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Minnesota's Guide to Specialty Shopping & Fun Events

July/August 2022

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Months July/August 2022

Volume 28 Number 4

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Deadline For the Sept/Oct 2022 Edition is August 10th!

City Listing

Alexandria.....20	New Prague.....9
Blue Earth.....11	New Richmond, WI.....6
Braham.....22	New Ulm.....10
Cook.....24	Northfield.....8
Cloquet.....23	Oklee.....20
Des Moines, IA.....13	Owatonna.....8
Detroit Lakes.....20	Richmond.....20
Duluth.....23&24	Rush City.....22
Eagan.....17	Sandstone.....22
Eden Valley.....21	Shakopee.....18
Elk River.....16	Sherburn.....12
Hinckley.....22	South Haven.....21
Hutchinson.....20	Spring Lake Park.....18
International Falls.....24	St. Peter.....9
Kiester.....12	Waseca.....8
Lake City.....4	Wells.....11&12
Lone Rock, IA.....13	White Bear Lake.....17
Luverne.....15	Windom.....14
Madison, WI.....7	Winona.....6
Menomonie, WI.....6	Wabasha.....4
McGregor.....24	Worthington.....14
Morton.....10	

Special Events

July

- 4.....Morton July 4th Celebration - Morton
- 13-16.....Party Express Shop Hop - Michele's Sewing - Blue Earth
- 21-23.....Christmas in July - Quilter's Cottage - Kiester
- 25-August 30.....Trunk Show - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
- 29-August 20.....Quilt Minnesota
- 29-August 20.....Crazy Days - Quilt Haven on Main - Hutchinson

August

- 5.....Braham Pie Day - Braham
- 10-12.....Renville County Fair - Renville - See ad page 10
- 10-31.....20th Anniversary Celebration - Gone To Pieces Quilt Shop - South Haven
- 13.....Quilt Minnesota Shop Hop Bus Trip - Quilted Dog
- 12-14.....Blue Earth Valley Expo - Quilter's Cottage - Kiester

September

- 8-10.....Great Wisconsin Quilt Show - Madison, WI - See ad page 7
- 22-24.....Des Moines Area Quilters Guild Quilt Show - Des Moines, IA - See ad page 13
- 22-24.....Junk Bonanza - Shakopee - See ad page 18

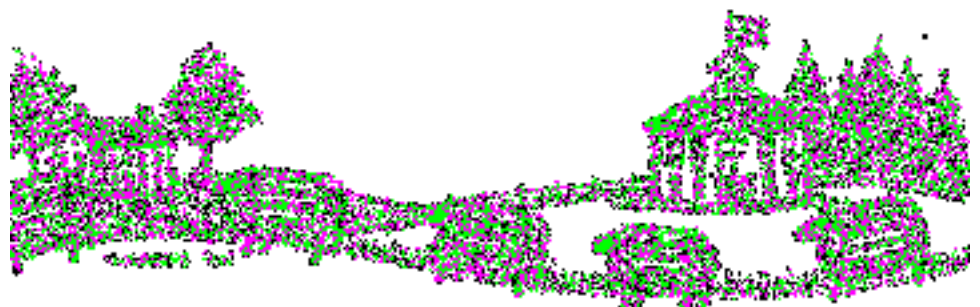
October

- 21-22.....Quilt Fest on the Mississippi - Onalaska, WI



Maureen Okroi of Merrifield, MN won a \$25 gift card! Maureen says Studio 53 in International Falls, MN is her favorite shop because "I loved their fabric! I am a sparkle and metallics persons and I found lots there!"

Congratulations!



Happy Summer!

The Country Register

Minnesota's Guide to Specialty Shopping & Fun Events



Kim Keller, Publisher
2920 144th Ave. NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304
763-754-1661

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Happy 4th of July From Your Country Register!

Life in Skunk Hollow

by Julie A Druck

A Legacy of Love



I realized recently that this summer marks the tenth anniversary of my grandfather's death. That fact surprised me a little. In some ways, it seems so much longer since Pop's been gone.

Grief is a funny thing. I've discovered that it can hit you out of the blue at the most unexpected times. I learned this the Christmas after Pop died when I was watching a favorite old movie, *White Christmas*. There's a scene in that movie when the general-grandfather comes down the stairs in his World War II dress uniform. His teenage granddaughter is at the bottom of the stairs and looks up to see him descend. The camera swings in for a close-up shot, and the look on her face brings me to tears every single time I watch that movie. The granddaughter's eyes are filled with absolute adoration, love, and pride for that man. I cry because I feel those exact same things for my own grandfather.

Contemplating the anniversary of Pop's death has resulted in reflection about my relationship with him. The question comes to mind: why did I love and admire my grandfather so? It could be because Pop was never anything but a wise, honorable gentleman. It could be because I can't remember him ever speaking a single impatient or unkind word to me. But on further thought, I believe that my love for him is simply a result of his love for me.

My grandfather thought I hung the moon.

Being the first grandchild, I think I held a particularly special place in Pop's heart. My mom has often told me the story that after Pop came to visit in the hospital when I was born, he was so taken with me that he went home and named one of his radio-controlled airplanes after me! That story always makes me chuckle. I'm not sure how many women would find that terribly endearing, but I sure do. And Pop's love and attention never diminished or waivered my entire life. Through every season of growth and change, he embraced and celebrated me. He proudly (and tearfully) gave me away at my wedding, absolutely adored our sons, and honored me even in his last days by checking in on me.

Pop's love was a steady, constant, reassuring current that ran through my life, and he never stopped expressing that love in a hundred little ways. And so, his near-perfect love could do nothing less than result in my near-perfect love of him. He gave me a gift that still ripples ten years later, and no doubt, for the rest of my life. He loved me well. What an extraordinary gift —one that spurs me on to do the same in the lives of my own grandchildren.

Thanks for the legacy of love, Pop. It's you who hung the moon . . .

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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Happy Birthday, America

by Becky Van Vleet

Every Fourth of July, I look forward to celebrating our great nation's birthday. Let's see. This year will be 246 years. I will hang our flag on our front porch with appreciation, gratitude, and reverence as I do every year. My husband will grill burgers, I'll prepare a couple of pies, and we'll enjoy a family gathering.

On July 4, 1944, my father, Walter Troyan, celebrated America's birthday, but with no burgers, pies, and family. He also looked at the American flag with appreciation, gratitude, and reverence. Old Glory furlled in the breeze atop his ship. He was a nineteen-year-old sailor, a gunner, on the USS Denver and faced with an impending battle against Japan.

His cruiser arrived at the Marshall Islands at the end of June. The next mission for my father's Task Group 58.1 was to proceed to the vicinity of the Bonin and Volcano Islands and attack Japanese aircraft, shipping, and installations. He listened intently as his captain gave the orders.

"Our mission is to bombard the airfields, dispersal areas, and fixed defenses," Captain Bledsoe announced. "We will render their air facilities and shore establishments as unserviceable. Each ship will get their specific assignments. We're going to give Japan a Fourth of July they'll never forget!"

And that they did.

The task force was on high alert, and preliminary attacks began on July third when a Japanese snoop plane was shot down. Several carriers sent plane strikes against the three Jima islands.

Early on July fourth, the USS Denver turned on her white truck lights during the predawn aircraft operations. The calm waters and remarkable visibility assisted the actions. With binoculars, Captain Bledsoe spotted the enemy airfields as they came into view on top of a long plateau on Iwo Jima. The Japanese planes presented an astonishing sight silhouetted against the sky, parked on the runways, almost nose to tail.

When the command came, my father and the other gunners fired on the Iwo Jima airstrips and other installations at short range. They let loose with their forty-millimeter and five-inch guns in precise syncopation. The Denver gunners also spotted an enemy water tower. They shot it down and witnessed the water flooding like small rivers in all directions.

The attacks by the Navy task force were well executed and precise. The Naval planes and ships communicated in tandem with one another, battling it out as a force not to be reckoned with in the Pacific Theater. Their savvy planning and military flamboyance paid off.

The "cease firing" command came loud and clear by the middle of the afternoon when the entire airfield area and adjacent buildings were in flames. My father knew the Japanese runways and buildings took a crushing beating when he heard the explosions and witnessed several heavy black-oil fires. The dense, black smoke billowed upward like dark giants walking on water. The scene filled his mind.

Later that day, Captain Bledsoe got out his accordion and summoned his crew. "Meet me topside," he said. "Let's do some singing. Happy Fourth of July!" Always the singer, my father joined right in.

Walter Troyan also celebrated two other Fourth of Julys in 1943 and 1945 while on board his ship. No burgers, no pies. No family gatherings. But the indomitable crew of 1,200 men on his ship demonstrated appreciation, gratitude, and reverence for America's birthday like no other, sacrificing so much. The sailors worked as a team for our country, most of them teenagers. Many had dropped out of high school, like my father, to serve America right after Pearl Harbor was attacked. Later they would be called heroes and the Greatest Generation. But at the time, they were just doing their jobs.

When we celebrate our nation's birthday this year, let's enjoy our burgers and pies and family gatherings. We should. We have been blessed with great freedoms. But when we hang our flags, let's remember that freedom is not free. Others paid for every free breath we get to take. Let's remember our military men and women, living and deceased, who have sacrificed so much for America so we can enjoy this special holiday.

Becky Van Vleet, a retired school administrator, lives near Colorado Springs with her husband, Troy. They are the parents of four grown children and enjoy spending time with their eight grandchildren. Becky is a children's picture book author, and her website is devoted to family stories and creating memories: www.beckylvanvleet.com.



Walter Troyan

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Country Register Recipe Exchange

Confetti Salad

submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm

1 zucchini - shredded, pat dry	1 yellow squash - shredded
1 carrot - shredded	1 sweet red pepper - shredded
1 green pepper - shredded	1/3 cup vinaigrette or sweet and sour dressing

Combine vegetables and toss with dressing.

Crazy Hazy Days of Summer

TOUR OF THE NORTH SHORE'S WATERFALLS

Minnesota Waterfall Road Trip

This summer is a perfect time for an epic adventure to view 10 of Minnesota's waterfalls along the beautiful North Shore. Starting from either Duluth or Grand Portage, the drive along from start to finish is just over 3 hours. That will give you lots of time to explore each waterfall along the way!

1. Tischer Creek Falls: Located in Duluth, Tischer Creek Falls are located in Congdon Park. Follow the trail up the creek through the gorge to see the series of waterfalls.



Tischer Creek Falls

2. Gooseberry Falls State Park: The Gooseberry River flows through the state park and provides 5 waterfalls! The short falls loop trail from the visitor center takes you to the Upper, Middle and Lower Falls.



Gooseberry Falls

3. Beaver River Falls: As you drive through Beaver Bay pull over to the parking area on the southwest side of the bridge and walk on the pedestrian trail to see these falls.

4. Tettegouche State Park: Tettegouche has four waterfalls along the Baptism River! Walk the Cascades and High Falls trails to see these spectacular waterfalls. Also seek out the Illgen Falls and Two Step Falls.

5. Caribou Falls: Beginning at the Caribou Falls State Wayside, a roadside rest area between Little Marais and Taconite Harbor, this trail is less than a mile along the Caribou River.

6. Cross River Falls: Visible from the highway, these falls rush over rocks toward Lake Superior. Park in the lots on either side of the bridge.

7. Temperance River State Park: Take the short hike to see the falls that disappear into a deep gorge. Park on the side of the highway and walk to Hidden Falls. When you get to the bridge you can continue hiking upstream on either side to more waterfalls.



Temperance Falls



Cascade River Falls

8. Cascade River Falls: Hike upstream at Cascade River State Park to see the river drop through a beautiful gorge as it cascades through making sets of waterfalls on its way to Lake Superior.

9. Devil's Kettle Falls: Judge C.R. Magney State Park is home to a set of waterfalls known as Devil's Kettle. The Brule River splits in two as it goes over the falls. One section continues downstream while the other part vanishes into a pothole!



Devil's Kettle Falls

10. Pigeon Falls: Located on the USA/Canada border, Pigeon Falls can be reached with a short walk from Grand Portage State Park or Pigeon River Provincial Park.



Become Inspired!

by Annice Bradley Rockwell

Spectacular Summer Discoveries

Sunny summer days that seem to be endless are a gift meant to be cherished. Summertime is a treasured time of year that inspires us to venture out and explore as well as take time to enjoy the blessing of leisure. In the season of summer everything seems to have its own natural splendor and for many, it is embraced as the height of the year.

Whether our summer souls take us on a serendipitous journey to the sandy shore, or a visit to the cooler vales of a New England mountain region, we can count on nature to provide us with opportunities to expand. Day trips planned to explore new regions can be rewarding for all of the surprises they can offer. Hiking trails filled with diverse ecosystems to enjoy keep us living in the moment. From the inviting sounds of a babbling brook to a breathtaking glimpse of a mammoth poplar tree that was once the only tree in an early pasture, nature gives us a sense of connectedness. The pursuit of natural beaches and quiet dunes gives us a day of exploration with peace as its reward. And when we come upon "just the perfect spot," we can return again to be recharged by that spectacular summer discovery.



TRANSFORMED RETREATS

Our own homes and yards can serve as a transformed retreat as well. In summer we are gifted with glorious days where our floral borders seem to proclaim pride as they reach boldly for the sun. Our vegetable gardens now reveal our time well-spent tilling and carefully tending. In summer we now have a chance to sit back and enjoy nature's "fireworks finale" in the form of all of our flowers reaching their very own beautiful full bloom.

This enchanting time is ideal for midsummer gatherings with family and friends. Meals prepared with fresh harvested vegetables and herbs can be paired with a summer punch filled with fruit and topped with frosty sherbet as a refreshing summer surprise. Gatherings can be enhanced as they overflow into the evening by twinkling candlelit corners of our gardens and the ever-inviting glow of a campfire drawing us toward each other to share in the glory of summer.

This summer season take time for adventure. Enjoy the simple, yet majestic joy of discovery. And as you surround yourself with the beauty of nature's gifts, you will no doubt be filled with genuine gratitude and a deepened sense of pure peace.



This month in Minnesota History

July 4, 1862: During a raucous Independence Day celebration, downtown Winona catches fire. Hannibal Choate keeps members of the fire department near his store by supplying them with whiskey, and his business is the only one saved.

August 1, 2007: The Interstate 35W bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis collapses during the evening rush hour. Thirteen people are killed and 145 are injured.

From The Minnesota Book of Days (Minnesota Historical Society Press)



Popcorn Sprouts

Submitted by Shirley Ross of Alexandria, MN

Items Needed: small ziplock bag
small amount of soil
water
popcorn kernels

Place about 6 tablespoons of soil in the bag. Bury a few popcorn kernels in the soil. Add a little bit of water. Seal the bag and tape to the inside of a window. Watch for the changes! After about 1 week you will begin to see sprouts. Once the sprouts out grow the bag, transfer to the garden.



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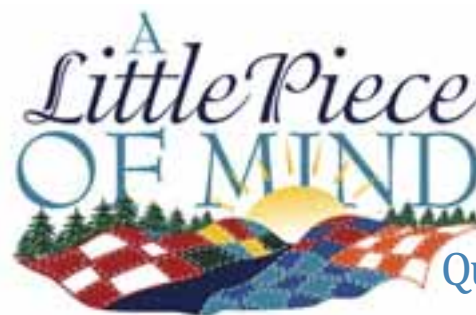
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The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show In-Person Event in Madison in September

For the first time in three years, The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show will return to the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin, on September 8th, 9th and 10th. The in-person event welcomes quilters from across Wisconsin and throughout the United States to join together and share their love for quilting.

Presented by PBS Wisconsin and Nancy Zieman Productions, The 18th Annual Great Wisconsin Quilt Show is the ultimate adventure for quilt enthusiasts of all skill levels. It features educational opportunities, a juried and judged Quilt Contest, shopping opportunities, nationally-known celebrity presenters and community service opportunities.

"We know that quilters are eager to gather together in person again, and we are excited to welcome them back," said Deanna Springer, vice president of marketing at Nancy Zieman Productions.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event had pivoted to an online experience for the 2020 and 2021 shows. PBS Wisconsin events manager Kristin Korevec said, "I'm proud of the online shows we put on, but nothing compares to being together," says "We're taking what we've learned from those shows and incorporating the best elements of them moving forward."

Event organizers will continue to monitor updates from health officials regarding COVID-19 safety guidelines and will share the latest information about their protocols at quiltshow.com.

The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show's main attraction is the 10-category juried and judged Quilt Contest exhibit, showcasing the incredible talents of quilters from across the country. Featured quilts range from traditional sizes and shapes to innovative pictorial quilts.

Additional exhibits will showcase other quilt challenges hosted by the event, including the Modern Mini Quilt Challenge, the Kids' Quilt Challenge and a themed quilt challenge. This year's theme is "Celebrating 40 Years of Sewing With Nancy," and honors television's most beloved sewing instructor, the late Nancy Zieman, who was also a co-founder of The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show.

To punctuate the buzz of the Show's returning in person, one of this year's special quilt exhibits is "Uncovered: The Ken Burns Collection," featuring 26 historic quilts from the private collection of the documentary filmmaker. Don't miss your chance to explore this beautiful exhibit that celebrates quilting as part of our identity.

The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show also includes dozens of educational lectures and workshops led by expert quilters and shopping opportunities from trusted vendors featuring the latest fabrics and notions. Also featured is a community service project, Quilt to Give, in which attendees donate their materials and skills to create quilts for those in need.

Complete information about the show and planning your at activities and visit at quiltshow.com. Advance online ticket sales and class registration will begin Monday, July 11. Learn details about Admission, Lectures, Workshops and Evening Events at <https://quiltshow.com/tickets/>. email: quiltshow@pbswisconsin.org. Also find on Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter.

Proceeds from The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show support PBS Wisconsin programs and community outreach projects. Thank go to Premier Event Sponsors: Husqvarna Viking Sewing Machines and Pfaff Sewing Machines and to Associate Event Sponsors: Ana's Sewing Studio, BERNINA of America, Blue Bar Quilts, Brother International Sewing Corporation, Janome, Juki America, Inc. and Linda Z's Sewing Center.

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Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

Berry Good Donuts!

Simplify ... that seems to be my adopted life objective. I used to pride myself on baking and cooking yummy meals and treats; but no longer is my identity wrapped up in garnering praise and compliments in exchange for hours in the kitchen. Especially in the summer!

Recently, and for an absolutely ordinary day, I came home with everything I needed in hand—fresh strawberries, donuts and a spray container of whipped cream. When my husband was engrossed in front of the television, I very carefully sliced across a couple of donuts with a sharp serrated knife. Honestly, that was the greatest challenge to putting together this show-stopping dessert. Once that was done, all I had to do was spray whipped cream on the bottom half of the donut, top it with a few slices of strawberries, and then cover with the donut's top half. For a little extra pazazz, I filled the donut's hole by spraying a dab of whipped cream and topped it with another strawberry slice.

When our "Berry Good Donuts" were ready to sample, John and I both paused for a moment because they looked almost too good to eat ... but soon we each took a bite and simultaneously agreed our donuts were really, berry, berry good!

Since that taste test, I think a variation might be to get glazed donut holes, cut them in half, fill with a dab of whipped cream and a strawberry slice for a yummy miniature "2-Bite Berry Good Donut Delight."



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Photo by Jan Keller

©2022 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: Black Sheep Books, 11250 Glen Canyon Drive, Peyton, CO 80831

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What Not To Collect

by Ed Kindle

The antiques & collectibles market has changed a great deal in the last seven years. 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 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".

Here's a list some of the items you probably shouldn't collect right now. Don't get me wrong, if you love something and want to collect it, then 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 later 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. 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 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 valuable? I am sorry to say, it's in the numbers. Millions were made, 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, 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 four payments of \$19.99, they are worth pennies on the dollar.

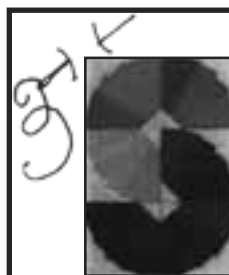
China: In addition to dinner parties, which no one has anymore, people would pick a china pattern and strive to collect every available piece offered in that pattern. Some folks would collect multiple sets at the same time. Now, you can buy it very inexpensively as the market is super saturated. As folks 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 & Crystal: Younger generations aren't collectors. Generation Y and Generation Z have been brought up in an ever increasing digital and online world. Possessions such as this are a curiosity. They aren't into craftsmanship and don't have the same appreciation for an amazing piece of hand-cut crystal. I once saw a fifty pound hand-cut vase with Greek mythological scenes. The artist could only work on it for 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 you love to look at. It's difficult to buy art to make money on. Even local art such as The Highwaymen paintings fluctuate greatly in value and interest. Sometimes the more popular the artist, the more fake or mis-attributed pieces get into the market. You 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, 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: 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 one 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.



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Country Register Recipe Exchange

Orange Zucchini Bread

submitted by Shirley Ross



- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 eggs | 1 tsp vanilla |
| 2 cups sugar | 1/2 cup thawed frozen orange juice |
| 1 cup oil | 1 1/2 cup peeled zucchini |
| 1 tsp baking soda | 3 cups flour |
| 1 tsp salt | |

Beat eggs with oil and sugar. Add dry ingredients. Peel and grate zucchini. Add vanilla, orange juice and zucchini. Mix well. Bake at 350° for 1 hour in two greased and floured small bread pans.

Note: you can substitute lemon extract in place of vanilla.

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 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 late 1960s to the mid-1970s, are bringing good prices now. The rest not so much.

Well, there's my list of ten things not to collect right now. I say that not to discourage anyone, but to share how values of certain items haven't really maintained. 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 may no longer be a true statement. If you want to collect, collect! I encourage you to find something you are passionate about, 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 are rare. They 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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Ann's Lovin' Ewe

by Ann Stewart

Won't You be my Neighbor?

Everyone should have a funeral before they die. And not just to know how beloved they are. Too late, I learned the memorial service is the last chapter of a book I wanted to read.

I've walked away from each memorial service, thinking, "I wish I had known her," or "I wish I had gotten a chance to talk with him," or "I wish I had known those interesting things about his life or spent more time with her."

I accompanied my voice student's song at her grandmother's memorial. I had never met her, but felt I knew her after the beautiful tributes given by a large audience honoring this quiet, gentle woman whose warmth extended to all. One tribute in particular was from her best friend who said, "Jean has never once said anything bad about anyone." I considered that a worthy goal, one which I had already failed. I really wanted to meet Jean and learn from her example.

At the memorial service of a former neighbor who had taken his life, I heard he had mentored fellow college students, earned his Eagle Scout, and recently when delivering a college speech on his hero Mr. Rogers, he dressed and acted the part, entering the room singing the "Won't you be my neighbor" song. Oh how, I wanted to go back in time and learn more about him, and yes, to be his neighbor.

A fellow writer friend cared for her father as he succumbed to dementia. At the height of his career, he founded a newspaper, served as press secretary to a Vice President, brought Gorbachev to the Midwest, and shared a byline with two young reporters covering 9-11. Needless to say, I was amazed by who he was and the life he lived. But perhaps the simplest story told the most. He went to a garden store and bought flowers for the DC street where he worked. So inspired, the community of shop owners joined in beautifying the median. I left his memorial at the Washington Press Club thankful for the stories from his daughter, but wishing I had known him, too.

This May I attended a birthday party in honor of a colleague who was murdered last August. Her friends gathered to celebrate her life and recalled all she had contributed to the lives around her. We dined on the fine China given to the hostess from our friend's collection and recalled stories about how she helped others see the positive side of every negative situation, planted beauty wherever she went, and nurtured friendships the same way she tended a garden. One guest regretted that she hadn't spent more time with our friend. Sometimes she didn't prioritize relationships and let day to day tasks take precedent. That inspired this column.

We need to know the people in our lives today; they may not be there tomorrow. Finding out who they were in an obituary means the opportunity to share wisdom, knowledge, experience, and information is lost. Time moves forward no matter what we do. It's what we do with our time that's important.

Some of my friends have been gifted with the online program to write their own story: StoryWorth. Ironically, the website to order is entitled: A Life Untold which is exactly what this column is about. Storyworth takes the writer's answers and designs and then prints and delivers a professionally designed autobiography.

You have a story, and so do your friends. Are you passing it on and are you learning from the lives of others? Even BEFORE the Hebrews escaped Pharaoh and crossed the Red Sea, God instructed them to tell the story to their children and their children's children. It's because memories are important.

If you wrote your obituary today, what would surprise your friends and family? Why not tell them now?



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Designed by Ann Jones

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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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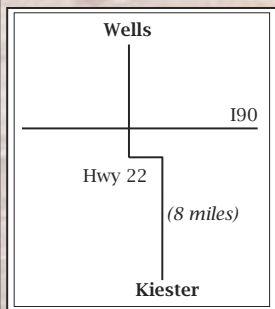

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Egg Carton Nursery

Submitted by Shirley Ross of Alexandria, MN

- Items Needed:
- Egg Carton
 - 12 half egg shells
 - Seeds
 - Water
 - Potting Soil

Fill the egg carton with halves of the egg shells. Carefully fill each shell with potting soil. Put one seed of choice in each shell. Water each shell with a teaspoon of water. Close the lid so the seeds stay warm. When the seeds sprout, replant them outside crushing the shells as it's placed into the ground.



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Where in Minnesota?

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(Answer on page 20 of this issue)



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Over The Teacup

Lighthouse — The Rock

by Janet Young

In contemplating on writing my next article, I initially thought I would write about vacation spots like beaches, and perhaps even a cabin in the mountains experience. But then, I happened upon a picture of a lighthouse, and the light bulb went off in my head.

A lighthouse is a symbol of peace and calm. This landmark was essential to navigators who were lost at sea during a storm, or on a foggy night, or even on a regular night, as darkness made it impossible for them to know where they were going.

Like these navigators standing in the face of adversity, perhaps we can take a lesson from these brave men and women.

Who are these brave souls? The navigators, of course, but also the lighthouse keepers. For when the storms roll in the lighthouse keeper is sometimes in danger and has to be rescued.

What does all of this have to do with vacation spots, you might ask. Well, perhaps you might want to plan a visit to one of these stately towers, if you are planning a vacation along a shoreline. While these towers of inspiration are no longer in use, tour guides are available to give you incite into the history, and perhaps even allow you to climb the steps to the top where you can get a breathtaking view of the horizon.

Vacations are made to relax us, to help us escape from our everyday activities. So, by visiting a lighthouse you might become inspired by the knowledge that, like the lighthouse, standing straight and tall after enduring storm after storm, life will give us our share of adversity. But, remember at the top of the lighthouse is a shining light that led the navigators to safety, and corrected their path. Why can't that symbol of strength and perseverance inspire us to change our focus, and to reach out to others, so that we might forget about our troubles at least for a little while.

As you prepare to go on vacation, I hope you'll put a lighthouse visit on the agenda, if it applies to the region, you will be visiting. Or, at least put it on your bucket list.



--Janet Young is a Certified Tea and Etiquette Consultant, Co-Founder of Mid-Atlantic Tea Business Association, and prior owner of Over The Teacup

U.S.A. Word Scramble

Unscramble the following words. See answers below

1. _____ cteuevixe The branch of government that carries out laws.
2. _____ prtatoici Feeling, expressing love for one's country.
3. _____ cttoionnius A plan of government or rules of our country.
4. _____ nzteicii A native or naturalized member of a state or community.
5. _____ fgla Emblem usually consisting of cloth or distinctive design.
6. _____ dlegpe ...of allegiance.
7. _____ oaintn A politically organized body of people under one government.
8. _____ aeiepsrventter A person who is chosen or elected to speak for others.
9. _____ crsogsen The law making body of our nation.
10. _____ etbilry The right and power to act, believe, or express oneself in a manner of one's choosing.
11. _____ edlrfae A type of government where the power of state and national are shared.
12. _____ tsaet A politically organized body of people under a single government.
13. _____ aoyl Steadfast in allegiance or duty.
14. _____ ngwnaihtso Seat of federal government.
15. _____ ofemedr The condition of being free.
16. _____ acndatied A person who is running for office.
17. _____ ecdrycamo A form of government in which citizens share the power.
18. _____ eblprmea The opening of the Constitution.
19. _____ eedelgta A person who represents others at a convention.
20. _____ sihotyr Records and interprets past events.
21. _____ eivalseiltg The branch of government that makes the laws.
22. _____ jdiialue The branch of government that interprets the laws.

1. executive 2. patriotic 3. constitution 4. citizen 5. flag 6. pledge
7. nation 8. representative 9. congress 10. liberty 11. federal 12. state
13. loyal 14. washington 15. freedom 16. candidate 17. democracy
18. preamble 19. delegate 20. history 21. legislative 22. judicial

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KISSed Quilts

by Marlene Oddie

Summer Starry Nights

Do you ever lay out under the stars at night and try to identify constellations?

This new collection – Celestials – from Island Batik reminds me of those summer nights on a houseboat at the lake, sleeping under the stars.

This is a single block design colored two different ways which gives it an Irish Chain effect and includes opportunities for fussy cuts that give it an extra level of interest.

Two of the borders were also fussy cut. This isn't ordinarily an opportunity when using batiks but this collection had some wonderful designs that lent themselves to this treatment.

Set like this I'm calling the quilt pattern Mosaic Jumble. The original block was issued by Electric Quilt and named January Jumble.

I originally envisioned it in purples and greens with fussy cut triangles of grey and black prints that looked like lace which made for a beautiful Irish Lace design.

It would look great in a variety of colors – what colors might you do?


The Mosaic Jumble pattern is available at KISSed Quilts.



Country Register Recipe Exchange


Ice Cream Cone Cakes

submitted by Lila Liebl



1 pkg. yellow cake mix 1 dozen flat bottom ice cream cones
chocolate frosting sprinkles

Heat oven to 350°. Prepare the cake mix according to the package instructions. Fill cones about half full with cake batter and place on baking sheet, not allowing them to touch one another. Bake 25 minutes or until tooth pick inserted in center of cone comes out clean. Allow to cool completely. Frost each cake and top with sprinkles.

 Marlene Oddie (marlene@kissedsquilts.com) is an engineer by education, project manager by profession and now a quilter by passion in Grand Coulee, WA, at her quilt shop, KISSed Quilts. She quilts for hire on a Gammill Optimum Plus, but especially enjoys designing quilts and assisting in the creation of a meaningful treasure for the recipient. Fabric, patterns, kits and templates are available at <http://www.kissedsquilts.com>. Follow Marlene's adventures via <http://www.facebook.com/kissedsquilts> and <https://www.instagram.com/marlene.kissedsquilts/>.



I suppose you can't have everything, though my instinctive response to this sentiment is always, "Why not?"

Margaret Stalsey

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BOOK REVIEW

A Stitch in Rhyme

by Yvonne Hollenbeck

A Stitch in Rhyme, Yvonne Hollenbeck's latest book, is a collection of poems based upon her experiences as quilter and the rural life she and her husband Glen share on their working cattle ranch near Clearfield, SD. Her poems, both humorous and well as not-so-humorous, also convey situations her mother and grandmothers experienced in their rural settings.

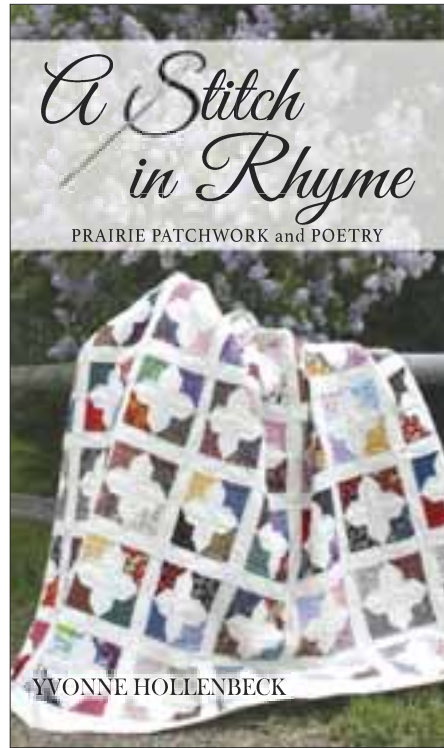
"Some of the first homesteaders in Nebraska and South Dakota were my great-grandparents, and for the most part, most of their descendants remain on farms and ranches in the upper plains," says Yvonne. "The women on these homesteads were a hardy lot, having suffered hardships beyond the imagination. As a new life was established, the women were forced to make changes to survive. Isolation and loneliness brought a yearning for the places they had once called home, however, there were two things that helped bridge the gap between their new life and the previous one. Those two things, as documented in nearly every journal and historical account on the lives of these pioneer women, was the making of quilts and of writing poetry. Nearly every museum in the Great Plains contain faded quilts and sheets of handwritten poetry as testimony to their lives. I hope readers of *A Stitch in Rhyme* can weave the various patterns depicted on the pages in the same manner as my grandmothers pieces of cloth into quilts, and words into poetry."

"While Yvonne's remote piece of the American West informs most of her writing, what she has to say has a universal appeal. Her themes—family, work, friendship, community, endurance, survival—are human themes. An authentic American treasure, she uses her exceptional gift in the most delightful and meaningful poetry that touches, amuses, edifies, and entertains readers and audiences everywhere."

Margo Metegrano

Yvonne Hollenbeck is an award-winning quilter—one of the most published poets of the Western genre—as well as a popular freelance writer. She performs at many public functions, with her cowboy poetry recitations and her popular quilt programs.

A Stitch in Rhyme sells for \$15 plus 3.50 postage.
Order your copy at www.yvonnehollenbeck.com!





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Yvonne Hollenbeck

NEVER TOO LATE

A poem from Yvonne's new book,
A Stitch in Rhyme

*It's never too late to call on a friend
that you've not seen for many a year;
or visit a neighbor that might be alone
and bring them some comfort and cheer.*

*It's never too late to make some amends
to someone you might have done wrong;
because rather than harbor a grudge all the time,
it is better to just get along.*

*When at times you were angry, like all of us get,
and you spoke out of anger and hate,
to admit you were wrong is a tough pill to chew,
but, "I'm sorry" is never too late.*

*So, let us all strive to serve and to give
until our course here on earth is all done.
For it's never too late to let bygones go
and seek out the good that needs done.*

Order *A Stitch in Rhyme* at www.yvonnehollenbeck.com!

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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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- 1/2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 6 large marshmallows, or 3/4 cup mini marshmallows
- 1/2 cup to 3/4 cup Rice Krispies cereal

Directions:

1. Add butter to mug.
2. Microwave for 15-20 seconds or until just melted.
3. Roll the melted butter around to coat the edges of the mug.
4. Add marshmallows.
5. Microwave for 30 seconds.
6. Stir to combine butter and marshmallows.
7. Add the Rice Krispies immediately.
8. Stir to combine. Start with 1/2 cup and then add more to make it thicker if you wish.



Recipe by Stress Baking

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— George Washington

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summer is messy,
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 summer is spending all
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 summer is campfires,
 smores, and late nights,
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 spent flying kites.
 summer is tan lines and
 splashing in lakes.
 summer is mornings with
 chocolate pancakes.
 summer is time spent
 with family and friends,
 summer is hoping that it
 never ends.

source: justatouchofcrazy



Open my ears
 Open my ears
 Lord to hear your voice
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 He's your friend and He loves you
 I am your friend and I love you
 by Lila Liebl



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Back Porch Break

by Nancy Brummett



Summer's Song

The birds seem to be sounding a symphony of song this summer—especially at dawn's early light when they all crescendo, "It's morning! Time to get up!"

A computer search on bird calls opened up a whole new world of ornithological information to me. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website "All About Birds," when a bird sings it is telling you what it is and where it is. I'm sorry, but the only bird I can identify in that way

would be the one chirping right in front of me from our deck railing. Even then I might not know what it is, but at least I would know where it is!

I blame my lack of an ability to identify birds by their tweets to the fact that I grew up in Tennessee where the official state bird is the Mockingbird. It got its name from, you guessed it, mocking the calls of all other birds! No wonder I'm an epic fail at deciphering bird song.

What I learned from my research, however, is that many people out there in bird land take identifying birds by the songs they sing extremely seriously. An actual comment from one birder asking for help in identifying a bird call was: The best I can describe it is like a "twotty twotty twotty twwwwEEEEEEEEEE...twa twa twa twa." The "twwwwEEEEEE" part goes up in pitch, the twa's are back down in pitch, sort of around where the twotty's were in the beginning.

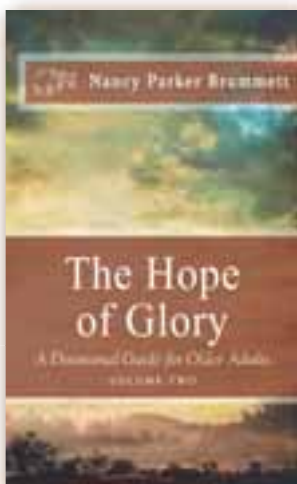
OK. Got that? What's your guess?

I also learned that on birding websites, and even on YouTube, you can click on the name of a bird and listen to its actual song. Listening to bird calls on your computer all afternoon is not only somewhat interesting, it's also a wonderful way to confuse and bemuse your cat.

I think ornithology would be a wonderful vocation or avocation, but I'm not sure it's for me. I'll just continue to enjoy all the melodies I hear and wonder why the winged wonders warble at the same time instead of taking turns like on American Idol. And I'll never figure out what genre each bird has chosen. Oldies? Praise songs? Reggae? Rhythm and blues? It sure sounds like a mix of all of them.

Whether birds sing to announce their whereabouts or to attract a mate, I'm just glad they sing. When ladies in my assisted living Bible study tell me that they can't sing, I often quote Psalm 100:1 (KJV) and tell them to just, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!" The summer songbirds I love to hear seem to be doing just that.

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



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Random Acts

by Maranda K Jones

What a Relief

Relief is the most used word at our house lately. We look forward to relief from our busy schedule set by the school calendar. We want relaxation to ease our stress from the busyness of our routines and extracurricular activities. We want to remove those unnecessary tasks from our to-do lists and alleviate some anxieties.

Where do we start? We start with a simple glass of summer in a jar. Nothing like that cold glass of lemonade on a hot summer day to offer some refreshment to squelch one's thirst. The sweet relief offered to a parched throat does wonders for the body, mind, and soul. We sip it slowly and start to unwind. While the ice melts into our drink, we feel our tensions ease. Our shoulders drop, our minds clear, and we begin to notice the little things. The birds try to sing louder than the roar of the lawn mowers. The smell of the freshly cut grass overpowers the lilac scent that was breezing by before. The clouds open to a better view of the sun, causing us to cover our eyes with one hand while the sweat beading up on our cold cups drips onto the other.

And we thank God. We praise Him for the little things He cares for and the big things He accomplishes. We see His work done through our neighbors, friends, and family. We remember feeling His love when neighbors prepared us dinner on a hectic weekday. We felt Him lighten our burdens when friends helped us in our time of need. We see Him at work in our family as He gives solace and lessens the pain of those who are sick. We thank Him for clearing those clouds, giving us a better view of His son, Jesus Christ, who gives us the ultimate relief.

For a small price, we can accept this cup of salvation. He can quench our thirst, balance our tribulations with peace and courage, and receive comfort in times of trouble. God offers His salvation to all, and we can share His love and stories of His promises over a glass of lemonade. We can lead others to the Lord, but we cannot believe in God on behalf of others. We can lead them to the water, but we cannot make them drink. We can lead customers to the lemonade stand, but they must choose if that is the drink they most desire.

I long for lemonade. I want to stand next to a hand-drawn sign and a full pitcher ready to pour out some love. The smile on a child's face when you buy a cup of lemonade in their front yard is worth every penny. A young lemonade stand entrepreneur sets up his lemonade stand and anticipates a crowd. He sells a cup of joy, and he relishes in the receipt of change. Just one cup is worth the cost. For a small price, someone's life will be changed.

What a relief.



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Maranda Jones' new book *Random Acts* is now available at amazon.com
The book includes her reader-acclaimed articles from the last decade



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that gets left behind. no
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get it all swept up there is always
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Shop Local & Support Small Businesses

by Sue Baldani

July is Independent Retailer Month, and what better way to celebrate it than to shop locally? Small businesses need our help more than ever to recover from the devastating effects of COVID. Sadly, we saw many stores shut their doors during the pandemic, so let's make sure we give those still operating a great chance of success.

According to the Census Bureau and Small Business Administration, independent retailers employ approximately 51 percent of the U.S. workforce. Supporting a small business provides an income for the owner, and for his or her staff as well. These full-and part-timers are usually your friends and neighbors, and they rely on these jobs to provide for themselves and their families. Depending on the retailer, merchandise found on the shelves may be handmade, so these businesses are also providing wages for those crafting these incredible works of art.

By shopping at these stores, you're not only doing them a favor, but doing yourself one as well. While some prices may be higher in small boutiques and stores, the quality of the items is often much better than what you would find in big box stores. And since they're made in a limited supply, what you display in your home will be unique and special and not found in every home on the block.

The customer service is also much more personal in a smaller retailer. The owners and salespeople often develop personal relationships with repeat clients and greet them by name when they walk in the door. Many buyers also keep customers' preferences in mind when buying items for their stores. New customers may also be greeted like old friends, which makes any shopper feel appreciated.

These proprietors often put in long hours and work hard to keep their dreams afloat while rejoicing in serving their communities. The owners are often the ones who donate merchandise, services and gift cards for raffles and other events to support a variety of local organizations.

The success of local businesses is also critical for the economic stability of small towns. These businesses contribute to the tax base and allow municipalities to provide much needed and often additional services to their residents.

Today, when out and about, drive around town and take the time to notice what these local shops have to offer. You'll probably be surprised at the breadth of merchandise and services available.

Whether looking for clothes, baked goods, tools, books, yarn or fabrics, don't automatically head to the mall or go on the computer to buy online. Or, when in need of anything from a haircut, pedicure, or oil change, visit a local shop to receive top-of-the-line professional service.

Also, remember to promote your local businesses. After shopping, put a great review on neighborhood sites and other pages like Yelp, and show off your purchases on Facebook and Instagram. Talk them up with family and friends as well, since word of mouth recommendations are priceless. Happy shopping!

Susan Baldani lives in New Jersey and writes articles for various publications. You can contact her at suebaldani@yahoo.com or through her website at www.mywritingwall.com.

Search for the underlined words in the recipe in the word search below!

Raisin - Raspberry Salad
 submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 cups <u>raspberries</u> | 1/2 cup <u>raisins</u> |
| 1 apple - <u>cored</u> and <u>diced</u> | 1/2 cup raspberry yogurt |
| 1 cup <u>seedless</u> green grapes - <u>halved</u> | <u>Garnish</u> - 2 tbsp sunflower seeds |
| 1/2 cup <u>celery</u> - thinly <u>sliced</u> | |

Combine raspberries, apples, grapes, celery and raisins in a medium bowl. Stir in yogurt until just combined. Cover and refrigerate at least one hour. Garnish with sunflower seeds just before serving. Makes about 5 cups.

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Lessons Learned Across 30 Summers



by Kerri Habben Bosman

Thirty summers ago, I was 19. I had just finished my first year of college. I was fully certain that by age 25, my first novel would have been published. Of course, also by then, I would have found the love of my life, married, and possibly have had my first child.

Also, during the summer I was 19, my Uncle Henry was dying. He was my grandmother's brother and was like a second grandfather to me. At 86, he was fading away. In a hands-on and substantial way, I helped care for him from late June until his passing at 12:05 pm on July 24th. I learned then that love makes us stronger than we were before.

Ironically, these six weeks with the gentlest person I knew also created a seismic reaction within me. Life mostly remained the same, and yet, I was different. I had discovered a raw, unknown place inside. I had no effective words for how it felt, much less any idea how to mold it into something useful to me.

It was an unfiltered, newly discovered part of me, and initially it was terrifying. I felt like I was slogging through mud in a thunderstorm. Gradually, I made friends with that raw place, sometimes even seeking it out. If I get lost in the distractions of the world, it still reminds me to be fully immersed in the gift of being alive. I learned, because of its presence, I possess the ability to continually evolve into a better me.

Thirty summers later, I haven't published any books, and yet the writer in me is still content. I confess that I enjoy seeing my writing in print. I get to talk to people about their life's work and I value conveying that into an article. When a personal article or poem flows forth, I am still amazed and grateful. Yet, the most important writing I do is for the people I love, particularly my weekly letters to my 101 year old mother-in-law. I have learned that there is joy in every step of the journey, even if sometimes I have to search for it.

Thirty summers later, I am married to my husband, Wayne. We found each other when I was 46. So it just took a couple of decades longer than I imagined. Our life together has been well worth the wait. Somehow he has every trait I've treasured in family members now passed on. Yet, I love him most for being exactly who he is. He shares his family with me, and I shower love on them from the youngest at 4 to the oldest at 101. I have learned that love is huge, and it is ever growing.

Thirty summers later, I am not a mom. Instead, I am a happy and grateful "bonus" grandparent. Which brings me to the true impetus for this article.

Kaylie, who is the oldest grandchild, turns 18 this July and graduated from high school last month. She is an artist and is attending an art and design college in the fall. She is kind, intuitive, smart, and strong. She is beautifully and authentically herself and carries herself with a quiet grace. She paints and creates art from her own raw place inside.

I wrote this article partially to remember Uncle Henry, 30 years later. It is also a way for a fulfilled 49 year old to laugh with (or at) her 19 year old self. However, mostly this is for Kaylie. Not for the advice embedded in it, which she doesn't really need. She'll live her own way to her own answers.

I wrote it for Kaylie because love is huge, and it will always keep growing.

Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer in Chapel Hill, NC.

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Country Register Recipe Exchange
Rhubarb Cake Mix Dessert
 submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm



2 eggs	6-7 cups rhubarb - chopped
2 cups sugar	1 yellow or white cake mix
7 tbsp flour	3/4 cup butter - melted
1/2 tsp salt	

Beat eggs for 1 1/2 minutes. Add sugar, flour and salt. Stir in rhubarb. Pour into greased 9x13 inch pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix over top. Drizzle melted butter over cake mix. Bake at 350° for 1 to 1 1/4 hours. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

Countryberries Designs
Uncle Sam



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 Designed by Kathy Graham

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GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



GIRLFRIENDS
In the Garden of Life

Tending to our friendships, is like tending to a garden. When spending more time with our friends, as if they were plants in our garden, we could watch them grow. The attentiveness would show if they were flourishing or needed a little care, like water and sun with our plants. Any weeds popping up to choke off the good flow that leads to beautiful blossoms? As in our friend, do we see any self sabotage or negative self-talk that needs our support? The goal is to share in the special moments in the Sun. Standing tall, beautiful in all their glory! Sunflowers are especially inspirational. No flower can lift someone's spirits quite like a sunflower in late summer. With brilliant yellow petals, also known as "rays", sunflowers have an unmistakable sun-like appearance. They symbolize adoration, loyalty and longevity. Adoration, loyalty and longevity are great qualities for our Girlfriends in the Garden of Life as well.

The **Girlfriend Wisdom** for all Girlfriends is to Stand Tall, Turn your Faces to the Sun and bask in a brighter, more delightful day!

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