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May/June 2021

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Minnesota's Guide to Specialty Shopping & Fun Events



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Josie Ploetz of Belle Plaine, MN won a \$ 25 gift certificate to Sue's Quilt Shop in New Prague, MN! Josie says Sue's Quilt Shop is her favorite shop because "they have beautiful displays, a lot of ideas and great fabric!"

Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, Kathryn Lee of St. Cloud, MN, Pat Gerchy of St. Cloud, MN, Nancy Decker of Adams, MN and Darlene Oberloh of Worthington, MN all won a copy of the book, Good Friends Are Like Angels.

Congratulations to all the winners!

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

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

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Months May/June 2021

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Special Events

April
 24-May1.....Spring Fling Crossing Borders Shop Hop - The Sewing Basket - Luverne
 24-May1...Spring Fling Crossing Borders Shop Hop - Crafty Corner Quilt Shoppe - Worthington
 24-May1.....Spring Fling Crossing Borders Shop Hop - Prairie Quilting - Windom
 24-May1....Spring Fling Crossing Borders Shop Hop - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn

May
 1.....Opening Day - Country Crafty Shed - Duluth
 7-8.....Mother's Day Special - Gone to Pieces Quilt Shop - Kimball
 13-15.....Fishing Opener Party - Quilted Dog - Cloquet
 17-22.....Anniversary Sale - Quilter's Cottage - Kiester
 29-31.....Plant Sale - Country Craft Shed - Duluth

June
 4-26.....Wisconsin Quilt Shop Hop - See ad page 17
 5.....Airing of the Quilts - Iowa Quilt Museum - Madison County, IA
 7-19.....MN Quilt Show Specials - Just Sew Studio - Waite Park
 9-12.....MN Quilter's Virtual Quilt Show - Gone to Pieces Quilt Shop - Kimball
 16-19.....Grand Re-Opening - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
 18.....Summer Clearance - Gone to Pieces Quilt Shop - Kimball

July
 7-10.....Party Express Shop Hop - Michele's Quilt Shop - Blue Earth



The Country Register of Minnesota

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Double Waffle Stitch Afghan

by Kirby Gust

Every pattern I have seen for waffle stitch has always resulted in a waffle pattern on one side and a flat double crochet pattern on the other side. This pattern gives you a waffle pattern on both sides.

This pattern is for a small baby afghan but can be made as large, or as small as you like. Starting with a chain row of 23 you can make a very warm and eye-pleasing scarf. If you want to make a full-sized throw or bed cover you will end up with a very warm and heavy afghan. Whatever you choose to make, make sure your chain row is in multiples of 4, plus 3 for turning.

This pattern also makes a very nice dishcloth when pure cotton yarn is used. For a dishcloth use a 5.0mm hook and start by chaining 43. Twelve rows of dc should make it square.

Once you have completed the first two rows, the pattern will be in 3-D in front of you as you crochet, making it very hard to make a mistake.

Skill Level: easy

Stitch Glossary:

Ch = chain

Yo = Yarn over

Dc = double crochet

Fpdc = front post double crochet.

Fpdc (front post double crochet) instructions: Yo, insert hook from front to back then to front, going around the dc post, yo and draw through and behind dc post, 3 loops on hook, (yo and draw through 2 loops on hook) twice.

Double waffle afghan instructions: With 5.5 or 6.0 hook, ch 103

Foundation Row: Dc in 4th ch from hook (counts as 1st dc), dc in each ch across, ch 3 and turn = 100 dc + ch 3

Row 1: ch 3 counts as first dc here and throughout. Dc in second dc, *fpdc around each of the next 2 dc, dc in each of the next 2 dc* repeat from * to *, ch 3 and turn.

Row 2 - 40: repeat row 1 (each row should end with fpdc around the last 2 dc)

To finish tie off yarn and weave in ends.

Kirby Gust is a self-taught crocheter and woodworker. He has been designing furniture and crochet patterns for over 20 years. Kirby and Colleen Gust are publishers of the Manitoba & Saskatchewan Country Register.



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Life in Skunk Hollow

by Julie A Druck

Aren't We All Homemakers?



Every year at tax time when I must sign my name at the bottom of our return and write my occupation in that little space. I am always intentional about what I write there. Though the money I'm declaring is from my one-day-a-week job as a legal secretary, that's NOT what I enter in the blank. Nor do I write in the words "house wife" (though technically, I am a wife who lives in a house). What I write is my primary and most important job: "Homemaker." I take that word, and the work behind it, very seriously.

A few weeks after this annual job declaring, I came across a listing on the internet of a variety of short vintage homemaking films, primarily from the '50s and '60s. Many of them appear to have been made by colleges to entice female students to enter the field of home economics. The films presented many options for careers in the field for women. But after watching several, I was intrigued to discover a common thread running throughout nearly all of them. It was this: that though several career options were presented, it was always emphasized that the studying of home economics would be most beneficial in the important job of caring for a home.

As I pondered these things, it came to me that, to one degree or another, we are all homemakers. No matter if you work outside the home or not, are married or not, have children or not, every single one of us has the privilege (and responsibility) to create a home. If anything, the pandemic of this last year has revealed the incredible importance of creating a haven in which to shelter from the storms of life. Being purposeful and intentional about crafting a space that is mentally, physically, and spiritually uplifting to those who dwell there is not a luxury but a necessity. And though the specifics of that crafting will look different for every single household, it remains that homemaking is essential to the daily well-being of all people, pandemic or not.

Giving to those under our roof the gift of a place of rest and stability (even if it's just ourselves) is an act of love and is of incomparable worth. May we grow a vision for a future in finding ourselves using the term "homemaker" with much pride and joy as we seek to discern how we—in both large and small ways—can seek to make our houses into homes.

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



Random Acts

by Maranda K Jones

Her Story

Mom and I checked in with the hostess and let her know we had arrived for our dinner reservation. We had read the reviews, studied the menu, and decided to go somewhere new. We were excited to celebrate Mother's Day together and eager to try this restaurant we were visiting for the first time. Our eagerness soon turned to anxiousness when we learned we would not be seated until the table was full. At this particular German restaurant, each seat was filled, whether the people sitting next to you were strangers or old friends. Our table was for eight guests, and there were only two in our party. I grew nervous and hoped everyone would be alright with this seating arrangement. I was not sure I was! I was being pushed out of my comfort zone.

Two more people arrived. A young couple who had eaten here before claimed the food was excellent. Two more couples arrived. Older couples who frequent this establishment also said we would enjoy ourselves. One of the older women did not hide her dislike of sitting with strangers and voiced her opinion to her husband while walking to our table. She grumbled and he acknowledged her feelings, trying to ease her distress. Mom and I exchanged glances, wondering what in the world we had got ourselves into.

The server showed us to our seats and asked us to sit across from the people in our individual parties. The woman was still vocally expressing her disdain and questioning the server. This instruction did not sit well with her as she wanted to sit next to her husband. Trying to make the most of this already uncomfortable evening, we arranged ourselves around the rectangular table and stared at the menu.

The waiter came over and took our order. A flight of beer might take off some tension, and soon the outgoing younger man at the opposite end of the table began telling a story about his job. Everyone listened and laughed. We all made our way through the buffet and while we filled our plates, I whispered to my mom that I was worried that the one woman was not enjoying herself and seemed agitated at me. I did not want to make things worse. Nor did I want to let her ruin our celebration dinner.

Back at the table, we made small talk and sampled everything from salmon to schnitzel. The woman managed a smile or two, but mostly engaged with her husband and no one else. Then the Polka band began to play! Her eyes lit up and a huge smile spread across her face! She replied right on queue when the bandleader prompted. "Oy! Oy! Oy!" she yelled loudly as she held up her stein for cheers to all of us at the table. She laughed and looked happily at her husband, who put his arm around her. They came here often we learned. This was her favorite restaurant. Local regulars love the food, the ambiance, and the familiarity. The familiarity, I learned, was so important.

When she was ready for seconds and had gone to refill her favorites, my mom went too. As they were back in the buffet line, the woman's husband asked me if I needed to go check on my mom. To help my mom. To make sure she found her way back.

And it dawned on me. His wife was not mad at us. Something was slipping away from her, and she was doing her best not to lose it. Her husband was giving her new memories in familiar surroundings. More moments of them together. More moments of her laughing and smiling and shouting "Oy! Oy! Oy!" at the top of her lungs. He put his arm around her, and it was more than a hug. He protected her, saved her dignity, showed her respect, and loved her unconditionally and unapologetically.

Mom returned to the table, and so did this man's wife. There was a change—a softness that I saw in his eyes and felt in my heart. I hugged my mom a little tighter and prayed a little longer that night, asking the Lord to forgive my defensive response. I should have been more open to meeting new people. I do not know their names, but I think of this couple every day. I did not know this woman's story, and that should not have mattered. She was beginning to forget her own story, and she was blessed to have someone reading each page with her, no matter the ending.

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Maranda Jones' new book **Random Acts**
is now available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)
The book includes her reader-acclaimed articles from the last decade



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Airing of the Quilts

JUNE 5, 2021

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Madison County Airing of the Quilts



There's nothing quite like the sight of a patchwork quilt gently waving in a spring breeze as it airs on your clothesline. Or so say the folks at the Iowa Quilt Museum who are gearing up for their annual event, the Madison County Airing of the Quilts.

Megan Barrett, director of the Iowa Quilt Museum, describes the Airing of the Quilts as a "community-wide colorfest."

Hundreds of quilts will hang in dozens of locations around historic and picturesque locations around Winterset and Madison County, Iowa. These locations include the famous covered bridges, the grand 1870's courthouse, the Winterset City Park, which recently received designation on the National Registry of Historic Places, and the Madison County Historical Complex, just to name a few. The celebration will also include a Quilt Walk through one of Winterset's historic neighborhoods where quilts are artfully displayed on porch rails, patios, front stoops and other outdoor areas.

In conjunction with the Airing of the Quilts, the Iowa Quilt Museum will be celebrating its fifth anniversary. The mission of the museum is to promote appreciation of the American quilt and the art of quilting. They accomplish this through various educational programs (mostly virtual these days) and rotating exhibits of quilts from across the country. The museum mounts four unique exhibits each year featuring quilts of all genres and time periods. The current exhibition, *A Quilted Garden*, comprises floral quilts from the collection of the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts. These spring beauties will still be on display during the Airing of the Quilts.




On June 8th, a new exhibit will open entitled "40 x 40 @ 40." The 40" x 40" art quilts that form that exhibit were all created by members of the Manhattan Quilt Guild, in celebration of the guild's 40th anniversary. That exhibit will feature works by some very well-known quilters including Paula Nadelstern and Victoria Findlay Wolfe.



The Airing of the Quilts is meant to serve both as a celebration of the rich quilting heritage in our state, and as a fundraiser for the Iowa Quilt Museum. Tickets are \$15 for the general public, and \$10 for IQM members. In addition to the special displays, the ticket price includes admission to the Iowa Quilt Museum (regularly \$6) on June 5th. The day will conclude with a dinner and quilt auction to further support the work of the Iowa Quilt Museum. Tickets to the dinner are separate than that of the 'day pass.' For more information, visit www.IowaQuiltMuseum.org or follow the Iowa Quilt Museum on Facebook.

Papa pops Grand dad Dad
 daddy PAPI padre
 pa **FATHER'S DAY, JUNE 20th**
 pappy Grandpa Pop
 opa baba Daddy FATHER

Where in Minnesota?
 Somewhere in Minnesota the image to the right can be found. Where is it?
 (Answer on page 20 of this issue)



THE VERY IMPORTANT



Common symptoms of incorrect needle size for project (type of fabric and size of thread)

- Upper thread breaks
- Skipped stitches
- Frayed stitches
- Irregular or malformed stitches

These symptoms may have other causes. Often, unthreading and rethreading can correct machine performance. Check your machine manual for regular maintenance tips and troubleshooting guide.

Change the needle after 8 hours of sewing time for the best machine performance and stitch result



Information and images provided by SCHMETZneedles.com and shared by Ragtime Fabrics in Hannouburg, IA.

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A TOUR OF MINNESOTA'S STATE PARKS

Jay Cooke State Park



The rugged land formations of Jay Cooke State Park enhance the beauty of the hardwood forests. The water-eroded gorge, steep valleys, and massive rock formations are seen throughout the park. Nowhere else in the state is this type of rock exposed in such a large area. The Thomson formation is made up of slate and greywacke. Long ago, underground movements caused this formation to bulge and break, tilting

the rock at 45-degree angles. Glaciers then deposited thick layers of red clay on top of the formation which would later be washed away by the river to expose the bedrock underneath. Wherever the red clay topsoil has not been eroded, it is almost entirely covered with brush and dense forests.



The St. Louis River, Lake Superior's largest U.S. tributary, thunders over the slabs of ancient exposed rock during early seasons. Later in the year, it slows to a gentle trickle. Located on the upper end of the park the St. Louis River has carved into the bedrock forming the Upper River Gorge. Located just down the river is Oldenburg Point. From here you can see spectacular vistas of the Saint Louis River Valley.

Most famous of all the landmarks in the park is the Swinging Bridge. The bridge was designed by Oscar Newstrom and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The bridge is a 200-foot-long suspension bridge with a 126-foot span over the Saint Louis River, it is supported by four massive pylons consisting of reinforced concrete piers faced with native stone laid in a rustic design. The suspension cables are anchored in a solid rock ledge on the south side and in concrete anchorage on the north. Stone piers on either side of the bridge support walkways leading to the suspended section. The river flows by quickly underneath!



If you're looking for some great hiking trails then Jay Cooke State Park is just for you! With more than 50 miles of recreation trails in the park, a visitor can explore the park for days without following the same trail twice. The Willard Munger State Trail runs through the park providing a paved surface for biking, in-line skating, and walking. The 70-mile Hinckley - Duluth segment of the trail is now completely paved as well.

The park also has some great historic buildings to offer visitors. Among them are the River Inn Interpretive Center that was built in 1941. It is constructed of mostly dark, local gabbro. The Bathroom Building at Oldenburg Point is a log-and-stone structure built in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Pioneer Cemetery is also located within the park with headstones that date back to the 1800's.



Like most parks, Jay Cook offers a variety of wildlife! The promise of food and protection make Jay Cooke State Park an important wintering area for white-tailed deer. Black bear, timber wolf, and coyote are among the largest of 46 animal species in the park. The pileated woodpecker, marsh hawk and the great blue heron are just a few of 173 species of birds that nest and feed

in the park. Sixteen species of reptiles and amphibians are also found in the park.

The rock formations, flowing river, dense forest, and abundant wildlife makes Jay Cooke State Park one of the premier natural attractions throughout the entire Midwest. Information from www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks. Visit the website for more information, pictures, hours and fees.

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Pieces From My Heart



by Jan Keller

Out of the Cocoon

While watching her child's high school graduation ceremony, the mother thought back to the time when her grandfather had given her a cocoon attached to a twig.

She was filled with wonder and amazement when he told her that a butterfly would emerge from the brown and dead-appearing chrysalis. He had also warned her that when the butterfly first appeared, she couldn't help it—or it would die.

Several days after her wise grandfather's admonishment, a crack appeared and split the back of the cocoon. A bedraggled insect began struggling to free itself from its casing, searching for freedom and room to fly.

To the child, the plight of this small damp insect seemed hopeless—that getting out of the cocoon so it could open its wings would be an impossible task.

She thought of her grandfather's warning as she watched the struggling insect. But, ultimately, she could not help herself from aiding the emerging butterfly. She tried to help by stretching out its wings.

The insect died.

When her child's name was read, the mother came back to the present. She proudly beamed with joy as she watched her child, an emerging independent person, walk across the stage, shake hands with the school's dignitaries, and receive the diploma symbolizing adulthood.



She remembered the times she had rocked a sick infant, aided the first steps of a baby, and mopped the floor after a toddler made unsuccessful and messy attempts to handle a spoon. She thought of all the countless times she had wiped away tears and cleaned up a skinned elbow or knee as her child grew.

Yes—she had been a good and caring mother. She had been there during all the joys and struggles—and through them all, she had helped as best she could.

Just as the insect had gone through various stages before becoming a butterfly—so had her child on the way to adulthood. She sensed her child's metamorphosis was nearing completion and the emerging adult would need space and room to fly.

She knew life would not always be easy for her offspring. There would continue to be difficulties to overcome and lessons to learn.

The mother breathed a silent prayer for strength—strength to watch the awaiting struggles of this emerging adult (who would always be her child), without hindering character development by helping.

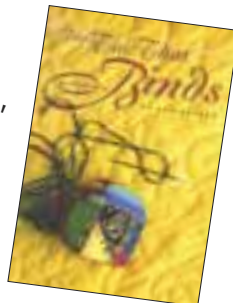
She knew life was at stake.

©2021 Jan Keller No reprint without permission Jan shares other pieces of her life in her books, *Pieces From My Crazy Quilt*, and *The Tie That Binds*. These books can be ordered by calling 719-749-9797, or writing: Black Sheep Books, 11250 Glen Canyon Drive, Peyton, CO 80831

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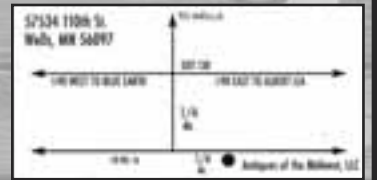
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Oh, long may she wave! Flag Day



Monday, June 14th

Spring Has Sprung!



Ann's Lovin' You

by Ann Stewart

Mother and Father's Day: It's about Time

What was the best gift your mother or father gave you?

Funny thing, I can't remember many, unless they're captured in a birthday party or Christmas picture of me ripping open a package. There's the Chatty Cathy doll with a matching dress or me hovering jealously over whatever my brother was getting. But I do remember the intangibles. Not a thing, but an event or piece of advice, or an investment of time.

I remember the wisdom my dad taught by demonstration. We grew up in a three-bedroom 1.5-bathroom rambler, and my two football player brothers shared a very small bedroom with trundle beds. It was enough. Dad saved his money and only made a purchase when he had the funds. That education was worth a fortune, literally. My mom made our house a home, helped us on school projects, and invested time on our interests and activities.

I remember the devoted hours my dad and mom spent on the bleachers watching my choirs perform whether I was singing or conducting. They never missed any of my endless concerts in my eight years of teaching junior high. My parents were present for us. We didn't need a lot of presents. We had their presence and support.

I remember events. The surprise of going to the Ringling Brothers Circus or Harlem Globetrotters. Every summer our family spent two weeks at an Idaho lake where my parents played with us and taught us to waterski. That family tradition continues with the next generations.

I asked readers about memorable gifts they'd received from their parents. Besides the gifts they could unwrap, the remainder fell into categories of memories, family, wisdom, and time.

MEMORIES:

- My dad wrote me an epic poem for high school graduation.
- Framed handwritten family recipes, family history photo albums with dates and details.
- When I turned 24, my dad chose his top 12 memories of me and him, wrote the stories/pictures and bound it in a book for me.
- 46 years of our family life, filmed on a 16mm camera covering the years 1937-1983, and including all my growing up years.
- 45+ dvds of home movies (some without audio!) from when I was born through my kids' growing up-holidays, birthdays all captured to enjoy forever. Best gift ever

FAMILY:

- Sister
- The best gift my parents gave me was a home and a family(adopted)
- Siblings
- My dad adopted me. The gift of forever family.
- They left everything they knew & all their family to give me a better life in the US.

WISDOM:

- My dad gave me his perfect grammar and big vocabulary.
- My mom gave me the gift of perseverance.
- Generational blessings— gift of faith and unconditional love
- They gave me the gift of knowing that you have to work hard in order to achieve success—that nothing great ever "just happens." My father loved the line from Samuel Goldwyn: "The harder I work, the luckier I get."

• Solid belief God exists, creativity, a sense of humor, desire to learn, compassion for others.

TIME:

- Their presence, support, and the gospel
- The very best gift has been the gift of time.

On a whim, I once asked a classroom of junior high students what they'd prefer: any gift or ten minutes a day with their parents. All but one student said ten minutes a day with their parents. That was eye-opening. Now as a mother of two twenty-something daughters, I, too, cherish time spent with them over any other kind of tangible gift they could give.

One spring my daughter and I went to the ACC Basketball championships in Charlotte, NC. Now every March, we remember those days of nonstop basketball madness. On a recent trip to see my girls, we shopped together at Darling, a cute consignment store; we three fashion consultants giving thumbs up or thumbs down on our choices. I spent the night and the next morning we walked to Marie Bette for creamy hot white chocolate, sourdough banana bread, pretzel croissants, and a sticky caramel bun. (We shared). I will never forget this simple memory.

As Mother's and Father's Day near, maybe we can take a lesson from our parents about what gifts stuck in our heads and return their generosity. Let's return the best gifts they gave us: the gift of memories and making new ones with time we share.

Free Pattern

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.



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Country Register Recipe Exchange

Honey, Ginger and Cumin Glazed Carrots

submitted by Shirley Ross of Alexandria, MN

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 lbs carrots | 1 tsp ginger root, peeled and minced |
| 3 tbsp butter | 1/4 cup honey |
| 1/4 tsp salt | 12 ounces ginger ale |
| 3/4 tsp cumin | |

Cut carrots into lengthwise quarters. In a large skillet, add butter, salt cumin and ginger. Cook over medium heat for about 2 minutes. Add honey and carrots and cook for 2 minutes, stirring carrots to evenly cover them. Pour the ginger ale slowly into the skillet and increase heat to medium. Cook until gingerale is reduced and carrots are tender. Makes about 6 servings.

Since my dad's passing, my mom's favorite gift is taking a weekend trip to a B & B with her sons and their wives. She appreciates the ability to travel again with companionship and the opportunity to make new memories.

What would be memorable to your mom and dad? Time spent with you? If you're too far away, then call them and thank them for the advice and wisdom they have shared over the years. Or send a card or photo reminding them of occasions you spent together as a family.

The investment of time is not a small gift. This investment compounds in interest with memories past and present for time to come.



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CROCODILE TEARS

by Barbara Kalkis

Crocodile, crocodile smiling at me,
Eyes barely open. What do you see?
Wagging your tail, so cute puppy-like.
Is it a warning? Should I take a hike?



Gently you move, yet with purposeful tread,
Ignoring the fishies that you have been fed.

My camera is poised. I'm ready to shoot.

You're picture-perfect. This holiday's a hoot!

Suddenly you pounce with mouth open wide.

The picture is lost as I jump aside.

You move with great speed. You're quick on your toes,

But food I am not. I value my nose!

I'm grateful we've met.

We've been face to face.

But I won't chance one more race.

Goodbye dear, Croc, I hope you stay well.

You're better in the swamp than as somebody's belt.

Barbara Kalkis, ©2021



Mystery? Quilt



I'm a Little Bit Jelly

Mystery Quilt 2021 for The Country Register

Designed by Ann Jones

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

Check www.countryregister.com

PART 3: Putting it All Together

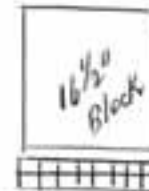
Using Fabric B: Cut Sixteen (16) 4.5" squares.

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

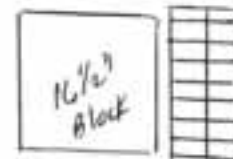
Follow the diagram to assemble 16 blocks. Sew one 4-patch row to the side of 16 of your strip set blocks. Sew a 4.5" block to the end of 16 of your 4-patch rows and then sew one of these to the bottom of the block. These blocks should measure 20.5" X 20.5"



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



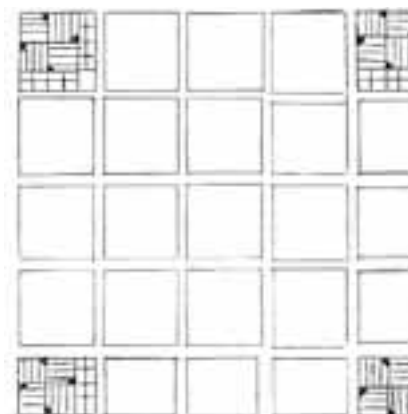
Next take 4 of the 16.5" strip set blocks that were set aside and sew a 4-patch row to the RIGHT SIDE of each. Press your seams.



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

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

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



Moving with Toilet Paper

by Jeanette Lukowski

I will admit it: I've moved a bit in my adult life.

The first "major" move was moving from my birth-home state to my adopted-home state as part of a married couple. We were young—and the move was an interesting adventure. We lived in hotels while we searched for more permanent housing which would accept our mid-sized dog.

Flash forward: I made a "major" move with the children for a job. This was my first "orchestrated" move, meaning we drove out as a unit to search for housing, and returned a few months later with all of our possessions. The kids struggled with culture shock, though, so a boomerang move occurred two years later.

Flash forward: I made another "major" move for a job—alone this time. Too bad COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns turned the move into an experiment-in-mental-survival rather than a success story. Seeking that which is most familiar and comfortable when confronted by chaos, another boomerang return followed.

This last move contained an interesting feature beyond anything I've done with ANY of my other moves, though: I moved Toilet Paper. Ten mega-rolls in an open package; another six mega-rolls in an unopened package.

Wait—if each "mega-roll" means the equivalent of four traditional rolls, that means I moved thirty-four rolls of toilet paper? Oh my.

The package of six mega-rolls had been purchased when toilet paper first began re-appearing on store shelves in spring 2020, so I paid the hefty ransom the shop owner asked, and I hid it away in the back of the cupboard.

A week or so later, I purchased the 18 mega-roll package of the brand I preferred, and began to forget all about the toilet paper wastelands we had collectively experienced that spring.

I forgot about them, that is, until it was time to pack for the boomerang-move. Sane people would have perhaps donated the treasure-trove of t.p. and other paper products, but I just couldn't! Those simple items I had taken for granted in my pre-pandemic life had become too valuable to me, based on no availability of even a Sears catalog anymore. (I didn't live through the Depression years, but I've heard stories.)

I turned the package of paper napkins into random-packing-material by subdividing into Ziploc baggies; I loaded the two packages of toilet paper, an unopened package of 6 rolls of paper toweling, and 3 packages of quilt batting into a wooden sideboard piece of furniture for the move; I tucked eleven individual purse-pack size facial tissues into a cardboard box (labeled to identify where the tissues were); I slipped two-and-a-half boxes of facial tissues into the car with me.

I donated books and dishes to various organizations in the town I was leaving (because paying the moving company based on the equation of pounds x miles turns everything into a commodity), but I moved toilet paper.

Is this how the pioneers of long ago made those difficult decisions to abandon crates of precious china and heirloom silver services when travelling the Oregon Trail? Need vs. Luxury?



Country Register Recipe Exchange Citrus Soda Cake

submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN

- | | |
|--|--|
| 18 1/2 oz yellow cake mix | 1/2 cup oil |
| 3.4 oz pkg instant vanilla pudding mix | 3/4 cup citrus flavored soda - divided |
| 4 eggs - beaten | 1/2 cup butter |
| 1/2 cup water | 1 cup sugar |

In a bowl, combine dry mixes, eggs, water, oil and 1/2 cup soda. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed until well blended, about 2 minutes. Pour batter into a lightly greased bundt pan. Bake at 350° for 55 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the cake tests clean. While warm, poke holes in cake with a fork. Set aside. Melt butter in a saucepan over low heat. Add sugar and remaining soda. Boil for 2 minutes until thicken. Pour glaze over cake. Let cool. Invert cake onto serving plate. Serves 10-12.

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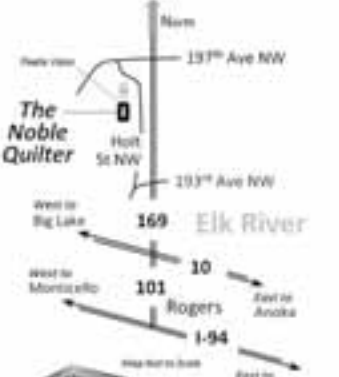

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by Kim Keller

Barbed Wire Dragon Flies

I can remember being scratched and cut many times as a kid by barbed wired! No matter how careful I'd try to be while squeezing through the fence, I'd inevitably get caught! These cute dragonflies hopefully will be more kind to me! While making these bugs, make sure to use thick gloves and wear long sleeves and pants. Also, the rust will rub off so it's probably a good idea to make these outside. Here are the supplies you'll need.



- rusty barbed wire
- wire cutters
- pliers
- thick gloves



1. Start with one end of the wire and stretch it out. Once you've reached your desired length of your dragonfly bend the wire back.
2. Fold it along the body of the dragonfly until you are a few inches from the original starting point.
3. Fold back the other way and this time start wrapping the wire around itself.
4. Continue wrapping all the way to the end, this will be the head. Once you reach the end fold and wrap around along the body again, ending a few inches shorter than the previous time.

the previous time.

5. Continue wrapping until you've reached the desired size of the dragonfly body you'd like. Remember to make the body thicker by the head.
6. Wrap the wire around the top of the body/head area to make a head.
7. Cut the wire once the head is finished.
8. Tuck the end of the wire into itself so it doesn't unwind.



9. Form the wings by making a figure 8 with the wire.
10. Try to make each side close to the same size.
11. Wrap the ends tightly together.
12. Using two smaller cut pieces of wire, make a criss-cross across the wings on the front size.
13. Flip over the dragonfly and twist the ends together.
14. Repeat to make smaller sized (at least 2" smaller) wings. Attach them the same way.
15. Cut two small lengths of wire with a barb at the end for antenna.

16. Poke the antenna into the head!



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Happy Mother's Day

Restoring Antique Furniture

Change Is Inevitable but Hope Is on the Horizon

by Dave Emigh

Even in the best of times, the one sure thing is that change is inevitable. This is as true in the "antiques world" as it is in life in general. In antiques, we normally see this change as a design trend where the desirability of objects either increases or decreases. The thing is these design trend changes seem to develop slowly, and almost imperceptibly, over time.

Several years ago, galvanized garden watering cans became extremely popular. In the following year or two that change/trend increased and anything that was galvanized was eagerly sought after. Today, watering cans, buckets, pans and pails are still popular but "the anything and everything galvanized mania" has clearly diminished.

A single antique shop in Walla Walla is in no position to promote change or instigate a trend. We do, however, hope to be observant enough to spot a trend and then be nimble enough to react to it. We were fortunate to have a half dozen galvanized watering cans in stock when that trend developed. So, observing that the cans were beginning to sell more quickly than in the past, we were able to react and acquire some more.

The galvanized trend was a rather slow-motion developing trend, especially compared to 2020. None of us was able to predict the rapid and dramatic changes that would occur due to the pandemic. Our shop had only been re-opened for a month following our winter break when we, and the whole economy, were abruptly shut down.

Among other things, during the stay-at-home phase, 2020 became the year of indoor plant growing and home baking. Even grocery stores did not have enough flour available to meet the home baker's demand. But they eventually adapted to react to that changing trend.

By the time antiques shops were able to re-open, home schooling and working from home had become the "new normal." When antiques shops opened their doors, there was a pent-up demand for office-type furniture. Everyone was looking for desks for schooling and working at home. Yes, once again, we were fortunate to have a good stock of office furniture on hand. But, to say the least, that change was nothing that anyone could have prepared for—it was sudden and dramatic.

Following the initial mad scramble for office furniture, the antiques world just kind of "floated through" the uncertain times that were 2020. It seemed trying to make a detailed plan of how to work through the pandemic was a waste of time. Which is a funny idea because, with all the isolating, the one thing that many of us had was an abundance of time.

It would have been nice to have been able to just turn our calendars to 2021 and have the world return to "normal." Obviously, no one expected that would happen. But, as we open our antique shop doors to begin our 2021 year, there seems to be a sense of hope in the air.

Now that vaccines are becoming available it seems possible to imagine a time when life is a bit more "normal." Reports are that those who have been vaccinated are feeling relief, joy and happiness. Further, those who have been vaccinated are feeling more comfortable in beginning to venture back out into the public. This can only give all of us hope for better times ahead. That will be an awesome change...

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



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

Frosty Strawberry Squares

by Gooseberry Breakfast and Brunch Recipes

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 cup flour | 2/3 cup sugar |
| 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed | 2 tbsp lemon juice |
| 1/2 cup <u>chopped</u> walnuts | 10oz package frozen strawberries, <u>thawed</u> |
| 1/2 cup butter, <u>melted</u> | 1 cup whipping cream, <u>whipped</u> |
| 2 eggs whites | Optional: whole strawberries |

Mix together flour, brown sugar, walnuts and butter. Set aside one-third for topping. Pat remaining mixture into an ungreased 13"x9" baking pan. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes. Remove from oven and set aside. Combine egg whites, sugar, lemon juice and strawberries in a large bowl. Blend with an electric mixer on high speed until stiff peaks form, about 10 minutes. Fold in whipped cream. Spoon mixture over crumb crust. Top with reserved mixture. Freeze for 6 hours or overnight. Cut into squares for serving. If desired, garnish with whole berries.



COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

Mom's Potato Soup

Submitted by Sherri McDaniel, Fort Lupton, CO



- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5 large potatoes, chopped | 3 cans chicken broth |
| 1/2 cup butter | 1 small yellow onion, minced |
| 1 pint half & half | salt and pepper to taste |

In large saucepan melt butter and cook onion and garlic for 5 minutes or until tender. Add chicken broth, season to taste and bring to a boil. Add potatoes and half & half and cook to desired consistency. Simmer for 25-30 minutes.



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Become Inspired!

by Annice Rockwell

A Special Signature

As the month of May arrives the landscape around us is a vibrant and vital green. Dogwood trees are now freshly adorned with their soft pink and cream petals and lilacs boast their heavy blooms which send a fragrant spring scent across even the largest yard. And as we gaze upon our herb gardens, healthy tufts of oregano and lemon balm reveal that the blessings of spring sun and showers gave them strength to return again.



As our days become the longest stretch of sunlight of our year, we are drawn to our precious outdoor spaces to enjoy nature's gift of warmth and radiance. Our days take on a special signature as our stone patios are transformed to provide extra settings to gather. On one of the first bright mornings of June a hearty country breakfast made from fresh eggs from the coop along with hand-cut bacon and fresh blueberry muffins becomes an even more soulful joy because it has been enjoyed outside. It creates a perfect start to a country day that can be spent at home tending to the tasks of spring or venturing out to our favorite antique shops to find accents for our yards.

NATURE'S TIME-TESTED APPEAL

Garden beds can be amended now and our new seeds and plants can be given their new home. Each garden bed can be designed with both purpose and aesthetic. For a country garden, lending height can often create wonderful roadside appeal. Tree stumps can serve as a natural riser to hold a primitive woven bee skep or apiary box. Hand-hewn posts can be the base for a functional sundial that can still be utilized to tell time. And an early hitching post looks especially attractive in a bed of trailing squash plants or beans. Early weathered work carts, primitive barrels and sprinkling cans can be found on a day of country antiquing and can be put back to use in the garden, lending charm and appeal. Lighting, in the form of punched tin candle lanterns, can be mounted on posts and used at night to illuminate our outdoor spaces. Both useful and pleasing, these creative country additions to our landscape create a simple beauty that has stood the test of time.

As spring advances confidently toward summer, we are indeed grateful for all of nature's beautiful blessings. And as we enjoy and enhance the essence of spring in our yards there is no doubt a feeling of natural bliss that always accompanies this spectacular time of year.

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Happy Father's Day!

Reckless Abandon

by Aminta Geisler

blind...

When I was growing up, I thought there was only one kind of blindness: the kind that causes a physical impairment of the eyes.

Until recently, I didn't understand that there was a different type of blindness: the kind that causes an impairment of the heart and soul.

Spiritual blindness.

Those people who cannot see the truth of who God is and who are unable to comprehend the humble, sacrificial, servant lifestyle that following him requires.

Because they are blind.

Their hearts and souls have been impaired by pride.

Over and over again in the New Testament, Jesus calls out the religious leaders of his day for loving praise, power, and prestige more than they love God. In Matthew 23, he calls them blind four times. He cites their self-loving pride as the reason for their spiritual blindness. In John 5:41-44 he rebukes them:

"Your approval means nothing to me, because I know you don't have God's love within you. For I have come to you in my Father's name, and you have rejected me. Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them. No wonder you can't believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don't care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God,"

In other words, they loved all things self more than they loved God. They looked religious on the outside, but inside they were void of the devotion and desire for God that marks a true follower. The inside of their hearts were full of pride and self-love.

Their selfish pride blinded them to their desperate need for Jesus, it hindered them from seeing the truth, and it prevented real transformation.

Seeing, they could not see.

They were blind.

It's not so different today. Spiritual blindness is everywhere.

I dare say it's an epidemic: People who are blind to the truth because their hearts are full of pride. People who cannot see their pride and don't realize they are blind.

It's ironic, isn't it?

Because they are blind, they cannot see. Because they cannot see, they remain blind.

I used to be blind.

I spent the first thirty-some years of my life calling myself a Christian and completely unaware that I was spiritually blind. I went to church, I said the prayers, I sang the songs, I owned a bible. But my life was still all about me and what I wanted: my success, my needs, my quality of life.

It wasn't until I fell flat on my face and was completely stripped of my pride that I saw for the first time how blind I had been. I was thoroughly and publicly humbled, and it was the best thing that ever happened to me because it opened my eyes.

True faith is living for God's glory, not my own. True faith is being willing to die to self, take up a cross and follow wherever God leads. True faith is less of me, more of God. True faith is serving, sacrificing and suffering.

I'm so thankful for the gift of sight.

Unlike many conditions of the eye that cause blindness, spiritual blindness has a cure and it's this:

Humility.

But how do I humble myself? How do I cure spiritual blindness? How can I see?

Well in my case, it was falling flat on my face. Failure has a way of stripping pride.

Thankfully, that isn't the only way. Simply put, I believe there are two ways to pursue humility:

Think more of God and think less of myself.

First, I humble myself by elevating God's importance in my life. This means taking a stance of servanthood to God and exalting his majestic sovereignty and goodness. I praise and worship him for being the Supreme Creator of the Universe and submit my life to his will and his discipline. I put him on the throne of my heart. Psalm 8 proclaims, "O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens...when I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers – the moon and the stars you set in place – what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?"

Second, I humble myself by lessening my importance. This means acknowledging my total depravity and desperate need for God's grace. 1 Timothy 1:15 says, "This is a trustworthy saying and everyone should accept it: 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners' – and I am the worst of them all." I used to trip over this verse because my pride told me that surely I was not the worst sinner. I didn't think I was that bad of a person. Now, I embrace that verse with gladness because I can see how sinful I really am. I am grateful that God still loves me, despite all my failures. I am utterly unworthy of the relentless love of God.

More of him, less of me.

More of his glory, less glory for me.

More love for him, less love for me.

More devotion to him, less devotion to me.

I have learned that, as a believer, I must pursue humility on a daily basis.

Humility is counter-cultural and goes against every other message the world gives, and therefore, it takes tremendous effort. But it's worth the effort because humility is the key to preventing spiritual blindness. Humility doesn't happen by itself, but pride does!

Practically, I have found that one of the best ways to pursue humility is to read the Word. The Bible is the best resource available for discovering the breadth of God's majesty and for understanding my depravity. There is nothing that can take its place. In addition, I begin each day on my knees, surrendering to God in prayer and asking him to mold me, fill me with his Spirit, and guide my steps. This places me in the humble position to do his will and not my own.

Not a very fancy solution, I know. But these two things work in a mighty way. They are the biggest difference makers in my life – resulting in going from blindness to sight.

Dear Friends, Do you have eyes that see? Can your heart and soul see the treasure that is God and his Son? Don't let spiritual blindness steal your inheritance! Humble yourself and truly see his goodness.

In the words of one of my favorite hymns:

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me

I once was lost, but now I'm found
T'was blind, but now I see.

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



COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

Parsley Pesto Pasta

Submitted by Irene Thompson, La Junta, CO



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 cloves garlic | 1/4 cup walnuts |
| 1 bunch parsley | 1/4 cup olive oil |
| 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese | 1 lb. linguini |
| 1 tablespoon chili flakes | |
| Toss together and enjoy. Serves 4-6 | |



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Wit and Wisdom

by Roxanne J. Ferguson
Think Good Thoughts



I had a friend who was a quiet, elderly lady. She lived alone, led a private life, and she liked it that way. It was always interesting to talk with her. She had her own way of looking at life and her thoughts and words were profound and concise. Towards the end of her life, she found herself in a very difficult situation for about three days. I asked her how she got through it and she said that she kept telling herself, "Think good thoughts. Think good thoughts."

We live in a time when we are being bombarded with negative thoughts and words—in the news, on social media, in the things we read, and in conversations with people. It's hard, at times, to keep good thoughts in our minds, but it is important to try. For our own well being and the well being of others, we need to think and speak words that are positive and uplifting.

I am reminded of a verse in the Bible that speaks of this. "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - think about such things...put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:8,9)

Think good thoughts.

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

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INVITATION TO TEA
by Barbara Kalkis

*Have you a tidbit you can share?
Then, come! Sit in this empty chair.
And I will pour a cup of tea
So you can tell it all to me!*

Barbara Kalkis, ©2021



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GIRLFRIEND WISDOM

DREAM of a time when everything is good and everybody is filled with JOY.

DREAM of happiness and success for yourself, your friends, and family.

DREAM of a time when our country is thriving with prosperity and appreciation.



BELIEVE in a time when everything is good and everybody is filled with JOY.


BELIEVE in true happiness and success for yourself, all our neighbors, friends and family.

BELIEVE in a time when our country is strong and thriving in every community.

REJOICE whole-heartedly for all the blessings that have come your way. Remember that goodness prevails in its own time through every challenge. **REJOICE** in all the beauty around you. The trees, sunrises and sunsets, the stars in a crystal clear night sky. **REJOICE** in the wonder of babies and small children, their innocence and sweetness. **REJOICE** in laughter as often as you can because it tickles every cell in your body for healing and perfect health.

REJOICE in life and extend love and light to yourself, your family, friends, and worldwide neighbors.

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM: My gift to you is the above magnet design as a reminder to **DREAM, BELIEVE and REJOICE!**

Joy & Blessings, 

Email your mailing address to Jody to receive your magnet:
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Playing Favorites

by Cathy Elliott



In years past, I had the privilege to play violin with our local Red Bluff Masterworks Orchestra & Chorale. We gathered each Memorial Day Weekend for a concert, honoring God, the United States of America, and the Men and Women of the Armed Forces. I always looked forward to this performance because the music was so rich and meaningful, inspiring mental fireworks of red, white, and blue—and accented with drum rolls, plus plenty of piccolo.

Before each piece, conductor Mark Franklin turned to the audience and said, "This one is my favorite." They laughed, but he meant what he said. He was right. Every rousing or heart-tugging tune celebrating our military heroes was the best.

If I had to pick a favorite, and don't hold me to this choice, it might be "This Is America." A medley of theme songs featuring the service songs of each military branch. Our mighty chorale's rendition of "The Caissons Go Rolling Along" and "Anchors Away" gave me goose bumps. Members of the audience who served in that branch or whose loved ones had done so were directed to stand and be honored when they heard their beloved tune. I saw tears stream down many proud faces and cried a few of my own.

As Memorial Day, Flag Day and July 4th approach and we ready to celebrate our freedom, I'll be remembering all my favorites again. Thankful for the spirit of sacrifice in every standing patriot. And many more heroes who could not.

© 2021 C. Elliott - Cathy Elliott is a full-time writer in California whose cozy mysteries reflect her personal interests from quilting and antique collecting to playing her fiddle with friends. She also leads music at church and cherishes time with her "grand-gems" Cathy's cozy plot-twisters include *A Stitch in Crime* released in tandem with the RERElease (previously published) of a companion book, *A Vase of Mistaken Identity*. She is also a contributing author to Guideposts' devotional books, *Every Day Jesus*, *All God's Creations* and *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books. For more information about Cathy, visit: <http://www.cathyelliottbooks.com>

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Microwave Fettuccine Alfredo for One

- 1/3 cup fettuccine noodles (dry)
- 1/3 cup water
- 1/3 cup parmesan cheese
- 2 tbsps heavy cream
- salt and pepper to taste

1. Put the pasta in a big mug.
2. Add the water and a dash of salt.



3. Cook in microwave for 4 minutes. Keep a close eye on it! If it starts to boil over, stop the microwave and stir.
4. Stir pasta and then microwave for 2 minutes.
5. Stir pasta and microwave for one more minute.
6. Add parmesan cheese and heavy cream and stir.
7. Cook in microwave for 45 seconds.
8. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Recipe by Kimspired DIY



ALONG THE PRESIDENTIAL TRAIL

Part of a series
by Jan Keller

Zachary Taylor — 12th President of the United States

The only historic sites associated with President Zachary Taylor are a roadside sign indicating Taylor's birthplace (on SR 33W between Gordonsville and Barboursville, VA); his boyhood home in Louisville, KY (which is privately owned and not open to the public); and a marble mausoleum marking his burial site in the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery in St. Matthews, KY.

Zachary Taylor was born November 24, 1784 in Virginia. Shortly after his birth his family moved to Louisville, Kentucky, where he was raised on the family's 'Springfield' plantation. Young Zachary received a basic education and grew up with a desire to join the military. When he was 22 he enlisted at the age of twenty-two and soon became an Army officer. Two years later he returned to marry Margaret Mackall Smith, and five of their six children were born at Springfield.

Much of Taylor's 40 years in the army was dedicated to policing the nation's borderlands. He gained national prominence after he won a series of major military victories during the Mexican-American War. Despite being outnumbered by Mexican forces, Taylor's defeat of General Antonio López de Santa Anna at the Battle of Buena

Vista cemented his status as an army general and military hero and prepared him for American politics.

Turning away from Whig leader and three-time presidential candidate Henry Clay, the party nominated "Old Rough and Ready" for the 1848 presidential election, hoping to imitate the same success it had with William Henry Harrison in 1840. Taylor, a political outsider, appealed to northerners as a military leader and avowed nationalist; his status as a slave owner was attractive to southern voters. Taylor ran against Democratic candidate Lewis Cass, who supported self-determination of territories over whether they would support slavery.

A new 'Free Soil Party' nominated former President Martin Van Buren, who secured just enough votes to undermine Cass and deliver the election to Taylor.

The lands acquired by the US victory of the Mexican-American War were a main issue during the Taylor presidency. Northerners and southerners sharply disagreed over whether these territories forcibly taken from Mexico should be opened to slavery. Taylor subscribed to Whig principles of legislative leadership, but he did not blindly support Whig leaders in Congress. While he attempted to remain above the political fray, Taylor personally did not support the expansion of slavery. Despite his opposition to slavery's expansion, Taylor personally remained a slave owner for the rest of his life.

Displeased with the ideas proposed by Congress, Taylor urged settlers in California and New Mexico to draft constitutions and apply for



Public Domain

statehood, therefore bypassing the territorial stage. If that solution did not work, Taylor was prepared to take decisive action. In February 1850, he held a conference with southern leaders who had threatened secession. Taylor told them that, if necessary to enforce the laws, he would personally lead the army. Persons "taken in rebellion against the Union, he would hang . . . with less reluctance than he had hanged deserters and spies in Mexico."

The debate continued to stymie territorial government officials, abolitionists, and citizens. In 1850, members of Congress labored to negotiate a grand compromise between factions. That year on the 4th of July, President Taylor participated in ceremonies at the Washington Monument. After the event, Taylor became violently sick and died on July 9, 1850. Officially he died of a gastrointestinal illness, yet almost immediately after his death, rumors abounded that Taylor was poisoned by pro-slavery Southerners, who were angry over Taylor's lack of support for slavery. Similar theories persisted into the twentieth century. A 2010 review concludes: "there is no definitive proof that Taylor was assassinated, nor would it appear that there is definitive proof that he was not." So it seems there still is no definitive answer.

After the death of Zachary Taylor, the forces of compromise triumphed, but the war Taylor had been willing to fight—the Civil War—commenced eleven years later.

Zachary Taylor Burial Site
in St. Matthews, Kentucky



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Puzzle Piece Afghan



by Kirby Gust

I designed this pattern not knowing at the time that puzzle piece print was used as a symbol for Autism awareness. I have had many requests for this pattern but have never had time to sit down and write one out. Seeing as how April is National Autism Awareness Month, I decided it was a good time to write out the pattern.

My pattern may not be the normal way to write out a crochet pattern, but it's the only way I know how as I do not crochet from patterns.

I find that 5 strands of yarn are about the maximum you want when carrying yarn for patterns, but you can use as many colours as you wish.

My pattern will make a small baby or puppy blanket, but you can add chains in increments of 20 to your chain row for each extra puzzle piece you want to add. For each additional row of puzzle pieces repeat rows 13-24.

Notes:

Chain 3 at beginning of rows counts as the first dc on each row throughout.

Pick up proper colour yarns to match puzzle pieces throughout unless otherwise stated.

Ch 103 (use your lightest colour yarn for the chain row and first puzzle piece)

Row 1: dc in the third chain from hook (counts as first dc), dc in next 19 chains leaving 2 loops on hook at last dc. *To change colours, pick up the next colour yarn by looping over hook and pulling through 2 loops on hook to finish dc (repeat this to pick up all yarns for colour changes throughout).* dc in the next 20 chains carrying the first yarn and all subsequent yarns along the backside of row and looping around it/them with every stitch. With all colours repeat dc 20 picking up new colours on 20th dc until end of chain row (5 colours in total). *Before turning make sure the yarns you are carrying are pulled snug to remove any slack = 100 dc.* Ch 3 and turn.

Row 2 Ch 3 counts as first dc. Dc into next 19 dc picking up next colour on the last dc. *with new colour dc in next 20 dc, pick up next colour on the last dc.* repeat from * to * to end of row. Ch 3 turn.

Row 3 repeat row 2

Row 4 repeat row 2

Row 5 ch 3 counts as first dc. dc in next 14 dc, pick up proper yarn colour for the next puzzle piece, *dc in next 3 dc, pickup previous colour and dc in next 2 dc. Pick up the previous colour and dc 15*. Repeat from * to * twice, matching puzzle piece colours as you go. With last puzzle piece colour dc in next 20 dc, Ch 3 turn.

Row 6 ch 3 counts as first dc. dc in the next 25 dc. *Pick up next colour and dc into next 20dc*, repeat from * to * twice. With the last puzzle piece colour dc in the next 14 dc. Ch 3 and turn.

Row 7 ch 3 counts as first dc. dc in the next 13 dc. *Pick up next colour dc into next 20 dc*, repeat from * to * twice. with last puzzle piece colour dc into next 26 dc, ch 3 turn.

Row 8 ch 3 counts as first dc. dc in next 14 dc, *pickup next puzzle piece colour and dc into next 3 dc, pickup previous colour and dc into next 2 dc, pickup previous colour and dc into the next 15 dc*, repeat from * to * twice. pick up the next puzzle piece colour and dc into the next 3 dc. Pick up the previous colour and dc into the next 2 dc. Pick up the previous colour and dc into the next 20 dc, ch 3 turn.

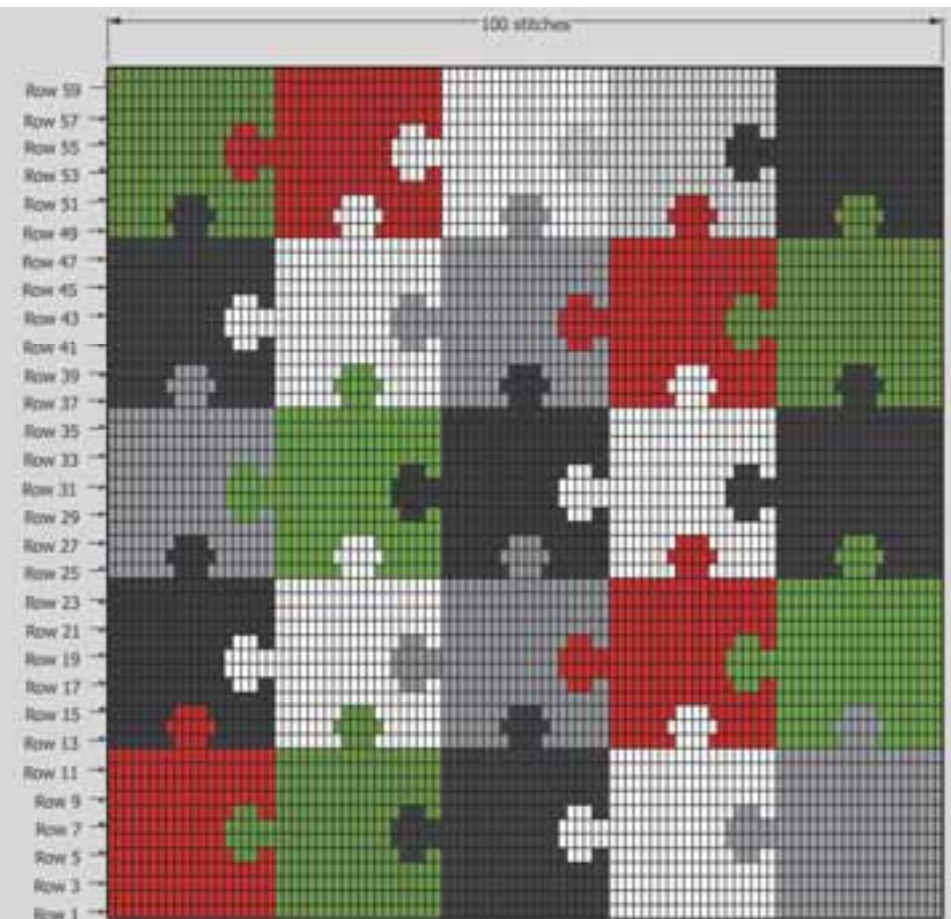
Row 9 repeat row 3

Row 10 repeat row 2

Row 11 repeat row 3

Row 12 repeat row 2 leaving 2 loops on hook to change colours. Pick up a new colour ch 3 turn.

Row 13 ch 3 counts as first dc. dc in next 7 dc, pick up yarn colour to match puzzle piece directly below and dc in next 4 dc, pickup previous yarn colour and dc in next 8 dc. *Pick up a new colour and dc in next 8 dc, pick up colour



Kirby Gust is a self-taught crocheter and woodworker. He has been designing furniture and crochet patterns for over 20 years. Kirby and Colleen Gust are publishers of the Manitoba & Saskatchewan Country Register.

Happy Mother's Day!

Margaret 'Peggy' Mackall Taylor

by Jan Keller

Margaret Mackall Smith Taylor was like the phantom of the White House. Hardly anyone ever saw her and she refused to sit for an official portrait or for a photograph. She opted not to transfer her responsibilities to her daughter, Mary Elizabeth 'Betty' Taylor Bliss.

Betty Taylor Bliss was twenty-four and newly married when her father became President of the United States. Betty Taylor Bliss immediately assumed her mother's obligations as presidential hostess. When President James K. Polk invited the president-elect and his wife to dinner at the White House, Betty went in her mother's place and the press focused on her youthful and lively daughter, who assumed her mother's place at all official functions.



Betty Taylor Bliss

Despite her absence at White House events, Margaret Taylor still exerted her influence as a presidential spouse. In spite of her dislike of pomp and protocol and her refusal to perform official hostess duties, Margaret did enjoy entertaining friends and relatives in the family's private quarters and enjoyed listening to her husband's political discussions. She did attend church services almost every day near the White House and made a couple of rare public appearances when she welcomed a Sunday school group to the White House and also when she accepted a life membership in the American Sunday School Union.

Yet for Americans who were accustomed to seeing and hearing about the President's wife on a regular basis, Margaret Taylor's refusal to assume her expected social role was baffling. Instead of embarrassment or cruelty, as one might expect, it was love and gratitude that kept Margaret Taylor out of the public eye. President Zachary Taylor expressed no resentment for his wife's refusal to assume the role of presidential spouse. It seems that he felt she had done enough, having followed him to rustic military forts scattered throughout North America for much of their married life. Indeed, he once commented, "My wife was as much of a soldier as I was."

Even more than the hardships she endured in the western wilderness, Margaret Taylor's greatest challenge was surviving her husband's death. Margaret couldn't stand or walk without support after his passing and she remained upstairs in the family quarters while her husband's funeral went on downstairs in the East Room. Margaret moved out of the White House that evening and two weeks later she left Washington forever.

Zachary Taylor's Deviled Crabmeat on Shells

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1lb. crab meat, well picked | 1/4 lb. butter, melted |
| 12 salted crackers, crushed | 1 tablespoon mayonnaise |
| 1 egg, beaten | 1/4 teaspoon dry mustard |
| 1 teaspoon fresh parsley, minced | 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce |
| 3 tablespoons dry sherry | 3 tablespoons dry sherry |
| Salt and pepper to taste | Parsley and lemon wedges, for garnish |

Clean and butter 6 to 8 large crab backs or shallow shells or ramekin ovenware. Over the cracker crumbs, pour the melted butter, reserving some crumbs for sprinkling over the top of the crabs. Add mayonnaise that has been beaten together with the egg, seasonings, and sherry. Mix in crab meat lightly with fork to prevent breaking the pieces. Fill the shells generously with the mixture but do not pack down. Sprinkle with the remaining crumbs and bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes. Serve at once with sprigs of parsley and lemon wedges on the side.

Kentucky Tea Cakes

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/2 cup butter (1 stick) | 1 1/2 cups sugar |
| 3 eggs | 4 tablespoons white wine |
| Juice and rind of 1/2 lemon | 3 cups flour |

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar. In a small bowl, beat eggs until they are light and frothy. Add beaten eggs to creamed mixture and mix well. Add wine, lemon juice and rind. Add flour and mix. Roll the dough evenly on a floured surface. Cut the dough in rounds and place on a greased cookie sheet. Bake 6 to 8 minutes until lightly browned. Cool on a rack. Yield: 2 dozen tea cakes.



Margaret Mackall Taylor

A Story of Letters

by Kerri Habben Bosman

I want to tell you about my friend, Harold.

We were both writers. He reviewed books, while I focused on creative nonfiction and poetry. Our correspondence included drafts of our work, and we wrote one another on notebook paper. We never met in person, but we wrote weekly letters for 13 years from 2003 until his passing in 2016.

Our friendship reaches back to 1929. In January that year, my grandmother's brother, my Uncle Henry, was working in a New York City bank vault. He and four coworkers contracted tuberculosis. It was uncertain whether or not they would survive. The bank provided for them by sending them to Loomis Sanitarium in Liberty, NY. At the same time, Harold's father worked in the kitchen there.

While at Loomis for two years, Uncle Henry compiled a photograph album which presents a detailed view of life there. It shows the patients on sleeping porches, doctors, nurses, buildings, and pastoral surroundings. There is a picture of the kitchen staff with Harold's father in it.

My family and I found the album after Uncle Henry died in 1992. It enchanted and compelled me. My parents and I visited the now-shuttered sanitarium grounds in 1997. I researched extensively about Loomis off and on for years.

Harold responded to a 2002 magazine query I placed. His first letter arrived in 2003 on July 27, which would have been Uncle Henry's 98th birthday.

Harold lived in Liberty and had for most of his life. He was born a few years after Uncle Henry was at Loomis. His letters had their own charm with notes in the margin. He would use decades-old envelopes from his uncle's general store. Every letter was folded into a bit of rectangular origami. However, mostly Harold became my friend.

At a pivotal time, he and a memory of Uncle Henry would remind me of my better self when I needed that most.

In the autumn of 2010, I experienced a rare creative crisis that I now gently call my "Picasso Blue Period." For whatever reason, all of the expectations I'd imposed upon myself as a younger writer landed upon me. I couldn't appreciate the successes I'd achieved; all I felt were the "should haves."

I "should have" published a book. It "should have" been well-received. I "should have" another book by now. A deep and abiding ache buried my usual positivity. It suddenly deeply hurt to see what I had not become.

I decided to stop writing.

The following memory permeated the first layer of my self-absorption:

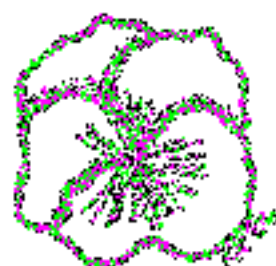
I was 12 years old when I fully realized I was a writer. For my grandmother's birthday present, I wrote some poems and an essay and put them together in a fabric-covered folder. Except that when she began to read, I fled from the room where my family was gathered. My stomach suddenly ached, and my head began to pound. I simply couldn't be a witness to my words being devoured.

Uncle Henry found me in a curled-up ball on the sofa in the den, crushing the life from an innocent throw pillow. He was on his way to see my aunt at the nursing home for his daily visit. He paused at my side, and his eyes smiled as he patted my hand. "I'll tell Aunt Wilma," he said, "that you are going to be a writer."

However, it was Harold who fully reversed my decision. Every letter he ever wrote to me ended with two words: "Keep writing."

When I couldn't tell him that I was giving up, I had to do just that. I kept writing. I wonder now how I ever thought I could stop.

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



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Can I Reuse Potting Soil?

As the weather cools and flowers fade away it's time to clean up and clean out. Once you've pulled all the plants out of the containers you are left with a pot of old dirt! This soil worked hard all summer to give you beautiful flowers and/or vegetables. Nutrients in the dirt are leached out by rain and watering as well as by the plants themselves. Pests, diseases and weeds may be living in the old soil as well. Should you get rid of the old tired soil with the dead and faded plants you've pulled out? If

your plants had any diseases, then yes! Never reuse soil that had diseases the year before. But replacing all the soil in all the pots and containers can be quite expensive. Especially if you have a lot of pots like me! So the question is asked, "Can I reuse my old potting soil year to year?"

Yes! You can most definitely reuse your potting soil instead of tossing it.

Taking just a few simple steps to rejuvenate your old soil will lead to successful flowers and plants! One common step some people like to do is sterilizing the old soil. Heat treating the soil will remove any pathogens or insects living in the soil ready to wreck this year's plants. To treat the soil, place it into black garbage bags. Then place the garbage bags into clear storage bins and set the bins in the bright hot sun. A hot car on a hot day will expedite the process! The dirt just needs to be over 120° for 3 minutes. This heat treating will not only kill off any insects and their eggs, it should also kill off any diseases you may not know about.

Living in cold climates gives you the option of freezing the soil! Freezing temperatures will make it nearly impossible for adult insects, their babies and their eggs to live. However, freezing may not always work with diseases and viruses. Getting rid of old soil that had diseased plants the year before will be your safest option.

Once you've sterilized the soil you will need to replenish it's nutrients. Make sure you've removed all dead leaves and old roots. You also want to break up the soil and "fluff" it. Compact soil is hard for roots to grow through and therefore will absorb less nutrients. Some people like to just mix their old soil 50/50 with new potting soil. This usually works well.

Potting mixes are a mixture of peat, vermiculite (those little white balls that aid in aeration and water/nutrient absorption) and compost. Another option for bring nutrients back to your old soil is to mix it with some new potting mix, a vermiculite such as worm castings and your choice of a compost. Once you have everything fluffed and mixed together don't forget to mix in a slow release fertilizer such as Osmocote.

That's it! Your old soil has been given new life and you are now ready to use your soil for another year!

How to Plant a Window Flower Box

NE: Carefully select flowers and plants for your window box.

- Select plants that grow to your lighting. Full sun, part sun/part shade, or full shade?
- Note the bloom time. Most annuals bloom throughout the summer, however, if you choose a perennial, note when they bloom.
- Select various plant sizes and characteristics. You'll want plants that will trail over the front of the container, some that are medium height, and some that are taller.
- Mixing it up between flowers and foliage adds more interest and contrast.

WO: Choose a good potting mix. You definitely want to use a potting mix verses soil. Potting mixes tend to be lighter so this will help with the weight on the window boxes. It's best to choose one that has some moisture retention agent added to it. Or you can purchase a water storing element. Window boxes and hanging baskets tend to dry out much faster than pots and beds.

HREE: Add a slow release fertilizer to the soil like Osmocote. Add the correct amount of fertilizer right to the soil. There is no need to mix it in!

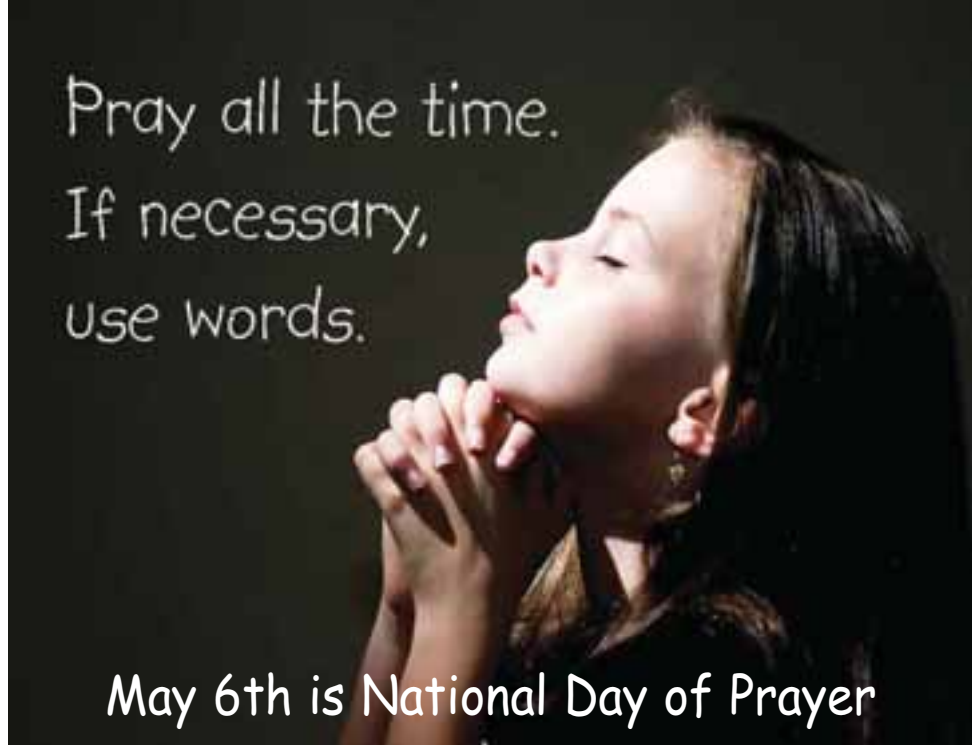
OUR: It's time to plant!

- It's best to lay out the plants in the box as to make sure you have good spacing.
- start with the tall plants/flowers in the back of the box.
- Move forward to the medium sized plants/flowers.
- Finish up with the trailing plants/flowers.
- Most flowers and plants come with planting directions for spacing. I disregard most of these suggestions! I've been known to plant them side by side as I want my boxes to be full!
- Make sure to loosen the root balls. Especially if they are root bound. Just break the root balls up some even tearing them a bit so they'll go into the new soil.
- Now put the flowers and plants into the dirt! Make sure to fully cover the root ball, but don't cover it too much so you're covering the stem which can cause the stem to rot!
- Make sure the soil level in the box is about 1/2" to 1" below the box edge otherwise the water will just run off and not get absorbed into the soil.

IVE: Water and enjoy! You'll want to water newly planted flower boxes pretty regularly and not drown them. It takes a little bit for the soil to get fully moistened in a new pot. Once the pot is established you'll be able to judge the watering needed.






Happy Mother's and Father's Day!



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Put a plate in the freezer. Use a wide knife or spreader to cut into ice cream to make a 3/4" patty about the same size as cookie. Place it on underside of cookie and mold gently with thumbs. Add top cookie & press down gently. As each is done, put into freezer. When all are frozen, stack into a covered bowl. If you like, you can roll edges in chopped nuts, toasted coconut, fresh coffee grounds, or crushed candy.

For more summer fun, visit me at www.susanbranch.com