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

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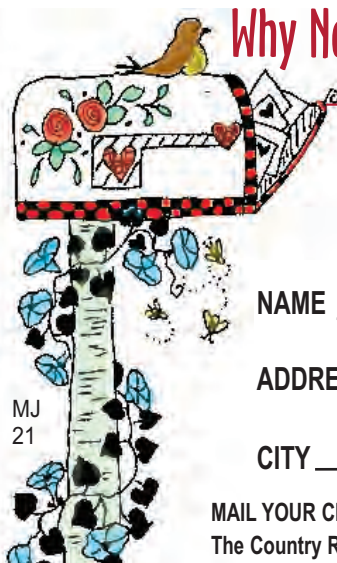
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My Favorite Shop because: _____

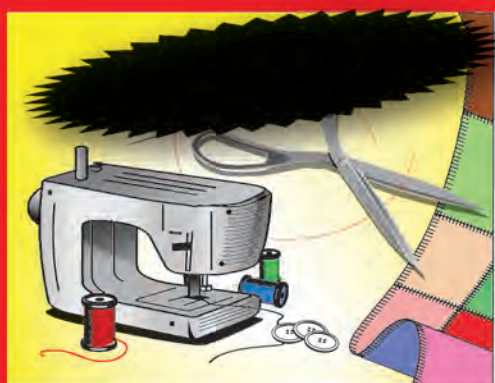
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What stores would you like to see in The Country Register? (Include Town): _____



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Playing Favorites

by Cathy Elliott



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

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

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

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

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

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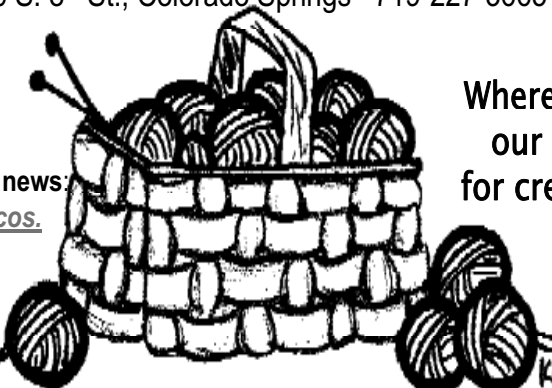
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Denver's Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival
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FREE Parking July 8-10th

Colorful and Sew Creative are words we often hear to describe our event. With the Denver Mart going out of business, we had to move our beautiful show to the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds located just off E-470 in Aurora. Our vendors have been shut down due to Covid for over a year, so we need your support to survive!

The Quilt, Craft and Sewing Festival will occur July 8, 9 & 10th, 2021 at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds located on 25690 E Quincy Ave, Aurora, CO 80016. You can exit east off of E-470. Parking is FREE, very close, and is super safe. All Covid restrictions, protocols and safety guidelines will be followed to ensure everyone's safety.

The Festival features a wide variety of supplies, notions, patterns and techniques in the areas of quilting, sewing, needle-arts, stenciling, embossing, crystals, fabric crafts and more. Many booths will feature new cutting edge products that are brand new to the market. Enter your ticket stub to win free door prize drawings that occur every hour. Our co-sponsor, Rocky Mountain Sewing, will also be giving away a free sewing machine valued over \$1000 making this a very exciting show for those with a creative flair!

We really need your support, so please tell and bring all your family and friends to this safe, wonderful, family friendly event! The Quilt, Craft and Sewing Festival also offers a selection of 'make-it and take-it' workshops presented by our great instructors. Visit www.quiltcraftsew.com to sign up in advance to receive your show program by email. For additional show information, printable coupons, programs or directions, visit us online at www.quiltcraftsew.com.



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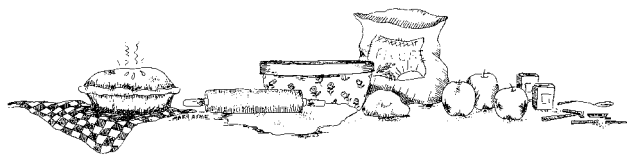
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COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

White Chocolate Pecan Pie

Submitted by Fran Shaffer, Colorado Springs, CO

FILLING:

4 ounces white chocolate, chopped (or 1 cup Ghirardelli white chips)	
3 large eggs	1/2 cup light corn syrup
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted	1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
1 1/2 cups pecans, chopped	1/2 cup pecan halves

PASTRY (for a single pie crust):

1 cup all purpose white flour	1/2 teaspoon salt
7 tablespoons chilled butter, cut into small pieces	
2 teaspoons lemon juice	3 - 4 tablespoons ice water


Measure flour and salt into large bowl of food processor. Cut in butter and process until mixture resembles crumbs. In small bowl, mix lemon juice and ice water. Sprinkle over flour mixture and blend. Refrigerate for 30 minutes to 1 hour after wrapping in plastic wrap.

Preheat oven to 375°. Place chocolate into a small bowl and set over a pan of hot water. Stir until chocolate melts.

In large bowl beat the eggs, syrup, butter and vanilla until smooth. Blend in melted chocolate and stir in pecans.

Roll out pastry and fit into a 9" pie pan. Trim the edges. Pour pecan mixture into pastry lined pan. Arrange pecan halves on top of filling. Bake for 10 minutes and then reduce temperature to 350° and bake 25 more minutes. Pie will be a bit soft and will set up while cooling. Serves 6-8 people.

NOTE: You can substitute a good brand of ready made pie pastry so long as you follow the instructions that accompany this pie pastry recipe.



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Become Inspired!

by Annice Rockwell

A Special Signature

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

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

NATURE'S TIME-TESTED APPEAL

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

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

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



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by Kim Keller

Barbed Wire Dragon Flies

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

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



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

the previous time.

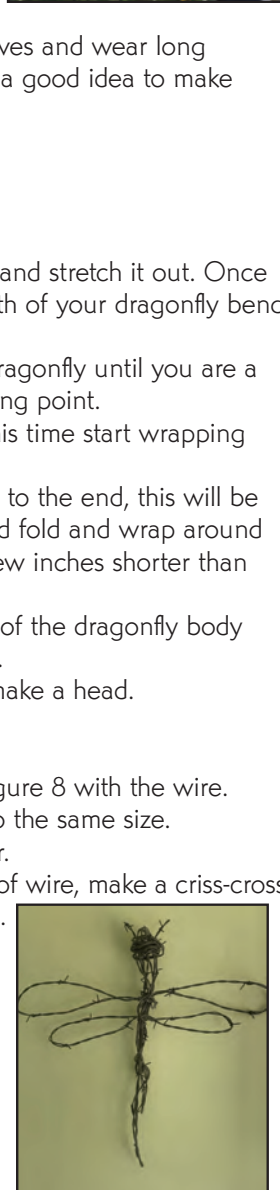
5. Continue wrapping until you've reached the desired size of the dragonfly body you'd like. Remember to make the body thicker by the head.
6. Wrap the wire around the top of the body/head area to make a head.
7. Cut the wire once the head is finished.
8. Tuck the end of the wire into itself so it doesn't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



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

with a barb at the end for antenna.

16. Poke the antenna into the head!



INVITATION TO TEA

by Barbara Kalkis

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

Barbara Kalkis, ©2021



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Use It Up? I'm Trying!

by Barbara Polston

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

©Barbara Polston, Phoenix, AZ, March 2021.

Microwave Fettuccine Alfredo for One

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

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



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



Recipe by Kimspired DIY

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Joy & Blessings, Jody

Email your mailing address to Jody to receive your magnet:
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Be A Rainbow in the Clouds

by Janet Young

Have you ever experienced a torrential thunderstorm on a hot summer day? When moments earlier the sun was brightly shining and while hot, all was well with the world. Then suddenly the clouds roll in, darkness begins to settle, and the sound of thunder becomes quite evident. Before long the winds may pick up and before you know it, the heavens open up and down comes the torrential rain.

If you are outdoors, you quickly scurry for shelter. But after a brief pause, the rain stops, the sound of thunder moves on, and before long the sun resurfaces once more, and occasionally a rainbow will appear in all its magnificent glory. So, once more you begin where you left off before the storm so rudely interrupted what you were doing.

Just as Mother Nature disrupts our plans with her various weather interruptions—life is sometimes like that. We have all heard references to the storms of life, and know that sooner or later we will be called to weather storms, some of higher intensity than others. But we will persevere.

As I was writing this, I began to contemplate the true meaning of what I had just written. Even though the storm clouds roll in on a hot summer day, our faith is renewed because we know it will soon end. Life storms may not end in a few minutes or hours, but for however long it lasts, it will soon end, and when it does, we would long to have a rainbow of assurance that all is well and we can move on once more.

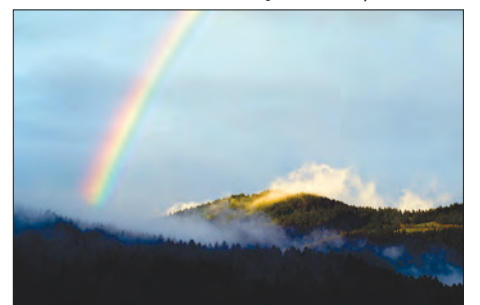
Sometimes those rainbows do not come, but that is when we can step in when we see someone is struggling through a storm. We can be their rainbow as we reach out to encourage and uplift any way we can.

We can't stop storms of nature or in life, but we can know that at the end, even if the ending is not what we had hoped, there will come a time when the sun will shine again, and the "rainbows" who sheltered us through are cheering us on to a peaceful life. Sunny days lie ahead.

In ending I must give credit to Maya Angelou who inspired me to write the words in this article with her following quote:

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.

©2021 Janet Young is the former owner of Over The Teacup Tea House and Co-Founder of MidAtlantic Tea Business Association, featured in various tea publications and Certified Tea Etiquette Consultant



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THE MAILBAG

The March/April edition of *The Country Register of Colorado and New Mexico* was inspiring as always; with Spring in the air and a beautiful front cover "Pieces From My Heart" by Jan Keller, entitled "A Lifetime", was so delightful and true! Sometimes I'm afraid we take a lifetime for granted. A big thank you to the advertisers and a special thank you to the editors and staff.

Irene Thompson, La Junta, CO

I so enjoy everything about *The Country Register*! I don't want to miss any edition!

Shirley Buck, Canon City, CO

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Designed by Kathy Graham

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Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

Out of the Cocoon

While watching her child's high school graduation ceremony, the mother thought back to the time when her grandfather had given her a cocoon attached to a twig. She was filled with wonder and amazement when he told her that a butterfly would emerge from the brown and dead-appearing chrysalis. He had also warned her that when the butterfly first appeared, she couldn't help it—or it would die.

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

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

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

The insect died.

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

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


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

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

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

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

She knew life was at stake.



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

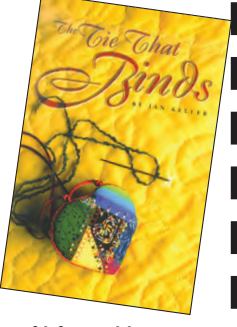
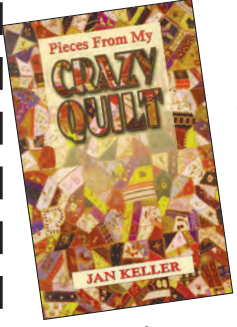
Oh, long may she wave!

Flag Day


Monday, June 14th

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

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

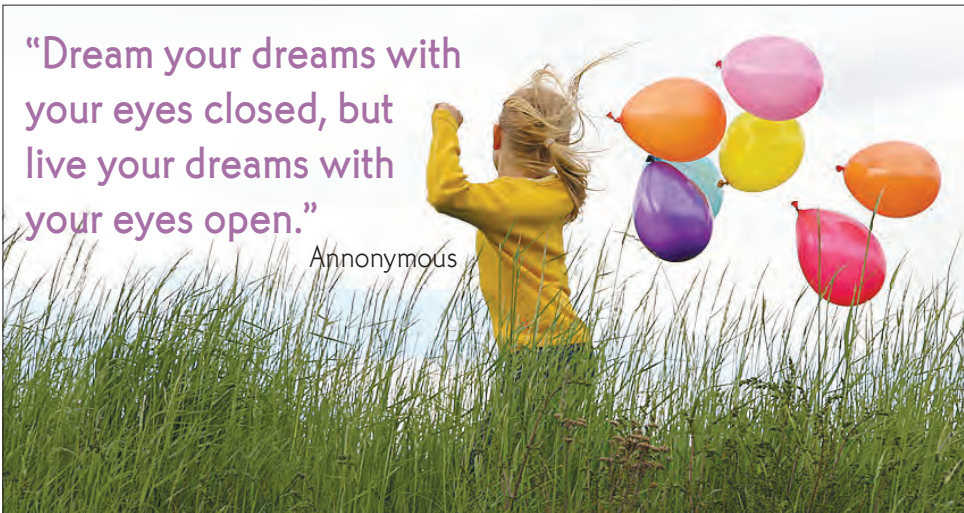
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Sunday, June 20th



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Anonymous





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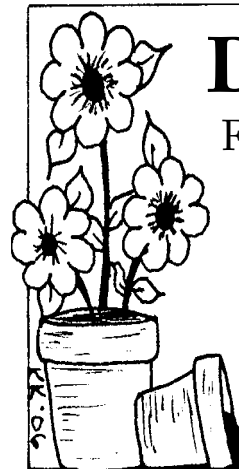
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Moving with Toilet Paper

by Jeanette Lukowski

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Margaret 'Peggy' Mackall Taylor

by Jan Keller

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

Betty Taylor Bliss was twenty-four and newly married when her father became President of the United States. Betty Taylor Bliss immediately assumed her mother's obligations as presidential hostess. When



Betty Taylor Bliss



Margaret Mackall Taylor

President James K. Polk invited the president-elect and his wife to dinner at the White House, Betty went in her mother's place and the press focused on her youthful and lively daughter, who assumed her mother's place at all official functions.

Despite her absence at White House events, Margaret Taylor still exerted her influence as a presidential spouse. In spite of her dislike of pomp and protocol and her refusal to perform official hostess duties, Margaret did enjoy entertaining friends and relatives in the family's private quarters

and enjoyed listening to her husband's political discussions. She did attend church services almost every day near the White House and made a couple of rare public appearances when she welcomed a Sunday school group to the White House and also when she accepted a life membership in the American Sunday School Union.

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

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

Zachary Taylor's Deviled Crabmeat on Shells

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

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

Kentucky Tea Cakes

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

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

COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

Parsley Pesto Pasta

Submitted by Irene Thompson, La Junta, CO

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



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Yvonne Hollenbeck

The Sale Bill

*Here's a new poem that is (sadly)
based on a true story.*

She was raised in the Depression; the hard times she knew well.
If she ever had much money, no one could ever tell
because she lived a simple lifestyle, and did the best she could.
Dressed her kids in homemade clothes and raised them up real good.

Then when the grandkids came along, she loved to have them stay;
they loved her homemade cooking and the time she took to play.
But soon they got too busy, as most teenagers do,
and how she missed their visits and, of course, their phone calls too.

So she whiled away the loneliness by making each a quilt;
made from pieces she had saved from all the clothes she'd built
for them since they were babies, and she couldn't wait to see
the smiles when they received their quilt, how thrilled each one would be.

She was waiting for their visits, which she knew would be someday,
but the somedays turned to months and years and when she passed away
the quilts were on the sale bill...the list is rather small,
but I think I will attend it and try to buy them all.

She had placed a label on each one on which she wrote their name,
signed, "Made With Love From Grandma," I felt it was a shame.
but I'll give them to her grandkids, and hear what they will say
and I will get to see their smiles...the sale's next Saturday.

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Yvonne Hollenbeck, from Clearfield, SD, performs her original poetry throughout the United States, captivating audiences in her wake. She is one of the most published cowgirl poets in the West and is not only a popular banquet and civic entertainer, but also co-writes songs with many western entertainers. Yvonne also pens a weekly column in the "Farmer-Rancher Exchange" and writes articles about life in rural America in various publications throughout the West. For more information, visit <https://www.yvonnehollenbeck.com>



ALONG THE PRESIDENTIAL TRAIL

Part of a series
by Jan Keller

Zachary Taylor — 12th President of the United States

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

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

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

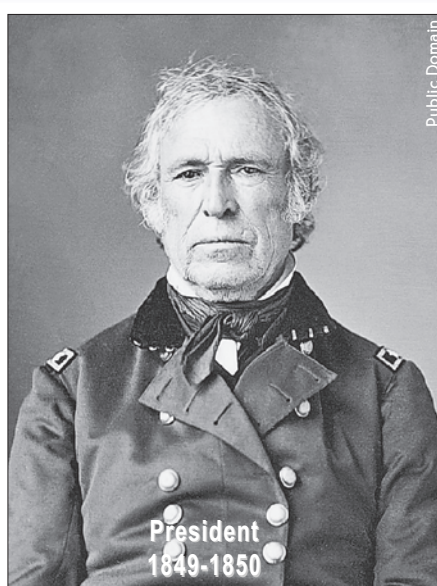
Vista cemented his status as an army general and military hero and prepared him for American politics.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



A Story of Letters

by Kerri Habben Bosman

I want to tell you about my friend, Harold.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Pray all the time.
If necessary,
use words.

May 6th is National Day of Prayer

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

I decided to stop writing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Back Porch Break

by Nancy Brummett

Planting with Purpose

Some years ago I decided there is a big difference between gardeners and yardeners. Gardeners plan ahead, perusing gardening catalogs all winter long. Yardeners step out in their front yards, cup of coffee in hand, gaze down at something green sprouting up and think, "Hmmm. I wonder what that is."

The good news is that it's not that hard to convert yourself from a yardener to a gardener. And whether you're still waiting until the mood hits you to plant something or you're already nurturing this season's plantings, you can add some purpose to your efforts.

And yes, purpose requires planning. Of course, like me, you may be more likely to visit a nursery, buy something eye-catching, then go home and wonder where to plant it. Better to have a list, having thought out what plants work best in sunny spots versus shady areas or with lots of water versus next to none. And as tempting as it is to jump right into planting, experts say we must put in good soil or amend the soil we have.

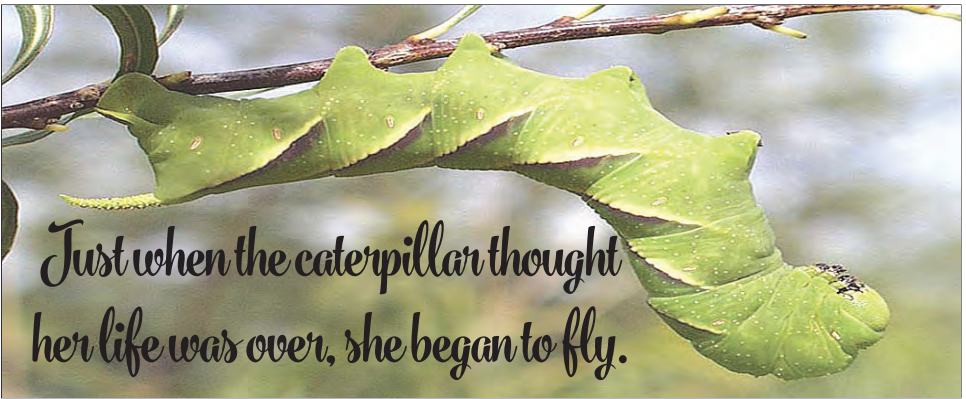
Those super smart garden people also advise having a color palette in mind for your flower garden and sticking to it, especially in smaller gardens. But don't be afraid to think outside the flower box! Who knew purple and orange would look so good together, or even red and pink? It's also good to take note of early versus late bloomers so you have some color in your garden all season.

Part of planting with purpose is deciding what wildlife or insects you would like for your garden to deter or attract. In this way the garden provides a purpose beyond being beautiful. For instance, if rabbits or deer have access to your garden, ask at the nursery for a list of plants that they don't find quite as tasty as others. (Good luck!) You can even deter mosquitoes from gardens near an outdoor patio by planting citronella grass, basil, lemon balm, peppermint, lavender or catnip.

It's a joy to see gardens that attract life, however, especially butterflies and hummingbirds. Monarch butterflies are sadly declining in number so planting milkweed for them is a good idea. Butterflies are also attracted to phlox, butterfly bush and coneflowers. Our hummingbird friends love any nectar-bearing red plant, but are also drawn to penstemon, lupine, salvia or cardinal flower. Bees need our support, too, and they thank us by pollinating! They love blue mist spirea, sage, or bee balm, and they won't sting if left alone.

As with any creative enterprise, it's okay to make mistakes, and gardens are so forgiving. Don't hesitate to gently move plants that aren't doing well to a different spot or (gaspl!) throw them away and start over. Start small and you'll soon discover you've given up yardening for gardening—and you're planting with purpose. Enjoy!

Nancy Parker Brummett is an author and freelance writer in Colorado Springs, CO. "Like" her author page on Facebook, or to learn more about her life and work, visit www.nancyparkerbrummett.com.



Random Acts

by Maranda K Jones

Her Story

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The Dropped Stitch

by Sharon Greve



Leave Your Comfort Zone? Yes!

As with all things and people in life, we become quite comfortable in our daily routines. We are attracted to the same people, places, food, and activities over and over. Many of those choices are normal because we know what we like and dislike. Others are just pure habit. However, it is nice once in a while to push the limits and leave your comfort zone.

So it is with knitting and getting started may be easier than you think. Attend a class of something new to you or experience a challenging project. Understanding instructions and getting your hands to follow the directions takes practice. The more you knit, the more you gain confidence and a deeper understanding of the process which equals a skilled knitter.

Tools. If you've always knit with straight needles, why not learn and experience circular needles as a first step out of your zone. Advance from there to double-pointed needles. They're really not as intimidating as they look.

Texture and Yarn. Are you always purchasing the same type of yarn? Why not treat yourself to a skein of exotic or novelty yarn for a small project. Small skeins are often on sale. Yarn textures can vary from fuzzy, ribbon, smooth, and even bead and sequin yarns. Texture is very important in clothing. Certain yarn textures can highlight your stitches, making them stand out to please touch and vision. Research has shown texture to be twice as significant as color at affecting one's mood.

Texture has no age limit. Children recognize this. Recently, a three-year old boy ran after me to feel my coat. With mission accomplished, he gave me a big hug, a big smile, and said, "Bye" as he ran back to his mother, who quickly clarified: "He loves texture." Obviously touching something pleasant creates a good feeling.

If you want a well-defined (smooth) stitch in your project, keep the stitch pattern simple with solid stockinette or garter stitch. However, if you want texture (raised), use yarns with lots of plies (twists) for stitches you want to have stand out, such as cable, linen, moss, rib, diamond and so many more available to you. Or, knit a mixture of smooth and raised.

Color. Step out of your comfort zone by combining texture and color for a double whammy project. Strap and cords offer the opportunity to introduce color and texture. Use colors outside your usual palette. Or, select a variation of a favorite color; i.e., if you like blue, consider ice blue or turquoise. If yellow is your color, darken it to a mustard or lighten to a cream for a change of pace. Use a favorite but little-used color in a surprising place—cuffs, accent, ribbing, or collar. If two colors are used in the same project, seek Mother Nature's tip: dark color on the bottom and light on the top.

The more you challenge yourself in a new knitting comfort zone, the more fluent you become in the complexities of the language.

Go ahead—take the leap!

©2021 Sharon Greve...Fiber Artist, Writer/Author, Historian

Wit and Wisdom

by Roxanne J. Ferguson

Think Good Thoughts

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

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

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

Think good thoughts.

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



Double Waffle Stitch Afghan

by Kirby Gust

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

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

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

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

Skill Level: easy

Stitch Glossary:

Ch = chain

Yo = Yarn over

Dc = double crochet

Fpdc = front post double crochet.

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

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

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

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

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

To finish tie off yarn and weave in ends.

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

