

# *The Country Register*®

Available across the U.S.A. & Canada

Minnesota's Guide to Specialty Shopping & Premier Events

Free!  
Take One!

May/June 2025





Happy Mother’s Day!



Minnesota’s Guide to Specialty Shopping & Premier Events



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

kim@countryregisterofminnesota.com  
www.countryregisterofminnesota.com

Publisher Contact List

Look for the paper in your travels across the United states and Canada.  
Find more information at www.countryregister.com

USA:

Arizona: Barb Stillman and Lolly Konecky, 515 E Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085, 602-942-8950  
Arkansas: Richard & Lenda Brown, P.O. Bo 32581, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, 405-470-2597  
California: Barb Stillman and Lolly Konecky, 515 E Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085, 602-942-8950  
Colorado: Jan & John Keller, 11250 Glen Canyon Dr., Falcon CO 80831, 719-866-8570  
Connecticut: Dave & Amy Carter, P.O. Box 2419, Cumming, GA 30028, 866-825-9217  
Delaware: Merle and Gail Taylor, P.O. Box 320, Meridianville, AL 357595, 888-616-8319  
Florida: Dave & Amy Carter, P.O. Box 2419, Cumming, GA 30028, 866-825-9217  
Georgia: Linda Parish, P.O. Box 389, Lexington, GA 30648, 706-340-1049  
Idaho: Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, 605-568-0181  
Illinois: Richard & Lenda Brown, P.O. Bo 32581, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, 405-470-2597  
Indiana: Merle and Gail Taylor, P.O. Box 320, Meridianville, AL 357595, 888-616-8319  
Iowa: Linda Glendy, P.O. Box 6, Tama, IA, 52339, 1-641-751-2619  
Kansas: Cindy Baldwin, 988 9th Ave., McPherson, KS 67460, 866-966-9815  
Maine: Robin Levison, 24 Bluebird Lane, Gloversville, NY 12078, 518-752-6399  
Maryland: Kim Keller, 2920 144th Ave. NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304, 763-754-1661  
Massachusetts: Dave & Amy Carter, P.O. Box 2419, Cumming, GA 30028, 866-825-9217  
Michigan: Leslie Howell, 2875 Dunkirk Dr, Saginaw, MI 48603, 989-751-8860  
Minnesota: Kim Keller, 2920 144th Ave. NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304, 763-754- 1661  
Missouri: Richard & Lenda Brown, P.O. Bo 32581, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, 405-470-2597  
Montana: Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, 605-568-0181  
Nebraska: Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, 605-568-0181  
Nevada (N): Barb Stillman and Lolly Konecky, 515 E Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085, 602-942-8950  
Nevada (S): Glenna Dunn, 4568 Carol Circle, Las Vegas, NV 89120, 702-523-1803  
New Hampshire: Robin Levison, 24 Bluebird Lane, Gloversville, NY 12078, 518-752-6399  
New Jersey: Merle and Gail Taylor, P.O. Box 320, Meridianville, AL 357595, 888-616-8319  
New Mexico: Jan & John Keller, 11250 Glen Canyon Dr., Falcon CO 80831, 719-866-8570  
New York: Mike & Wendy Rothfuss, 322 E Kenwood Dr, Louisville KY 40214, 502-468-3938  
North Carolina: Barb Stillman and Lolly Konecky, 515 E Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085, 602-942-8950  
North Dakota: Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, 605-568-0181  
Ohio: Barb Moore, P.O. Box 37, Cable, OH 43009, 937-652-1157  
Oklahoma: Richard & Lenda Brown, P.O. Bo 32581, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, 405-470-2597  
Oregon: Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, 605-568-0181  
Pennsylvania: Merle and Gail Taylor, P.O. Box 320, Meridianville, AL 357595, 888-616-8319  
Rhode Island: Dave & Amy Carter, P.O. Box 2419, Cumming, GA 30028, 866-825-9217  
South Carolina: Barb Stillman and Lolly Konecky, 515 E Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085, 602-942-8950  
South Dakota: Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, 605-568-0181  
Texas: Richard & Lenda Brown, P.O. Bo 32581, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, 405-470-2597  
Vermont: Robin Levison, 24 Bluebird Lane, Gloversville, NY 12078, 518-752-6399  
Virginia: Dave & Amy Carter, P.O. Box 2419, Cumming, GA 30028, 866-825-9217  
Washington: Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, 605-568-0181  
West Virginia: Gail & Merle Taylor, P.O. Box 320, Meridianville, AL 35759, 888-616-8319  
Wisconsin: Scott & Jennifer Hughes, P.O. Box 276, Altoona, WI 54720, 715-838-9426  
Wyoming: Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, 605-568-0181

Canada:  
Alberta: Marcy Horswill, Suite 114, 919 Centre St NW, Calgary AB T2E 2P6, 587-585-3545  
British Columbia: Jenifer Smith, 8726 Palmer Place, Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z2, 604-506-4686  
Manitoba: Collen & Kirby Gust, Box 801 5tn Main, White City SK S4L5B1, 306-585-0274  
Ontario: Harriet Ramos, 103-575 Lacolle Way, Orleans, ON K4A 5B6, 613-612-8465



Subscriptions

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send an \$18 check to:

The Country Register • 2920 - 144th Ave NE • Ham Lake, MN 55304  
If you want to pay by credit card, please call 763-754-1661!



AND THE WINNER IS...

Sue Ronchak of Coon Rapids, MN won a copy of *Landslides: The Warnings Were Clear!*  
Sue picked up her copy of *The Country Register* at *The Cutting Edge* in Rush City.  
Congratulations !

City Listing

Blue Earth.....	11	New Ulm.....	12
Cook.....	6	Oklee.....	7
Cloquet.....	5	Owatonna.....	12
Duluth.....	5	Pipestone.....	10
Eagan.....	20	Rush City.....	4
Eden Valley.....	8	Sandstone.....	4
International Falls .....	6	Sherburn.....	11
Kiester.....	13	St. Cloud.....	8
Lake City.....	16	St. Peter.....	12
Lone Rock, IA.....	15	Wells.....	13
Luverne.....	10	White Bear Lake.....	20
Menomonie, WI.....	17	Windom.....	10
McGregor.....	5	Winterset, IA.....	15
New Prague.....	18	Worthington.....	10
New Richmond, WI.....	17		

Special Events

May

2-4.....Sew In - Up North Quilt Shop - International Falls  
15-17.....Eden Valley Garage Sales - Lost & Found - Eden Valley  
16-18.....Sew In - Up North Quilt Shop - International Falls  
18.....Super Sunday - Quilted Dog - Cloquet  
19-23.....May Blowout Sale - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn  
24-26.....Plant Sale - Country Craft Shed - Duluth  
26-29.....Valley Days - Lost & Found - Eden Valley

June

4-7.....Iowa Quilt Festival - Winterset, IA  
6-8.....Sew In - Up North Quilt Shop - International Falls  
7.....St. Cloud Spin Fest & Fiber Fair - Rocking Horse Farm Knitshop - St. Cloud  
7-14.....Kids Beginning Quilt Camp - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn  
19-21.....The Minnesota Quilt Show - St. Cloud  
20-22.....Sew In - Up North Quilt Shop - International Falls  
28.....Youth Sewing Class - Up North Quilt Shop - International Falls

Months May/June 2025

Volume 31 Number 3

The Country Register of Minnesota is published every other month. Copyright 2025. Reproduction or use, without permission, of editorial or graphic content in any manner is prohibited. The Country Register of Minnesota is licensed by The Country Register with exclusive rights to publish in the state of Minnesota using logos and graphics owned by The Country Register.

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

Deadline For the July/August 2025  
Edition is June 10th!



## Happy Father's Day!



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

## Where in Minnesota?

Somewhere in Minnesota the image to the right can be found.

Where is it?

(Answer on page 11 of this issue)



## Call Me Old Fashioned

by Judy Sharer

At an early age, I remember my mother sitting me at the kitchen table and teaching me to write thank you notes after my birthday to everyone who attended the party. At that young age my cramping hand and I didn't appreciate the sentimentality, but I sure do now. Today, when I receive a thank you note or any card it brightens my day!

There are endless occasions to send a note and I have to admit, I've slacked off these past few years myself, but I'm going to try to do better. It doesn't have to be a hand-written note each time, maybe a card with a side note to make it personal is all it takes to let the person know you are thinking of them and that their efforts have not gone unnoticed.

We all have older people in our lives who might not get out much, or someone we haven't visited in a while. Sending them an I'm thinking of you message reminiscing about time spent together might cheer them and bring a smile to their face. Notes and cards are all about letting others know that they matter.

It doesn't take long to address an envelope and send off a communication to brighten someone else's day. It will make you feel good and the recipient will know you are appreciative and thinking of them. I know today it's easier to email or text, but a good old fashion note still can make a difference. Spread some kindness today, it's worth your time.



-© Judy Sharer is the author of a four-book historical Civil War era romance, family saga series titled A Plains Life, published by The Wild Rose Press, available wherever online books and eBooks are sold. If you enjoy quilting, you'll enjoy her series with a thread of quilting throughout the story. Look for her next book this fall. Visit Judy's website judysharer.com for more details and if you have read her books please leave a review on your favorite site

Papa pops Grand dad Dad  
pa daddy PAPI padre  
**FATHER'S DAY, JUNE 15th**  
pappy Grandpa Pop  
opa baba Daddy FATHER



Happy Mother's  
Day from your  
Country Register  
May 11, 2025



## Signs of Summer in Nature

by Janet Young

There are many ways you can tell summer is on its way by certain signs in nature. For instance, beginning in April and May fireflies start to appear. Walk at night in an open field, and as if by magic flashes of light begin to appear. It is through these flashes that the bugs are communicating with one another.

But how many remember from their childhood, when the first flash of light appeared in a darkened field, the excitement this would elicit. Most likely you ran in your house to get a jar and lid with holes punched in, so as to allow the bugs to breathe. These were exciting times, for the occasional light in the night air produced a magic all of its own making. By evening's end, the bugs were released so that they could join the rest of their friends.

Next comes the butterfly with its large, colorful wings folded at rest, to open wide when it's time to fly, is a beautiful sight to behold. They are unassuming and gentle, yet children especially want to catch them. If you have ever been to a butterfly house, you see the beauty as they flutter by.

But life for the butterfly has not always been easy. To transform from a caterpillar to a butterfly is very challenging. However, it was the fight that brought this adversity which built a strong, unassuming butterfly. Amazingly, after this transformation, the butterfly just flies on to start its new butterfly life.

Finally, there is the Ladybug, which is actually a beetle with a bright red body and black dots. This bug is so pretty it has caught the attention of the fashion world to the extent, that on occasion it has designed fashions reminiscent of the colors of the ladybug.

Some people believe there is a religious symbolism like heaven, or angels associated with the ladybug. In addition, the ladybug is associated with good fortune, happiness, and love.

While nature has provided us with a bounty of insects, they all serve a purpose in preserving our natural surroundings. And while, I have chosen some of the more unique or most beautiful examples, there are still more to discover.

I started out with the intent of making us aware that when we see these wonders of nature, it is then that we know summer is on its way. And by the way, another way I personally, can tell summer is on its way, is something I experienced while working in my yard today. And that was the honking of geese, announcing that they have returned after a winter in the south. But that's a story for another time.

It is now time to enjoy the fleeting days of summer, because before too long I will hear the geese honking as they make their flight down south for the winter days that lie ahead.

Have a great summer!

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



## Rush City • Sandstone

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

---

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

---

★ Join us in May for the All Minnesota Shop Hop ★  
 Visit us in St. Cloud vending at the Quilt Show June 19-21

---

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

Find us on facebook



## Garden Haven's

by Kerri Habben Bosman

I am writing in what some might call a "she-shed." I call it the office, but it is really my haven. About two years ago, we bought a 10' by 16' shed for all of the "toys" acquired when you live three blocks

from the water. Also, for everything lawn and garden related. Once our little building was set in place, I knew we had to get those kayaks in right away. Otherwise, it was quickly going to have hand-sewn curtains for the little windows and extra throw rugs from the house. We jokingly called it the boat house.

Fast forward to January of this year when the kayaks migrated to their berths beside the Intracoastal Waterway. My husband, Wayne, set his floor loom in the living room where two comfortable chairs had been. We had to store them somewhere, right? The wooden clock my dad made in 1982 needed a place to chime. The throw rug is here along with some surplus pillows and a small quilt. And yes, I sewed valances from leftover calico fabric. Their old-fashioned simplicity soothes me in our more modern world, even as I type away on a computer. We are all a bit ironic sometimes.

The best part is the old card table my mother bought around 1970. I put a tablecloth on it, unfolded a plastic chair and now I have a quiet place to write. I needed one.

Last year at this time, I had a creative lapse. I simply couldn't write an article. Thankfully, Wayne submitted an article for that issue. A wordsmith himself, he now looks forward to writing these articles. This fulfillment as a writer makes my moments of frustrating dormancy all worthwhile.

I described my Picasso blue period this way:

I struggled to write because I had thought of everyone else for so long that I forgot how to tap into my own wisdom. The depletion was so gradual that I didn't sense it until it was too late. Creativity needs to be fed and watered. I forgot that and fed everyone and everything else. I planted seeds in our garden, but I forgot to water the plants inside of myself.

Thus, I have come to treasure my haven of a shed. I sit here and listen to Daddy's clock tick along with the tapping of my fingers on the laptop keyboard. From here I can see the garden beds, the well-settled ones and the new ones we just set out this year. New herbs are spreading out. Our sugar snap peas are thriving and the tomatoes we grew from seed are on their way. Zinnias splash redemptive color across our garden beds.

My stepdaughter and I used to consider the pros and cons of being very kind-hearted. It is a gift having a deep capacity to give of ourselves to others. We lamented that sometimes we were perceived as weak, when being softer around the edges actually requires an interior strength. Yet, it is too easy to forget yourself and therein lies the downside. We talked of how to find a good balance.

My stepdaughter too had a shed. She envisioned living long enough with advanced stage 4 cancer to share her healing haven with others struggling with the same illness. She planned a garden around the shed. I promised her some of our zinnia seeds for her planters. It was not to be.

I think of her life as a flower and of all the seeds of kindness she sowed throughout her life. Her blossoming will continue as her children grow into their own gardens and as they give of themselves. And I smile at the tender, tenacious zinnias opening up to the sun.

Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer in Cape Carteret, NC.

## THE Cutting Edge Quilt Shop

Bring in this ad for  
**20% off Regular Priced Item**  
 (Expires 6/30/25)

Hours:  
 Mon-Fri  
 9am-5pm  
 Saturday  
 9am-4pm  
 Sunday  
 Closed

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

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

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

## That Old Pink Robe

by Becky Van Vleet

I was heartbroken when my beloved mother left earth for heaven in 1977 when I was only 23 years old. My husband and I hadn't even reached our second anniversary yet. It felt so unfair. I'll never forget the day Daddy asked my sisters and me later on to go through our mother's clothes and decide what to do with them. That was an incredibly difficult day. We donated some items, while others we kept as personal mementos. I requested my mother's pink satin robe. It was already missing a couple of buttons, and dangling threads hung from the satin quilting. I can't recall why I asked for it, but I saved it in a drawer for almost 40 years.

Here come the grandchildren. Six granddaughters! As I brought out the robe for them to play dress-up, fond memories of my sweet mother filled my mind. Watching that old pink robe find new life with the little ones made my heart burst with joy. However, with age and gentle play, it has become quite worn. I've had to mend the robe several times. It's much too large for my younger granddaughters, yet they adore its long length and the feel of the satin. The memories of my mother wearing that robe around the house on chilly days are still etched in my mind to this day.

To preserve the cherished garment as a special keepsake, I've removed it from the play clothes and placed it on a dedicated hook in my closet. I'm thrilled whenever my granddaughters say, "Nana, I'm cold. Can I wear your mother's robe?" I hurry to retrieve it for them. I share tidbits about my mother when the robe comes out. How kind she was to others. Her pretty brown eyes. How her homemade macaroni and cheese was the best ever.

The memories flood back. And when more than one granddaughter visits at the same time, it's not unusual to have to mediate who gets to wear it. I never imagined this would happen!

Why did I save this old robe? Back then, I wasn't sure why I wanted to hold onto it. But now it makes perfect sense. It holds cherished memories as I watch my granddaughters scampering around in it whenever they feel "cold." It reminds me of my lovely mother, and that's priceless.

I encourage all of you—grandmothers, mothers, daughters, aunts, sisters, and friends—to hold onto a piece of clothing, a quilt, a doll, a teacup, a scarf, or any meaningful keepsake you can pass along to your children or grandchildren. While the item might not seem important now, its value often grows over time. Share the story behind it. Create a cherished memory. Treasure the tale. That old pink robe brings me immense joy even today.

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 nine grandchildren. Becky is a children's picture book author, and her website is devoted to family stories and creating memories: [www.beckylvanvleet.com](http://www.beckylvanvleet.com)





Cloquet • Duluth • McGregor

**Open Everyday!**

**The Country House** *Shopplace of McGregor*  
and **The School House Cafe**

Hwy. 65 and 210  
McGregor, MN  
218-768-2324

School House Cafe  
Hours:  
6am - 2pm

**WE HAVE GREAT ITEMS FOR EVERY OCCASION!**  
*The Country House is a destination for the entire family!*  
Stop in for some Ice Cream at the Country House!  
Grab a coffee drink at the Cafe drive through!

[www.countryhousemn.com](http://www.countryhousemn.com) • [www.schoolhousecafemn.com](http://www.schoolhousecafemn.com)

**Quilted Dog**

274 Hwy 33 North  
Cloquet, MN 55720  
218-879-3577  
[www.thequilteddogquiltshop.com](http://www.thequilteddogquiltshop.com)

Hours: Mon-Fri 10-5 • Sat: 10-3

**All Minnesota Shop Hop**  
Continues through May!  
**Super Sunday May 18**  
12pm - 4pm

**Full Service Quilt Shop**  
Beautiful Fabrics • Great Patterns & Books  
Wide Array of Notions • Multiple Kits  
Long Arm Services

**Country Craft Shed** 7016 Van Road  
Duluth, MN  
218-721-3258

**OPENING MAY 3RD**

Plant Sale: May 24-25-26  
Fall Opening: September 6  
Christmas Sale: Nov 28-29-30

*Country and Primitive • Home and Garden Decor  
Repurposed, Rustic, Vintage and Fun Junque  
Plants and Garden Items*

Hours: Sat. & Sun.  
10pm - 4am

**Closed the month of August**

*Save These Dates!*

your friendly quilting place

## Super Sale

Come shop the deals, while they last! We're making room for lots of new spring fabric. Some of the deals include: \$6 one yd cuts // \$15 three yd cuts // \$20 five yd cuts // \$2 panels // \$1 FQs // 50% & 30% select fabrics // end of bolt discount on batiks



It's time for the 4th annual shop hop! It runs all of April & May. Magazines include free patterns, maps & shop directories. They are available now! You can also pre-purchase the exclusive fabric & take it home in April.



1731 W Superior St. Duluth, MN 55806  
218-628-1687 | [creationsquiltshop.com](http://creationsquiltshop.com)  
10a-5p (tues-fri) & 10a-4p (sat)





Cook • International Falls

**CABIN QUILTING**  
218-666-3146



227 1st Street SW • Cook, MN 55723

We Have LOTS of Fat Quarters!!

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

**All Minnesota Shop Hop**  
through the end of May  
Hope to see you at the hop!

**Summer Hours:**  
Monday - Friday 10am-4pm  
Saturday 10am-3pm



**UP NORTH QUILT SHOP**

★ Online Quilt Shop! ★  
[www.upnorthquiltshop.com](http://www.upnorthquiltshop.com)

By popular demand we now have two Monthly Sew In's a month!  
May 2nd-4th • May 16th-18th • June 6th-8th • June 20th-22nd  
These monthly events are like mini retreats! \$20 and pot luck meals!

**Youth Sewing Class: Hot Pads**  
June 28th (no charge)



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





Front Porch in the Summer

by Tammy Page

June, the nationally known celebrated month of weddings and love, including my own, also means days of baseball, swimming, working 4-H animals, baling hay and lots of porch sitting. I love my front porch more than grilled hot dogs, more than 4th of July sparklers and almost more that spending time with my grandkids, I said almost.

My front porch is big enough to have two seating areas, and is covered. It has a great north/south breeze and faces the road where I can wave to my neighbors as they drive by. My porch is the best place to sit and feel the sun to warm by aching bones and drink my morning coffee. I also like to read while relaxing there on my settee. I can place my coffee on the side table all the while reading my newest country magazine. My Australian shepherds lay at the edge of the sidewalk keeping me company and watching for me to rise to give them rubs and sometimes a morning treat. On the other end of my 20-foot porch is a well-loved swing. It's so comfy that I have often fluffed up the pillows and laid down for a nap. My grandkids love to sit with me as I read them one of their favorite books, or play riddly, riddly ree, AKA I spy. Oh, the things we could "I Spy" from the front porch. There is a menagerie of trees, flowers, the yard decor, the cows and calves, the dogs and so much more. The rug on the floor invites the grandchildren to bring out their tote of toys and play at our feet as we visit with our friends and loved ones. A gate is installed across the entrance where we can "coral" them while still keeping a watchful eye on the little ones and also keeping the big, excitable dogs off the porch and from grabbing up the children's toys as their own.

Eating a snack on the porch is the perfect spot for our two-year-old twin grandsons who tend to spill and drop crumbs of animal crackers. Of course, they love to reach through the railings and treat one of the dogs with a few of those crackers too. If truth be told, that is probably the reason why the dogs stay so close while we are out on the porch. They know the twins love to share and get lots of thank you kisses and licks from them too.

The porch has also been a refuge when days have been hard. It has given distance from a quarrel with my spouse, solitude from a teenage spat with her boyfriend, a need to have some quiet time and even a time to reflect after the death of a loved one.

No matter the reason, my country porch will always be my favorite place.

-© Tammy Page writes from her family farm in Indiana. When not helping her husband with chores, she loves scoring a great collectible at an antique shop and spoiling her children and grands.

Val is the Queen of sparkle, metallics and sheen fabrics



**Studio 53**  
QUILTS & GIFTS

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

Also Home to  
FotosOnFacebook

Open by Appointment only while we get the shop ready for summer! If you are already here call 218-240-1078, we may be able to let you in! We'll fully reopen in June!

**218-285-9962**  
Regular Shop Hours  
Starting in June

**By the Yard®**

© 2025 Jennifer Lopez

I CAN'T DECIDE WHICH SHADE OF RED TO USE... CRIMSON? CABERNET? CLARET? CARMINE... OR CERISE?

WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE FABRIC SHOP AGAIN, AREN'T WE?



[www.bytheyardcomics.com](http://www.bytheyardcomics.com)



## Oklee

## Recipe: Creamy Greek Yogurt Ranch Dressing

submitted by Shirley Ross

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tsp fresh dill or 1 tsp dill weed
- 2 tsp fresh parsley - chopped or 1 tsp dried parsley flakes
- 2 tsp fresh chives- chopped or 1 tsp dried chives
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp onion powder
- 1-2 tbsp milk
- salt and pepper to taste

### Directions:

In a small bowl, whisk together yogurt, lemon juice and mayonnaise. Stir in herbs, garlic and onion powder. Add milk until desired consistency is reached. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and refrigerate for 30-60 minutes to blend the flavors. Can be stored in refrigerator up to 1 week. Shake well.



## Oklee Quilting Supply, Inc.

**Sew Much Fabric, Sew Little Time,  
We Will Make You Sew Happy!**



205 Main St • Oklee, MN 56742  
218-796-5151 • 1-800-777-7403  
www.okleequiltinginc.com  
email: okleequilting@hotmail.com

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

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

# Exploring the World of International Quilt Festivals: A Global Journey of Inspiration Part 2 of 4

by Kim Caskey of Kim Caskey Tours



**Quilt Canada** is the premier national event for Canadian quilters, hosted and organized by the Canadian Quilters/Courtepointes Canadiennes (CQA/ACC). This vibrant annual quilt festival celebrates the artistry, innovation and heritage of quilting through dynamic exhibitions, competitions, workshops and community events. Quilt Canada takes place in a different city each year, flipping from east to west across Canada's provinces, allowing quilters nationwide to participate and making it accessible to a broader audience every year. This rotation also brings a regional flair to festivals, with each locale contributing its own culture, traditions and styles to the event.



Quilt Canada

Quilt Canada offers a mix of juried-in competitions and invitational exhibitions, highlighting the best quilting of its members. The leading star of the festival is the National Juried Show (NJS), where Canada's top quilters compete in various categories including hand quilting, machine quilting and innovative design.

Alongside the NJS, visitors may explore other curated displays known as Concurrent Shows, often featuring international guest exhibitions, as well as view entries from special challenge projects hosted by CQA/ACC. Quilt Canada is also known for its exceptional lineup of workshops and lectures led by renowned instructors, where quilters of all levels can learn new techniques, gain fresh inspiration and connect with Canada's vibrant quilting community. In addition to the visual and educational aspects, Quilt Canada hosts a bustling marketplace, where vendors offer fabrics, tools, patterns and one-of-a-kind artisan goods, catering to every quilting need. Each year, the festival brings the community together, inspiring creativity, building connections, and celebrating the rich cultural tradition of quilting in Canada.

**The International Quilt Festival**, Houston, Texas, US, has long been a beacon in the world of quilt festivals, drawing quilters and textile artists from around the globe. For decades, it has set the gold standard for quilt festivals, offering a remarkable showcase of competition quilts that exhibit exceptional creativity, technical skill and artistic expression. Each year, the festival's quilt competition features diverse categories, attracting entries from both seasoned and emerging quilters, whose works reflect a variety of styles—from traditional and modern to innovative art quilts. These stunning quilts are displayed in expansive, thoughtfully arranged exhibits, inspiring festivalgoers with their intricate details, striking colours and often thought-provoking themes.

Though the festival has decreased in size over recent years—especially since the pandemic—it continues to offer a vibrant experience for attendees. The vendor mall is a highlight, filled with rows of booths featuring an incredible variety of fabrics, quilting tools, patterns, notions and kits. Quilters can browse unique items from specialty stores, many of which travel great distances to participate in this premier event. Despite its slightly smaller scale, the International Quilt Festival remains a must-visit for quilters worldwide, continuing to celebrate and elevate quilting with its stellar exhibitions, interactive workshops and a sense of camaraderie which makes it a beloved fixture in the quilting community.

We'll cover **Festival of Quilts** and **The Knitting & Stitching Show**, both held in the UK, in the next issue of *The Country Register*!

Kim Caskey, who is based in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, is a professional longarm quilter and owner of Kim Caskey Tours. Kim hosts specialized textile-based tours in numerous international destinations with unique and exclusive textile visits and activities creating memorable experiences for quilters, stitchers, their family and friends. Everyone is welcome on Kim's tours! [www.kimcaskey.ca/tours](http://www.kimcaskey.ca/tours), [kim@kimcaskey.ca](mailto:kim@kimcaskey.ca), 1-780-288-9008.



International Quilt Festival



**The Minnesota Quilt Show!**

**JUNE 19 - 21**

**River's Edge Convention Center,  
St. Cloud**

Preview Night on Wednesday 6/18, shop vendors early  
\$12, 7 - 9 pm

Thursday and Friday, \$15, 9 - 5  
Saturday, \$12, 9 - 4

Youth 13 - 18 \$5  
Kids 12 and under free

Admire: Quilts from embellished to minimalist, from master to youth, from stunning to powerful

Learn: Demos, MN quilting history, lectures & workshops

Do: Sew a block with Quilting for Others

Connect: Meet-ups, find a Quilt Guild

Shop: quilting supplies, machines, yarn, and more!

[mnquilt.org/mq2025](http://mnquilt.org/mq2025)

Minnesota Quilters Inc.



## Recipe: Lemon Fluff

- 1 large can evaporated milk - refrigerated over night
  - 1 package lemon Jello (small)
  - Juice from 1 lemon
  - 1 cup boiling water
- Dissolve the Jello in water then add juices to it and refrigerate for about 1.5 hours or until it thickens.

- 2 packages Graham crackers - cinnamon style if wanted
- Crush the Graham crackers. Then add 1 stick melted butter. Use 2/3 of the crumbs (approximately 2 cups) to line the bottom of a 1/4 sheet tupperware. Save the rest to sprinkle over the top.

- 11 oz cream cheese
  - 1 cup sugar
  - 1 tsp vanilla
- Beat together then add the thickened Jello mix.

- Whip the refrigerated evaporated milk until thick. Then add the cream cheese mix to the whipped evaporated milk. Pour into Graham cracker lined Tupperware. Sprinkle Graham cracker crumbs over the top. Refrigerate over night.



Minnesota's Best Kept Secret!!

**Lost and Found**

Hwy. 22 Downtown • Eden Valley, MN • 320-453-5678  
Hours: Monday - Saturday 9:30-3:00

Check out our specials during these fun events!

Eden Valley City Wide Garage Sales  
May 15th - 17th

Valley Days: June 26th - 29th

10<sup>th</sup> Annual

**St. Cloud Spin Fest &  
FIBER FAIR**

**Sat. June 7, 2025 10-4**  
**St. Cloud, Minnesota**

**- vendor marketplace**  
Local and handmade items for sale

**- classes & free demonstrations**  
Wool preparation, knitting, crochet, felting, and more. Also, bring a wheel or drop spindle and join the Spinning Circle

**- open class competitions**  
Ribbons awarded for fiber art, handspun skein, handdyed yarn, knitting, crochet, felting, weaving, textiles, and more. Just like the State Fair!

**- food trucks, live music, animals**  
Llamas and baby sheep are on site so no other animals, please.




**Rocking Horse Farm Knitshop**  
25636 County Road 74 - Saint Cloud, Minnesota 56301  
near Interstate 94 & Highway 13 south

[www.facebook.com/stcloudspinfest](http://www.facebook.com/stcloudspinfest)  
[www.rockinghorsefarmknitshop.com](http://www.rockinghorsefarmknitshop.com) - shop open year round - email: [knitshop.rockinghorsefarm@gmail.com](mailto:knitshop.rockinghorsefarm@gmail.com)



Tell the advertisers within the paper  
**THANK YOU!**  
They make **The Country Register**  
possible!  
Be sure to tell them you saw  
them in the paper!



Happy Mother's Day!



Mark your Calendars  
for  
The Minnesota Quilt  
Show!

Minnesota Quilters is ecstatic to be returning to the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud June 19-21 with The Minnesota Quilt Show. Minnesota Quilters offers many events each year with the largest being The Minnesota Quilt Show, thanks in no small part to having a dynamic quilt scene here in Minnesota. Attendees will find hundreds of quilts, vendors selling fabric, patterns, supplies and machines, as well as classes and lectures by quilting experts.

Plan for a day trip or take a deep dive and register for a multi-day pass. The Show begins with Preview Night on Wednesday, June 18, from 7-9 p.m. You'll meet the teachers, celebrate the winners of the judging and get first claim to vendor wares. The Show is open 9-5 on Thursday and Friday with admission \$15 and 9-4 Saturday with admission \$12. Kids 12 and under are free while youth ages 13-18 are \$5. Special events offered for an additional fee include Friday's themed banquet, "Wish Upon a Star" and Thursday's meet & mingle quilted garment fashion show.

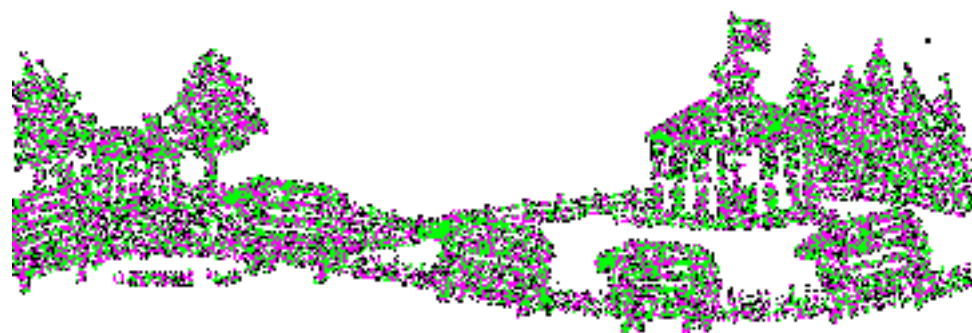
Take inspiration from the quilt exhibits! The Judged Quilt Exhibit draws people from across the county and is judged by nationally certified quilt judges with over \$20,000 in prize money awarded. Judged Quilt categories include applique, art, group, mixed technique, modern, pictorial, piece, upcycled and workmanship. The Non-Judged Exhibit offers a wide range of styles on display, add to that the results of the 2024 Mystery Quilt-along, "All Buttoned Up" Challenge, Medora Pattern (by Jill Blair) and Youth, you will be sure to find some favorites. Special Exhibits this year include traveling exhibits such as "Poppy Cherrywood" a eight color palette of Cherrywood Hand-dyed Fabrics, "Red, White & Blue Traditions in Miniature from sisters Ellen Carter & Anrea Blackhurst, "Cathedral Window Quilts" by Linda Ellis and more. You will find exhibits from MN quilt guilds and Minnesota Quilt members, including a retrospective featuring the work of Pat Cox. Minnesota Quilter of the Year, Sharyn Resvisk will also exhibit a sampling of her work. All in all, there will be much to see and admire.

Shop from vendors that are local and national - all in one spot! If you have been thinking about buying a new machine, this is the place for you with all the top brands represented and ready with show deals. Fabric, patterns, notions, furniture will be available from a variety of vendors.

If learning is a priority, there are several options: workshops, lectures and presentations on the Learning Stage which offers a wide variety of topics. Advanced registration for workshops and special ticket events is available online, now through June 1, but you can buy lecture tickets at the show and the Learning Stage is free. Faculty include Rose Allen, Kathie Beltz, Rachel Clark, Joe Cunningham, Gwen Hanvy, Pat Harrison, MJ Kinman, Kelley McKenzie, Bethanne Nemesh, Helen Smith Stone, Lisa Thorpe and Elaine Wick Poplin. Patricia Simons will be a participating Lecturer this year and Allison Rainboth will be available for quilt appraisals.

Connecting quilters is a priority for Minnesota Quilters and so we encourage you to learn about local quilt guilds at our Connect Table, meet members of the Board, hang out in our Sewcial Lounge to learn tips, work on a project from class or meet new people. For additional fun, learn about the Minnesota Quilt Project and sew a block with the Quilting for Others and enjoy engaging with our rich community of quilters.

Minnesota Quilters is a statewide organization which provides quilting education, activities, mentoring and fellowship for quilters. Visit [www.mnquilt.org/mq2025](http://www.mnquilt.org/mq2025), call 651-224-3572 or email [showdirector@mnquilt.org](mailto:showdirector@mnquilt.org)



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

Mediterranean Bean Salad  
recipe by The Harvest Kitchen

- 1 15-ounce can garbanzo beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 15-ounce can cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 15-ounce can kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1/4 cup red onion, chopped fine
- 3/4 cup celery, chopped
- 1 small cucumber, peeled seeded and chopped
- 3/4 cup fresh Italian parsley, chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh basil, chopped
- 2 tomatoes, chopped fine
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, finely grated
- 1/2 cup Kalamata olives, optional
- 1/3 cup pepperoncini, optional

Three Bean Salad Dressing

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- juice of 1-1/2 lemons
- 1 clove garlic, peeled and minced
- 1/2 teaspoon dried Italian seasoning
- ground pepper and sea salt to taste

Dressing directions: In a small bowl whisk together the olive oil, lemon juice, garlic and Italian seasoning.

Salad directions: In a large bowl, add the ingredients for the salad and toss. Drizzle the dressing over the ingredients and toss again. Refrigerate for 45-60 minutes before serving.

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



Luverne • Pipestone • Windom • Worthington



## CRAFTY CORNER

### QUILT & SEWING SHOPPE

1131 Oxford St. Suite 2 Worthington, MN 56187  
507-372-2707  
www.craftycornerquiltshop.com

- 40 years as authorized Bernina Dealer!
- New Fabrics Arriving Almost Daily!
- Online Shopping Coming Soon!
- Classes Starting Soon!

Hours: Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm  
Sat 9am - 1pm • Sun Closed

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see what's new!



Find Us in Historic Downtown Pipestone  
124 West Main Street  
Pipestone, Minnesota 56164 • 507-562-2554  
<https://thecalicocatquiltshop.com>  
[www.facebook.com/TheCalicoCatQuiltShop](https://www.facebook.com/TheCalicoCatQuiltShop)

All Minnesota Shop Hop  
Continues through May

Quilt Minnesota Shop Hop  
July 25 - August 16

Mystery Five-O Retailer  
Join us for free mini-mysteries on Facebook  
More info on our website under M50



## 2 Minute Lift

by Kathy J. Sotak

### My Life Was Changed by This Gift In Disguise

I was given a special gift last month. The gift was pure magic, but disguised as an everyday household item. Just before Christmas arrived a bulging box pouring out a high-end, name brand blanket.

To be honest, I didn't need a new blanket. My family has more blankets than a household needs. If I dare count, I likely have two or three for every human, dog, chicken and fish on property. Just like you, I have them all. I have hand-crocheted afghans and fleece throws. I have quilts, outdoor picnic blankets, sand-proof beach blankets and even silly ones to wrap and strap around your body. I have former favorites that can't yet be discarded, as their holes and stains are imprinted with memories.

The new blanket didn't care about the others, though. It marched into my life with its own purpose. It was in disguise, daring me to accept a different offering. It multiplied as I unfolded it, and together we melted into the couch. There was no choice but to embrace together in deep ceremony. Imagine the feeling of a dozen puppy cuddles. Imagine giant angel wings enveloping you in their loving embrace. Imagine tightness you didn't know was there instantaneously dissolves. A miracle from heaven. Under the spell of this magic blanket, my mind switched off and my body melted into original form. My heartbeat gushed out a new elixir that calmed every inflamed bit.

Comfort. That was the true gift I received, but disguised in blanket form. No wonder they call them comforters.

As I let myself be comforted by the blanket, I started asking questions. Do I let myself be comforted enough? Do I let others comfort me, when I am hurting, over-burdened or grieving? This leads me to ask, who are my comforters, the ones I go to for support? Finally, when I am the best one to comfort me, do I even know how to do it?

Sometimes, comfort comes in the way of a friend. Sometimes, comfort comes from the spiritual realm. Sometimes, comfort comes in the way of a comforter or soft sweaters or cozy socks. Sometimes, the best person to comfort you, is you. How do you comfort yourself? Do you have a favorite sweater or slippers that serves as your comforter? Do you have a special animal, friend or family member? Do you dive into prayer or meditation and seek help from the Source outside of you?

If you aren't sure where to start, try this trick I learned: if you feel a little hurt, vulnerable or sad, simply place one hand on your other forearm, or place your hand on your heart. Then feel into how great that feels.

It can be your own gift in disguise, a built-in comforter that doesn't cost a dime.

Thank you for your support. Let me know what lift this provided to your day by commenting at <https://2minutelift.com/match/>

Don't miss a story and subscribe at <https://2minutelift.com/newsletter/>.  
Need another lift? Check out 60+ other stories at <https://2minutelift.com/>.




## THE SEWING BASKET

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



We are a dealer for  
OESD Designs

All Minnesota Shop Hop  
Continues through May  
April 1st - May 31st

Husqvarna VIKING SINGER



1293 Hale Place • Windom, MN 56101  
507-831-2740  
[www.prairiequiltingmn.com](http://www.prairiequiltingmn.com)  
[prairiequilting@windomnet.com](mailto:prairiequilting@windomnet.com)  
Hours: M-F 9-5 • Sa 9-12

Visit us this spring summer for these fun events!

Crossing Borders Spring Fling Shop Hop:  
April 26th - May 3rd

Quilt Minnesota Shop Hop:  
July 25th - August 16

Call for more information!





## Blue Earth • Sherburn

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



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

michelesquiltingandsewing@outlook.com  
www.michelesquiltingandsewing.com

✂ Quality Quilt Fabrics

✂ Janome Sewing Machines Sales & Services



Classes - Notions - Sewing machine repairs and services



## A Tale of Two Cars

by Barbara Kalkis

I admit that sometimes I tend to over-think things but I believe this in a good way. By over-thinking, I can rationalize things that I would otherwise reject as nonsensical behavior and stop myself from an unwise comment.

Case in point: During a trip to Palm Springs my friend's husband pulled into a parking garage slot next to a gleaming white BMW that was next to a gleaming white Bentley that was next to another gleaming white BMW – all new models. None of this “vintage” stuff.

I've seen plenty of BMWs, but the Bentley Continental GT convertible was breathtaking. It was sleek and luxurious, making the BMWs look pitifully commonplace. Admiring its curvaceous lines from a distance – to avoid the motion alarm and police – I noticed that license plate frame simply read, “Bentley.” Huh?

Since the Bentley logo is emblazoned on the trunk for all to see, I nearly slipped into my old habit of asking questions like, “Do you think that's his dog's name or his?” Then I stopped, recalling that I was trying to avoid overthinking things and be positive. So instead of chirping something like, “Couldn't he think of anything clever to say?” (I assume it was a “he” since women make 84 cents to every dollar earned by men), I told myself to consider that the owner might be exercising courtesy to drivers behind him. Just think, if you're following a Bentley in traffic, the license frame is a clear caution that if you “rear-end” it, you're going to be “slammed” too – by your insurance company for picking up his repair costs. Or perhaps he chose that license frame because other drivers might not observe that he is cruising in a Bentley. Or maybe their eyes aren't good enough to recognize the winged logo.

A short time after that trip when I was home again, I pulled into a parking lot just behind my favorite market. It is not used much because the distance to the entrance requires that you walk about 50 more steps than if you park in the front. (There's that over-thinking thing again.)

As I marched through the lot, I noticed a nondescript older-model beige car that was showing some wear-and-tear. Nevertheless, it was pristinely clean and in quite good condition. Suddenly, the license plate frame caught my attention. No, it did not say “Bentley”! The top of the frame said, “THANKS MOM & DAD.” The bottom of the frame proclaimed, “I LOVE YOU!”

I started to weep. Here was a person who wasn't boasting, advertising a car dealership, pushing a political agenda, spouting a joke or bragging about their university. No. This person simply made a declaration of love. And if the driver behind her (back to the salary disparity comment) saw the message, it reminded them to tell their parents how much they love them. Or maybe their siblings, spouse, grandparents, children, friends, teachers or whoever.

Many countries celebrate Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grandparents Day, and Children's Day. Anyone can celebrate these holidays and then contentedly wait another year to say, “I love you.” Meanwhile, that one driver's simple message announces it every time the car leaves home. It only takes money to own a Bentley. On the other hand, it takes true emotion and courage to express love in a bold public way. Only one of those car owners showed that capacity.

The most innocuous signs in the most unexpected places can change us. When the message is “I love you,” there's no need to think about it. Just act.

©Barbara Kalkis, 2025. Barbara spends her time writing, teaching, and working in tech. She's author of Little Ditties for Every Day...A Collection of Thoughts in Rhyme and Rhythm. Contact her at BarbaraKalkis01@gmail.com.



120 SOUTH MAIN, SUITE C • BLUE EARTH, MN 56013 • 507-526-2006

FULL SERVICE COUNTED  
CROSS STITCH RETAIL SHOP



SHOP OUR WEBSITE!  
WWW.WELCOMESTITCHERY.COM

NOTIONS • PATTERNS • THREAD • NEEDLE POINT • FABRIC  
WOOL • BUTTONS • DIAMOND PAINTING • EMBROIDERY  
HARDANGER • KITS • CLASSES • ORNAMENTS

HOURS: TUE & WED: 9:30AM - 5PM  
THURS: 9:30AM - 6PM • FRI: 9:30AM - 5PM • SAT: 9:30AM - 3PM

### May Blowout Sale

Online and in Stores  
MAY 19 - 23RD, 2025  
ONLINE AND IN STORES

SELECT  
MERCHANDISE

Free Shipping on  
orders over \$125



115 N Main Street  
Sherburn, MN 56171

507-764-4088

www.oldalleyquilts.com



Hours  
M-F 10-5  
S 9-5  
1st Sunday of the  
Month 1-4



Patterns | Tools Kits | Fabric | Notions  
Long Arm Services  
Go to our website for free  
patterns and ideas

### Upcoming Classes

- Kids Beginning Quilt Camp June 7<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> - 21st \$249 includes everything you need including use of the machine
- Harper Elephant Class July 12th \$55.00 includes precut kit and pattern
- Snowy Pines Paper Piecing Table Runner Class July 19th \$30 includes pattern



All Minnesota Shop  
Hop  
April-May 2025

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



## Where in Minnesota?

The answer is...

Leaping Walleye photo op  
at Kabetogama, Minnesota

Located east of Ray, Minne-  
sota at Lake Kabetogama, you  
can take a picture on this 14-  
foot leaping walleye! The Walleye  
is even equipped with a saddle  
as well as a ladder around the  
back to help getting on!





**St. Peter Woolen Mill**  
 101 W. Broadway • St. Peter, MN 56082  
 507-934-3734 • www.woolenmill.com  
 Highest Quality Green Products and Services

---

**Don't Get Left Out in the Cold!**

Now's the time to Refurbish that old Comforter!

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

**Hours:**  
 Mon - Fri  
 9am - 5pm

**The Thimble Box**

Join us this summer for the  
 Quilt Minnesota Shop Hop!  
 July 25th - August 16th

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

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

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

★ Across the Freeway from Cabelas! ★  
 Southern Minnesota's Largest Gift Store

Open 7 Days  
 a Week!

**Country Goods**  
 Owatonna, MN • 507-451-5661

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

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

Preview lots of our products on Facebook!

## The Garden: Where Creativity Blossoms!

Why do you garden?

Yes, you enjoy the beauty of your flowers and the taste of your fresh-from-the-garden vegetables. But the real attraction likely comes from a deeper place. Connecting with that deeper place is soul satisfying. Reveling in that aspect of the garden offers rewards that go well beyond the vision and the palate.

Direct your artistic impulses in any way the spirit moves—writing, painting, crafting, drawing—and your garden will enchant you in a new and vital way.

Journaling the Garden

A garden journal can take many forms. It might be a record of the sequence of blooms, and the date you picked the first tomato of the season. It can document the life stages of a back-yard butterfly from egg to larva to pupa to emergence, or a robin nestling in the holly outside your kitchen window. Or it may be an artistic outlet that helps you to examine and express, in words or drawings or collage, what most excited you on a particular day.

If you've never journaled before, try these exercises:

- Sit in the same place once a week for three or more weeks, and draw the weekly changes in the scene before you. It might be a rosebud opening to full bloom and then fading, or the leaves on a branch of a tree changing from green to orange. It might be the head of a sunflower.

- Take a moment to just listen. Write down every detail of what you hear—birds singing, leaves rustling, cicadas sounding. Make it into a haiku, a three-line poem with 5-7-5 syllables per line, respectively, if you wish.



## In the Black

by Wayne Bosman

Kerri and I reached a new milestone today. We finished unloading and spreading a pickup load of topsoil into our expanded garden beds. We both felt compelled to grow more food this year but

growing a productive garden in coastal North Carolina is a learning experience for me, having grown up in Southeastern Wisconsin. Kerri grew up in Raleigh where red clay is a far cry from the coast's sandy soil.

I was fortunate to have my first garden in Wisconsin. I was a 4-H member and learned at meetings about the different mixtures of fertilizer and soil testing for maximum output. Probably more importantly, we were guided to which variety of vegetables to grow by people who grew food for a living. The Sweet Spanish Onions, Big Boy Tomatoes, and Silver Queen Corn was well suited to our area and to my goal to have everything flourishing at the time of the County Fair. I was mostly in it for the ribbons. Not that that was a bad thing.

Yet I was a careless gardener, unlike my father. Dad enjoyed nothing more than spending time in the garden. Before work or after supper he loved to survey the garden and pull the errant weed or thin out the nonproductive plants. I weeded under duress only. The black Wisconsin soil bailed me out.

In early spring, I spent countless hours behind the rototiller, watching the tines bust up clods of soil into grains. I loved leaning back to restrain the tiller from bouncing along the winter-hardened soil until it had dug its way in deep enough that it could not go further until I let it. Every few feet I would toss aside rocks that came to the surface, wondering where new rocks came from in a space that had been gardened year after year. That well-tilled soil, after the planting was done and the first few weeks of daily watering and looking for growth, did most of the work. Baseball was a much more attractive option for our bunch of rowdy boys and Dad, having supplemented the family income as a semipro pitcher, was an understanding taskmaster.

But that was long ago in a distant place. Plants that grew effortlessly in the Midwest's rich soil don't always thrive along the North Carolina coast. To compensate, the growing season starts in February and some crops are produced year-round. We often end up talking to Mom about Kerri's work in our garden while snow covers the garden space of my youth. When I was a child, it was considered quite a gamble to plant the less hardy crops before mid-May. "Knee high by the 4th of July" was considered the measure of a successful corn crop.

There are lots of reasons to want to grow more of our food this year. Prices rarely go down. But even more, my daughter's passing in January makes me focus more on the cycle of life. And, God willing, another grandchild is arriving soon.

My daughter had purchased four new planters and set them up outside her little shed. She was building a refuge for other women suffering with cancer. Books, a sauna, musical instruments and a quiet place to escape to for support were part of her vision. She didn't get the chance to fill the new planters with soil.

When Kerri and I found some similar planters to put on our underused but sunny front porch, we didn't hesitate. We added an extra garden bed in the back yard and went down to the landscape supply store up the road. The truckload of rich black topsoil brought back a flood of memories from my youth. It is an act of faith that it will provide even more memories in the future.

Wayne M. Bosman is a retired auto mechanic living in Cape Carteret, NC



## Kiester • Wells



## Quilter's Cottage

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

Call for more info!

### All Minnesota Shop Hop Continues all of May!

Check our Facebook page for  
retreat and sale information!

Long Arm Quilting by  
Patchwork on the River



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

## ANTIQUES OF THE MIDWEST

WIDE VARIETY OF GENUINE ANTIQUES  
BY MULTIPLE DEALERS

CHECK OUT OUR  
VINTAGE FABRIC AND  
SEWING NOTIONS

HOURS: TUES-SAT 9:30-4:30  
SUN & MON BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT  
AFTER HOURS CALL: 507-456-3699



57534 110TH ST. • WELLS, MN 56097 • 507-553-6048

facebook

## Talkin' About My Jeans Generation

by Barbara Kalkis

The health benefits of my yoga class begin about an hour before the class itself. That's when I begin putting on my leggings. These contemporary girdles guarantee a sleek look that smooths out wrinkles, flab, bulges and "thunder thighs." Stomachs and the 'rear view' are flattened to shallow curves. The waist on the leggings ensures that you will have a waist by pinching it into breathless submission. The breathless part refers to your lower lungs. They do not conform to you. You conform to them.

Despite the torture, I view leggings as part of a mandatory uniform. (Yes, I am unduly influenced by social media and glamour magazines.) So, I pull my leggings out of the drawer and begin the process of putting on what only appears to be a flimsy piece of stretchy elastic. The first exercise begins. I bend over and touch my toes, one foot at a time. In this position, I pull the leggings up past my ankles. Then I unroll each "leg" to reach my shins. No go. I cannot get past my ankles. I hope, with no success. I begin tugging, yanking, pulling. Keeping my feet apart is crucial. If I relax my death grip on the heavy elastic fabric, it snaps back in place and knocks my knees together. After more pulling, yanking and acrobatics, my waist is finally encased in the elastic prison. I am a bit blue from lack of oxygen, but I have mastered the yoga style "look." When the Yoga master directs us to breathe through our abdomen and fill our lower lungs, it is impossible to do so, but deep breathing is overrated. I have perfected my ability to pant like a dog awaiting a left-over beef rib.

You may think I am exaggerating, but I took physical therapy for a shoulder problem and acquired a rainbow selection of stretchy straps of increasing stiffness. The PT marveled at my upper-body strength in stretching the most advanced band. I could have told him it was because of my leggings but saw no reason to discourage his professional enthusiasm for helping a patient.

Yoga has taught me a valuable lesson, aside from exercise or meditation. It has taught me to be proud that I am a member of the jeans generation. Jeans are always in style. The fabric is stiff at first, but after a few washings they are comfy and conform to your shape. The stretchy waists do really stretch. They let your stomach be your stomach so you can breathe. Jeans may not hide curves, but they enhance them. They come out of the wash with a simple shake and fold and are ready to wear again. Jeans go with anything. They don't "pill" or stretch so far out of shape you can only use them for garden stakes.

Jeans are statement clothes. They can be dressed up or down. They can be worn with a sequined top or an old plaid shirt. You can wear them to dig in the garden or to walk your kids to school. There's no worry about restricting blood flow. You have the freedom to run, stretch, sit, stand, go anywhere and do anything. They last almost forever. You can cut them down from long pants to "crops" to "shorts" and then sew the remainder into a purse. Jeans speak about a generation of people who work, picnic on the grass, are dressed and ready for any adventure, and who know that true comfort is both a look and a lifestyle. I call that being part of a great generation!

©Barbara Kalkis, 2025. Barbara is a writer, teacher and high-tech consultant. She's author of *Little Ditties for Every Day...A Collection of Thoughts in Rhyme and Rhythm*. She owns more pairs of jeans than pots and pans. Contact her at [BarbaraKalkis01@gmail.com](mailto:BarbaraKalkis01@gmail.com)

## Back Porch Break

by Nancy Brummett

### My Mother's Hands

I was blessed to be with my mother for two weeks before she passed away at 92, even though we lived thousands of miles apart. Sitting beside her bed I found myself drawn to her hands—wanting to touch them and hold them as long as I possibly could.

These were the hands that cared for me when I was little and reached out for me when we crossed the street—both when I was small and carefree and when she was old and frail. These were the hands that created the home my two sisters and I remember so fondly...the hands that stirred the gravy, tied the bows on the backs of our dresses, decorated the Christmas tree, and folded the laundry.

On family vacations my Mom would lay her arm across the back of the front seat where she sat with my Dad, tapping her fingers in time to the music on the car radio or to the songs she was teaching us. I remember marveling at her long red nails and sparkly rings and thinking my Mom's hands had to be the most beautiful hands in the world!

As she aged arthritis took its toll on Mom's hands, but they were still beautiful to me because they were the hands that clapped excitedly whenever she first saw me on one of my visits to Tennessee from Colorado. And when she wanted to call her three daughters together one last time, and it was so difficult for her to speak, she motioned to us with her hands. Saying, "I want one, two, three" as she pointed to three spots on the foot of her bed, she indicated she expected us all to be present at once. When we were assembled, in an incredible and memorable blessing, she told us how much she loved us, how proud she was of us, and thanked us for taking good care of her in her old age. Then she sang the words "He touched me" from the old hymn, and simply said the word "peace."

Mom lingered for two more days but never really spoke or opened her eyes again. She had said her goodbyes. As I sat by her bed after she had slipped away, I was still holding her hand and wondering how I could ever let it go.

But the Lord knew that day would come and thought of a way to comfort my sisters and me in it even as He was creating us in our mother's womb. For you see, when we look at our own hands they remind us of our mother's in so many ways. With hearts full of the love Mom gave us, and still gives us from heaven, we are left to carry on with our children and grandchildren. The work of her hands is now ours to do, and by God's grace we will do it joyfully as we celebrate her life and the legacy she left us—not just on Mother's Day, but every day we live.





## Happy Father's Day!

## A Cup of Tea with Lydia

by Lydia E. Harris

## Traveling Teacups

Sundays are a day of rest in our home, and I look forward to these leisurely afternoons to nap and read.

But one Sunday as I curled up on the sofa with a good book, my thoughts turned to Myrtle, our silver-haired neighbor. She had recently moved to a retirement home, and I wondered how she was doing. I smiled as I recalled times we had shared when she lived next door.

"You're my dessert lady," Myrtle said and giggled whenever I brought her warm bread pudding or other sweet treats. But now I couldn't easily stop by to see her.

Laying my book aside, I said to my husband, "Perhaps I should visit Myrtle today and take her tea."

"Good idea," he said with a smile.

I packed a tea basket for two. Inside I nestled china teacups and saucers wrapped in dishtowels, adding assorted teas, sugar cubes, and teaspoons. I would need a thermos of hot water, and, to live up to my nickname, dessert. Myrtle ate mostly soft foods and loved homemade puddings, so I cooked the easy tapioca recipe on the box of tapioca. I also took some spicy homemade applesauce to stash in her small refrigerator.

When I arrived, the curtains were closed and Myrtle reclined in her favorite chair, watching baseball on TV. Myrtle brightened as I opened the drapes. "I've been reading some good books lately," she said.

We chatted and admired her family photos. Then I unpacked the tea basket. Myrtle smelled each tea and chose a pear-caramel tea from France. I placed a doily on her saucer and brewed the tea in her cup. While she stirred in a sugar cube, I scooped warm tapioca pudding into green goblets.

"These goblets are so beautiful," Myrtle said.

I chuckled and admitted, "I bought them at a rummage sale for a quarter a piece."

She giggled at our shared secret, then added, "I hear Jonathan is engaged."

Myrtle loved hearing about our son's wedding plans, and I asked questions about her grandkids. Almost forty years separated us in age, but our mother hearts felt close.

Myrtle took the napkin I handed her and read its sentiment aloud: "Friends like you are special and few." She sighed and tucked it aside with the lemon drops and an extra teabag to enjoy later. I snapped a few photos so I could send her one and keep the memory of our teatime fresh for myself. Then it was time to pack my traveling teacups and drive home.

There have been other lazy Sundays when my teacups and I sat idle. But the Sunday we visited Myrtle remains a beloved memory. Yes, it really is more blessed to give than to receive. But by giving, I also received and left full brimming with memories of shared laughter, love, and tea.

Do you know someone who needs love? If so, won't you join me and pack a basket with a traveling tea party? You'll be glad you did.

## From Lydia's Recipe File: Easy Tapioca Pudding or Parfaits

2¾ cups milk (whole or 2%)  
1 egg, beaten  
1/3 cup sugar  
3 tablespoons minute tapioca  
dash of salt (optional)  
1 teaspoon vanilla

1. Combine all ingredients except vanilla in a large microwaveable bowl.
2. Let stand for 5 minutes.
3. Microwave on high until mixture comes to a full boil and thickens (about 10 to 12 minutes), stirring every 3 minutes.
4. Stir in vanilla.
5. Cool. The pudding will continue to thicken as it cools. Serve warm or chilled. Makes six ½-cup servings. Refrigerate leftovers.

Variation: Tapioca Parfaits. Use goblets or small glasses for individual servings. Alternate layers of pudding and favorite jam or fresh fruit to fill each glass. Top with whipped topping. Serve chilled.

Lydia E. Harris is a tea enthusiast and the author of three books for grandparents: *GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids*, *In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together*, and *Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting*, all available at amazon.com.

Piecing Life Together  
Life

by Barbara Polston

My daughter's friends were expecting their first baby. She asked if I would make a quilt to welcome their daughter. I have a "go to" pattern for baby quilts. Expectant mom's favorite color is purple. We selected purple fabrics, mostly with floral motifs in a range of light, medium and dark values. The pattern creates five stars trailing across the surface of the quilt. We selected a pretty pink for those. I've made too many of this pattern to count but felt that this one was the prettiest. My quilter helped select a lovely quilting pattern. We created a label with a heartfelt message. The quilt reached 100% finished the week before the baby was due.

Given what had become a tight deadline, my daughter asked me to ship the quilt directly to her friends. It arrived on Friday and was received with absolute delight. Now, all mom and dad had to do was await their daughter's arrival which had reached the "any day now" stage.

On Sunday night, I dreamt of the young man I dated throughout my senior year in high school. Although our dating relationship ended with my high school graduation, we remained friends. We saw each other at social events. He was a guest at my wedding. After my marriage, as I suppose is to be expected, we drifted apart. Over the years I reconnected with several people from my school days – some sought me out, others I tried to find. It's been nice to be able to reminisce with them as well as share their current lives. I tried, for many years and on more than one occasion, to find the young man who had been so special to me. Every attempt met with failure.

When I awoke on Monday morning, I decided to try one more time to find him. Searching the internet, his obituary was returned. He passed away five years ago. From what I read, it appeared that he achieved the life he had planned and was well loved. This discovery was saddening and a bit shocking. I fell down the rabbit hole into thoughts of high school and the many people that were such an important part in my life. I wondered if I had reached the stage in life where all I would hear about was the loss of someone else.

Then, on Tuesday morning, I received a text message from my daughter with a photo of her friend's newborn baby girl, so sweet being cradled by her mom. Life, I understood, is a circle of birth and death that we both witness and experience. Spirits lifted, I'm just glad that the quilt arrived in time to welcome a new life.



©Barbara Polston, March 2025. Barbara is the author of *Quilting with Doilies: Inspiration, Techniques, and Projects* (Schiffer Press, 2015) and a series of children's books inviting young children to share in *The Adventures of Puppy Brian* ([www.puppybrian.com](http://www.puppybrian.com)). Barbara lives in Tucson, Arizona where she has failed at retirement, but is getting more time for sewing in a variety of forms. Contact Barbara at [barbarapolston-quilter@gmail.com](mailto:barbarapolston-quilter@gmail.com).

## Recipe: Creamy Greek Yogurt Ranch Dressing

submitted by Shirley Ross

## Ingredients:

- 1½ cup plain Greek yogurt
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tsp fresh dill or 1 tsp dill weed
- 2 tsp fresh parsley - chopped or 1 tsp dried parsley flakes
- 2 tsp fresh chives - chopped or 1 tsp dried chives
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- ¼ tsp onion powder
- 1-2 tbsp milk
- salt and pepper to taste

## Directions:

In a small bowl, whisk together yogurt, lemon juice and mayonnaise. Stir in herbs, garlic and onion powder. Add milk until desired consistency is reached. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and refrigerate for 30-60 minutes to blend the flavors. Can be stored in refrigerator up to 1 week. Shake well.





## Lone Rock, IA • Winterset, IA

Pack your sewing machine and venture to Winterset Iowa

# IOWA QUILT FESTIVAL

## 3 Day Quilt Retreat June 4-6

### Airing of the Quilts June 7

CLASSES WITH	LECTURES WITH
Pati Fried	Millie Kehrli
Tony Jacobson	Deb Cashatt
Sharon Wasteney	Irene Roderick
Scott Flanagan	Niraja Lorenz
Irene Roderick	Susan J. Lapham
Millie Kehrli	

Help support the Iowa Quilt Museum by joining in on the fun!



Details Here!

## Iowa Quilt Festival June 4-7!



Dozens of quilters will flock to Winterset June 4-7 to take part in a 3-day quilt retreat, nine classes taught by nationally known quilters, a gallery walk with the artists from "Tiny Pieces – Vast Visions", two lectures at The Iowa Theater, and more! The Festival culminates with the Airing of the Quilts on Saturday, June 7.

Headlining this year's festival are four quilt artists whose "Tiny Pieces – Vast Visions" exhibit is now at the Museum. Deb Cashatt, Susan Lapham, Niraja Lorenz and Irene

Roderick are four contemporary quilters whose work commands a strong visual impact when viewed together. They will lead a gallery walk at the Museum on Thursday evening.

"Mystery Quilt" by Tony Jacobson ([www.pieceworksqiltshop.com](http://www.pieceworksqiltshop.com)) takes place on Wednesday, June 4. Tony is well known nationally and in Iowa as a prolific quilt designer, maker and teacher, as well as serving as the manager of Piece Works Quilt Shop in Winterset.

Sharon Wasteney ([www.somethingstitched.com](http://www.somethingstitched.com)) will teach "Artful Collage" on Wednesday and "Faux Cathedral Windows" on Thursday. Sharon, from Hannibal, MO, has a number of published works including her book Hand Me Down Quilts.

Pati Fried ([www.patfried.com](http://www.patfried.com)) is a nationally known quilter, teacher and designer from Northern California, who will teach a "Log Cabin Improv" class on Thursday, June 5, and an inspirational "Design Journal" workshop on Friday, June 6. Friday's class helps creative souls in many different media find their "voice."

Scott Flanagan (<https://4thandmaindesigns.com>) is back teaching this year, with "Aurora Sky" on Thursday and "Linked Together" on Friday.

Millie Kehrli will present her lecture on Mary Pemble Barton at The Iowa Theater on Thursday, and teaches "Galaxies" on Friday, June 6.

Irene Roderick ([www.ireneroderick.com](http://www.ireneroderick.com)) is teaching "Dancing With the Wall Improv" on Wednesday.

The Livery will host the retreat, where quilters will make themselves at home with machines, tools and fabrics to create quilted treasures. Our retreat host will be back with coffee, breakfast, lunch and door prizes to enhance the quilting pleasure.

More details on classes and opportunities to register can be found at the Museum's website: [www.iowaquiltmuseum.org](http://www.iowaquiltmuseum.org) under the 2025 Iowa Quilt Festival in Events.



## Quilt Store and Retreat

2605 - 90th Ave  
Lone Rock, IA 50559  
515-570-9625  
[www.quiltedsteeple.com](http://www.quiltedsteeple.com)  
Hours: Tues - Fri 10-5 • Sat 10 - 4

### Open Retreat:

May 20-25  
\$150 for 3 days/2 nights  
Includes double room lodging and food  
Add an extra night for \$35


### All Iowa Shop Hop

June and July





# GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



## What Feeds Your Soul?

Is it a goal you are working towards?  
Your home-life? Family? Hobby? Activity?

"Feeding your soul" refers to nourishing the innermost part of your being, beyond your physical and material needs. It is engaging in activities or experiences that bring joy, fulfillment, and a sense of purpose. This could involve pursuing hobbies that ignite passion, spending time with loved ones, seeking moments of solitude for self-reflection, practicing mindfulness, or connecting with nature and art. In essence, it is about prioritizing your emotional and spiritual well-being to find greater meaning and contentment in life. It is a worthy process to take time and ask yourself the question - "What feeds my Soul?" One large hint, that might help answer this question is what activities you were drawn to as a child when just "playing". Is there anything is those childhood playtimes that brings to mind a point of true interest that could be developed into a hobby or current day activity.

**GIRLFRIEND WISDOM:** Try out one of your childhood activities and see how it feels - if it brings you deep joy, expand that feeling into a current day part of your life - it just might "feed your Soul!"

Joy & Blessings, Jody

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

## Recipe: Garlic Vinaigrette Dressing

submitted by Shirley Ross

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup cider vinegar
- 4 1/2 tsp sugar
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 tsp sea salt
- 1/2 tsp ground pepper

### Directions:

Place all ingredients in a jar, cover tightly and shake to combine. Store in refrigerator up to 1 week. Before using, remove from refrigerator so the oil can warm up to room temperature. Shake well and serve.





Lake City

**Hours:** Tue-Sat 10am-4pm  
**Pumpkinberry Stitches**  
 108 E. Lyon Ave • Lake City, MN 55041  
 651-345-2573  
 Gift Certificates available!

Visit us during the All Minnesota Shop Hop! Continues through May!

20% off one Item Expires 6/30/25

Fat Tuesdays! Buy 4 Fat Quarters get one Free!

**A Primitive Place Magazine**  
*Take a Step Back in Time*

Take a step back in time, with A Primitive Place, where history comes alive!

We invite you to step back in time with guided tours through five beautifully styled homes, each reflecting a unique and timeless charm. You'll also discover informative articles on antiques and primitive décor, along with hands-on craft tutorials, quick and easy recipes, and our exclusive APP Marketplace—where you can find, and purchase items featured in the homes you love.

[www.aprimitiveplacemagazine.com](http://www.aprimitiveplacemagazine.com)

# Recipe: Raspberry Cheesecake Bars

## Ingredients:

- Crust:**
- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
  - 1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted
  - 2 tbsp sugar

- Cheesecake Layer:**
- 16 oz cream cheese, softened
  - 1/2 cup sugar
  - 2 eggs
  - 1 tsp vanilla extract

- Raspberry Swirl**
- 1/2 cup raspberry jam
  - 1 tbsp water

## Directions:

Preheat your oven to 325°. In a medium bowl mix the graham cracker crumbs, melted butter and sugar until combined. Press the mixture into the bottom of a 9x9 baking pan lined with parchment paper. Bake for 8-10 minutes. Let cool. In a Large bowl beat the cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add the eggs one at a time and mix well after each. Stir in the vanilla. In a small bowl mix the raspberry jam and water until smooth. Pour the cheesecake mixture over the cooled crust and spread evenly. Drop small dollops of the raspberry mixture on top of the cheesecake layer. Use a toothpick to swirl the raspberry mixture into the cheesecake. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until the edges are set. Let cool completely then refrigerate for at least 3 hours



When you feel stressed by

**MODERN TIMES**

Take time to notice the Quiet

Feed your soul

with Silence

that's where Dreams

are born

I love that quiet time when nobody's up  
 & the animals are happy to see me.

♥ Olivia Newton-John

Shhh

Celebrate Spring! - Come visit me at my website: [www.susanbranch.com](http://www.susanbranch.com)





**Little Piece  
OF MIND**  
Quilt Shop

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

1027 N. Knowles Ave • New Richmond, WI 54017 • 715-246-7314  
[www.littlepieceofmind.com](http://www.littlepieceofmind.com) • [alicia@littlepieceofmind.com](mailto:alicia@littlepieceofmind.com)

**WI State Shop Hop Hours:**  
M&T&TH 10am-5pm  
W&F 10am-7pm  
Sat&Sun 9am-5pm

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

# Writing From Life

by Jeanette Lukowski

## Focused on Fun

For a number of years now, my grown son has made jokes about our different approaches to life. He describes us as being two different kinds of birds in the same flock: I am the focused goose at the front of the "V," fighting the windshear every mile—while he is the "relaxed" goose, riding the lift. In the "work smarter, not harder" ideology of his younger generation, he challenges me to enjoy the ride rather than fight through negotiations.

The adjustment has been challenging, but I'm already beginning to see some improvements in my physical health and mental outlook since I started down this path! All because I'm trying to focus more on "fun" and smiles now!

First, I attended a class on Color Theory held at a quilt shop. Such a great outing! Part of my course fee included my very own color wheel—while the other part introduced me to the woman who explained what it all means in relation to selecting quilting fabrics. Well worth both the time, and the course fee, in my humble opinion.

While we waited for the class to start, I had the opportunity to chat with a fellow classmate. She talked about how she meets her son for lunch every Friday, followed by a variety of classes offered at the quilt store in which we were sitting. How fun! I still work, but she planted the seed: Regular meal visits with family members!

After my recent move, the rewards have been quickly accumulating. A lunch-date with my mother, sister, and two others; a comedy show with my son and two of his friends, followed by dinner out; my grand-daughter's after-school dance program (which ironically ended 15 minutes after it started), followed by dinner out; two Sunday drives with my son to orchestral concerts in towns an hour's drive away, followed by dinners out.

And then this afternoon, the postal clerk and I shared such an exchange of giggles over a package I was mailing to a friend in another state, because it sounded like a set of maracas clicking away in the cardboard box! "Is it anything fragile?" she asked.

"No, they are just empty wooden thread spools. I am sharing them with my friend, because she is a wood carver. I forgot to take them when I went to visit her last summer, so I'm just mailing them to her now," I explained.

That's when we both acquired the giggle-bug. What might the other postal employees who handled the package along its journey think about the sound they would hear coming out of the box? What other unusual—or funny—things do people mail to others? What will my friend think when she retrieves the package from the post office? Or, if porch-pirates snag it—and think they have acquired something really cool? What if someone thinks the contents got broken during the shipping process? Such a lovely random Wednesday.

Smiles are free, and my blood pressure might be lowering.





**Woodland Ridge Retreat**

A Place to Create and Be Inspired

**5 Day Workshops:**

- 12 Students
- Superb Instructors
- Luxury Comforts
- Scrumptious Meals

**Located one hour east of the Twin Cities**

E4620 County Road C  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
715.664.8220

[www.woodlandridgetreat.com](http://www.woodlandridgetreat.com)

**Join us for a workshop or retreat with your favorite friends**

**Visit our website to learn more**



**Dye Candy Fabrics**

Elegant and Artistically Inspired

**Stocking a wide variety of 100% cotton fabric:**

Digitally Printed, Batiks and Hand Dyes

Shop in person, by appointment at  
Woodland Ridge Retreat or on line at  
[www.dyecandyfabrics.com](http://www.dyecandyfabrics.com)

**Strawberry Lemonade  
Mug Cake**

**Ingredients:**

- 1 box angel food cake mix
- 1 box strawberry cake mix
- 2 tbsp water
- 2 cups freeze dried strawberries
- 2 cups lemon pie filling

**Directions:**

1. In a gallon sized ziplock bag, combine both boxes of cake mixes.
2. Shake bag to thoroughly mix.
3. Add 3 tbsp of the cake mix into a mug.
4. Stir in 2 tbsp of water.
5. Add a rounded tbsp of lemon pie filling.
6. Microwave on high for up to 1 minute until cooked.
7. Add a generous dollop of pie filling and a sprinkle of crumbled freeze dried strawberries.
8. Save leftover ingredients for future cakes, or make one for your friend!



Photo by The Monday Box

Recipe by The Monday Box



New Prague



This month in  
**Minnesota**  
History

**May 3, 1959:** After passing through the St. Lawrence Seaway, which had opened on April 25, the British freighter Ramon de Larrinaga becomes the first deep draft ocean ship to enter Duluth's harbor.

**June 17, 1890:** The US marshal from St. Paul arrests seven census takers in Minneapolis, the opening salvo of the "Twin Cities Census War." St. Paul's leaders accused Minneapolis of cooking the books in order to claim the title "most populous city." The accusation is proven true; St. Paul, however, is also found to be padding its numbers. A new count completed in August gives Minneapolis 164,581 and St. Paul 133,156.

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



It's not hoarding  
if it's yarn!

*Random Acts*

by Maranda K. Jones

A Mother's Day Card

Dear Mother Nature,  
I am thankful for all that you do!  
The green grass below my feet  
And above the sky so blue.

Thank you for the love you give  
In sunshine, clouds, and rain,  
The birds chirping all around  
The spinning weather vane,

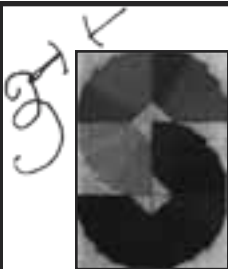
The calves' moos, the lambs' bleats,  
And the many babies we can hear.  
Thank you for the sounds we long for  
As inspiration this time of year.

You teach us to be patient  
And let the little ones grow.  
You endlessly encourage the  
Gardens planted in a row.

You inspire wisdom and strength  
Into creatures great and small.  
Your power abounds in new growth,  
In the plants both short and tall.

You continue to breathe life  
In ways not easily understood.  
We'd send you a Mother's Day card  
If only we really could.

© 2025 Maranda K. Jones



Hours:  
Tues - Sat  
9am-5pm

**Sue's Quilt Shop Inc.**

112 Main Street E • New Prague, MN 56071  
952-758-3210 • [suesquiltshopnp@gmail.com](mailto:suesquiltshopnp@gmail.com)

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

FABRIC • PATTERNS • KITS • MUCH MORE

Visit our website! : [www.suesquiltshopnp.com](http://www.suesquiltshopnp.com)

Stay "in the know"! Check out our Facebook page!

*Become Inspired*

by Annice Bradley Rockwell

**Nature's Artful Canvas**

As the season of spring advances, nature's beauty is on full display all around us. Our country lawns are like an artist's background canvas in a deeper, more vibrant green. Our dogwood trees' blossoms are in full bloom now dotting the surrounding landscape with beautiful pastels of pink and cream. Lilac bushes become heavy with tight abundant flowers that can be picked almost daily now to fill our antique white ironstone pitchers. These wonderful country bouquets of soft purple and white create a wonderful country look on a perfectly weathered and worn harvest table, bringing the scent and sight of spring right into our home.



**A Spring Sanctuary**

Our herb gardens often become a sanctuary after a long day's work when we find ourselves out in the warm sun preparing our soil and cleaning out our garden beds for the season to come. Hardy varieties of thyme and marjoram see to spring back to life and begin to fill in our open spaces around our stone steps or against the backdrop of a country picket fence.

Spending time making room for more plantings is an afternoon of bliss and it is well-deserved. Planning areas in our herb gardens for colorful annuals for contrast and height, like orange nasturtiums, purple salvia, pink zinnias or bright red poppies is time well-spent as it will add definition and depth to our garden spaces to enjoy all year long.

Nature's bounty can also be savored while on an energizing hike. Walking alongside the babbling brooks and vernal ponds of spring on a soft, winding trail is a country blessing to treasure. Being completely present in the moment, we notice the leaves on the trees showing even more green and the lush bushes along the water's edge seem to soften the scene. Taking time to enjoy nature's gradual transformation gives us a sense of gratitude for all that is around us and we are left with a feeling of complete peace.

**Creative Country Transformations**

The season of spring often rejuvenates us, providing us with increased energy and motivation to work on new projects and larger country tasks. Our outdoor spaces can now be transformed into a creative extension of our home using our country antiques, a few potted plants and elements found in nature. Establishing an intimate space in which to either entertain or to read our favorite country magazine on a bright spring morning can be a rewarding weekend project. A collection of flat stones can be gathered to arrange a rustic garden patio adjacent to a kitchen clipping garden. A weathered primitive table can be arranged with outdoor Windsor chairs to form a country space for cookouts with family and friends. Country lanterns on stakes can transform our backyard into an inviting spot to spend time sharing stories and making memories. And large sturdy antiques such as primitive kegs and country grain bins can be put to back to use as storage or as serving stations for our country events and gatherings.

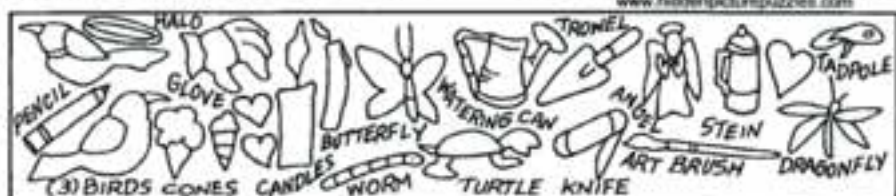
This season take time to delight in some of the longest, most satisfying days of the year. Create opportunities to surround yourself with nature and embrace the peace that nature always provides.

--Annice Bradley Rockwell is an educator and owner of Pomfret Antiques. She is currently working on her book, *New England Girl*. [NewEnglandGirl2012@hotmail.com](mailto:NewEnglandGirl2012@hotmail.com)



## Happy Mother's Day!

## Hidden Treasures by Liz Ball



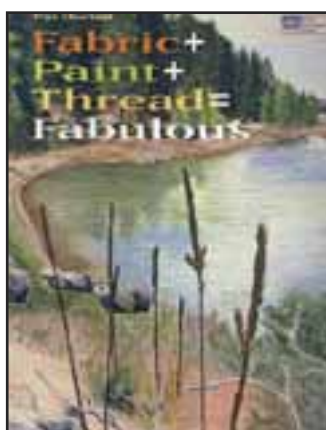
To order one of Liz Ball's Hidden Treasures books (1100-1800 hidden items/book) send a check for \$6.95 (plus \$3.75 shipping) to: Hidden Pictures, Box 1460, Cleveland, GA 30528 or order online at [www.hiddenpicturepuzzles.com](http://www.hiddenpicturepuzzles.com).

## Book Review

by Pat Durbin

If you're ready to take your quilting skills to the next level, this is the book for you! Pat's innovative techniques for painting, free-motion quilting, and embellishing allow you to expand your artistic horizons and make breathtaking art quilts.

First you'll paint on fabric to make a simple landscape background. Then the excitement begins! You'll use thread to "paint" astonishingly realistic trees, leaves, and more onto stabilizer, cut out the motifs, and apply them to the quilt. With five projects to choose from, there's plenty of inspiration for your next quilt.



You can register to win a copy of **Fabric + Paint + Thread = Fabulous!**

Clip and mail in this form! If you prefer not to cut up your paper, write the form below on a note card and mail to: The Country Register, 2920 - 144th Ave NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304.

You will be notified and receive your prize by mail! Good Luck!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Shop \_\_\_\_\_

## Free Pattern

For more fun and creative inspiration visit:  
[www.JacquelynnSteves.com](http://www.JacquelynnSteves.com)



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

## Quilters, Knitters &amp; Needle Artists:

Find Your Favorite Shops When You Travel  
in the **NeedleTravel Guide**

Purchase at your local shop or from us online.  
Don't forget to download the NeedleTravel App!

enjoy its companion:

**ShopHopper**

by NeedleTravel

Your free travel planner at [NeedleTravel.com](http://NeedleTravel.com)

[needletravel.com](http://needletravel.com) or 888-737-0847

only  
\$9.95



Facebook Pinterest Twitter

## Recipe: Mandarin Orange Salad

submitted by Patti Lee Bock

## Ingredients:

- 1 (6oz) box orange jello
- 1 pt orange sherbet
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 can mandarin oranges
- 1/2 to 1 cup mini marshmallows

## Directions:

Dissolve jello in 2 cups boiling water or juice from mandarin oranges. Stir in orange sherbet until dissolved. Add oranges and marshmallows. Chill.





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



Visit Us Online:

[www.etsy.com/shop/needlesnpinsstichery](http://www.etsy.com/shop/needlesnpinsstichery)

Offering Quality Fabrics!

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

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



## The Farmer's Daughter

A gathering of fine handcrafted goods & gifts

Open Year 'Round Mon-Sat 10-5 & Sun 12-5

Specialty furniture - primitives - home décor - jewelry  
gourmet foods - candles - great girlfriend gifts  
garden accents "And So Much More!"

4905 Long Avenue (8<sup>th</sup> St & Hwy 61), White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
(651) 653-6768 Like us on Facebook at: [thefarmersdaughterwbl](https://www.facebook.com/thefarmersdaughterwbl)



Be the reason  
someone smiles  
today!

**FREE SHIPPING** on orders for \$120 or more in the USA!

# Sew Trendy MN



**New Fabric Arriving DAILY!**

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

Visit our website  
[www.sewtrendymn.com](http://www.sewtrendymn.com)

Enjoy Shopping From Home!

## Weekly LIVE shows on Facebook!

Join Rachel on Facebook "Sew Trendy MN" for LIVE shows!

Wednesday - Saturday at 7pm

Trendy Fabrics, Kits & Bundles, Patterns, Notions, Demos, Prizes & More  
Great Giveaways during the show!



**Bring in this ad and get \$10 off**

(\$100 or more purchase)



Follow us on Instagram!



Follow us on Facebook!

Open For Business! Shop Hours: M-F 10am-4pm • Sat 10am-3pm and by appointment

1964 Rahncliff Court Suite 600 • Eagan, MN • 651-387-1815 • [www.sewtrendymn.com](http://www.sewtrendymn.com)

