy Franklin's house. They had a big hill out behind their barn. The hill wasn't too high but it was long, which was great for beginner skiers. It was like a party when we went to their house. Mrs. Franklin, who was also my God Mother would have hot chocolate and make us a treat with wieners and her homemade buns. Then some goodies would follow.

I also had a secret for always wanting to go to Franklin's. They had a pump organ which I loved to play. I think music was ingrained into me from birth and my Mother told me that I used to tinker with my Grandmother's piano when I was only 3 years old. I still love to play a piano whenever I can, but love my accordion even more!

Music and parties have consistently been part of my life. With three sisters, there was numerous birthday parties in our house. Mom was a great baker and made a special birthday cake for each of us every year. I carried on this tradition over to our house when my husband and I had our children

When our son was young, I started by making him a train cake. Of course all the kids were young too, so they loved the train idea. As he grew older and played hockey, the special cake was a hockey stick and puck. Of course there was always party hats, games and loot bags to take home. In later years, I made Tom a dune buggy cake as he had just bought an old Volkswagen Beetle when he was 15, and spent hours remodeling it to make a dune buggy.



Our daughter, Lisa got pretty girly cakes volkswagon cake such Raggedy Ann or Cinderella or the newest Disney character cake. Both the kids got their share of "number" cakes when I couldn't think of anything

else to make. I always like to make something different each year. Parties never have to be elaborate. Just getting together with the family to celebrate a special birthday or anniversary is all about the fun and sharing the event with others.

I do feel that decorations add to the ambiance of the party. Spending a little time making such things as paper snow flakes and adding colorful streamers can brighten up a party room.

I loved making heart cutouts and a beautiful heart cake for our granddaughter Alissa's birthday parties when she was young. She was born on Valentines day.

It may be cold outside, but you can warm up with hot chili and buns or anything hot such as pizza. Don't forget the hot chocolate or a spicy hot adult drinks! Life is

what you make it, so have a great time planning and carrying out your plans! So, enjoy your winter parties and appreciate the time with your family or friends.

© 2019 Lesley R Nuttall is the Author of Secrets of Party Planning. She lives in Dryden, ON Canada with her husband.

LESLEY'S CINNAMON RICE PUDDING

¾ cup uncooked rice	$1 \frac{1}{2}$ cup milk (divided)
1/3 cup white sugar (or apple sauce)	1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 beaten egg	1 cup raisins
1 tablespoon butter	1⁄2 teaspoon vanilla

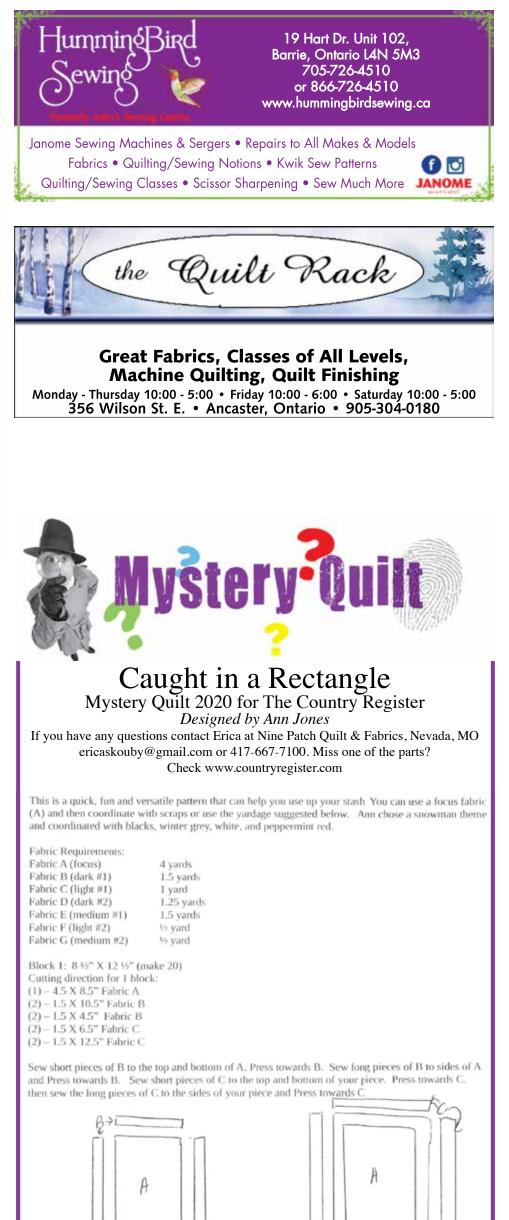
Bring 1½ cup water to a boil. Stir in rice, reduce heat and simmer about 15 minutes until cooked. Cool a bit, then add 1 cup milk, sugar or apple sauce and cook on low until thick and creamy. Slowly stir in remaining milk, beaten egg, and raisins. Cook 2 minutes. Add in the butter and vanilla. (Be sure to pour in the beaten egg slowly so it doesn't cook into lumps.) Pour into oven dish and cook $\frac{1}{2}$ hour at 350°. Makes 6 servings.

by Jacquelynne Steves

Ancaster • Barrie



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Miramichi	Miramichi Quilt Guild We meet at the Seamans Hospital at 7:00 pm every Tuesday and 10:00 am every Thursday.
Napanee	Heritage Quilters Guild We meet at the Strathcona Paper Center at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month from September through to June.
Newmarket	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 round.
Niagara Region	The Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild 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	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
Orilla	through June. Orilia Quilters' Guild We meet at the Royal Canadian Legion, 215 Mississauga St. E. at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.
Orono	Ganaraska Quilters Guild We meet at the Seniors Activity Centre. 200 Station St. W at 7:15 pm on the last Wednesday of the month.
Oshawa	Durham Trillium Quilters' We meet at the Zion Christian Reformed Church 409 Adelaide Ave. E, Oshawa at 7:00pm every second Monday Sept June
Ottawa	Almonte Quilters Guild We meet at the Almonte Civitan Club, 500 Almonte Street Active at 7:00 pm from September through
	June (no meeting in December). Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild
	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.
Perth	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
Pickering	We meet at Lions Hall, Perth Fairgrounds at 7pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild
Port Loring	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. <i>Arayle Quilters Guild</i>
Port Perry	We meet at the Lions Den in Arnstein on the second Thursday of the month. Port Perry Patchers
Prince Edward	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 County Quilters' Guild
Rayside	We meet at the BCR Church in Bloomfield at 7:00 pm County on the second Wednesday of each month. Rayside Balfour Quilting and Stitchery Guild
Kuyside	We meet at the Chelmsford Arena (upstairs) 215 Edward Avenue, Chelmsford, Ontario at 7:00 p.m. every Monday from September to May.
Renfrew	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	Richmond Area Quilters Guild (RAQG) 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.
Samia	Samia Quilters' Guild 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.
Scarborough	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.
Simcoe	Twilight Quilters' Guild of Norfolk County We meet at the Old Wyndham Church, 30 Glendale Crescent at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month.
	Norfolk County Quiliters' Guild 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.
St Marys	The Stonetowne Quilters' Guild 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	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	Sudbury & District Quilting & Stitchery Guild We meet at 140 Durham Street at 7:00 pm on every Tuesday from September to April.
Sutton	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 September to June.
Thunder Bay	Thunder Bay Quilters' Guild We meet at Calvin Luthern Church on Edward Street at 7:30pm on the 3rd Monday of each month from September to June.
Toronto	Etobicoke Quilters' Guild 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 May. Yorkshire Rose Quilters' Guild of Toronto
Wasaga Beach	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
-	We meet in the Community Hall at the Wasaga Stars Arena at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month September through June.
Waterloo	The Waterloo County Quilters' Guild 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 Windsor	Kindred Hearts Guild We meet at the Whitby Baptist Church on the third Tuesday of the month. Windsor's auilters 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 from September to June.
York Region	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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by Sharon Greve

Prepare for a New Year of Knitting

What's the first thing a knitter grabs when going somewhere? It's our knitting bag, of course. Our most popular "buddy" travel item, no matter where we're going or how far, is our long-time companion—the knitting bag. With the busy knitting gift season behind us now, it is time to organize and replenish our working bag. Select items from the following suggestions to organize your "buddy bag."

The Knitting Bag. First, it begins as a plastic bag. But, as our knitting skill improves, a sturdy knitting bag is necessary to accommodate all the accessories and tools we now use in knitting. A canvas, felted, or quilted fabric bag becomes a "must have" item. Inside pockets separate those small items from the bulky ongoing project. More divided space is provided by outside pockets. Feel free to personalize your bag according to the style and fabric. Attached identification prevents someone from accidentally picking up the wrong bag.

Contents. Of course, your current knitting project with needles, markers, and row counters are the first items in. Be sure to include pattern directions with paper and mechanical pencil for notations. An extra needle, the size being used in your current project, can be helpful if one is lost or broken. Ah, crochet hooks are always helpful everywhere. Include a size to coordinate with current project needles.

A small Knitter's Companion is a great reference item for all levels of knitting. A retracting tape measure shows various lengths. A six-inch ruler, however, is lighter weight for small projects. Forgot the above? Remember, a dollar bill is six inches long and quite serviceable in an emergency. A small calculator is handy more than one would think.

Folding-type scissors are the safest. For safe keeping, tie a ribbon to the scissors and bag strap; then drop the scissors into an inside pocket. If traveling by air, be sure to check TSA scissor rules.

A couple of yarn sewing needles and safety pins travel nicely in a small pill bottle. Post-it notes are handy for marking your place on a pattern, measuring short lengths of knitting for glove/mitten fingers, for cuff length, a small hat tassel, and as

bookmarks in pattern books. A magnifying glass is handy for small print and graphs. To test new patterns, new ideas, or to catch dropped stitches, pack in an assortment of double-pointed needles in favorite sizes. Snug fitting point protectors on one end

turn short double-pointed needles into straight needles for swatches or scarves. A small amount of favorite yarns are useful as stitch markers or for trying out new cast-ons or patterns. A small notebook is handy to jot down scarf patterns, pattern changes, friends or family measurements, favorite colors and yarns, new

yarn names, yardages, e-mail addresses of new knitting friends, and websites. Good, non-greasy hand lotion is useful so fiber doesn't catch on dry skin. Wool can often dry out our skin while knitting.

Have a rough spot on a needle? It does happen and can snag and ruin yarn. Pack an emory board for smoothing. Buffing hand-made wooden, sticky or nicked needles with wax paper can repair needles for smooth knitting.

Sometimes it's wise to include a small second project to work on in case you get stuck on a pattern, run out of yarn, lose your pattern, etc. It is frustrating and sad to have time to knitt and no knitting in your buddy bag!

Organized and ready!

My Grandmother's Quilt

by Jeanette Lukowski

I often refer to myself as a "pedestrian-level" quilter—rather than the experts whom I meet in quilt stores around the country—because I tie my quilts. So how, I have wondered many times during the past year, did I get the honor of reconstructing one of my grandmother's 9-patch scrap quilts?

Thanks to the mother who taught me to sew my own clothes when I was about 12 years old, I was ignorantly bold enough to think I could quilt when I spotted a project I liked on display in a fabric store during a deer-hunting-widows-craft-fair weekend twenty-five years later. No rotary cutter or single plastic template to my name, I first traced the required fabric shapes onto cardboard, then used the same lead pencil and pair of scissors to transfer the designs onto the five fabrics used in the 40x40 wall-hanging.

Flashing-forward another twenty-five years, I've discovered I'm a bit more cautious in my quilting than I was when I first started. While I still rarely rely on a pattern for my quilt projects, I have a rotary cutter, mat, and two plastic templates I use regularly as I create my many quilts with squares and rectangles. So why be so hesitant to branch out? I think I've just generally lost my confidence (in a number of things, I'm embarrassed to admit).

My aunt felt I was a good quilter, though, when she asked me if I would be interested in doing "something" with her mother's (my grandmother's) quilt "at the cabin."

"Before"

"Sure!" I boldly exclaimed when asked because I selfishly just

wanted to see the quilt I vaguely remembered from nights when I was a "guest," sleeping on the sofa-sleeper in my grandmother's living room.

I received the bag transporting the quilt in March 2019; I took photographs of the quilt on my living room floor, carefully measured and recorded the details of each square, block, and bit of sashing, then carefully snipped the pink yarn ties which had held the quilt together for decades.

Since neither my aunt nor I had a plan in mind, I became somewhat frozen with responsibility and indecision after snipping the yarn ties. While I knew the back fabric needed to be replaced (there were two large stains in the middle), I wasn't sure whether to replace only the portions of each 9-patch that was worn through, or replace 9-patches and sashing that was shredding, or turn each of the sturdier 9-patches into a singular throw pillow, or...

Rather than making a decision, I carefully snipped the fabric from the back, and peeled it away to uncover the mesh-and-stuffing which had formerly been batting for the quilt. Yuck.

My next move was to see what survived a spin through the washer, and then the dryer.

I purchased replacement backing-fabric from a quilt store in town in April, then packed up the whole project a week later because I was moving to a new job 1,500 miles away.

In November, I finally committed to a course of action. Step 1: safety pins were placed in the middle of each of the ten 9-patch blocks needing to be replaced, and fabrics were selected from my scrap stash to complement my grandmother's scraps (as each of the thirty 9-patch blocks were different). Step 2: cut the horizontal rows apart through the middle of the sashing. Step 3: move the "good" 9-patch blocks towards the center, and arrange the new blocks for color balance.

Using the original back-fabric in strips to re-connect all sashing and blocks, it took me 2 days to re-assemble to the quilt top—and a third day to re-tie the quilt (with new polyester batting for a moisture-prone lake cabin).

I share this tale because the New Year often fills quilters' lives with long windows of time indoors. The projects we've worked on to give as gifts for the holidays are completed; the days of being out-of-doors working in gardens might be several months away.

The bold young woman who created a wall-hanging from a project she saw hanging in a store in November 1992 went into hiding; the woman who was too nervous to destroy a family heirloom discovered a new chapter for her grandmother's quilt by throwing the quest-for-perfection out with the sawdust-like batting she discovered between the layers of grass-green fabric.

My grandmother's three great-grandchildren will again be sleeping under her quilt at the cabin this summer thanks to their grandmother (my aunt) who gave me a chance to take a risk—all in the name of quilt restoration.



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Town and Country Cooking By Janette Hess



Cold weather calls for hot sandwiches. During these chilliest months of the year, why not craft hot and hearty sandwiches around three favorite meats -- ham, pulled pork and beef brisket?

Perfect for brunch, lunch or dinner, Open-faced Ham Sandwiches offer a delightful combination of ham, steamed broccoli and made-from-scratch cheese sauce on English muffins. As a bonus, any leftover cheese sauce may be tossed with cooked pasta or vegetables.

In Pepperoni Pork Sliders, pepperoni is used in

place of a traditional rub to season the roast. The pepperoni also adds visual interest to the shredded pork. With Savory Brisket Sandwiches, highly flavored liquid ingredients - consommé, soy sauce, Worcestershire sauce, liquid smoke and red wine vinegar - work together to season the beef. If even more dramatic flavor is desired, the sandwiches may be served with Horseradish-Mustard Spread.

Open-faced Ham Sandwiches

- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter
- ¼ cup flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1³/₄ cups milk
- 1/2 cup (2 ounces) sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1/2 cup (2 ounces) Gruyere cheese, shredded
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 4 English muffins, split and toasted
- 8 large, trimmed broccoli spears, steamed
- 16 to 20 ounces sliced, smoked ham

In medium saucepan or skillet, melt butter over medium-low to medium heat. Add flour, salt and garlic powder. Cook 1 minute, stirring constantly. Slowly stir in milk; cook over medium heat until thick. Remove from heat. Add cheeses and stir until melted. Add cayenne pepper. To assemble sandwiches, divide warm ham among hot, toasted English muffins. Top with broccoli spears and hot cheese sauce. Makes 4 large or 8 small servings. These sandwiches also are good with roasted or smoked turkey.

Pepperoni Pork Sliders

- 1 3-ounce package sliced pepperoni
- 1 3- to 4-pound pork roast (shoulder or butt)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup brine from jarred pepperoncini peppers
- ¹/₄ cup diced, drained pepperoncini peppers
- 2 dozen slider buns (count may vary with size of roast)
- Butter (for toasting buns)
- Barbecue sauce, if desired

Using kitchen shears, cut sliced pepperoni into thin strips. Place roast in slow cooker and sprinkle with salt. Add pepperoni and drizzle with brine. Cook on low for 9 to 10 hours, or until meat shreds easily. Transfer meat to cutting board; shred with two forks, removing and discarding visible fat. Place meat back in slow cooker. Stir in diced peppers. Serve on buttered,

toasted slider buns. Offer sauce, if desired.

Savory Brisket Sandwiches

- 4- to 5-pound trimmed beef brisket half flat
- 1 tablespoon whole black peppercorns
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 can (10½ ounces) condensed beef consommé
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons liquid smoke
- 2 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- Split, toasted hard rolls

Place brisket, fat side up, in large glass baking dish. Sprinkle with peppercorns and garlic powder. Combine liquid ingredients and pour over brisket. Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight, or at least 12 hours. Bake at 300 degrees for approximately 6 hours, until meat is fork tender. Transfer to cutting board to cool slightly before slicing. Slice thinly across grain, removing and discarding any visible fat. Strain and skim broth. Broth may be used to moisten meat, or it may be served as a dip for the sandwiches. To serve, place generous portions of warm brisket on split, toasted rolls along with Horseradish-Mustard Spread.

Horseradish-Mustard Spread

- 2 tablespoons jarred, grated horseradish
- 2 tablespoons grainy mustard with whole seeds
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise

Combine and serve on sandwiches.

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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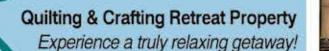
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Become Inspired!

Decorating, Entertaining and Living in the Early American Style

Unexpected (pportunities

by Annice Bradley Rockwell

As wintertime asserts its formidable grip there is always beauty found within nature's artistic hand. Our landscape is often blanketed with snow and a familiar line of trees framing a farmer's field now stands stark and proud against a cold winter sky. Our country back roads are beautifully banked with snow as we make our way home and as we come in from the cold the warmth of our home's interior makes us feel grateful and it shelters us from even the fiercest blizzard blasts.

In fact, our days that keep us home provide us with a sense of solitude that comes to us only in this season of winter. Mother nature gives us unexpected opportunities to pause and our days spent indoors give us moments of deep peace and reflection that often lead to sparks of new ideas and creativity that we crave.

A Memorable Winter's Evening

In winter after all of the Christmas decorations are put away, our homes can be a blank slate again so that we can happily recreate. Our furnishings can be rearranged, lighting can be artfully added to provide enhanced ambiance on a dark, cold winter's evening and special antiques given to us by a good friend at Christmastime can all become part of our winter arrangement.

With candles glowing in our favorite wall sconces, a fire alight in our fireplace and a fireside meal of roast pork, scalloped potatoes and homemade apple chutney to share with a few of our close friends makes our winter evening one to remember. We can appreciate the beauty in these slower, treasured winter moments and it leaves us feeling blessed.

Winter's Deeper Appeal

Country outdoor activities in winter take on a different, deeper appeal as well. Morning hikes in crisp, cold air awaken our senses and tempt us to stay out of doors just a little bit longer. The magnificence of a hiking trail in winter is something to be soulfully taken in as you surround yourself with nature's striking silence.

This winter season indulge in the slower, more deliberate pace of nature. Pause to joyfully accept the unexpected blessings winter can bring. And take pride in the resilience you naturally feel after a snowstorm brings you a new, breathtaking perspective that only nature can provide.

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

Winter's Joys

Winter is such a delightful time of year.

I didn't always think that way. Years ago, as a stay-at-home mom of 3 little boys, winter often meant ear infections and pent-up energy and cabin fever! Those cold days often seemed very long.

But seasons change, and winter has grown on me. In fact, it's become an old friend. Now I view the season as a time to cozy in and hibernate, a time to read and rest and reflect. In contrast, it's also a time to embrace the crisp cold with its incredible clarity of sound and distinct pleasure of a tingling face when entering the warmth again. Winter can be full of its' own particular beauty and sweetness.

In honor of the season, here are a few of its' pleasures we've enjoyed:

- a game of Upwords or Rummikub with a hot cup of vanilla chai on a cold winter's night
- the intricately beautiful icy patterns painted on the windows by Jack Frost
- making Almond Heart Cookies with my vintage cookie press, the oven warming the house
- movie marathons to the land of Narnia
- the stark beauty of bare trees silhouetted black against a pink-hued sky at dusk
- crafting handmade Valentines and imagining the joy others will have in receiving them
- an on-going puzzle set up on the card table in the living room to "pick at" here and there
- Sunday afternoon sledding parties with cocoa and cookies to warm up with afterwards
- forcing flowers in the midst of winter for some-much needed color
- \bullet re-visit my old book friends, like Anne w/ an $\ensuremath{\,^\circ}\ensuremath{e^\prime}$ and Frodo the Hobbit
- long walks around the farm through the snow, following dozens of animal tracks
- the razor-sharp sound of skates, pucks, and sticks striking the frozen pond in a rousing game of hockey
- baking gingerbread biscotti on a snowy day to share with friends (See recipe in this edition.)

Even if winter isn't your favorite season, perhaps this list will encourage you to seek out and discover some of its' many simple joys awaiting you in its midst of this time of year.

Gingerbread Biscotti

- 2 C. flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 1/2 tsp. ginger
- 3 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 6 tabl. unsalted butter, softened
- 1 C. sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 3 tabl. molasses
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 3/4 C. white chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 and spread parchment paper on cookie sheet. Whisk flour, baking powder, spices and salt. In mixer on medium, beat butter and sugar. Add eggs, molasses and vanilla. Reduce to low and blend in flour, mix. With wet hands, divide dough into 2 piles and place on cookie sheet. Shape dough into two 2 1/2 x 9" rectangles. Bake 22-25 minutes until tops start to crack. Let cool on sheet and reduce temperature to 325. Cut into 3/4" wide slices and place cut side down on sheet. Bake 20 more minutes. Remove from pan onto racks and allow to cool. Melt chips and drizzle over cooled biscotti. Makes about 20 slices of biscotti.

New Liskeard • Sault Ste. Marie

Clutter Happens Get "Phototastically" Organized this Year!

by Julie Pirtle

A new decade is so much more than just a new year. It represents the opportunity to close the lid on a period of time and throw open a door to new adventures and goals. However, if you are like most people, you are also closing the lid on yet ANOTHER decade of photos and memorabilia that you plan to organize "some time." Perhaps sometime is now! Let's show those memories some respect and make them easier to access.

Oh, no, I hear you grumbling already! To get you on board with the idea, I will first set you up for success for the present.

First, you will need an accordion file. Label it 2020 and then label each divider inside with a different month. As the year progresses, you will use this file to store all of the ticket stubs, heart touching greeting cards, vacation brochures . . . (you get the picture!). At the end of each month, take a moment to copy your calendar and place it in the file as well. This will be invaluable information down the line since you will have exact event dates at your fingertips. If you keep an electronic calendar, screen shot it on your phone and print it out.

Another key function of this accordion file is to store the pictures that you have taken that month. Yep. That means having them PRINTED on a regular basis. We all have thousands of pictures on our phone. (Yes... this includes me!) But, in the end, this is where they usually stay. Take the time to edit your shots weekly and create a file of the ones that you want to actually print. At the end of the month, you can easily upload those pictures to an online site and have them sent directly to you. Once received, label them with the event/date and file under the appropriate month.

As far as electronic photo organization is concerned, I like to take it to a different level. When I upload my pictures to the computer, I create files for each event. I date it and tag it as follows: year-month-event (example: 2020 Jan New Years Eve). Once I have printed them, I add "PT" to the end. Because I scrapbook, I change the PT to "SB" at the end once I have completed those pages (example: 2020 Jan New Years Eve SB). This is easy to do and gives quick reference when looking at your picture files.

While I am on the topic of scrapbooking, many scrappers chide themselves for "being behind" with their books. Listen up. There is no "behind" when it comes to art, which is exactly what you are creating when you archive your family memories. Let that guilt go! Instead, start with the current year. With the tips above, it will be easy to do. When you are current, then you can tackle some of the backlog that you may have while still feeling accomplished!

OK. So you are still reading this which means that you might not be grumbling as much. Let's discuss the boxes of photos and stacks of souvenirs that are hiding in your closets and drawers. For this process, you will need some banker's boxes, hanging files with tabs, large manila envelopes, a notepad and a photo pencil. (A photo pencil is usually a blue crayon like lead that allows you to write on the back of pictures without ruining them.) With this process, you will have multiple boxes representing multiple decades.

Place 11 folders in each box and label one for each year, as well as one in the front that says "unknown." If you know that you will have a ton to sort, split the files between two boxes for that decade. As you sort, place the items in the appropriate year. If you run across an item that you know was in that decade but can't determine the year, place it in the "extra" file. As you organize, be sure to put pictures in envelopes and label them with the event/date if you know it. In addition, keep a list by decade/year of important events that happened. You will want this later.

Once you have emptied the house of floating photos and paperwork, pat yourself on the back. You have corralled your memories and it is now time to do the major organizing—by year. This time, prepare a box with 13 files. Label them by month and, again, one that says "unknown." Start with one of the decade boxes and pull out a year. Sort the year into the box of monthly files. When you come across those Disney tickets but realize you don't have pictures printed, write it on your notepad. Once you have completed that year, pull out the collection from each month and place it in a manila envelope. Label the envelope with the year, month and any special events that happened that month (i.e., the trip to Disneyland). Take a peek at the unknown file and try to combine into the monthly files (which should now be easier as you may similar items already filed

When you are done with that decade, do the same with the unknown file in that box and assimilate the items into the proper year/month. Use the notes you took of special events for reference. The puzzle pieces will start to fit together even if the memory is failing you! When you are sorted and your years are all packaged up by month, it will be SO easy to access your memories. You will also be able to reference your list of pictures that

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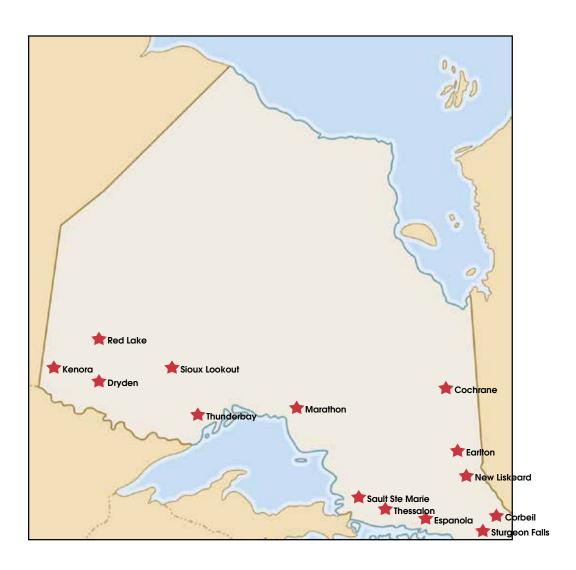
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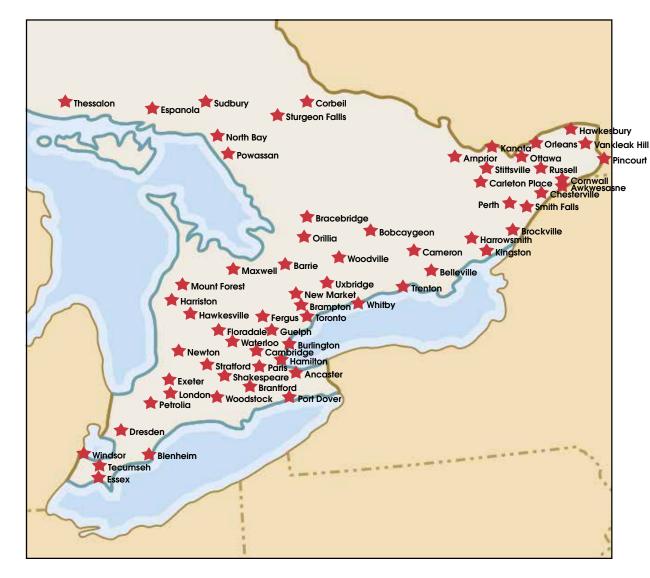
need printed and start that process.

Whether you scrapbook or not, future generations will appreciate your efforts. As the archivist of my family history, there is nothing sadder to me than to see antique, unlabeled photos of lovely people who have lost their families. Do yourself and the generations after you a favor by taking the time to identify your pictures so they don't end up in an antique store.

Venture forth to the office supply store and get those boxes. C'mon... you've got this!

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Reading Love

by Maranda K. Jones

Winter is the perfect time to fall in love again! The boots are off next to the door, Mittens dry above the wet floor. The soft lamplight is glowing warm as snow piles up outside. Reading on a frosty day is always worth the time. With my favorite mug full of warmth, I head straight for the couch. My feet land on the table with my socks in perfect slouch. l open my beloved book to the place the feather marks and instantly I once again begin to feel those sparks. I glance at the pages in my left Praising the width of pages read And carry on to the end with a soul that is well-fed. The words have spoken and I have listened To the characters' predicaments and pain, Shared their losses and celebrated gains. My right hand holds just a few more it seems reading has done its part. My first love is still close to my heart.

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Maranda Jones' new book **Random Acts** is now available at amazon.com. The book includes her reader-acclaimed articles from the last decade.



Hosting a Cozy Winter Teatime

On a chilly morning, as I lounged around our home in my cozy bathrobe sipping comforting hot tea, I thought, "Wouldn't it be fun to share a cozy, comfy tea with friends?" Our attire could be casual, the food comforting, and the conversation cheerful.

Close Friends

Recently I learned my longtime friend Sharon was homebound because of chronic pain. Perhaps I could cheer her with a tea-party-togo. I invited our mutual friend Hanne to join me for this special delivery. We set a date and looked forward to getting together.

I suggested we wear casual clothes, and we could bring along slippers, a favorite blanket, or a bathrobe. To surprise Sharon and Hanne, I bought slipper socks as a gift for us three grandmas to wear.

Comforting Food

I packed everything we needed to create a lovely setting: a table runner, placemats, color-coordinated plates, teapots, teacups and saucers. Hanne brought Sharon a mixed bouquet that included fragrant roses, and I brought her a potted pink cyclamen.

Our menu included favorite foods that were easy to transport and serve. Hungry for banana cream pie, I made individual ones in half-pint canning jars. I baked circles of piecrust to fit the bottom of each jar, added sliced bananas, homemade vanilla pudding, and homemade whipped cream. I screwed a lid on each to make it easy to transport them. Before serving, I garnished each with a fresh strawberry.

I also brought pumpkin bread with cream cheese frosting, chilled strawberry soup, and homemade cookies that were wrapped as a treat for Hanne and Sharon to eat later.

Hanne offered to bring a tray of fresh fruit, dried apricots, cheese and crackers plus a plate of homemade chocolate chip cookies. (Chocolate is always comforting!) She even brought extra cookies packaged for Sharon and me. (See recipe she used with instant vanilla pudding: https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/15004/ award-winning-soft-chocolate-chip-cookies/.)

Favorite Teas

I selected 8 fragrant teas from my cupboard, including: Valentine's Blend (chocolate tea with rosebuds), Downton Abbey English Rose, Mango Ceylon, Kiwi Peach Herbal, and Raspberry Peach. Hanne and Sharon both said they loved English Rose, but after taking a whiff of the Raspberry Peach, they decided to try this rosy-colored blend. I prepared the tea in individual china teapots and covered them with handmade tea cozies.

Partway through our teatime, Sharon's daughter Holly and her fouryear-old granddaughter Cora (Sharon's great-granddaughter) joined us. They sampled my Kenya chai tea brewed with milk, sugar, and Masala spices, which Cora thought tasted like hot chocolate. As our visit ended, Sharon sent us home with packets of a tasty milk tea from China—a powdered drink mix made with instant tea and powdered milk.

Time for Tea

When we first tried to set a date for our teatime, Hanne and I couldn't find a perfect time.

"Maybe we should wait a few weeks," Hanne suggested.

 $``No,'' \ I \ said. ``We're always busy, and it won't happen.'' So we made time and were thankful we did.$

Afterwards, Sharon emailed, "I'm sitting here enjoying my memories of teatime with my friends."

If you'd like to host a cozy, comfy tea, you could take it to go or serve it in your home. Hosting at home eliminates transporting the food and decorations, plus you can easily prepare and serve other foods, such as a comforting warm soup. Next time I plan a cozy tea, I'd like to serve my mother's meatball and dumpling soup in front of our fireplace. The soup is my comfort food and makes a cozy winter warm-up. I've included the recipe for you to try.

The chill of winter creates many opportuni-Teas to warm hearts with a cozy, relaxing teatime. Whom could you invite?

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

From Lydia's Recipe File:

Mother's Meatball and Dumpling Soup

A potato soup with small meatballs and homemade dumplings. My favorite since childhood.

Place the following ingredients into a large kettle:

3 cups cubed potatoes

- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon salt

Dash of pepper

1 bay leaf

Sprig of parsley or 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes

Add 6 cups water. Bring to a boil, cover and simmer for 20 minutes.

Meatballs:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper (or to taste)

Mix beef and seasonings with hands and roll into small balls. Add meatballs to potatoes and simmer. When the meatballs are cooked, drop dumplings in by the teaspoonfuls. Cover and cook for 5 minutes.

Dumplings:

- 1 beaten egg
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons flour

Mix ingredients together to make a soft dough.

Just before serving the soup, add 1 tablespoon vinegar and 1/4 $\rm cup$ milk or cream to the hot soup.

Enjoy! Makes 6 to 8 servings. Refrigerate leftovers.



The Tokyo International Great Quilt Festival

The Tokyo International Great Quilt Festival is a quilting exposition not to be missed! More than 1800 stunning quilts and other works were displayed this year's show. There are really no words to accurately describe the calibre of the quilts presented at this prestigious show. For the first time (but not the last!), this past January, Celtic Quilt Tours hosted a specialized tour for 34 travelers (from Canada, USA, Ireland and the UK), which not only included 3 full days at the spectacular Quilt Festival, but 9 additional days to tour many sights and stops in Tokyo and Kyoto.

The Tokyo International Great Quilt Festival is an annual event held in the heart of downtown Tokyo at the Tokyo Dome (a huge baseball stadium and amusement/entertainment area of downtown). The average annual attendance of over 250,000 enthusiastic quilters, stitchers, artists and others provided an exciting energy in the large venue.

Over 200 vendors offered a wide variety of goods that every the quilter and stitcher could want in this, the largest quilt market! The hanging quilt displays offered magnificent and masterful quilts in numerous themes and categories, including the special exhibit "The Music of Quilting". This special exhibition featured a series of works created by 8 leading Japanese quilters including Reiko Washizawa, Kathy Nakajima, Yoko Ueda, Suzuko Koseki and Yoshiko Katagiri. Other special exhibits included Keiko Goke's work (using lively colours and playful patterns), the World of Curious George, and Yoko Saito's large Mary Poppins exhibit was a crowd favourite.

Also included on the exclusive Celtic Quilt Tours itinerary was a private presentation of traditional and authentic Indigo Dyeing at Aizenkobo Studio, and two hands-on workshops - indigo dyeing at Yamamoto Roketsu Dyeing studio, and a Shibori silk scarf workshop

at Kyoto Shibori Museum. Each traveler created their own unique pieces, using traditional techniques.

To explore Japan and learn more about their culture, we visited many Shinto Shrines, the Sensoji Temple, Tokyo Tower and took a 4D flight simulator ride over the beautiful Mt. Fuji and area. A short bullet-train ride took us to Kyoto where we continued

to immerse ourselves in Japanese culture and cuisine, visiting Kinkakuji Temple and Japanese Garden, the Golden Pavillion, and Sanjusangendo Temple. We visited Nippori Fabric Town in Tokyo and Nishijin Textile Center in Kyoto. So many wonderful experiences.

We are looking forward to returning to this beautiful country next January 2021 – to take in a whole new Tokyo International Quilt Festival and more exciting, traditional and interesting sights. If you'd like to join us, or for more information, please contact Celtic Quilt Tours - Kim Caskey, kim@kimcaskey.ca.





