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July/August 2021

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Minnesota's Guide to Specialty Shopping & Fun Events



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The Country Register began in Arizona, in the Fall of 1988, to provide effective, affordable advertising for shops, shows, and other experiences enjoyed by a kindred readership. Since then the paper has flourished and spread. Look for the paper in your travels.

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Months July/August 2021

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Deadline For the Sept/Oct 2021
Edition is August 10th!

And the Winner Is...

Rebecca Maish of International Falls, MN won a \$25 gift certificate to Studio 53 in International Falls, MN! Rebecca says Studio 53 is her favorite shop because "they have a nice variety of fabric. I can always find what I am looking for!"

Congratulations!

Happy Independence Day

Rhubarb, More Than Just the "Pie Plant"

Did you know? "Rhubarb" is an out of date slang term for a quarrel or dispute.

It was a surprise to me at work when I found out that some of my coworkers had never tasted rhubarb or hadn't tried it since they were kids. Rhubarb is a staple in our house from early spring to fall. I even freeze some for winter. It probably helps that neither my husband and I are "sweets" people. I grew up eating rhubarb all the time...stewed, on ice cream or even just grabbing a stalk from the garden and eating it raw. I know some of you are cringing at the thought of that! You'll notice in this edition a plethora of rhubarb recipes because it's such an underappreciated fruit.

I do have a recipe from my Mom that I introduced to my husband, and now he asks for it every summer. It's not really a recipe, it's more like general instructions. Take summer rhubarb (when it's stringy and harder to use in recipes) and fill a soup pot with cut up rhubarb, add sugar and water. Simmer and reduce until all of the flavour is out of the rhubarb and has been extracted into the water. Strain the liquid into a juice pitcher. Add the rhubarb juice concentrate into Sprite or Ginger-ale. I have no idea where the recipe came from, it just was something she'd make in the summer.

A little bit on the history of rhubarb...it became popular in the 18th century in England after sugar became widely available. That being said, it was commonly paired with strawberries to balance the bitterness. A little bit of trivia is that although rhubarb is technically a vegetable, it is legally a fruit in the States. In 1947, a New York court reasoned that it is often cooked and consumed as a fruit. In Asia, the roots are used in medicine.

Also, I'm certain that rhubarb fans are aware that the leaves contain high levels of a poisonous chemical call oxalic acid. In addition to being high in antioxidants, rhubarb stalks are a good source of vitamin K1, which helps with blood clotting problems; and it's a good source of fiber.

Its perennial hardiness is certainly a blessing to us on the prairies. There seem to be very few yards without a clump of rhubarb if not in the yard, then just outside the back fence. When we first moved into our current house one fall, there was zero landscaping. Just some hard dirt and a construction bin in the front yard. One of the first things we did was guesstimate where we'd have a flower bed and plopped the rhubarb plant that we'd brought from our previous home in the spot. We had every intention of moving it the following year, but got so busy landscaping (and happy to have something green growing) that we just left it. It's still in the front yard and looks lovely every year – full and bushy. It does sort of look like an exotic tropical plant. We've since expanded with another rhubarb plant in the garden too!

In case you're curious – I wasn't successful in winning my coworkers into being fans of rhubarb) even though I brought in a pie!

Rhubarb Fool

We're a family of rhubarb lovers and this is a "we have company version of stewed rhubarb".

- Rhubarb Compote
- 1 lb. of chopped rhubarb
- 1/2 cup sugar
- Juice of 1/2 an orange
- Yogurt
- 2 cups of plain yogurt
- Zest of 1 orange
- 1 Tbsp honey

- Wafers
- 3 Tbsp icing sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 box of puff pastry (or leftover piecrust cut into wedges and sprinkled with cinnamon and sugar and baked)

In a medium saucepan place the rhubarb, sugar and orange juice. Place the lid on the saucepan and bring to a boil for about 2-3 minutes. Remove the lid and simmer for a couple more minutes until it reaches a thick consistency. Cool.

To make the wafers: either unroll the puff pastry if it comes in a sheet or grab the rolling pin and roll it out to the thickness recommended on the box. Cut into wedges. Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon and bake according to box instructions. Cool.

Mix the yogurt, orange zest and honey together.

Drop a spoonful of yogurt into a serving glass, followed by the rhubarb compote. Continue layering until the glass is full. Place the puff pastry/piecrust wedges into the mixture.

Rhubarb Custard Pie

A coworker's Mom gave me this recipe back when we worked in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. It's been a standard rhubarb pie recipe ever since. Kirby likes it because it's rhubarb pie that isn't crunchy with sugar.

- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 3 Tbsp flour
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 2 eggs, well beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 4 cups chopped rhubarb
- 1 single pie shell



Mix all the ingredients in a large mixing bowl and pour into the pie shell. Meringue can be used as a topping if you want to fancy it up.

Bake on the bottom rack of a preheated 425 F oven for 10 minutes, reduce the heat to 350F and bake for an additional 40 minutes.

Colleen Gust is an avid baker and gardener and lives with her husband outside of Regina, Saskatchewan. Kirby and Colleen Gust are publishers of the Manitoba & Saskatchewan Country Register.



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Special Events

July

- 4.....Independence Day Celebration - Renville County Historical Society and Museum
- 7-10.....Party Express Shop Hop - Michele's Quilt Shop - Blue Earth
- 23-24.....Teresa Coates Classes - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
- 30-August 21.....Quilt Minnesota Shop Hop - Across Minnesota

August

- 6.....Pie Day - Braham
- 12-14.....Renville County Fair - Bird Island
- 13-15.....Quilt Expo - Quilter's Cottage - Blue Earth
- 27-28.....19th Anniversary Celebration - Gone To Pieces Quilt Shop - Kimball

September

- 9-11.....The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show



Take your paper with you this summer as you travel the state and stop in and visit the shops in The Country Register! Tell them you saw them here in the paper!

Bemidji

Random Acts

by Maranda K. Jones

Time and Place

After a full day of fun in the sun, my daughters and I stopped in the hotel gift shop for a look around. Typical treasures telling of the time and place we visited surrounded the small souvenir store on the fourth floor. Post cards, t-shirts, keychains and magnets filled the space around us, and they each picked out a late night snack with something to drink. They also chose a few gifts for friends, and we made our way to the checkout.

The older woman behind the counter was very friendly and welcoming. She politely commented on their selections and asked the girls about their day. This could have unknowingly been an invitation to hear a very long story! They had spent the day swimming, trying new foods, and laughing on rides with their brother. Instead of launching into a long story about how much fun they were having, my oldest daughter answered, "It was good, thanks. How was your day?"

The woman smiled, exhaled, and replied, "Better now."

Then she placed one hand on her heart and teared up a bit. She told me how much she appreciated someone asking her that simple question in return. She said to be asked by a ten-year-old child especially made her day, making this mama's heart very proud. She told us it had been a long day.

She had a lot on her mind. She had driven three hours from home to come to work for two days a week, just like usual. This particular day, when she left her ailing father, it hit her harder than others. She explained how her nephew stays home with him to offer reprieve while she stays at the resort to work. She wondered if this was the time she should have stayed home and if she was in the right place.

She shared how much she enjoys working at the resort, fulfilling a need for balance in her life during her retirement years. She sees families making memories together, enjoying their vacations, and escaping from reality. Her work here is her escape. Her reality is caring for her dad five days a week. Her desire to give him the care that he deserves is evident. She does her best to make sure he is comfortable and content.

She spoke with love toward her father, and we shared our love toward Our Heavenly Father. We remembered Ecclesiastes 3 that says "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." We all need balance in our lives, and enjoying work is truly a gift of God. She enjoys her work, without a doubt, and we shared our faith in an unexpected time and place.

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Country Register Recipe Exchange

Frozen Pineapple Slush

submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN



- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 cups water | 4 cups orange juice |
| 2 cups sugar | 15-1/4 oz can crushed pineapple |
| 4 cups lemon | 4 riped bananas - mashed |

In a saucepan over medium heat, combine water and sugar. Bring to a boil. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat and stir in remaining ingredients. Divide mixture between two 13x9 baking pans. Freeze until solid. Remove pans from freezer a few minutes before serving to allow slush to soften. Scoop into bowls or cups. Makes 24 servings.

Countryberries Designs



Summer Fun

This pattern is free for you to use. Please give the artist credit. Not for commercial use.

Enlarge this pattern to your desired size. Cut the watermelon and arrows from plywood or pine. After painting with acrylic paint, nail the shapes to a tomato stake. You can also applique the design with wool or cotton fabric to make a pillow or wallhanging. You can do punch-needle or rug hooking techniques too. Whatever craft you choose, have fun!

Designed by Kathy Graham

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Maranda Jones' new book **Random Acts** is now available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

The book includes her reader-acclaimed articles from the last decade.

Country Register Recipe Exchange

Cherry White Chocolate Cookies

submitted by Shirley Ross of Alexandria, MN



- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1/2 cup butter softened | 1 1/2 cup flour |
| 1/2 cup brown sugar | 1/2 tsp baking soda |
| 1/2 cup sugar | 1/4 tsp salt |
| 1 large egg | 1/2 cup white chocolate chips |
| 1 tsp vanilla | 3/4 cup dried cherries |

Pre-heat oven to 375°. In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugars until fluffy and pale in color, about 3-5 minutes. Beat in egg and vanilla. In another bowl, combine flour, soda, and salt. Carefully stir the mixture into the butter mixture, just until combined. Last, stir in the chips and dried cherries. Drop on a greased cookie sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes until the edges are golden brown.

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See all the new fabric, notions, books & patterns; shop special edition kits; and get in on some amazing deals!

Tuesday, 7:00PM

Shop News & Preview New Arrivals

Friday, 9:30AM

Fudgy Peanut Butter Brownie

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup flour
- pinch of salt
- 2 tbsp cocoa powder
- 2 tbsp oil
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 tsp vanilla
- 1 tsp peanut butter

1. Add sugar, flour salt and cocoa powder to mug.
2. Add in oil, water and vanilla.
3. Stir until mixed.
4. Add peanut butter in middle of mix and push down a bit so it's submerged in the brownie batter.
5. Microwave for 1 minute.

Note: The longer you let it cool the more it will solidify into a cakier brownie if you'd prefer not to have it gooey.



Recipe by The Typical Mom



ALONG THE PRESIDENTIAL TRAIL

Part of a series
by Jan Keller

James Buchanan — 15th President of the United States

James Buchanan was born in 1791 near Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. His immigrant Scotch-Irish father was a successful storekeeper. James Buchanan entered Dickinson College in 1807 as a junior and was one of the best academically in his class and graduated two years later.

Buchanan studied law and was accepted to the bar in 1812. His considerable legal skill brought him acclaim and drew him into politics. He began his political career in 1814 as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives; in 1820 he was elected to Congress. With only a few exceptions, he spent the next forty years and served as both congressman and senator, as minister to Russia under President Andrew Jackson, as secretary of state during the presidency of James K. Polk, and as minister to Great Britain under Franklin Pierce. In 1856 Buchanan was elected President.

Buchanan is the only U.S. president who never married. In 1819, he was engaged to Ann Coleman, the daughter of a wealthy Pennsylvania manufacturer; however, the wedding was called off that same year and she died unexpectedly soon afterward. During Buchanan's time in the White House, his niece, Harriet Lane, assumed the social duties of first lady and became a popular figure.

Buchanan's presidency was marred by controversy. On the question of slavery in the territories, Buchanan endorsed the southern position that slaveholders had a right to hold slaves. Buchanan, who identified with the South, vetoed a homestead bill to provide free land to settlers, which was popular among northerners. Most of Buchanan's cabinet members were slaveholders who sympathized with the south.

In the 1860 Democratic convention, the party was so divided it ran two presidential candidates, one

favored by northern Democrats, the other by southern Democrats. The party's division contributed to the subsequent Republican victory.

The final crisis of Buchanan's presidency followed the 1860 election when seven southern states left the Union. In his message to Congress in early December 1860, issued prior to secession, Buchanan blamed the crisis on the North's interference with slavery and urged northern states to repeal their laws which hampered the return of fugitive slaves. Simultaneously, however, Buchanan defended the Union by claiming secession was unconstitutional. He urged the South to wait until the Republicans committed some overt and dangerous act before seceding. Buchanan claimed the government had the responsibility of enforcing the laws, but had no power to coerce a state to remain in the Union.

On March 4, 1861, Buchanan, weary and glad to be relieved of his duties, left office and retired to his Wheatland estate, in Lancaster, PA. Although he supported the war effort and blamed the South for instigating the fighting, he was widely ridiculed for failing to put down secession. In 1866, he published his memoirs, *Mr. Buchanan's Administration on the Eve of the Rebellion*. He died on June 1, 1868, at the age of 77, from a severe cold and the complications of old age and was buried at Woodward Hill Cemetery in Lancaster, PA.



President
1857-1861

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The Buchanan Memorial
in Washington, D.C.

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Bunting Swag Lap Afghan

by Kirby Gust

This pattern was inspired by the red, white and blue half circle bunting seen everywhere in the States on the 4th of July, and I think it would look quite nice crocheted with Americana yarn. This pattern took me 4 tries to get right. My first few tries left me with an afghan that was about an inch wider every 4 rows. I finally figured out how to even it out as I worked the rows. The afghan is 92 stitches wide, but some rows have 93 stitches while others have 114. I found myself counting the row stitches every 6 rows just to make sure I hadn't added or omitted any stitches. I hope you enjoy this slightly challenging pattern. I used 6 balls of a #5 bulky worsted yarn and a 5.5mm hook, but a medium weight yarn will give you close to the same results. The afghan measures approximately 30 inches wide by 38 inches long. As a bonus, when using this afghan as a lap warmer you can push your fingers through the buntings to keep them warm as well. I changed yarn colors every time the ball of yarn ran out, but I think it would look quite nice if you changed color after every 6 or 12 rows.

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

ch = Chain

sc = Single Crochet

sl-st = Slip Stitch

dc = Double Crochet

ch 1 and turn counts as first sc throughout

ch 3 and turn counts as first dc throughout

Chain 95

Row 1: dc in 3rd ch from hook. Dc in each chain till end. (92 dc). Ch 3 and turn

Row 2: dc into each dc across. Ch 3 and turn.

Row 3: dc into each dc across. Ch 1 and turn

Row 4: sc into next 2 dc. 2 sc in next dc *Ch 5, skip next 3 dc and sl-st in next dc* repeat from *-* 20 times. Sc into next 4 dc, ch 3 and turn.

Row 5: dc in next 3 sc. *dc into the same space as the sl-st. Working in front of the chain 5 loop dc into the next 3 dc* repeat from *-* 20 times. Dc in next 5 sc. Ch 3 and turn. (93 dc across)(all stitches in this row except for the first 4 and last 5 are worked into row 3)

Row 6: Dc into next 4 dc. *Work 4 dc around the next chain 5 loop, skipping the next 3 dc from row 5 in the process. Dc into the next dc (this is the dc that is worked into the sl-st)* repeat from *-* 20 times. Dc into the next 4 dc. ch 3 and turn. (114 dc across)

Row 7: dc into next 3 dc. *Skip the next dc, dc into the next 4 dc* repeat from *-* 20 times. Skip the next dc, dc into the next 4 dc. Chain 3 and turn.(92 dc)

Row 8: dc into each dc across. Ch 3 and turn.

Row 9: dc into each dc across. Ch 1 and turn.

Rows 10 - 15: repeat rows 4 - 9

Rows 16 - 21: repeat rows 4 - 9

Rows 22 - 27: repeat rows 4 - 9

Rows 28 - 33: repeat rows 4 - 9

Rows 34 - 39: repeat rows 4 - 9

Rows 40 - 45: repeat rows 4 - 9

Rows 46 - 51: repeat rows 4 - 9

Rows 52 - 57: repeat rows 4 - 9

Rows 58 - 63: repeat rows 4 - 9

Rows 64 - 69: repeat rows 4 - 9

Rows 70 - 75: repeat rows 4 - 9

Row 76: sc into each dc across.

Tie off and work in ends.



Scavenger Hunt Adventures Are Outdoors' Fun for Kids

by Patty Duncan

A fun filled activity for kids this summer is an Outdoors Scavenger Adventure. Last year, I made adventure packages for both of my grandkids and three neighborhood children. My grandkids were going to the mountains and were surprised with a late spring snowstorm. The neighborhood children were going on a July 4th camping weekend in the mountains.

A scavenger hunt is entertainment anytime. You can plan one for a summer picnic, camping weekend, a day at the park, summer vacation at the lake or beach, or simply staying in your backyard or neighborhood.

It is easy to put together. All that is needed is a clipboard, small crafting clothespins, a colored pencil or crayon, a scavenger checklist and a hot glue gun. Clipboards, colored pencils and clothespins can be found at the dollar store.

Begin by hot gluing the clothespins to the front of the clipboard as shown in the picture. Glue the checklist to the backside. Make one for each participating child.

Look online for a scavenger hunt checklist. Many are free to download. I used a list I found online but changed some of the items on the list to adapt to the age of the children and to the geographic area in which they would be playing the adventure. My list included a pinecone, something smooth, something rough, flower or petal, two kinds of sticks, a pretty leaf and something unusual.

Scavenger Hunts are a great way for the kids to get outside and enjoy exploring their surroundings.

It is also wonderful family fun for everyone.



Patty hails from Northern Virginia and has lived in Arizona for over 25 years where she spends a lot of time spoiling her grandchildren. She loves family history and genealogy as a hobby, small town history and photography. She is an avid scrapbooker and digital storybook maker. Patty works in the Sales Department of *The Country Register*.

Kirby Gust is a self-taught crocheter, gardener and woodworker. He has been designing both furniture and afghan crochet patterns for over 20 years. Kirby and Colleen Gust are publishers of the Manitoba & Saskatchewan Country Register. Kirby is the author of *Borderline Good* and *Kirby's Korner* that appear in their publications of the Country Register. Kirby's woodworking can be seen on both Facebook and Instagram under the name, *The White City Woodworker*.

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Notion Tote bags are available at each shop for \$7.99!
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Crafting Is Art, Creation and Connection

by Barbara Kalkis



Dianne

My friend, Dianne, has a zeal for quilting. Oh, it's not the intensity of saints on a mission of salvation but a focused mind-set that lets her see a place for every scrap in her fabric stash. Her ability to think of quilt patterns at random moments doesn't disturb me. I have the same mental alertness at hearing a perfect word for a poem or image for a greeting card. Crafters understand someone's enthusiasm for an art because we possess the exact same fervor.

Think about it. Some people stand before a sumptuous dinner buffet and ask, "Should I choose the scalloped potatoes or creamed corn...or both?" Not crafters. Platters of food become color palettes, textures, shapes, patterns of negative space or design. Any aspect can jolt our imaginations about how something might look in fabric or wood, on canvas or paper. Homegrown chefs sample exotic dishes, then chew slowly, detecting and deducing ingredients to flavor their next kitchen creation. CRAFTERS ARE ARTISTS.

Eloquent speakers call crafts an 'avocation'...a four-syllable word for 'hobby'. Both terms connote an interest in a skill or subject outside of one's profession or training. But those terms lack emotion. Crafters are artists. We don't just have a hobby. We have dedication to an art. Our daytime jobs can be housewife, plumber, doctor or physicist. We work and do our best, but in our brains there are special cells on alert. It's like we are birds scratching the ground for bugs while constantly on watch for the neighborhood cat—but a lot more fun! Crafters may be completely relaxed but our brain's creativity bell is always "on".

Thus, when Dianne and I were in Italy touring ancient churches filled with paintings, statues and mosaics by ancient masters, our creative bells chimed. While other tourists clicked photos of heavenly glories, Dianne and I busily snapped photos of worn floors and walls to capture tile patterns. She was thinking of quilts. I was thinking of cards.

When I read Marlene Oddie's article, "Inspirational Tile," in the March-April edition of The Country Register of North & South Carolina, I knew she was a kindred spirit. Her quilt design was inspired by a tile pattern she saw in the Sintra National Palace in Portugal!
THE CRAFT CONNECTION.

My niece's craft is growing organic herbs and vegetables. She discovered a novel trellis design for growing tomatoes from a man in Australia. My friend attends online cardmaking classes with enthusiasts from other countries. Magazines and computers let us reach around the world to find kindred spirits. Invisible threads of creativity bind us.

Susan McKay, featured artist in the March/April 2021 Alberta Country Register, discovered painting first, then found her calling to glass mosaic during a trip to Arizona. She explained her creative journey, saying, "Growth as an artist should never end."

Her words 'chimed' for me. Don't we all feel that way? No matter where we live, our craft calls us to create.

Barbara Kalkis is a marketing consultant and teacher. Her poems can be found in The Country Register newspapers and in her book, *Little Ditties for Every Day...A Collection of Thoughts in Rhyme and Rhythm*. Writing is her craft. You can contact her at BarbaraKalkis01@gmail.com.



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Mystery Quilt

I'm a Little Bit Jelly

Mystery Quilt 2021 for The Country Register

Designed by Ann Jones

If you have any questions contact Erica at Nine Patch Quilt & Fabrics, Nevada, MO
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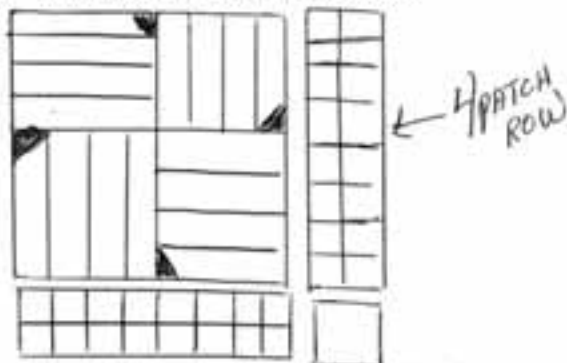
Check www.countryregister.com

PART 3: Putting it All Together

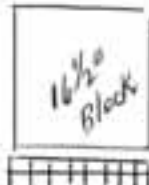
Using Fabric B: Cut Sixteen (16) 4.5" squares.

Set aside Nine (9) of your 16.5" block and Eight (8) of your 4 patch row sets.

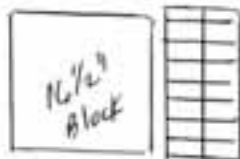
Follow the diagram to assemble 16 blocks. Sew one 4-patch row to the side of 16 of your strip set blocks. Sew a 4.5" block to the end of 16 of your 4-patch rows and then sew one of these to the bottom of the block. These blocks should measure 20.5" X 20.5"



Next take 4 of the 16.5" strip set blocks that were set aside and sew a 4-patch row to the BOTTOM of each. Press your seams.



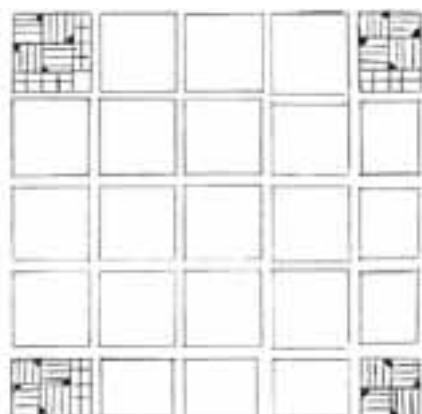
Next take 4 of the 16.5" strip set blocks that were set aside and sew a 4-patch row to the RIGHT SIDE of each. Press your seams.



Follow the diagram to set the quilt together. There will be 4 blocks across and 5 down. The 5" block ACROSS will be the block you sewed the 4-patch row at the BOTTOM.

The 5" block DOWN will be the block you sewed the 4-patch row in the RIGHT SIDE. The block in the VERY BOTTOM RIGHT will not have a 4-patch row sewn to it.

Note: I have not drawn in ALL the lines in the diagram, but shown you the positions only with 1 block in each row.



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A Memory Bear

by Barbara Polston

When the shabby chic look became popular in home decorating, I saw and fell in love with a particular fabric line. In soft shades of aqua, pink, yellow and white, it featured rose florals and seashells. At the time, my bedroom was yellow. I had painted the ceiling blue with sponged cloud patterns.

I was so enamored with the fabric, called Seaside Rose, I decided it was time for a décor change! I bought the fat quarter bundle, a quilting term that means an 18" x 22" piece of every fabric in the line. I made a fairly simple quilt for my bed, using every piece of the fabric. It had borders in a soft pink and white stripe. I repainted—white ceiling and pale aqua walls. Not just any aqua, but aqua that was color-matched to the fabric.

With my new look, I began enjoying my quilt. When I moved out of the master bedroom into a secondary bedroom to increase my studio space, I repainted that room to complement my quilt. When we moved out of that house, my new bedroom was painted the very same aqua and my quilt continued to serve me well.

We have quite a few pets and they are allowed on the bed. My poor quilt was thrown up on, repeatedly, by the cats. The dogs slept with me, scratching the quilt to arrange it to their liking. They tracked it with dirty paws. I tried to not only use it but care for it as best I could. It was washed at least every two weeks—sometimes more if "accidents" demanded.

I began to notice places where the fabric was worn through and the batting visible. Upon close examination, these places were many. It was time for a new bed quilt. But, what to do with my well-loved quilt, now falling into tatters? Surrendering it to the dumpster didn't feel right.

I asked quilting friends and received several good ideas. One suggested cutting a decent section out and framing it. Another suggested using serviceable bits to make toss pillows. Suddenly, it came to me! A memory bear! I would use my quilt to make a stuffed bear. I could honor my quilt and keep a bit of it with me.

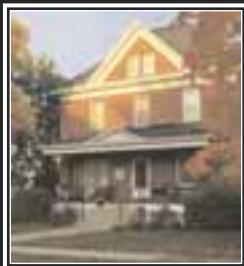
Once I decided, I washed the quilt one last time, laid out the pattern on the better bits and cut. I didn't hesitate for fear I would change my mind. Working with the pre-quilted fabric was a bit challenging and several technical issues had to be resolved. Ultimately, I'm thrilled with the results! I've named my bear Rose and look forward to her company for many years.



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Reckless Abandon

by Aminta Geisler

the lesson I learned about rest...



Resting.
I'm NOT good at it.
I don't really do it because the entire time I am resting, all I can think about is what I should be doing instead of resting.
I prefer to run full speed. To get stuff done. To knock out my to-do list like a prize fighter. Most of the time, that mentality is an asset because it allows me to accomplish much. However, I'm realizing that not resting has drawbacks too. Like:
Fatigue.
Loss of joy.
A short temper.
Lack of connection with others.
You know how I realized these things?
I was forced to rest.
Our family was the recipient of an awesome act of generosity and we spent the week living in a beautiful RV off the coast of Lake Michigan.
It was glorious.
A gift from God that I didn't know I needed.
It's amazing the clarity that comes with a little sunshine, sand and sleep.
Don't judge me for saying this, but for the first time in a long time, I enjoyed my family. I think maybe it was because I didn't clean up messes, make meals, do any yard work, wash any clothes, or do any writing or studying. I didn't DO.
I rested instead...and enjoyed being with my tribe.
I laughed when they were silly because it wasn't making me late to anything.
I took deep breaths with my face tilted up to the sun because I wasn't in too much of a hurry to notice it's warmth.
I snuggled with all four of my kids because I wasn't too busy working.
I stayed up late laughing and talking with my hubby because I wasn't stressed about getting up early.
Basically, I allowed myself to have fun instead of get stuff done.
I will admit that, at first, it felt uncomfortable and lazy – all that resting.
LAZY!
It hit me when I was watching a movie and felt guilty about it.
I am uncomfortable with resting, I thought. I feel like a bad steward of my God-given resources when I rest.
But then I had this correction immediately come to mind: that's not the truth. The truth is that it's ok to rest.
God, in his infinite wisdom, determined from the very beginning that we would be creatures who needed regular rest. He called it a Sabbath, and he declared that we are to do it weekly. Exodus 20:8 says,
"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work...for in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy."
I'm not sure why, but it's been easy for me to justify not following that command. I have come up with some good excuses, too:
But... I will get behind if I don't do something today.
But... If I get more done, I will feel less stressed.
But... I like to be busy, so it's not really work if I like doing it.
While on vacation, God gently corrected me. He showed me that as a result of my "I don't need to rest" mentality, I have faced extra weariness and frustration. He reminded me of his truth and helped me experience the benefits that come from taking time to rest. I'm so thankful he did. I feel so much better.
Rest is necessary, friends. It is good for the rejuvenation of the heart, mind and soul.
Therefore, I'm determined to incorporate regular rest into my schedule. I'm committing to rest one day a week, and to take more than one vacation every six years.
Join me in reclaiming a Sabbath.

Aminta Geisler is married to her best friend, Ben, and is a stay-at-home-mom of two teens and two toddlers. A self-proclaimed Jesus freak, she loves making old furniture new, studying God's word, and all things pizza. You can read more about her journey of reckless abandon for Jesus on her blog @amintageisler.com, in her monthly newsletter, or by following on Instagram @amintageisler



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Every Antique Has a Story

by Dave Emigh

Stories about antiques don't often get much attention from the major national press organizations. However, early this year, you might have noticed a big story about a Chinese bowl that was purchased at a Connecticut estate sale.



The story was that a gentleman purchased a small blue and white porcelain bowl for \$35 that he thought might be something special. Appraisers determined that the "early 1400s Chinese bowl" was indeed special. That assessment was borne out when Sotheby's put the bowl up for auction and it sold for \$722,000.

From my perspective, a find like that is so rare that it is essentially a waste of time to even think about making a similar discovery.

That being said, seven years ago, I bought a small blue and white porcelain bowl in Turkey for the same 35 —whatever the exchange rate was. My daughters and I were shopping in Istanbul at the Grand Bazaar when I spotted it.

Now don't get ahead of me, it wasn't an ancient antique porcelain bowl. In fact, I never even thought that it was an antique. The stacks of the very same bowl in this market stall were also a dead giveaway. In my estimation, the bowl was much closer to being 14 days old than it was being from the 1400s.

The bowl that I bought was nice. But I actually bought it because of the great story about my interaction with the market vendor.

He opened with some version of "What is your wife's favorite color? Don't you think that she would like a nice blue bowl from Turkey? Please ignore the price of 90 that is marked on this bowl but how much would you pay for it?"

Me: "I'm not interested in that bowl and I wouldn't even give you..." I didn't know it then but at that point he had actually sold me the bowl. It was just a matter of how much he was going to get for it—35, as it turned out.

My daughters continued shopping in his market stall. They were not paying much attention to our interaction as we were off to one side of his stall. The vendor and I were well into fifteen minutes of "negotiating" when the girls finally took note. At that point, my oldest (who had lived in Europe for five years), sidled up to me. 'Since you've taken up so much of his time, you are expected to purchase the bowl.'

It seemed to me like my money was well spent because I bought a story and I also got a bowl. And seven years later, I've once again had the opportunity to tell the story. At least we know the story of how our Turkish bowl came to the United States. Who knows how long that story will stay in the family?

The story of how a Chinese bowl, purchased at an estate sale for \$35 and sold for \$722,000 at auction, is amazing in itself! However, from the first time that I read the article, I was more intrigued by how that bowl got to Connecticut in the first place.

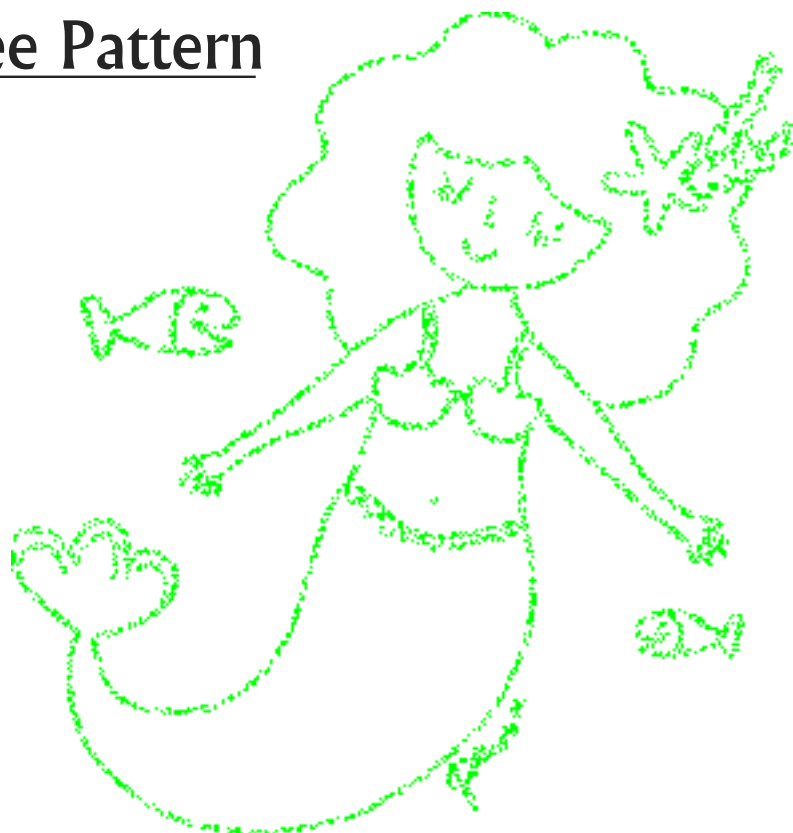
I can't even image its back-story. Due to the bowl's age, there is no way that it was purchased and brought to America by a trader/tourist "14 days" after it was made. So, what is the story of the bowl? Was it purchased as an antique, in say the 1800s? Was it some sort of a gift in appreciation of...? Unfortunately, that story will never be known.

My daughters know the story of "my wife's blue bowl." Even if it stays in the family, how many generations will it take for the story to be lost? Almost certainly, the story of the Turkish bowl will be lost 700 years from now, just as the story of the 700-year-old Chinese bowl has been lost today.

Every antique has a history and a story. It is just that we don't always know that story. And, in fact, as time passes, the details of any story will become progressively less accurate. But that is the intriguing part. Each piece has its own story even if no one knows what it is.

Dave Emigh and his wife Jill are the owners of Shady Lawn Antiques in Walla Walla, WA, perfectly located in the 1870s wood frame creamery buildings that Dave's great-grandfather purchased in 1897. A professionally trained woodworker, Dave, along with his son Nick, specialize in the restoration of oak furniture. Shady Lawn, in its 25th year, has become a regional destination for oak furniture and is also known for a well-curated display of country, rustic and rare and unique "small" antiques. Glimpses of the ever-changing Shady Lawn inventory can be seen on Facebook and at www.shadylawnantiques.com

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Where in Minnesota?

Somewhere in Minnesota the image to the right can be found. Where is it?

(Answer on page 15 of this issue)



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Ann's Lovin' Ewe

by Ann Stewart

"I am an American"



On Memorial Day weekend, I sang a medley of American songs including "God Bless America," "America the Beautiful," and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Older folk in church, those who had served, or knew those who had served, were thankful for the patriotic hymns, and expressed their appreciation after the service. Sometimes we all need a gentle reminder of the precious gift of our freedoms and to never take them for granted.

In 1929, my grandparents, Nicolai and Lena Siemens, their two sons, and 17,000 other Germans fled from their Russian villages, packing into crowded and dilapidated summer cottages in the outlying woods of Moscow. They hoped and prayed that they could obtain passports out of a country where they had been persecuted and stripped of freedoms.

As summer changed to fall, a measles epidemic took the lives of many children, including my grandparents' baby. The weather cooled, their food ran out, and their ration cards were no longer issued as a penalty to the very refugee farmers who grew the grain from which the flour had been made. Russian authorities began arresting them. Nicolai Klaasovitsch Siemens represented the masses, petitioning to the government for freedom. He was a known target.

One night, the Tschorny-Woron (black raven)—an ominous black truck, came to their village by night and arrested 300 men. My grandfather was one of them. The next evening, my grandmother who was nine months pregnant, though not ready to deliver her baby, sought shelter in the maternity hospital, leaving her three-year-old son, Kolya, in the care of her sister. Lonely and cold, Lena lacked food, money, or the knowledge of where her husband had been taken. Then one day her sister and her son failed to visit. The Tschorny-Woron had come for them, too.

In Lubyanka Prison, my grandfather was repeatedly called out of his cell for questioning. "What is your name?" "Nicolai Klaasovitsch Siemens," he answered. Each time they returned him to his cell because they thought they were looking for Nicolai Kiesnovitsch Siemens. This clerical error spared him from deportation or exile. Meanwhile, three times the authorities returned to the Siemens' cabin to arrest Nicolai Klaasovitsch Siemens. He wasn't there: they already had him in prison, mistakenly thinking they had the wrong man.

Through a doctor's mysteriously kind lies, errors with names, and many miracles, Nicolai was temporarily freed until after the birth of the baby, after which they'd deport the entire family back to Crimea or to Siberia.

They learned a train of "resettlers" was permitted out, but it would leave in 24 hours. The trip to retrieve their firstborn son, previously deported, would be 33 hours. "Get out now, or your child will be fatherless anyway," the German Consulate warned. December 1929, the Siemens family boarded the train, leaving Kolya behind.

Of those 17,000 German refugees, 5,769 found homes in other countries. Brazil took in 2,533, Paraguay 1,572, Canada 1,344, Germany 306, Argentina 6, Mexico 4 and the USA—4.

And what about my grandparents and their children? Nicolai, Lena, Kolya*, and baby Abi were THE four admitted to the United States. My mother, their seventh child, was born in America.

When I sing of my country, I celebrate that I am an American, that this is my country, that America is beautiful, and that I can sing, "Let freedom ring."

**In August 1931, two years after leaving Russia, five-year-old Kolya was released from Russia, boarded an ocean liner by himself, and was reunited with his family in America.*

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Ann Marie Stewart is completing the memoir about this dramatic escape. Watch for REMNANT.



The Noble Quilter

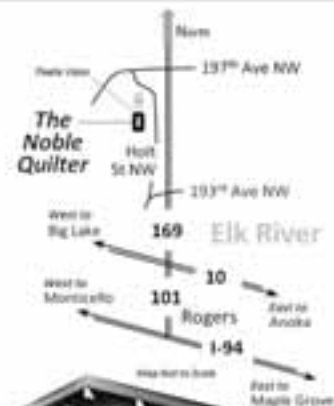
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Waikiki Meatballs

by Gooseberry Patch Appetizer Recipes

- 1-1/2lbs ground beef
- 2/3 cup cracker crumbs
- 1/3 cup onion, minced
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1-1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
- 2 tbsp cornstarch
- 20oz can pineapple chunks, drained
and juice reserved
- 1/3 cup vinegar
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1/14 cup green pepper, chopped

Combine ground beef, crumbs, onion, egg, milk, salt and ginger, blending well. Shape into one-inch balls and brown in a lightly greased skillet; drain and set aside. Combine brown sugar and cornstarch in a large saucepan over medium heat; blend in reserved pineapple juice, vinegar and soy sauce. Add pineapple chunks, green pepper and meatballs; simmer until warmed through.



The Layers of Magic

by Kerri Habben Bosman

Sometimes a memory climbs through the decades, and I am 9 years old again. I listen as a ball lands on a piece of wood. This ball was slightly smaller than a tennis ball and had a harder composition. It swirled with colors, and it bounced incredibly well. It made the most satisfying thunk as it rebounded off the stone floor. My grandmother kept the ball on a shelf next to the door to their screened-in porch. Beside the ball lived a narrow piece of siding about ten inches long and four inches wide.

Sometimes I merely bounced this ball in the porch, making it climb as high as I could without hitting the ceiling. I wasn't allowed to play with a ball inside, yet there I was surrounded by walls made of screens.

Therein lies some magic.

I can still feel the sweat prickling my skin and also the respite from the summer sun. More than that, I sense the people who were with me then. My grandmother and grandfather, who I called Huba and Poppy, and my grandmother's brother and sister, Aunt Wilma and Uncle Henry. Each of these steady, loving people lived across the street from us when I was growing up. I was lucky to have daily doses of what felt like two sets of grandparents.

The ball and siding game was a summer ritual for us. Huba and I stood on opposite ends of the rectangular porch. Usually Uncle Henry, with his gentle precision, would place the piece of siding in the center of the floor. The wood was a slightly warped and rocked back and forth.

We threw the ball to each other, trying to hit the siding and also have it project the ball to the other person. Poppy and Aunt Wilma would count how often we achieved this. Sometimes we simply tallied up when the ball made that delicious cracking sound against the wood. We kept a mental score, but no one ever won or lost.

I wonder if the adults enjoyed it as much as I did. I believe they did, as there was always laughter. Perhaps they appreciated it even more than I did. Unlike a child, they knew the true value of a carefree moment.

Huba and Uncle Henry each had more important things to do than simply play with me. Poppy and Aunt Wilma had larger concerns than the amount of times a ball struck a piece of siding. Both of the latter were either using a walker or in a wheelchair. Poppy struggled with Parkinson's Disease, and Aunt Wilma was limited by carotid artery disease. Huba and Uncle Henry were their caregivers. My mother, while caring for her own family, assisted them with whatever they needed.

Every day Huba did laundry and remade beds. She and Uncle Henry assisted Poppy and Aunt Wilma with washing, dressing, and walking.

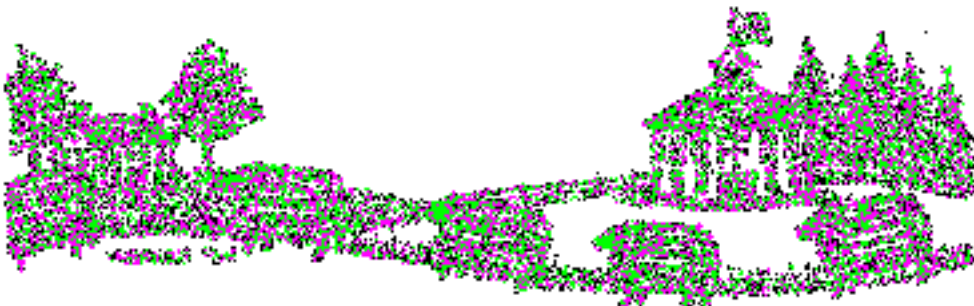
Yet, they found time for a child's fascination with a ball and a piece of siding. They gave me a summer memory I could carry with me through all the seasons of my life. They were teaching me how to live through their ability to balance each challenge and every joy. It is a lesson I didn't know I was learning until I needed it later on.

Therein lies more magic.

These years later, I treasure the privilege of being a bonus grandparent to my husband's seven grandchildren. When I am with them, I feel my grandparents and Aunt Wilma and Uncle Henry. I sense how they lived and loved. Then I do my best to carry it on.

Therein lies the complete magic.

Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer in Chapel Hill, NC. She is currently working on a book of essays and poetry. She can be reached at 913jeeves@gmail.com.



Country Register Recipe Exchange

Old Fashioned Lemonade

submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN

1 cup fresh lemon juice

3/4 - 1 cup sugar


4 cups cold water

Garnish:

ice cubes, lemon slices, orange slices and lime slices

Combine juice and sugar in a pitcher. Mix until sugar is dissolved. Stir in water. If too tart, stir in more sugar to taste. Makes 5 cups.


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Become Inspired

by Annice Rockwell

As Nature Takes Confident Charge

During the months of summer, we are surrounded with bountiful reminders that the beauty of nature is now at its peak. All of our dreams from a winter's afternoon planning our summertime gardens and spring mornings spent tending to planting and weeding, bring us now to a garden we can be proud of as nature takes confident charge. With summer underway, our job now is to just sit back and enjoy all that is to come.



Early morning glimpses of the striking, tall, red stands of beebalm remind us of nature's continuity as they appear to bloom on almost the same day each year—the day that we celebrate our nation's independence. These explosions of color provide us a sense of meaningful connection and even more so when our friendly hummingbird makes her speedy way to their beautiful red blooms. A leisurely morning may also bring us to our planted vegetables that are beginning to show such promise as a complement to an evening midsummer meal or a crisp, cool snack in the middle of a hot, summer day. Without a doubt, our efforts of spring yield a reward in summer that goes far deeper than a refreshing temporary treat.

Nature's Splendid Summer

Summer months provide us a much-needed reprieve from the hard work of spring. Our time can be spent more effortlessly now and for that we are grateful, for we have earned it. We can often indulge in afternoons spent under a huge tree that provides mottled shade so we can enjoy a favorite book with a tall glass of lavender lemonade by our side. We can now linger over a second cup of coffee as we observe our sweet flock of chickens chirping with delight when we share corn from our gardens right off the cobs. Summertime also lets us linger in the joys of more creation. With more time for leisure, our souls are often fueled by a desire to create. Projects planned earlier in our year can now be accomplished with more ease and with a fresh eye. With the calm of summer our ideas can come freely full circle until the cycle begins again. Whether our creativity brings us an innovative idea for a fresh summer meal or whether it brings us to a larger project of designing a new room for our home, summer months also provide us the luxury of sharing our creations. Friends and family can visit and happily linger to enjoy much-deserved time together surrounded by the magic of nature's splendid summer.

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

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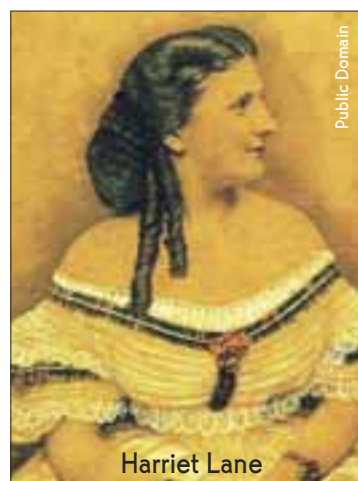
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Harriet Lane

Harriet Lane

by Jan Keller

Harriet Lane was born in Mercersburg, PA on May 9, 1830. She was the niece of bachelor James Buchanan and assumed the social duties of the first lady during his presidency. For both her popularity and her advocacy work, she has been described as the first of the modern first ladies.

Harriet Lane was orphaned after the death of her parents when she was eleven years old. Her uncle, James Buchanan, was appointed her legal guardian. Buchanan enrolled both Harriet and her sister

Mary in boarding school in Charleston, Virginia (later West Virginia), and then at the Academy of the Visitation Convent in Washington, D.C.

When Buchanan was appointed minister to Great Britain in 1853, vivacious Harriet accompanied him to London and received considerable attention for her beauty. Reportedly Queen Victoria gave her the rank of ambassador's wife. Although there were reports of several proposals, she returned to the United States unmarried in 1855.

Hailed by the press as the "Democratic Queen," Harriet was a popular hostess during the four years of the Buchanan presidency. Women copied her hair and clothing styles, parents named their daughters after her. Even the popular song "Listen to the Mockingbird" was dedicated to her. While in the White House, she used her position to promote social causes, such as improving the conditions of Native Americans living on reservations. She also made a point of inviting artists and musicians to White House functions.

By the end of Buchanan's term in 1861, seven states had seceded from the union and Harriet happily retired from public life. She returned to Pennsylvania and with her uncle's approval, she married banker Henry Elliott Johnston on January 11, 1866. Her personal life, however, was marred by the deaths of her two children and by her husband's death a short time later. She left Wheatland, the Pennsylvania estate she had inherited from her uncle, and moved back to Washington. There she became involved in projects to care for needy children and to increase appreciation for the fine arts. She donated her art collection to help found the National Collection of Fine Arts (part of the Fine Arts and Portrait Galleries of the Smithsonian Institution), and her example encouraged others to donate as well. She also willed a large sum to endow a facility for children, now known as the Harriet Lane Clinic at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

Harriet died of cancer in 1903 and was buried in the Greenmount Cemetery in Baltimore, Maryland.

James Buchanan's 'Apees' Cookies

As a boy, President Buchanan, along with most Pennsylvanians of that time, enjoyed these delicious cookies

3 cups flour	1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
1 1/2 cups light brown sugar, packed	1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon salt	1/2 cup soft butter (1 stick)
1/2 cup milk	1 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl mix the flour, baking soda, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt. Add butter to the dry ingredients and mix well. Add milk and vanilla to the mixture to make a soft dough. Roll teaspoons of dough into a ball and press onto a cookie sheet into about 1/4-inch rounds. Place rounds on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake 12-15 minutes until edges are golden.
Yield: 3-4 dozen.

Wit and Wisdom

by JuleAnn Lattimer

Eatin' Crow



I have a couple of friends who are nature lovers. Now don't get me wrong, I do appreciate God's bountiful beauty in His creation. I search to see a rainbow, go out of my way to smell a rose, I marvel at the majestic clouds, and sigh at the sight of a breath-taking sunset. I gaze out my window at deer feasting from my apple trees, and yes, I even rejoice in the big snowflakes falling from a winter's sky. But these friends of mine go way beyond me. They love to toil in the dirt and vegetable gardens and even spend sizzling summer days standing over a hot stove preserving the bounty of their labors. They talk about various birds at their feeders and know their names and all about them.

And me? All I know about are robins and crows. I look anxiously for the first robin at springtime and I chase the pesky crows away from my trash every garbage day. Those crows are such a nuisance, but I feel some compassion for them. Does anyone ever boast? "I have a family of crows living in my maple?" Or, "you should see the darling little baby crows that hatched this spring?"

Recently I read an informative article about crows and have gotten a new perspective about them. Did you know . . .

Crows mate for life. They only have one nesting a year. They live in families and the older siblings return every spring to help the parents build a new nest. Parents feed and care for their fledglings until they are four months old. They are known as "the Einsteins" of the bird species. No other birds come close to their intelligence. They communicate in 23 distinct patterns and they cooperate and work within their family unit. They gather and store food, similar as squirrels do. The oldest known crow lived to be 29 years old. Some bird watchers have observed a gathering of crows mourning over a fallen friend and refer to it as a Crow Funeral.

I think next garbage day I'll give them some slack. You've heard the saying, "if life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Likewise I say, if you're looking for robins and all you see are crows, they're not so bad after all. They are all God's creatures.

Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let the birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." (Gen. 1:20).

If you enjoy reading articles from the Wit and Wisdom Writers such as JuleAnn, you may also enjoy the books authored by the group. Contact the authors at: witandwisdomwriters@gmail.com.

PIECES OF THE HEART

by Sue Baldani

When making a homemade gift, how about keeping a photographic progress chart to include with it? Many people may not realize how much work and time goes into handmade items, and showing off the steps can be fun and educational.



For example, if you're making someone a sweater, take a picture of the yarn with the knitting needles or crochet wand. Then, take pictures as the item takes shape. You may take one of the arms, the body, and then the finishing. Or, if making someone a bird house or other wooden object, take a picture of the pieces of wood and the tools needed to put it together. Then take a picture once it's fastened together, followed by one of the painting in progress, and last but not least, the final product.

It will be interesting for the recipients to see what the items started out as and then to see them in all their finished glory. It will also show the craftsmanship involved, and may even inspire them to create a masterpiece with their own hands. Turning pieces of raw materials into something useful and/or pretty is a real gift that possibly the recipient doesn't even realize he or she has.

Seeing an object take shape from beginning to end can bring the magic involved to light. Also, taking the time to make something by hand is a bit like giving a little piece of ourselves. And what says love more than that?

Susan Baldani lives in New Jersey and writes articles about small town life, décor, books and food for various publications across the U.S., Canada, and the UK. You can contact her at suebaldani@yahoo.com, through her website at www.mywritingwall.com, or on Twitter @mywritingwall.



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Butterfly Gardens

Do you want more monarchs, swallowtails, fritillaries and more butterflies to your garden? You'll need more than just a flower bed! If you want a garden fluttering full of butterflies, give these tips a try this summer!



1. Choose a Sunny Site: Like all insects, butterflies are ectotherms. They can't regulate their body temperature and depend on the sun to warm their bodies. Butterflies can't fly when temperatures are below 55°!

2. Plant Flowers in Groups: Butterflies can't see well from afar, but close up they can see really well. To attract the most butterflies, plant the nectar flowers in groups. Groups of the same color of flower are easier to see from a distance.

3. Plant a Diversity of Flowers: When choosing flowers for your butterfly garden, pick flowers of different shapes, colors and sizes. This will meet the needs of a full variety of butterflies. Some butterflies can't eat from flowers that other butterflies can.

4. Provide a Water Source: Butterflies need to drink but cannot drink from birdbaths or fountains! They get their drinks from mud puddles. Not only do they get water from the mud puddle, they also get important minerals and nutrients. Make sure to provide mud puddles for your butterflies!

5. Protect the Garden from the Wind: It takes a lot of energy for a butterfly to fly in the wind. Plant your flower garden where a tree, shrub, fence or even house will protect the butterflies from the wind.

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17th Annual Great Wisconsin Quilt Show to Be Held Online, Sept. 9-11

Join PBS Wisconsin and Nancy Zieman Productions for the 2021 *Great Wisconsin Quilt Show* online at quiltshow.com Sept. 9-11, 2021.

Event organizers were overwhelmed by the positive and record-setting participation during the 2020 Great Wisconsin Quilt Show virtual event. As we navigate through the end of the pandemic, the 2021 Great Wisconsin Quilt Show virtual event will again offer a safe, digital event to unite and engage our quilting community. It will again include live, interactive educational opportunities, shopping options and more – all online from the comfort and safety of your own home.

The 2021 virtual Quilt Show will feature exhibits of this year's quilt challenges: The Panel Quilt Challenge, The 100 Years of Art Deco Quilt Challenge and The Kids' Quilt Challenge. Details on how to participate in these exciting challenges can be found online at quiltshow.com.

The online event will also celebrate the talents of our community's quilters with a curated showcase of previous years' Quilt Contest winners. The full 2021 Quilt Contest will be featured as a special exhibit when we return to the Alliant Energy Center in Madison for the 2022 in-person show.

Free registration for the three-day event will open in July at quiltshow.com. All quilt lovers are invited to draw inspiration and delight from each other in this online and interactive experience.

Watch quiltshow.com for full details coming soon.

The *Great Wisconsin Quilt Show* is presented by PBS Wisconsin and Nancy Zieman Productions LLC. Proceeds from *The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show* support PBS Wisconsin programs and community outreach projects.

Thank you to our Premier Event Sponsor: Quilting Daily. Additional thanks to our Associate Event Sponsors: At the Heart of Quilting, Bernina, Bigsby's Sewing Center and Juki America, Inc.

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The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show in Brief

Online! QuiltShow.com

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For more information:

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Cowgirl Poet, Quilter, Entertainer



Yvonne Hollenbeck

Quilters Paradise

In these days of mass confusion, dreams of false hope and elusion
 There's an ever-ending search for better life;
 So I dreamed up an idea, and I'll kinder put it to ya
 'bout a safe-house called a Quilters Paradise.

We will live there quite tribunal in a style of life, communal
 Where all we have to do is quilt all day.

There'll be no duties for the women, no cookin', or no cleanin'
 Where not a bit of work gets in our way.

There will be some cleanin' ladies and a day care for the babies
 And we'll all have private rooms in dormitories;
 And a rec hall for the hubbies full of TV's and hot tubbies
 Where they can all hang out and tell their stories.

But the best thing of it all will be a great big Quilters Hall
 Where there you'll meet your friends and quilt all day.
 There'll be lots of quilting tables and a snack bar stocked with bagels
 And what a place to quilt the time away!

But there's just one minor problem that will need a little solvin'
 It's the task we'll have of financing this thing;
 If one could win a lottery the problem would be solved, you see
 But that will never happen, so it seems.

So the next best resolution that might be the right solution
 Would be to start a new religious rite;
 We could get a TV program full of patchwork and devotion
 And solicit funds for this lovely paradise.

And those of you that's teachin' could surely take up preachin'
 Performing miracles before our eyes!
 With all the money we could raise, we'll all join hands and then give praise
 As our dream comes true of a Quilter's Paradise!

© Yvonne Hollenbeck; 2021

Yvonne Hollenbeck, from Clearfield, SD, performs her original poetry throughout the United States, captivating audiences in her wake. She is one of the most published cowgirl poets in the West and is not only a popular banquet and civic entertainer, but also co-writes songs with many western entertainers. Yvonne also pens a weekly column in the "Farmer-Rancher Exchange" and writes articles about life in rural America in various publications throughout the West. For more information, visit <https://www.yvonnehollenbeck.com>



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New from Deb Heatherly:

The Build a Quilt Workbook

Are you ready for a new project? Deb Heatherly's latest book may be just what you're looking for to inspire your creative spirit. The Build a Quilt Workbook contains directions for 16 blocks and 10 quilt layouts.

All of the blocks use the Creative Grids Kitty Cornered Tool- CGRDH5, some in combination with the Creative Grids® Ultimate Flying Geese Tool- CGRDH4. As an added bonus, the Build a Quilt Workbook can be used with any block that finishes at 12". Simply choose your favorite block, or a variety of blocks and insert them into the quilt design layouts found in the Workbook.

No matter what size project you want to make, this Workbook contains a layout for you—from simple settings, to on-point settings as well as 2 medallion settings. Choose your favorite blocks and begin building your own unique quilt. With so many blocks and numerous layout options, the possibilities are endless!

NOTE: Grids Girls Block Party Patterns #1, #2, #5, #6, #7, #8, #10, #13 and #14 all have blocks that finish at 12". They can all be used with the layout designs in the workbook as well as the blocks from the 'Cat'apult and Whiskers n Catnip block of the month patterns.

The Build a Quilt Workbook by Deb Heatherly, Palmer publishing, is scheduled for release on July 1, 2021. The soft cover book is 8.5 in. x 11 in., 60 pages and the retail price is \$19.99. The Workbook will be available at <http://www.debscatnquilts.com>.

Deb's Cats n Quilts Designs is the home of Creative Grids Designer Deb Heatherly. To keep up with what's going on in the studio and Deb's activities, follow her on Facebook and join her online group "Grids Girls." You can learn more about Deb at <http://www.debscatnquilts.com/about-me.htm>.




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GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



Nourishing our lives with Playtime is a valuable summer activity. Playtime is important for adults for the same reasons it's beneficial to children - it helps activate our bodies and minds. It could involve a girlfriend getaway, dancing, singing, arts and crafts, quilt retreats or a myriad of other activities that get us motivated and engaged in life. The joy of Play always evokes giggles and laughter, storytelling, memory-building, and just plain old fun! A good round of laughter is medicine for both body and soul. The Mayo Clinic website reports that "laughter is a great form of stress relief and that's no joke!" It continues with benefits stimulating our heart, lungs, muscles, and brain activity. Long-term it improves our immune system and can relieve pain and improve mood.

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM: Doctor "Playtime" orders: Get out in the sunlight and schedule Playtime today!

Joy & Blessings, *Jody*

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

You Could Win!

You can register to win a copy of **The Build a Quilt Workbook!**
Clip and mail in this form! If you prefer not to cut up your paper, write the form below on a note card and mail to: The Country Register, 2920 - 144th Ave NE; Ham Lake, MN 55304.
You will be notified and receive your prize by mail! Good Luck!

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Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

Summertime Taste Sensations

It was our dream-come-true vacation when several years ago my husband and I traveled to New Zealand. After the very long flight we boarded a cruise ship and visited many towns on both the north and south islands. We found the country to be as beautiful as we'd always imagined and the New Zealanders exceedingly friendly.

We enjoyed all of our shore excursions, but I was especially excited to sign up for a visit to a sheep ranch which included lunch with the family who owned the ranch. In addition to watching the shepherd and his trained sheepdog herd the sheep, I was eager to see inside a typical New Zealand home—and to taste typical New Zealand home cooking.

My husband John and I thought New Zealand seemed like a perfect place to live. The weather was wonderful and reportedly moderate all year. We were surprised to learn that there is no need for screens in New Zealand. They don't have flies or bugs. In warm weather they simply leave their doors and windows wide open. In addition, they also don't have any snakes.

Our visit to New Zealand was in January, because the seasons are reversed, we delighted in the summertime taste sensations our hostess served family style in her back yard. In addition to almost every imaginable barbecued meat offering, her menu included a couple of simple salads with ingredients I never realized could be so complementary. I'm sharing these salad recipes with you because they were simply sensational—and perfect for serving at your next backyard gathering!

WATERMELON, CUCUMBER AND ONION SALAD

Watermelon, cut in chunks	Cucumbers, sliced
Onion, thinly sliced	2 tablespoons Salad Oil
2 tablespoons White Vinegar	1 tablespoon Brown Sugar
2 tablespoons Mint, chopped	1 cup White Wine

This recipe, as given to me, did not indicate amounts of watermelon, cucumber or onion—but don't worry because this aspect of the recipe is flexible. Watermelon would be primary, cucumber secondary, and onion complementary. You can play with the amounts of each as you prepare and combine them. The remaining ingredients should be mixed together, poured over the salad and tossed. The dressing is adequate for a medium-sized salad.

STRAWBERRY AND MUSHROOM SALAD

Fresh Strawberries, sliced	Fresh Mushrooms, sliced
French Salad Dressing, of choice	1-2 tablespoons Mint, chopped
Fresh Lemon Juice	Sour Cream

This recipe, as given to me, did not include specific amounts of most of the ingredients, but the recipe is flexible. Simply slice the strawberries and mushrooms together in a bowl. Mix together French salad dressing, mint, lemon juice, and sour cream according to taste and toss together with the fresh strawberries and mushrooms.

©2021 Jan Keller. No reprint without permission. Jan shares other pieces of her life in her books, *Pieces From My Crazy Quilt*, and *The Tie That Binds*. These books can be ordered by calling 719-866-8570, or writing to: Black Sheep Books, 11250 Glen Canyon Drive, Peyton, CO 80831

COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

Blueberry Buckle

Submitted by Irene Thompson, La Junta, CO



2 cups all-purpose flour	3/4 cup sugar
2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder	1/4 teaspoon salt
1 large egg	3/4 cup 2% milk
1/4 cup butter, melted	2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries

Mix all ingredients together and transfer to a greased 9" square baking pan.

TOPPING

1/2 cup sugar
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

In a small bowl, mix sugar, flour and cinnamon together using a fork. Sprinkle over batter. Bake 30+ minutes in a preheated 375° oven.

Life in Skunk Hollow



by Julie A. Druck

Ice Cream Memories

I'm rather sentimental, particularly about the little town in which I grew up. My husband likes to tease me about my loyalty to my hometown, but I don't mind. Our farm sits about ten minutes from where I grew up, so I have the privilege of frequenting my old stomping grounds as often as I like.

Though some of my favorite hometown spots look different today, many of them are still there: the park with the long, low slide that spans the whole length of the hill; the tiny library where I immersed myself in the pleasures of reading; the antique shop that was once owned by a petite elderly lady who taught me about old treasures; the bowling alley where I worked at the snack bar on Saturday mornings.

One of my favorite hometown haunts has actually changed very little over the years. Every summer I drive up the road to the small ice cream business that has been around for more than 60 years. When the peaches come in, you'll find me on a hot afternoon ordering a fresh peach sundae with their made-on-the-premises, hand-dipped vanilla ice cream and luscious diced peaches from the orchard down the road. I sit at a picnic table under a shady tree and savor that sundae. But part of the tradition of my visit goes beyond the joy of eating. For as I sit there, I think about the small role in my life history that the ice cream shop has played.



When I was a little girl, my cousin's grandfather would drive my sister, my cousin, and me the few miles to the shop on a Sunday afternoon in the rumble seat of his Model A Ford. We thought we were big stuff in the back of that beautiful car, and the transportation made the ice cream taste even better. When I was a teenager, the owner added a miniature golf course behind the shop. Perfect timing since mini golf and an ice cream cone made a convenient date night! Years later, three little boys were driven down the road to partake of a cold treat while visiting the animals in the tiny petting zoo. And then, faster than the blink of an eye it seems, the next generation was introduced to the place. Now grandbabies are perched on picnic tables and given bites of ice cream that widen their eyes in delight.

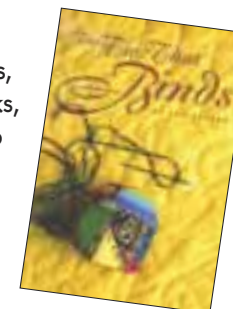
So, once again this summer, I will take another drive to the ice cream shop and enjoy some memories from the past, as well as memories in the making. What a gift it is that something as simple as a peach sundae can dish up so many sweet thoughts.

Julie Druck is from York, Pennsylvania, and writes from her farm in Skunk Hollow. She'd welcome your comments at thedrucks@netzero.com.

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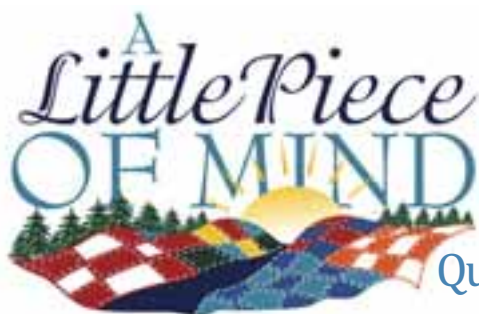


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Over 300 types of watermelons are grown in the U.S. However, only about 50 varieties are grown for grocery stores.

Let's Celebrate our Independence Day

by Sue Baldani

This 4th of July we will celebrate a different kind of freedom. A freedom from having to wear masks inside and out, from the fear of stepping outdoors, and from the barriers to being with the people we love. It's now possible to celebrate a holiday in a way that resembles the "good old days."



A lot of 4th of July celebrations will take place outside, in the warm, sunny weather of summer. We can don shorts, flip flops, hats and sunglasses. This Independence Day will be a time to gather again with friends and family, cook juicy burgers, eat corn on the cob slathered with butter, and grill barbecue chicken and ribs to sticky perfection.

Children can splash around in pools, in lakes, or in oceans with friends, while parents lounge on beach chairs waiting for the fireworks to start. Cool drinks will be made by the pitcher, and ice cream in cones and cups will be doled out in abundance. Ahh, what a wonderful image!

Let us rejoice in our health and celebrate the chance to live life to the fullest. It's time to let the sun shine and be optimistic that there will only be happy and healthy surprises moving forward.

Happy 4th of July, and God Bless America!

Susan Baldani lives in New Jersey and writes articles about small town life, décor, books and food for various publications across the U.S., Canada, and the UK. You can contact her at suebaldani@yahoo.com, through her website at www.mywritingwall.com, or on Twitter @mywritingwall.



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