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The Country Register of Ontario  
October / November 2018 Issue

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# Calendar of Events

## OCTOBER

- OCTOBER 1 - 31 401 Fall Quilt Run - SE Ontario
- OCTOBER 6 - 8 Buckhorn Harvest Craft Show - Harcourt, ON
- OCTOBER 8 Heritage Antique Market at Centerpoint Mall - Toronto, on
- OCTOBER 11 - 13 Creativ Festival @ International Center (Entrance 5) - Toronto, ON
- OCTOBER 12 - 13 Bountiful Harvest Quilt Show by Erie Shores Quilters' Guild - Leamington, ON
- OCTOBER 12 - 13 Oakville/Bronte Antique & Vintage Glass Show & Sale - Oakville, on
- OCTOBER 12 - 14 Waterford Lion Lioness Pumkinfest - Waterford
- OCTOBER 13 Last Blast Intario Antiques Collectible Show - Minesing, ON
- OCTOBER 13 Saint John Bosco Parish Craft Show - Brockville, ON
- OCTOBER 13 - 14 Quilts on th Rocks by Sudbury & District Quilting & Stitchery Guild - Sudbury, ON
- OCTOBER 13 - 14 Georgina Pins and Needles - Quilt & Needle Art Show - Sutton, ON
- OCTOBER 13 - 14 IODE Antique Show and Sale - Chatham-Kent, ON
- OCTOBER 13 - 25 World of Threads Festival - Oakville, ON
- OCTOBER 14 Heritage Monthly Antique Market - Toronto, ON
- OCTOBER 17 - 21 Imagineative Film & Media Arts Festival - Toronto, ON
- OCTOBER 18 - 20 Cherrywood Quilt Show, Cherrywood Challenge 2018 - 'Prince' - Seaforth, ON
- OCTOBER 19 - 20 Quilts for All Seasons by London Friendship Quilters' Guild - Lpndon, ON
- OCTOBER 19 - 20 Once Upon A Quilt - Quilt Expo 2018 by Brant Heritage Quilters Guild - Brantford, ON
- OCTOBER 20 - 21 Kissing Bridge Trail Studio Tour - Elmira, On
- OCTOBER 21 London Doll & Teddy Bear Fall Show & Sale - London, ON
- OCTOBER 25 - 30 The Writers Festival, Fall Edition - Ottawa, ON
- OCTOBER 26 - 27 Quilting with the Stars by The Five Star Quilt Guild - Teeswater, ON
- OCTOBER 26 - 29 Art Toronto - Toronto, ON

## NOVEMBER

- NOVEMBER 1 - 3 Fall Shop Hop - SE/SW Ontario
- NOVEMBER 3 - 4 Twisted Stickers Quilt Show 2018 by The Twisted Sisters Quilt Guild - Ajax, ON
- NOVEMBER 3 - 4 Traditions Christmas Craft Show - Ottawa, ON
- NOVEMBER 3 - 4 Artisan and Craft Show - Chatham, ON
- NOVEMBER 11 The Spirit of Christmas Craft Show - Pickering, ON
- NOVEMBER 16 - 18 Markham Home For the Holidays Craft Show - Markham, ON
- NOVEMBER 17 Creative Hands Craft & Artisan Show - Peterborough, ON
- NOVEMBER 17 - 18 Thorold's Christmas Art and Craft Show - Thorold, ON
- NOVEMBER 24 Classic Holiday Craft Show - Oakville, ON
- NOVEMBER 24 Old Fashione Christmas - Georgina, ON
- NOVEMBER 24 - 25 Christmas in Ancaster Craft Show, ON

## SAVE THE DATE

- JUNE 3 - JUNE 14, 2019 Quilt Shop & Textile Tour of Ireland by Celtic Quilt Tours
- JULY 27 - AUGUST 4, 2019 Birmingham Festival of Quilts Tour by Celtic Quilt Tours
- AUGUST 28 - SEPT. 8, 2019 Quilt Shop & Textile Tour of Scotland by Celtic Quilt Tours

## Dearest Readers,

What a fun summer it was. We had a couple of really hot weeks this year but it is better than snow! We went to a number of festivals, strolled the market, did some camping and biked at least once a week. Summer is the time we enjoy as many outdoor activities as we can.

Summer is now coming to an end and we are starting to prepare for Thanksgiving. What I love most about the holidays is that it is a reason for our family to get together to laugh and enjoy great food, drinks and of course desert.

I always wait until after Thanksgiving to switch over my closet and discover my Fall / Winter wardrobe all over again. Of course, I will have to go shopping to add a few new items to attempt to be in trend. The days may be cooler but the weather is still nice to take day thrips to visit your favourite quilt shops. Why not try a an new one this month? When you do, please tell them that you saw them in The Country Register.

It's never too early to start thinking of Christmas presents as that is a chore in itself. I try and jot down things throughout the year when I get hints from my family and friends or I come across a cool idea. My New Year's resolution in 2018 was to knit everyone a present for the following Christmas but time has gone so fast that I didn't even have time to learn to knit! Oh well, I think it is going to be Amazon this year.

Thinking about the cooler nights ahead reminds me of a really yummy Instant Pot recipe that is sure to keep you warm on those chilly nights. This soup is absolutely to die for!

### Sweet Potato Tortilla Soup

Prep time	Cook time	Total time
15 mins	15 mins	30 mins

Author: Instant Pot Eats | Recipe type: Soup  
Serves: 4

#### Ingredients

- 1 large brown onion, finely diced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 3-4 large garlic cloves, finely diced
- ½ red chili, sliced
- 2 tablespoons roughly chopped cilantro (stalks and leaves)
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander seeds
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 lb / 550 g sweet potato, diced into cubes
- 1 can black beans, rinsed
- 2 cups chopped tinned tomatoes
- 3 cups water
- 1 cube vegetable stock cube
- Juice of ½ lime

#### To serve

- 1 avocado, diced
- Handful of fresh cilantro/coriander, roughly chopped
- Handful of corn tortilla chips, crumbled over the top
- A dollop of sour cream (in bowls, per person)
- 1-2 tablespoons of grated cheddar (in bowls, per person)
- Grated cheese

#### Instructions

Press the Sauté key on the Instant Pot (it should say Normal, 30 mins). Add the onions, olive oil and one teaspoon of salt and sauté for 5 minutes, stirring a few times.

Add the garlic, chili, cilantro, spices and the remaining salt and stir through. Add the sweet potatoes, beans, tomatoes, water and vegetable stock cube. Stir through well and press Keep Warm/Cancel function key to stop the Sauté process.

Place and lock the lid, making sure the steam releasing handle is pointing to Sealing. Press Manual, High pressure and set to 3 minutes. After 3 beeps the pressure cooker will start going. Once the IP stops cooking, allow 5 minutes for natural release and then use the quick release method to let off the rest of the steam and pressure.

Open the lid and stir in the juice of ½ lime. You can also add extra fresh cilantro directly in the pot.

Serve the soup in bowls, topped with diced avocado and crispy corn tortilla chips. Add a dollop of sour cream and some cheddar cheese on top, if you like.

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!

Thank you and have a Very Happy Thanksgiving.

Cheers, *Harriet*



### Our Search for Cover Artwork —

Across Canada and the U.S. you can always tell *The Country Register* by its 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)

## 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.

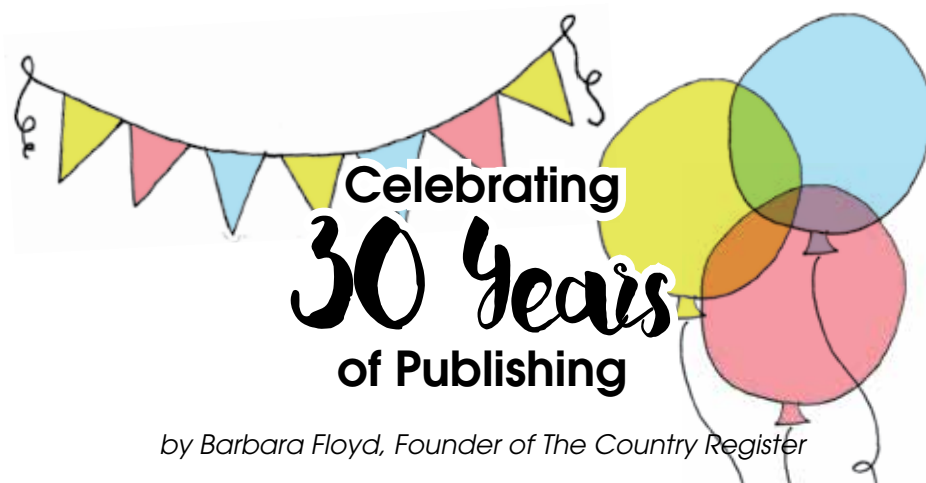
Anne, who now lives in Burlington, has retired from teaching 13 years ago. She has been exhibiting her art since 1987, but she has been painting and drawing from the time she could pick up a pencil. Since retiring, Anne paints full time, taking photographs on her travels and using them as inspiration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

"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)



by Barbara Floyd, Founder of The Country Register

A series of articles has been brewing in my head for months now as the time drew near to start celebrating the 30th Anniversary of The Country Register Newspapers. The plan is to celebrate for a whole year and in each upcoming issue I will tell you a bit more about how this all came into being. I will also share, separately, favorite recipes from my kitchen where I still spend a lot of time.

I have always been an entrepreneur at heart so it seemed only natural that, after raising four children, I would meld the business world with my love of handmade items. As a former art teacher and, next, a PTA mom, I got a taste of this combination by organizing one of the first, highly successful juried arts and crafts fundraisers in Arizona. When the school eventually phased out that event, this show moved to my Phoenix home creating an instant success. Soon home-based arts and crafts shows became popular all over.

Then I opened a small gift shop close to home. Having a young daughter with the same talents and passions provided for a great let's-do-it-together project. Daughter Barbra-Jean eventually owned the shop, one of the first "country" shops in Arizona. Our mother-daughter team then opened one of the first combination tearoom and gift shops in the state. Gooseberries Tea Room had an over 25 year run in Phoenix with three different owners and is still well remembered and much missed.

Needing an effective yet affordable means of advertising the shop, Barbra-Jean suggested that I put out a promotional newspaper. So, in fall 1988, with no publishing experience and no computer, I introduced The Country Register, which made its debut with eight black and white pages featuring twenty-four advertisers. Some of those original advertisers still in business continue as steady, constant supporters of The Country Register to this day.

The Country Register has played a large role in the success and growth in the industries it promotes. One of the publication's biggest strengths is forging bonds between shop owners, crafters, artisans and customers. It is distributed without charge at its advertisers' locations as well as other 'well-traveled' sites.

Eventually, as popularity of the newspaper spread, people from other states approached for help in starting The Country Register in their own areas. Thus, a licensing agreement for the nationally trademarked name and logo was arranged. Michigan became the second state to have The Country Register and continues to this day with a very large publication. Currently there are thirty-one Country Register papers across the United States and Canada, several of them combining two or more states.

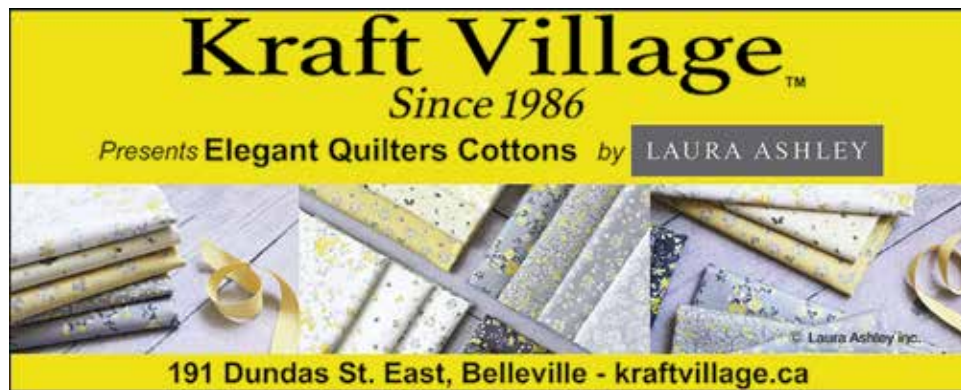
To get a bit organized for this writing project, I spent two days sorting photos and finishing two scrapbooks that were partly done. One was about The Country Register and the other was about other business ventures over the past 40 years. I figured getting these in order would be a good reminder of memories past, finish these two projects and, at the same time, produce photos and ideas to share with you. Please visit The Country Register, Inc., on Facebook and see what is shared there as well.

Until next issue.... farewell.

Barbara Floyd enjoys her downsized lifestyle in Phoenix, AZ, and her visits to see children and grandchildren in Tri-Cities and Walla Walla, WA, Cumming, GA, and Ft. Wayne, IN. She created and volunteers to put together Love of Junk, Walla Walla's Vintage Show on her oldest daughter's farm in Walla Walla, WA, each June. She can be reached at [barbara@countryregister.com](mailto:barbara@countryregister.com).



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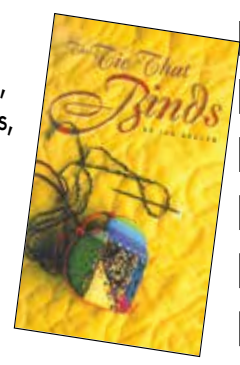
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# Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

## Somewhere Over the Rainbow

When I was well into my thirties I was offered piano. As soon as I had the piano situated in our home, my friend Julie agreed to take me on as one of her students. My desire was to play for my own personal enjoyment, and my favorite song was *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, made popular by Judy Garland. A child would probably interpret this popular song as a happy little ditty. Me? To me the song expresses longing, and as Garland's character 'Dorothy' prepared to sing the song in *The Wizard of Oz*, she muses with her dog Toto, wondering if a place where there isn't any trouble might exist. Unlike Julie's other much younger students, I imagine I expressed a whole lot more emotion through my fingers—for I well knew the world was full of trouble.

I often played *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* for Julie during my piano lessons. Because I liked it, and I suppose used it as a momentary escape from whatever of life's troubles I was experiencing, I practiced it a lot. I'll always remember the day Julie quipped, "I'd surely hate to be a singer trying to sing the song as slowly and emotionally as you play it."

One day at an exercise class, *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* came on the instructor's sound system and caught my attention. Someone was singing and interpreting the song with even more heart and soul than me. Immediately I asked the instructor, "Who's singing that song?"

"Oh, it's Eva Cassidy," was her response. "Do you know her story?"

When I got home, I did some digging and learned this lady with such an engaging voice died in 1996 when she was only 33. Born in Washington D.C., when she was 30 she had a malignant mole removed from her back. Her death was due to cancer that metastasized to her bones and lungs. She was essentially an unknown singer who entertained in small clubs, singing folk, blues, gospel and the sorts of standard songs almost every musician records at one time or another. She could have signed a record deal, but instead she chose to personally record some of her favorite songs because she only wanted to sing the songs she loved—and she sang them very, very well with her pure and rich-with-emotion voice.

One might think that would be the end of Eva Cassidy's saga, but it's actually the beginning. After her untimely death, Eva's family agreed to have a compilation of her songs cut into a new CD, titled *Songbird*. The CD remained relatively obscure until two years later. That's when, rather miraculously, it made its way across the Atlantic and Cassidy's *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* was played in England on an early morning radio program, *Wake Up to Wogan*. After a couple of other features about her aired, *Songbird* topped the charts in England and achieved success in Europe. Eventually the CD went six times platinum in the UK.

In 2001, five years after Eva Cassidy's passing, ABC's *Nightline* aired a story on her and her music. It's since been rebroadcast three times and is reportedly the most requested *Nightline* ever—and her *Songbird* CD has been certified gold in the US. Her old recordings and video clips are all there ever will be—along with a few duets and single recordings with Chuck Brown. Plus, as appreciation for Eva Cassidy's talent grew, a couple of posthumous duets have been released—*Fields of Gold* with Michael Bolton and *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* with Katie Melua. One bit of exciting news, however, is that in 2018, 20 years after the release of her original *Songbird* CD, it's been remastered and reissued as *Songbird 20*, with four additional tracks.

Eva Cassidy now has many, many fans—including me. Word of mouth endorsements by enthusiasts who proclaim her clear voice as captivating, brilliant, soulful, strong and passionate have been instrumental in her ongoing popularity—and that's why I'm sharing Eva's amazing story and her incredible talent with you. It's my hope you'll visit YouTube, Amazon or iTunes to search and listen. Perhaps you'll discover that, just like it worked out for Eva Cassidy, "*Somewhere over the rainbow skies are blue, and the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true.*"



Photo by Jan Keller



## Autumn Once Again

by Kerri Habben

And, somehow, once again it is autumn.

The summer, which arrives and appears as if it will last forever, never does. Yet there is something about the sun in September, how it settles upon us as if to say, "Let us treasure this warmth, I can but linger a little while longer."

Apple pies and cobblers are calling, taking the place of tomato sandwiches and potato salad. Casseroles await after trying not to turn the oven on to add more heat to the house.

I have some new recipes to try, thanks to my mother. One of her gifts to me was to instill a love of cooking. It is what her mother gave to her and her mother to her. If I had a regret that I do not have children, it would be that I cannot pass down what all three of these precious, enduring and loving women imparted to me. Though, perhaps in writing about them, I give birth at least to remembrance.

After my mother's diagnosis of brain cancer and the last radiation treatment, she suddenly lost the muscle strength to walk. It happened in an instant. So we stayed downstairs in the guest room, where we slept side-by-side in twin beds. I set up a card table in the den where we ate, me bringing the food down from the kitchen.

Mom had an extensive cookbook collection—from our travels, locally and those received as gifts. One day, she asked me to start bringing them down from the cabinet and shelf in the dining room. She also wanted a table to work at, a pair of scissors and paper clips. Then, with each stack of cookbooks I brought to her, she went through them page by page, tearing out what she wanted. There were some books, about a third of them we wanted to keep. The rest, as she finished, she dropped them on the floor and said, "If you would throw these out, please."

So I did. Because she was resolute, I did not wince but smiled instead.

Next, she gathered the pages with their ragged edges and carefully cut out the recipes she wanted. I watched her hands steadily moving as she sorted her finds by category. Then she clipped every group together.

All the while she talked to me, telling me why she wanted this recipe here and that one there. Sometimes she asked me to write out a recipe or to carry one upstairs because she didn't want it lost amongst the others.

So I did. Because she was so intent, I was content.

I saw the former executive secretary in her as she sorted and filed, and I saw the mother who poured love into all the meals she'd cooked. I felt the woman who had always, and was still, giving the best of herself. I lived with the illusion of healing then. Only later would I see these days and her cookbook work was another part of her legacy to me.

And somehow, once again it is autumn.

I have new recipes to try, thanks to my mother.

So I will. Because she was resolute, I smile. Because she was so intent, I am content.

*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. She donates many of her yarn creations to those in need. Kerri has gathered a decade of essays she is working to publish. She can be reached at 913jeeves@gmail.com.*



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## Madeline's Musings

By Madeline Lister

## The Robin and the Hare

It was a fine morning. The sky cloudless, the breeze gentle, and the sun warm. The dew on the

clover still glistened, and bird songs filled the air. Shadows lingered in the thicket. The waterfall laughed merrily down its rocky course.

The setting was a balm to my weary heart. I leaned back in my deck chair and closed my eyes. Would the spell to carry me to some enchanted land of unending harmony? How long I was lost in this fantasy I do not know. Eventually my reverie took flight and the wonder of reality took its place.

As I reflected on the beauty of the day, I became aware of a distinct movement in the grass at the edge of the wood. Awake from his night of snuggling with his furry family, Brown Bunny showed himself in the clearing. He appeared intent on nibble-nibbling away on the bountiful wild greens. Nibble, nibble. Nibble, nibble. Unhurrying. All was right with his world.

Sharing the clearing with my munching friend was a family of robins. Bright red-breasted adults and their speckled younglings. Though not at all the image of their parents, the little ones and their kinfolds were all focused on one object—filling their little bird-bellies. The mamas and the papas were behaving in that unique robin fashion—hop, hop, cock the head, jab the ground; hop, hop, cock the head, jab the ground.

But the young fry—scoot and scamper, scoot and scamper, half-way across the yard, cock the head, jab the ground. No six-inch hopping for them! I'm sure the old folks were shaking their feathered heads at all this hyper activity. For me it was a simple joy that smoothed my wrinkles and turned up the corners of my mouth.

Unwittingly I found myself smiling as I recalled our three grandchildren, not yet in their teens. How I'd given up my useless endeavor to engage in their games out on the same clearing! And the joy of simply watching, of being in the moment, as some would say. Storing up memories.

Oh, please forgive me. I've wandered from my story. Yes, there's more! There was to be an encore!

By now, Brown Bunny needed to move along. Hop. Hop. Only a few feet away was a robin youngster, also needing to move on. But rather than scoot and scamper to the other end of his patch of earth, he hopped! Bunny hopped; Birdie hopped. Bunny hopped; Birdie hopped. Back and forth; the one, then the other. Momentarily they paused and stared at each other, then resumed their little ritual. Hop, hop. Hop, hop.

Time has no relevance when nature is at play. I have no idea how long this drama continued. What I do know, it was more than just a smile-maker! I was down-right chuckling! The young robin, the little hare, and the innocence of their encounter.

Did one say to the other, "Anything you can do, I can do better!", and the game was on?

Did they not realize one was an animal and one a bird? One covered in fur, the other in feathers? One with little or no voice, and the other our herald of Spring?!

To be calm and at rest is a rare experience these days. But to laugh from the pure joy of nature's pleasures is extraordinary indeed.

Eventually the passing morning nudged me from my chair. I went off with a lighter step to take up the tasks of the day. But not before I'd offered a simple prayer of thanksgiving to my heavenly Father for this evidence of His care for His creatures, including one revived and heart-happy writer.

Until next time,

Happy hop-hopping to you . . .

Madeline Lister

*Madeline Lister is a quilter and writer by heart and by trade. Having retired in 2015 from the quilt shop she founded with her daughter, Madeline fills her days creating with fabric and pen, and traveling alongside her husband who suffers from an incurable case of wanderlust. Madeline writes from their farm in the peaceful wine region of Anywhere. She would love to exchange comments and ideas with you. Contact her by email: [madelinesmusings@gmail.com](mailto:madelinesmusings@gmail.com)*



## The Dropped Stitch

by Sharon Greve

## Paws To Celebrate

**"...be kind to dumb animals, not only, because you will lose nothing by it, but because you ought to, for they were placed on the earth by the same Kind Hand that made all living creatures."**

1893, Author Marshall Saunders, *Beautiful Joe*

National Dog Day occurs every August 26, followed by National Dog Week observation the last full week of September. Most dog breeds are a few hundred years old. The dog was the first domesticated animal. Since then dogs perform many roles for people: hunting, herding, pulling loads, protection, assisting police, military and rescue units as well as aiding handicapped individuals. Their impact on human society has given them the nickname "man's best friend" in the western world.

Perhaps the most popular role is companionship. No one welcomes one home like a dog. It doesn't matter how long you've been gone, two hours or two weeks; it's always a joyous welcome. They are the best medicine and therapy so easily found. They love us and we love them. Dogs have a sense of childlike wonder and the ability to get excited about some of life's simplest pleasures that is comparable only to that of a young child. Dogs offer unconditional love and happiness every day. Now is the time for Dog Day and Dog Week appreciation, but, better yet, show appreciation to your devoted friend every day! Besides a tasty treat, share a favorite walk, and a special "cuddle" session, gift a knit/crochet blanket, a colorful (maybe squeaky) animal toy, a beautiful braided collar, or a soft pillow bed or a sweater/coat for a fall/winter walk. Create a personalized stocking for Santa to fill.

Don't have a dog? Many people can't have pets of their own due to health/allergies or residence conditions that don't allow animals. But a crafted gift for pets of your friends or that loveable neighboring pet is always appreciated. Ill or aged dogs welcome a "love session" to enable them to cope with pain and situations they don't understand. There are many shelters whose dogs would welcome a blanket of their own while waiting for adoption. Use colorful yarn items of dense basic stitches to protect their paws from kennel bases and provide comfort from cement floors. Be sure to contact your local shelter for a list of needed items.

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## Become Inspired! Decorating, Entertaining and Living in the Early American Style

By Annice Bradley Rockwell



### Spectacular Season of Change

As the season of summer melts into fall the days end more quickly and it is a true signal of change. Our long, sunny days of summer are being transformed into vibrant, crisp autumn days that are known for being spectacular in their own way. Explosions of nature's colors are reflected in lakes and ponds as the leaves begin to change from their lively green to the fiery hues of fall. As has always been, we take cues from nature and honor the sacred shift to the next season of the year.

In our country homes the advent of autumn often means hard work. It means bringing in the harvest from our summer gardens and gathering and drying herbs for the season to come. Daylight hours are often spent tending to the chores in the yard, tidying it all up for a cooler season where we slowly begin to retreat to the interior of our homes.

### Simple Delights of Fall

One of fall's blessings is the gift of a crisp, cold evening after a warm, Indian summer day. As night falls the air becomes cold enough to inspire us to start a fire in the fireplace for the first time in the season. The crackling flames easily ward off the chill of autumn and the ambiance it creates within our home is like the return of a good friend. Our home's interior benefits from this special treat and it is reminiscent of a much simpler time.

For the country enthusiast decorating for the season of fall often means planning arrangements for both the yard and the home's interior. Often, country yards can be enhanced by the addition of a large, early antique that you can fill with nature's bounty-hay, pumpkins and dried gourds. A wheelbarrow in early red or a large corn thresher in mustard would make a strong statement of fall as one arrives home. In one's interior, simple accents of nature can be brought indoors to enliven vignettes throughout the house. Tucked in and around redware and pewter strands of bittersweet add the perfect touch of autumn. Filled to abundance, a trencher or dough box looks wonderful with an assortment of small pumpkins, dried gourds and touches of bittersweet. Hand-poured candles in warm, inviting scents such as hot mulled cider or hand-churned butter can be placed in each room of the home to lend another country hint of fall.

Antiques enthusiasts often await fall with a great sense of anticipation because it is a time for memorable open house events at many antiques shops. Some of these may include an outdoor show of country antiques dealers gathering together to offer country shoppers a "great deal" along with a festive fall experience.

So as nature begins to signal the significant season of change, embrace all of the blessings it has to give. Surround yourself with the authentic beauty of fall and share the joy it brings with those you hold dear.

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

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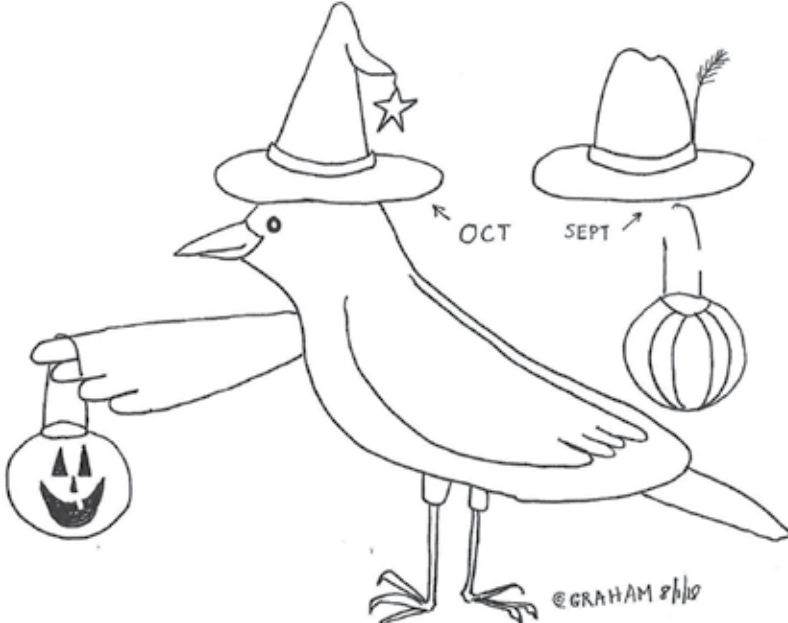
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## Countryberries Designs

### Something To Crow About



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This pattern is free for you to use. Please give the artist credit. Not for commercial use. Enlarge this pattern to your desired size. This pattern was designed to be painted but can be needlepunched, hooked or appliqued. There is a hat and pumpkin for Sept and Oct. Have fun!

Designed by Kathy Graham

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## Celebrating 30 Years of Publishing Favorite Scone Recipe

*from Barbara Floyd's Kitchen*

I could not begin to tell you how many triple batches of these scones I have made over the past 30 years! One thing I found out and tested many times is making them up ahead of time, cutting them out and freezing on a cookie sheet. When they are frozen solid, pop them into a good airtight container and, hours before wanting to bake them, thaw out completely (covered by a clean dishtowel) on either a stone or a cookie sheet—I like to put parchment paper down first—and then bake as directed.

### Cinnamon Nut Scones

- 3 C. flour
- 1/2 C. sugar
- 2 1/2 t. baking powder
- 1/2 t. baking soda
- 1 T. cinnamon
- 3/4 t. salt
- Blend the above ingredients well
- 3/4 Cup Cold Butter cut in so mixture is crumbly (like pea size)
- Add 1/2 Cup chopped Walnuts or Pecans
- 1 Cut of Buttermilk, Stir gently until all is moist.
- Knead mixture slightly and cut into rounds desired size on a floured board.
- Use egg wash on top if desired.
- Bake at 400 degrees for 12-15 minutes.

One variation of this recipe is to leave the cinnamon out and add dried cranberries along with the nuts. I often made triple batches of both versions. We used this recipe exclusively at Gooseberries Tea Room & Gift Shop in Phoenix and also at The Country Register Cafe & Tea Room in Kennewick, WA, in years past. Now I use it in single or double batches for home entertaining. If you don't have cookie cutters the right size, you can use an empty tin can or a thin edged drinking or juice glass or cut them in wedges with a sharp knife.





## Pie Birds Make Fun Collectibles

by Valerie Burner

In 2010, I read a magazine article about pie birds. What on earth was a pie bird and how had I gone through life without this handy kitchen helper were questions I would soon answer—and another useful and decorative collection was started.

Pie birds (for those who don't know) are also called pie funnels, pie ventilators, pie cups or pie chimneys. They are small ceramic or glass kitchen tools used to vent steam when baking pies. They tend to be between 3 to 5 inches tall. The pie bird is placed in the center after the pan is lined with pastry crust and then the filling is added with the top crust being molded around the pie bird. While the pie bakes, the hollow center of the pie bird allows steam to escape and prevents juices from boiling over and making a mess in your oven.

Originating in Britain in the 1800s, this handy kitchen tool didn't evolve into the charming pie bird until the 1920s. Before that time, most were shaped as cylindrical pie funnels made of white earthenware with some emblazoned with advertising. There are rare versions that have a pair of vertical "wings" that divide the pie in half allowing two different pie fillings in the same pie.

The first American pie bird was in the shape of a rooster and was produced by the Pearl China Company in the 1920s. While there is no confirmation, it is commonly believed the popular nursery rhyme, "Sing a Song of Sixpence," which mentions "4 and 20 blackbirds baked in a pie," was an inspiration for ceramic designers and, in 1933, Australian Grace Seccombe registered one of the earliest blackbird shaped pie funnels. During the same time, designers were creating pie birds for well-known English pottery AJ Wilkinson. Even the high-end porcelain companies like Spode and Royal Worcester included pie birds in their product offerings.

After WWII, pottery experienced a pop movement and manufactures were making all sorts of trendy items that were both figural and functional (think cookie jars and head vases). American manufacturers like McCoy, Morton, Cleminson and Shawnee were creating flocks of pie birds in a wide range of color schemes. While blackbirds are the most popular form of pie birds, the term can be misleading. Collectors can find pie birds in hundreds of different forms that include elephants, chubby chefs, dragons, farm animals and nursery rhyme characters such as Little Red Riding Hood as well as any kind of bird you can imagine. Lucky collectors might find Betty Boop, Pinocchio or even the elusive Pillsbury Dough Boy. Modern styles include snowmen, Santas, unicorns, owls and, yes, blackbirds.

My first pie bird was a modern-made blackbird and it has seen a lot of use and saved me a lot of time with not having to clean the oven. Once I realized how much I needed a pie bird, I was on the hunt for another. As all collectors know, the hunt is one of the best parts of collecting.

I prefer to do my hunting in person because I'm old school that way. Last fall, while on a vacation trip to California, we were doing some treasure hunting and I spied a bluebird that I'd never spied before and with some distracting, my husband snuck back, made the purchase and surprised me later. I now have matching eggcups and a salt and pepper set that were given to me by our dear friend who was with us on that trip. It's funny how that happens.

As collectors, we love sharing our passion and our newest finds with our friends and family and that's exactly what I did with another dear friend who winters here in the Phoenix area. They drive down from Canada and go treasure hunting all along the way, both coming and going. We were feasting at my home one Thanksgiving Day and got to talking about pie birds and now this sweet lady has a collection that is incredible. I love that about collecting. You never know where it's going to lead you, who you will meet and inspire and in turn be inspired by along the way and what you will learn.

With the variety of pie birds available, both new and vintage, it's easy to have a collection full of variety or narrow it down to a favorite animal or color, for instance. Around the holidays you will be able to find modern pie birds in nearly every kitchen section of every store. Year round you can find them in your antique and vintage shops. You'll have to look closely as they tend to get lost in the knick-knacks and, most often, they are displayed

with the salt and peppershakers looking like one that has lost its match.

You'll be able to spot a pie bird because the base will generally not be flat but arched to allow the steam to enter and funnel out through, in the case of a bird, the open beak. Occasionally some pie birds have bases circumnavigated with holes. If you are an Internet shopper, you can find hundreds of pie birds available with prices ranging from \$5 and up to over \$500.00.

Pie birds are an affordable collection to start and manageable to house and, don't forget, they are useful as well. I find simple enjoyment deciding which pie bird to use when baking and they remind me of our treasure hunting expeditions. The sweet bluebird will never be put in my oven but looks like she's ready to burst into song at any moment. I'm still on the hunt for another certain bluebird and imagine I'll find others along the way that will find a place in my collection that makes me smile.

Let a little whimsy enter your home and surround yourself with the things you love. Happy collecting!

Valerie Burner married into a family of collectors over 25 years ago. The first piece her and her husband purchased together was a drop leaf table that has had many uses over the years. Their current collections include pink depression glass, vintage Santa Claus and Christmas, Snoopy, and of course teddy bears. They have owned Bears & More in the historic Catlin Court district of Downtown Glendale, Arizona, for over 25 years.

## Salvage Style Funky Little Coffee Bar

This little coffee bar has a lot of different components, and I had a great time making it. It was an "anything goes" type of project. It is small enough to fit almost anywhere and most certainly will be a conversation starter. It is definitely a unique piece.

It began with an old TV cabinet -- the small kind with the sliding doors. I removed the doors and wooden legs. They will come in handy for a different project some day. I added a thin piece of plywood to the inside bottom to cover up the grooves for the sliding doors. I sanded and primed the entire cabinet. I used three different colors of paint and added some decoupage for interest using a coffee themed paper. I stenciled a little coffee saying on the top and then gave the entire piece, inside and out, several coats of clear polyurethane.

I had picked up some hairpin legs at an estate sale. They were just the right length to raise the cabinet to counter height. They required some TLC and several coats of black spray paint. I screwed them to the bottom of the project.

The top back piece is a black and white enameled metal top off of an old stove (I think). Not sure of its original purpose, but I loved it and it was perfect for this project. Thank you to my friend and business partner, Connie, for having it in her "stash" of goodies. I had to modify the bottom of it with a wood piece, so it could be attached. As a bonus, magnets will stick to it. Add a bin or basket to the shelf for storage. I had so much fun doing this project.

Good luck with your next project and, remember, there are no rules in up-cycling -- just do what you like, think outside the box and have fun.

Marla Wilson is the owner of The Rusty Wheel, a gift boutique in Scandia, KS. The shop features her floral designs and repurposed "junk," as well as kitchen and baby gifts, home decor and fashion accessories. Follow The Rusty Wheel on Facebook, or [www.therustywheel.vpweb.com](http://www.therustywheel.vpweb.com) or contact her at [stumpy1954@hotmail.com](mailto:stumpy1954@hotmail.com).





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### Fabric Requirements and cutting instructions:

**Panel Blocks:** One fabric panel with eight blocks, approximately 2/3 yard  
Cut the eight panel blocks with a 1/4" seam allowance on all sides of the design.  
Many panel blocks are not square. They may be, for example, 9 1/2" x 10". Or, they may be a little bit "wonky." That's OK. These pattern instructions are written for any shape/size block.  
If your measurement is 1/8" or smaller, round down to the nearest 1/4" because it's easier to measure and cut.

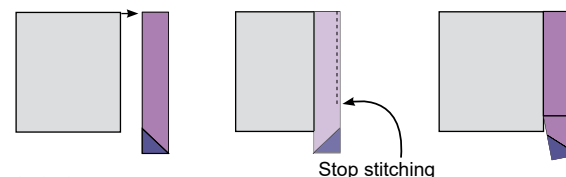
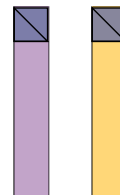
**From Pinwheel Fabric:** 1/4 yard  
Cut four 2 1/2" squares per block. Draw a diagonal line on wrong side of each square.

**From each of two Sashing Fabrics:** 1/2 yard each  
Cut six 2 1/2" x WOF strips;  
Subcut eight strips that are the panel width plus 2" and label them "End Strip,"  
subcut eight strips that are the panel length plus 2" and label them "Side Strip."

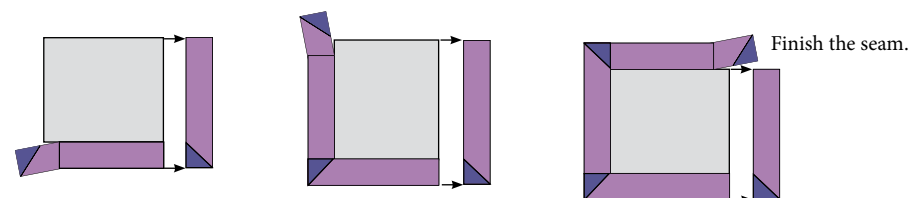
**Border/Binding Fabric:** 3/4 yard  
Cut ten 2 1/2" strips

### SEWING INSTRUCTIONS Use 1/4" seam allowances.

- Pin a Pinwheel square to one end of each sashing strip; the diagonal line slants in the same direction on all.
- Stitch on the line; trim the excess fabric 1/4" from the stitching.
- Press the corner out with the seam allowance towards the panel fabric.
- Match a SIDE sashing strip to the side of a panel block. Be sure the triangle is positioned as shown.
- Pin the sashing strip to the panel block, right sides together.
- Stitch with a 1/4" seam, stopping before reaching the end of the square.
- Press the seam towards the strip.



- Turn the panel block clockwise.
- Stitch an END strip to the top with the corner triangle positioned as shown, matching corners.
- Stitch all the way to the end. Press seam toward the strip.
- Turn the panel clockwise again and add another SIDE strip in the same way. Press seam to strip.
- Turn the panel clockwise again and add the last END in the same way. Press seam to strip.
- Complete the partial seam on the first strip and press the block.
- Add sashing strips to all the panel blocks in the same way.



- Arrange the blocks in rows of blocks, alternating the sashing colors.
- Stitch the panels blocks together in rows, matching the corners of each block.
- Stitch the rows together, matching seams. Press seams open.
- Add the borders. Measure the length of the quilt across the center from top to bottom.
- Cut two 2 1/2" border strips to the measured length.
- Pin them to each end of the quilt matching corners and centers..
- Stitch. Press seams to the border strips.
- Measure the length of the quilt from side to side across the center.
- Cut two borders to the measured length.
- Pin them to top and bottom of the quilt matching corners and centers.
- Stitch. Press seams to the border strips.
- Quilt as desired and add binding.

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After a hot summer the cool crisp days of fall are more than welcome, aren't they? Now is the time to reflect on our summer quilting adventures and also look forward to those to come before the countdown to Christmas begins.

Although I told myself firmly that I would not participate in Row by Row 2018 (after all, how many more UFOs do I need?) I didn't listen too well, and slipped a few times. Some of the patterns and kits were just too enticing to leave in the shops; the level of creativity seemed higher than ever, and I succumbed. I did notice a change this summer, however. Some shops which have participated enthusiastically in past years did not do so this time around, and I wondered why.

The reasons seem as individual as the shops: not profitable, too busy, difficulty of predicting how many quilters would take part... One shop owner, two years ago, ran out of kits very early, so last year she prepared 400 – but had only 100 picked up. This year she decided to opt out. Perhaps quilters are looking for something different now that the novelty of Row by Row has worn off? Who knows?

Looking forward now, this is the time of year when shops reveal their new classes and programs. There is usually a great variety of tempting classes, new techniques, fabrics and projects on offer, some from the most recent Quilt Market. I think it's always worth taking a few minutes to look these over for something to stimulate the creativity and enthusiasm that sometimes ebb during a relaxed summer. This fall, try something different – perhaps a class from a store new to you, or even a multi-day retreat.

Retreats offer a time when we can concentrate on sewing with no interruptions. (Leave your cell phone off! Neither you nor your fellow "retreates" need or appreciate constant contact with the outside world. And other people's conversations are so boring!)

A retreat may range from an affair organized by a shop or group with set times, fees and expectations to a group of quilters getting together working on their own or charitable projects. My ideal retreat is a combination of the two, with some scheduled instruction and some free time, lots of food, visiting and time to wander around visiting and picking up new ideas from others. It can be beneficial to attend a retreat with several people you don't know. Making new friends and learning from them is a happy outcome.

In September and October many shops will be advertising their upcoming events, including retreats. Now is the time to register. Some fill up quickly, so we mustn't let procrastination rob us of these pleasures. Do it today!

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

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## GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



### Best Vacation Ever!

Have you ever gotten home from a vacation and signed, I think that was the Best Vacation Ever! Now that summer is flowing into Autumn, it is my hope that you were able to slow down your pace and find a place to refresh and renew. It could have been your own front porch or a fly-away-place where the color of the water simply took your breath away. And all you wanted to do was lounge away the days and watch the waves roll in one by one. Stroll the beach and pick up shells to see the wonders of the Universe. This serenity can be accomplished at home too. I have friends who live next to a busy street. I stopped by their house on my morning walk. He and his wife were having their morning coffee on the porch. "Does the sound of the traffic bother you?" I asked. He smiled, and said, "If I close my eyes, I really can't tell the difference between the sound of a passing car, or the sound of a rolling wave on the beach". Hummm, I thought, what a beautiful solution for going on the Best Vacation Ever - every day of your life!

**GIRLFRIEND WISDOM:** May your creative mind find a time and place each day to refresh and renew, just like a Best Vacation Ever!

Joy & Blessings,

*Jody*

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



## Current Chalky Painted Furniture Trend

by Dave Emigh

At an antique show about twenty years ago, I noticed a booth selling something called Annie Sloan Chalk Paint. The vendor had samples and even did some demonstrations. Sloan's website indicated that the color pallet was inspired by historic colors.

Even though everyone seems to refer to any brand of this type of paint as "Chalk Paint," that term was trademarked by Sloan. That left the inevitable multitude of paint manufacturers, which jumped into this market, to refer to their paint as "chalky paint." Some manufacturers don't even call their paints chalky but it just seems to be inferred.

These chalky paints are popular because they are advertised to stick to furniture with little or no surface preparation such as sanding. They are water based that provides easy clean up and they dry quickly. They also dry to a very matte finish that can easily be sanded to produce a distressed "antique" look.

Individuals who are currently using the chalky paints are producing several different styles of finished furniture. They include: simply painting a piece, painting but leaving some details in natural wood finish, distressing the paint, and embellishing the piece with stenciling or paper items (maps, photos, sheet music, etc.). Some finished painted pieces use a combination of all of these techniques

Locally, I have seen all of these techniques and am extremely impressed by the work and talent of our Walla Walla furniture painting community. It shows real creativity, an artistic eye and is well executed.

Paint is a good treatment that definitely adds value to "tired pieces" of solid wood furniture. Further, pieces painted in the same color pallet will also work well together even if their design/construction style is different.

That being said, from a purely monetary point of view, it might be a mistake to paint either antique or mid-century modern furniture. For example, I saw an antique oak buffet (in Spokane) that was recently painted. I would have paid their (painted) asking price if they had just put it out for sale without doing anything.

That shop could have made the same amount of money without the expense of paint and labor. If they had asked me, I would have suggested that they show pictures of antique pieces to an antique shop owner before they decided to paint them.

That being said, the thought process involved in whether or not to paint a piece of furniture is the same that we employ when we decide if we are going to restore a piece or leave its original finish. The first question we ask ourselves is if the current finish is "structurally" sound enough to protect the piece. The second question is if the current finish is attractive.

There is no right or wrong answer to the question of whether or not to paint a piece of furniture. If you think that the piece would be more attractive if it was painted, then paint it!

The great thing about the antiques, rustic and vintage market is that there is room for a wide variety of styles. These styles, from totally restored oak furniture to recently painted pieces, can work well together in any decor.

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. Professionally trained woodworker, Dave, and his son Nick, specialize in the restoration of oak furniture. Shady Lawn, in its 24th year, has become a regional destination for oak furniture but 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](http://www.shadylawnantiques.com).



## Historic Roots of Current Painted Furniture Trend

by Dave Emigh

You would almost have to be blind not to notice the current painted furniture trend. It is everywhere from antique stores to vintage shops to anywhere that upcycled and repurposed furniture is sold. Design and furniture stores are currently selling painted and 'distressed painted' furniture that are direct from the factory.

So let's take a look painted furniture... Wait a minute, Dave, Shady Lawn Antiques is known as a regional destination for restored/refinished oak furniture and you are going to write about painted furniture? Yes, I want to address the painted furniture trend because it has both historic roots and it is currently quite popular.

So almost any antique mall, vintage and/or design store has multiple painted pieces of furniture on display. That furniture ranges from painted "some time" ago to the paint is barely dry.

Although it may seem like painting furniture is a recent trend, that is far from the fact. The tradition of painting furniture dates to the earliest days of the American colonies in the 1600s. A coat of 'whiting' was applied to the furniture to even out and smooth the surfaces before decorative paint was added.

Even today, an occasional piece of "painted" furniture from Tacoma's Pacific Furniture Company can still be found. In the early 1900s, the Pacific Furniture Company finished some of their furniture with an opaque glaze. Then a dark stain was applied with a graining tool to create the look of oak. This furniture often has a black-stenciled mark: "PAC OAK" (for Pacific Oak finish) on the back.

Pacific Furniture applied this "painted" finish when a piece was built from several different types of wood or when they thought that it enhanced the look of the finished piece of furniture. In fact, isn't that the reason that people currently paint furniture—to enhance the look?

We have had an early 1900s Kitchen Queen that was painted an off white color. The fact that "ivory" was stenciled on the back indicates that it was painted at the factory. So, some antique furniture came with an 'original' painted surface.

In the early 1900s, furniture was painted to freshen it up or to blend it into a new décor. Sometime in the 1920s, my grandmother painted a 1890s Oak Eastlake buffet that was at her cabin. She painted it green with black trim and purple on the inside—I often wondered if she had the paint or if she selected the colors?

My friend and neighbor has quietly built a reputation as the premier local restorer of just such early 1900s painted furniture. He and his wife



*This is a photo of a cabinet that my neighbor restored. The horizontal side pieces were added for strength and then were painted to blend in with the color of the cabinet.*

*This is the top of a Pacific Furniture Company buffet. The oak finish was "painted and grained" onto the piece at their factory.*



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have a knack for finding early, often primitive, painted pieces of furniture. Along the way, they have also developed a vision for repurposing these pieces.

They might add vintage wheels and a reclaimed wood top to an old industrial counter to create a kitchen island. On an 'open shelf' piece they might add doors. They often have to add or match paint to make the whole project visually coherent. Their pieces have always been both—painted "some time" ago and on some boards the paint is barely dry.

Attendees at Love of Junk, Walla Walla's Vintage Market, have seen their furniture. Several booths over from them was a vendor that displayed barn-found furniture. This farm furniture was painted some time ago and in fact had weathered to the chippy paint look that is so popular. There is no end to the varieties of historically painted furniture.

I have provided this brief look at painted furniture to provide a historical context for my next article on the current painted furniture trend. In a future edition of The Country Register, I will address the current trend of chalky painted furniture.

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 24th year, has become a regional destination for oak furniture but 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](http://www.shadylawnantiques.com).



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## Random Acts

by Maranda K. Jones

### Love Notes



"It's so hard to part with those sweet little notes.

I have a whole box of them." I agreed with the retired school teacher, Mrs. G, as I visited with her three granddaughters in my first grade class. "I do too!"

These little girls often wrote me notes inviting me to sit with them at lunch, and it was an offer I could never refuse.

I enjoy spending time with my students during the day, and running into them outside of the classroom, during church, or at a ball game is always fun. Mrs. G went on to say that you just get so attached to your students. Again, I agreed wholeheartedly.

Another student of mine chimed in, "I drew you a giraffe once. Do you still have it?" I turned to the 17-year-old who had joined my family for the day and told him probably. It seems that I get so attached to my students that I take them with me! My son joined the conversation and added that he had also drawn a picture of my favorite animal. The high school junior jokingly called him a copycat. My son said, "She's my mom!" only to be told, "Well, I've known her longer." Evidently students become just as attached to their teachers. This proved true with the retired teacher who was promptly approached by previous students with their own families ready for a reunion.

We parted ways and found our seats for the basketball game, but not without another friendly fight. Our three children all wanted to sit by our newest family member, who we now lovingly refer to as Number Four. It just fits. It matches the number he wears on his basketball and baseball jerseys. We are his biggest fans at ball games, and he is a big brother to our three. Our family feels more complete when he is around. He just fits. He's our Number Four.

When I had missed a few months of school for maternity leave, and he was missing me, Number Four and his mom came out for a visit. They took turns holding our baby boy and playing with our dog Shakespeare who had not been very accepting of our new arrival. He was used to being the center of attention and needed a new home. He quickly got one, becoming Number Four's canine companion. Ten years has passed, and so has Shakespeare, and so has his mom.

I first met this single mom at preschool registration. She was filling out paper work while her little boy with a perfectly round head full of short dark hair smiled at me. There was something about that moment that caused me to take notice, like God was telling me to pay close attention. She became an instant friend, a parent who respected me in the classroom, and a person I appreciated. I was a young teacher, praying for children of my own, and she supported me by letting me love hers.

When she called me at home to express concern the following year, I wondered if she was upset that I had disciplined Number Four that day. This was the first sign of any conflict in our relationship and the school year had been off to a rocky start anyway. I had been asked by the administration to remain with this particular group of children, becoming their kindergarten teacher at the end of the first quarter. While she and her son were pleased with the placement, I was unsure what this phone call would bring. She relieved my fears and gave cause to a new one. "He's worried you don't love him anymore. Will you please talk to him?" I remember telling him that I would always love him and that we would have a better day tomorrow. He remembers that too. That promise seems even more significant now.

Although I had erased the minor disciplinary issue from my mind, Number Four replays the incident often, reminding me of why he got in trouble that day. He was talking to another boy when they were supposed to be listening, and I asked him to turn a card. He had never changed his card from green to yellow on our school's behavior system before, and he was devastated. Later that same day, when he was army crawling under the tables across the room, he was asked to turn another card. He likes to remind me that he received a red card for writing me a note. I had no idea he was on a mission to find paper and an envelope so he could say he was sorry.

I may not have received that apology, but I do have that box full of pictures, drawings, and cards from students just like Mrs. G. And like many teachers, I refer to my students as my kids. They become family, a little world created by love, as the canvas by my front door notes.

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**Maranda Jones' new book *Random Acts* is now available at amazon.com.**

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## Over The Teacup Walking in Love



“In an effort to stay fit and healthy, I try to go to our local YMCA to walk around their indoor walking track. Before long you begin to see regulars that seem to keep the same schedule as you, as you see them quite often in your rounds.

Recently, there was an older lady with two tall canes walking in a somewhat bent over position. I remembered seeing her only once before. As we walked, I would pass her on several occasions. Each time I would feel led to say something to her. But, I didn't know what to say, as I didn't want it to sound condescending or demeaning. Finally on

my last round, as I was passing her, the words came flooding out. I told her quite simply, that I admired her for her tenacity, for her perseverance. The lady stopped, looked up at me and gave me the biggest smile. She said she appreciated my words and that I made her day. As I walked away, I thought what if I hadn't taken the time to convey those words of encouragement. It only took a minute, but the joy it brought to that lady, made me realize the power of our words, and if only we would take the time to express appreciation, love, or words of encouragement to those in our intimate circle, as well as complete strangers.

With the holidays upon us, I think of residents in nursing facilities, who may not even receive one Christmas card, or one visit from family during this holiday season. Sadly, there are residents who never receive visits at any time of the year. Having worked in a nursing facility for almost 20 years before opening my teahouse, I was very familiar with the painful reality when the holidays came around. Sadly, even family members who once sought their parents' advice, now find them to be almost invisible.

These residents spend 24/7 in a very limited environment. Even the ones that may seem happy are sometimes the ones who try harder to stay happy. This time of the year if they are fortunate to have the ability to recall events, they will recollect Christmases past. But then, they soon realize that those are just memories...memories that will not be relived because some family members are no longer with them, and of course they are no longer living in their home which was filled with laughter from family gatherings over the holidays.

This year why not reach out to a local nursing facility and inquire as to whether or not there might be someone who would benefit by a friendly visitor occasionally. As time goes on, you don't necessarily have to talk to the individual, if she/he is a little confused. Just holding hands or listening to music or reading from a book or the Bible can be a great resource of encouragement. For the resident it is the realization that someone cares enough to spend time with them. Treat them with respect, ask them questions if they are a higher functioning individual, talk over a cup of tea in a quiet lounge, (providing staff approves.)

Let this Christmas be a gift that keeps on giving. Find yourself a forever friend, and start visiting once a week, once a month, whatever your schedule can afford. If you have children, perhaps they could be included occasionally on your visits. You may never know the impact you may have on that person's life, but I can guarantee it will impact yours.

As for me, when I go back to the "Y", I hope my new friend is there, as I plan to start another conversation with her, and welcome her smile once more.

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



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## Back Porch Break

by Nancy Parker Brummett

### A Harvest of Memories

What is it about the first crisp morning of fall that brings a rush of nostalgia—especially to those of us with more than a few decades behind us?

Of course so many of our memories are back-to-school ones. Even before the temperature begins to change, several of the stores I frequent set out their offerings of school supplies. I blame back-to-school memories for the fact that I'm a glutton for the smell of new pencils and colored markers, the feel of fresh notebook paper, and the aisles of all things "back-to-schoolish." I have to stay away from such displays because one year I bought a purple binder I didn't need, well—just because it was purple!

Yes, the memories in the back-to-school category are plentiful indeed. I remember wearing a new plaid dress to the first day of school each year—the only new outfit I would have until Easter. I wore my hair in a ponytail throughout elementary school, but my mom would always take me to get my bangs permed before school started. I would show up looking like I had a Brillo® pad glued to my forehead! My school photos prove it.

But fall nostalgia doesn't stop there. At any age autumn makes us think of cozy sweaters, warm socks, hot chocolate in front of a fire, and front porches decorated with an array of brightly colored pumpkins and other gourds, corn, and mums. It's the time of year when we may go for a walk in an old jacket just for the joy of hearing the leaves crunch under our feet. Having an old dog as a companion completes the experience.

I grew up in Tennessee, so my memories of fall drives through Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg to the Great Smoky Mountains through the years are replete with recollections of the fall displays on every corner. No cornstalk or scarecrow goes unappreciated in that part of the country in the fall!

And of course fall means the return of football, as my husband is so quick to point out. For him, the nostalgia centers around two-a-day practices and the year he was a high school running back playing for the state championship! Ah, the glory days. When he sees the football team practicing early in the morning on the dew-covered field at the high school near our house, it all comes back to him.

My teenage football memories center around cheering at high school games, but that little girl with the curly bangs remembers watching her parents go off to University of Tennessee football games on September Saturdays. My mom always wore a wool suit (no matter how warm the temperature on game day), heels, and a bright orange mum corsage. I was sure she'd be the prettiest fan there!

For many farm families, fall brings more than a harvest of memories. It brings the actual harvest of the last of the crops and the joy of sharing the bounty with friends and family—or getting it to market. It's also a time to cut and bale the hay, storing it in the barn for winter. As a girl, I loved throwing my school books down as soon as I got home on warm fall days, running to the barn to jump on my horse, Dolly, and riding through the freshly mown fields near our house. The smell of hay still transports me there in an instant.

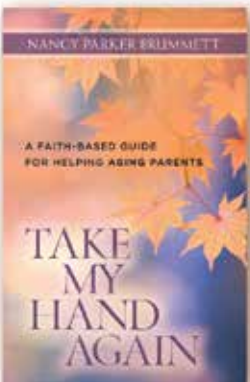
What about you? What memories of fall do you treasure? Savor the nostalgia this year. Let it seep into your soul like a bowl of steamy oatmeal on a frosty morning.

Welcome, fall! We've missed you.

Nancy Parker Brummett is an author and freelance writer in Colorado Springs, CO. "Like" her author page on Facebook, or to learn more about her life and work, visit [www.nancyparkerbrummett.com](http://www.nancyparkerbrummett.com).



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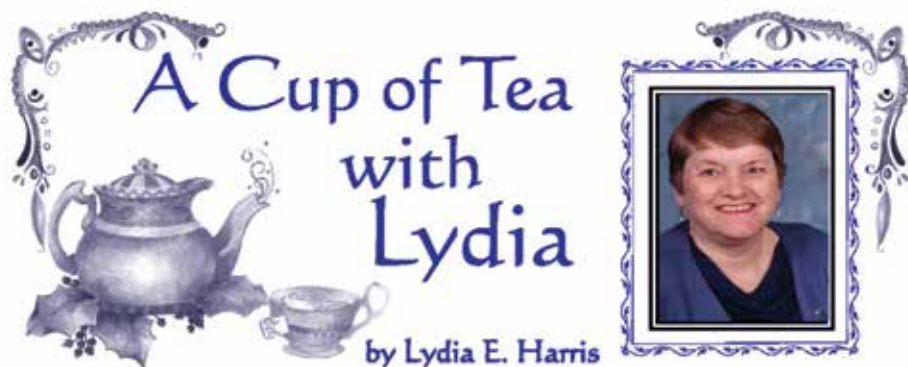


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## Apple-licious Teatimes

It all began with a book. And it changed my life. For my fiftieth birthday, a friend

gave me *If Teacups Could Talk* by Emilie Barnes. This book sparked my interest in tea and serving tea. It also prompted me to write "A Cup of Tea with Lydia," which has been a delightful part of my writing journey. Now my grandkids call me "Grandma Tea."

Since it's back-to-school time, books and apples make a fitting teatime theme. So let's combine them for an apple-licious tea.

### Start with Apples

Fall reminds me of the Glazed Fresh Apple Cookies from my childhood. The aroma of spices, the sweet taste of apples and raisins, and the crunch of walnuts made them extra delicious. I included the recipe along with a photo of my recipe card, which was handwritten by my father decades ago. What precious memories it evokes.

Of course, tea is essential. As the weather cools, a warm cup of tea makes me feel cozy inside and out. Consider a spicy blend such as Constant Comment or Chai. Or select apple-favored blends to go with your theme. Several brands offer a tasty Caramel Apple tea. For a simple teatime, serve cookies and tea.

To add to the menu, include other traditional tea foods with or without apples. For sandwiches, you can use raisin bread (crusts removed) spread with whipped cream cheese. Add thin slices of a juicy red apple, and top the sandwiches with another slice of bread. Cut the sandwiches into quarters to look like books.

For the scones, use a prepared mix or your favorite recipe. If you have an apple-shaped cutter, use it to cut the scones into apple shapes. Otherwise, circles or squares are fine. Serve them with apple butter or your favorite toppings.

### Apple Smiles

Thinking of books, I have spent this year writing a *Grandma-and-Me* cookbook. One of the recipes included is Great Grins. This would make a fun addition to your teatime. You'll need a red apple, whipped cream cheese, and white miniature marshmallows. Quarter the apple and remove the core. Use two 1/2-inch-thick slices for each set of lips. Spread a thin layer of cream cheese on one slice. Add 5 to 8 marshmallows (flat ends down) on top of the cream cheese to become the teeth. Spread cream cheese on another apple slice, and place the slice on top of the marshmallows for the upper lip. These sweet treats will make people smile.

### Plan Your Décor

Decorating and setting the table is my favorite part, and I love to include fresh flowers when possible. But for a simple, colorful centerpiece, fill a bowl or basket with apples. Mix yellow, green, and red apples, or use only one variety. Guests can take the apples home as favors.

You could also add books on the table. I have many tea books, large and small. But any favorite books would carry out a back-to-school theme and spark conversation. And from the Good Book, read Psalm 17:8, which says we are the apple of God's eye, meaning we are precious to Him.

## Guests

An apple-licious tea works for children, adults, or families. Whether you plan a back-to-school celebration for kids or moms, a Grandparents Day tea to honor grandparents (September 9), or a harvest-thanksgiving par-TEA later this fall to rejoice in God's bounty, consider adding apples to your menu and decorations.

### Back to the Books

As fall ushers in books and new learning, I think about how influential books are. The book *If Teacups Could Talk* started my tea and writing journey and changed my life in a positive way. I hope my *Grandma-and-Me* cookbook, scheduled for release in August 2019, will also impact others. Perhaps a reader will even say about my book, "It all began with a book. And it changed my life."

Fall is ripe with opportunities to harvest TEA-lightful memories. I'm ready to brew a cuppa tea and plan an apple-licious teatime. Will you join me?

*Lydia E. Harris, known as "Grandma Tea," wrote the book Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting (AMG Publishers). She holds a master's degree in home economics.*



From Lydia's Recipe File:

## Glazed Fresh Apple Cookies

**A recipe from my childhood. Enjoy these spicy cookies made with fresh apples.**

### Ingredients:

- 1 1/3 cups brown sugar
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 egg
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon cloves
- 1/4 cup apple juice or milk
- 1 cup peeled, diced apples
- 1 cup raisins
- 3/4 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

### Glaze:

- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 tablespoons scalded milk

### Directions:

1. Cream together the sugar and shortening. Mix in the egg.
2. Mix together the flour, soda, salt, and spices.
3. Blend half of the flour into the creamed mixture.
4. Stir in the milk. Then mix in the rest of the flour.
5. Add apples, raisins, and nuts and mix well.
6. Drop cookies by teaspoonfuls onto a baking sheet sprayed with nonstick spray.
7. Bake the cookies at 375 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes until brown around the edges. The cookies will still be soft.
8. Remove cookies to a cooling rack. Spread glaze on the cookies while they are still warm.

*Makes about 3 1/2 dozen cookies. Store them in a covered container in the refrigerator or freeze them.*





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## Clutter Happens When Collecting Takes Over—Purge!

by Julie Pirtle

Avid collectors have a penchant to have it all! Whatever it is that you are drawn to collect, chances are in your adventures you have collected duplicates. Gather your collections and sort them, putting like things together.

You probably don't need five red vintage Pyrex bowls so examine them, keep the best and release the rest. Selling the other four bowls will allow you to invest in other pieces that you are on the hunt for. If you find yourself with a huge collection that does not contain any duplicates, ask yourself if you are holding onto them because you like them or because they are just part of your collection. Keep the pieces that you treasure most. Again, keep the best and release the rest!

What if your collections are not something you have gathered, but were given to you? Many times, we find ourselves the keepers of our family's inherited treasures. Items that belonged to distant relatives are carefully packed away and follow us through our lives. Chances are you have such boxes packed away in the attic.

I have had clients whose homes were overflowing with antique furniture

that they felt obligated to keep because it was passed down to them. I have a thought for those of you who find yourselves in this position. You are not obligated to remain the keeper of things! If you have heirloom furniture that does not fit your style, let it go. Unpack the boxes from generations past and decide which pieces speak to you, but don't pack them back up. If they are important enough to you to keep, then they deserve a place in your day-to-day space. Find a way to incorporate them into your décor and ENJOY them! The rest of the furniture and items need to be released to the universe. Contact your relatives and ask them if they are interested in any of the treasures you are letting go of. Sell items of value. Anything remaining can then be donated to your favorite charity, giving other collectors the chance to discover them.

While I am on the subject of heirloom collections, I have found a common thread among my clients that is often perplexing—silver serving collections and china. Silver and china used to be the "things" that every new bride needed. These collections were revered and proudly passed down to the generations that followed (who, by the way, were getting their OWN collections of silver serving pieces and china when THEY got married! Generations later, these collections have multiplied and now sit in basements and attics, unused and packed away. Maybe you have such collections and are "saving" them to pass along to the next generation. Do your children a favor and ask them if they want them. If they don't, stop the guilt cycle of keeping things out of obligation and don't burden them with the responsibility of doing the same.

Another collection that almost everyone has way too much of is Christmas décor. We all love Christmas and the memories that it evokes. That is why going through your stash in December will never work. How can you get rid of that broken snow globe from days gone by when Bing Crosby is singing "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" in the background? You can't. Believe me. So NOW is the time to go through it all and be ruthless! While there will always be ornaments and décor that you will never be able to get rid of, most of your Christmas boxes are filled with decades of purchases that have become chipped, torn or are no longer cute. Styles change and so does your sense of décor. Let everything go that you have not used in the last couple of years. If it is important enough to keep, pack it up. You will thank yourself at Christmas time because decorating will be a breeze.



Now for the tricky question. How can you display the items that you have kept? Some ideas that have worked with my clients involve decorating with them. One client had a large collection of the aforementioned silver serving pieces. They had sentimental value and so we made a beautiful wall display above her fireplace. Another client had been lugging boxes of his childhood toy trucks around for decades. They had moved with him all over the world but never came out of their packing boxes.

We unpacked those boxes that had been closed up for forty years and he now displays them above his garage workbench. Both clients now enjoy these items on a daily basis as they bring joy to their lives.

Being overwhelmed with an abundance of items takes the joy out of what you have so carefully collected. Challenge yourself to go through your collections. Downsizing to a manageable number of items is liberating and allows you to enjoy them again.

*Julie Pirtle is a Professional Organizer and enjoys helping the "clutter challenged." She hails from Oregon and now lives in Mesa, AZ. She has been organizing her entire life and made the move to turn it into a business in 2012. Her business experience lends itself well to organizing everything from kitchens to garages but her passion for scrapbooking and crafting has attracted many to use her skills to create functional space in their crafting rooms.*





Leaves a Falling

by Marlene Oddie

Although I consider myself more of a summer gal (think barefoot!), my coloring is 'winter,' but I love the colors in nature that abound in the Fall!

Last year I hosted my first retreat on Hayden Lake, Idaho, at Camp MiVoden. They had not hosted a quilting retreat before so we were sort of testing the facilities to see if this could work. We had a roomful of ladies who enjoyed the immense amount of natural light in the room—great lights at night, too—a swimming pool, hot tub, campfire and s’mores if we asked. The surrounding area gave us the ability to just go and sit on the beach lakeside or walk among the changing leaves in the forest when we needed some fresh air or a break from



focusing on our stitches. I’m excited to be hosting it again this year with additional ‘features’ for learning and giving back if participants choose. More details at [www.kissedquilts.com/events.html](http://www.kissedquilts.com/events.html).

In August of this year, I lost my father. Although his leaf has fallen, my mother, sister and I remain strong in our faith that we will see him again on that great Resurrection morning. He was very brave in his decisions at the end as he was not afraid to die. He had end stage renal failure and had been on peritoneal dialysis for almost three years. Ultimately his diabetic neuropathy made it too painful to move and there was no quality of life remaining. We were all able to gather for a few days before he went to sleep. He knew he was loved and was looking forward to that next destination.

We know not when our time will come so cherish every moment you have with your loved ones. Choose Good, not evil.

Every September 11 I’m reminded what brought me to quilting. In the events of that day many years ago, I wondered, if I had been in a tower or on one of those planes, what legacy would I have left. This thought motivated me to attend a quilting class where I improvisationally made a quilted flag and the rest is history. The quilt hanging in the lakeside photo above uses the “Autumn Grace” collection from Island Batik fabrics. It went through several names but ultimately it reminded me of “City Windows” with the variety of colors that appear from the windows in an overcrowded apartment block. The pattern is available in print or as a pdf download from <http://www.kissedquilts.com/shop/Patterns.htm>. My design criteria was to maximize fat quarters even if they have a directional design. The pattern has instructions and fabric requirements for 11 different sizes (6 – 30 fat quarters). Be inspired from nature and show me what you come up with!

Marlene Oddie ([marlene@kissedquilts.com](mailto:marlene@kissedquilts.com)) is an engineer by education, project manager by profession and now a quilter by passion in Grand Coulee, WA, at her quilt shop, Kissed Quilts. She enjoys long-arm quilting on her Gammill Optimum Plus, but especially enjoys designing quilts and assisting in the creation of a meaningful treasure for the recipient. Patterns and kits are available at <http://www.kissedquilts.com>. Follow Marlene’s adventures via <http://www.facebook.com/kissedquilts>, <http://kissedquilts.blogspot.com>, instagram [marlene.kissedquilts](https://www.instagram.com/marlene.kissedquilts), twitter [@kissedquilts](https://twitter.com/kissedquilts), and pinterest [marleneoddie](https://www.pinterest.com/marleneoddie).



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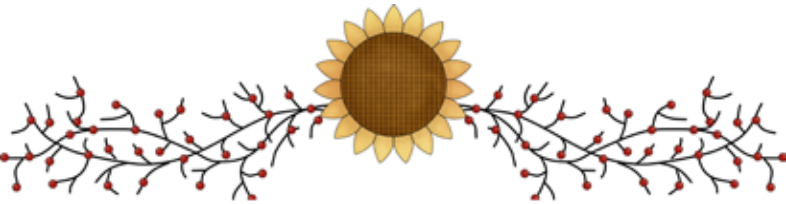
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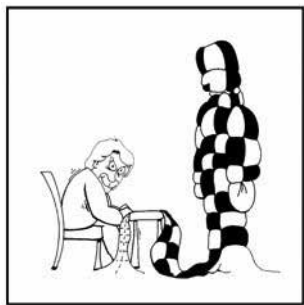
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## Building Harmony The Ghost of Bruce

by Jeff Capps

These things start innocently enough. Rene, my neighbor who owns the acreage across the street from us, has a real sense of humor. On Halloween, he likes to pull practical jokes. The first year he toilet-papered the tree outside our house. When his dogs came around, I toilet papered them and sent them home. Unfortunately it rained. They got home covered in mud and toilet paper stuck all over them. What a mess.

So, the next year, he stepped it up with the old flaming paper bag of dog poo on my doorstep trick. I can't believe I fell for it. I'll never be able to wear those slippers again.

I stewed over that one for a whole year. The next Halloween, I'd have to put one over on him. The plan had to be simple but scare the tar out of this guy. I spent hours pacing around my workshop, looking for an inspiration. I made sketches, drank pots of coffee, conducted experiments and, just when I was about to give up in despair, it hit me like a lightning bolt between the eyes! I came up with something so sinister, so genius, so monumentally wicked that only the devil himself could approve.

That's when I invented Bruce.

Bruce was a six foot six mannequin made out of rolled foam rubber and duct tape. In the right light, he was an imposing figure and, with a flat head, he looked something like Frankenstein's monster.

There was a storm brewing outside while I was building him on my workbench. I spent hours of intense rolling and duct taping to make him perfect. I even drew an evil happy face on him with a felt marker. When I was done, I sat him upright on the bench and stood back to get a good look at my creation. Pleased with myself, I yelled to the gods, "He's alive!" Lightning struck outside. Bruce's head flopped over and fell off. Then one of his lower legs dropped to the floor. I got another roll of duct tape.

Bruce had a habit of scaring the crap out of Cathy. At over six feet, he was too big to put in a closet so I would leave him sitting in a chair or standing in the corner of a room. Catching him out of the corner of her eye startled her every time.

"Get that thing out of the living room," she demanded. "He's scaring everyone who comes in here!"

She was right. I needed to get him out of sight. I stood him up in a corner of our bedroom next to Cathy's side of the bed where I was sure no one would see him.

\*Note: Other bad places to store your six-foot scary mannequin—shower stall, kitchen table, back seat of the car, and the spare bedroom when you have guests. Even the dog avoided rooms where Bruce could be.

By the time Halloween came around, Cathy was all nerves and the dog lived under our bed. But it was all worth it, though, because tonight was the night I'd get even for my ruined slippers.

My plan was fiendishly simple. I'd lean Bruce up against Renee's front door and ring the doorbell. When Renee answered, Bruce would fall on him, Renee would scream like a little girl and I'd run off into the night laughing. Perfect plan—right? I got ready.

The sun had gone down, so I had my black night skulking clothes on, shoe polish on my face, and a flashlight. I was ready. I picked up Bruce, threw him over my shoulder and squeezed him out the door. Getting him through the forest was a little rough and Bruce took some damage.

By the time I got to Renee's driveway, Bruce was getting heavy. Renee's gate was closed. I tried heaving Bruce over the 6-foot iron gate. He got hung up on the top. As I was climbing over, one of the spikes on top caught the back of my pants and ripped them open. After 10 minutes of wrestling and pulling, Bruce and I fell to the driveway. I dragged his heavy carcass over the gravel to the house. By this time, Bruce was looking pretty rough.

Now the moment! I managed to lean a very flimsy Bruce against Renee's door and rang the doorbell. As I ran away, I could hear Renee's dogs barking. I stopped aways away in the dark to see what was going

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## Tips From Lesley's Kitchen

by Lesley R. Nuttall

Sometimes a few good old fashioned ideas can save time and money. Now in my 70 plus years, I have found some of the following tips to be very helpful in my own kitchen. I hope they are useful to you as well.

1. Carrots cook quicker if they are sliced on a slant instead of across the carrot.
2. A good trick to stop water from boiling over when cooking vegetables, is to put a wooden spoon across the top of the pot. It works every time.
3. To have fresh garlic when you need it, just break the garlic buds apart; don't peel the cloves; put them in a freezer bag in the freezer. Take out 1 or 2 at a time as needed.
4. Make onions easier to chop by placing them in the freezer for ½ to 1 hour before chopping them. They will be easier to chop, and there will be no tears.
5. To get rid of onion or garlic odor from your hands, rub them with lemon juice.
6. To keep strawberries from becoming waterlogged, wash them, leaves and all before hulling them. It makes a big difference.
7. If eggs float in your pot, toss them because they are old. Fresh eggs will sink to the bottom.
8. Freeze left over sauce in an ice cube tray. When frozen, dump them into a freezer bag and put the bag back in the freezer. Take out 1 or 2 at a time as needed.
9. To get more juice from a lemon or an orange, roll the fruit while applying a bit of pressure. You will be surprised at how much more juice you will get.
10. When measuring something sticky, like peanut butter or honey, spray or wipe the measuring cup with oil first and it will slide right out of the cup. It also makes the cup easier to wash.

Helpful tips can make your cooking 'easier' and you 'happier'!

©2018 Lesley R. Nuttall. Lesley R. Nuttall is the author of "Secrets of Party Planning" and lives in Dryden, Ontario, Canada with her husband.

on. I just had to look.

The door opened. Bruce fell in. The dogs began to rip him apart and then they spotted me. I almost made it over the gate when one of them grabbed my pant leg and dragged me down. In an instant, I knew how Bruce felt.

Cathy didn't even look up from her laptop when I walked in with my clothes shredded and my shoe polish smeared.

"Where have you been?"

I told her I went for a walk.

"That's nice." She went on typing.

I took a shower to wash the blood and shoe polish off.

The next day I found my truck filled with finely ground foam rubber and duct tape (saturated with dog spit). There was a note taped to my windshield. It said, "Better luck next year. Love, Renee."

Well, back to the drawing board. I have a whole year to stew over this one...

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# AirThread 2000D

## Serging Simplified

The JANOME AT2000D Professional unites ease-of-use with the specialised function of an advanced serger. It's our easiest to thread overlocker ever; just push the lever and the air will blow the threads through the loopers. Sewing specialty fabrics is a breeze with the 8-piece feed dog, specially designed sewing foot, 5-level foot pressure control and a wide, flat work area.

- One Push air threading system
- Built in needle threader
- 8 Piece feed dog system



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