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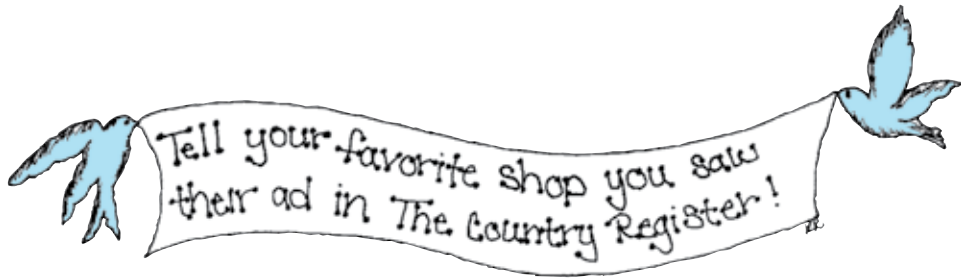
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The Country Register of Ontario
June/July 2022 Issue

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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

Meet our cover artist:

JP Fonrodona



JP Fonrodona is an artist that lives in Colombia, South America. JP craves to create artwork and he started a design studio called Seven Trees Design.

He loves to create artwork in various styles including artwork that is modern, contemporary, colorful, striking, calming, trending and sometimes playful!

JP is a believer, a business owner, a photographer and graphic designer. He is passionate about arts, calligraphy, graphic design and photography. JP has won prizes and mentions in national and international photography contests.

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ACROSS TIME

by Sheila Tinkham

The stitches ow across my ngers
Like dew before the morning

There is a rhythm
A cadence to each stitch
Stitch one
Stitch two
Double knot

Like the drops of water
Flowing from a stream
Lost in time
Lost in space

Sewing like my Irish mother
Sewing like my Irish grandmother
Sewing like my husband

There is a quiet beauty in each stitch
A wholeness in the design

Sewing by hand
Sewing by machine as my mom did

Sewing
Like life
A tad messy yet complete
Sewing
Sewing.....


Sheila Tinkham lives in Ainsworth, NE. She started quilting when she sprained her ankle and fell in love with the process of sewing and the focused peacefulness of making and designing quilts. Writing is her passion and she has self-published three poetry books. You can follow her on Twitter at [SheilaTinkham](https://twitter.com/SheilaTinkham).

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

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with DAD are
the Best Kind

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GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



Hope is the only thing stronger than fear!

Hope is often referred to as an anchor. Like an anchor on a boat, it is strong and designed to go deep into the water. When I “google-searched” What is the purpose of an anchor? The response was, “An anchor is a device, normally made of metal, used to secure a vessel to the bed of a body of water to prevent the craft from drifting due to wind or current.” When we think of Hope as an anchor in our lives, the definition is clear. If we don’t have an anchor of some kind, we could be blown away from unplanned events in our lives.

A Mother Teresa quote is, “Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible.”

With the wars around the world or the conflict of personal opinions, this kind of strong, yet invisible hope is a worthy goal for better days, more compassionate days, giving the intangible a face to achieve the thought that peace, joy and love is possible.

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM:

Drop that Hope Anchor deep down to the bottom of your soul. Secure it in the bedrock of basic human values. Respect, Honesty, Appreciation, Love, Gratitude and Peace because they bring out the fundamental goodness of human beings and this isn’t impossible!

Joy & Blessings,
Jody

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Calendar of Events

..... JUNE

June 1 - Sept 25

June 3 & 4

June 3 & 4

June 4

June 4 & 5

June 4 & 5

June 11

June 11 & 12

June 12 - 19

June 17 - July 4

June 18

June 18 - 19

June 24 - 26

Art In The Park - Stratford, ON

Quilts in Bloom 2022 quilt show by Hamilton Quilters Guild - Ancaster Fairgrounds, Hamilton, ON

South Shore Quilter's Exhibition - St Paul's Anglican Church, Greenfield Park, QC

Unionville Festival - Unionville, ON

Art In The Park - Windsor, ON

Country Art Tour - Burlington, ON

Ancaster Heritage Days - Hamilton, ON

Beaches Art & Crafts Show - Kew Gardens Park, Toronto, ON

Sound Of Music Festival - Burlington, ON

Art In The County - Virtual - The Armoury, Picton, ON or Online at artinthecounty.com

Gravenhurst Car Show - Gull Lake Rotary Park, Gravenhurst, ON

Fairy Lake Artisans Festival - Fairy Lake Park, Newmarket, ON

Tottenham Bluegrass Festival - Tottenham Conservation Area, Tottenham, ON

..... JULY

July 1

July 1 - 3

July 2

July 7 - 10

July 7 - 10

July 7 - 10

July 8 - 10

July 9 & 10

July 10

July 11

July 15 - 17

July 15 - 17

July 29 - August 7

July 30

July 30 - 31

Happy Canada Day!

Kincardine Scottis Festival & Highland Games - Victoria Park, Kincardine, ON

Muskoka Yarn & Fibrefest - JD Lang Activity Park, Bracebridge, ON

Northern Lights Festival Boreal - Bell Park, Sudbury, ON

TD Sunfest - Victoria Park, London, ON

Belleville Waterfront & Multicultural Festival - West Zwicks Park, Belleville, ON

Mariposa Folk Festival - Tudhope Park, Orillia, ON

Art In The Barn - Dorchester Fairgrounds, Dorchester, ON

Quilts In The Garden Tour - Hamilton, ON

Kawartha Yarn & Fibre Festival 2022 - Fenelon Falls Community Centre, Fenelon Falls, ON

Toronto Outdoor Fair - Toronto, ON

Home County Music & Art Festival - Victoria Park, London, ON

Ontario Lacrosse Festival - Iroquois Park Sports Centre, Whitby, ON

T & AAC Art In The Park - Memorial Park, Tweed, ON

Soux Narrows Art Festival - Northwestern Ontario Sportfishing Centre and Curling Rink, Sioux Narrows, ON

..... AUGUST

August 19

Home On The Farm Quilt Show & Tea Room - W George Centre, Kemptonville, ON



Ukraine

Crying

Sunflower

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Eat Drink and Be Berry

One of the things I enjoy most about having a large yard is our summer berries. Nothing can beat meandering through the garden and snacking on them as you go. In this edition we'll be chatting about the berries we have in our yard – strawberries, prairie cherries (Evans cherries), and saskatoons.



Strawberries

The garden strawberry is probably the most used commercial fruit (approx. 9 million tonnes worldwide) as it's used in prepared foods such as jam, juice, pies, ice cream, yogurts, etc. Artificial strawberry flavourings and aromas are also widely used in products such as candy, soap, and perfume.

The strawberry is an honorary berry, as from a botanical standpoint it isn't a berry. It's an aggregate accessory fruit because its seeds are on the outside of the fruit. Packed with vitamins, fibre, and particularly high levels of antioxidants. They are among the top 20 fruits in antioxidants and are a good source of manganese and potassium. Just one serving -- about eight strawberries -- provides more vitamin C than an orange.

The first garden strawberry was grown in France during the late 18th century. Before this, wild strawberries were used. However, this didn't stop people's enjoyment of the fruit. Did you know that the combination of strawberries and cream was created by Thomas Wolsey in the court of King Henry VIII?

Strawberries are either "June-bearing" or "ever-bearing" based on their flowering habit. One plant throughout a season may produce 50-60 times!

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Prairie Cherry (Evans Cherry)

These are hearty sour cherries that can survive our harsh winters. The cultivar was discovered in an old orchard near Edmonton. It's so hearty that it is grown on its own rootstock (no grafts needed)! It is also self-fruitful and ripens in August. We have a couple of different varieties in our yard and find this works well to extend the harvest season as one variety is a couple weeks later. We have unfortunately lost the tags of what exactly we planted, we think they are "Carmine Jewel" and "Romance". We find that the later blooming variety suckers a lot more, and it's a tarter cherry.

I'll spend many an August evening pitting cherries on the back deck. We did discover a tool from Lee Valley Tools that makes the process much easier. It is technically an olive pitter, but it does an excellent job and there is minimal waste. Unfortunately, you will just have to accept that if you use a paring knife or a cherry pitter, you will end up slightly stained and sticky from the juice.

Saskatoons

Our American cousins call them juneberries and I've also heard them called serviceberries. But, whatever you call them they are a delicious addition to the early summer garden ripening in late June or early July. They are related to apple trees and like apples will continue to ripen after they are picked. In our yard, our saskatoon production has been steadily decreasing because they are in the shade of a poplar stand. We are discussing removing the poplars to increase production.

The name saskatoon is from the Cree word *misâskwatômina*, which means the fruit of the tree of many branches. These fruits have long been eaten by the Indigenous peoples of Canada. They are dried and used in pemmican as they add flavour, and also act as a preservative. The city of Saskatoon is named after the berry.

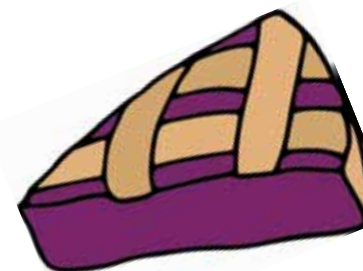
They are an excellent source of manganese, magnesium, iron, calcium, potassium, copper and carotene. Did you know that saskatoons contain more than three times the iron and copper as the same weight of raisins?

In the course of writing this article, I went to the shop today to buy some raspberries and strawberries to make a crumble, but they didn't have any. It was a fruitless trip.

Saskatoon Rhubarb Pie

Kirby doesn't really care for saskatoons as he ate too many of them as a child and suffered the consequences. However, he called this recipe the best saskatoon pie he's ever had, as the rhubarb added a lot to the pie. Do try to use a deep-dish pie plate for this recipe otherwise, the pie filling will be up to the rim. I recommend placing the pie plate on a cookie sheet for baking.

- 1 recipe double-crust pie crust
- 2 cups rhubarb, chopped
- ½ cup white sugar
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 cup white sugar
- 4 cups saskatoons
- 2 Tbsp white sugar (or sugar in the raw)



Preheat the oven to 400°F. Press one of the pie crusts into the bottom and up the sides of a deep pie plate.

In a microwave-safe dish, combine the rhubarb and 1/2 cup of sugar. Heat at full power in the microwave until rhubarb is soft and juice is pooling in the bottom of the dish, 4 to 5 minutes. Drain off the juice into a measuring cup and add enough water to make 2 cups. Dissolve the cornstarch in the liquid.

In a saucepan, stir together the 2 cups of liquid, lemon juice and the remaining 1 cup of sugar. Add the saskatoon berries and rhubarb; cook over medium-high heat until thick and bubbling, about 5 minutes. Pour into the pie crust. Top with the remaining crust and cut holes in the top to vent steam. Pinch the edges together to seal. Sprinkle with the 2 Tbsp white sugar.

Bake for 15 minutes in the preheated oven, then reduce the temperature to 350°F. Bake until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbling, about 30 more minutes.

REVOLUTION

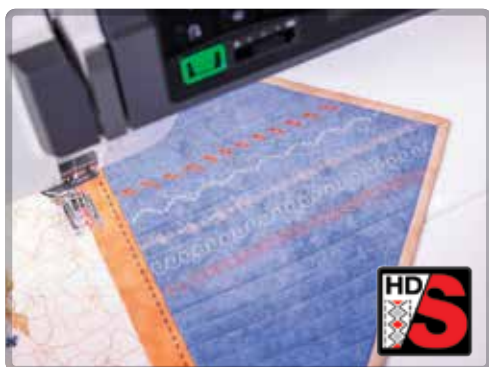
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Delivering Cheer

We all have times when we need cheer—such as illness, disappointment or the loss of a loved one. When I experienced a health setback, family and friends asked, “How can we help?” I answered, “Food and prayer.”

When our grade-school-aged daughter’s illness kept her home from school, the teacher asked each student in her small class to bring a piece of fresh fruit to make a fruit basket for her. Anita ate every piece, including the grapefruit, which she had never tried before. What a healthy basket of cheer!

When my father died, several friends brought us food. Another friend brought us a plant to place in our garden in his memory. My teenage daughter commented, “How can we feel sad when people are being so nice to us?” Their caring gestures eased our sorrow.

Recently, my daughter-in-law Amy called to say, “We’ve been in the ER all night with Clara (their teenage daughter). She’s scheduled to have her appendix removed at 10 a.m.”

Food and prayer, I thought. And as I began praying with Amy on the phone, she asked me to wait until she turned on the speaker phone so Clara could hear. After the prayer, I told Amy we’d bring them dinner.

Deliver Cheer with a Meal

At the local grocery store, I picked up foods for their family of five: rotisserie chicken, roasted potatoes, fresh veggies, a bowl of cut-up melon, croissants and a white cake topped with whipped cream and strawberries. And, of course, some chicken noodle soup.

Once home, I prepared Grandma’s Yum-Delicious Baked Custard, a light, nutritious pudding that Clara likes. (Recipe from my cookbook included.)

Our prayers were answered. Clara came through the surgery fine and was released from the hospital by late afternoon. When I dropped off the meal, Clara was resting on the sofa, so I set a vase with pink tulips and a dish of custard on the end table beside her.

Deliver Cheer with a Par-TEA

Clara and her younger sister, Anna, enjoy tea parties so I offered to deliver a tea party when Clara felt up to it. We discussed the menu together and decided on croissants filled with chicken salad, fresh fruit, homemade scones with jam, lemon curd and whipped cream, and Clara’s favorite brand of fruity popsicles.

When I arrived with my tea to go, I asked Anna, “What day is it?” She smiled and answered, “Funday!”—the word we coined for any day we get together.

Anna gladly set the table with the yellow-and-turquoise theme I had planned using the placemats, napkins, plates, teacups and fresh flowers I brought. As Anna’s mom mixed the frozen pink lemonade, I said, “If life gives you lemons, make pink lemonade!”

Funday also coincided with Anna’s piano recital. To practice, Anna gave us our own private concert and I gave her a cheerful bouquet with yellow chrysanthemums and a sunflower.

Our teatime not only cheered Clara in her healing, it also encouraged Anna with her recital. Later, their mom emailed, “Thanks for the nice tea party and company. We are making pink lemonade with our lemon week!”

Deliver Cheer with a Surprise

Do you know someone who needs cheer? Take a few minutes to think through your family and friends and someone may come to mind. Would prayer, a phone call or food encourage a family member? Could you surprise a friend with flowers, a balloon, card, stuffed animal or small gift?

If so, then today is a good day to deliver cheer!

Lydia E. Harris is a tea enthusiast, grandmother of five and author of In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together and Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting. Her books are available at Amazon



From Lydia’s Recipe File:

Grandma’s Yum-Delicious Baked Custard

(Taken from In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together, page 160.)

Baked custard is a comfort food for our family. I’ve made it for my grandkids for more than twenty years.

Prep time: 10 minutes

Bake time: 35 to 45 minutes

Gluten-free

Gather with Grandma

- 2 cups milk
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- ⅓ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ¼ tsp. salt
- Nutmeg to sprinkle on top

Make with Grandma

1. Preheat the oven to 350°.
2. Heat the milk to about 120°.
3. Whisk together the eggs, sugar, vanilla, and salt.
4. Gradually stir in the milk and mix well.
5. Pour the custard into a 1½-quart baking dish or 5 or 6 custard cups.
6. Set the custard dish(es) in a baking pan and fill the pan with one inch of water to create a water bath.
7. Lightly sprinkle nutmeg on top of the custard.
8. Bake the custard for 45 minutes if made in a baking dish. If made in custard cups, test for doneness after 35 minutes. The custard is done when a silver knife inserted one inch from the edge comes out clean. When done, remove the custard and let it cool.
9. Serve warm or chilled. Refrigerate leftovers.

Makes 6 servings.

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Raspberry Tres Leches Cake

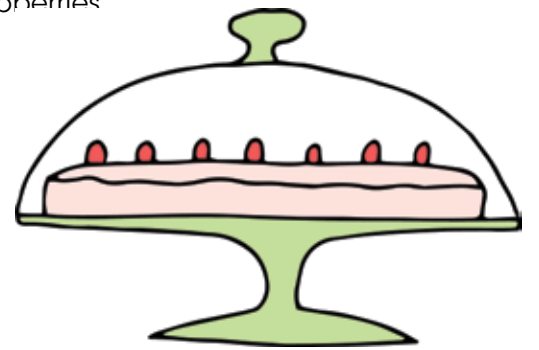
I really like tres leches cake. We had it for the first time on a hot holiday, and I've been experimenting with the recipe ever since. For this recipe, I cheat a bit and use a cake mix, which is unusual for me. This cake also got passed around at work (coworker's birthday) and it was deemed "nice and moist".

CAKE

- 1 box white cake mix (plus ingredients on box) – I make mine with milk
- 4 tsp almond extract
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 6 ounces of fresh or frozen raspberries
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- 1 Tbsp water

WHIPPED TOPPING

- 1 ½ cups whipping cream
- ¾ cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp almond extract
- Raspberries for garnish
- Almond slivers



Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease a 9x13 cake pan.

Add dry cake mix, cake mix ingredients and almond extract to a mixer bowl and mix according to box instructions. Pour batter into cake pan and bake for 20-25 minutes, or until a toothpick comes clean.

Once the cake comes out of the oven, poke holes in the warm cake with the end of a wooden spoon. Pour the can of sweetened condensed milk over the cake and allow it to soak into the holes.

Place raspberries, sugar and water into a food processor or use an immersion blender and puree until smooth. Pour the pureed raspberries over the cake and allow them to soak into the holes.

Place the cake in the refrigerator for 2-3 hours while it cools and soaks up the mixture.

WHIPPING TOPPING

Whip heavy cream until it begins to thicken. Add powdered sugar and almond extract and whip until stiff peaks form.

Spread whipped topping onto completely cooled cake. Topped with raspberries and almond slivers.

Refrigerate cake until ready to serve.

Strawberry Bliss Dessert

For a small family, like us, I would recommend making the base, dividing it into serving sizes, and not pouring on the topping until an hour or so before serving. This is just so it doesn't get soggy. I brought this into work for taste testing and the guys enjoyed it. One commented that he liked it as the pastry wasn't tough.

BASE

- 1 cup water
- ½ cup butter, cubed
- 1 cup flour
- 4 large eggs (room temperature)

TOPPING

- 8-ounce pkg. of cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup sugar
- 5 Tbsp strawberry jam
- 3 cups milk
- 1 pkg. (5.1 ounces) instant vanilla pudding
- ½ cup whipping cream
- 3 cups sliced strawberries

(recipe continues on next page)

Harriston • Severn

Preheat the oven to 400°F.

In a large saucepan bring the water and butter to a rolling boil. Add the flour all at once and beat until blended. Cook over medium heat, stirring vigorously until the mixture pulls away from the sides of the pan and forms a ball. Remove from heat. Let stand for 5 minutes.

Add 1 egg at a time, beating well after each addition. Continue beating until the mixture is smooth and shiny.

Spread onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake 20-25 minutes or until puffed and golden brown. Cool completely on the cookie sheet on a wire rack.

In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, sugar and jam until smooth. Beat in the milk and the pudding mix until smooth. In a small bowl, beat cream until stiff peaks form; fold into the pudding mixture. Spread over the crust.

Refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

Just before serving, top with the sliced strawberries.

Garden Strawberry Pie

I haven't made this for a few years, as our yard has become more shaded, so I'm not getting the same harvest of strawberries from the garden.

1 prebaked pie shell

3 cups garden strawberries (hulled)

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup water

1 cup of garden strawberries (hulled), mashed

1 cup of sugar

3 Tbsp cornstarch

Place the 3 cups of strawberries stem side down in the pie shell using just enough to fill one layer. Keep the remainder for later in the recipe.

Combine the water and mashed strawberries in a saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a boil. Simmer about 5 minutes. Strain. Return the liquid to the saucepan.

Mix the sugar and cornstarch in a small bowl. Add this to juice. Heat and stir as it boils and thickens. Cool to lukewarm. Spoon some over the berries in the pie shell. Toss the remaining strawberries in the glaze and pour into the pie shell.

Sour Cherry Muffins

We've had bumper crops of sour cherries the last few years, so I've been looking for ways to use them up. The recipe calls for well drained cherries (I'm usually making this with frozen cherries), so I reserve the juice and add it to homemade lemonade. I've never had sanding sugar in the house, so I substitute sugar in the raw.

Makes 18 Muffins

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup buttermilk

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup water

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup canola oil

1 egg

1 lemon zested

2 cups flour

1 cup sugar

1 tsp baking powder

2 cups sour cherries fresh or frozen (pitted); very well drained

2 Tbsp sanding sugar for topping

Preheat oven to 350°F and line muffin pan(s) with liners.

In a bowl mix together buttermilk, water, canola oil and egg. Mix well.

Next add the lemon zest, flour, sugar, and baking powder and stir until well incorporated.

Fold in the cherries and stir until just combined.

Scoop the batter into the muffin cups so that each is about $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Sprinkle the sanding sugar on top.

Bake for approx. 25-30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean.



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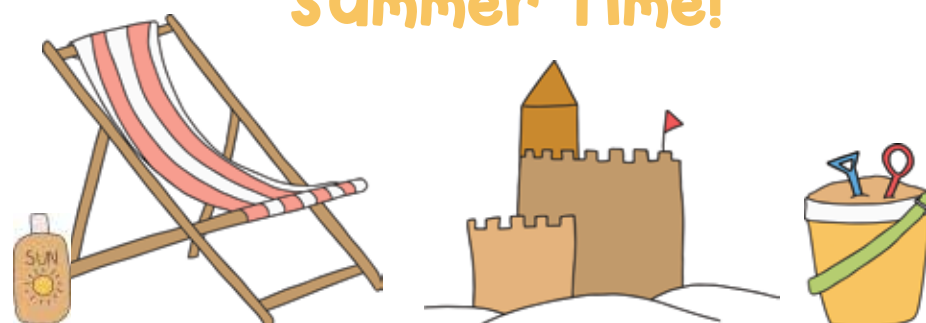
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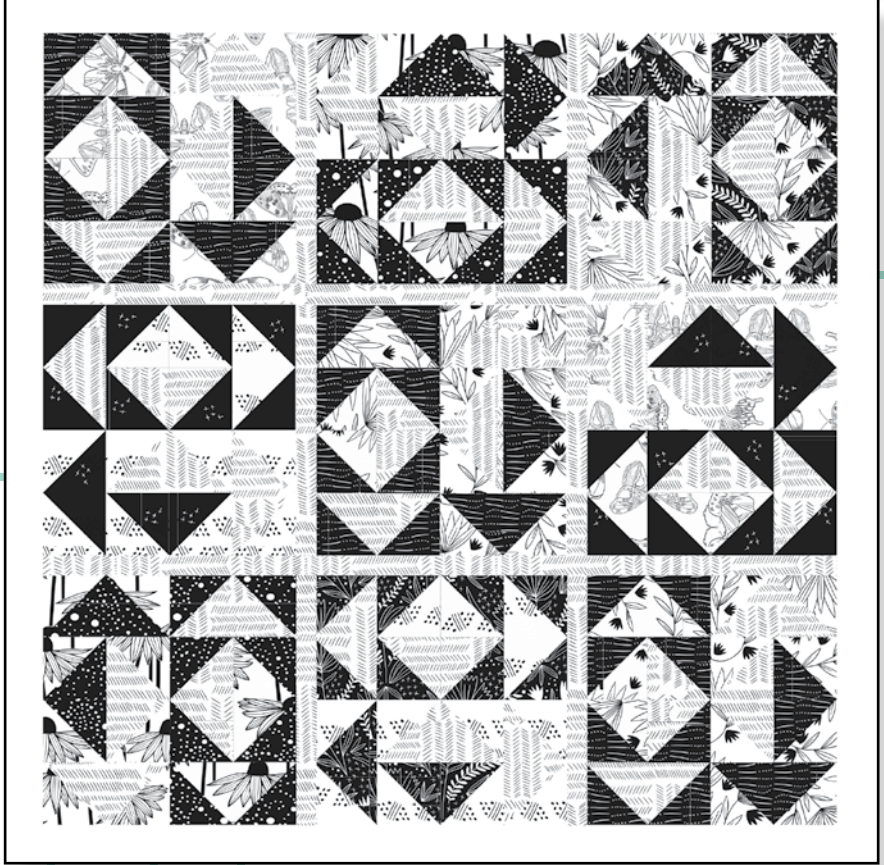


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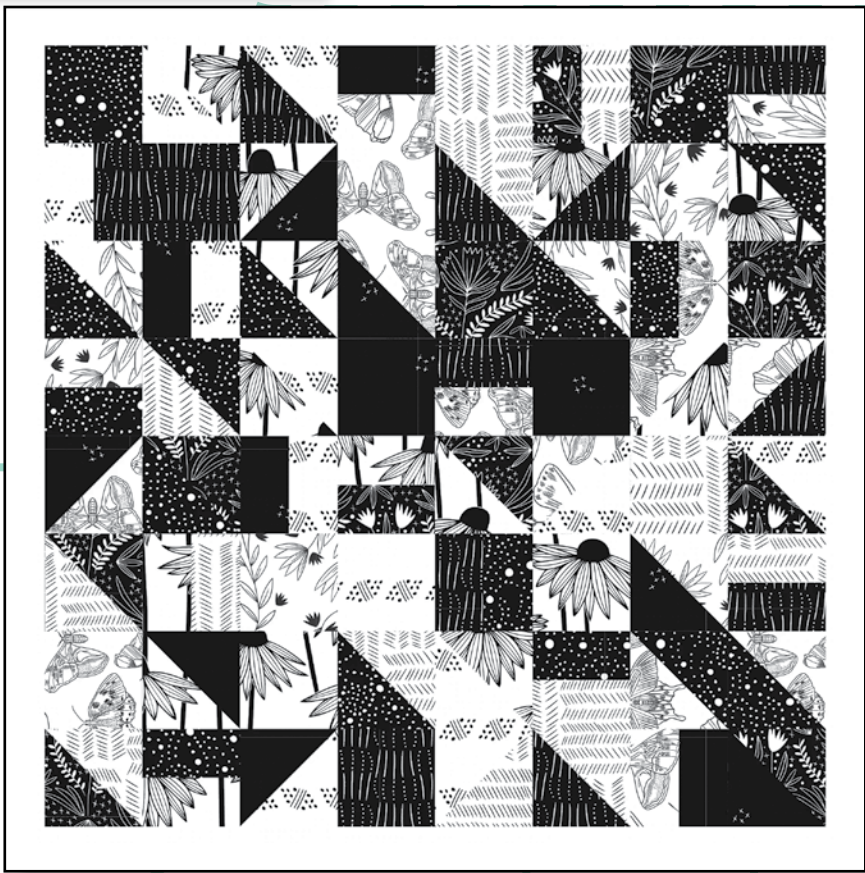
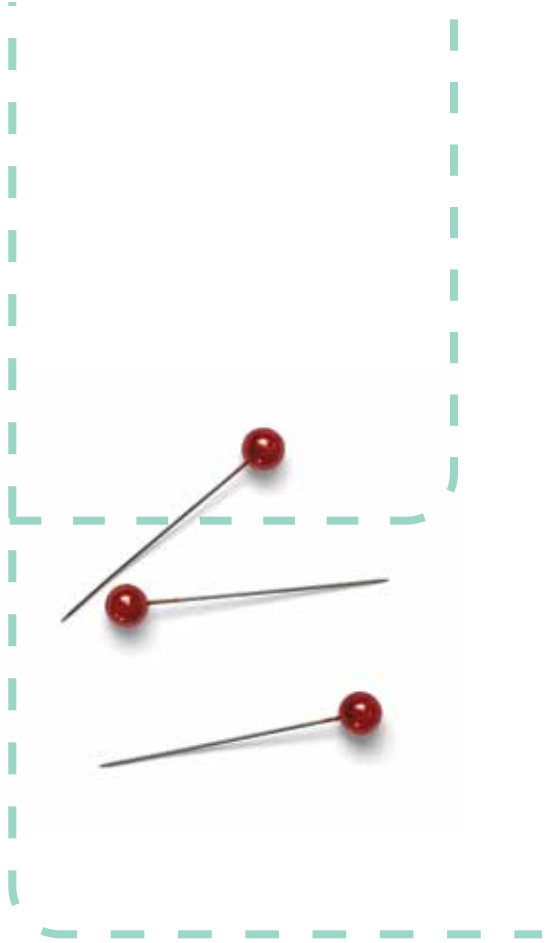
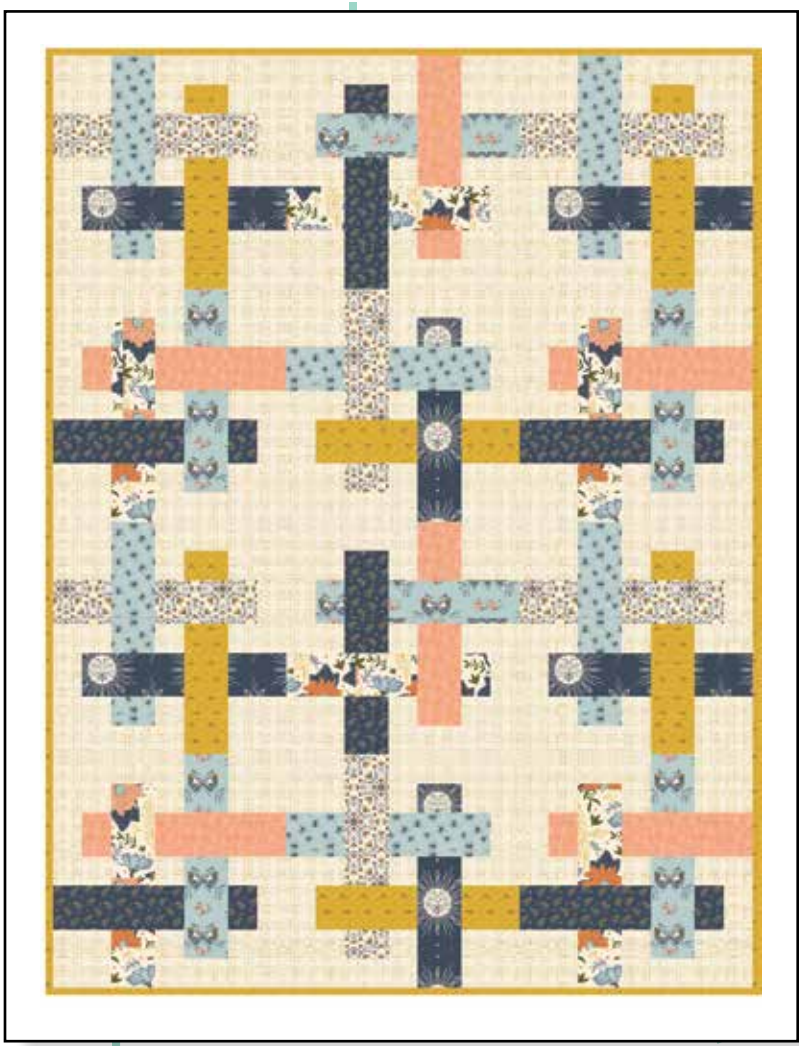




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Sour Cherry Coffee Cake

I tested this recipe and took some in for my coworkers where it was a hit! I used a half recipe of the glaze and neither of us enjoys very sweet flavours.

Streusel Crumb Topping

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup unsalted butter
- Sour Cherry Coffee Cake
- 2 large eggs
- ¾ cup canola oil of oil of choice
- ¾ cup sour cream or Greek yogurt
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 ¾ cups flour
- 2 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt

2 cups fresh or frozen sour cherries add 1 tablespoon flour/1 tablespoon sugar to coat cherries

Vanilla Creme Glaze:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 to 3 teaspoons milk

Preheat oven to 350°F degrees. Spray 8x8 pan with non-stick spray. Set aside.

Streusel Crumb Topping:

In a medium bowl, using a pastry cutter, cut through the sugar, flour, cinnamon and butter until you get small, coarse crumbs. Set aside.

Coffee Cake:

In a large bowl, add the eggs, oil, Greek yogurt/sour cream, sugar, lemon juice and mix together well with a whisk.

Add the flour, baking powder salt to the wet mixture and continue whisking until just combined.

Add 1 tablespoon flour/1 tablespoon sugar to coat cherries.

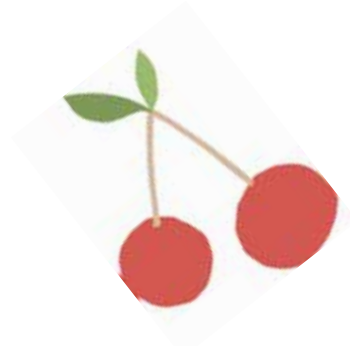
Add to cake batter and fold in cherries about 3-4 times. Too much folding will over-mix cherries into batter.

Transfer cake batter to prepared baking pan and sprinkle the crumb mixture evenly on top of the cake.

Transfer to oven for 44-55 minutes, check if done.

Glaze:

Glaze if desired. Mix together the powdered sugar, milk and vanilla and drizzle over cake after it's cooled.



New Color Palettes Perk Up Art, Business — and Me!

by Barbara Kalkis



I love to read mysteries and I believe the detective's mantra that there is no such thing as coincidence. That's because a coincidental meeting on a business flight was the reason I transformed my wardrobe and ideas about color.

I was just getting comfortable at a window seat when a woman wearing a pale blue-shirt, matching sweater and light blue jeans walked down the aisle, smiled, and sat down next to me. I

was wearing a deep red turtleneck, red scarf and dark blue jeans. We hit it off immediately.

Meanwhile, a flight attendant and a woman across the aisle—wearing all black—were heatedly arguing because the passenger refused to turn off her phone. When the attendant went to get help, I leaned over and in my no-nonsense teacher voice said, "Turn it off. NOW!" Shocked, the woman flicked off the phone and stowed it.

Meanwhile, my seat mate had whipped out a notebook and was busily scribbling in it and laughing. I couldn't help myself. I asked her what was so funny. It wasn't a what, it was a who. Me.

Turns out, she was a professor on her way to deliver a speech on color theory to psychologists. She had hit a stumbling block because her talk had no everyday real-life examples—until she met me. She said my red turtleneck mirrored my extrovert personality traits—fiery, energetic, assertive, quick tempered, action oriented. Her blue-gray hues screamed introvert, shy, accommodating, amiable, fear of confrontation. The woman in black ... well, you decide.

That encounter and a conversation about how color reflects and affects our personality convinced me to change my clothing color palette from the hot colors of red and black to cooler hues of blues, grays, white, pastels. Red is now reserved for Christmas and July 4th. Black comes out for Halloween and serious events.

Another experience linked color theory and art. I had prepared my travel watercolor palette so I could paint mountain vistas in my western Pennsylvania home region. Arriving, I opened the palette and groaned. The palette was all wrong! It held the colors of a California spring—golden yellows of flowers and leaves, grey-browns of tree trunks and vivid blues of skies. What I lacked were Appalachian forest and grassy blue-greens, cool blues of sky, pastel pinks and purples of lilacs, rhododendron, and apple blossoms.

What Color Is Your Stash?

Every year, color theorists, artists and businesses gather to determine a color palette that reflects and defines social trends, attitudes and a prevailing global "mood." Crafters and consumers see the result in fabrics, yarns, paper, inks, as well as clothing design, furniture, décor and even kitchen gadgets.

Trending color palettes may jolt our creative comfort zones in an uncomfortable way but isn't a jolt a good thing? Incorporating new colors spices our crafts, nudges us to use new hues in different designs, brightens our mood and pushes artistic perspective into fresh directions while keeping our minds open to change.

Quilt companies are old hands at offering kits in coordinated trendy colors and designs. Paper-crafting companies have caught up to the practice with suites that coordinate ink colors, papers, ribbons, embellishments and even stamping images that ignite the possibilities of new hues.

Some colors will always be classics—white, black, earth tones, navy blue and, yes, my former fave—red. But the new colors have encouraged me to dress, decorate and craft in a new style to keep my art fresh and my imagination whirling with what can be—not just what was.

@Barbara Kalkis is an educator, consultant and author of *Little Ditties for Every Day...A Collection of Thoughts in Rhyme and Rhythm*. Contact her at BarbaraKalkis01@gmail.com

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Random Acts

by Maranda K Jones

Who's In First?

My mom loves television. She always has. She enjoys getting to know the characters, and she remembers each episode of her favorite shows well. She can retell the story of a sitcom as if she was living that life herself. My uncle is the same way. When this brother and sister get talking about TV, it is time to sit back, relax, and enjoy the show.

If we did not know any better, we might think Ron Howard was one of their dear childhood friends. Every time they are together, the topic relates to something they have seen on the Andy Griffith show or Happy Days. They have introduced my kids and me to Opie Taylor and Richie Cunningham too, so everyone has spent some time with classic television and is involved in the rerun conversations.

Without reruns, we would not have hung out with the off-duty cab drivers in Taxi. The best episode of that show pictured Reverend Jim taking his driver's exam so Louie would hire him. Not knowing all the answers, Christopher Lloyd's character relies on his taxi-driving buddies to help him on the test. He asks the question, "What does a yellow light mean?" His buddy Bobby answers, "Slow down." So Jim repeats the question slower. "What... does... a... yellow... light... mean?" Bobby repeats his ambiguous answer, "Slow down!" Jim continues to misunderstand, and this conversation continues until the audience's laughter slows down. The laughs never come to a complete stop, and the confusion keeps rolling.

This confusion and wordplay reminds us of Abbott and Costello's classic comedic sketch, "Who's on First?" Abbott is the manager of a baseball team talking with Costello, a man interested in learning more about the team. Abbott tells him that some of the baseball players have funny nicknames. They seem to understand each other, until the names are listed. "Who's on first, What's on second, and I Don't Know is on third." As one naturally would, Costello does not understand that Abbott is stating names, not asking questions. Their frustration grows as Abbott strikes out in communicating clearly. They hit a home run in hilarity though!

I have had the pleasure of seeing this play out in real-life in my classroom. Instead of the legendary "Who's on First?" this could be titled "Who's in First?" Watching a first grader interact with a fifth grader was very similar.

Each month our elementary divides into small groups of kindergarten through fifth grade students, giving the children a chance to get to know each other. Fifth graders lead the younger children in crafts, games, and discussions. As a teacher, I overlook, letting the students lead the lessons, and I try not to laugh.

The little brown-haired girl with big brown eyes looking through her red-rimmed glasses did not let her small stature diminish her grand personality. She had questions and wanted answers. And she was not giving up.

Perseverance was the latest lesson, and the students were asked to take a few minutes and make a list of synonyms for the word "try." After a short explanation of what a synonym is, students got to work. All were writing except for this tiny first-grade female who wasn't quite sure what to write.

To her credit, she could have been writing a classic comedic sketch.

"I don't know a synonym for try."

"Stick to it," said our sweet fifth grade leader.

"Well, I am, but I don't know a synonym for try."

"Keep going."

"I'm trying. I don't know another word for try. Will you please help me?"

"Sure! Keep working!"

"I am working as hard as I can. What is another way to say 'try'?"

"Persevere."

"Oh! I know! My teacher said I persevered this morning when I had to write sentences with her."

"That's great! Good attitude! Way to persist."

"Thank you. I wish you would help me with a synonym for 'try' though."

"Don't give up!"

"Well, I am about to. This is so frustrating. What is a synonym for 'try'?"

Our fifth grade leader was once a first grader in my class too, so we have spent some time together. She knows me well and knew I was doing my best to hold back my laughter. She smiled at me, took a deep breath and asked to borrow a pencil. She returned to the puzzled petite one and asked, "Is it alright if I write on your paper?" The first grader answered yes, and as she watched her older peer write the words, "Don't give up" as a synonym, the light came on and the picture became clear.

Just like on television, that sigh of relief when the bright light bulb comes on happens in real-life as we meet many characters. As frustrations mount, the conflicts get more and more heated and tensions build. We search for a release, and comic relief with witty dialogue is the perfect interruption. Humor helps keep us focused on the bright side of life, giving us a break from the serious and tragic scenes. We keep watching, waiting for that resolution.



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Maranda Jones' new book **Random Acts**
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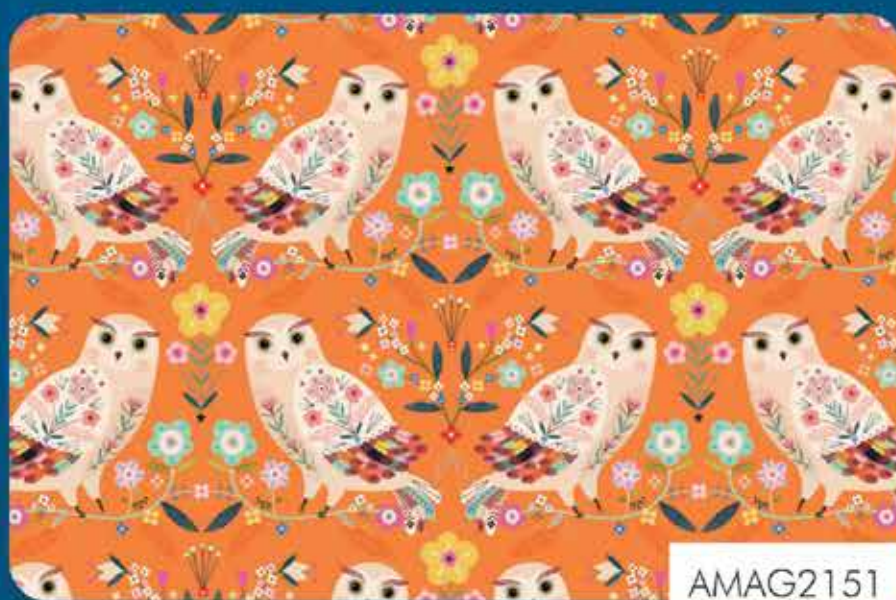
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Ajax	<i>Twisted Stitchers Quilt Guild</i> For information about our guild please go to our website twistedstitchersquiltguild.com
Alliston	<i>Quilting Corners Guild</i> We meet at St Johns United Church at 7pm on the first Tuesday or each month, except January.
Almonte	<i>Almonte Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Almonte Civitan Club, 500 Almonte Street Active at 7:00 pm from September through June (no meeting in December).
Ancaster	<i>Ancaster Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at the Marshall Memorial United Church, 20 Gilbert Ave. at 7pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to June.
Arnprior	<i>Arnprior District Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Christian Education Centre, 257 John St. N. at 6:30 pm on the fourth Wed. of each month from Sept. to June.
Barrie	<i>Simcoe County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Simcoe County Museum, 1151 Hwy 26, Midhurst at 1:00 pm on the Fourth Thursday each month except the 2nd Thursday in Dec and 3rd Thursday in June, from September to June. <i>Kempfenfelt Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Lion's Gate Banquet Hall on Blake Street, the 3rd Thursday of the month from 7-9pm <i>Barrie Modern Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Grace United Church, 350 Grove St. East the last Thursday of the month, on alternate months from September to May - 7pm and on various Saturdays during the alternate months, for Activities and Workshops, from October to June.
Belleville	<i>Quinte Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Recreation Centre, 116 Pinnacle Street. At 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month.
Binbrook	<i>Binbrook Country Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Binbrook United Church, 2623 Binbrook Rd. 7:30 pm the last Monday of the month from Sept - Nov and Jan - June.
Bracebridge	<i>The Pine Tree Quilters' Guild of Muskoka</i> We meet at the Bracebridge Memorial Arena, 169 James St at 1:00 pm on the 2nd. Thursday of the month from September through June.
Brampton	<i>Brampton Quilters Guild</i> We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month from September to June at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held at Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre, 292 Conestoga Dr, Brampton.
Brantford	<i>Brant Heritage Quilters</i> We meet at St George United Church at 7:30 pm. on the second Thursday of the month.
Brockville	<i>The Thousand Islands Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Royal Canadian Legion,180 Park Street at 7 pm on the 4th Thursday evening of the month. No meetings December, January, July and August.
Buckhorn	<i>Buckhorn Area Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Hartley Hall, St. Mathews / St. Adian Anglican Church at 9:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday of the month (excluding July, August and December).
Burlington	<i>Hilton Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Mainway Recreation Centre, 4015 Mainway Dr. at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of the month from September through June).
Caledonia	<i>Caledonia Grand River Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at 7pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through June.
Cambridge	<i>Busy Hands Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Preston Scout House, 1580 Queenston Road at 9:30 am on the third Monday of each month.
Chatham	<i>Chatham-Kent Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at St. Paul's Congregational Church, 450 Park Ave W at 7pm on the third Wednesday each month, except December.
Cornwall	<i>Cornwall Quilters Guild</i> We meet at St. Mathews Lutheran Church, 1509 Second St West at 7pm every third Monday evening from September through May.
Courtice	<i>Clarington Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Faith United Church, 1778 Nash Road on at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month.
Dryden	<i>Sunset Country Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at 84 St. Charles Street at 7 pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month.
Dunnville	D.O.T.S. Quilt Guild (Dunnville's Own Tiny Stitchers). We meet at Maple Creek Community Church, 110 Inman Rd. @ 6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month from September to June.
Elliot Lake	<i>Elliot Lake Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Gentle Shepherd Church, 3 Ottawa Ave. at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays from September through June.
Elmira	<i>The Elmira Needle Sisters</i> We meet at the Elmira Mennonite Church at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday of the month.
Etobicoke	<i>Etobicoke Quilters Guild</i> We meet at Neilson Park Creative Centre - 56 Neilson Dr. at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of the month.
Georgetown	<i>Hilton Hills Quilters Guild</i> We Meet at 8958 Trafalgar Rd, Georgetown, ON L7G 4S5. 6:45pm till 9pm from September till June on the fourth Monday of the month.
Gloucester	<i>Common Thread Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Le Mouvement D'Implication Francophone D'Orléans (MIFO), 6600 rue Carriere in Orleans at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month from September through June.
Goderich	<i>Goderich Quilters' Guild</i> We meet once a month on the 2nd Tuesday.
Grimsby	<i>Grimsby Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Livingston Activity Centre at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month.
Guelph	<i>Royal City Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Three Willows United Church, 577 Willow Road at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday each month from September until June.
Gwillinbury	<i>Gwillimbury Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Sharon-Hope United Church, 18648 Leslie St. at 1:00 pm on 4th Monday of the month from September through May.
Hagersville	<i>Haldimand Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at the Hagersville United Church at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of the month from September through June.
Haliburton	<i>Haliburton Highlands Quilter Guild</i> We meet at the Stanhope Community Centre, 1095 North Shore Rd, Algonquin Highlands at 1:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month.
Hamilton	<i>Hamilton Quilters Guild</i> We meet The Church of Resurrection, 435 Mohawk Rd. W.at 7:00 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September through August.
Ingersoll	<i>Oxford Quilters Guild</i> We meet month at the Ingersoll Creative Art Centre, 125 Centennial Lane (in Victoria Park) at 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday and 9:00 am on the first Thursday of each month.
Kanata	<i>The Kanata Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Glen Cairn United Church, 140 Abbeyhill Dr. at 9:30 am on the second Wednesday of the month from September to June.
Kemptville	<i>Kemptville Quilters Guild</i> We meet pm at the Kemptville Pentecostal Church 1964 County Road # 43 at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month (except for holiday Mondays).
Kenora	<i>Lake of the Woods Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at St. Louis Catholic Church, 912 Superior St in Keewatin at 7 PM on the second Thursday of the month.
Kincardine	Kincardine Sunset Quilters Guild. We meet the second Wednesday of every month except July and August, at 10 a.m. in the basement of St. Anthony's Church on Russell St. in Kincardine.
Kingston	<i>Kingston Heirloom Quilters</i> We meet at St. Johns Anglican Church Hall in Portsmouth Village at 9:30 am on the first Tuesday and 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month. <i>Limestone Quilt Guild</i> Meeting Area usually is - Kingston Senior Centre, 56 Francis Street, Kingston, Ontario, but we are on zoom right now. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm on zoom.
Kingsville	<i>Erie Shores Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Kingsville Arena, 2nd floor at 7p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month.
Kirkton	<i>Huron, Perth Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Kirktown/Wooddham Community Centre at 9:00 am on the second Tuesday of the month from September through May.
Kitchener - Waterloo	<i>The Waterloo County Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Parkside Community Room of the Parkside Arena in Waterloo at 1:30pm and 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month.
Lambton	<i>North Lambton Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Port Franks Hall on the 4th Wednesday of the month.
Lindsay	<i>Lindsay Creative Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Celebrations, 35 Lindsay St. N at 1:00 pm every 2nd Monday of the month except for October, December and June.
Manitoulin Island	<i>Island Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Community Hall in Mindemoya at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of the month from September though June.
Markdale	<i>Queen's Bush Quilters</i> We meet at Annesley United Church, 82 Toronto St. at 7:00 pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month from September to June.
Meaford	<i>Georgian Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Meaford Opera House, Sykes St. at 1:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month.
Mississauga	<i>Cawthra Senior's Centre</i>

	We meet at the Cawthra Senior's Centre at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of the month (except July and August). <i>Mississauga Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Tomken Twin Arenas at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month (except July and August).
Miramichi	<i>Miramichi Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Seamans Hospital at 7:00 pm every Tuesday and 10:00 am every Thursday.
Napanee	<i>Heritage Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Strathcona Paper Center at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month from September through to June.
Newmarket	<i>The Region of York Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Newmarket Community Centre, 200 Doug Duncan Drive on the fourth Wednesday of the month from September through May. <i>Moraine Quilt Guild</i> We meet in the hall at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - 484 Water Street, Newmarket at 9:30 am - 12 Noon for Social Sew and 1:00-3:30 pm for the Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month year round.
Niagara Region	<i>The Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Merrion Community Centre, 7 Park Ave., St. Catharines on the third Wednesday of each month.
Nobleton	A chapter of the <i>Modern Quilting Guild</i> We travel to various locations in Southern Ontario on a rotating basis.
Norwich	<i>Quaker Quilt Guild</i> We meet at 89 Stover St N, Norwich at 9:30 am on the second Monday of the month.
Orangeville	<i>Dufferin Piecemakers' Quilting Guild</i> We meet at the Orangeville Event Centre at 7:30 pm on the third Monday of the month from September through June.
Orilla	<i>Orillia Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Royal Canadian Legion, 215 Mississauga St. E. at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.
Orleans	<i>Common Thread Quilt Guild</i> Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm at MIFO, 6600 Carriere St, Orleans. www.commonthreadquiltguild.ca
Orono	<i>Ganaraska Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Seniors Activity Centre. 200 Station St. W at 7:15 pm on the last Wednesday of the month.
Oshawa	<i>Durham Trillium Quilters'</i> We meet at the Zion Christian Reformed Church 409 Adelaide Ave. E, Oshawa at 7:00pm every second Monday Sept.- June
Ottawa	<i>Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild</i> Our guild continues to meet on the ZOOM platform because of the covid-19 pandemic situation. Our normal in-person meetings will resume some time in 2022. The meetings are usually held the second Monday of every month September to June, at the Riverside United Church, 3191 Riverside Drive, Ottawa ON, K1V8N8. Our email address is ottawavalleyquiltersguild.org <i>QuiltCo</i> We meet at the Trinity Anglican Church in Old Ottawa South on the second Monday evening of the month except July and August.
Owen Sound	<i>Bluewater Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, 1900 3rd Av E at 7:00 pm every third Monday from March to December (except May which is on the second).
Paris	<i>Paris Quilting Bees</i> We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September to June at the Paris Fairgrounds at 7 PM. For information email: parisquiltingbees@gmail.com .
Perth	<i>Lanark County Quilters Guild</i> We meet at Lions Hall, Perth Fairgrounds at 7pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month.
Pickering	<i>Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Peace Lutheran Church, 928 Liverpool Road, Pickering at 7:00 pm on the 4th Monday of the month September through May, excluding December.
Port Loring	<i>Argyle Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Lions Den in Arnstein on the second Thursday of the month.
Port Perry	<i>Port Perry Patchers</i> We meet at the Hope Christian Reform Church, 14480 Old Simcoe Rd. in Prince Albert at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September to June.
Prince Edward	<i>Prince Edward County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the BCR Church in Bloomfield at 7:00 pm County on the second Wednesday of each month.
Rayside	<i>Rayside Balfour Quilting and Stitchery Guild</i> We meet at the Chelmsford Arena (upstairs) 215 Edward Avenue, Chelmsford, Ontario at 7:00 p.m. every Monday from September to May.
Renfrew	<i>Quilt Guild Renfrew & Area</i> We meet at the Horton Community Centre, 1005 Castleford Road, Horton from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from September to June.
Richmond	<i>Richmond Area Quilters Guild (RAQG)</i> We meet at the Richmond Legion, 6430 Ottawa Street at 7:30 on the third Wednesday of each month.
Ruthven	<i>Erie Shores Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at the Ruthven-Olinda United Church every third Tuesday.
Sarnia	<i>Sarnia Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Redeemer Christian Reformed Church 5814 Blackwell Sdrd, Sarnia at 7pm the first Monday of each month.
Sault St. Marie	<i>Stitches From The Heart Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Senior's Centre on Bay St at 7pm the last Monday of the month.
Scarborough	<i>Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Peace Lutheran Church, 928 Liverpool Road, Pickering at 7:00 pm on the 4th Monday of the month September through May, excluding December.
Simcoe	<i>Twilight Quilters' Guild of Norfolk County</i> We meet at the Old Wyndham Church, 30 Glendale Crescent at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month. <i>Norfolk County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Vittoria & District Community Centre on the first Tuesday of each month except October.
Stittsville	<i>The Quilters Club</i> We meet at the The Pretty Street Community Centre at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of the month.
St Marys	<i>The Stonetowne Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the End Zone Room of the Pyramid Centre at 9:30 am on the third Tuesday of the month from September to May.
Stony Creek	<i>Stoney Creek Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Royal Canadian Legion, 12 King Street East, at 6:30 pm on first Wednesday of the month from September to June.
Sudbury	<i>Sudbury & District Quilting & Stitchery Guild</i> We meet at 140 Durham Street at 7:00 pm on every Tuesday from September to April.
Sutton	<i>The Georgina Pins and Needles</i> We meet at the Knox United Church 34 Market Street at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month from September to June.
Thunder Bay	<i>Thunder Bay Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Calvin Luthern Church on Edward Street at 7:30pm on the 3rd Monday of each month from September to June.
Toronto	<i>Etobicoke Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Neilson Park Creative Centre at 7:15 pm on the third Monday of the month. <i>Pieceful Nights Quilters' Guild of North Toronto</i> meets the second Wednesday of each month. During COVID-19 meetings will be held via Zoom. Guests welcome. https://www.pnag.ca .
	<i>Toronto Modern Quilt Guild</i> We meet at The Workroom Studio, 46 Nobel St Studio 102 at 3:00 pm on the last Sunday of each month.
	<i>York Heritage Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Toronto Botanical Gardens on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from September through May.
	<i>Yorkshire Rose Quilters' Guild of Toronto</i> We meet at Danforth Mennonite Church, 2174 Danforth Avenue at 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month from September through May.
Wasaga Beach	<i>Slope to Slope Quilters Guild</i> We meet in the Community Hall at the Wasaga Stars Arena at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month September through June.
Waterloo	<i>The Waterloo County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet the Albert McCormick Community Centre at 1:30 pm and 7pm on the third Wednesday of each month from September through June
Whitby	<i>Kindred Hearts Guild</i> We meet at the Whitby Baptist Church on the third Tuesday of the month.
Windsor	<i>Windsor Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 594, 5030 Howard Ave., Windsor, ON N9A 6Z6 at 9:00 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month from September to June.
York Region	<i>The Moraine Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at 1:00 on the first Wednesday of the month.

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Writing from Life

by Jeanette Lukowski

Trunk Shows

I still remember the first time I heard about a quilt guild holding a "Trunk Show". I honestly didn't know what to expect! Memories of a Trunk-or-Treat event the church I had belonged to in northern Minnesota popped up, so I envisioned a parking lot being filled with cars—trunks open, draped with the various wares vendors and/or other quilters hoped to sell—kind of like a flea market just for quilters!

Thankfully, that flea market vision of mine was wrong. I have now attended three different trunk shows hosted by three different groups, and would like to share my observations.

By loose definition, I guess you could say a trunk show really begins at the home of the person (or people) who are the invited guests. In this case, they sort through their collection of quilts, decide what specific aspect they want to talk about, and place all necessary items in their vehicle before hitting the road. The two women who were invited to our New Mexico quilt guild were from Montana (ironically, the last event to be held pre-pandemic); the focus of their presentation to the guild was using 2-1/2" squares, and they offered a class the following day for those who were interested and available. Since I had a full-time job during the day, I was only able to attend the evening's guild meeting—a but a guild friend was able to attend the daytime event, and showed me her finished project a number of weeks later. (It was really beautiful!)

The second trunk show I attended was offered by a small quilt shop in southern Minnesota in 2021. I had moved during the pandemic, and was eager to get out and explore, so when I heard about a sidewalk sale and trunk-show-under-the-tent in the space next to the quilt store, I just had to attend.

This time, the presenter was a local quilter, who just lived about 5 miles from the store. As she knew many of the ladies running the shop and attending the event, this conversation was a bit more casual and personal. The tent-like awning was also comfortably situated so we could sit without masks, enjoy the summer breezes, and not be baked by the mid-morning sun. This hour-long presentation focused on needle-turn applique—another quilt technique I had never heard of, but was eager to learn more about. In conjunction with the anniversary theme of the week, the store was also offering daily discounts on items each day's trunk show's presenter used. I purchased fabric, but none of the tools, as I was not quite ready to turn my new knowledge into action.

March 2022, the third trunk show. Hosted by the guild I joined in Minnesota, the quilter—whose day job is Lawyer—drove just over an hour to join us. While she began with the story of how she first started sewing (a grandmother taught her), the show's focus combined her interests: Social Justice themed quilts.

I highly recommend attending trunk shows!





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What Not To Collect

by Ed Kindle

The antiques & collectibles market has changed a great deal in the last 7 years that Five Katz Antiques has been open. It is radically different from what the experience gained over the last 30 years of buying and selling antiques had me prepared for.

Many things are collectible. The goal is to buy it when it's first arriving and then hope it becomes hotter. Then, in theory at least, when you sell you make a profit due to the increased interest and popularity. This depends on some ability to predict the future, and of course you have to sell at the right time.

My problem is I collect things that I think are cool, and even if they become "hot" I tend not to sell them because I like them and put a great deal of time, energy and money into them. I fall back on my old saying of "but if I sell it, I won't have it." It drives my wife crazy. Then when I finally do decide to part with things, they of course, are no longer "hot".

I thought I would take a moment and list some of the items that you probably shouldn't be collecting right now. Don't get me wrong, if you love something and want to collect it, then by all means do so. If no one else is collecting "it", then you stand to find some real bargains. But if your goal is to assemble a collection of items with the intention of selling them at a later time and making a profit, these items may not work for that purpose.

Toby Mugs – Toby mugs were a popular item for many years. They were mugs that were character based and anthropomorphic. Some popular designs were Sherlock Holmes and Winston Churchill as well as other themes like town criers and such. Some are still valuable, but most are well under \$100.

Beer Steins – Once very chic, beer steins have fallen off the radar for quite some time now. Once made by very well know potteries, mass production has simply created too many. Beer companies pumped them out by the millions. They are mostly found in yard sales, flea markets and thrift stores. Some can hold their value, but over all the genre has lost much.

McDonald's Happy Meal Toys – Millions. They made millions of each and every one. Unless you have one that is a known low production quantity, and in mint condition and still sealed, they won't be worth more than a couple dollars.

Collectible plates – What, my Norman Rockwell collector's plates aren't worth anything? I am sorry to say again, it's in the numbers. They made millions of each one, and even if it was a "limited edition", it was still in the hundreds of thousands, and then they made another when that one sold out. And then another, and so on. These plates were a way for the masses to buy the art of a favorite artist and hang it in their home and do it on a budget. Even though they were only 4 payments of \$19.99, they are worth pennies on the dollar.

China – In addition to dinner parties, which no one has anymore, people would pick a china pattern and strive to collect every available piece that was offered in that pattern. Some folks, I don't know why, would collect multiple sets at the same time. Now, you can buy it very inexpensively as the market is super saturated. As folks downsize, move into assisted living centers or pass on, the younger generations just don't care to own them. They don't entertain as our parents and grandparents did, they don't want to wash them, you can't microwave them and they don't want to display them or move them.

Glass and crystal – See above. The younger generations just don't seem to be collectors. Generation y and especially Generation Z have been brought up in an ever increasing digital and online world. Possessions such as this are a curiosity as much as anything. They aren't as into craftsmanship and don't have the same appreciation for say an amazing piece of hand cut crystal. I saw a vase once that weighed over 50 pounds and was hand cut with Greek mythological scenes. The artist could only work in for only 15 minutes a day because of the weight. It took years to complete. Ask a Gen Z what a non-fungible token is.

Art – Unless you are in the Matisse, Rembrandt, Pollack, or Van Gogh money circles, I recommend you collect art that you just love to look at. It's a difficult thing to buy art to make money on. Even local art such as The Highwaymen paintings fluctuate greatly both in value and interest. In addition, sometimes the more popular an artist is, the more fake or mis-attributed pieces get into the market. You had better know what you are doing. I don't know art, but I know what I like, and that's what I buy.

Hummel's – Hummel's used to be very high end and commanded a good price on the new and secondary market. However, as with most antiques nowadays, the market has shifted and they are not bringing high dollars. A quick search on an online auction site will find Hummel's with starting bids for six pieces at \$9.99 plus shipping. If you wanted to start a Hummel collection, now's the time.

Beanie Babies – Ah yes. No list of what not to collect would be complete without the ubiquitous bean bag toy that made Ty Warner rich. Very rich. The beanie baby craze hit us all hard driving miles and miles in search of that one that we were missing. Originally priced for less than \$10, towards the end of the craze I was selling some for well over \$400. I was able to get out just in time before the beanie crash. You still see the not so rare Princess Diana beanie baby online for crazy prices. There is one online now for \$23,000 (why I don't know), but most are \$15.00.

Die Cast Cars – Die cast cars encompass a huge market segment. Hot Wheels, Matchbox, and others ranging in scale from very small to 1:18th. Military, NASCAR, circus, hot rods, fantasy rides, antique cars, planes and more, nearly every genre of wheeled vehicle is or has been represented. Unfortunately only a very small segment of this vast category is valuable due in large part of the sheer numbers of pieces made of each model. A very few versions, in their original packages from the last 1960's to the mid 1970's are bringing good prices now. The rest not so much.

Well there you have it. My list of ten things not to collect right now. I say that not to discourage anyone, but to talk about how values of certain items haven't really maintained well. Some folks told their kids, "All this will be worth big dollars after I die. You can put your kids through college with the profits." Well, that is no longer a true statement for the most part. If you want to collect, collect! I encourage you to find something you are passionate about, that fits into your budget and go for it.

Collecting is a great hobby. It is interesting and educational and the hunt is always fun. People collect any number of items and something will be sure to fit your interests. One of the great things about our collections are the memories of where we were when we found a particular item. Just be careful to collect for the right reasons as huge financial gains rarely happen. They always say "The best way to make a small fortune in antiques is to start with a large one." You probably won't get rich, but you will have fun.

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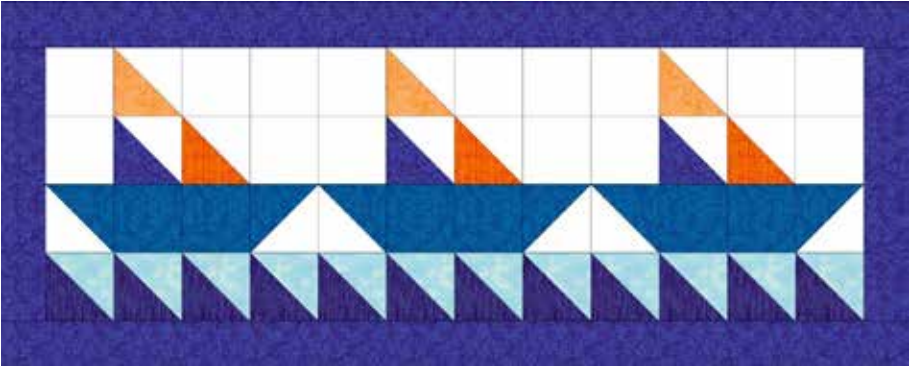


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Summer Sailboats Table Runner

This is an easy table runner that will bring thoughts of sailing on a summer’s day!



Materials Requirements

- Light blue (for waves): (3) 5-1/2” squares
- Dark blue (for waves): (3) 5-1/2” square s
- (6) 3-1/2” and (3) 4” square of blue fabric for boats
- (15) 3-1/2” and (7) 4” squares of white fabric
- (9) 4” squares of various fabrics for the sails
- ¼ yard for borders
- ½ yard Backing fabric
- 1/3 yard Binding fabric

The table runner shown is made from three blocks. You can make it bigger by making more blocks.

1. Pin one each of the light and dark blue 5-1/2” wave fabric squares together, right sides together, and sew around ¼” from the perimeter. Repeat with the other two 5-1/2” light and dark blue squares.
2. Cut the sewn square each way diagonally.
3. Press open and trim, if needed, to 3-1/2” square. You should have 12 squares.
4. On the 4” squares of white fabric, draw a diagonal line on the wrong side.
5. Pin each of the colored (boat and sail) 4” squares to a white 4” square, right sides together, and sew ¼” on either side of the drawn line. Cut apart on the drawn line, press toward the dark fabric, and trim to 3-1/2” square. You will have one of each sail color square left over; save for another project.
6. Sew the block together in rows, beginning at the top, following the photo. Then, sew the rows together.
7. Once you’ve made the desired number of blocks, sew them together.
8. For a 3-block table runner, cut (2) pieces of border fabric that are 2-1/2” wide by 12-1/2” and attach to the ends. Then, cut (2) pieces of border fabric that are 2-1/2” x 40” and sew to the top and bottom.
9. Sandwich and quilt as desired.
10. Cut (4) strips that are 2-1/2” x width of fabric and join at short ends for binding. Press the strip in half lengthwise. Sew binding to front of quilt. Turn binding to back and hand-stitch down.
11. Make and attach a label.

You can find more patterns by Sleeping Cat Creations at www.SleepingCatCreations.com, www.CreativeFabrica.com, www.QuiltWoman.com, and www.etsy.com/shop/SleepingCatCreations

Patti Laird is an award-winning quilter who designs patterns, teaches classes, offers longarm services, makes custom quilts, and hosts quilting retreats in her business, Sleeping Cat Creations. She is also the founder of the International Quilters’ Guild (www.internationalquiltersguild.org).



The Fight is On!
Mystery Quilt 2022 for The Country Register
Designed by Ann Jones

If you have any questions contact Erica at Nine Patch Quilt & Fabrics, Nevada, MO
ericaskouby@gmail.com or 417-667-7100. Miss one of the parts?
Check www.countryregister.com

PART 3
This will be a bit magical for you as the pattern comes together. Follow the diagram to set your blocks together.

4	4	3	2	2	2	3	4	4
4	3	2	1	1	1	2	3	4
3	2	1	3	3	3	1	2	3
3	2	1	3	4	3	1	2	3
3	2	1	3	4	3	1	2	3
4	3	2	1	3	1	2	3	4
4	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	4
4	3	2	1	2	1	2	3	4
3	2	1	2	3	2	1	2	3
2	1	2	3	4	3	2	1	2
2	1	2	3	4	3	2	1	2
4	2	3	4	4	4	3	2	4



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