

# The Country Register<sup>®</sup>

Available across the U.S.A. & Canada

Minnesota's Guide to Specialty Shopping & Fun Events

**Free!  
Take One**

**March/April  
2020**

**Pick up a copy  
for a friend!**



Happy St. Patricks Day!



## Subscriptions

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

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

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

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

Send an \$18 check to:  
 The Country Register • 12835 Kiska St. NE • Blaine, MN 55449  
 If you want to pay by credit card, please call 763-754-1661!



Minnesota's Guide to Specialty Shopping & Fun Events



**Kim Keller, Publisher**  
 12835 Kiska St. NE  
 Blaine, MN 55449  
 763-754-1661  
 minnesota@countryregister.com  
 www.countryregister.com/mn

## Win a \$25 Gift Certificate!

Each issue we give away a \$ 25 gift certificate to YOUR favorite shop!  
 Just fill out the form below to entered in the drawing. (one per person please)

### Gift Certificate Drawing Form

To enter, complete form and mail to:

The Country Register  
 12835 Kiska St NE  
 Blaine, MN 55449



MA20

All questions must be answered to qualify.

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

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

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

Favorite Shop Advertised: \_\_\_\_\_

My Favorite Shop because: \_\_\_\_\_

My Favorite Country Register Feature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Found this issue at: \_\_\_\_\_

Regular reader? \_\_\_\_\_ 1st time reader? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you tell the shops you saw their ad in the paper? \_\_\_\_\_

What stores would you like to see in The Country Register?  
 (include town) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make sure to tell the shop owners you saw their ad in  
 The Country Register! It's the only way they know you saw them  
 here and that their advertising dollars work!

## And the Winner Is...

Rose Parry of Albert Lee, MN won a \$ 25 gift certificate to Quilter's Cottage in Kiester, MN. Rose says Quilter's Cottage is her favorite shop because "They are helpful but not pushy! It seems like if I run out of something they always seem to have more of what I need. They have so many ideas! They even ask to see how it turned out when done. They also took a quilt down for me to draw up a pattern of!"

Congratulations!

### The Country Register Publisher Contact List

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.

Offices of The Country Register are located in Phoenix, AZ

#### PUBLICATIONS ALL ACROSS THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

To receive a sample paper from another area, mail \$3.00 in U.S.A. or \$4.00 in Canada to that area's editor.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>USA</b>  | New Hampshire: Michelle Hatch, 603-571-1822                 |
| Arizona: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950    | New Jersey: Merle & Gail Taylor, 888-616-8319               |
| Arkansas: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597         | New Mexico: Jan & John Keller, 719-749-9797                 |
| California: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950 | New York: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217                   |
| Colorado: Jan & John Keller, 719-749-9797               | North Carolina: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 888-942-8950 |
| Connecticut: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217            | North Dakota: Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181                  |
| Delaware: Merle & Gail Taylor, 888-616-8319             | Ohio: Barb Moore, 937-652-1157                              |
| Florida: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217                | Oklahoma: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597             |
| Georgia: Linda Parish, 706-340-1049                     | Oregon: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950         |
| Idaho (N): Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181                 | Pennsylvania: Merle & Gail Taylor, 888-616-8319             |
| Idaho (S): Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950  | Rhode Island: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217               |
| Illinois: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597         | South Carolina: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 888-942-8950 |
| Indiana: Gail & Merle Taylor, 888-616-8319              | South Dakota: Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181                  |
| Iowa: Linda Glendy, 641-751-2619                        | Texas: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597                |
| Kansas: Cindy Baldwin, 866-966-9815                     | Vermont: Michelle Hatch, 603-571-1822                       |
| Maine: Deborah Daney, 207-324-7482                      | Virginia: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217                   |
| Maryland: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217               | Washington: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950     |
| Massachusetts & RI: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217     | West Virginia: Merle & Gail Taylor, 888-616-8319            |
| Michigan: Bill, Marlene & Leslie Howell, 989-751-8860   | Wisconsin: Scott and Jennifer Hughes, 715-838-9426          |
| <b>Minnesota: Kim &amp; Mickey Keller, 763-754-1661</b> | Wyoming: Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181                       |
| Missouri: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597         | <b>CANADA</b>   |
| Montana: Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181                   | Alberta: Ruth Burke, 780-889-3769                           |
| Nebraska: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950   | British Columbia: Bryan Stonehill, 1-800-784 6711           |
| Nevada (N): Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950 | Manitoba & Saskatchewan: Scott & Marj Kearns, 306-736-2441  |
| Nevada (S): Glenna Dunn, 702-523-1803                   | Ontario: Harriet Ramos, 613-424-6420                        |

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

## Months March/April

Volume 26 Number 2

The Country Register is published every other month. Copyright 2020. Reproduction or use, without permission, of editorial or graphic content in any manner is prohibited. Offices of The Country Register are located at PO Box 84345, Phoenix, AZ 85023. The Country Register of Minnesota is licensed by The Country Register with exclusive rights to publish in the state of Minnesota using logos and graphics owned by The Country Register.

**Deadline For the May/June Edition is April 10th!**

Happy Easter!

'The Country Register' is a gift, provided to you at no cost by the advertisers. Be sure you thank them - they deserve to know you appreciate getting the paper!



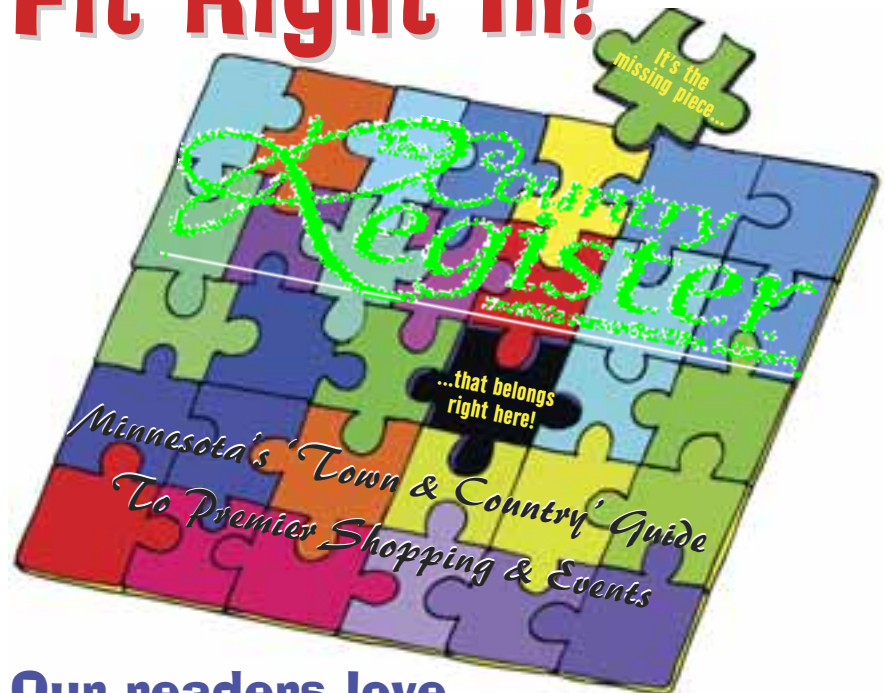
**The Country Register**  
Guide to Specialty Shops & Events

Check Out Our New Website!

- New Design
- New Content
- Easier To Navigate
- Optimized for Mobile
- For You, Our Readers

--- Please Visit ---  
[www.countryregister.com](http://www.countryregister.com)

# Your Shop or Event Would Fit Right In!



Our readers love to discover an **eclectic mix** of interesting shops and events...and **they've been looking for YOU!**

**The Country Register of Minnesota**  
Phone: 763-754-1661 • Email: [minnesota@countryregister.com](mailto:minnesota@countryregister.com)  
**WHY NOT CONTACT US TODAY?**



## City Listing

Blue Earth.....	20,21	Menomonie, WI.....	17
Cloquet.....	4	New Prague.....	16
Cook.....	6	New Ulm.....	19
Duluth.....	4,5	Oklee.....	7
Eagan.....	13	Owatonna.....	18
Eden Valley.....	9	Sandstone.....	4
Edina.....	12	Shakopee.....	15,24
Elk River.....	11	Sherburn.....	21
Foley.....	9	Shoreview.....	11
Ham Lake.....	12	St. Paul.....	10
Hutchinson.....	8	Waite Park.....	8
International Falls.....	6	Wells.....	20,21
Kiester.....	20	West Allis, WI.....	10
Kimball.....	9	White Bear Lake.....	12
Lake City.....	17	Windom.....	21,23
Litchfield.....	8	Winona.....	17
Luverne.....	22	Worthington.....	21,23
Medelia.....	21		

## Special Events

### March

- 13-15.....March Madness Sale - Antiques of the Midwest - Wells
- 20-April 5.....Majestic Oaks Boutique - Ham Lake
- 21.....National Quilt Day - Gone to Pieces Quilt Shop - Kimball

### April

- 1-4.....Country Roads Shop Hop - See ad page 21
- 1-4.....Country Roads Shop Hop - Michele's - Blue Earth
- 1-4.....Country Roads Shop Hop - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
- 1-4.....Country Roads Shop Hop - Prairie Quilting - Windom
- 3-4.....New Ulm Quilt Show - New Ulm
- 3-4.....Meet and Greet Emily Dennis - Sewing Seeds Quilt Co. - New Ulm
- 4.....Wilmington Spring Fling Trunk Show - Quilted Dog - Cloquet
- 10-26.....Candleberry on the Lakes - Edina
- 16-18.....Junk Bonanza - Shakopee
- 18.....Women's Work and Play Quilt Show - See ad page 8 - Litchfield
- 18.....Women's Work and Play Quilt Show - Gone to Pieces Quilt Shop - Kimball
- 25.....Anniversary Celebration - Quilt Haven On Main - Hutchinson
- 25-May 2.....Crossing Borders Shop Hop - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
- 25-May 2.....Crossing Borders Shop Hop - The Sewing Basket - Luverne
- 25-May 2.....Crossing Borders Shop Hop - Prairie Quilting - Windom
- 30-May 2.....Minnesota Charms Quilt Show - Quilted Dog - Cloquet
- 30-May 2.....Minnesota Charms Quilt Show - Creations Quilt Shop - Duluth

### May

- 1-2.....Stamp and Scrapbook Expo - See ad page 10 - West Allis, WI

### June

- 5-6.....Stamp and Scrapbook Expo - See ad page 10 - St. Paul
- 10-13.....MN Quilter's Quilt Show and Conference - St. Cloud

### Spring Cleaning Check list:

1. Wipe walls and ceilings.
2. Reseal grout lines.
3. Vacuum and shampoo rugs.
4. Dust books and shelves.
5. Clean upholstered furnishings.
6. Polish metal door and window hardware.
7. Dust each room thoroughly from top to bottom.
8. Wax wooden furniture.
9. Wash window screens.
10. Clean window treatments.
11. Wax non-wood floors.
12. Wash out trashcans.
13. Clean the refrigerator.
14. Clean the oven.
15. Declutter and organize drawers.

My idea of housework is to  
 sweep the room with a glance!



274 Hwy 33 North  
 Cloquet, MN 55720  
 218-879-3577  
 www.quilteddogquiltshop.com  
 Mon-Fri: 10-5 • Sat: 10-3

Wilmington Spring Fling Trunk Show  
 April 4th  
 Call us today to make your reservations!

Minnesota Charms Quilt Show  
 April 30th - May 2nd

#### Full Service Quilt Shop

Beautiful Fabrics • Great Patterns & Books  
 Wide Array of Notions • Multiple Kits  
 Long Arm Services • Classes for all Levels



### Quarry Quilts & Yarns

326 Quarry Place • Sandstone, MN 55072 • 320-216-7639  
 1/2 block east of Exit 191  
 quarryquiltsandyarns@gmail.com • www.qqyonline.com

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

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



Northeast MN  
 and  
 Northwest WI  
 Handi Quilter  
 Rep.

## Creations Quilt Shop

2904 W 3rd St. • Duluth, MN 55806

218-628-1687 • www.creationsquilting.com • creationspd@gmail.com

All Inclusive Quilt Shop!

Fabric • Batting • Thread • Notions • Mats • Boards • Cutters  
 Batiks • Huge line of Asian Fabric

### Retirement Sale!

- 15% - 20% (or as posted) off everything!
- Ongoing unadvertised sales each month!
- Demo Handi Quilter machines and long arm machines for sale!
- Give us a call, or stop in to see what the latest deal is!

### 3rd Annual Minnesota Charms Show

April 30th - May 2nd

- Enter your own quilt to be included in the show!

(call Mary at Quilted Dog for info)

- Guest speakers
- Vendors
- \$ 10 entry fee

Call for more info!

Duluth

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



Visit Us Online:

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

Offering Quality Fabrics and Patterns!

Quilts • Pillows • Placemats • Towels • Pot Holders • Much More

We Offer a Variety of Different Decors Including Primitive, Country, Folk Art, Lodge, etc. All the work is done by HAND!

Follow Our Blog! [needlespinssticheries.blogspot.com](http://needlespinssticheries.blogspot.com)



**HANNAH JOHNSON**  
Fabrics & Sewing Studio  
Fabric • Quilts • Notions • Classes

New fabrics arriving daily!  
Blend Fabrics—On this Farm  
Robert Kaufman—Library of Rarities  
Moda—Grunge Metallics  
Free Spirit—Tula Pink HomeMade  
Henry Glass—Gnomies  
Pre-order online!

Shop & sign up for classes at  
[hannahjohnsonfabrics.com](http://hannahjohnsonfabrics.com) p: 218.525.7800  
4511 East Superior Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55804

# Life-enhancing Resolutions

by Janet Young

By now the majority of people who made New Year's resolutions have discovered that while they had good intentions, somehow those good intentions began to wither away until the desire to carry out your wishful thinking dissolved, but, with the full intentions of renewing those goals again next year. But why wait?

With each passing day signs and evidence of a winter's thaw has begun and the earth begins to awaken after a long winter's nap. So, as the earth warms and the trees and flowers begin to bloom, why can't we begin anew our commitment to life-enhancing resolutions?

When a new year dawns there is much enthusiasm to make positive changes in our lives. Then when we fail, we think we have to wait for another new year to re-commit again. Remember each morning when you wake up, it is the beginning of a new day. It is another chance to start anew and refuel your enthusiasm for whatever your goal might have been.

Perhaps your resolution didn't work out through no fault of your own. Perhaps the door was closed on an opportunity you thought you should have. Remember a lot of times when that happens, there are better things waiting around the corner for us. We just have to be patient, and push ahead.

Wake up each morning with a grateful heart. If you find the good in people and in things or circumstances, you will begin to think in a more positive stream of thought. And positivity begets a spirit of enthusiasm and a can-do attitude. Just remember to begin each new day by leaving yesterday's issues behind.

Perhaps with a new season, you will choose to make a commitment of another type. For example, you always wanted a beautiful flower garden. Now is the perfect time to get started on this project. Remember flowers are the gift that keep on giving. So, when the flowers begin to blossom and bloom, you can treat yourself to a beautiful bouquet of hand-picked flowers from your own garden. What is more rewarding than that?

Remember, being thankful for what you have, does not allow room for negative thinking. Thanking God that He has given you yet another day is a perfect way to start your day.

So, as we are reminded that each new day has a beginning and an ending, what will you accomplish this day that will further you along in reaching your re-committed resolutions?



-Janet Young, Certified Tea and Etiquette Consultant, is a founding member of Mid-Atlantic Tea Business Association and freelance writer/national tea presenter. Visit her website at [www.overtheteacup.com](http://www.overtheteacup.com).

# Kissed Quilts

by Marlene Oddie

Where Will You Be Dwelling in 2020

Have you ever visited Mesa Verde National Park in SW Colorado? Get a glimpse at <https://www.nps.gov/meve>. I had the opportunity several years ago and enjoyed the cliff dwellings of the Pueblo people, said to date from 600 to 1300 A.D.

In 2011, I designed a quilt starting with a set of charm squares and named it Charmed Network. When the latest Island Batik collection "Mesa Verde" was shared with the designers, I quickly thought of the cliff dwellings seen at Mesa Verde National Park.

So, here is that design revamped to work with the "Mesa Verde" collection that is scheduled to ship in April. The design idea for this pattern is to start with a set of 5" squares from a single collection.

Considering the fabrics, select a light or dark background and two contrasts—one will be the ladder connectors and the other will go around the squares, creating a 'churn dash' block.

The idea of a 'Cliff Dwelling' emerged in the context of these fabrics. In this collection there were three fabrics with the same motif and made for a beautiful combination of the background and the two contrasts.



If the collection has fabrics that lend themselves to being used as border prints based on the repeat of the motif, then choose a smaller repeat for the inner border and a larger one for the outer border.

This particular collection didn't, but I have included the information in the pattern so you can still incorporate that with whatever collection you choose. My pattern is available now and can be picked up on my website digitally or you can order it to be mailed. I've posted a variety of versions—different fabric styles and project sizes—in my Facebook photo album 'Charmed Network.' Let me know by March 31, 2020, what collection you'd make this in to be entered for a free pattern.

Photography by Jerry Khiev of Island Batik.

Marlene Oddie ([marlene@kissedquilts.com](mailto: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 enjoys long-arm quilting on her Gammill Optimum Plus but especially enjoys designing quilts and assisting in the creation of a meaningful treasure for the recipient. Patterns, kits and fabric are available at <http://www.kissedquilts.com>. Follow Marlene's adventures via <http://www.facebook.com/kissedquilts>, <http://kissedquilts.blogspot.com>, instagram [marlene.kissedquilts](https://www.instagram.com/marlene.kissedquilts) and pinterest [marleneoddie](https://www.pinterest.com/marleneoddie).



Cook • International Falls



**CABIN QUILTING**  
218-666-3146

227 1st Street SW • Cook, MN 55723

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

Hours: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm  
Fall/Winter Hours beginning Oct. 1st: Tues - Fri 10am-4:30pm • Sat 10am-4pm



**UP NORTH QUILT SHOP**

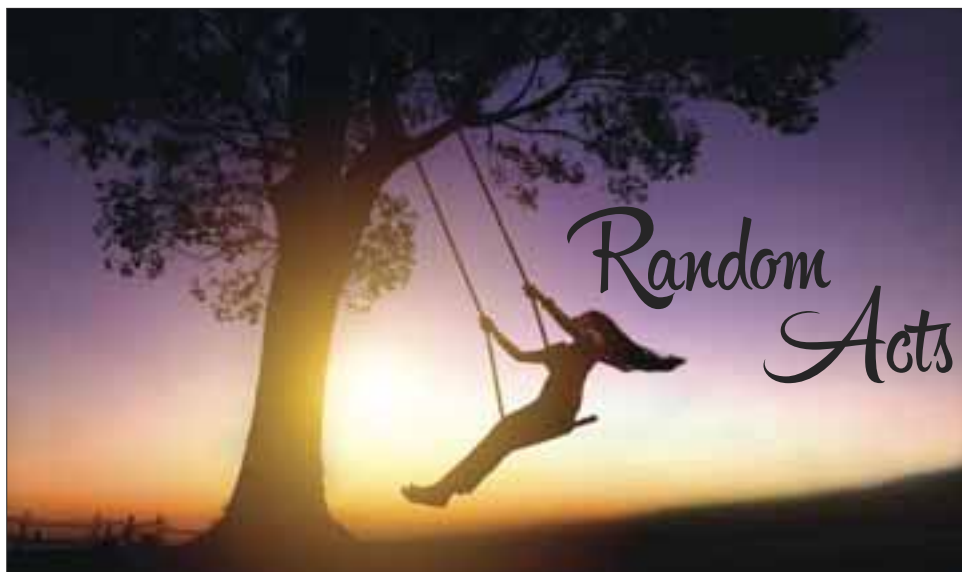
4062 Highway 11  
International Falls, MN 56649  
218-285-7704  
upnorthquiltshop@gmail.com

Facebook Instagram

"A little whimsy, a little woodsy, and a whole lotta quality"

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

Join us for a Class! Check Out Our Wool Kits!  
Tuesday - Friday 10am-5pm • Saturday 10am-4pm • Closed Sunday & Monday



## Spring Swing

by Maranda K. Jones

*I was made for sunny days, and I swing under the stars.  
I sit on my perch near the driveway and greet all passing cars.  
My little wooden friend and I swing along, swaying side by side.  
He wears his hat upon his head, low across his eyes.  
His blue overalls never need a patch upon the knee,  
And he smiles each time he turns away and back again toward me.  
My bonnet is tied neatly underneath my chin,  
And my dress never even ruffles in the passing wind.  
We never let go and hang on tightly to the ropes suspending us above.  
We were not only made from scraps for we were made with love.  
Great grandfather and carpenter cut us out with care  
And great grandmother painted us with her hands bare.  
We brought them joy in the process and the final product too  
As we swung in their yard under spring skies so blue.  
Through the summer months we swirled in the searing Kansas sun  
And when the first leaf fell we knew that we were done.  
We moved inside the garage until the snowflakes had all passed  
And would wait for our return above the freshly sprouted grass.  
Each holiday we found Easter eggs before the twelve grandchildren;  
In all fairness, we had a head start watching while they were hidden.  
Kids would run through giving an under duck with baskets still in tow;  
Others stopped to count their eggs and push us nice and slow.  
We enjoyed company of twenty great-grandkids, although never all at once,  
Most visits were spread out over the spring and summer months.  
We were part of the family, treated with tender love and care.  
How sweet it would be to swing by home on East 7th Street there.*

© 2020 Maranda K. Jones

Maranda Jones' new book **Random Acts**  
is now available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

The book includes her reader-acclaimed articles from the last decade.

## The Dropped Stitch

by Sharon Greve



### Quit or Persevere

It's alright and often good to step out of your comfort zone. That's how many fiber artists reach the next level. But—how do I know when it's time to let go? Do I stay with this project or do I quit—find another yarn, another pattern, another design? Red flags to help knitters and crocheters decide when to surrender are:

1. If you spend most of your time trying to fix, alter, or cope with a project, there's a good chance it's not the right one for you. Joy and pleasure should be an outcome of the fiber work process. If you are struggling, it's time for a change.
2. If you feel obligated, but not excited, to stay with the project, did someone give the yarn to you? Was the project requested by a loved one or dear friend? If you don't want to do the project, you won't be able to give yourself to it for success. Bitterness and resentment can set in, slowing progress, causing mistakes, with no time donated to it.
3. If you and your work don't feel valued, your heart is not in the project. When you give your all to a project but can see as plain as day how little it matters to the recipient, it's time to stop. Rip it out! Exit!
4. If fear is holding you back because the pattern requires a level you don't know, or stitches you don't know, fear no more. Seize the opportunity to advance your level by learning. Yarn shops and advanced knitters are always happy to teach you. The internet even has demonstration videos. Challenges are often good; recognize when you are in way over your head.

#### Warning Signals:

1. The color in the stitch pattern or the yarn is a disappointment.
2. Boredom sets in with the stitch pattern or the overall project.
3. Workshops end with your having to do the finishing at home, alone, which is often very frustrating. This always adds to the UFO (unfinished objects) situation.
4. Panel and strip work becomes tedious and time consuming due to joining and seaming. Time you may not have.
5. A new fascinating pattern or yarn offers more excitement or challenge triggering your escape button.
6. Life becomes busy, consuming fiber time.

#### Project Guidelines to avoid UFOs:

1. Select yarn and design patterns right for you and recipients. Be sure they are the materials you want to work with.
2. Be committed to elevate your time and interest to the end. Set deadlines, enroll in a finishing class or join friends.
3. Knit a gauge swatch. Ugh, I know—it's not what most of us like to do. Continue to check gauge as you work. Knowing a sweater will fit properly makes for quick stitching and enjoyment. Some blocking and finishing techniques can correct a right or loose gauge. Depending upon the type of project, felting can cover uneven stitches and unplanned holes. Yea!

Remain calm but diligent; always keeping in mind we will never be without a few UFOs. It's just our nature. So, go ahead and add PHD (projects half done) behind your name.

Escape without guilt!

Oklee

**A TOUR OF MINNESOTA'S STATE PARKS**



*Lake Bemidji State Park*

For hundreds of years, the ancestors to the Dakota fished and hunted around Lake Bemidji. Later, the westward-moving Anishinabe reached the area around 1750. Early trader records identify Lake Bemidji as "Lac Traverse" which is French for diagonal. The Anishinabe knew the lake as "Bemiji-gau-maug" meaning cutting side-

ways through or diagonally. This was a reference to the path of the Mississippi River through the lake.

In the late 1800s, European immigrants were drawn to this region to harvest the prime white and Norway pine. During the peak of logging around the turn of the century, the lumber mills on the south shore of Lake Bemidji were the center of logging in the nation. The foundation of one mill is still visible near Nymore Beach. Logging artifacts are occasionally found in the lake by divers. Fortunately, a few areas within the park boundaries were still in a virgin state when the land was purchased by the government, thus preserving a remnant of towering forests so common in years past. In 1923, the Minnesota Legislature established Lake Bemidji as a state park.



Lake Bemidji State Park is the perfect playground any time of year! Visitors can go swimming, boating, fishing, birdwatching, hiking, camping, biking, picnicking, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

Hikers can explore the beauty of a tamarack bog carpeted with showy lady's slippers, pitcher plants, dragon's mouth, grass pink, and insect-eating sundews. Most flowers are blooming in the bog during late spring and early summer.



The diversity of vegetation in the park supports many wildlife species. Birdwatching is a favorite activity with hobbyists spotting red-eyed and warbling vireos, rose-breasted grosbeaks, and many other forest songsters. Loons, eagles, herons, even osprey can be seen on the lake. Hikers often come across deer, porcupine, squirrels, and chipmunks and even spot the occasional black bear.

The park landscape is the result of the last stage of glaciation in Minnesota. Sand, gravel, and rock material carried by the glacier as it moved south was eventually deposited as the ice receded 10,000 years ago. The park's rolling topography was created by uneven deposits of this glacial till. Meltwater from the glacier also played a role in creating the present shape of the land. Many of the swamps and bogs in the park were formed when chunks of ice separated from the receding glacier and left depressions which later filled with water. Lake Bemidji itself is the result of ice left behind by the retreating glacier.



Information from [www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks). Visit the website for more information, pictures, hours and fees.



**Oklee Quilting Supply, Inc.**

128 Main St · Oklee, MN 56742  
P.O. Box 279

218-796-5151  
1-800-777-7403  
Fax (218) 796-4601  
[www.okleequiltinginc.com](http://www.okleequiltinginc.com)  
email: [okleequilt@gvtel.com](mailto:okleequilt@gvtel.com)



**Country Register Recipe Exchange**

**Nutty Butterscotch Popcorn**



submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN

- 1 package (12oz) butterscotch 16 cups unsalted popped popcorn
- 1 can (16oz) salted peanuts

Place butterscotch chips in a small microwave safe bowl. Microwave on high about 3 minutes stirring every minute until chips are melted. Place popcorn and peanuts in a very large bowl. Pour melted chips over popcorn mixture. Stir until well coated. Spread on greased tin foil. Allow to cool. Store in an airtight container.



It's Spring! So Sing! Come celebrate with me at [www.susanbranch.com](http://www.susanbranch.com)



# Just Sew Studio

**New Location!**  
51 3rd St. NE, Waite Park  
(across the street from Macy's, between Quality Appliance and the Fireplace store)

**Spring Cleaning Sale:**  
\$5 yard select cottons • 30% OFF Knits  
Mon & Thurs: 10-7 • Tue-Wed-Fri: 9-5:30 • Sat: 9-4

---

**Authorized PFAFF Sewing Machine Dealer**

**Grace Longarm Systems**





51 3rd St. NE, Waite Park  
320-654-1580 • www.justsewstudiomn.com



**Stop in and see what's new!**  
7 North Main St. • Hutchinson, MN 55350  
320-587-8341  
Hours: Mon 10am-7pm • Tues - Sat 10am - 5pm

**It's time to Party!**  
Join us for our  
**Anniversary Celebration April 25th**  
Grand Prize drawing of a  
**Baby Lock Jubilant Sewing Machine!**  
(provided in cooperation with  
Vacuum and Sewing Center of St. Cloud)  
Every \$ 25 spent in the store earns you one  
entry into the Grand Prize drawing!  
(Need not be present to win)

**New Ulm Quilt Show: April 3rd and 4th**  
**Women's Work and Play Quilt Show:**  
Litchfield, MN • April 18th

We'll be Vending!

For more information check our website: [www.quilthavenonmain.com](http://www.quilthavenonmain.com)

## Become Inspired!

Decorating, Entertaining and Living in the  
Early American Style

by Annice Bradley Rockwell  
Beautiful Hints of Spring

As the long season of winter reaches its final chapter we are often gifted with days that carry with them the beautiful hints of spring. The sounds of our favorite birds happily chirping in the early morning breeze, the snowy vestiges of winter melting into the earth and the light of our day expanding into an evening hour confirms to us that spring is almost ours.

### ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

The blessings that accompany this time of year are abundant, not only within our landscapes, but within our souls. We have anticipated these luxurious glimpses into sunlit spring and as we stop to enjoy each and every one, we know we are moving toward the stretch of the year when the beauty of new life can be seen all around us. Daffodils breaking through the now softer earth, our plantings of thyme in our herb gardens slowly becoming more vibrant green and the trees beginning to awaken once again all suggest a time to begin anew.



### NATURE'S NURTURING HAND

As country homeowners we typically feel drawn to be outdoors a little more whether it is to clean our yard after a blustery winter or to decorate our home's exterior for spring. Seasonal wreaths or topiaries of green can beautifully adorn the inside of our homes as well along with candles with fresh scents such as *Country Wash Day* or *Colonial Herb Garden*.

As we bid goodbye to winter our hearts lift as we take ownership of a new season symbolic of change. As we see the outdoors being coaxed back to life through nature's nurturing hand, we cannot help but feel our own nature being brought yet another chance to feel renewed.

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



Having a rough day?  
Place your hand on your heart.  
Feel that?  
That is called a purpose.  
You're alive for a reason!  
Never give up!

## WOMEN'S WORK & PLAY

# QUILT Show

presented by the  
Hands of Friendship Quilt Guild

**Featuring**

**VENDORS MALL**

- Gone to Pieces (Kimball)
- Quilt Haven on Main (Hutchinson)
- Shades of the Past (Clara City)
- Sweet Water Cotton Shop (Paynesville)
- DeAnn's Country Village Shoppe (Litchfield)
- Grubers (St. Cloud)
- Quilter's Dream (Montgomery)
- Treasured Times Retreat (Marla Thiesen)
- Paisley Threads (New London)
- Prairie Quilting (Windom)
- Red Hen House (Brooten)

**DOOR PRIZES!**

**DISPLAYS**

- Over 100 Quilted Items
- Charity Quilts
- Quilts of Valor
- GAR Hall
- Founding Members

**BOUTIQUE OF GIFT BASKETS FOR SALE**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

 Hands of Friendship Quilt Guild  
[michelerambow@gmail.com](mailto:michelerambow@gmail.com)  
320-221-4013



# Tackling Unfinished Projects

by Jeanette Lukowski

In my January/February article, I extended the challenge to fully embrace your creativity. Turning inward, then, I tackled my small collection of “unfinished projects” (often referred to as UFOs?).

First, there were the two 12” blocks I started as part of a shop’s Block of the Month Club. Having never really ventured beyond squares and the occasional rectangle at that point, I was very excited by the prospect of building a Garden Quilt. January’s flower was the Carnation, and members of the “club” received a free pattern and a discount on 4 fat-quarters to construct the block. I learned how to make flower “petals” (corner-square-makes-a-triangle) January 2016.

Returning to the shop during February’s meeting with my completed January square, I received February’s free pattern—a Star Flower—and a discount on two additional fat-quarters required for the design. I learned how to make half-square triangles in February 2016.

Days before the March meeting, I went into the shop to purchase fabric for another project—and saw the March flower block being ironed in preparation for the meeting. Sadly, that was the closest I ever came to that flower, as the store had a fire the night after my visit, and never re-opened. I mournfully placed the bag with my two 12” flower blocks, and the remainder of those six fat-quarters into one of my fabric boxes, and waited for inspiration.

December 28, 2019, I finally committed to a plan: a lap quilt for my mother. I created three more of the Carnation blocks, incorporating fabrics from my stash to complement the two existing flowers (fat-quarters only go so far), fussy-cut four other floral-theme fabrics for alternating blocks, backed the entire project with a pretty flannel, tied it with yarn from my stash—and popped it in the mail.

My second UFO project: a quilt top also constructed several years ago, from Alexander Henry fabric I had purchased during a shop hop. Characters reminding me of the Addams Family made me smile, so I purchased a half-yard each from three different bolts, and took them home without a plan. At home, I noticed how two of the pieces shared the same characters, connected by what appears to be a Rube Goldberg type of mechanism. Not wanting to cut it into pieces (I feared losing Rube), I constructed a quilt top with three sections of 18” x width-of-fabric, a bit of sashing to break it up, and a “border” of random 4-patch blocks using coordinating fabrics from my stash.

Once the top was together, I couldn’t figure out how I was going to finish it—so it went into the storage box with my bag of block-of-the-month. In early November 2019, however, after it was too late to use this somewhat macabre-looking quilt top for anything Halloween related, I committed: a steel grey fabric with black typing running at random angles for the back, and a squared-off design the long-arm quilter had in stock.

By the time I got the quilt back, though, I was—like many of you—too far into Christmas projects to do anything other than shove the quilt into a closet.

I was surprised how long finishing it would actually take. Of course, the binding would be black. I purchased the binding fabric at the quilt shop, washed it, dried it, folded it, and put it in the closet on top of the quilt.

In January 2020, I worked on several other quick projects: mini doll quilts for a friend’s granddaughter, placemats for a thank-you gift, a wall-hanging for my living room, other placemats for an upcoming birthday gift, an I-Spy for the quilt guild to donate (using fabric from my stash).

Nearly every day, I thought about the quilt in the closet. Why not work on that?

Turns out I was scared. Intimidated, once again, by my rookie status. I had never done official binding. How to start? Cut the strips to what size? What if I mess up?

I divided the work—which also eased my stress—across four winter nights. Watching a re-run of Roger Moore as “The Saint” on TV, I cut and machine-sewed strips together, and pinned the binding onto the back of the quilt before calling it a night. (Yes, to the back. It is a “faux-binding” technique I’d recently seen someone demonstrate. A quilt for me, not a contest or show; I thought it might be less intimidating.)

Evening two: I machine-stitched binding to quilt, and went to bed.

Super Bowl Sunday: I set the ironing board up in the living room so I could iron, pin, and prepare the binding for finishing while watching the game and its many commercials.


And Monday night, I finally finished the quilt. What a feeling!

Will Spring 2020 be a good time to tackle your UFOs?

© Jeanette Lukowski 2020

Jeanette is a mother, grandmother, teacher and author; she is inspired by the lives of strong women.


320 Dewey St.  
Foley MN 56329  
320-968-9929  
quiltsonbroadway@gmail.com

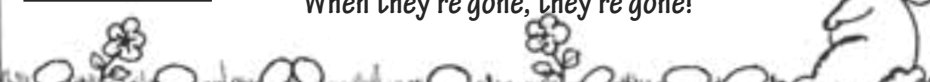


**Quilts**  
ON BROADWAY

**Longarm Quilting Services Available!**  
All 45” wide bolted fabric, pre-cuts, kits,  
books and patterns on clearance!  
When they’re gone, they’re gone!

**Mondays & Tuesdays**  
10am - 6pm





**GONE TO PIECES**  
**QUILT SHOP**

70 South Main  
Kimball, MN 55353  
320-398-5300

---

**National Quilt Day**  
Saturday, March 21st  
Jelly Roll Challenge! - Contact the shop for details

**Women’s Work and Play Quilt Show**  
Saturday, April 18th · 9am - 4pm  
Litchfield Civic Center - Litchfield, MN

www.gonetopiecesquiltshop.com • gonetopieces@meltel.net



**Minnesota’s Best Kept Secret!!**  
**Lost and Found**

Hwy. 22 Downtown • Eden Valley, MN  
320-453-5678  
Hours: Monday - Saturday 9:30-5:30

---

**We have new spring items arriving regularly!**

**Come see our great new  
spring clothing and jewelry!**  
**We have some great silk flowers too!**

Religious Books & Gifts • Antiques • Kitchen Items  
Home Decor • Garden Art • Scarves • Jewelry

Follow us on Facebook for great upcoming events!

**Country Register Recipe Exchange**

## Braised Brisket of Beef

submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN

1 (3lb) beef brisket (not corned style)

1 1/2 cups white wine vinegar

1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar

1 tsp dried basil leaves

1/2 tsp salt

1 (12oz) bottle chili sauce

2 medium onions, thinly sliced

Place brisket in resealable food storage plastic bag or 3-quart casserole, cutting meat in half if necessary to fit. In medium bowl, combine vinegar, brown sugar, basil, salt and chili sauce. Blend well. Pour over brisket. Turn to coat. Seal bag or cover dish. Refrigerate 8 hours or overnight, turning once.

Preheat oven to 325°. Place brisket and marinade in Dutch oven or 3-quart casserole. Place onions on top. Cover. Bake at 325° for 2 hours basting twice with marinade. Remove cover and bake an additional hour or until beef is tender basting frequently. Let stand 10 minutes. Thinly slice across grain of beef. Place onions over beef and discard cooking liquids.





## Reckless Abandon

by Aminta Geisler

### running the race...

I remember how I felt so vividly: the rush of adrenaline, the sweaty palms, the nervous stomach. On track meet days in high school, I was a wreck.

The whole day.

In the hours leading up to the event, before I even put on my uniform, my heart would start to beat faster in anticipation of what was to come.

Mine was a daunting assignment: the mile, the half mile, and the quarter mile relay.

I knew I would run until I felt like my chest was going to explode.

I knew I would run until my legs burned as if they were on fire.

I knew I would run until my mind was screaming at me to stop before I collapsed.

I knew that it would hurt so bad I would want to quit.

I knew I had to push myself to that pain limit three separate times (No wonder my nerves got the best of me!).

I knew I was crazy, because despite the nerves and the intense pain involved, I loved to race.

There is nothing quite like the feeling of crossing the finish line, knowing I gave everything I had.

It was worth the cost.

My dad was the head coach at my high school, and he would jog back and forth on the infield of the track as I ran, cheering and whistling.

I could hear that whistle above all of the noise, no matter where I was, and it always gave me strength to keep going. He would holler at me as I ran past him: "pump your arms!" or "make your move!" or "sprint!" as I neared the final stretch. My dad prayed with me before every race and he was always there to catch me at the finish line when I had nothing left. I learned so much from my coach about working hard and being mentally and physically tough.

Those years spent on the track gave me some great memories with my dad, and they also taught me real life lessons that I've never forgotten:

1. When everything in me hurts and wants to quit, I have more strength than I think I do to keep going.
2. A good coach and his guidance can make a huge impact on success.
3. Giving my all to cross the finish line is worth the cost.

These lessons are true in life, and they are also true for faith.

**1. A life lived in pursuit of God and his plan will be difficult, but God will give me strength.** If I boldly proclaim truth, I will encounter adversity and pain. The Bible is clear that those walking boldly in their faith will face persecution. However, I can find the strength I need to persevere with the power of God, given to me by the Holy Spirit. I don't have to run the race alone. 2 Timothy 1:8, "With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News."

**2. I have the best coach: Jesus, whose life and words are the ultimate example for me to follow.** Training in God's Word is critical for success! The bible lays out an awesome strategy for me to follow; I just need to immerse myself in it. It also provides the encouragement I need when the race is tough. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."

**3. All that I endure on earth for the sake of the Kingdom is going to be worth it one day when I get to heaven.** It may cost me everything, but living a life of faith until my last breath will never be in vain. The prize is worth the sacrifice- heaven will be more wonderful than words can describe. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, "That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever. So we don't look at the troubles we see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."

When the apostle Paul was nearing the finish line at the end of his life, he wrote these inspiring words in 2 Timothy 4:6-8, "As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. *I have fought the good fight, I have run the race, and I have remained faithful.* And now the prize awaits me - the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on the day of his return."

**STAMP AND SCRAPBOOK EXPO**

**HUGE crafting event!**

Shopping - Cropping - Workshops - Make & Takes

<p><b>WISCONSIN STATE FAIR</b> PARK, HALL A 610 SOUTH 84TH ST • WEST ALLIS, WI MAY 1 &amp; 2, 2020</p>	<p><b>MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS, EDU. BLDG</b> 1265 SNELLING AVE. N. • ST. PAUL, MN JUNE 5 &amp; 6, 2020</p>
--	--

MAKE A WEEKEND OF IT AND ENJOY SOME REJUVENATING CREATIVE TIME WITH FRIENDS. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

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

## Funfetti Mug Cake

- 4 tbsp all purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp granulated white sugar
- 3 tbsp milk
- 1/2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1/8 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 tsp sprinkles



1. Add flour, baking powder, sugar, milk, oil and vanilla into a microwave safe mug.
2. Whisk together until batter is completely smooth.
3. Stir in 1 tsp of sprinkles. I used fun spring butterflies!
4. Sprinkle remaining 1/2 tsp of sprinkles on top.
5. Cook in microwave for about one minute or until cake looks done. Cake is best when warm!

Adapted from Kirbie's Cravings: [www.kirbiescravings.com](http://www.kirbiescravings.com)

It's worth it.

That's what he was saying as he sat in prison, awaiting his death.

It's worth it.

To receive the prize of eternal life is worth every bit of the struggle on earth.

Paul ran the race. He gave all he had. It cost him everything. Still, he said...

It's worth it.

*Run the race.*

*Fight the good fight.*

*Remain faithful.*

*Keep your eyes on the prize.*

Dear friends, It takes a special person to choose to run in a track meet: to knowingly sign up for pain and suffering in order to cross the finish line and receive the prize.

In the same way, it takes a special person to choose to run the race of faith: to sign up for pain and suffering in order to cross the finish line and receive an eternal prize.

Can I invite you to run the race with me? Nerves and all! Can I encourage you to step up to the starting line and chase the one thing that really matters? No matter how difficult it becomes? I promise, heaven will be worth it.

If you have never made Christ the Lord of your life, or if you haven't been running the race of faith like you should, take a minute right now and pray. Tell God you are ready to run for him and that you realize you need Christ to be your savior. Ask him to forgive you for getting off track. Tell him that you surrender your life to his plan, no matter what comes and then ask him to send his Spirit to strengthen you until you reach the finish line. Give him praise because he alone is worthy of running for. Amen.

Aminta Geisler is married to her best friend, Ben, and is a stay-at-home-mom of two teens and two toddlers. A self-proclaimed Jesus freak, she loves making old furniture new, studying God's word, and all things pizza. You can read more about her journey of reckless abandon for Jesus on her blog [@amintageisler.com](http://@amintageisler.com), in her monthly newsletter, or by following on Instagram [@amintageisler](http://@amintageisler)



# The Noble Quilter

19570 Holt Street NW | Elk River, MN 55330

\* Long Arm Services \* Fabrics \*  
\* Notions \* Gifts \* Clubs \* Classes \*

Come visit our warm and friendly MN shop that hosts something for everyone! Enjoy browsing through 4,500 bolts of thoughtfully selected fabrics. Check out our wonderful assortment of gifts, notions, books, patterns, kits and classroom. We also have a complete Long Arm Service to help finish your quilt!

phone: **763-633-4669**  
www.thenoblequilter.com

**Regular Store Hours:**  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri : 10am - 5pm  
Thu : 10am - 6pm  
Sat : 10am - 4pm  
Sun : Noon - 4pm




# The Treasures You Can't Keep

by Kerri Habben

The stack of doilies sat before me. My friend, Becky, and I had emptied drawers and closets of all of these crocheted creations and collected them on a bed. Most were made by my mother and grandmother. They represented every era of our lives beginning with my grandmother's marriage in 1936.

Becky is also my mother's friend and has grieved alongside me as we've sorted through everything in my house. She studied the bed full and high with doilies. Then Becky leveled a gently firm gaze upon me, and said, "Let's look through these now."

I felt five years old again. I wanted to stomp my feet while crying, "I'm not ready. Don't make me."

Mercifully the adult in me stepped forward. Instead, I breathed deeply and efficiently built stacks. I put together the oldest, the seasonal ones, and the timeless ones. Then I divided these by a very complex system. If one stuck to my fingers, I put it in my pile. If it drifted softly away, it went in a "to go" pile. If one just slightly hesitated, I made a "maybe" place. I went through them all one more time until I had about a dresser drawer full to take home. Becky took the rest, some to keep for herself and others to sell for me at her flea market booth.

As I sorted, I began to cough. My official diagnosis was dust and too many fibers. Yet, the same racking tickle of a cough has lingered as we contemplated my mother's cross-stitching and the last of my grandmother's crocheted afghans. Also as some of my dad's woodworking left the house. Perhaps until I give in to weeping and flailing, the five year old in me will win.

Although, maybe, just forcing myself to set these thoughts down will prove to be a miraculous decongestant. For the interior child and the external adult will be in harmony.

In *The Prophet*, Kahlil Gibran writes:

"For even as love crowns you so shall he crucify you.

Even as he is for your growth so is he for your pruning. Even as he ascends to your height and caresses your tenderest branches that quiver in the sun, so shall he descend to your roots and shake them in their clinging to the earth."

Dismantling a home of 41 years reminds me that it is vital to be this raw inside sometimes. For if I did not feel all of the love in every way, I would never fully grow and live the best version of me. This March it is 19 years that my dad passed away and two years for my mom. Both of them and all of my family loved me completely and well. Their hands made doilies and clocks, but their hearts are the legacy I treasure every day.

Writing this article, I walked though the home that Wayne and I share. On the kitchen table is one my grandmother's doilies along with my mother's crocheted place mats. One of my dad's clocks hangs on the wall. I lean against my grandmother's crocheted pillows every evening. These treasures joined Wayne's treasures, like his Aunt Tootie's doilies. On the piano photographs of both our families surround my great-grandmother's anniversary clock.

I brought home two of my mother's framed cross-stitched pieces. One is a sampler, and it simply states, "Be kind and true."

The other one also fits every yesterday and all of today: "How much do I love you? To the stars and back."

Kerri Habben is a writer and preschool teacher living in Chapel Hill, NC. An enthusiastic crocheter and knitter, she learned these skills from her mother and grandmother. She donates many of her yarn creations. Kerri is currently working on a manuscript of essays and poetry. She can be reached at 913jееves@gmail.com.



## COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE


### Carottes Rapées

Submitted by Rita Van Dyne, Fort Collins

Grate 4-8 carrots (about 1 per person). Make a vinaigrette from 2/3 cup olive oil, 1 Tablespoon dijon mustard, 1/2 cup red wine vinegar, 1 Tablespoon balsamic vinegar, salt and pepper. (Or buy balsamic vinaigrette.) Put 1/4 to 1/2 of the dressing on the grated carrots, depending on the quantity of carrots. Stir and serve.



Celebrating 41 Years  
SPRING 2020



EST. 1979

**CHICKADEE BOUTIQUE**

41 YEARS OF SUPPORTING LOCAL ARTISANS!  
JACCI KREBSBACH, OWNER

Large variety of Easter and Spring items

Garden Art & Architecture

For a Fashionable YOU! Clothing, jewelry & accessories

Trendy home decor—artwork in a variety of mediums plus florals for walls & tables

Delicious food items

Restocked Daily • Credit Cards Accepted

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR INFO ON SPECIAL EVENTS AND SALES

207 WEST ST. MARIE  
(2 BLOCKS NORTH OF 694/RICE)  
SHOREVIEW, MN 55126  
651-303-4667

www.ChickadeeBoutique.com

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
APR 2 9-8	3 9-5	4 5 9-5 10-5
9 9-8	10 9-5	11 9-5
16 9-8	17 9-5	18 9-5
23 9-8	24 9-5	25 9-5
APR 30 9-8	MAY 1 9-5	2 3 9-5 10-5
7 9-8	8 9-5	9 9-5
14 9-8	15 9-5	16 17 9-5 10-5

Enjoy the Chickadee Experience!

Fall 2020 Opening Date  
OCTOBER 1



# The Farmer's Daughter

A gathering of fine handcrafted goods

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

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

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

**Spring Boutiques!**

## Majestic Oaks

BOUTIQUE

**March 20th - April 5th**

**Majestic Oaks Golf Club**  
701 Bunker Lake Blvd  
Ham Lake, MN

Mon-Fri: 10am-8pm · Sat: 10am-6pm · Sun 10am-5pm  
HOME DECOR • GIFTS • EDIBLES

## Candleberry

ON THE LAKES

**April 10th - April 26th**

**Centennial Lakes:  
Hughes Pavilion Building**  
7499 France Ave S · Edina, MN

For more info visit: [www.mnboutiques.com](http://www.mnboutiques.com)  
651-428-5610 · [mnboutiques@gmail.com](mailto:mnboutiques@gmail.com)



# Where in Minnesota?

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

(Answer on page 22 of this issue)



# Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

## Sometimes it Takes a Hammer

The little country church was dimly lit when my husband and I entered to attend the Good Friday Service. We were warmly greeted by cordial smiles, friendly hugs and handshakes by many members of this small congregation who were already seated.

Quickly, however, my attention was captured by a very rough and rustic old rugged cross reclining against the steps in the front of the sanctuary. Silently it hinted that we were about to become participants in a most memorable time of worship and praise.

As the service started, we sang hymns like, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus," "Hallelujah, What a Savior," and "Were You There?" The scripture readings told of the passion of the Christ. The sermon vividly captured the agony of being nailed to a cross and a horrible death by asphyxiation—as well as the weight of a world's sin that Jesus willingly bore in our stead—including yours and mine.

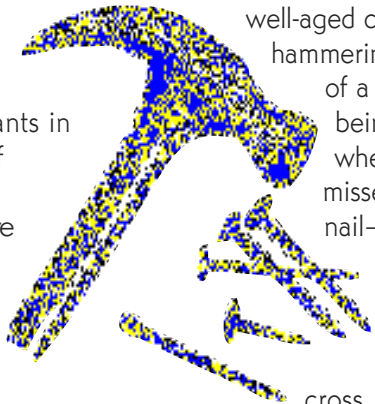
To my surprise, instead of an offering plate, that's when a basket of papers and pencils was passed and the invitation extended—the invitation to write down our heaviest offenses. Then, one by one, we were invited to come to the front of the church, pick up the hammer and nail the paper confessing sin and guilt to that old cross.

I recall it took more than a few light taps to hang my sins on the crossbar. Heavy blows were required as I tried to drive the nail's sharp point into the well-aged cedar. And, while hammering, I also got a tiny bit of a clue about the pain of being nailed to a cross when I accidentally missed the head of the nail—only to squarely hit my thumb.

One by one the pastor tore the papers from the cross, tossing them into a large metal waste basket. Then, igniting and burning the torn pieces to ashes, from Hebrews 8:12 we heard, "For I will forgive their wickedness and I will never again remember their sins." NTL

More than any other service I've ever attended, this one hit the nail on the head and drove home Easter's wondrous redemption story.


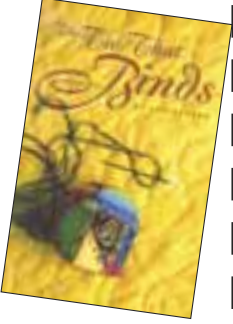
Sometimes it takes a hammer!



©2020 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, 16755 Oak Brush Loop, Peyton, CO 80831

## Enjoy More of Jan's Columns

### ORDER HER BOOKS TODAY

Life is like a quilt, pieced together from a unique patchwork of memories, friendships, joys, and challenges. In each of these books, syndicated columnist Jan Keller is down to earth and refreshingly transparent as she opens the door to life's dreams, triumphs and struggles in a heart-warming way that will touch you forever. You'll love the way she spins 'yarns' that weave the pieces of a treasured tapestry into a vivid depiction of life and love.

**SPECIAL OFFER!** Order both books for just \$25 and SAVE Shipping & Handling!

Mail your order to: Black Sheep Books, 16755 Oak Brush Loop, Peyton, CO 80831.

Eagan

### Mom's Daisy Afghan

by Joy Frederick

“A true story from my heart.”

Mom crocheted Afghans for as long as I can remember. Same patterns but different colors. Long hours she put into each crafted afghan and then gave them away to family members. Nearing 90 years old, Mom called me one day to say, “I’m making you a daisy afghan, Joy.” “Really Mom?” I was so very excited to hear this news! I’d always loved daisies, anyway.

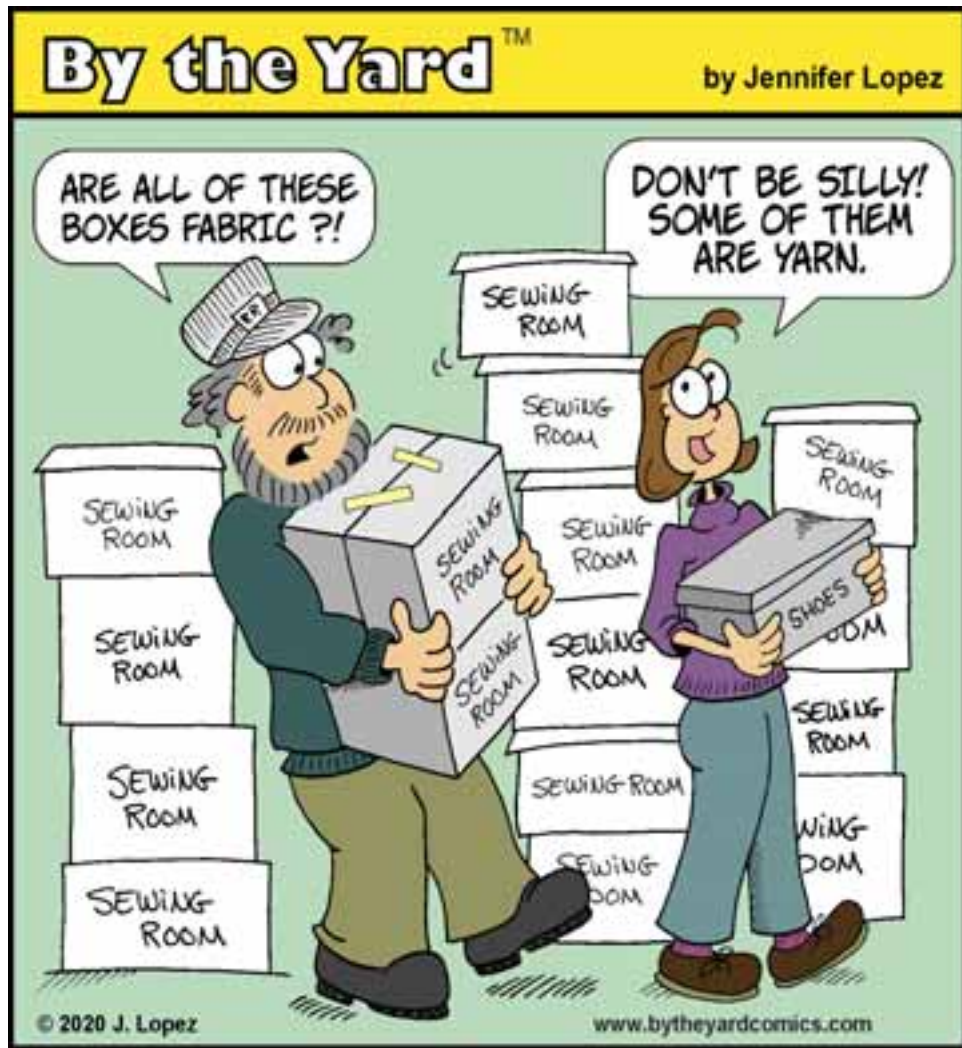


That year, Mom took ill, passing away August of 2010. In cleaning out my childhood home, I found a bag of crocheted daisies. Seventeen strips of them, fourteen daisies in each strip but they needed to be crocheted together. All this hard, beautiful work needed to be completed. But, now what? I know nothing about this craft, for the following 9 years I contacted person after person who did crocheting. No luck! Being told, it’s too much, it’s too difficult, it’s too time consuming. I prayed.

Surely there must be someone who could finish what my Mom worked so hard to do. In October 2019, I met a lady with whom I shared my story. She told me she’d been a quilter all her life and would like to take a look at these strips of daisies. I met her at the beginning of November. She said she’d like to attempt to finish the afghan for me. Two weeks went by and she called me. Would I hear, it’s too much, it’s too difficult, it’s too time consuming? No, she was one of God’s angels here on earth. “I hope you’ll like it,” she says. “I’ve finished your daisy afghan.”

I cried upon seeing how beautiful it was! Saying “thank you” didn’t seem to be enough. It will be 10 years, August 2020, since Mom passed. It makes me so happy to display Mom’s completed daisy afghan in my home. I believe God sends his angels that are right here on earth.

*—Joy Frederick of Pitman, NJ her story. She picks up The Country Register at The Scarecrow Factory in Pitman. She wrote “I love reading the articles and I enjoy the recipes. I find new shops and events in every paper.”*



**Visit the website!**  
[SewTrendyMN.com](http://SewTrendyMN.com)

## Sew Trendy MN

**LIVE Fabric shows on Facebook**  
**Shop from the comfort of your home!**  
**Every show is new and different!**

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

**Join us on Facebook “Sew Trendy MN” for LIVE shows!**  
**Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00pm**  
**Trendy Fabrics, Kits & Bundles, Patterns, Notions, Demos & More**  
**Great Giveaways during the show • Enjoy shopping from home!**

★ **Make sure to see the Minky Room!** ★  
**The BIGGEST collection of Minky fabric around!**

Mon - Thur: 12pm-5pm • Fri: 10am-4pm  
Sat & Sun: By Appointment  
Early morning and evening appointments available!

**Free Shipping on orders \$100 or more**

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

Happy Easter!

# Florence Harding

by Jan Keller

Florence Mabel Kling Harding (1860-1924), wife of Warren Harding, 29th president of the United States, was dubbed 'The Duchess' by her husband. She was the first child of self-made entrepreneur Amos Kling in Marion, Ohio, who worked in her father's hardware store, acquiring accounting and bookkeeping skills. Athletic, strong and good at handling horses, Florence was a pianist who earned entrance into the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music after her graduation from high school.



Florence Harding

At age 19, Florence eloped with boyfriend Henry Atherton DeWolfe, and the couple had one son, Marshall. The marriage didn't last and when she returned to Marion, she supported herself by teaching piano, with Harding's younger sister among her students. The handsome future president was publisher of The Marion Star newspaper—and very popular among local women. Five years older than Harding, the tenacious Florence caught his attention and the couple married on July 8, 1891, but who was the pursuer is unclear. To say that her father was displeased would be an understatement because he spread the erroneous rumor that Warren Harding had black ancestry (later proven false by DNA testing) and didn't speak to the couple for several years after their marriage.

Florence, who took over as business manager of The Star, purchased new equipment, created a circulation department and subscribed to a wire service. Her skills were also beneficial when she managed her husband's finances and social calendar through his rise from Ohio state senator to the presidency.



President and Mrs. Harding greet World War I veterans at Walter Reed Hospital.

When the Hardings moved into the White House, she opened the mansion and grounds to the public again—both had been closed through President Wilson's illness. In spite of a serious and chronic kidney ailment, Florence dedicated herself to the job of First Lady with energy and willpower. Garden parties for World War I veterans were regular events and she brought back the Easter Egg Roll and the weekly Marine Band concerts, and reopened the house to tourists—sometimes personally greeting them. She also was the first to

initiate informal press conferences and gave impromptu public speeches—as well as being the first president's wife to be guarded by the Secret Service. Being a true contemporary, she brought jazz to the White House, took a ride on a "hydro-aeroplane," loved "motion-pictures," and wore the fashions of the 1920s. Some of their well-known White House guests included Al Jolson, Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford. Florence Harding was the first woman allowed to vote for her husband thanks to the passage of the 19th amendment to the constitution in July, 1919.

In spite of a serious and chronic kidney ailment, Florence liked to travel with her husband. She was with him in the summer of 1923 when he died unexpectedly in California, shortly before the public learned of the major scandals facing his administration. Following his passing, Florence accompanied the President's body on the long train ride back to Washington, DC, the state funeral at the Capitol, and the last service and burial at Marion. She died in Marion on November 21, 1924.

## COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

### Bruschetta

Submitted by Irene Thompson, La Junta, CO



- |                              |                        |             |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 400°                         | 5 minutes              | Under Broil |
| Garlic Toast or French Bread | Roma Tomatoes, chopped |             |
| Chopped Basil                | Mozzarella Cheese      |             |

A wonderful snack before the main meal.

### FLORENCE HARDING'S WAFFLE RECIPE

- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 eggs                       | 2 Tablespoons sugar               |
| 2 heaping Tablespoons butter | 1 pint of milk                    |
| 1 pint of flour              | 2 heaping teaspoons baking powder |
| 1 teaspoons salt             |                                   |

Beat yolks of eggs, add sugar, milk and flour; next, add melted butter and just before ready to bake, add baking powder and beaten whites of eggs. Cook in hot waffle iron. Don't eat them on a full stomach. Cover well with butter and then pour maple syrup over the plate.

### FLORENCE HARDING'S ALMOND COOKIES

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 cup sifted flour              | 1/3 cup sugar                 |
| 1/3 cup grated blanched almonds | 1/3 cup soft butter           |
| Grated rind of 1 lemon          | 2 eggs (used separately)      |
| Pinch of salt                   | Blanched almonds, for garnish |

Sift flour and reserve. Mix sugar, grated almonds, butter, lemon rind, 1 whole egg and salt together thoroughly with wooden spoon. Gradually work in the sifted flour. Form the dough in a ball; wrap in wax paper and chill for at least one hour. Preheat oven to 350°. Roll out the dough 1/4-inch thick on a lightly floured board, and with cookie cutters, cut into cookies of desired sizes and shapes. Place on greased baking sheet; brush with the other egg, which has been beaten; decorate each cookie with 3 blanched almonds. Bake cookies for about 15 minutes, or until light brown.

## Countryberries Designs Button The Bunny



This pattern is free for you to use. Please give the artist credit. Not for commercial use. Enlarge this pattern to your desired size. Paint on wood or canvas. It would also be cute applied in wool. You can do it with a punchneedle too. Whatever technique you choose, have fun! Designed by Kathy Graham

## Countryberries LLC

Whimsies and necessities for your country home and garden

330 North Road Deerfield, NH 03037



603-463-7615 www.countryberries.com Like us on Facebook

Shakopee



# Reuse • Repurpose • Recycle

by Kim Keller

I'd seen these vintage Easter eggs made with pages from old books. I thought they were really neat so I decided to give them a try. While people to cut up the pages from old books, I just can't bring myself to cut up a book! Therefore, I used some old Country Registers I had around! It worked great. You could probably use magazines, pictures or pages of music too. There's lots of options!



1. As mentioned above, you can use old books, magazines, newspapers, pictures etc. Cut them into strips of different sizes, widths and lengths.

2. Using a sponge brush, brush the back of the strips with Mod Podge.

3. Cover each egg strip by strip. Overlap the strips and place them at different angles to add character.



4. Pick your favorite stamps and place stamps around each egg. I used black but you can use any color!

5. Once the eggs are covered with the paper strips and stamped how you'd like them, cover each with another coat of Mod Podge



6. Display the eggs how you choose! I put them on a little "nest" on some vintage candle holders!



# Butterfly Garden

by Carol Nixon

Ice tiles have covered wherever feet may wander along New England landscapes. Porch thermometers plummet to minus one degree. Snowplows leave behind cracked pavements and potholes. Winter season has taken on a hybrid of spring, fall and arctic weather, interchangeably from one day to the next. Wildlife can't learn less so apparently are in the running in adapting to global warming. Eastern bluebirds once sought hidden habitats, primarily in fields, for fear of predators. Now they are prominent at front yard suet feeders. Anticipation of the calendar date, "first day of spring" has been book-marked by the eager garden enthusiasts to begin designs of refurbishing old to new. Butterfly houses under five feet will be grounded adjacent to butterfly bushes. Black velvet pansies of the viola family will be supported by upturned, pointed brick borders, for these flowers are demure and weak. White lilies of the valley will share their space with their sister pink lilies in a spring lemonade shade. Dormant daffodils and tulips will wake like sleeping beauty. Buds of cherry blossoms will fragrant the air. Rain, more rain, and rain some more shall be the new global signs of spring. "In New England, if you don't like the weather, wait a minute!"

Carol Nixon A.K.A. Auntie Caph: Children are our lifeline and writing in a diary to my nephew, is inspirational, and my reason for writing short stories. My persona is a 66 yr. young still dressing in blue jeans and sweatshirts with a bobbing blonde ponytail. I am a collector of antique dolls, coins and stamps.



**FIND YOUR STYLE**



**JUNK BONANZA**  
VINTAGE MARKET

**A 3-DAY INDOOR VINTAGE SHOPPING EVENT FOR YOUR HOME, GARDEN & MORE!**

*Celebrating 15 Years*

APRIL 16, 17 & 18 2020  
CANTERBURY PARK  
SHAKOPEE, MINNESOTA

GENERAL ADMISSION & EARLY BIRD TICKETS  
JUNKBONANZA.COM

New Prague

# Winter Furniture Restoration Break

by Dave Emigh

Activity slows to a crawl in the Walla Walla Valley during the cold, grey and often foggy months of January and February. That is not so in the Shady Lawn Antiques workshop. Every weekday morning, the huge wooden sliding security doors, which cover the end of our workshop, are opened. Natural light pours into the workshop through a 'second wall' made entirely of glass French doors and windows.

The heat is turned up, banks of overhead lights are turned on, coffee is made and another day of our Annual Winter Furniture Restoration Break is started. Each year, our Restoration Break extends from Christmas Day until Valentine's Day.

During this break, the sales area is closed and our entire focus is on the complete restoration of antique furniture—especially oak. As we enter our twenty-sixth year as an antiques shop, this break has become an important part of our business plan.

Several years ago, our son Nick began working with us. As a result of his efforts, Shady Lawn has developed the finest inventory of completely restored antique oak furniture in Eastern Washington. In fact, we have become a regional destination for just such oak furniture.

It takes time to completely restore a piece of antique furniture. Our process includes taking each piece apart as much as is possible. Each cracked or broken part gets repaired and the old finish is removed. Drawer bottoms and runners are repaired or replaced—classic problems even in newer furniture. The piece is re-glued, re-assembled, a new finish is applied and then appropriate matching hardware gets installed.

When we have completed a piece, it looks and functions as good as—and sometimes better than—when it was new. In fact, the quality of our hand-restored furniture is perhaps better than what can be found in any new furniture store. We are essentially a furniture store offering like-new 100-year-old antique furniture, which will last for at least several more generations.

Back to the Winter Break. We found that without our restoration break we were unable to maintain even our basic furniture inventory. But with two of us working together, we are able to actually enhance and expand our inventory.

Personally, I find these winter breaks quite refreshing. Furniture restoration is my passion, but during the sales year, I spend the majority of my time pricing and selling antiques. When we start our break each year, it takes me awhile to get back into the furniture restoration process. I have to really think about each restoration step. But at some point, the thinking stops and the work begins to flow.

The steady hum of saws, sanders and the dust removal system are the sound track of our daily activities. Each week begins with three or four pieces of dark colored furniture in rough condition. Days of gluing and sanding later, we have a stack of repaired furniture.

Finishing Day is kind of magical! When we wipe on the finish, the wood grain comes alive. That day we are rewarded by the sight of glowing, warm, rich furniture that always looks even better than we could have imagined. This year's break is going well. We will have completed at least a dozen new pieces when we re-open on Valentine's Day.

That's the report from the Shady Lawn workshop where it is always light, bright and warm—even in January!

Dave Emigh and his wife Jill are the owners of Shady Lawn Antiques in Walla Walla, WA, perfectly located in the 1870s wood frame creamery buildings that Dave's great-grandfather purchased in 1897. A professionally trained woodworker, Dave, along with his son Nick, specialize in the restoration of oak furniture. Shady Lawn, in its 25th year, has become a regional destination for oak furniture and is also known for a well-curated display of country, rustic and rare and unique "small" antiques. Glimpses of the ever-changing Shady Lawn inventory can be seen on Facebook and at [www.shadylawnantiques.com](http://www.shadylawnantiques.com)



Oak Parlor Table with barley twist legs—sanded, re-glued, and waiting for finish



**Sue's Quilt Shop Inc.**  
 112 E. Main Street • New Prague, MN 56071  
 952-758-3210  
 Located in the historic First National Bank building  
 in the center of downtown!

FABRIC • PATTERNS • KITS • MUCH MORE

Hours:  
 Tues - Sat • 9am-5pm

[suesquiltshopnp@gmail.com](mailto:suesquiltshopnp@gmail.com)



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

Spring Salad  
 submitted by Patti Lee Bock

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 2 cups <u>spiral</u> pasta                 | 1/2 cup <u>green pepper</u> - chopped |
| 1/2 cup sliced <u>black olives</u>         | 1/2 cup <u>mayonnaise</u>             |
| 1/2 cup <u>red onion</u> - chopped         | 1/4 cup sour cream                    |
| 10 <u>cherry tomatoes</u> - sliced in half | 1/2 tsp <u>garlic powder</u>          |
| 3 <u>carrots</u> - sliced diagonally       | 2 tsp dill - chopped                  |
| 1 <u>zucchini</u> - thinly <u>sliced</u>   | salt and pepper                       |

Prepare spiral pasta according to directions on package. Drain, rinse and allow to cool. Combine vegetables with pasta. In a small bowl, combine mayonnaise, sour cream, garlic powder and dill weed. Mix well. Blend into pasta and vegetables, coating thoroughly. Cover and chill 1 hour before serving.







**RATHER BEE**  
  
**QUILTING**

Your One Stop  
Quilt Shop

M-Sat 9am - 5pm  
Sunday Closed

Gift Certificates Available  
Classes Offered

- 100% Cotton Fabrics
- Quilting Tools & Notions
- Books and Patterns

(651) 345-3958  
TF(800) 233-9549

106 South Lakeshore Drive  
Lake City, Minnesota 55041

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

**Bluffview QUILT SHOP**

Quality Quilting Products with a wide variety of Fabric, Flannel, Batiks, Westalee Ruler Work products, Patterns, Notions, Classes.

**Arriving in March**  
**\*\*TULA PINK\*\***

Stop in to see Tula's "Homemade" line.

Hours: Thurs & Fri 10-5:30 Sat 10-3 Sun 12-4

Visit us on Facebook for the latest news.  
**FABRIC FUN FRIENDS**

1671 1/2 W 5th Street  
Winona, MN 55987  
[www.bluffviewquiltshop.com](http://www.bluffviewquiltshop.com)  
[bluffviewquiltshop@gmail.com](mailto:bluffviewquiltshop@gmail.com)

**Pumpkinberry Stitches**

108 E. Lyon Ave • Lake City, MN 55041  
651-345-2573

**A Quaint Little Quilt Shop**

Gift Certificates available!

20% off one Item  
Expires 4/30/20

**Fat Tuesdays!** Buy 4 Fat Quarters get one Free!

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10am-5pm • Closed Sunday & Monday



# Wit and Wisdom

by Cheryl Potts

## The Doorbell Rang

Since my kitchen is situated in the back of the house, I rarely hear someone knocking on my front door. Quite often people will just walk in before I sprint to the front door out of breath. Needless to say, I was thrilled when a doorbell was finally installed! The chimes could be heard throughout the house in spite of the noise from the washer, dryer and TV. However, I wasn't prepared for an incident that happened several weeks later.

During the winter months, our Bible Study group was to meet at my house every Tuesday evening. With much enthusiasm, our group of six was studying a particular text, the "Prodigal Son." At one point, as someone related a personal comment (slightly off topic), we began to laugh. Another member added a funny comment and we all laughed harder. At the height of the laughter, the doorbell rang. I went to the door, only to find no one standing there. I thought it was strange, shrugged my shoulders, and sat back down in the recliner. Before long, we started laughing again and the doorbell rang for the second time. I got up to answer the door. No one was there. This time I stood puzzled, as everyone's eyes were on me. Suddenly, I burst out laughing as I realized the doorbell control was sitting on the quilt display shelf above us. Apparently, the laughter was vibrating the walls enough that it was setting off the doorbell! Then we really laughed. We really had a good time that night. During our refreshments we felt refreshed... "A cheerful heart is good medicine." Proverbs 17:22



Cheryl is a retired Reading Specialist and author from upstate New York.  
For more information contact: [witandwisdomwriters@gmail.com](mailto:witandwisdomwriters@gmail.com)



**Woodland Ridge Retreat**  
A Place to Create and Be Inspired

**5 Day Workshops:**  
12 Students  
Superb Instructors  
Luxury Comforts  
Scrumptious Meals

**Located one hour east of the Twin Cities**  
E4620 County Road C  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
715.664.8220  
[www.woodlandridgeretreat.com](http://www.woodlandridgeretreat.com)

Join us for a workshop or retreat with your favorite friends  
Visit our website to learn more



Don't forget to spring  
your clocks forward!  
March 8th, 2:00am

Southern Minnesota's **Largest Gift Store**

Open 7 Days a Week!

**Country Goods**

**Across the Freeway from Cabelas!**  
Owatonna, MN • 507-451-5661

Come see our THOUSANDS of items!  
Willowtree Figurines • Jim Shore Figurines • Linens and Lace • Flags • Biggest Chime Display including the giant \$2700 chime!

Preview lots of our products on Facebook!



## The Lesson of the Bird's Nest

by Barbara Polston

One Saturday morning in early summer, my son-in-law, Eric, and I spent time watching a little bird build a nest in our PaloVerde tree. We laughed at the precarious place she chose for her work. It seemed that there was little support for the nest. What would happen, we wondered, during monsoon storms? Surely, the nest would blow to the ground as the branches were whipped about by the wind.

Our PaloVerde is mature and, admittedly, the canopy should be thinned. Eric had already employed his new chain saw to chop up branches that had plummeted to the ground due to their weight. We wanted to advise her to pick a more stable and suitable spot. Yet, this tiny bird was undeterred and she continued to build throughout the day. By evening, the nest appeared to be complete.

We watched her come and go for a time. We assumed that eggs were laid and hatched. Storms, although they were few, came, did their worst, and left. All too soon, she stopped visiting and we saw no activity. Weeks later, the nest remains, empty and abandoned, adorning the branches of the tree.



Thoughts about what we observed linger. Why was this little brown bird so willing to place her home and raise her children in a seemingly risky place? What knowledge did she have that eludes me? Was there a message in what we saw and how we worried over the nest?

I must conclude that, in some way, she calculated the risk and decided it was worth taking. It seems to me that she also had faith, a belief that this was the right place and the right time and that all would be well.

We take risks every day. Some are small. Beating it through the intersection when the light turns yellow. Hoping that the bobbin thread will last until the end of the seam. Drinking the milk that is more than a few days beyond the freshness code.

Some risks are bigger. Starting a new business. Buying a house and obligating ourselves to 30 years of payments. Getting married. Having a child. Every time a risk is taken, there is no guarantee what the result will be. Just like the little brown bird, we assess the risk and decide it is worth taking. We have faith that the positive will outweigh the negative. We believe that all will be well.

As you go about your day, and calculate the risks both great and small, I hope that the branches will be stable enough to hold you.

Barbara Polston is the author of *Quilting with Doilies: Inspiration, Techniques, and Projects* (Schiffer Books, 2015) and an award-winning quiltmaker. When not quilting, Barbara is the Grants Manager for Child Crisis Arizona, a child welfare agency. She lives in Phoenix, AZ. ©Barbara Polston, Phoenix, AZ, November 2019.

## Country Register Recipe Exchange Happy Easter Bunny Cake

submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN



- 1 package white cake mix
- 1 cup water
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 3-4 drops neon blue food coloring
- 1 (16oz) can vanilla frosting
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- 2-3 drops green food color
- 22 marshmallow bunny peeps (assorted colors)
- 50+ jelly beans

Preheat oven to 350°. Coat bottom of 2 (8 inch) round cake pans with cooking spray. In a large bowl, beat cake mix, water, oil, eggs and vanilla with an electric mixer until thoroughly combined. Place 1/2 cup batter in a small bowl. Stir in blue food color until evenly blended and set aside. Pour remaining batter evenly into cake pans. Place spoonfuls of blue batter over batter in cake pans and swirl with butter knife. Bake 25-30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Let cool 10 minutes then remove to wire racks to cool completely. Place 1 cake layer on a serving platter and frost top. Place second layer over first and frost top and sides of cake. In a small bowl combine coconut and green food coloring. Mix until thoroughly blended. Sprinkle coconut evenly over top of cake. Place marshmallow bunnies around the sides of cake alternating colors and pressing them gently to secure. Decorate top edge with jelly beans.

## GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



WAIT - WAIT??? Wait for what? How about this acronym -  
**W is for WHY - A is for AM - I is for I - T is for TALKING?**  
**Why Am I Talking?**

Is it your turn to talk or is it your turn to LISTEN?

Listening is a skill that most of us could be more mindful of in our daily conversations. Personally, I'm a "fixer", I want to help develop a plan, do some research, make it feel better. WAIT! Why am I talking and not listening?

I find that I often interrupt my children when they are telling me about an issue. I love my son as he jumps in and says, "There you go again..."

He is my best teacher to remind me to slow down, be quiet and just listen. Will Rogers is attributed with the saying, "Don't miss a good chance to shut up." This is not a new concept. Way back in 60 AD, Epictetus, a Greek philosopher is quoted as saying,

"We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak!"

**GIRLFRIEND WISDOM:**

Simply whisper to yourself: WAIT - and remember this acronym.

Joy & Blessings,

Jody

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

New Ulm



**The Thimble Box**

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

Visit us at our New Location  
2 S. Minnesota New Ulm

New Fabrics • Patterns  
Books • Select Wide Back Fabrics  
Our Original Patterns

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



*Ann's Lovin' Ewe*

by Ann Stewart

A Cut Above

In March, about a month before lambing, our sheep are sheared. Shearing is an entertaining event to watch. The shearer hoists the ewe on her bottom where she's rendered helpless, then removes her wool in minutes. A great shearer can keep the fleece whole and takes pride in her craft.

My husband tried to shear a sheep. Only once. He claims, "It looked like the sheep went through the blender." We haven't tried it again. But if we did, I would want a great mentor to guide my hands through the process. Someone with experience and a love for sheep and the art of shearing. Shearers make little money, their interest in the flock is unique and genuine.

I think we all have something like that. A skill, talent, craft, knowledge that makes us little money, but we know how to do it and we know how to do it well. The question is, can we teach it to someone else?

To keep skills and hobbies and crafts and arts going, we can hand them down to the next generation, or share across to our friends, or even up to our parents and grandparents. It's a beautiful thing to be taught and it's a beautiful thing to teach.

When my 82-year-old mother visited me, she brought multiple copies of a special family recipe. She then invited my friends over to learn to make homemade English muffins. Not only did our group appreciate learning a new skill, we loved the warm fellowship, and enjoyed eating the hot muffins just off the griddle, spread with butter and Mom's homemade raspberry jam.



I've baked bread, but recently learned new twists when volunteering in a kitchen and testing new recipes and techniques. I imitated what I saw. After dumping cups of flour into a huge bowl, I formed a deep well in the middle of the flour, which I filled with yeast, sugar, salt and warm water. I waited as the yeasty center bubbled. To stir the mixture with my bare hands instead of a mixer or a bread machine was satisfying. I folded and kneaded the dough, turning it out onto the counter, all the while chattering with the other women in the church kitchen.

That's just why my aunt Lydia Harris wrote IN THE KITCHEN WITH GRANDMA: STIRRING UP TASTY MEMORIES TOGETHER. Her book was inspired by her love for cooking with her grandchildren and passing along stories and truths. How many of us have something to share? *Country Register* readers especially! They can teach quilting, spinning wool, crocheting, knitting, gardening, cooking, quilting, or painting.

Perhaps instead of a book club, form a group and have each member teach the others one skill. The collective talents are a cut above! Or invite others in to share their expertise. Reach out and share and reach out and honor someone by asking to learn from them. There is connection in sharing and giving and it's richer than just reading DIY on the internet.

This spring, we're not personally studying sheep shearing. But I have other interests. I would like to learn how to draw something that looks better than a stick figure and have my talents appreciated in Pictionary. I would love to draw out an artist who would enjoy teaching an interested student. Teaching and learning is such a joy and a way to form a flock in our busy communities.

**Prairie Piecemakers Quilt Guild Presents:**

**New Ulm Quilt Show 2020** 

New Ulm Event Center: 301 - 20th St. S

Vendors • Raffle Quilt • Featured Quilter Alice Forst  
Demonstrations • Door Prizes • Food • Basket/Project Raffle

**Special Guest: Doug Leko**

Free Trunk Show: Friday at 2pm and Saturday at 11am

Friday, April 3: 9am - 6pm  
Saturday, April 4: 9am - 4pm

Admission: \$8.00

Follow us on Facebook and check our website!  
newulmquiltshow.com




**Spinning Spools Quilt Shop**  
106 S. Minn, New Ulm, MN 56073  
Val Besser ~ 507-359-2896

Monday-Friday 10-5      Saturday 10-4



**Chase those Winter Blues Away**  
With Zen Chic, by Moda  
Beautiful blues and corals

Come see us at the New Ulm Quilt Show April 3 & 4

www.spinningspoolsquiltshop.com



Plan a visit with us when attending the **New Ulm Quilt Show!**  
Friday, April 3rd and Saturday, April 4th



Join us in welcoming Emily Dennis to New Ulm!

1417 South State Street • New Ulm, MN • 507-354-8801  
www.SewingSeedsQuiltCo.com • sewingseeds@newulmtel.net

Meet and Greet local designer Emily Dennis of *Quilty Love* in store Friday ONLY from 11am-1pm  
Open Extended Hours: Friday, April 3rd: 9am-6pm and Saturday, April 4th: 9am-4pm

We proudly offer hundreds of beautifully displayed samples, 5,000 bolts of quality quilting fabrics, as well as kits, gifts, wool and Valdani thread!  
Special needs access is available at our rear entrance.

Hours: Mon 10-7 • Tues-Fri 10-5 • Sat 10-4  
\* Unable to visit in person? Shop on-line for your convenience! \*




# Back Porch Break

by Nancy Parker Brummett

## Puppy Tales



Spring is a great time for adopting a new puppy! My guest author for this issue is a four-month-old Golden Retriever and Australian Shepherd mix.

F-I-Double N-E, G-A-N spells Finnegan. That's the name my family gave me when they rescued me from the adoption fair at Wag-n-Wash. My middle name is Tails because the adoption lady couldn't decide which of two families to give me to so she flipped a coin. My human brother Liam

called out "tails" and tails it was, so I got to go home with him and his family—and got my middle name.

One of my favorite things to do is go on a walk. Someone named Grancy stayed with me and my human brothers while my human parents were away recently. When we went on walks she said I was a connoisseur of all of God's creation. I don't know what that means; I just know there is so much to sniff in this world.

My favorite things to put in my mouth are sticks and rocks, but everyone makes me drop the rocks. Sometimes I see a plane in the air, a magpie in the scrub oak, or a bunny crossing the road very fast. I'm fascinated by all these things. I'm also very interested in the deer that come into our yard, and even more curious about the poop they leave behind! No one in my family will let me eat it for some reason.

I spend a lot of time in my crate where I can sleep or watch everything that goes on in my new household. When I'm out I get to play around the house with cool toys and my favorite thing: a plastic bottle. It's amazing how easy it is to chew up a toy, however. They just don't seem made to last!

I like to help around the house when I can. Once when Grancy was folding laundry, I grabbed a pair of underwear out of the laundry basket. Then I raced all around with it as fast as I could go! Eventually Grancy caught me and made me give the underwear back. I have to say she moves pretty well for a woman her age!

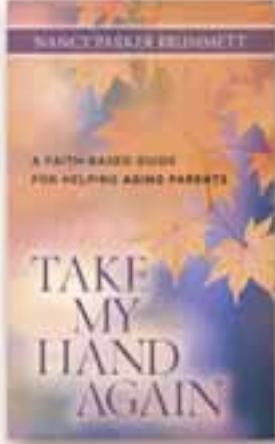
My day is made up of crate time, play time, walks, many potty breaks, and of course--meal time. I get fed twice a day and I never miss a meal. One of my favorite times of day is when I go to meet the school bus. I get so excited when I see my human brothers Peter and Liam get off the bus, and then we run up the hill to our house together. They play with me and try to train me to do things before it's time for my afternoon nap.

My other human brother, Jack, is good about taking me out for potty breaks late at night and sometimes takes me to visit his friends. Everyone says I'm something called a "chick magnet," so maybe that's why. I know my human sister, Ellie, thought I was pretty cute when she was home from college.

Well, that's pretty much the story of my life so far. Finnegan, that's me!

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

Now Available!



### Take My Hand Again

A Faith-Based Guide for Helping Aging Parents

from "Back Porch Break" Columnist  
**Nancy Parker Brummett**

Order print or eBook from [amazon](https://www.amazon.com)

### ANTIQUES OF THE MIDWEST

WIDE VARIETY OF GENUINE ANTIQUES  
BY MULTIPLE DEALERS

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

**MARCH MADNESS SALE**  
MARCH 13-15  
SPEND \$25 OR MORE  
AND DRAW FOR YOUR DISCOUNT!  
FRI & SAT 9:30-4:30 • SUN 10-4

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



119 South Main Street • Kiester, MN 56051  
Main (507) 294-3700 • Cell (507) 993-1777  
Mon-Fri 10am - 5pm • Sat 10 am - 1pm

**Please see Facebook for Spring Classes!**

**Call for Tea Room Reservations!**

**The Cottage Tea Room Open!**

120 N. Main St.  
Blue Earth MN 56013  
Phone: 507-526-3295



Hrs: 9am-5:30pm M-F  
9am-7pm Thur  
9am-2pm Sat

**Country Roads Shop Hop**  
April 1st-4th • Wed-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-4pm  
Door Prizes • 10% discount store wide • Progressive Pattern

Notions - DMC Floss - Classes - Sewing machine repairs and services  
Quality Quilt Fabrics - Janome Sewing Machines Sales & Services

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



# THE WOODWORKING SHOP



At The Woodworking Shop we offer hand carved wooden spoons, birch tree bowls, candleholders and many more handmade wood items. We also offer woodworking supplies for your DIY projects and supplies for your rustic wedding.



We sell lodge, cabin, rustic, primitive decor along with woodworking supplies!

Visit us online:  
[www.etsy.com/shop/thewoodworkingshop](http://www.etsy.com/shop/thewoodworkingshop)

Blue Earth • Madelia • Sherburn • Wells • Windom • Worthington



## COUNTRY ROADS SHOP HOP

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
April 1, 2, 3, & 4, 2020  
Wed, Thur & Fri 9 AM - 5:00 PM, Sat. 9 AM - 4 PM  
Join your friends in the fun of a Country Roads Shop Hop.

The Humble Heart in Wells, MN;  
Michele's Quilting & Sewing Center in Blue Earth, MN;  
Crafty Corner Quilt Shop in Worthington, MN; Prairie Quilting in Windom, MN;  
Prairie Pride Quilting in Madelia, MN; Old Alley Quilt Shop in Sherburn, MN

Six Winners! \$100 Gift Certificate each!  
Door Prize in each shop. 10% Discount storewide.  
Progressive pattern "A Country Christmas Window"  
Pick up a part of the pattern at each shop.



115 N Main Street - Hwy 4 -  
Box 353 Sherburn, MN 56171  
507-764-4088  
www.oldalleyquiltshop.com  
support@oldalleyquiltshop.com  
**Store Hours**  
M-F 10-5 W-T till 7pm  
Sat 9-4  
1st Sunday of the month 1-4

Over 2600 Bolts of fabric new added weekly  
(New Collections, Solids, Grunge, Batiks)  
hundreds of notions, patterns, classes and long arm quilting service.

**Country Roads Shop Hop April 1 - 4, 2020**

There are 6 great shops on this years Country Roads Shop Hop. Prizes include (6) \$100 gift certificate and a door prize in each shop. 10% Discount storewide and a Progressive pattern "A Country Christmas Window"

**Crossing Borders Shop Hop April 25 - May 2, 2020**

Featuring 9 great quilt shops in Minnesota and South Dakota! **HOPPERS WILL RECEIVE A FREE RUNNER PATTERN AND 5 - 2 1/2" Strips AT EACH SHOP!** Drawings & Prizes! Grand Prize winner will receive a Husqvarna Viking 670 Opalf — valued at \$1299!




## Mystery Quilt

### Caught in a Rectangle

Mystery Quilt 2020 for The Country Register  
*Designed by Ann Jones*

If you have any questions contact Erica at Nine Patch Quilt & Fabrics, Nevada, MO  
ericaskouby@gmail.com or 417-667-7100. Miss one of the parts?  
Check [www.countryregister.com](http://www.countryregister.com)

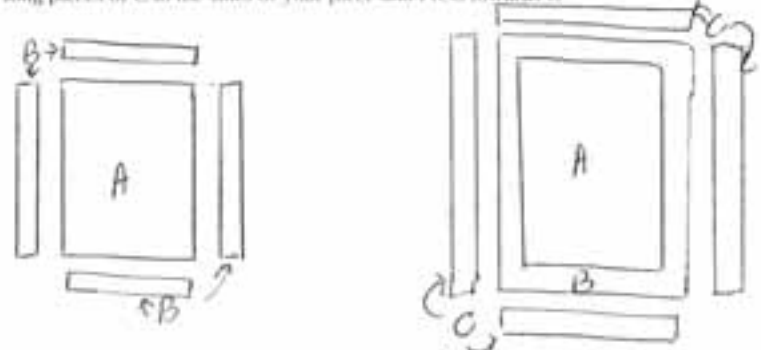
This is a quick, fun and versatile pattern that can help you use up your stash. You can use a focus fabric (A) and then coordinate with scraps or use the yardage suggested below. Ann chose a snowman theme and coordinated with blacks, winter grey, white, and peppermint red.

**Fabric Requirements:**

Fabric A (focus)	4 yards
Fabric B (dark #1)	1.5 yards
Fabric C (light #1)	1 yard
Fabric D (dark #2)	1.25 yards
Fabric E (medium #1)	1.5 yards
Fabric F (light #2)	1/2 yard
Fabric G (medium #2)	1/2 yard

**Block 1: 11 1/2" X 12 1/2" (make 20)**  
Cutting direction for 1 block:  
(1) - 4.5 X 8.5" Fabric A  
(2) - 1.5 X 10.5" Fabric B  
(2) - 1.5 X 4.5" Fabric B  
(2) - 1.5 X 6.5" Fabric C  
(2) - 1.5 X 12.5" Fabric C

Sew short pieces of B to the top and bottom of A. Press towards B. Sew long pieces of B to sides of A and Press towards B. Sew short pieces of C to the top and bottom of your piece. Press towards C. then sew the long pieces of C to the sides of your piece and Press towards C.



## Quilters, Knitters, NeedleArtists:

Find Your Favorite Shops When You Travel!

Visit ► [NeedleTravel.com](http://NeedleTravel.com)  
to find shops online for FREE! Or order the  
2020 edition of our Travel Guide for only \$9.95

**Makes a great gift!**  
[needletravel.com](http://needletravel.com) or 888-737-0847

 Facebook  Pinterest  Twitter



"DO" - A DEER A FEMALE DEER",  
"RE" - A DROP OF GOLDEN SUN"  
by Auntie Ca'h

I was looking through the newly installed windows of the back porch; more than satisfied at Ernie and my efforts of creating a paradise conservation for wildlife on our 1/2 acre. Daffodils embedded around a Purple Martin condo was the center stage. Twenty five Balsam fir Christmas trees had grown to over 6' tall and stood as props luring all of nature's inhabitants. On this particular day in April the weather was taken over by warlocks unseen by cloud coverage. They were on an unforeseen mission to shake up calm surroundings. The sky began to form grim shades of orange, gray and black linings.

Suddenly my eardrums became oversensitive by loud rumbles of thunder followed by intensified bolts of lightning. I remembered as a child that bad storms always made me think that God was mad at the world. The deluge of rain drained the sky of its moisture on nature. Fearfully, I reentered into safety. A 100" oak tree did its best to defend its stature against the first lightning rod that traveled upwards charring its beauty then traveled due course, determined to remove electrical power from the 1892 Cape.

Yelping for cries of help soon surrounded the nearby shed. Tearfully, I notice three infant fawns left by the doe that dashed over a nearby fence racing down a creek. Knowing human scents would interfere with the doe ever bonding again with her offspring, Ernie and I gloved our hands. There was no choice but to leave them be. Three days of shying away from these babies, we brought milk every day, apples and a salt lick. Lazily sleeping and weakened by their ordeal, they lay in the tall grass. Miracles happen especially when we have no control over them. On day four "MOM" came to retrieve her fawns and led them to where they were born. We were blessed as they kept growing, for their constant visiting of their second home.



## Luverne

## Where in Minnesota?



The answer is... The State Capital!

After 9 years of construction at a cost of \$4.5 million, the present Minnesota State Capitol opened to the public in 1905.

## THE Sewing Basket

Husqvarna VIKING

204 East Main • Luverne, Mn • 507-283-9769

Hours:

Monday-Friday 10-5

Thursday 10-8

Saturday 10-4

Authorized Dealer of Husqvarna Viking Sewing Machines and Sergers  
We carry a beautiful variety of quilting fabrics, plus books and supplies!

Crossing Borders Shop Hop  
April 25th - May 2nd

Serving Sewers and Quilters for over 40 years!

www.sewingbasketluv.com • Email: info@sewingbasketluv.com



## ALONG THE PRESIDENTIAL TRAIL

Part of a series  
by Jan Keller

### Warren G. Harding — 29th President of the United States

It was early on a wet and overcast morning when John and I parked near the Harding Memorial site in Marion, Ohio where both President Harding and his wife Florence are buried. We had gotten up with the rising sun and as we approached the impressive structure it was still illuminated. It is worth mentioning that this presidential burial site, built in 1926, marks the last of a tradition of elaborate presidential tombs. This memorial to President Harding is open on the top, and the court is partially enclosed by Doric Greek columns with a tree growing in the center near the graves. The stately structure is Georgia white marble and cost \$977,821, which includes donations from over 2,000 schoolchildren.

Warren Gamaliel Harding was the oldest of eight children born on an Ohio farm to George Tryon Harding and Phoebe Dickerson Harding. After graduating from Ohio Central College in 1882, Harding bought and devoted himself to the Marion Star newspaper in Marion, Ohio in 1884. In 1891 he married Florence Kling De Wolfe, a Marion native with one son from a previous relationship. The Hardings had no children together; and Florence helped manage their successful newspaper.

Harding, a Republican, began his political career in 1898 winning a seat in the Ohio senate and then went on to

become the state's lieutenant governor from 1904 to 1906 but lost his bid for the governorship in 1910. In 1914 he was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he served until his 1921 presidential inauguration.

At the 1920 Republican National Convention, delegates eventually chose Harding as a compromise candidate on the 10th ballot. Calvin Coolidge, the governor of Massachusetts, was selected as his vice presidential running mate.

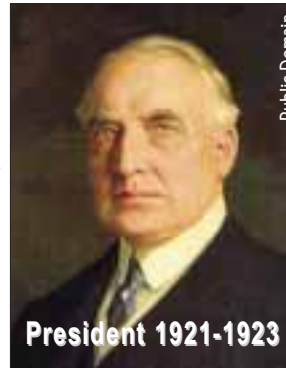
In the aftermath of World War I, Harding engaged in a front porch campaign from his home in Marion based on a "return to normalcy." Thousands of people travelled there to hear him speak.

Harding's chief accomplishments included the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, which streamlined the federal budget system and established the General Accounting Office to audit government expenditures. Additionally, the United States hosted a successful naval disarmament conference for the world's leading countries.

In the summer of 1923, Warren and Florence Harding traveled to Alaska. During the trip, Harding became sick, and on August 2 he died of what was likely a heart attack (no autopsy was conducted) at a San Francisco hotel.

In the early hours of August 3, Vice President Coolidge was sworn in by his father, a notary public, as America's 30th president at his boyhood home in Plymouth Notch, Vermont, where he was vacationing.

Millions of people across the nation gathered along the railroad tracks to pay their respects to Harding as his body was returned from the West Coast to Washington, D.C. The tide of positive public opinion, however, was short-lived. After Harding's untimely death, one incident, the "Teapot Dome Scandal" came to light. Harding's Secretary



Public Domain  
President 1921-1923

of the Interior, Albert Fall, rented public lands to oil companies in exchange for gifts and personal loans and spent time in prison. In addition, other government officials took payoffs and embezzled funds. Harding himself allegedly drank alcohol in the White House, a violation of the 1919 Prohibition Amendment.

Shortly after Harding's death, it was rumored that the president had been poisoned by his wife Florence; but that is no longer believed. However, two affairs have been documented.

The first affair was a relationship with Carrie Fulton Phillips. In 2014, letters between Harding and Phillips that had been sealed for 50 years were finally released by the Library of Congress. In them, Harding expressed his affection for Phillips. Written on official Senate stationery, the letters, dated from 1910 to 1920.



Me at the Harding Home in Marion, Ohio.

Photo by John Keller

The second affair was confirmed in 2015. Back in 1927, another of Harding's mistresses, Nan Britton, claimed he fathered her child a year before his Presidential campaign. Harding's political allies cast doubts over her credibility when she published a book in 1927, entitled, *The President's Daughter*. In 2015, DNA sampled from relatives of Harding and Britton's grandson confirmed the truth. Their daughter, Elizabeth Ann Blaesing, died in 2005. She was Harding's only child.



President Harding Memorial Tomb, Marion, Ohio

Photo by JanKeller

## Lessons Learned from a Cat Named Little

by Deb Heatherly

We did not need another pet. We already had four cats (two with special needs) and a dog. My husband and I had discussed this and agreed that our family was complete.

We did not need another pet, yet a kitten named Little joined the family this past June. We tried many names—Missy, Tasha, Callie—but none seemed to fit. At her first 'kittyatrician' visit, (AKA the vet), we were told that she had small bones and would always be petite so the name Little is what stuck.

If you've never watched a kitten play, you have missed a very special pleasure. For Little, everything is a toy. She finds sheer joy in any and everything that falls on the floor. (Or things that she pushes off onto the floor from above.) She can entertain herself for hours with an empty thread spool, a pencil or pen, or even a ladybug that somehow made its way into the house. We can't help but smile as we watch her finding such happiness in these simple things. What a lesson we can all take from this puff of grey fur. Stop and enjoy the mundane things in life as you look for the simple joys found in each day.

We learned early on that Little was a collector. She likes candy wrappers, my husband's socks, jewelry and anything light enough for her to carry. She seems to be particularly drawn to shiny things and anything that crackles. We first noticed her obsession when my husband unwrapped a piece of peppermint candy. As he started to place the wrapper on the table, a gray blur rushed in, grabbed it and carried it away. Up the stairs she went and under our bed with her treasure. Lily, our oldest, used to collect and hoard plastic soda bottle caps but Little obviously likes variety. Imagine, if you will, a 2 1/2" fabric strip traveling up the stairs. I laughed until I cried as she dragged this behind her. I guess in her mind she had captured a snake and was protecting her family from harm. We have since learned that anything missing might end up in her lair under our bed.

Many of the things she collects are items we would throw away—except socks and jewelry, of course—yet to her they are priceless. I've always heard the old saying, "Your trash is someone else's treasure," and Little definitely lives up to that quote.

Recently she stepped out of the norm when she started her own fabric stash. I had carefully picked six fat quarters to sew into a block I was designing. This test block would help me decide on the final fabrics and color placement for the quilt. I planned to cut and sew the block after a quick lunch break but, when I returned to the studio, two of the fat quarters were missing. I looked on the floor, looked to see if they had fallen into the trashcan and looked beside my machine. They were nowhere to be found. It never occurred to me that Little had snagged these pieces because they were larger than her normal acquisitions. Instead of wasting time, I picked out replacements and was pleasantly pleased that the new pieces looked better in combination than those I had originally chosen. Later I found both fat quarters under the bed in the guest room where Little had started a new collection. I decided that she was right. Sometimes plan B just looks better.

By the way, the 'kittyatrician' was wrong. Little is not so little anymore. She can tackle her older fur brothers and hold her own and, when she climbs on 'mom' in the middle of the night, I can definitely feel her weight.

We did not need another pet but, oh, what a blessing she has been. She has taught me to go with the flow, find joy in little things and not to sweat the small stuff. She really was the missing piece to complete our family. No matter how much she grows, she will always be our Little—the special joy that we did not know we needed. Her name might be Little, but what she has brought into our lives is huge.

Deb Heatherly is a designer for Creative Grids tools®. When not in her studio, Deb is on the road doing Creative Grids® lectures and workshops for guilds and shops across the country. She is the designer of the Creative Grids Cat's Cradle tool, Strippy Stars tool, Turbo 4 Patch, Ultimate Flying Geese tool, and Cat's Cradle XL. She is also the author of the books 'Cat'itude, Strippy Stars, 4-Patch Panache, The Ultimate flying Geese Book, Catitude XL, and her newest, Creatively Yours. 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 exclusive Grids Girls mystery quilts two times each year. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/7704296498004571>.

Want to schedule a trunk show, lecture or workshop in your area? Deb is currently booking 2021 dates. Contact her at [Debcatsquilts@aol.com](mailto:Debcatsquilts@aol.com) or call the studio, Deb's Cats n Quilts Designs at 828-524-9578



1820 Oxford St.  
Worthington, MN 56187  
[craftercorner@iw.net](mailto:craftercorner@iw.net)

### Crafty Corner Quilt & Sewing Shoppe

25th Annual Trip to the  
**Paducah Quilt Show!**  
Make your reservations now, the bus is filling up fast! We leave on April 20th!  
Visit Missouri Star Quilt Company on return trip!

We have many used  
Bernina sewing  
machines for sale!

Call Crafty Corner 1-800-SEW MORE or 507-329-0158  
[www.craftercornerquiltandsewingshoppe.com](http://www.craftercornerquiltandsewingshoppe.com)

1293 Hale Place • Windom, MN 56101  
507-831-2740  
[www.prairiequiltingmn.com](http://www.prairiequiltingmn.com)  
[prairiequilting@windomnet.com](mailto:prairiequilting@windomnet.com)

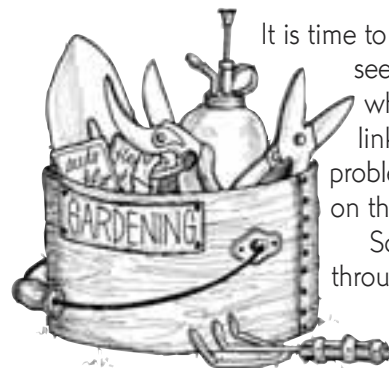
Hours:  
M-F 9-5 • Sa 9-3

Call for  
more information!

**Country Roads Shop Hop:** April 1st-4th  
Free Progressive Pattern • 10% off Store wide  
**Crossing Borders Shop Hop:** April 25th - May 2nd  
9 shops in Minnesota and South Dakota

## Preparing Garden Soil for Spring

by Wendi Rogers, Ph.D



It is time to prepare the garden soil for spring when the last seed catalog arrives. Soil nutrients are best managed when snow is still on the ground. Soil nutrients are linked to blossom-end rot, which is a biological problem that cannot be fixed with the black spot appears on the blossom end of tomatoes.

Soil nutrients can be measured with a soil test through your local Extension Office. The amount of nitrogen (N) phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and calcium (Ca) your garden soil contains can be determined by a laboratory test. Additional P, K and Ca may not be necessary if you use organic fertilizers. Nutrient testing kits can be purchased at your local garden store if you want instant results. Store-bought tests provide the range of nutrients present, but no guidance as to nutrients needed.

Nitrogen is your best friend and a rude next-door neighbor. Half of applied nitrogen fertilizer will be lost to the atmosphere soon after application because of healthy soil processes. Within six months any applied nitrogen fertilizer will not be available for the plant. Garden fertilizers' labels recommend liquid fertilizer application every two weeks during peak vegetable and fruit production to meet plant need and limit nitrogen loss.

Blossom-end rot can be caused by plants growing too fast. The plants cannot transport enough calcium from the soil to meet the calcium requirements for cell wall and cell membrane development at growing points. Calcium is a vital cell wall building block! The lack of calcium that leads to blossom-end rot occurs days, if not weeks, before a fruit starts to form. Consistent but small nitrogen applications meet the immediate nitrogen needs of garden plants while allowing a plant to transport enough calcium to its growing points as well.

Home gardeners can save money when they discover that all their soil requires for healthy and productive plants is nitrogen and calcium! Testing the garden soil, and supplementing calcium as needed can be done before the plants are planted and seeds sown. A home gardener's successful garden happens with planning that takes place when snow is still on the ground!

Wendi Rogers lives in Wabaunsee County, Kansas, and began gardening when she started and sold her first marigold seedlings when she was 8 years old. She has a Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Missouri, a Master of Science in Animal and Range Science from North Dakota State University and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Fort Hays State University. She likes to help people grow their own food.

Shakopee

# JUNK BONANZA VINTAGE MARKET AT CANTERBURY PARK CELEBRATES 15TH YEAR SHARING THE VALUE AND VERSATILITY OF VINTAGE APRIL 16-18

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – The Junk Bonanza Vintage Market takes the reins at Canterbury Park April 16th-18th, transforming it to an indoor shopping showcase of fabulous vintage finds, beautiful antiques and artisan-repurposed goods from more than 150 handpicked purveyors.

Shoppers can find their style in beautifully staged booths of vintage, antique and up-cycled furniture, jewelry, clothing and home and garden decor. For the first time, attendees can also shop The Market@Junk Bonanza, a featured grouping of about 30 of the community's best small-batch makers and artisans. Among their offerings: chocolates, oils, jams, sauces, bitters, artisanal salts, soaps, lotions, candies, plants, handmade accessories and more.

Don't think you need a thing? Junk Bonanza's creative and inventive vendors make it a don't—miss resource for design inspiration and future trends in home decor. Founded by Ki Nassauer in 2006, the Bonanza is also a beloved tradition among gal pals, friends and families — a place to meet and to shop



while enjoying one of Canterbury's famous Bloody Mary cocktails.

Paying homage to the vintage vibe, the Bonanza is pleased to feature Chris Nibbe, creator of SWEET! Corn Brooms. He will sell

— and demonstrate the construction of hand-tied whisks and brooms that combine modern materials with early Shaker and Appalachian techniques. Among other activities:

- Vendor Benjamin Kelly of Dinosaur Hampton, will use a 1940s chainstitch machine to apply hand-drawn, retro-style designs and lettering to clothing you purchase or bring with you to the Bonanza while you wait or shop. Stop by his booth to see him in action!

- On Lucky Friday, attendees can register to win one of hundreds of dollars in \$25 coupons to be redeemed for merchandise in the vendor booths of their choosing.

Join the Bonanza, rain or shine, inside at Canterbury Park 10am-5pm Thursday, April 16th, and 9am-5pm Friday and Saturday, April 17th-18th. Want a jump on the best finds? The Early Bird ticket allows entrance at 8am Thursday for two hours of prime shopping before the doors open to general admission. That ticket is good for readmission Friday and Saturday at the regular opening time, after vendors have restocked.

**DETAILS**

General admission: \$10 online or \$12 at the door. At-the-door purchases may be made with cash and checks only. Several ATMs available on site.

Early Bird ticket: \$25 online, \$30 at the door. It is good for entry at 8am Thursday for two hours of shopping before doors open for general admission. It can be used for readmission Friday and Saturday at the regular opening time; vendors restock daily. Order online at <http://junkbonanza.com/shop>.

Time: Thursday, April 16th: 10am-5pm. Early Birds enter at 8am

Friday and Saturday, April 17th-18th: 9am-5pm

Location: Canterbury Park, 1100 Canterbury Road S., Shakopee, MN, 55379; 20 miles from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Video: <http://junkbonanza.com/gallery/video>  
Ki Nassauer bio and photo:

<http://junkbonanza.com/about/press>

Junk Bonanza on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/junkbonanzavintagemarket/>

Junk Bonanza on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/junkbonanza/>

High-resolution images or more information: Kim Yeager, [kim@kinassauer.com](mailto:kim@kinassauer.com)



## Country Register Recipe Exchange Corned Beef and Cabbage

submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN



- 4-5 pounds corned beef
- 1 tbsp pickling spice
- 1 medium head cabbage

- Sour Cream Dressing:**
- 1 cup sour cream
  - 1/2 cup prepared mustard

**Sour Cream Dressing:** mix sour cream and prepared mustard well. Wash corned beef thoroughly to remove brine. Place in deep well cooker. Add pickling spice and cold water to cover. Bring to a boil and boil for 5 minutes. Remove scum. Cover. Switch to low and simmer 3 1/2 to 4 hours, or until tender. Wash and trim cabbage. Cut cabbage into wedges - remove the core. About 25 minutes before meat is done arrange cabbage on top of meat. Switch to high until steaming vigorously. Switch to low. Cook 20-25 minutes. Serve with sour cream dressing.

*Goodbye winter, so long snow, it's time to watch the flowers grow!*

