



The Country Register[®]

Available across the U.S.A. & Canada

Minnesota's Guide to Specialty Shopping & Fun Events

March/April 2023

*Free!
Take One!*

Pick Up a Copy For A Friend!

Happy St. Patricks Day!



Subscriptions

Get one years worth of papers for only \$18!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip _____

Send an \$18 check to:

The Country Register • 2920 - 144th Ave NE • Ham Lake, MN 55304

If you want to pay by credit card, please call 763-754-1661!

The Country Register Publisher Contact List

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.

Barbara Floyd, founder • barbara@countryregister.com • 602-321-6511

PUBLICATIONS ALL ACROSS THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

To receive a sample paper from another area, mail \$3.00 in U.S.A. or \$4.00 in Canada to that area's editor.

USA
 Arizona: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950
 Arkansas: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597
 California: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950
 Colorado: Jan & John Keller, 719-866-8570
 Connecticut: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217
 Delaware: Merle & Gail Taylor, 888-616-8319
 Florida: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217
 Georgia: Linda Parish, 706-340-1049
 Idaho (N): Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181
 Idaho (S): Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950
 Illinois: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597
 Indiana: Gail & Merle Taylor, 888-616-8319
 Iowa: Linda Glendy, 641-751-2619
 Kansas: Cindy Baldwin, 866-966-9815
 Maine: Robin Levison, 518-752-6399
 Maryland: Stacy Lute, 443-909-0531
 Massachusetts & RI: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217
 Michigan: Bill, Marlene & Leslie Howell, 989-751-8860
Minnesota: Kim & Mickey Keller, 763-754-1661
 Missouri: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597
 Montana: Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181
 Nebraska: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950
 Nevada (N): Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950
 Nevada (S): Glenna Dunn, 702-523-1803

New Hampshire: Robin Levison, 518-752-6399
 New Jersey: Merle & Gail Taylor, 888-616-8319
 New Mexico: Jan & John Keller, 719-749-9797
 New York: Mike & Wendy Rothfuss, 502-468-3938
 North Carolina: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 888-942-8950
 North Dakota: Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181
 Ohio: Barb Moore, 937-652-1157
 Oklahoma: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597
 Oregon: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950
 Pennsylvania: Merle & Gail Taylor, 888-616-8319
 Rhode Island: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217
 South Carolina: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 888-942-8950
 South Dakota: Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181
 Texas: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597
 Vermont: Robin Levison, 518-752-6399
 Virginia: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217
 Washington: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950
 West Virginia: Merle & Gail Taylor, 888-616-8319
 Wisconsin: Scott and Jennifer Hughes, 715-838-9426
 Wyoming: Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181

CANADA
 Alberta: Marcy Horswill, 587-585-3545
 British Columbia: Jenifer Smith, 800-784-6711
 Manitoba & Saskatchewan: Colleen Gust, 306-585-0274
 Ontario: Harriet Ramos, 613-424-6420

Articles published in this newspaper, which are contributed by outside sources, express the opinions of their authors only, and may not express the viewpoint of the management or staff of The Country Register. Such articles that are accepted for publication herein may be edited at the sole discretion of the publisher. Responsibility for products advertised in this newspaper lies with the advertisers themselves. Though The Country Register will not knowingly publish fraudulent materials or fraudulently obtained materials, we are not liable for any damages arising from purchase or use of products advertised herein. Notifications regarding any consumer complaints related to merchandise purchased from our advertisers would be appreciated and would assist in our publishing efforts.

Months March/April 2023

Volume 29 Number 2

The Country Register is published every other month. Copyright 2023. Reproduction or use, without permission, of editorial or graphic content in any manner is prohibited. Offices of The Country Register are located at PO Box 84345, Phoenix, AZ 85023. The Country Register of Minnesota is licensed by The Country Register with exclusive rights to publish in the state of Minnesota using logos and graphics owned by The Country Register.

Deadline For the May/June 2023 Edition is April 10th!

City Listing

Blue Earth.....	19	New Ulm.....	20
Cook.....	6	Oklee.....	7
Cloquet.....	4	Owatonna.....	21
Duluth.....	4&5	Pipestone.....	17
Eagan.....	13	Rush City.....	9
Eden Valley.....	11	Sandstone.....	9
Ham Lake.....	15	Shakopee.....	12
Hinckley.....	9	Sherburn.....	18
Hutchinson.....	10	Shoreview.....	12
International Falls.....	6	St. Peter.....	20
Kiester.....	19	Wabasha.....	22
Lake City.....	22	Waseca.....	21
Lake Elmo.....	15	Wells.....	19
Lone Rock, IA.....	19	White Bear Lake.....	12
Luverne.....	17	Windom.....	16
Menomonie, WI.....	24	Winona.....	22
New Prague.....	14	Worthington.....	16
New Richmond, WI.....	24		

Special Events

March

10-12.....	March Mania Sale - Antiques of the Midwest - Wells
11-13.....	March Mania Sale - Antiques of the Midwest - Wells
24-26.....	Mini Retreat - Quilter's Cottage - Kiester

April

1-May 31.....	All Minnesota Shop Hop
12-15.....	Country Roads Shop Hop - Crafty Corner Quilt Shoppe - Worthington
12-15.....	Country Roads Shop Hop - Humble Heart - Wells
12-15.....	Country Roads Shop Hop - Michele's - Blue Earth
12-15.....	Country Roads Shop Hop - Prairie Quilting - Windom
12-15.....	Country Roads Shop Hop - Quilter's Cottage - Kiester
12-15.....	Country Roads Shop Hop - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
13-15.....	Junk Bonanza - Shakopee
14-15.....	10th Anniversary Celebration - Quilt Haven on Main - Hutchinson
14-15.....	26th Anniversary Open House - Past & Present Antiques - Waseca
16.....	Super Sunday - Quilted Dog - Cloquet
21-22.....	New Prague Prairie Quilters Quilt Show - New Prague
22-29.....	Crossing Borders Spring Fling Shop Hop - Crafty Corner Quilt Shoppe - Worthington
22-29.....	Crossing Borders Spring Fling Shop Hop - Prairie Quilting - Windom
22-29.....	Crossing Borders Spring Fling Shop Hop - The Sewing Basket - Luverne
22-29.....	Crossing Borders Spring Fling Shop Hop - Quilt Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
25.....	Sallie Tomato Bag and Purse Trunk Show with Mini Class - Michele's - Blue Earth
26.....	Sallie Tomato Casey Duffle Bag Class - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
29.....	Youth Series Project - Up North Quilt Shop - International Falls

May

13-14.....	Shepherd's Harvest - Lake Elmo
------------	--------------------------------

June

25.....	15th Annual Golf Fundraiser Tournament - Majestic Oaks - Ham Lake
---------	---



AND THE WINNER IS...

Ruthanna McNamee of International Falls, MN won a \$ 25 gift card! Ruthanna says Up North Quilt Shop in International Falls, MN is her favorite shop because "I love the assortment of fabric. They are very friendly and helpful. They have monthly sew-ins, various classes and have beautiful quilt examples and displays on the walls!"

Congratulations!

Happy Easter!



How many eggs can you find?
Search this issue of
The Country Register and see
how many eggs you can find!
Hint...there are 25!



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
minnesota@countryregister.com
www.countryregister.com/mn

Where in Minnesota?

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

(Answer on page 18 of this issue)



Win a \$25 Visa Gift Card!

**YOUR NEXT VISIT TO YOUR
FAVORITE SHOP IS ON US!**

**Buy some GAS to get there!
Buy that item you desire!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Favorite Shop Advertised: _____

My Favorite Shop because: _____

My Favorite Country Register Feature(s): _____

Found this issue at: _____

Regular reader? _____ 1st time reader? _____

Do you tell the shops you saw their ad in the paper? _____

What stores would you like to see in The Country Register?
(include town) _____

Please make sure to tell the shop owners you saw their ad in
The Country Register! It's the only way they know you saw them
here and that their advertising dollars work!

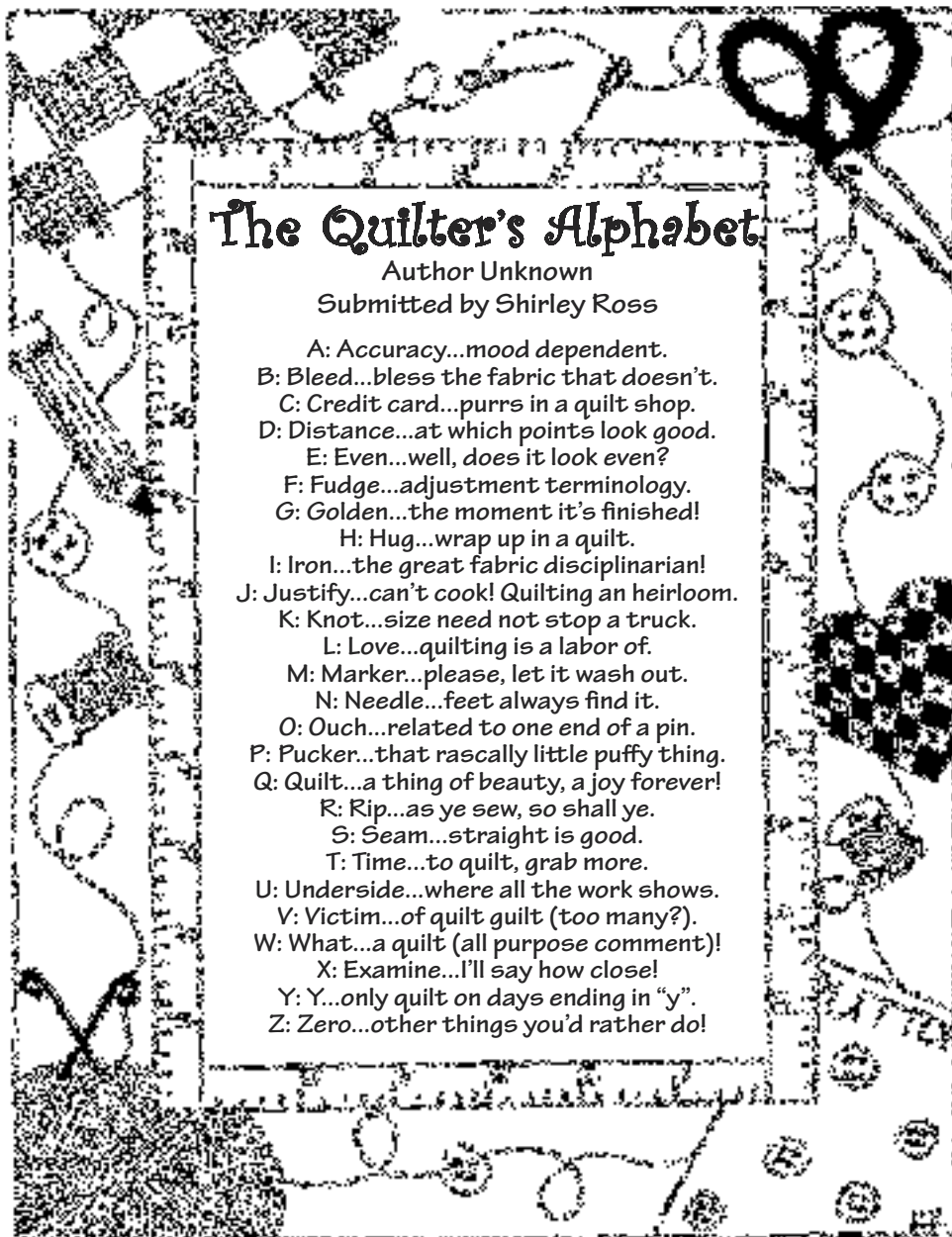
Mail this form to:
The Country Register • 2920 - 144th Ave. NE • Ham Lake, MN 55304

The Quilter's Alphabet

Author Unknown

Submitted by Shirley Ross

- A: Accuracy...mood dependent.
- B: Bleed...bless the fabric that doesn't.
- C: Credit card...purrs in a quilt shop.
- D: Distance...at which points look good.
- E: Even...well, does it look even?
- F: Fudge...adjustment terminology.
- G: Golden...the moment it's finished!
- H: Hug...wrap up in a quilt.
- I: Iron...the great fabric disciplinarian!
- J: Justify...can't cook! Quilting an heirloom.
- K: Knot...size need not stop a truck.
- L: Love...quilting is a labor of.
- M: Marker...please, let it wash out.
- N: Needle...feet always find it.
- O: Ouch...related to one end of a pin.
- P: Pucker...that rascally little puffy thing.
- Q: Quilt...a thing of beauty, a joy forever!
- R: Rip...as ye sew, so shall ye.
- S: Seam...straight is good.
- T: Time...to quilt, grab more.
- U: Underside...where all the work shows.
- V: Victim...of quilt guilt (too many?).
- W: What...a quilt (all purpose comment)!
- X: Examine...I'll say how close!
- Y: Y...only quilt on days ending in "y".
- Z: Zero...other things you'd rather do!



Duluth

COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

Glazed Chicken Wings



Submitted by Irene Thompson, La Junta, CO

- 2 1/2 lbs. chicken wings
- 1/2 cup barbecue sauce
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup soy sauce

Cut chicken wings into 3 sections, discarding wing tip section. Place wings in greased 9" x 13" baking dish. Combine barbecue sauce, honey and soy sauce and pour over wings. Bake uncovered in a 350° F. for 50-60 minutes or until chicken juices run clear.

Free Pattern



For more fun and creative inspiration visit: www.JacquelynnSteves.com



Free Embroidery Pattern –May not be sold or used for commercial purposes. Use this pattern for embroidery, wool applique, punch needle or rug hooking, painted projects or whatever your imagination can dream up! Reduce or enlarge pattern as desired.



Quilters, Knitters & NeedleArtists:

Find Your Favorite Shops When You Travel in the NeedleTravel Guide

Purchase the 2023 edition of our Travel Guide at your local shop or from us for only \$9.95



and introducing:

ShopHopper

Your free travel planner at NeedleTravel.com

needletravel.com or 888-737-0847



10a-5p (tues-fri) & 10a-4p (sat)
218-628-1687 | 2904 W 3rd St. Duluth, MN 55806
creationsquiltshop.com



join us

We're excited to be a part of this fun event in April & May! Magazines are in and ready for purchase.

longarm quilting

We offer custom and computerized, edge-to-edge, longarm quilting. With a full line of 108" backings & batting, we have what you need to finish that next project.



your friendly quilting place

all-inclusive quilt shop | longarm quilting services
family owned & operated





Full Service Quilt Shop
 ☆ Join us this Spring! ☆
 April and May:
All Minnesota Shop Hop
 Shop Hop Hours: Mon - Sat · 10am - 5pm
Super Sunday
 April 16 · 12am - 4pm


274 Hwy 33 North
 Cloquet, MN 55720
 218-879-3577
 www.thequilteddogguitshop.com
 Mon-Fri: 10-5 · Sat: 10-3



HANNAH JOHNSON
Fabrics & Sewing Studio
 Fabric • Quilts • Notions • Classes

Check us out on Facebook Live
Every Thursday at 6:00 pm!
If you can't watch it live, you can
catch it on our webpage under LIVE!
We ship via 2 day FEDEX
 We welcome you to the store, but please wear a face mask
 and follow safe distancing!

Shop & sign up for classes at
hannahjohnsonfabrics.com p: 218.525.7800
 4511 East Superior Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55804



Mystery Quilt

Twisted Star
 Mystery Quilt - 2023
 Designed by Ann Jones, Nevada, MO

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

This time around we are going to focus on a little quilt. This is designed as a baby quilt, and finishes at 48" Square. Add a border if you want it a bit bigger for a lap quilt.

Fabric Requirements:
 Fabric A - dark - 1 ½ yards
 Fabric B - light - 1 yard
 Fabric C - medium light - ½ yard
 Fabric D - medium - ¼ yard
 Fabric E- light tone on tone - 1 yard (sashing)
 Fabric F - light tone on tone - ¼ yard (sashing)

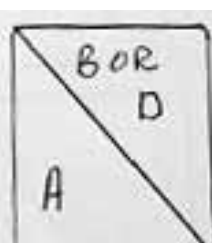

PART 1 of 3:
 Making Block 1: This is a basic Friendship star - you will be making 16 blocks
 For EACH BLOCK Cut:

Two 2 ½" squares of Fabric A (Total of 32 needed for 16 blocks)
 Four 2 ½" squares of Fabric B (Total of 64 needed)

Three 3" squares of Fabric A (Total of 32 needed)
 Two 3" squares of Fabric B (Total of 48 needed)


Two 2 ½ X 4 ½" rectangles of Fabric C (Total of 32 needed)
 One 3" square of Fabric D (Total of 16 needed)

For ONE block:
 On the wrong side of two the 3" Fabric A squares and two of the 3" Fabric B squares mark a diagonal line. Place these right sides together and sew a 1/4" seam on either side of the diagonal line. Cut on the diagonal line. Press each half square triangle towards the dark. You will have 4 of A/B half square triangles. Repeat using one 3" square of Fabric A and one 3" square of Fabric D to make 2 of A/D half square triangles. Square these up to 2 ½".

Kissed Quilts
 by Marlene Oddie

Zen Garden

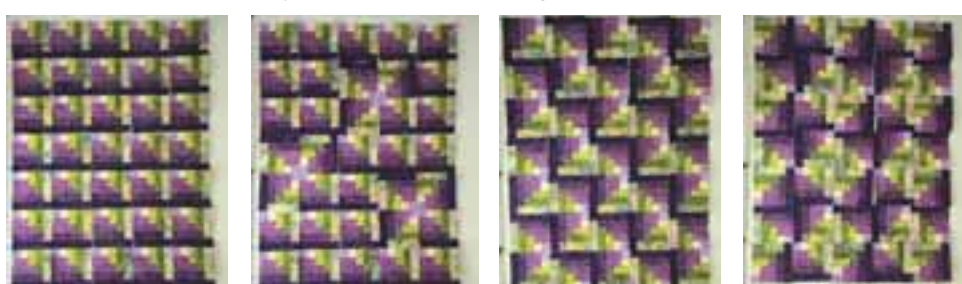


When I first started designing for Island Batik, I did a quilt called Woven Braid. I revisited that design recently with slightly different value colorations and using the new Zen Chic collection from Island Batik. The Zen Garden quilt emerged!

This quilt is made by two colorations of the same block. It starts with the first six logs being exactly the same fabrics. Then the blocks are split into two groups and each group gets their own fabrics (similar values but different prints) for the remaining logs. Each block is sort of a quarter of a log cabin block and the center is not the lightest value. By alternating the block colorations there is more interest to the eye. There are also lots of opportunities for other settings of the blocks.


The quilting is 'Jessica's Ginkgo' pantograph from Urban Elementz that was inspired by the ginkgo print in one of the fabrics.

The pattern includes yardages and directions for five quilt sizes.
 Here are a few examples of the other settings:



Island Batik has created this beautiful Zen Chic collection. The fabric collection has beautiful shades of green and purple and some mixed color prints as well.

Marlene Oddie (marlene@kissedquilts.com) is an engineer by education, project manager by profession and now a quilter by passion in Grand Coulee, WA, at her quilt shop, KISSed Quilts. She 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.kissedquilts.com>. Follow Marlene's adventures via <http://www.facebook.com/kissedquilts> and <https://www.instagram.com/marlene.kissedquilts>



Cook • International Falls

Life in Skunk Hollow

by Julie A Druck

Eyes Open to Wonder



For a long time, I have been fascinated with the process of creativity. I enjoy reading or hearing about how an artist or writer brings about a work. I've discovered that process can look as varied as every individual creator or creation. For me, a piece of writing is often simply "given" to me. I've learned that I can't force a piece but must bide my time until a seed of an idea ripens and comes to fruition in my head. And when it comes, it's almost always in a complete form. When I start the actual part of "putting it down on paper," there's surprisingly little editing that needs done.

It was a day past my deadline for this article, and I had nothing for my publisher. For weeks I had been considering what I was to write. I tried scribbling down a thing or two but everything I wrote came to naught. As I said, the process for me can't be forced. I contacted the publisher and said I wouldn't have anything this time and then sat down to do some paperwork. As I glanced out the window, I saw that dusk was coming on. One of my favorite times to walk the farm is during the short period of time in the evening when day has almost turned to night. It's a magical, enchanting time to me—one of quiet and stillness when it seems that I am the only one on these hundred acres.

Knowing that dusk was quickly fading, I popped up and opened the door, tempted to take a quick walk. The thought of all I wanted to accomplish this evening drew me back in. On the sofa I picked up my pen but again I was drawn to the door. In my slippers, I took a step into the yard but fought the urge to go and headed back in. On my third trip to the door, I knew that I was being "called" outside for some reason. On went my coat and boots, and I nearly ran up the hill to the closest field. "What, Lord? I know it's You calling me out here but why?" I stopped walking and just stood in the middle of a soybean field waiting and listening.

Earlier in the day I had heard a podcast about a woman's experience in visiting Hawaii. Having heard that Hawaii is one of the best places in the world to star gaze, she and her husband took a late-night excursion to do so—traveling, literally, through the clouds at the top of a mountain to emerge on the summit and view the rings of Saturn, the moons of Jupiter, and the Andromeda Galaxy. Her beautiful re-telling of this experience nearly took my breath away. I have always longed to see Hawaii. My father has visited there nearly a dozen times, and his stories of "paradise" always whet my appetite. Seeing new things, new places has been a draw for me for as long as I can remember. I love seeing the wonders of the earth that give me glimpses into the heart of my Creator. His beauty and creativity astound me and fill me with joy. And when I hear such accounts, it always makes me want to grab a suitcase and see more of His big, beautiful world.



But tonight, as I stood in the field asking God why He called me out here, the answer finally came. Though I'd love to roam the planet looking for beauty, I was reminded that no matter where I am is a place of wonder. As I watched the colorful sky fade to black, hear geese flying overhead and the call of an owl, as I stood watching stars come out one by one, it hit me.

Wonder—whether through the process of creativity or a walk through a field at dusk—is always in front of me for the taking. I simply need to have eyes to see and ears to hear. No matter where I am, His beauty surrounds me. And when I'm willing to look for it, wonder reveals itself—whether in words or the middle of a soybean field.

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





★ Online Quilt Shop! ★
www.upnorthquiltshop.com
 Under New Ownership!

☞ All Minnesota Shop Hop - April and May ☞
Ornament of the Month 2nd Thurs of the month 5pm-8pm
Hand sewn wool ornaments

Youth Series
 Next project April 29 · 10am - Pot holders for mom





Store Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am-5pm • Saturday 10am-4pm
 4062 Highway 11 • International Falls, MN 56649 • 218-285-7704



CABIN QUILTING
 218-666-3146



227 1st Street SW • Cook, MN 55723

Quilting Materials - Fabrics - Notions - Patterns
Gifts - Long Arm Quilting Services

Welcome All MN Shop Hoppers!
 We look forward to seeing you.

March Hours: T-F 10-4:30 • Sat 10-3
 April Hours: M-F 10-5 • Sat 10-3

Val is the Queen of sparkle, metallics and sheen fabrics



Studio 53
 QUILTS & GIFTS

2030 2nd Avenue
 on Hwy 53
 International Falls,
 MN 56649

Also Home of
FotosOnFabric.com



Welcome Shop Hoppers!



STUDIO 53

218-285-9962

Winter Hours
 M/W/TH/F: 10am - 4pm • T/Sa/Su Closed (or by appointment)





Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

Do You Believe This?

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Amy believed.

Though a beautiful and happy eleven-year-old, Amy was aware she was somehow 'different'. Her 'differentness' was caused by Down's Syndrome. Still, Amy always attended Sunday School. It was the highlight of her week. Amy never missed.

Because of Amy's 'differentness', she was placed back in the second grade class. It wasn't her choice, that was just the way it was.

The other children in the class were kind to Amy, yet she had never been totally accepted. She never really belonged to the group.

On Easter Sunday, the teacher gathered the children in the class together and said, "We've been studying and learning about new life for several weeks. Today, I want each of you to go out into the church yard and find a symbol of new life."

The teacher then gave each child a plastic egg—the kind pantyhose used to come in—and said, "When you find an example, put it in your egg and bring it back to class."

When the children finally returned to class they gathered around the table.

In eager anticipation, the first egg was opened. In it was a flower in full bloom. "That's beautiful! I love flowers" said Sarah.

The children were delighted when, as the second egg was opened, a butterfly fluttered out.

"That's cool!" exclaimed Adam. "That's really cool!"

When the third egg was opened, much to everyone's surprise, it was empty. There was nothing inside.

"Somebody didn't do it right," the children grumbled to their teacher.

Just then, the teacher felt Amy tugging on her sleeve.

"That egg is mine, said Amy, with a tear in her eye. "I did do it right. It's empty just like the tomb. Jesus' tomb was empty."

The children became quiet and a long silence followed. In that hush a transforming miracle happened and the barrier separating Amy from her classmates crumbled. The children learned to accept and appreciate Amy.

Reaching out to Amy, not just with their arms but also with their hearts, the children took her in.

Amy was released from her 'differentness'.



* * * * *

The following summer Amy died.

Amy had been small and frail so her parents had known Amy wouldn't live out her life to adulthood. A virus her body was unable to shrug off claimed her.

Her funeral, held at the church, was typical—except, right at the end, several nine-year-old children walked down the aisle and placed a symbol of their love at the center of the communion table.

Their token of remembrance was not flowers—to cover and mask the reality of death. No. These children brought a plastic egg—an old discarded holder of pantyhose.

After placing the open empty egg on the table, they turned to face the puzzled family and friends who had gathered to say goodbye to Amy. Then, in a united voice, these children repeated the lesson Amy had taught them—a lesson they would never forget. "The tomb is empty."

©2023 Jan Keller. No reprint without permission.



Oklee Quilting Supply, Inc.

205 Main St · Oklee, MN 56742

218-796-5151
1-800-777-7403

www.okleequiltinginc.com
email: okleequilting@hotmail.com



OPEN:

Monday-Friday: 8am-5pm
Saturday: 9am-12pm

Check us out on Facebook and join us LIVE Thursdays at 9am!

French Toast in a Mug Cake

Ingredients:

- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 2 slices of white bread (stale works best)

Directions:

1. Lightly grease a microwaveable mug.
2. Add the egg, milk, vanilla, sugar, cinnamon.
3. Mix all together.
4. Break up the bread into cubes.
5. Add the bread cubes into the mug and push it down into the egg mixture.
6. Microwave for 1:00 to 1:30 minutes.



Photo by Brooklyn Farm girl Garden

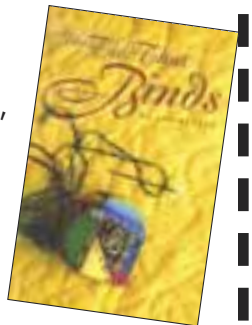
Recipe by Cooking Perfected



Enjoy More of Jan's Columns ORDER HER BOOKS TODAY



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



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



Please send me _____ copy(s) of "Pieces From My Crazy Quilt"
_____ copy(s) of "The Tie That Binds"
Include \$15 per copy (\$12.95 plus \$2.05 for tax, postage & handling)

SPECIAL OFFER! Order both books for just \$25 and SAVE Shipping & Handling!

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My check or money order, payable to Black Sheep Books, in the amount of _____ is enclosed.
Mail your order to: Black Sheep Books, 11250 Glen Canyon Drive, Peyton, CO 80831-8458

All Minnesota Shop Hop

When to Put Out Birdhouses

When is the best time to put up birdhouses for the nesting season? Different species nest at different times. The earliest nesting birds may begin as early as January or February looking for potential nest sites. Other birds will nest later into the season. For this reason there is no bad time to put out birdhouses! Even if it's not nesting season, birds may investigate the houses learning where they are to use later or even use as shelter during winter months.



If your goal is to provide a shelter for nesting only, plan to put them up during late winter or very early spring. That way they are available for the earliest nesters as they will be out investigating locations for a potential nesting site. If you miss putting up birdhouses until later in spring, there may still be time! Many birds lay more than one brood a year and look for new sites each time. Also, if something happens to an early nest like bad weather, predators or such, the birds will look for a new site for a new nest.

Make sure to clean the nest out at the end of the nesting season to make room for next year's nest! Old nests can attract insects, mice and parasites!



Make your plans now for the
2ND ANNUAL ALL MINNESOTA SHOP HOP!
APRIL AND MAY 2023

68 Stores, **100s** of Prizes, **Free** Gift at Every Store
 Visit www.MinnesotaShopHop.com and join our Facebook Group:
www.facebook.com/groups/allminnesotashophop to learn all about it.

The All Minnesota Shop Hop Magazine will go on sale Mid-February at all participating stores.
It's your passport to embark on the Great Sewing Adventure™ across Minnesota!



ALL MINNESOTA SHOP HOP



A Letter to My Mother Five Years Later

by Kerri Habben Bosman

Dear Mom,

I know that you don't need this letter contemplating the fifth anniversary of your passing. It is more for me, the one who is compelled to recognize you and this benchmark in some concrete way. I struggled at first because the words were buried too deeply.

Yet here I am, because I couldn't not write to you.

It is March again. You passed away on the 13th. You and I had 45 full years together, and I am thankful for every moment. We were given the time to be mother and daughter and best friends, and to share and grow together in every evolution of our lives.

I hope that you know how much fulfillment life has brought to me. As your illness progressed to its end, I know that you worried what the future would bring.

A year and a month after you passed away, I found the right someone to love, the man I'd been waiting for all of my adult life. My husband, Wayne, amazingly has many of the traits that I treasured in you. He is steadily, authentically, and unapologetically himself. He gives me the same true measure of honesty you always did. He also knows exactly what to say to me when my self-deprecative streak rises up. Most importantly, he loves me and our family with a complete and unrelenting dedication. And I love him and them the same way.

Looking back I know that I grieved quietly for you. That was because you were and are such a part of me. I know that in some ways I am very different than I was when you were alive. However, that is what time and healing ask of us, as you and I experienced together more than once.

I like living in the present. Every moment I am given will never occur exactly that way again. And in doing so, I readily treasure every day of my life and the people I share it with.

But I can also look into the well of yesterday and no longer ache. I can dip a bucket into it and drink of the past with a fulfilled and thankful heart. I can feel the joy, sorrow, hope, renewal, and everything in between. The past and the present bubble together in a beautiful symmetry.

You remember how we used to stop at a memorial in Northeast, Pennsylvania every year on the way to our favorite spot in Ontario. The stone was for a lady named Josephine Miller. We never knew her, but the poem for her resonated with us. The line that I always return to is this: "So when all that is left of me is love, give me away as best you can."

That is how I honor you. Your love is there when I pour coffee for Wayne and I in the morning. It is in every stitch of everything I knit or crochet. It is in every bit of food that I prepare. Your love is in the two letters a week I write to Wayne's mother, who is 102 years old. She has a youthful spirit with an enduring faith and quiet wisdom. She, too, loves all of us with a complete and unrelenting dedication.

Your love is what makes strawberries jump into the grocery cart because the grandchildren enjoy them. It is why I bake them cookies just because the sun rose that day.

It is not for me to yet know what it all means in the great beyond. Yet, I always imagine you enfolded within an essence of the purest, the truest, and the most enduring love.

Hug everyone for me. I'll keep on giving your love away one moment at a time.

Love,
Kerri

Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer in Chapel Hill, NC. Email Kerri at: 913jееves@gmail.com



Quarry Quilts & Yarns

326 Quarry Place • Sandstone, MN 55072 • 320-216-7639
quarryquiltsandyarns@gmail.com • www.qqyonline.com

Husqvarna Viking Sewing Machines • Fabrics • Yarns
Sewing and Knitting Notions • Patterns • Books
Long Arm Quilting • Sewing Machine Repair • Custom Quilts

★ **All Minnesota Shop Hop** ★
Join us in April and May!

Store Hours: Monday - Saturday 9am-5pm • Closed Sundays

Find us on Facebook

**ArtPop
Quilts**

your quilts to ArtPOPQuilts!

Call or Email for more information
Angela Rice 952-913-8545 artpopquilts@gmail.com

LONG ARM QUILTING & DESIGN
GAMMILL WITH
STATLER STITCHER

13767 Dahl Road,
Hinckley, MN, 55037



THE Cutting Edge Quilt Shop

485 South Dana Ave • Rush City, MN 55069
- 1 mile east of interstate 35, Exit 159 -
www.rush2quilt.com • 320-358-3693

Great place to stop on your trip up north!

Stunning Collection of Beautiful
Fabrics • Kits • Books • Patterns • Notions
* Knowledgeable Staff and Inspiring Ideas! *

Reserve the Sewing Room for a
sewing day with your friends!
\$20 reserves the day! Participants receive a
10% discount on regular priced merchandise that day!

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm • Sat 9am-4pm • Sun Closed

Country Register Recipe Exchange

Baked Pancake

submitted by Shirely Ross of Alexandria, MN

2 tbsp sugar

2 tsp baking soda

1 tsp baking powder

1 tsp salt

3 3/4 cup flour

3 cup buttermilk

3 eggs

4 tbsp butter, melted

2 tsp vanilla

1/2 cup blueberries (or any frozen berry)

Heat oven to 400°. Line a 13x18 baking sheet with parchment paper and butter inside edges of baking sheet. Combine sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and flour. Combine buttermilk, eggs, butter and vanilla. Add the buttermilk mixture to the flour mixture. Mix just until combined. Pour batter into baking sheet. Spread (sprinkle) berries over the top and bake until golden brown or about 20 minutes.



Hutchinson



It's Time to Celebrate!
 7 North Main St. • Hutchinson, MN 55350
 320-587-8341
 Hours: Mon 10am-7pm • Tues - Sat 10am - 5pm

Join the Party!
10th Anniversary Celebration!
April 14th & 15th

GRAND PRIZE drawing of a Baby Lock Brilliant Sewing Machine!
 (provided in cooperation with Vacuum and Sewing Center of St. Cloud)
Every \$25 spent in the store earns you one entry into the Grand Prize drawing!
 (Need not be present to win)
SWAG BAG prize drawings daily every hour!

Join us for The All Minnesota Shop Hop All April and May

For more information check our website: www.quilthavenonmain.com



SHOP HOP Provides Economic Boom for Quilting & Sewing Stores and Tourism Across Minnesota

Don't know what a shop hop is? Though initially unique to the quilting and sewing industry, shop hops are "cousins" to other marketing events that promote a certain industry. (Think pub crawls, antique road show, road rallies, and similar events in the food industry.) Customers visit a Quilting & Sewing Store, SHOP, and then HOP to the next store to repeat the process.

Shop Hops are unique marketing programs aimed at introducing quilting and sewing enthusiasts to quilting and sewing stores in an area. Typically, Shop Hoppers collect stamps or stickers at each store they visit, and are offered chances to win prizes, or earn discounts at participating stores.

Few industries enjoy programs like a Shop Hop, where businesses work together to support and promote each other. Shop Hops can vary in size from a few stores regionally located to 90+ stores across an entire state or area.

In a day when brick & mortar retail locations are dwindling across the nation, a Shop Hop works to promote and support quilting and sewing stores, so customers can touch and feel the fabric in person for a long time to come.

Shop Hopping exposes customers to stores they may not know existed, enticing them to return another day. It is also a way for stores to showcase their unique personalities, offerings, and talents to new and returning customers.

In addition to supporting the quilting and sewing stores, a Shop Hop also has a significant positive economic impact on tourism and other travel-related businesses. Thousands of Shop Hoppers converge on the cities where stores are located, eating, shopping, staying overnight, etc. Shop Hop Inc manages large-scale shop hops across the country and estimates that depending on the number of stores involved, the economic impact to a state ranges from \$4.5M - \$7.5M.

For Shop Hoppers, it is also about making memories. Many quilters hop together with friends, family, or their favorite "quiltie" to make memories as they travel the state together. They not only get to see and enjoy sewing stores, but they also enjoy traveling through large and small towns, discovering parts of the state they've never visited before.

Shop Hop Inc manages large scale events across the United States and is excited to be bringing their program to Minnesota for the second annual, **All Minnesota Shop Hop**.


The **All Minnesota Shop Hop** offers unique benefits not available in smaller hops. The Great Sewing Adventure Across Minnesota will include the **All Minnesota Shop Hop Magazine**, free patterns, a fun thank you gift from each store just for visiting Shop Hoppers, and chances to win prizes at the end of the event. They also design an exclusive, Minnesota themed fabric line that can only be purchased at participating stores. And though the **All Minnesota Shop Hop** is all about shopping, there is no purchase necessary to participate or win prizes.

The first annual **All Minnesota Shop Hop** took place during the months of April and May, 2022. We had 60 participating stores. For 2023, we have 72 stores hosting Shop Hoppers during the same months. The **All Minnesota Shop Hop Magazine** goes on sale mid-February of 2023 at participating stores, and the Shop Hop kicks off April 1st, 2023!

For complete details about the **All Minnesota Shop Hop**, including "Insider Tips for Shop Hopping," visit our website www.MinnesotaShopHop.com. And be sure to join the Facebook GROUP at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AllMinnesotaShopHop>



GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



The origin of words and sayings is a great interest of mine as a writer. Many times in everyday conversation with friends and family, we use ancient terminology and don't every think about it. When I designed this chubby little red Cardinal for my fabric panel, it made we wonder - where and when did this saying start? Research tells me that "When Cardinals appear Angels are near" ... has been associated with divine messengers since Christian times. According to some religious traditions, cardinals are believed to be the embodiment of angels. The cardinal is a beautiful bird and its bright red color has long been associated with faith and strength.

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM: Faith and Strength are desired qualities in our daily lives and if a chubby little bird can bring joy and add to our Faith and Strength - I'm going bird watching!

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

Writing From Life

by Jeanette Lukowski

Experimentation

This month's sewing project is a wedding shower gift for a friend's youngest daughter. Since this friend has three daughters, the challenge has been to make different quilted gifts for each of their weddings. This project, then, is a scrappy heart wall hanging, which in its pre-sewing state measured 38" square.

Although I made a different scrappy heart project for a friend last year, the two projects are definitely different. For one thing, the first heart finished at a modest 14" x 18" size.

Beyond size, the first heart followed a pattern designed as a traditional bed quilt. Although the pattern repeated the hearts over and over in neat and tidy rows and columns, I extracted enough details to make one singular heart. By contrast, this current project follows an idea presented by my angel-of-inspiration (she who encourages me to try new things) after she took the class paired with a quilt guild presentation we had attended together. The focus of both the presentation and the class: creating projects utilizing a 2-1/2" grid fusible base. My friend created several projects using the technique; this scrappy heart is my first.

Some quilters purchase a kit from the quilt store, but I am more interested in experimentation; quilting is my experimental playground. Thus, the curiosity about the technique—and the birth of this particular project that has no specific pattern to follow. Rather, I simply printed the picture of my friend's heart project, and counted the squares.

My first task was finding a store in my area which sold the fusible grid. (I like to shop "local," which means wherever I feel like driving on any given day.) I carefully did the math in the store in October, and placed the bag in the sewing room when I got home.

Unfortunately, when I finally began the project in January, I discovered I didn't purchase enough fusible! Adaptation shrunk the design a bit, but I continued cutting 2-1/2" squares of fabric to match the changes.

For those who don't like to pin, the fusible grid is definitely a contender! Just lay out the fabric within the grid lines, apply warm iron, and presto! The fold lines appear without much nudging.

The "shrink" when seams were added kind of shocked me, though. The heart and background unit went from 38" square down to 30" square. Ah, but the precision of those matching, nested seams.

Will the extra layer of fusible make it difficult to quilt? The next wild-card I will face as I proceed.



Which brings me around to classes. One part of me thinks I would enjoy taking a class from a local quilt store because I like the challenge of trying new techniques! The other part of me becomes reluctant, though, when I learn that participants are told which specific fabrics the instructor or store have selected.

What if I want a different color or theme? Will I be able to take the class if I don't buy "that" fabric? Hmmm.

© Jeanette Lukowski 2023. Jeanette is a mother, grandmother, teacher, and author who lives in Mankato, MN. She is inspired by the lives of strong women. Her email address is: writingfromlife@yahoo.com

Minnesota's Best Kept Secret!!

Lost and Found

We have new spring items arriving regularly!

- Spa Items • Spring Clothing • Religious Books & Gifts
- Antiques • Home Decor
- New Scarves and Shawls • Accessories
- Kitchen Items • Jewelry • Silk Florals

Hwy. 22 Downtown • Eden Valley, MN • 320-453-5678
Hours: Monday - Saturday 9:30-5:30



Herbs & Spices—What's the Difference



by Judy Sharer

Do you know the difference between herbs and spices? When recently asked this question, I couldn't provide an answer. I knew they were all from plants but thought the terms were interchangeable. I've been cooking and baking with them all my life but to learn the difference provided much insight!

Off to Google, the expert research assistant: "In broad terms both herbs and spices come from plants but herbs are the fresh part of the plant while spice is the dried root, dried stalk, seed or dried fruit of the plant and is almost always dried not fresh. Both herbs and spices add flavor to the dish, however herbs are more subtle while spices have stronger flavor." It was an interesting article by Simi Jois.

Herbs are live plant parts used in its fresh form to flavor or garnish foods or dishes while spices are used in its dried form or ground into powder to flavor, color, or preserve foods.

Wikipedia will tell you the history of herbs and spices date back to the 8th century BC. They are used not only in culinary creations but are also steeped in boiling water for teas, used for medicinal purposes, cosmetics, and during religious rituals.

Salt on the other hand, although used to season foods is not an herb or a spice. Salt is an organic mineral compound that comes from evaporated salt water or that is mined from salt rocks. Salt has been a treasured commodity for thousands of years and is one of the oldest methods used to prevent foods from spoiling. There are several types of salt commonly used for different purposes like curing, pickling brins, and canning.

The growing season in the northeastern part of the country where I make my home is June through September. This summer, I plan to grow the herbs I use the most in my cooking to have fresh on hand. Then, come fall I will dry them to use as spices throughout the winter until spring when I can grow them again. I may even buy a mortar and pestle to grind some powders.

This spring join me in discovering all the different varieties of herbs available at your local plant nursery or garden center. I'm excited to grow fresh herbs and experiment with drying each plant's various aspects to make them into spices and enjoy some in tea!

Judy Sharer is the author of a historical western romance series titled *A Plains Life*, published by The Wild Rose Press. Book One, *Settler's Life*, Book Two, *Second Chance Life*, Book Three, *Civil War Life* and Book Four, *Love-Challenged Life* are available wherever online books and eBooks are sold. If you're a quilter, you'll enjoy Judy's series with a thread of quilting throughout the story. Visit Judy's website judysarar.com for more details.

Country Register Recipe Exchange

Radish Jelly

submitted by Lila Liebl



- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 2 cups (about 2 6oz bags) finely chopped radishes | 3/4 cup water |
| 2 1/2 cups granulated sugar | 1 (1 3/4oz) box pectin |
| | 2 tsp horseradish |

In a large pot, combine the first 3 ingredients over medium high heat. Stir constantly until sugar dissolves. Bring to a rolling boil. Add pectin and stir until dissolved. Bring to a rolling boil again and boil 1 minute longer. Remove from heat. Skim off foam. Stir in horseradish. Pour into jars and store in refrigerator. Serve with cream cheese and crackers or meat. Makes about 2 pints jelly.

The Farmer's Daughter
 A gathering of fine handcrafted goods
Open Year 'Round Mon-Sat 10-5 & Sun 12-5
 Specialty furniture - primitives - home décor - jewelry
 gourmet foods - candles - great girlfriend gifts
 garden accents "And So Much More!"
 4905 Long Avenue (8th St & Hwy 61), White Bear Lake, MN 55110
 (651) 653-6768 Like us on Facebook at: [thefarmersdaughterwbl](https://www.facebook.com/thefarmersdaughterwbl)

Celebrating 44 Years SPRING 2023

Chickadee BOUTIQUE EST. 1979

44 YEARS OF SUPPORTING LOCAL ARTISANS!
 JACCI KREBSBACH, OWNER

Unique garden art & architecture
 For a Fashionable YOU!
 Clothing, jewelry & accessories
 Trendy home decor—artwork in a variety of mediums plus florals for walls & tables
 Delicious food items

Restocked Daily • Credit Cards Accepted

It's Spring!
 Time to renew and refresh!

MAY	4	5	6	7
	9-8	9-5	9-5	10-5
	11	12	13	14
	9-8	9-5	9-5	10-5
	18	19	20	21
	9-8	9-5	9-5	10-5

207 WEST ST. MARIE (2 BLOCKS NORTH OF 694/RICE) SHOREVIEW, MN 55126
 651-303-4667
www.ChickadeeBoutique.com

Enjoy the Chickadee Experience!



Become Inspired!

by Annice Bradley Rockwell

ABUNDANT COUNTRY BLESSINGS

As the long months of winter draw to a close, we eagerly await the brighter days of spring. With each lengthening day, we feel a sense of wonder at all of the small miracles unfolding around us. The traditional return of some of our cheerful feathered friends reminds us of how connected to nature we can feel when we observe with patience. The sprouting-up of proud yellow daffodils revealing their bold beauty gives us joy even on the rainiest of days. And as we move forward alongside these abundant country blessings, we begin to feel more awakened to the remarkable season that awaits.



CELEBRATIONS OF RENEWAL

One of the most soulful tasks of spring is being outside to notice a return to a brighter landscape slowly filling in with green. The pink-brown magnolia buds begin to reveal their secret too. And as we take time to carefully tend to our walkways, our garden paths, and our window boxes the memory of winter fades and is replaced by the magic of spring. Our country thoughts turn to creating areas of color in our yard. Whether it is planting vibrant flowers in well-loved antique crocks or deciding to paint our exterior doors a new colorful salmon for a fresh change, the season of spring is our chance to enliven our landscape and our homes as a personal celebration of renewal.

POWERFUL PROMISE OF SPRING

Country shops that weathered the storms of winter are now filled with the promise of spring. Antiques shows and shop events bring a welcomed end to our cabin fever as we gather with a group of friends to spend a day shopping for special touches of history and of spring. Early spring gathering baskets filled with fresh green herbs, cobalt-decorated stoneware crocks with floral brush designs overflowing with fresh tulips greet us in country storefront windows. And shop owners offer new spring candle scents like "Settler's Wash Day," and "Lemon Shortbread," displayed beautifully among bright woven textiles and hand-selected antiques.

Our perfect shopping day brings us back in touch with each other as we happily peruse all of the treasures country shop owners worked so hard to gather for us just in time for the season of change. This spring spend time observing nature's beautiful transition. Take time to reward yourself for coming through the cold days of winter by sharing an unexpectedly warm spring day with friends. And as you embrace all of the bright and lively blessings around you, let that same energy inspire you as you remember that nature always holds the powerful promise of spring.

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

JUNK BONANZA VINTAGE MARKET EST. 2006

SPRING SALE 2023

April 13, 14 & 15, 2023
 Canterbury Park • Shakopee, MN
junkbonanza.com

Fun • Fun & More Fun! junkbonanza.com Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Don't miss this really fun vintage sale.

- Shop 200+ spaces with hand-picked, juried vendors
- Hundreds of thousands of vintage items
- Thousands of decorating ideas
- Enjoy adult beverages while you shop

All indoors—Rain or shine. **FREE parking!**

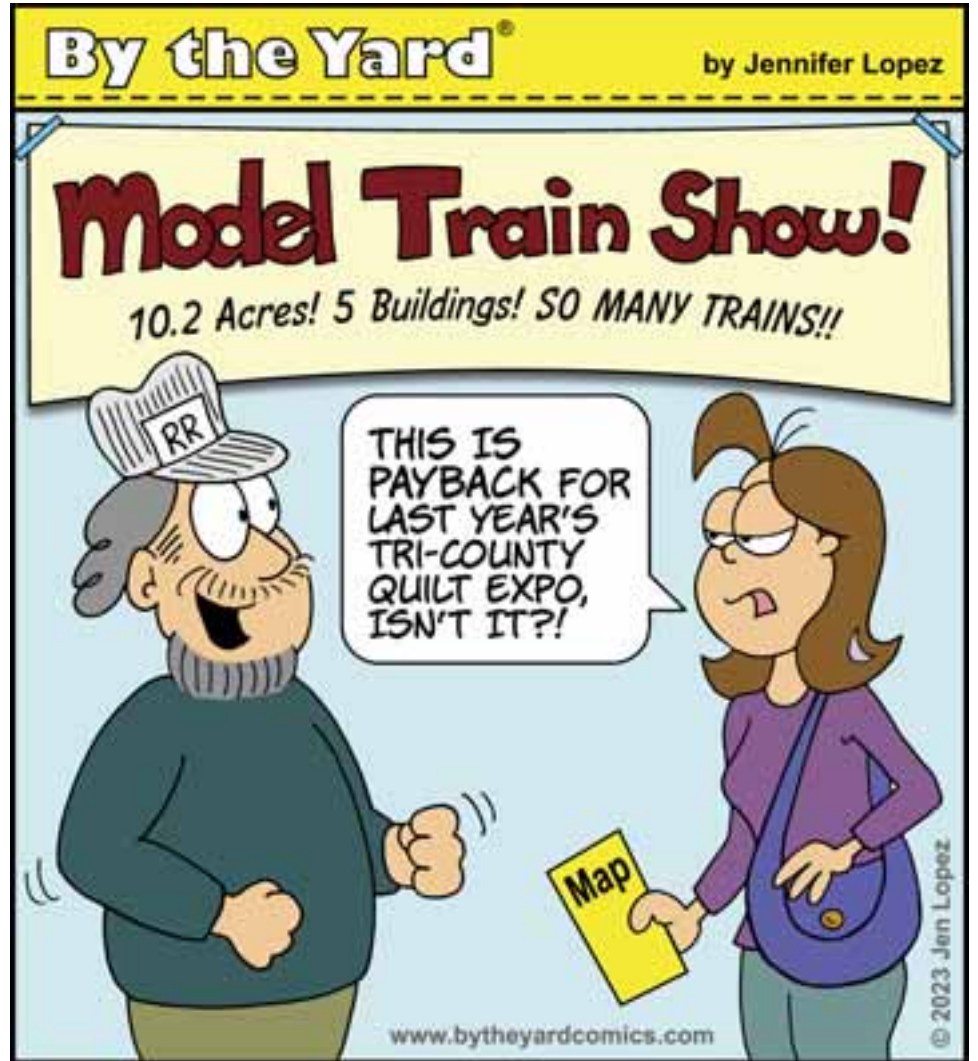
WHEN & WHERE:
 April 13, 14 & 15
 • Thursday 13th Early Birds 8 - 10 General admission 10 - 5
 • Friday 14th 9 - 5
 • Saturday 15th 9 - 4
 Canterbury Park
 1100 Canterbury Road
 Shakopee, MN 55379

GENERAL ADMISSION \$12 PER DAY

EARLY BIRD OPTION \$25 Gets you in at 8:00 AM, on Thursday... for two hours of early shopping. Also good for admission on Friday and Saturday at regular times.

Get all your tickets online at junkbonanza.com or at the door.





Open for business!
 Shop hours: M-F 10:00am - 4:00pm
 Sat 10:00am - 3:00pm
 and by appointment.

Sew Trendy MN

LIVE Fabric shows on Facebook

Join us on Facebook "Sew Trendy MN" for LIVE shows!
 Thursdays and Fridays at 7pm • Saturdays at 6pm
 Trendy Fabrics, Kits & Bundles, Patterns, Notions, Demos & More
 Great Giveaways during the show • Enjoy shopping from home!

Fabrics by FreeSpirit, Andover, Art Gallery, Robert Kaufman,
 Shannon Fabrics, Windham, Majestic Batiks,
 Dear Stella, Birch and MORE!

★ **New Fabric Arriving DAILY!** ★

Visit our website
www.sewtrendymn.com
 Follow us on Facebook

Free
 Shipping on
 orders \$120
 or more

Follow us on Instagram!
 1964 Rahncliff Court Suite 600 • Eagan, MN
 651-387-1815 • www.sewtrendymn.com

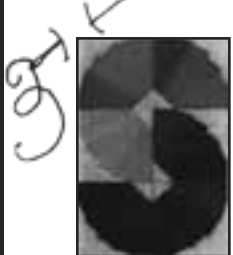
New Prague



**New Prague Prairie Quilters
2023 Quilt Show**
Friday, April 21st • 9am-5pm
Saturday, April 22nd • 9am-4pm

Raffle Quilt • Vendors
Bed Turning 10am - 11am • 1pm - 2pm

\$5.00 Admission No Food or Drink Please
Holy Trinity Lutheran • 1300 E. Main St. • New Prague, MN




Sue's Quilt Shop Inc.
112 Main Street E • New Prague, MN 56071
952-758-3210 • suesquiltshopnp@gmail.com

Located in the historic First National Bank building
in the center of downtown!

Join us in April and May for the
All Minnesota Shop Hop

Hours:
Tues - Sat
9am-5pm

Visit our website! : www.suesquiltshopnp.com
Stay "in the know"! Check out our Facebook page! 

Cowgirl Poet, Quilter, Entertainer



Yvonne Hollenbeck

Nothing To Do

What do you do when there's nothing to do?
How do you know when you're done?
Do you wake every day with no plans ahead
and just wait for the setting of sun?

What do you do when you've no bills to pay
and you've got enough money to burn?
When having a job and going to work
as for you, is not a concern.

It must be real lonely with nothing to do,
'cause not many folks fit that mold.
I'd think that a friendship with someone like you
would wither and soon would grow cold.

So, don't hope for riches or fortune or fame,
and no work that's destined for you.
Be thankful for having a job everyday
or you'll end up with nothing to do.

Order Yvonne's new book, "A Stitch in Rhyme" at
www.yvonnehollenbeck.com — just \$15 + \$3.50 postage.

© Yvonne Hollenbeck; 2022

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>

Springtime in the Soul 

An Easter Meditation

by Nancy Nash

One mild, spring-like day a few years ago, as I was walking across the university campus where I work, I heard melodious voices singing with fervor, longing, and awe. I recognized the faces of African and African-American students who belonged to a Christian group on campus. They had a reputation for devout faith and unconditional love. As the music poured forth, the atmosphere felt fresh and young and tender. It was as if a cluster of invisible songbirds hovered over the sidewalk, bidding us listen for sounds of an eternal spring.

But isn't spring fleeting? What is an eternal spring?

One day when I was a child, I accompanied my father to visit a man from a neighboring town. This merry-hearted gentleman dug some violets from his lawn

and gave them to me. I planted them (at the house where I now live), and each year am surprised by how these fragile flowers have spread across the lawn to



the distant pasture. To me, they represent the paradox of the season: both its unobtrusive mildness and its open triumph over the seeming lifelessness of winter. The elderly man has long since departed from this earth, but not before giving a child a trace of spring to grace her days. More importantly, his generosity and kindness spoke to me of the possibility of a different form of springtime, one that germinates and blossoms in the human spirit.

In her book *Plowed Under*, Amy Carmichael tells us: "Write what you can of the coming of the unseen Spring." Amy was a missionary to India who, at great personal risk, rescued children from temple prostitution. A single woman thousands of miles from a home to which she never returned, Amy brought sacrificial love to bear on the lives of children destined for destruction. She opened the door for springtime to enter their souls.

To highlight the necessity of spiritual transformation, Amy Carmichael quotes the revered anchoress of the Middle Ages, Julian of Norwich: "Yet again the soul breaks away to its own, with the natural flight of a bird from its Autumn nest at the call of an unseen Spring to the far-off land that is nearer still than its nest, because it is in its heart."

Julian speaks of the instinct of various birds in the Northern hemisphere to migrate in fall to parts of the world where spring is just beginning. But mystic that she is, she likens such behavior to humans answering a spiritual call. We may hear a whisper to start a new journey. We then drink from invisible waters, soar into the unknown, coast on unseen winds. The way is both adventure and fulfillment. Old burdens of ignorance and iniquity are loosened, the spirit is re-born, and a new season is attained. And as Amy Carmichael's life attests, into the venture slips a spirit of sacrifice that releases the winds of spring into the lives of others.

At Easter, Christ's sacrifice brings forth the fruit of liberation. Jesus proclaimed that no one took his life from him. He gave it freely, so that all who wish to exchange the crushing weight of their fallen place in a broken world for the gentle weight of true freedom might do so. The singing students, the elderly gentleman, the anchoress Julian, and the courageous Amy Carmichael remind us that the winter of our past will drift away and fresh winds will blow. The eternal spring is within our reach.

As the days grow warmer, listen for birdsong - and more importantly, step into the trustworthy current of an eternal spring.

First quotation is from *Plowed Under: A Young Girl's Obedience. God's Ever-Present Grace*. by Amy Carmichael, CLC Publications, 2013 paperback edition. Used by permission of the Dohnavur Fellowship.

Second quotation is from Project Gutenberg eBook (released 9/2/2016) *Revelations of Divine Love*, Recorded by Julian, Anchoress of Norwich, ed. by Grace Warrack, Methuen & Co., London 1901, p. xxxv of Introduction.

©2023 Nancy J. Nash. Nancy J. Nash has a B.A. in English composition from Mount Holyoke College and an M.F.A. in Writing for Children from Simmons College, with two books listed on Amazon.com (Mama's Books: *An Oregon Trail Story* and *Little Rooster's Christmas Eve*).



← 24TH ANNUAL →
SHEPHERD'S HARVEST
 ★ sheep & wool festival ★

Mother's Day Weekend
MAY 13 & 14, 2023

Over 100 Fiber Vendors • Fleece Competition & Silent Auction
 Sheep Shearing Demos & Breed Displays • Free Family Friendly Activities
 Sheep Dog Herding Demos • Educational Classes & Free Demos
 Spinning, Knitting, and More!

Washington County Fair Grounds - Lake Elmo, MN
 Admission \$5 • Free for Kids 8 & under • Free Parking
 Friday, May 12th Classes Only • Saturday May 13th 9-5 • Sunday, May 14th 10-4

ShepherdsHarvestFestival.org
 Interested in volunteering? Contact us at info@shepherds Harvest Festival.org



Save The Date

15th Annual Golf Fundraiser Tournament
Sunday, June 25th 2023

Majestic Oaks/DKM Community Foundation
 Support Education in our Community!
 Over \$250,000 scholarships awarded since 2010

FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE
 • 9 Hole Event • 3:00pm Shotgun
 • \$60/person

Includes golf, range, cart and dinner

Register online at
www.modkmcommunityfoundation.com
 or Scan the QR code

Questions? Email us!
MODKMGOLF@gmail.com




2023 Shepherd's Harvest Sheep and Wool Festival



Shepherd's Harvest Sheep and Wool Festival is Minnesota's premier event for wool and sheep lovers, the largest fiber festival in the state. Over 100 vendors of fiber and fiber animal

related products show their wares at the Festival through a juried selection of vendors of unique products. If its fiber related, you probably will find a vendor with just what you have been looking for. Numerous classes are offered in the fiber arts — geared for all levels of experience — from the beginner to the expert. Each year, we offer some classes in the less well known fiber arts so students can expand their crafts expertise. Don't miss the demonstrations and exhibits and get a firsthand look at a wide variety of sheep breeds.

Here's a look at the 2023 Festival highlights:
Vendors - Our vendors are from all over the country! Numerous vendors of fiber and sheep related items providing endless shopping for tugs, slippers, hats, jewelry, hand dyed yarn and fiber, handwoven baskets, weaving and knitting supplies, emu oil and oil products and sheep milk soaps to name a few!



Demos and Events - Saturday and Sunday are filled with on-going events and demonstration throughout the day in the demonstration building A, or outside on the Green and

Shearing Shed. Demonstrations include machine knitting, combing wool fibers, pin loom weaving, knitting "in the round", shearing and herding dogs!

Stock dog demonstrations will be available Saturday and Sunday. Koru Farm owned by Dan and Janis Reuter will be demonstrating how dogs can help their humans on the farm. They will also offer assessments on your dog!

In and Around the Barn - A highlight of the Shepherd's Harvest will be the "living catalog" of sheep breeds. A wide variety of wool and meat breeds will be on display. You can expect to see everything from Black Welsh Mountain to CVM~Romeldale Sheep. Visitors will have the opportunity to talk with shepherds about their particular breed and sheep may be sold by private treaty.

Sheep Barn Demos - Come play in the Sheep Barn



during the festival, where you will also find many varieties of fiber sheep and goats, as well as the shepherds who care for them. Demos include "Extreme Sheep Make-Overs" -

Shearing, sheep handling and basic sheep care demo.

Fleece Competition - There are a great variety of types of fleece. For judging, they are placed in different groups according to color, white or natural colored, and grade, or fiber diameter, into fine, medium or long wools. There will also be a purebred class for each breed where the fleece is judged according to breed standards. A silent auction will be held for all judged fleeces offered for sale by the exhibitors!

Classes - Classes to build your skills are offered all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday!

This year's event will once again be held on Mother's Day Weekend, May 12th - 14th (classes only on Friday, May 12th). For more information visit www.ShepherdsHarvestFestival.org, or contact Jerry Pedersen at info@ShepherdsHarvestFestival.org





Crafty Corner Quilt & Sewing Shoppe

Questions? Give us a call!

Country Roads Shop Hop
April 12th - 15th

Crossing Borders Spring Fling Shop Hop
April 22nd - 29th

1820 Oxford St.
Worthington, MN 56187
craftycorner@iw.net

Call Crafty Corner 1-800-SEW MORE or 507-329-0158
www.craftycornerquiltandsewingshoppe.com



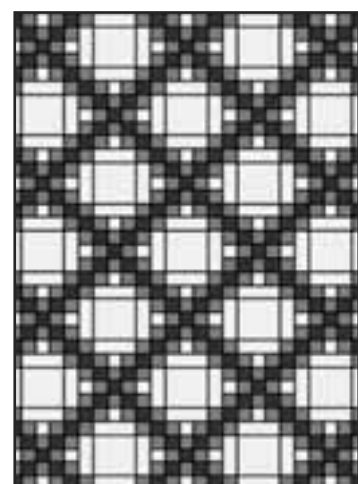
1293 Hale Place • Windom, MN 56101
507-831-2740
www.prairiequiltingmn.com
prairiequilting@windomnet.com

Hours:
M-F 9-5 • Sa 9-12

Make sure to visit us this spring for these fun events!

Country Roads Shop Hop: April 12th - 15th
Crossing Borders Spring Fling Shop Hop: April 22nd - 29th

☎ Call for more information!



Irish Chain Quilts

by Rachel Greco



Irish Chain Quilts have been a favorite pattern for American quilt makers ever since the early 1800s. According to Quilt Historian Barbara Brackman, the earliest documented date of an Irish Chain quilt in America is 1814. She states in her book, *Clues in the Calico* (1989), that the pattern was possibly derived from geometric double-weaving patterns of that era.

In March 1979, Quilters Newsletter Magazine noted that no documentation had been found to show that the Irish Chain pattern had been brought to America by Irish immigrants, had originated in Ireland or even why this pattern has been dubbed "Irish" chain.

While much of the history of the Irish Chain pattern remains a mystery, today there appears to be evidence to suggest that the pattern may indeed have originated in Ireland. According to an article published at womenfolk.com, a photograph of a quilt in the book *West Virginia Quilts and Quilt-makers* (2000) shows a quilt made with a pattern that is similar to what we think of today as an Irish Chain quilt. This quilt had been brought to America from Ireland. Made by Margaret Kee in 1805, this quilt was stitched with the linen thread typically used in Ireland at that time. Ms. Kee then brought the quilt to West Virginia in 1807 when she immigrated to America.

There are three different types of Irish Chain quilts. The Single Irish Chain is an easy design where the blocks alternate horizontally between one block of nine mini squares and a solid block of a contrasting color. The Double Irish Chain uses one block of 25 mini squares and an alternate block consisting of nine pieces. The Triple Irish Chain is much more intricate and made with four different colors of fabric. The main blocks have 49 mini squares of fabric with alternate blocks consisting of 25 mini-squares.

Interestingly, the Irish Chain quilt pattern is found in Ireland where it goes by the name "Mosaic" or "American Chain."

Rachel Greco owns Grandma's Attic, a traditional quilt shop in Dallas, Oregon. A quilt historian and avid reader, she gives talks on needlework, the role of women in American history, and their connection to fabric. She has written several books and patterns and runs Grandma's Quilt Club, a monthly quilt class where participants collect quilt blocks, learn about quilt history and make new friends. Learn more at: <https://grandmasatticquilting.com>.

The Power of Hope & Positivity

by Lesley R. Nuttall

Positive thinking was instilled into me and my three sisters at an early age. Our parents always told us, "Yes, you can," whenever we thought we couldn't do something. They would always say, "Just try a little harder, and you will see that you can," and sure enough, we would be successful. 'Can't' was not a word used in our home. My Father was a big fan of Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, who wrote dozens of books on positive thinking and believing in yourself!

In my early years, I didn't think much about positive thinking or hope. I would hope it didn't rain so I could ride my bike or hope I wouldn't have to pull weeds in the garden for too long so I could practice on my accordion. We do live our lives with hope on our minds and in our heart. Hope can be a very powerful motivator in life. Hope is something to look forward to every day.

I was born a January Capricorn and left handed. Although Capricorns are hard workers, ambitious and goal-oriented, they are also determined and have a never-give-up attitude. I think my 'can do' attitude likely annoyed my teacher in my first and second grades.

As a young farm girl, I went to a one room country school, with one teacher for grades 1 to 8. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, teachers were instructed to change left handed students to write with their right hand. I guess I was just headstrong, and although I got hit on my left hand knuckles with a ruler every day, (and it did hurt,) I continued to believe "I can," and I am still writing with my left hand!

Thinking back, when I was in the seventh or eighth grades, I used to smile watching the energetic and confident second and third graders waving their hands to answer a question the teacher had asked them. I was thinking to myself, "Wow, that is positive thinking at an early age."

My Mother told me I was born with music on my mind. I have always loved music, and she told me when I was about 3-years-old I could be found sitting at the piano tinkering with the keys whenever we visited my grandparents. In public school, I would volunteer every recess to clean the blackboards for the teacher, with hopes there would be enough time left for me to pick out a song on the school piano. When I was 10- or 11-years-old, I loved going to my cousin's house in town and begging to play her accordion.

When I turned 12, my parents bought me a second-hand accordion, and I was thrilled! Of course, there was no money for lessons, but when I would hear a song on the radio (no TV then) it saturated my brain so I could eventually play it. I feel it was all believing and positive thinking guiding me. I still play by ear, so many years later!

"**Believe you can—and you're halfway there!**" said Theodore Roosevelt.

I have read that feeling 'inspired' in your day-to-day life, helps one to be more creative, increase productivity and boost happiness! Let's all become more inspired!

Believe in yourself and always keep hope alive and continue to think positive!

©Lesley is the Author of *Secrets of Party Planning*, loves to write, sew and write poetry. She lives in Thunder Bay, ON, Can with her husband.

Country Register Recipe Exchange

Cherries with Dumplings

submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN



- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 2 eggs | 1/2 tsp salt |
| 1/2 cup water | 3 cans (8oz ea) pitted dark sweet cherries with juice plus 3 cans water |
| 2 cups flour | 1 cup sugar |
| 1 tsp baking powder | |

Beat eggs and add about 1/2 cup water. Then stir in flour, baking powder and salt. Bring cherries, water and sugar to a boil. Drop dumpling mixture by 1/2 teaspoon at a time into the boiling cherry mixture. Serve warm or cold. Top with whipped cream or ice cream.



New Location in Historic Downtown Pipestone

124 West Main Street
Pipestone, Minnesota 56164
Mon-Fri: 10am-6pm • Sat: 10am -4pm



We look forward to seeing you during the 2023

All Minnesota Shop Hop in April and May!

Join us on the 3rd Wednesday of every month for our Facebook Live Sale!

<https://thecalicocatquiltshop.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/TheCalicoCatQuiltShop>



Happy St. Patrick's Day ~ March 17



THE SEWING BASKET
219 East Main Street, Ste 3, Luverne, MN • 507-920-8715
@sewingbasketluv • www.sewingbasketluv.com

Crossing Borders Spring Fling Shop Hop April 22nd - 29th



Join us for **Quilts & Coffee**
Fridays at 9:30am on Facebook!

All Minnesota Shop Hop
All April and May!

Husqvarna VIKING SINGER




SPRING! SPRING! SPRING!

Never say goodbye to serendipity & discovery, make room for them.

Walk a **COUNTRY ROAD** as often as possible

Hang towels outside to dry, make them deliciously scratchy

Listen to the Birds Sing

Take hot **bubble baths** with the windows open, a big glass of cold water & a good book

HOMEMADE HAPPY LIFE

It's spring again, birds on the wing again! Yay! Coming in the nick of time! ♥ Come say hello at www.susanbranch.com ♥

Sherburn



New Summer Shop Hours Begin
Monday March 20th, 2023:
 M-F 10 am - 5:00 pm www.oldalleyquiltshop.com
 Sat 9 am - 3 pm
 1st Sunday of the month 1 pm - 4 pm

Connect with us on social media for contests, events, workshops, special offers and more!

Country Roads Shop Hop
 April 12th - 15th, 2023
 (Wed-Fri 9-5, Sat 9-11)
 Amazing Prizes at each Shop
 Free Progressive Pattern!
 "SPRING FEVER" 30" x 36" Wall Hanging
www.facebook.com/CountryRoadsOH

Crossing Borders: Spring Fling Shop Hop
 April 22nd - April 29th, 2023

Saturday, April 22nd 9-5pm
 Sunday, April 23rd 12-5 PM
 M-T-TH-F 9-5 pm
 April 24-25-27-28 9-5 pm
 Saturday April 29th 9-3 pm

Free Runner Pattern, 4 jelly roll strips & drawings at each shop!
www.facebook.com/springflingshop

Old Alley Quilt Shop | Crafty Corner | Prairie Quilting | Dutch Rose | Shanty Stitches | Always Your Design | The Sewing Basket | Stitchin' it Up Quilt Shop | My Timeless Day | Quilter's Headquarters | The Calico Cat

Jessica Owner of Sallie Tomato is coming to Sherburn
 Sign up while spots are still available
 April 28th, 2023
 10-4pm
 Cuddly Duffie Bag Class 9-10

4:30-6:30 pm
 Intro to bag making and trunk show \$20

Get the Magazine with all hop information and passport right here at Old Alley Quilt Shop

THE WOODWORKING SHOP



At The Woodworking Shop we offer hand carved wooden spoons, hardwood tree bowls, log furniture and shelves, candleholders and many more

handmade wood items.
 We also offer woodworking supplies for your DIY projects and your rustic wedding!



We sell lodge, cabin, rustic, primitive decor along with woodworking supplies!

Visit us online:
www.etsy.com/shop/thewoodworkingshop



This month in Minnesota History

March 8, 1920: The US Supreme Court settles a boundary squabble between Minnesota and Wisconsin over control of the Duluth harbor, finding in Minnesota's favor.


April 2, 1849: Alexander Ramsey is appointed the first governor of Minnesota Territory. The third choice of President Zachary Taylor, Ramsey is selected after the first, Edward W. McGaughey, is rejected by the Senate, and the second, William S. Pennington, declines the post. Appointed while Congress is out of session, Ramsey is already in Minnesota before the Senate approves his nomination in January 1850.

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

Where in Minnesota?

The answer is...
Francois the Voyager in Pine City, MN

The 35-foot tall redwood Voyager statue is located in Riverside Park. The Voyager is dedicated to the history of the early settlers of the Pine County area. It marks the city's beginnings as a trading post for French Voyageurs and Indians.



Wit and Wisdom

Hidden Blessing

by Cheryl Potts

Two days before Easter as I was baking banana bread, the oven quit working. I thought it strange that after an hour I wasn't smelling a sweet aroma. When I checked the oven, it was lukewarm. I pulled the three loaf pans out by hand, placed them in the refrigerator wondering if you can re-bake bread. Then I panicked—Saturday was when my family was coming for Easter dinner! Now what?

I called my neighbor, who at times feels like my very own employee, to see what I should do. He gave me the number of an appliance repairman in the area. Thank goodness he was able to come and look at my stove on Friday. I breathed a grateful prayer.

Joe was able to replace the "ignitor" in the oven, a part which he had in his repair truck. I breathed a "hallelujah" prayer. However, he stood up and blew out the flame to my scented candle and said, "M'am, you've got two gas leaks in the connectors." He showed me where the pipes were "bubbling". I gasped a prayer as a headache was forming. "I'll turn off the gas, but you'll have to call a plumber to repair the copper pipes and fittings." I dialed my employee. My neighbor was able to come that afternoon to see what parts he needed to purchase, then came back that same evening to finish the repair on my oven. I breathed a relief prayer.

Around that time my children got home. So, we ordered pizza. My neighbor kiddingly commented that he could have been repairing a nasty hole in the back half of my house had it not been discovered. God had given a "hidden blessing" in the form of a burned-out oven ignitor to protect me from a gas explosion.

And by the way, you can re-bake banana bread.

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

Ephesians 3:20

Thank you, Jesus.

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





ANTIQUES OF THE MIDWEST
LLC

MARCH MANIA SALE
MARCH 10-12

DRAW A CHIP DISCOUNT ON PURCHASES \$25 OR MORE!
SAVE UP TO 20%

Located South of Wells
57534 110th St.

HOURS
March 11 & 12: 9:30-4:30
March 13: 10-4

FOR MORE INFO CALL
507-456-3699

FEATURING A WIDE VARIETY OF GENUINE ANTIQUES OFFERED BY MULTIPLE DEALERS!

230 S. Main St.
Blue Earth MN 56013
Phone: 507-526-3295

Hours:
9am-5pm M-F
9am-12pm Sat

michelesewvac@bevcomm.net www.michelesquiltingandsewing.com

Country Roads Shop Hop
April 12th - 15th · Wed - Fri: 9am-5pm Sat: 9am-4pm

Sallie Tomato Bag and Purse Trunk Show with Mini Class
April 25th

230 FIX Stop in for a visit at 230 Fix Coffee and Ice Cream Shoppe!

Quilt Store and Retreat

Open Retreat Weekends!
Don't have 6 people to book the entire retreat center?
We have open weekends just for you!
Retreaters get 20% all purchases at the quilt store during their stay!

Open Retreat Weekends:
March 30 - April 2 & June 29 - July 2
Details at quiltedsteeple.com or email us!

Official Quilts of Valor Store! 20% off on QOV fabric!

2605 - 90th Ave South • Lone Rock, IA 50559 • phone: 515-570-9625
www.quiltedsteeple.com • info@quiltedsteeple.com

Humble Heart
EST. 2009

Quilting, Home Decor, Gifts and So Much More
49 South Broadway, Wells, MN 56097
507-553-6021
www.HumbleHeartQuiltShop.com

Hours: Tues 10am - 5pm, Wed 10am - 6pm
Thurs & Fri 10am - 5pm and Sat 9am - 12pm

Upcoming Shop Hops: Country Roads April 12th-15th and All Minnesota Shop Hop April and May 2023

Quilter's Cottage

Hours: Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
Saturday 10am - 1pm

Call for info!
Mini Retreat
March 24th - 26th (limited number)
Urstad House B & B in Kiester
507-402-5808

Country Roads Shop Hop
April 12th - 15th

Long Arm Quilting by Patchwork on the River

119 South Main St • Kiester, MN 56051 • 507-294-3700 • 507-993-1777

The Friendly, Lovable Chickadee
by Lesley R. Nuttall

The Chickadee is a small bird, with a big personality. Every species of Chickadees have their own special identity. Weighing less than an ounce, at 4 – 5 inches long, their tail helps with their balance. A group of Chickadees is called a banditry, because of their mask like appearance.

There are 65 species of Chickadees across this earth. The USA has 7 species, while Canada has 5, with their song of mirth. Canada has Black Capped; Mountain; Chestnut Backed; Grey Headed and Boreal. The USA has 2 more – Carolina and Mexican, which is factorial.

The Black Capped Chickadees are the most popular in Canada and the USA. Their color is a black cap and bib, white cheeks and belly, with back and tail of grey. These little birds are very smart, and have a good memory and brain. They will go to the other side of a tree to avoid sun, wind and rain.

In the summer, they eat berries, suet, insects and seeds. As they don't migrate in winter, they rely on finding insects and larva in trees. Chickadees can retain heat by fluffing up their feathers. They can also drop their temperature, to save energy in bad weather.

In the winter – compared to summer, they need 10 to 20 times the amount of food. Chickadees lay eggs, mid April to June, and usually have only one brood. This cheery little bird emphasizes danger to others, by the number of dee, dee, dees they sing to friends, sisters and brothers.

They spend time with their flocks, to feel protected. Which makes each Chickadee feel safer and respected. We can all be birdwatchers and help the Chickadee, by providing some seeds this winter don't you agree?

Lesley R. Nuttall is the Author of *Secrets of Party Planning*. She also loves writing poetry about nature! Lesley lives in Thunder Bay, ON, Canada with her husband.



The Thimble Box

*We have a wide variety of
New Fabrics • Patterns
Books • Select Wide Back Fabrics
Our Original Patterns*

Mon-Fri: 10am-5pm
Sat: 10am-4pm

2 S. Minnesota St. • New Ulm, MN
507-354-6721 • thimblebox@newulmtel.net

St. Peter Woolen Mill

101 W. Broadway • St. Peter, MN 56082
507-934-3734 • www.woolenmill.com

Highest Quality Green Products and Services

Don't Get Left Out in the Cold!

Now's the time to Refurbish that old Comforter!

- Custom Wool Processing
- Turn your wool into finished or semi-finished wool bedding
- Wool filled mattress pads, comforters, and pillows
- Nature's Comfort Wool Products
- Online Catalog
- Refurbish an heirloom

Hours:
Mon - Fri
9am - 5pm

Visit us during the
2nd Annual All Minnesota Shop Hop!
April 1 - May 31, 2023



1417 South State Street • New Ulm, MN • 507-354-8801
www.SewingSeedsQuiltCo.com
sewingseeds@newulmtel.net

All Minnesota Shop Hop Magazines now available!

We will be open Shop Hop Sundays
April 23 & May 21
Noon - 4:00pm

We proudly offer hundreds of beautifully displayed samples, 5,000 bolts of quality quilting fabrics, as well as kits, gifts, wool and Valdani thread! Special needs access is available at our rear entrance.

Hours: Mon 10-7 • Tues-Fri 10-5 • Sat 10-4
* Unable to visit in person? Shop on-line for your convenience! *



Spinning Spools Quilt Shop

106 S. Minn, New Ulm, MN 56073
Val Besser ~ 507-359-2896

Monday-Friday 10-5 Saturday 10-4

Join us for our 15th year in business March 1-4.

2nd Annual All Minnesota Shop Hop April 1 -May 31.
We have a pattern in the magazine! Get your kits and inspiration here!

www.spinningspoolsquiltshop.com



Over The Teacup

A Quiet Spot

by Janet Young



Spring is a season of hope. After a cold hard winter, everyone looks forward to the longer days, birds singing, and warmer breezes that ushers in the beginning of a new season. It is a time to fling open the windows, fly a kite, and dig in the dirt in celebration of this invigorating season of the year.

Not only is earth awakening, but our bodies are coming alive as well. We want to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. One way you can enjoy outdoors in addition to the above suggestions, might be to create a quiet space where you can enjoy tea to start or end your day or, to enjoy reading your favorite book. It can be out in the yard, or on your porch, deck, or patio. All you have to do is set the stage for a comfortable, peaceable, haven for quiet relaxation. Whatever your choice, it will revitalize your mood.

If you decide to host an outdoor tea party, perhaps the spot you pick to host this party should be one that can remain functional throughout the summer months as well. For example, as we stated earlier, a porch, deck, or enclosed patio would allow you to enjoy alone time in the morning or evening before you begin your day, or at the end of your day to relax and prepare for bed.

How would you make your area of choice more inviting? Well, comfortable outdoor furniture, pillows, flowers and/or plants, a blanket or two for the cooler evenings and candles or lanterns to illuminate the night might contribute to a refreshing environment.

Think of all the activities you can enjoy in this new haven of rest. For example, if you have children, you might want to play board games, toast marshmallows, or do some stargazing. What a change from Tik Tok and Google. You might even find your kids more enjoyable as they remove themselves from the world of technology, or at least minimize the time spent on their devices.

One more way to announce that spring is here, would be to serve seasonal foods, especially if you are hosting a tea party. Asparagus tea sandwiches, a flower-shaped lemony scone that has been cut from a cookie cutter, chocolate dipped strawberries, and iced tea or a fruity hot tea of choice.

We all need a quiet place where we can meditate, and unwind after a hectic day, or before a potentially busy one. I hope you will find that quiet haven, so that you can take time to enjoy nature, as well as discovering a new way to enjoy Spring and all it has to offer.

Happy Spring!

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



Owatonna, Waseca

Random Acts

by Maranda K. Jones

Take Five

Girl Happy, the best Elvis Presley movie ever made, shows spring break at its finest! Fort Lauderdale was the place to be, and everyone was headed to Florida. Shelly Fabares plays Valerie, the well-behaved daughter of a Chicago mobster named Big Frank. Her father thinks she needs a chaperone, however, and hires a band to follow her on holiday without her knowing. Elvis leads the band as Rusty Wells, and well, just thinking of the music and mayhem makes me smile!

Being the sensible, rule-following girl she is, Valerie could have taken care of herself, and self-care seems to be the theme of most modern spring breaks. Not everyone is heading to Fort Lauderdale as they were in the past. Swimmers started going there for training in the 1930s when the Olympic sized pool opened. Many swim coaches thought that was a great idea, as did other young people, and crowds continued to grow out of control through the 1960s when this musical romantic comedy was released.

This movie is the perfect escape. We all need a little escape now and then. We need a break. We need to take five.

A guest speaker at our school stressed the importance of taking care of ourselves. She said the practice of taking action to preserve or improve one's own mental and physical health is vital to our well-being. It is important to take care of ourselves before we can effectively help others, whatever line of work we follow. Following her advice that suggests even the smallest action might make a difference, think about what you could do if you were able to take five.

Take five days. Enjoy a getaway to a favorite place or explore somewhere new. Not everyone has a five-day vacation from school in the spring, but those who do may spend their time traveling. A five day stay-cation at home could also be the ultimate time off, especially for someone who is always on the go.

Take five hours. Learn a new recipe, and take the time to shop, prepare, and enjoy the meal. Prep your lunches for the week or pick out clothes for the days ahead. Tackle a project and feel that sense of accomplishment. Try something new or do something you already enjoy. Catch up on sleep. Visit a friend, spend time with family, and show love to someone. An afternoon walk with your pet could get you outside and moving. Be a tourist in your own town. Go off the grid, turn off your phone, and appreciate the silence.

Take five minutes. Sip a cup of coffee. Eat a piece of dark chocolate. Call a friend. Send a text. Watch a funny video. Think of someone to forgive. Send a thank you note. Stand in the sunshine.

Take five seconds. Name five things you're grateful for. Name five things you've accomplished. Rub lotion on your hands. Stretch your neck. Yawn. Pray. Smile. Choose to be happy.



© 2023 Maranda K. Jones Presley, Elvis, performer. *Girl Happy*. MGM, 1965.

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 Hash Brown Sandwiches

submitted by Shirely Ross of Alexandria, MN



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 pound breakfast sausage | Pepper to taste |
| 3/4 cup shredded zucchini | 4 oz cheddar cheese, sliced |
| 1 cup (3 1/2-4oz) frozen hash browns | 8 biscuits |
| 2 garlic cloves, minced | |

Combine the first five ingredients and form into 8 patties. Heat skillet or griddle to medium heat. Cook patties about 6 minutes. Flip over and cook additional 6-7 minutes. Add the slice of cheese and cook until cheese is melted. Serve on home-made biscuits.

1101 N. State St.,
Waseca, MN
507-835-4000

**PAST & PRESENT
ANTIQUES and Gifts**

Hours:
Tuesday - Saturday
10am-5pm

26th Anniversary Open House!

Friday, April 14th & Saturday, April 15th
10am-5pm

Gourmet Food Samples

Door Prizes

Across the Freeway from Cabelas!

Southern Minnesota's **Largest Gift Store**

Open 7 Days a Week! **Country Goods**

Owatonna, MN • 507-451-5661

Spring is here! Roam our many aisles to find your perfect gift!

Garden Items • Home Decor • Gazing Balls • Stepping Stones
Windsocks • Flags • Memorial Products • Heritage Lace
LARGE Bible selection • Linen Window Valances
Jim Shore and Willow Tree Figurines
Hundreds of mugs and salt and pepper shakers
Biggest Chime Display including the giant \$3200 chime!

Preview lots of our products on Facebook!

Countryberries Designs

It's Spring!

© GRAHAM '23

This pattern is free for you to use. Please give the artist credit. Not for commercial use.
Enlarge this pattern to your desired size. Paint on wood or canvas.
You can also applique in wool or cotton and embroider the details.
You can do punchneedle or rug hooking techniques too.
Whatever craft you choose, have fun!

Designed by Kathy Graham

Please note: Due to a fire, our shop is closed for the winter.
Order from our website and follow Countryberries on our website or on Facebook.

Countryberries LLC

Whimsies and necessities for your country home and garden
330 North Road Deerfield, NH 03037
603-463-7615 www.countryberries.com Like us on Facebook

Lake City • Wabasha • Winona



Designed with the needs of quilters, scrapbookers and crafters in mind!

- Eight 30"x60" individual workstations
- 4 bedrooms, 8 Beds & 3 bathrooms
- Equiped kitchen
- Within walking distance to two quilt shops and multiple restaurants

120 W Lyon Ave
Lake City, MN 55401
651-210-1898

website: www.dragonflydreamsretreat.com
Email: support@dragonflydreamsretreat.com



Hours: Tue-Sat 10am-4pm
108 E. Lyon Ave • Lake City, MN 55041
651-345-2573

Gift Certificates available!

Visit us during the All Minnesota Shop Hop all April and May!

20% off one Item Expires 4/30/23

Fat Tuesdays! Buy 4 Fat Quarters get one Free!



Quality Quilting Fabrics with a Variety of Notions and Books

CREATIVE SEWING on 5th

Visit us!
All Minnesota Shop Hop
April & May



1671 1/2 W. 5th Street
Winona, MN 55987
507-474-7313
www.bluffviewquiltshop.com
bluffviewquiltshop@gmail.com

Hours: Wed-Fri 10am-5pm • Sat 10am-2pm

A TOUR OF MINNESOTA'S STATE PARKS

Lake Shetek State Park



The word "Shetek" is Ojibwe for "pelican," a bird which visits Lake Shetek during the summer and fall. The park contains the largest lake in southwestern Minnesota, which forms the headwaters of the Des Moines River.

Long before European and American settlers appeared in the area, native people were in the Lake Shetek area in pursuit of bison. In the mid 1830s, European and American explorers such as Catlin, Nicollet, Prescott and Fremont explored the area associated with Lake Shetek.



The first white settlement occurred in 1856. Although its population varied, it probably numbered no more than 50 people at any one time. The settlement was located along the eastern side of Lake Shetek, from Lake Fremont to the outlet of Lake Shetek, the headwaters of the Des Moines River. Most of those who came during the 1856-1862 years did so because of Governor Ramsey's lenient

land regulations.

Settlers were permitted to claim land after seven year's occupation if they cleared sufficient land for a farm. In 1862, the U.S.-Dakota War occurred in the area where both settlers and Dakota Indians died. A stone monument within the park marks the grave of settlers killed during the war.



Located in Southwest Minnesota, today's modern day state park has lots to offer to visitors. Expect great fishing for walleye, northern, crappie, and bullheads. Swimming at the beach, taking a hike on the hiking trails and boating, canoeing, kayaking or paddleboarding are all great ways to enjoy the park.

Loon Island, a 45-acre island on Lake Shetek, is accessible on foot via a causeway and includes an interpretive trail. Fishing from the causeway is a great option for catching some great Minnesota fish. Webster Island along with Webster Marsh offer a great location to spot pelicans and other water birds.



A short portage from Lake Shetek will take you to Smith Lake. Paddling to the southwest corner of this lake and portaging back to Lake Shetek will complete the canoe route!

If camping is what you like to do there are many options within the park for camper cabins, cart-in sites, as well as 66 drive-in sites!



Your One Stop Quilt Shop

M-Sat 10am - 4pm
Sunday Closed

Join us for the All Minnesota Shop Hop all April and May


Gift Certificates Available
Classes Offered

- 100% Cotton Fabrics
- Quilting Tools & Notions
- Books and Patterns

(651) 345-3958
TF(800) 233-9549

106 South Lakeshore Drive
Lake City, Minnesota 55041

www.ratherbeequilting.com

330 2nd Street West • Wabasha, MN
651-565-2077
whatsbrewingquiltshop@gmail.com
www.whatsbrewingquiltshop.com

Very Unique. Very Friendly.

March Craziiness Sale!
20% off bolts (one yard min)
Bundles and kits 20% off

Providing unique high-quality fabric, notions, wool and the like.
Jason Yenter • Sue Penn • Charlie Harper • Much More
We proudly serve coffee, espresso, tea and bakery items.

Remember...Open Sundays! 9am-2pm (closed Wed/Thurs)

Happy Easter!



Ann's Lovin' Ewe

by Ann Stewart

The Everywhere Blanket

One dear friend would bring an old quilt to our outdoor gatherings. The comforter was cheery, bright and obviously hand-stitched. It always made us happy when Leslie unfurled it and our families could climb aboard as if on a magic carpet. Though I initially questioned why she would "sacrifice" a potential heirloom, I understood she was actually using it and it was bringing more joy than being stuffed in a hope chest.

When I first married and "de-bachelorized" certain rooms in our townhouse, I replaced my husband's blue and white floral comforter in our guest bedroom with a quilt from my apartment. His bedspread became the blanket we left in our car. It was so versatile: a tablecloth for when we picnicked on the lawn at Wolf Trap concerts, a great cushion for steel bleachers while in the grandstands, or for extra warmth as we traveled.

Later our girls came along, and we dubbed it "The Everywhere Blanket" because it was used everywhere for everything. They loved that blanket and the convenience of having it along for every ride, tucked in the trunk so spontaneous picnics and excursions were easy and fun. Though there's nothing special about the puffy comforter itself, whenever I see its blue and white pattern, happy memories spring to mind.

And so, one Christmas when I saw two cheery old vintage quilts for a modest price, I had a plan. My college daughters needed to make happy memories with their own Everywhere Blankets. But the Everywhere Blanket gift came with this stipulation: Use it, don't protect it.

They were to enjoy their blanket. If they spilled on it, the stain wasn't a blemish, but an autograph of the event, a fond marking of memory. They didn't have to fear the first smudge, the quilt was already broken in and timeworn. I explained that if they splattered a little Ethiopian picnic food, they could point out that spot and remember the day it happened. Besides, if the quilt looked dirty or worn, it would show it was used, and had purpose; it was well loved.

Since then, the quilts have been spread on the University of Virginia lawn as a soft surface for studying, for a surprise Valentine's party on carpet of the dorm, and a 4th of July picnic in the gardens at UVA. The everywhere blanket is a place where they don't worry about anything except relaxing and hanging out with friends. Christine admitted hers has spills but that she had made memories without worrying about the stains. Probably one of the greatest compliments was when her roommate called out before leaving for an event, "And don't forget the Everywhere Blanket."



Because I bought them used, we didn't know the quilt's history and had no past to preserve and protect. Instead, they were a present to my daughters that will continue to make memories in the future.

Recently, I purchased a small baby quilt only to discover later that the stitching was far from perfect. Though no work of art, it could be a work of heart. I will give it to a new mother with this stipulation: Use it. Don't protect it. It's the pretty and happy blanket that can be crawled on, spit upon, with celebrations of her first roll over, or when she first raises her head to smile. What memories you'll have to connect with the sweet quilt. Carry this pretty, happy baby quilt everywhere you go. It's not perfect, but it's perfectly suited for your baby and all to enjoy.

What do you have that you're saving or set aside that needs to be used? What needs to be hauled around to be part of making memories? What needs to be appreciated? Even used up! With upcoming spring and summer weddings, one unique gift idea is a vintage picnic basket with a timeworn Everywhere Blanket tucked inside! Insert this column and the instructions: Use it. Don't protect it. Make memories.

© 2023 Looking for Easter ideas? Preparing My Heart for Easter is a good place to begin!



Country Register Recipe Exchange Fried Parsnips



submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN

6-8 parsnips (1 1/2 lbs) 1/2 tsp salt 3 tbsp butter

Pare parsnips. Cut in half lengthwise and then crosswise. Put in kettle with water to cover. Add salt. Cook until tender, drain. Melt butter in skillet. Brown on all sides, turning to keep from burning.



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

Mac 'n Cheese

recipe by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN

2 tbsp butter - divided in half 1/2 cup velveeta - cubed
1 tsp salt 10.5 oz can cheddar cheese soup
16 oz elbow macaroni 1 cup colby cheese - shredded
3 cups milk 2 cups cheddar cheese - shredded and divided

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease 9x13 baking dish with 1 tablespoon butter. Cook macaroni according to box directions. Let drain while you cook the sauce. Combine milk, remaining butter, velveeta and cheese soup. Cook about 10 minutes on medium heat to make sure everything is melted. Stir often. Pour cheese sauce over macaroni. Add colby cheese and 1 cup of cheddar cheese. Stir to combine. Put in casserole bowl and top with remaining cheese. Bake 20-30 minutes.

D	K	R	J	H	S	F	J	J	P	W	D	I	V	I	D	E	D	F	P
Y	M	B	J	V	C	A	S	S	E	R	O	L	E	A	U	D	D	J	L
V	O	U	Q	O	N	K	A	W	W	N	I	A	R	D	H	E	Y	Y	B
E	O	U	D	P	O	C	O	M	B	I	N	E	E	K	T	D	Y	L	V
L	S	A	E	E	O	O	E	X	S	T	O	D	M	F	K	D	N	A	G
V	S	T	B	B	P	Y	H	C	O	L	B	Y	C	H	E	E	S	E	C
E	Q	I	U	A	S	A	B	H	A	V	W	P	E	S	S	R	X	G	K
E	R	G	C	X	E	M	I	M	K	M	L	Z	P	O	C	H	J	C	R
T	N	R	E	C	L	W	L	H	I	Q	Q	R	V	U	V	S	H	V	C
A	P	G	Z	J	B	E	X	J	P	L	E	Q	T	P	I	E	B	O	A
I	M	H	U	M	A	R	E	T	T	H	K	H	T	V	E	S	A	Z	R
P	A	I	F	F	T	Z	A	M	E	B	G	Z	P	S	R	O	K	P	P
W	A	X	N	B	S	N	X	A	H	B	P	R	E	N	L	Q	I	B	W
M	I	N	U	T	E	S	T	J	F	I	Q	S	G	W	L	C	N	U	R
P	O	H	G	O	X	V	T	C	Z	Z	A	M	A	K	S	Z	G	T	U
B	S	F	A	S	M	E	L	W	B	U	X	R	E	W	F	Z	D	T	O
S	V	V	B	B	U	H	I	Y	C	R	Z	J	T	L	M	F	I	E	F
X	A	L	F	T	L	A	S	E	P	X	B	M	L	K	T	P	S	R	R
S	Z	K	T	S	N	O	I	T	C	E	R	I	D	Y	R	E	H	Q	P
C	M	A	C	A	R	O	N	I	G	F	M	F	B	H	K	Y	D	E	U



Regular Hours
 T&TH 10am-4pm
 W&F 10am-7pm
 Sat 9am-3pm
 1st & 3rd Sun 11am-4pm

Quality quilt fabric, quilting supplies, wool and yarn for your "Peace" of mind

1027 N. Knowles Ave • New Richmond, WI 54017 • 715-246-7314
www.littlepieceofmind.com • alicia@littlepieceofmind.com



Woodland Ridge Retreat
 A Place to Create and Be Inspired

5 Day Workshops:
 12 Students
 Superb Instructors
 Luxury Comforts
 Scrumptious Meals

Located one hour east of the Twin Cities
 E4620 County Road C
 Menomonie, WI 54751
 715.664.8220
www.woodlandridgetreat.com

Join us for a workshop or retreat with your favorite friends
 Visit our website to learn more

Acronyms

by Gayle Cranford

I'm surrounded! They're everywhere! I can't seem to escape them!

I'm speaking about acronyms. I despise them!

I have been made aware that the English language is difficult to learn for various reasons. Case in point: "there, their, they're" or "two, too, to." Having been raised with English as my only language and having had excellent English teachers in elementary and high schools, I have learned to navigate the language...somewhat... except for acronyms and some undecipherable abbreviations! Why make the language more difficult with forgettable short-cuts, I say.

Acronyms can actually destroy my reading pleasure at times. And, don't mention having to read anything medical, governmental, or digital (as in the computer)! They're rife with those abominations! Governmental language is actually known as GovSpeak. To whom does it speak?

NBC, ABC, MSNBC, CBS, PBS are all clear to me...but it has probably taken my lifetime by osmosis to discern the differences in those communication acronyms. One can easily find the TV channels with names like Fox and Newsmax. (Did you notice my clever use of the acronym "TV"?) So proud!

Try to read a medical report and have to face the acronyms SSRI, MFI, CPR, BMI, BP, CXR, RPR, NSAID, RX, TPR, HCSW, MRSA, and UTI. Mostly it's only medical personnel who can interpret them, but I would be willing to bet that even doctors scratch their heads at times. Some medical acronyms are obvious because of normal frequent usage, but there are always new ones to decipher...like FLCCC, mRNA, FDA, NIAID, XBB, SARS, and COVID. We've certainly been forced to understand those in particular and in a very short time, haven't we?

WEF, CCP, FBI, CIA, DOJ, USDA, FISA, FOIA, NASA, EPA, and DOD are now common to most of us. But GovSpeak's website has a VERY long list of other tortured acronyms. Heaven help us! Shouldn't "we the people" have a say in this?

Feeling pity for those who deal with computer acronyms on a daily basis, I find that those acronyms are endless. Here are a few: URL, ATM, Bcc, CRT, DVD, ROM, JPEG, HDTV, GIF, OCR, PCB, and IMAP. Good for you if these make any sense to you. That list may be even longer than GovSpeak's.

In some written pieces, the authors are considerate enough to initially explain any subsequent frequently-used acronyms that will pop up. That bit of "help" is useless to me though, because, having already forgotten the authors' assistance, I stumble through their pieces by mostly ignoring those nasty capital letters, thus making further reading illogical and frustrating.

I'm sure that, by now, you understand my frustration with acronyms. Perhaps, you feel the same way...especially if you are in my ancient age bracket.

You probably already realize, too, this bothersome avoidable problem is only going to grow and worsen. Screaming about it doesn't help at all! I know. I think that we are just doomed to accept the inevitable. Acronyms are here to stay and propagate.

-Gayle writes from her home in Florida, where she lives with her daughter. At the age of 87, she is often referred to as "the energizer bunny." She enjoys writing letters to the editor and spending time with her daughter and granddaughter.



Dye Candy Fabrics

Elegant and Artistically Inspired

Stocking a wide variety of 100% cotton fabric:
 Digitally Printed, Batiks and Hand Dyes
 Shop in person, by appointment at
 Woodland Ridge Retreat or on line at
Dyecandy.Etsy.com

Featuring Quality Fabrics, Patterns and Handmade one-of-a-kind Items for Your Home



Needles-n-Pins Stitches

Visit Us Online:
www.etsy.com/shop/needlespinsstichery

Offering Quality Fabrics!
 We carry Henry Glass, Studio E, Wilmington Prints, Elizabeth Studios and Many More!

Featuring Buttermilk Basin, Cath's Pennies and Nutmeg Hare Wool Patterns for your sewing projects!