

# The Ultimate Accessory that Fits Virtually Anywhere

Introducing THE Dream Fabric Frame that maximizes your workspace and unlocks the potential of your advanced Brother Sewing and Quilting machines. Paired up with select models, you'll enjoy enhanced capabilities - all at your fingertips.



# Expand your horizons and take on the projects of your dreams!

Includes SureStitch stitch regulator for enhanced control during free motion sewing

Multi-function foot control brings enhanced features within reach

Adjustable legs let you work standing or sitting

Compatible with the following machines that are available separately: XV8550D, VM6200D, VM5100, VQ3000, VQ2400, PQ1500SL

# Visit an authorized Brother dealer today to find out more!

Amherstburg Rose Cottage Quilt Shoppe (519) 730-1172

All About Sewing Machines (705) 252-5700 Brampton

Sewlutions (905) 459-9893

Cornwall Giroux Sewing Centre (613) 938-8455 Etobicoke Cloverdale Sewing Centre (416) 231-1159

Guelph Triangle Sewing Centre (519) 822-9910

Hamilton Nova Sewing Centre (905) 549-8052

Kingston Stitch by Stitch (613) 389-2223 **London** Nova Sewing Centre (519) 681-4458

London Nova Sewing Centre (519) 601-5325

Millbrook Kawartha Quilting & Sewing (705) 201-5262

New Liskeard Gem Sewing (705) 647-4849 Newmarket That Sewing Place (905) 715-7725

Niagara Falls Niagara Sewing Machine Services (905) 358-5710

North Bay Northland Total Sewing Centre (705) 472-9970

Ottawa Ottawa Sewing Centre (613) 695-1386 Scarborough Sew Here Sew Now (416) 282-0440

Sudbury Dominion Sewing Centres (705) 673-2443

Toronto World Sew Centre (416) 536-9000

Windsor D&R Vacuum & Sewing Centre (519) 948-5021

To find other authorized Brother dealers, visit brother.ca/findadealer



December / January 2019 3



# In this Issue

About Our Cover Art
Count Down to Christmas Calendar
Free Patterns
Map 20
Recipes

103 - 575 Lacolle Way, Orleans, ON K4A 5B6 • 613-612-8465 **Email:** OntarioCountryRegister@gmail.com www.OntarioCountryRegister.com

> **Harriet Ramos** Publisher/Editor

**Cathy Shoemaker** Design/Layout



Country Register Publishers' Contact Information

The Country Register is a United States and Canadian network of independently owned and published specialty newspapers for the consumer who enjoys outstanding shopping, events, day & overnight excursions and specialty classes.

• Indicates these editions are available on-line at www.countryregister.com

### **CANADA**

- Alberta: Ruth Burke, P.O. Box 97, Heisler, AB, T0B2A0, 780-889-3776 British Columbia: Bryan Stonehill, Box 1338, Summerland, B.C. VOH 1Z0, 1-800-784-6711
- Manitoba & Saskatchewan: Scott & Marj Kearns, Box 850, Kipling, SK, SOG 2S0, 306-736-2441
- Ontario: Harriet Ramos, 103 575 Lacolle Way, Orleans, ON K4A 5B6, 613-612-8465

- Arizona: Barb Stillman and Lolly Konecky, 515 E. Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085, 602-942-8950
- Arkansas: Richard and Lenda Brown, P.O. Box 32581, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, 405-470-2597
- California & N. Nevada: Barb Stillman and Lolly Konecky, 515 E. Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085, 602–942–8950 Colorado: Jan & John Keller, 16755 Oak Brush Loop, Peyton, CO, 80831, 719-749-9797
- Connecticut: Dave & Amy Carter, P.O. Box 365, New Market, MD, 21774, 866-825-9217
- Delaware: Merle and Gail Taylor, P. O. Box 1330, Powell, OH 43065, 888-616-8319
- Florida: Dave & Amy Carter, P.O. Box 365, New Market, MD, 21774, 866-825-9217
- Georgia: Linda Parish, P.O. Box 389, Lexington, GA, 30648, 706-340-1049
- Idaho (N): Kelsey Ruzicka, P. O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717 605-568-0181
- Idaho (S) WA & E. OR: Barb Stillman and Lolly Konecky, 515 E. Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085, 602–942–8950
- Illinois: Richard and Lenda Brown, P.O. Box 32581, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, 405-470-2597
- Indiana: Gail & Merle Taylor, P. O. Box 128, Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763, 888-616-8319 lowa: Linda Glendy, P.O. Box 6, Tama, IA, 52339, 641-751-2619
- Kansas: Cindy Baldwin, 988 9th Ave., McPherson, KS 67460, 866-966-9815
- Maine: Deborah Daney, 660 Country Club Rd. Sanford, ME 04073, 207-324-7482
- Maryland: Dave & Amy Carter, P.O. Box 365, New Market, MD, 21774, 866-825-9217
- Massachusetts-RI: Dave & Amy Carter, P.O. Box 365, New Market, MD, 21774, 866-825-9217
- Michigan: Bill and Marlene Howell, 3790 Manistee, Saginaw, MI, 48603-3143, 989-793-4211
- Minnesota: Kim and Mickey Keller, 12835 Kiska St. NE, Blaine, MN, 55449, 763-754-1661
- Missouri: Richard and Lenda Brown, P.O. Box 32581, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, 405-470-2597 • Montana: Kelsey Ruzicka, P. O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717 605-568-0181
- Nebraska: Barb Stillman and Lolly Konecky, 515 E. Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085, 602-942-8950
- Nevada (N): Barb Stillman and Lolly Konecky, 515 E. Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085, 602-942-8950
- Nevada (S): Glena Dunn, 4568 Carol Circle, Las Vegas, NV, 89120, 702-523-1803
- New Hampshire: Michelle Hatch, 20 Chester St., Chester, NH 03036, 603-571-1822 • New Jersey: Merle and Gail Taylor, P. O. Box 1330, Powell, OH 43065, 888-616-8319
- New Mexico: Jan & John Keller, 16755 Oak Brush Loop, Peyton, CO, 80831, 719-749-9797
- New York: Dave & Amy Carter, P.O. Box 365, New Market, MD, 21774, 866-825-9217
- N. Carolina: Barb Stillman and Lolly Konecky, 515 E. Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085, 602-942-8950
- North Dakota: Kelsey Ruzicka, P. O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717 605-568-0181
- Ohio: Barb Moore, P. O. Box 37, Cable, OH, 43009, 937-652-1157
- Oklahoma: Richard and Lenda Brown, P.O. Box 32581, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, 405-470-2597
- Oregon: Barb Stillman and Lolly Konecky, 515 E. Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085, 602-942-8950
- Pennsylvania: Merle and Gail Taylor, P. O. Box 1330, Powell, OH 43065, 888-616-8319
- Rhode Island: Dave & Amy Carter, P.O. Box 365, New Market, MD, 21774, 866-825-9217
- S. Carolina: Barb Stillman and Lolly Konecky, 515 E. Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085, 602-942-8950
- South Dakota: Kelsey Ruzicka, P. O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717 605-568-0181
- Texas: Richard and Lenda Brown, P.O. Box 32581, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, 405-470-2597
- Utah: Available. Contact Barbara Floyd, 602-321-6511
- Vermont: Michelle Hatch, 20 Chester St., Chester, NH 03036, 603-571-1822
- Virginia: Merle and Gail Taylor, P. O. Box 1330, Powell, OH 43065, 888-616-8319
- Wash. & E. OR & S. ID: Barb Stillman and Lolly Konecky, 515 E. Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085, 602-942-8950
- West Virginia: Dave & Amy Carter, PO Box 365, New Market, MD, 21774, 866-825-9217
- Wisconsin: Scott & Jennifer Hughes, P. O. Box 276, Altoona, WI, 54720, 715-838-9426
- Wyoming: Kelsey Ruzicka, P. O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717 605-568-0181



# Targeted, Effective Affordable Advertising

Deadline for the February/March Issue is

January 15th, 2019

Read our papers online

www.OntarioCountryRegister.com

# The Country Register of Ontario December / January 2019 Issue

The Country Register of Ontario is published every other month. Copyright ©2019. Reproduction or use, without written permission, of editorial or graphic content in any manner is prohibited by law. The Country Register of Ontario is registered as a trade name in the province of Ontario.

Articles published in this newspaper, which are contributed from an outside source, express the opinions of their authors only and may not express the viewpoint(s) of the management or staff of *The Country* Register of Ontario. Such articles that are accepted for publication herein may be edited at the sole discretion of the publisher.

Responsibility for products advertised in this newspaper lies with the advertisers themselves. Though The Country Register of Ontario will not knowingly publish fraudulent materials or fraudulently obtained materials we are not liable for any damages arising from the purchase or use of products advertised herein. Notification regarding any consumer complaints related to merchandise purchased from our advertisers would be appreciated and would assist in our effort. Copyright © 2019 by The Country Register of Ontario.

# Dearest Readers,

Winter is here! With it brings, cold weather, warm fires, sparkling snow, family gatherings and much more. I would like to share a little poem my sister wrote for the occasion.

# **Awaiting Santa Clause**

Seeing the children laugh and playing in the snow
Waiting for the sled, reindeer and the Ho! Ho! Ho!
Wrapping the cotton around the snowman
Cooking the turkey and smelling the ham
Decorating the tree with quilting pleasures
Wrapping the presents of Christmas treasures
Holding hands with people who care
Smiles, love and hot chocolate to share
Putting down the passion to sew
Searching with our hearts seeking mistletoe
Wishing everyone a season of Christmas cheer
Those close to us and remembering those so dear
Let's smile and take a pause
As we await our Santa Claus!

-Donna, Ottawa

Enjoy the holidays! May they be full of Christmas cheer! Have a healthy, happy New Year!

Cheers. Havriet

# 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

# From Jill, the crafty master-mind behind **Create.Craft.Love.**

"Ever since Reed was born, we have been trying to establish our own holiday traditions. Now that he is older and can actively participate, this time of year is filled with so much joy! I love seeing the smile on his face as

we put up the Christmas tree or his exclamations of satisfaction as he licks the cookie dough from the bowl. I feel like every holiday season we are in a constant mode of rush, rush. I created this **Christmas Traditions Printable** (a new tradition for every

day leading up to Christmas) to remind us to slow down and savor the memories." - Jill

# www.createcraftlove.com {countdown to christmas} 75 family



cneatecnaftlove.com

# Meet our cover artist: Richard De Wolfe



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

The art of Richard De Wolfe has been very popular ever since his first one-man show at the

age of eighteen. That show was a sell out, supplying him with commissions for many months after. He went on to spend twenty-five years as an illustrator, producing paintings for national and international corporations such as General Motors, Pepsi-Cola, and Sony.

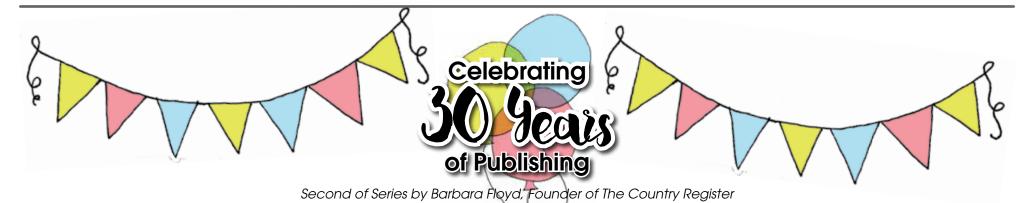
"I believe that working as an illustrator was the best training I could possibly have had. The wide variety of subjects and tight deadlines forced me to hone my skills and become very proficient as a painter. I feel that many of the finest painters alive today are former illustrators," Richard says.

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

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

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

December / January 2019 5



Here I am knowing this article is due in a few days and for me it takes a deadline to motivate action. So on this beautiful fall day in Phoenix, AZ, instead of being on my usual morning stroll I rolled out of bed at 6:30 a.m. It was barely getting light and just like I did for so many years in the past I began to write very early in the day. Here are some memories of how The Country Register started and grew.

Laying on my desk are the first three years of The Country Register of Arizona. I have only made it through the first issue. Such memories it holds! Yes, I have a copy of each paper I published in Arizona, filed in order of their dates. December-January 1988-1989 and ending with December-January of 2011-2012. They all fit in one big plastic container.

Computers were not part of my life in 1988...yet! So, our first editions were produced the old fashioned way of waxing the back of each ad and each article one by one and placed, hopefully straight, on "flats" and hand delivered to the printer. It was a process I loved. All the "pieces" were hired done at a local area newspaper office by their typesetter for \$15 an hour. It did not take too many hours on that first issue of eight pages, 25 ads, and large type on the few articles. It was the days of geese....our shop was named The Country Goose so one of the articles was called "Goose Gossip". My middle daughter was my business partner and she had just turned twenty one. Doing the paper was her idea and years later she was living in Atlanta, GA and started The Country Register there.

In that first issue there was a special thank you to Wayne and Lorraine Williams, publishers at that time of Oregon's Country Connection Courier. We loved finding that paper in Tillamook, OR while visiting relatives. That publication was our motivation for starting The Country Register. I made one call lasting about 45 minutes to Lorraine while she generously shared with me how to go about doing this. At that time little did I know that one day in my Arizona home office we would be publishing The Country Register of Oregon, and Washington and Nebraska as well as The Antique Register of Arizona. Of course there are stories behind each of those happenings.

Two of the advertisers from thirty years ago are still in business. One has changed ownerships a few times but is still known as The Country Maiden which started in Tempe and for many years now has been a part of Catlin Court in Glendale. The other store, Fancy That! with the same owner, moved from Phoenix many years ago to Prescott and has become two stores. Country decor was the buzz word, some primitives, and you can be sure there were a lot of mauve, hunter green and blue geese perched somewhere in some form in most of these shops.

By issue two we had our first quilting store on board and many of our readers from all over will remember The Quilted Apple. That industry began to thrive. On issue number three my son, Brook Floyd was twelve and had just won first prize in Crayola's National Drawing Contest. So, he drew our third cover art. In his early twenties he was my graphics designer and told me the day he started that this would be the last issue I would lay out manually. When I told him that was the part I loved doing he was so right when he said, "Trust me, you will never miss this".

By issue four we became 12 pages with smaller, normal size print and by our 5th and 6th editions we were 16 pages and in that 6th edition there was an ad for Gooseberries Tea Room and Gift shop. There is that goose thing again. I had dreams of serving gooseberry pies but could never find any so homemade bread pudding and cinnamon rolls became our signature dishes.

Well, this has gotten us through exactly one year, six issues of The Country Register and its progress. The Country Register had pulled together a whole community in the state of like minded readers and started advertising it was interested in expanding to other states. Check back next issue for this continued story because expanding is what happened.

Barbara Floyd enjoys her downsized lifestyle in Phoenix, AZ, and her visits to see children and grand and great grand children 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@countryreaister.com.

# Favorite Winter and Holiday Swedish Meatballs

from Barbara Floyd's Kitchen

Collecting cookbooks and recipes has been a favorite pastime of mine although I have given away most of my recipe book collection so it now fits in one smaller cupboard. In 1993, I actually had 1,000 cookbooks printed using mainly family and friends recipes plus past covers and features from issues of The Country Register.

Called The Country Register Collection & Cookbook, it is the one that is still most used because it is filled with so many memories of fun times with family and friends through the years! One of my favorite recipes is for Swedish Meatballs from my sister, JoAnn Peterson, now of Pasco, WA. We used to go to Jo's and her husband Ron's cabin south of Flagstaff, AZ, and she would substitute elk for the beef.

The largest batch of meatballs I ever made was when my three girls and I made this recipe for 100 people to celebrate JoAnn and Ron's 50th wedding anniversary in Phoenix where they had raised their four children. Our children still use this recipe. In fact, my oldest daughter Brenda just told me it was on their menu for a belated Thanksgiving dinner with her family. Of our combined eight cousins raised about a mile apart in Phoenix, six of them live in the Pasco area and Walla Walla in Eastern Washington.

### **Auntie Jo's Swedish Meatballs**

# Meatballs:

1 lb. lean ground beef

1/2 lb. ground pork (easily available at holiday time)

1T butter

1/4 cup finely chopped parsley

1 1/2 cup soft bread crumbs

1 cup light cream (Half & Half works well)

1/2 cup chopped onion

1 egg

1 1/4 teaspoon salt

Dash of pepper, ground ginger, ground nutmeg

### Gravy:

2T butter

2T flour

1 beef bouillon cube

1/2 tsp instant coffee powder

For meatballs, soak bread in cream about 5 min. Cook onion in 1 tablespoon of butter until tender but not brown. Mix meats, bread mixture, onion, egg, parsley and seasoning. Beat for five minutes at moderate speed with a mixer. (This makes a big difference so don't take any shortcuts here.) Shape into one and a half inch meatballs. Mixture will be soft. For easier shaping, wet hands or chill mixture first. Brown meatballs in a tablespoon of butter. Remove from skillet.

For gravy, melt 2 tablespoons butter in skillet with drippings. Stir in 2 tablespoons flour. Add 1 beef bouillon cube dissolved in 1 1/4 cup of boiling water and 1/2 teaspoon instant coffee powder. Cook and stir till gravy thickens. (Sometimes I used part water and part pre-made coffee because it was on hand.) Cook and stir until gravy thickens.

Add meatballs. Cover. Cook slowly about 30 minutes, baste occasionally. Makes 30 meatballs. Because we always make more than one batch at a time, we would just cook them in the oven until done. Best served with mashed potatoes.

Belleville • Trenton







KITCHENER Sewing Machines Ltd.

519-884-6981

LONDON

OAKVILLE

Fabric Ltd. 905-844-2782

PETERBOROUGH

705-653-5642

TORONTO

416-491-4431

www.elna.com

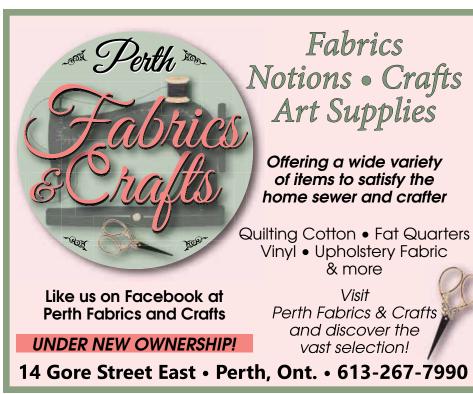
GATINEAU, QC

819-617-6777

BOWMANVILLE

#1 Sewing Ce 705-653-5642 Brockville • Perth







# 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 everchanging Shady Lawn inventory can be seen on Facebook and at www. shadylawnantiques.com.

Cornwall • Pincourt







Quilting Fabrics • Longarm Services • Creations

Where you go to find everything you need for your next quilting project.

Visit my online store or call today to set up an appointment

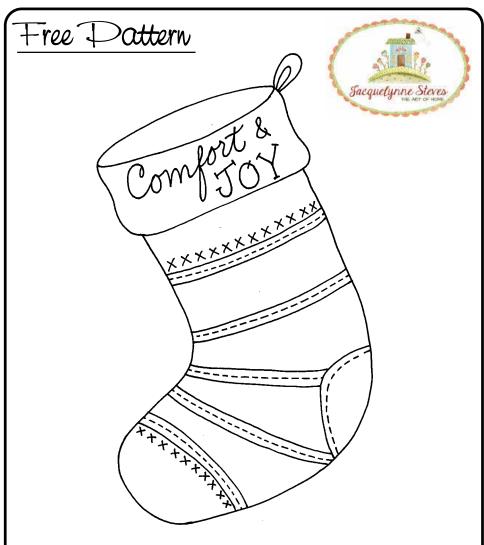
1727 des Pommetiers, Pincourt, QC J7W 0A5 • 514-425-0775 www.phyllishomedecor.com



Friday April 26th 10am - 6pm & Saturday April 27th 10am - 4pm



St. John's Presbyterian Church • 28 2nd Street E, Cornwall, ON



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

Free Embroidery Pattern!
May not be sold or used for commercial purposes. For more fun and creative inspiration, please visit:

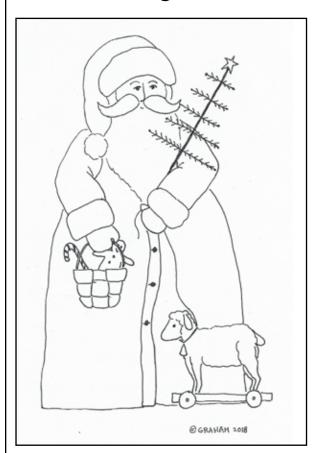
www.JacquelynneSteves.com

Chesterville • Russell





# Countryberries Designs



# Belsnickle

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. Have fun!

Designed by Kathy Graham

# Countryberries

Whimsies and necessaries for your country home and garden 330 North Road Deerfield, NH 03037

603-463-7615 www.countryberries.com





# SOCK MONKEYS TIS THE SEASON FOR SOCKNORMOUS FUN!

by Dee Lindner, Sock Monkey Lady®
(SockMonkeyLady.Com)

Every so often a heart-felt tradition is born that quietly gains momentum until it is recognized and embraced by an entire country. The ever-famous Rockford red-heel sock monkeys have risen to such an occasion and beyond with their universal charm. Search engine results on the words 'sock monkey' have yielded a 18,473% increase over a twenty year span. While this statistic is caused by a number of factors in the marketplace, few can refute sock monkey mania is spreading and sockitizing the world. Famed for their one-of-a-kind countenances, wide red-grins, colorful red bums, long gangly legs and tails, they engage us, they hold us spellbound, and their iconic parody of us makes us laugh. For decades they have been outrageous, silly, and fun.

# Sock monkeys appeal to all ages and spell fun in any language!

Red-heel sock monkey images adorn hand-made novelty items and commercial goods such as bedding, clothing, linen, slippers, and hats. Artists and authors immortalize sock monkeys in books, journals, greeting cards, paintings, jewelry, and quilt work. Even bakers adorn confectionaries with sock monkey images in celebration of birthdays, weddings, baby showers, and other occasions.

Crafters, entrepreneurs, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions embrace these zany, colorful figures. People create sock monkeys and sock monkey-themed gifts for family and friends or in support of fundraisers and charitable events. Some make it their business to 'monkey around' to supplement their incomes. Music, education, and medical professionals use sock monkeys as teaching and therapeutic aids in their fields.

For generations, our cuddly red-heel sock monkey companions have graced many lives. In the arms of care-givers, they have taken on inspirational roles of best friends, silent confidants, and security blankets, nurturing creative minds and healing wounded hearts with each and every hug. Is it any wonder that sock monkeys with their intrinsic value of simple pleasure and wholesome goodness have magically woven their way beyond America's hearts and homes?

# Time magazine named the sock monkey one of the top 100 most influential toys

How did such a phenomena begin? Our sock monkeys' socksational story began one stitch-at-a-time in the Midwestern town of Rockford, Illinois, where John Nelson and William Worth Burson resided. In 1866, they partnered to design a fully automated hosiery knitting machine. A patent on their first apparatus was granted in 1868. They continued to perfect their machine, and a few years later they were able to knit their first seamless sock and thusly revolutionize the knitting industry.

In 1877, Nelson and Burson separated their business interests. Nelson continued his endeavors in the knitting industry, with the eventual formation of the Nelson Knitting Company (NKC) in 1880. When Nelson died in 1883, NKC forged ahead. By the 1930s, other knitting companies were manufacturing socks similar to NKCs popular everyday socks—brown heather with cream colored toe, heel, and rib top—causing confusion as to which socks in the marketplace were genuinely the quality socks of NKC.

Cameron • Orleans

# MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR! Thank you for your patronage! Quilting Fabric, Homespun, Wide Backs, Books Paterns & Notions Quilters Inn Watch us on for weekly specials Hours: Wed-Saturday 10:00 - 4:00 also by chance & by appointment 4175 Hyway 35, Cameron, ON, KOM 1G0 • Studio/Cell 705-887-8499 www.facebook.com/Quiltersinn





Are you looking for a unique and fun project for your holiday decorations or gifts? Here's one that you might enjoy trying. I recently challenged a group of friends to use their creativity to design their own versions of a "Spoon Tree" and was very impressed with the fifteen very diverse trees that they created. Examples of the trees are pictured here.

### Supplies:

1 Paper Mache Cone Tree or make your own cone with poster board

Plastic Spoons (teaspoon size). Quantity will depend on size of cone you are using. I used 45 spoons on a 7" tree.

Spray Paint

Hot Glue Gun/Hot Glue

Embellishments

Optional - Lights, read directions below\*



# **Directions:**

Cut the handles off the spoons with wire snippers. I left a little of the handle at the neck of the spoon.

Spray paint both the cone tree and spoons the same color. Paint both sides of the spoons or buy colored spoons that do not need painting. You would still want to paint the base cone to match the color of your spoons.

Start at bottom and work around the base in a full circle. Hot glue the back of the spoon (concave side out) to the cone. Try spacing the spoons around the cone before gluing to get the best even spacing around the

Concave

cone. The bottom row will take the longest but it will be easier and go faster with each layer. Continue gluing each row until cone is completely covered.

Use spoons with concave side facing out or, for a different look, glue convex side out.

### **Additional Ideas:**

\*Add "lights" to your tree. Drill holes sporadically around the cone base of the tree and add lighting inside the cone. Or strategically drill holes as you glue spoons to the tree to add small LED battery operated lights in these holes on the tree.

Add "glitter" to the tips of the spoons before you glue them to the cone. Brush white glue on the tips and add glitter. Once the spoons are dry, coat them lightly with acrylic sealant. This will help keep the glitter from falling off.

Add embellishments to dress up the tree: beads, ribbons, small star for tree topper, artificial berries, etc. For a different look, use plastic forks instead of spoons.

Patty Duncan is an avid scrapbooker and digital storybook maker who loves holiday crafts. She lives in Glendale, AZ, where she spends lots of time spoiling her grandchildren. Patty works in the sales department of The Country Register.



Uxbridge



# Town and Country Cooking By Janette Hess

# Soup as an antidote



Ah, December! It's the month of non-stop eating. But sometimes, after days of heavy snacks and super-sweet desserts, all we really want is a bowl of soup. Satisfy your need for soup by trying one – or all – of these winter-appropriate recipes.

Created in a slow cooker, Cheese Tortellini Soup is an easy, one-dish meal. Try it vegetarian-style or with sausage. Either way, it just may become a new family favorite. Enchilada Soup is a flavorful blend of fresh ingredients and pantry staples. It, too, utilizes a slow cooker for easy preparation.

Salmon Chowder is traditional winter fare. When prepared with boneless, skinless salmon from a can, it comes together quickly on the stovetop. The mild Monterey Jack lends richness without overwhelming the flavor of the salmon.

Soups are the perfect antidote to holiday eating, so counteract all of the decadence with a freshly prepared pot of your choosing.

# **Cheese Tortellini Soup**

6 ounces cream cheese

OR 6 ounces white American cheese\*

4 cups vegetable or chicken broth

16 ounces frozen cheese tortellini

2 14½-ounce cans Italian-seasoned diced tomatoes

1 bag (5 to 6 ounces) fresh baby spinach

Freshly ground pepper

½ pound cooked, thinly sliced Italian sausage, if desired

Parmesan cheese, for serving

Cut cream cheese or American cheese into cubes. Place broth and cheese in microwave-safe dish. Heat until cheese begins to soften and melt. Remove from microwave and, using whisk or immersion blender, mix until smooth. Combine frozen tortellini, tomatoes and spinach in slow cooker. Pour broth mixture over ingredients. Sprinkle with freshly ground pepper. Cook on low for 2 hours. Carefully stir and then cook an additional 1 to 2 hours. If desired, add cooked Italian sausage shortly before serving. Offer grated or shaved parmesan cheese on the side. Makes approximately 10 servings.

\*This cheese is sold by weight in most deli departments.

# **Salmon Chowder**

3 tablespoons butter

1 generous cup finely chopped onion

2 cloves garlic, finely minced

6 tablespoons flour

5½ cups milk

2 cups frozen corn

1 14½-ounce can petite diced tomatoes

25-ounce cans boneless, skinless salmon, drained\*

2 teaspoons dill weed

1 teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon black pepper

1 cup (4 ounces) Monterey Jack cheese, finely grated

Cayenne pepper for garnish

Melt butter in soup pot or Dutch oven. Add onion and sauté until nearly soft. Add garlic and continue cooking until both onion and garlic are soft. Stir in flour. Add milk, corn, tomatoes, salmon, dill, salt and pepper. Cook and stir over medium-low heat until thickened, about 10 minutes. Add cheese and stir to combine. Remove from heat. Sprinkle with cayenne pepper before serving. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Note: Peeled, cooked shrimp or leftover grilled, flaked salmon may be substituted for canned salmon.

# **Enchilada Soup**

1 large boneless, skinless chicken breast

½ cup chopped onion

1 can red enchilada sauce

1 14½-ounce can diced tomatoes

4 cups unsalted chicken stock (from a box)

1 15-ounce can black beans, drained

2 cups frozen or canned corn

1 to 2 cups cooked rice

1 package taco seasoning mix

Sliced black olives, grated cheese and sour cream for garnish

Place chicken breast in slow cooker and cover with onion, enchilada sauce, tomatoes, black beans and chicken stock. Cook on low for 5 to 6 hours, or until chicken shreds easily. Completely shred chicken and then add beans, corn and rice. Adjust seasoning with taco mix, starting with ½ package and taste-testing until desired saltiness is achieved. Heat through and serve with garnishes. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

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.

Exeter • Mount Forest • Petrolia

(story continued from p. 8)

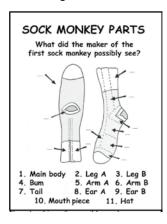
# American's get knit-picky

To differentiate NKCs socks from competitors, Howard Monk, a marketing/advertising genius, who in trade for office space at NKC, advised NKC to knit the heels of their socks with reddish-colored yarn. NKC trademarked this colorful feature in 1932. Their red-heel socks became known as the 'Nelson Original Rockford Socks'.

After NKC registered their colorful red-heel sock feature, someone somewhere in the United States, between 1932 and 1952, saw the shape of a monkey from within the folds of NKCs red-heel socks and crafted a sock monkey. While we will never know the name of this person—it is surmised that he or she was a crafty individual who created a sock monkey as a toy during the depression when funds were scarce. The monkey was more than likely given as a Christmas or birthday present. Regardless of the happenstance, this crafter's ingenuity was another stitch in the making of America's Red-Heel Sock Monkey Tradition.

In July, 1953, NKC astutely secured the sock monkey doll patent and soon after furnished free instructions on how to sew a red-heel sock monkey. In these instructions, NKC stated "Purchase of our Red Heel Socks carries with it the right to make Monkey Dolls under our Design Patent..." How to create a sock monkey and a sock elephant were included in these early instructions.

Over the next several decades, America's favorite work socks cushioned our way in farm fields, war, the workplace, sports, and beyond. These socks were shipped from NKCs plant in Rockford and conveyed by rail and truck to thousands of jobbers and dealers, including retail giants like Sears, Roebuck & Company. NKCs red-heel socks were available throughout the nation to wear or to create sock monkeys for gift giving to the delight of crafters.



# Anyone can now sew sock monkeys

When NKCs sock monkey doll patent expired in the 1970s, the sock monkey doll design moved into common domain. The path was clear for our sock friends and their magic to take a toe-hold in the world. Even though NKC closed its doors in 1992, their socks now termed 'vintage' can still be purchased in on-line auctions. 'Modern' redheel socks are plentiful in the marketplace.

Today, many variations of sewing instructions exist on-line about how to sew a sock monkey.

"Sew Cute and Collectible Sock Monkeys," is the most comprehensive instructions available in the marketplace—chockfull of tips on how to make your own monkey magic. Visit my website, sockmonkeylady.com for book order information and further inspiration.

# **More Socksational Fun!**

Perhaps you, too, may want to become a keeper of this tradition—a desire to make monkey memories and to share this fun-filled tradition with others. Christmas is a great time to express one's self with hand-made keepsakes and goodies for loved ones and friends to enjoy. Let your monkey mojo take hold—creativity knows no bounds when 'monkeying around'. You are only limited by your imagination!

# **Sockpendous Hand-made Goodies**

Let the magic unfold from a pair of red-heel socks and create your own 'ideal' sock monkey.

Purchase sock monkey-themed material and sew a sweet quilt or a spoofy neck-tie. Crochet, knit or sew a hat. Sew a pillow using an iron-on transfer of one of your sock monkey photographs for someone special! Think it—make it!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Artist and award winning photographer, Dee Lindner, Sock Monkey Lady®, has promoted America's Red-Heel Sock Monkey Tradition through her writing, photography, and creations for nearly thirty years. Her work has been featured on radio, television, in magazines, and newspapers across the U.S.A. Novelty products based on her photography have sold throughout the world by numerous publishers. She has written articles for newspapers and magazines, and has appeared on the cover of Country Woman Magazine. SOCKMONKEYLADY.COM











Vernon & Minerva Knorr 519-323-2693 084696 Southgate Rd. 08. RR # 2 Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0 Barrie • Severn







# CHRISTMAS COFFEE CAKE

350° 9 Servings

 $m V_{erry}$  moist — comes out just beautigully. Serve warm from the oven around the tree on Christmas morning. m f p

1 c. flour 1 tsp. soda 1/2 tsp. salt 1/2 c. cored, peeled, chopped apple 1 c. chopped fresh cranberries

1 stick runsalted butter, melted 1 egg, lightly beaten 1/2 c. light brown sugar 1/2 c. granulated sugar 1/4 top. ground cloves 1/4 top. ground nutmeg 1 top. ground cinnamon 1/2 c. chopped walnuts powdered sugar, for dusting

Preheat over to 350°. Sigt together flour, soda, & salt - set aside. Combine all remaining ingredients & mix rsell. Stir in flour mixture. Spread in a buttered 8 inch square baking pan. Bake 40-45 min., rutil benife inserted in center comes out clean. Let sit 10 min., cut into squares, sift over powdered sugar, & serve.



Ancaster • Floradale • Windsor



# Building Harmony **Ten**

by Jeff Cappis

This year marks the 10th year that Building Harmony has been published in *The Country Register* and the 30th year that *The Country Register* has been in print. Congratulations, Country Register!!!

Wow—it has been fun! My wife Cathy and I get papers from all over the U.S. and Canada. Some of our friends actually use them as travel guides and bring back papers from places they've travelled to.

I've heard back from many of you over the years and I must say I am flattered. Your gracious and kind emails have been the inspiration that keeps me going because, Lord knows, I'm not that profound a writer.

But 10 years? Looking back, Cathy and I have done a lot of living. Over many of these columns, we've watched our grandchildren grow up and our dog grow old.

Charles Schultz once said that doing a comic strip is like writing a new opera every day. Well, that hasn't been a problem for me. With the stupid stuff that goes on around here, the stories practically write themselves. We've had alien and bear encounters in two of our hot tub adventures, moose dancing under the fountain in our pond on a hot day, and a possessed ATV I affectionately call "Satan."

If you've followed the antics of our country neighborhood over the years, you'll know what an eccentric lot Cathy and I have to deal with. It's a "Green Acres" kind of thing. Don't tell them I'm blabbing their lives to a newspaper chain across the U.S. and Canada.

Just a little down the road from us is Renee. He's a strapping six foot, six inch retired French Air Force pilot with thick wavy hair who moved to our neighborhood to escape his romantic entanglements. Didn't work. What a fascinating guy, though. One of my favorite stories involves him being stuck in his garage with a bear while trying to prepare a romantic diner for his date. He's also a green fanatic. He built a solar farm that blew every light in the neighborhood and his gigantic windmill almost took off the top of his house. His inventions are epic.

Next to Renee are the Andolinis. Both of them emigrated from Italy some 60 years ago to build a life from nothing. They love each other and living on their country acreage. At times, Mrs. Andolini also loves yelling at Mr. Andolini, partly because he is always getting into trouble. I think that's also why he's sometimes hard of hearing.

We've visited with "Quiltin' Quinta," the ninety year old quilter who's lived here longer than anybody and knows the neighborhood's true history. She depicts its stories on quilts. Some you might have to keep away from the children. The rest will always keep us warm.

I enjoyed writing about the "Beer Mile" marathon. It was established by the guys in this neighborhood as a way to impress our wives with how in shape we really are. Of the last five years, we actually ran it once but that year a bear won. We drank a lot of beer organizing it, though.

Also, every year I've enjoyed writing three special stories—one for Halloween, one for Valentine's Day and one for Christmas.

I think my favorite Halloween story was one that involved a woman sitting alone in a dark corner of our empty local diner. I encountered her while we were both stranded there during a vicious lightening and rainstorm. I bought her a coffee with ghostly consequences.

Of the ten Christmas stories *The Country Register* has published, my favorite had to be Cathy's memory of being a little girl shopping with her mother at Christmas and the Christmas ornament she grasped all the way home—a mile through the snow. (That one made my mother cry so I consider that a success.) Other stories involved shopping for Cathy's Christmas present at the local dump; scaring the grandchildren with unintentional exploding Christmas displays; and a cantankerous turkey name Clyde that terrorized the neighborhood one Christmas.

I won't talk about any of the Valentine's stories, though. They only go to prove what a dumb schlock I am when I try to be romantic. But it is the



# Great Fabrics, Classes of All Levels, Machine Quilting, Quilt Finishing

Monday - Thursday 10:00 - 5:00 • Friday 10:00 - 6:00 • Saturday 10:00 - 5:00 356 Wilson St. E. • Ancaster, Ontario • 905-304-0180





thought that counts. Right?!

All of this, with a backdrop of nature and wildlife in God's country, make our stories easy to write.

Anyway, I gratefully thank *The Country Register* chain of newspapers for publishing my stories and sharing them with you for the last ten years. I hope to be writing stories for years to come.

With best Regards;

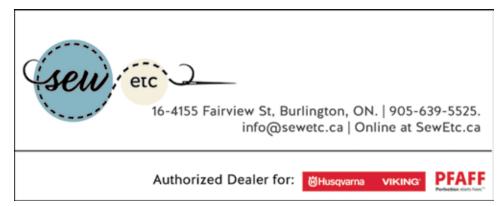
Jeff and Cathy

Copyright 2018 by Jeff Cappis. Email: jcappis@telus.net.

(Editor's note: Thanks, Jeff! We LOVE your stories and cartoons—and know our readers do, too! We will happily enjoy your continuing adventures for "years to come!")

Burlington • Maxwell • Shakespeare







# When What to My Wondering Eyes Did Appear

by Kerri Habben

Last year I met Santa Claus. Though I prefer St. Nicholas.

I wasn't seeking him. He was suddenly just there. It happened at two different grocery stores on the same day.

An article I had written about dancing with Santa Claus twenty years ago at an Oktoberfest had just appeared in The Country Register. In it I described how one evening he wore his red velvet and the next a red cap and overalls. And he had a very white beard.

On the 15th of November 2017, I was in one grocery store at the checkout. I had not found what we needed. Mom and I wanted a particular cut of meat for pot roast. It was to be our Thanksgiving dinner.

If you have followed my recent articles, you will remember my mother's illness and death. At this time, Mom had just finished radiation for brain lesions and couldn't walk from muscle weakness.

As I unloaded the groceries to pay, a package of grape tomatoes fell from my hand to the floor and scattered what seemed like everywhere. I froze. It was as if all my fears had suddenly just dispersed. Thankfully no one was behind me in line.

Until there was—a man with a red cap, overalls and a very white beard. He looked just like the man from the Oktoberfest two decades ago. I recovered enough to move my cart and the man gestured for me to stop with a wave of his hand.

"Stay still," he said softly. "You'll squish them." He proceeded to kneel on the floor and carefully retrieve every one of the grape tomatoes, all the while brushing aside my efforts to help.

### Stratford



I'd barely been able to say thank you when he was suddenly backing his way out of the checkout line. I realized he had nothing in his hands and had not brought anything to purchase.

All the way to the other grocery store that had advertised the meat we wanted, I wished that I could truly thank this kind soul and tell him why his gentle assistance had mattered so much to me.

Upon arriving, I made my way to the meat department and was standing there with the bottom round we wanted in my hand.

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear but the man with a red cap, overalls and an extremely white beard.

I am not ashamed to confess that I began to babble. It went something like this: "You're here. I am so glad. I cannot thank you enough and this is why." And I went on to explain about my mother. He listened patiently, his intent blue eyes never leaving mine.

The only actual words he spoke were, "I hope she'll be okay."

I reached out to touch his shoulder as we parted. Beneath my hand I felt muscle and bone. "God bless you, sir," I said.

When our world did indeed fall apart like the package of grape tomatoes, by the grace of God, it was reassembled. Only in a new and different way for us both.

I have called this man St. Nicholas, but I also wondered if he was an angel. It doesn't really matter because I know Who sent him.

My customary letter to Santa Claus this year will not be asking for anything. It will need a few sentences.

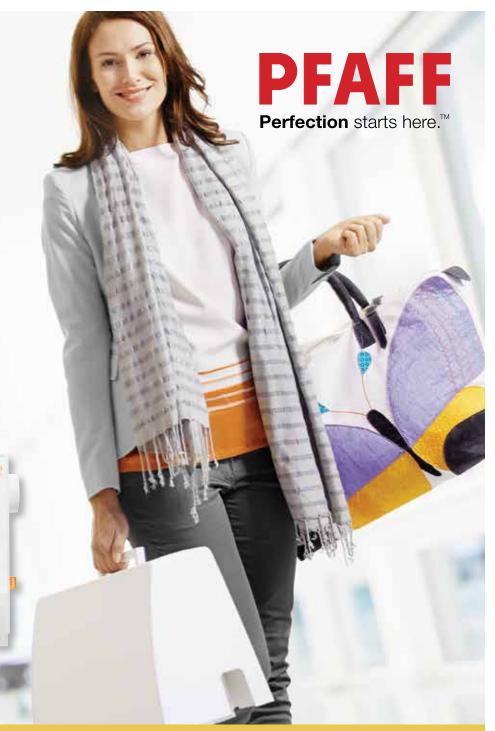
Perhaps this: Mom is okay. Thank you for everything.

And, as Tiny Tim sincerely prayed in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, God bless us everyone.

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 913 jeeves@gmail.com.







# The Original IDT™ System

Absolutely even fabric feed from both the top and the bottom.

# **Compact/Portable Sewing Machine**

Perfect for taking to classes and for travel (as lightweight as: 13.9 lbs / 6.3 kg).

# **PFAFF® Original Presser Foot System**

Many optional accessories are available to expand the sewing experience.

# **Up to 100 Stitches**

A wide variety of beautiful 7mm stitches.

# Beautiful Appliqué Pin Stitch

Adjustable; easy to achieve your desired result.



Specially designed to fit on a bookshelf or to take on-the-go to classes, retreats and more!





At Participating Canadian Dealers – Find Great Deals and Specials Offers In-Store – Contact Your Local Dealer Today!

Quilty Pleasures
Orleans
(613) 834-3044

Sewing Machine Hospital Ottawa (613) 729-4379 Century House Quilting Severn/Orillia (705) 326-3321 The Sewing Machine North Bay (705) 476-2739 Cochrane • Sturgeon Fallls • Thessalon











# Sockumptuous Monkey Bar Dee-Lites

Bake and decorate a cake or cookies sock-monkey-style. This Dee-lite-ful recipe adds a subtle wholesome sweetness with multidimensional flavor to your baking. Woody, nutty additives add an incredible 'wow' factor to its dense texture. Use your imagination to decorate this sweet indulgence.

3 Cups Graham crackers rolled fine/crushed

2 Egg whites

2 Tsp Baking powder

34 Cup Skim milk

1 Tsp Almond extract

4 Oz Unsweetened apple sauce

2.5 Oz Walnuts (chopped)

8 Oz Unsweetened dates (pitted and chopped)

2 Bananas, ripe (sliced)

In a bowl, combine graham crackers and baking powder. In another bowl, mix apple sauce, egg whites, skim milk, almond extract, and bananas on low speed until well blended. Add mixture to dry ingredients and mix together with spoon. Fold in walnuts and dates. Pour batter into a greased 8x8x2 pan. Bake in oven at 375 degrees on middle rack, approximately 35 minutes until edges pull slightly away from pan and an inserted toothpick comes out cleanly. Let cool. Run a knife around the circumference of the cake to release any edges stuck to the pan prior to removing the cake from the pan. Place on plate and decorate.



Cut into the shape of a spoofy sock monkey Santa Claus before decorating. Use separate bowls of icing: creamy white, red, and brown. Use food coloring to tint the icing if need be and add flavoring such as banana extract. Mints, chocolate covered raisins and coconut were added to complete this Santa's face. Decorate your cake with a design and goodies of your own choice.

17 December / January 2019



# Start the New Year with a Teatime Twist

Happy New Year! Let's celebrate with a new teatime twist. Instead of a traditional high tea with crustless sandwiches, scones, and sweets, let's add unexpected foods to create a fun and unique tea lunch. That's what I did for my friend Sylvia.

Sylvia read most of the 100 recipes in my cookbook that releases this August, so I prepared 12 recipes from In the Kitchen with Grandma for her to taste. This "samples tea," divided into three courses, was served with a different type of tea for each course.

# Souper First Course

We started with A-maze-ing Corn Chowder with Sausage and Easy Batter Bread. These recipes appear in the fall section of my cookbook, but they taste delicious any season—especially on a brisk winter day.

The Easy Batter Bread was inspired by a recipe from Oma Rosemarie in Indonesia. It smells so appetizing while baking that it's hard to wait to munch on its crisp crust and soft center. "How sweet," Sylvia said as she saw the heart-shaped butter pats I had cut with a small cookie cutter.

I rounded out this course with a veggie cup, homemade Ranch Dip, and a fruity turkey favor for each person—made with an unpeeled mandarin orange and grapes on toothpicks for a head and tail feathers. Our beverages included sparkling cider and peach herbal tea.

# **Hearty Second Course**

Next, we enjoyed warm Ham and Swiss Cheese Melts made with Hawaiian sweet rolls. This favorite from the kitchen of Mimi Audrey has become our family favorite too. I cut the melts in half diagonally to form triangles and placed the points together to make a butterfly. A Bacon Knot between the sandwich wings became the body. The knots are easy to make by tying bacon strips into knots and topping them with brown sugar, maple syrup, or spices. Then bake them until crisp.

To accompany the sandwich butterflies, I made an apple posy with sliced apples for petals, arranged on a plate with caramel sauce in the center. Then I added tasty bees made from peanut butter, crushed cookie wafers, and powdered sugar. Sliced almonds became wings and mini chocolate chips were the eyes. The Buzzy Bees perched on square pretzels called snaps that remind me of honeycombs.

To select the tea, Sylvia enjoyed the scent of several blends and chose Paris tea (Harney & Sons), a fruity black tea with vanilla, caramel, and Bergamot flavors.

### Sweet Finale

You can't have a tea party without sweets. We enjoyed Scone Blossoms, Luscious Lemon Curd, and Whipped Cream along with ice cream bread. I had Jamocha Almond Fudge and Mint Chocolate Chip ice creams on hand, so I baked two flavors of bread. One slice of each bread beside a miniature teacup of Mint Chocolate Chip ice cream made a tasty finale. For Valentine's Day, strawberry ice cream bread with a scoop of strawberry ice cream makes a pretty and delicious treat.

By now we felt more than satisfied and ended with a black tea from Kenya. Sylvia lived in Africa for more than 30 years, so she taught me to make East Africa Chai, a tea latte using half milk and half water. She simmered the tea leaves in the liquid for about five minutes, strained the leaves, and added sugar and spices. (You can purchase Tea Masala spices on the Internet.)

My "samples tea" turned out to be a TEA-lightful time, and Sylvia gave

my recipes a thumbs-up. Later she e-mailed, "I especially enjoyed sipping from the beautiful Russian teacup." I knew Sylvia liked blue, so I had chosen the cobalt blue and gold teacup for her and placed a linen napkin folded into a rose in the empty teacup. (You'll find directions to make a napkin rose elsewhere in Lydia's Idea File.)

You don't need to write a cookbook to gather new recipes or old favorites and serve a "samples tea" to a friend. Think outside the tea box and create a memorable teatime with a new twist. After all, it's a new

Lydia E. Harris has five grandchildren, and they call her "Grandma Tea." She wrote the book Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting (AMG Publishers 2010), and her new book, In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together (Harvest House Publishers), will release in August. This cookbook is now available for preorder on Amazon.com.





From Lydia's Recipe File: Folding a Napkin into a Rose

So simple and yet elegant.

You'll need: (for each person)

A teacup and saucer

A fabric napkin (16 to 20 inches square)

2 green silk rose leaves

# To fold the napkin:

- 1. Open the napkin and lay it flat, wrong side up.
- 2. Fold the napkin in half diagonally into a triangle. Now the right side is
- 3. Roll the napkin loosely into a tube.
- 4. Then start from one end of the tube and roll the napkin into a spiral like a cinnamon roll.
- 5. Place the napkin into the teacup with a spiral side up. Add the silk leaves. What a lovely rose!





Team Leaders (L-R): Debbi Cagney (USA) Ann Hill (Scotland) Paula Rafferty (Ireland) Jeltje van Essen (The Netherlands) Kim Caskey (Canada)



Quilters are Quilters worldwide! I have had the profound pleasure of meeting and working with quilters from all over the world. Some in person, others only virtually. We're a unique and special breed with an instant connection, no matter what the spoken language.

A very special worldwide quilt project is currently in the works, to be unveiled in January 2019 – **World Wide Whispers.** Together with team leaders from 4 other countries (Ireland, Scotland, The Netherlands and USA), we have been working on a unique collaborative, worldwide quilt project. Not a common or typical "group" quilt or "Round Robin" project, but a collection of evolving and changing individual pieces 24" X 18".

The premise for this challenge is, in a nutshell, a bit like the child's birthday party game where the leader starts by whispering a sentence in the ear of the next participant and then continues around the room, evolving and changing from the original sentence.

This **World Wide Whispers** project starts with the leader of each country (me for Team Canada), using an original photo as inspiration to create their piece, then photographing that finished piece, and sending that photo and artist statement to the next person on the team. That next team member then uses that photo as their inspiration to create a piece,

photographs their piece and sends it along to the next person, and so on and so on.

The entire WWW project will take all of 2018 to complete. Each leader of the 5 countries assembled their team of 12 participants, who will each take one month to receive, create their 24" X 18" piece and send on to the next. Each of the 5 teams' finished projects will be exhibited around the world at various quilt festivals and shows throughout 2019 and 2020. Some exhibition venues have already been secured – including the big reveal at the Birmingham Festival of Quilts August 1-4, 2019!

Team Canada is comprised of 13 members - a quilt artist from each province and territory of Canada. To date I have received 10 of the 13 finished pieces and I am overwhelmed by the caliber, artistry and statement of each piece! I am so proud of our Team Canada and I cannot wait to share the exhibit with the world!

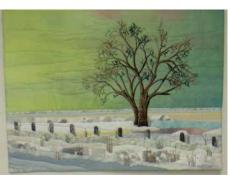
Team Canada's World Wide Whispers exhibit will be proudly displayed at the **Birmingham Festival of Quilts** – along with Team Ireland, Team Scotland, Team Netherlands and Team USA! Celtic Quilt Tours has organized a tour to Birmingham (including Bath, Stonehenge, Stratford-Upon-Avon, etc.) to take in this magnificent show. Many of Team Canada's participants will be traveling on this tour and we are so looking forward to meeting and visiting with other artists from the other WWW teams! Quilters

are Quilters worldwide!

We would love to have you join us for this tour. You will meet many new friends as you share your love of quilts and textiles, history and new experiences.

Kim Caskey, Celtic Quilt Tours, 780-288-9008, kim@ kimcaskey.ca





Shields, by Holly Hildebrand, Saskatchewan

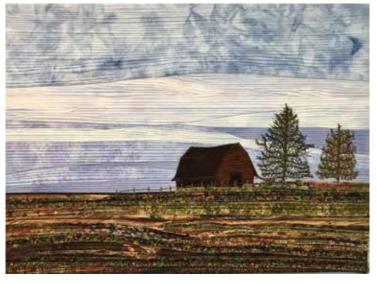




What Does the Owl See, by Nicole Tull, Ontario

Looking In, Looking Out, by Kathy Tidswell, New Brunswick





Prairie Paradise, by Kim Caskey, Alberta

Sault Ste. Marie





# The Flat Christmas Tree

by Deb Heatherly

Let's face it—Christmas with pets and small children can be challenging. Pretty ornaments that dangle and packages with poufy bows are just too tempting. Placing a fence around your Christmas tree might protect it from small hands and canines, but nothing can ward off an inquisitive feline. In the past, mine have been known to climb all the way to the

top to proudly claim victory over this seasonal intruder.

Many years ago, we timed Lily and the destruction of the last tree that took a grand total of 9 minutes 30 seconds. We gazed at ornaments, tinsel and bows—that had taken me well over an hour to space evenly and place ever so carefully—all now sitting in a heap on the floor. We gave up and decided it was not worth the trouble. A flat tree became our annual decoration of choice.

What is a flat tree? For us, it's a wonderful quilt given to me many years ago by friends. I've added ornaments to the tree that have the names of both our families. It also contains the names of our fur children. When a new family member or pet comes into our lives, another ornament is added. Through the years, it has saved our sanity and kept our inquisitive fur children safe from the danger of ingesting the irresistible sparkly items found on a typical tree. For us, it's been a lifesaver.

We were very content with this tree until moving into our new home two years ago. It was then that Hubby and I decided that all the fur children were now old enough to give it another try. We breathed a sigh of relief as Lily sat picture-perfect under the tree and just watched the lights twinkle on and off.

That year we had the Normal Rockwell version of Christmas with decorations galore. Garland and light draped our stair rails, a 7' tree held decoration not seen in years, wreaths hung on every door, candles and other pretties graced our tables and, I'll have to admit, that our house looked like a scene from a movie.

We both loved the festive atmosphere it gave our home and were proud to invite family and friends over to celebrate. We could hardly wait for the lights to come on each evening so that we could enjoy this strange but joyous feeling. With no thought of adding any 4-legged children to the family, we envisioned our Christmas like this for years to come. Boy, were we ever wrong.

Enter Monroe. Last year, this energetic seven-month-old kitten barely left day-to-day décor in place so we knew that a tree was out of the question. Without even a second thought, out came the flat Christmas tree that by now had become a tradition. "We can try it again next year," we said to ourselves as we remembered our Christmas the year before. He won't be as curious by this time next year.

Little did we know that this year would be a repeat of the last. I'm not

Espanola • New Liskeard





sure which of us decided that Monroe needed a playmate but Max was added to the family in June. When Christmas rolls around, sweet Max will be seven-months old and every bit as rambunctious as his brother. We've seen what this duo can do to the house on a daily basis so we've already decided it's not worth the grief. The two of them could beat Lily's nineminute record by a long shot. That means the flat tree will make it annual appearance once again.

Would I change it if I could? No way!

Yes, the beautiful decoration will remain in the box this year, as will the wonderful tree we bought when we moved into this house, but neither of us regrets the reason they will remain hidden. The joy and laughter that these fur babies bring into our lives each day is well worth being resigned to a flat tree. In our opinion, purrs and head bonks will always outrank glitter and bows. And, as the 'fur-less' mom to this crazy bunch, I know that Santa will find his was here to fill their stockings even without a real tree.

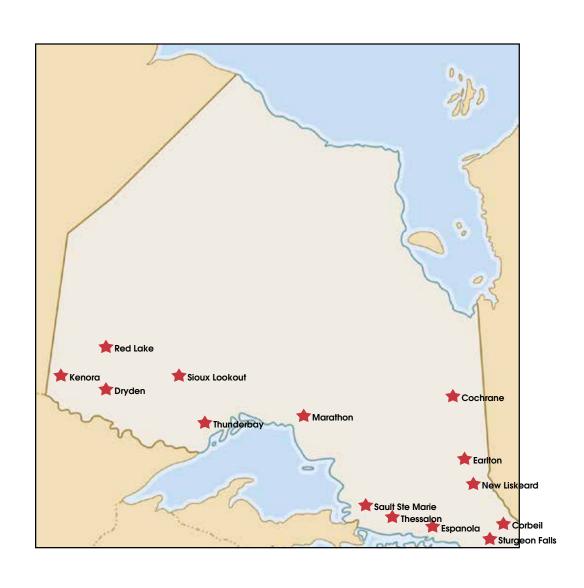
Christmas will be wonderful and a different kind of seasonal joy will fill our house. No tree, a real tree or a flat tree—it's perfectly fine with us.

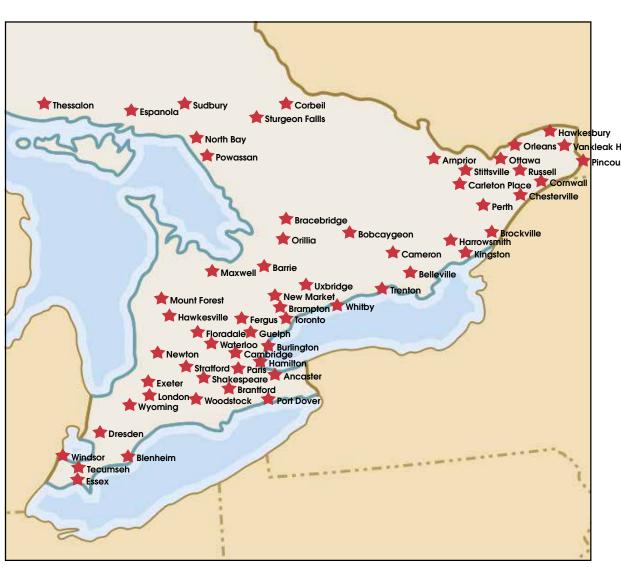
Merry Christmas from Deb and the Meow Gang—Lily, Lacey, Monroe, Max and Maggie (the dog.)

NOTE: Many versions of this quilt can be found on the Internet if you too find that you need a flat tree.

Deb Heatherly is a designer for Creative Grids® rulers and tools. When not in her studio, she is on the road doing Creative Grids® lectures and workshops for guilds and shops across the country. She is the designer of the Creative Grids Cat's Cradle tool, Strippy Stars tool, Turbo 4 Patch, Ultimate Flying Geese tool, and the new Cat's Cradle XL. She is the author of the books 'Cat'itude, Strippy Stars, 4-Patch Panache, The Ultimate flying Geese Book, and Catitude XL. Visit her website at www.Debscatsnquilts. com and her Facebook page using the link www.Facebook.com/DebscatsnquiltsFranklin. Creative Grids® fans are invited to join her Facebook group entitled "Grids Girls" for tips, inspiration and mystery quilt fun. The next Grids Girls mystery will begin right after Christmas so join now to be included.

Ancaster	The Quilt Rack	.pg.	13
Barrie	Hummingbird	.pg.	12
Belleville	Kraft Village	.pg.	6
Brockville	Taylor's Sewing	.pg.	6
Burlington	Sew Etc	.pg	14
Cameron	Quilter's Inn	.pg.	9
Chesterville	Flair With Fabrics	.pg.	8
Cochrane	Needleworks Studio	.pg.	16
Cornwall	Ron's Quilting	.pg.	7
Dryden	The Quilting Trunk	.pg.	22
Espanola	Cindy Bee's Quilt Shoppe	.pg.	19
Exeter	Kalidoscope of Quilts	.pg.	11
Floradale	Hillcrest Home Baking	.pg.	13
Maxwell	Threads That Bind	.pg.	14
Mount Forest	Creekbank Sewing	.pg.	11
New Liskeard	Gem Sewing	.pg.	19
Orillia (Severn)	Thimbles & Thinas	.pa.	12





	Orieans	Quilty Pleasurespg. 9	
	Perth	Perth Fabricspg. 6	
	Petrolia	Stitchariepg. 11	
Hill urt	Pincourt	Phyllis Home Décorpg. 7	
	Russell	Quilter's Barn & Giftspg. 8	
	Sault Ste Marie	Life's A Stitchpg. 19	
	Shakespeare	The Quilt Placepg. 14	
	Sioux Lookout	Dori's Sewing Studiopg. 22	
	Stratford	Sew & Savepg. 14	
	Sturgeon Fallls	Diane's Creative Elementspg. 16	
	Thessalon	Creative Basketpg. 16	
	Thunderbay	Circle of Friendspg. 22	
	Trenton	Andjareena's Placepg. 6	
	Windsor	Quiltina Confectionspa. 13	





At Participating Canadian Dealers • Find Great Deals and Special Offers In-Store • Contact Your Local Dealer Today!

Brampton Sew N Serge Brampton (905) 874-1564 Sew-Jo's Ottawa (613) 748-7878 Stitch By Stitch Kingston (613) 389-2223

The Sewing Machine North Bay (705) 476-2739

Life's A Stitch Sault Ste. Marie (705) 254-3339



Dryden • Thunder Bay

Sioux Lookout





Full Service Quilt Shop • Quality Cottons, Notions, Books & Patterns • Long Arm Quilting Services • Classes for all Levels

gather • learn • share • quilt







218 Tupper Street (between Court & Cumberland) • Thunder Bay, Ontario • (807) 344-2625 Open: Tues. to Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. • circleoffriendsquilts@tbaytel.net





Now carrying RELIABLE IRONS - great for the Quilter! Elizabeth Hartman Patterns now available - they are so cute!

IANOME

Handi Quilter

-elna

3 Loon Lake Rd. • Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 0A7 • 807-737-3674





# It's Party Time with Lesley

by Lesley R. Nuttall

# Remembrance Celebration

As we draw closer to the end of 2018, we will soon be thinking about the upcoming holiday season. Christmas is one of the biggest celebrations around the world. Special dinners, caroling, Church events, gift giving and sending Christmas cards are something we all have in common. Most of us decorate a Christmas tree, decorate the house, and attend Church on Christmas eve or Christmas morning.

We all know our own family traditions; I have often wondered how people in other countries celebrate Christmas. I decided to research how some of the other countries around the world celebrate Christmas compared to where I live in Canada.

<u>CANADA</u>: In my homeland, the province of Ontario, a traditional Christmas dinner celebration includes the roasted turkey and gravy, bread dressing, vegetables, mincemeat pie, or a rich fruity pudding with brandy sauce. Some other provinces have their traditions, such as in British Columba they might have the roasted turkey accompanied by either fresh or baked salmon. The province of Quebec families usually serve a Tourtiere (pork pie) and Boulettes, (small meat balls.) As Quebec is famous for their maple syrup, their morning may start with bacon and eggs and pancakes with that delicious maple syrup. Canadians are known for sending Christmas cards or an email letter with Christmas wishes and love. It is also a Canadian tradition to send a fir tree grown in Nova Scotia to our American friends in Boston, U.S.A. as a thank you for their assistance during the tragic explosion in Halifax in 1917 when 2000 lives were lost and 9000 people were injured. Merry Christmas in French is: Joyeux Noel.

<u>UNITED STATES</u>: As Canada and the United States are friendly neighbors, we share a lot of the same traditions. In the U.S., December 25th was declared a federal holiday in 1870. Christmas trees became popular in the late 19th century using fresh outdoor trees cut down in the forest. Today, the celebration tree can be a fresh purchased evergreen, or a reusable tree made from aluminum or a colorful plastic tree completely decorated. The Americans also send out Christmas greeting cards by mail or by the electronically transmitted "e-card" via the internet. Because of its multi-cultural nature, the U.S. may have many different family dinners. The more traditional Christmas dinner, similar to it's neighbor to the north, Canada, would be the roasted turkey and cranberry sauce, ham, potatoes or sweet potatoes, and vegetables. The menu would also include baked breads and fruitcake. Eggnog is a popular beverage, with or without alcohol. The Americans also decorate their homes and yard, both in the warmer states as well as those in the ice and snow.

AUSTRALIA: The main Christmas meal in Australia is usually at lunch time. Because of the hot weather, they choose to have a cold meal with cold turkey, chicken or duck, cold deli cuts and salads galore. Some like to have a BBQ with seafood like prawns and lobster along with the traditional English foods. For dessert, they may enjoy a flaming plum pudding. A golden nugget is baked inside the pudding. The finder knows that this is a sign of "good luck!" Other desserts they like to serve is mince pie, fruit salad, ice cream and a variety of shortbread and chocolates. As the weather is hot, some people like to do their celebrating at the beach. At home they may have their cold lunch and then go for a swim in the backyard pool. In some states, they have beautiful fireworks display in the parks.

ITALY: Although the Italian Christmas dinner varies from region to region, a traditional dinner may be a pasta dish of lasagna or cannelloni, along with a roast beef, a variety of cheeses, chocolate and fruit soaked in wine. Nativity scenes are very popular. In 1991, in Monte Ingino, Italy, the Guinness Book of Records, recorded "the tallest Christmas tree" standing 650 meters tall. Merry Christmas in Italian is: Buon Natale.

JAPAN: Christmas in Japan is known more as a time to spread happiness than a religious celebration. Christmas eve is actually celebrated more than Christmas day, as it is thought of as a romantic day, similar to our Valentine celebrations. On Christmas eve they enjoy a slice of "Christmas cake!" Their dinner on Christmas day may be fried chicken, and their Christmas cake is a sponge cake decorated with strawberries and whipped cream. Christmas day is not a national holiday in Japan. It's business as usual on December 25th . Their tree is decorated with flags, tinsel, cotton, apples and other fruit. Candles are used for lighting the tree. In Japanese, Merry Christmas is: Meri Kurisumasu.

AFRICA: Christmas in Africa is a summer holiday. Their homes are decorated with pine branches and their mango and palm trees are decorated with candles and bells. The African Christmas dinner includes, turkey, roast beef, suckling pig, yellow rice with raisins and vegetables. For dessert they like plum pudding and mince pie. They also have fun pulling the "Christmas crackers" and wearing paper hats. Merry Christmas in African is: Merry Kisimusi.

FINLAND: The Finnish Christmas dinner doesn't begin until the appearance of the first star appears in the sky. They decorate a fir or spruce tree on Christmas eve with candles, lights, glass balls and ribbons. Their dinner may consist of a roasted pig or a roast of ham and vegetables. They also like to have a boiled cod fish with allspice, as well as boiled potatoes with a cream sauce. A favorite salad is Rosolli which is made with beets and apples. For dessert they enjoy a rice porridge, Glogg pears and gingerbread. Merry Christmas in Fin is: Hyvva Joulua.

So many different traditions, and so many delicious meals.

However you celebrate the season, enjoy your family and friends and make wonderful memories to last a life time.

French Canadian Tourtiere

(Meat Pie)

Sister Beryl's special dish for her husband.

1 pound lean ground pork 1 onion diced

1/2 cup water

1/2 teaspoon thyme, crushed

1/4 teaspoon pepper

1/2 pound lean ground beef

1 clove of garlic, minced

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon ground sage

9 inch double pie crust

Preheat oven to 425°. In saucepan, combine all ingredients; cook over medium heat until mixture boils; stir occasionally. Reduce heat to low and simmer until meat is cooked. Spoon mixture into pie crust. Place top crust on top and pinch edges. Cover edges with strips of tinfoil. Bake in preheated oven for 20 minutes; remove foil and bake another 15-20 minutes. Let cool 10 minutes before slicing into it. Makes 6-8 servings.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was...



# No Room

Luke 2:7

by Jan Keller

Sunday morning I took a brief detour during the church service to thumb through the hymnal to look at the variety of Christmas songs included in the book.

I discovered there were songs about shepherds, angels, cows, sheep, mangers filled with hay, stars, wise men, love, joy, peace and a newborn babe—but not one

single solitary reference or music note dedicated to the fact that, without the aid of a throng of angels to put the fear of God in the shepherds, or a bright star to capture the attention of a trio of wise men, mankind had no room for that first

I was intrigued by the realization that the beloved carols of the season cover every other aspect of the Holy Event, yet leave a gaping omission of inherent oblivion. Mankind chose, and continues to choose, to ignore its self-centered and egotistical callousness rather than face it, or, heaven forbid, correct it.

This Christmas is no different, and we're no better.

Society has gotten so tripped up on the trappings of Christmas we continue to have no room.

We focus so much attention on the commercial side of Christmas our plastic money is maxed out. We're shocked, insulted and embarrassed when a store clerk is forced to reject a desired purchase because our credit account has no room.

We overindulge in rich gluttony until there is no other choice but to push away from the table and loudly proclaim, "No room."

We keep such fast paced and stressful lifestyles that our personal schedules

Will this be the year when we finally clear out some of the unimportant superficial clutter in our lives and allow ourselves to give and receive the precious gift of love? All it takes is a little bit of room.

©2018 Jan Keller

# Enjoy More of Jan's Columns ORDER HER BOOKS TODAY



Life is like a quilt, pieced together from a unique patchwork of memories, friendships, joys, and challenges. In each of these books, syndicated columnist Jan Keller is down to earth and refreshingly transparent as she opens the door to life's dreams, triumphs and struggles in a heart-warming way that will touch you forever. You'll love the way she spins 'yarns' that



weave the pieces of a treasured tapestry into a vivid depiction of life and love.

Please send me	copy(s) of "Pieces From My Crazy Quilt" _copy(s) of "The Tie That Binds" er copy (\$12.95 plus \$2.05 for tax, pexioge & hundling)			
SPECIAL OFFER! Order both books for just \$25 and SAVE Shipping & Handling				
Nome_				
Address	CityState Zip			
My check or money notes; navable to Bi	ack Sheep Books in the amount of is enclosed.			

Mail your order to: Black Sheep Books, 16755 Oak Brush Loop, Peyton, CO 80831.

 $\ensuremath{\texttt{@}}$  Lesley R. Nuttall, Author of Secrets of Party Planning.





# Introducing the 4300 QDC

For years, "QDC" has been a symbol of durability and versatility. A classroom favourite.

INCLUDES: 400 Built-in stitches including alphabet, 7 One-step buttonholes, Enhanced LCD navigation, Built-in one-hand needle threader, Free arm, 7-Piece feed dog, Also available - optional optic magnifier

BONUS: Quilting set and extension table included



# TAKE YOUR SEWING TO A NEW, PROFESSIONAL LEVEL



Smooth, high-speed, straight stitch sewing - up to 1600 SPM.

- Heavy Duty Thread Guide
- 1.4X Bobbin capacity
- Eight ball bearings for exceptionally smooth sewing
- · Metal flatbed





# AirThread 2000D

# **Serging Simplified**

- One-push air threading
- 8-Piece feed dog
- Built-in needle threader
- Colour coded thread guides
- Retractable upper knife
- · Quick change rolled hem
- · Differential feed





### SEE WHAT'S NEXT AT YOUR LOCAL JANOME DEALER

# ALLISTON

705 435-9888

BARRIE

BARRIE Simcoe Sew and Quilt 705 737-3777

BELLEVILLE

Fun With Stitches 613 966-4715 BELLEVILLE Kraft Village 613 966-9964

BROCKVILLE raylor Sewing Centre 613 342-3153

### CAMPBELLFORD Your #1 Sewing Centre 705 653-5642

COLLINGWOOD

CORNWALL Giroux Sewing Centre 613 938-8455

GATINEAU 819 663-1515

GUELPH Triangle Sewing Centre 519 822-9910

GEORGETOWN The Sewing Café 905 873-0043

### **HAMILTON** Nova Sewing Machines 905 549-8052

KITCHENER Machines Ltd.

KINGSTON V-B- Simkins Sewing Machines 613 546-6110

IGNACE 807 934-0999

LEAMINGTON A Stitch In Time 519 322-4690

# LITTLE BRITAIN Gertie's Sewing Machine 705 357-1105

### LONDON vina Machines 519 681-4486

MAXWELL

NEW LISKARD Gem Sewing 705 647-4849 NEWMARKET

905 853-7001 **NIAGARA FALLS** Niagara Sewing Machine 905 358-5710

# OAKVILLE Oakville Sewing & Fabric Ltd. 905 844-2782

# **ORLEANS** Qulity Pleasure 613 834-3044

**OSHAWA** 

OTTAWA Sewing Machine Hospital 613 729-4380

PICKERING Larry's Sewing Machines 647 461-2244 RED LAKE

### Gail's Stitches 807 727-3161 RIDEAU FERRY Sew Crafty 613 264-1547

### SARNIA Al's Vacuum 8 519 344-7557

SMITH FALLS

SOIUX LOOKOUT Dori's Sewing Studio 807 737-3674

### STRATEORD Sew & Save Centre Ltd. 519 271-9660

**SUDBURY** 

THUNDER BAY Circle of Friends 807 344-2625

### TORONTO 416 231-1159

TORONTO

WINDSOR D&R Vacuum and Sewing Centre 519 253-5022

