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Nov-December 2023

*Your guide to
specialty shopping
& events
in Nebraska*



The Country Register of Nebraska

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“Stitching & Sharing Culture” Exhibit Sep 15 to Nov 15 at the International Quilt Museum, Lincoln

Students from Japan’s Saitama University and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln teamed up to curate an all-new exhibition at the International Quilt Museum. “Stitching and Sharing Culture: Molos from Panama’s Guna People,” will be on display from Sept. 15 to Nov. 15 in the IQM’s Beavers Terrace Gallery.

As part of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln course, Anthropology 292: Stitching Culture | US-Japan Quilt Exhibit Collaborative, the students worked together at the museum over the span of two weeks with a collection of molos. These small, colorful fabric panels have a long tradition among the Guna, one of Panama’s Indigenous peoples.

Charlee Sharack, a UNL sophomore majoring in art history and journalism, said seeing the molos in person for the first time was a highlight of the collaborative course. “It was just really beautiful to see,” Sharack said, noting the bright and colorful details of the traditional fabric panels. What’s more, Sharack said the “hands-on” approach gave students the opportunity to delve into the museum field before entering the workforce. “I think that’s really important and it’s a really amazing opportunity that UNL provides students,” Sharack added. “They want us to be prepared for when we do graduate.”

The opportunity for Saitama students to travel to Nebraska for the two-week experience came about earlier this year after Marin Hanson, the museum’s curator of international collections, served as a visiting instructor at the university in Japan. Alongside Saitama professor and UNL alum Nao Nomura, and Emira Ibrahimasic, associate professor of practice and assistant director of the School of Global Integrative Studies, Hanson crafted a two-week experiential learning opportunity for the Japanese students.



Visits to other museums across Lincoln, a tour of the state capitol building and learning about museum curation in the IQM galleries were some of the experiences offered to the students.

Saitama student Yuto Tsuji said he was pleased to learn about quilts and museum work. As a person with an affinity for fashion, Tsuji said it was interesting to learn about different fabrics and textiles. “It’s a very good experience for us,” Tsuji said.

Aya Idei, another student at Saitama University, spoke to the amount of thought behind the design of each exhibition. She also spoke about the high level of care given to quilts at the IQM — pieces are considerably handled and delicately folded. “They really care,” Idei said. “I was surprised how gently they care (for the quilts).”

Another benefit of the trip to Nebraska, Idei said, is an immersive English language experience with university peers. “Using English is one of the things we have been wanting to do,” Idei said. “We have to use English to collaborate (with UNL students).”

Located on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s East Campus, the IQM is located at 1523 North 33rd Street in Lincoln, NE and is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The IQM is home to the largest publicly held quilt collection in the world with more than 8,800 quilts and quilt-related objects from over 65 countries. The museum’s mission is to build a global collection and audience that celebrates the cultural and artistic significance of quilts. For more information, visit internationalquiltmuseum.org.



Annual Christmas Market on Dec. 1 & 2, Vine Congregational UCC, Lincoln

Have you ever seen a program about the Christmas Markets in Germany, Austria or Switzerland in a travel show? Did you want to surround yourself with the sights and sounds of the foreign Markets? You can have the experience close to home. The **Vine Congregational United Church of Christ** in Lincoln will host the traditional **Christmas Market** on December 1st and 2nd inside the Church Social Hall and premises. This event is more than a craft fair—it is two days of fun, festivities and fellowship celebrating the spirit of Christmas!

Vendors will offer unique handcrafted wares and gifts in a charming Old World Christmas Market atmosphere. A vast array of inviting items will be displayed in inviting colorful booths with their twinkling light décor.

Shoppers will find wooden toys, home décor, ornaments, local honey, fiber arts, holiday greens and arrangements —and more!

A visitor’s favorite is the sweet shoppe and bakery where the church offers a variety of homemade candy and baked goods including German Christmas Stollen. Delicious food items are available for purchase in the Café area which include seasonal soups and freshly baked apple dumplings that you can enjoy right there. The Marketplace will be filled with all the wonderful aroma of the baked goods and ready to be purchased items.

Musical performances will entertain visitors throughout both days plus there will be a special children’s area to keep the little guests entertained.

Christmas Market hours on Friday are 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Vine Congregational UCC is located at 1800 Twin Ridge Road in Lincoln. Parking is also free.

Learn more about **Vine Congregational United Church of Christ** at www.vineucc.org, on Facebook or email vinechurch.ucc@gmail.com or call 402-483-4781.



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**9th Annual
Art Market**

Friday, November 17
11:00am – 6:00pm

Saturday, November 18
10:00am – 4:00pm

International Quilt Museum
1523 North 33rd St.
Lincoln, NE

Featuring local & area artists
Pottery & Ceramics
Wood Carving
Stained Glass
Hand-crafted Jewelry,
Upcycled Clothing
Watercolor Paintings
Hand-woven Baskets
Metal Sculpture
Hand-dyed Silk
Quilts & Hand-crafted Gifts

IQM 9th Annual Art Market In Lincoln, November 17 & 18

The **Friends of the International Quilt Museum** will host the **9th Annual Art Market** at the **Museum** in Lincoln on Friday and Saturday, November 17th and 18th. Attendees at this special event will find unique items to enhance their homes or delightful gifts for those special people in their lives.

A variety of local and area artists will be represented including wood carvers, painters, jewelry makers, photographers, glassworkers, textiles, basket weavers, ceramicists, reclaimed metal artist, creators of wearable art just to name a few. An always popular Friends table will feature handmade items, quilts, fabric, antiques and textile related treasures. A portion of all sales will be donated to the Friends organization to support future **International Quilt Museum (IQM)** programs and exhibitions.

The **IQM Gift Shop** will be irresistible as well. You will find puzzles, potholders, sewing notions, Moda fat quarters, fabulous jewelry, scarves, shawls, books and so much more. An **IQM** membership, starting at \$60, is a gift that gives 12 months of amazing exhibit viewing and supports the Museum. It is a perfect gift for your art enthusiast friends or those interested in understanding and appreciating quilts and quilting traditions.

ART MARKET will be held in the second-floor reception hall of the Museum located at 1523 North 33rd Street in Lincoln. The hours on Friday, November 17 are 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, November 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information visit www.internationalquiltmuseum.org/friends and follow on Facebook and Instagram.

The **International Quilt Museum** is located on the University of Nebraska – Lincoln’s East Campus and houses the largest publicly held quilt collection in the World. **The Friends of International Quilt Museum** is a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to supporting the Museum’s mission through fundraising, educational opportunities, and social events.





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Gallivanting Grannies

Destination: Lincoln

On a cool and drizzly day, we Grannies headed back to Lincoln to visit three shops. There are many wonderful shops in the Lincoln area to visit but that would take several days to cover them all. We will just have to plan another trip to Lincoln.

BERNINA Sewing Center

Our first stop was the **BERNINA Sewing Center** on Old Cheney Street. This is a new location from our last visit, so we were excited to see this store. Owners Keff and Abigail Wilson have owned the BERNINA Sewing Center in Omaha since October 2014 and opened the Lincoln Center in November 2017. The store has just moved to an even larger location across the street and now is at 5740 Old Cheney Street, Suite 20.

Tammy Hensley, one of the 8 staff members was there to greet us and we had fun visiting about the shop. Tammy explained that the Center is the only authorized BERNINA Dealer in the Lincoln area and carries BERNINA sewing, embroidery, quilting and serger machines and entry level Bernette machines along with a wide variety of notions, patterns, threads, software, parts and accessories. Machine repair and service is also available as well as pre-owned machines for sale.

Sewing enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels can enjoy a wide range of fun and informative classes on a variety of projects taught by knowledgeable teachers in a nice large space. We observed one of the staff, Carol, helping a customer learn the ins and outs of a new quilting machine, "getting all the scoop". Free instruction classes are provided with a machine purchase. Another staff member, Jan, was helping customers learn on their new machines.



The shop has many classes and this day there was a class of 6 students in the beginning class working on Halloween placements. You can take classes as many times as you need to get comfortable. Class calendars are available at www.berninalincoln.com.

With exceptional quality and superior customer care, the Wilsons' goal is to provide its customers—both in Lincoln and in Omaha—with the products, services and support that will fuel their creativity and help them succeed with their favorite sewing and quilting projects. "Nothing beats the quality and customer service you get when you come to us with your machine needs." Abigail told us and added, "If you don't see something you need, just ask us and we will see if we can get it for you!"

It was a great visit and **Bernina Sewing Center** is a fun place to shop. **Bernina Sewing Center** in Lincoln is located at 5740 Old Cheney Street, Suite 20, and in Omaha at 10144 Maple Street. Learn more on Facebook, call 531-500-2731 in Lincoln or 402-572-1212 in Omaha or visit www.berninalincoln.com or www.berninaomaha.com

The Rug Hooking Store

Our next stop was at **The Rug Hooking Store**. Owner Janice Lee has recently moved her business to Lincoln from Valley. You may know her shop in Valley as Black Horse Antiques. Janice is always great fun and we were excited to see her new shop! Janice opened her antique store 41 years ago and the rug hooking 22 years ago, so she has an abundant amount of experience in both.

The Rug Hooking Store is located in Janice's beautiful home where she teaches her rug hooking, hand dye wool for rug hooking and applique classes and has her business from her home studio. She brings in teachers throughout the year and offers free open-hooking days. This shop offers complete rug hooking



help with hand dyed wool, patterns, supplies and lessons. Janice is a one-woman operation and her passions are rug hooking, meeting people and sharing her passion for rug hooking.

Janice is a McGowan certified rug hooking instructor and told us, "There are only 2 McGowan certified teachers in the state of Nebraska." She was recently named to The Rug Hooking Hall of Fame by Rug Hooking Magazine. She added, "I have had 6 celebration finalists!" She is quite an accomplished rug hooker and teacher.

We had a good visit to her lovely studio/home, and as always, an enjoyable time!

The Rug Hooking Store is located at 1500 W Manor Drive, Lincoln, available by appointment. Please contact Janice to visit the Studio. Learn more on Facebook at The

Rug Hooking Store at Black Horse Antiques, email: janicelee@me.com or call 402-547-7358.

Valhalla Bee Farm, LLC – Honey, Lace and More!

After lunch we headed over to **Valhalla Bee Farm – Honey, Lace and More** at 4713 Hartley, Ste. 2, Lincoln. It had been a few years since we visited this shop, but it is always a great learning experience about bee keeping and needlework from owners Jane and Warren Nelson. They have been at this location since 2006 and in May 2022 they had a fire which affected the front show room and took out most of the needlework inventory.



They told us that the business never closed and they worked out of the back while the store was under construction, mostly with bees, honey and bee equipment. Before the fire, Jane had a large inventory of threads, fabric, beads and buttons. It has been a slow process, but Jane is rebuilding and plans to carry her extensive inventory and supplies for cross stitch, hardanger, tatting, etc. once again.

This family business is run by Warren, Jane and their son, Trey working full-time. They have two daughters, their husbands and a grandson that will lend a hand when needed.

They carry honey, beeswax, bees (in the spring) and beekeeping equipment for their hobby beekeepers. They started the business with honey and beeswax in 2001 after Warren

Continued on next page...

Building Harmony

Harmony Christmas: The Effort

Well, it’s Christmas again. I love the traditions and the way it brings people together. Usually you know what to expect. Snow on the ground, a big turkey dinner, family and friends dropping by, and the usual collection of Christmas songs playing over and over. (And over and over...) There are presents to buy and excited children. Inevitably some one knocks over the Christmas tree. Despite all this I find the routine very comforting.

It is a lot of work. Every year, Cathy and I pull out the boxes marked “Christmas” from storage and decorate the house. On this particular day we put up garnishes, set out ornaments, stockings and wreaths. After hours of decorating and drinking eggnog, we finally got to the main event: the Christmas tree. I have to admit, by that time I just want to sit back and watch a good horror movie, but the boss keeps me going.

We were just about done when I asked Cathy, “It’s a lot of work and we’ll only be pulling it all down and putting it away in a couple of weeks. Why do people go to the trouble to put up a tree in the house anyway? When you think about it, this is a very strange tradition.” Somehow I wasn’t sure Cathy heard me. “Do you think this is all worth the effort?”

Cathy just smiled as she pulled the very last tree ornament from the box. The ornament appeared to be made of crystal. The lights from the tree danced sparkles all different colors through the glass. The ornament had its own small rainbow around it. This wasn’t any ordinary ornament and Cathy always put it on last.

You see, Cathy grew up as one of six children. Every year her mother would make six shopping trips (one with each child) so that everyone could keep their presents secret. Cathy loved that time with her mother. You can imagine that being one of six children doesn’t afford you a lot of personal alone time with her.

When Cathy was five, her mother bundled her up with a scarf, coat, snow pants, mittens, boots and a hat for the trip to the department store. It was a chilly day and the trip would take two different buses. Cathy could see her breath on the bus’ glass window as she watched the houses go by. It was exciting!

When they got to the department store, she found it was filled with wondrous things. There were clothes and toys and jewelry. They looked at it all. Just her and her mother. Cathy thought she was having the best day ever. But it wasn’t over just yet.

They finished shopping and were heading to the door when something caught her mother’s eye. There was a small crystal ornament sitting in the middle of a bunch of other odd Christmas items. It somehow stood out. Cathy thought it was beautiful. They both admired it.

“Can we get it for the Christmas tree mommy?” Cathy asked with wide eyes and a big smile. Her mother puzzled for a moment.

“Sorry sweetie. We only have enough money for the bus. If we get this, we’ll have to walk home.” Cathy didn’t think about it, she just put on a great big smile and hugged her mother.

So, they set off. It was probably only a half hour walk, but the air was cold. To Cathy it felt like they were going on an expedition across the north pole. The sun would be going down soon. She had to keep her little legs going faster so they’d get home in time. Their breaths hung in the winter air. The snow crunched beneath their feet. All the while Cathy clutched the bag with the ornament in it. Her mother carried the other twelve. She still managed to hold her daughter’s hand.

“It’s O.K.,” Cathy thought. “Mom is with me.” The last ten steps were the hardest. The sun had just gone down, it was cold, snow had blown across their front steps. That front door couldn’t get close enough. But they made it. Stepping into the warm house, her mother put down all the bags then smiled at her.

She saw Cathy was still clutching the bag with the ornament. Cathy smiled back at her proudly. They pulled it out and thoughtfully hung it on the tree.

“Was it worth the effort?” her mother asked.

“Oh yes!” Cathy replied. She stroked the ornament then she turned to look at me as if she’d just come back from somewhere. I could tell it all from the look in her eyes. We clinked our eggnog glasses, she curled up in my arms and we admired the Christmas tree.

Yes, it’s all worth the effort.
Merry Christmas from Jeff and Cathy at Harmony Acres.
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Grannies, continued from previous page...

took a beekeeping class at the University of Nebraska. At the end of the class, they were the proud owners of their first colony of bees. They started doing research of value-added products and started making creamed honey and beeswax ornaments. And from there the business grew when Jane added the needlework in 2008. It is a popular place for stitchery-related groups to meet; Jane had previously taught tatting, bobbin lace and smocking and she will help with projects.

Jane is a wonderful host and we were so happy to see that the store is once again open. We certainly enjoyed our time there.

Learn more about **Valhalla Bee Farm – Honey, Lace and More** on Facebook, call 402-261-3407 or email jane@valhallabeefarm.com. There are two Facebook pages, Valhalla Bee Farm for bee related information and Honey Lace and More for needlework. Their website is www.valhallabeefarm.com

Last but far from least, we needed to get some ice cream. Great day and great friends make for a great time!

Gallivanting Grannies is our continuing feature that focuses on various Nebraska locations. Marie Konecky (Publisher and Art Director Lolly Konecky’s mother) is a Nebraska native and part-time Country Register delivery person who has volunteered to visit some of our fantastic advertisers, along with a few other shops or restaurants and tell us about her experiences. Several friends usually go along with Marie and they all seem to be having a wonderful time! On this trip, Karen Houfek, Judy McEvoy and Jo Fujan accompanied her.

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The Christmas Wish

by Deb Heatherly

Ok, I'll admit that Little Sam is not the most original name, but what else do you call a cat that looks exactly like another except for size? Little Sam just seemed to fit.

I'm not sure exactly when he made his presence known, but I clearly remember he was very aloof, coming near only when he knew it was dinner time. For a year he watched me, hiding under bushes and watching my every movement in the yard. At the same time, I watched him and wondered if I would ever be anything but a free meal.

Finally, the day came when I was allowed the honor of petting his head while he ate. Eventually I was allowed to pet him for longer lengths of time and even hold him for short intervals. Still, it was very clear that this feral would always be guarded and that snuggling and cuddling were just not in his nature. I was ok with that and happy to be his caretaker.

His boundaries defined; it took me by complete surprise when Little Sam brought home a friend. Actually, more than a friend. Little Sam brought home a kitten and decided to play mother. The tiny gray and white bundle of fur seemed almost attached to Sam's side as they walked in the yard, and most afternoons I'd see them curled up tightly as they slept in the sun. Male or female, I had no clue for the mere sight of me sent the little one under the house with Sam in hot pursuit. Where Sam was, the kitten was. These two were never far apart.

Sam was a good teacher and the kitten paid close attention. I watched from the window as Sam taught him to chase bugs, climb trees, and use my car tire as a scratching post. He also learned quickly to go in and out of the kitty door of the heated shelter we had on the property. This building had been built for the feral cats we fed and looked out for and it was on one of the kitten's visits to the shelter that I thought it was a good idea to teach him about human contact.

Let's just say that I was the one that did the learning that day. Although armed with leather gloves and determination, I was no match for Sam's little student. After much hissing, spitting, and growling the little one, who I named Spitfire because of this encounter, jumped out of my hands and out the kitty door he flew.

While I did hold him briefly that day, he was too mad at being caught to realize that I only wanted to show him love. Love was not something he desired or something I could force. It was then that I realized that I might have finally met my match. I would have to learn patience if I ever wanted to earn his trust.

Several months passed and Spitfire was becoming a handsome young man. Each day he came closer to me, and seemed to be learning that I meant no harm, but any wrong movement or loud noise sent him into a hasty retreat.

Christmas was quickly approaching and my only wish that year was for our young charge to like me, or at least tolerate me enough to allow me to touch him. I did not desire presents, just the feel of this sweet kitty under my fingers. I shared this wish with my family, but no one gave me any hope.

Christmas arrived that year with bitter cold and a cutting wind. Late in the afternoon I ventured outside to wait for my 'present.' He always showed up around the same time knowing I would feed him but today there was no sign of him.

Foiled again I thought. He was the smart one, probably curled up in the kitty shelter out of the cold while I sat on the backsteps shivering. Three times I rattled the food bowls and called which had always worked in the past but not today. On this chilly Christmas evening he was nowhere to be found.

With cold hands and a sad heart, I was about to give up when finally, I caught a glimpse of him out of the corner of my eye. Then, as if he had lived there all of his life, he marched right up to me, looked at the food dish, and loudly demanded his dinner. Much to my delight, he was far too busy eating to notice when I simply reached down and picked him up. I thought for a moment that I was dreaming.

I snuggled, I kissed, and I whispered soft words to my furry captive. He glared at me and then settled into the 'torture.' I was thrilled with each glorious second, but I could almost hear him thinking: "Ok, I'm putting up with this but only because its Christmas."

I'd like to tell you that after that night we were best friends, but Sam's kitten, like Sam, had a mind of his own. I was allowed to pet him when it suited him and on other days, I was back to being a free meal.

In the end, I decided I was ok with him being the boss. Watching him mature and seeing the love between him and Sam was a gift in its own. I would love him on his own terms and be content in the knowledge that Sam had taught him the most important lessons of all - where to find food, where to find shelter, and where to call home.

Authors note: Someone recently asked me if I had a favorite Christmas memory which brought this story to mind. Although this took place many years ago, I will always remember it as one of the best Christmas days of my life. Each year I reflect on what my family deemed as my impossible wish and what I fondly recall as my furry Christmas miracle.

Deb Heatherly is a designer for Creative Grids® rulers and the author of eight popular pattern books. Creative Grids® fans are invited to join her Facebook group, "Grids Girls," for tips and inspiration. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/770429649800457/>. Shop Owners are invited to join her group just for you, "Grids Girls for Quilt Shop Owners Only" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/273593657256524>.

Visit Deb's website at www.Debcatsnquilts.com.



Become Inspired

A Spectacular Season of Joyful Intention and Sacred Traditions

In the month of November, the leaves on the trees have lost their luster and the days are some of the shortest of our year. As the vibrant colors fade, there is a cold snap in the air signaling a clear seasonal shift. As our landscape changes right before our eyes, we are naturally drawn indoors where the glow of candlelight paired with a crackling fire in our fireplace happily warms us and welcomes us home. We are entering into a spectacular season of anticipation where we begin to plan for festivities intended to share joy.

Joyful Intention
Often associated with being fast-paced and frenzied, the holiday season can actually be a time of quiet creating and planning when we plan with caring intention. Designing a perfect family dinner that honors time-tested family recipes can be a soulful experience bringing up wonderful memories of childhood joy. Taking the time to recreate and share that magic with those you love is one of the most worthwhile endeavors. While the meal simmers on the stove and all of the finishing touches come together, we tend to become grateful for having the opportunity to bask in the comfort of family.

Sacred Traditions
Our efforts to create holiday magic are seen in our homes as well. Our sacred traditions to highlight the splendor of the season are a special gift to share with family. Whether we are spending an evening together making festive evergreen wreaths for our barn and home, or whether we are assembling a traditional gingerbread house to be lit and enjoyed by all on Christmas Eve, there is a soulful joy in the keeping of traditions.

As our families and friends gather together to share in the wonder of this special time, there is a sense of deep satisfaction that comes with knowing it was planned with joy and love. A Christmas Eve surrounded by the warm glow of candles in every window of our country home and Christmas trees nestled in all of our favorite spaces, we are reminded that the sharing of what we create for others is perhaps the greatest gift of all.
Annicke Bradley Rockwell is an educator and owner of Pomfret Antiques. She is currently working on her book, New England Girl. NewEnglandGirl2012@hotmail.com.

KISSed Quilts

Labeling Your Quilt

When you get to the very last step of your quilt, it might be easy to forget or not bother, but what happens to a cherished quilt when one day you are gone and the recipient’s child is wondering where the quilt came from? Have you seen beautiful quilts at the local thrift shop, cast away by a family member who may not understand the sentiment behind the quilt?

Early on in my quilting journey, it was explained to me that a label on a quilt is a fundamental part of documenting this craft. These quilts can generally last longer than our lifetime, so having the information about the quilt attached to it with a label is the simplest way we can keep track of its origin. You might find other unique details at <https://marketplace.unl.edu/iqm/fabrics/quilt-label.html>.

So, what should be in a label? When I’m doing sample quilts, I often include more technical specifics that help those who will be working with the samples –i.e., the fabric collection used, sizing and batting content. But in general, labels should include:

Name of the quilt - yes name it, make it fun, tie it into the sentiment of the reason the quilt was made.

What is the reasoning for making the quilt or gifting the quilt - refer to the occasion in which it is being given or created.

Is it based on someone’s published pattern? If so, what is the name of the pattern and who designed/published it?

Who pieced it? - Probably you, so print your name or sign it.

Who quilted it? - If it is you, then you might want to combine with the item before and this one just by saying Made by - you’re doing it all. But if you Quilt for Hire or had someone else do the quilting, it is appropriate to recognize their contribution to the quilt.

Location and Date - You can be as specific or not with this but given it a general location (I do the quilting in Grand Coulee) and at least the year should be sufficient. If it is on a special occasion, you might include a specific date closer to the top and disregard the year shown here at the bottom.

As a long-arm machine quilter for hire I am willing to create labels such as the example shown here using my inkjet printer and I sign them where my name is shown. These can be printed on pre-treated fabric that is iron-on or sew-in or use Bubble Jet Set 2000 to pre-treat your own fabric and then fix the printing with Bubble Jet Rinse before drying and sewing the label onto the quilt back. There are pre-printed styled labels that you can easily write on with a fabric pen the information you deem appropriate. You might also machine embroider a label or have pre-printed/woven signature labels/ribbons that you can sew into the binding giving it at least some connection to the maker. Labels should be adhered in the lower left corner if facing the back or peel back the lower right corner when facing the front.

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





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Giveaway Winner

from Sept-October Issue

We have two giveaway winners from our last issue.
Denise McConville from Indianola will be sent a \$25 Gift Certificate to be spent at her favorite *Country Register* advertiser, **Wagner's Quilts and Conversation Quilt Shop** in Arapahoe. Denise told us this is her favorite shop because, "They are always helpful with my questions and I love their samples!"
Linda Ballou from Minden, IA will receive Lydia Harris' book *GRAND Moments*. Linda picks up her copy of *The Country Register* at **Acme Fabric & Quilt Co.** in Blair which is her favorite shop and reads it cover to cover.
We love hearing from our readers about how they enjoy *The Country Register* and use it to hunt for great finds, interesting items and special events. In this issue, there is another \$25 Gift Certificate giveaway so be sure to enter and tell us where you pick up the paper. Remember to take a copy with you when you travel in and around Nebraska this fall and Holiday Season!



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Nancy and Me and Mystery
Makes Happiness Times Three!

by Barbara Kalkis

For some people, certain words are a turn-off. “History” comes to mind, along with “broccoli” and “work”. In today’s technology-driven society, “book” is another word that can shut down minds like a snapped window shade. I understand this. There’s nothing picturesque about holding a sometimes-heavy book inches from your nose. Clutching a lightweight phone is much easier. We can drift in and out of a story and take a selfie at the same time.

That all said, there’s an incredible number of us who treasure real books. No flicking fingers running across a screen here. We hard-core bibliophiles savor the feel of paper and turning every page. There’s a connection with a paper book that I don’t think can be duplicated on any screen.

My favorite genre is mysteries. I shadow the heroes as they snoop around the crime scene, uncover clues that the police have missed, and display exquisite timing in figuring out motive and means and bringing bad guys to justice. Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, Helen MacInnes, Arthur Conan Doyle are early masters who always pulled a surprise out of their plots just as readers were wandering toward a wrong conclusion.

However, I became bored with the new heroes. They all seem tormented by guilt, bad childhoods, broken relationships – and worse. It was torture reading about their lives, let alone the actual crime. Fortunately, after being fed-up by the whining written word, I was rescued!

My Sister and Nancy Drew Rescue Me.

My sister recently spied four old Nancy Drew mysteries at a book sale and snagged them all for me. She, my eldest sister and I read every book in the series until we each became sophisticated high schoolers. With this one purchase, I’ve escaped the glare of an electronic device and am again enjoying clever mysteries in hardback book form.

The Nancy Drew books are considered classics. They deserve to be. Each story begins with everyday incidents that can happen to anyone and then morphs into nefarious plots. A conversation in sign language becomes a secret code. A fire destroys a mansion that holds old secrets. A clock contains clues to a family feud. A vacation in Scotland reveals danger in the Highlands.

Begun in 1930, the series touched on crimes still relevant today: stealing, smuggling, blackmailing, cheating people, and conning the elderly out of their fortunes.

Beyond the mystery, we can relate to some aspect of Nancy’s life. She lives in a small town. Having lost her mother, Nancy is raised by her working dad, Carson Drew. Hannah Gruen is their faithful housekeeper who has a mothering role. Although popular, Nancy’s most trusted friends are two cousins, Bess Marvin and George Fayne. (Yes, a girl.)

Unlike many current heroes, Nancy’s character has depth. She is resourceful, as when she tapped a call for help. She dissects problems logically rather than emotionally, and then solves them. She asks her father for help, and their mutual love and respect is refreshing. She remains steadfast and determined when tied up, locked in a closet, thrown off a ship, run off a road, facing down criminals. She doesn’t wallow in self-pity. She comforts others. She doesn’t seek flattery, recognition, or remuneration.

The original Nancy Drew series lasted until 2003. I think the books remained popular because of Nancy’s character, as well as the stories. She’s a hero who shows us how to navigate life’s mysteries and enjoy a happy ending. Until the next adventure occurs!

©Barbara Kalkis. Barbara spends her time teaching, writing and working as a marketing consultant. She’s the author of Little Ditties for Every Day: A Collection of Thoughts in Rhyme and Rhythm. Contact her at BarbaraKalkis01@gmail.com.


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Designed by Kathy Graham



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All I Can Think About Are Trees

by Linda Ard

I love White Hill Cemetery and its old trees near Minden, NE. It is a beautiful place to honor our loved ones and the early settlers and neighbors in the area. We have 17 or 18 Civil War veterans resting there. It is a quiet country cemetery. Many families decorate the grounds with flowers and flags on Memorial Day. If you had attended a graveside service here, you would agree the acappella Lord's Prayer was never sweeter. Even the birds that nest in the cedars are stilled.

According to the old records, Raul Slater was the first one buried on the small hill. He died on his grandmother's farm in 1880. Later in 1882 Raul's grandmother, Sarah White, conveyed a tract of land twenty rods by forty rods to trustees of the Logan and Newark Townships Cemetery Association. The 5-acre parcel was also used by families who lived near the Platte River. Those families were afraid to bury their loved ones too close to the river because of the high-water table or flooding.

By 1883 eight other souls had joined Raul and the official name was White Hill Cemetery. The cemetery was laid out in lots measuring 24' x 24' and contained eight burial plots 36"by 92". The lots sold for \$5.00. It was a common practice to plant cedar trees to mark the boundary of a family lot.

It is no surprise that the Red Cedar trees are failing after decades of lightning storms, hail, heavy snows, ice storms, fierce winds, and a few tornadoes. During a recent windstorm, we lost three huge trees. Unfortunately, one tree damaged a lovely old marker on its way down. We plan to continue to care for the remaining trees, but we also need to plant new sturdy native trees.

In between hosting guests and planning for special events, I have been obsessed by trees. Late fall is my favorite time to plant trees. This year, thanks to a grant of ten free trees from a joint project between the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and Nebraska Forest Service, I am organizing a tree planting event with the Minden Chapter of FFA and local tree experts.

We are planting a variety of drought resistant trees recommended for our area. The planting will include Ohio Buckeye, Kentucky Coffeetree, Common Hackberry, Schuetts Oak, Hill's Oak, and American Linden. One of the major goals of the grant is to encourage the planting of trees.

This tree focus reminded me that as an elementary student I memorized Trees, a poem by Joyce Kilmer written in 1913. This is one of the best-known poems of the 20th century. It begins with;

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
And ends with:
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.*

I wonder if my thinking about trees will subside after I help plant ten of them. I really have several innkeeper projects to think about. Does anyone have a poem or song about fall garden cleanup or ironing pillowcases?

Linda Burchell Ard and husband Bob own Burchell's White Hill Farmhouse Inn northwest of Minden. They are members of the Nebraska Association of B&B and Unique Lodgings.

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It's not the trees with twinkling lights,
Not the darkest silent nights.
It's not cookies, eggnog, candy canes,
Not the gifts or carols, but what remains.
Faith is something we cannot see,
Knowledge in what we can be:
Spirits that care for man and earth,
A pledge to honor a holy birth.

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A Cup of Tea with Lydia

by Lydia E. Harris



An After-Thanksgiving Teatime

by Lydia E. Harris

The holidays are here, creating such a happy time of year! First, we welcome Thanksgiving with feasting, football, and counting our blessings. Then the joy and excitement of Christmas quickly follow. Between these two holidays, why not plan and enjoy a relaxing “after-Thanksgiving” teatime?
A friend shared that after hosting their Thanksgiving dinner, she and her daughter create a simple teatime for the two of them and perhaps a friend. “It’s a time to slow down, relax, and make memories.”
The foods and flavors of Thanksgiving are ones that people love to gobble up beyond that holiday. So why not turn your Thanksgiving leftovers into a quick and tasty teatime? By doing so, you can extend the season of gratitude and serve up a festive prelude to Christmas.



As you count your blessings, here are some recipes to consider for your after-Thanksgiving teatime.
Turkey Sandwiches: Take Two

Turkey-Salad Croissants

Delicious to gobble up with leftover, moist turkey.

- Gather
- 2 cups diced turkey
 - 1/3 to 1/2 cup diced celery
 - 1/3 cup craisins
 - 1/3 cup mayonnaise (more if you prefer it moister)
 - 2 T. cream or milk
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - Lettuce leaves, washed
 - Large or small croissants

- Directions
- Mix together the turkey, celery, craisins, mayonnaise, cream or milk, salt, and pepper. Chill the mixture for 30 minutes to blend flavors or until ready to fill the croissants.
 - Slice croissants in half horizontally. Fill with a thick layer of turkey salad. Add a lettuce leaf.
 - Wrap and refrigerate the filled croissants until ready to serve.
 - For large croissants, cut the sandwiches in half. Serve smaller croissants whole.
- Makes 2 cups filling

Turkey-and-Cream-Cheese Sandwiches

My youngest granddaughter loves these made with raspberry jam.

- Gather
- 6 slices white or wheat bread
 - 6 slices deli turkey (or leftover homecooked turkey)
 - 1/2 cup (about 4 oz) cream cheese, softened
 - 1 1/2 T raspberry jam or cranberry sauce (whole berry or jellied)
 - Butter
- Directions
- Mix together cream cheese and cranberry sauce or raspberry jam.
 - Spread three slices of bread with the cream cheese mixture. Place 2 slices of turkey on each.
 - Spread butter on the remaining three bread slices. Place them on top of the slices with turkey to close the sandwiches.
 - Wrap and refrigerate the sandwiches until ready to serve.
 - Before serving, trim the crusts. Then cut each sandwich diagonally in both directions to make 4 small triangles.
- Makes 12 tea sandwiches
- Variation: Turkey Rollups:** Substitute three or four 8-inch flour tortillas for the bread. Spread each with the flavored cream cheese, add sliced turkey, and roll up. Wrap and refrigerate until ready to serve. Cut each rollup into six pinwheels.

Festive Cranberry-Orange Scones

My daughter-in-law transforms an ordinary scone mix this way.

- Using your favorite scone mix, replace the liquid in the recipe with orange juice.
- Add 1/4 cup white chocolate chips and 1/4 cup craisins.
- Prepare and bake according to the directions.
- Optional: While scones are warm, drizzle with a glaze made with 1/2 cup powdered sugar, 1 tablespoon orange juice, and 1/4 teaspoon vanilla. Garnish with small slivers of orange peel.

Praline Pumpkin Pie

Our son's favorite pumpkin pie.

- Transform an ordinary pumpkin pie recipe by adding this praline layer on the unbaked crust.
- Praline mixture:
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
 - 1/3 cup brown sugar
 - 1/2 cup pecan halves
- Combine butter and brown sugar. Cook and stir until the mixture bubbles. Mix in pecans.
- Spoon the praline mixture onto the unbaked pie crust.
 - Pour the pumpkin filling over the praline mixture in the crust.
 - Bake according to recipe directions.
 - Chill. Serve with whipped cream.
 - Optional: For a new flavor twist, add 1/4 teaspoon maple extract to the whipped cream.

Teas to Please

Consider fall and holiday flavors of tea, such as pumpkin, cranberry, apple, Republic of Tea Ginger Peach, and spicy flavors such as chai. Brew at least one decaffeinated tea. Our family’s favorite herbal tea is Celestial Seasonings Country Peach Passion.

‘Tis the season to share a cup of tea with family and friends. Won’t you join me?
Lydia E. Harris is a tea enthusiast and the author of three grandparenting books: GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids (2023); In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories; and Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting. All are available online and wherever books are sold.

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