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**NEBRASKA** 

Sept-October 2023



Your guide to specialty shopping & events in Nebraska

Nebraska

#### The Country Register of Nebraska

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#### October 1st for Ads & Articles

#### Our feature articles will focus on Holiday & Winter Events, Boutiques and Markets!

The Country Register is a United States and Canadian network of independently owned and published specialty newspapers for the consumer who enjoys outstanding shopping, events, day & overnight excursions and specialty classes.

#### Publisher's contact numbers across the USA & Canada for The Country Register

Send \$3 to any publisher below to obtain a paper from another area: \* Indicates these editions are available on-line at www.countryregister.com

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#### THE COUNTRY REGISTER, Months of Sept-October 2023

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The Country Register is a United States and Canadian network of independently owned and published specialty newspapers for the consumer who enjoys outstanding shopping, events, day & overnight excursions and specialty classes.

The Country Register provides targeted, effective, and affordable advertising for the promotion of Specialty Shops

For more information about publishing The Country Register contact Barb Stillman or Lolly Konecky at 888-942-8950 or info@barlomedia.com, www.countryregister.com

#### Sept-October 2023

| Special Events3,                                | 7-8, 11-12, 14-15 |
|---|-------------------|
| LaVista • Cedar Creek • Louisville • Elmwood    | 3                 |
| Omaha   | 4-5               |
| Papillion                                       | 4                 |
| Bellevue • Murray                               | 5                 |
| Wahoo • Fremont                                 | 6                 |
| Services  | 7                 |
| Ashton • Newman Grove • Fullerton • Columbus    | 7                 |
| Hartington • Wakefield • Laurel                 | 8                 |
| South Dakota                                    | 8                 |
| NE B&B  | 8                 |
| Atkinson • Blair • West Point • Norfolk         | 9                 |
| North Platte • Hemingford • Cozad • Arapahoe    | 10                |
| Colorado  |                   |
| Kearney • Grand Island • Hastings • Clay Center | c11               |
| York • Hebron • Aurora                          | 12                |
| Lincoln   | 13-14             |
| Kansas  | 14-15             |
| Brownville • Humboldt • Beatrice                | 15                |
| Mystery Quilt                                   | 16                |
|   |                   |

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# Nebraska Independent Fabric Shops present "Simply September" Shop Hop – Sept 1-30

The Nebraska Independent Fabric Shops (NIFS) invite you to join the shop hop fun

during their annual "Simply September" Shop Hop September 1-30, 2023.

Pick up a passport at any of the participating NIFS quilt shops and travel to each store in the month of September to have the passport stamped. While you are hopping, you can collect a Villa Rosa pattern with your purchase at each stop! The passports can be turned in at the end of September to any of the participating stores to be entered in for drawings. The more stores you visit, the better the chance you have of winning. The gift certificates can be used at any of the 22 participating stores!

Nebraska Independent Fabric Shops, is an organization comprised of owners of independent fabric shops throughout the state with the purpose of strengthening, developing, coordinating and promoting Nebraska independent fabric shops to promote the rise and appreciation of fabrics, sewing and quilting.

As sewing is a life skill and hobby, each year the NIFS sponsors a \$500 scholarship that is designed to help any high school senior or college student who share the love of sewing to further their education in any field at any accredited secondary Nebraska Institute.

For more information about this annual shop hop and how to apply for the scholarship program, visit www.nebraskaquiltshops.com and/or follow on Facebook: Nebraska Independent Fabric Shops.

#### **Shop Hop 22 Participating Shops**

Acme Fabric & Quilt Company, Blair Around the Spool Quilting Company, Louisville Betz's Little Shoppe, Newman Grove Calico Annie's Quilt Shop, Fullerton Calico Cottage, Hastings Claus'en Paus Quilt Shop, Columbus Cosmic Cow, Lincoln Creative Collectible Quilts & Crafts, Humboldt Creative Notions, West Point Fabric Bash, LaVista I Bee Quiltin, Norfolk Nebraska Quilt Company, Fremont Pat's Creative, Hemingford Prairie Pines Quilt Shop, Gering Quilt Stitches, Beatrice Quilters Candy Shoppe, O'Neill Sew Bee It Quilt Shop, Hebron Sew What Needle Arts & Quilting, Columbus The Quilt Basket, York The Quilt Shop, Wakefield The Quilting Shack, Broken Bow The Udder Store, Seward









well lit, just bring your quilting or crafting projects, personal items, and food. This cabin is also wheelchair accessible. Contact Jackie at Retreat at the Creek, 402-981-0119 or retreatatthecreek@gmail.com for availability, additional information and to make your reservation.



Second Annual Dawn Haggerty-Holdorf Memorial Quilt Show Saturday, October 14, 2023. 9am - 4pm

In honor of Dawn Haggerty–Holdorf, founder of Around the Spool Quilting Company Oct 17, 2000. The Quilt Show will begin a week–long 3–year anniversary celebration for the shop. Come help us celebrate! Follow us on Facebook for more details. Hours: Monday-Friday 11-6 • Saturday 8-3 • Closed Holidays

Let's Make Something Beautiful Together





#### UNUSUAL COLLECTIONS EXHIBIT

The prairie mansion home of Nebraska Hall of Fame author Bess Streeter Aldrich is cleverly decorated with unusual collections.

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.... Nebraska-Shaped Rocks .... Vintage Jean Jackets .... Bird Nests .... Victorian Era Serving Pieces .... Vintage Picnic Items .... Cameras .... World War II Collectibles .... Antique Magic Tricks .... Christmas Tree Finials .... Laura Ingalls Wilder Collectibles .... Pez Dispensers .... And Many More!

#### **Hours & Cost:**

Wed., Thurs. Saturdays & Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. (Sept-October) Saturdays & Sundays Only, 1 to 4 p.m. (November, Ends on November 15) Cost: Adults, \$5 and School-Aged Children, \$3



204 East F Street \* Elmwood, Nebraska 402-994-3855 \* bessstreeteraldrich.org

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Sept 28: Cozy Cabin Piecing \$129

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#### Building Harmony

#### Hot Tub Adventure

by Jeff Cappis

My wife Cathy and I really enjoy our hot tub. It's 5 steps away from the house, and 15 steps away from the forest. This is the place where we do our best talking at night. We've spent thousands of hours out there sipping wine under the stars. At times it gets so quiet out there that we can hear the mice pass wind. It's especially quiet when Cathy is mad at

One particular night we were parked in the tub and enjoying the evening. Again, the stars were out, crisp and clear. The moon (just a sliver) was casting faint shadows. We were musing about being all alone. Truly alone.

Well, maybe not quite alone. We started hearing slight noises coming from deep within the forest. We both froze to listen. The occasional twig broke or a small branch would snap off. Like so many animals we've seen, we went still and just listened.

"Must be a deer," I said quietly. We were intrigued and quietly moved to the side of the tub closest to the noise. The sounds were slowly traveling through the forest.

"Maybe a coyote," Cathy replied. We heard a bigger branch break. We could tell something

was walking through the undergrowth. The sound was still moving around.

'Cougar?" I mused. (Bad thing to suggest.) Now we were starting to get nervous so I tried to cover by saying, "But it's probably just a bear." There was a commotion coming from the dark shadowed forest as branches broke, the forest floor snapped, something was puffing loud. We grabbed the edge of the tub and sank lower in the water. I'm sure our eyes got big as wagon wheels.

The mystery racket rose to a peak and suddenly . . . a moose stepped out of the trees. It stood not 15 feet away and just looked at us. We

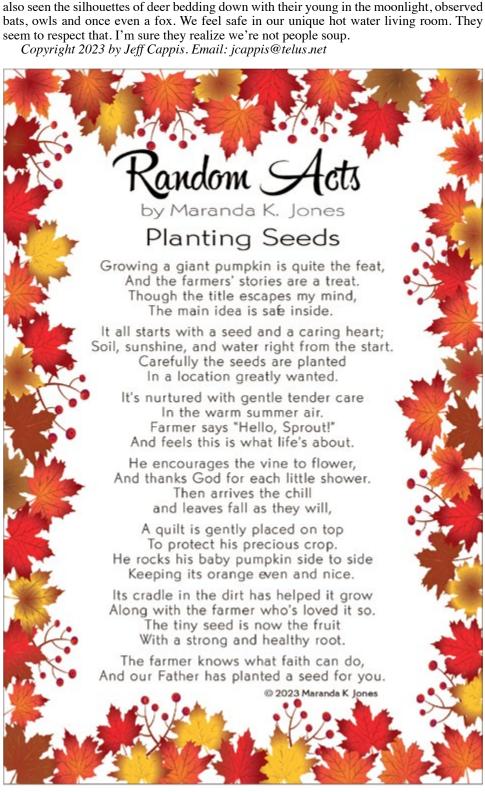
just looked at it. It gave out a snort. Cathy gave a scream. Just about the time I was about to mention that maybe we should get into the house, I noticed Cathy was gone. I heard the front door slam shut . . . then lock.

Well, now, you know how fast your thoughts can race in these situations. "Let's see," I thought out loud. "I'm sitting in the only water around, the moose looks thirsty, he's big as my truck and he's lookin' at me like I'm people soup. O.K., now it's time to panic!"

I went to scramble out of the tub and slipped on the edge. I knocked over the wine glasses and the bottle bounced across the deck. I fell back in and water splashed everywhere. The moose craned its head to get a better look. I scampered to get out again—this time falling out onto the deck with a loud thud. Struggling to my feet, I tripped on the wine bottle and banged my face on the doorbell. The chimes started going off and the dog howled inside. I banged on the door. The lights came on and Cathy dragged me in.

A little confused, the moose snorted in disgust and awkwardly sauntered away. Guess we showed it not to mess with humans, huh?

We've encountered a few more moose since, but now we take it a lot calmer. We've also seen the silhouettes of deer bedding down with their young in the moonlight, observed seem to respect that. I'm sure they realize we're not people soup.



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# Giveaway Winner from July – August Issue

We have two giveaway winners from our last issue.

Beth Gamache from Bellevue will be sent a \$25 Gift Certificate to be spent at her favorite Country Register advertiser, Mangelsen's in Omaha. Beth told us why this is her favorite shop, "I love this store! The staff is always friendly. You can find a lot of neat stuff. I have been shopping there for years."

Gail Slagle from Sargent will receive Barbara Polston's book Puppy Brian and the Grey Cat. Gail picked up her copy of The Country Register at Prairie Point Junction in Cozad. She told us that she has a Little Free Library and will put her copy of the book in the library to share with others in her community.

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 and another book 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!





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With Diane Harris, Stash Bandit





Diane is a scrap quilt specialist and an experienced teacher who loves to share the joy of creating with others.

#### Upcoming classes:

Tango, Scrap Lover's Dream on Friday, Sept. 29 Very Merry, Holiay Scrap Quilt on Monday, Oct. 16 StarQuar Scrap Quilts on Friday, Oct. 27

#### With Sarah Baker. Featherweiaht Sarah

Sarah is a teacher, a quilter, and a Singer Featherweight collector. She loves all things vintage Singer Featherweight.





#### Upcoming classes:

Omaha Featherweight Club, every 2nd Monday of the month Paper Piecing-Palooza on Saturday, Sept. 23 Charming Mini Zipper Bag on Sunday, Oct. 8

> To view event calendar or register, visit: www.mangelsens.com/eventsandclasses

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## A Cup of Tea with Lydia by Lydia E. Harris

#### A Celebration TEA

by Lydia E. Harris

In September, many students head back to school and we celebrate Grandparent's Day on September 10. In our family we also celebrate our son's birthday, a relative's wedding and this year, the release of my new grandparenting book, GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids. What events do you have to celebrate? Why not do so over a cup



Friend Val smelling rose from table setting photo

My grandma friend, Val, wanted to recognize the release of my new book, GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids. She had read each of the forty devotions as I wrote them and had encouraged me to keep writing. "We'll go out for lunch to celebrate when you're done," she said. I looked forward to her kind gesture.

With the book finished, we decided to share a takeout lunch with tea on my deck rather than eating in a restaurant. The weather was balmy, and as Grandma Tea, I could live up to my title and prepare the setting for our Celebration Tea.

I set a cheery table with a lemon-yellow cloth and topped it with a table runner my oldest sister, Helen, had sewn for me when I wrote my first book—a grandparenting Bible study. Helen chose a colorful fabric with lots of children on it and wanted me to use it at my book signings. "Then you'll always have children with you," she said. It provides a warm, homey feel and I use it for many occasions.

Grandma Val brought a fragrant yellow rose from her garden that made a lovely centerpiece. The table looked beautiful with china teacups, teapots, and cloth napkins. The takeout meal from a nearby restaurant tasted delicious and seemed elegant served on my wedding china.

"I brought my favorite tea that you introduced me to," Val said as she pulled out Peppermint Bark

teabags.

"Shall I introduce you to a new tea blend?"

She was eager, so I brewed a teapot of Apricot Sunrise black tea.

While we savored the meal in the fresh air, a hummingbird flew by. "This is much nicer than inside a restaurant," Val said, smiling. I agreed and read the thoughtful card she gave me.

For dessert, we enjoyed an unplanned smorgasbord. Val brought cupcakes and cookies, and I added rhubarb squares, lemon pie, and baked custard (from a recipe in my cookbook). We didn't sample everything. Even so, Val commented, "I don't know when I've eaten so much dessert!'



Grandson Owen and huckleberry tarts

Of course, we talked about my newly completed book: GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids. "I love stories about children," Val said.

"Yes, I do too," I replied. "I think many will enjoy the stories and quotes from grandchildren and how they relate to wisdom in the Bible.'

Val and I concluded our celebration with smiles, dancing tastebuds and prayers. We enjoyed our "grand moments" together. I hope you will have "grand moments" too as you celebrate a new season over a cup of tea.

Lydia E. Harris is a tea enthusiast, grandmother of five (Grandma Tea), and author of In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together, Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting, and her new release-GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids. Her books are available through bookstores and online.

From Lydia's recipe file: Grandma's Blueberry Tarts From GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids.

Gather (Crust for Tart Shells):

1 cup all-purpose flour

1 tsp. sugar 1/4 tsp. salt

1/3 cup shortening or butter.

2 to 3 T. cold water

Make:

1. Preheat the oven to 450°. Spray muffin cups with nonstick cooking spray.

- 2. Combine the dry ingredients.
- 3. Cut in the shortening or butter.
- 4. Add water to moisten.
- 5. Mix well, and roll 1/8-inch thick on a floured surface.
- 6. With a 3-inch cookie cutter, cut 12 circles from the dough.
- 7. Place circles in muffin tins to make tart shells. Prick sides and bottoms 3 or 4 times to prevent puffing.

8. Bake for 5 to 9 minutes until lightly browned. Cool in muffin tin.

Makes 12 tart shells.

Gather (Fresh Blueberry Filling)

1 1/3 cups fresh blueberries, divided (You can substitute huckleberries if available)

1/2 cup granulated sugar

1 T. cornstarch

1 T. water

1 tsp. lemon juice

whipped cream for topping fresh mint leaves for garnish, optional

Continued on next page...







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> > Devotions Inspired

by Grandkids

LYDIA E. HARRIS



#### Book Giveaway - Enter to Win! Grandma Tea's New **Book for Grandparents**

Enter to win a copy of GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids by Lydia E. Harris ("A Cup of Tea with Lydia" columnist). The book includes forty devotions that combine heartwarming stories from grandchildren and wisdom from the Bible to inspire grandparents in every season. It also includes thirteen tasty recipes to make and enjoy with grandchildren and others.

To enter send an email to nebraska@barlomedia.com and put "GRAND Moments" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and where you pick up The Country Register. You can also send a note

or postcard to: The Country Register, 515 E Carefree Hwy, #1128, Phoenix, AZ 85085. The winner will be sent an autographed copy of the book from Grandma Tea and will be

announced in the November-December issue.

A Cup of Tea, continued from previous page...

- 1. In a 1-quart saucepan, combine sugar and cornstarch.
- 2. Stir in water and lemon juice.
- 3. Add and mash in 1/3 cup berries.
- 4. Bring to a boil; simmer a few minutes to thicken, stirring frequently. Remove from
- 5. When sauce is cool, gently stir in one cup fresh berries. Refrigerate until ready to

6. Spoon berry filling into tart shells. Top with whipped cream. Garnish each tart with a sprig of mint and a few berries.

#### Calico Annie's Quilt Shop 210 Broadway, Fullerton, NE Hours Monday-Friday 9am-3pm

or by appointment . Closed Sat & Sunday

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2620 23rd St, Columbus ~ 402-564-3541 Facebook.com/Market23 Call for more information

#### Ladies Night Out! Tues, Nov 14th 5 - 8pm

308-536-2925

Grab your Gal Pals for local wine/beer

or cider samples. Enjoy delicious appetizers & a night of discounted shopping!

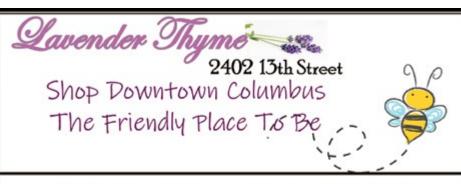
Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm • Saturday 9am-4pm Holiday Hours: Nov 12th - Dec 24th M-F 10am - 6pm • Sat 9am -4pm • Sun noon -4pm



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# Planning Way Way Ahead for the Holidays

by Linda (Burchell) Ard

While most of us are outside watering our lawns and complaining about the hot temperatures, there is a whole group of our friends that have moved on to thinking about Christmas. They are the creative crafters, sewers, knitters, quilters, and textile geniuses who are planning for ways to share their love and talents. Since it will take hours to complete their projects, they will have to plan way, way ahead. Just like the people who paint a picture, write a story, frame a special photograph or give you a jar of choke cherry jelly, they are really giving a part of their heart.

I was a lucky recipient of such a gift last year. My sister, Colleen, is a quilter and she made a special quilt for me. She knows I enjoy hanging quilts in our Restaurant and Bed and Breakfast. She also knows my favorite colors and decorating style. She named it "The Farm." I have hung it in the Special Event Room and have posted information about the quilt and the quilter.

She often gives such gifts to family and friends. Every new baby in our family gets a bag with their name embroidered on it and often this bag goes off to preschool and even college with them. She shared a couple points with me about giving such items.

At a certain age the recipient needs to come along to the fabric store to pick the color and design. A person may like lavender but hates purple. You really need to listen to them. Once she thought someone wanted a bag to carry her books, but they really wanted a backpack. But the most important thing was to remember it is a gift. It might get taken off the wall or washed with the blue jeans, regifted or given to the church rummage sale. According to Colleen," The gifter needs to let it go. Your joy was in the making."

For all of us who do not plan way way ahead or have such skills, there are always gift

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

"The Farm" Quilt

Created by B. Colleen Quadhamer

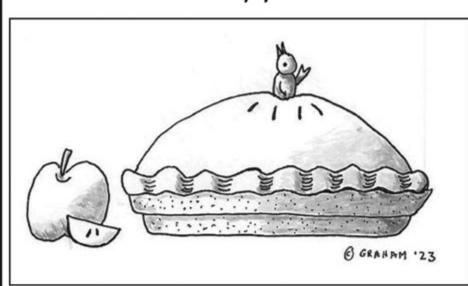
This quilt was made for Linda Ard by her sister Colleen and was given to Linda as a Christmas present in December 2022. The technique is called a 'One Block Wonder' Quilt. It has one center panel with red barn print. Six identical red barn panels were stacked in perfect alignment and then cut into wedges. Six identical wedges were then sewed into a Kaleidoscope pattern. Each kaleidoscope was placed and sewed around the center red barn print. Colleen quilted the quilt top on a long arm machine.

Thank you, Colleen, for the beautiful Farm Quilt. It is really fitting to hang it in the old barn...now a new restaurant. The bright colors hang gracefully beneath where you used to make



friends with the Baby Kittens in the loft above. You always were a cat person. Love, Linda

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Designed by Kathy Graham

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#### September is a Grand Time

We've celebrated Mother's Day, Father's Day and maybe even our birthday. But when is Grandparents' Day? This year it's on September 10, the first Sunday after Labor Day.

I grew up in the same state with both sets of grandparents, two hours from one set and 45 minutes from the other. That closeness meant I spent nearly every weekend at one of their farms. As we drove down River Road in Duvall, Washington, my little brothers and I would chant, "We're almost to Grandma's house! We're almost to Grandma's house!" Fond memories include swimming in the Snoqualmie River, eating green beans from Grandma's garden, and dipping Sinterklaus cookies into hot tea with lots of cream and sugar. At my other grandparents' home, Grandpa told lots of stories, and Grandma



by Ann Marie Stewart

served warm brown bread, Maple Bars and homemade borscht. I can almost taste the red raspberries that ringed her garden where we'd also nibble on fresh peas. We loved ziplining from one end of a barn to the other, clam digging at Birch Bay, and riding the Ferris Wheel with Grandma. Their heritage of faith, and the blessing of their love and prayers linger long.

My parents continued the memory making with my daughters. Though we live on one coast and they live on the other, their influence was still life changing with less frequent but concentrated reunions. When Christine was 9 months old, she affectionately dubbed her grandpa, "Bumpa." As she grew older, if she became anxious, I would say, "Call Grandpa," and my retired attorney dad would counsel her from 2500 miles away. When my husband and my parenting was too intense or mixed with frustration, the grandparents showed love and grace. They were only a letter, phone call, or text message away.

I also created and adopted the idea of GIFT (Grandparents in Future Training.) When I'd get to know kind people who were my parents age but didn't have grandchildren, I would ask if they would grandparent my two girls. Thus Gampa George, Gamma Sharon, and Aunt Rae were born into our lives. These additional grandparents gave gentle instruction, babysitting relief and poured prayer and fun into my daughters' days. They were indeed a GIFT for all of us and a profound influence with their wise perspective and love.

And that love and influence lingers beyond death. When my father was given a terminal diagnosis, we flew to Washington to see him one more time. Our family gathered around his bed and ate ice cream bars and told stories. My dad's was a life well-lived and well-loved. For those final days, my daughter Christine sat next to his bed holding his hand. I'm not sure if it was because my dad, her Bumpa, knew she needed it, or if he longed for her touch. But after he passed, my daughter made plans for a career in nursing.

Someday when I'm a grandma, I want to be just like my dad and make grandparenting my favorite career. What kind of memories will my grandchildren and I make together? I hope one of them is Grandparents Day. Then again, though I was in my teens forty years ago when Jimmy Carter declared the first Sunday after Labor Day a National Holiday, I'm not sure I ever honored the day. Nonetheless, I hope my four grandparents knew how dearly I treasured their love.

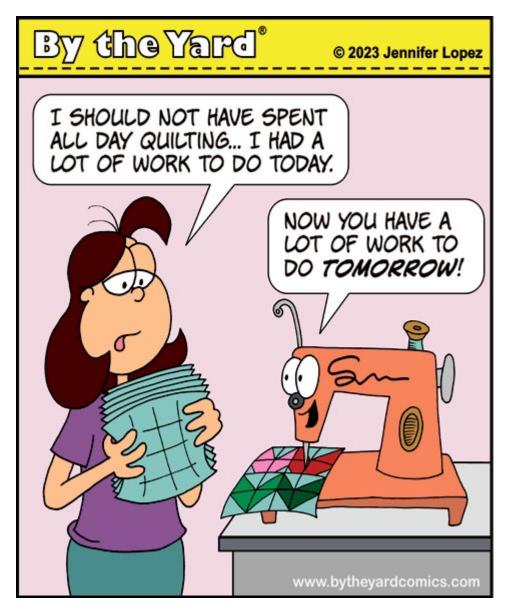
If you have a grandparent who is still living, take a minute to honor them and if your children have grandparents, encourage them to honor their grandparents. We can never underestimate or imagine the influence, perspective and wisdom of grandparents. The impact they can make will last for generations.

For ideas on grandparenting or gifts for grandparents, I suggest Country Register's "A Cup of Tea with Lydia," author of three books for grandparents.

In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together

Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting: For Grandparents at any Stage of the Journey and her upcoming release: Grand Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids

To learn more about Ann Stewart, visit www.annmariestewart.com. c 2023 All rights reserved.





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#### I Can Do This!

by Deb Heatherly

This year I had planned to make gifts for my family and friends and had every intention of beginning over the summer. My intentions were great, until life moved faster than I anticipated. Now, here I am with fall on my doorstep, once again wondering if I will be shopping instead of sewing this holiday season.

Like Santa I made a list and checked it twice. No one has been naughty and I want to make something really nice for each person on my list. Hmm . . . what can I make that they

Food items like sugared pecans, fudge and mixes that make individual cakes in a mug should be a welcome treat. With careful deliberation, I added these beside several names and I can make all those items closer to time. For now, I'll sew cute little bags or stockings for them to go in. Or, maybe I'll make pillowcases to use as wrapping. I can whip those up in a weekend and will be able to present two gifts in one - I really like that idea!

Now that those gifts are decided, what about those I plan to quilt something for? I am thinking of table runners to the rescue! My strippy stars runner pattern goes together quickly and will work for everyone else on the list. I'll make some in a Christmas theme and others to match the recipient's kitchen color. I could even make them reversible so that they could be used throughout the year. That's something to ponder if I get busy right away.

With the Creative Grids® Strippy Stars Tool, the star points on the blocks are made from squares and strips, and as a bonus are super-fast. The star points float so there is virtually no way to cut off the points (okay, if you were taking ½" seam allowances you might, but that would be the only way). The Strippy Stars Tool helps you draw sewing lines for the star points and the strips are added by using those lines in a foundation piecing technique. I once made an entire quilt with 25 strippy stars blocks set on point in 6 hours. If my math is correct, that means I could make the 3 blocks needed for 8 runners in a day. This gives me hope that this gifting season will work out after all. Now to choose fabric and start sewing!

If you want to make strippy stars runners, the directions are found below.

Tool needed:

• The Creative Grids® Strippy stars Tool

Fabric needed:

Light Neutral: 2 FQs (Fat Quarters) of similar neutrals OR you can cut all these squares from the same color.

• From FQ # 1: Cut (12) 4 1/2" light neutral squares for block corners

• From FQ # 2: Cut (12) 4 ½" light neutral squares for star point backgrounds

2 1/2" strips: 4 strips WOF (Width of Fabric) for star points. These may be different for a scrappy look, or all the same.

Dark for block centers:

Cut (3) 4 1/2" squares for block Centers. If you are using a cute design, you could also fussy cut these squares.

Border: 1/3 yd: Cut (3) 3" strips WOF

Binding: 1/3 yd: Cut (4) 2 ½" strips WOF for binding **Directions:** 

• Use the Strippy Stars Tool to mark the sewing line on the (12) 4 ½" star point backgrounds. (Use the 4" line on the tool because the squares will finish at 4" when sewn into the blocks and all Creative Grids® Specialty Tools are all marked in finished sizes.)

• Using the direction that came with the Strippy Stars Tool and the 2 ½" strips to complete (12) star point units. (A strippy stars tutorial can be found in the files on my Grids Girls Facebook group. Simply

join the group to access the files. There is also a video on YouTube) • Add 4 ½" background corner squares to (6) of the star Points. Make (6) rows pressing to the corner squares.

• Sew a dark 4 ½" center square between the remaining star points.

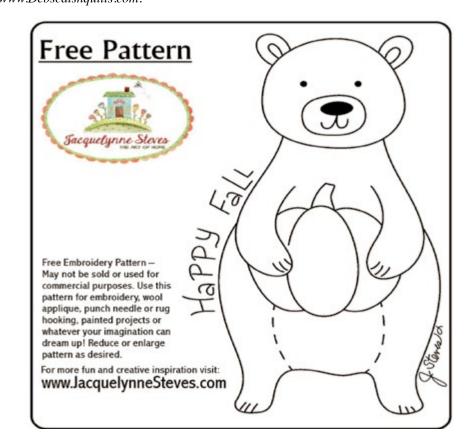
Make (3) rows pressing to the center square. • Nest the seams and sew the rows into (3) blocks as shown. Press

as desired. Blocks should be 12 ½" and will finish at 12". • Sew the three blocks together side by side. Add borders, then quilt and bind.





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 at https://www.facebook.com/groups/770429649800457. Shop Owners are invited to join her group just for them at "Grids Girls for Quilt Shop Owners Only" at https://www.facebook.com/groups/273593657256524. Visit Deb's website at www.Debscatsnquilts.com.



#### Threads Across Nebraska 2023 Will Be Held October 13th & 14th

Mark your calendars for October 13th and 14th! The Nebraska State Quilt Guild (NSQG) has an exciting show planned this year at the **18th Annual Threads Across Nebraska**. The special event is being held at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds in Kearney with 25 to 30 quilt guilds from throughout the state taking part.

Between 150 and 200 unique quilts created by quilters from across Nebraska will provide a colorful display featuring quilts of all sizes—from miniatures to wall hangings to bed quilts. Viewers will enjoy a variety of styles and designs ranging from traditional

to modern to art crafted by quilters of all skill levels from award winners to novices

Quilt show hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children, ages 4 to 12. Children under four are admitted free. Parking is free. The Fairgrounds are located at 3807 Avenue N, Kearney. A concession stand will be available onsite.

Vendors in the popular Merchants Mall will have a variety of products, such as fabric, patterns, books, notions, hand-dyed, painted fabrics, antique quilts, fabrics, sewing accessories. For those looking to purchase a long arm, a couple of vendors will have machines

you can try out! Door prizes provided by the Vendors will be given away each hour.

A variety of classes will be available this year. Please check the Nebraska State Quilt Guild Facebook page and website, nsqg.org, for details including instructors, class descriptions, times and costs.

During the Show, Quilts of Valor will have its own booth displaying their quilts and handing out information about their organization.

Featured quilter is Janice Lippincott. Janice credits the Nebraska State Quit Guild (NSQG) for her love of quilting. She has been a seamstress for as long as she can remember and took her first quilting class in 1990 and the rest is history.

Diversity describes the types of quilts Janice has made. She enjoys many techniques including piecing, embroidery, paper piecing and applique as well as quilted garment making. Janice has won awards at the County Fair, State Fair, and numerous quilt shows. Janice shares her quilts with others through donations to the Washington County fair helping to raise approximately \$20,000. She also donates to Camp Carol Joy Hollings annual event as her church craft fair.

Janice has taught quilt classes and lectures across the state. Janice has been the recipient of the Friendship Star Award, Silver Thimble Award, Golden Thimble Award and inducted into the Nebraska Quilter's Hall of Fame. Some quilts from the classes Janice has taught will be on display.

The **NSQG** raffle quilt "Nebraska Rose" was designed and made solely by Patricia Story and will be on display at **Threads Across Nebraska**. The drawing for the lucky winner will be held at the State Convention on Saturday, July 27, 2024. Tickets are \$2 each or \$20 for a book of ten and only 2,499 will be sold. If anyone is interested in buying tickets for the raffle quilt email Linda Black- lindacoster@earthlink.com. If there is anyone who wants to display this raffle quilt at their local quilt show contact Carol Brandl - needtosew@gmail.com. You will also find a picture of "Nebraska Rose" on the Nebraska State Quilt Guild website www.nsqg.org.

Quilting offers so many JOYS for quilters. Start with shopping, which includes "The Hunt" and ultimately "The Find." The tools, like cutting into that first fabric with a brandnew rotary blade or a pair of newly sharpened scissors. A sewing machine with a new needle and a quarter inch guide. After wearing out many irons, finding the best one yet. Watching the quilt blocks on the design wall grow and even better, when they are all sewn together. That last look at your work before you turn off the light and wake up a little early to get in more stitches. Best of all, sharing your creation with your friends and family.

Top joys are #1 - seeing the look on the recipient's face when they realize the quilt is theirs! And #2 having your quilt selected as BEST OF SHOW at the Nebraska State Fair! There will be a special display of the Best of Show quilts from 1990-2023 available for viewing at **Threads Across Nebraska**.

To learn more about **Threads Across Nebraska 2023** and the Nebraska State Quilt Guild, go to http://nsqg.org, Like the group's Facebook page or contact LeAnne Killion at 308-440-8867 or llkillion@gmail.com.

Come see all that **Threads Across Nebraska** has to offer at this year's Show!

#### Waiting

By Sheila Tinkham

Life goes on...

And still

The seconds tick.
The needle pauses
My life in miniature
Scene after scene sewn together
Like squares of fabric before me
Sometimes neatly sewn
Sometimes messy
Like life itself
Stitch by stitch
I sew
The needles passes through the fabric
To the other side
I thread the needle once again

I sew.

Sheila Tinkham lives in Lincoln, NE. She started quilting when she sprained her ankle and fell in love with the process of sewing and the focused peacefulness of making and designing quilts. Writing is her passion and she has self-

published three poetry books. You can follow her on Twitter at SheilaTinkham.



LeAnne Killion

















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#### Time to Clear Out Collections Which Add to All That Clutter

by Julie Pirtle

Collections, collections and more collections! We all have them. Lots of them! Antiques, craft supplies, vintage toys – the list goes on. Usually when we declare that its's time to clear out, we think of these kinds of collections...the items that draw us in and compel us to collect. Perhaps these are not the worst space taking items in our homes.

I have spent the last month preparing for an out-of-state move. You would think that being an Organizer, I would not have much to prepare for. But you would be wrong! When I started digging deep, I discovered collections of day-to-day items that I never really paid attention to.



These items are sneaky when they multiply. They are easy to ignore and end up taking up space that they don't deserve. I've been taking notes on these culprits of clutter and decided to share with you what I found lurking in the dark depths of my home.

Socks. Really? Just how many pairs of socks does one person need? More so, why do we keep the ones that are missing their better half? Perhaps I am an optimist to do so, but from looking at my drawer, the better half never made it back.

It's time for a come to the sock moment. Get rid of stray socks, socks that don't fit well and socks with holes. You know what they say - you never know when you might get in an accident and find yourself in the hospital with holey socks!

(Side note here. I remember adults saying this to me and even at a young age, it perplexed me. Wouldn't having holey undergarments of any kind pale in comparison to the fact that you were just IN AN ACCIDENT? Do I really care at this point? It makes me wonder where these old sayings came from!)

Boxes. In the days of overnight deliveries, they can pile up quickly. Cute boxes, handy shaped boxes, boxes for emergency purposes...STOP THE MADNESS! Instead of tossing them in the garage, get into the habit of breaking them down and take them out to the recycle bin. Don't mourn the loss of these cardboard monsters. There will most assuredly be more in your future!

OK. This next one is going to hit a nerve for many women out there. Shampoo and Conditioners. Oh, clutter angels help me! It seems like I am always in search of the perfect shampoo. The partially-used bottles end up in cabinets where they have no right to be. I'm sure I put them there lamenting about the money I spent and assuring myself that I might use them someday. If they didn't work when I tried them, they aren't going to work later! Share the wealth with a friend or let them go.

Cosmetics fall under this same category. How many shades of taupe eye shadow are necessary? Aren't three open tubes of mascara two too many? Cosmetics are a feel-good purchase for me so I don't get rid of the items that didn't work as quickly as I should. It's best to pare it down and keep track of the expiration dates on each item. This is especially true for eye products as they can harbor bacteria that your baby blues do not need to be subjected to.

Pantries are a prime spot for an over abundance of items that should not be there! Check expiration dates on a regular basis. Donate foods that you over stocked or used but didn't like. Look online and see if your neighborhood has a social media page. Take a picture of your food and offer it for pick up. I was surprised at the response I got when I did this. Times are tough right now for many people and free groceries can be a real boost.



2 Minute Lift

#### Are You On The Mend? How To Repair Even Stronger

by Kathy J. Sotak

Most weeks I head down to the discount floral shop and treat myself to a bouquet. Some weeks the choice is traditional carnations, roses or daisies. This week my choice was bursts of fun green puffs intermixed with delicate white flowers that you have to lean in to notice

Flowers spark joy for me, like kayaking does for my husband and the ocean for my son. Why do I love flowers so much? Because of the countless lessons and metaphors that they share with me. For example, this morning I was telling a friend about my prized echinacea piant in the front yard. Last year it towered at nearly four feet tall, bursting with blooms and served as a pit stop



ecosystem right in the front yard.

This year however, I haven't seen any blooms. The deer keep eating the echinacea down to the ground. There is no bud in sight. My friend and I contemplated, "How can the plant possibly bloom, when it is in a constant state of repair?"

Think about a time in your life when you were in a state of repair, either mentally, physically or even spiritually. Were you able to flower at the same time? Perhaps you could, with great effort. Likely, not. As a physical example, I've been mending a back injury for the past several months, with pain shooting through my core at most basic moves. I wasn't flowering. I've gone through many emotional trials, the most significant was the loss of my first son. As grief and sadness surged through me, I wasn't flowering. Spiritually, over time I've swayed closer or further away from source. When I've swung furthest away - I wasn't flowering.

When we are not flowering, we are mending. The beauty of mending, is we end up as stronger plants, with more bold and beautiful flowers.

Each of us likely are mending something right now. Today, these flowers, along with my mending echinacea bush are reminding me to practice compassion with every interaction. Especially with yourself. This is the medicine we can offer each other to result in more strength and more beauty – when we are ready to flower.

Kathy is a proud mother of two sons with a corporate professional career residing near Philadelphia, PA. To navigate through this tricky, tumultuous world, Kathy is an explorer and invites you to come along with her, right here, to find a piece of peace we can thread together. Why Not? For more of Kathy Sotak's work, go to www.2MinuteLift.com, short reads to flip our script.

Sept-Oct 2023 Lincoln 13

#### Improvising!

by Barbara Polston

I consider myself a traditional quiltmaker. Even when creating art quilts, I use traditional techniques. When piecing, I work to make intersections match. If points are part of the design, I try my best to make sure they fall exactly where they should without cutting off the tips with an errant seam. All my projects have a plan for what they will look like when

The Quilt Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to document, preserve, and share the American quilt heritage, is marking its 30th Anniversary with a Block of the Month sew-along. (You can learn more by visiting their website, www.quiltalliance.org.) Once a month, for nine months, members receive a free pattern for a quilt block. Each of the patterns is designed by a different, well-known quilt artist. Participants are encouraged to post photos of their finished blocks on social media, tagging the designers and the Quilt Alliance. I am participating in this celebration and look forward to receiving each new pattern...well, for the most part.

Last month's block was a nod to "improvisational quilting." What is that?, you may ask. An improvisational quilt is defined as one made without specific intention. One of the most common forms used to create such quilts is the sewing of random pieces of fabric together with no regard to straight seams. There is no worry if block joins meet precisely. One undertakes the process without knowing exactly what it will look like in the end.

Given my predilection for precision piecing and a solid vision of my end point, tackling this block of only 12 inches square literally struck fear in my heart. The designer shared their method, which was to just sew fabric together in haphazard rows and then trim the resulting pieced fabric down to the desired size. The pattern did acknowledge those of us who would find this challenging. Directions were given to cut some 30 pieces of fabric to specific sizes and a layout was provided to stitch to an improvisational-looking result. This confused me even further. If one followed a precise pattern, how would that be improvisational? I procrastinated until the next pattern arrived in my inbox. With a need to move on to the next month's block, it was time that I took on this improvisational

I decided to just "do my own thing." I cut strips of fabric and pieced them together, varying the width of the exposed fabric. These strips were cut to a generous length and then sewn together. As planned, the created fabric was larger than needed and trimmed to size. Whew! I did it! Put that block in the "done" column.

Sometimes we need to improvise. You may discover you are lacking an ingredient for a recipe under way and must improvise a substitution. A colleague is absent and you are called upon to make a presentation with little preparation. Based on your knowledge, you improvise and present. The need to improvise, I believe, is a rare occurrence. I learned that improvisational piecing and quilt-making is not something I would choose to do, but I also learned that, if necessary, I can improvise.

©Barbara Polston, Tucson, Arizona, June, 23, 2023. Barbara Polston, the author of Quilting With Doilies: Inspiration, Techniques, and Projects (Schiffer Press, 2015) and Meet Puppy Brian and Puppy Brian and the Grey Cat (www.puppybrian.com), lives in Tucson where she has failed at retirement, but is getting more time to stitch in a variety of forms. Contact Barbara at barbarapolstonquilter@gmail.com.

#### A Moment in a Day of a Life

by Kerri Habben Bosman

I have consciously collected very detailed moments for over twenty years now and I wish that I had thought of it sooner. It is more than simply being present. I try to memorize every aspect about a particular time and space.

I begin with everyone around me. Then I pay attention to the temperature, surrounding sounds, and aromas. I hone in upon myself, right down to how my bones feel against a surface. Lastly, I choose one particular sensation as a catalyst to remind me of that moment.

The first time I did this was in 2002. My mother and I were sitting with my 96 year old grandmother in her cozy room at the assisted living community. She had moved there a few months before. Mom and I had spent most of that summer cleaning out her house to sell. I was stretched out upon my grandmother's twin bed. Huba (as I called my grandmother) was crocheting in her recliner and Mom was cross-stitching in my great-grandmother's rose chair. I had been crocheting, but I was tired. I quietly watched them as they were

Perhaps the idea came to me because we'd just been through that murky process of sorting through a lifetime. Not just my grandmother's things, but also family who had passed before her. It occurred to me that if I memorized this moment, it would always be

The hallway still smelled of what they'd served for supper and Canada geese had just honked by. I grew cold every time the air conditioning came on. My lower back ached from moving furniture earlier in the day. Mom's right hand was on the top of her embroidery hoop and her left hand was meeting the needle and thread underneath. She peered at her work through her favorite purple reading glasses. Huba finished up a ball of yarn and bent for the next. As was her custom, she was making a lap robe to donate to the hospital.

Thus, over two decades later, I can always sit "just one more time" with these two strong, solid and loving women who raised me.



One moment I collected recently took place this past July. We were staying with my 102-year-old motherin-law, whom I also call Mom. It was a Friday evening, and we sat outside the home she has lived in since 1946. My husband, Wayne, had picked up fish dinners. The three of us ate outside at the picnic table that has served well for generations and countless meals.

Cars passed on the nearby road with occasional thumps of truck tires. It was a mild summer night with a slight breeze arriving off and on. In the tree to our left, red wing blackbirds had gathered and then had flown off in one motion. We'd watched the leaves shimmer back into place. The air smelled of a summer evening; a scent of flowers from somewhere and that hint of humidity that hits your nose every once in a while.

Mom prepared her food in that gentle yet certain way she does everything. She eased her fish to the side and evenly spread her sour cream into her baked

potato. We'd just held hands and said the blessing. I ran my fingers over the table, feeling the slight roughness of the wood as I watched the sunset in the distance behind Wayne's back. The orange orb began to slip into the horizon, casting lingering light at a slant across the yard before settling upon Mom's treasured statue of the Blessed Mother. We all gazed at her for a bit as the sun fully descended.

Whereupon Wayne nodded and smiled at us before quietly affirming, "A moment in a

Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer in Chapel Hill, NC. She can be reached at 913 jeeves@

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

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#### **Needles and Thread**

By Sheila Tinkham

All I need is my needle and thread

I forget awhile

Any spats

Any troubles

All I need is my needle and thread

For a moment

I am in bliss

All I need is my needle and thread

I sew

A quilt

My new creation

Yet all I need is my needle and thread..

Life itself

Stands still...

Complete.

All I need is my needle and thread.

Sheila Tinkham lives in Lincoln, NE. She started quilting when she sprained her ankle and fell in love with the process of sewing and the focused peacefulness of making and designing guilts. Writing is her passion and she has selfpublished three poetry books. You can follow her on Twitter at SheilaTinkham.

#### Now Showing at the International Quilt Museum

The International Quilt Museum (IQM) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Campus houses the largest publicly held quilt collection in the world — one that represents more than 60 countries over the span of five centuries. And with its steady rotation of exhibitions, there's always something for everyone at the IQM. Here's a bit of what's currently on display at the museum.

"Placemaking: Quilts and the Creation of Special Spaces" boasts the museum's largest pieces. Now showing in the Gottsch Gallery, the exhibition displays two "khayamiya" (tent panels) from Egypt. Measuring roughly eighteen feet tall and nine feet wide, these pieces

posed interesting logistical challenges for curation staff.

"Hanging the khayamiya was very challenging both because of their size and their weight. They are taller than our gallery height, so we had to create structures that allow us to roll the top over and then insert a slat that we could secure into the wall to support their weight," said Camilo Sanchez, curator of exhibitions at the IQM. "It is incredible to think about how they could create a giant structure using many of these panels without an electrical lift like the one we have.'



In a unique juxtaposition, the adjacent Von Seggern Gallery showcases the miniaturesized work of Mumbai native Geeta Khandelwal. "Miniature Costumes and Quilts: Geeta Khandelwal's Labor of Love" displays careful replications of the royal clothing worn by the Maharaja (kings) of northern India. For Geeta, the virtue of miniature replicas is in their precise and detailed craftsmanship while capturing the aesthetic of a bygone era. What's more, she does not use magnifying devices when creating her pint-sized masterpieces.

Geeta recently spoke on the topic at the IQM's First Friday event in July. "Oh, no," she said with a laugh. "I still have good eyes."

Album quilts from Ohio's Miami Valley are on display in the Coryell Gallery. These quilts were made by a small group of quiltmakers at the turn of the twentieth century and share several characteristics: appliquéd quilt blocks in different sizes, repetitive design motifs and inscribed names and phrases. Most Miami Valley quilts are presentation quilts a type of album quilt presented to commemorate a special occasion.

The West Gallery features a traveling exhibition of significant art quilts. "Layered & Stitched: 50 Years of Innovative Art" shows the evolution of the art quilt movement from the 1960s to modern day. Mind-bending and delicate geometric patterns, intense personal and cultural commentaries and progressive quilted objects that challenge the definition of quilting are all on display.

After exploring our exhibitions, don't forget to visit the museum store for a must-have gift, whether it is an IQM souvenir, books, apparel or even unique swing notions and fabric. The International Quilt Museum is located at 1523 N. 33rd Street in Lincoln, Nebraska. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, visit international quilt museum.org



Words can be found in any direction (including omatoes diagonals and can overlap each other) GYUHPYBQSLX OUYNTOF EREWRXOXT G D M K P R F I I A L Q K S L H OVPJTDADYNIELFXH G E E Z D G Q 0 G RREGNAROSVS G Jewel

Beefsteak Fried Brandywine Golden Bush Grape Cherry Green Cocktail Heirloom Early Hybrid

Krim Lemon Orange Plum Purple

Roma Sunshine Vine Yellow Zebra

#### **Upcoming Events**

#### Heritage Needlework Guild

Quilt & Needlework Show September 15-17, 2023 Fri 4-7 pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm **Bethel Church** 

2400 Central Ave, Nebraska City Admission - \$5 at the door for the day or \$8 weekend pass For more information visit:

https://nebraskacity.com/festival/apple-jack-festival

#### The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show

September 7-9, 2023, Thurs & Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm **Alliant Energy Center** 1919 Alliant Center Way, Madison, WI

Admission: Advance tickets purchase online until September 5th Tickets at the door: One-day - \$12, Two-day - \$17 and Three-day - \$20

Children 12 and under are free with an adult Parking - \$8 at Alliant Energy Center Entrance gate For more information or to purchase tickets visit www.quiltshow.com



## GIRLFRICHD WISDOM



What brings you JOY? Golden Threads and Silver Needles? Reading a good book in a comfortable chair? Playing with your children or grandchildren? Taking a silent walk at sunset?

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#### GIRLFRIEND WISDOM:

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



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The drawing will be held on October 1st and the winner will be announced in our November-December issue. The gift certificate will be mailed to the winner.

#### Entry Deadline is October 1, 2023

(Names are not sold, given away or used for any other purpose.)

**Drawing Entry Form** 

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Or email the information to: Nebraska@barlomedia.com and put "Gift Certificate" in the subject line.

Please tell us about a local Nebraska quilt shop, antique store, gift shop, etc that you would like to see advertising in that you would like to see advertising in the special Fall issue of in *The Country Register*:

We welcome your comments and/or suggestions about *The Country Register*. Include a note with your drawing entry, send us an email or give us a call at 1-888-942-8950. We enjoy hearing from our readers!

#### Part 2 of 3



#### "Simple Dutch Windmill"

#### **Block Assembly Piecing Instructions**

(Stroller, Baby, Heart, Couch/Queen, King)

Block A: Sew (59, 24, [3, 7, 16, 5], 70, 144) sets of four matching blocks from Sub-Assembly:





Seams should nest at the center intersection. Press in a fan at the intersection to minimize bulk.

Block B: Sew (0, 11 Dark, 18 Dark, 14, 36) sets of three matching blocks from the Sub-Assembly:



Sew block 1 and 2 together. Press towards block 1. Then add block 3 aligning the bottom edges of both 2 and 3.

Block C: There will be a few left over in any size quilt you are making



#### Assembly Instructions

Lay out A blocks on point—this means with one point at the top and one at the bottom. Add B blocks
on the sides as setting triangles. Fill in remaining C blocks setting triangles on the top and bottom. D
corner blocks are the scraps. Not every size has all block styles. If you did a color palette or scrappy
you may want to move your blocks around until you are satisfied with the layout.



Think diagonally to sew it together. Sew an entire row on the diagonal together. Always press a joined seam to the single piece of fabric.



Once all diagonal rows are pieced, then sew one row to the next based on the layout shown.

The light pinwheel centers will now fan as well. (see Block Assemly for reference)

Trim the outer edges of the quilt -be sure to leave 1/2" seam allowance from the outer point/seam intersection along all sides.



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