

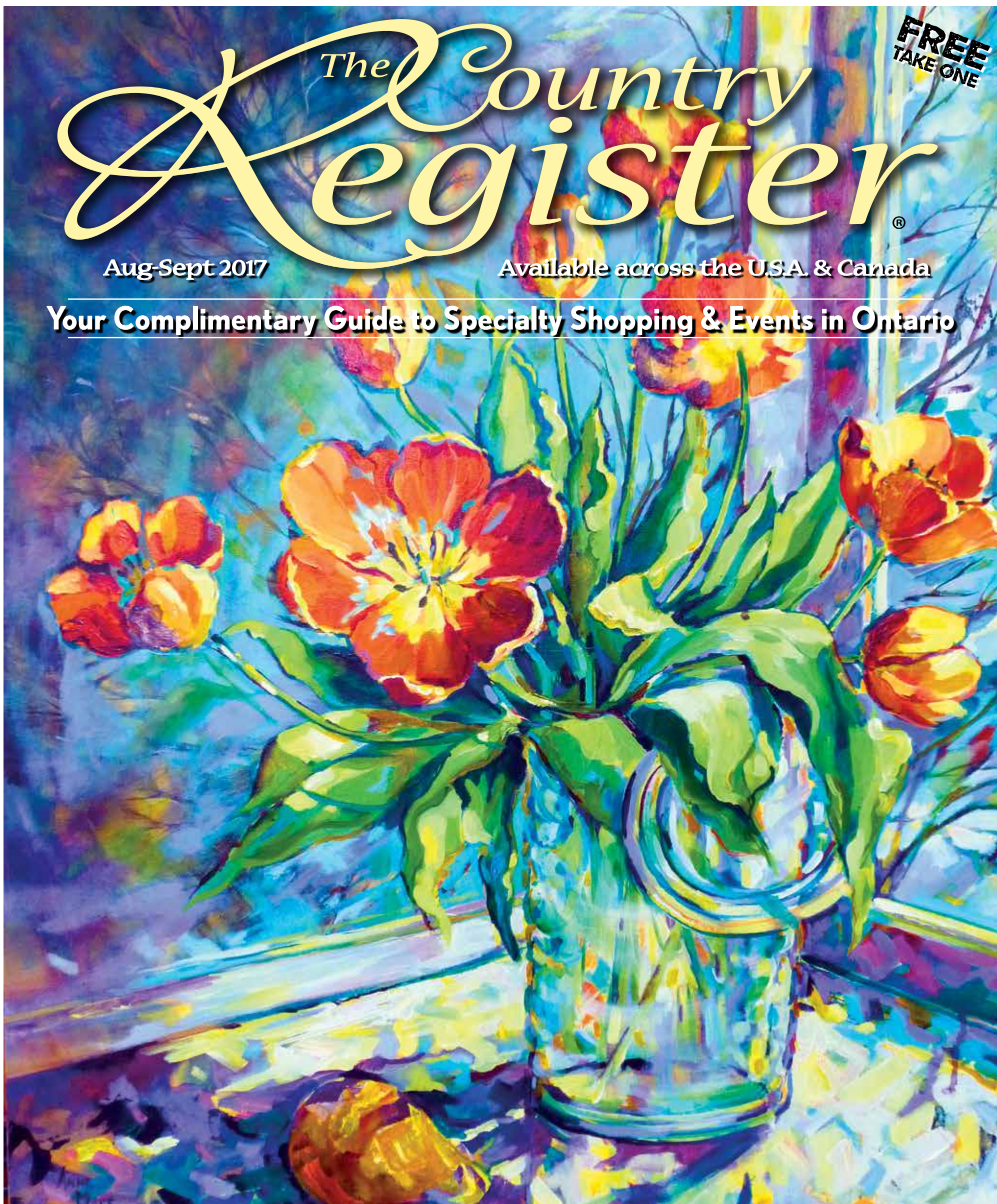
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August / September 2017 Issue

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# Calendar of Events

## ..... ONGOING .....

MAY 7 - SEPT 3 Oh! Canada - 2107 Grand National Quilt Show, Kitchener  
JUNE 21 - SEPT. 5 Row by Row - On the Go!  
JULY 4 - AUG 30 Quilts By Miss Gayle, Collingwood

## ..... AUGUST .....

AUG 3 - 5 Persuasion Tea Party, Niagara-on-the-Lake  
AUG 3 - 5 Huntsville Jazz Festival, Huntsville  
AUG 4 - AUG 6 St. Joseph Island Quilt Show and Sale, Richards Landing  
AUG 4 - AUG 7 Mill Race Festival of Traditional Folk Music, Cambridge  
AUG 5 - 7 Village Vibe at Blue Mountain Village, Blue Mountains  
AUG 8 - SEPT 10 Beauty and the Beast - Live at the Capitol Theatre, Port Hope  
AUG 10 - 13 Boots & Hearts Music Festival, Oro-Medonte  
AUG 10 - 20 Fringe North International Theatre Festival, Sault Ste. Marie  
AUG 10 - 15 TD Kitchener Blues Festival, Kitchener  
AUG 11 - 13 Taste of Danforth, Toronto  
AUG 12 - 13 Perth Garlic Festival, Perth  
AUG 17 Peach Trea at Jutchison House Museum, Peterborough  
AUG 17 - 18 Canadian Reggae Music Conference, Toronto  
AUG 18 - 20 26th Annual Docksode Festival of the Arts, Gravenhurst  
AUG 18 - 19 Mississauga Italfest Ferragosto In The City, Mississauga  
AUG 18 - 20 Ratafest, Toronto  
AUG 18 - 20 Summerfolk Music and Folk Festival, Owen Sound  
AUG 22 - 25 Muskoka Opera Festival  
AUG 24 - 27 Limestone City Blues Festival, Kingston  
AUG 25 - 27 Taiwanfest, Toronto  
AUG 25 - 27 Newmarket Music Festival, Newmarket  
AUG 26 - 27 Art by the River, Amherstburg  
AUG 26 - 28 19th Annual Quilt Show & Sale - D & D Country Quilts, Mitchell  
AUG 31 - SEPT 4 159th Paris Fair, Paris

## ..... SEPTEMBER .....

SEPT 1 - 4 Hot & Spicy Food Festival, Toronto  
SEPT 2 - 4 Horse Lover's Weekend at Upper Canada's Village, Morrisburg  
SEPT 6 - 10 Jazz Sudbury Festival 2017, Sudbury  
SEPT 7 - 9 Owen Sound Fall Fair, Owen Sound  
SEPT 7 - 17 Toronto International Film Festival, Toronto  
SEPT 8 - 10 Windsor/Essex County Shop Hop - Joy Quilts, Ella Quilts, A Stitch In Time, Quilting Confections, Rose Cottage Quilt Shoppe, The Sewing Shop  
SEPT 8 - 10 Veg Food Festival, Toronto  
SEPT 8 - 17 2017 Western Fair, London  
SEPT 8 - 17 Supercrawl, Hamilton  
SEPT 8 - 24 Niagara Grape and Wine Festival, St Catharines  
SEPT 9 - 10 World of jazz Festival, Brampton  
SEPT 9 - 10 Fibrefest 2017, Almonte  
SEPT 13 - 17 GeulphJazz Festival, Guelph  
SEPT 14 - 17 Cityfolk, Ottawa  
SEPT 15 - 16 QuiltX17, St Marys  
SEPT 15 - 17 Sweetwater Music Festival, Owen Sound  
SEPT 15 - 17 Camel Fine Art and Music Festival, Niagara Falls  
SEPT 16 - 17 Harvest of Quilts Show & Sale, Bobcaygeon Curling Club, Bobcaargeon  
SEPT 16 - OCT 15 Hanging by a Thread 2017, Oakville  
SEPT 22 - 23 Beau's Oktoberfest, Vankleek Hill  
SEPT 24 The Word on the Street Toronto, Toronto  
SEPT 27 - 30 Fall Fun Run - Kalidoscope of Quilts, Sew Creative, The Marsh Store  
SEPT 28 - MAY 26 Sunfest World Music & Jazz Series 2017-2018, London  
SEPT 29 - OCT 1 What's Cooking Bracebridge, Bracebridge  
SEPT 30 Flavours of Fall, Belleville  
SEPT 30 Doors Open, Oshawa  
SEPT 30 Brampton Arts Walk of Fame, Brampton

## Dearest Readers,

Let's all cheer summer is here!  
Barbecues, family and friends by pool  
Laughter and fun is the only rule  
Watermelon, mangos, plums & peaches  
Cafes, fairs, and trips to the beaches  
Camping, Cookouts, Bonfires and Hiking  
Roller blading, Skateboarding, Kiting & Biking  
Sunshine, birds, fruits in the trees  
Night time strolls in the summer breeze.

Let's all cheer summer is here!

As always dearest readers we appreciate your readership and support. I never get tired of stating this fact, without your support, we would not be here!

Remember to let our wonderful advertisers know how you found out about them.

Just say, "I saw it in the Country Register!"

Best regards,

Harriet



## Meet our COVER ARTIST:

Anne More



Anne was born in Argentina and came to Canada with a rich and creative background in the areas of visual arts, Language, literature and music.

As a child, Anne was always doodling and drawing. Her artistic talents were recognized at an early age and in secondary school she was invited to attend classes at the Ontario College of Art and The Art Gallery of Ontario. Anne chose to further her education at the Toronto Teachers College in 1966 and continued throughout her life to enroll in university, professional development and art courses.

In 1969, Anne took leave for one year, from the North York Board of Education, to teach in the remote native village of Fort Hope in Northern Ontario. The spiritual beliefs of the Inuit had a great influence on her approach to learning and painting. It was during this time that she gained an appreciation for the fragile relationship between humans and their environment. The Knowledge that you take no more than you need from the environment resonated with Anne and was practiced in her daily life.

As an educator, Anne understood that individuals learn in many different ways. She was successful in engaging those children who disliked school by creating a multi-sensory learning environment in which they could thrive.

Anne, who now lives in Burlington, has retired from teaching 13 years ago. She has been exhibiting her art since 1987, but she has been painting and drawing from the time she could pick up a pencil. Since retiring, Anne paints full time, taking photographs on her travels and using them as inspiration for her paintings. Her repertoire is varied and includes florals, the human figure and portraiture.

(Continues on next page)

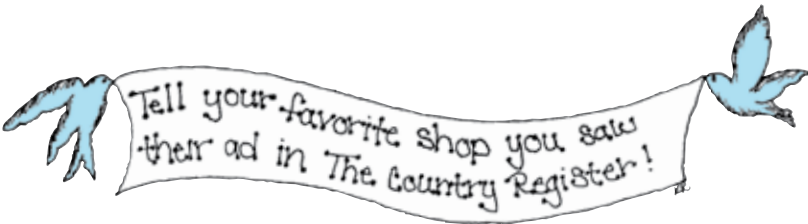


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Our Search for Cover Artwork –

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](mailto:OntarioCountryRegister@gmail.com)



(Continued from previous page)

“I love to paint landscape as it offers such diversity with regards to light, composition and color,” says Anne.

Anne’s style is lifelike, but linear; that is, she encloses shapes within thin dark lines. Some of her landscapes are strikingly simplified, drawing attention to contrasting shapes, lines and textures.

“I think what truly drives me is the stunning beauty of the world around us and in particular the uplifted feeling that I get when seeing the warm glow of sunlight contrasted by dramatic shadows,” Anne explains. “At that point, I can’t wait to share it on canvas.”

To see more of her beautiful art, please visit [www.annemore.com](http://www.annemore.com)

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## Buttons: Keeping it Together

by Susan W. Smith

**OTTAWA:** Are you a quilter or crafter with a button box? Or do you remember playing with your grandmother's button box? Well, for those of us who are collectors, buttons are a passion!

They say quilters never have enough fabric and button collectors never find enough buttons. Suffice to say on the weekend of September 29-October 1, everyone; quilters, sewers, crafters and jewelry designers will band together for Buttons: Keeping it Together Show and Sale at the Ottawa Convention and Event Centre, 200 Coventry, Ottawa, ON.

There will also be an expert on hand to identify buttons brought to the show: Their material, the era of manufacturing and how those buttons are categorized by the National Button Society (NBS).

Often, we are asked "where do I start?" We suggest you start with what you like. A favourite are glass buttons, many imitating fabrics, or black glass buttons which became popular in Victorian England after Queen Victoria went into mourning on the death of Prince Albert. Today there are hundreds of assorted designs to interest a collector.

Other examples to collect are the large metal picture buttons, made in the late 1800s which tell the story of an opera or fable; or "Pearl Buttons" made of shell and intricately carved.

Large button shows are popular for women and men. A military button dealer may have interesting information about the history of a regiment or uniform buttons representing railroad, police or fire departments.

How about looking for rubber buttons with a back mark, "Goodyear 1849-1854." Golden Age buttons, more difficult to find, are gold-plated brass buttons only made between 1830-1850; and enamel buttons are some of the most beautiful.

The price of buttons varies from \$1 each, up to several hundred dollars! Buttons can be chosen from a card of 30 or 42 buttons, or in a \$3, \$5, or \$10 "Poke Box" which is a box full of loose buttons for the collector to sort. You can hunt and find your favourites, at the right price, and in a brief time, you are a button collector!

An important part of the event will be several displays about the history of rail travel in Canada; buttons that were paddled north in canoes to be swapped for beaver pelts at trading posts; how buttons are miniature pieces of art; and how our favourite buttons can be teamed up with poetry.

Inspired? This is the place where you can add to your button stash, be inspired to play and learn with buttons or to begin collecting. A dozen dealers who specialize in button sales will be there with their treasure troves.... Join us.

*Glass Hand: A lovely collection of Picture Buttons - a large size and some of the most popular to collect*



*Dogs: Like dogs? Spend the day looking for them at the Canadian Button Show and Sale*

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*Glass buttons: Finding Gold and White Glass Buttons from the 1950-60s is a great way to start button collecting.*

*Imitation Fabric: A collection of imitation fabric buttons are easy to collect.*



*Crewel Work: Perfect crewel work? No, an imitation fabric glass button from the late 1800s, most likely made in France*

## Buttons: Keeping it Together

**September 29 - October 1, 2017**

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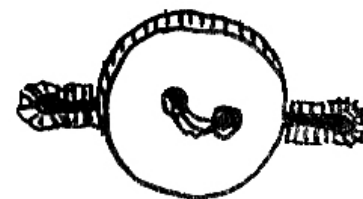
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## The Dropped Stitch

by Sharon Greve

### Let's Rip!

Let's admit it! Mistakes and accidents happen sooner or later to all knitters—sometimes more than one wants when learning new stitch patterns such as cables or working lace. We quickly learn it's not fun to "frog" (rip out) what we've spent hours or days knitting, thinking progress is being made. Some knitters consider "frogging" to be a study of stitch construction which when learned can shorten frogging. If you understand how the stitch was made, you quickly know how to "undo" the stitch. The following tips will, hopefully, save you time and frustration when that "error" strikes fear in your knitting.

- ✓ Always have clean hands as ripping back or out requires tedious finger work.
  - ✓ Work at a table that can support the knitted project as you work, using your fingers to catch and manipulate the freed stitches.
  - ✓ No one wants to frog more than needed so work in good light to see the stitching well.
  - ✓ Remain calm—don't freak out! Take a deep breath, observe what needs to be frogged, and work slowly and carefully so as not to damage the yarn. Need help? Visit your local yarn shop for frogging expertise.
  - ✓ Use a smaller needle to pick up the freed stitches when you rip out an entire row. Don't stress about whether the stitches are laying correctly as you pick them up; just get them on the needle before they drop and start unraveling stitches in previous rows. The stitches can be laid correctly on your needle as you reknit them.
  - ✓ Knots can tighten and be very difficult; don't pull knots! Sometimes a yarn strand looped and twisted around itself will look like a knot. Take time to look closely at the pathway of the yarn before pulling. If one loop of wool/mohair joins another loop as if felted, carefully work them apart with great care. Or place the project in a refrigerator or freezer for a very short time so the fibers will separate or let go of each other, making it easier to frog.
  - ✓ A firm, smooth yarn will stay looped in the stitches as you rip out an entire row. A soft sticky yarn needs you to unknit (frog) one stitch at a time. Insert a needle into the stitch one row below the sticky stitch to be pulled out and then tug on the yarn until the stitch spreads out.
  - ✓ When working lace, a thin, strong contrasting thread (dental floss works) through the stitches every several rows so if frogging is needed, the "lifeline" will make the picking-up process easier and less stressful.
  - ✓ After correction has been accomplished, remind yourself to take a break every few rows to view the progress in order to catch errors/mistakes early. It can save you a lot of time and frustration.
- Eventually you will be knitting more than frogging.  
Rip it—rip it!





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# Madeline's Musings

by Madeline Lister

## His Daughters' Piano

The day the preacher bought a piano, the whole town turned out to watch. Two strapping farmers, their somewhat leaner clergy, and his next-door neighbour had their work cut out for them. Such grunting and groaning as you've never heard. That behemoth weighed a thousand pounds, if it weighed five.

With great care, they steered it across the truck bed, down a makeshift ramp, and onto two planks laid across pipes on the sidewalk. The farmers pushed, the neighbour pulled. To the preacher they gave the job of moving the next pipe ahead. Along the street, up the walk, through the front door.

He'd paid \$40 for the piano used. Worth every penny, he figured, just so his daughters could learn to play. If he'd only known the battles royal ahead, he might have thought better of parting with his hard-earned money this way. Daily regimented half-hour practice sessions, overseen by his wife, were almost the undoing of the young'uns and their mother.

Tall and dark, the instrument filled the would-be musicians with foreboding. But, in the manner of most things that spend time together, the girls and the piano became kindred spirits. Its tautened strings and felted dampers gave way to their little fingers. Simple melodies ripened into sonorous verse.

As habit would have it, there came the day when the family prepared to move. The whole town turned out to watch, and listen. Showing wisdom gained from experience, the preacher had hired a mover. Two burly chaps in freshly laundered uniforms made ready to shoulder the piano.

First came the bench, swathed in a packing blanket. A one-man job. A piece of cake. Then they heard it--the grunts and groans such as when first the preacher had made his weighty purchase. Across

the room, past the window, out the front door, down the walk the mover and his aide guided the piano. On a dolly. Great drops of perspiration trickled down their necks and soaked the backs of their shirts. One pushed, one pulled. Then they switched. Along the sidewalk, up the ramp, and into the box.

This Olympian cycle would repeat itself more than a dozen times. The girls were unwilling to leave their grand upright behind. The piano and its proteges made music in at least eighteen houses, in ten towns, and five provinces. And always with the same threat:

"This is the last time we're lugging this thing around."

"We're never moving this thing again."

"What was I thinking when I bought this thing?"

Of course, you've guessed it. "This thing" happened to be the \$40 half-ton piano, worth every red cent on the day he'd brought it home. With each move, he avowed it had grown heavier.

There came a day when the ones who had made the old upright sing moved on. Guided by the preacher's wife, other little hands took up the chorus. Soulmates--the music teacher and her students, and the beloved piano. Back and forth across the keys, they wove harmonies she could only dream of.

As the tale goes, the instrument might have still been in the family. Because of some miscommunication, however, the preacher concluded that the piano had outlived its usefulness in his home. So, he stripped the aged cabinet of its dark crackled varnish, replaced a few chipped ivories, and put it up for sale. Did he include, "Remove at your own risk" to his ad? Did he reveal the tonnage of his "Article for Sale"? We'll never know.

But, if you're listening closely, you will hear it--the same grunting and groaning heard before on moving day at the preacher's house. All the neighbours are coming out to watch. Someone is buying his daughters' piano.

They'll say it's worth every penny they've paying for it. They'll wrap it in a packing blanket, tilt it onto a moving cart, and guide it along the sidewalk. They'll wheedle it up the ramp and into yet one more truck box. Soon, another's hands will draw rich tones from the depths of the old piano's heart, and its spirit will play on.

Happy sweet music to you . . .

Madeline Lister

Madeline Lister writes from the tranquil Trent Lakes district of central Ontario, Canada. Since retiring at the end of 2015 from the quilt shop she founded, Madeline's filled her days with writing and quilting, traveling with her husband Carl, and video chatting with their three grandchildren. You can exchange comments and ideas with Madeline by email: [madelinesmusings@gmail.com](mailto:madelinesmusings@gmail.com).



**The preacher, his music-teacher wife, two of their three daughters, and the daughters' piano: Fall 1958**



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# Colonial Needlework

By Kimberly Chaffee

Ladies, how good is your sewing? What if a potential suitor based your worthiness as a wife on those skills? Would you be forever a spinster or in colonial times a “stale maid”? What does sewing have to do with getting married?

From the 1650’s and well into the 1800’s women worked inside the home caring for her family. Early in colonial times men worked from home and ran their business out of the house. A wife, while taking care of the family, would often help run the business. Daily life included child rearing, cooking, cleaning etc. A wife also managed the simple sewing involved for repairs.

For the daughters of prosperous men, simple sewing would not be enough to secure a potential suitor. The intellectual qualities of a woman were often disregarded. Today society upholds and embraces the intellectual side of women, but 200 years ago, it was not appreciated. Her worth came from rearing proper, Godly children, keeping a clean home, food on the table, and providing a refuge for her hard working husband. Schooling for these young ladies existed to teach them how to attract a husband. Unlike their male counterparts, where intellectual classes prevailed, specialty needlework made up the bulk of their education. Needlework, past simple sewing, epitomized her ability to make a good wife.

While early colonial women worked to maintain their homes and fulfill their roles in service to their husband, the outlet for their creativity was ensconced in needlework. It allowed self-expression and praise from a society that believed women were driven purely by emotion and not “governed by reason” (Dr. Benjamin Rush, 1790)

Young ladies from both poor and wealthy households were taught simple sewing at a young age. It was the norm. Not knowing how to sew made you peculiar and unable to marry. Marriage, for a young lady, was their only goal growing up. Read “Little Women” by Louisa May Alcott for an in depth study of a girl’s purpose in life.

How did girls learn fine needlework past simple sewing? Needlework schools were common in colonial America. Young ladies often learned how to read and write at these schools. Girls often worked a sampler. A sampler is a piece of needlework or embroidery used to demonstrate the skill of the girl. Her first sampler usually involved cross-stitching the letters of the alphabet.

In modern times, we cross-stitch, for fun, on Aida cloth. They used linen that had a much finer thread count per square inch. It was tedious work, but their fingers were nimble, from learning to sew at an early age. Colonial women cross-stitched to learn how to mark their linens. Families that could afford it sent their linens to the washerwoman’s home. Initials cross-stitched on these items indicated which household a particular article belonged to. In poorer houses, where laundry was done at home, a mother would cross-stitch the initials of each child onto their shift or socks.

Upon return from school parents would display the fancy needlework hoping to impress a potential suitor. The colonial time period featured several types of needlework. We look forward to introducing them to you throughout this series on Colonial Needlework.

Kimberly Chaffee is a freelance author. You can view more of her work at [www.kimberlychaffee.com](http://www.kimberlychaffee.com)



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## Town and Country Cooking

By Janette Hess

### Summer Dipping

Summer gatherings call for fresh-tasting dips, so don't disappoint your guests with cartons of the store-bought stuff.

Once you've tried and fallen in love with hummus at your favorite Mediterranean restaurant, it's time to whip up a batch at home! With the aid of a small food processor, this healthful dip comes together in an amazingly short amount of time.

Cannellini Bean Dip is a lighter, brighter version of hummus. Lemon and dill give it a summery quality.

Guacamole is another restaurant favorite, but it also is quite easy to create at home. In the recipe for "Kitchen Sink" Guacamole Dip, multiple ingredients take the dip in a hearty direction. When served with corn chips, this dip is a meal in itself.

### Classically Simple Guacamole

4 ripe avocados

Juice of 1 small lime

3 tablespoons minced red onion

2 to 3 teaspoons fresh, minced jalapeno pepper (seeds and ribs removed)

½ teaspoon kosher salt

Cut avocados in half and remove pits. Scoop flesh into bowl. Mash with fork or potato masher. Stir in lime juice, onion and jalapeno pepper. Add salt. Serve immediately with corn chips or Mexican food. Makes 3 to 4 cups guacamole, depending on size of avocados.

### "Kitchen Sink" Guacamole Dip

3 ripe avocados

Juice of ½ lime

½ cup salsa verde

½ cup drained Mexican-style canned corn

½ cup drained and rinsed black beans

½ teaspoon kosher salt

**Optional fresh additions, if available:**

½ cup diced green or red bell pepper

½ cup chopped tomato

¼ cup chopped cilantro

Cut avocados in half and remove pits. Scoop flesh into bowl. Mash with fork or potato masher. Carefully stir in lime juice, salsa verde, Mexican-style corn, black beans and salt. Add fresh vegetables and cilantro, if desired. Serve immediately with corn chips or Mexican food. Makes approximately 4 cups dip, depending on additions.

(more dip recipes on page 19)



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## Scrappy Summer Star



Fabrics used are from the *Summer Breeze Collection*



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16201-2NA 1/3 yd

16202-1WH 1/3 yd

16203-1GR 1/3 yd

16204-1OR 1/3 yd



16204-2NA 1/3 yd

16205-1YE 1/3 yd

16206-2BL 1/3 yd

16210-1GR 7/8 yd  
(incl. binding)

16210-2GY 1/3 yd



BLE102 1/3 yd

BLE104 1/3 yd

BLE105 1/3 yd

BLE108 1/3 yd

BLE100 2 1/4 yd  
(background)

4 yards fabric for backing

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Pattern is available for download on website



# Scrappy Summer Star

64" x 64"

Please read through all the instructions before beginning this project. 1/4" seams are used throughout unless otherwise stated.

## Cutting:

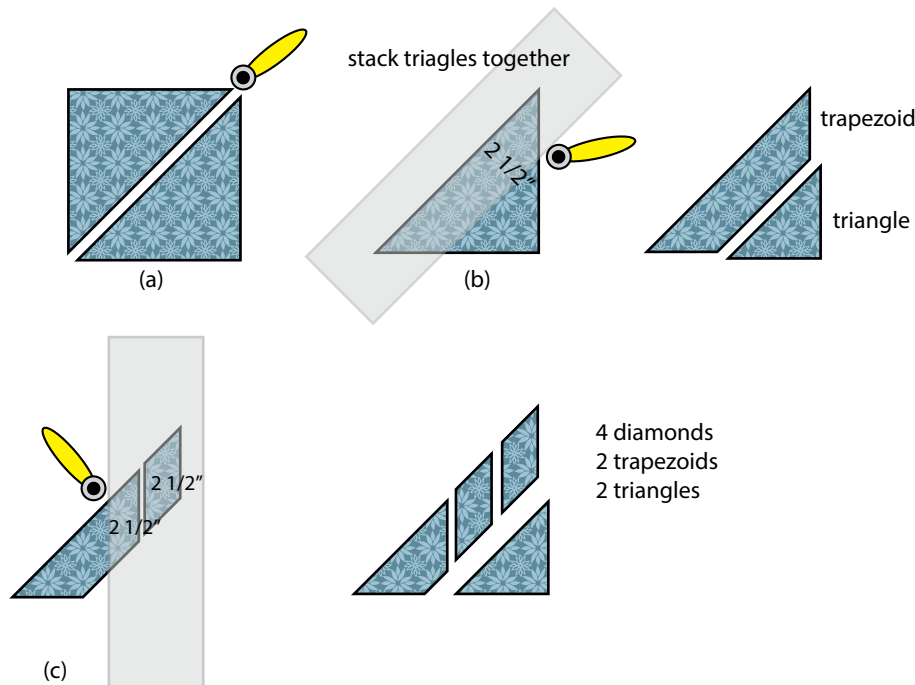
From EACH of the 14 printed fabrics cut: (2) 10" x 10" squares (28 squares)  
From EACH (16204-1OR and BLE102) cut: (2) 10" x 10" squares (4 squares, 32 total)

From the background fabric cut: (8) 10" x 45" strips.  
Subcut into: (32) 10" squares

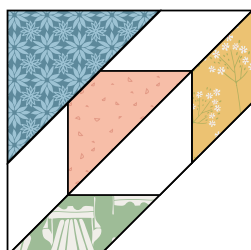
From the binding fabric cut: (2) 2 1/2" x 45" strips

## Blocks:

Start by cutting your square in half diagonally (a). Place the two triangles on top of one another for faster cutting. From the diagonal edge of triangle, measure over 2 1/2" and cut (b). You now have a trapezoid shape and a triangle shape. Set aside the triangles. From the edge of the trapezoid strip measure over 2 1/2" and cut (c). This gives you a diamond shape. Repeat for another cut. From the 10" square you now have 2 triangles, 4 diamonds and 2 trapezoids (d). Repeat this for all remaining prints and all background squares.

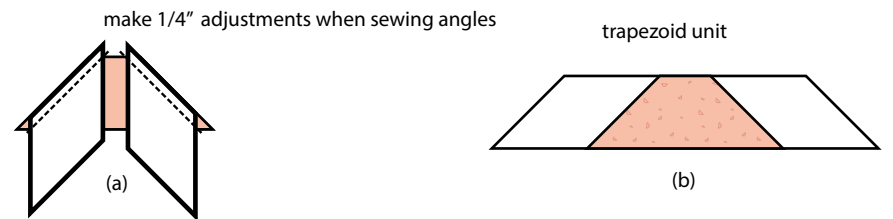


Once your shapes are all cut from both sets of 10" squares you can start sewing the blocks back together. Rearrange the fabrics so that each block has a scrappy look. Your block consists of 1 triangle, 1 trapezoid and 2 diamonds from the print fabric and the same from the background fabric.

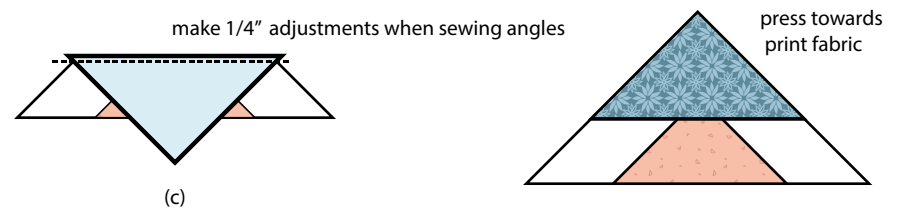


## Sewing:

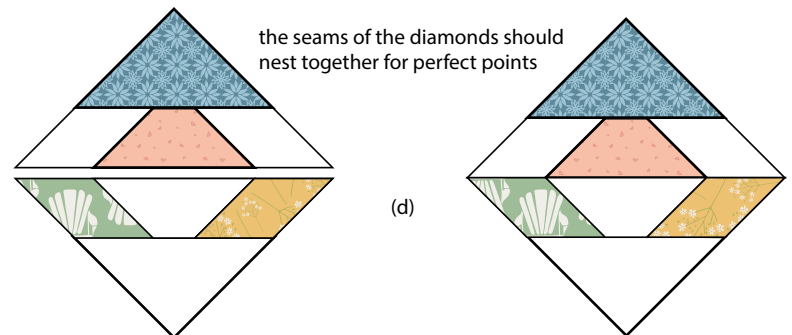
All seams are 1/4". Start by sewing a diamond background to each side of a printed trapezoid (a). Repeat for opposite background trapezoid. Press all seams in this quilt towards the print fabric (b).



Next sew your triangles to the trapezoid unit (c)



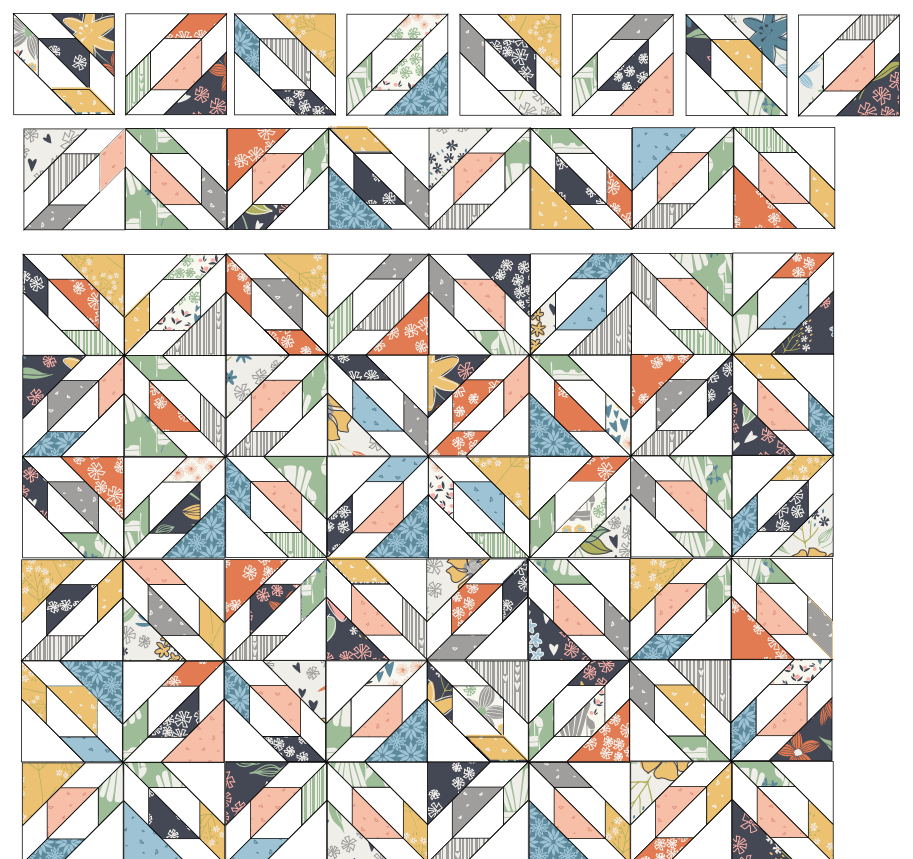
Repeat for opposite side and sew together to make one block (d). Trim block to 8 1/2" square. Make 64 blocks.



## Assembly:

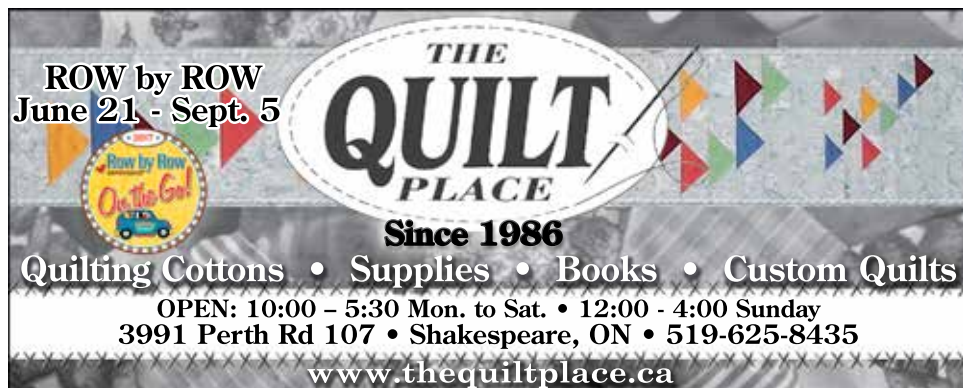
Lay out your blocks 8 across by 8 down. Pay attention to the rotation of the block as you go. Sew blocks together in rows. Press rows in opposite directions. Then sew the rows together.

Quilt as desired and bind!





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## GARDEN TRADITION

By Roxanne J. Ferguson

I love gardening. There is nothing more fulfilling than putting a seed into the ground and watching it sprout and grow. Maybe it is the witnessing of the miracle of life that excites me. Whether it is the nurturing of an indoor plant or hoeing a row of vegetables, the feeling is the same.

I think my fascination with growing things comes from my grandparents on both sides of the family. My paternal grandmother gardened and had a porch full of houseplants. In her outdoor garden I remember the garlic, the beautiful columbine, and clematis. My maternal grandmother had nice African violets and a big indoor fern. Outside were peonies, dahlias, gladiolas, and a garden full of vegetables.

My interest in gardening started early. There is a picture of me as a three or four year old digging potatoes with my maternal grandparents, Grandma with a scarf on her head, Grandpa with a hoe in his hands.

When my husband and I were first married, we started gardening with my grandparents. I suppose we thought we were helping them, but they helped us, teaching us how to plant, tend, and harvest the right way, at the right time. We bought our first tiller, moved up on the farm, and have been gardening ever since.

As our children came along, they joined in on the gardening, learning to love the land as we did and how to live off what we grew. My first born daughter called her great grandparents Grandma and Grandpa Hoe, a name that came from the activity we did the most with them, gardening. My middle daughter loved to eat onions at an early age. She also would eagerly remove Japanese beetles from berry bushes, a penny for each bug! I cherish a picture of my grandfather with my youngest child. It shows her toddling through the raspberry bushes, with a berry bucket in her hands (and probably a purple berry-stained face!)

As they got older, my daughters always knew there would be three rows of green beans in the garden, one row for each of them to pick. Then we would sit, under the big shady red maple tree and snip beans, along with great grandma and great grandpa, for as long as they were able.

Now, I garden with my grandchildren. They love to plant seeds and cover them with dirt. Sometimes seeds are put where I might not have planned, but that's alright! They will bloom where they are planted!

This spring, we planted corn together, along with several other things. As I showed them how to place onions in a row two by two, my grandson asked, "Why do you plant them this way?"

I answered, "That's how my grandma taught me." That is the best and only reason I could come up with. Just like knowing that I should put 5 or 6 seeds to a hill of corn.

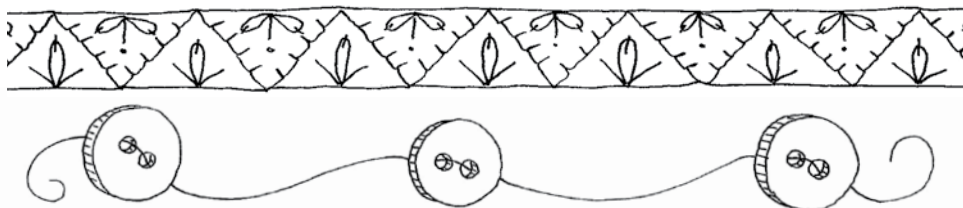
For the same reason I put a row of zinnias at the end of the garden. I can still hear my grandfather tease, "You can't eat flowers!"

We would sprinkle radish seeds in with the carrots. Radishes always come up quicker than carrots, so they help mark the row and can be pulled early. Grandpa would always say to plant a dozen tomato plants. "If they do well, that's enough. If they do poorly, that's enough."

Grandma would always put in Black - seeded Simpson leaf lettuce. We planted green beans, but a row of yellow wax beans, because Grandpa said they were easier to see and pick. We would plant red potatoes and white potatoes; we planted the pumpkins with the corn, and grew dill with the cucumbers. So many traditions. I have kept some of the old ways, but have added some of my own preferences, but I continue to garden. Best of all, I delight in watching my adult daughters enjoying flower and vegetable gardening at their own homes.

I guess I love gardening because I love to help things grow. That includes children and grandchildren. Fresh air, clean dirt, green plants, good conversation, lessons of life, working together, making memories. Gardening is a family tradition.

Roxanne Ferguson lives in the Tug Hill region of New York State. She has recently retired from teaching and can now enjoy more gardening time with her grandchildren.





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# A Cup of Tea with Lydia

by Lydia E. Harris



## Taste the World with an International Tea

Although Jeanetta and her husband didn't travel around the world, their cross-country drive from Missouri to Seattle called for a tea party with an international flavor. I combined foods from other countries with a traditional tea menu to create a unique taste experience. Since our weather can be unpredictable, I set up two tea tables: one on our deck and another in our dining room for our 'round-the-world tea.

### First Course: Taste of Russia

It was pleasant outside when they arrived, so I seated them outdoors. The table was set with a blue-and-white pin-striped cloth, blue cloth napkins, and hydrangeas arranged in a teacup planter. I also used my tea ware from other countries: blue-and-white teapot from Hungary, windmill salt and pepper shakers from Holland, and Russian teacups.

For starters, they could choose from a cup of Russian borscht made from my mother's recipe or hearty corn chowder with sausage. The salad selection included cucumber orzo salad and three-bean salad.

I served warm English scones and toppings right away so they could nibble on them throughout our teatime. Homemade lemon curd, assorted jams, crème fraîche (French cultured cream), and butter made the scones taste delicious. Since it was a warm day, they chose a refreshing rhubarb slushy punch for their beverage.

### Second Course: Taste of France

The next course included quiche, a classic French dish, which is served in other countries as well. I also prepared two variations of chicken salad to spread on crescent rolls or eat plain. One was made with chicken, chopped celery, mayonnaise, and pepper. To the other salad I also added chopped grapes and a dash of curry powder for a flavor from India.

### Third Course: Taste of England

By now, our guests wanted to go inside, so we savored English trifle, cookies, and tea around our dining room table. I offered Dove's chocolate truffle tea and Harney & Sons wedding tea to sip with dessert.

The trifle was easy to make by slicing pound cake and spreading strawberry jam between some slices and lemon curd between others. I filled clear plastic cups for individual servings by layering pound cake, vanilla cream pudding, fresh berries, and fluffy whipped cream. Then I repeated the layers to fill the cup and added a few berries on top for a garnish.

### International Par-TEA Tips

I kept my international emphasis simple by adding one main food from another country to each course. But you can make your tea more elaborate by offering more foods and teas from other countries.

When you select foods, consider ones from your heritage or favorites from travel. I served borscht since my parents lived in Russia. The quiche and trifle were foods from countries we toured early in our marriage.

To make it easier on the day your guests come, prepare the food ahead. My borscht was waiting in the freezer, and the salads, lemon curd,

and trifle were prepared and chilling in the refrigerator.

To create an international setting, use maps, globes, flags, and keepsakes from the countries you feature. Over tea, share travel stories or plans for future trips. Play background music from the countries and perhaps teach everyone how to say a word or two in that language. For example: thank you in Russian is spasibo and in French merci.

#### Traveling On

Keith and Jeanetta enjoyed all the foods, and I sent them on their way with scones and toppings. "Thank you for a wonderful international tea," Jeanetta said as she hugged me. Her husband agreed. "This trip has already been worth it to share tea with you." Although they arrived tired from travels, the teatime refreshed them, and they were eager to continue on to spend time with their children and grandchildren.

Now that I've tasted part of the world over tea, I'm ready to tour other places with tea guests. Won't you join me? Until then, auf wiedersehen.

*Lydia E. Harris holds a master's degree in home economics and wrote the book Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting (AMG Publishers). Her grandchildren call her "Grandma Tea."*

### From Lydia's Recipe File:

## Borscht

A hearty vegetable-beef soup with cabbage and beets.

#### 1. Soup stock

In large kettle simmer until tender:

- 2 pounds chuck roast
- 3 quarts water
- 4 teaspoons salt
- 4 whole black peppercorns
- 1 bay leaf

Remove meat. Cut into bit-sized chunks and refrigerate until ready to use. Cool broth and refrigerate; skim off fat.

(I do this the day before I want to cook the soup. When the soup stock is ready then continue.)

#### 2. To the soup stock and cooked meat add:

- 2 cups carrot chunks
- 2 cups cubed potatoes
- 2 stalks celery, cut into 1/2 inch slices
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 15-oz can sliced beets (include some or all liquid to taste; adds red color and sweetness)
- 2 cups diced tomatoes (fresh or canned)
- 2 teaspoons dill weed

#### 3. Simmer for 30 minutes. Add:

- 1 small head cabbage, chopped or coarsely shredded.
- Simmer another 20 to 30 minutes.

Serve with sour cream and a sprinkle of dill weed.

**Variation:** Cook soup with chicken meat and stock instead of beef.



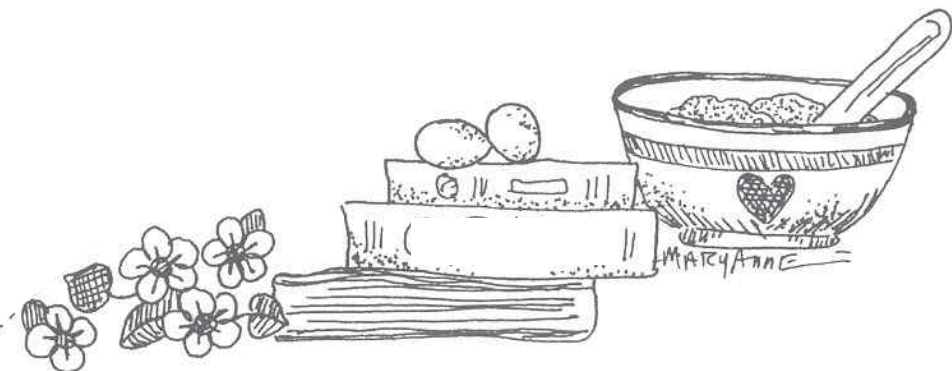
(dip recipes continued from page 12)

Homemade Hummus

- ¼ cup tahini (sesame seed paste)
  - 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
  - 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, plus additional for drizzling
  - ½ teaspoon kosher salt
  - ½ teaspoon ground cumin
  - ¼ to ½ teaspoon garlic powder, according to taste
  - 1 15-ounce can garbanzo beans (chick peas), drained
  - ¼ cup water
  - Crumbled feta cheese, if desired for garnish
- In small food processor, process tahini and lemon juice until creamy. Add olive oil, salt and spices; continue blending until smooth. Add garbanzo beans; process until smooth. Add water, 1 tablespoon at a time, through opening or chute in top of processor. Continue processing until very creamy. Chill. To serve, drizzle with small amount of olive oil and sprinkle with feta cheese. Offer with any or all of the following: soft pita bread, pita chips, bell pepper strips, cucumber slices, carrot sticks, celery or crackers. Makes about 1½ cups dip.
- Note: If a small food processor is not available, a larger one may be used, although the processor bowl may need to be scraped with a spatula several times to bring the ingredients in contact with the blades. Another option is to double the recipe.

Cannellini Bean Dip

- 1 15½-ounce can cannellini (white kidney) beans, drained
  - 2 tablespoons dill pickle juice\*
  - 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
  - ½ teaspoon dried dill
  - ½ teaspoon salt-free lemon pepper
  - ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- In small food processor, process beans and juice until creamy. Add olive oil and continue blending. Transfer to bowl and stir in dill, lemon pepper and salt. Serve chilled with pita chips, corn chips, crackers or fresh vegetables.
- \*If dill pickle juice is not available, substitute fresh lemon juice.
- 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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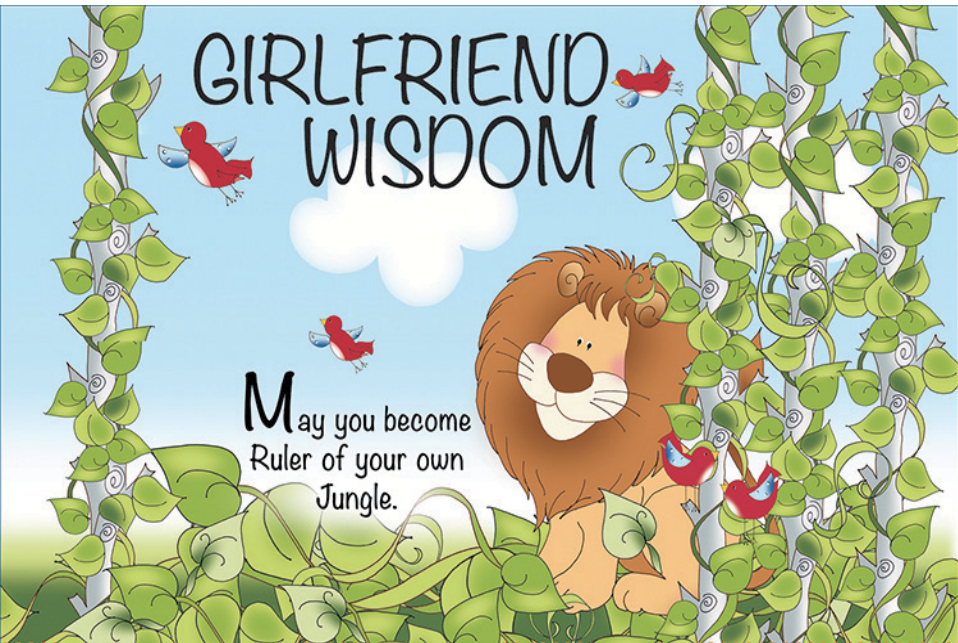
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GIRLFRIEND WISDOM: Sharpen your skills,  
Nurture your talents, Practice, Practice, Practice  
and you certainly will become Ruler of your Own Jungle  
and play a Gratifying role in Life!

Joyfully, *Jody*

Girlfriend Wisdom is written and illustrated by Jody Houghton®.  
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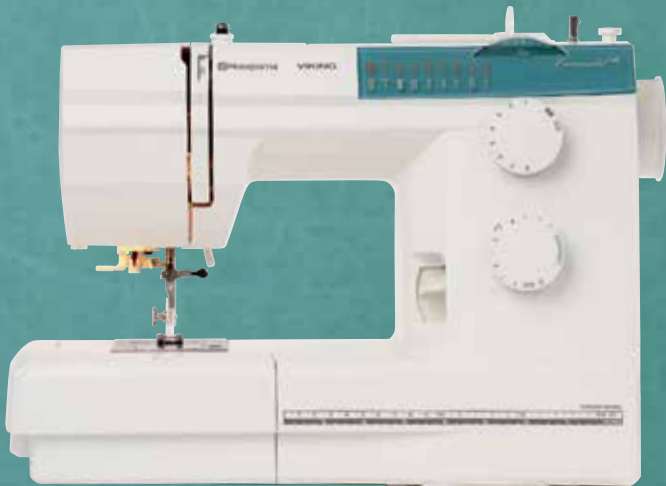
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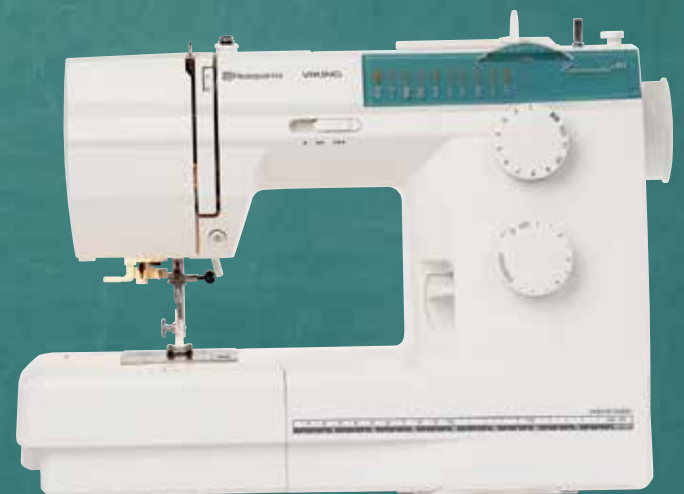


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# It's Party Time with Lesley

by Lesley R. Nuttall

## How About a BBQ?

While we still have beautiful warm weather, I would like to suggest a fun outdoor BBQ party. A Hawaiian theme party offers so many ideas for decorating, fun and fabulous food.

When inviting your guests, let them know that it's a Hawaiian party and the dress code will be Hawaiian shirts, dresses, grass skirts and flip flops. As guests arrive, have some leis to enhance their outfits. Decorating can be fun too, with cardboard cutout palm trees and pineapples placed around the deck area. Place vases of silk flowers and/or sea shells on side tables. For your food table, purchase a couple of inexpensive colorful paper tablecloths and fringe the sides. Cut one in half and do the same and place on your side tables for a more colorful ambiance. Plan on some soft Hawaiian music for the background.

There are so many wonderful recipes available. Check out your cookbooks or on the internet for something different and appealing. I'm including a Hawaiian potato salad recipe and my husband's famous rib recipe, which I altered into a Hawaiian rib recipe. Add a few more items such as a tropical coleslaw and a mixed vegetable salad. For a beverage, mix up some pineapple punch or a fruity cocktail. Top with those cute little umbrellas that restaurants use. Of course, always have coffee and tea—maybe iced, available. Water should also be available.

For dessert, try cutting a watermelon in half lengthwise and cut out the pulp in bite size squares. Then fill the watermelon halves with the watermelon chunks, pineapple chunks, melons and/or grapes. Set them on your food table as your center piece. Guests can nibble before or after the meal.

A game or two is always fun and exciting. Pick up one or two hula hoops (or more) from the dollar store and have a 'Hula Contest.' See who can hula the longest. See who can hula with the most hula hoops going at the same time. Another fun game is the 'Hula Hoop Flip Flop.' Tie a hula hoop to a tree branch. Have the guests in turn try to flip their flip flop shoes through the hoop. If you don't have a tree branch, have two guests hold the hoop—one on each side holding it vertically so guests can kick their flip flops through—hopefully not hitting the guests who are holding the hoop.

As you will be serving ribs, I would suggest you have lots of hand wipes available. It always looks nice to have paper napkins that match your tablecloths for added accent.

Enjoy your summer BBQ, and enjoy the weather with your friends and family!



# Sandwiches

Spontaneity is a wonderful thing, so it's good to plan for it! For summer weekends you can make up a big plate of different sandwiches & you'll always be ready for a picnic, a trip to the beach, or the arrival of surprise guests. For extra cuteness, wrap them in waxed paper & stick on a decorative label to identify them. While trying new combinations, don't forget these old favorites:

- Liverwurst on white bread with mustard, red onion, iceberg lettuce & thinly sliced cornichon pickles.
- Egg Salad ~ hard-boiled eggs, mayo, pickle relish, minced celery & onion, celery seed, salt & pepper.
- Tuna with potato chips, Cucumbers.

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### HAWAIIAN POTATO SALAD

- 1 1/2 lbs. red potatoes, washed and quartered

1 1/2 cups medium pasta shells

1 stalk celery, halved lengthwise, thinly sliced

1/2 cup dill pickles, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled, thinly sliced

1/2 cup frozen peas

1/3 cup red onion, thinly sliced

2 hard boiled eggs, cut in half
- In a large pot, cook potatoes in salted water; bring to a boil and cook until tender, (about 15 minutes). Add the pasta during the last 7 minutes of cooking, and add the peas during the last 2 minutes of cooking. Drain. Cool.
- DRESSING:
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise

2 Tbsp. white vinegar

salt & pepper
- 1/4 cup dill pickle juice

1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- Transfer egg yolks to bowl, using fork mash yolks with mayonnaise until smooth. Stir in pickle juice, vinegar, mustard & salt & pepper. Dice egg whites and add to the potato mixture. Add pickles, celery, onions and carrots. Toss together with the mayonnaise mixture. Chill and it's ready to enjoy! (Serves 8-10)

### CRAIGS BBQ RIBS, HAWAIIAN STYLE

- 3/4 lb. per adult (average 6-8 ribs) • 1/4 lb. per child (average 2-4 ribs)
- 6 lbs. baby back ribs

1- 8 oz. can pineapple rounds
- SAUCE:
- 2 cups BBQ sauce

2 cups ketchup

2 cups water

1 cup pineapple juice
- 1 Tbsp. salt

2 tsp. garlic powder

1 Tbsp. pepper

3/4 cup light brown sugar
- Remove skin from back of ribs. Trim off fat. Cut into 4 inch strips (about 4 bones). Place in pan, bone side down. Add 2 cups water, sprinkle spices on ribs. Cover with tinfoil, sealing tightly. Cook in the oven for 3 1/2 to 4 hours at 325°, or until tender. Mix sauce ingredients together. Place ribs into sauce. Allow ribs to marinate for 24 to 48 hours in refrigerator. To reheat, place in tinfoil, baste, wrap tightly and heat on BBQ (or in oven). Brush pineapple rounds with olive oil and broil or place on BBQ for about 1 minute. Place on platter with ribs. (Serves 8-10)





## A Year in the Life of a Guild

Have you ever wondered about quilt guilds? What are they? What do they do? How does one become a member? Should I join one?

What is a guild? A guild is defined as an association of people for mutual aid or the pursuit of a common goal (Oxford English Reference Dictionary) and, to a great extent, this definition of a guild in medieval Europe remains valid today. But a quilt guild is so much more!

What are the membership requirements? Most guilds welcome anyone who likes to sew and/or is generally interested in crafting with fabric. Some larger guilds limit their membership to a certain number and have smaller groups (bees) that are offshoots of the main group, but this is rare in small centres.

What does a guild do? An account of one year's activities of the small guild I know best – the one to which I belong – may help to answer this question. Keep in mind that different guilds have different programs and guidelines, but most will be similar. Our program varies somewhat from year to year, but the year detailed below is typical.

Our guild year runs from September to June, coinciding with the school year. We elect our executive and program planning committee in May or June so we are ready to go at our first September meeting. This year our first meeting was full of surprises and happy exclamations as members returned the round robin challenge quilts (which had circulated the previous year) to their owners. Oohs, aahs and cries of delight! At the same meeting the coming year's program was presented to the membership, as was information about our upcoming biennial quilt show. The quilt show committee had been working hard over the summer, and their plans were immediately set in motion.

We have found that two meetings a month is a workable format for our group. This year the first meeting of the month was devoted to business and the demonstration of a skill or small project by one of the members or the viewing of a relevant video. Bob Purcell's video concerning the properties and uses of threads was both informative and entertaining. The highlight of these meetings, however, was Show and Tell time. Our guild is small but prolific, and an admiring audience always appreciated the variety of really beautiful items, from simple to complex, shown by members. We all basked in the appreciation of our efforts.

The second meeting of the month was the "mystery meeting." We brought our sewing machines and appropriate materials from the list previously e-mailed to members, but we didn't know what we would be sewing until that night. We knew only that the project would be fun and useful, and that we would be able to finish it by the end of the meeting. Items completed at these sessions include micro-wave bowls, infinity scarves, zippered pouches, casserole mitts, and some cross-stitch. The element of surprise piqued our interest and built anticipation.

One day a month, usually between the two regular evening meetings, we met to work on a full-day project often taught by a member of the group. Until the New Year these day-long sessions were devoted to making items for ourselves or for gifts, e.g. a one-day charm-square quilt. After the New Year, our full-day sessions were used for charity projects. One such activity was the construction of "slab quilts." Our national organization (Canadian Quilters' Organization/Association Canadienne de la Courtepointe) as this year's sesquicentennial (150 year anniversary) project set its goal at 1000 quilts made by members to donate to Ronald McDonald Houses nationwide. Our guild was pleased to be able to donate 21 completed quilts to this cause. As a group we have sewn for the organization Days for Girls for a number of years. Accordingly, one of our all-day sessions and a couple of follow-up sessions supported this worthy group.

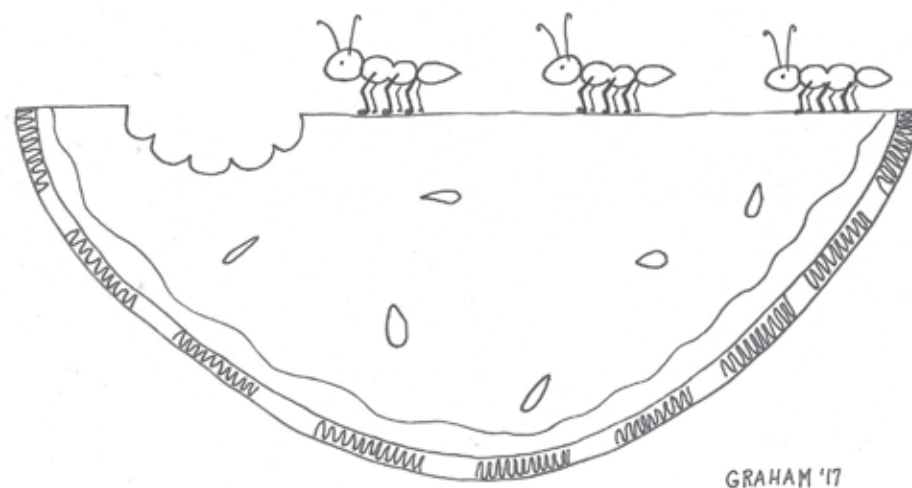
However, the "work" of the guild, enjoyable though it is, was just part of the year's program. Members were challenged to produce a wall hanging consisting of exactly 150 squares, one for each year of Canadian Confederation, to be displayed at the year-end quilt show. Quilters do enjoy a challenge! Twice during the year representatives of neighbouring quilt shops spent an evening with us, teaching and/or presenting small trunk shows (displays of their work). In addition they showed us their latest fabrics, patterns and notions; many of us went home with lighter purses. In the spring the guild hired a bus and driver for a "field trip" (read "shop hop") to shops farther afield, an enjoyable day indeed. And then there are the parties... quilting related of course!

An underlying current of the above activities was the preparation for our year-end quilt show. Unsurprisingly, the theme was Canada's Sesquicentennial. Planning, organization and fund-raising (half the proceeds for our local Health Centre) were ongoing. After the show we discussed what went right (almost everything) what went wrong (very little) and what we will do differently next time.

Why should you join a guild? Fellowship, support and commitment to the community all come to mind. What is more life-enriching than spending time working and playing with people who share your passion? Lifelong friendships and bonds are formed in guilds. We could all use a few more of those, no?

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

## Countryberries Designs Summer Picnic



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## Celtic Quilt Tours, LLC 2018 Tours

Celtic Quilt Tours' hosts Kim Caskey (Edmonton, AB) and Debbi Cagney (Houston, TX) are excited to offer three separate tours for 2018: Rocky Mountain Shop Hop to Quilt Canada (Vancouver) May 27 – June 4, 2018; Quilt Shop and Textile Tour of Ireland June 4 – 15, 2018; Wales & Birmingham Quilt Festival with optional London Excursion August 2-18, 2018.

"Our tours have become extremely popular", boasts Kim Caskey, "and we couldn't be happier!" Registration was announced in mid-July for previous travelers first and a week later, opened to everyone. "The new tour (for us) to Wales and London has been very well received. We took 27 registrations in the first hour!" This tour is well on its way to selling out (40 travelers maximum).

Experience the beauty and history of Wales and the Birmingham Festival of Quilts, including visits to destinations and sites that will take your breath away. The Festival of Quilts is Europe's leading patchwork and quilting event attracting 24,000 quilters from all over the world. The show is a celebration of quilting in all its forms, with over 300 exhibitors, professionally curated galleries of quilts from leading international makers, 350 workshops, talks and demos plus a magnificent display of over 700 competition quilts. It is the ultimate patchwork and quilting experience. Other stops and tours include St. Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff Castle including an authentic Welsh Banquet, the Jen Jones Welsh Quilt Center, National Wool Museum, Minerva Quilts Show, full day excursion of the Lake District, Windsor Castle, and so much more. The London post-tour excursion includes a tour of the Royal School of Needlework, Chatsworth House and a tour and visit to the Downton Abbey-famous Highclere Castle and two full days free to explore on your own!

"After numerous special requests for a bus tour to Quilt Canada (from Edmonton), I was happy to take on the challenge of working with a new tour company (AMA Travel) and put together a fun and informative coach tour through the Rockies", says Kim. Global networking with quilters from many countries has sparked interest in their first-ever Canadian tour. "I have quilters from Ireland, Scotland, The Netherlands and USA all interested in joining us for the Rocky Mountain Shop Hop to Quilt Canada and I can't wait to show them a bit of our beautiful country." This tour will be hosted by Kim Caskey and Kathy Strawson (previous CQA President) who have a very special on-board activity planned. "Not only will the tour be filled with breathtaking sights and stops (first stop is at Heritage Park Festival of Quilts in Calgary), numerous quilt shops along the way, and 4 full days at Quilt Canada in Vancouver, but we have developed an on-board quilt class for added entertainment!" Travelers can also bring along their own sewing machine to participate in classes at Quilt Canada (class registration through CQA).

Finally, their third tour offered for 2018 is through the magnificent Emerald Isle. "Our year would not be complete without our annual trip to Ireland" says Kim. "We have an exciting, brand new itinerary through the southern part of Ireland, including quilt shops, castle visits, must-see sight-seeing stops and a very special evening at Moriarty's in the heart of the Gap of Dunloe. "We've organized an evening event of exclusive shopping (finest quality Irish woolens and tweeds), dinner and special presentation of a Trunk Show of a famed Irish Quilter." Highlights of this tour are too numerous to list! "We are humbled and overwhelmed by the constant interest we receive for our tours to Ireland – so many repeat travelers year after year! We must be doing something right!"

If you are interested in joining any of these tours, or would like further information, please contact Kim Caskey 780-288-9008, kim@kimcaskey.ca, www.celticquilttours.com.

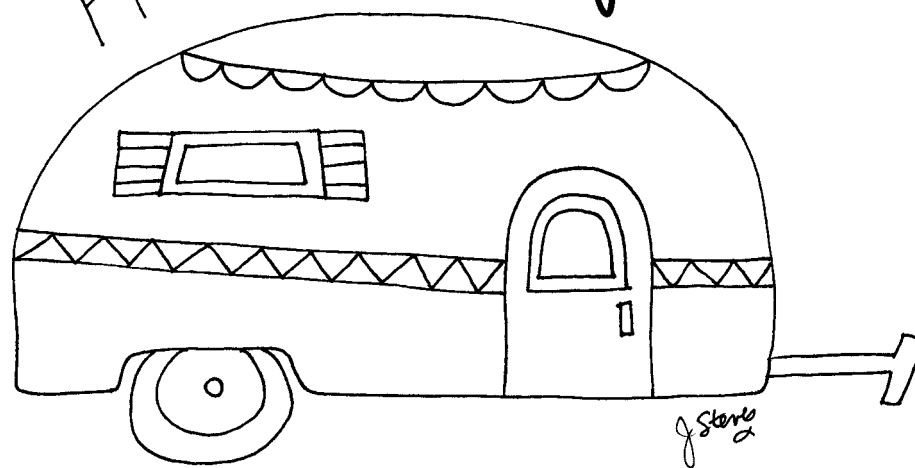


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## Candy's Vacations

by Deb Heatherly

Many people travel with their dogs, but have you ever taken a cat on vacation? I did, and it is definitely an experience I will never forget.

Miss Candy came into my life many years ago in a most unusual way. For some reason, I was scrolling through the classifieds and ran across this ad, "Abandoned, now abandoned again. Please help save these cats and dogs." My curiosity peeked; I dialed the number.

I was told that all the animals had been taken in by a lady who volunteered at the local shelter. Each of the animals, I was told, had special needs and had been too hard to adopt out, so the nice lady had stepped in to offer them a home. Sadly, the nice lady had recently passed away and all of the animals needed new homes and needed them very quickly.

"Well I can't take them all," I said. But I could certainly take one and if others do the same, then all should be well.

"Funny," he said, "Others have said the same thing. From the phone calls and promises I've received, once everyone is picked up, I will only have 1 cat left."

"Well that's great news," I said, "Tell me about this kitty."

He went on to describe her and stated that, while the others animals had problems that were easily apparent, he did not see anything abnormal about her. I told him I'd be right over and off my daughter I went on our rescue mission.

Candy, it turned out, was a semi longhaired Calico. She was thin but other than that seemed fine. She purred and warmed to us immediately. "We'll put some weight on you sweet girl," I said, "and you never have to worry about being abandoned again."

As we headed home, I thought a hamburger might be in order and we headed through the nearest drive through. After cooling it and tearing it into pieces, we offered it to Candy. She sniffed it but was not interested. Ok, I thought, we'll try tuna or wet cat food when we get home. I did, and received the same reaction. For the next 24 hours, in spite of being offered a number of things, Candy ate nothing and I was pretty worried. I realized she was probably stressed from a sudden change in her life, but she had to eat. She was skin and bones as it was.

A trip to the vet seemed in order so off we went. Turns out Miss Candy was old. I mean really, really old, and only had two teeth. The vet said that while it was difficult to know her age for sure, she guessed that Candy was 18-20 years old. The two teeth she had left were infected and had to be pulled. No wonder she would not eat. After dentistry and antibiotic, our new charge perked up.

Her care required soft food only and it had to be given in small amounts four times a day. She also had to be fed in a quiet location, away from our other furry kids so that we could make sure she actually got to eat. This posed a problem as we had a two-week vacation planned the next month. I had a pet sitter who would come in twice a day for the others, but what would we do with Candy?

As it turned out, the only solution was to take her with us. We called ahead to each motel or cabin rental, explaining the circumstances and getting permission. Then, off we went with Candy in tow.

I've seen happy animals before but Candy seemed to thrive. She loved sitting on the back of the seats and watching the world pass by and she enjoyed the one-on-one attention away from our other cats. In all, the two weeks of travel passed quickly and pretty much without incident. Well, except for the time she put her paw on the automatic window and rolled it down as we sailed down the Interstate. (Thankfully she did not try and jump out and my heart stopped pounding a few miles down the road.)

Oh, and the night we heard her crying at the top of her lungs while we were staying at a cabin in the woods. This furless mom jumped up and ran to rescue her 'baby' only to realize that Candy had simply gone to the top of the stairs, and could not figure out how to come down. (The next day she was delighted to show off that she had not only figured out how to run up them, she would announce herself very loudly and run back down

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them as well.) I had never seen her move this quickly but it seems this old gal was very proud of her new trick and wanted us to praise her.

Yes, having to pack up a litter box, food bowls and the like might seem like an inconvenience, but for Candy it was worth it. The next summer she accompanied us on a weeklong trip to the World's Longest Yard Sale and was with us for several months after that before cancer took her from us and she crossed the rainbow bridge.

I will never know what her life had been like before I answered that ad but I do know that her last two years were lived to the fullest. She traveled many miles. She stayed at the Marriott, (where she even had room service), and stayed at some of the nicest cabins you'd ever want to see. She loved meeting new people at each stop and relished the attention. She seemed to look forward to each new adventure and readily jumped in the carrier to go wherever we were headed.

Although our time with her was short compared to many of the others we've loved through the years, she definitely captured a special place in our hearts. As our only cross-country traveler, our Candy will never be forgotten.

*Deb Heatherly is a Creative Grids® Designer and author of the books, 'Cat'itide, Strippy Stars, and 4-Patch Panache. Her books are companions to the Creative Grids® Cat's Cradle tool, Strippy Stars tool, and Turbo 4-Patch tool, all designed by her. Deb travels to do lectures and workshops and can be reached at Debscatsnquilts@aol.com. Visit her on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/DebscatsnquiltsFranklin and join her Facebook group "Grids Girls." Visit her website at www.Debscatsnquilts.com*



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Apples, apples, everywhere. Here's one of our favorite apple recipes:

#### APPLE CRISP

- 5-6 medium apples, peeled, cored and sliced
- 2-3 tbsp granulated sugar
- 3/4 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup uncooked rolled oats
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 tbsp cold, unsalted butter

Place rack in middle of oven and heat to 350°F. Lightly grease an 8"x8" baking dish with butter. Combine apples, sugar, cinnamon and 1/8 tsp of salt in a large bowl and toss to coat. Place mixture in baking dish. Combine brown sugar, oats, flour and remaining salt until evenly combined. Using your fingers, blend in the butter for about 3 minutes. Sprinkle on top of apples and bake until tender. (About 1 hour.) Let cool slightly before serving. Serve with ice cream, whipped cream or frozen yogurt.

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## The Story of My 25 Year Old Bar of Soap

by Kerri Habben

I have a 25 year old bar of soap. It is cracked and dried out, and I never actually use it.

Presently my soap lives on the workbench. It has been there since 2002. Prior to that it lived in a wash basin in the back of my grandmother's linen closet.

My soap came to me during the summer of 1992. Uncle Henry was dying, and it was my honor to help care for him. My grandmother was then 85, and my mother had broken her leg the previous autumn. On Christmas night of 1991, Uncle Henry gently called me over to him.

"I don't know what the next year will bring, and I may need you," he said.

I promised him that I would be there for him because I loved this life-long bachelor brother of my grandmother as a second grandfather. My mother loved him as a second father. He was a kind, warm soul who never judged, always lived his faith, and gave a peaceful essence to any space he was in.

I'd watched him care for people my entire life, especially my great-Aunt, his sister who had also remained single, and my grandfather, his brother-in-law. Aunt Wilma died in 1986, and Poppy in 1988. It remains one of my greatest blessings that these three precious people and my grandmother lived across the street from us.

Uncle Henry had survived tuberculosis in the late 1920's, and he'd lived with one lung since 1931. Though he'd never smoked, second hand smoke from the office provided him with emphysema. Now, nearly 87, his body couldn't produce enough oxygen. He grew thinner and weaker, and on July 24th shortly after 12 noon in 1992, he was eternally cured.

As we were cleaning up after they came to remove his body, I shoved the washbasin with the bar of soap into the back of the closet. I had no memory of doing so until I discovered it again in 2002. By that time, my dad had passed away the previous year, and my 95 year old grandmother was moving to an assisted living community.

When I found the soap and basin a decade of summers after Uncle Henry passed away, I was instantly transported to my 19 year old self with him. The memories washed over me.

As in 1992, what cleansed me wasn't soap but love. Uncle Henry's love and trust. But especially God's unending love and grace, the fostering of which Uncle Henry had shown every day I'd ever known him.

So here I sit, 25 years later. Those organizing articles tell me that the soap isn't the memory itself. I know that, but it sticks to my fingers. One day I will let go of it. Then, as now, I will breathe this forever moment.

Uncle Henry had pulled the oxygen during the night, and briefly there wasn't enough air to his brain. It was a merciful gift to him. He caught butterflies only he could see and believed that he was well. One day as I was bathing him, he looked at me and asked who I was.

I said, "I'm Kerri. I've been taking care of you."

Then he smiled. "I love you," he answered.

It is a moment I have deliberately carried with me every day of my life since. I'd learned that love isn't a part of your life: love is simply and absolutely everything.

With or without a 25 year old bar of soap.

*Kerri Habben is a writer, photographer, and crochet instructor living in Raleigh, NC. An avid crocheter and knitter, she learned these skills from her grandmother and mother. Many of her yarn creations she donates to those in need. She has gathered a decade of essays she is working to publish and can be reached at 913jeeves@gmail.com.*

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