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Colleen Bass
cbass@acsalaska.net

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www.buytheinchfabrics.com

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“35th Annual Quilt Show and Competition” - May 22-24 - Maryville, TN
“2015 Quilt Extravaganza” - July 31-Aug 1 - Berea, KY
“Quilts in the Boro 2015” - August 14-15 - Murfreesboro, TN
“Heartland of Kentucky Quilt Show” - September 18-19, Elizabethtown, KY
“Quilting on the River” - October 30-31 - Savannah, TN

Buy the Inch Fabrics

Recirculating Stash Fabric

Keril Rieger, owner of Huntsville, Alabama based business Buy the Inch Fabrics, is enthusiastic about the potential of keeping unwanted or estate fabrics in circulation and out of landfills. Rieger buys cotton fabrics, unfinished quilt projects, and related quilting items such as tools and patterns from people who want to downsize their fabric stash or have an estate to dispose of.

Fabric, gently used notions, and unfinished projects are sorted, packaged, and are only offered for sale at various quilt shows throughout Alabama and nearby southern states.

Rieger is often asked how she came up with the idea of recirculating stash fabric and related items. She started sewing as a young child and became interested in piecing quilt tops as a young adult. As the owner of an ever growing stash of fabric, plus having friends with the same abundance of fabric, the idea of a way to trade or sell pre-owned, not pre-used, fabrics evolved. That idea became the basis of Buy the Inch Fabrics, where fabrics are sold by the square inch, since quilters often stash fabrics less than a yard in length/width.

Rieger can be contacted at (256) 277-3873 or online at buytheinchfabrics.com where items currently being accepted are listed.

COLLECTING NIPPON CHINA

by Mary Dessoie

One of the most collected accessories from the Gilded Age in America is Nippon china (1891-1921). Nippon is the Japanese word for Japan. It literally means “Land where the Sun Rises,” and in Chinese, it’s “Giapon,” where we get our word Japan.

In 1891 the U.S. Congress passed a law requiring that all items imported into America had to be marked with their country of origin. So the Japanese marked their wares “Nippon.” In 1921, Congress changed the law to require items be marked “Made in (country of origin in English).”

What makes Nippon collectible, however, is not only this small 30-year window but also the hands-on artistry of the designs and, remarkably, that those designs are so European in style. The reason for this goes back to the mid 19th-century when an isolated Japan was forced into global trade.

Back then, a couple of brothers named Morimura began studying Western-style design so they could more successfully sell to European and American consumers. Their back stamp was an “M” in a wreath and is often a sign of a quality piece. The brothers went on to start Noritake China.

It has been suggested that the color of a Nippon mark is some indication of quality. This is not so and the Noritake company has stated that they never participated in any color-coding and know of no other Japanese company that has.

It is true is that Nippon pieces have been reproduced. So, there are bogus Nippon marks out there. Membership in the International Nippon Collectors Club is a useful resource for identifying pieces.

These days, the market for Nippon dinnerware, as with all dinnerware, is weak. But decorative and cabinet pieces are still doing well among those who appreciate hand painting and others who just enjoy that showy flash of gilding.

Mary Dessoie founded the Butter Pat Patter Association for collectors of butter pats. A subscription to The Patter newsletter is \$22 and includes a mint-condition Royal Doulton butter pat and ten issues of The Patter. Sample copies are available by sending \$4.00 and a LSSAE (70 cents) to Mary Dessoie, 7950 E. Keats Avenue, No. 178, Mesa, AZ 85209-5025. To start your subscription immediately and receive a pat by return mail, send a \$22 check or money order payable to Mary Dessoie. You will receive an additional butter pat with your paid membership when you mention this publication and the special double premium offer!

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Essential Oils

By Wanda Headrick

The clean, refreshing uplifting essence of lemon essential oil (Citrus limon) makes me think of the pleasant, warm, sunny days of spring. Pure lemon essential oil is obtained from the peel of the lemon fruit by a method known as cold expression. The lemon tree is believed to be a native of southeastern China and India and was imported to Europe via Persia and the Middle East with the returning crusaders in the 12th Century. During Roman times, the peel of the lemon fruit was used to perfume clothes and repel insects. Columbus brought lemon and orange seeds on his second voyage to the West Indies in 1493. Today the lemon tree is primarily cultivated in California, Florida and southern Europe for pure lemon essential oil production. Lemon essential oil is a yellow to pale yellow or greenish-yellow mobile liquid with a very light, fresh, sweet odor.

Lemon essential oil is considered non-toxic and non-irritant. Sensitivity can occur in some people, so it is always best to dilute lemon oil with a carrier oil if it is to be used on the skin. Lemon essential oil is considered to be phototoxic in direct sunlight and should not be used on the skin prior to sun exposure if the skin area is to be uncovered.

Lemon essential oil is considered to have the following therapeutic properties: antiseptic, anti-microbial, anti-rheumatic, antiseptic, antispasmodic, astringent, bactericidal, carminative (settles the digestive system and assists expulsion of gas from the intestines), cicatrissant (promotes the formation of scar tissue), depurative (purifying to body and blood), diaphoretic (promotes perspiration), diuretic, febrifuge (cools and reduces high body temperature), hypotensive, insecticidal, rubefacient (an agent that is warming and increases blood flow), tonic, vermifuge (causes expulsion of worms).

Some authors refer to lemon essential oil as the “oil of focus” as it is thought to aid in concentration and memory. Studies in Japan found that typing errors were reduced by 54 percent when lemon essential oil was dispensed through the room. Lemon essential oil helps bring clarity and mental flexibility to the mind. It is a wonderful aid for children struggling in school as it helps individuals to be mentally present by focusing on one thing at a time.

It restores energy by inspiring a natural playfulness and buoyancy to the heart, releasing feelings of depression, insecurities and lack of confidence, and then replacing them with feelings of joy and a happiness to be involved in the present moment. According to G. Mojay, lemon essential oil along with rose essential oil help “open the heart,” by alleviating fears of emotional involvement.

The mild detoxifying properties of lemon essential oil make it useful to the circulatory system, for broken capillaries, nose bleeds, cellulite and the lymphatic system.

Lemon essential oil is an astringent, counteracting over-production of sebum and is often found helpful for teenage skin problems. Its anti-bacterial properties are beneficial for the treatment of acne and boils. It tones and softens aging skin. It is recommended for treating warts and will soothe insect bites and stings.

Lemon essential oil is like a breath of fresh air and positively wonderful to use around your home. That is why I like to use it to clean my home, especially the kitchen. It makes it smell fresh and uplifting, and it makes the sink, stove, cooktop, countertops and oven sparkle. As it makes the kitchen sparkle, the anti-bacterial properties help keep down germs that like to collect from food preparation around the kitchen.

For cleaning sinks, countertops, appliances and dishcloths, I like to drop pure Lemon Essential Oil on the item to be cleaned and rub around. Then rinse it with clear warm water. For my stainless steel sink, I usually scrub the lemon essential oil around with a green scratcher, followed by a warm-water rinse and dry the sink out with a towel. This makes it sparkle like new and the water will bead off for two to three days.

Mental Clarity Blend	
Lemon Essential Oil	140 drops
Rosemary Essential Oil	20 drops
Basil Essential Oil	5 drops
Clary Sage Essential Oil	10 drops
Patchouli Essential Oil	5 drops
Cypress Essential Oil	25 drops
Uplifting Blend	
Lemon Essential Oil	150 drops
Sweet Orange Essential Oil	50 drops
Ginger Essential Oil	10 drops
Lavender Essential Oil	30 drops
Rose Essential Oil	5 drops
Cedarwood Essential Oil	25 drops
Spring Window Cleaner	
1 - 4oz Aluminum Spray Bottle	
Lemon Essential Oil	100 drops
Eucalyptus Essential Oil	20 drops
White Vinegar	2 teaspoons
3.5 ounces water	
Shake well and use as needed. The Eucalyptus oil helps remove the grease and grim that collects on windows. Always shake before using.	
To purchase Pure Essential Oils and other supplies go to www.flinthillsaromatherapy.com or e-mail: info@flinthillsaromatherapy.com . We can be reached by phone @ 620-394-2250.	

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Filling

3 eggs • 1 cup sugar • 1/4 t. salt • 2 t. vanilla extract • 1/2 t. almond extract
2 large & 1 small Philadelphia Cream Cheese • 1 ½ pint sour cream

Blend all ingredients.

Crust

3 cups Graham Crackers (crumbled) • 1/2 cup butter

Melt butter. Add graham crackers. Shape into crust in pie dish. Add filling.

Bake 40 to 50 minutes at 375 degrees.

Courtesy of Janice Tosadori, Maryland.

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Pansies



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Designed by Kathy Graham

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What Did That Flower Say?

April showers bring May flowers...so the saying goes. Did you realize that those flowers can talk? Yes, it's true! They have been talking for centuries. During the Victorian age, the Language of Flowers—which had its roots in both the western tradition of floral symbolism and the Turkish *Selam*, the Oriental Language of Flowers—became very popular. Not only were flowers given special meanings, trees, herbs, and objects were also assigned meanings which furthered the idea of sending coded messages using any one, but often more than one, of these together.



Eventually, Queen Victoria came to the throne in England and she was so captivated with the Language of Flowers that she used this symbolism to describe her daughter's love life. Such was her fascination with it that she spread the tradition around the entire British Empire. While that was many years ago the language of flowers was used more recently by the royal family to create the bouquet for Kate Middleton's wedding in 2011.

A young woman in the Victorian age might spend hours trying to decipher the meaning of a bouquet sent to her by a young man in order to learn his intentions towards her. Publishers of the day fanned the fire by offering lovely flower dictionaries which contained the various meanings that a flower, etc. could have. Some volumes were quite exquisite while others were small and inexpensive.

What flowers might one include in a bouquet these days? How about pansies? Pansies come in a variety of colors. If you send a purple pansy you are saying, "Thinking of you" or "you occupy my thoughts." It's easy to see why the pansy has been given this meaning as it comes from the French word for 'thoughts' or 'memories'.

Then there's the heliotrope. There are several varieties available and the flowers of this plant stand for "devotion" or "faithfulness." They have a scant fragrance with intense blue flowers. Or maybe the sentiment you wish to convey is one of "true love" in which case you will send the forget-me-not.

Roses are especially vocal and their color will determine what they say. If you give a pink rose, you are telling the recipient that they have "grace" or "beauty." As well, you may have a great "admiration" for them. If the rose is lavender in color it could stand for "rarity" or "dignity." A cream-colored rose stands for "richness," "perfection," or "best qualities." A yellow rose will tell the recipient that you have "affection" for them. A red rose means "love" and if red and white roses are delivered together they mean "unity." Beware the yellow rose and make sure it can be interpreted correctly for it can mean "forgive and forget," "jealousy," or "infidelity," in which case you may be telling someone that you are none too happy with them. It can also mean "happiness," "affection," and "joy" which is a much nicer set of sentiments.

If you have a friend and want to send them something that will not only brighten their day but affirm your friendship then you will want to send them an oak-leaf geranium which means "true friendship." Other possibilities for your gift that will say "friendship" might be ivy (which also means "fidelity"), a pink rose, or acacia.

If your friend is unwell or has undergone surgery and you want to cheer them up and wish them good health you could send them chamomile "the plant physician or energy in adversity," yarrow which means "heals wounds, health, cure," bachelor's button which means "felicity, healing properties," or perhaps garlic chives which means "courage, strength, protection". Pussy willow means "recovery from illness," while plumbago stands for "antidote." If you send iris, that will tell your friend "I have a message for you" which in this case would be to get well. If they need more "encouragement" to get better you can send them goldenrod, provided you are sure they are not allergic of course.

As with most all things, there are both positive meanings and negative meanings that can be derived from your choice of flowers, trees, or plants as we have already noted above. If you need to send a message to someone who has been unkind to you or with whom you are not pleased, you might want to consider some of the following to get your message across. They might not know what you are telling them and may think that you are being most gracious given the circumstances. You, however, will know and have the option of letting them think you are a kind, wonderful person. Then again, you could send a card along telling them exactly what each selection means.

Amaranthus – Hopeless, heartless
St. John's Wort - Animosity
Aspen Tree – Lamentation
Basil – Hatred
Birdsfoot Trefoil – Revenge
Butterfly Weed – Let me go
Coltsfoot – Justice shall be done
Dead leaves - Sadness
Helenium – Tears
Hemlock – You will be my death
Hortensia (Hydrangea) – You are cold; a boaster; heartlessness
Lettuce – Coldheartedness
Marigold – Misery, grief
Mock Orange – Counterfeit, deceit
Venus' Trap - Deceit
Wild Ranunculus – Ingratitude
Wild Tansy – Resistance; I declare against you

With Mother's Day upon us, why not send a bouquet that will let your mother know just how you feel about her? Include a book on this subject or print out a list of the meaning of each selection within her bouquet so she will realize just how special she and her flowers are. You may wish to include some or all of the following:

Bee Balm Flower – Compassion, sweet virtues
Cinnamon – Love, beauty
Fennel – Worthy of all praise
Geranium Leaf – Comfort
Honeysuckle – Bonds of love, devotion
Lavender – Devotion
Lemon Mint – Virtue, homeyness, cheerfulness
Moss – Maternal love, charity
Pineapple Mint – Hospitality
Purple Coneflower – Skill, capability
Red Rose – Love, joy, pride
Rosemary – Remembrance
Sage – Wisdom, esteem
Thyme Flower – Courage, strength

Need to say something else entirely? There are several books and online sources to peruse, so you are sure to find just the right sentiment to go with what you want to tell someone, be they a beloved relative, friend, or foe. Now when you smell the roses you'll have a better idea of what they have to say to you.

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Meet the Cover Artist:

Bernadette Deming



Bernadette Deming was born and raised in New York, where she currently resides. She and her husband, Marty, live on 100 peaceful acres surrounded by wildlife. She loves spending time with her three children and their friends. She prefers the simpler things in life and enjoys decorating with twigs and bird nests, eggs and leaves, and things from nature. Bernadette's hobbies are bird watching and gardening. She also collects ice cream and old-fashioned candy themed antiques.

Bernadette has painted all of her life and remembers painting on stones when she was a child. At the age of twelve, she participated in her first craft show and has been creating things ever since. Bernadette likes to sculpt clay Santas and snow-men, but her true passion is painting. Her artwork is best described as American primitive. She enjoys painting with acrylics and she looks forward to developing new ideas and having a ball painting! Bernadette looks for inspiration everywhere and tries to find humor and whimsy in everyday life. She thanks God for the gift that He has given her and she appreciates the happiness that her work brings to others. Her best friend says that Bernadette's paintings make her smile . . .she occasionally tries to "steal" artwork when she comes to visit!

To view Bernadette's art prints, go to www.PennyLane-Publishing.com or call Penny Lane Publishing at 800-273-5263 for more information.

It's Party Time with Lesley

Summer Flower Power

by Lesley R. Nuttall



Summer is upon us with the flowers in full bloom. Flowers all around us, and there isn't much more room. Bumble bees are busy, buzzing all around. Butterflies are fluttering, without making any sound.

Canadian Provinces each have a unique national flower.

Alberta's is the Wild Rose in a pretty pink color.

British Columbia's Pacific Dogwood blooms in April and May.

Saskatchewan's Western Red Lily grows in meadows and forest clay.

Manitoba's Prairie Crocus can bloom with snow still on the ground.

Ontario's white Trillium has a trio of white petals all around.

New Brunswick's purple Violet makes the Provinces perfect welcome!

Canada has no official flower, but makes the Maple Leaf its emblem.

The United States has official flowers for each and every region.

Florida's Orange Blossoms little white flowers, bloom in the spring season.

Colorado's Rocky Mountain Columbine's rich aroma attracts butterflies and bees.

Maryland's Black Eyed Susan is beautiful standing tall with ease.

New York's Tea Rose is a symbol of love and beauty in all colors.

Wisconsin and New Jersey's Violets have pretty purple flowers.

North Carolina and Virginia's American Dogwood have mostly, little white petals.

While New Hampshire's purple Lilac Bush can grow on rocky hills and bevels.

Delaware's Peach State has the reputation of gorgeous Peach Blossoms.

Vermont's Red Clover can be seen along roadsides by the volumes.

Canada and the U.S. are blessed to have flowers so beautiful and grand.

And we are so fortunate for them to be growing, all throughout our land!

© 2015 Lesley R. Nuttall. Lesley lives with her husband in Dryden, ON, Canada. Lesley is the Author of "Secrets of Party Planning." Reach her at lesleyrose@shaw.ca

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KISSed Quilts

Anticipating the Wait

by Marlene Oddie

My journey in the quilting world has taught me patience; a patience that I never had as a child or in my early youth.

Even as my own boss, I have learned there are deadlines to meet. For example, when I want to promote or publish something using social media, I can set my own deadlines. However, traditional forms like newspapers, books or new paper patterns will probably have deadlines beyond my control.

With a newspaper, the wait time is minimal as the deadlines try to keep the 'news' timely. If you've been reading my column in *The Country Register* on a regular basis, then you've followed a bit of my journey. For this bi-monthly paper, it is a bit longer lead-time than a daily or weekly newspaper—what I'm writing today you might see in a month or so.

With a book, the wait time can be longer. A manuscript finished in May might be released to the public a year later. I quilted "Double Nine Patch" and "Birds in the Air" almost a year before the *Red, White and Quilted* book (available now) was released. Those quilts are on display at the AQS shows this year. I hope you'll stop in and see them at a show near you. Watch for my co-authored book with Leila Gardunia entitled *You Can Quilt! Building Skills for Beginners*. This came into being after winning a ribbon in 2013 with my "Rosie's BOMB" quilt at AQS Des Moines. We think this book will provide a great set of tools for many different types of techniques to all those who want to learn how to piece a quilt.

When releasing a new pattern with a new line of fabric, it may also take up to a year before the general public can re-create the quilt with the same fabrics. That is a long wait time for the designer to see the reaction of the general public to the new design.

The exciting part is that I have a new design being released at Spring Market this year (May 15) with Island Batik fabrics. Here is an in-progress sneak peek of "Woven Braid." My local customers watched it come together this winter and I've already had several pre-orders for complete kits. This was an exciting result since there was not a lot of time to sit and ponder in the creative zone. When this becomes available, likely in August, I will have it on my website and available in the studio.



Did I say patience is a virtue? I'm still learning!

Marlene Oddie is an engineer by education, project manager by profession and now a quilter by passion in Grand Coulee, WA. She enjoys long-arm quilting on her Gammill Optimum Plus, but especially enjoys designing quilts and assisting in the creation of a meaningful treasure for the recipient. Follow Marlene's adventures via her blog at <http://kissedquilts.blogspot.com>, on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/kissedquilts>, or stop by this summer during the Row by Row Experience.



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Backyard Memories of Flowers and Footsteps

by Kerri Habben

Every spring I find myself contemplating the rebirth of the earth. It both quietly mystifies me and fills me with more than a bit of awe. I wonder how it is the bulbs in the ground know when to sleep and then when to awaken. I ponder how the land that was mottled and dormant suddenly emerges green and vibrant. I come away with the hope that we humans will yet learn from this example of renewal.

As I study the backyard, I see myself through different stages of my life lived upon the land—the young child who ran and played and the girl who walked across the yard after getting off the school bus. I see the teenager who sat with her friends as they learned who they were and who they dreamed of becoming. I see the young woman who emerged from these experiences and the dreams that did not come to fruition—and those that blossomed in amazing and unexpected ways.

I see a woman approaching middle age who both cannot comprehend where the time went and yet savors the power and beauty of all the years graciously given. I see gratitude and joy. My feet travel well-worn paths and sense the energy of all that has been, all that is, and all that is yet to be.

Thus I offer a poem, an ode to the land—the land that has been a canvas upon which so much life has been lived. Land upon which lives are treasured, and always, love is growing.

To all of the Footsteps in our Backyard

In our backyard, ours now for nearly thirty-seven years once fell the footsteps of loved ones passed on. Some hands used hammers, pitchforks and rakes. Some moved knitting needles and crochet hooks as we sat. On the back porch, potatoes were peeled, beans were snapped and many repasts were enjoyed together. Sometimes we just held to each other, as the seasons evolved and time traveled on. Together we shared this patch of earth. Daddy mowed the lawn, and on the first full day of spring 2001, I inherited the job of tending a carpet of clover, violets and grass. Beside the stairs are the hawthorn bushes he planted. In the azalea garden is his rose bush. He built up patches with timbers, where we planted herbs and flowers. There is always thyme somehow, with lemon balm, lamb's ear and lavender. Savory, rosemary, chives, oregano and sage. Along the porch grow zinnias, salvia and geraniums. Beside the house, a marigold bed shares soil with candytuft, mint and yarrow. The middle patch is a menagerie of daisies, impatiens and purple coneflower with amaryllis, chrysanthemums, verbena and petunias. In 2004, we planted a memory garden with roses, lantana and rosemary, the path bordered by wood my dad cut over two decades ago, old pieces cast off when new deck railings were set in. Two summers later we added a plant for my grandmother when she died at the age of 99 years, 7 months and 4 days. My grandparents' bench sits near the lilac tree Poppy planted, not far from the nettle patch with a silver maple tree. When I was a child, Uncle Henry tended tomatoes here. A few springs ago, I turned over two new patches along the path to the porch. I sit in my chair, grateful for the footsteps of today, and for the ones that once fell in our backyard, ours now for nearly thirty-seven years.

Kerri Habben is a writer, photographer and historian living in Raleigh, NC. An avid crocheter and knitter, she learned these skills from her grandmother and mother. She donates many of her yarn creations to those in need. Kerri has gathered a decade of essays she is working to publish. She can be reached at elhserenade@earthlink.net.

Corbin - Kentucky

Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

The Picture

I wanted a picture! It had been a memorable day at the Colorado State Capital, where I accompanied Representative Tim Dore and spent the morning with him on the House Floor. From there, I could clearly observe all of the legislative activity. The last time I had been in the Capital was back when I was on an elementary school field trip. So following a nearby lunch, I returned to the Capital to get a photo. After all, it wouldn't take long.

Moments later, I turned into the drive and noticed, from my vantage point, that a rather steep ramp down to a circle passenger drop off area was immediately in front of me, and then, suddenly, there was a big bump. By the time I brought my SUV to a stop, there was a second big bump. I sat there, behind the steering wheel as still as possible, hardly daring to breathe much less move. Then, moments later, I carefully opened the door and cautiously got out and peered around the door and discovered what I thought was a drive was a walkway. I had driven down two steps.



It was a wet and snowy spring day so, not knowing what to do, I got back behind the wheel to ponder what to do. Then, because the Capital is monitored by many Colorado State Patrol officers, in mere moments, I was totally surrounded.

As I put my window down, one of the officers said, "May I see your driver's license, proof of insurance, and vehicle registration?"

After reviewing my documents, the officers evaluated my situation and one of them decided to get behind the wheel and see if he could back the SUV up the two stairs—but the wheels wouldn't rotate because the right front tire wasn't touching the ground.

"Mrs. Keller," said the patrolman, "we're going to have to call a tow truck to get you out of here to avoid any damage to your vehicle."

"Are you going to give me a ticket?" I asked. "No," was his short reply, but I could see the hint of a smile as he responded. A little later one of the other officers, quipped, "I thought I'd seen everything, but I've never seen this before!"

Evidently he wasn't the only one because often there were five or six people passing by who paused with their cell phones to take a photo from various angles; and one photographer with a professional weather protected camera. Good grief!

For nearly two hours, while waiting for the tow truck, I tried to slump low in the driver's seat. The irony hit me as I peered out my windshield at the crowd—I had wanted a picture; but I had also become the picture!



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The Perfect Quilt

by Deb Heatherly

Lillie Mae clutched the musty old fabric to her chest as a tear slowly tumbled down her cheek. She still vividly remembered the day that Grammy Sue sat and patiently guided her hands to move the needle in and out, teaching her to make small, even stitches. She also remembered Grammy's words of encouragement as, day after day, Lillie Mae worked to turn the scraps into blocks for a quilt.

Grammy Sue was the only mother Lillie Mae had ever known. Her own mother had died of the fever when Lillie was only two. Although it had been years since Grammy Sue had gone to join her mother, these blocks brought back memories and Lillie Mae found herself missing her as though it had only been yesterday. She had completed the blocks just a week before Grammy Sue passed away. She had packed them away not long after as the grief was just too much to bear.

Now, expecting her first child, Lillie Mae had decided that it might be time to finish this long forgotten project. She laughed as she looked at the awkward, uneven stitches made so long ago. She gently caressed each block, remembering each dress the fabrics had come from. As she wiped away another tear, she could almost hear Grammy speaking.

"Child," she would say, "There's nothing perfect in this world, nobody, and no thing. Nobody said we had to be perfect. We only have to be the best that we can be. You mark my words, child. When these blocks are put together and made into a quilt, nobody's 'gonna' care that a stitch or two got bigger than the rest. No, baby girl, all they'll feel is the warm feeling that it gives 'em and the love that went into making it. They'll think it's a perfect quilt no matter how many mistakes you might make."

"I hope you're right, Grammy," Lillie Mae whispered as she began to lay out the blocks on her bed.

For the next week, Lillie Mae worked diligently to turn the blocks into a quilt top. She had washed and carefully pressed each one and had even taken two apart to correct a seam. In the end though, she decided to leave the rest just the way they were. They were a connection to her Grammy, who had guided so many of the stitches with her own hands. Somehow, even now, she could feel her Grammy's presence.

In no time at all the top was finished and Lillie Mae set out to turn the top into a completed quilt the way she had watched Grammy do, time and time again. Looking down, she rubbed her belly and hoped she would be able to finish before this little one arrived.

Her husband Tom had been working for weeks to craft a wooden cradle for the baby. It now sat proudly in the corner of the living room. Her quilt, Tom said, would be the final touch.

As fate would have it, Lillie Mae put the last stitches into the quilt the night before Little Susie arrived. Now, as Lillie Mae looked down at her precious baby, named after her Grammy, and the quilt Grammy Sue had helped her begin so many years ago, she decided that her Grammy had been wise in many ways. As Susie grabbed her mother's finger with her tiny hand, Lillie Mae knew that some things in life are perfect. As Grammy had predicted, this quilt now seemed to be and this moment between mother and child was priceless.

Deb Heatherly is a pattern designer and the owner of *Deb's Cats N Quilts in Franklin, NC*. Visit her website at www.Debcatsnquilts.com and her Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/DebcatsnquiltsFranklin. In her spare time, Deb loves to write short stories. This story was inspired by a set of quilt blocks she purchased at an antique store. The stitches in the blocks clearly showed two makers—one with experience, the other just learning.



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Pass It On

by Nancy Hartley

Most probably you know how to do something that someone else would really like to learn to do. You just might not know it yet—and they probably don't either. Many of us are born teachers and seekers of knowledge. How about taking your knowledge and giving it to others.

As a child, my little sister learned how to make mud pies, bridle a horse, sew an apron and even look pretty for a date from me. She appreciated my knowledge and I was thrilled to show her how to do things.

Now a mom, grandmother and great-grandmother, I see my family doing things I taught them how to do a long time ago. It fills me with pride knowing that what I learned from family and friends or by trial and error makes others lives better as I pass these skills along.

In addition to my lifetime of learning from others, I also love taking classes on just about anything—art, gardening, cooking, computers, sewing, yoga, genealogy, guitar and more. At 71, I am still a sponge for knowledge. I have also become a teacher, resulting in my learning even more. One of my favorite questions is, “How did you do that?”

This past week I taught a “How to Make a Hippy Purse” class to my local quilt group, Fat Quarters. I found the pattern online and made a couple of purses and was very proud of mine. People asked me where I got one that I had and I was happy to say, “I made it.” Those in the class far surpassed my instruction when they added things to their bags that I had not even thought of. The colors, embellishments, buttons, pockets and straps were amazing. Now they will teach others how to make their own bags. I taught a friend and she is now teaching a class on “Hippy Bags” at the local quilt shop.

As a vendor, I make and sell fabric wrapped baskets. I learned to make them from a \$10.00 class. Now teaching basket making classes is part of my joy. I run into people who tell me that they have made a basket, what they use it for, or who they gave it to, and how happy it made them. What I have passed on to them is appreciated and that's about as good as it gets.

I would like to encourage you to pass on your knowledge and teaching skills. It is very rewarding and heartening. Ask someone, “How did you do that?” Then learn it yourself and pass it on. You will be so glad you did.

Nancy Hartley is from Spokane, WA. She describes herself as a jack-of-all-trades whose journey through life still has a lot to teach her. Everything interests her and she loves taking classes to meet new people as well as learn new things. She took on sky diving a few years ago. This relatively new quilter and basket maker is now learning to paint. Most importantly, Nancy says life is good. Contact her at 2nancyhartley@gmail.com.

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Over the Teacup

by Janet Young

Tea - Making a Special Occasion SPECIAL

We are entering the time of year when many celebrations are being planned i.e. Mother's Day, graduations, bridal showers, even weddings, and the list goes on. These are occasions that lend themselves to an afternoon tea or high tea type of celebration. After all, wouldn't you agree, a milestone celebration deserves an extra special way to honor the honoree.

It's amazing how tea can represent solitude if having it alone, yet at the same time, can elicit the pleasure of company, when sharing it with others. So, to help you get started in planning a tea party to remember, (and, yes, tea parties are a reservoir of memories) I have some tips and hints that will help you serve the perfect cup of tea.

Beginning with the teapot, remember never use soap when cleaning your pot, as tea absorbs flavors quickly. By the same token, tea should be served in a teapot that has been reserved solely for tea, and a china or glass teapot is the better choice of materials. Now that you have your pot(s) selected, you will want to warm your pot while you are preparing the water for the tea. Meanwhile, remember to start with cold water when preparing to boil the water that will be used to make the tea.

- White Tea: Before water boils, steep 30 seconds to two minutes.
- Green Tea: Heat water until just before boiling, and steep one to three minutes
- Oolong Tea: Heat water until just boiling, steep three to five minutes
- Black Tea: Heat water until boiling, steep three to five minutes
- Tisanes: Heat water until boiling and steep for five minutes

Loose leaf tea is always the better choice. However, if you are using tea-bags, make sure they are of the best quality.

When the party begins, it is the role of the hostess to pour the tea. Sugar, milk, and lemon can be offered after the tea has been poured. The original teacups were so thin, that it was thought that milk should go into the cup first, so as not to shatter it. But that no longer applies today, so milk can easily be added after tea has been poured. However, it might be interesting to note that according to Andrew Stapey, a chemical engineer, at Loughborough University in Leicestershire, England, there is yet another theory. Mr. Stapey says milk should be added first. The reasoning behind his claim is that milk heats evenly that way. By pouring milk into the tea afterward, it allows the proteins in the milk to unfold in a way that allows skin to form on the top.

Another option for the hostess would be to designate someone to pour the tea. It would be considered an honor to be asked to pour tea. This allows the hostess to be free to greet her guests and make sure the food is replenished as needed.

When serving sandwiches, add interest by using rye, whole wheat, raisin, or other breads. The presentation will be elevated to another level as the various tastes and textures add interest to the array of sandwiches.

Now the rest is up to you to add the special touches that make your celebration more personal. Perhaps Arthur Gray knew what he was talking about when he said, “The spirit of the tea beverage is one of peace, comfort, and refinement”. Yes, truly the art of tea brings an element of refinement that is hard to duplicate. Therefore, what better way is there to put the SPECIAL in a special celebration than through tea!

—Janet Young, Certified Tea and Etiquette Consultant, is a founding member of Mid-Atlantic Tea Business Association and freelance writer/national tea presenter. Visit her website at www.overtheteacup.com.

Clarkson - Kentuckey

In This Land Of Little Rain
Cowboy Poetry
by Jane Ambrose Morton

High Plains Grassland

Explorers came here from the East and traveled up the Platte, where they observed a treeless waste, dry, barren, and too flat.

“The Great American Desert,” so named by Stephen Long, defined high plains for many years, until truth proved him wrong.

Map makers marked it desert land. Geographers agreed. So wagon trains just rolled on past and paid it little heed.

The misconceptions lasted years, delaying settlement. Potential settlers wanted land where rain was evident.

They never stopped to realize these grasslands fed the herds. The antelope and buffalo, small mammals, prairie birds.

John Wesley Iliff, cattleman, observing wagon trains, saw oxen, which were all played out by time they reached these plains.

He offered trade—his stock for theirs—if he could get theirs cheap. He didn't think they'd last till spring, but maybe they would keep.

He threw that stock out on the grass, then looked for them come spring. They'd gained some weight, their coats were sleek, a most surprising thing.

Once cowmen learned this high plains land was favorable to cows, they brought in all their stocker head and turned them loose to browse.

When given even half a chance, these grasslands proved their worth. According to the cattlemen, they were the best on earth.

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Quilting with Barbara

"There is no new thing under the sun," said Ecclesiastes, and he knew what he was talking about. Years ago (1990s) at an archeological exhibit of Roman artifacts found in Germany, all members of our party immediately recognized a 2000-year-old recently excavated bust as a dead ringer for a contemporary prominent politician. The likeness was uncanny. At the same exhibit we observed two identical pairs of sandals, one having been worn by a long-dead Roman, the other being worn by a very much alive young lady who probably thought she was wearing the latest fashion. (Remember gladiator sandals?) What lover of cats hasn't seen a strong resemblance to ancient Egyptian cat statues and paintings in cats now living?

The French say, "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose." (the more things change, the more they are the same), and this was certainly borne out in several Arizona museums displaying pottery made by long ago (we're talking centuries here!) indigenous Hopi, Zuni and Navaho peoples. We did not originate "modern" quilting designs, people! So-called modern designs feature many straight parallel – or not – lines, as does this pottery. Modern designs feature arbitrary divisions between motifs, as does the pottery. A limited number of colours with sharp contrasts are characteristic of modern quilts, and also of this ancient pottery.

(As an aside, we moderns didn't invent the free-standing multi-storey building either. One was built and used in the Arizona desert before the arrival of the Spanish in the New World. A Spanish priest called this edifice Casa Grande; today the site is protected by government).

When they travel, many quilters look for fabrics unique to the area. Some actually use this fabric to make souvenirs of their trips when they get home, so I've heard. Then there are the seemed-like-a-good-idea-at-the-time folk whose intentions outweigh their time. However, we laggards may have had a solution provided for us, and it may truly be a new concept. Some American National Parks are offering locally-themed printed quilt blocks for sale. What a find! These blocks can be incorporated into a souvenir quilt or wall hanging, or just bordered with an appropriate print or two. Such projects stand a much better chance of being finished before the next trip. I'm surprised some entrepreneurial soul hasn't seized on and exploited this opportunity already.

Please...if someone is presently producing commercial souvenir blocks, don't tell me and destroy my illusion of having discovered something new under the (quilting) sun! Or else tell us all, so we can all benefit!

Barbara Conquest writes her column from Blue Sky Quilting in Tofield, AB.
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Make memories ♥



LET THE SUN SHINE IN

Old-Fashioned LEMONADE

Fill a teapot full of water & bring to a boil. In a small saucepan, bring 1/4 c. water to boil. Add 1/4 c. sugar; stir till dissolved. Add the zest of one lemon & one lime & the juice of 3 lemons & 3 limes to the sugar water. Stir & pour into a 6-cup container. Add 5 c. boiling water; stir & chill. Serve with lots of ice & garnish with mint leaves or lemon balm.



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