

# *The Country Register*

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**FREE!** COLORADO & NEW MEXICO • SEPT/OCT 2022

*Autumn's  
Glory!*





The Country Register of Colorado & New Mexico

719-866-8570

Jan & John Keller, Publishers

11250 Glen Canyon Dr., Peyton, CO 80831

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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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INDEX OF ADVERTISERS BY TOWN

Alamosa	6
Albuquerque	5
Black Forest	7
Brighton	19
Buena Vista	6
Castle Rock	8
Colorado Springs	7
Del Norte	6
Deming	5
Denver	13
Dumas	5
Englewood	4, 12
Fort Collins	10, 20
Golden	14
Greeley	11
Las Cruces	5
Limon	6
Longmont	3, 4, 10, 16
Loveland	16
Lyons	15
Peyton	7
Pueblo	9
Rocky Ford	3
Roswell	4, 5

Taos	5
Tucumcari	5
Windsor	4, 18
REGULAR FEATURES INDEX	
A Cup of Tea with Lydia	8
Ann's Lovin' Ewe	16
Antiquing	4, 11, 15
Back Porch Break	18
Become Inspired	19
By the Yard Comic	3, 4
Contests, Forms, Winners	2, 3
Girlfriend Wisdom	10
Life In Skunk Hollow	19
Mailbag	9
Make-It-Projects 5, 6, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19	
Mug Recipe	18
Over The Teacup	15
Pieces From My Heart	13
Random Acts	18
Recipes	6, 7, 8, 16, 18
Susan Branch	17
Wit and Wisdom	8
Word Games	6, 13
Writing From Life	14
Yvonne Hollenbeck	11



Congratulations Book Winner!

A STITCH IN RHYME: Nancy Bebo, Longmont, CO



Congratulations Gift Certificate Winner!

Angie Chavez of Logan, NM, a regular reader of The Country Register, is the lucky winner of a \$25 Gift Certificate to her favorite advertiser, The Desert Rose, in Tucumcari, NM. Angie says, "The fabric selection is excellent at The Desert Rose, and everyone who works there is very helpful and friendly." Congratulations Angie! Please enjoy your \$25 Gift Certificate when shopping at The Desert Rose!

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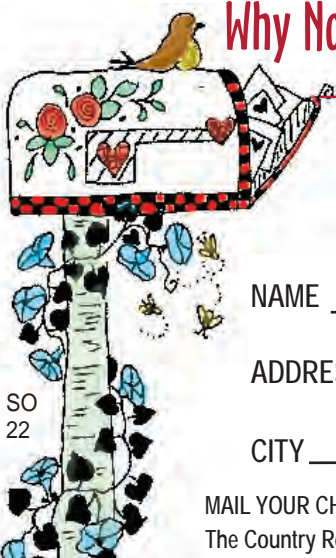
All questions must be answered to qualify. Please include a note with Comments or Suggestions regarding The Country Register and a recipe we could share in the paper. One entry per person, please.

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Friday & Saturday • October 14th & 15th

Arkansas Valley Fairground • Rock Ford, Colorado

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Saturday, October 15th • 1:30 pm

Quilt Auction



Visit our Website

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[www.rmmcsale.org](http://www.rmmcsale.org)

Friday, October 14th

Supper at the Gobin Center

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Opening Program -

7:30pm

Hesston College

**BEL CANTO  
SINGERS**

will provide the  
evening's entertainment

Saturday, October 15th

General Auction - 9:30am

Tractor Auction - 1:00pm

Meals at the Gobin Center

Breakfast 7:00am- 9:30am

Lunch 11:00am-1:00pm

# Quilt ~a~ Fair 2022



41<sup>st</sup> Quilt Show &  
Vendor Market

by The Colorado Quilting Council

Sept 22, 23, 24

9a-4p Thurs & Fri

9a-3p Sat

Boulder County Fairgrounds  
9595 Nelson Rd, Longmont, CO

50 Vendors & Silent Auction  
Kids Quilt Exhibit & Activities



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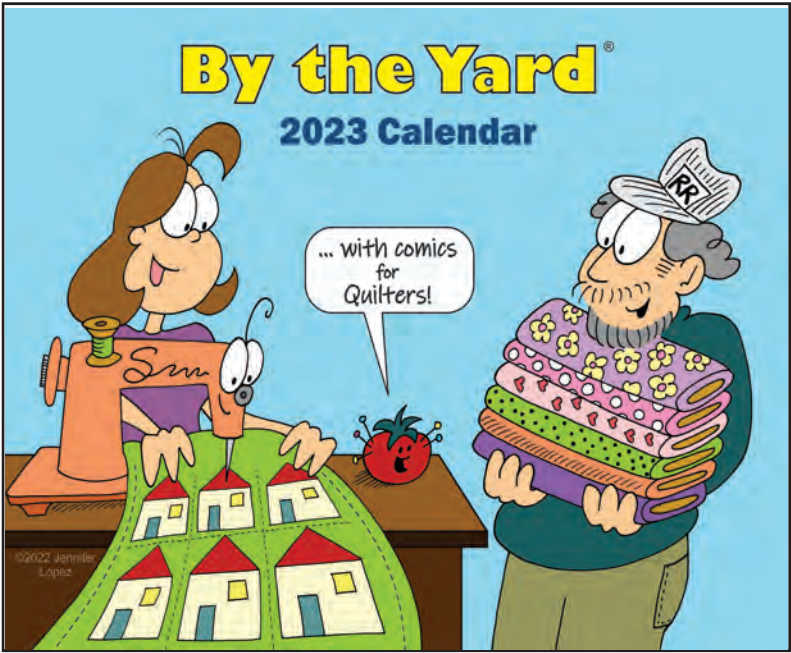


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Show Information & Advance Tickets  
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# You Could Win!

By the Yard Comics for Quilters  
12 Month Wall Calendar 2023



From the popular webcomic *By the Yard*®, you'll be in stitches all year long with the antics of fabric-loving Quilt Girl and her ever-patient Train Guy!  
Created by quilty cartoonist Jen Lopez.

## You Could Win!

You can register to win *By the Yard* Comics calendar!

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; 11250 Glen Canyon Dr; Peyton, CO 80831.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# 'Witch' Way Do You Decorate for Fall?

by Deb Heatherly

Fall is my favorite time of year. The colors, the smells, and the thought of settling in for the winter is something I anticipate for months in advance. I look forward to decorating for this season throughout the house, and with autumnal displays on my front porch to greet visitors. There is something special about the rich reds, golds and shades of orange that surround me at this time of year and I love to mirror that look inside.

Quilts play a big part in my decorating no matter the season and my Fall quilts hold a place of honor when it's their time to shine. Antiques, rustic touches and an abundance of silk leaves complete the look and adorn my house from September 1 until Thanksgiving.

While I stick with pumpkins, leaves and scarecrows, several of my friends add a Halloween theme to their Fall displays. Their use of witches, bats and other whimsical touches make me smile and bring back memories of the year I had my mom make me a witch costume for Halloween so that I could go around the house pretending to melt like the witch in *The Wizard of Oz*. Looking back, I am sure my running around the house in that costume and yelling "I'm melting, I'm melting" numerous times each day had to really get on her nerves. But if it did, she never let on. Instead she just let me have my fun.

The thought of that costume brings to mind a quilt featured in my new book *Quilted Occasions*. All of the patterns in the book can be made in a Christmas theme, but 10 of the 11 patterns can also be used to celebrate other times of the year.

This quilt "Fussy Cut Memories" made by my good friend, pattern tester and technical proofer Debbie Patterson is showcased on page 33, using fussy cut haunted houses in the center of each block. Debbie has a perfect place to hang it in her house and I can't wait to see it hanging this fall. I'm not sure what else she will add to her display, but who knows, maybe my mom still has my old costume packed away somewhere. If so, maybe I'll have to go to Debbie's and pretend to melt...just for old times' sake.



Deb Heatherly is a designer for Creative Grids® rulers. She is the designer of the Creative Grids® Cat's Cradle Tool, Strippy Stars Tool, Turbo 4 Patch, Ultimate Flying Geese Tool, Cat's Cradle XL, and Kitty Cornered Tool. She is also the author of the books: 'Cat'itude, Strippy Stars, 4-Patch Panache, The Ultimate Flying Geese Book, Catitude XL, Creatively Yours and The Build A Quilt Workbook. Visit her website at [www.Debcatsquilts.com](http://www.Debcatsquilts.com). Creative Grids® fans are invited to join her Facebook group, Grids Girls, for tips and inspiration. Grids Girls members have the opportunity to participate in Grids Girls mystery quilts two times each year.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/7704296498004571>.  
Quilt Shop Owners, you are invited to join the group above and Deb has an additional Facebook group just for you—Grids Girls for Quilt Shop Owners Only at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2735936572565241>. You can contact her at [Debscatsquilts@aol.com](mailto:Debscatsquilts@aol.com) or call the studio, Deb's Cats N Quilts Designs, 828-524-9578.



The St. Vrain Historical Society Presents

# Pumpkin Pie Days

Vintage &amp; Antique Market

Saturday,  
October 8, 2022  
10am-5pmSunday,  
October 9, 2022  
11am-4pm*St. Vrain Historical Society Members Get Early Entry on Saturday-9:30am!*Boulder County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building  
9595 Nelson Rd. Longmont, CO 80501Admission: \$10.00 per person (children under 12 free)  
(303) 776-1870*Admissions & Cafe Sales Support The St. Vrain Historical Society's  
Mission of Historic Preservation & Education in the Community!*[www.stvrainhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.stvrainhistoricalsociety.com)

Pecos Valley Quilters Present

## Scrap Happy

Quilt Show

First Church of the Nazarene, 501 N Sycamore

**September 16-17, 2022**

Friday Open 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Admission \$5, ages 6 &amp; under free w/adult

The Pecos Valley Quilters  
meet every Wednesday at 10:00  
at First United Methodist Church,  
200 N Pennsylvania.  
Visitors Always Welcome!*Show Quilt***Tickets \$1 each**Proceeds will benefit  
two local charities

## 15th Annual Longmont Quilt Guild Quilt Show

Friday, October 14th 12:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Saturday October 15th 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

**Boulder County Fairgrounds, Barn A  
9595 Nelson Rd. Longmont CO**

Presentation of Historic Quilts by Jeananne Wright

Friday Oct 14, 2p.m &amp; Sat. Oct 15, 11 &amp; 2p.m

Admission \$5.00

**Online Quilt Auction**

Bidding starts on October 21st at 8a.m.

Weblink URL: [auctria.events/OutsideYourComfortZone](https://auctria.events/OutsideYourComfortZone)[www.longmontquiltguild.org](http://www.longmontquiltguild.org)

## SAVE THE DATE!



Rocky Mountain Weavers Guild

## FIBER ARTS SALE

OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup> 4-8 pm14<sup>th</sup> 10-6 pm15<sup>th</sup> 10-4 pm**Malley Senior Recreation Center  
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## Christmas In Windsor CRAFT SHOW

Windsor Rec Center, 250 N. 11th St.

November 19, 9am-5pm

November 20, 10am-4pm

Sponsored by Quality Crafters  
in partnership with the  
Town of Windsor.

## Vintage Sewing Machine Trade Cards

by Rachel Greco



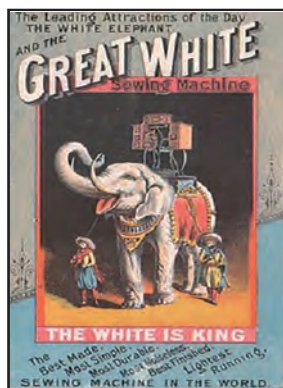
In the late 19th Century, Trade Cards were used to promote and advertise a variety of products.

Like many other businesses, sewing machine companies and dealers distributed these cards to keep their sewing machine brands at the top of the mind.

These Trade Cards featured a variety of scenes that included animals, children playing or working, women sewing, landscapes, and flowers. These themes were all

geared toward Victorian sensibilities.

Earlier in the Century, Trade Cards were printed in black and white; however, as printing methods improved, the cards became very colorful. The hope was that women would find these cards



attractive and keep them. Then, when deciding to make a purchase, they would remember the sewing machine company featured on the cards they had saved. Many of these Trade Cards were kept in scrapbooks or framed and hung on the wall.

Today, Vintage Trading Cards are quite collectible and can be found at antique stores or on the web. Prices vary depending on condition and rarity of the card.

Rachel Greco owns Grandma's Attic, a traditional quilt shop in Dallas, Oregon. A quilt historian and avid reader, she gives talks on needlework, the role of women in American history, and their connection to fabric. Rachel has written several books and patterns and runs Grandma's Quilt Club, a monthly quilt class where participants collect quilt block kits, learn about quilt history, and make new friends. Contact her at <https://grandmasatticquilting.com>.

## By the Yard®

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NO ONE IS MORE MOTIVATED THAN  
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COULD HAVE  
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NINE MONTHS  
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## Positive Thinking Inspires Happiness

by Lesley Nuttall

On this road of life, that we all share  
Loving and giving to show that we care  
Being positive and confident to say "yes, I can"  
Inspires positive thinking for all species of man.

With inner Spirit and positivism, you will see  
By thinking happy thoughts, happy you will be  
Happiness is a gift, to the state of one's mind  
It's the most precious gift, you can ever find.

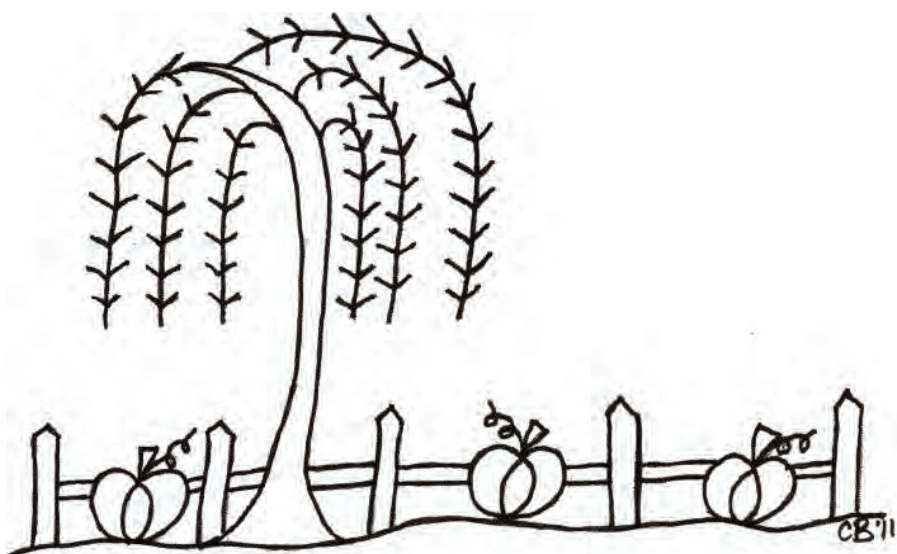
Thinking positive, is a mental power over the mind  
It gives you the ability, to inspire others, to be positive and kind  
Refrain from negative thinking, and your outlook will turn  
Thinking positive is something that anyone can learn.

We all need to practice the law of supply  
Believing abundance and prosperity won't be denied  
No one can accomplish it, all in one day  
It takes patience to map out your journey, on the way.

Be confident in the Lord, and in the power of his might  
Keep your courage up, and never lose sight.  
Let hope and positive thinking, guide you towards your goal  
On this road of life, count your blessing and nourish your soul.

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

## NEEDLES-N-PINS STITCHERIES



This pattern is free for you to use. Not for commercial use. Enlarge or reduce to your desired size. May be used for embroidery, pillows, paintings, the uses are numerous! Please give credit to the artist.



### NEEDLES-N-PINS STITCHERIES

Find more patterns at

[www.needles-n-pinsstitcheries.com](http://www.needles-n-pinsstitcheries.com)

Colleen Bass

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

Harvest Salad  
submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN

- 1 cup fresh peas, shelled and cooked until tender in lightly salted water
- 1 cup fresh green beans, washed, strings removed cooked until tender in salted water
- 1 cup carrots, peeled, thinly sliced and cooked until tender in salted water
- 1 cup uncooked cauliflower, broken into small flowerets
- 1 cup celery, diced
- French Dressing
- 6 large tomatoes
- 1 head of leaf lettuce
- Mayonnaise for garnish
- 6 sprigs of parsley for garnish  
(you can use canned vegetables instead of fresh)

In a medium bowl combine peas, green beans, carrots, cauliflower and celery with French Dressing. Chill. Peel tomatoes. Sprinkle with salt. Chill. Just before serving, remove tomatoes from refrigerator and drain. Cut each into five sections leaving stem end whole and cut sections attached. Place each tomato cup on a nest of lettuce and fill with marinated vegetables. Top each salad with a dollop of mayonnaise and garnish with parsley.

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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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### Black Forest Log School Centennial Quilt Show and Fundraiser

Sept 10 — 5pm - 7pm & Sept 11 — 10am - 4pm Admission \$5.00



Black Forest Community Center  
12530 Shoup Rd • Black Forest, CO 80908  
Go to [bflogschool.com](http://bflogschool.com) for more information

*Celebrating 100 years in Black Forest 1922 ~ 2022  
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and the Black Forest Community Foundation*

# After Summer on A Farm

by Donna Jo Copeland

After summer’s heat, September’s song is pure country bliss: Cornflower blue skies, bright black eyed susans and joe pye weed, katydids singing evening song and those huge sticky spider webs. September also heralds the last hay baling, last of tomato and green bean canning, cooler nights and shorter days.

As a child growing up on a 160 acre farm in south central Indiana, I both loved and hated September. I was born in that month so my birthday gifts were school clothes, which I needed of course but gee couldn’t somebody get me a doll or a kitten? School started right after Labor Day and that meant the absolute end of summer days filled with mud hole digging, walks in the woods, lightning bug jars, being locked outside while Mom cleaned house and sipping Kool Aid on the porch. Sitting on that same porch we watched summer thunderstorms come rolling in and at night were amazed at the Northern Lights.

With the cooler temperatures it also meant more baking and because we had a dairy, usually there was sour milk for a chocolate cake on Sunday evenings. Oftentimes a piece of that cake and a glass of milk was Sunday supper. This chocolate cake has been made in my family for over a hundred years and still is a favorite today.

October always seemed caught up in its own rhythm of school and chores. Walking to the neighboring farm to catch the school bus on dark mornings at 6:30, then an hour long ride began our school days. A neighborhood Halloween party for us farm kids was a real treat and meant we raided the “north room” for outdated clothes for our costumes. No one bought costumes then as we were all pretty poor in coin. Simple times, simple pleasures, great neighbors and golden autumns make for wonderful memories.

### Never Fail Chocolate Cake

- 3 cups sifted flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup Hersheys Cocoa
- 1 t. salt
- 1/2 t. baking powder

Mix these together by hand

- 1 t. baking soda
- 2 cups sour milk

Mix the baking soda and milk until it froths, then mix into the dry ingredients.

- 1/2 cup melted lard
- 1 egg
- 1 t. vanilla

Mix the rest of the ingredients together with the milk mixture. Pour into a greased and floured 9x13 pan. Bake at 350 for 35 to 45 minutes.

It’s a dense cake, better the next day. You can substitute vegetable oil for the lard. Mom always made hard carmel icing.....no real recipe... a stick of butter, powdered sugar, cream, vanilla.....poured over the cake and it hardened when it cooled.



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## COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

### Sopaipillas

Submitted by Angie Chavez, Logan, NM

- 2 cups unbleached all purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 Tablespoons shortening
- 3/4 cup warm water
- 1 to 2 cups canola oil for frying

In a large bowl sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Add in shortening until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Gradually stir in water until dough is formed. Divide and roll out on floured board into thin rounds. Cut into wedges and fry on both sides. They will puff into little pillows. Drain on paper towels. You can coat them with cinnamon sugar and/or serve with honey.



## COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

### Country Fried Bison Cube Steak

Submitted by Irene Thompson, La Junta, CO

- Egg white bath: dilute with water until not sticky.
- Flour: add onion or garlic powder into flour.
- Crushed Ritz Crackers
- Salt
- Place cube steaks in egg white bath. Run through seasoned flour. Place back in egg white bath and then in the crushed Ritz Crackers. Heat half a pan-full of olive oil. After oil is hot, brown steaks. Sprinkle with salt and flip over. Cook until done. Bison meat is lean—do not over cook.





Wit and Wisdom

The Voice of Reason

A dense cluster of willow bushes and maple saplings at my childhood home served as a natural clubhouse. With the help of my brothers, we cleared out the center of the thicket. Surrounded by thick leafy foliage, that small, cleared area became a playhouse and dreaming spot.

Fast forward the years...in anticipation of the arrival of grandchildren, I dreamed of creating an outdoor play area for them, like I enjoyed as a child. To help bring my dream to fruition, my husband brought home three spruce saplings. I envisioned the grown trees, planted in a circle, joining their boughs to form a secluded place where our grands could dream and play on carefree afternoons.

With great enthusiasm, I showed Don where I wanted the three trees planted. "Here, here and here," I announced, tapping the ground with my sneakered foot.

"That's too close," he said.

"No, it's not," I countered.

"The trees will grow into each other."

"Look how tiny they are!" I argued, "It will take forever for them to grow large enough to touch. By then the grands will be grown too."

"Spruce trees grow fast," Don said, "I'm telling you, you're planting them too close." He leaned against the shovel.

A cold drizzle began to fall. Frustrated and getting wet, I fumed, "Do I need to do it myself?"

Without another word, he spaded three spots, dropped in the tiny trees and tamped the ground firmly around them.

Satisfied, I went in the house and fixed us lunch.

The spruce saplings were happy in their new home. They took root, quickly growing tall and thick. Within a few years their boughs entwined. Tightly. Even the youngest grandchild couldn't squeeze in between the branches of this impenetrable fortress.

In his youth, Don helped plant thousands of spruce trees with his Boy Scout troop. He knew how fast they grew. He knew how far apart they should be spaced. He knew he was right. But he let me have my way.

I should have listened to the voice of reason.

God, likewise, longs to instruct us in the way that is right. He speaks to us through His Word, through prayer and through gaining knowledge and encouragement from His people. But, of course, we often have ideas in our head of what to do - we want to do it our way! Unfortunately, "our way" is often the wrong way and we are left to deal with the consequences.

When we read God's Word, it's important to pay attention to our heavenly Father's advice. "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says" (James 1:22 NIV).

When we pray, it's important to remember that communing with God is not a monologue. After we pour out our hearts to Him, it's important that we remain quiet and still and listen for His voice speaking to us. "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you" (Psalm 32:8 NIV).

Sun and water and fertile soil helped those spruce trees grow, so too, when we listen to God's voice, and follow His directions, we grow in faith, wisdom and knowledge of the Lord.

(Note: It's taken me many years to admit I was wrong about the spruce trees, but here it is - you were right, Honey! I should have listened to you . . .!)

Judyann Grant and her husband Don live on a few country acres in northern New York where they grow vegetables, flowers and thick stands of spruce! Contact the author at witandwisdomwriters@gmail.com



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A Cup of Tea with Lydia

by Lydia Harris

Any Day is Grandparents Day!

Fall usually means back to school, back to work, and back to scheduled routines. It's also back to Grandparents Day—which is celebrated the second Sunday of September each year. This year it falls on September 11. But my husband and I don't need an official holiday to celebrate with our grandkids. We enjoy time with them as often as we can.

When our grandkids arrive at our home, I often ask them, "What day is it today?" Their usual reply is, "Funday!" Any day with them is fun for all of us.

Recently when they arrived, they answered, "Workday!" That's because Anna (12), Owen (16), and their mom had offered to help us with housecleaning and yardwork.

"We can still have fun," I said, as I began to sing, "Whistle while you work."

Work they did—with a good attitude. After they vacuumed and washed the floors, cleaned the bathrooms, and dusted furniture, our home almost shone "like the top of the Chrysler building," as Miss Hannigan says in Annie. The yard looked better too.

Of course, it wasn't all work. We took time for tea and treats, enjoying the sunshine on our deck while sipping their favorite peach herbal tea.

"These cookies taste good," Anna said when she took a bite of the chocolate chip cookies I'd baked the previous day. I also served oatmeal cake, gluten-free chips, and fresh strawberries, which they love eating dipped into sour cream and brown sugar. They think it almost tastes like dipping them into caramel sauce.

Their help that day was a win-win situation. They were planning to attend an out-of-state church camp in a month, so I wrote out a check to help cover some of the cost. "That's a lot of money," Anna said when they started to leave.

"Thanks for helping us," I said and smiled. "Do you know what else you were doing?" They waited for my reply. "You were laying up treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20).

They drove away smiling, I smiled as I stepped inside our clean home, and I knew God was smiling too.

Any day is Grandparents Day. And any occasion can turn into a tea party with fun memories that linger and bless others and ourselves.

Lydia E. Harris is a tea enthusiast, grandmother of five, and author of *In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together* and *Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting*. Her books are available at Amazon.

From Lydia's Cookbook—  
In the Kitchen with Grandma: Popcorn Cake  
(Fun to make with grandkids)

- Gather with Grandma
- 3 1/2 quarts (14 cups) popped popcorn
  - 1/2 cup butter, melted (one stick)
  - 1 10-oz package miniature marshmallows
  - 20 unwrapped caramels, cut in half
  - 2 cups favorite small candies, such as candy corn, M&M'S®, gumdrops, or a mixture of candy
  - 1 cup lightly salted or honey roasted peanuts or mixed nuts (optional)



Make with Grandma

Lightly grease an angel food cake pan with butter or nonstick cooking spray. Measure the popcorn into a large container that holds at least five quarts. Mix in nuts and candy, except the chocolate candy. Measure the chocolate candy into a separate bowl to add later, otherwise the chocolate will melt and turn the cake brown. In a large saucepan or microwave-safe bowl, melt the butter and caramels together until the caramels are soft, stirring with a wooden spoon. Add the marshmallows and melt them completely. When melted, pour the marshmallow mixture over the popcorn mixture. Mix the cake with a wooden spoon. After the mixture cools slightly, stir in M&M'S or other chocolate candy. Press the popcorn mixture into the cake pan using wax paper or fingers greased with butter. Press down until the cake is compact. Refrigerate the cake for an hour or until firm. Remove the cake from the pan and place it on a plate. Serve at room temperature. Slice with a serrated knife. To keep the cake fresh, wrap it tightly with plastic wrap or foil, or place it in an airtight container. This cake is best eaten in a few days. Wrap and refrigerate the uneaten cake to prevent it from becoming sticky. Serves 12 to 16.

Tip: For popcorn—use plain popcorn, kettle corn, or lightly salted and buttered popcorn. You can buy it already popped if you prefer. (A package of 5.5 ounces of popped popcorn will give you 14 cups.)



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## THE MAILBAG

*The Country Register* has put out another great publication of interesting articles, patterns, etc. Thanks to the many advertisers. I'm enjoying happy summer sewing days when it's too hot to be out gardening.

Irene Thompson, La Junta, CO

The Desert Rose quilt shop always slips in a copy of *The Country Register* into my bag whenever I shop there. I do love to read the paper through and through. Thank you for *The Country Register*.

Angie Chavez, Logan, NM

What a "joy" the 2022 summer issue of *The Country Register* is for a sizzling hot day, with some "cool" recipes, puzzles and great articles!

Carol Davis, Montrose, CO



## Lessons from an Owl

By Barbara Kalkis

Nights are Magical!  
No stars need glow.  
I just listen and learn  
From chattering creatures below.

Stillness is calming,  
Hearing is seeing,  
Flying is freeing  
From my secret window.

A parliament is okay,  
But with nothing to say  
I have fun all alone  
And hunt on my own.

A discussion is moot.  
My life is a Hoot!

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### KISSed Quilts

#### Something Old, Something New

by Marlene Oddie



Island Batik has issued another beautiful fabric collection—Vintage—that is now available in quilt shops and goes right along with this Antiques, Vintage and Collectibles issue. There are at least eight different lace-like motifs used across a variety of colors.

The name of the collection and the motifs used in it inspired me to come up with a vintage "posie" block using AnglePlay® shapes (half rectangle triangles). This is a single block colored two ways, which gives it a bit of movement and interest. The middle border seems to have some yellowing like an old piece of lace might. There is another fabric used that has just a little bit of yellow in it as well. Used sparingly, it works!

Given the many shipping issues and market closures this past year, I was asked to photograph the quilt myself. As the spring flowers started blooming, this tree across the street from my classroom space seemed like the perfect backdrop. The tree seems

very 'vintage' with the long hanging clusters of flowers giving it a soft touch.

Finding just the right space to photograph a quilt can really make a difference in how it is presented.

The Lace Posies pattern and AnglePlay® templates are available at KISSed Quilts.

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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# Retirement!

by Barbara Polston

Two months ago, I gave my notice of retirement. The reaction of some of my coworkers has been surprising. Some expressed envy and many more congratulated. I've worked most of my adult life, only taking time when my daughters were born and for graduate school. I've dubbed this the "event 52 years in the making."

Certain aspects have been difficult. My replacement was named early and time was invested in training her in all the details of the job living in my head. There was a lovely retirement party, but after that and with two weeks to go, it was clear I was a lame duck. The feelings of uselessness have been challenging. But, that's over now.

People ask about my retirement plans. My adult children feel I should find a part-time job, but I have given myself one—that of children's book author. Resurrecting a project that has been in my mind for over five years, I have partnered with a long-time colleague and our first book draws closer to publication. Soon, we will be delving into the world of websites and social media to support book sales. It is all pretty exciting.

Some of my goals are small. Keep up the exercise program I began in an effort to positively impact my health. Give myself a manicure once a week (or so). Try new recipes and improve my scratch baking skills. Catch up on medical and dental appointments that have been neglected due to the pandemic and moving to another area of the state.

Of course, there are quilting and sewing goals as well! For two years, my home office and my sewing space has been one in the same. My goal for my first week of retirement is to break down the office space. In its place, I will build a design wall to, once again, have the visual impact of my current projects. I have more PITS (projects in tubs) than I care to admit, but I am determined to chip away at those and eliminate the stacks of tubs that fill my closet and live under tables.

There are a few competition quilts I've been mulling over for years. If they go according to the vision I have, perhaps I will put my work back out on the show circuit and see what happens. I'm quite excited about the time to attend quilt guild meetings, spend time in the company of like-minded quilters, and find a bit of volunteering to do there.

No one knows how much time is left in which to enjoy life and become the person I truly want to be. But, I'm working on it!



© Barbara Polston. Barbara, who is the author of Quilting With Dollies: Inspiration, Techniques, and Projects (Schiffer Press, 2015) lives in Tucson, Arizona, where she is now spending time in the pursuit of life-long dreams, many of those at her sewing machine. Contact Barbara at barbarapolstonquilter@gmail.com.

# GIRLFRIEND WISDOM

★ A time for a Change of Seasons, is both a time of excitement and adjustment.

It was a good Summer with lots of family and friends activities, the garden grew well with fresh fruit and vegetables to be preserved for the rest of the year.

There is a time for everything.

...a time to be born and a time to die.

...a time to weep and a time to laugh.

...a time to keep and a time to throw away.

...a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

And a season for every activity under Heaven...

...a time to plant and a time to uproot.

...a time to mourn and a time to dance.

...a time to love... and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3

And now it is time to turn the garden's soil, change our closets from shorts and t-shirts to sweaters and rain boots. It is also time to plan for the next season of our current days. The perfect activity for the here and now. Some fun things, some memory making activities and some growing processes including elements that need to be let go and released.

## GIRLFRIEND WISDOM:

Spend a little time today planning new activities, new events, new rain boots - think about what needs to be let go to create the time and space for things new and exciting. There is a time for everything, and everything has its own time!



Joy & Blessings,

Jody

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





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# Aunt Cora's Button Tin

by Judy Sharer

When I was young, I couldn't wait to go to Aunt Cora's house. She was a button collector and had frames of buttons hung throughout the house on the walls and a special frame of her most valuable buttons on the end table. She collected buttons ever since I can remember. She would always let me poke through her buttons. She had several button tins and jars sorted by materials or subject matter. I especially liked her frame of cat buttons, hand painted ceramics, and beautiful mother of pearl buttons. She also had a tin of buttons just for me to play with.

I would dump them on the floor, much to Aunt Cora's dismay and have fun. Sometimes I'd count them, putting them in groups of ten, and then count them by tens. Sometimes I'd sort them by color. As I grew older and appreciated buttons more for their delicate workmanship and value, she taught me how to sort them by materials—what the buttons were made from.

I learned about rubber buttons made by Novelty Rubber Co., Goodyear's patent of 1851. Yes, they say Goodyear on the back of the button and the patent date. There are many classifications of buttons that I've learned over the years. To mention a few there are: glass, wood, horn, ceramic, fabric, enamel, celluloid, metal, shell, and what a lot of buttons are made of today synthetic polymer and plastics. My personal favorites are glass buttons called moonglows and mother of pearl buttons.

Now as an adult, I too collect buttons as one of my hobbies. I belong to a local button club, my state button society and the National Button Society. If you would like to learn more about collecting buttons or to join a club near you, contact the National Button Society at [www.nationalbuttonociety.org](http://www.nationalbuttonociety.org) and ask them to send you contacts for your state. If you were like me and had a love of buttons growing up why not make button collecting your new hobby today?



Judy Sharer is the author of *A Plains Life* series published by The Wild Rose Press. Book One, *Settler's Life*, Book Two, *Second Chance Life*, and Book Three, *Civil War Life* are now available wherever online books and eBooks are sold. Judy's sweet historical romances have a thread of quilting that runs throughout the family saga series. Visit Judy's website for more details. [judysharer.com](http://judysharer.com) Judy's fourth book in this series, *Love Challenged Life* will be released fall of 2022.

# Cowgirl Poet, Quilter, Entertainer



Yvonne Hollenbeck

## Grandma's Homemade Aprons

I remember Grandma,  
and I guess I always will;  
I remember how she welcomed me  
to her house up on the hill;

Her homemade pies and cookies  
were the best I've ever ate  
and I loved her pansy garden,  
and the roses by her gate.

But the one thing I remember  
most about those days of yore,  
was the homemade cotton aprons  
that my grandma always wore.

All the grandmas wore them;  
be they slender gals, or fat;  
those aprons kept their dresses clean  
but they were more than that.

They always had a pocket,  
where she kept her handkerchief,

and peppermints for grandkids  
and she'd wipe our little cheeks

with the tail of that old apron,  
when a tear would happen by  
from a fall or from a skinned up knee  
things that'd make a young one cry.

She'd gather up the ends of it,  
and use it for a bag  
when picking garden produce,  
even used it for a rag.

She made her pretty aprons  
from feed sacks she had picked  
when buying special chicken feed  
or starter for her chicks.

What happened to those aprons?  
No one wears them any more;  
those homemade cotton aprons  
that our grandmas always wore.

Order Yvonne's new book, "A Stitch in Rhyme" at  
[www.yvonnehollenbeck.com](http://www.yvonnehollenbeck.com) — just \$15 + \$3.50 postage.

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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>





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# Puzzle Piece Afghan

by Kirby Gust



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

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

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

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

**Notes:**  
Chain 3 at beginning of rows counts as the first dc on each row throughout.  
Pick up proper colour yarns to match puzzle pieces throughout unless otherwise stated.  
**Ch 103 (use your lightest colour yarn for the chain row and first puzzle piece)**  
**Row 1:** dc in the third chain from hook(counts as first dc), dc in next 19 chains leaving 2 loops on hook at last dc. *To change colours, pick up the next colour yarn by looping over hook and pulling through 2 loops on hook to finish dc (repeat this to pick up all yarns for colour changes throughout).* dc in the next 20 chains carrying the first yarn and all subsequent yarns along the backside of row and looping around it/them with every stitch. With all colours repeat dc 20 picking up new colours on 20th dc until end of chain row (5colours in total). *Before turning make sure the yarns you are carrying are pulled snug to remove any slack* = 100 dc. Ch 3 and turn.  
**Row 2** Ch 3 counts as first dc. Dc into next 19 dc picking up next colour on the last dc. \*with new colour dc in next 20 dc, pick up next colour on the last dc.\* repeat from \* to \* to end of row. Ch 3 turn.  
**Row 3** repeat row 2  
**Row 4** repeat row 2  
**Row 5** ch 3 counts as first dc. dc in next 14 dc, pick up proper yarn colour for the next puzzle piece, \*dc in next 3 dc, pickup previous colour and dc in next 2 dc. Pick up the previous colour and dc 15\*. Repeat from \* to \* twice, matching puzzle piece colours as you go. With last puzzle piece colour dc in next 20 dc, Ch 3 turn.  
**Row 6** ch 3 counts as first dc. dc in the next 25 dc. \*Pick up next colour and dc into next 20dc\*, repeat from \* to \* twice. With the last puzzle piece colour dc in the next 14 dc. Ch 3 and turn.  
**Row 7** ch 3 counts as first dc. dc in the next 13 dc. \*Pick up next colour dc into next 20 dc\*, repeat from \* to \* twice. with last puzzle piece colour dc into next 26 dc, ch 3 turn.  
**Row 8** ch 3 counts as first dc. dc in next 14 dc, \*pickup next puzzle piece colour and dc into next 3 dc, pickup previous colour and dc into next 2 dc, pickup previous colour and dc into the next 15 dc\*, repeat from \* to \* twice. pick up the next puzzle piece colour and dc into the next 3 dc. Pick up the previous colour and dc into the next 2 dc. Pick up the previous colour and dc into the next 20 dc, ch 3 turn.  
**Row 9** repeat row 3  
**Row 10** repeat row 2  
**Row 11** repeat row 3  
**Row 12** repeat row 2 leaving 2 loops on hook to change colours. Pick up a new colour ch 3 turn.  
**Row 13** ch 3 counts as first dc. dc in next 7 dc, pick up yarn colour to match puzzle piece directly below and dc in next 4 dc, pickup previous yarn colour and dc in next 8 dc. \*Pick up a new colour and dc in next 8 dc, pick up colour

100 stitches

Row 59

Row 57

Row 55

Row 53

Row 51

Row 49

Row 47

Row 45

Row 43

Row 41

Row 39

Row 37

Row 35

Row 33

Row 31

Row 29

Row 27

Row 25

Row 23

Row 21

Row 19

Row 17

Row 15

Row 13

Row 11

Row 9

Row 7

Row 5

Row 3

Row 1

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.

# Breathing in the Nectar of Life

by Kerri Habben Bosman

Rain splatters on our roof as my husband and I sit at the kitchen table in our bathrobes, each of us sipping our coffees. It is here that every morning we fully awaken, breathing in our gratitude for being alive on a new day. The loveliness of ordinary days is a sacred gift.

Our temporary cat has unashamedly taken my regular seat at the table, alternating between his morning bath and his nearly perpetual nap. However, I decide to just let Arthur be. Soon he will go home to a newly built-house with two dogs, another cat, a lizard, and an active and loving five year old boy. For nearly eleven months here, he has perceived himself to be king of his own small castle. Besides, from this other chair, I have a better view of the world that is our front yard and its unassuming beauty.

The lawn is still lush enough to need mowing, even as the season is shifting. The mower patiently waits for the rain to cease and for the grass to dry. The tree branches lay low with leaves and rain. Right outside our window, we have an abundant patch of lantana which delightfully eases its way onto the garden path. Come winter, I will look at the spindly stalks and remember this unfettered expanse.

Wayne taps and clicks away at his genealogy research. He has learned extensively about his family's history, especially on his mom's side. I crochet a green wool scarf to donate, changing course from working on Christmas gifts. Also I gradually write out a grocery list, adding items as they come to mind.

We watch the cardinals and the chickadees currently at the feeder. We found the squirrels were persistent in eating the seed, so we began to oil the pole with cooking spray. Now we are amused and probably a bit too gleeful as the bushy-tailed rodents slide down. Eventually they give up and settle for the food that has fallen to the ground.

We are compelled by the hummingbirds who come to our two feeders, which are nestled in the foliage and flowers of the lantana. They fly from flower to feeder and then back again. Sometimes a hummer looks through the window, and we wonder if they are sensing us or merely seeing their own reflection. As the summer has deepened, their visits have become more frequent as they prepare for their southward journey. Every spring we faithfully place the feeders and wait. We've read that hummingbirds return to the same place year after year.

It is humbling to watch a hummingbird. I lay down my hook and yarn, and study the tiny being drawing in the nectar. This one is perhaps a female, bearing more muted colors, but equally as beautiful as her male counterparts. She dips in for food, once, twice, three times, and then again before she flies over to a flower for more sustenance. All the while her wings flutter fast and evenly. She shimmers in the sunlight and darkens gently in the shadows.

Before too long, she and the other hummingbirds will begin their 500 mile flight to Mexico for the winter. Somehow they instinctively know how to prepare for this passage, all the while steadily and quietly breathing in the nectar of life. I find myself pondering journeys, both our own and those that our loved ones travel on. We, too, prepare in our own way as best we can know at that moment in time.

I start to pick up my hook and yarn, when I remember something else we need at the store. Wayne starts typing again. Arthur sleeps on. Thus, we breathe in the nectar that is our life.



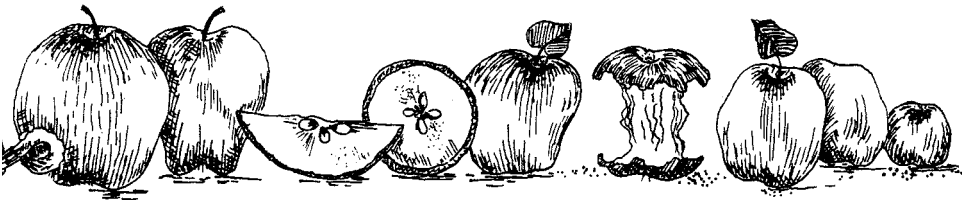
Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer in Chapel Hill, NC.

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# Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

## Little Green Apples

"If you eat little green apples, you'll get sick," her mother had admonished when she was a little girl.

Funny she should think of her mother's words on this particular day—a day she had long awaited and finally reached after four years of college and a continual parade of various odd jobs, which helped finance her preparation.

This day she would begin her career. This day she would greet a classroom of eager young inquisitive faces and welcome them. This day she would be their teacher.

When the bell admitting children into the building rang, a sudden swelling in her throat made it difficult to swallow and questions of doubt began racing through her mind. The task she faced seemed overwhelming.

As she looked at the faces of the children who had gathered in her classroom, the sight was not what she had expected. Her preconceived notion had been one of intent eyes focused on her and captivated by a desire for knowledge and looking to her for guidance, direction and information. Instead, the assemblage appeared as ornery rascals, intent on causing trouble and trying her patience to the limit.

Turning her attention toward squelching a squabble erupting between two students trying to claim the desk by the window, she became the target of an airborne rubber band, launched from the other side of the room by an aspiring pilot. Uproarious laughter arose and she wondered if any of the required college courses, or her student teaching experience, had prepared her for the realities of being in charge of her very own classroom.

Just as she regained control and had her students settled into their assigned seats, the door opened and a red-haired lad with a freckled nose peeked in. After mustering courage, he cautiously approached her desk and apologized for his tardiness. Then, as he extended his arm, she could see a little green apple clutched tightly in his dirty fist. Surprised, she realized he was offering the apple to her.

At day's end, besides being weary, a headache was threatening. In search of tranquility, she closed her eyes. It had been a tiring day and she now fully realized the job she faced was monumental. Opening her eyes, her gaze focused on her little green apple and she began to reflect on her mother's warning that the apple could make her sick.

It seemed ironic to her that apples have become the traditional token students offer to their teachers. For, thought apples are capable of causing a stomach ache, they also contain seeds of promise—just like her assigned students. And that's when she remembered an old proverb: "Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the apples in a seed."

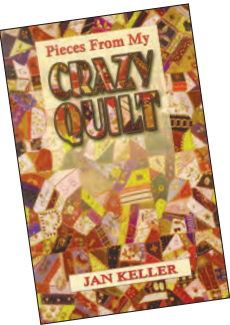
She was a teacher. It was her chosen and honorable profession. It was her responsibility to plant the seeds of knowledge which one day would sprout and yield a bountiful harvest from the young minds in her charge.

With a confident smile, she picked up the apple and took a big bite.



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Halloween Word Scramble

Unscramble the words. Key is below.

- |           |            |   |
|-----------|------------|---|
| 1. _____  | ohorhoro   | shock or fright   |
| 2. _____  | goebynma   | fictional scary person, used to frighten children who misbehave |
| 3. _____  | ctirk      | joke or other act of deception                                  |
| 4. _____  | tauendh    | place frequented by ghosts                                      |
| 5. _____  | adenlc     | wax object with a wick in the middle                            |
| 6. _____  | sthgo      | haunts a house  |
| 7. _____  | natelnr    | type of lamp  |
| 8. _____  | nbolig     | small, ugly, mischevious creature that caused trouble           |
| 9. _____  | tsomntoeb  | large upright stone placed at the head of a grave               |
| 10. _____ | olbdo      | red liquid running through veins and arteries                   |
| 11. _____ | tkesonel   | person's inner frame of bones                                   |
| 12. _____ | etsfiavl   | celebration or special event                                    |
| 13. _____ | etermecy   | where dead people are buried                                    |
| 14. _____ | paritipaon | transparent, ghostly figure                                     |
| 15. _____ | arlokcw    | a male witch  |
| 16. _____ | migtenarh  | scary, bad dream  |
| 17. _____ | raithwccft | magic practised by witches                                      |
| 18. _____ | atrte      | candy collected on halloween                                    |
| 19. _____ | npkra      | trick or practical joke   |
| 20. _____ | kbrosctiom | used by witches to fly  |

1. horror 2. bogeyman 3. trick 4. haunted 5. candle 6. ghost 7. lantern 8. goblin 9. tombstone  
10. Blood 11. skeleton 12. festival 13. cemetery 14. apparition 15. warlock 16. nightmare  
17. witchcraft 18. treat 19. prank 20. broomstick

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## Writing From Life

by Jeanette Lukowski

### Sewing Space

I grew up sewing on my mother's green Kenmore sewing machine—set up on the end of the dining room table. Since we lived in an apartment building, and space is always a premium when one lives in an apartment building in a city, I never thought of it as being an unusual set-up.

The summers I visited my grandmother in my teens, I sewed on her green Kenmore sewing machine—which rested inside a wooden cabinet sewing table disguised as a small end-table in her living room. She lived in a small house in a small town, so I actually thought it an ingenious set-up.

When my youngest child grew up and moved out, I converted his vacated bedroom into a sewing room.

I didn't think of it as my sewing room, though; I constantly thought of it as his vacated bedroom. First, I just moved my plastic fabric boxes in, so that I could dig out some fabric for projects a bit easier. (The previous arrangement had been shoving them all into a closet in the basement.) Then, I set up the foldable banquet table; it was easier to cut the fabric projects in there, rather than on the dining room table. After that, the ironing board was set up against the other wall.

Let me tell you, it's grand to have a dedicated sewing space. The cream-colored Kenmore sewing machine now sits on the end of a solid wood table, with cutting mat and rotary cutter waiting patiently behind the sewing machine. Larger plastic bins of fabric are stacked on the carpeted floor lining parts of two walls (and are tucked neatly under half of the wooden table, leaving me clearance room for the chair and foot peddle to operate the sewing machine); smaller plastic bins of sorted fabric themes rest on shelving next to the window. The ironing board is always set up, with the iron waiting for its next ironing task; the wooden storage cabinet holds the miscellaneous supplies such as a box of freezer paper, fabric markers, interfacing, batting, and the thread organizer.

At any given moment, I can walk into the sewing room, flick on the overhead light if there isn't enough sunlight glowing through the white curtains covering the window, and sew—one seam, or one hour. Maybe cut fabric for a project. Or iron a blouse. Perhaps audition fabric for the next project. Then walk back out—to cook, or read, or write. It's simply grand!

And it's a mess.

As I write this article, there is a basket on the wooden table containing a table runner I began working on months ago (for me), a plastic box with kid-fabric "scraps" I pulled off the shelf after attending a quilt show in June, a donation quilt top in progress; the ironing board is draped with fabrics I pre-washed yesterday, and a table-topper gift project I am working on.

But it's mine, all mine! A sewing space of my own.



## Celebrate Quilting at Quilt-a-Fair

September 22 - 24 • Longmont

Over four decades ago a group of six friends gathered at a church to cultivate a way to share their mutual love of quilting with people across the state of Colorado. Their vision included a desire for quilters to come together and share ideas, build friendships, learn about all aspects of quilting, and preserve the heritage of quilting so it would remain a viable artform. That was the beginning of the Colorado Quilting Council (CQC).

Not long after its inception, CQC created "Quilt-a-Fair", a multi-day event where quilters could gather in a great hall and view a quilt show, sponsor auctions of quilt-related items, and shop vendors from across the state and country. Quilts on display were made by CQC members, and the vendors included quilt shops and quilt-related businesses. What better way to revel in quilting and inspire future quilters than to be surrounded by colorful displays of quilts made by creative minds and hands and provide the opportunity to shop for supplies to make more quilts!

Fast forward to 2022... now in its 41st year, Quilt-a-Fair is happening in a big way again this September 22, 23 and 24 (Thursday through Saturday) at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont, CO. This year's show theme is Celebrate Quilting, with a special emphasis on KIDS celebrating quilting!

Over 60 CQC member-made quilts will be displayed above the show floor, creating the visual effect of floating artwork above the 60 booths of vendors! Attendees can vote for their favorite displayed quilt, which will be awarded a "Viewer's Choice" ribbon at the conclusion of the show. The market includes vendors from Colorado and beyond stocked up with fabrics (cottons and wools), sewing/longarm machines, notions and buttons, antique quilts, kits, and quilt-related treasures like hand-made cotton purses and bags, quilt racks, and sterling silver thimbles.

With a desire to carry on the vision of CQC's founders to expand the experience of quilt making into many generations, this year's Quilt-a-Fair will feature several "kid-focused" displays and activities. CQC has partnered with the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum (RMQM) to showcase quilts made by quilters aged 18 years and younger who attended RMQM's "Kids Kamp". Each summer, RMQM hosts these day camps where kids spend a week learning to design and stitch their very own quilt and complete several other hand-made items as well to take home with them, including a pin cushion, pillowcase, miniature quilt, and an embellished reading pillow. These brightly colored and unique kid-made quilts will be featured in a special show-floor exhibit, along with CQC-members' kid-made quilts. And suspended above this special quilt display will be a sampling of kid-made quilts from the collection of Kathy Emmel, CQC member and retired schoolteacher. Over her 27-year career, Kathy shared her love of fabric, color, and design with her students, teaching them to make quilts. Kathy's published book, *Kids Quilt Together: The ABC's of Group Quilts* (C&T Publishing, 2005) features some of the quilts made by the more than 1,000 students she taught over the years. The Quilt-a-Fair committee is especially excited to showcase the handiwork of young quilt-makers of Colorado, and to encourage future ones as well!



There will be a schedule of "open crafting times" for kids of all ages to participate in hands-on quilt activities, including quilt coloring pages, a large embroidery frame with yarn and blunt-ended needles to learn stitches, wooden quilt pattern puzzles, and a mug cozy to decorate. Special adult-led, age-appropriate craft projects are also interspersed within the schedule so kids can choose to make a pumpkin zipper pouch, needle book, tic tac toe game or a critter zipper pouch on-site at the show. The foundational mission continues with inspiring creativity and self-expression through the art and craft of quilt making!

A Silent Auction of vendor-supplied items will be held at 11 am and 2 pm on Thursday and Friday, and then at 1 pm on Saturday. The Silent Auction is always a great opportunity to bid on high quality quilting items and help support the continued efforts of CQC to promote quilting and related textile arts.

At the CQC Booth purchase a raffle ticket for "Circular Fascination", CQC's raffle quilt for 2022. The raffle quilt was made by volunteers Glenda Brown and quilted by Cyndi McChesney, and is a stunning piece of art! One lucky person will win this quilt on December 3 at 12 noon. All proceeds from ticket sales help fund the enriching speakers and teachers CQC hosts at its monthly meetings. Also, at the CQC Booth is the CQC Library Book Sale, a great opportunity to purchase "gently used" quilting related books in a vast array of titles! Prices are extremely reasonable, and this sale makes it easy to add to your own quilt library.

Quilt-a-Fair invites everyone to spend a day or more at our annual event! Longmont's own Georgia Boys restaurant will be the featured food concession, selling delicious BBQ items. New this year, ShortD's will be there with their beverage cart, pouring hot, cold and even frozen flavorful drinks! Fuel up on great food and beverages, and sit a spell in our Hospitality Area, then hit the show floor for great shopping and quilt viewing.

Learn more about the Colorado Quilting Council and the great benefits of membership to this 40+ year old organization at: [www.coloradoquiltingcouncil.com](http://www.coloradoquiltingcouncil.com). Quilt-a-Fair admission tickets are just \$10 (\$8 on Saturday) and children under 10 get in for free! More show information, as well as advance ticket purchasing, is available at: [www.coloradoquiltingcouncil.com/quilt-a-fair](http://www.coloradoquiltingcouncil.com/quilt-a-fair).

Come Celebrate Quilting with us!



# Letting Great Grandma’s Treasures Go

by Becky J. Dunlap

It’s hard letting Great Grandma’s treasures go. What do you do with Great Grandma’s vase and all the other vintage items you have been storing for 20+ years? These items have been in your and your spouse’s family for years and you are tired of storing them. You may be having health or financial issues, or you are getting ready to downsize or move. You have checked with your family members and everyone has said “no,” or “not right now.” An estate sale or auction is not an option, yard sales are not your thing and you don’t want to throw these treasures in the trash bin. It’s not about making money—you just want your family items to go to a new home where someone will love them as much as you have. So where do you turn to for help?



Antique stores are often the last option for customers in this situation. As an antique store owner, almost every day someone contacts me asking if we buy or consign vintage items. Having experienced this myself, I know this is a hard emotional experience and I understand what they are going through. I like to encourage customers on this journey and get them to think outside the box. Over the years, I have put together a special ‘Suggestion’ or ‘Aka Help List.’

When you want to gift a special treasure to family members and they say no, they may be concerned that you are not in good health and they want to remember the item always being in your home. Or they think they might be taking it from you. I suggest you let your family know you want to see and enjoy the item in their home while you still can. Don’t forget to ask your extended family beyond your immediate family. Often overlooked are the rest of your relatives, the aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. This might also a good time to gift an admired treasure to a friend.

Check with local museums, historical societies or fraternal organizations for those items that have special connections. Ask a local military museum if they would like Uncle Bob’s WWII uniform, metals, photos and his story that has been stored in his footlocker trunk. Your donation will allow many generations to learn more about his and our country’s history. Non-profits can give you a tax donation receipt.

I have learned that these vintage items are not just ‘things.’ They are precious treasures with a special heart connection to us and our pasts. They represent stories to tell. Passing them along to the next generation is a wonderful feeling for those who are caretakers of these inherited family’s treasures. To whomever and in whatever manner we “gift” these treasures, we pass along their history and stories for a new generation to take over as caretaker.

Several years ago, I gifted a special family treasure I had to a friend. Their comment was, “Thank you, I now have a new heirloom to pass on to generations in my family.”

Becky J. Dunlap has been the owner and restorer for 22 years of Airport Antiques & The Furniture Lady, located in the Pendleton Airport Industrial Park at 1816 NW 51st Street in Pendleton. Learn more at <https://www.pendletonfurniturelady.com/> and on Facebook. Call 541-278-0141 or 888-222-2397.

# Over The Teacup Polly Put The Kettle On

by Janet Young

Polly Put The Kettle On, Kettle on, Kettle on, Polly Put The Kettle on and we’ll all have tea.

Sukey Take it off again, off again, off again, Sukey take it off again, they’ve all gone away.



Perhaps as a child growing up you may have said or sung the words to this old English rhyme from the 1800s.

It is believed that there was a father who had five children, three girls and two boys. When the sisters did not want to play with their brothers, they would get out the tea kettle and recite the first part of the rhyme. When the brothers heard them, off they would scurry, as teatime was not of interest to them. After they left, the second part of the rhyme was recited. Sukey was Susie, one of the sisters. Their father turned this little ditty into the song you may have sung as a child.

While the girls may not always have had a tea party, it brings to mind how children are, indeed, fascinated by the idea of tea. From an early age, toddlers want to play tea with their plastic tea sets, many times inviting their fathers to join in the fun.

I’ll never forget a child’s tea party I had at my teahouse, when the father walked in, I knew how much he really loved his little girl, because he did not appear to be a lover of tea. He was clearly not in his element, but he was willing to meet her on her own level, and he was having a great time with his little daughter.

Tea brings us together. With the new school year beginning, and the beginning of a rapidly approaching holiday season, perhaps it is time to bring the tea kettle out and celebrate with a simple cup of tea. How soothing in these troubled times. With childlike wonder we can celebrate the love of family gathered together as we approach another school year.

Polly Put The Kettle on, and we’ll all have tea.

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

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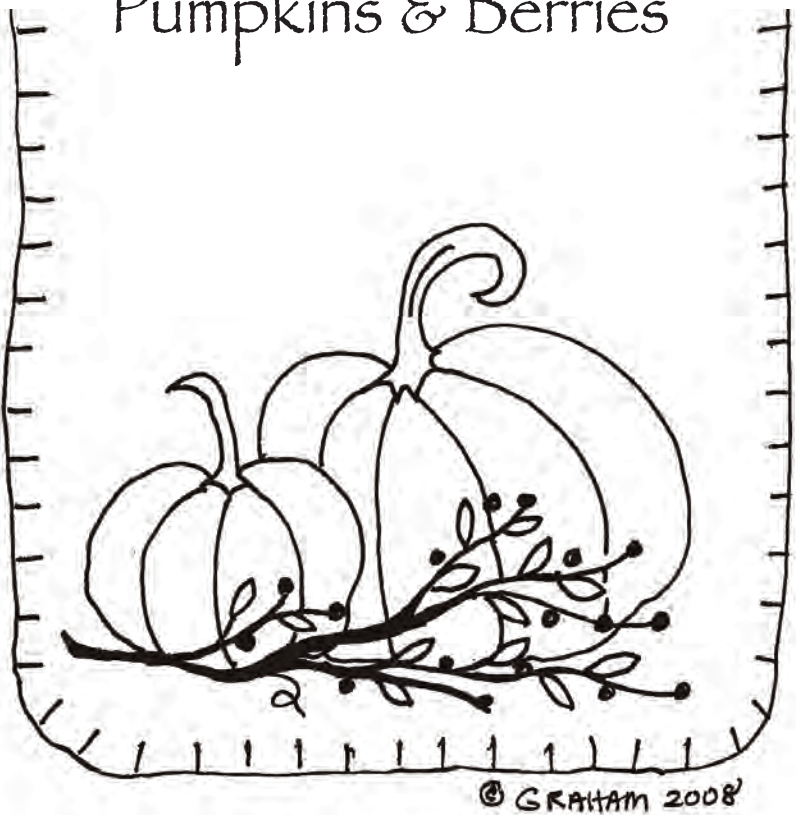
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Pumpkins & Berries



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Designed by Kathy Graham

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## COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

### Campechana

A FRESH SUMMER HORS D'OEUVRE

Submitted by Melony Franchini, Buena Vista, CO

- (1) Combine ingredients for all three mixtures
- (2) Gently fold all 3 mixtures together (do not break up the avocado & crab)
- (3) Chill for an hour
- (4) Serve with corn tortilla chips and extra chopped jalapeños

#### SAUCE MIXTURE

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1/4 cup Green Olives, chopped          | 2 tablespoons Extra Virgin Olive Oil |
| 1 cup Kroger Original Chili Sauce      | 1 tablespoon Fresh Oregano, chopped  |
| 2 large Serrano Chili Peppers, chopped | Juice of 1 Lime                      |
| 1 cup Clamato Juice                    |                                      |

#### VEGETABLE MIXTURE

- |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1/2 cup Tomatoes, seeded & diced | 1 cup Onion, diced             |
| 1 clove Garlic, minced           | 1 tablespoon Cilantro, chopped |
| 1/2 teaspoon Salt                |                                |

#### SEAFOOD MIXTURE

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 2 Avocados, peeled & diced  | 1/2 cup Cream Cheese |
| 1/2 pound Shrimp, boiled, peeled, cut in half or thirds depending on size |                      |
| 1/2 pound Texas Blue Lump Crabmeat (sold near fresh seafood in grocery)   |                      |



## COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

### Pumpkin Dump Cake

Submitted by Sandy Matlock, Bloomfield, NM

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 can (29 oz.) pure pumpkin | 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk |
| 3 eggs                      | 1 cup sugar                    |
| 1 teaspoon salt             | 3 teaspoons cinnamon           |
| 1 box yellow cake mix       | 1 cup chopped pecans           |
| 3/4 cup melted butter       |                                |

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix first six ingredients until blended. Pour into a greased (non-metal) 9" x 13" pan. Sprinkle cake mix over top and cover with nuts. Pour butter over top. Bake 50 minutes. Top; with whipped cream. Everyone loves this!



## COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

### Pork Chops In Cream

Submitted by Ann Terrazas, El Paso, TX

- |                   |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 to 4 pork chops | 3 or 4 cloves garlic, minced |
| 1 cup heavy cream | 1/4 teaspoon dry rubbed sage |
| salt              | pepper                       |

Brown chops in pan in a little oil. While browning, add garlic and continue cooking. Add salt, pepper, sage and cream. Cook cream down a little but do not boil. Serve piping hot.



## Ann's Lovin' Ewe

by Ann Stewart

"Yes or No!"

The haybales from the second cutting on the fields stand waiting for children to run around playing hide-and-go-seek. Brightly colored leaves cling to the trees until falling softly to the ground, crisp wafers of orange, yellow, and red. The last of sweet blackberries are snatched from their thorny bush. A misty rain over the hillside replaces hot sunshine.

Our local village of Waterford prepares for the annual fair by decorating in autumn tones. The Spring lambs of Skymoor Farm are now nearly indistinguishable from their mothers. Our local high school marching band lines up on the school parking lot, blasting brassy tunes, and at bus stops across our county, children separate from their parents for the first day of school. It's as though the clock resets.

Labor Day arrives, with all the changes of seasons and schedules. The National Symphony Orchestra offers a free Labor Day concert at the capital and sales, almost as big as Christmas' Black Friday, are everywhere. Is it really the last day to wear white?

But though it's the unofficial end of summer, does it really mean we have to say "YES" to everything? Afterall, "NO" can be a beautiful word.

"No," means we have more "Yes" in our life. Too many yesses mean less margin and less time for the serendipitous, spontaneous things we loved about summer. No need for fall to feel like being harnessed to an overwhelming schedule.

It's acceptable to say "no." Practice it. "No. No. No. No." It's acceptable to say "yes" to time with family, friends, and an afternoon or an evening to yourself. It's acceptable for kids to get off the bus and not be whisked away for multiple lessons and soccer practice. It's acceptable to kick up your feet and read a book. It's acceptable to say "yes" if it sounds appealing and leaves margin.

Margin: Miriam Webster defines it as "a spare amount or measure or degree allowed or given for contingencies or special situations." When we creep into that margin space in overbooked schedules, we risk the ability to recharge or to help others. When we say "no" to what crowds our lives, we save sacred space for those contingencies and special situations.

One fall I allowed little margin. When a friend who had suffered a miscarriage needed me to go with her to the doctor, I said, "no" when I really wanted to say "yes." I still regret that I could not help her. When another friend needed me, I said "no" when I wanted to say "yes." She died of a stroke a month later and I still wish I could have hung out with her that day.

Now I leave room in my schedule. My schedule does not have to be full. Hustle and bustle does not make me a better person. I should not wear "I'm busy, busy, busy" like a badge of honor. I should not be longing for a Snow Day, to cancel all obligations. Instead, I should allow a little snow to fall into my life throughout every day by saying "no" when needed.

Recently a friend was stuck in town while her car was being repaired. She texted a request to her friends, hoping someone would hang out with her. I said "yes" because I had margin. We had a great lunch and fellowship and in those few hours, our friendship deepened.

"Yes!" this autumn give yourself permission to fall into the habit of saying "No." After all, what joy to later give a free and happy "yes."



Ann Marie Stewart's All is Calm, All is Bright for the Heart of Christmas comes out October 2022. This collection of Christmas inspirations begins December 1 through January 6 and is the perfect gift for friends and family and YOU. It's a good thing to say "Yes" to!



## COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

### Pumpkin Bread

Submitted by Irene Thompson, La Junta, CO

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2/3 cup shortening                 | 1/2 teaspoon salt                 |
| 2 2/3 cups sugar                   | 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg        |
| 4 eggs                             | 2/3 cup chopped pecans or walnuts |
| 1 can solid-pack pumpkin, 15 ounce | 2/3 cup water                     |
| 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour       | 1 teaspoon soda                   |
| 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon         | 1/2 teaspoon baking powder        |

In a large bowl, cream shortening and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, pumpkin and water (mixture will appear curdled). Combine flour, baking soda cinnamon, baking powder, salt and nutmeg then gradually beat into pumpkin mixture until blended. Stir in nuts.

Transfer mixture into two greased 9"x5" loaf pans. Bake at 350° for 55-65 minutes, or until toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks. Yield 2 loaves/16 slices each.





# Let the Leaves Fall

by Becky Van Vleet

I love family traditions. In fact, my website is devoted to family traditions, stories, and preserving memories.

A number of years ago, my husband and I started an autumn tradition with our local grandchildren. You can probably guess what it is if I give you hint words: leaves, bury, screams. Yes, our Grands come over to our house when the fallen leaves and weather are just right, and depending on whose turn it is, either my husband or I get buried as they rake the leaves. We alternate turns every year.

About a month before this ritual, the Grands start asking if we have the date on the calendar. I usually feign that I have no idea whose turn it is to get buried, thinking to myself that maybe, just maybe, if it's my turn, my husband will get stuck with the burial two years in a row. And maybe, just maybe, no one will be the wiser.

I try this route every year, but I fail at all attempts. My grandchildren always remember whose turn it is!

When it's my turn, I grab a baseball cap to cover my face as I get into my prone position for burial. And then, wham, the leaves tumble all over me. And no matter how far under I am in the leaves, I still hear their laughter. I lie perfectly still, not moving a muscle, so much so that the kids start calling out to me, "Nana, we're done, we're done. You can come up." Well, I hold them in suspense as long as I can breathe under the leaves, then I flail my arms, jump up like a wild woman, and scream like a banshee!

And then I hope no neighbors are watching this silliness.

The Grands love it. I'd have to say my husband is a bit more docile in his approach to our family ritual; nevertheless, he gets into this like any cool grandpa would.

Ahh, I love these sweet memories. Grandchildren are so impressionable, and they are taking notes in their minds for what family fun is, what love is like, and how adults invest in their lives, even through antics. At their young age, they're on the receiving end, but I hope some day they pay it forward to their own children and beyond.

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



## Crochet Pattern: Expanded Metal Grate

I found an ornate crochet pattern on a UK website that I tried to make this summer. I kept forgetting that in the UK a double crochet is our single crochet, and their double treble crochet is our triple crochet. Well, it was "double treble" all the way for me, and I eventually just gave up. What I did learn from that pattern though, was the stitches that make this afghan. I decided to just do something simple after I struggled with that pattern and I ended up with this afghan. The more and more I crocheted it kept nagging me that it looked like something familiar. It wasn't until I was finished and laid it out to admire my work that it dawned on me what it reminded me of, expanded metal grating.

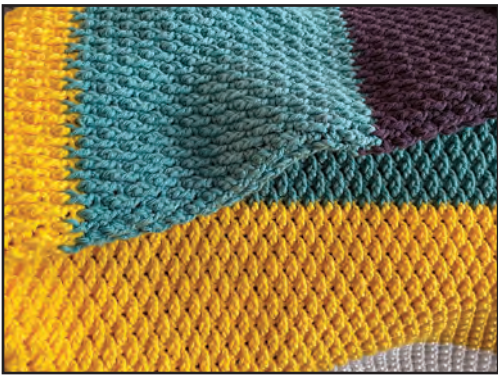
You can make any size afghan you want by chaining in groups of 2 and then adding one chain for turning. I chained 115 and ended up with an afghan 34 inches wide. I used 800grams (19.6 oz) of yarn to make it almost square. (I just used up what I had for leftover yarn and quit when I ran out)

Stitches used

- Ch – chain
- Sc – single crochet
- Dc – double crochet
- Fpdc – front post double crochet

Ch 115 (or any combination of 2 plus 1 for turning)

Row 1 – Sc in first chain from hook, then sc in each chain across. Ch 2 and turn.  
Row 2 – Chain 2 counts as first double crochet. Dc into each stitch across. Ch 1 and turn.  
Row 3 – Sc in first double crochet and into each double crochet across. Ch 2 and turn.  
Row 4 – Chain 2 counts as first double crochet. \*Working under the single crochet from the previous row, Fpdc around the next double crochet from 2 rows below. Dc into next single crochet\* Repeat from \* - \*. Ch 1 and turn.  
Repeat rows 3 and 4 until desired afghan size is reached.  
Final Row – Sc in first stitch and each stitch across. Tie off and work in ends.



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# Random Acts

by Maranda K Jones

## Proud Pumpkins

My favorite season to teach has arrived! The newness of the school year is wearing off as the chill of early fall persuades us to put on jackets to brave the brisk cool air. The excitement of showing everyone their brand new school shoes is waning for our young students, and they are moving to a faster pace in the classroom. Since they have learned the routines of the current year and know what we expect of them, we teachers and the children are all ready for a field trip. There's no better autumn destination than the pumpkin patch.

The joy in children's eyes as they select the perfect pumpkin is unlike any other! They run around the field searching for the best one, which is highly subjective of course. Some want a perfectly shaped pumpkin with a tall stem while others simply want the biggest. Some want a completely orange gourd while others are drawn to the green and white spots that make it different. Some want a pumpkin that will make the perfect jack-o-lantern. When a child has finished hunting and is ready to gather, that grin grows from ear to ear!

We only have one rule when picking pumpkins on our field trips. You have to get your own pumpkin to the bus. This is where it gets even more entertaining for us adults. Remember that child who simply wanted the biggest pumpkin he could find? Now he has to get it to the bus. The pumpkin seems to be equal in size to its new owner, and the only thing larger is the smile on his face. We have seen kids roll pumpkins and drag pumpkins. We have seen the naughtiest children put their best manners to use and enlist the help of a kind parent volunteer. We have seen kids lift pumpkins above their heads as if in a weightlifting competition, only for the pumpkin to drop to the ground. Luckily, most bounce a little on the forgiving ground and are able to be picked up again. And again.

When we have all the kids and their pumpkins loaded on the bus, we head back to school. We have picnicked outside and pet farm animals. We've ran through the corn maze, slid down the haystack, and laughed with our friends on the tractor-trailer ride. We have memories of a day well spent. We've picked the perfect pumpkins and proudly carry, or roll and drag, them home.



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

# Back Porch Break

by Nancy Brummett

## Teachable Moments

As school begins in the fall teachers, parents, and grandparents alike may be watching carefully for teachable moments. I still remember vividly the first time I saw my first grandchild Francesca swaddled in a pink blanket. Now she's 30 and my husband and I have twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, but the awe hasn't diminished one bit.



Just as there is no way to plan "quality time" with your children when you are a parent, there is no way to know exactly when you will have a relationship-building moment with your grandchild. Just being there when you can, and letting them know how much you care when you can't, is the beginning. And it's when we take the time to stop what we are doing and listen that the teachable moments happen.

When Francesca was almost three I was visiting her family in the rural Arizona community where they lived. Their house was within walking distance of a country store, and Francesca had long since befriended the store clerk. "Will you take me to the store, Grancy?" she asked, followed by, "May I have a quarter for some candy?"

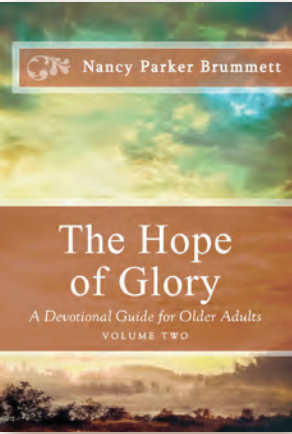
Soon she clutched the shiny quarter tightly in one hand and slipped her other hand in mine as we walked to the store. Once Francesca selected her candy, she put it on the counter in front of the clerk. "Okay," I said. "Now give her your quarter."

Looking up at me with her big, dark eyes, and still clutching the quarter tightly in her hand, Francesca shook her head back and forth. "I don't want to," she said. I wasn't ready for this teachable moment! Instead, I paid for the candy with the change in my pocket and we left, but all the way home I knew I had failed my first test as a grandmother.

What better opportunity could I have had to teach my granddaughter that we often have to give up something in order to gain something else? You can't have your quarter and your candy! I knew that. Why didn't I teach her this truth? Since then I've watched carefully for teachable moments and tried to take advantage of every one.

Have you been blessed to have a lifetime relationship with a grandparent who is also a friend and a teacher? Have you become that person yourself? If you don't have children or grandchildren, maybe it's a neighbor child you have encouraged and taught, or maybe it's a whole classroom of children. Let's watch for those teachable moments!

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](https://www.nancyparkerbrummett.com).



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- 1/2 cup Yoplait original apple crisp yogurt
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  - 1 tbsp water
  - Whipped cream
  - Chocolate granola
  - Carmel sauce

- Directions:**
1. Combine the yogurt, cake mix and water in mug.
  2. Mix well.
  3. Microwave on high for 1-3 minutes. (Start with one minute and then add additional 30 seconds until the cake has risen).
  4. Let cool for 3 minutes.
  5. Top with whipped cream, granola and carmel sauce.



Recipe by Simplistically Living



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Life in Skunk Hollow

by Julie A Druck

Autumn Joy at the Bonfire

Round about August, I start allowing myself to begin anticipating the upcoming pleasures of autumn. I'm not a fan of summer, so I'm always thrilled when the beauties of the autumn season begin showing themselves even in the slightest ways. I could wax eloquent about the many seasonal delights I enjoy that encompass all the senses. From the taste of all manner of pumpkin desserts to the eye-catching color of our sugar maples to the sound of crunching leaves underfoot as I walk the farm, fall has it all.

Besides all these sense-tickling joys, I also love the many traditions associated with autumn: our wedding anniversary, Steam-O-Rama (the local antique tractor event), and our family's barn dance, to name a few. Another of those joys is our annual bonfire. For the past 20 years, we've gathered a small group of family and friends on a chilly evening for seasonal food, games, and fellowship.

The site of the bonfire is in "The Grove"—it's a pine-sheltered spot on the hill above our little house where stands a big old pine tree in which we string tiny lantern lights. My husband builds a fire, and I load up the large picnic table with tasty treats. Usually two types of soup are warming in the slow cookers, and there are plenty of our favorite all-beef hot dogs to roast over the fire. There are always fresh apple slices with dip, and, of course, cider. Besides s'mores fixings, our daughters-in-law supply the sweet treats—sometimes apple crisp or pumpkin cookies. We gather round the fire and give thanks for, among other things, the blessing of gathering.

As it grows dark, the games begin. At our last bonfire, our then 4-year-old granddaughter, Maggie, enjoyed a "gourd hunt." Using a flashlight and a basket, she collected the gourds I had scattered earlier around the yard. Elsewhere, my helpers were snapping glow bracelets and hanging them on low tree branches along the path through our woods that we call "The Corridor." Everyone gathered then to walk down to the woods, exclaiming over the beauty of the trees decked out in circles of light. Maggie and 2-year-old Josh delighted in picking the glow bracelets off the trees and stringing them on their arms.

For a little more light magic, a big bag of giant sparklers was distributed to the guys of our group. They lit them and quickly stuck them in the ground all along The Corridor. Laughter and light filled the woods as everyone waited to see whose would stay lit the longest. We then trooped back up the hill to The Grove and played some games—a contest to test memory with a tray full of items to remember; a hilarious feat of trying to move a small piece of chocolate off one's forehead and into one's mouth with no hands; and several belly-laughing rounds of Mad Libs and interesting trivia questions while we sat round the fire.

To top off the night, we sent up a pink sky lantern above the freshly-harvested corn field. Sweet Maggie had brought her dolly to watch. She stood big-eyed and quiet, just taking in the beauty of the night sky and the lovely pinprick of light created by the lantern as it danced in the sky.

The magic of that autumn night didn't end, as it lives on in the wonderful memories I treasure. And as I type out the remembrances of that particular bonfire, I am becoming inspired to think of what magic I can create for this year's event. But no matter what I come up with, it will be a delight because the season itself creates so much of the joy.

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



Become Inspired!

by Annice Bradley Rockwell

AUTUMNAL ART

It is usually on one of the first crisp, cool evenings of early September when we begin to sense a shift in our year. The longer, sun-filled days of summer are slowly transforming into spectacular autumnal art. As we gaze upon our landscape now it is enlivened with flametitch color and appeal. Vibrant reds, yellows and deep orange adorn our trees. The lush green of summer now glows with the golden tones of fall.

Throughout the town, village homeowners begin to decorate their Boston post lamps with cornstalks from the local farm and porches are accented with bountiful collections of pumpkins in an array of color. White pumpkins grace a Federal-style entry way paired with tall stands of formal boxwood on black urns. Country homes might be enhanced by an early wheelbarrow in weathered blue paint filled with a bed of straw, large orange pumpkins and long strands of bitter-sweet. Trees in the yard of a country cape might be whimsically decorated with primitive handcrafted ghosts of all sizes, fashioned with aged fabric and twine as a perfect accent for the neighborhood "harvest barn gathering." Without a doubt, the season of fall is the ideal time for country decorating.

BEAUTIFUL BACKDROPS

Our homes' interiors take on the essence of fall as well as the season deepens its hold. The smell of autumn wafts through the air as the scent of Macintosh apple blends with cinnamon and nutmeg for the first home-baked pie of the season. The familiar glow of the hearth warms the keeping room almost instantly on a cold October evening and the coziness it creates gives us feelings of comfort and love of home.

Fall is also the ideal time to add layers of texture and color to our room settings. A perfect way to find great ideas is to visit area antiques shops and country stores. During the season of fall they are typically brimming with merchandise that can spark our creativity and sense of design. Incorporating a significant antique piece of furniture into a room will not only lend a new look but can also offer a new function for the space. Early sawbuck tables, primitive benches, country dry sinks and cupboards are all wonderful investments when enhancing your country home. Layering these pieces with textiles in the form of Oriental mats, woven coverlet runners or homespun fabrics add the warmth of fall to your room setting. Centerpieces made using large treen trenchers or dough boxes filled with dried gourds, bittersweet and florals are enjoyable to create and pair beautifully against a backdrop of country antiques.

FESTIVE FALL FAIRS

And fall is one of the best times to indulge in finding some of the wonderful harvest shopping events offered by many country shop owners. Many of these festive fairs feature booths filled with country offerings, early antiques and fall food favorites like apple dumplings, roast beef sandwiches and pumpkin pie. A day spent with friends enjoying the sights and scents of the season is a day well spent. And when we can return home with fresh pieces to add to our country displays, there is a sense of fulfillment and joy which reminds us that when we put what we truly love into our home it will always reflect that love back to us.

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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