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May/June 2022

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Minnesota's Guide to Specialty Shopping & Fun Events



Kim Keller, Publisher

2920 144th Ave. NE

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kim@countryregisterofminnesota.com

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MJ22

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

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Months May/June 2022

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Deadline For the July/August 2022 Edition is June 10th!

And the Winner Are...

Debe Pearson of Harris, MN won a \$25 gift certificate! Diane says *The Cutting Edge Quilt Shop* in Rush City, MN is her favorite shop because "Sue and her staff are always willing to help you with a smile on their faces!"

Congratulations!

Happy Father's Day

City Listing

Blue Earth.....	16	New Richmond, WI.....	20
Cook.....	8	New Ulm.....	13
Cloquet.....	6	Oklee.....	10
Duluth.....	6&7	Owatonna.....	14
Eagan.....	24	Richmond.....	12
Eden Valley.....	11	Rush City.....	4
Elk River.....	23	Sandstone.....	4
Fergus Falls.....	10	Sherburn.....	17
Hinckley.....	4	South Haven.....	11
International Falls.....	8	Spring Lake Park.....	22
Kiester.....	17	St. Cloud.....	12
Lake City.....	20	St. Peter.....	14
Lone Rock, IA.....	18	Waseca.....	14
Luverne.....	15	Wells.....	16&17
Madison, WI.....	19	White Bear Lake.....	24
Madison County, IA.....	18	Windom.....	15
Menomonie, WI.....	20	Winona.....	20
McGregor.....	5	Wabasha.....	20
New Prague.....	23	Worthington.....	15



Special Events

May	
7.....	Fashion Show - Lost and Found - Eden Valley
7.....	Opening Day - Country Craft Shed - Duluth
12-14.....	Fishing Opener Party - Quilted Dog - Cloquet
19-21.....	Anniversary Sale - Quilter's Cottage - Kiester
28-30.....	Plant Sale - Country Craft Shed - Duluth
June	
1-4.....	Airing of the Quilts - Madison County, IA - See ad page 18
1-30.....	Wisconsin Quilt Shop Hop - See ad page 19
2-4.....	Quilt Shop Grand Opening - Quilted Steeple - Lone Rock, IA
16-18.....	Minnesota Quilter's Quilt Show and Conference - St. Cloud
23-25.....	Valley Days - Lost and Found - Eden Valley

Slices of Life: Special Stuff

by Sherry Osland

A person naturally seems to accumulate a lifetime of 'special stuff' and yet can never guess the memories of the special things that will stand out more than others down through the years. Amongst friends, I've had the random occasion to tell about one of my souvenirs from the time I spent teaching in Perth, West Australia and my sperm whale's tooth! Yes, a tooth, of all things! I'm not sure why it comes up, or why it has become one of the more talked about souvenirs of mine. Maybe because it is such an unlikely thing to have. For all that I've shared about it, I've never ever even thought about looking for it. I just knew it was somewhere in all that stuff packed up before we moved into this house twenty years ago. I've never been up for the search it would take to find it.

With this background, imagine my surprise when one day I opened one of the boxes in the basement—and on that day not so long ago, there—in a red-lidded, Strawberry Jam Bear Jar were my left-over Australian coins, my 3" spring-loaded kangaroo toy, and...my 4" long whale's tooth! Weird and strange probably, but I was overjoyed. I smile now thinking about finding it. Plus, it's sitting on the desk next to my computer. In case you're wondering what I'm going to do with it from here, I have no idea! The thing I think of is to someday share it with my grandkids. When I hold it, I marvel at its untold story. Perhaps when I put it in their hands, they'll feel the wonder of it too. Hopefully, they'll imagine the ocean where the whale lived, the thousands of miles it traveled, and the wild and wonderful world it saw. I just know it's not going back in a box for another 20 years. I will hope to pass it on to become part of someone else's 'special stuff'.



Speaking of all my 'special stuff,' I am so very thankful that my children do want my quilts. In addition, one day, out of the blue, my daughter called and said, "Mom, there's one thing of yours I do want."

I said, "What?"

"Your Bible."

After a chuckle I replied "Do you know how many times your name is written in the margins?"

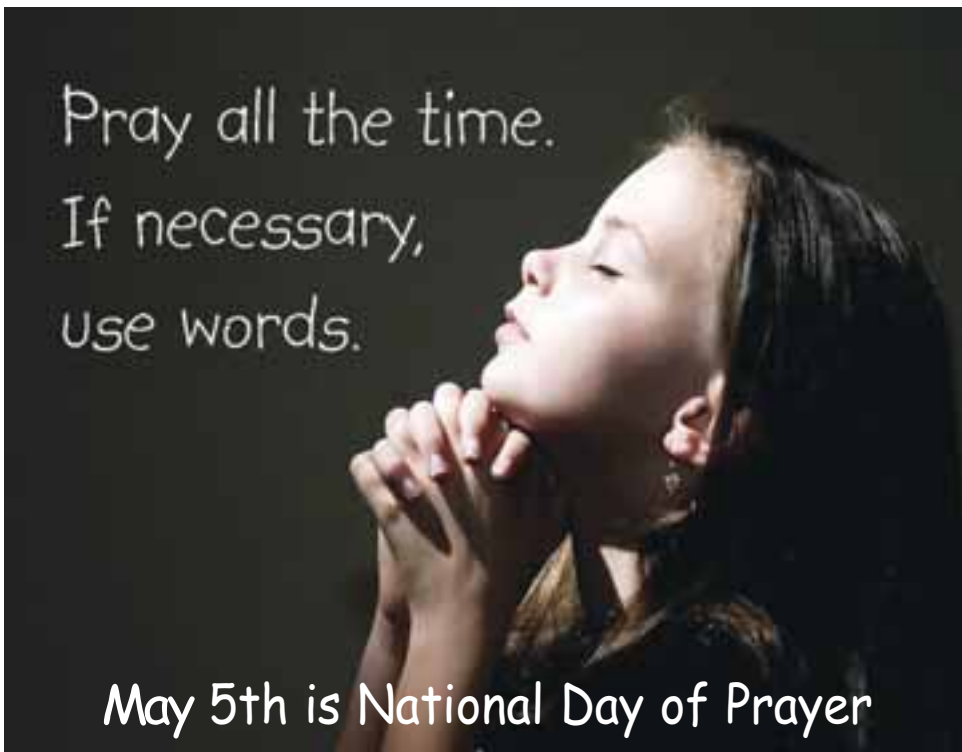
Ahhh, be still my heart! Now that indeed is 'Special Stuff'!

Written by Sherry Osland of Praise Works Quilting in Abilene, formerly writing the *Quilts That Redeem* column for *The Country Register*. For examples of quilting (as well as pictures of Hand-braided rugs and Quilts That Redeem books, for sale) go to: facebook.com/praiseworksquilting. Contact information: sherryo51@hotmail.com or 785-263-5528.



Pray all the time.
If necessary,
use words.

May 5th is National Day of Prayer





Ann's Lovin' You

by Ann Stewart

What is New is Old



When I was in third grade, my grandpa told me an account quite unlike his usual bedtime stories and parables. Though it could have begun *Once upon a time in a faraway land*, this narrative was far from any fairy tale.

Sitting beside my bed, speaking in his thick German-Russian accent, Grandpa told me about Moscow in 1929. And most surprisingly? His arrest, and a dangerous prison. "Lubjanka." He whispered as if I could understand the secret. I was both horrified and ashamed that my grandfather was a criminal, thinking he must have done something terrible to deserve such punishment. And what about Grandma? At the time, she was almost nine months pregnant and hurried off to a mother/baby home for safety.

If Grandpa was a Russian, that was bad. It was 1969 and the Cold War. We were the good guys and Communist Russia the bad guys. It was a time of Cuban missiles and China and Communism. We couldn't be Russian. I would explain to my friends that my grandparents were Germans who lived in Russia and really, they were Americans. After all, wasn't my grandpa so proud to become a citizen of this country that he was naturalized the very day he was eligible?

Worse yet? In their escape, they left a child behind.

This was not the Grandpa and Grandma that I knew who farmed near the Washington/Canadian border and welcomed friends and family with borscht and brown bread for weekends in the country. My grandparents picnicked with us at Birch Bay, roasting hotdogs on the beach, drinking juice pressed from the raspberries encircling my grandmother's large vegetable garden. I assumed the most daring thing my grandma had ever done was ride the Ferris wheel with us at the Birch Bay amusement park. A quiet, soft-spoken, and generous woman who, each time we left, handed us carefully packaged bags of nuts and candies for our two-hour drive home. I couldn't comprehend then about the significance my grandmother felt about goodbyes.

Years later, I began interviewing my grandparents, reading each chapter to my eager listeners. "Ya, dahts just vaht happent," they would say, accepting my version, as a record of their world, or reading and editing approval or corrections.

I had a first draft with a beginning and an end, but I was young and there was something missing. I sent it to publishers and editors and was told, "I would encourage you to take time, possibly several years to write this biography. The world is full of 'lightweight' biographies explaining lives that are famous, or that have some adversity, or whatever—and they are nothing more than that. I am not asking for some book that will be immortal but passionate, exciting, something that stirs my blood, something with a world view, something like Tolstoy who understood that personal fates were tied up with historical moments."

I took time to marry and have children and try to grasp what it would mean to leave one behind. I took time to write two novels, 'Ann's Lovin' Ewe' for *The Country Register*, and three Bible studies. Time meant advanced technology and social media and connections with great researchers. And time meant that my grandparents' story came full circle.

Indeed, my family's personal fate was tied up with historical moments. My grandparents, who lived in the Crimea, were victims of a Soviet government led by Lenin and Stalin and bent on destroying the German Mennonites. The Crimea, refugees, civil wars, revolutions, immigration, and the pandemic would all become too personal a hundred years after that bedtime story as Russia, led by Putin, once again is determined on wiping out its own neighbors and people.

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Country Register Recipe Exchange

Creamy Chicken Noodle Stew

submitted by Shirley Ross

1/3 cup butter

1 medium carrot, shredded

1 celery rib, chopped fine

1/3 cup flour

1 carton (32oz) chicken broth

1/2 cup half and half cream

1/2 cup 2% milk

1 cup uncooked noodles

2 cups cubed cooked chicken

1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

1/4 tsp pepper

1/8 tsp salt

In a large saucepan, heat butter over medium heat. Saute carrot and celery until tender, about 3-5 minutes. Stir in flour until blended. Gradually add broth, cream and milk. Bring to a slow boil, stirring constantly. Cook and stir until thickened, about 1-2 minutes. Stir in noodles. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered until noodles are al dente, 7-10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add remaining ingredients and heat through and cheese is melted.



McGregor

“O, Tornado”

by Lila Liebl, a reader of The Country Register

It was a beautiful December 15, 2021 day, a balmy 61 degrees; you felt alive.
 Then came evening and time to tone down the lights
 But “Hark” tornado warnings
 It’s coming, it’s coming
 As I sit on the edge of my seat!
 Oh the electricity went off, bad sign
 Thunder and lighting, heavy rain, and oh the wind blowth. It blowth for thee!
 And then it hit and hit hard, ready or not, here I come!
 BOOM like a cannon, glass shattering, oh so windy
 I stood in the living room with my lantern light. I prayed and prayed!
 Then the wind stopped, and it was oh so cold. Window broken and a hole in
 the side of the house. A beam from the barn on this farm site came into the
 house.
 Then I trembled, trembled trying to call my daughter, Sheila.
 Calm, what’s that? That’s not going to happen here.
 I am alive shouting from the rooftops - but what’s next?
 Day 2 - Then reality set in. The damage, destruction, you only see pictures on
 TV. But it was my picture!
 I have to pack up my things and move, but move where?
 Take two steps back, breathe and Thank God I am alive!
 It’s only a house that’s replaceable, I am not replaceable!
 God Bless!

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Use It Up? I’m Trying!

by Barbara Polston

Some quilters save everything. Even the tiniest scrap of fabric is saved because it will be used “someday.”

There always seems to be a search for patterns that will use up scraps. These are marketed as “scrap busters.” Even after making these projects, quilters lament their scrap bin remains full. I’ve never been a scrap saver. But I do save selvages. Selvages are the tightly woven bits of fabric that appear on either end of the fabric width.



Because they are more tightly woven and often shrink more when washed, these are generally cut off and tossed.

Selvages are fun. Oftentimes the manufacturer puts colored dots, one for every color appearing in the fabric, along the edge. Sometimes, instead of dots, there are designs that match the theme of the fabric—for example, bunnies on a juvenile print. Sometimes there’s an eyelash edge of fringe.

At first, I saved selvages sorted by hot and cool colors. With these, I designed and made table runners, wall quilts and more. At one point, wanting to increase my available selvages, I went through my entire fabric collection and trimmed them all. As the years have gone by, every time I cut into a new swath of fabric, off came the selvaige and it went into its appropriate tub. Those tubs were getting quite crammed.

One of my friends posts photos of quilts on her Facebook page every day. These are culled from various sites and she gives credit to the makers using as much information as possible. She posted a quilt made with selvages. No pattern was available, but I knew I could figure it out. “I bet I have enough selvages to make this quilt,” I posted back.

Before I could get to the project, there was a move. Wanting to save space, my two sorted selvages tubs were combined into one much larger. The tub was quite full. Able to start the project, I thought, “This will really make a dent in my selvages!”

The blocks measure 20 X 20 inches and each has two arrows created from selvages. Borders will be made from selvages, too. All of the blocks are done and... here’s the mystery...my selvaige tub is still full! I’m sure there’s a scientific explanation for this, but I prefer to think of it as magic.

PRAISING ALL FARMERS

by Lesley R. Nuttall

Today’s work is all done, and the farmer is tired.
 The wood has been chopped, and the furnace is fired.
 The cows have been milked and are currently bedded.
 The chickens have roosted; and to bed the farmer is headed.

He checks on the children, who are fast asleep.
 Joining his wife, he slips into a sleep—so deep.
 He knows that work on a farm is never done.
 He needs his sleep, as he will soon be up with the rising sun.

At 5 a.m., he’s up and off to the stables.
 His wife makes the coffee and sets the table.
 The rooster belts out his, cock-a-doodle-do,
 and there’s a few moos from the cows, too!

He waters the horses and cleans out the stalls.
 More straw is needed from the loft; he watches as it falls.
 There’s still eggs to gather, and chickens to feed,
 and there’s plowing to be done, and land to seed.

Smelling the aroma of bacon and eggs in the air,
 he saunters back to the farmhouse, whistling, so rare.
 He hugs the children and kisses his wife,
 saying ‘thanks’ to God for his wonderful life!

Farmers work so hard to put food on our table.
 Their wives work alongside, whenever they are able.
 We should all “thank God” for what these people do,
 as we sit at our own table, enjoying a bowl of beef stew.

© Lesley is the Author of Secrets of Party Planning, and enjoys writing Poetry.
 She lives in Thunder Bay, ON, Canada with her husband of 60 years.



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Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Every spring, as soon as the weather gets warm, the urge to work the soil and plant a garden can be difficult to suppress.

Most gardeners carefully map out their plot with specific places appointed to each plant variety. By planning the space, each the plant can be assured of adequate sun and water to meet their specific needs.

Not all gardeners enjoy growing the same things. Some people love radishes and hate zucchini, while the neighbor across the street may plant only corn. On down the block, potatoes, rhubarb, and flowers are the primary crops. Some grow a little of everything just to watch the growth whether or not everything is eaten or enjoyed.

A good 'farmer' tries to plant after danger of damaging frost is past and the ground is cultivated and kept loose to allow for maximum root development. If there is a competing weed sapping nourishment from the desired tender young sprout, the weed is quickly pulled.

Faith and patience are key ingredients for gardeners. Anyone who places a shriveled, dried and dead-appearing seed in the ground, covers it over with soil and patiently waits for it to grow and produce a yield must possess faith.

The radish is a quick producer. It can be planted early in the spring because it is tolerant rather than tender when exposed to unpredictable brisk spring weather.

Tomatoes illustrate a contrasting temperament. They're planted later than radishes and often covered and protected by miniature hot hat mini- greenhouses. Tomatoes grow throughout the summer and, just when they're at the height of production, usually suffer a devastating freeze and are done for.

Nature provides an infinite variety of flowers, plants, and vegetables; each displaying its own unique personality, color, and goodness at the appropriate time. The corn stalk, even if nagged, can't and won't produce a rutabaga or turnip.

The bright bloom of a tulip is often surrounded by the unmelted remains of a spring snow. But soon to follow is the brilliant display produced by the lilac bushes. The tulip and lilac bloom only once each season—while pansies, geraniums and petunias provide a showy splash of color all summer long.

Plants are unquestioningly enjoyed for their own unique personality and contribution; yet we often fail to allow people the same consideration.

Healthy plants are like happy, well-adjusted people. Both thrive best when allowed to develop at their own pace and according to their individual nature.




©2022 Jan Keller No reprint without permission Jan shares other pieces of her life in her books, *Pieces From My Crazy Quilt*, and *The Tie That Binds*. These books can be ordered by calling 719-749-9797, or writing: Black Sheep Books, 11250 Glen Canyon Drive, Peyton, CO 80831

Country Register Recipe Exchange

Popcorn Cake


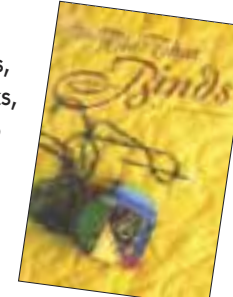
submitted by Lila Liebl



6-8 qts popped corn	1/4 lb. peanuts
1 lb. marshmallows	1 lb. small gumdrops
1/2 cup salad oil	1 lb. M&Ms (optional)
1/2 cup butter	

Pop popcorn and keep warm in oven. Meet the marshmallows, salad oil and butter. Add gumdrops, peanuts and M&Ms to popcorn and stir into marshmallow mixture. Stir quickly with buttered wooden spoon. Press firmly into a well buttered bundt pan. Refrigerate for 30 minutes or more before removing from pan. (At Christmas time, use red and green gumdrops!)

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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.

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Christmas Sale: Nov 25-26-27

Closed the month of August

Oreo Cookie Mug Cake

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup All-Purpose Flour
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 3 tbsp milk
- 3 tbsp melted butter
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp crushed Oreos

Directions:

1. Whisk together milk, butter, sugar and vanilla extract in a bowl.
2. Blend in flour and baking powder until smooth.
3. Fold in crushed Oreos.
4. Pour the batter into a mug.
5. Microwave for 1-2 minutes.



Photo by Create Yum

Recipe by Create Yum

Where in Minnesota?

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

(Answer on page 20 of this issue)



Scatter Kindness



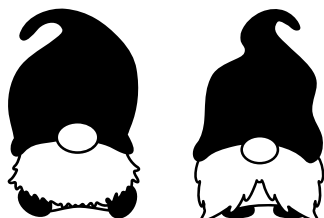
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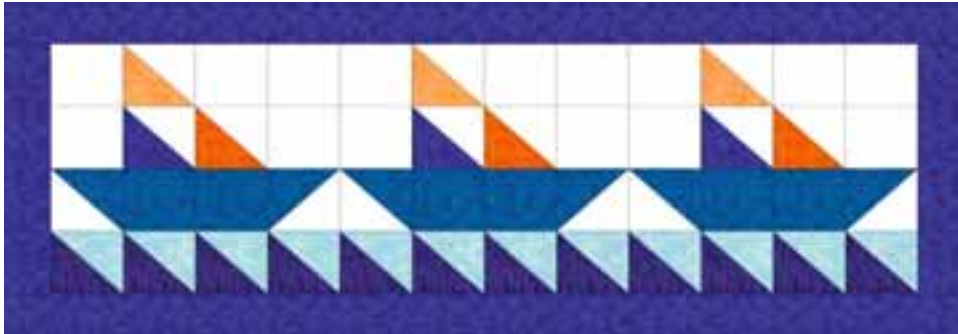
Cook • International Falls



Sleeping
Cat
Creations

Summer Sailboats Table Runner

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



Materials Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

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Happy Mother's Day

Collect Something? There's a Club for That!

By Ed Kindle



There is a myriad of things to collect. If someone made more than one of an item, you can bet there is a collection of them somewhere. I have about 5 different collections going at any one time, much to the chagrin of my family members. My children are especially hopeful that I dispose of my collections before I shuffle

off this mortal coil. I am making no guarantees though; I like all my cool stuff.

Collectibles come in all shapes and sizes. Antique to modern, such as antique milk separators or Boyd's Bears. Hand crafted to mass produced like wooden dough bowls to Zippo lighters, or small like thimbles to large like John Deere tractors. I thought I would take this column and highlight some various collectibles and provide some internet websites that would be a good introduction to, and of interest to my readers.

Once the collecting bug bites, it can bite hard. Don't say you weren't warned. It can take over your life, but in a fun way. However, one of the hazards to collecting things such as salt and pepper shakers, is that once people know you collect something, that's all anyone buys you for birthday and Christmas presents. Speaking of salt & Pepper shakers...

Salt & Pepper shakers can be great fun to collect. They come in an amazing number of forms and don't take up much room, that is until you acquire a couple hundred sets. <https://www.saltandpepperclub.com>

Many people enjoy collecting Coca Cola memorabilia. I prefer the antique Coke items, but they have been around so long, that there is a huge range of items to choose from between true antiques and the collectible mass produced items. <https://www.coca-colacompany.com/stories/collectors-club>

If pocket knives are your thing, especially Case knives, you can find information online at the Case Collectors Club. I am sure most knife manufacturers have dedicated clubs as well. <https://www.casecollectorsclub.com/>

Stamps have cycled in and out of favor for years, but there are still many folks who enjoy the history that surround stamps. Philately can be a very rewarding hobby and one that doesn't take up much room. <https://stamps.org/Local-Clubs>

The Fliptop Pezervation Society caught my eye while browsing. What can that be you ask? Well Pez candy dispensers of course. Pez are fun character shaped candy dispensers that when you flip the head back a tiny piece of candy comes out. Having being invented in 1927 you can be sure there are many to find and collect and some are quite valuable. <http://pezcollectorsclub.com>

Button, button, who's got the button? – Well if you do, you can find the National Button Society here: <https://www.nationalbuttonociety.org>

Model Trains have always been popular for children and many dads have created elaborate layouts for the "kids" without having to admit they were having just as much fun or more. Check your local area for train clubs too.

For Lionel trains you can see their club here, <https://www.lionelcollectors.org/>. For general modeling, check out <http://www.modeltrainclub.org/>

If vacuum cleaners are your passion, then you will want to check out this club. The great thing about vacuum cleaners is you can find them pretty inexpensively at yard sales, and flea markets. Just be warned that your family and friends might think it a bit wacky. <http://www.vacuumcleanercollectorsclub.org>

Gi Joe was a staple in most men's youth. I had my share and if my mother had not given them away, I might have made a small fortune. (I finally found my space capsule to go with my space collection and it was, well, let's say it cost more now than when I had it as a kid.) <http://www.gijoeclub.com/forums>

Some clubs are a group of fans that have gotten together to create an online website as a place for members to communicate and share finds, as well as buy and sell their passion. Other sites are provided or organized by the actual manufacturer of the collectible. One of the latter is the Hot Wheels Collector's Club by Mattel. <https://hotwheelscollectors.mattel.com/shop>

If you have some serious space and some extra funds laying around (lots of extra funds), maybe tractors are your thing. Just about every make of tractor has a collectors club and tractor collectors are some of the most devoted and brand loyal collectors

out there, sometimes even bordering on fanatical! Here is the International Harvester Club's page. <http://nationalihcollectors.com>

I like collections that are a bit quirky and not all that common. Matchbook collecting has been around for many years. I imagine it is getting more difficult as time goes on as fewer and fewer businesses give out matchbooks, but at one time it was a staple advertising tool. <http://www.matchcover.org>

There are many collector clubs for toys. One brand of toys that I think goes unnoticed are Fisher Price Toys. Because of the amazing quantity of toys produced, good examples should be relatively inexpensive. When you get to the older more rare items is when the challenges and the costs rise. <http://fpclub.org>

People have been collecting banks as long as they have been collecting money! Banks were given out as advertising pieces, decorative items, premiums and prizes and even as commemoratives. Buildings, figures, cars, animals, anything you might think of, they probably made a still bank out of, and in as many different materials too! <http://stillbankclub.com>

I have tried to give a small idea of the range of clubs out there. The internet is an amazing way to connect with people who share your passion. I can't even imagine how folks found each other 30 years ago! If you are looking for something to collect, look around and you might find something that interests you. Check out antique stores, flea markets, yard sales and online markets to get collecting ideas. Once you settle on a collection, I bet you will find a club somewhere made up of people who share your interest and are happy to share their knowledge and experience with a new collector. Collecting also allows you to become an expert on what you collect.

Have fun. The excitement and the challenge are in the chase!

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Hello May! I'm Glad You're Here!

by Barbara Kalkis

Spring! Really, is there a more glorious time of year? Everything about the season captures the energy of it all. Seemingly dead trees suddenly sprout fuzzy, lime-green, perfectly formed baby leaves. Blades of grass perk up. Healthy dandelions in golden glory color every corner of the yard—despite the fact that they had been weeded out just one year earlier.

Their color almost out-performs even the forsythia branches my sisters and I used to gather into bouquets and keep until the blooms fell off and green leaves and roots appeared. My mother always insisted on having a bouquet as soon as the snows diminished. Our first bouquets were pussy willows which hinted winter was melting away as fast as the icicles on the house. But the forsythias really heralded spring.

The calendar and the moon in its equinox may say spring begins in March, but it always seems to me that spring really arrives in May. Maybe it's because the birds finally complete their nests and get busy raising their hatchlings. Or because the lilacs are fully in bloom and perfuming the air. Or because Nature seems to settle down and become the best days of the season.



MOM'S SPRING LESSONS

Mostly, I think it's because my mother went into an energy-overdrive in May. While our home was always clean, May was her chosen time to scrutinize the house and make changes. Every year, the kitchen was wallpapered in a new color scheme with curtains to match. I can recall events based on the years the kitchen was shades of beige (formal and sedate); aqua (trendy and fun); yellow (bland and short-lived); multi-colored (too much fun and also short-lived).

Throughout winter, we all studied my mother's extensive collection of catalogs and magazines, seeking trends for everything—from clothing styles, to decorating ideas, to gardening tips. In the spring, we'd review our winter choices and decide which to adopt and which to drop. Then we'd get busy. My sisters and I all knew how to sew our own clothing. I made A-line skirts one year until I never wanted to see one again. We took trips to nurseries and came home with flats of pansies (my favorites), snapdragons, marigolds, tomatoes, peppers—whatever took her fancy and ours. After a day at school, we would all pitch in to plant the gardens that surrounded our house. It was a family project that we all enjoyed, I think because it gave us ownership in the results we saw when June and July rolled around.

When I recall those springs, I realize my mother had the personality to dream and make dreams come true through activity that today is called 'work'. For our family, it was simply the thing to do every year: to capture the energy of the season and be part of it.

I still carry that sense of urgency for change in these glorious months of May and June. Not just for my home and garden, but for my business. It's a time to review the resolutions made in the short days of December and early January. Somehow, I can think more realistically in the longer daylight hours. So, I review goals and either move forward with them, or toss them for the changes I really can make.

I thank my mother for instilling the need to review everything around and in me. It's not just a legacy for house and garden. It's a legacy for understanding that, through change, we maintain a fresh attitude and move with the times we live in.

Thanks, Mom!

©Barbara Kalkis. Barbara is a long-time high-tech marketing and public relations consultant, but her first love is as both a teacher and writer. Her book, Little Ditties for Every Day: A collection of thoughts in rhyme and rhythm, was published in 2021. Contact her at BarbaraKalkis01@gmail.com.



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GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



HOPE

Hope is the only thing stronger than fear!

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

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

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

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM:

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

Jody

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

Honey Cake

submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm

- 1cup butter
- 1cup white or brown sugar
- 6 eggs - separated
- 1 cup honey
- 1 cup sour cream
- 3 1/4 cups sifted flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 cup walnuts - chopped
- 1 tsp vanilla

Cream butter and sugar. Add egg yolks one at a time beating well after each addition. Stir in honey and sour cream. Sift flour with baking powder, baking soda, nutmeg, cinnamon and salt. Mix 1 tablespoon of flour mixture with nuts. Add sifted dry ingredients to egg mixture. Mix well. Add walnuts and vanilla. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into batter. Spoon batter into a greased 10-inch tube pan. Bake at 350° for 1 hour.



Cowgirl Poet, Quilter, Entertainer



Yvonne Hollenbeck

Old Eagle Eye

He can tell if a heifer is starting to calve, I swear from a mile away, and see if he needs to go pull the calf by just simply looking that way.

He can see if a windmill is working or not from his horse on a faraway hill, and tell what direction the wind's coming from by watching the tail on the mill.

He knows if a coyote or badger is near by watching the tracks in the sand, and see if a staple is loose from a post on the fence that encircles his land.

He's got eyes like an eagle for finding new calves that their mamas have hidden all snug; so why can't he see the mud on his boots that he's tracking all over my rug?

Watch for Yvonne's new book, to be published later this year!

© 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>





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Writing from Life

by Jeanette Lukowski

Trunk Shows

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



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

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

The second trunk show I attended was offered by a small quilt shop in southern Minnesota in 2021. I had moved during the pandemic, and was eager to get out and explore, so when I heard about a sidewalk sale and trunk-show-under-the-tent in the space next to the quilt store, I just had to attend. This time, the presenter was a local quilter, who just lived about 5 miles from the store. As she knew many of the ladies running the shop and attending the event, this conversation was a bit more casual and personal. The tent-like awning was also comfortably situated so we could sit without masks, enjoy the summer breezes, and not be baked by the mid-morning sun. This hour-long presentation focused on needle-turn applique—another quilt technique I had never heard of, but was eager to learn more about. In conjunction with the anniversary theme of the week, the store was also offering daily discounts on items each day’s trunk show’s presenter used. I purchased fabric, but none of the tools, as I was not quite ready to turn my new knowledge into action.

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

I highly recommend attending trunk shows!



DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEEDLE POINTS?



SLIGHTLY ROUNDED POINT

The slightly rounded point is the standard point shape for household sewing machines. This point shape is qualified for trouble-free sewing of most materials and many applications.

The following sewing needles have a slightly rounded point:

- Universal Needle
- Super Universal Needle
- Topstitch Needle
- Embroidery Needle
- Metallic Needle
- Double Eye Needle
- Hemstitch Needle
- Quick Threading Needle



LIGHT BALL POINT

This point shape displaces woven and knitted threads, directly piercing the spaces between the threads. Therefore, it avoids material damages. This is the best point shape for embroidery.

The following sewing needles have a light ball point:

- Embroidery Needle
- Gold Embroidery Needle



ACUTE ROUND POINT

This is a slim, acute point shape, useful for accurate piercing of densely woven and coated materials. It creates an exact seam appearance with straight stitches and helps to reduce seam puckering.

The following sewing needle has an acute round point:

- Microtex Needle



MEDIUM BALL POINT (SUK)

The medium ball point is more rounded than a light ball point. Therefore, it can be used for coarser knitwear, for material containing Lycra/Spandex and it is also very suitable for medium to heavy denim.

The following sewing needles have a medium ball point:

- Stretch Needle
- Jersey Needle
- Jeans Needle



SLIGHTLY ROUNDED POINT WITH SPECIAL TAPER

The slim point with special taper to the slightly rounded point easily penetrates thick layers of fabric and batting and avoids material damages. It is the best point shape for quilting and patchwork.

The following needle has a slightly rounded point with special taper:

- Quilting Needle



TWIST POINT (LL)

This cutting point has a lens-shaped cross-section and the incision is made at an angle to the direction of the seam. It provides easier penetration of leather and leather-like materials. This point shape creates a decorative stitch slightly inclined towards the left (in household machines which are threaded from the front).

The following sewing needle has a twist point:

- Leather Needle

Information and images provided by SCHMETZneedles.com.

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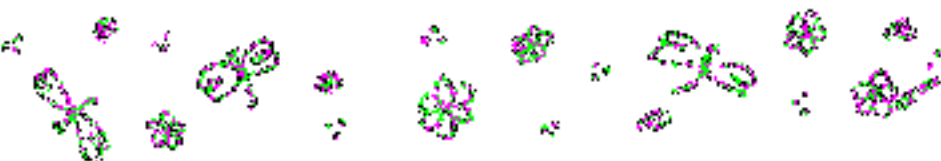
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Country Register Recipe Exchange

Waldorf Salad
submitted by Patti Lee Bock

1/2 pound potatoes 3 tbsp salad oil
1 cup sliced celery 2 tbsp lemon juice
1 1/2 cups diced apple 1/2 tsp salt
2 pickles - diced 1 tsp finely chopped parsley
1 tbsp chopped nuts

Scrub and boil potatoes until done. Douse with cold water. Peel and cut into bite-sized pieces. Combine potatoes, celery, apple, pickles and nuts in a large bowl. Beat oil, lemon juice and salt with a fork until thick and creamy. Stir in parsley, pour over salad and toss. Let stand 2-3 hours before serving.

I Might Be a Bluebird

by Deb Heatherly

Three walls of windows in my breakfast room make for delightful entertainment for myself and my feline children. I have started putting out food every morning for the squirrels, chipmunks and birds and the activity outside the window can hold the attention of my cats for hours. With the return of warmer weather, our outside visitors seem to have boundless energy. Max, Monroe and Little get very excited by the fast darting and dancing of the squirrels and chipmunks and love to paw at them through the window, while Lacey is enthralled by the birds. She will "talk" to them for long stretches of time and I can't help but laugh at her persistence. Now if I only knew what she was saying.

Each day I spot a huge variety of birds and find myself Googling more than ever to try and identify them. The gift of an Audubon book from my friend Debbie is also helping immensely. Wrens, sparrows, robins, chickadees, tufted titmouse, cardinals, woodpeckers and blue birds are easy to identify while others take quite a bit of research. The bluebirds and cardinals have always been my favorites and I found several interesting facts about them while seeking information.

First, the bluebird is a symbol of hope, love and renewal. As I watch their industrious movements as they build nests in anticipation of welcoming new life, these three words make perfect sense. The colorful spring blooms in my yard make a perfect backdrop for these beautiful little creatures. It's hard not to smile as they perch briefly on the stone wall or bird feeder to eat while the cats and I peer back at them from inside.



I also learned that the bluebird is a part of many Native American legends and symbolizes the essence of life and beauty and that a bluebird can spot caterpillars and insects in tall grass at the remarkable distance of over 50 yards. That made me wonder if I might be part bluebird because my husband says I can spot a quilt shop from a mile away and a bolt of fabric from across the store. Reading further I found that, although bluebirds can be very territorial, flocks of 100 or more will gather at times. Hmm...maybe all quilters are part bluebird. Sounds like a guild meeting to me.

And then there is the cardinal. Ornithologists say that cardinals are typically the first bird to visit feeders in the morning and the last to visit in the evenings. Maybe I'm part cardinal, too. I know that if there's a good fabric sale at the local quilt shop, it never hurts to be first in line.

The northern cardinals are also mostly a non-migratory species, opting to overwinter in their chosen spring and summer habitat. I'm all for that. Bring on the cold weather and I'll just stay inside and sew. There is no need to go anywhere as long as I have fabric and a sewing machine.

Finally, maybe quilters are part chipmunk, too. I love to watch our little guys scamper around the yard, packing cheeks until bulging and then running to store it all away. That definitely reminds me of a quilter's passion for buying and storing fabric. Like the chipmunk, we are happiest when we can look around at our stash and ponder its use in the future. While the chipmunk is storing up to make it through the winter, we quilters are storing up for whenever a creative spark comes to mind.

While relating these observations to my husband, I noticed a smirk on his face as he quickly pointed out that, while they may have some similarities to our wildlife friends, the quilters he knows are truly all one of a kind. He would not elaborate so I was left to contemplate his meaning.

My conclusion was this. Whether gathering, storing or creating, the results of we quilters' labors will always be one of a kind creations filled with love and comfort. And, while watching Mom sew can be great entertainment for our fur babies—unlike bird watching, where they are stuck inside looking out—when a quilt is complete, Max, Monroe, Little and Lacey can all actively reach and touch, knead a little, test for comfort and enjoy.

Deb Heatherly is a designer for Creative Grids® rulers. She is the designer of the Creative Grids® Cat's Cradle Tool, Strippy Stars Tool, Turbo 4 Patch, Ultimate Flying Geese Tool, Cat's Cradle XL, and Kitty Cornered Tool. She is also the author of the books: 'Cat'itude, Strippy Stars, 4-Patch Panache, The Ultimate Flying Geese Book, Catitude XL, Creatively Yours and The Build A Quilt Workbook. Visit her website at www.Debcatsnquilts.com. Creative Grids® fans are invited to join her Facebook group, Grids Girls, for tips and inspiration. Grids Girls members have the opportunity to participate in Grids Girls mystery quilts two times each year. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/7704296498004571>. Quilt Shop Owners, you are invited to join the group above and Deb has an additional Facebook group just for you—Grids Girls for Quilt Shop Owners Only at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2735936572565241>.

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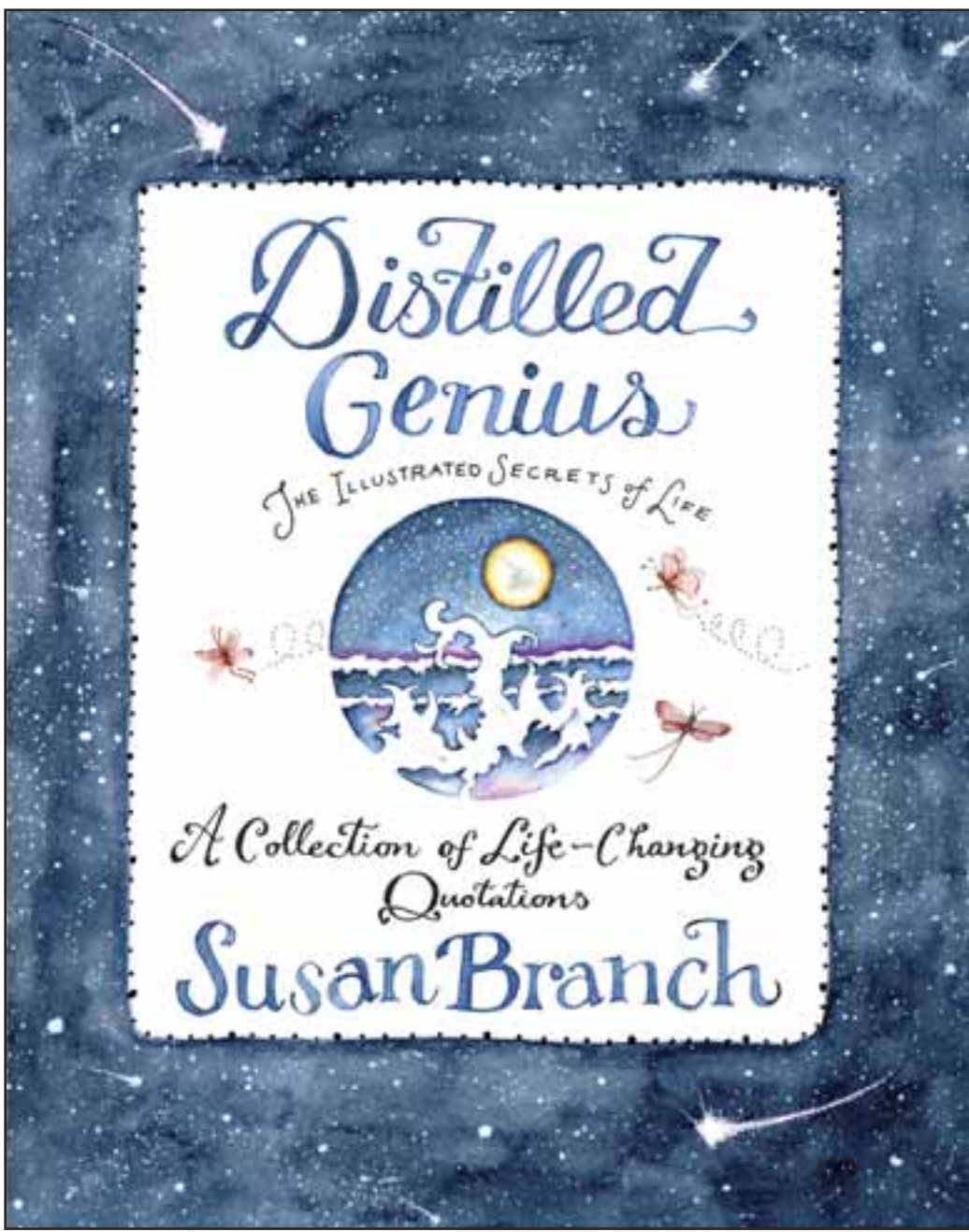
Taco Salad


submitted by Patti Lee Bock



- 1 large tomato - chopped
- 1 (16oz) bottle Western Dressing
- 1 pound coleslaw mix
- 1 cup crushed Cool Ranch or Nacho Doritos
- 1-3 green onions - chopped
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Combine first 4 ingredients. Just before serving add dressing and chips.



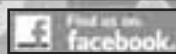
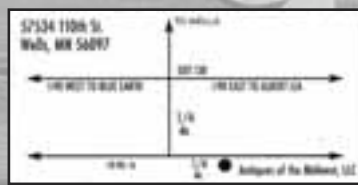

A New Book!

I've collected quotes forever. . . discovering books of quotations was a pure gift to my life & an education like no other. Now I've handwritten and watercolored my favorites into a new book arriving at bookstores the end of June. You never know where life-changing inspiration will come from; for me, it came from these profound, funny, witty, & wise words. It's available for presale now at www.susanbranch.com. Happy Spring! Don't forget to stop and smell the flowers! ♥

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Lessons from Geese

by Becky Van Vleet

My husband and I live on a golf course with several ponds. The water sparkles with sunlight as plentiful geese fly in and out and around this time of year. Much to the golfers' dismay, sometimes the geese congregate right on the greens. Nevertheless, I enjoy watching the antics of these fowls from my kitchen window.

A few years ago, I read Dr. Robert McNeish's "Lessons from the Geese," and I found the facts about these creatures to be so interesting. Contending with isolation and mental health setbacks from Covid impacts, I believe the lessons geese can teach us is timely for all of us. Enjoy!

SUPPORT EACH OTHER TO REACH A COMMON GOAL

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the following bird, making it easier for the other to fly, and most importantly, to save energy by drafting off each other. The lesson here is that people who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

TEAMS ARE INVALUABLE

In a V-formation, the whole flock extends at least 71% more flying range than if each bird flew alone. Working as a single individual can be hard, draining and ultimately will bring less benefit to the collective goal. Working individually can lead to burnout, so remaining in formation and accepting support will keep teams moving ahead.

ACCEPT SUPPORT

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back in formation. As it rotates back into the formation, another goose flies at the V-point position. If we have as much sense as a goose, we will join the formation of those who are headed where we want to go.

GIVE RECOGNITION

Geese in the rear of the formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. We should make sure our "honking from behind" is encouraging rather than judgmental.

CREATE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

When a goose gets sick or wounded, two other geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and provide protection, staying with it until it's able to continue flying or it ultimately dies. Then they launch out on their own, join another formation, or try to catch up with their own flock. If we have as much sense as the geese, we'll stand by one another like they do.

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



Time for a Girl's Trip

by Tammy Page



It is time to rejuvenate with a 'girls trip'. They are so much fun, relaxing and so needed after the long, cold winter. They can last one night or a long weekend. Back in my 40's and early 50's the trips would be for a full week! What great memories! I'm so very ready to start the tradition up again.

One such trip that my dear friend Michele and I took several years in a row was to Florida. We both worked in a stressful, social services job and planning a trip to anticipate made the winter go so much faster. The daily crisis of our clients always weighed heavy on our hearts and a trip where we could be mindless slugs was just what we needed. Our trips were planned months in advance so we could work on getting the best price on our airline, a good deal on our rental car and of course, save for shopping! We were lucky enough to get mileage checks with our jobs so we both saved our checks for several months and were able to have 'fun money' to blow as we wished. We planned to go to Palmetto where my cousin has a vacation home. It's in perfect location with an ocean view, pool and all the luxuries we could want without our work phones, traffic and paperwork.

The closer we got to our departure date the more excited we became. We would go shopping for a new swimsuit, shorts, flip flops and of course, sunblock! Our pale Midwest winter skin would make us the target for one heck of a sunburn especially since we planned to be laying outdoors by the pool as much as possible.

We ordered matching shirts with a tropical theme or comical sayings such as "What happens in Florida, stays in Florida." When organizing dates, times and flights, we always picked the earliest flight out of the airport, sometimes leaving home at 3:00 am. We wanted to make sure we were there in plenty of time so we could get checked in, find our Annie's cinnamon pretzel and coffee. As we sat in our gate area people watching and chowing down on our delicious pretzels, we pulled out our journals to make notes about the various travelers around us. Now, don't get me wrong, I love children, I have three of my own, and worked in an agency that promoted and supported county children, but when I go on vacation I do not want to sit by a fussy, tired and bored child. Looking at each other with widened eyes as a toddler screams at the top of his lungs and parents run amuck chasing them down, we secretly are praying for that particular family to sit far away from us on the plane. That's something for the journal indeed! We were always lucky and didn't have to endure the shrill squeals and kicking of the back of our seat. God is Good!

To get as much bang for our buck we always tried to get our connection destination in a different city so we could enjoy unique cultural experiences. Once when we connected in Miami, our eyes were surely opened. We heard the different languages, saw beautiful art, and experienced the various cultures. We even ate empanadas with fruit inside them. They were delicious!

As we ascended to our final destination of Tampa International, the vacation jitters would begin and the grins on our faces were evident. At the very moment we walked out the airplane door it became evident that our vacation had started. We had a livelier step, a smile on our faces, anticipation in our hearts and our shoulders relaxed more than they had in months.

No matter our destination, we always call early to buy a copy of *The Country Register* for that particular state. We love browsing antique shops, visiting local quilt and fabric shops, and shopping for local gifts for something with which we can remember or gifts for friends and relatives at home.

Whether you're going on a 'girls' day out' or a week long adventure, each of us needs the opportunity to relax and rejuvenate.

-Tammy Page writes from her family farm in Indiana, where she enjoys spoiling her grandchildren.



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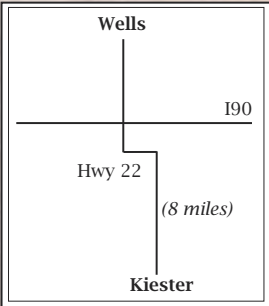
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Submitted by Helen Manzanaras, Albuquerque, NM

- 1 14-ounce can Ocean Spray Jellied Cranberry Sauce
 - 1 12-ounce bottle Heinz Chili Sauce
 - 1 2-pound bag frozen, pre-cooked cocktail size meatballs (around 40)
- Combine sauces in a large saucepan. Cook over medium-low heat, stirring until smooth. Add meatballs. Cover and cook for 15 minutes or until meatballs are heated through, stirring occasionally. Makes 30 appetizer servings.
- Slow cooker preparation: Place meatballs in a slow cooker. Combine sauces and pour over meatballs. Cover and cook 4 hours on high.

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KISSed Quilts

by Marlene Oddie

April Showers Bring May Flowers

My mother's favorite flower is an Iceland poppy—so delicate and providing beautiful color in the late spring and early summer. While I was growing up, she used to plant them each year in our front yard.



Northcott Fabrics has created a beautiful digital print collection called Modern Love. It is designed by Deborah Edwards and Melanie Samra featuring pink and purple poppies and many coordinating prints. As promised last year, here is my latest design—Floral Flourish.

This queen size (80" x 91") design uses simple 5" squares (so charm pack friendly!), a focus fabric (in this case running yardage), an ombre for framing the focus fabric and the outer border (fussy cut for maximum impact) and a multicolored background to pull it all together. The pieced suspended border in the middle requires some careful calculations so it all comes together correctly. Getting your seam allowance correct is key, too!

Tip: when sewing a pieced or cross-grain section to a lengthwise-grain section, put the lengthwise-grain section on the top of your seam when putting it through the machine. The cross-grain and pieced type sections will move and adjust better to your pinning spots if it is on the bottom and closest to the feed dogs.

Interested in this kit or others? Fabrics have finally arrived for several quilts I've featured in recent months. I've got a limited quantity of kits and yardage available at my website. There is an ombre wide-back to go with this one as well! The small squares—I've got plenty of yardage for other projects—they are beautiful! Two fabrics have the word 'love' written on them.

Have you got a stunning panel or running yardage you'd like to show off? How about using this pattern to put it together? This design goes together quite quickly.

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/>.

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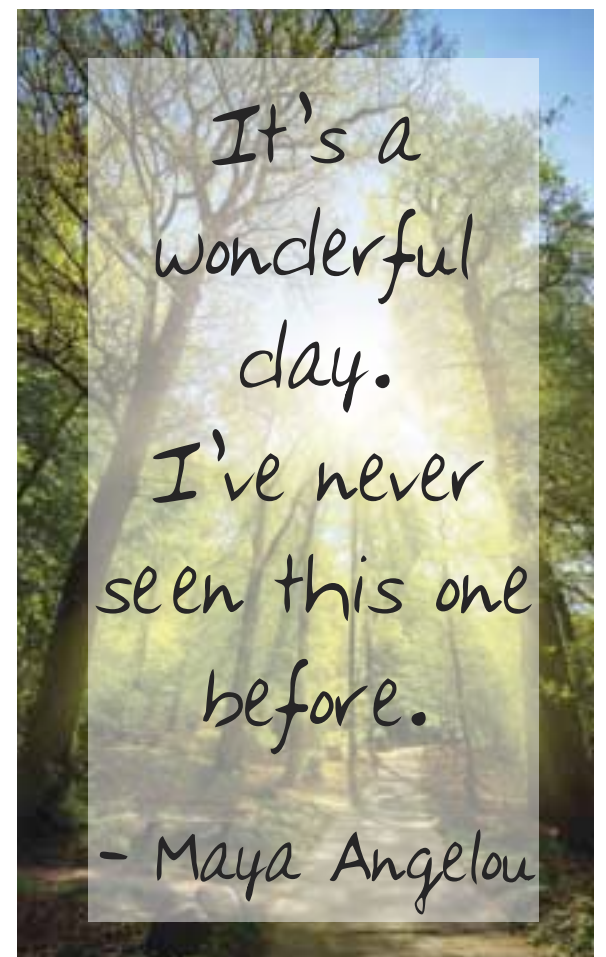
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A MOTHER'S LOVE

by Lesley R. Nuttall

They say Love is blind, and it must be true.
A Mother's love stretches to the moon and back—to you.
She loved you before you even opened your eyes,
with complete loving devotion that could fill the skies!

The magic component of a Mother's love,
has more loving patience that you could think of.
She provides gentleness and a guiding hand,
inspiring joy and confidence as if it were planned.

A Mother is the greatest friend you will ever have.
She will cheer you up when you might be sad.
And she can magically turn a frown upside down,
while encouraging smiling faces all around.

She has given the gift of life to you.
Her loving heart overflows—if only you knew.
Being loved by such a Mother as time quickly flies,
is a huge blessing for you—in quiet disguise.

© Lesley is the Author of Secrets of Party Planning, and enjoys writing poetry.
She lives in Thunder Bay, ON, Canada, with her husband of 60 years.

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by Jennifer Lopez

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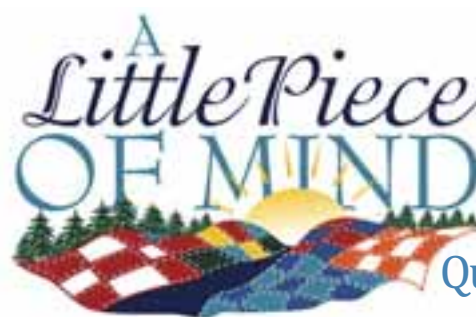
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Become Inspired!

by Annice Bradley Rockwell

Nature's Vitality

As spring steadily advances toward summer, there is an inevitable sense of energy in the air. Nature's vitality is evident in the leaves emerging from the trees, grass turning ever-so-green as it fills in the landscape, and lilac bushes beginning to get heavy with large purple blooms that send their subtle scent across even the largest of yards on a gorgeous spring day. These reminders from Mother Nature often provide us with our very own increased vitality and that is always a reason to be grateful.

When we feel gratitude for the abundant blessings of the season, we tend to feel its natural accompaniment-true joy. With some of the year's best weather in store for us now, we are often drawn outside, and our outdoor spaces can become a special sanctuary to share.

Creating these spots in our yards can be a pleasure, especially when we incorporate some pieces of the past.



CHARMING COUNTRY APPEAL

Designing a sitting area in a quiet spot in our yard can be done easily with the addition of classic Adirondack chairs and a large antique iron cauldron that can be utilized as a perfect firepit to gather around on a chilly, star-filled country night. Antique lanterns can serve as attention-getting accents for our outdoor creative spaces and lend a charming appeal. Antique baskets and crocks that are slightly worn can still be appreciated as planters for bright red geraniums or a beautiful display of vibrant yellow coreopsis.

Gardening antiques such as primitive wheelbarrows, sprinkling cans and garden tools can create an instant country theme near a simple outbuilding turning it visually into a seasonal potting shed. American flags and patriotic bunting in red, white, and blue can dress our homes with pride for the beginning of sunshiny summer.

As we gravitate toward the outdoors and prepare our yards for the season to come, we can begin to plan to share time with our family and friends enjoying the fresh air, our creative extension of our country decorating and the beginnings of what will be a productive summer garden. And whether you decide to spend time quietly gardening on a vibrant, early summer morning or gathering with family for one of the first cookouts of the season, take time to truly live in the moment. Appreciate even the small, spectacular moments that can always provide a perfect sense of peace.

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

A Story of Strawberry Pie, Coffee Cakes, and Family

by Kerri Habben Bosman

There is nothing so deliciously inspiring as a North Carolina grown strawberry. I know those Florida and California strawberries carry us through the winter. But that first taste on a Carolina spring day surges a pure and simple joy through you, reminding you how alive you truly are.

Their season is from mid-April to the end of May. Every year my mother and I would go to a farm stand as soon as the strawberries started, buy a big basket, and eat some sitting in the car before taking them home. She always made the strawberry pie she'd made my whole life.

Four years ago I went by myself for the first time. I bought a big basket even though she wasn't there to help me eat them. I shared them with my neighbors and my best friend.

By the next year, I had met and begun sharing a life with my husband, Wayne. That year I bought two baskets, bringing one of them to the grandchildren.

Sometimes amid all of the joy in sharing together, a quiet sadness used to arrive that Mom never knew Wayne or any of our family. Or they, her. Yet, I had lived through enough changes to know that we evolve with each one. It is entirely possible that what emerged in me because of my mother's death was part of what drew Wayne to me and me to him.

There are some things I do not need to know on this earth. If I grow too preoccupied with the unknown, there is much present and tangible beauty I will not fully absorb.

Something I do know. We receive what we need when we least expect it. It was over a strawberry pie in early May last year that I received this gift once again.

The grandchildren who live nearest were over for dinner. For dessert I made my mother's strawberry pie using North Carolina strawberries. Wayne, Isaac, and Laurel were eating their pieces in the other room, so it was just nine year old Naomi and me at the kitchen table.



I told Naomi that this was my mother's recipe. A confused look passed over her face and she said, "I've never met her." She had seen what Mom crocheted and also her photograph on the piano. Naomi just suddenly realized that with all our family get-togethers, my mother had never been to one of them.

I said to her, "Well, she died before I met Grampa and all of you."

A second didn't pass before Naomi turned her face upward and thrust out her arms. "Thank you," she called out with her distinctive style of exuberance. "Your pie is delicious!"

All the theology and contemplation in the world couldn't have brought me a larger portion of peace. Mom might even have said, "You're welcome."

As of this writing, Wayne and I and all of our family are eagerly awaiting a visit from his 101-year-old mother, his sister, and his brother-in-law. Everyone in our family is coming, which means there will be about 21 of us. I am baking coffee cakes, which Wayne's Aunt Tootie made his entire life and which are always served at family gatherings. When my sister-in-law gave me the recipe, I was deeply honored to be a part of maintaining this precious tradition.

Before I start to prepare the dough, I go to the photograph of Aunt Tootie and Uncle Jack, and I smile at her. I tell this woman whom I've never met that I will put extra love into her coffee cakes.

Though, perhaps instead, I should turn my face upward, thrust out my arms, and say, "Thank you! Your coffee cake is delicious."

Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer in Chapel Hill, NC. She can be reached at 913jeeves@gmail.com.

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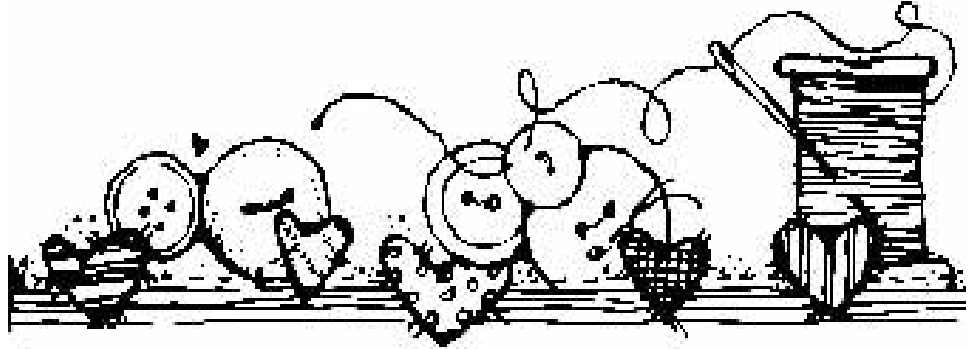
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Spring Lake Park

A TOUR OF MINNESOTA'S STATE PARKS

Temperance River State Park



Temperance River State Park is located in a region famous for its bare rock cliffs along the Lake Superior Shore. Take the trail that winds along the edge of the Temperance River gorge and enjoy the rushing waterfalls surrounded by pine, spruce, cedar and birch forests. The rapidly flowing river has cut deep potholes in and along the riverbed. Hike the trail to Hidden Falls or connect up with trails into the Superior National Forest and the Cross River Wayside.



The bedrock in this park is all igneous (solidified from the molten state), and formed about 1.1 billion years ago. One of the most interesting features in the park is the narrow Temperance River gorge with its many waterfalls. The steep-gradient river has cut through the fractured, ancient lava flows of the river bed. Swirling water carried gravel and rocks which wore away the basalt and created large potholes. Over thousands of years, these potholes were dug deeper and wider, eventually connecting and creating the deep, narrow gorge.

Nearby, more potholes were left high and dry as the river found its new, lower channel.



Carlton Peak, the high knob in the northeastern part of the park, is made of a hard, massive rock called anorthosite.



It consists of several huge blocks of this rock, which were carried up from many miles below the surface by the molten basalt lava. On the west side of Carlton Peak you will look over the dense forests of Temperance River State Park. From the east side you will look out over Lake Superior in the distance.

Information from www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks. Visit the website for more information, pictures, hours and fees.



Memorial Day
Monday, May 30th

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This month in
Minnesota
History

May 2, 1878: An explosion at the Washburn "A" flour mill in Minneapolis kills eighteen workers. Studies show that flour dust is highly explosive, and the company begins replacing millstones with rollers, which reduce the fire hazard and revolutionize the flour industry.

June 20, 1970: Dave and John Kunst and their mule, Willie-Make-It, set out from their Waseca home to walk around the earth. In Afghanistan, bandits attack the brothers, killing John and wounding Dave. Dave's brother Pete then joins him until they reach the Indian Ocean. Dave returns to Waseca on October 5, 1974, the first person to walk around the earth, 14,450 miles in all.

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



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Designed by Ann Jones

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PART 2: Block 3 – 6 1/2" X 6 1/2" square- (Cut 33) – Color Set 3
 Easy! Cut your blocks from Fabric G and set them aside for later!

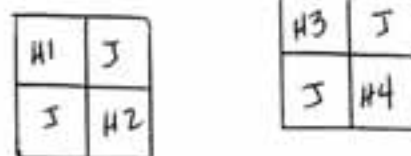
PART 2: Block 4 – Flower block 6 1/2" X 6 1/2" - (Make 23) – Color set 4
 For EACH block, Cut:

Fabric H:
 1 – 1 1/2" X WOF – cut 1 strip from each of your 4 shades – In diagram I will call the shades H1, H2, H3 and H4

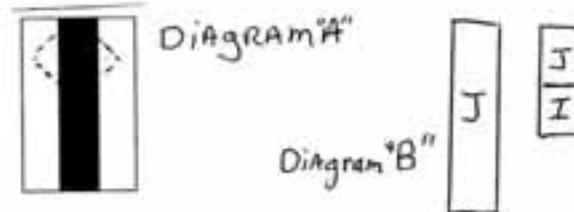
Fabric I:
 1 – 1" X WOF (dark green for flower stems)
 2 – 1 1/2" X WOF
 1 – 1 1/2" X 2 1/2" rectangle (total of 23 needed)

Fabric J:
 4 – 1 1/2" X WOF
 4 – 1 1/2" X 2 1/2" rectangles (total of 92 needed)
 4 – 2 1/2" X 2 1/2" squares (total of 92 needed)
 2 – 1 1/2" X WOF (these will be sewn to Fabric H)
 2 – 1 1/2" X WOF

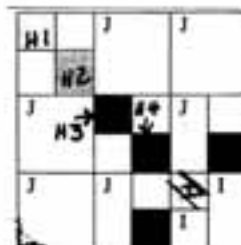
With right sides together, sew an H strip to a J strip (1 1/2" X WOF) Sew a light H to a J; a medium H to a J; etc. Set the seam with your iron DO NOT Press open yet. Square up one end of each fabric set and sub cut into 1 1/2" segments. Press the blocks towards the darker fabric. You will be making 4-patch blocks. From these sub cuts.



Stem of the Flower: Sew 1 1/2" WOF Fabric J on either side of the 1" X WOF Fabric I (dark green). Press towards dark on both sides. Now you are going to fussy cut your stems. Lay the I/IJ strip vertically on your cutting table and place the edge of the ruler in the MIDDLE of the green strip diagonally. Using a thin marker, draw a 1 1/2" line down either side. See diagram A. You need 23-1 1/2" squares when you are done. The leaves are next. Right sides together, sew a 1 1/2" X WOF Fabric I (dark green) to 1 1/2" X WOF Fabric J. Press seam. Square up an end and sub-cut into 1 1/2" segments. Press to the dark fabric. Right sides together, sew I/J segment to the 1 1/2" X WOF Fabric J strip. Make sure the J strip is on the left side and the I/J segment is on the right with Fabric I towards the bottom. See Diagram B.



Sew a "stem" block to a 1 1/2" X 1 1/2" Fabric I piece. See diagram for placement. Then sew to a Fabric I rectangle. Refer to Diagram for assembly of the block. Make sure the light/medium(H1/H2) 4-patch block is in the top left corner and the H3/H4 4-patch is the center block.



Fabric Road Trip!

by Judy Sharer



With many of the regional and local quilt show venues postponed or canceled these past few years, your fabric stash may be depleted, perhaps sacrificed to make attractive masks for social distancing, or used to finish waiting projects. Now is the perfect time to plan a Fabric Road Trip. Gather as many friends as can fit in the vehicle and take off, but don't overcrowd because you'll need lots of room for the fabric and supplies, you'll no doubt want to buy.

I'm sure you can identify four or five shops in your local area or neighboring towns that you haven't visited in a while. Make a plan and map out the most efficient route to include them all. Warm weather makes for creativity!

It's probably a good idea to check online or call the shops to make sure of their hours. Ask if they have received a new shipment of fabric lately and give them the date you plan to arrive.

Make it a fun outing with a stop at a restaurant for a break. Perhaps pack a picnic lunch or order take-out for some fun. Take along a quilt to spread on a nice patch of grass. A picnic lunch with a friend or even by yourself makes a delightful addition to the day, and who doesn't like a picnic? Make a list of needed supplies, and take along fabrics to match colors for future projects. Shop until you drop. Load up the vehicle, enjoy your day, and most of all, whether alone or with quilting friend, be safe and have fun!

Judy Sharer is the author of A Plains Life series published by The Wild Rose Press. Book One: *Settler's Life*; Book Two: *Second Chance Life*; and Book Three: *Civil War Life* are now available wherever online books are sold. Book four will be released fall of 2022. If you're a quilter, you'll enjoy Judy's sweet historical western romances which have a thread of quilting that runs throughout the family saga series. Visit Judy's website for more details. judysarar.com

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