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In this Issue

Free Pattern. 4
Map. 22
Quilt Guild Guide 20
Recipes 6, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18

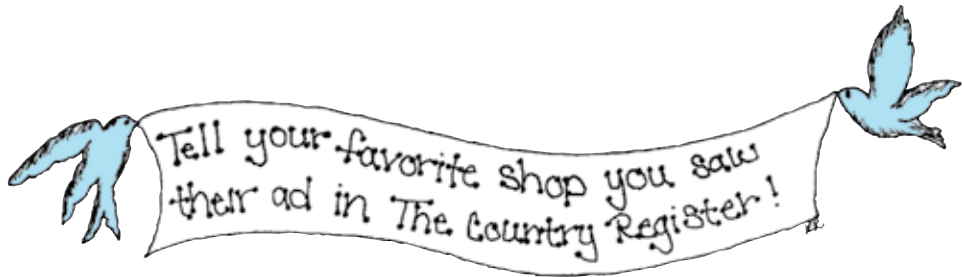
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Milwaukee-based artist, Melissa Malkowski, is the artist behind the fresh, homegrown brand House Fenway. Combining her love for home décor and illustration, Melissa created House Fenway three years ago to celebrate her journey of transforming their family house into a cherished home. Her artwork directly reflects her love for gardening, nature and simplistic countryside.

When Melissa's not busy working on her next illustration, she's spending time with her family. A busy "boy-mom" and wife, she enjoys her son's many baseball games, a coffee date with her husband or a good British-drama and a cup of tea.

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Food and Photographs Worth a Thousand Words

by Kerri Habben Bosman

"Love that someone is there for it," the text reassures.

I am transported to a high school gym on an evening this past January as I sent my stepdaughter, Kira, photos of her daughter cheerleading. I had inundated her with images, so I said I hoped I wasn't being a pest. She answered, "Not at all! Love that someone is there for it!"

It was the last text I would ever receive from Kira. She wasn't at the game because she was in a cancer center three hours away. Her condition deteriorated suddenly, and a week later she passed away. As all the family and I sat with her those days, I quietly said to her that we would love her children as our own. She has three children, Kaylie (20), Emma (18), and Hunter (15).

In these months since Kira's death, we've continued being there for her family just as we did when she was with us. My husband, Wayne, and her husband, Nic, work on projects in their garages together and this spring we went to nearly all of Hunter's high school lacrosse games. His team won the State Championship in May. He will be his team's main goalie next year. And, he has a 4.0 grade point average! Not that we're proud of him or anything.

Often, Wayne and I pick up Hunter from school or after practice. We take him to and from his friends' houses and to see his girlfriend's soccer games.

When Hunter and I are sitting in the car, I silently pray. I ask that Kira's love for Hunter surround us. I ask that my own love for him be infused with hers, and that he will feel our combination of energies supporting him.

Because he is a teenager, he says little during our drives. But as we ride along, the quiet isn't awkward. It is just a comforting silence.

My mother taught me that food sometimes speaks louder than words. So, I cook Hunter's favorite meals and bake brownies and cookies for him to share with the lacrosse team. Sometimes he says something like "those meatballs were delicious," or "you make the best sandwiches." And I am filled with a happiness I cannot fully explain.

Throughout his lacrosse season this past spring, I shot photos at nearly every game using my zoom lens. Over the months I could see my own improvement at capturing the moments. I not only take photos of Hunter, I also take pictures of other players. After each game, I send the photos to Hunter, and he and his friends on the team enjoy them. By the end of lacrosse season, I was on the side of the field with the team photographer and the local newspaper reporter.

After one mid-season game, I told Hunter I'd found a good spot to take pictures. He answered, "I know. I saw you." From then on I never left the side of the field until the game was over. I wanted him to see me there supporting him, whether he had a shut-out or let in a few goals.

I know my role as a bonus grandmother; Hunter has his mother, who is always within him. He has his grandmother, who has been there his whole life and, then there is me in this unique space of loving him through his grandfather's and his mother's eyes. And through my own eyes, which sometimes fill up with tears when I know he isn't looking. They are not tears of grief, they are a tangible release of this not completely definable love that overflows within me. In those moments, I know that my car-ride prayers have been answered.

And that somehow, some way, Kira knows someone is there.

Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer living in Cape Carteret, NC. Her email is 913jeeves@gmail.com.

Shifting Seasons Bring New Beginnings

by Nancy Nash

Recently someone showed me a greeting card with a message that read “Every ending holds within the seeds of a new beginning.” I tend to think of September and October as such a time. Summer is ending, and fall is starting.

As a child, September marked the end of summer vacation and the opening of school. We kids had to be outfitted for our upcoming adventure in the land of learning, so Mom took us shopping for clothes. New shoes were a must. We went to a shoe store, where a salesman sat on a stool and used a small metal contraption to measure our feet. We tried on shoes, whereupon the salesman swiftly tied the laces, and we jumped up and walked. Mom and the salesman bent low and peered at our feet, squeezing the “toes” of the shoes to make sure there was room for growth. It was exciting when I took home a pair of red tie shoes one year, nicely polished and not yet marred by schoolyard scuff marks. That evening, I proudly showed them off to Dad and was delighted when he admired them.

Next came supplies: pencils and erasers, rulers and paper and crayons. The school provided basics, but there might be homework, or maybe we would want to draw something at home for fun, like the horse in the meadow down the road or a flock of Canada geese flying south for winter.

Those first years, we learned the alphabet and started to read. Grammar made its appearance. We learned numbers and counting, addition and subtractions, division and multiplication. We learned to read books, sounding out words that were entirely new to us.

By the end of September, Mother Nature turned a page, and we slid into autumn. This was the season of harvest, which meant new foods appeared on the table. In October, pale yellow butternut squash replaced the bright yellow summer squash that had filled our plates. There were red apples to pick instead of strawberries and tomatoes. We looked for wild grapes along the fence line and crab apples on the slope of the pasture across the road. Mom and Grandma made crab apple preserves and canned them in glass containers while chatting about the local news. We looked forward to smearing delicious fruit from those jars on toast for breakfast for months to come.

The chill air beckoned us homeward at night, where we could curl up in homemade patchwork quilts or make ourselves cozy in warm woolen afghans. The change of season also awakened our sense of adventure. We hiked into the hills and hauled out skates and skis from the cellar to make sure we were prepared for winter sports.

Dark chilly evenings also invited storytelling, when we children would hear about the long-ago (to us!) hijinks of Dad and his siblings. My father told of a prank the kids in his neighborhood played on an eccentric old codger one such chilly October evening when the man was away from home. They managed to take a small buggy and suspend it from a large tree limb. My father, a boy at the time, thought they had gone too far. He quietly left the group, walked to the porch, and grabbed the man’s cane, rhythmically striking the floorboards with it to simulate the sound of the old gentleman walking. Plunk! Plunk! Plunk! The other kids fled.

The next day, the neighborhood parents got wind of what had happened, the pranksters got rounded up, and the imperiled buggy got returned to its assigned spot in the dirt driveway. Perhaps a motherly autumn breeze passing through the yard wiped a few leaves off its surface. Surprisingly, it looked no worse for its adventure.

Thus, did our parents and grandparents share stories, rituals, and crafts with us, preserving the past and preparing us for future challenges and opportunities. As the kaleidoscope of seasons shifts and reveals new experiences, may you find the seeds of new beginnings to strengthen and inspire your journey in life.

© 2025 Nancy J. Nash - Nancy J. Nash is the author of Mama’s Books: An Oregon Trail Story and Little Rooster’s Christmas Eve, each 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 may be reached at nancynash341@gmail.com.

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Chicken Cobbler

If you're a fan of chicken pot pie, this one's definitely for you—without all the chopping! While I do love my from-scratch, post-Christmas turkey stews and pot pies, sometimes it's nice to have a recipe that lands in the quick and easy category.

- ½ cup butter
- 4 cups rotisserie chicken meat, shredded
- 2 ½ - 3 cups frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 (11.36 oz/322 g) pkg Red Lobster Cheddar Bay Biscuit Mix
- 2 cups milk
- 1 (10.5 oz/284 mL) can cream of chicken soup
- 2 cups chicken stock

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Place butter in the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking dish and place in the oven to melt.

When butter is melted, add chicken in a single layer over the butter. Top evenly with the frozen vegetables.

Stir together biscuit mix, seasoning packet from the mix, and milk in a bowl until well blended; pour over the chicken and veggies. Spread lightly and evenly over the top of the mixture (do not stir it into the layers below).

Whisk together soup and stock in a second bowl until smooth. Pour over biscuit mix but do not stir.

Bake in the preheated oven uncovered until very golden brown and only very slightly jiggle in the center, about 45 minutes. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

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Kid-friendly Family Reunion Planning

by Edith Wagner, Founder and Editor Reunions Magazine

Some reunion planning activities will entice and fascinate kids, but adults often can't see the woods for the trees. One painfully obvious idea (which rarely even occurs to planners) is to involve kids in planning kids' activities! Who knows better than kids what kids want to do? Who knows better what interests kids and even where kids want to go. Ask them and take their advice. They are the future of your reunion!

Long before the reunion, when kids learn they'll be going to a reunion some protest that they'll know no one there. Face it! Some kids don't know their cousins, and an important purpose of the reunion is to get to know them. Ask one kid to start a round-robin letter or email to introduce themselves, and ask others to do their introductions, too. Start ahead.

Ask kids to produce a newsletter where they can introduce themselves and begin a dialogue to get to know one another. Or why not a blog or TicToc page? If there is even just one exchange, the kids can no longer say they'll know no one at the reunion.

Plan lots of age-appropriate activities. If there are many babies and toddlers at your reunion, organize a nursery and story time. Ask teenagers to help—they can even organize activities for their little cousins. Since the teenagers often earn their spending money babysitting, ask parents whose little ones are being entertained or supervised to reward their cousins. Let the older kids decide whether this is a volunteer or a for-hire event. Some families don't have teenagers at the moment, so consider a reunion budget item to hire a student to direct kids' activities, sports, lead songs or hikes, games and contests.

Know your kids and plan accordingly. Plan ahead for the equipment and supplies you'll need for planned activities. Bring bikes, skates and scooters. Bring board games, craft supplies, video games, CD players, DVDs, videos, children's books and lots of snacks.

Plan activities for children and adults together to mix generations and branches of the family. Remember the Fourth of July games when you were a kid? Kids love them still: sack races, water balloon- or egg-tossing, three-legged races, relay races or scavenger hunts. And they're not limited to the holiday.

Make up, design or develop personalized games just for your family. How about family bingo? To answer questions on the card, kids must meet and learn about family members. Or a family trivia game: Who fought in World War II or Iraq? Who has twins? Who flew over the equator? Who was an Olympic rower? Who was born in Green Bay? Who was a Rockette?

How about a talent show? This is a great opportunity for all kids to show off their tap dancing or piano (or other instrument) recital piece. It's an opportunity for cousins to get together and entertain each other: singing, dancing, playing their instruments. It's a perfect chance to use that ballet tutu one more time—and an incredible opportunity to take pictures of the kids in action.

Plan your reunion near major attractions, such as amusement parks, aquariums, museums and areas of special interest to kids. Often these places offer group rates and promotional materials you can use to promote your reunion.

Have an awards ceremony just for kids. Celebrate every (and I mean every) accomplishment since the last reunion: promotions, graduations, awards, honors, accomplishments. Start at kindergarten and go all the way through college. Announce them, laud, applaud them, clap and stomp and shout about them. After all, if your own family can't be proud of you, who can?

Encourage kids with tangible rewards: ribbons, certificates, plaques, medals, maybe even a little money. Many families provide scholarships for students at some or all levels of education. Some are small and some very generous, but all carry the whole family's pride in its next generation.

And finally—this is a family reunion, after all—add family history in ways

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that will entertain young and old alike. Re-enact family events or historical events that affected the family. Kids can make a family tree or encourage older members to tell family stories. Ask kids to help collect the family's oral history. Then ask them to be the storytellers of what they've collected; through their retelling, they carry on family legend and history, which is one of the great purposes of having a family reunion.

Listen to podcast *Do kids look forward to your reunion?* And check hundreds of activity suggests on our Pinterest page at *Things kids do at reunions*.

Edith Wagner is founder and editor of Reunions magazine, www.reunionsmag.com, various reunion-related web pages, podcasts and author of The Family Reunion Sourcebook. Wagner is a regular guest (adopted cousin) at the Seidemann Family Reunion in Newburg, Wisconsin. The magazine is reader-driven and welcomes reports, pictures and/or videos from family, class, military and other reunion planners. Send to editor@reunionsmag.com.

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Fall a Season of Beauty

by Janet Young

Fall signifies the end of summer with its' cooler temperatures, and longer nights. But it also brings a season of beauty with the changing of the leaves. A landscape of red, yellow, and gold leaves, beautifies our surroundings. And when the wind blows and swirls the leaves to the ground, it provides a playground for young and old alike to play in the leaves. If playing in the leaves is not your cup of tea, just walking over the crisp fallen leaves lets you know that fall has arrived.

With the cooler temperatures, you may find you are staying home more, wrapped in a cozy blanket or a warm sweater. To add to that coziness, now may be the time you light your first, of the season fire, in the fireplace.

With a warm, cozy atmosphere, you may find yourself reading a book or watching your favorite TV show, or football, while enjoying a mug of hot apple cider, or a mug of pumpkin latte'.

Because Fall is a transitional season, take advantage of this slower time and reflect on what or on whom you are thankful. By doing so, you will be in a better position to handle the upcoming holiday season, which we know to be pretty hectic. No matter how hard you try to keep the holidays on a low key, somehow it just doesn't turn out that way, for the majority of us that is.

Fall invites us to enjoy our harvest. Whether you raised your own food, or attend Farmers Markets, you will have an array of fresh fruits and vegetables to enjoy, as well as decorative touches. Pumpkins, gourds, even the leaves themselves can all be used to add decorative touches to our tables, on our mantles, or even outside by the front door. Who says Fall is only a season of beauty! Fall, also can have a dark side when we begin to prepare for Halloween, which just shows the versatility of this time of the year.

Before long the cold winds will blow. So, while you can enjoy the fleeting days of Fall, get outside and walk through a corn maze, or take a hay ride, and last but not least go to the pumpkin patch, and pick out a pumpkin or two.

And remember, Fall is a season of beauty!

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



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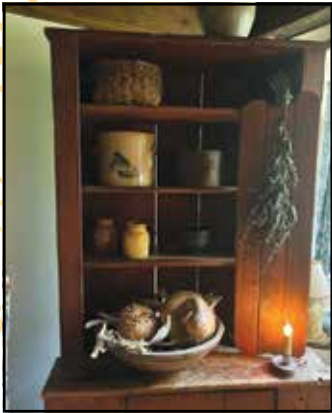
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A Transformed Tapestry

The season of fall is a time of perpetual change. The height of the summer has now given rise to the abundance and magic of fall. All around us nature provides reminders that there is beauty in letting go. As the days become shorter, we are often drawn inward, with a deep appreciation for what surrounds us. As we see the trees in our landscape transform into tapestries of amber and fiery red, we cannot help but feel grateful for one of the nature’s most spectacular soulful displays.

Bringing in the Harvest

In our own country yards, we find similar abundance and change. Our gardens and fields are filled with huge pumpkins, butternut squash, acorn squash and produce that can be harvested and preserved to be enjoyed during the colder days to come. Tall cornstalks can be picked and nestled around our colonial Boston-style lamp post or used to fill our large country wagons or kegs in our outdoor fall displays. Our homegrown pumpkins and gourds can be picked at their peak and brought indoors to enhance the beauty of an early hewn trencher or an antique splint harvest basket. Bringing the splendor of the season into our homes lends a natural beauty to our days and is a country joy that we often crave on these brisk days of fall. Even small country pleasures like having the golden glow of a Pumpkin Bread or Colonial Apple Butter candle on your harvest table on a rainy fall day is a delight for our senses. And taking an afternoon to turn a bushel of our very own Macintosh apples into homemade apple pies as a surprise dessert for a Sunday family meal is yet another gift of the season of fall.

Capturing the Magic of Fall

Spending time outdoors in the cool country air is another way to embrace this season of change. A family day of raking leaves or making a country scarecrow from hay, a Buffalo plaid flannel shirt, overalls and straw hat is the perfect way to share in having fun and making memories. On a clear night of a harvest moon, friends and family can gather to enjoy a beautiful bonfire as the happy conversation brings everyone together in celebration of fall.

This season, embrace the country magic that fall always provides. As nature transitions to a grand display of wonder, let it ignite awe and inspiration. And as you reflect on the gifts of the season, share that abundance with those you hold dear.

--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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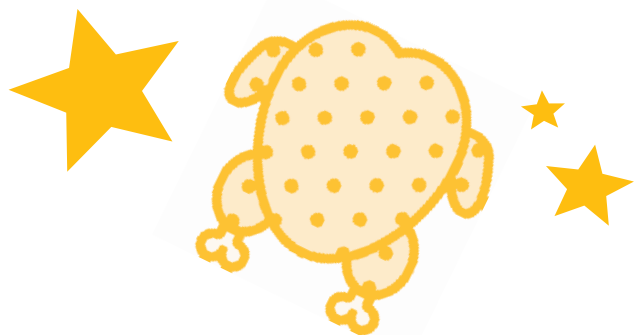
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Winner, Winner, Rotisserie Dinner

by Colleen Gust

There are few things more comforting than walking into a grocery store on a chilly evening and catching a whiff of that unmistakable scent — golden skin, sizzling juices, and a touch of seasoning that whispers, “Dinner’s handled,”

Rotisserie cooking isn’t a modern marvel. The technique goes back to medieval times, when large pieces of meat — including birds — were skewered on a spit and rotated over an open fire. Back then, rotating the spit was often the job of a “spit boy” (also called a “turnbroach”), usually a young servant or, in some cases, a specially trained dog in a wheel called a turnspit dog. And you thought working like a dog was just a saying.

The French, of course, refined the technique. Rôtisserie is the French word for both the method and the place — the original rotisserie restaurants were meat-centric establishments popular in 15th-century Paris.

Did you know that Swiss Chalet was founded in Toronto in 1954, and for a time, it had a thriving enterprise centred around its chicken meals. The modern supermarket rotisserie chicken boom began in the 1990s, mainly due to industry giants like Costco and Superstore.

Rotisserie chicken’s appeal isn’t just in its convenience — let’s be honest, it’s the go-to solution for those “I forgot to defrost dinner” nights—but also for its versatility.

From soups and salads to tacos and casseroles, this bird knows how to wing its way into almost any dish. Need a quick dinner after hockey practice? Rotisserie chicken wrap with ranch and lettuce. Do you have a container of leftover rotisserie chicken? You’ve got the makings of:

Buffalo chicken dip: Add hot sauce, cream cheese, cheep and cheerful.

Chicken pot pie: Because who doesn’t want comfort food with extra peck appeal?

Asian lettuce wraps: Toss with hoisin and ginger, and serve in lettuce cups for a light but cluck-tastic bite.

Pasta dishes: Creamy Alfredo + rotisserie = fowl play on flavour.

On a weeknight, buying a rotisserie chicken can feel like a small miracle. They often cost less than purchasing and roasting a raw bird, serving as a loss leader for many grocery stores.

And let’s not forget about the carcass! When the meat is gone, the bones can still work wonders, turning into liquid gold in the form of homemade chicken stock. Personally, I sneak in some broth-making overnight in my slow cooker. You’re truly getting your money’s worth from beak to tailfeather.

Whether you’re a university student with only a microwave, a tired parent trying to make something edible before homework time, or a foodie looking for a shortcut into gourmet territory, the humble rotisserie chicken can be a godsend for fast and flexible meals. Rotisserie chicken doesn’t just help us eat well; it helps us cope. It’s the quiet hero of the grocery store, always spinning, always ready, always there when we forget to take something out of the freezer.

Rotisserie chicken may not be flashy. It’s not your Instagrammable avocado toast or artisan sourdough, but it gets the job done — deliciously. And remember: Friends don’t let friends dry out chicken. So give it a spin — it might just be the breast decision you’ll ever make.

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.

Chicken and Stuffing Casserole

My husband looked a little puzzled when I said I was testing recipes with pre-cooked chicken. I had to laugh and explain—sure, a fresh rotisserie chicken is wonderful, but it’s the leftovers that need a little extra love! And with the festive season just around the corner (hello, turkey leftovers!), having some cozy, creative recipes up my sleeve feels extra handy.

- 1 cup salted butter, divided
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped carrot
- 1 cup chopped celery
- ½ – ¾ cup flour
- 6 cups low-sodium chicken broth, divided
- 4 ½ cups shredded cooked chicken
- 1 cup frozen peas
- ½ cup whipping cream
- 1 Tbsp chopped fresh thyme
- ¾ tsp salt
- 1 tsp black pepper
- ½ tsp Old Bay seasoning
- Nonstick cooking spray
- 2 boxes Stovetop Stuffing

Preheat the oven to 375°F.

In a Dutch oven, melt ½ cup of the butter over medium-high heat. Add the onion, carrot, and celery, and cook until the vegetables are beginning to soften, about 3 minutes. Sprinkle the flour over the vegetable mixture and cook, stirring frequently, for 1 minute.

Gradually stir in 4 cups of the chicken broth. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat medium-low. Simmer, stirring often, for about 5 minutes or until the sauce begins to thicken. Stir in the chicken, peas, cream, thyme, salt, pepper, and Old Bay. Return to a simmer and cook for 3 minutes more.

Spray a 13-by-9-inch baking dish with nonstick spray and pour in the chicken mixture. Place the remaining ½ cup of butter in a large, microwave safe bowl. Cover and cook on high for 1 minute to melt. Stir in the stuffing mix, remaining 2 cups of chicken broth. Let stand 2 minutes or until the stuffing mix has absorbed the broth.

Top the chicken mixture evenly with the stuffing mixture. Bake until golden brown on top and bubbly around the edges, 30 to 35 minutes. Let stand 15 minutes.

"I Love Fall" Table Runner

by Deb Heatherly

Do you start counting the days midsummer until you can pull out your fall decorations? I certainly do! There's something comforting about the oranges, yellows, golds and reds of my favorite season. My front porch features mums, sunflowers, scarecrows, pumpkins and of course, an abundance of leaves. I love collecting garlands made of silk leaves and additional single leaves to mix in with all the décor. The entire look always makes me stand back and smile.

Once the outside is complete its time to do a little decorating inside. This year I designed a quick and easy table runner to add to my seasonal display and I'm happy to share that pattern with you.

For 4 blocks you will need

- 1/3 yd. Light Background (or a variety of light backgrounds)
- 1 FQ each Red, Gold, Yellow, Orange

From each FQ of red, gold, yellow, orange, cut

- (3) 3 1/2" squares, (1) 3" square, (2) 4" squares for HST, (1) 1" x 5 1/2"

Light background

- Cut (1) 3 1/2" x WOF strip. Sub-cut (8) 3 1/2" squares
- Cut (1) 4" x WOF strip. Sub-cut (8) 4" squares for HST

Backing 1 yd.

For traditional binding

- Cut (3) 2 1/2" x WOF strips OR use a pillow turn method that requires no binding.

Directions:

- Draw a diagonal line on the back of the 4" light background squares.
- Pair right sides together with the red, gold, yellow, and orange 4" squares.
- Sew 1/4" from the line on both sides of the line. Cut on the line to yield (4) HST of each color. Press seams toward the color.
- Trim to 3 1/2".

For leaf stem:

- Cut (4) of the light background 3 1/2" squares diagonally 1x to yield (8) triangles.
- Center and sew on opposite sides of the 1" x 5 1/2" red, gold, yellow and orange strips. Press seams toward light background.
- Trim to 3 1/2" making sure the corners with red, gold, yellow and orange are centered.
- Make 4 blocks as shown pressing seams as indicated by the arrows. One of each color. Blocks should measure 9 1/2".
- Stagger the leaves and sew the blocks together as shown.

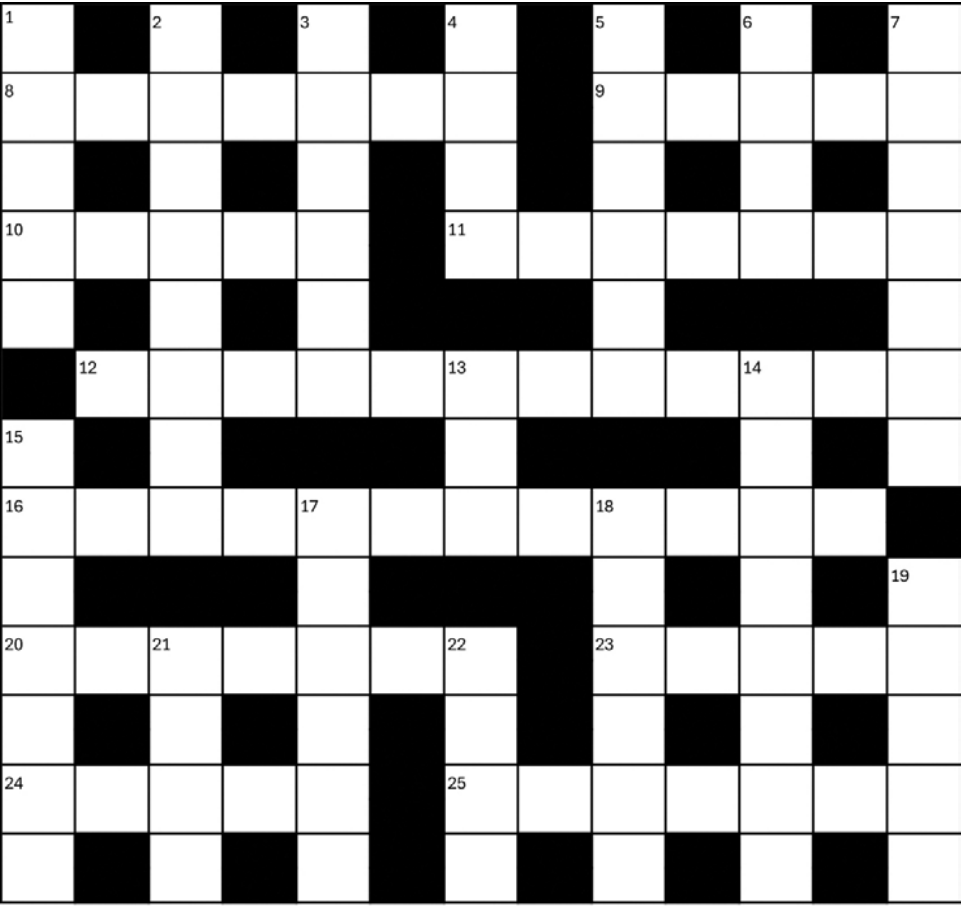
Make and use traditional binding OR pillow turn the runner. To pillow turn, place backing (right side down) on top of the runner, then place batting on top of the backings. Sew all the way around the runner leaving a 4" opening in the center of one of the blocks to turn.

Trim the backing and batting before turning through the opening and trim the corners to reduce bulk in the points.

Hand stitch the opening closed and press. Top stitch 1/4" from the edge all the way around if desired.

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.



ACROSS

- 8 Paired Up (7)
- 9 Enlighten (5)
- 10 Spiritual emblem (5)
- 11 Eighth sign of the zodiac (7)
- 12 Accordingly (12)
- 16 Overwrought, eg (12)
- 20 Adult (5-2)
- 23 Nice Weather, perhaps (5)
- 24 Give medical attention to a sick person (5)
- 25 Parchment rolls (7)

DOWN

- 1 Intense (5)
- 2 Eroded, soilless farmland (4, 4)
- 3 Goes up a ladder (6)
- 4 Opposite of evens (4)
- 5 Change into (6)
- 6 Small piece of cloud (4)
- 7 Equivalent word (7)
- 13 In so far as (3)
- 14 Metal percussion instrument (8)
- 15 Envisage (7)
- 17 "My brother" in an Elton John song (6)
- 18 Take in and understand (6)
- 19 Wandering person (5)
- 21 Pod vegetable, sometimes deep fried (4)
- 22 Cuban coin (4)

(solution can be found on p. 23)



Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

Autumn Leaves

The distant horizon greets me as I walk through a landscape painted with the rich warm tones of gold, crimson and bronze. The gentle autumn breeze, even on a sunny day, possesses an unmistakable chill.

Overhead, the leaves clinging desperately to barren branches rustle a melody of greeting as I pass. With an accompanying percussion rhythm, the brittle fallen leaves scrunch into countless dried bits as they cushion my steps.

I like the gentle, warm and sunny autumn days known as Indian Summer. The out-of-doors beckons. I long to take respite from the busyness of day-to-day routine to recreate my being.

My lungs expand with exhilarating fresh brisk air. The stress, worry and frets of the day are exhaled, releasing me from their exhausting drain on my energy.

Hidden in the grass out under a big willow tree I spot a cottontail. With lop-ears tucked down close to his body, he blends in with the natural terrain. Except for his large, acutely perceptive and frightened eyes, I might not see him.

Once I'm past, the furry animal relaxes his tense muscles and hops off in the opposite direction.

High overhead in a large oak tree, a pair of squirrels bicker at one another. I smile and think, "Those two must be married."

The red robin is gone, but a V-formation of high-flying geese honk their way across a clear azure sky. Their migration south is a predictable sight of the season.

Autumn can appear a dreaded drab time, focusing on death, dying and the stark reality of the severe elements. The wildflower blossoms lose their bright blush and the wild grasses are no longer green. Their apparent life force has been snuffed out by a freezing blast from the north wind.

Survival of the fittest is the governing role of nature. Through the long cold winter, the old or weakened animals will succumb, falling victim to harsh decree.

At the appointed season, the quiet darkness of death is natural. Even welcome.

Just as day follows night, spring will follow a winter of rest. Seasons turn into years. Years accumulate into lifetimes. The future will belong to the progeny.

Geese will make a return flight when winter is past. The blades of grass will sprout and flowers will grow and bloom anew. When the robin returns, a nest will be built high in a tree, barely visible, hidden amidst the strong branches and fresh growth of lush green leaves. In the spring, prolific signs of new life will be witnessed throughout the realm of nature.

But today, as I walk through a landscape painted with the rich warm tones of gold, crimson and bronze autumn leaves, I feel a cold wind that follows the setting of the sun. The wind whisks past and stings my unprotected cheeks.

Wishing I could retreat to a sanctuary of immunity, I am reminded of the revitalizing necessity of a time to rest.



©2025 Jan Keller No reprint without permission Jan shares other pieces of her life in her books, *Pieces From My Crazy Quilt*, and *The Tie That Binds* These books can be ordered by calling 719-866-8570, or writing: Black Sheep Books, 11250 Glen Canyon Drive, Peyton, CO 80831

Rotisserie Chicken Stroganoff

This recipe was great in that it is quite forgiving for the measurements. I confess that I just eyeballed making it for supper. I've also used beef stock instead of chicken stock (because that was what was open in the fridge), and it just turns out a bit richer.

- 12 oz./340 g egg noodles
- 4 Tbsp butter, divided
- 1 cup onion, diced
- 8 oz./225 g mushrooms, sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 Tbsp flour
- 1 ½ Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- ½ tsp salt, plus more to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 ½ cups chicken stock
- ½ cup sour cream
- 2 heaping cups rotisserie chicken, chopped, skin removed

Cook the egg noodles in salted water according to the package directions. Once the noodles are cooked, drain and return them to the pot with two tablespoons of butter, and toss to coat.

Melt the remaining two tablespoons butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onions and mushrooms and cook for 6 to 8 minutes until the vegetables have softened and are browned in spots. Add the garlic and cook for a final 30 seconds, until the garlic is fragrant. Season with salt and pepper.

Add the flour to the skillet and stir the flour into the vegetables, coating on the vegetables. Cook for a minute and then add the Worcestershire sauce, and some freshly ground black pepper.

Slowly add the chicken stock in 1/2 cup increments, stirring constantly to prevent lumps.

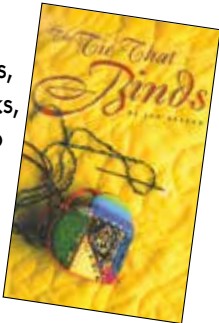
Once your chicken stock has been added, let the sauce thicken for a few minutes and then stir in the shredded chicken. Add the sour cream, and stir to combine. Add in the cooked egg noodles. Season with additional salt and pepper to your taste.



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Beside the Seaside

BLOCK OF THE MONTH



Sands  of Time



Recipe to Pamper Guests

"I feel so pampered," my friend said as she lingered over tea at my dining room table. Another time, a friend commented, "I feel elegant," as she sat at my teacart draped with blue tablecloth and placed beside the cozy fire. Since she was dressed casually in slacks and a turtleneck, I knew she wasn't referring to her attire.

These comments made me wonder, What makes guests feel pampered? Based on my experiences and responses from fellow tea-sippers, here's my recipe to pamper guests.

1. PREPARE a lovely setting.

Wherever you serve tea, a prepared place makes guests feel welcome. Tablecloths, colorful napkins, china teacups, nice silverware, a pretty teapot, glowing candles and background music create a welcoming ambiance. The setting doesn't have to be stuffy, fluffy or formal; it can be casual and homey. (Just something more than teabags and mugs of hot water.) What easy ideas do you have to create a lovely tea setting to welcome others for tea?

2. ADD delicious foods.

A variety of tasty foods in different colors, shapes and textures makes guests feel special. If possible, prepare them beforehand and serve them attractively. Or, if serving only scones and tea, select a special tea blend and serve the scones warm. If you know your guests' favorite foods, include them. Also, respect guests' dietary needs. My neighbor emailed me that she was dieting and didn't want much. I set out a miniature three-tier silver tray with dainty foods. She nibbled a few tidbits and said, "This was perfect."

3. SPRINKLE in special touches.

Pamper guests by using doilies, place cards, napkin rings and perhaps a homemade menu. You could also include a small surprise at each place setting such as a long-stemmed rose, a decadent truffle or a pretty teaspoon. I keep inexpensive gifts on hand for this purpose. When one friend came to tea and saw the lovely setting, she burst into tears and asked, "For me? No one has done something special like this for me before."

4. BLEND in listening ears.

In the busyness of life, people appreciate someone who listens, cares and accepts them without trying to fix them. Uplifting, meaningful conversation from the heart and perhaps offering to pray for them makes guests sense they are loved. Laughter, when appropriate, adds cheer.

5. INCLUDE a heaping portion of time.

Sharing your time makes others feel valued. You've already spent time preparing. Now create a relaxed atmosphere while sipping tea. "You acted as though you had all the time in the world for me," one guest said. If possible, invite people when you have several hours for a leisurely teatime, because love is spelled "T-I-M-E."

6. SERVE with a hospitable heart.

Welcome guests at the door. Serve them graciously attending to their needs such as asking, "Could I pour you another cup of tea?" Later, when they are leaving, walk them to their cars and thank them for coming.

Early fall is a great time to plan a teatime to celebrate Grandparent's Day (September 7) or back to school. The cheery fall colors of orange and gold will create a welcoming ambiance for family or friends. Whatever the theme or focus, guests will remember how we made them feel much longer than they'll remember what we served. So, let's combine these ingre-TEA-ents and pamper family and friends over a cuppa' tea.

Happy fall, y'all!

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.

From Laura's Recipe File:

Chicken-Cashew Salad

Modified from a recipe previously served at Elizabeth and Alexander's English Tea Room in Bothell, Washington

Ingredients

- 2 cups cooked chicken, cubed
- ½ cup chopped celery
- ¾ cup pineapple chunks, drained
- ¾ cup grapes, cut in half
- ½ cup chopped water chestnuts (optional)
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon curry powder or to taste
- ½ cup cashews

Directions

1. In a large bowl, combine chicken, celery, pineapple chunks, grapes and water chestnuts.
2. In a small bowl, combine mayonnaise, soy sauce and curry powder to make the dressing.
3. Spoon dressing over the chicken mixture and stir until evenly coated.
5. Chill. When ready to serve, garnish with cashews.

Serving suggestion: Place individual servings of salad on a lettuce leaf or in the center of a cantaloupe slice. Serve with a croissant and fresh fruit on the side.

Makes about 6 servings.



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GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



Kindness is a type of behavior marked by acts of Generosity, or Concern for Others... without expecting praise, or reward in return.

Kindness holds special powers! It can improve relationships because it fosters trust and strengthens bonds between people. It enhances well-being.

An act of kindness can boost our own happiness and feelings of joy.

Kindness promotes empathy. It allows individuals to understand and share the feelings of others. As we change to another season and possibly change our daily schedules, it is an opportunity to change a few small things.

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM: Increase opportunities to be a little kinder each day. Life will be a little sweeter, relationships will become a little stronger, and more joy will enter your day! This wisdom comes from a perfect source:

"So in everything you do, do unto others as you would have them do to you." Seems pretty simple that we would like people to be kind to us so that's what we should be to them!

Joy & Blessings, 

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

Buffalo Mac and Cheese

This recipe was born out of a fridge clean-out—plus the need to stock up on work lunches for the week. My husband swears by adding a drizzle of taco sauce (yes, he even keeps a bottle in his desk drawer!) for a little extra zip.

- 12 oz/340 g elbow macaroni
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 small yellow onion, diced
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- ½ tsp pepper
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 ½ Tbsp flour
- 2 ½ cups milk
- ½ cup whipping cream
- 1 ½ cups grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 ½ cups grated mozzarella cheese
- 1 heaping cup shredded rotisserie chicken
- ¼ - ½ cup Frank's Red Hot Sauce, plus more for serving
- ½ cup ranch salad dressing
- ½ cup blue cheese, crumbled (optional)

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook until al dente, about 8 minutes. Drain and set aside.

Melt the butter in a large skillet or saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic. Season with the pepper and salt and cook until the onion and garlic are softened, 3 to 4 minutes.

Sprinkle the flour over the onion and garlic and mix in. Let cook 2 to 3 minutes before slowly stirring in the milk and then the heavy cream. Bring to a gentle boil, allowing the mixture to thicken slightly, 2 to 3 minutes.

Reduce the heat to low and stir in the cheddar and mozzarella cheese a handful at a time, allowing each addition to melt before adding the next. Stir in the chicken, hot sauce, and ranch salad dressing and cook until the chicken is heated through, 1 to 2 minutes. Add the cooked pasta to the sauce and toss well to combine.

Serve topped with the blue cheese, and a drizzle of hot sauce.



Autumn: My Favorite Season

by Tammy Page

Do you remember when we layed at the end of our twin beds, on top of the covers with a fan blowing in our faces? I was 6 in 1966 and I remember the August and September temps of the day still reached well over 90 and did not cool down by bedtime. My sister and I would put or baby doll pj's on and lay side by side in our twin beds. We would put our pillows at the end of the beds in hopes the air coming in through the screens would be cooler than the air in our room. We started out talking into the fan making the rumbling sound it makes when you talk near the blades. Our fan had a protective front and back and was made of metal back then. No doubt it also had a wobble and it made a gosh awful rattling noise. The noise would lull us to sleep. But, of course, we had to sing some songs and giggle for a while before mom would come to the door for the umpteenth time to remind us it was time to go to sleep. We would toss and turn and get up a hundred times to re-arrange our pillows just right so that our faces could lay on them at the right height and still it was way too hot and muggy to go right to sleep. By this time, mom would come back into our room and threaten to make us go back to the head of our beds if we didn't quiet down and go to sleep.

In extreme temperatures, our parents just might let us sleep in their room with the window air conditioner, after we promised to go right to

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sleep. Sometimes on a rare occasion, we were allowed to sleep in the living room where we had a new Westinghouse window air conditioner that cooled the entire living and dining room. We thought we were rich!

Most of our friends were in the same boat, only having a fan or small window air conditioner. It was rare to visit home with central air back then. If one of our friends had central air conditioning, we thought they were millionaires.

By the time morning came around and we had slept in our hot rooms, our hair would be damp and looked like Bozo the Clown. Those days my mom had to put my hair up in a ponytail for school. Schools were hot back then too but thank goodness my school, #82 had 2 sets of walls to wall windows in each classroom that could be opened. Sometimes, if we were lucky, only sometimes, our teacher would bring a fan in from home.

This Indiana heat would continue well into October where some other parts of the country were already getting snow. Needless to say, when the cooler temps came, most of us were thrilled. I was especially happy when bedtime was not so miserable. So, I have declared autumn my favorite season where you can leave the windows open, feel a cool breeze and go back to sleeping at the head of your bed.

© 2025 Tammy Page. Tammy Page writes from her family farm in Indiana.

Piecing Life Together
When to Quit

by Barbara Polston

You’ve had that type of day. You know, the kind of day where everything you touch seems to turn to garbage? I had one of those days recently.

While poking around my favorite quilt shop, I came across a line of fabric that was perfection itself. Designed in soft lavender, grey, gold and cream, the fabric was printed with doves, wheat sheaves and gentle florals. Despite my commitment not to buy more fabric, I couldn’t leave it behind. I didn’t have a project in mind; I just wanted to see these beautiful fabrics flow under my needle and turn into something lovely.

I searched out a pattern that I thought would showcase the loveliness waiting on my sewing table. Months ago, I cut all the strips and pieces necessary. Everything was waiting for time to sew.

Finally, the day arrived! I was excited to open my project box and begin. The pattern, although not difficult, did require some precision piecing. It was necessary to sew strips together into a unit that would measure and fit precisely to its neighbor. I just couldn’t find the “sweet spot.” Pieces either ended up too narrow or too wide. I found myself re-sewing seams to make the wide narrower and employing my seam ripper on those too narrow to restitch them hoping for a wider result. Threads were flying everywhere! I was spending the same amount of time unsewing as I was sewing. Something was wrong with every unit. It was frustrating and no fun at all. Each time I tried to assemble a block, my family heard my grunts and groans of dismay emanating from my sewing space. Perhaps, I thought, I should just put this away for today and try again later. Although it was a struggle, I completed half of the blocks needed for the quilt top.

I really wanted to make progress on this project. The next day, I sat down to piece blocks again, filled with trepidation. Low and behold, everything flowed together perfectly! I found the “sweet spot” and every strip I pieced fit perfectly with its neighbor. No ripping. No resewing. It was so enjoyable to have this success and I finished the rest of the needed blocks in record time. All the blocks were ready to lay out, piece into rows and finish into the largest section of the quilt top. What a difference a day can make!

What is the lesson here? I believe that there are some days when things just aren’t working and it’s OK to walk away. While the desire might be to forge ahead, maybe it’s better to quit and try again another time. H.G. Wells had it right when he said, “If you fell down yesterday, stand up today.”

©Barbara Polston, September 2025. Barbara is the author of Quilting with Doilies: Inspiration, Techniques, and Projects (Schiffer Press, 2015) and a series of children’s books inviting young children to share in The Adventures of Puppy Brian (www.puppybrian.com). Barbara lives in Tucson, Arizona where she has failed at retirement, but is getting more time for sewing in a variety of forms. Contact Barbara at barbarapolstonquilter@gmail.com.

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Life on my farm

Thankful for Fall

by Donna Jo Copeland, farmeress Breezy Manor Farm

*Beyond the purple hazy seas
Of summer's utmost mysteries
There lies a land long lost to me
The land of used to be...*

Written by James Whitcomb Riley over a century ago, the poem memorized in the 5th grade, come alive for me every late summer.

Especially so now that I'm 75, sipping iced tea on hot afternoons the long-ago days bring smiles. Late summer, early fall for country kids were filled with simple pleasures, and chores of course.

Not idleness as garden produce needed canned, hay baled, fences repaired, getting ready for the coming winter. And then there was school starting the day after Labor Day. Gosh the summers went by quickly.

City kids just don't understand the magic of quiet, crickets, lightning bugs, soft breezes. Sadly, with the isolation and technology of today, few people embrace simple farm life, live the magic.

The air and sky at summers end change. Cornflower blue carries white fluffy clouds on the horizon. A hint of damp leaves begins to waft on evening breezes. Even the sunshine is softer, more golden.

In this crazy unsure world, my wee farm is my refuge, my magic place. I can lose myself in caring, watching my animals. Always lots of fiber work needing done. The looms and spinning wheels isolate me from the chaos.

The sheep are newly sheared and now their fleeces need processed. Goats and bunnies will be sheared one more time. Fences need checked. House and barn need attention. And this year I have some late chicks... brooder house to be repaired and varmint proof.

As I have Fall shows and the Wool Shed is open until Christmas, woolen goods need to be made for sale. Looms and spinning wheels will hum, dyepots simmer. And I am so thankful the brutal heat of summer has eased. I love working in jeans and flannel shirts. It's my fashion statement.

As much as I love to spin and weave, rug hooking has claimed the top spot for now. Finding new ways to incorporate wool, different fabrics, textures in my designs. For me my hooking has very few rules, let's me experiment, combining techniques. My very soul is excited when I work with wools produced right here. The Wool production team seems proud too.

Pride in things made from your own realm, well made, sustainably produced, honoring the planet, caring for Mother Nature. We all should find a path, a way to make, do, and be proud. Be kinder to ourselves, the planet, each other.

Remember the hippie motto: Peace, Love.

Maybe I'm regressing. Might even dig my old bell bottom jeans, sandals (remember Dr Schools wood sandals, I still have mine) tie dye shirt out and wear. Who knows what I might find in the back of the closet or North room? Mysteries?? Memories?

Let's make this fall season one of love, peace, mystery, thankfulness. Be a little more tolerant, more caring. Find a creative outlet, maybe rug hooking. Wool has that awesome ability to soothe, calm, connect with other wool users. And then there are those wonderful sheep, their gentle eyes and that luscious fleece.

Mom's Apple Dumplings

Recipe for pie crust, rolled into a rectangle, cut into 3x5 rectangles. Butter each piece.

Peel and core 2 or 3 apples, cut into 4 or 6 slices. Put a slice on each dough piece, liberally sprinkle cinnamon sugar. Roll up, place in greased 9x13 pan. When all dumplings are made, sprinkle brown sugar over them, add about 1 cup of water. Bake at 350 for about 45 minutes. Serve with homemade ice cream.



Rustic Riches

by Marlene Oddie

At fall harvest time in the wheatfields around here, the amber waves of grain have their own beauty. I decided to work with this new collection from Lumin Fabrics, Island Batik Division, called Rustic Riches and design this Prairie Stars quilt.



This batik collection seemed just perfect to make into a quilt that some how represented the beautiful amber tones in our local wheatfields and the stars that harvest it.

This is broken down into two blocks – a star block and a single irish chain block along with sashings and cornerstones. I've selected a Neutral called Mocha as the background. This pattern includes how to do a faux piped binding. I used the teal as the accent in the faux piping and it just gives it an extra touch of elegance.

I hope you've been enjoying the designs this year, I've got one more to share before year end.

Ask at your local quilt shop that carries Island Batik fabrics for these fabrics and pattern. You can also find this pattern and some fabrics while supplies last here at KISSed Quilts.

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



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| Ajax | <i>Twisted Stitchers Quilt Guild</i> For information about our guild please go to our website twistedstitchersquiltguild.com |
| 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>Kempenfelt 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 All About Sewing 565 Unit 1-M, Barrie Ontario the last Thursday of alternative 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 56 Salmon Avenue, Bracebridge, Ontario 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> Meetings are at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Meetings are held at St. Paul's Congregational Church at 450 Park Ave. West, Chatham, ON. www.ckquiltguild.com |
| 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 & 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. |
| Gwillimbury | <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 monthly at the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre, 125 Centennial Lane (in Victoria Park) the first Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and also have virtual only meetings for the months of January, February and March. A zoom link is emailed to all members and registered guests the day before the Guild's meeting. |
| 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> We meet on the first Wednesday of the month. September to December we meet at Our Lady of Lourdes church hall, 490 Days Road, Kingston Ontario. January to April we meet on Zoom. Doors open at 6:45, with meetings starting at 7:00 pm. |
| 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: lfqg.president@gmail.com or our web page: lfqg.LononFriendshipQuiltGuild |
| 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. |

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| Markham | <i>Markham Towne Quilters Guild</i> General meeting first Thursday of every month (September-June). 11 Church Street, Markham markhamtownequilterguild@gmail.com . |
| 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 4cornersquiltersguild@gmail.com |
| 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 Merriion 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. www.commonthreadquiltguild.ca |
| 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>Offawa 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: ottawavalleyquiltersguild.org <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: parisquiltingbees@gmail.com . |
| Penetanguishene | <i>Georgian Bay Quilters Guild</i> Meets every month from September to June at the Penetanguishene Arena, 61 Mario 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. |
| Peterborough | <i>Kawartha Quillmakers' Guild</i> Meetings are at the Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke Street, Peterborough on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am. |
| 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: pembrokelogcabinquilters@gmail.com , FB: Pembroke Log Cabin Quilters, Web page: pembrokelogcabinquilters.ca |
| 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 & 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 & District Quilting & 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. https://www.pnqg.ca . <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. |
| Waterloo | <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. |
| Whitby | <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 |
| Windsor | <i>Kindred Hearts Guild</i> We meet at the Whitby Baptist Church on the third Tuesday of the month. <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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Life in Skunk Hollow

A Year with Jane Austen

by Julie A. Druck

This year being the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birthday, I was inspired to celebrate this lady and her outstanding works of literature. Over the last few months, I've taken to reading some of her novels that I hadn't read before, attending special Jane Austen events at libraries in our area, watching some of the films and British television productions of her works, and listening to historical fiction based on her life. I've taken a virtual tour of Austen's home in Chawton where she crafted the majority of her books and have been reading biographies of her, as well as a compilation of some of the letters that she wrote to others. And last but not least, culminating with her December 16 birthday, I hope to have a special tea party commemorating the event - I'm sure my granddaughters would be happy to attend.

Not only do I love the language and themes of Austen's writings, but I'm fascinated with the time period in which her works were set - that of the Regency Period from 1811 to 1820. Through her books and the period movies I've watched, I am utterly fascinated by a radically different lifestyle than our own very casual culture. I don't wish to discount the difficulties of the period relating to the many issues surrounding class distinction, the plight of the poor, and the legal limitations that greatly affected women. But I can't help admiring the beautiful empire waist dresses, graceful dance steps, gorgeous country estates, and the genteel manners of the period.

As I've immersed myself in the world and works of Jane Austen, I've been pondering some of the themes and patterns that have shown themselves to be noticeably prevalent in her stories:

- **Manners matter.** The beauty of the bows and curtsies in greetings, the discretion in conversation and respectful demeanor, and the chivalrous behavior of gentleman make me wish those things were more prevalent today. Oh, of course, there were (and are) the manipulative George Wickhams and unprincipled John Willoughbys, but their contrasting presence clearly highlights the beauty that's found in the thoughtfulness and kindness of the words and manners of most of her characters.
- **Beauty is more than skin deep.** Though I love the light and flowing dresses of the period, as well as the curling hairstyles, what makes my favorite Austen heroines most beautiful in my eyes are their characters. Elinor Dashwood is my favorite - her simple physical beauty is greatly enhanced by a gentle spirit and selfless devotion towards her loved ones. Jane Bennet has beauty of face but her kind heart that is always looking at the best in others is what draws me to her. Contrast those characters with the arrogant Mrs. Elton and the spoiled Emma Woodhouse (before her humbling reality check in self-awareness), and it's clear that the best kind of beauty is found deeper than on the surface.
- **Simple pleasures provide joy and contentment.** I never tire of reading of the pastimes of Austen characters. From strawberry picking parties to needlework by the fire, from long walks along country lanes to holidays by the seaside, the pastimes of her characters remind me that one doesn't need to attend a fancy ball (though they had those, too!) in order to find pleasure.

So, I will continue my celebration of all things Austen. More importantly, I hope that some of what's best about her characters will rub off on me. For who doesn't want to be more courteous, more beautiful, and more content? Thanks, Jane - and Happy Birthday.

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



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Brockville..... Taylor's Sewing pg. 6

Carleton Place Happy Wife pg. 9

Conn..... Creekbank Sewing..... pg. 17

Cornwall Auntie Em's pg. 2, 5

Cornwall Ron's Fabrics pg. 5

Espanola..... Cindy Bee's Quilt Shoppe..... pg. 21

Floradale..... Hillcrest..... pg. 9

Grafton Cloe Quilting pg. 6

Hamilton Hamilton Sewing pg. 2, 24

Kanata Maker Savvy pg. 8

Kawartha Lakes..... Remember Me Quilts & More .. pg. 9

Kingston..... Stitch by Stitch pg. 2, 7, 24

Maxwell..... Threads That Bind pg. 19



Mulmur..... The Retreat at the Farm pg. 16

New Liskeard Gem Sewing pg. 21

Orillia (Severn) Thimbles & Things pg. 18, 24

Orleans Quilty Pleasures..... pg. 5, 24

Orono..... Annie's Quilt Shop..... pg. 9

Ottawa Sew -Jo's pg. 2

Perth..... Perth Fabrics..... pg. 9

Petrolia Stitcharie..... pg. 2, 16

Pincourt Mad Moody Quilting Fabrics..... pg. 6

Russell Quilter's Barn & Gifts pg. 8

Sault Ste Marie Life's A Stitch pg. 21

Stayner..... Bolts2Blocks pg. 17

Sudbury Gem Sewing pg. 21

Teeswater..... Sanity Hill..... pg. 10

Uxbridge Quilter's Cupboard pg. 7

West Lorne Heather Bell's Sewing..... pg. 24

Woodville Bolts & Bobbins pg. 7

(solution to the puzzle on p. 11)

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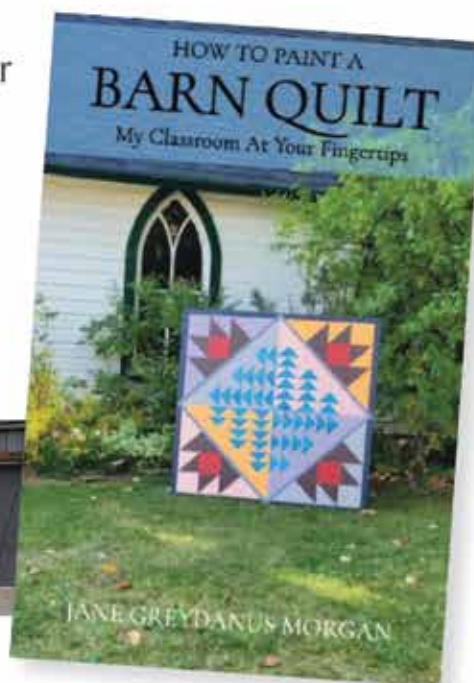
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