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Melinda Santikko of Iron River, WI, Pat Malmgren of Willmar, MN and Mary Kay Peshon of Winona, MN all won a copy of By the Yard Comics 2021 calendar!

Esther Masselink of Edgerton, MN won a copy of Quilting Lessons!

Congratulations to all the winners!

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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 flourished and spread. Look for the paper in your travels.

Barbara Floyd, founder • barbara@countryregister.com • 602-321-6511

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Months January/February 2021

Volume 27 Number 1

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Deadline For the March/April 2021
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Happy Valentine's Day!

2020 was a challenging year!
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Where in Minnesota?

Somewhere in Minnesota the image to the right can be found.
 Where is it?
 (Answer on page 18 of this issue)

Special Events

December
 28-31.....Pre-Inventory Sale - Quarry Quilts & Yarn Shop - Sandstone

January
 4-15.....Finish the Bolt Sale - Just Sew Studio - Waite Park
 9.....Virtual Annual Quilt Show - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
 23.....Support Local Quilt Shop Day Big Tent Event - Gone To pieces Quilt Shop - Kimball
 25-30.....Anniversary Sale - Sewing Seeds - New Ulm
 31.....Pro Bolt Sale - Quilted Dog - Cloquet

February
 7.....Super Bowl Sunday Sale - Gone To Pieces Quilt Shop - Kimball
 8-27.....Triple Delight on the Crafty Old Prairie - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn

12 NEW CHAPTERS
365 NEW CHANCES



Happy New Year!

I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say that we are all happy to turn the final page of the calendar on 2020! That was one tough year in many ways. As we move into 2021 I want to send a very heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone of the shops within this paper and all the editions in 2020. Because of them we were able to stay afloat during this unprecedented year. The shops were and still are able to stay afloat because of you, the reader/shopper! Thank you as well!

Shops still need us. Stop in and visit the shops when you are out. If you are more comfortable staying home, many shops are still offering online shopping and curbside pick-up. Visit their websites and Facebook pages. They need our support more than ever.

Now as 2021 is just getting started I believe good things are on their way! We can make it a great year. Let's support each other in anyway we can, and just be nice to everyone!

Thank you so much for reading *The Country Register*. Please continue to visit the shops and pick up your copy of the paper while you're there. Make sure to thank the advertisers and let them know you saw them in the paper!

2021 will be a good year! Happy New Year!



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Finding My Inner Artist

by Jeanette Lukowski

Whenever I travel, I try to feed as many of my passions as I can. In March 2020, while attending a writing conference in San Antonio, Texas, I took a mini break to visit a local quilt shop. In one of the corner rooms, I spotted a really cute bolt of fabric by the designer Alexander Henry.

Perhaps you recall my earlier mention of this same fabric designer, in the piece titled "Finishing UFO Quilt Projects"?

Anyway, I'm drawn to Alexander Henry designs, and here were two more calling me: one a vibrant red, black, and gold dragon, the other a bold, colorful, southwest fiesta scene. Without a specific plan for either, I requested a length of each.

Standing at the counter to pay for my pile of fabrics, my eyes traveled the walls behind the register: "Is that a Row by Row design?" I asked the clerk. "Do you still have the pattern?"

Months later, the projects in which those two Alexander Henry fabrics would be featured developed in my brain. Wall-hangings! The dragons for my son—paired with some dragon panels in my stash, because he had read and enjoyed the Eragon series of books when he was younger; the southwest fiesta for me—paired with the Row by Row design from 2016 as a header.

As I sewed together the first of my two quilted wall-hangings, I reflected on a Saturday morning show I would watch on public television a couple of years ago, titled "Quilting Arts." I remembered watching in awe of the guests featured week after week; I was awed by both their skills and their creativity. More importantly, though, I was awed by each artist's confidence to work without a pattern purchased from a store.

As I pondered what transforms sewing into "art"; I started to think about what qualities a "fabric artist" has. After all, I currently have five quilt projects hanging on the walls of my home (one made by my grandmother, another by my sister).

Limiting "art" to only things one hangs on a wall eliminates the patchwork quilt on the bed, the table runner gracing the dining room table, and the placemats I've made and given as gifts.

That's when it dawned on me: "Art" is defined by the user of said objects. When I make "practical," utilitarian bed coverings, washable picnic blankets, or even tummy-time floor coverings for the parents of babies and toddlers, I am making very specific selections of fabrics, designs, and back-fabrics with the recipient in mind.

When I began quilting, I focused on practicality: I used leftover fabrics from clothes I made as a teenager. As I learned more about quilting, I began to purchase fabrics to complement those leftovers. Eventually, curiosity led me into the first quilt store, and I purchased small quantities of fabric simply because they caught my eye (like the two Alexander Henry prints above).

I've never thought of myself as an artist, but I did enjoy myself as I went free-style with both of my wall-hangings.



Jeanette's 'Dragons' and 'Southwest' Wall-hangings.



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Life in Skunk Hollow

by Julie A. Druck

Her Mending Pile



I came across my grandmother's mending pile today. That may not seem very extraordinary, but it is - in light of the fact that that pile has been hidden in the same spot for 20 years.

I lost my grandmother the summer I turned 16. I was actually out of the country when she died suddenly. When I got off the plane, excited to share my travel tales with my family, there was no Mammaw. She had seen me off but wasn't there to see me home.

I found her mending pile today when I was cleaning my grandfather's back bedroom. Every now and then I'll run across a place in their home where time has stood still for the 20+ years my grandmother's been gone. A previous circumstance took place a few years ago when I was cleaning up my grandfather's desk. As I sorted through layer after layer of paperwork, I eventually came to the bottom. On that layer I found a neat, orderly section that had my grandmother written all over it - personal notes and things she had left there.

Today, I fell through time again in that back bedroom. Mammaw's sewing machine cabinet is in there, and I was standing on the little seat that goes with it to dust the walls. At one point, the top of the seat shifted, and I realized that the top of it lifts off. Underneath the lid was my grandmother's mending pile just as she had left it years ago. A set of thin curtains she needed to repair and an aviation patch to sew on my grandfather's jacket. But the one that did me in was the item on the very top of the pile - a blouse I remember her wearing. As I lovingly examined it, I saw where a button was missing - the reason it was on her mending pile. Tears came then, and I thanked God for the bittersweet memory He gave me of her today.

I gently put the things back. They may not live there much longer - my grandfather's poor health will mean more changes. But I decided to let the mending pile stay - and possibly allow my mother or aunt to come upon this treasure some day soon and be blessed with a trip of their own through time.

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

I ♥ My Local Quilt Shop!
Support your local quilt shop day, January 23rd.

A Bucketful of Thoughts For a New Year Revisited

by Kerri Habben Bosman

Contemplating a new year, I find myself remembering an epiphany during a visit to the dollar store.

A unique setting, I know. However, I have learned to appreciate lessons wherever they arrive.

The following exchange occurred over three years ago. I first wrote about it over a year after my mother had been diagnosed with brain cancer and eight months after she passed away.

I offer you a revised version of that original article.

A warning. There are some gentle bathroom references.

During Mom's illness, she needed a bedside commode. Having grown up with a grandfather and a great-aunt in a wheelchair I was prepared for this.

The problem was that I didn't have the original bucket for the commode. I searched the garage until I found every option. One bucket fit, but it was too high. Another didn't fit at all, but an old metal one seemed to fit just right. The pivotal word in that last sentence is "seemed."

One day everything which could be in the bucket was indeed therein. Whereupon the bucket fell through onto the carpet. I uttered a phrase that I cannot write here. It was, however, a most accurate sentiment.

The next time Mom and I went out, I stopped at the dollar store. I bought every bucket they had. Yes, one of them did fit the commode perfectly. Now to the moral of the story.

At the checkout the clerk rather robotically rang up my purchases, and I asked, "How are you today?"

He gazed at me with empty eyes and said quite wearily, "Just trying to get through the day."

I looked at him for a moment. My first thought was, "I have shoes older than you." My second was "well, at least you're honest." My third almost escaped on a sigh: "Do you have any idea why I am buying all these buckets?"

Thankfully I paused until my fourth thought, which was: "You don't know why he is struggling any more than he knows why you need a bucket."

I smiled as I handed him \$4.00 and change.

"How about this," I suggested. "I'll think good thoughts for you, and you think good thoughts for me. Who knows? It just might get better for both of us."

He smiled back at me. His dull eyes lit up for a precious instant.

We live in a harshly reactive world. People are ever more connected by technology, but we sometimes forget how to genuinely and kindly give. If I had immediately responded to my friend at the dollar store, at best, I would have been derisive and, at worst, self-absorbed and defensive. I am grateful I waited.

If we all lived on mountain tops, it would be easy to seek our best selves in our solitude. But we don't. We live in the thumb tacks and sometimes dirty details of life. One of our strongest resources in traveling this sometimes tenuous journey is helping one another. We are often each others' greatest gift.

I shared with Mom about our exchange that day in 2017. She said, "Maybe one day you'll write about this." So I did. When I first set this story down, I could not have imagined the quietly beautiful way my life would evolve.

From that place of gratitude, I submit an enduring hope as we begin new calendar. Whatever the circumstances of each of our lives, 2020 was a very different and in some ways quite a surreal year. I hope that this coming year brings each of you much goodness and joy. May we each become our best selves and be each others' greatest gifts.



Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer in Chapel Hill, NC. She is currently working on a book of essays and poetry. She can be reached at 913jeeves@gmail.com



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Moving Again

by Gayle Cranford

I'm getting much too old for this,
My body lets me know.
The aches and pains I feel these days
Remind me "it's a go."

I never thought I'd move again.
For sure, it is the last.
That's what I told myself before,
I remember, from the past.

Although this never was my plan,
To sort and pack once more,
I'll realize that all is good
Once stepping out my door.

Deciding this was for the best,
My daughter, Jen, and me,
Sharing, helping, having fun,
The way it's s'posed to be.

We'll live together happily,
We know each other well.
I'll never ever move again.
Well....maybe! What the hell!

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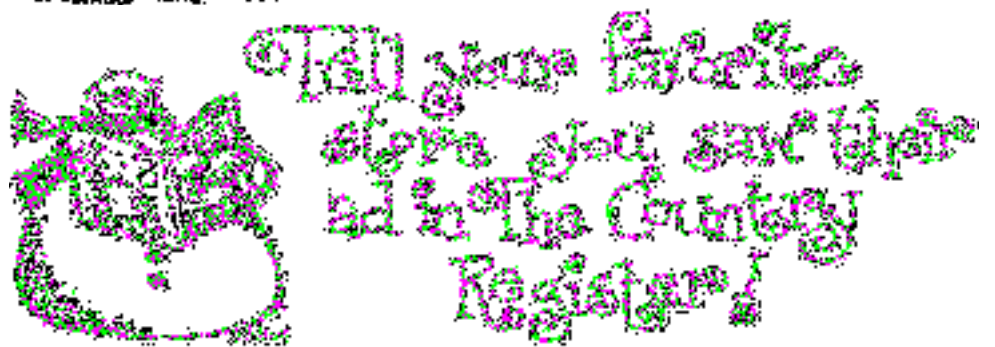
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Country Register Recipe Exchange

Taffy



submitted by Shirley Ross of Alexandria, MN

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 1/4 cup sugar | 1 1/2 tsp butter |
| 1/4 cup water | 1/2 tsp vanilla |
| 2 tbsp white vinegar | Few drops of food coloring |

Butter a 13"x9" pan. In a sauce pan combine sugar, water, vinegar and butter. Cook and stir until sugar is dissolved. Reduce heat, cook without stirring to 260°. Remove from heat. Add vanilla and food coloring, if desired. Pour into prepared pan. Cool for 15 minutes. Make taffy into a large ball. Divide. Use buttered fingers to pull and fold taffy. Do not twist. Pull until taffy has a satiny luster and begins to get stiff - about 6-8 minutes. Pull and roll taffy into a short rope one inch thick. Cut into bite-size pieces with buttered scissors. Makes about 70-75 pieces.

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Random Acts

by Maranda K Jones

BELL WORK

Ring in the New Year! We end each year with the Carol of the Bells, Jingle Bells, and Silver Bells. Now we set our sights on a new start as we "ring out the old, ring in the new," just as Alfred Lord Tennyson suggested in his poem *Ring out, wild bells*. This was written in memoriam of his friend who died suddenly. The sound of bells ringing in Christmas Day inspired a renewed faith and helped him handle his grief. His words written in the 1800s still resonate today.

We have been celebrating beginnings and endings with the ringing of bells for centuries. My day is full of beginnings and endings, each time period marked with the ringing of a bell as we change class periods at school. Each bell signals a fresh start as we take a new approach to a familiar subject. Teachers use bell work to engage students immediately upon entering their classrooms, helping class start off smoothly. Bell work keeps us calm and focused. Making New Year's resolutions in January follows this lesson plan exactly.

Near my lesson plan book on my desk sits a bell that I inherited from my husband's grandmother. Its history is a mystery, and its story intrigues me. I wonder where it stood before it lost its support. When I received this gift, this small heavy bell needed a frame to hold the stand. We cut, sanded and painted a base to hold the side arms and rail which allows the bell to swing from its wheel. The clapper has a small primitive rope tied with a simple knot, and its sound is a deep, solid toll.



This past year may have taken its toll on your well-being, and it is time to replace that noise with peace. "Ring in the love of truth and right, Ring in the common love of good."

In Memoriam, [Ring out, wild bells]

Alfred Lord Tennyson - 1809-1892

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky, The flying cloud, the frosty light: The year is dying in the night; Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.	Ring out the want, the care, the sin, The faithless coldness of the times; Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow: The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true.	Ring out false pride in place and blood, The civic slander and the spite; Ring in the love of truth and right, Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind For those that here we see no more; Ring out the feud of rich and poor, Ring in redress to all mankind.	Ring out old shapes of foul disease; Ring out the narrowing lust of gold; Ring out the thousand wars of old, Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring out a slowly dying cause, And ancient forms of party strife; Ring in the nobler modes of life, With sweeter manners, purer laws.	Ring in the valiant man and free, The larger heart, the kindlier hand; Ring out the darkness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be.

This poem is in the public domain.

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Search for the underlined words in the recipe in the word search below!

Banana - Chocolate Chip Cookies
by Gooseberry Patch Chocolate Recipes

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1/2 cup sugar | 1 tsp <u>baking powder</u> |
| 1 egg, <u>beaten</u> | 1/2 tsp baking soda |
| 1/3 cup shortening | 1/2 tsp <u>vanilla extract</u> |
| 1/2 cup banana, <u>mashed</u> | 1 cup sem-sweet <u>chocolate chips</u> |
| 1 cup flour | 1/2 cup <u>chopped nuts</u> (optional) |
| 1/4 tsp <u>salt</u> | |

Blend sugar, eggs and shortening together. Mix in banana. Add flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda and vanilla. Mix well. Fold in chocolate chips and nuts, if desired. Drop by tablespoonsful onto greased baking sheets. Bake at 375° for 12-15 minutes. Let cool 2 minutes on sheets before removing to wire racks to cool completely.

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

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The book includes her reader-acclaimed articles from the last decade



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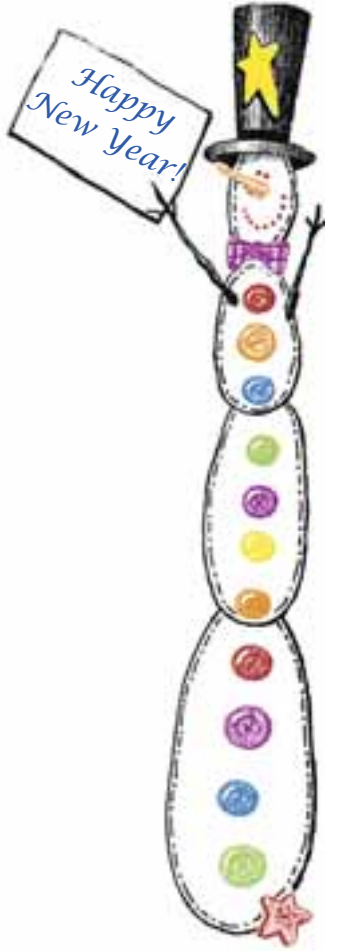


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by Kim Keller

Horseshoe Valentine's Day Sign

I've got lots of decorations for lots of holidays! However, my Valentine's Day decorations is definitely lacking! This void makes a perfect opportunity to create something out of junk! Here's a list of what I used:



- piece of scrap wood
- paint
- paint brush
- sand paper
- antique square nails
- rusty old horseshoe
- scissors
- Mod Podge glue
- foam brush
- cardboard
- scrap material
- super glue



1. Paint your scrap wood with whatever paint you'd like. I chose a teal milk paint!



2. Once dry I distressed the edges with some sandpaper.

3. Next I free hand drew a heart on cardboard to make a stencil.

4. Cut out the heart after using the cardboard stencil to draw on the material.

5. I decided to use the cardboard to help the heart "pop" out from the wood!

Use the foam brush to spread Mod Podge on the cardboard heart cutout. Then smooth out the fabric heart over the cardboard heart making it stick.



6. Now it's time to assemble on the board! Use super glue to glue the nails head to end to make the letter "I".

7. Super glue the heart and horseshoe next!

8. I added a small little heart from the same fabric to the horse shoe for fun.

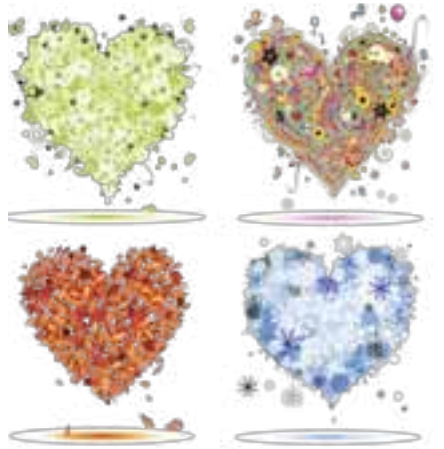
9. The final step is to secure some hardware to hang the sign if you choose to!



Over the Teacup

by Janet Young

As the Seasons Change



As the seasons change, so do the seasons of our life change. As we approach a new-year, we celebrate the dawning of a new beginning. Perhaps this will be the year you will become a first-time parent or grandparent. What a joy that brings leading up to the anticipatory arrival of that precious bundle of joy. For some it may be your dream job, the one you worked so hard to obtain, has now been offered to you. And for others, this may be the year you walk down the aisle and say, "I do." These are all moments to celebrate and rejoice in.

But sometimes our lives change in other ways. With the Covid-19 virus, Americans have been challenged as never before to adapt to a new way of living. Through this pandemic, you may have lost your job, your home, or even the loss of a loved one.

These are the seasons of life that test our strength, our faith. But as we celebrate the joyful moments in life, there can be a rejuvenating hope in our tragedies.

For example, you lost your job. You may be tested for awhile as you await your next job. But when that job comes, it might be a better job than you could have ever imagined. And perhaps would have never taken that career path had it not been that you lost your previous job. Your new job could pay more money, afford you more time at home to spend with your family, and perhaps even be less stressful than your last job. Look for the good in what life offers you.

In the loss of a loved one, celebrate the memories and love that you were able to create together. Life does go on no matter our circumstances. So, we must reach out and strive to move forward each and every day. It may not be easy, but if we persevere, knowing our life will never be as we knew it before, if we put our hope and trust in God, we can't go wrong.

The new season of life has begun. It will allow you opportunities to grow and move ahead if you allow it. Or it will stagnate your growth, allowing bitterness and perhaps even anger to move in. The choice is yours. How will you choose to deal with this new season of life that has confronted all of us?

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.



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Looking for a quick yet fun activity to do with the kids or grandchildren? Cut a heart out of cardboard. Cut little slits around the edge of the heart. Grab some red or pink yarn and work your way around the heart creating a beautiful string heart! Make sure to leave a long string of yarn to hand the hear with!

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A TOUR OF MINNESOTA'S STATE PARKS

Garden Island State Recreation Area

Remote and virtually undeveloped, Garden Island State Recreation Area is the northernmost unit of the Minnesota State Park system. Lake of the Woods is an astonishing 950,400 acres in size, with over 14,000 islands and 65,000 miles of shoreline. Garden Island is one of these islands! Part of its attraction of this state recreation area is the challenge of getting there! Nineteen miles from the south shore of Lake of the Woods, you cannot see the island on the horizon when you start out! Once you arrive, beaches, marshland, woods and many birds (pelicans, cormorants, gulls and terns, bald eagles), deer, bear, beaver, mink, otter, fox and wolves will be there to greet you. Garden Island is a low, sandy island with beautiful beaches along the eastern tip, where the docks are located. Much of the island is densely wooded, with some marshy areas. Fishing boats dock to enjoy the picnic tables for a nice lunch.



Winter offers opportunities too! Snowmobiling across Lake of the Woods it's self is an adventure! Garden Island lies along the Ballard snowmobile trail, about 35 miles from Baudette. This snowmobile trail continues up to Oak Island and the Angle Inlet. A shelter is present on Garden Island near this trail as a place to take a break and escape the winter wind. A snowmobile trail from Warroad to the Angle Inlet also runs past the island's western tip.



Humans have inhabited the Lake of the Woods region for at least 8,000 years, thriving on its rich fishing, hunting, and wild rice. The lakes and rivers have long been part of trading networks that stretched from the Great Plains to the Atlantic by way of the Great Lakes.

European explorers and fur traders entered the area in the late 1600s. Commercial fishing began on Lake of the Woods in the 1880s. Garden Island supported several fishing operations beginning around 1915. Whitefish and sturgeon were the first species harvested but, as their numbers declined, commercial fisheries switched to walleye, sauger, and northern pike.



Today Garden Island is primarily a destination for sport fishing. It's a great place to take a lunch break, watch the birds and walk along the sandy beach.

Happy New Year!

Reckless Abandon

by Aminta Geisler

rethinking my new year's resolution...



It's New Year's Eve and that means it is resolution time.

No matter how you feel about making them, 'tis the season.

Exercise more, rest more, eat better, read more...those are just some of the different resolutions that I have made over the years.

Some I have kept, and

some I have utterly failed...like eating healthier. I love me some carbs. And chocolate. And coffee.

Sorry, not sorry.

As I contemplate what I want to resolve to do this year, a thought keeps coming to me and it's this: all of my resolutions have been all about me.

Maybe they are supposed to be.

But I don't want my life to be all about me.

As John the Baptist said about Jesus, "He must become greater and greater and I must become less and less."

Amen.

To that end, this year I am rethinking my New Year's resolution.

Instead of resolving to do better myself, I'm going to shift my focus and concentrate my energy on glorifying God better.

I want to run after Jesus just a little more radically than I did last year.

I want to think less about myself, and more about loving God and loving others.

I want to make HIS GLORY my sole aim.

I want to be wholly devoted, sold-out, and passionately pursuing God.

One little thing at a time.

By making small, incremental changes.

5 minutes here and \$15 there.

A series of practical acts to show my devotion to my Heavenly Father.

Daily choices to die to self, to surrender to God's will, and to love others with vigor.

Every day.

In practical ways...because that is how my brain works. My name literally means "likes to make spiritual things practical" and I do.

So here's to a 2021 that is devoted to becoming practically radical.

I think Jesus would approve.

I just finished studying his Sermon on the Mount in the book Matthew and I believe that this kind of devotion is the overarching theme of his message. That we would stop thinking about ourselves, and start to become people who live to hallow the name of God – to bring him glory above anything else. That we would not worry about ourselves, our needs, or our accolades. But that we would be people who live rooted in trust of the provision of the father and out of that security, love and serve others with a passion that is radical.

I came up with a list of the main points in his sermon, and for each of the points, a practical step that I can take each day to pursue the kind of righteousness and devotion that Jesus taught us to have. They are small steps, but they lead to a big shift in focus toward becoming practically radical.

1. Theme: Be people who are aware of our desperate need for him and who pursue his righteousness in our lives. We should diligently seek his mercy, purity and peace in all of our actions. Practical step: There is nothing that purifies us and helps us realize our desperate for God than the Word, and nothing that will give us the wisdom and strength that we need to do life like the Word. Spend 5-10 more minutes a day reading the Bible than you currently do. That adds up to almost 55 hours in the coming year and will make a significant difference in the desires of your heart.

2. Theme: Be marked by radical love for others. Don't be angry, don't lust, don't break vows, turn the other cheek and love your enemy are just some of the examples that Jesus gave. Practical step (pick from these options): choose to forgive someone who doesn't deserve it, pray for your enemies once a week, do something nice for

COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

Down East Blueberry Buckle



Submitted by Irene Thompson, La Junta, CO

2 cups all-purpose flour	3/4 cup sugar
2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder	1/4 teaspoon salt
1 large egg, room temperature	3/4 cup 2% milk
1/4 cup butter, melted	2 cups blueberries, fresh or frozen
Topping:	
1/2 cup sugar	1/3 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon	1/4 cup butter, softened

Preheat oven to 375°. In a large bowl, whisk flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. In another bowl, whisk egg, milk and melted butter until blended. Add to flour mixture, stir just until moistened. Fold in blueberries. Transfer to a greased 9" square baking pan. For topping, in a small bowl, mix sugar, flour and cinnamon. Using a fork, stir in softened butter until mixture is crumbly. Sprinkle over the batter. Bake until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Do not overbake.

someone who is not nice to you: bring them cookies, or deliver a meal when they go through a difficult time.

3. Theme: Be motivated by God's approval alone and not by man's approval.

When you do good deeds, or give or even fast, do it in secret and not for show. Practical step: Do a 1-7 day fast sometime this year and don't advertise it. Seek God and his will during that time, not the recognition of man for your sacrifice. If you already do a fast, increase it by one day, or do another fast a different time of the year.

4. Theme: Hallow God's name above all else in your life. Become someone who seeks him and his will above anything else on earth. All of your actions, all of your provisions, all of your blessings are given to bring glory to God's name. Practical step: Each morning, pray and surrender your life and your day to God's will. Ask his Spirit to come and give you the knowledge and strength you need to carry it out.

5. Theme: Invest in eternity. We are called to store up treasures in heaven, and not on earth. This means that instead of striving to build up earthly wealth for ourselves, we give what we have to others in order to help them see God. It's shifting the mindset from "my money" to "God's money." Practical Step: Increase your tithe by a small percent. If you don't currently tithe, take the plunge and give 10%. If you already give 10%, increase it to 12, 15 or even 20%. We have done this and I have never regretted it. (Side note: if I ever feel sad that I can't buy something, I say to myself: "my treasures are in heaven." It sounds silly, I know, but it works. It resets the desire of my heart).

6. Theme: Don't worry about anything, instead trust that God is in control. Worry is a faith issue...it's a sign that we don't trust God and his plan. Practical step: During your morning quiet time, affirm your trust in God's goodness in prayer. Or, decide that whenever you feel worried, you will pray and hand the issue over to God, affirming your faith that he will handle it for you.

7. Theme: Don't judge others. Be more worried about your own sin than you are their sin. It is not for us to play judge, that role is God's alone. Practical step: Make sure your own life is in alignment with truth. If there is a bad habit, or a sin in your life, ask God for the strength to stop doing it. Admit your weakness to him, and ask for his Spirit to help you overcome its power in your life. Take the plank out of your own eye, as the Word says.

8. Theme: Produce good fruit. Out of the abundance of love and grace and forgiveness that you have been given, pours it out on others. Don't be concerned with taking care of yourself, rather trust the Father to take care of you and then love and serve those around you. Practical step: Serve others. Pack meals at Feed My Starving Children, make and serve a meal at a homeless shelter, give money to your local school for students who can't pay their lunch account balance, or serve at your local food shelf.

There you have it! My practical steps for becoming a more radical follower of Jesus by thinking less about myself and more about God and others.

Practically radical.

I invite you to join me in chasing him in reckless abandon this year...let's be practically radical together.

Aminta Geisler is married to her best friend, Ben, and is a stay-at-home-mom of two teens and two toddlers. A self-proclaimed Jesus freak, she loves making old furniture new, studying God's word, and all things pizza. You can read more about her journey of reckless abandon for Jesus on her blog @amintageisler.com, in her monthly newsletter, or by following on Instagram @amintageisler

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Book Review

A Little Sweet Tea

by Christina Bynum Breaux

Little fingers love to play with tea cups, fancy clothes, and shiny jewelry and they'll also love this delightful board book filled with charming photos by Christina Bynum. Each easy turn of the page will serve up sweet smiles to kids ages 0-5 as they see images of children playing dress up and having tea. Fun-to-repeat rhymes invite young ones to the pleasures of friendship, sharing, laughter, and more.



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You can register to win a copy of **A Little Sweet Tea!**
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Cowgirl Poet, Quilter, Entertainer



Yvonne Hollenbeck COTTON ANGELS

"Cotton Angels" is dedicated to all the gals that were making masks for the cause.

For all you nonbelievers (that includes some husbands too) who have questioned why we quilters buy up fabric, like we do. You've accused us all of hoarding, and spending too much dough; and questioned why we've filled our shelves with yards of calico.

Well, I am here to tell you, to question this was wrong, why we've collected cotton has had its purpose all along.

Oh, you might call us crazy or maybe, just plain strange; but now we're known as "Angels", so your attitude should change.

The year is 2020, and we've faced a bad Pandemic; and everyone is working hard to halt this epidemic.

But while each able body is attending to the task, the Cotton Angels hunkered down to sew those needed masks.

Many calls have come for them...we're answering each call; and though it's far from over, we'll continue making all

that is requested, though our secret is revealed; we will sew up all that fabric stash until the country's healed.

We can't have too much fabric; on that we have conceded, 'cause you never know in times like this that it will all be needed!

© Yvonne Hollenbeck; April 9, 2020

Yvonne Hollenbeck, from Clearfield, SD, performs her original poetry throughout the United States, captivating audiences in her wake. She is one of the most published cowgirl poets in the West and is not only a popular banquet and civic entertainer, but also co-writes songs with many western entertainers. Yvonne also pens a weekly column in the "Farmer-Rancher Exchange" and writes articles about life in rural America in various publications throughout the West. For more information, visit <https://www.yvonnehollenbeck.com>



Country Register Recipe Exchange Cheesecake on a Stick

submitted by Shirley Ross of Alexandria, MN



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 (8 inch) cheesecake | 1/2 cup chopped nuts or brickle chips |
| 1 (12oz) pkg milk chocolate chips | 8 popsicle sticks |
| 2 tbsp vegetable shortening | |

Line the baking sheet with waxed paper. Cut the cheesecake into 8 wedges. With the tip of a knife, make a 1/4 inch slit in the center of the crust of each wedge. Insert popsicle stick through slit, halfway into each slice. Place on baking sheet and freeze overnight. The next day, melt together chocolate chips and shortening over low heat. Spoon over cheesecake wedges, coating completely. Before chocolate hardens, sprinkle 1 tbsp of nuts or brickle chips on top of each. Return to baking sheet and freeze.

In The Beginning: A Rocking Chair

by Dave Emigh

In the beginning, there was an Oak Rocking Chair. The beginning of what? Well, the beginning of my interest in antiques, of course.

Scroll back to the spring of 1973. I graduated from Washington State University and became a public-school woodworking instructor in the Yakima Valley. That fall I returned to Pullman for a visit. One of my stops was at my friend Ken's house.

Ken, a young WSU professor, was sitting in a late 1800's oak rocking chair. He was gently rocking (and squeaking) back and forth. Ken told me that he had recently returned from Wisconsin with that old family rocking chair.

Days went by and I couldn't shake the image of Ken peacefully rocking in that graceful 70-year-old golden oak rocking chair. Somehow that image was stuck in my mind.

Several weeks later, while visiting my parents in Walla Walla, I mentioned Ken's rocking chair. My mother thought that I might be able to find an old rocking chair at Richwine's Furniture Store in Milton-Freewater. She was right!

If my memory is correct, Richwine's sold mostly new and some used furniture. A salesperson took us in a backroom and there were several antique oak rocking chairs hanging on the wall.

Somehow, I ended up buying two rocking chairs. I'm still not quite sure why I thought that I needed two. But sometimes things happen for a reason and this was one of those times, as you will read later.

I took one of the rocking chairs to the school where I was teaching. I put it on a shop bench and worked on it a bit each day. That rocking chair, in the back of the classroom, initiated a chain of events... I didn't know it at the time, but I had just kicked a rock down a hill and nearly fifty years later that rock has still not hit the bottom.

Little did I know that those two rocking chairs were my first step on the road to my antique furniture restoration compulsion. The second step was when a student asked me if he could work on a family rocking chair as well.

I agreed and he brought in 'most of' an oak rocking chair that he had found in his grandmother's woodshed. It was what is called a pressed-back rocking chair. That is, it had a decorative design pressed into its back.

It soon became apparent that the restoration was beyond the student's ability. However, that pressed-back rocking chair was in the shop long enough to attract the attention of a second student.

That student approached me and said that his grandfather had come across some chairs (that had pressed backs) just like that rocking chair, in an old house... was I interested in them?

I think that I got five incomplete chairs—that is, most of them were missing a rung or spindle or had other broken parts. It was apparent that I could put together three complete chairs and that is what I did. By this time, I was well down the antique furniture restoration road.

My university woodworking training gave me the basic skills and techniques necessary to repair and restore antiques. But antiques restoration is unlike any other woodworking endeavor. Almost immediately I discovered that I needed a whole new tool bag of skills to successfully restore antiques. I continue to add to those skills to this day...

Nearly fifty years later, we still have that original oak rocking chair. My wife, Jill, says that it is a 'miracle chair.' Over the years, she has found that sitting in it for a while reduced her back pain from carrying kids around, gardening and/or life in general. Out of all of the rocking chairs in the world, something about this chair fits her and supports her back.

You might not be concerned with what ever happened to the second rocking chair. But it is actually a good story, all by itself.


Beloved Whitman College Professor, Dr. George Ball, officiated at our wedding in Boise, Idaho. He would not accept any financial compensation for his time or services. So, Jill and I restored the second rocker and presented it to him.

It resided in his home for over twenty years and generations of Whitman students enjoyed it when they visited him. We have been told that he loved to tell them the story about how he acquired that rocking chair.

So, what began as my admiration of Ken's rocking chair sparked my love for antique furniture. That love became my passion for the restoration and preservation of antique furniture. It is difficult, if not impossible, to describe the pride I feel in giving a piece of furniture a second lifetime of use.

Dave Emigh and his wife Jill are the owners of Shady Lawn Antiques in Walla Walla, WA, perfectly located in the 1870's wood frame creamery buildings that Dave's great-grandfather purchased in 1897. Dave, a professionally trained woodworker, and his son Nick specialize in the restoration of oak furniture. Shady Lawn, in its 26th year, has become a regional destination for oak furniture but is also known for a well-curated display of country, rustic, and rare and unique "small" antiques. Glimpses of the ever-changing Shady Lawn inventory can be seen on Facebook and at www.shadylawnantiques.com.





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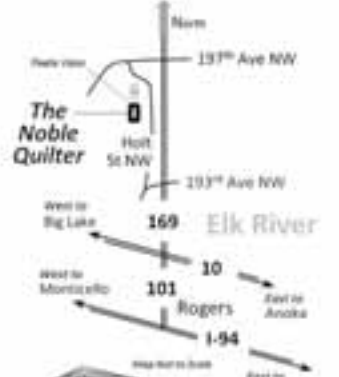


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For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. - Jeremiah 29:11

Happy New Year from your Country Register!

Become Inspired

by Annice Bradley Rockwell

Precious Moments of Peace

When the month of January arrives it often brings with it the gift of solitude. Rather than a time to dread, winter can be a time where we can look forward to precious moments of peace. And genuine inspiration typically comes from this quiet place of contemplation and planning. For it can be in the coldest months of the year, as the wind-driven snow covers our landscape and threatens to linger, that we turn inward and truly appreciate our snug, warm homes. Finally we have a quiet and treasured time to dream.



Cozy evenings spent enjoying a homemade porringer of beef stew by a crackling fire as our antique wall clock ticks reliably in the background can be one of the most relaxing moments of a country homeowner's year. Pressures naturally slip away as we begin to truly sense the value of slowing down.

Being refreshed by nature's cyclical gift of time affords us the luxury of planning for the season ahead. We have time to reflect on our deepest wishes and without even knowing it, we come to the realization that this slower pace is indeed the most meaningful pace of all.

Nature's Symbolic Connection

In the months of winter as we gaze upon our gardens softly sleeping under the snow, we know there is in fact a secret faith under those imposing white drifts. And there is a sacred hope echoing across our country yards as we hear our winter birds happily chirping. In winter we have more time to observe and feel nature's symbolic connection to us and its restorative effect carries us beautifully into spring—the long-awaited season of change.

This winter take time to enjoy the balance that true solitude can provide. Trust in the wonder of nature as she secretly keeps her promise to restore and renew.

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

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Easy

SIT IN FRONT OF A FIRE AND SEW UP SOME CHARMING LITTLE GIFTS, MAKE LITTLE PILLOWS, SACKETS, PINCUSHIONS, OR A STAR TO HANG. YOU NEED FABRIC (FELT IS GREAT, TRY QUILT REMNANTS, OR CHOOSE A FABRIC YOU LOVE. PUT IT IN A SEWING BASKET WITH EMBROIDERY THREAD, EMBROIDERY NEEDLES, PINS, RIBBON TO HANG PROJECTS WITH, BUTTONS TO DECORATE IF YOU LIKE, AND STUFFING TO PLUMP THINGS UP.

Here's How... CUT DOUBLED FABRIC INTO DESIRED SHAPE (SO YOU HAVE A BACK & A FRONT). PIN IT TO BLANKET-STITCH IT 3/4 OF THE WAY.

FILL IT WITH Lavender flowers, BALSAM, Cotton Batting

And finish off with the **BLANKET STITCH**

BRING THREAD THROUGH FABRIC AT A, HOLD THREAD W/ THUMB, GO DOWN AT B AND UP AT C, WITH NEEDLE OVER THREAD. PULL INTO PLACE. USE THE RUNNING STITCH TO EMBROIDER YOUR NAME & THE DATE ON YOUR PROJECT.

TO MAKE DARLING COASTERS: BLANKET-STITCH 2 PIECES OF LEAF-SHAPED FELT TOGETHER.

CHAIN STITCH
LAZY DAISY
CROSS-STITCH
HEADING BONE


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Chicken Noodle Soup in a Mug

- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1/2 cup shredded rotisserie or roasted chicken (skin removed)
- 1/4 cup very thinly sliced carrots (about 1/2 carrot)
- 1/4 cup cooked small egg noodles
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon thinly sliced trimmed scallions (light green and dark green parts)
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/8 teaspoon kosher salt
- black pepper
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh parsley

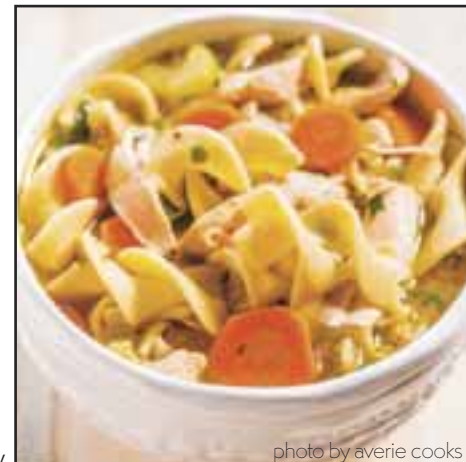


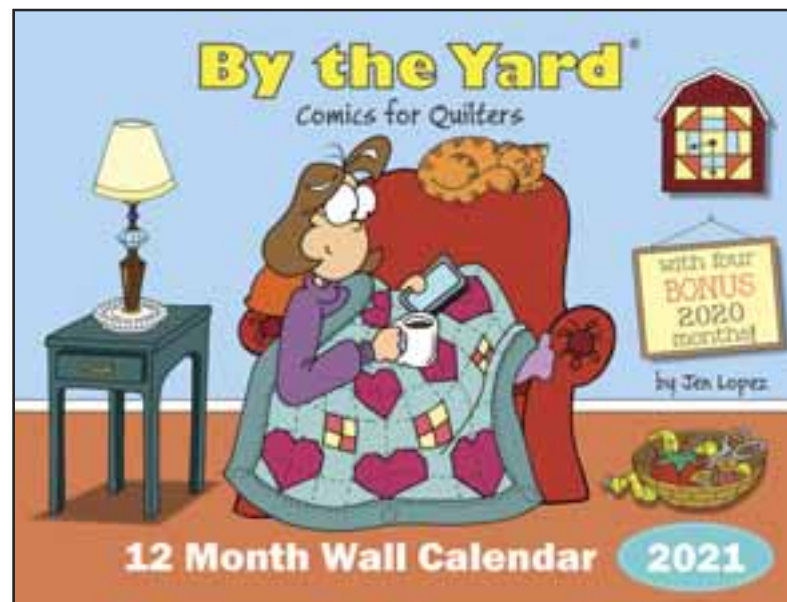
photo by averie cooks

1. Mix the broth, chicken, carrots, noodles, scallions, juice, salt, and pepper, in a large mug. (If you do not have cooked noodles on hand, you can cook them in the microwave by placing noodles in a mug with 2/3 cup of hot salted water and heating for 3 minutes).
2. Cover the soup.
3. Microwave for about 7 minutes or until carrots are tender.
4. Stir in the parsley.

Recipe by Popsugar.com

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12 Month Wall Calendar 2021



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Created by quilty cartoonist Jen Lopez.

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You will be notified and receive your prize by mail! Good Luck!

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GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



New Beginnings - A Fresh Start - an opportunity of a New Year

I appreciate the idea of a new calendar year. It gives us a visual representation of the twelve months we have to dream, plan, and set into action. With the major changes in our lives this past year, it has presented a major gap in our "normal" daily lives. I'm reminded of a quotation by humorous columnist Erma Bombeck about the word NORMAL. "The only place you find Normal in life is on your washing machine".

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM: The twelve months ahead of us can be extra-ordinary if we plan and set into action the changes we desire. Abraham Lincoln said that the best way to predict the future was to create it! Fill your plans with hope, kindness, togetherness and lots of joy. Create a new "normal", one that you and your friends and family will call a wonderful calendar year!

Joy & Blessings, *Jody*

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

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Shared Love & Friendship

by Lesley R Nuttall

We all need the love of family and friends to help us on our daily journey. Nothing in this life can be greater than having unconditional love from family, or just knowing that you have loving friends you can trust and rely on. Love is patient, beautiful and kind; as with friendship, love must be shared equally to keep it alive.

I wrote the following poems to help get through the past months and what has been a long and challenging year. We can all help each other even though we can't be together physically. We can take time to make a phone call, text a message, send an email, or perhaps even send an actual letter or card in the mail just to let someone know they're in our thoughts. A small gesture can truly brighten their day!

SHARING THE LOVE

Our life is full of moments, we and our Angels share.
An Angel's love is genuine and shows how much they care.
They guide us on our journey, to help us be our best.
To share our love with others, from the East and to the West.

We share our love with others, in so many different ways.
It could be just a phone call on a dark and rainy day.
A mother puts a happy note in her child's lunch for school.
A wife slips a love note in hubby's pocket, to show that love still rules.

To love and be loved, is one of life's greatest desires.
It warms one's heart to share love, with someone we admire.
Spread your wings and soar up high, to be your very best.
Sharing your love with someone, will leave you feeling blessed!

FRIENDSHIP POWER

True friendship needs to be valued and nourished.
Genuine love and caring has to be encouraged.
Connecting with friends in some special way.
Keeping in touch with our desires each day.

We admire our friends with their special traits
Appreciating in awe, and wondering their fate.
A connection with someone happens for a reason.
Friendship attraction blooms in any season.

A true loving friend understands and cares.
Be on the lookout for someone so rare.
When you find that someone that you admire,
Guard and cherish them no matter what transpires.

So, let's all lift someone's spirits today and everyday. The month of LOVE called "February" is a great time to reach out. Everyone likes to be remembered, and when could be a better time to share your love and friendship than right now?

May you all be blessed for caring and sharing!

Wit and Wisdom

by Judyann Grant

It's a Love Thing



Over the years, when it comes to shopping, my husband always does his best to oblige my whims. Without complaint, he takes me to whatever store or boutique is on my "hit list." He has logged countless hours waiting while I tried to decide whether I wanted the sheer curtains or the muslin...or a rag rug or one with a non-skid backing...or should I go with the silver purse with a short handle or the versatile black purse with interchangeable straps? And what about this sweater...does it flatter the 'fig'? Would this pink scarf go with the jacket I bought last month?

Countless times we've gone to gift and craft stores; we've sniffed umpteen candle scents searching for the perfect one. Don even took me to Kohls two weeks before Christmas and stood in a check-out line that snaked around the store while I clung to my prize – a clearance-rack brown suede pillow. And why does he do it? It's a love thing.

Well, the tables have turned. Now, it is I who wanders up and down aisles, following my husband while he looks for the perfect "fill-in-the-blank." What caused this major shift in the tectonic plates of our shopping lithosphere? Two words: Harbor Freight.

We had driven by the small store numerous times but never stopped in – until last December – when Don needed a few tools. He invited me to go in with him and I thought, why not? It was better than sitting in a cold car.

Talk about culture shock – as soon as the doors opened, I was sure of one thing: Harbor Freight is a Man Store. There was no welcoming display of soft, pretty things. No sandalwood candles scented the air. The smells that greeted my nose were those of rubber and metal, oil and polyethylene. Everywhere I looked, there were chains and hardware, cutters and saws, snippers and grinders and other, unidentifiable, and somewhat scary, implements.

I never knew such a store existed - one catering solely to the male species. Don was in heaven. I followed him up and down the aisles while he took it all in. He perused screwdrivers, in dozens of colors, styles, brands and prices. He debated battery-chargers, big and small, expensive and not-so-much. He looked at pocket-sized gizmos that checked electrical currents. He hemmed and hawed over nail guns and staplers. And he spent time eyeing flashlights in every form known to mankind. This store was a dyed-in-the-wool "guy thing." And I was happy that my ever-patient hubby finally had a store to call his own. Why? It's a love thing.

There are special days through-out the year when we go out of our way to lavish love – anniversaries, birthdays, Valentine's, Christmas – yet how much better it is to lavish love every day, focusing our love and attention on a regular basis.

"Love is never tired of waiting; love is kind; love has no envy; love does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful. Love's ways are ever fair, it takes no thought for itself. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8 paraphrase.) The message of God's Word? It's a love thing.

Lucy Webb Hayes

by Jan Keller

Born in 1831, Lucy Webb Hayes was born in Chillicothe, Ohio to Dr. James Webb and Maria Cook Webb. When Lucy was only two her father died of cholera in 1833. To provide for her family, Lucy's mother took in washing.

As a teen, her mother moved her family to Delaware, Ohio to enroll her sons in Ohio Wesleyan University and the result was that Lucy began studying with the schools instructors and ended up graduating from the Wesleyan Female College in Cincinnati at 18, making her unusually well educated for a young lady for the time.

"Rud" Hayes, age 27, had set up a law practice in Cincinnati, and as things worked out he began visiting the Webb home. "By George! I am in love with her!" he once wrote in his diary. The couple married in 1852. Over twenty years Lucy gave birth to eight children, but only five survived past infancy.

In 1877, when Rutherford and Lucy left Ohio for Washington, the outcome of the contested election was yet undetermined. Ultimately Lucy did watch her husband take the oath of office and simultaneously she became not only first lady but the first first lady to have graduated from college.

Lucy Hayes was the first presidential wife to be commonly referred to as "first lady" by the press. Advances in technology in the newspaper industry allowed the whole country to see sketches of first lady Hayes at the 1877 inauguration as well as descriptions of her clothes and demeanor at official functions. She confidently entered the White House thanks to experiences from her long and happy married life, her knowledge of politics, her intelligence, and her cheerful spirit. She enjoyed informal parties, and went to great effort to make official entertaining attractive. She was a temperance advocate and liquor was banned at the mansion during this administration, yet she was a popular hostess. She took criticism of her views with good humor (the famous nickname "Lemonade Lucy" apparently came into use only after she had left the mansion) and she became one of the most admired women to preside over the White House.

When the Hayes presidency ended in 1881, Rutherford and Lucy returned to Spiegel Grove in Fremont, Ohio. The couple enjoyed a contented eight years together there—until Lucy, age 57, had a stroke and died a few days later on June 25, 1889. Three and a half years later, while on business in Cleveland, Rutherford became ill and was escorted back home to Fremont. There he died of heart failure at age 70 on January 17, 1893. President and Mrs. Hayes are buried in a tomb at Spiegel Grove.

Lucy Hayes' Historic Lady's Fingers Recipe

Mix six yolks of eggs with half a pound of powdered sugar; work the preparation with a spoon until it is frothy; then mix into it the whites of six eggs well beaten, and at the same time a quarter of a pound of flour, dried and sifted. Put this batter into a meringue bag, and squeeze it through in strips, two or three inches long, and sprinkle over some fine sugar; bake in a slack oven for twelve to fourteen minutes.

Rutherford B. Hayes' Oyster Stew Recipe

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/4 lb. butter | 1/2 cup chicken stock |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt | White pepper (optional) |
| 1 teaspoon celery salt | Pinch of paprika |
| 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce | 1 quart of fresh oysters |
| 1 quart of milk | 2 cups heavy cream |
| 4 tablespoons butter | |

Melt butter in a sauce pan and add chicken stock, salt, pepper, celery salt, paprika, and Worcestershire sauce. When butter is hot and bubbly, add the oysters and their oyster liquor. Simmer the oysters gently in this liquor for 2 or 3 minutes or until their edges begin to curl. Meanwhile, scald milk and cream together and add the oyster mixture. Reheat, but do not boil. Serve piping hot in soup bowls, with a lump of butter floated in each bowl, and a bowl of oyster crackers.



Lucy Webb Hayes

Public Domain

Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

Tension

The needle on my sewing machine was going up and down through the fabric with speed and precision. The stitches were smooth and even. Then, as I stepped down even harder on the foot pedal, the needle suddenly stopped. Looking closer, I discovered the stitches had become uneven, resulting in little loops of excess thread.

I tried to remove the fabric, but couldn't. The needle wouldn't budge. After tugging on the wheel, one way and then the other, I finally raised the needle enough to free the fabric.

When I turned the fabric over to inspect the underside of the stitches, I discovered a large gnarled mess.

It reminded me of life.

A busy schedule with lots of activity keeps me operating at my best potential. Yet, there is a fine balance that can be difficult to maintain.

A proper tension is required. With too little stimulation I procrastinate and accomplish little or nothing. When too much is required of expected, my stomach aches and I get grumpy and tend to fall apart at the seams.

Tension can be good. If I invite company for dinner, I feel positive tension that helps me accomplish a great deal as I make my preparations. A day I might have idled away is suddenly filled with meaning and purpose.

If, however, I invite company for dinner on a day that's already too hectic, I become overly stretched. My smooth tension becomes tense and tight. Stress results and ultimately sends pressure surging through my system.

When I was a child, my mother encouraged me to learn to sew. She also regularly warned me not to mess with the sewing machine's tension. She said that if the tension got out of whack and off kilter it would be tedious and time consuming to properly regulate and get back in sync.

Just like a sewing machine, I must learn to carefully set the tension in my life. It takes time to discover a smooth and even balance to maintain an inner fiber strong enough to endure life's unplanned stresses without becoming raveled.

©2021 Jan Keller. No reprint without permission. Jan shares other pieces of her life in her books, *Pieces From My Crazy Quilt*, and *The Tie That Binds*. These books can be ordered by calling 719-749-9797, or writing: Black Sheep Books, 16755 Oak Brush Loop, Peyton, CO 80831

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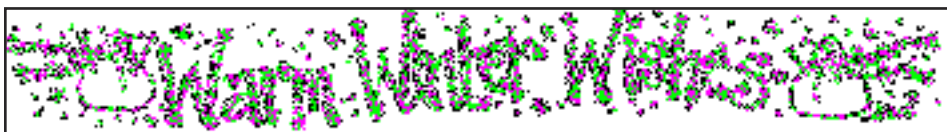


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ALONG THE PRESIDENTIAL TRAIL

Part of a series by Jan Keller

Rutherford B. Hayes — 19th President of the United States

The autumn overcast sky was lightly raining the day John and I visited Spiegel Grove, in Fremont, Ohio, the family home of Rutherford and Lucy Hayes—and the generations of offspring who have also called the site their home through the years since their passing. The beautiful stately estate is well cared for and the beautiful colors of the autumn leaves added a feeling of peaceful tranquility.

In contrast, the circumstances surrounding Hayes inauguration as president back in 1877 was anything but peaceful—rather it was one of the most contested elections in our country's history.

When Rutherford Hayes became president, half of the country believed it was because of fraud. It was a time when the nation was bogged down in a deep economic depression. The democrats controlled congress and his own republican party was in a state of chaos. In addition, the office of the presidency had been weakened by scandals

dating back to the Johnson and Grant administrations and Congress had usurped presidential appointing powers.

In spite of the controversy surrounding the inauguration of Hayes, by the end of his four-year term, the economy was booming, republicans had regained control of congress, there were no White House scandals, and strides were made to reform the civil service. Hayes left the presidency more independent by reclaiming the prerogative to choose his own cabinet and to fill government positions without congressional interference. Through his judicious use of the veto, he kept congress from weakening voting laws and from restricting immigration. Hayes' biggest disappointment was the failure of his southern policy

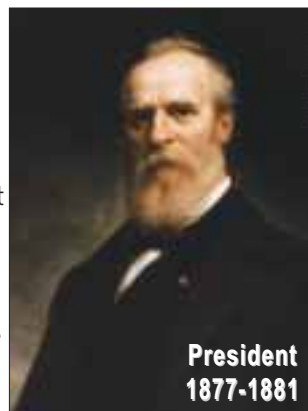
due to his naive belief that southern leaders would uphold civil rights.

Hayes believed the election of James Garfield to succeed him as president was evidence the public approved of his administration and its policies. He was confident he had made the correct decision to serve only one term as president.

Hayes assessed his performance in his diary, writing, "I can say in truth—I left this great country prosperous and happy and the party of my choice strong, victorious, and united. In serving the country, I served the party."

The decades between the Civil War and the early 20th century were a time of massive social transformation. The 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution abolished slavery, gave blacks American citizenship and black men the

right to vote. Those who advocated for black rights, such as Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. DuBois, worked to ensure that equality laws were actually enforced. Women like Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt and Sojourner Truth gained attention with their demands for women's right to vote and equal pay for men and women.



America's natural resources like copper, rubber, coal and oil ignited an industrial revolution. Captains of industry like Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller and Cornelius Vanderbilt accumulated wealth and riches unheard of in the nation's young history. Americans subsequently flocked to urban areas to work in the newly built factories.

Yet, for all of the glamour and progress, America had serious growing pains. Women fighting for equal rights were jailed. Lynchings of black Americans were common. Temperance Unions called attention to a serious national alcohol addiction problem. While industrialization created millionaires, workers and their families lived in extreme poverty. The volatility of the era spilled into political action as questions of currency inflation and civil rights took center stage.

As president, Rutherford Hayes, concerned about racial tensions, geographic sectionalism, political corruption and the growing gap between the rich and the poor, worked to bring balance to the chaos. Frustrated at times by the political forces in Washington DC, Hayes took full advantage of his post-presidency freedom to become direct about his concern for the country's future. "The money-piling tendency of our country," Hayes wrote in his diary in

1890, "is changing laws, government, and morals—and giving power to the rich and bringing pauperism and its attendant crimes and wretchedness like a flood. Lincoln was for a government of the people. The new tendency is a government of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich."



The Rutherford Hayes Presidential Library & Museums, Fremont, Ohio


Photo by Jan Keller



Me in front of the Hayes' Home on the grounds at Spiegel Grove.

Photo by John Keller

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I'm a Little Bit Jelly

Mystery Quilt 2021 for The Country Register
Designed by Ann Jones

If you have any questions contact Erica at Nine Patch Quilt & Fabrics, Nevada, MO
ericaskouby@gmail.com or 417-667-7100. Miss one of the parts?
Check www.countryregister.com

Dig out those Jelly Rolls that you have no clue what to do with because this quilt was designed just for you! It can be as scrappy as you want or not scrappy at all. A great way to use up all of those 2.5" strips you have collected too! Finished quilt measures 96X96". Pressing your seams in critical and using a 1/4" seams allowance is too if you want your blocks to fit! You may also need to USE YOUR PINS!

Fabric Requirements:

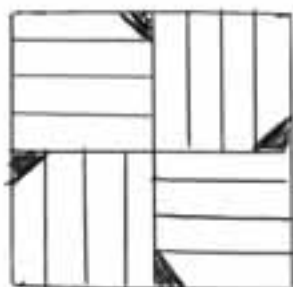
- Fabric A (for the main block): 3 jelly rolls OR 100 strips 2.5" X44" long
- Fabric B: 1 1/2 yards We suggest this reads as a solid or tone on tone for corner squares(1/2 yd) and sashing squares(1/4 yd) and binding (3/4 yd). It can be subtle or bold, depending on how much focus you want on this fabric)
- Fabric C: 1 jelly roll OR 40 strips 2.5"X44" OR 640 2.5" squares!

PART 1: Modified Rail Fence Block Finished block is 16.5X16.5" (Make 25)
Using Fabric A. Sew 4 strips together lengthwise. Press seams in one direction. This should make a 8.5" wide strip set. Sub cut into 8.5X8.5" blocks. After sewing all of your strip sets together you should have 100 strip set blocks.

Using Fabric B: Cut 100 2.5" squares. You will sew the 2.5" square to the top right corner of each of your rail fence block. You may want to mark the diagonal on the square before sewing. If you prefer, cut off the excess and press toward the 1/2 square triangle piece.



Randomly select 4 of your modified rail fence blocks and sew them together into 25-4 patch sets, turning the rails as shown in the diagram, making sure your half square triangles "move" around the finished blocks. Press your seams. Should measure 16.5" X 16.5".



Country Register Recipe Exchange

Banana Bars

submitted by a reader



- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 1/2 cup sugar | 2 tsp vanilla |
| 1 cup sour cream | 2 cups flour |
| 1/2 cup butter (softened) | 1 tsp salt |
| 2 eggs | 1 tsp baking soda |
| 3-4 ripe bananas (mashed) | 1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional) |

Mix sugar, sour cream, butter and eggs on low speed for 1 minute. Beat in bananas and vanilla on low speed for 30 seconds. Beat in flour, salt and soda on medium speed for 1 minute. Stir in nuts. Bake in a greased jelly roll pan at 375° for 20-25 minutes. When cooled frost with a cream cheese frosting!

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Free Pattern

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Wishing us all a healthy, happy, peaceful 2021.
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www.susanbranch.com