

The Country Register

Available across the USA & Canada

Minnesota's Guide to Specialty Shopping & Fun Events

*Free!
Take One!*

November/December 2024

*Merry
Christmas*



Happy Thanksgiving!

The Country Register

Minnesota's Guide to Specialty Shopping & Premier Events



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Tell us all about a project you are proud of! Send in a picture and be featured in a future issue of The Country Register!

Photo and project details can be emailed to:
kim@countryregisterofminnesota.com

Or you can mail them to:
The Country Register of Minnesota
2920 144th Ave. NE
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Deadline For the Jan/Feb 2024
Edition is Dec 10th!

Merry Christmas!

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



Appointment
Reminder

What would we do without Appointment Reminders?
I receive them as a Text, an Email, and once in awhile on a little card.
Life is very busy, and the time flies by so quickly that we really need
and appreciate a way to keep us on track.
Some of the messages actually brighten my day!
"Thanks for scheduling your appointment with us. We're reaching out
to confirm your upcoming appointment on (date) at (time) for (purpose).
You're all set!"
Short, to the point, and gives me a feeling that - all is good in my world!
Receptionists have told me that reminders greatly cut down on no-shows
and late arrivals for appointments. A tool for good business practices that
flows over to good service for the entire day.
Isn't it always the small things that make a big difference in daily life.



GIRLFRIEND WISDOM

"Rejoice in the little things and they will continue to grow!"
(just a reminder!)



Joy & Blessings,


Girlfriend Wisdom is written and illustrated by Jody Houghton®.
For color files of this writing, contact Jody at: jodyhoughton@msn.com

Book Review

Detours

Seldom Does Life Turn Out the
Way We Expect it To

Adam Wallace thought he had his life all planned out until he couldn't get a job in his field of study after college. Rose Miller's life was drastically changed when a medical mishap put her in a wheelchair in a nursing home. Beth Young, sister to Rose and an employee of Adam, had the perfect suburban life with her husband and three children until she and her husband were in a car accident that changed everything. Samantha and Dwayne had a love that couldn't be. A police investigation, lawyer suppositions, missing persons, embezzlement, and a funeral bring them all together, along with mystery, revenge, inspiration, and romance. Will any of them turn back to God in time?

Book Giveaway! Enter to Win!

You can register to win a copy of **Detours**!

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!

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Here

Your Guild Name Here
Your Quilt Guild Address
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Contact us today to hear how you can get listed as well as receive a discount on any advertising for your guild events!
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Where in
Minnesota?

Somewhere in Minnesota the image
to the right can be found.
Where is it?
(Answer on page 5 of this issue)



Special Events

November	
2.....	Beginners Quilt Piecing Class - Up North Quilt Shop - International Falls
7-9.....	Hometown Holiday Road Trip
7-9.....	Hometown Holiday Road Trip - Sewing Seeds Quilt Co - New Ulm
7-9.....	Hometown Holiday Road Trip - Timble Box - New Ulm
7-9.....	Deer Camp Retreat - Quilt Haven on Main - Hutchinson
7-9.....	Christmas Open House - Lost & Found - Eden Valley
9.....	North Iowa Quilters Market - Clear Lake, IA - See Ad Page 5
8.....	Christmas Arrives - The Farmer's Daughter - White Bear Lake
8-9.....	Festival of Trees Holiday Open House - DeAnn's Country Village - Litchfield
8-23.....	Bingo - Quilted Dog - Cloquet
12-16.....	7th Anniversary Sale - Antiques of the Midwest - Wells
15-16.....	Holiday Open House - Quilter's Cottage - Kiester
19-23.....	Finished Display Samples Sale - Up North Quilt Shop - International Falls
25-30.....	22nd Anniversary Celebration - Michele's Quilting and Sewing - Blue Earth
29-30.....	Black Friday & Small Business Saturday Celebration - Quilt Haven - Hutchinson
29-30.....	Black Friday & Small Business Saturday Celebration - Quilted Dog - Cloquet
29-Dec 1.....	Christmas Open House - Country Craft Shed - Duluth
29-Dec 1.....	Christkindlsmarkt - Excelsior - See Ad Page 11
December	
2-14.....	Anniversary Sale of Caring - Prairie Quilting - Windom
4-7.....	Seventh Annual Holiday Hop - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
4-7.....	Seventh Annual Holiday Hop - Sewing Seeds - New Ulm
4-7.....	Seventh Annual Holiday Hop - Thimble Box - New Ulm
4-7.....	Seventh Annual Holiday Hop - See Ad Page 5
5-7.....	Junk Bonanza - Shakopee - See Ad Page 11
5-6.....	Julie's Birthday Bash - Quilted Steeple - Lone Rock, IA
14.....	Holiday Open House.....Quilt Haven on Main - Hutchinson
20-31.....	End of the Year Blowout Sale - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
26-28 & 30-31.....	Pre-Inventory Sale - Quarry Quilts & Yarns - Sandstone
January	
31-Feb 2.....	Quilt Games Retreat - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn






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KISSed Quilts

by Marlene Oddie
AnglePlay® Time

Many years ago I was introduced to Margaret Miller's AnglePlay® templates through my local guild when they made a stunning raffle quilt with blocks from guild members. This started my intrigue with half rectangle triangles and all the design possibilities this presents.

Several years later I was reconnected with the system through it's new owner, Off The Wall Quilt. During C*. I was able to take, via zoom, the certification course to become a Certified AnglePlay® Instructor.

After making several sample blocks with a variety template sizes, I wanted to see what I could do with just one template. The project shown here is what I came up with. Yes, I got three sizes out of one template -not its original intent, but none the less, it is possible!

I've called this – Modern AnglePlay®. With all the negative space and irregular placement of the blocks, it gives it a feeling of perspective with the blocks floating away from me.

Working with Island Batik and Northcott fabrics, I've designed several new quilts using these techniques. Some are just repeating blocks, colored multiple ways, or alternating blocks, but others are more unique with a variety of blocks that work nicely together. If you've invested in the entire template system, then I've got a pattern that rewards you and uses three of the five sets.

The engineered tip on these templates, makes the piecing so easy with consistent and accurate results. What a joy to work with!



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





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**Anniversary Sale of Caring
December 2nd-14th**

Donate at least 2 items and receive 25% off!
Items collect are donated to Windom Sharing Center

Wide variety of quilt patterns and books, quilting notions,
rulers, and approximately 3000 bolts of fabric.



Chocolate Candy Cane Mug Cake

- 3 tbsp flour
- 1 tbsp cocoa powder
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1 1/2 tbsp melted butter
- 3 tbsp milk
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 small candy cane, crushed
- Peppermint oil



1. Mix the flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and sugar in a mug.
2. Stir in the crushed candy cane.
3. Pour in the melted butter.
4. Add milk, vanilla and drop of peppermint oil.
5. Mix all ingredients together.
6. Microwave on high for 1 minute.
7. Check for doneness and add 15 seconds at a time until cooked.

Recipe by Best Mug Cakes



OLD ALLEY QUILT SHOP

Regular Shop Hours
Mon - Fri 10 am to 5 pm
Sat - 9 am to 3 pm
1st Sunday of every month 1 pm to 4 pm
115 N Main Street
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Over 3000 bolts of Fabric, patterns, books, notions, classes, and long arm quilting service located in a renovated bowling alley on main street of Sherburn, south of the I-90, Hwy 4 exit!

BLOWOUT Sale
DECEMBER 20-21, 2024

SEVENTH ANNUAL Holiday Hop

Watch for more information on our 5 year Anniversary Sale coming soon.

We are hard at work finalizing plans for our Quilt Games Retreat January 31 thru Feb 2, 2025. Watch for sign ups coming soon.

Happy Holidays from all of us at Old Alley Quilt Shop

Sign up to our email list to stay up to date on new and upcoming events. Follow and like us on Facebook to see what's new and look for Facebook specials.



Mark your calendars for the 17th annual

North Iowa Quilters Market

Best Western Holiday Lodge
I-35 and US Hwy 18 W (Exit 194) • Clear Lake, IA

Friday, Nov 8 (10-5) • Saturday, Nov 9 (10-4)

Come in from the cold and join us for a quilter's shopping delight. Thirteen vendors have their latest and best in kits, patterns, fabrics and long arm quilting machines for you under one roof. Make it a fun-filled day with your friends!

Participating Merchants:

- Rainbows & Calico Things, Williamsburg
- Quilter's Garden, Cresco
- Iowa Falls Sewing & Fabric, Iowa Falls
- Debbie's Quilt Shop & Gifts, Osage
- It's Sew Tempting, Story City
- Humble Heart Quilt Shop, Wells, MN
- Forest Mills Quilt Shop, Postville
- The Quilted Strawberry, Strawberry Point
- Mrs. T's Mercantile, Vincent
- Tillies Quilt Shop, Fort Dodge
- The Quilted Steeple, Lone Rock
- The Quilted Forest, Forest City
- Clover Cottage, Emmetsburg

Contact Debbie May
641-732-1474



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SEVENTH ANNUAL Holiday Hop

DECEMBER 4TH - 7TH
WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
9 AM - 4 PM


Visit all 8 Quilt Shops

- Michele's Quilting & Sewing Center - Blue Earth, MN
- Humble Heart Quilt Shop - Wells, MN
- River City Quilts - Mankato, MN
- Sewing Seeds Quilt Co. - New Ulm, MN
- The Thimble Box - New Ulm, MN
- Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn, MN
- Clover Cottage - Emmetsburg, IA
- The Quilted Steeple - Lone Rock, IA

Grand Prize: Featherweight Sewing Machine

Chance to Win 1 of a \$50 Gift Certificates

Receive a Complimentary GIFT at each shop



Where in Minnesota?

The answer is...
Trolls of Their River Falls

Eighteen different trolls, carved by Joe Wavra, were placed outside city buildings and private businesses in Their River Falls in 2016.

Blue Earth • Kiester • Wells

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

Michele's

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

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22nd Anniversary Celebration
November 25-30 (Closed Thanksgiving)
Daily Drawings! Grand Prize Drawing on Small Business Saturday Nov. 30th
(open 9-3 on Sat)

Check our Calendar for Shop Hop and Event Listings

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SAT: 9:30AM - 3PM



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Life in Skunk Hollow

by Julie A Druck

Best & Worst—Making Others Feel Valued

I find people fascinating. And I find them even more so when they are sharing about their life, experiences, and passions. I've lately begun a simple practice that teases out the things that light people up. It's really rather simple—I just ask the person to share the best and worst of an experience. Usually it's in relation to their job or life's work, but it can also be about an event, a trip, or something they've been through.

Recently I got a "behind-the-scenes" look into a man's six-year stint in being a staff photographer for an NFL team, heard the frustrations and benefits of being an electrical lineman for three decades, and was amazed by the sharings of a 90-year-old man who looks (and acts) more like 70.

I can't express how much I LOVE doing this. Upon asking myself why I enjoy the practice so much, I think it's because it makes people feel seen, recognized, and valued. When someone takes the time and care to genuinely express interest in another's life (even if only for a few minutes), it seems to make them feel special and honored. Without fail, every single time I do this, I notice that when people share about things that are important to them, they—physically—light up to some degree. And the feeling I get from making others feel valued in this way lights ME up. Such a simple little practice that costs me nothing but a few minutes of time seems to give others such a boost.

Why would I not want to invest in that?

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



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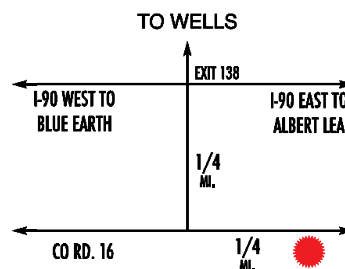
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Our Mothers' Sewing Machines

by Kerri Habben Bosman

In 1960, my mom purchased a Singer Slant-o-Matic sewing machine. She was 22 years old, and she had learned to sew from our Aunt Wilma. My mom used that machine for the rest of her life, and it served her well. Until recently, that Singer was the only machine I had sewn on, except for when I took sewing in school.

Whenever I use it, I see so much more than metal and dials. My mom is sitting at the dining room table sewing Santa hats for my entire first grade class because we were singing Christmas carols at McDonalds. There was the lined red cape when I was Little Red Riding Hood for Halloween, and the cat costume with the tail that took forever to stuff. There were sundresses with fabric I got to choose myself, ruffled pillows made for my bed, and pleated skirt for dress wear as a young teenager.

Watching my mother sew inspired me to do the same thing. Teaching me, she was patient and supportive enough to make me love to sew. She was always honest, telling me what I had done correctly and what needed fixing. She'd guide me through a repair, but I had to do it myself. This didn't always make sense to me when I was young. Sometimes I grumbled, "It would be so much easier if you did this." And she would answer, "But if I did, you'd never learn." Thus, I learned.

During our summer visit with my mother-in-law in Wisconsin, we talked about sewing. Her original sewing machine, a motorized treadle, is still up in her attic. Mom's 103 year old eyes lit up as she remembered how her mother had patterns and fabric spread out across the table. And my husband, Wayne, recalled how Mom used to do the exact same thing.

It has been some time now since Mom has sewn. She quite happily gave us her 1972 Kenmore sewing machine because she knew that it would hum and create once again. We call that machine Mom's and now the Singer is mine.

Over the years, I have made dresses, aprons, pillowcases, and tablecloths. Since Wayne's family became my family, every Christmas they all receive a hand-made gift. That means about 18 presents, and I start them in mid-August. Usually I hand-sew simply because I like putting the extra love into them. But with Mom's machine newly ours, I was inspired. I wanted to get to know her sewing machine.

It now lives at one end of our kitchen table. I also pulled out the Singer, which we set up in the living room. Between the two of them, all of my sewn holiday gifts were completed by the end of September. It helped that a local fabric store was having a major clearance sale with a wonderful selection. I took it as a sign that it was time to sew a lot. I figured out which machine I preferred for specific parts of a project. The best part was telling Mom that presents for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were all made on her sewing machine.

Our mothers made themselves lined suits and dresses, decorated their homes, and sewed special things for their children. Where my mom made me a Little Red Riding Hood cape, Mom made Wayne and his brothers cowboy shirts. There were doll clothes for my sister-in-law that Mom sewed at night so Linda would be surprised.

Our mothers may have sewn partially because it was relaxing and resourceful. It was a skill most women learned in their generations. But it was also far more than that. They sewed for the same reason I do. Because it says "I love you," without ever saying a word.

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




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This month in Minnesota History

November 9, 1913: Day two of the three-day Great Storm of 1913 begins. It kills 251 people on the Great Lakes (forty-four on Lake Superior) and sinks seventeen boats.

December 7, 1863: Richard W. Sears is born in Stewartville, Minnesota. While a railroad freight agent in Redwood Falls, he bought an unclaimed shipment of watches and sold them through the mail at bargain prices. From this mail-order idea developed the A. C. Roebuck and Company, housed on the seventh floor of the Globe Building in Minneapolis. Renamed Sears, Roebuck and Co., the business was eventually headquartered in Chicago.

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

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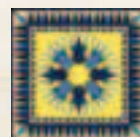
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Random Acts

by Maranda K Jones

Sweet Memories

Would you like some hot chocolate? Or would you prefer some hot cocoa? My preference is hot cocoa, but we tend to use those names interchangeably. Hot chocolate is usually made by melting solid chocolate in warm milk or cream. Hot cocoa includes a powdered base of cocoa with added sugar that is dissolved in hot water or hot milk. Hot cocoa tends to be sweeter, lighter, and much thinner. All goals I aim for in my everyday life, so it fits that hot cocoa is my warm drink of choice.

Some people enjoy a well-mixed cocktail or a sophisticated coffee, but as for me and my house, we will drink hot cocoa any time. We once left our hometown high school football field and walked home up the hill when the chill of fall was too much to bear on the bleachers. Around our picnic table, we wrapped our mittens around warm mugs and listened to the announcers several blocks away. The stadium lights mixed with the stars above as we sipped our warm sweet drinks and made sweet memories with our little kids.

They still love marshmallows, whipped cream, and chocolate chips, but the number of extra toppings in their cups has dwindled. They have grown older, and their focus on nutrition and athletics has taken precedence over their desire for sprinkles and sugar. We looked into the health benefits of hot cocoa and have chosen to believe everything we read on the internet about the beverage we like best.

It makes us happy! That alone is a great health benefit. Cocoa has been shown to increase levels of serotonin, helping to regulate mood and reduce anxiety, reduce fatigue and improve alertness. It satisfies the soul, reduces cravings and regulates how much energy is used. Some say it has positive effects on the immune system and heart health.

My heart beats joyfully thinking of our grandmothers and their hot cocoa recipes. My husband's grandma had the best recipe for homemade hot cocoa mix. Chris' grandma gave us a blue glass jar decorated with snowflakes full of her hot cocoa mix, and each time we emptied the jar, we would return it for a refill. That jar traveled back and forth between our houses often! When she finally shared the family recipe with me, Chris claimed she left out a secret ingredient because my mix just did not taste the same as when his grandma made it. Doesn't everyone have a family recipe that cannot be replaced? For my husband, his grandma was that one family member who cannot be replaced. Although we miss her greatly, we remember her with every mug of hot cocoa.

© 2024 Maranda K. Jones

GRANDMA'S COCOA MIX

1 8-quart package (about 10 cups) nonfat dry milk powder
16 oz. (about 4 ¾ cups) powdered sugar
1 ¾ cups unsweetened cocoa powder
1 ½ cups instant malted milk powder
1 6 oz. jar (1 ¾ cups) powdered nondairy creamer

Makes about 16 cups.

Place 1/3 cup cocoa mixture in a mug; add ¾ cup boiling water.

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



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Book Review

The Crazy Quilter

When Dana's great-aunt Angie passes away, she is bequeathed an unexpected inheritance—Angie's New England quilt shop, including her upstairs apartment. But as Dana questions whether the lifestyle of a small-town quilt shop owner will fit her, strange things are happening, leading Dana to wonder if the shop might be haunted by her great-aunt's restless spirit.

What dark secrets did Angie harbor? Why are her most prized quilts mysteriously missing? And could Angie's time in a psychiatric asylum long ago somehow be connected to the supernatural occurrences Dana experiences?

Faced with unearthing her family's hidden history and finding her great-aunt's legacy, Dana embarks on a journey of personal discovery. She is embraced in this quest by a group of local quilters: Edna, Janet, Alice, and Margo. These four women become Dana's allies and friends, offering her a sense of belonging and support as she delves deeper into her great-aunt's past. Through them, she comes to understand the importance of quilting for Aunt Angie and the town.

This charming, haunting tale blends mystery, quilting, and the power of family to uncover the essential meaning of being true to yourself and finding the threads that stitch a heritage.

The Crazy Quilter by Ronni Chavez, softcover, 118 pages is published by Road Home Quilting. The book is available in eBook and print format and coming soon in audio. You can find a link at Books2Read.com/TheCrazyQuilter. To get an autograph copy from the author go to Payhip.com/RoadHomeQuilting.

About the Author – Ronnie Chavez

Ronni Chavez is a quilter and storyteller who weaves her twin passions of quilt design and creative writing into heartwarming mysteries full of community, craft, and fun. With a degree in library science, she brings an archivist's eye for detail and a love of research to her creative process. When not overseeing the operations of Road Home Quilting, Ronni can be found in her home studio, stitching new quilt designs and crafting mystery stories. She finds inspiration in the natural world, vintage textiles, and the rich quilting traditions passed down through generations of makers.

For quilters, *Road Home Quilting* on Payhip offers patterns that not only entertain but also ensure your time is well spent and your creativity is rewarded.

Book Giveaway! Enter to Win!

You can register to win a copy of *The Crazy Quilter*!

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.
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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.

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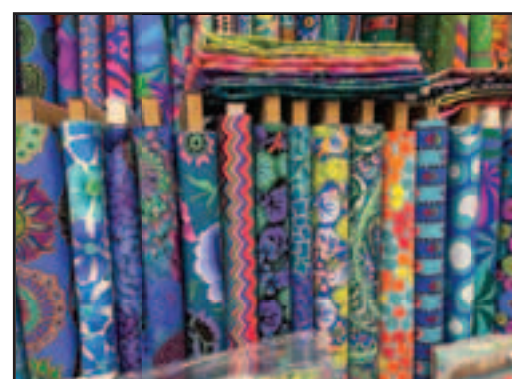
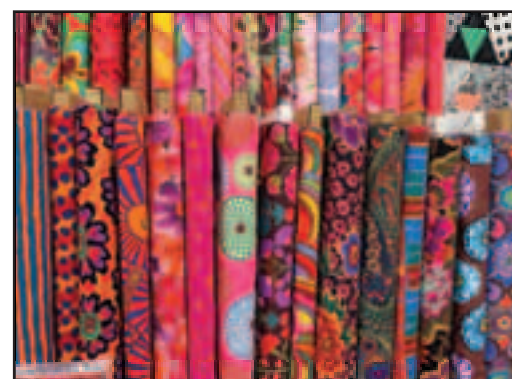
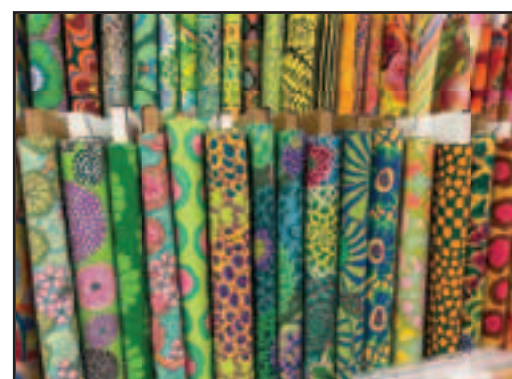


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EXCELSIOR CHRISTKINDLSMARKT TO TAKE PLACE THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

Excelsior, MN – The annual Excelsior Christkindlsmarkt will take place during the Thanksgiving weekend. This event draws people from all over the Midwest and is modeled after the traditional German, open-air Christmas markets. The festival features German holiday foods, decor, gifts, and entertainment for the entire family and is festively decorated for Christmas. It is the family event of the season.

The festival will run Friday, Nov. 29 (10am-7pm), Saturday, Nov. 30 (10am-7pm) and Sunday, Dec. 1 (10am-5pm) and will once again take place in downtown Excelsior in the parking lot behind the East Water Street shops. The festivities begin with the Grand Opening Program featuring our Christkind "the Golden Angel", who will present the Christkindlsmarkt Proclamation.

Father Christmas will be arriving in a surprise mode of transportation.

The Minnetonka High School choral Group will perform.

The Christmas Reindeer prance and greet Father Christmas and Friends

The immensely popular event will feature:

- Live Alaskan Reindeer on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
- Live Fluffy Alpacas
- The Children's Lantern Program on Saturday at 4:30 pm. Children carrying lighted Lanterns, with Father Christmas, and the Christkind will join together to Light the Christmas Tree and sing Christmas carols.
- The Minnetonka High School Coral group will perform
- Modern, vintage, and traditional German artisan gifts
- Local choirs, carolers, and musicians
- An array of delicious holiday and German foods
- Horse-drawn buggy rides on the main street of Excelsior
- Father Christmas will be available to hear Children's wishes.
- The NorthPole Trolley is running noon to 4:00 Fri, Sat., & Sun.

featuring music, balloon artist, and the popular Frozen Princesses

This year's major sponsors include; Ruhland Strudel Haus, Blue House Realty, LLC. Limbo Landing Marina, MTK Properties, Renewal by Andersen, Excelsior Paint & Design, Ooh La La,

New Horizon Academy, Joey Nova's, Lake Minnetonka Navigator, Excelsior Brewery,

The event consistently falls on Small Business Saturday and supports a variety of small businesses as part of the event in the town of Excelsior.

For more information about Excelsior Christkindlsmarkt and to see the latest schedule, please visit the new website: www.excelsiorChristmas.com

Event Coordinator: Myrle Mackenzie (952) 292-8898, myrlemac@aol.com





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- Thursday 5th Early Bird 8-10 General Admission 10-5
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- Saturday 7th From 9-4

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JUNK BONANZA
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junkbonanza.com

Merry Christmas!



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

Turkey Stuffing Balls
recipe courtesy of Cookes Recipes

- 2 cups mashed potatoes
2 cups stuffing
1 cup shredded turkey
1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 egg, beaten
1/4 cup bread crumbs
1/4 tsp salt
1/8 tsp black pepper

Preheat oven to 375°. Line baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside. Combine the mashed potatoes, stuffing, shredded turkey, grated parmesan cheese, beaten egg, bread crumbs, salt and black pepper in a large mixing bowl. Mix the ingredients well until thoroughly combined. Using your hands, form the mixture into 1-inch balls. Arrange the turkey stuffing balls on the prepared baking sheet, spacing them slightly apart. Place the baking sheet in the preheated oven and bake for 15-20 minutes or until the balls are golden brown and heated through. Serve the turkey stuffing balls hot with gravy and/or cranberry sauce for dipping!

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Become Inspired...
Join a Quilt Guild

by Susan Clay

Looking for new ideas for your quilting? One of the best things I did for my quilting was to join a quilt guild. When I joined a guild, little did I know I would not only meet new friends, but that I would also come away with new inspiration at every single meeting. Are you a beginning quilter who would like to have some basic ideas for different projects? Join a quilt guild. Are you an experienced quilter who feels your design level has become a bit stale? Join a quilt guild.

Think of a quilt guild as the modern evolution of the quilting bee. A quilting bee is loosely defined as “a social gathering at which the participants make quilts.” Imagine walking into a room where all the people there love quilting. Imagine five people huddled over a table comparing the construction technique of a specific quilt block. Sounds like fun, doesn’t it? Well, trust me...it is.

We quilters all know quilting can be an isolating hobby. We go into our “spot,” whether it be a dining room table, a special sewing corner, or an entire room dedicated to our love of quilting. Now, imagine sitting in a room full of people, all at different quilting skill levels, who share your love of quilting. Oh wait...does that sound intimidating? As a true introvert myself, it’s really not. You have the common denominator of the love of quilting.

Just at a basic “Show and Tell” of a guild meeting, where members show off a project or pattern, we will find beautiful examples of design modifications. If there is a specific project being shown by all members at a meeting, the variety and interpretation of the project can be endless with color and fabric selection. Experienced quilters can often find that looking at a quilt pattern through the eyes of a new quilter gives an entirely new perspective.

Many quilt guilds meet just once a month. However, with the presence of social media, texting, and messaging in our lives, we don’t need to limit our sharing just to the physical guild meeting. Most guilds now have a Facebook page and many have an Instagram account. We can share our love of the craft often if we so wish.

When a quilt guild friend recently told me about her new quilting project and sent a picture, it was inspiration for me. She had added a seasonal quilted piece to her front vestibule. Though I don’t have a vestibule to decorate, I do have a perfect outside spot to hang a small quilted seasonal piece.

And that, my friends, is what we gain from belonging to a quilt guild. It’s what “Show and Tell,” sharing, and posting pictures does for us...it gives us inspiration and ideas. Never underestimate the power of your quilted project on one another. So when you have finished that special table topper, baby quilt, throw, or bed-sized quilt, don’t hide it away. And remember “perfect is the enemy of finished”. Please share it with your new guild friends. Be The Inspiration!

“Google” search for your local quilt guilds or some advertise in this publication. You may be surprised at the choices available to you. Many guilds have open membership and others begin membership in January. It doesn’t matter when you join; what is important is that you join! You will always be inspired...Trust me.



Preserving a newspaper clipping?
Large bottle of club soda and cup of milk of magnesia , soak for 20 minutes. and let dry. It will last for many years!





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12 Days of Holiday Baking!

Enjoy Our
12 Days of Baking!

Thank you to everyone who submitted a recipe for us all to enjoy. You will notice some of our contributing authors have submitted their favorite Holiday recipes!



Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Christmas Shortbread

submitted by Lydia Harris author of "A Cup of Tea with Lydia"



Cream together:

1 cup butter, softened
1/4 cup brown sugar

Blend in:

2 cups flour

Pat into a greased 9x9-inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until light brown.

Combine:

1 1/3 cups flaked coconut
1/2 cup mixed red and green candied cherries, chopped slightly
1/3 cup candied pineapple chunks, chopped slightly (Or substitute candied cherry-pineapple mix for cherries and pineapple)
1/3 cup golden raisins
1/3 cup chopped walnuts (or substitute almonds, pecans, cashews)
1 cup sweetened condensed milk

Spread over shortbread and bake an additional 35 minutes or until golden brown. (Check after 25 to 30 minutes.) Cool. If desired, dust with powdered sugar. Cut into small squares. Makes 2-3 dozen cookies.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Holiday Morning French Toast

submitted by Wayne M. Bosman, contributing author




1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup butter, melted
3 tsp cinnamon, divided
3 tart apples (Granny Smith) peeled, cored, and sliced thin
1 loaf Italian or French bread, cut into 1" slices

1/2 cup dried cranberries or raisins
6 large eggs
1-1/2 cup milk
1 tsp vanilla

Combine brown sugar, butter, 1 tsp cinnamon in a 13x9 pan. Add apples and dried cranberries or raisins. Toss to coat well. Spread apple mixture evenly over the bottom of baking dish. Arrange slices of bread on top. Mix eggs, milk, vanilla, and remaining 2 teaspoons cinnamon until well-blended. Pour mixture over bread, soaking it completely. Cover and refrigerate for 4-24 hours. Bake covered with aluminum foil in pre-heated 375° oven for 40 minutes. Uncover and bake 5 minutes more. Remove from oven, and let stand 5 minutes. Serve warm.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Sugar Cookies

submitted by Freda Jansen of Paynesville, MN




1 3/4 cups sugar
2 cups butter
1 cup whipping cream
2 eggs
1 tsp salt

1 tsp vanilla
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
4 1/2 to 5 cups flour

Mix butter, sugar, eggs and cream together. Add the next 3 ingredients together and stir. Mix in baking powder, baking soda and flour. Chill dough for 1 hour. Roll out thin and cut with your favorite cookie cutters. Bake at 350° until golden brown. Cool and frost.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Cherry Christmas Cookies

submitted by Shirley Ross from Alexandria, MN




1/2 cup sugar
1 cup butter
1 (3oz) package cream cheese
1 tsp lemon juice
2 cups flour

1 tsp almond flavoring
1/2 tsp salt
1 cup chopped almonds
red candied cherries cut in half

Cream butter, sugar and cream cheese together. Add almond flavoring and lemon juice. Stir in salt and flour. Add almonds. Roll into one inch balls and press 1/2 cherry into top. Bake at 325° for 20-25 minutes.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Cherry Oreo Dessert

submitted by Marty Druck author of "Life in Skunk Hollow"




2 1/2 cups crushed Oreo cookies
1/4 cup melted butter
8 oz. cream cheese, softened

8 oz. Cool Whip
1/2 cup sugar
1 can cherry pie filling

Mix together Oreo cookies and melted butter. Press into an 8x8 pan. Beat until smooth and spread over crust. Top with cherry pie filling. Refrigerate.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Apple Nut Cake

submitted by Brenda Vanover of Myersville, MD
recipe from Judy Conrad



1 cup oil
3 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 tsp salt
1 tsp vanilla
3 cups flour
1 tsp nutmeg
1 tsp baking soda

1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp ground cloves
3 cups apples, finely chopped
1 cup walnuts, chopped
1/2 stick butter
1/2 cup light brown sugar
1/2 tsp vanilla
2 tbsp milk

Mix oil, eggs, sugar, salt and vanilla; set aside. Sift flour, nutmeg, baking soda, cinnamon and cloves. Blend with sugar mixture. Add apples and nuts. Pour into well-greased/floured tube pan. Place in cold oven, bake 70 minutes at 350°. For icing, boil the butter, brown sugar, vanilla and milk for 1 minute; pour over hot cake.

12 Days of Holiday Baking!

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Cocoa Peppermint
Thumbprint Cookies



submitted by Kris Asleson from North Mankato, MN

- 1 1/2 cup flour

3/4 cup sugar, plus 1/2 cup for rolling

1/2 cup cocoa powder

1 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp salt
- 6 tbsp unsalted butter, melted

2 large eggs, lightly beaten

1/2 cup confectioner's sugar

20 unwrapped Hershey Kisses,
candy cane variety

In a large bowl, sift together the flour, 3/4 cup sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt. Pour in the butter and eggs and stir to moisten and combine. When it gets all crumbly and uncooperative, use clean hands to knead the cookie dough together until it forms one smooth ball. Cover and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes. Preheat the oven to 325°. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Place 1/2 cup sugar in a bowl and the confectioners' sugar in a second bowl. Use a medium cookie scoop to scoop out balls of dough. Roll each first in the granulated sugar and then in the confectioners' sugar. Arrange on the baking sheet leaving 1-inch between each ball. Once all the balls are rolled out, press down in the center with your thumb to flatten and leave about a 1/2-inch indent. Bake for 10-12 minutes, until the cookies are puffed and cracked. Remove from the oven and wait 2 minutes then press one Candy Cane Hershey Kiss into the center of each cookie. Let cool for 5 minutes and then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Cheesecake-Stuffed Red Velvet



Cookies:

- 1 2/3 cups flour, scooped and leveled

1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

1 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp kosher salt

1/4 cup baking soda

1 1/4 cups sugar
- 1/2 stick unsalted butter, melted

1 tbsp buttermilk

1 tsp red food coloring

1 tsp pure vanilla extract

2 large eggs

Confectioners' sugar for coating

Filling:

- One 8-oz pkg. cream cheese, room temp

1/3 cup sugar
- 2 tbsp sour cream

1 tsp pure vanilla extract

Make the filling: Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Beat the cream cheese, sugar, sour cream and vanilla in a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Spoon 1 tablespoon of the filling at a time onto the parchment papers so that you have 12 dollops. Freeze until solid; about 2 hours.

Make the cookies: Sift together the flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, salt and baking soda in a medium bowl. Whisk together the sugar, butter, buttermilk, food coloring, vanilla and eggs in another bowl. Fold the flour mixture into the sugar mixture with a rubber spatula until smooth. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate until chilled, about 30 minutes (it will still be soft).

Preheat the oven to 350°. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Coat your hands generously with confectioners' sugar and scoop a heaping tablespoon of the cookie dough into your hand. Put one of the frozen cream cheese dollops in the middle of the dough and place another tablespoon of the dough on top of the cream cheese. Shape the dough around it to completely enclose the cream cheese, then roll to coat in the confectioners' sugar. Repeat with the remaining dough and cream cheese, coating your hands in confectioners' sugar as needed. Place the cookies on the prepared baking sheets about 2 inches apart. Bake until the cookies are firm around the edges and can be easily lifted with a spatula, 10-12 minutes. Let the cookies cool on the trays for 10 minutes and then transfer to a cooling rack to cool completely.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Sugared Pecans



submitted by Deb Heatherly, contributing author

Put 1 cup of sugar and 1/2 cup water in a pan and stir. Add 1/2 tsp cinnamon. Cook and stir on high for 2 minutes. (Until it begins to thicken.) Add 4 cups of pecans and 1 tsp vanilla flavoring. Turn burner to medium. Continue to cook and stir until mixture sticks to the pecans. Spread on waxed paper and cool.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Soft Gingerbread Cookies



submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN

- 1 cup margarine

1 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed

2 eggs, beaten

1 tbsp ground ginger

1/2 cup molasses

1 1/2 cup boiling water
- 1 1/2 tsp baking soda

5 cups flour

2 tsp baking powder

1 1/2 tsp salt

1 tbsp cinnamon

1 cup chopped walnuts

Cream margarine and sugar in a large mixing bowl; blend in eggs. Mix in ginger and molasses. Stir in boiling water. Set aside. Combine remaining ingredients except for the nuts. Add to sugar mixture. Fold in walnuts. Cover and refrigerate dough for at least 2 hours. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 425° for 10-12 minutes. Makes about 6 dozen.



Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Russian Tea Cakes



submitted by Freda Jansen of Paynesville, MN

- 1 cup soft butter

1/2 cup powdered sugar

1 tsp vanilla
- 2 1/4 cup flour

1/4 tsp salt

3/4 cup walnuts

Mix butter, sugar and vanilla thoroughly. Blend flour and salt. Stir in nuts. Bake 10-12 minutes. When warm roll in powdered sugar.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Candy Cane Puffs



submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN

- 2 1/2 cups flour

1/4 tsp salt

1/2 cup butter softened

1 cup powdered sugar

1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

1/2 tsp peppermint extract

8 oz pkg. white chocolate chips

1/2 cup peppermint candies, crushed

Combine flour and salt. Set aside. Blend together butter and sugar. Beat in egg and extracts. Mix into flour mixture using low speed. Wrap dough in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for one hour. Shape dough into walnut-sized balls. Place on lightly greased baking sheets. Bake at 375° for 10-12 minutes; cool. Melt white chocolate chips in a double boiler. Dip cooled cookies into melted chocolate. Roll in crushed peppermint candy. Set on wax paper until hardened. Makes about 4 dozen.

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Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

Turkey Talk

Turkeys wouldn't win the prize for being God's most beautiful creation. They're really a rather disgusting ornery creature, even while prancing around in the wild. Their highly praised fanned tail feathers are actually tattered and torn, if any remain after the bird fights through all its initiated squabbles. I wonder if the poor turkey even realizes that behind its puffed chest is a ragged rear.

The turkey, a perfect picture of pomposity, has become a synonym for a jerk. The turkey that will grace holiday tables across our country hardly even resembles the ones eaten by our forefathers.

According to history texts, those early birds were exceptionally thin and meager 10-pound scavengers. When a pilgrim was fortunate enough to kill the critter, eating the gamey, stringy bird was a real trial. If not careful, a tooth could be broken on bits of buckshot.

Even though today's turkeys are injected with butter, wired with timers, stuffed full of dressing, and scientifically groomed to weigh 40 pounds, they remain foul fowl because they're also injected full of artificial chemicals and drugs to speed growth while living in their ultramodern artificial environment.

Despite all the advanced technology designed to improve and perfect the turkey, the poor critter still must endure the humiliation of a caste system. In the grocer's freezer case, exposed for all the world to see, turkeys are divided according to apparent quality. The extra-fancy double-breasted birds command a greater premium than the pitiful and pathetic generic Grade-C fowl that's missing a portion of its wing or has a small nick cut into its skin.

Who are we mortal human to be so demanding of the ultimate perfection in our turkeys?

Who among us is perfect—lacking any physical or emotional scar, impairment or deformity?

If I were coldly and nakedly displayed for the turkey that I am, my scars and imperfections not only would be visible, but glare out with blinding intensity.

This Thanksgiving, because I am a fallible turkey, just like everybody else, I'm grateful God loves and accepts me just as I am.

When I realize I've been pompously strutting around with a puffed chest and a ragged rear, I find consolation in the following little anonymous song, sung to the tune of *On Top of Old Smokey*:

If God can love turkeys, then He can love you,
'Cause you are a turkey, and I am one too.

So, when you are doubting, remember it's true:
If God can love turkeys, then He can love you!

©2024 Jan Keller No reprint without permission Jan shares other pieces of her life in her books, *Pieces From My Crazy Quilt*, and *The Tie That Binds* These books can be ordered by calling 719-866-8570, or writing: Black Sheep Books, 11250 Glen Canyon Drive, Peyton, CO 80831

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Benjamin Franklin wanted
the turkey to be the national
bird of the United States!
Instead, the Bald Eagle was
selected.

Happy Thanksgiving!

How to Make Homemade Grungy Soap

by Kristine Berg Doss

2 bars of white soap (preferably unscented)

½ cup water

½-1 T. instant coffee granules

Spices — cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves

Wax paper/Styrofoam plate

First, chop the soap into small pieces and place in a microwaveable bowl. Add water and microwave 2-3 minutes. Add instant coffee and stir until mixture is smooth. Place bowl in refrigerator for 5-10 minutes to let mixture cool and firm up enough to handle. Divide into three clumps and place on wax paper. Shape into bars using your hands and lay on a flat surface to dry. Sprinkle with spices and lightly rub in. Let sit for a day or two to completely dry.

(This tutorial was originally featured in the spring 2011 issue of *A Primitive Place & Country Journal* magazine. Submitted by Kris Thomas, Prim Project Coordinator)

Kristine Berg Doss is the owner, editor, and publisher of *A Primitive Place & Country Journal* magazine. *A Primitive Place & Country Journal* magazine is the fastest growing primitive, Colonial, and country magazine on the market today. For more information, visit www.aprimitiveplace.org or email info@aprimitiveplace.org.



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Christmas Memories

by Nancy Nash

"Daddy, is Santa Claus real?" I was a small child when I asked my father that all-important question. I believe his reply included something about using our imaginations to make a story for children and their parents to enjoy together. The news was somewhat disappointing, but I rallied and asked, "Will I still get my presents?" Dad assured me he and Mom would continue that part of the tradition. I was satisfied.

Over the years, I could count on at least three gifts: a needed piece of clothing, a book (I was a bookworm), and a doll. I outgrew the clothing long ago, but even now I take pleasure from my childhood books and displaying my doll collection.

I soon learned the joy of giving to others. I was still quite small when my older brother and I decided to buy presents for my parents. With a few dollars donated by our grandparents, we walked to the corner store. It wasn't like a corner store on a city block, with everything from watches to embroidered handkerchiefs to imported chocolates. It was in the country, and the corner was simply a place where a side street joined a bend in the main road. This establishment sold bread, milk, and popsicles, the latter being of great interest in the summertime.

We scurried down the aisles searching for holiday gifts. There was nothing seasonal on display. The proprietor, taking note of our disappointment, asked about our mission and informed us that the store sold razor blades. We decided they would be perfect for Dad, who shaved away his face whiskers each morning, lest he come to resemble Santa Claus! And lo and behold—a travel kit for Mom, complete with a nail file? What exciting discoveries these were!

We purchased the articles, wrapped them loosely and placed them at the bottom of a cardboard box big enough to have held much more. In a sense, it did hold much more—our love for Mom and Dad and our joy in having a surprise to give to them.

Christmas evolved over the years. As my mother grew older and found shopping and wrapping more laborious, my brother and I enjoyed finding presents for Dad and Mom to exchange with each other. Such memories of our rituals of gift-giving open window after window into the past.

Material goods are not an end in themselves. At best, they simply reflect a glint of light from afar—from that night when the stars spread their glow over a town called Bethlehem and over the birth of a very special Child. May your holidays be filled with gifts of many kinds, especially those of the spirit that still spring forth from that perfect Love.



Anticipation

by Janet M. Bair



Recently, our quilt guild held a sale of surplus donated fabrics. You could fill up a shopping bag for five dollars. I was astounded at the array of different Christmas prints other members lovingly shopped for over the years.

I eagerly filled my bag because "new to me" fabric means possibilities. Now that my ten-year-old granddaughter, Eva, is interested in sewing and crafts, I am happy to share my bargains with her. Sometimes I think the best part of the holiday season is anticipation.

I am always asking myself: "What can I make with this? Who can I give it to?" I love making different Christmas ornaments every year. One year, I crewel embroidered little birds and stuffed them with batting. I have made tiny patchwork stockings, fabric covered styrofoam balls, small embroidery hoop ornaments, and decoupaged wooden ones. Felt, glitter, velvet—you name it, I have used it. Some ornaments were more time consuming than others. Some were so hard that I'll never make them again! But it doesn't feel like Christmas unless I'm busy making something.

I know I don't have to make everyone on my Christmas list a homemade gift, but I like to put some "heart" into my gifts. I would rather be snug at home making a gift when it's snowing rather than trudging through dozens of stores searching for items.

I like making useful things. Last year, our family was celebrating Christmas in Florida and my daughter could only find long sleeve and long pants Christmas pajamas for her children. I made matching pajama shorts out of a red and brown gingerbread print for the four grandchildren. My daughter paired them with red short sleeve T-shirts. They worked for the photos and everyone was comfortable instead of sweltering.

Whatever I end up sewing this year, I will be sure to pick something fun, relaxing and simple enough to finish. Years ago, I stayed up until midnight finishing a gift. I was so tired on Christmas day I decided I would never do that again. It's more important to me to enjoy the day and the people around me.

Anticipating the grandchildren's reactions to what I create is a lot of fun. Our quilt guild has a holiday potholder exchange. You can make a potholder with a Christmas, Hanukkah, or winter theme and bring it in a plain brown bag. Each person gets to pick whichever bag they want. Anticipating the surprise is half the fun.

Many of our Christmas carols are about anticipating the momentous event when God gave the most amazing gift of all: Jesus. We sing "O come, O come, Emmanuel..." We look forward to God being with us. We look for signs of the baby in the manger and with each Christmas season, we remember. We search our hearts to invite Him to live in us.

Christmas is a time of touching that wonder. The wonder of the shepherds and the Magi and that special star all invite us to come to the manger again, and remember.

I hope that you have a fun time creating things this holiday season and enjoy your family and friends. If your family is anything like my family, you will also have fun anticipating the after-holiday sales to stock up on supplies to make things through the winter!

Christmas Stockings

by Tammy Page

I remember as a child digging through my sock drawer on Christmas Eve to find the biggest sock I could find. I searched for the largest one so it could be filled with a banana, oranges, nuts and candy. No other goodies, like what children receive now days. This is what my parents had found in their stockings and the tradition was passed down through them.

Christmas was not as "showy" back then. We marked the JCPenney Christmas Wish Book with our wants and wishes in hopes of Santa bringing at least one of the items and possibly our parents would chip in for another. My parents were not rich and with three girls in the family it was often just a couple gifts each that were under the tree come Christmas morning. Most years we got a new baby doll with an extra outfit for her and always one of the those disappearing milk bottles. As we got older, our dolls were ones that accomplished something such as talking or wetting their diaper. We always received a new board game or two. Our family was big on playing games. Such games were, Feely Meely, Hi Ho Cherry Oh, Twister and Sorry. We also played a lot of card games and often got a new deck of playing cards or Crazy Eights. Instead of sitting in front of a television all night, we played games before going to bed. As we got older the games advanced to Monopoly and card games such as Uno and Skip Bo. Mom was a pro at Skip Bo and we rarely beat her. When we did, we bragged on it for days.

I'm not sure if Santa wrapped your gifts but, in our house, he did not. Our gifts were sitting under or around the tree with our stocking nearby. We had one or two gifts from mom and dad that were wrapped, and they consisted of clothing and other needed items. Not too exciting for a child but nonetheless, needed. And of course, we were not allowed to sneak into the living room and see what Santa had left. We had to wait for Mom and Dad to get up out of bed. Most of the time we headed into their bedroom and pleaded with them to "get up". After some minutes of pleading they finally drug out of bed.



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After growing up and getting married and having children of my own, Christmas morning changed a little bit. Yes, we still heard pleas of "get up, get up, Santa has been here," but the biggest change was that the stockings are no longer socks from our drawers but homemade for each child. They are not filled with fruit and nuts but with their favorite candy, trinkets, sports cards and jewelry. I've carried this tradition on with my grandchildren and now fill 14 stockings. They say this is their very favorite part of the morning and look forward to seeing all the goodies in their stockings. I shop all year looking for just the right prize for each child and grandchild. I can usually find some bargains if I shop after holiday sales and put them back for Christmas. I've already got a nice stash of gifts stored away for this coming Christmas and am looking forward to seeing their faces on Christmas morning. It's so much fun to look for things that match each child's and grandchild's personality. Although it is also one of my favorite parts of the holiday, my greatest pleasure is that we are celebrating the birth of Jesus together. Isn't that what it's really all about?

-© Tammy Page writes from her family farm in Indiana.



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