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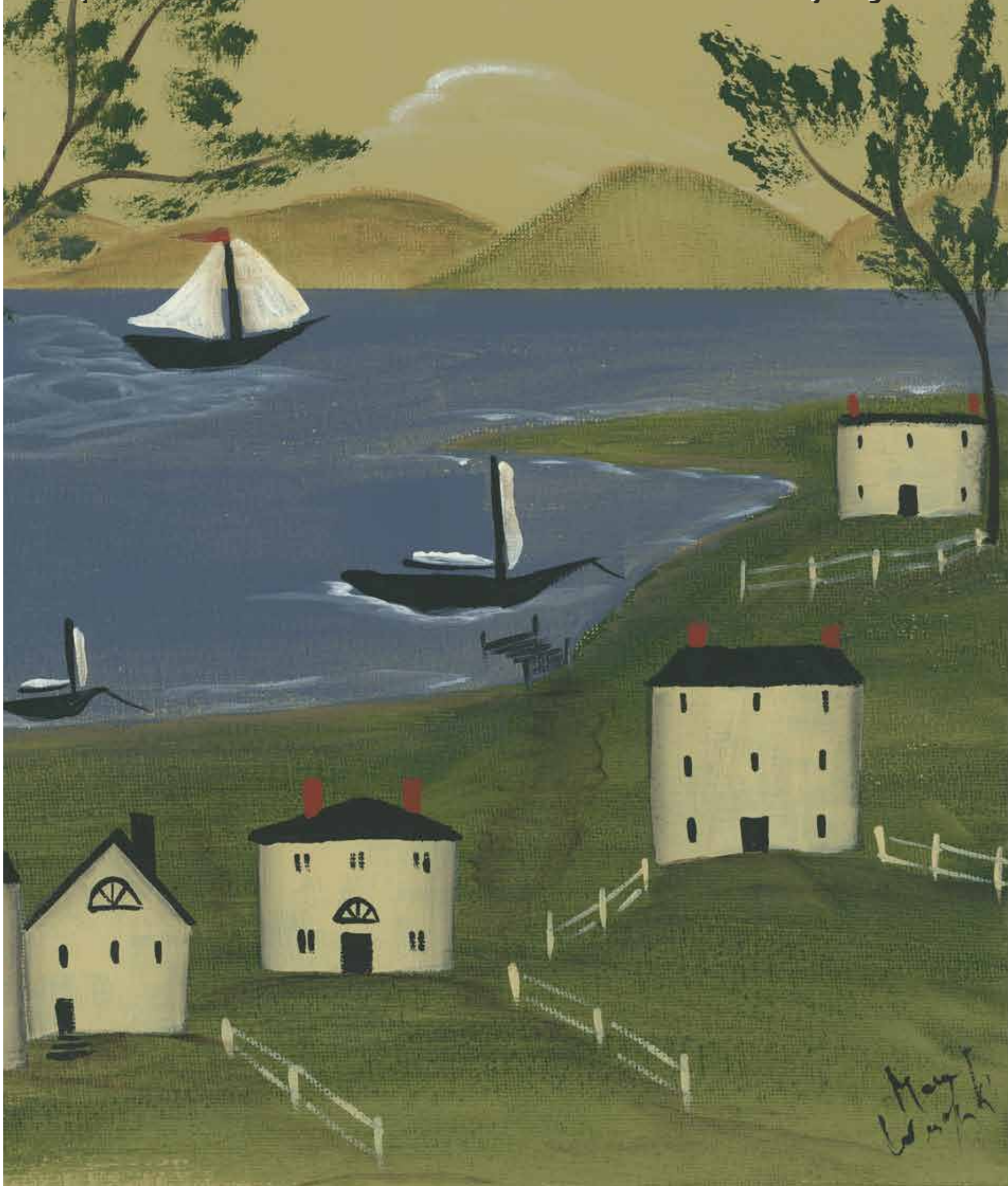
The Country Register[®]

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July-August 2018



The Country Register

Available across the U.S.A. & Canada

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The Country Register of New Hampshire

Michelle Hatch • Editor / Publisher

Doug Patch • Sales/Office Support

Nicole Hatch • Sales/Office Support

Cathy Shoemaker • Graphic Artist

20 Chester St. • Chester, NH 03036

603-571-1822

michelle@countryregisternhvt.com

The Country Register began in Arizona in the fall of 1988, to provide effective, affordable advertising for shops, shows and other experiences enjoyed by a kindred readership. Since then the paper has spread to many other areas, all of which are listed below. Look for the paper in your travels. To receive a sample paper from another area, mail \$3 in the U. S. A. or \$4 in Canada to that area's editor. Advertising rates are available upon request. If there is not a paper in your state, contact the editor of the Arizona paper at 1-888-942-8950. The Country Register is available at each shop that advertises and often at other unique locations. We hope you enjoy this bi-monthly publication and let the advertisers know you appreciate them bringing to you.

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In This Issue

Cover Story	2
Cup of Tea with Lydia.....	5
Events Calendar	3
Free Pattern.....	14
Shop Locator Map	16

Our Search for Cover Artwork —

Across the U.S. and Canada, you can always tell *The Country Register* by it's cover. Our publishers seek to find cover art or photos from the state the paper represents. To that end, we are seeking the work of artists from New Hampshire 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 michelle@countryregisternhvt.com.

About our Cover Artist

Cover art by local artist Mara Wesolaski of Raymond, NH. Mara started painting when her youngest went off to first grade. Beginning with tole painting her focus turned to folk art as influenced by her love of the work of Rufus Porter and his nephew Jonathan Poor. Her hobby quickly turned to obsession. After several years of painting, a friend suggested selling her art in a local shop. When not painting, Mara spends her time traveling with her husband and spending time with her family. Today Mara sells her work at various craft fairs throughout New England. You can check her schedule on her website, www.handpaintedbymara.com. She also sells online through her Etsy shop, www.etsy.com/shop/handpaintedbymara.

The Deadline for the Sept/Oct Issue is August 1st for Ads & Articles.

Our feature articles will focus on:
Fall Decorating and Projects

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July/August Events

- July-August Sale-50% off Select Yarns - **Knitters Garden**
- June 29-July 15 Christmas in July - **Bittersweet Blessings**
- June 30-July 2 Grand Opening Celebration - **Timeless Treasures**
- July 5th-29th Summer Sale 20% Off - **Winterberry Barn**
- July 6th-8th Beachy Keen - **Sage Farm Antiques**
- July 20th-22nd Yard Sale / Fall Debut - **Bittersweet Blessings**
- Aug. 2nd-5th Closed - **Winterberry Barn**
- Aug. 3rd-5th Junk Fix - **Sage Farm Antiques**
- Aug. 17th-19th Fall Sneak Peek - **Bittersweet Blessings**
- Aug. 18th Grand Opening - **Homespun Treasures**
- Aug. 23rd-25th Warehouse Sale - **Keepsake Quilting**
- Aug. 31-Sept. 2 Fall Open House - **Bittersweet Blessings**

Advertisers - List your events in our calendar

A Note from the Editor...



Happy July everyone! Hope your summer is in full swing and you are enjoying some fun, family and sunshine! Our free time is spent with the kiddos (Colby 8 and Madison 7) enjoying their time by the pool, riding scooters and bikes, and there is always the yummy s'mores on the fire to end the evenings. I have to be honest, Doug and I are really loving this age with them and seeing everything new and exciting through their innocent eyes. Family is a true blessing

that we are thankful for every day. As your summer goes on we hope you are able to find time to take for yourselves and to unwind from the daily grind. While out exploring and vacationing, try to stop by some local shops and see all the work they have put into their dream jobs. I always try to find new places on my travels and can not resist stopping at some of my favorite oldies but goodies. I always love seeing everyone's take on decorating and, true to form, I never leave empty handed and full of inspiration. It never ceases to amaze me how creative folks are and the amazing ideas they come up with! As Summer passes and Fall comes into view, I hope you all look back fondly at all the wonderful memories you have made during these months and smile.

~ Michelle



**Become Inspired!
Decorating, Entertaining and Living
in the Early American Style**



Summer's Solitude

In the depth of summer comes a quiet and drawn-out lull that gives us opportunities for mindful outdoor activities that provide peace and tranquility. With our gardens at a stage where they are now relatively self-sufficient, we can take a step back and enjoy the result of our hard work. The heavier chores of late spring such as cultivating the raised beds and amending the soil have transformed into smaller tasks such as light weeding or going out to the vegetable patch at the end of a hot summer day when the air is a bit cooler to fill our antique gathering basket with fresh zucchini or heirloom tomatoes. As we work happily to bring in the beginnings of our personal harvest we often feel a deep sense of reward and begin to get excited for all that we can do with the bountiful blessings before us.

Putting By

Canning or "putting by," is one way to preserve our abundance for the seasons ahead. Gathering fresh produce from your garden such as zucchini, cucumbers and peppers for relishes and pickles or bright red juicy tomatoes to can in glass jars to be used for a homemade lasagna in the dead of winter makes for a full day of old-fashioned work. There is a simple joy found in slicing succulent cucumbers and onions from your own garden. But nothing seems sweeter than seeing your filled canning jars in an array of gorgeous colors and textures ready to be stored in a pantry or buttery for future use. All of the growing, tending and nurturing is doubly rewarding when you taste these sublime slices of summer on a cold winter's evening. It is a soulful reminder of the height of the year and of nature's promise to return another summer to us.

Campfire Nights

Gardening and putting by are two of summer's soulful luxuries. Another simple blessing is a crackling fire on a midsummer's night. There is something primitive and magical about a campfire and it is perfect for a summer evening. The leaping flames lure us with their beauty and we are naturally drawn together in a spirit of camaraderie. Gathering around a fire whether it be with family or with friends brings a certain kind of happiness that our current age of technology could never rival. Somehow telling stories and catching up with the ones we love around a fire makes us easily lose track of the time because we are living truly in the moment. In the heart of this summer season enjoy the slower pace of the nice, long days. Spend time experiencing summer's simple blessings and share the lasting joy that it brings 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

The Country Register

A Basket of PICNIC MEMORIES

By Joyce Thompson

A picnic is a
state of mind &
can be made
anywhere.



www.susanbranch.com

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Like many folks did in days gone by, my grandmother kept her canned goods on shelves beside the cellar steps. I guess it was a way of keeping things cool and dry, not to mention utilizing space. Next to the canned goods was a nice big basket with handles and a cover that had caught my attention. One day when I was in my teenage years, we were cleaning out her makeshift pantry and I decided to ask her about this basket. She said it was a picnic basket that her mother had given her. To my surprise and awe, she said that she wasn't going to use it anymore, and that I could have it! Little did I know at the time, this simple gesture would be the beginning of my affinity for anything to do with picnics!

For years, I put that basket to good use. There was a little riser in the bottom of it.. you could put a pie underneath for example, and not have it get squished with the other items piled on top. I loved that picnic basket. I used it on trips to a local park where summer stock theater took place. Of course I always packed fried chicken, it seemed the most picnic-y of foods. I'd wrap it up in kitchen towels to keep it warm. Dinner rolls, macaroni salad, fresh cucumbers and tomatoes were the meal's accompaniments. Nectarines were for dessert. Simple food, but ever so tasty because of the experience!

I loved looking around to see what other families had brought with them

to these outdoor theater productions. Once in a while I'd spy someone who'd brought luxurious picnic items like shrimp cocktail or fancy cheeses. I even noticed some older couples would sneak in a carafe of wine in their picnic baskets. Ah, the memories. I may not remember the names of the plays from all those summers ago, but the smells and tastes of the food in that old picnic basket are vivid in my memory.

After all these years, my grandmother's picnic basket has been retired to a shelf and I seldom use it for fear of it falling apart. The summer stock theater has continued on for decades, but each summer I notice less and less families toting their dinners. A snack bar has taken up part of the grassy lawn. And now pizza slices and cotton candy and ice cream bars are sold to the crowds.

But despite the changes that come along with time, I've been able to keep my picnic memories alive, and also make new ones. And you can too. Junque shops, flea markets, and antique malls are great places to shop for items to use to re-create the perfect picnic. For example, vintage wool plaid blankets are all the rage right now, as are checkered tablecloths. Old plaid thermoses and tin lunch boxes of all sizes and shapes are also in vogue. Mason jars work great as individual containers for salads and side dishes.

Picnic baskets themselves come in all different shapes and sizes, some come with covers and some are lined with fabric. Some have painted scenes or stenciled designs on top. Some have trademarks like Longaberger, or even the Peterborough baskets that are made right here in NH. Old or new, picnic baskets have a certain romance of their own. No matter what kind of food you've packed, or how much shopping you've done to find the perfect basket, it really is more about the state of mind than it is the details.

Joyce is the owner of Joyce's Junque. She has booths in group shops in NH and ME. She specializes in books with a New England Theme, vintage kitchen items, wooden bowls, and the occasional picnic basket. Follow her at <https://www.facebook.com/joycesjunque/>



The Living is Easy

The sweet and tart of lemonade, a favorite tree that offers shade.

A gentle breeze that nudges chimes and brushes skin with a cooling touch:

that the summer sun has started to heat up.

A wisp of dandelion floats up then away carrying a dream I wished for today.

A butterfly hovers then pirouettes past, dancing just beyond my grasp,

reminding me to enjoy this day

as life is brief and moves too fast.



©Melissa Rosseti Folini



A Cup of Tea with Lydia

by Lydia E. Harris



Round Up a Western Teatime!

Although I grew up on a dairy farm, I've never been a cowgirl. But that didn't stop me from corralling some of my family for a tea party with a Western flair. So while the weather is still warm, let's lasso some summer-sizzlin' fun. Here are a few ideas:

Guests: Howdy, Pardners

Start by rounding up some wannabe cowgirls and cowboys of any age for an outdoor teatime. I invited my son and his wife with their three children aged seven to fourteen.

Keep the decorations colorful and simple. How about various colors of bandanas and cowboy hats? You could even provide kerchiefs for guests to wear at the party and take home afterwards.

If you like, add a crafty no-sew denim project to your table decor. All you need are worn-out blue jeans. Cut around the back pockets of the jeans. This will give you two layers of fabric—the pocket and the jean fabric. Wash the pockets. The frayed edges add to their appeal. Leave the pockets plain or decorate them with buttons, charms, or fabric paint. Set one at each place setting as a coaster for tea. Or better yet, fill the pockets with silverware (plastic is fine) and napkins. Red plaid paper napkins or colorful handkerchiefs would look cheerful.

If possible, serve your teatime on your deck or outdoors. Use casual dishes or paper plates and pint jars for glasses.

Grub: Rustle Up Delicious Vittles

Plan a tasty menu with generous portions. Tiny tidbits don't fit a Western cowboy theme.

Here are some menu ideas:

Saucy Sausage: Select a fully cooked sausage ring such as kielbasa. Cut it into bite-sized chunks and simmer them in your favorite barbecue sauce. Serve with toothpicks.

Pasta Salad: Cook wagon-wheel-shaped pasta. Add favorite chopped veggies along with olives, salami, and cheese. Drizzle with Italian dressing, and refrigerate the salad to blend flavors before serving.

Biscuits: Serve large grand biscuits that come in a tube. Or make homemade buttermilk biscuits. The key is to cut them cowboy sized—about 3 inches in diameter. My favorite recipe is made with 2 cups flour, 1 tablespoon sugar, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 tsp. soda. Next, cut in 1/2 cup shortening and mix in 3/4 cup buttermilk. Knead the dough lightly, roll it out, and cut it with a 3-inch cutter or glass. Bake the biscuits at 450 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Serve them warm with butter, honey, and strawberry jam.

Cowboy Caviar and Tortilla Chips: A new recipe to me, this is simple to make with a can of black beans or black-eyed peas and shoepeg corn (small, sweet kernels of white corn that come in cans or frozen). Drain the cans. Add two chopped tomatoes, sliced green onion, diced red or green pepper, and chopped cilantro to taste. Add an oil-and-vinegar dressing made with 1/2 cup olive oil, 1/4 cup red wine vinegar, 1 clove minced garlic, 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin, and salt and black pepper to taste. The cumin and cilantro give this caviar a distinctive and delicious flavor. Just before serving, add chopped avocado if desired.

I made individual servings by layering some of the caviar in small jelly-sized jars, alternating black beans, corn, green onions, and tomatoes. Next, I poured in the dressing, added a lid, and refrigerated the caviar to let the flavors blend. I spooned the rest of the caviar with dressing into a small bowl and refrigerated it for several hours. Later, I served it surrounded with chips to resemble a cowboy hat with the chips as a brim.

Easy-Brew Iced Tea: Make several quarts of iced tea or as needed for the size of your group. Place 4 teabags in each quart jar of cold water and refrigerate it for several hours. While the tea steeps, make lemonade ice cubes by pouring lemonade into ice cube trays or mini muffin tins and freezing. When serving the tea, remove the teabags, place two lemonade cubes into each chilled pint jar, and fill them with tea.

Cowboy Ice Cream Sandwiches: Cowboy Cookies with ice cream between two of them make a delicious ice cream sandwich. (See recipe.)

Add chunks of watermelon and fresh veggies to the menu for a hearty, delicious teatime.

Grins: Laughter and Fun

You may want to horse around by having guests share a favorite adventure they have experienced with or without a horse. Or fill a basket with sayings or verses from Proverbs. Pass the basket around and let guests select a saying to read or they may share one of their own. I found websites with cowboy advice, such as, "The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back into your pocket."

Send guests home with some trail mix or a few cowboy cookies, without ice cream, placed in a baggie and tied with raffia. Although the party is over, I'm sure you and your guests will remember the grub and grins you shared for a long time.

I first used this Western tea theme for a Memorial Day party. But it could be used for Father's Day, Fourth of July, Veteran's Day, Labor Day or any summer or patriotic event. I hope you'll join me to round up some Western fun. Giddy-up!

Lydia E. Harris, known as "Grandma Tea," wrote the book *Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting* (AMG Publishers). She holds a master's degree in home economics.

From Lydia's Recipe File:

Cowboy-Cookie Ice Cream Sandwiches

Ingredients:

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2 cups rolled oats (half quick-cooking and half old-fashioned)
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips (more if you wish)
- Ice cream (vanilla or favorite flavor)

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease the baking sheet or cover it with parchment paper.
 2. Cream together the butter and sugars. Mix in eggs and vanilla.
 3. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, soda, baking powder, and salt. Mix dry ingredients into the creamed mixture until combined.
 4. Stir in the oatmeal. Then add the chips.
 5. Roll the dough into walnut-sized balls and place them on the cookie sheet.
 6. Dip the bottom of a glass (one with a flat bottom) into sugar. Then use it to flatten the cookies. Dip the glass into sugar each time before flattening the cookies.
 7. Bake 8 to 10 minutes, or until light brown around the edges. Cool the cookies slightly before removing them from the baking sheet.
 8. Prepare the ice cream. For each cookie sandwich you'll need 1/4 cup ice cream. Place the ice cream between two pieces of wax paper and flatten it. Freeze the ice cream until you are ready to serve it.
 9. Place one ice cream circle between two cookies. Eat them or freeze until ready to eat.
- Recipe makes about 3 dozen 3-inch cookies or 18 ice cream sandwiches.

Variations: If you are not making ice cream sandwiches, add other ingredients of your choice to the cookie dough, such as coconut, chopped nuts, or raisins. Instead of flattening the cookies, drop them by spoonfuls onto the cookie sheet.

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"We Do Vintage Style Right!"

Robin's Egg a staple in Milford NH for over 10 Years, voted NH Magazines Best Of NH Vintage/Antique Shop three years running is moving to a New Location in Amherst NH! The Milford location will be closing the last week in June. Reopening July 1st in the new location in Amherst. Don't miss the Grand Opening Celebration Weekend Friday July 6th - Sunday July 8th.

The dream and vision of owner Robin Dewey, this multi dealer shop, consisting of the best talent in NH is like no other. Robin's dream of creating a warm inviting space for customers to browse and take away ideas for decorating their spaces, both Interior & Exterior comes to life when you enter. Robin hopes you enter as a stranger & leave as a friend, making the experience more than just a place to find high quality Furniture, Farmhouse, Vintage, Industrial, Handmade, Primitive, and Antique Home Decor. It's also the Home of the Baby Bird Boutique, a Special place to find beautiful clothing, and nursery accessories for newborns - toddlers.

Robin uses the shop's popularity to give back to her local community. Featuring many items Made In NH from towns like Amherst, Bedford, Milford, and Wilton.

Robin's generous philanthropy doesn't stop at helping local businesses, or collecting donations for area Humane Societies, she also showcases handmade items from the folks at Opportunity Networks - a local Amherst NH non profit that helps people with intellectual & developmental disabilities, she ensures all profits from the sale of these items goes to help further the great work done by this organization. Ask her about this amazing group and her eyes sparkle as she explains the special work this organization does. When in the shop you can't miss her true passion, one that touches her heart deeply due to her personal experience with her late son Kolby, which is Best Buddies NH. Robin works tirelessly to raise funds and awareness of this outstanding organization with various raffles, and special events throughout the year. Robin loves to talk about the great work Best Buddies does right here in our local schools for our kids with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For an experience like no other, Visit Robin and the Robin's Egg Family Of Dealers in their new Amherst NH location at 199 State Route 101, in the Meeting Place across from the Black Forrest Cafe, and follow them on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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Back Porch Break

by Nancy Parker Brummett

Making Our Way to Waco

My friend Kathy and I loaded up and took off on a five-day road trip from Colorado Springs, CO, to Waco, TX. Fans of the HGTV show, Fixer Upper, we wanted to see for ourselves the silos, the suspension bridge, and the rolling green fields featured on TV.

We knew we liked the show, and thought its stars Chip and Joanna Gaines were just the greatest, but we weren't at all prepared for our reaction the first time those silos came in to view. Parking in the lot by the astoundingly beautiful and historic First Baptist Church of Waco, we were like giddy school girls as we climbed out of the car.

Of course we wanted to shop at Magnolia Market, made famous by founders Chip and Joanna. Everyone had warned us the line to get in would wind around the block, but we arrived when the store first opened on a weekday and walked right in. Oh my! Beautifully merchandised shelves of enticing candles, mugs, and decorator items filled our senses, much like walking on to any set of Fixer Upper. If you love Joanna's design style, this is heaven.

The temptation to buy at least one of everything was quelled when we looked at the prices however. So rather than buy the artificial magnolias for sale we took photos of the real magnolias in bloom all over town and inhaled their intoxicating aroma for free.

We did wait in line at Silos Baking Co. for some of their acclaimed cupcakes and biscuits, but enjoyed visiting with other fans of the show while we waited. The next day we ate breakfast at Magnolia Table—a remodel of the old Elite Café where Elvis frequently ate when he was stationed at Fort Hood, TX. Treating ourselves to huge breakfasts that included French toast or pancakes and Texas Pecan coffee, we agreed the time we had to wait was definitely worth it—as was every calorie. And of course we shopped the attached gift shop until our spot at one of the community tables opened up.

So basically we did everything on offer from Chip and Joanna and their growing brand, Magnolia. We were delighted with our experiences, just as we'd expected, so no surprise there. What did surprise us was how much we fell in love with Waco itself.

Super model turned entrepreneur David Ridley established Waco-tours.com with friends, and no visit to Waco would be complete without climbing on to one of their air-conditioned Mercedes vans and letting a well-informed, entertaining guide tell you the rest of the story about Waco. Yes, we drove by some of the homes featured on different episodes of Fixer Upper (and some of the women in our van could cite season and episode for each one!), including the home and workshop of Clint Harp of Harp Design. (Fans of the show know he's the one who builds beautiful tables for Joanna after she walks into his workshop with a big, "Hey, Clint!") But we also drove by Lake Waco, through the impressive campus of Baylor University, and saw the confluence of the Brazos and Bosque rivers from lush Cameron Park.



Our guide entertained us with the legend of the park's Lover's Leap, where a young Native American couple are said to have jumped to their deaths just to be together forever. Once back on the bus, he led us in singing the similarly themed hit from the '60's, "Running Bear," complete with hand motions. Pure fun.

There's so much authentic American history in Waco, and Kathy and I were impressed with how clean and well-kempt the city was, as were the roadways we drove throughout Texas. We didn't have time to visit the Dr. Pepper Museum (Dr. Pepper was invented in Waco!) or the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, but overall it was a fantastic trip. Think about makin' your way to Waco for all things Magnolia...and more!

Nancy Parker Brummett is an author and freelance writer in Colorado Springs, CO. "Like" her author page on Facebook, or to learn more about her life and work, visit www.nancyparkerbrummett.com.



The Country Register

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The Country Register

MONADNOCK REGION

Clutter Happens Getting Craft Clutter Under Control

by Julie Pirtle

Scrapbooking is a passion I've had since I was a child. I was inspired at the age of five when my great grandmother gave me a tattered scrapbook full of cards and mementos that she had saved throughout the decades. That year, I received a scrapbook as a gift. I immediately started to fill it with memories, even creating my own embellishments. I was a scrapbooker when scrapbooking wasn't cool!

Years later, an entire scrapbooking industry was born. Stores filled with supplies and paper popped up everywhere. Home parties, where women got together to try new tools and ideas, were held nightly. Weekend Crops became modern day quilting bees. Paper crafting allowed us to be social as we archived our family history. It also gave us ample opportunity to acquire supplies—lots of supplies. As a fellow scrapbooker and professional organizer, I have seen how these collections actually inhibit the creative process.

Here are a few tips to help get the crafting clutter corralled:

1) Designate your space. Unfortunately, it seems like the craft room becomes the catch-all room. Not only does this create a mess, it also stops the creative juices from flowing. Banish everything from the area that is not craft related. Everything.

2) Purge! It is time to get real with yourself. The bubblegum ball paper

you bought 20 years ago is not likely to be used at this point. Just like fashion, styles change and so do your creative inspirations. Release items that no longer suit your needs. If you have duplicate tools, create a portable carryall that can be used when scrapping away from home and get rid of the rest. Be ruthless. You've got this!

3) Create a flow. Just like a kitchen, your craft space needs to make sense as you use it. Keep your tools within hands reach, either in drawers or a desktop caddy. Create storage areas. That old dresser in the garage would be great drawer storage after it gets a bright coat of fresh paint. To make the closet crafter-friendly, build shelves or line it with a shelving unit or bookcases. Take advantage of as much vertical space as possible, both in the closet and on your walls.

4) Sort and store. There are many ways I help my clients store their supplies and none of them is necessarily better than the other. The market is filled with craft storage solutions. Find what works best for you. Inexpensive plastic shoebox containers with snap on lids are ideal for storing flowers, ribbon and embellishments. Label and store them stacked on a shelf. Sort your paper by manufacturer or theme and place in vertical paper holders. Vertical paper holders protect the integrity of your paper and are easy to line up on a bookcase. Thread embellishments that are in their original plastic sleeved packages

onto large circle jump rings and place them on wall hooks. Hang vintage spice racks on your walls and fill them with paints and small jars that hold your embellishments. Not only is it handy, it looks great!

5) Surround yourself with things you love. This is your studio. Your she-cave. Your haven. This is the space where you will create magic. Make it your own! Now that you have organized your supplies, sprinkle your space with items that make you smile—the clay pot your first grader made, your favorite childhood toy, your granddaughters' framed artwork. Not only will they make you happy, they will give inspiration as well.

6) Save money and enjoy! The process of bringing order to your supplies can feel daunting but it is worth every moment in the end. Having your supplies organized makes it easier to create and saves money as well. Now that everything has its space, the likelihood of buying something only to discover that you already had one in the craft clutter will be a thing of the past.

The paper-crafting room in the before and after pictures shows the difference between a craft room overrun with supplies that didn't have dedicated spaces compared to how the space became functional and enjoyable to create in after an overhaul and deep purge.

Once you have joined the ranks of savvy and organized crafters, you'll be able to put on your slippers, sit down with a cup of tea—and create. You will have earned it so ENJOY!

Julie Pirtle is a Professional Organizer and enjoys helping the "clutter challenged." She hails from Oregon and now lives in Mesa, AZ. She has been organizing her entire life and made the move to turn it into a business in 2012. Her business experience lends itself well to organizing everything from kitchens to garages, but her passion for scrapbooking and crafting has attracted many to use her skills to create functional space in their crafting rooms.



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After ►




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Attention Loudon Residents!

Kim and Rich Morin will be opening **Homespun Treasures**, a new shop for antiques, repurposed furniture, and farmhouse/primitive home decor.

The couple has a passion for transforming things, so the new shop provides an outlet for both of them to share their products with others who appreciate distinctive, locally made goods.

Kim creates everything from hand sewn and painted pumpkins and scare-crows to snowmen, santas and christmas arrangements. Using old, discarded objects, Kim makes them into affordable primitive folk art that evokes simpler times.

Rich Morin also likes the challenge of transforming other people's castoffs into functional, eye catching pieces of furniture.

Homespun Treasures is off the beaten path, but the country road location seems just right for what the Morins are selling. "People who like antiques and folk art want something other than items you find at the mall. They like the adventure of find one-of-a-kind treasures in out-of-the-way places. I know I do!"

The **grand opening of Homespun Treasures**, located at **56 McKenzie Road**, will take place on **August 17 from 10am-4pm** and will remain open through the Christmas season.

Please see their ad on p. 7!



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A New Season Beneath the Sycamore Tree

by Kerri Habben

Sometimes the sweetness of life bends you in half. In those moments you are utterly and fully alive. When you stand up again you are stronger, breathe more deeply, and experience the world with kinder eyes.

I am living through new seasons. They began in winter, shimmered into spring, and now it is summer. Summer with all of its fullness and abundance.

When we learned my mother was dying, I had just broken my right foot. I broke it in three places, and it required surgery. The accident was a gift. A broken foot heals. A broken conscience might not have. My mother had truly needed more care than I could give. She was in a nursing home until she came home five weeks later with hospice. Friends ensured I could be with Mom part of every day and helped us in countless ways.

I had many long hours at home. I listened to the house breathe in the silence. I allowed every thought to rise from beneath the surface, and then I would release it back into the air upon a prayer.

Based upon a long-time friend's advice, I began a difficult mental exercise. I visualized myself as best as I could after my mother died. I focused on things that would need doing or that I may want to do. Then I would watch my future self, achieving everything regardless of the sadness in my heart. I gently forced myself to look forward to these things.

Often tears journeyed down my face. It was never weeping. It was simply the opening of a well I know won't run dry. It will endlessly be a river of sorrow, joy, and gratitude flowing together.

I wrote the following poem about our sycamore tree last summer. I composed it for an Old Mountain Press anthology entitled Fly With Me. It seems both a longer and shorter time ago that these words came to me.

There was a time this past winter when walking in our backyard seemed as remote as the moon. Yet prayerfully, here I stand, pondering our sycamore tree once more.

Its' branches seem to reach the heavens and open a portal to my mother's precious smile.

Seasons Beneath A Sycamore

Between sips of coffee and a sheen of sweat,
 waiting as life flows into a watering can
 from the rain barrel,
 I breathe in the new morning air before
 the true heat of the day simmers in.
 Sun from the east paints dapples of light
 across your mottled canvas of bark and wood.
 I study you, my friend of some decades.
 You have long been a sentry of shade.
 Beneath your limbs and branches, I have
 walked, run, mowed, planted, and raked.
 I have dreamed, smiled, ached, and wept.
 I have rejoiced, mourned, and reawakened.
 Always I have prayed, not to you, but
 to the only One who can make a tree.
 Please tell me, my friend, how it is
 that now you wear an abundant shawl of leaves
 when but months ago you shimmered bare
 after a furious frenzy of falling leaves.
 How do you know when it is time to be dormant,
 when it is time to come forth?
 When to thrive, and when to hold on?
 When to let go and when to begin once more?
 I sip, sweat, and wait.
 Wait, sweat, and sip
 as water glides from the spigot.
 Upon a sudden breeze your leaves dance.
 In their rustling, I feel your answer:
 "Trust, child, trust."



Kerri Habben is a writer, photographer, and crochet instructor living in Raleigh, NC. An avid crocheter and knitter, she learned these skills from her grandmother and mother. Many of her yarn creations she donates to those in need. Kerri has gathered a decade of essays she is working to publish and can be reached at 913jeeves@gmail.com.

Random Acts of Kindness

by Maranda K. Jones

Bright Babies

"What happened to that doll's hair?!" My sister was asked this question many times growing up. Her dolls were so well loved. She changed their clothes countless times, pulling pieces and stretching the snap closures until they fit, even if they were not the right size. One doll blew kisses when we squeezed her tummy, until my sister realized a toothpick might fit in that tiny mouth. It did, and then broke off. My dad performed surgery more than once for the same injury. Their faces were smudged and dirty, but my sister cleaned them up in the sink. She washed, combed, and cut their hair. One doll shared a constant look of surprise and fright with the three inches of blonde matted hair standing straight up. She was her favorite and it showed.



On the other hand, my dolls appear perfectly preserved. I was more meticulous with mine. They wore their original clothes and the hairstyle they were born with. I wrapped them in blankets, pushed them in strollers, and kept them neat and clean. They got the same attention as my sisters' dolls, but our methods were very different. I considered myself a collector and wanted to keep my dolls as perfect as possible.

We took their orders at our restaurant, serving them food prepared in our Strawberry Shortcake kitchen. My meals were plastic hamburgers and fries, easy to cook and easy to clean up. My sister actually needed to wash dishes after playing restaurant. Cookie crumbs filled the little plates and tints of Pepsi marked the inside of our teacups.

We took our dolls to school so I could teach them how to read and write in my well-ordered classroom. My sister was the voice of the unruly student who had more fun testing the teacher than reading quietly in her book. She was more free-spirited whereas I wanted to follow my lesson plans step by step. She gave me a lot of practice for my future career and in retrospect should receive more of my gratitude.

We share many happy memories of the years we spent playing together in the basement. We find those stories flying out of the boxes of toys as we go through our childhood belongings. Our own children now revel in these riches. They are eager to get their hands on the dolls that spent so many hours in our arms. As we watch our daughters play with our dolls from decades ago, we reminisce about their past adventures and what is yet to come. I have never seen our dolls smile brighter.

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Quilters, Get Ready for Row by Row Season!

It's that time of year when brick and mortar quilt shops say thank you to their traveling customers. Stop into any participating shop across the US, Canada and Europe while traveling on summer vacation and receive a free themed row pattern. "Sew Musical" is the new theme for 2018 but that's not the only thing new this year. Four other terrific changes are sure to jazz up your Row by Row experience this summer.

First, are the new shape options shops can use to design row patterns. A big square, a chunky panel, and a long, skinny strip join the classic row for enhanced variety. It will be exciting to see how quilt makers put the new shapes together.

Second, is the extended pattern collection period. This year, folks will be able to collect row patterns and purchase kits after Labor Day. The patterns won't be free like they are June 21 through September 4 but you can still get them. Fall travelers will love this change.

Third, is a big beautiful new Row by Row website to inspire and inform. It has a built-in Google map to locate participating shops and see their rows. Use it as your go-to travel companion on any mobile device.

Fourth, is the addition of "CharmStamps" to the lineup of popular collectible "FabricPlates" designed by ZebraPatterns.com. "CharmStamps" are sweet 5" fabric squares personalized for shops. Look for them everywhere and have fun using them in sewing projects.

Our special programs, Row by Row Junior for kids age 6-14 and The 9th Row where we give back to the community, continue this summer too. Ask about them when you visit shops. They are a great way to enrich your summertime fun and include the whole family.

Early reports indicate Row by Row "Sew Musical" will be a chart topper



at quilt shops this summer. We hope you tune in and travel along with us. For more information, visit www.rowbyrowexperience.com.

Editor's Note – Look for participating shops throughout this Country Register issue. You will find the Row by Row logo on their ad.



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GIRLFRIEND WISDOM

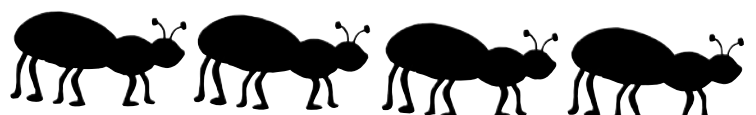
Faith versus Doubt is a challenge we face, sometimes on a daily basis. With each decision we encounter, the questions arise, Should I do **this**, or Should I do **that**? Should I go **forward** or Should I stand **still**? Trusting our own instincts, judgements, research, or heart's desire may feel like a risk. Yet as we practice with smaller decisions, trust in our abilities will give us strength to face the bigger issues in our lives.

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM: Be aware today of all the small decisions you make and see them as Trust Muscle Builders so when Doubt comes knocking at your door you will be more confident and ready to answer the question and Soar on High!

Doubt sees the obstacles. **FAITH** sees the way.
Doubt sees the darkest night. **FAITH** sees the day.
Doubt dreads to take a step. **FAITH** SOARS ON HIGH!
Doubt questions, "Who believes?" **FAITH** ANSWERS, "I!"

Joy & Blessings, *Jody*

Girlfriend Wisdom is written by Jody Houghton®. For color files of this writing contact Jody at: jodyhoughton@msn.com or www.JodyHoughtonDesigns.etsy.com



A Tisket, A Tasket

Warm weather, wildflowers, and sunny days bring thoughts of iced tea and lemonade sipped slowly among buzzing bees in a lush field of green. No one likes to be cooped up inside on a glorious summer day and what a better way to enjoy one than with a picnic! Whether you're touring the mountains, at the beach, or in a State Park a picnic is a fun way to enjoy your meal and Mother Nature at the same time!

It is believed that the word picnic is derived from the French word pique-nique which loosely translated means a gathering where people contributed food or wine. Over the centuries it morphed into the word picnic which mainly refers to an excursion or outing where you dine "al fresco" or outside, with food you brought on your own. Hence the need for picnic baskets or hampers. Food was prepared at home and tucked into a wicker basket along with a cloth to sit on and whatever utensils and glassware were needed and it was ready for travel.

Picnic baskets full of food have also been used in auction form to raise money for groups and charities over the years. Many of you may remember the famous scene in the musical "Oklahoma" where the bidding became quite aggressive for young Laurey's basket as it meant you, not only got the meal, but you got to eat it with the lady that prepared it. In this century an episode of "The Gilmore Girls" T.V. show also featured such an auction.

Picnics can be as simple as cheese, wine, grapes and a loaf of French bread. A traditional picnic basket in the south would have items such as fried chicken, potato salad, deviled eggs and of course sweet tea or lemonade. Truthfully you can add whatever you like; sandwiches, chips and soda work just fine. A picnic is more about getting out and being in nature and enjoying your company and your surroundings. Nowadays many people use insulated coolers as their "baskets" but I do find there is something sweet and nostalgic about using a wicker basket with a red and white checkered cloth. Many vintage and antique shops still sell these kind of baskets and some even come complete with plates and linens.

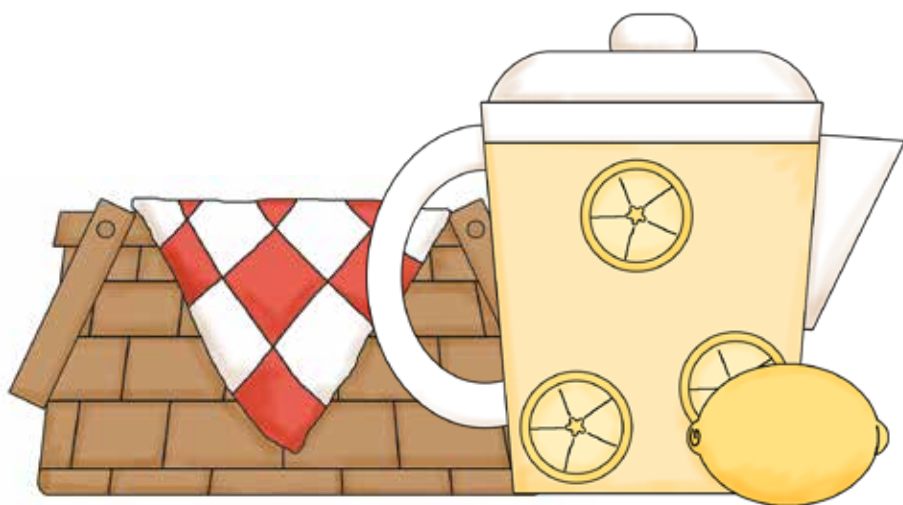
No matter what kind of food you make or what you choose to carry it in a picnic is a nice break from your everyday dining routine. I encourage you to take advantage of dining "al fresco" when you get the chance. Especially here in New England, where you know we can have 3 seasons worth of weather all in one week, so seize the sunny day!!

Here are some popular picnic items and their recipes!

Dill Pickle Potato Salad

- 3 lbs. Potatoes peeled and boiled
- 1 cup dill pickles sliced/chopped
- 3 hardboiled* eggs, cooled and chopped (optional)
- 3 tablespoons of minced onion or onion powder
- 2 tablespoons of garlic powder
- Salt to taste
- 1 ¼ c mayonnaise (I use Olive Oil mayo)
- 1 tablespoon of white vinegar
- 4 tablespoons dill pickle juice (from jar)

Peel, chop into uniform pieces, and boil the potatoes (about 15 minutes or until just tender.) Drain. While the potatoes are cooling I like to add the spices in and let them sit. (If you mix everything while the potatoes are still warm it will get very mushy and your "dressing" won't mix in well.) In a separate bowl combine mayo, vinegar, & pickle juice. Once potatoes have cooled, add in the mayonnaise mixture and eggs, if you wish. Mix well but do not over mix. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or overnight. Right before serving add a few sprigs of dill to the top as a garnish!



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Please stop in and see what's new.

Shop will be CLOSED Aug. 2nd-5th

Deviled Eggs

- 6 large hardboiled* eggs (cooked and peeled)
- 2 tablespoons of Mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon of prepared Mustard
- 1 teaspoon of Garlic or onion powder (optional)
- Salt to taste
- Paprika (garnish optional)

Slice eggs lengthwise and scoop out the yolks into a bowl. Add salt and garlic/onion powder then mash with a fork. Once yolks are broken up, add in your mustard and mayo and stir. If you have a pastry bag you can fill it with egg mixture and pipe into egg whites, you can also use a plastic bread storage bag, just fill with the egg mixture and cut a small part off the corner tip of the bag, or you can simply use a spoon! Once all eggs are filled, sprinkle with your paprika. If not serving right away please refrigerate.

--Ingredient alternatives: some people add in pickle relish to the mayo and mustard while others use green olive (with pimento) slices on top as a garnish. Some have also added bacon bits, why not? You can personalize these however you'd like!

*Hardboiled eggs. Place eggs in a pan then just cover with water. Put pan on high heat until it comes to a rolling boil. Once it is boiling, let boil for less than a minute, cover pan and remove from heat. Let them sit for 18 mins. to let eggs finish cooking. Then drain and replace water with ice cold water to "stop" the cooking process. When they are cooled, tap large end of egg on the counter to crack and peel under cold running water.

Easy Fresh Homemade Lemonade

Makes 1 ½ quarts

- 6-8 lemons (ideally you are looking for 1 cup of lemon juice)
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup of sugar
- Lemon zest (optional)

Cut lemons in half. Juice each lemon through a strainer into a large measuring cup.

You are aiming for 1 cup of lemon juice.

Pour water into a saucepan and stir in the sugar. Cook over low heat until sugar is dissolved. Optional, you may add a little lemon zest from the rind to the syrup as it's cooking for an extra punch of flavor.

When syrup cools, remove zest and add the lemon juice. This is now your lemonade concentrate. Depending on how "puckery" you like your lemonade will determine how much water you add. Start with 4 cups of cold water and give it a taste. You can then add more water or sugar depending on your taste. Chill before serving and garnish glasses with a lemon wedge if you wish, sip & enjoy!

Melissa Rossetti Folini is a writer, retired Library Director, photographer, and licensed Zumba Fitness instructor. She is the author of "Story Times Good Enough to eat," several published short stories and poems centering on the highlights and humor of living in the Granite State. Melissa has also been repurposing and selling collectibles, antiques, crafts and homemade goodies for 3 decades in various shops around New Hampshire and occasionally out of her home in Southern NH. Melissa's current projects, writing snippets, and shop items for sale can be found on her Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MelissaFoliniBLW>

The Country Register

MASSACHUSETTS



It's What's in the Corner Closet

by "Auntie Ca'h"

Everyone goes through it, but are we ever really ready when the actual day arrives? Mom passed away July, 1986. Dad was lost; no one to care for, Dad was alone now. Having lived by their means, nothing of value was amongst their possessions. You could say they were "Ralph & Alice" of the "Honeymooners," just as comfortable being apartment dwellers. I caught a glimpse of Dad weeping at the photographs of five daughters, now only four, while so surreal; staring back at him, tears running inside the dusty frames.

What was waiting to be emptied was the first task at hand. Dad needed closure, more memories than needed, behind a closed door. Such a task, to open the jammed closet door, would only have caused him more emotion, and it was time for inner space of that barricade to breathe.

Unaware of years of hoarding, tumbling bags came at us like fallen rocks. The hours ahead were spent compiling clothes for charities. Saddened and weary; we took Dad to dinner; and then, day two, we were focused to clean the second bedroom. More clusters, more hoarding; yet neatly organized as a sewing room should be.

A quilting table flirted with Kath, the eldest, who also was talented with the art of sewing. The surprise on her face, priceless! There were piles of materials, piles of quilts, finished and unfinished, all waiting for Kath, to put her own personal touches and signature on the remnants remaining. Again, to Kath, priceless! Her first treasure found. She found another surprise; this more of antique music. An old RCA, excellent patina, record player of the 1950's, doo-wop 45's and country western albums, that we danced to so long ago. Mom played guitar, yodeled, and sang with a band. Kath was still a baby when Mom cut a 78 record, 2-sided, along with her friend, Cass. "My Kathleen" was wrote and sung by Mom. The rest of us couldn't look at the debris as hoarding anymore.

Now left in the closet, was the last for us to spread on top of Mom's bed. Lying on our sides, to a circle of sisterhood, the time had come to review the trinkets, and Sarah Coventry jewelry. It was peaceful, and harmonic, in choosing who wanted what. A "shoebox" remained in the corner of the closet; a notation "Give this to Carol upon my death," the message instinctively to be returned to its original owner. It was sister #2. Me!

Some old memories escape your mind; especially if it was so many years ago when I was the age of 10. Dad would always enter the Irish Sweepstakes drawing, which took place in New York City. I followed in his footsteps. Ivory Snow sponsored a contest. To enter, you would write your name and address on a postcard and mail it. Dad came home one night holding a registered letter. So reserved, he handed it to me, and I read aloud, "I was the 1st place winner" nationally. The shoebox contents was a pristine, black leather box, engraved "Tiffany's" in gold lettering. What appeared as "gaudy" to a 10 yr. old; my Mom thought differently. What excited me was that I won 1st place. A delicate 18 karat gold leaf, lay on top of black velvet. The pin was accented with diamonds and sapphires. Enclosed, the expose of designer, number and year, accompanied by its authenticity that it was from Tiffany's. Mom never wore it. When Antiques Roadshow came onto the television circuit, sister #3 Chrissie won the lottery for two tickets to the Roadshow held in Providence, RI. It was appraised at \$1,500 with the box and value would only increase. An heirloom to be passed on to a millennium niece.

The corner closet gave a passport to view antique and folk art market, tag sales, and flea markets. I enjoy this type of browsing. It is entertainment and socializing with artists who have the same interests. Inside my "bucket list" is hopes to one day have "Breakfast at Tiffany's." Dad moved in with sister#5, "Terry" and me 2 months later.

** Auntie Ca'h, A.K.A. Carol Nixon. Non-fiction short story. Cannot be copyrighted.

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Countryberries Designs

The 1776 House



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Designed by Kathy Graham

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THE QUEST for
INSPIRATION OFTEN LEADS
TO THE DOOR of
SERENDIPITY.
IT'S GOOD TO WAKE
UP IN THE MORNING,
STRETCH & YAWN AND
ASK YOURSELF
(BECAUSE YOU REALLY
DON'T KNOW),
"WHAT SHALL WE DO
TODAY?"

Home from our trip to England, just in time to celebrate the Fourth of July! All unpacked and keeping busy, reliving our adventure by working on my new book. Come say hello at www.susanbranch.com

SHOP LOCATOR

2 WHITE MOUNTAINS

Tin Roof Primitives – Center Conway

VERMONT

The Burke Inn – East Burke

3 LAKES REGION

C&G Country Creations – East Rochester

Cardinal's Farmhouse Sampler – Farmington

Country Essentials – Rochester

Homespun Treasures – Loudon

Keepsake Quilting – Moultonborough

The Four Corner Antique Store – Rochester

5 MONADNOCK REGION

Milkweed & Fiddlehead – Swanzey

6 MERRIMACK VALLEY

A Knitters Garden – Chester

Artful Things of New Hampshire – Derry & Laconia

Bittersweet Blessings – Chester

Center Scoop – Chester

Countryberries – Deerfield

Country Hills Gifts – Northwood

J&F Farms – Derry

Manchester Craft Market – Manchester

Olde Post Restaurant – Chester

Patches Quilt Loft – Manchester

Robin's Egg Eclectic Décor & Antiques – Amherst

The Victorian Cupboard Sewing Studio – Salem

7 SEACOAST REGION

Sage Farm Antiques – Hampton

Timeless Treasures Antique Shop – Kingston

MAINE

Winterberry Barn – Buxton

MASSACHUSETTS

Carriage Towne Primitives – Merrimac

