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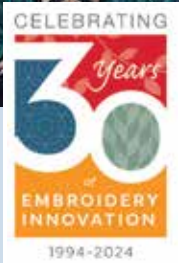






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## Meet our cover artist:

### Diane Kater



Diane Kater began her artistic journey at a very early age, drawing and coloring her way through childhood. Continuing into a more learned environment, she participated in a commercial art program in high school and then onto art school where she graduated with an associate's degree in advertising and design. She worked in the commercial field as an art director of an advertising agency until she branched out onto her own and specialized in graphic design.

In 1991, she met Judy VonStein of Imaginating, Inc. and ventured into a needlework designer, designing cross-stitch and quilt patterns. Her painting talents led her to her current agent, Penny Lane Publishing.

Today, she produces a range of interchangeably styled still-life paintings in acrylic medium. A "country-esque" theme shadows over much of her work as she captures the essence of home. Diane's paintings are soft and comfortable. She believes country is homemade and handmade, but most of all provides a feeling of comfort that she wishes to draw her viewer into.

To view Diane's art prints, go to [www.PennyLaneFineArt.com](http://www.PennyLaneFineArt.com) or call Penny Lane Fine Art at 800-273-5263 for more information.

### Our Search for Cover Artwork —

Across Canada and the U.S. you can always tell *The Country Register* by it's cover. Our publishers seek to find cover art or photos from the province/state the paper represents. To that end, we are seeking the work of artists from Ontario to feature on our covers. The art must be in good taste and consistent with the theme of the papers. If you would like your work to be considered, please send an email indicating your interest to [OntarioCountryRegister@gmail.com](mailto:OntarioCountryRegister@gmail.com)

## Free Pattern

For more fun and creative inspiration visit:  
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Free Embroidery Pattern — May not be sold or used for commercial purposes. Use this pattern for embroidery, wool applique, punch needle or rug hooking, painted projects or whatever your imagination can dream up! Reduce or enlarge pattern as desired.

## Borderline Mistake

by Kirby Gust

Summer jumped out of hiding this year like a schoolchild hiding on his friends, hoping to pop up at the last second to scare them. Carl wasn't startled by summer's arrival; he knew it was coming sooner or later. He had watched as the seed display in the store slowly dwindled to a few packets. Mostly left behind were packets of seeds that none of the local gardeners recognized, and they were leery of trying to grow something new in their limited garden spaces.

Carl also watched in amazement, as he did every year, how the massive shipment of seed potatoes he had brought into the store quickly disappeared one, two, sometimes five bags at a time. Carl has a good reason to always have lots of seed potatoes in the spring. You see, the first year he was in charge of ordering supplies for the store, supplies that included seed potatoes, he didn't order any. Seed potatoes, that is. It wasn't that he didn't try to order seed potatoes that year, for he just tried to do it in April.

Carl found the contact number for Prairie Seed Co. in Brandon in mid-April and thought to himself, "Spring is just around the corner; I better get on this." "Thank you for calling Prairie Seed Company," said a pleasant voice on the other end of the line when Carl phoned. "This is Jessica; how may I help you." "I need to order seed potatoes," said Carl. "How do I go about ordering 200 bags for retail sale?" "You have contacted the right place," Jessica said. "Let me just get some information from you." After answering a few of her questions, Jessica said, "I think we have you on file; just one second, yes, here you are...Borderline Goods. And what varieties were you thinking of for next year?" "No, no, no," said Carl. "I want them for this year, as soon as possible, in fact, as I already have customers asking for them." "This year?" Said a confused Jessica. "Yes!" said Carl. "How soon can you get them to me?"

"At retail price, next week. At the wholesale price, this time next year." "Next year?" Carl uttered a little louder than he intended to. "I'm sorry," said Jessica, "is there something wrong?" Jessica explained to Carl that this year's wholesale orders had to be placed last year. That's how the seed company knows how many to order from the farmers that supply the seed potatoes. The supply and demand cycle for seed potatoes had never occurred to Carl. Carl thought ordering seed potatoes for the store would be the same as ordering other supplies from the food wholesaler. When he needed it, he ordered it. It always showed up.

Jessica explained that she could supply him with what he needed, but he would have to pay full retail, the same as he would have had he filled out the order form in the back of the seed catalogue and mailed it in. Carl could not see the benefit of buying seed potatoes at retail price, paying for the shipping and handling, and selling them for the same price he had paid for them. In fact, he would lose money because of the shipping and handling. Realizing this, Carl placed next year's order, thanked Jessica for her help and then hung up the phone, having no idea what he had just done.

All Carl would have had to do was mention his earlier conversation with Jessica to his wife Mary at supper that night, and all of what would eventually occur could have been avoided. Carl, in his defence, didn't think it was much of a big deal and had, in fact, forgotten about it already. He had sorted out next year's order, and all was well in his world.

The problems all started the next day at the store when the town gossip, Mrs. Finley, came in, or "Mrs. Finally" as the locals called her, because every time she came upon some gossip, she would almost burst until she could "finally" tell someone. Mrs. Finley had come in to get her yearly supply of seeds. When she asked where her usual Yukon Gold seed potatoes were, Carl explained what had happened the day before. How he had called to order the seed potatoes and was told that he could only get them at retail prices. "I decided it wasn't a good idea to lose money on something as silly as seed potatoes." "As silly as seed potatoes????!!!" She burst out. "As silly as seed potatoes?" She said once again. "Wait until the town hears about this!"

And hear they did. Surprisingly, Mary's voice was on the other end of the line the first time the phone rang after Mrs. Finley left. "Carl," said Mary when Carl answered the phone. "Yes?" Said Carl, sounding like he was asking a question. "What is this I hear about the seed potatoes?"

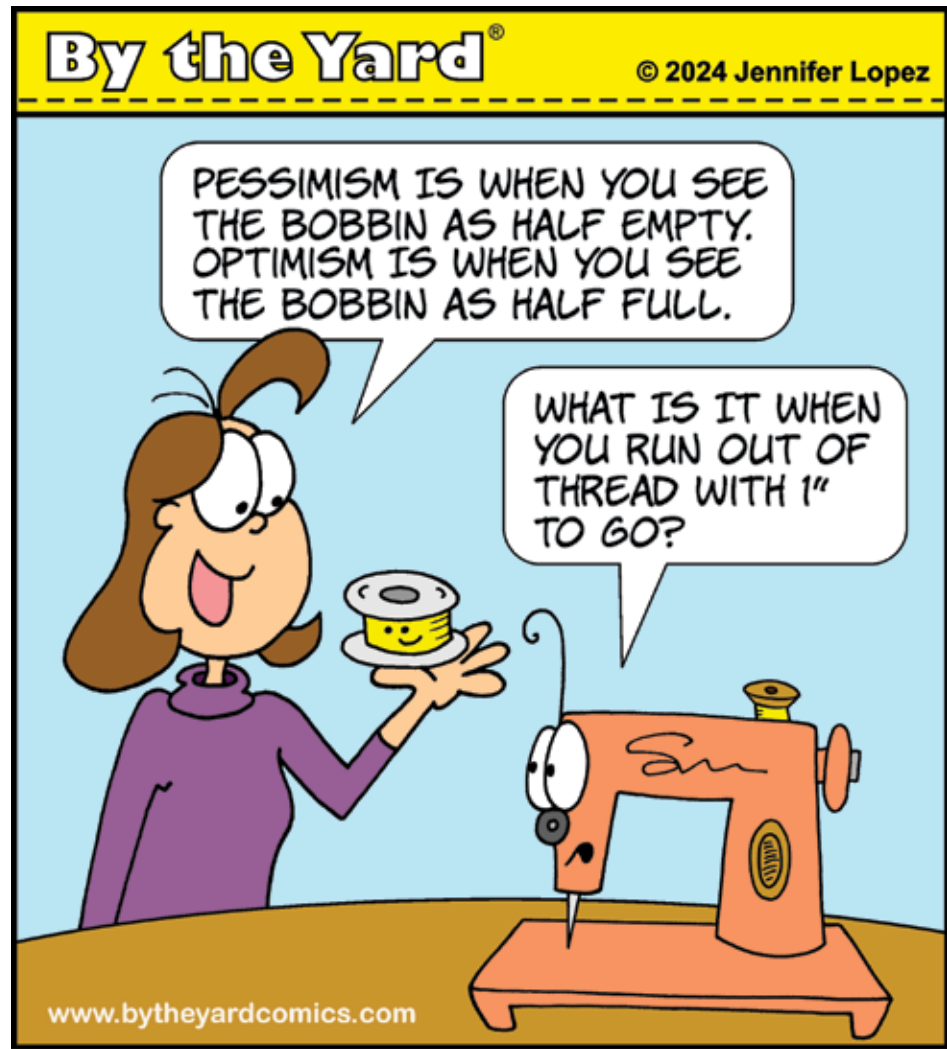
After Carl explained to Mary about his call to the seed company, she had only two words for them: "Call Jessica."

Carl was working alone at the store as usual, so by the time, the few customers that were already in the store and the few that had drifted in after his call with Mary had left. He picked up the phone and called Jessica. "Prairie Seed Company, can you hold, please?" "Yes," said Carl.

(story continues on next page)



Cornwall • Orléans



Fifteen minutes later, he was glad to hear Jessica’s friendly voice on the other end of the line. “Oh, am I glad to talk to you,” Carl said. “I need to order some seed potatoes.” It was strangely quiet on the other end of the line. “Jessica?” Carl asked. “Are you there”

“Yes,” said Jessica. “How can I help you?” “Seed potatoes,” Carl blurted out. “I need seed potatoes; I don’t care how much they cost.” “Ok,” said Jessica. “Let me see here, we only have one variety left.” “I’ll take ‘em,” said Carl. “All 10 bags?” said Jessica. “10 bags,” said Carl. “NO, I need 200 bags”. “We only have 10 bags left,” said Jessica. “it has been a hectic day around here, getting so late in the season for seeds and all. It seems like everyone called in today to get their seed potatoes.” I know where they are all going thought Carl, and he was right. Once word had gotten out that he had forgotten to order and then refused to pay for shipping on retail-priced potatoes, every household and farm within a 30-mile radius was on the phone to get their orders in. All of them having to pay the shipping and handling, which they were not happy about.

The following week, the reality of the whole situation fell upon Carl like a sack of potatoes. When the mail truck showed up, did I mention that Borderline Goods is also the town’s post office? Did I also mention that all the seed potatoes that were ordered in the area last week were shipped by mail, each individually addressed and marked General Delivery? Everyone in the community knows what time the mail truck shows up. Once Mrs. Finley saw the boxes upon boxes marked Prairie Seed Co. being unloaded, everyone in town soon knew the potatoes were in. They all started to line up to get their mail. Carl hadn’t had a chance to sort any mail when the lineup started. He had to announce that everyone looking to pick up their mail would have to return the next day. Carl was at the store that night well past midnight, sorting boxes upon boxes of mail. After only a couple hours of sleep, Carl arrived back at the store to find a lineup that had already started out the front door. The lineup was already out into the street and around the corner. It took all day to hand pick and hand over the parcels one by one as the line of people slowly grew smaller and smaller. After it was all over, Carl was able to close up for the day. He hit the No Sale button on the cash register to cash out, and that was when he realized he had not made one sale all day.

To this day, when someone mentions seed potatoes in Carl’s presence, they all gawk at him with a disappointed stare. Carl expects everyone to say “seed potatoes” with disdain and then spit, like they do on Corner Gas when someone mentions Wullerton.

Potatoes are important to prairie families, and after that first year Carl has had “eyes” on the situation ever since .

*Borderline Good is a series of fictional stories written by Kirby Gust. The stories are set in a fictional town on the Saskatchewan Manitoba border. All the characters appearing in this work are fictitious. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.*



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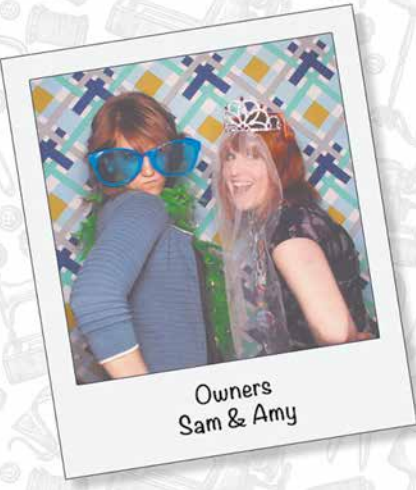
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The long-awaited days of summer arrive in often brilliant fashion. We are drawn into the captivating essence of this season of freedom that seems to always have something in store if we are open to it. Radiant mornings filled with sun and almost cloudless skies start our days off on a relaxing note as we listen to the beauty of the call of the ospreys or the rhythmic washing of the waves onto the sandy shore. Days off might find us

in shaded solitude reading a recommended book from cover to cover in one sitting. Planned day trips with friends offer us a much-needed chance to reconnect and recharge with happy conversation over a delicious light lunch followed by a cool woodland hike.

**Spectacular Season of Summer**

Our weekend getaways to a quaint coastal town spark our curiosity and the anticipation of the trip reaches its peak as we journey forward with all new things in store. Family-owned lobster shacks, offering clam chowder and hot, buttered lobster rolls on perfectly weathered picnic tables are an afternoon treat not to be missed. Fully packed antiques shops dot the main streets and overflow onto the sidewalks on these happy, sunny days. Patriotic flags adorn the streets along with vibrant, deep red geranium blooms filling each storefront window box. The spectacular season of summer is in full swing and for that, we are grateful.

**Midsummer Nights**

After a fun-filled day of antiquing, ducking into local boutiques and maybe even dipping into the ocean for a refreshing swim, we can sense the midsummer night still has gifts to give. Reserving a table for two at a dockside restaurant to soak in the views of the fishing boats coming in is a promise worth keeping. As you enjoy a seaside meal, the daylight finally gives way to night, but not before giving you its explosive farewell. The summer sunsets seem to light the sky on fire as a grand finale to an ideal summer day.

Perhaps it is their fleeting nature that makes these days of summer so precious to us. When we embrace the fact that we have a hand in creating them, we can envision and design memorable moments that hold the power to fulfill us and keep us connected to all that we love.

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

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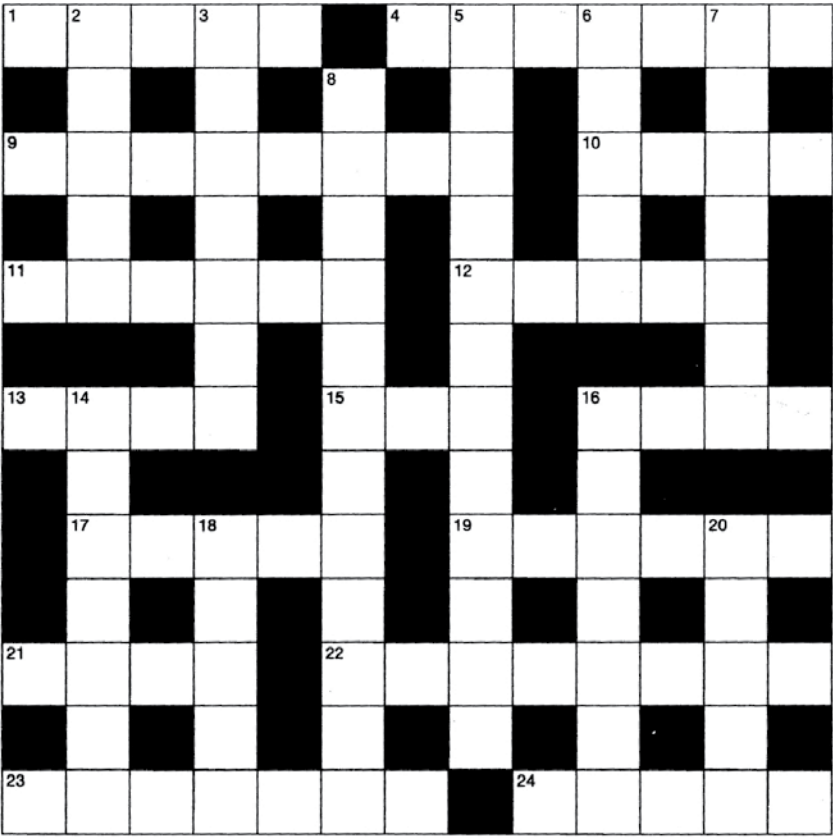


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(solution on page 8)

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# Pickles are such a dill-light

by Colleen Gust

Pickles have a rich history that spans centuries, cultures and cuisines. They were born out of the necessity for food preservation and have evolved into beloved staples on tables worldwide.

The art of pickling, or preserving food in a brine or vinegar solution, dates back thousands of years. Ancient civilizations such as the Mesopotamians, Egyptians, and Chinese practiced pickling to extend the shelf life of perishable foods like cucumbers, cabbage, and other vegetables. The process was essential for surviving harsh winters or long journeys. As trade routes expanded, pickling techniques spread across continents, influencing local cuisines, with each region putting its own take on pickling.

The pickling process typically involves submerging vegetables or fruits in a solution of vinegar, water, salt, and spices. This acidic environment prevents the growth of bacteria, effectively preserving the food. Brining pickles makes them last much longer than fresh cucumbers, but packing them in an air-tight container—is what really seals the dill. Fermentation, another method of pickling, which has seen an uptick in home cooks utilization, relies on the natural fermentation process of lactobacillus bacteria present on the surface of vegetables. This process not only preserves the food but also enhances its flavour and nutritional value.

Beyond their delicious taste, pickles offer several health benefits. They are low in calories and high in fibre, making them a healthy snack option. Additionally, pickles are a good source of antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals, depending on the vegetables used. Fermented pickles, in particular, contain probiotics that promote gut health and aid digestion.

Pickles are incredibly versatile and can be enjoyed in various ways. They add a burst of flavour and crunch to sandwiches, burgers, and salads. Pickle juice is a popular ingredient in cocktails and savoury dishes. Personally, I use olive juice in a simmered chicken and tomato dish. Pickles are a meal staple in some cuisines, as they contrast with rich and savoury dishes. They have also gained importance in recent years with the rise of charcuterie boards. What do you call a pickle you got at a cheap price? A sweet dill.

Did you know fruits like mangoes, watermelons and peaches can be pickled? You can use pickled fruit as a shortcut to “shrub”—a beverage usually made with fruit, sugar, and vinegar. While the acidic base of a shrub is typically a bit sweeter than the pickling brine, just add an extra spoonful of sugar or simple syrup to your glass. Try pickling prairie cherries (Evan’s cherries) and add a few pickled cherries with a splash of their brine and simple syrup and sparkling water for a refreshing nonalcoholic drink. If you like kombucha, you’ll probably like this. The other day, I accidentally dropped some pickles in my Hawaiian punch; I guess it is now trop-pickle.

Pickles are more than just a condiment; they are a testament to humanity’s ingenuity in preserving food and enhancing flavour. Remember, it’s not just the jumbo kosher pickle that is a pretty big dill.

*Colleen Gust is an avid baker and gardener and lives with her husband outside of Regina, Saskatchewan. Kirby and Colleen Gust are publishers of the Manitoba & Saskatchewan Country Register.*

## PICKLED RED ONIONS

I first had pickled red onions in a restaurant, I asked if they could bring me another little bowl of them. I had to google how to make them once we were home, and was delighted to find out that they come together quickly. These are a staple at home for Mexico themed nights.

Serves about 6

1 large red onion

1/4 cup white sugar

1/2 cup white vinegar

1/2 cup water

1/2 tsp kosher salt

Thinly slice the onions and place in a medium, heatproof bowl.

Combine sugar, vinegar, water, and salt in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve sugar. Let simmer 5 minutes then pour hot pickling liquid over vegetables and give them a brief stir.

Cool to room temperature, transfer to a mason jar and refrigerate until cold. The pickled onions will keep about a month in the fridge.





DILL PICKLE SOUP

When I was growing up, many of our neighbours were seniors who had immigrated from Europe and Russia, so I fortunately exposed to many different kinds of baking and snacks. That is probably where my love of creating recipes stems from – I’d taste a treat and try to figure out what was in it, and how they made it.

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 medium onion finely minced
- 1 large carrot grated on large holes of box grater
- 1 cup dill pickles cut in half lengthwise and then thinly sliced
- 5 cups chicken stock
- 3 medium potatoes peeled and cubed
- 5 Tbsp tablespoon sour cream
- 1 ½ Tbsp flour
- 6 Tbsp pickle juice
- 1 tsp salt
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- 4 Tbsp fresh dill, chopped

In a medium bowl whisk together sour cream, flour and the dill pickle juice.

Heat butter in large non-stick pan over medium heat. Add onion and carrot and cook until vegetables begin to soften, approximately 7 minutes. Stir in dill pickles and cook for 3 more minutes.

Meanwhile, add broth to a large stockpot and bring to a boil. Once boiling, add potatoes, reduce heat to medium low and cook for 10 minutes.

Stir in sautéed vegetables, salt, pepper, sour cream and flour mixture into the pot with potatoes and cook for another 5 minutes or until potatoes are tender when poked with a knife.

Remove from the heat, and serve garnished with fresh dill.

SHRUB

A couple of years ago on our paper deliveries we stopped in at Gone Scrappin in Bloom and picked up a rhubarb shrub, which I really enjoyed. Shrubs have a bit of a zing to them, but I wouldn’t say they are as vinegary as kombucha.

- 12 oz. berries (such as raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, or strawberries), sliced or quartered if large
- 1½ cups (or more) white sugar
- 1 cup (or more) vinegar (red wine, white wine, apple cider, or unseasoned rice)
- Club soda or Sprite (for serving)
- A 1-qt. glass jar with a lid
- Cheesecloth (optional)

Gently mash berries in a medium bowl with a fork or potato masher. Transfer to jar, add sugar, and stir to combine. Seal jar and let fruit mixture sit at room temperature, shaking a couple of times, until berries are very soft and falling apart and sugar is at least mostly dissolved, about 1 day (mixture should look very juicy).

Strain fruit mixture through a fine-mesh sieve (line sieve with a layer of cheesecloth if you want to remove all pulp and seeds) into a medium bowl; discard fruit. Scrape any undissolved sugar left in jar into bowl.

Add vinegar to syrup and stir to combine. Taste shrub and add more sugar or vinegar to your liking—it should taste both sweet and yet zingy (keep in mind the flavors will mellow as the shrub ages). Pour shrub into a clean jar; cover with lid and chill until flavors come together and mellow, at least 1 week.

Do ahead: Shrubs can be made 6 months ahead. Keep chilled.

TO SERVE: Pour 2 Tbsp. shrub into a glass filled with ice and top off with club soda or Sprite; stir gently to combine. Garnish with berries and/or herbs if desired.

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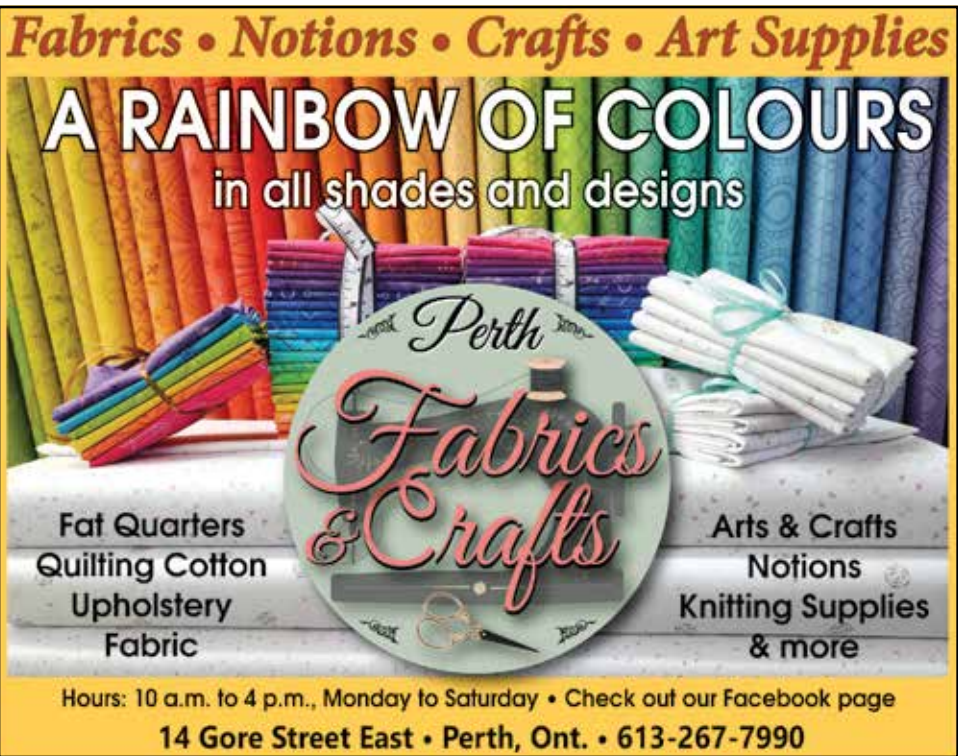


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MUSTARD PICKLES

8 cups beans, cut into 1 ½ inch lengths

**SPICE MIXTURE**

1 tsp turmeric  
½ tsp dry mustard  
½ cup flour  
2 tsp salt  
2 cups brown sugar  
1/2 cup white vinegar

**BRINE**

2 ½ cups white vinegar  
1 cup water  
1 Tbsp celery seed

Boil the beans in water until just tender. Drain and cool.

Mix together the turmeric, dry mustard, flour, salt, brown sugar and ½ cup of vinegar.

Bring to a slow boil 2 ½ cups vinegar, water and celery seed. Add in the spice mixture. Cook about 5 minutes until thickened.

Mix in the bean and bring to a boil.

Pour into sterilized jars and seal.

**GIRLFRIEND WISDOM**

**BE Grateful**  1 Thessalonians 5:18  
**GRACE & GRATITUDE** 

It's not Happiness that brings us Gratitude; it's Gratitude that brings us Happiness.

Thank You! Gracias! Merci! Grazie! Danke! Mahalo!

These are several polite expressions of one's gratitude in other languages. While manners and etiquette differ between cultures, a sincere thank you is an easy way to show gratitude among most people. The magical quality of an expression of "Thank You", either to a stranger or a friend - is a smile. Right? It carries the qualities of appreciation, value and honor. Such a quick and easy response or statement with huge rewards for both yourself and the receiver. I've been adding one more phrase, "Thank you - for your kindness". It is just a little extra - GIRLFRIEND WISDOM!



Joy & Blessings,  


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

PICKLED PEPPERED EGGS

This recipe is on my Christmas baking list as a friend loves them, and that is what he wants for Christmas. He saves the pickled onions and peppers for putting on sandwiches.

2 quart jar (or smaller jars, if you are giving these out)  
12 hard boiled eggs, shelled  
1 yellow pepper, seeded and cut into strips  
1 red pepper, seeded and cut into strips  
1 green pepper, seeded and cut into strips  
1 large onion, cut into rings

**BRINE**

2 cups white vinegar  
1 cup water  
¼ cup white sugar  
1 Tbsp of pickling spice, tied in double layer of cheesecloth  
1 tsp. table salt

Arrange the eggs and the peppers and onions a few at time, mixing them for colour as you fill the jar.

**BRINE:** In a medium saucepan, bring all 5 ingredients to a boil over medium high heat. Stir frequently. Boil 5 minutes. Toss out the spice bag. Pour over the egg mixture. Brine must cover completely. Cover and store in refrigerator a minimum of 1 week before serving. Keeps at least 6 months.





by REBECCA JANE WOOLBRIGHT



Landino Quilt by Villa Rosa Designs





Beyond  Time



# Alice the Rooster

by Tammy Page

My daughter, Amanda has hatched chicks in her classroom for many years. She orders them and gathers the incubator and supplies, and takes it to her first-grade classroom for the children to experience the birth of a baby chick. She handles the eggs ever so gently and teachers her students to do the same. They take turns turning the eggs, checking to make sure the incubator is working properly and learning about the life stages of becoming a full-grown hen.

Once the chicks hatch and are big enough to go to their new homes, some children have begged their parents to bring one home, and if it's not to be, Amanda takes them home to add to her own brood. She's always had a few each year to add to her existing chicken population. She diligently fusses over them, putting them in their own carrier to keep them safe from the fussy hens in the chicken coop. The hens tend to pick on the new ones letting them know who's boss in the hen house. And, it helps to keep them safe from any other thing that can get to them before they get old enough to defend themselves.

You never know what color or breed of chick you're going to get although promised they sometimes still get mixed up. Amanda tries to get only hens but it's not always a sure thing. This is what happened to Amanda a few years back.

As the baby chicks hatch and start to run around they get named by Amanda and her boys and names are based on their colors and their personalities. One such chick looked a little different as a comb started to grow and didn't look too feminine. Yes, a rooster got in the mix somehow! Amanda was not too thrilled because she didn't want a male nor did she want another batch of chicks.

One day she was texting a friend about the mix-up and instead of spelling "almost" the autocorrect on her phone was picked up as Alice. So, as silly as it sounds the rooster became Alice and still is called that to this day.

Alice has turned out to be a naughty rooster chasing everyone around the yard. It's not uncommon for Alice to be waiting near the back door waiting to flog someone. He's been known to chase from the back door all the way to the hen house. Amanda has many a time grabbed a plastic bag or snow shovel as she goes out to gather the eggs. You never know when Alice might be lurking around the next corner. Amanda has been known to leave Alice out of the locked hen house at night in hopes a night animal might have him for dinner. Apparently, he's too mean and clever to get caught by a varmint

So, it's either find a new home for Alice or pray for an intervention. Either way, he definitely Rules the Roost on the Clark farm.

-c 2024 Tammy Page writes from her family farm in Indiana.

# The Summer My Father Built a House

by Nancy Nash

One summer, I helped my father build a house. Well, ok, I was only four years old, so I couldn't offer much assistance, but I think I provided inspiration. Dad wanted a home for his family, which involved tons of planning and work, and I loved to accompany him to the worksite. I believe he relished his children's excitement and awe as ground was cleared, foundation laid, and the house took shape.

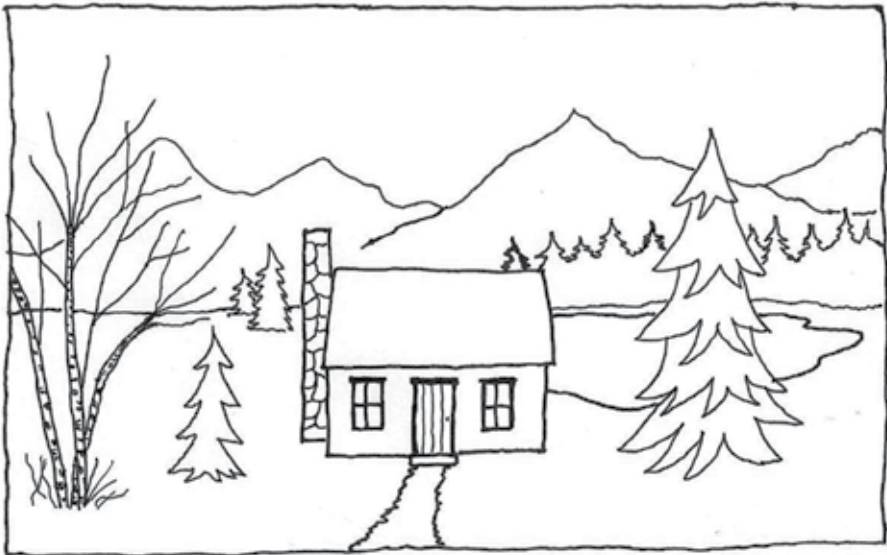
As a young man, my father was a carpenter who took construction jobs in summer and sold Christmas trees in early winter. It was the tree business that paid for the materials to build our house. Dad took a course in preparing blueprints, and he designed a modest "ranch" house, as it was called. It had a cellar, a main floor, and porches in front and back. The living and dining rooms blended with no wall between them. Each had a window, so it was good for viewing songbirds in the front yard and deer in the back pasture.

In between whatever other work he had, Dad spent hours and days at the site, often laboring alone or with the help of a relative or other workman.

One day when I was present, Dad took a pan and filled it with cement,

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sand, gravel, and water. He mixed it together with a triangular-shaped trowel to form concrete. Sometimes he pressed the trowel into the gooey substance and held it there for a moment. To my surprise, the result bore the shape of an evergreen tree! Then he pressed the trowel down multiple times in different positions to create an evergreen with overlapping branches. I was amazed and delighted. We called it a Christmas tree, and he made one each time he filled the pan. After I had admired in turn each new work of art, which is what it was to me, the trowel smoothed the pattern away. I believe the concrete was then used to set cinder blocks in place or to form the curving sidewalk to our front door.

Some days my brother showed up at the work site. As an older sibling, he knew more about the world than I did. He had heard of a Mount Suribachi in a far-off land called Iwo Jima. Upon eyeing a huge mound of dirt plowed up by heavy equipment, he dubbed it Mount Muchibachi. It was perhaps 15 or 20 feet high and perfect for climbing. So now we had a mountain looming beside our house! I imagine my parents got a chuckle out of that!

Mount Muchibachi, like the evergreen trees formed in cement, eventually vanished. Dad leveled it and smoothed it into a patch of soil before we moved in. The following spring, he planted a lawn. Later, he located large rocks on the premises and built a stone wall. One autumn, on a trip to Vermont to buy Christmas trees to sell locally, Dad came across a large, dark brown rock laced with white quartz. He arranged to acquire it and bring it home. It still garners admiration from its place on the lawn.

The home remains in the family, though my parents have both passed away. Visitors comment about how well-made the house is, with thoughtful touches and marks of ingenuity. I agree. Even better, I feel the comfort of my parents' love in a deeper way when I am there.

-©2024 Nancy J. Nash. Nancy is the author of *Mama's Books: An Oregon Trail Story*. and *Little Rooster's Christmas Eve*, available on amazon.com. She has a B.A. in English composition from Mount Holyoke College and an M.F.A. in Writing for Children from Simmons College. She can be reached at [nancynash341@gmail.com](mailto:nancynash341@gmail.com)





## Priori-TEAS

I love all things tea and all things writing. So, years ago, when I received a call from the editor of TEA: A Magazine to write an article, I was doubly excited.

"I have a tea shop I need written up for my next issue," she said. "Are you interested?"

Interested? Of course! Who wouldn't want to be published in this prestigious magazine?

It would require a trip to Whidbey Island, about an hour's drive and ferry trip away, and would need to be completed in three weeks. It sounded appealing. But the day before, I learned our daughter had developed problems in her last trimester of pregnancy and was put on bed rest. She needed my help with meals, housework and caring for her two-year-old son. Though I love all things tea and writing, they can't always be my priority.

I paused and swallowed hard. "I would love to write the article," I said. "But I can't at this time." I explained my situation and asked her to keep me in mind for future writing.

My daughter was my priori-TEA. I knew I had made the right decision. Even so, during the next weeks, I kept thinking about the assignment I had declined and wished I could have accepted it.

After the birth of our second grandson, Alex, a healthy baby boy, my daughter was on her feet again. To my surprise, I received an email from the same editor. "I didn't publish the piece on the tea shop yet. Could you write it now?"

I smiled. The timing was perfect. I sensed God had honored my priority towards my family and had saved the assignment for me. Now I did have time to make tea and writing a priori-TEA.

My husband and I enjoyed our trip to Whidbey Island to visit Anna's Tea Room, which was new to us. We received a warm Victorian welcome from the proprietor, who was eager to tell us about the tea shop while we sipped delicious blends of tea. I enjoyed a black flavored tea while my husband sipped an autumn blend that combined Earl Grey and apricot teas. We also sampled tasty foods, including a decadent chocolate dessert.

I returned home eager to share my warm memories with readers.

When the copy of TEA: A Magazine\* with my article arrived, I was thrilled. The background palette for my two-page spread used my favorite pastel colors—pink, periwinkle, and blue. It looked so beautiful, and I felt gratified to see my priori-TEAS rewarded.

My husband and I returned to Anna's Tea Room several times over the next years and took our granddaughter Clara there for a tea outing. "It's so fancy," Clara said as she touched the lace curtains.

During our last visit, we sadly learned that Anna's Tea Room was closing. However, the owner generously shared her recipe for the rich chocolate dessert on her menu. I've included the recipe for Chocolate Satin Pie for you to enjoy. When I serve it, my tastebuds dance and I'm reminded of the time God rewarded my priori-TEAS.

\*This magazine was published from 1994 to 2012 and I had the joy of writing for it several times.

Lydia E. Harris is a tea enthusiast and the author of three books for grandparents: *GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids*, *In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together*, and *Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting*, all available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

From Lydia's Recipe File:

### Chocolate Satin Pie

Melts in your mouth and is easy to make.

Purchase a ready-made 9-inch chocolate pie crust or make your own. (See recipe below.)

#### Pie Filling

##### Ingredients:

- 1 12-oz. can evaporated milk
- 2 large egg yolks, beaten
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips (12 oz. bag)

##### Directions:

In a medium-sized saucepan, combine the milk and egg yolks. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon, until the mixture thickens. Do not boil.

Remove from heat and stir in chocolate chips. Stir until melted and combined.

Cool filling. Then pour it into the pie crust and chill for several hours or until thickened.

When ready to serve, top with whipped cream.

If desired, garnish with nuts, shaved chocolate, or swirls of chocolate syrup. Or for the holidays, top with crushed candy canes.

Serves 8 to 10

**Variations:** Spread a layer of peanut butter on top of the pie crust before adding the cooled chocolate pudding.

For a sweeter dessert with a milder flavor, use milk chocolate chips instead of semi-sweet chips.

You can also freeze this pie and serve it slightly frozen.

#### Homemade Chocolate Pie Crust

- 24 Oreo cookies (or any chocolate sandwich cookies)
- 5 T. butter, melted
- pie pan

Crush cookies with frosting in a food processor or place them in a plastic bag and crush them with a rolling pin to make fine crumbs.

Place cookie crumbs in a mixing bowl. Add butter. Stir with a fork.

Press cookie crumbs into the bottom and sides of the pie pan. Chill for 30 minutes.





## A new idea for using those pre-printed placemats

by Marlene Oddie



New fabric collections occasionally do a block print likely intended as a placemat. I've made several styles of placemats, but it seems that there is always a lot of binding!

Northcott's new collection shipping now, Autumn Gathering, has such a print that lends itself to being reimagined as a quilt that could be used as a table topper.

This quilt design uses the printed placemats, a border print, two coordinates, binding and backing from the collection.

The pattern details the fussy cutting of the mitered border print. The center portion measures 40" and the overall size is 64" x 64".



You can find this pattern on my website or ask at a local quilt shop near you. Be sure to tag us if you make this up in these fabrics or something else. #fourplacemattabletopper

Happy Stitching!

Marlene Oddie ([marlene@kissedquilts.com](mailto:marlene@kissedquilts.com)) is an engineer by education, project manager by profession and now a quilter by passion in Grand Coulee, WA at her quilt shop, KISSED Quilts. She 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>





# SKIP & GO NAKED

These are really delicious! And pink, like Double Bubble gum. All my friends have a "Skip & Go Naked" story & now you can too! (THAT IS, IF YOU WANT ONE.) ♡

2/3 c. cold beer  
2/3 c. frozen pink lemonade concentrate  
1/4 c. vodka  
straws or stirrers

Makes 2 big drinks



Fill blender container 1/2 way with ice. Pour in beer, lemonade & vodka, blend well & serve. ♡ I served delicate little sherry glassfuls to my girlfriends at lunch - icy, pink perfection (just like us! :)). ♡

HAPPY SUMMER! Come visit my blog to see what's going on! ♡ [www.susanbranch.com](http://www.susanbranch.com)



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## Peanuts

by Deb Heatherly

Living in the country has many benefits - less noise, little traffic and helpful friendly neighbors. The tradeoff is the proximity to shopping. Being 10 miles from the nearest grocery store and 40 miles from a quilt shop means planning each trip to make the most of each shopping excursion. It also means taking advantage of mail order and having my purchases magically appear on my doorstep.

Such was the case one Friday when a package arrived with thread, needles, fabric and a new gadget for cutting setting triangles. All of the items had been carefully packaged and arrived in perfect condition. It was the hitchhikers that arrived that I did not appreciate- those pesky packing peanuts.

While I understand that companies use them to make sure nothing gets broken in transit, I do not understand why they seem to take on a life

of their own once they arrive. Just trying to pour them from the box and into the trash can be a major trial in patience. While the first few find their mark, the rest seem to sprout wings, migrating at will and showing up for days afterwards.

Such was the case three days later when I walked into my sewing room.

"I hate packing peanuts," I shouted.

My husband who heard the tirade from the next room shouted back. "They are like quilting supplies. They end up all over the house."

I gave him a dirty look and he went back to reading his paper, but his response seemed to stay with me. Could he be right? Were my supplies actually invading the house?

Hmm, I thought. Well, I do have fabric in several places. There was fabric in a dresser, in the guest room under the bed, in the computer cabinet, in the antique pie safe, in the Hoosier and hundreds of fat quarters in Tupperware in a portion of the kitchen cabinets. In my defense, I live in an old house and storage must be creative. I really thought I was being clever.

Maybe I needed to reassess, I thought. Did I really need every tiny scrap? To relieve my momentary twinge of guilt, I sorted through my stash thinking that I would donate any I did not have immediate plans for. The fabric I had bought when my daughter was younger to make dresses was no longer needed, nor was the special blue purchased to make a wedding gift that never happened because the couple broke up within days of the engagement. But what if I decided to use those someday for something else? Every piece was living happily in some part of the house so why not just keep it?

It was then that I came up with a plan. I would buy no more fabric until I used some of what I already owned. It sounded like a brilliant idea! Use three, buy three, or use one, buy one. It would give me incentive to get creative and sew a little faster.

All went well until a new catalog arrived in the mail. I kept repeating, "I will not cave in, I will not cave in," trying to convince myself.

"I won't even look at the catalog," I said. "Ok, just one little peak."

Of course, one peak leads to another and before long an order was placed. It was then that a new plan was hatched. Soon I was clipping off a corner of all the fabrics in my stash to create a notebook so I would know what I had and where it was stored. Therefore, I was 'using' the fabric and felt no qualm about ordering more.

Boy, I love this plan! Life is good. Bring on those packing peanuts because I could learn to love those pesky things.

Note: This article was written many years ago when I lived in a tiny town in SC that did not even have a traffic light. I now live in the mountains of western NC with numerous grocery stores and 2 quilt shops nearby. While I may still occasionally use mail order, I try to shop and support the local shops around me. Having owned a quilt shop for twelve years, I know how much that support can mean.

I had to laugh when I found this story in my short story collection. If my younger self had known what my stash would look like now, she might have been quite surprised. I've now 'graduated' to shelves full of bolts. Lots and lots of bolts. But, after all, as a designer you never know when a late inspiration will strike.

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, and two free mysteries each year, <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](http://www.Debcatsnquilts.com).





# Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

## Mom’s 100th Birthday Party Wrapup

The cake has been cut, visiting with friends and relatives from near and as far away as Florida has ceased—and now we’re left with wonderful memories to treasure from Mom’s 100th Birthday Party!



Mom was pleased by her party, telling a friend, "I don't often use this word, but my 100th Birthday Party was **SPECTACULAR!**"

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## In Your Suitcase

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other.  
Use the word bank below.

Y	Y	W	Z	I	C	A	X	S	O	B	S	L	A	D	N	A	S	J	A
X	K	N	D	Q	J	A	S	K	D	J	P	Y	J	V	Q	H	J	T	O
A	W	E	Z	L	P	N	P	R	L	K	A	B	W	Q	I	P	U	I	T
G	K	E	U	S	L	V	O	E	C	B	J	L	E	M	A	Z	Y	W	O
Z	S	R	G	O	L	E	L	Y	W	F	A	D	F	N	E	U	K	M	I
R	A	C	D	C	K	S	F	R	A	U	M	Y	T	O	J	A	C	W	L
D	H	S	K	K	T	J	P	D	P	G	A	S	A	B	V	C	S	C	E
T	A	N	I	S	A	A	I	R	D	V	S	Z	C	Y	C	S	D	W	T
R	M	U	N	C	H	W	L	I	G	K	C	H	I	F	F	U	R	T	R
K	U	S	J	Y	E	R	F	A	I	R	U	A	J	M	L	J	E	S	I
B	S	N	V	H	C	S	Q	H	L	S	U	N	Z	M	R	V	S	P	E
P	S	H	T	I	U	S	M	I	W	S	H	T	D	M	S	W	S	A	S
H	L	F	J	U	Z	B	G	F	Z	E	N	O	S	E	C	D	E	Q	K
U	S	T	R	O	H	S	P	X	V	E	K	T	E	H	R	U	S	S	T
B	W	M	J	S	G	S	H	P	O	V	T	A	O	S	I	W	I	O	G
K	E	D	D	M	C	J	F	U	W	L	J	E	Z	A	V	R	E	F	D
L	A	U	M	A	D	F	N	E	E	K	Q	T	K	O	P	V	T	A	F
X	T	Z	R	F	Y	B	G	K	C	Z	L	G	N	C	Y	G	V	S	R
R	E	F	K	N	D	R	X	A	O	D	U	X	K	I	A	A	A	F	M
G	R	J	V	J	C	D	T	M	P	F	E	M	K	G	X	J	S	A	F

SWIMSUIT	HAT	PANTS	SHOES	SWEATER
DRESSES	JACKET	SANDALS	SHORTS	TSHIRTS
FLIPFLOPS	MAKEUP	SCARF	SOCKS	TOILETRIES
HAIRDRYER	PAJAMAS	SWEATER	SUNSCREEN	UNDERWEAR



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## COOKING FOR TWO

by Colleen Gust

### Cabbage & Meatballs

I think the dill pickles are the secret to this simple yet hearty recipe.

*Yield: 2 servings.*

- 3 cups chopped cabbage
- 1 cup tomato juice
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 Tbsp chili powder
- 1 Tbsp cider vinegar
- 1 Tbsp chopped dill pickle
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper
- ¾ lb. lean ground beef

Place cabbage in a large saucepan; add tomato juice. Cover and simmer over low heat. Meanwhile, combine the egg, onion, chili powder, vinegar, pickle, salt and pepper. Crumble beef over mixture and mix well. Shape into 2-in. balls. Add to cabbage mixture. Cover and cook over low heat for 15-20 minutes or until meat is no longer pink, stirring occasionally.

### Green Beans with Bacon

A different ways to liven up canned and frozen vegetables.

*Yield: 2 servings.*

- 2 cups frozen cut green beans
- 2 Tbsp. canned mushroom stems and pieces
- 1 ½ tsp dried minced onion
- 1 bacon strip, diced
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp butter
- 1/8 tsp garlic powder
- 1/8 tsp pepper

In a small saucepan, combine all ingredients; add enough water to cover. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cover and simmer for 13-15 minute or until bacon is cooked. Drain.

### Cutout Biscuits

These biscuits come out so light and fluffy.

*Yield: 3 biscuits*

- 1 cup flour
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 4 ½ tsp cold butter
- 1/4 cup ginger ale
- 1 Tbsp sour cream
- 1 Tbs. mayonnaise

#### TOPPING:

- 2 tsp butter, melted
- ½ tsp sugar

Place flour into a small bowl. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. In another bowl, combine the ginger ale, sour Cream and mayonnaise; stir into flour mixture just until moistened. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; knead 8-10 times.

Pat out to 3/4-in. thickness; cut with a floured 2-1/2-in. biscuit cutter. Place 2 in. apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Brush with the butter, sprinkle with the sugar. Bake at 400° for 9-11 minutes or until lightly browned. Serve warm.





# 2 Minute LiFT

TWO MINUTE READS TO FLIP OUR SCRIPT

*by Kathy J. Sotak*

## What Is Your Match?

You have plenty of fuel. What is your match?

I haven't seen my regular hairstylist in a year. This week, we had a lot to catch up on. She could immediately see something was different about me, reflected through my eyes, skin and the way I held my shoulders sitting in her beauty chair – a bit more relaxed and set back than before.

I admitted that I'm in the middle of Transformation, with a capital T. In a nutshell, Transformation was inevitable as I ripped apart decades-old patterns, improved the quality of my thoughts, re-ordered my priorities and set new boundaries. I've been saying goodbye to prior versions of me, thanking them for their lessons, then bringing only the best pieces forward.

She got right to the point with this one question: "Kathy, you had plenty of fuel. We all do. But what was your match? What was the spark that launched you into action?"

I was speechless, with no answer to this perfect question. She was right. I've been walking around drenched in fuel as electric currents bent my way, begging for permission to be used in my metamorphosis.

What was my match, you are wondering? Anger. Locked away anger that wasn't allowed to be seen. So, I decided let it be seen and let it be felt. I decided to let it out of my body and let the match of anger ignite my fuel. The anger burned away the stories on replay in my mind. The anger presented itself in the form of rancid heat of regret about precious years racing by with far too little lived. I used that fire to put a stake in the ground that I will not weave the same stitch over and over if it's less than exquisite.

Now, the fire has burned my field and left only tall trunks of my choosing. This barren, burnt field is a clean slate for the oasis of this new chapter. It is the perfect fertile ground for rebirth. Like the forest floor – sleepy seeds are choosing to awaken and turn into the wildest of flowers.

Now that the match did its job, what is the rain that washes away the soot and provides life to these dormant seeds? I'll leave us with this poem, by Mary Oliver:

## The Summer Day

Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean—  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—  
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?

—Mary Oliver

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## Appreciating the Art of Quilting for the First Time

*by Susan Hodges*

A few months ago, I invited my husband, brother and sister-in-law to attend a quilt show with me. They agreed, but probably more to humor me, than any real interest in the outing.

To say it was a transformative experience for them would be an understatement. Though they knew that quilting was my "hobby," they never fully realized the unleashing of creativity this so-called hobby entailed. They saw, through many examples, that piecing and quilting involved more than just a fabric puzzle waiting to be solved. They witnessed quilts as works of art in many forms.

In each of the quilts displayed, the quilter was leaving a legacy that was uniquely theirs. It was a piecing together of their stories, dreams and hopes into something tangible and beautiful as they answered the Voice within them urging them to create.

Some of the creations were simple with their presentation of clear shapes and color, others chose landscapes or replications of nature. Some illustrated family stories and some incorporated pieces of clothing from childhood memories or memories of those who have passed on. And others were artist's creations playing with colors and unusual shapes.

In each entry, we witnessed the struggle the quilter faces between their logic brain and the artist brain. Our logical brain thinks in neat, linear fashion working with known principles and a desire to make things neat and ordinary. Whereas our artist brain likes to put odd colors and shapes together, by presenting tried and true things in new ways. This struggle continues as the artist creates and logic guides as the quilter blends the technical skills they have honed with patience, practice and commitment with new and untried designs.

Through the elements of design, the quilter offers us visual depth on a flat surface as they incorporate an assortment of lines, shapes, and colors to tell their story.

Through this display of over a hundred quilts, my husband, brother and sister-in-law saw graphically that the art of quilting is not just an "add on" to life. It is instead, a means to help the quilter articulate who they are and/or who they hoped to be as they combine little pieces of fabric into a grand design of shapes and colors.

You can experience this same opportunity of awe and appreciation of quilting art at the Busy Bees Honey of a Quilt show 2024 being offered Friday October 4 through Sunday Oct 6 at the Activity center at 610 Fairview Street in Fountain Inn. SC.

*Susan Hodges is a member of the Busy Bees Quilters Guild in Fountain Inn, SC. She has been quilting for 10 years and especially likes paper-piecing. Susan and her husband relocated from Western NY to Simpsonville, SC to enjoy their retirement.*



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL QUILT GUILD

Ajax	<i>Twisted Stitchers Quilt Guild</i> For information about our guild please go to our website <a href="http://twistedstitchersquiltguild.com">twistedstitchersquiltguild.com</a>
Alliston	<i>Quilting Corners Guild</i> We meet at St Johns United Church at 7pm on the first Tuesday or each month, except January.
Almonte	<i>Almonte Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Almonte Civitan Club, 500 Almonte Street Active at 7:00 pm from September through June (no meeting in December).
Ancaster	<i>Ancaster Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at the Marshall Memorial United Church, 20 Gilbert Ave. at 7pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to June.
Arnprior	<i>Arnprior District Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Christian Education Centre, 257 John St. N. at 6:30 pm on the fourth Wed. of each month from Sept. to June.
Barrie	<i>Simcoe County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Simcoe County Museum, 1151 Hwy 26, Midhurst at 1:00 pm on the Fourth Thursday each month except the 2nd Thursday in Dec and 3rd Thursday in June, from September to June. <i>Kempentfelt Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Lion's Gate Banquet Hall on Blake Street, the 3rd Thursday of the month from 7-9pm <i>Barrie Modern Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Grace United Church, 350 Grove St. East the last Thursday of the month, on alternate months from September to May - 7pm and on various Saturdays during the alternate months, for Activities and Workshops, from October to June.
Belleville	<i>Quinte Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Recreation Centre, 116 Pinnacle Street. At 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month.
Binbrook	<i>Binbrook Country Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Binbrook United Church, 2623 Binbrook Rd. 7:30 pm the last Monday of the month from Sept - Nov and Jan - June.
Bracebridge	<i>The Pine Tree Quilters' Guild of Muskoka</i> We meet at the Bracebridge Memorial Arena, 169 James St at 1:00 pm on the 2nd. Thursday of the month from September through June.
Brampton	<i>Brampton Quilters Guild</i> We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month from September to June at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held at Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre, 292 Conestoga Dr, Brampton.
Brantford	<i>Brant Heritage Quilters</i> We meet at St George United Church at 7:30 pm. on the second Thursday of the month.
Brockville	<i>The Thousand Islands Quilters' Guild (TIQG)</i> Meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 7pm both in person and zoom except July/Aug/Dec at the Bethel Christian Reformed Church located at 117 Windsor Dr., Brockville, On K6V 5V5. Library opens at 6:30pm.
Buckhorn	<i>Buckhorn Area Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Hartley Hall, St. Mathews / St. Adian Anglican Church at 9:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday of the month (excluding July, August and December).
Burlington	<i>Halton Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Mainway Recreation Centre, 4015 Mainway Dr. at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of the month from September through June).
Caledonia	<i>Caledonia Grand River Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at 7pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through June.
Cambridge	<i>Busy Hands Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Preston Scout House, 1580 Queenston Road at 9:30 am on the third Monday of each month.
Chatham	<i>Chatham-Kent Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at St. Paul's Congregational Church, 450 Park Ave W at 7pm on the third Wednesday each month, except December.
Collingwood/ Wasaga Beach	<i>Slope to Slope Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Wasaga Beach RecPlex, 1724 Mosley St, the first Thursday of the month, 7-9 pm, September to June.
Cornwall	<i>Cornwall Quilters Guild</i> We meet at St. Mathews Lutheran Church, 1509 Second St West at 7pm every third Monday evening from September through May.
Courtice	<i>Clarington Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Faith United Church, 1778 Nash Road, Courtice on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 1 – 3 p.m. We are a day time Guild
Dryden	<i>Sunset Country Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at 84 St. Charles Street at 7 pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month.
Dunnville	D.O.T.S. Quilt Guild (Dunnville's Own Tiny Stitchers). We meet at Maple Creek Community Church, 110 Inman Rd. @ 6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month from September to June.
Elliot Lake	<i>Elliot Lake Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Gentle Shepherd Church, 3 Ottawa Ave. at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays from September through June.
Elmira	<i>The Elmira Needle Sisters</i> We meet at the Elmira Mennonite Church at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday of the month.
Espanola	<i>North Shore Pins &amp; Needles Stitchery Guild</i> Meetings are held every 4th Wednesday of the month, upstairs at the Legion Hall, 370 Annette St. at 7 p.m. Sept-Nov & Jan.-May first meeting free
Etobicoke	<i>Etobicoke Quilters Guild</i> We meet at Neilson Park Creative Centre - 56 Neilson Dr. at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of the month.
Georgetown	<i>Halton Hills Quilters Guild</i> We Meet at 8958 Trafalgar Rd, Georgetown, ON L7G 4S5. 6:45pm till 9pm from September till June on the fourth Monday of the month.
Gloucester	<i>Common Thread Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Le Mouvement D'Implication Francophone D'Orléans (MIFO), 6600 rue Carriere in Orleans at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month from September through June.
Goderich	<i>Goderich Quilters' Guild</i> We meet once a month on the 2nd Tuesday.
Grimsby	<i>Grimsby Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Livingston Activity Centre at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month.
Guelph	<i>Royal City Quilters' Guild</i> Monthly meetings are held at 7pm (Eastern) on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from September through June. Monthly meetings are virtual and feature a guest speaker. A Zoom link to the meeting will be emailed to all members and registered guests the day before the Guild's Meeting.
Gwillinbury	<i>Gwillimbury Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Sharon-Hope United Church, 18648 Leslie St. at 1:00 pm on 4th Monday of the month from September through May.
Hagersville	<i>Haldimand Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at the Hagersville United Church at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of the month from September through June.
Haliburton	<i>Haliburton Highlands Quilter Guild</i> We meet at the Stanhope Community Centre, 1095 North Shore Rd, Algonquin Highlands at 1:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month.
Hamilton	<i>Hamilton Quilters Guild</i> We meet The Church of Resurrection, 435 Mohawk Rd. W.at 7:00 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September through August.
Ingersoll	<i>Oxford Quilters Guild</i> We meet month at the Ingersoll Creative Art Centre, 125 Centennial Lane (in Victoria Park) at 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday and 9:00 am on the first Thursday of each month.
Kanata	<i>The Kanata Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Glen Cairn United Church, 140 Abbeyhill Dr. at 9:30 am on the second Wednesday of the month from September to June.
Kemptville	<i>Kemptville Quilters Guild</i> We meet pm at the Kemptville Pentecostal Church 1964 County Road # 43 at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month (except for holiday Mondays).
Kenora	<i>Lake of the Woods Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at St. Louis Catholic Church, 912 Superior St in Keewatin at 7 PM on the second Thursday of the month.
Kincardine	Kincardine Sunset Quilters Guild. We meet the second Wednesday of every month except July and August, at 10 a.m. in the basement of St. Anthony's Church on Russell St. in Kincardine.
Kingston	<i>Kingston Heirloom Quilters</i> We meet at St. Johns Anglican Church Hall in Portsmouth Village at 9:30 am on the first Tuesday and 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month. <i>Limestone Quilt Guild</i> Meeting Area usually is – Kingston Senior Centre, 56 Francis Street, Kingston, Ontario, but we are on zoom right now. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm on zoom.
Kingsville	<i>Erie Shores Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Kingsville Arena, 2nd floor at 7p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month.
Kirkton	<i>Huron, Perth Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Kirktown/Wooddham Community Centre at 9:00 am on the second Tuesday of the month from September through May.
Kitchener - Waterloo	<i>The Waterloo County Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Parkside Community Room of the Parkside Arena in Waterloo at 1:30pm and 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month.
Lambton	<i>North Lambton Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Port Franks Hall on the 4th Wednesday of the month.
Lindsay	<i>Lindsay Creative Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Jennings Creek Christian Reform Church, 206 Angeline St. N., Lindsay ON at 1:00 pm every 2nd Monday of the month except for October, December and June.
London	<i>London Friendship Quilters Guild</i> We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month from September to June. The meeting usually runs from 7pm to 9pm. We are located at St. George's Presbyterian Church, 1475 Dundas Street, London, Ontario N5W 3B8. To contact us: <a href="mailto:lfqg.president@gmail.com">lfqg.president@gmail.com</a> or our web page: <a href="http://lfqg.londonfriendshipquiltguild.com">lfqg London Friendship Quilt Guild</a>
Manitoulin Island	<i>Island Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Community Hall in Mindemoya at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of the month from September though June.
Markdale	<i>Queen's Bush Quilters</i> We meet at Annesley United Church, 82 Toronto St. at 7:00 pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month from September to June.
Meaford	<i>Georgian Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Meaford Opera House, Sykes St. at 1:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Mississauga	<i>Cawthra Senior's Centre</i> We meet at the Cawthra Senior's Centre at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of the month (except July and August).
	<i>Mississauga Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Tomken Twin Arenas at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month (except July and August).
Miramichi	<i>Miramichi Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Seamans Hospital at 7:00 pm every Tuesday and 10:00 am every Thursday.
Mount Forest	<i>Four Corners Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Mount Forest & District Sports Complex at 7 pm on the second Tuesday of the month from September to June. For more information email <a href="mailto:4cornersquiltersguild@gmail.com">4cornersquiltersguild@gmail.com</a>
Napanee	<i>Heritage Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Strathcona Paper Center at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month from September through to June.
Newmarket	<i>The Region of York Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Newmarket Community Centre, 200 Doug Duncan Drive on the fourth Wednesday of the month from September through May. <i>Moraine Quilt Guild</i> We meet in the hall at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church – 484 Water Street, Newmarket at 9:30 am – 12 Noon for Social Sew and 1:00-3:30 pm for the Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month year round.
Niagara Region	<i>The Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Merrion Community Centre, 7 Park Ave., St. Catharines on the third Wednesday of each month.
Nobleton	A chapter of the <i>Modern Quilting Guild</i> We travel to various locations in Southern Ontario on a rotating basis.
Norwich	<i>Quaker Quilt Guild</i> We meet at 89 Stover St N, Norwich at 9:30 am on the second Monday of the month.
Orangeville	<i>Dufferin Piecemakers' Quilting Guild</i> We meet at the Orangeville Event Centre at 7:30 pm on the third Monday of the month from September through June.
Orilla	<i>Orillia Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at ODAS Park, 4461 Fairgrounds Road, Orillia at 1 PM on the third Wednesday of each month except July.
Orleans	<i>Common Thread Quilt Guild</i> Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm at MIFO, 6600 Carriere St, Orleans. <a href="http://www.commonthreadquiltguild.ca">www.commonthreadquiltguild.ca</a>
Orono	<i>Ganaraska Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Seniors Activity Centre. 200 Station St. W at 7:15 pm on the last Wednesday of the month.
Oshawa	<i>Durham Trillium Quilters'</i> We meet at the Zion Christian Reformed Church 409 Adelaide Ave. E, Oshawa at 7:00pm every second Monday Sept.- June
Ottawa	<i>Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild</i> Our guild meets both in-person and on the ZOOM platform September to December and April to June and only on ZOOM for the January, February and March meetings. The meetings are held the second Monday of the month. In-person meetings are at the Riverside United Church, 3191 Riverside Drive in Ottawa. Email: <a href="mailto:ottawavalleyquiltersguild.org">ottawavalleyquiltersguild.org</a>
	<i>QuiltCo</i> We meet at the Trinity Anglican Church in Old Ottawa South on the second Monday evening of the month except July and August.
Owen Sound	<i>Bluewater Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, 1900 3rd Av E at 7:00 pm every third Monday from March to December (except May which is on the second).
Paris	<i>Paris Quilting Bees</i> We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September to June at the Paris Fairgrounds at 7 PM. For information email: <a href="mailto:parisquiltingbees@gmail.com">parisquiltingbees@gmail.com</a> .
Penetanguishene	<i>Georgian Bay Quilters Guild</i> Meets every month from September to June at the Penetanguishene Arena, 61 Maria St, Penetanguishene, Ontario. Monthly meetings (except for December & June) are the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. December & June meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month with the June meeting starting at 6:00 p.m.
Perth	<i>Lanark County Quilters Guild</i> We meet at Lions Hall, Perth Fairgrounds at 7pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month.
Petawawa	<i>Pembroke Log Cabin Quilters</i> We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month during the school year in the basement of 1163 Victoria Street. Our social time begins at 6 pm and meeting at 7 pm. Email: <a href="mailto:pembrokelogcabinquilters@gmail.com">pembrokelogcabinquilters@gmail.com</a> . FB: Pembroke Log Cabin Quilters, Web page: <a href="http://pembrokelogcabinquilters.ca">pembrokelogcabinquilters.ca</a>
Pickering	<i>Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Peace Lutheran Church, 928 Liverpool Road, Pickering at 7:00 pm on the 4th Monday of the month September through May, excluding December.
Port Loring	<i>Argyle Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Lions Den in Arnstein on the second Thursday of the month.
Port Perry	<i>Port Perry Patchers</i> We meet at the Hope Christian Reform Church, 14480 Old Simcoe Rd. in Prince Albert at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of the month, at 7 p.m. from March to December.
Prince Edward	<i>Prince Edward County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the BCR Church in Bloomfield at 7:00 pm County on the second Wednesday of each month.
Rayside	<i>Rayside Balfour Quilting and Stitchery Guild</i> We meet at the Chelmsford Arena (upstairs) 215 Edward Avenue, Chelmsford, Ontario at 7:00 p.m. every Monday from September to May.
Renfrew	<i>Quilt Guild Renfrew &amp; Area</i> We meet at the Horton Community Centre, 1005 Castleford Road, Horton from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from September to June.
Richmond	<i>Richmond Area Quilters Guild (RAQG)</i> We meet at the Richmond Legion, 6430 Ottawa Street at 7:30 on the third Wednesday of each month.
Ruthven	<i>Erie Shores Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at the Ruthven-Olinda United Church every third Tuesday.
Sarnia	<i>Sarnia Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Redeemer Christian Reformed Church 5814 Blackwell Sdrd, Sarnia at 7pm the first Monday of each month.
Sault St. Marie	<i>Stitches From The Heart Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Senior's Centre on Bay St at 7pm the last Monday of the month.
Scarborough	<i>Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Peace Lutheran Church, 928 Liverpool Road, Pickering at 7:00 pm on the 4th Monday of the month September through May, excluding December.
Simcoe	<i>Twilight Quilters' Guild of Norfolk County</i> We meet at the Old Wyndham Church, 30 Glendale Crescent at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month.
	<i>Norfolk County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Vittoria & District Community Centre on the first Tuesday of each month except October.
Stittsville	<i>The Quilters Club</i> We meet at the The Pretty Street Community Centre at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of the month.
St Marys	<i>The Stonetowne Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the End Zone Room of the Pyramid Centre at 9:30 am on the third Tuesday of the month from September to May.
Stony Creek	<i>Stoney Creek Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Royal Canadian Legion, 12 King Street East, at 6:30 pm on first Wednesday of the month from September to June.
Sudbury	<i>Sudbury &amp; District Quilting &amp; Stitchery Guild</i> We meet at 140 Durham Street at 7:00 pm on every Tuesday from September to April.
Sutton	<i>The Georgina Pins and Needles</i> We meet at the Knox United Church 34 Market Street at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month from September to June.
Thunder Bay	<i>Thunder Bay Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Calvin Luthern Church on Edward Street at 7:30pm on the 3rd Monday of each month from September to June.
Toronto	<i>Etobicoke Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Neilson Park Creative Centre at 7:15 pm on the third Monday of the month. <i>Pieceful Nights Quilters' Guild of North Toronto</i> meets the second Wednesday of each month. During COVID-19 meetings will be held via Zoom. Guests welcome. <a href="https://www.pnqg.ca">https://www.pnqg.ca</a> .
	<i>Toronto Modern Quilt Guild</i> We meet at The Workroom Studio, 46 Nobel St Studio 102 at 3:00 pm on the last Sunday of each month.
	<i>York Heritage Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Toronto Botanical Gardens on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from September through May.
	<i>Yorkshire Rose Quilters' Guild of Toronto</i> We meet at Danforth Mennonite Church, 2174 Danforth Avenue at 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month from September through May.
Waterloo	<i>The Waterloo County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet the Albert McCormick Community Centre at 1:30 pm and 7pm on the third Wednesday of each month from September through June
Whitby	<i>Kindred Hearts Guild</i> We meet at the Whitby Baptist Church on the third Tuesday of the month.
Windsor	<i>Windsor Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 594, 5030 Howard Ave., Windsor, ON N9A 6Z6 at 9:00 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month from September to June.
York Region	<i>The Moraine Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at 1:00 on the first Wednesday of the month.



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Writing From Life

by Jeanette Lukowski

Shop Hops Are \_\_\_\_\_

I remember picking up this newspaper a number of years ago because I wanted to see what was happening in the area. What quilt shops were having a sale or special event that I could drive to during an upcoming weekend?

That's ultimately how I got involved in Shop Hops. This year, I have already participated in two quilt store shop hops, and am looking forward to the third.

For me, Shop Hops Are Fun!

The first shop hop I participated in this spring was a "local" hop, involving eight shops and four days. Working together, the shop owners had agreed on a theme, and each designed a free paper pattern to be given to each participant; the idea being that shoppers could complete a cute table topper when done hopping. I made it to four shops.

Each shop, it turns out, featured a different color scheme and "finishing kit." If a customer liked a specific store's color-way the best, would that mean having to return to the shop when finished? Or, would customers end up purchasing several different kits, because they liked the next shop's better?

Translation: Shop Hops Are Customizable.

For me, the beauty of the shop hop is also seeing what is unique to each shop. Although the second and third shop hops of the year are focused around specific lines of fabric—which each participating shop carries until they run out—there are also the differences in general inventory each shop carries. A template I have been considering, a pattern I never saw before, a specific fabric panel a previous shop ran out of, a line of fabric this new shop focuses on heavily; I think of these as the fun discoveries of a hop.

It is also intriguing to hear from shop employees who speak about which of the two largest shop hops they do—vs. do not—participate in, and why.

Shop Hops Are a Bit Overwhelming.

Historically, I only participate in a shop hop if I like the featured fabric. I conduct a bit of research online before-hand, and tend to make a decision. If there's nothing "in it for me," I stay on the sidelines. Participation in this year's second shop hop started as a curiosity: I was going to be traveling a bit during its run, helping out a number of family members with other things. How many participating shops would fall naturally along each driving route?

Starting to feel guilty regarding the quantity of fabrics I have been purchasing, I got a lunch invitation from an old friend I haven't seen in more than five years.

While driving home from the last shop I visited for the second hop, I decided to bring a small gift to my friend: a table runner. No need to shop for specific fabrics, though, as my "stash" from previous years already contains the perfect complement of four designs at home.

© Jeanette Lukowski 2024. Jeanette is a mother, grandmother, teacher, and author who lives in Mankato, MN. She is inspired by the lives of strong women. Her email address is: [writingfromlife@yahoo.com](mailto:writingfromlife@yahoo.com)

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