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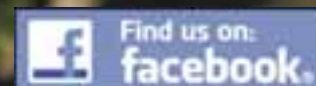
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The Country Register began in Arizona, in the Fall of 1988, to provide effective, affordable advertising for shops, shows, and other experiences enjoyed by a kindred readership. Since then the paper has flourished and spread. Look for the paper in your travels.

Barbara Floyd, founder • barbara@countryregister.com • 602-237-6008

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Months May/June

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Deadline For the July/August Edition is June 10th!

And the Winner Is...

Wilma Kruse of Adrian, MN won a \$25 gift certificate to Sewing Basket in Luverne, MN. Wilma says Sewing Basket is her favorite shop because "They are friendly and helpful. They are also able to fix my machines!"

Congratulations!

Happy Mother's Day • Happy Father's Day

Special Events

Many events in March, April and May were cancelled. Many of those events are being rescheduled for later dates! Check with the shops to verify if dates have been changed. Look for new dates of those events that were cancelled!

May

23-25.....Plant Sale - Country Craft Shed - Duluth

June

19-20.....Summer Clearance & Sidewalk Sale - Gone to Pieces Quilt Shop - Kimball

July

31-Aug 16.....Quilt Minnesota Shop Hop

City Listing

Blue Earth.....7	Menomonie, WI.....17
Cloquet.....15	New Prague.....4
Cook.....12	New Ulm.....8
Duluth.....12,15	Owatonna.....4
Eagan.....9	Sandstone.....10
Eden Valley.....11	Sherburn.....7
Elk River.....9	Waite Park.....11
Foley.....11	Wells.....6
Hinckley.....10	White Bear Lake.....9
Kiester.....6	Windom.....7
Kimball.....11	Winona.....5
Luverne.....6	Worthington.....7
Madison, WI.....14	



“Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand”
- Isaiah 41:10

“Be strong and courages. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go:”
- Joshua 1:9



I am a worrier by nature. I struggle with anxiety off and on and it can get overwhelming at times. This has been no exception over the past couple months dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. There have been times that I have broken down in tears over fear of getting sick, my kids getting sick, my mom and dad getting sick, my 100-year-old grandpa getting sick, over businesses surviving, over my husband's company furloughing thousands of employees, over my kids trying to tackle distance learning and over the economy in

general. I have been completely overwhelmed and felt completely helpless.

Then I remember something my mom always told me when I was young and would be worrying about something. She would tell me, "Turn it over to the Lord. You have to put it in His hands or you will drive yourself crazy".

I have found so much peace from the two scriptures above. They remind me that I am not in control. That through all this, God is still in control. Everything that happens in our lives, He will work for the good. He will get us though this. This helps me to take a deep breath, relax and feel better. And the next time my anxiety creeps in, I once again turn to the Lord and His scriptures!

Now, more than ever, please visit small mom and pop shops including those who advertise within *The Country Register*. Let them know you saw them here. They need you and depend on you! And they miss seeing you! Many shops are doing things a little different right now and are open for curbside delivery. Many shops have opened up or already have online stores. Some shops even have Facebook Live shows! The shop owners are getting creative and thinking outside of the box! Let's help support them now and hopefully in person soon! When this is all over, take a trip to visit your favorite shop or a new one!

Stay safe and stay healthy!



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The Country Register



Ann's Lovin' Ewe

by Ann Stewart

My Extraordinary, Ordinary Life

Can you guess the movie from the following quote? "We're all traveling through time, together, every day of our lives. All we can do is do our best to relish this remarkable life."

It's about time. Literally. The movie "About Time" reminds viewers of the importance of a parent/child relationship, about choosing people over things, and how love stands the test of time.

Tim Lake can travel back in time, reliving days of his life. His father advises him to try to live each day TWICE. The FIRST time with all the tensions and worries that stop us all from noticing the good things. But the SECOND time really noticing how sweet the world can be.

But after Tim marries and has children, he comes to realize, "The truth is I now don't travel back at all, not even for the day. I just try to live every day as if I've deliberately come back to this one day, to enjoy it, as if it was the full final day of my extraordinary, ordinary life."



Perhaps one of the most poignant moments is when Tim knows he will be seeing his father for the last time. His dad asks for one final moment. They both time travel back to when Tim is a boy and they play on the beach together and throw stones in the water. It was an ordinary day, celebrating the love between a father and a son. A beautiful reminder of the unique and precious nature of each day.

On the April day of this writing, we had a Skyemoor Farm record with sextuplets. Five lambs made it but two needed some intervention. My college daughter Julia, home during Covid 19 quarantine, and I warmed them in bathwater, blow-dried them and placed them near the oven. We then bottle-fed them and left them alone to cuddle. Today is one of those unique days I was privileged to repeat one of the many days of lambing from when Julia was a little girl. What a simple treasure.

I have no idea if at the time of printing, we will still be quarantined. But still the message from this movie could not be more true: We can choose to really notice "how sweet the world can be." See a smile, hear the laughter, taste your coffee, hug someone for ten seconds, listen to the birds sing, the cars honk, and enjoy the world unfolding before our eyes. Live deliberately. Enjoy each day as if it was the "full final day" of our extraordinary, ordinary life.

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Random Acts

by Maranda K. Jones

Good Behavior

I am sitting here eating my apple, which is really nothing new. I eat an apple once a day. It's just the thing to do. An apple for this teacher, and it keeps the doctors away. This apple is a little different, although its label still insists it is my favorite. This gal is enjoying her Gala just a little bit more than usual and savoring every bite. Maybe it has something to do with it being the last one in the bowl. Or maybe it is due to the fact that I actually have time to sit and be still. I found myself actually thinking about the Fruit instead of rushing through another hurried lunch period.

Lunch with first graders is always entertaining. They tell the best stories and ask interesting questions. Some need help opening their milk cartons, cutting bites on their hot lunch trays, or opening fruit containers. Their cold lunches packed by family members range from sandwiches on homemade bread, fresh cut fruits and vegetables, and homemade cookies with a note wishing them well. Others' cold lunches include leftovers and prepackaged snacks, but almost always include love notes from families telling them they are loved and to have a good day. Black letters filling in blank spaces for notes on the packages, written in sharpies and begging to be read. I have the pleasure of reading these heartwarming messages that always make the children and me smile.

The unwritten stories also speak volumes. One little girl proudly announced, "This sandwich is so good! My mom made it with love!" It was almost recess time, and she hadn't eaten it all. Only the crusts remained. When I asked her about finishing it, she said, "Oh, it's okay. My mommy doesn't put love in those bites."

This apple today seemed to have love in every bite, a reminder of the Fruit of the Spirit as named in Galatians 5:22: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. I try to conduct myself with such character, especially when spending time with my children, but often fall short in keeping in step with the Spirit. Then I turn back one page in my Bible and see that what matters is faith working through love. And if I go back one more book, I see it lovingly written that God's power is made perfect in our weakness.

"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Therefore I will gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may reside in me. So because of Christ, I am pleased in weaknesses, in insults, in catastrophes, in persecutions, and in pressures. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12: 9-10.

I am a weak woman, in my roles as teacher, mother, and wife, which pleases me to say. I must give glory to God for my good behavior. And as I sit here making every bite of this apple last, I savor the words I read on the notes mothers and fathers write to their children. And I savor the words our heavenly Father has given to us. Each bite seems a bit sweeter.

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Maranda Jones' new book **Random Acts** is now available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).
The book includes her reader-acclaimed articles from the last decade.



Winona

Wit and Wisdom

BORN PATRIOTIC

by Roxanne J. Ferguson



I think I was born patriotic. It may have something to do with being born on June 14th, Flag Day. I have always liked having a birthday in June. Usually the sun is shining and the weather is nice. As a child, my birthday always lined up with the end of the school year and the beginning of summer vacation. Also, having a birthday on a day when people fly their flags, just adds to the celebration!

As a second grade teacher, I was glad to be a part of our school's traditional Flag Day program. Teaching the children patriotic songs, poems and the history of our flag, was a joy and a privilege. There is nothing more joyful than seeing children marching around the auditorium carrying their own American flag. There is nothing more emotional than seeing children hold hands on the risers and lift them together in unity as they sing about seeing their flag, their country's flag, and knowing they are not alone. I guess I am just an overly sentimental person.

When I think of how our country began, why people came here, the goals of our founding fathers, and the price that has been paid for our freedom, I am filled with awe and with pride. I am also saddened by the lack of understanding and appreciation of these things by some of our population. I think we all could use a lesson in patriotism.

Memorial Day is a day that I think many don't understand. Growing up, those older than me called it Decoration Day. This is a day set aside to remember and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives, for our country. Graves are decorated with flags, names are read, speeches are made, parades take place. As a young person in the high school marching band, the biggest impression made on me, was when we marched single file to the somber tap, tap, tap on the snare drum, as we silently entered and made our way through the cemetery. Then as we stood in somber silence, the names were read, rifle shots fired, taps were played. We got it. We knew. We appreciated it.

Now Memorial Day has been moved from the traditional May 30th, to a Monday at the end of May. This makes a three day weekend, for traveling, camping, and picnics. It takes away from the somber remembrance of those who fought and sacrificed. The parade in our town no longer takes us through the cemetery. The young band members march to the library lawn and then up the street to the VFW. Yes, the names are read, the rifles are fired, and the taps are played. But the somber march through the cemetery has been deleted. Only a handful of people show up in the cemeteries. Only a handful of people seem to care. I am thankful for the faithful few. What will happen when they are gone?

It is not just Memorial Day that people don't understand or remember. July 4th is not just a day for fireworks and picnics. It is the day we remember as the signing of our Declaration of Independence, when we declared our freedom as a country, no longer to be controlled as a colony. Veteran's Day is the day to honor and recognize our veterans – those who have served in the service and protection of our country. I have never understood why many get this day off from work or school. It seems to me that the veterans are the ones who should have this day off from work and be honored on this day in some way. I have been happy to see that many restaurants honor veterans on this day.

We should never stop teaching and practicing patriotism. We need to teach the history of our country and to understand what it means to be a citizen of this great land. I think it is our responsibility. I may be a little old fashioned and I know I am a lot patriotic.

God Bless America, land that I love.
 Stand beside her and guide her
 Through the night with the light from above.
 From the mountains to the prairies,
 To the oceans white with foam
 God bless America, my home sweet home.
 (By Irving Berlin)

Roxanne Ferguson is a retired elementary teacher. She lives with her husband, Perry, in the Tug Hill region of New York State. They are the parents of three grown daughters and six grandchildren. She enjoys writing, gardening, and music. Roxanne is active in her church and community. (For information on books by this author, please contact her at witandwisdomwriters@gmail.com.)



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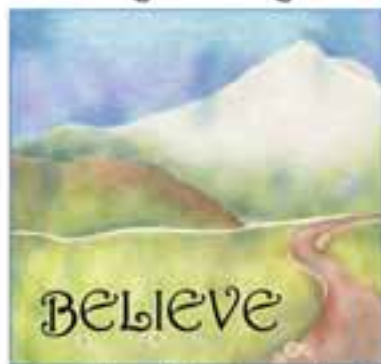
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GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



BELIEVE



On the path called LIFE, steps are taken ONE at a TIME.

It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you don't stop.

The journey may be longer and more difficult than expected. Or, there just might be a life lesson that turns out to be invaluable and beneficial in our future. The Path called Life is rarely straight and predictable.

Mother Theresa said:
"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."

With each step we will be guided to the next step, and before you know it, the way will become very clear. Clarity gives us confidence. Confidence makes us stronger and leads us to feeling more secure. And security leads us to happiness. Baby steps, one step, another step, a path to joy and happiness.

Steve Job's innovation has impacted all of our lives. His advice was to (1) Trust that it will work out in the end. (2) Most of what he stumbled into turned out to be priceless down the road. (3) Trust that the dots will connect down the road. And (4) You can't connect the dots looking forward you can only connect the dots looking backwards.

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM: Let's look forward to all the great things that are happening right now as we take one step at a time - allowing those "dots" to connect to wonderful life changes, fulfilled dreams, and creating great joy in our lives that we never expected.

Joy & Blessings, *Jody*

Don't stop quotation: Confucius
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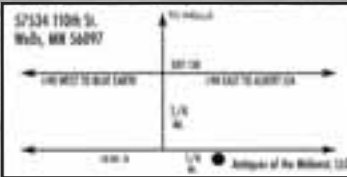
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ALONG THE PRESIDENTIAL TRAIL

Part of a series
 by Jan Keller

James A. Garfield — 20th President of the United States

It was a glorious autumn day when John and I visited the James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor, Ohio. The trees were bedecked in blazing crimson glory—at least until some rain blew in. All it took was one strong gust of wind to leave a remnant of leaves barely hanging on to their branches. Similarly, all it took was a couple of quick shots from an assassin's gun and James Garfield's presidential term and his life were left hanging precariously by a thread.

During the year 1881, the United States had a succession of three different presidents—Rutherford B. Hayes, James Abram Garfield, and Chester Alan Arthur.

Garfield was born on a farm near Orange, Ohio in 1831. His father, Abram Garfield, died when Garfield was two so he and his four siblings were raised by their mother, Eliza Ballou Garfield, who stressed education. Young James attended school in a small school that was built on the Garfield property. He went on to graduate from the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute and returned a year later as the school's professor of ancient languages. In 1857, at age 25, he became president of the College.

In 1858 he married Lucretia Rudolph. Soon the couple started their family, which included seven children (two died in infancy). Garfield also studied law and was ordained a minister in the Disciples of Christ church, but

he soon turned to politics.

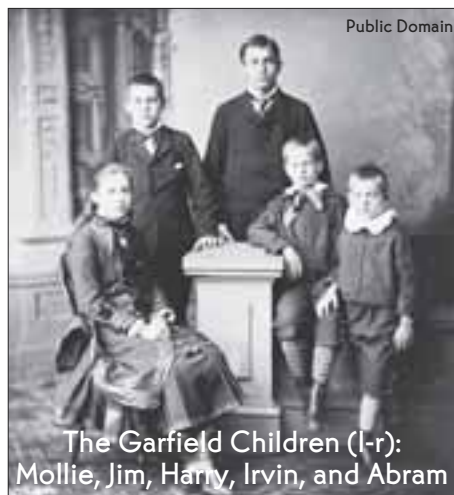
Garfield, the last of our "log cabin" presidents, was a major general in the Union Army during the Civil War. From 1863 to 1881, he served as a U.S. Congressman. He was 49 years old when he was sworn in as president on March 4, 1881 and he died of an assassin's bullet six months and 15 days later—79 days after he was shot.



This was a time before Secret Service protection and access to the president was easy. If someone wanted an appointment for a job in the federal government, they sat outside the president's office until it was their turn to meet and make their case. Charles J. Guiteau, an embittered attorney, was one such person who unsuccessfully sought a consular post. On July 2, 1881 a disgruntled Guiteau approached Garfield in the Washington train station and fired two shots. Convicted of the assassination, Guiteau was hung on June 30, 1882.

For over 11 weeks Garfield lingered with one of the bullets lodged in his body. Though Guiteau shot the president, it could be argued that Garfield was actually killed by the atrocious medical care of his doctors.

Garfield died September 19, 1881 and was interred in the mausoleum inside of the Garfield Monument in Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio.



Garfield's short time in office didn't allow for a long list of achievements, but one notable and controversial action was to take steps to get rid of cronyism. One very lucrative job was the collector of the New York Port Authority. Instead of allowing the status quo to continue, Garfield made a switch to eliminate the "good old boy system" and simultaneously strengthened presidential power and independence.

The Star Route scandal was another significant development during Garfield's short term in office,

involving the fraudulent dispersal of postal route contracts. "Go ahead regardless of where or whom you hit," Garfield told investigators. "I direct you not only to probe this ulcer to the bottom, but to cut it out."



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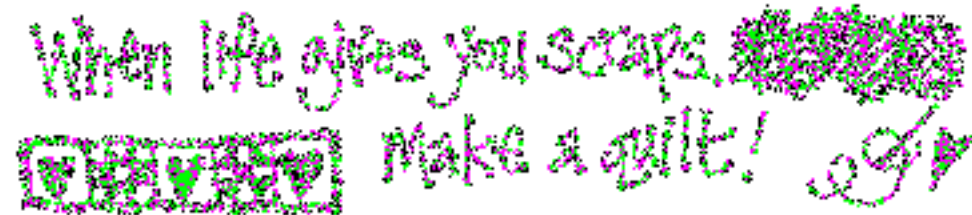
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Life in Skunk Hollow

by Julie A. Druck
Library Love



Not long after this issue will go to print, National Library Week will have been celebrated. Upon learning that, and in conjunction with the fact that I'm currently reading a book about libraries, I thought I'd wax eloquent for a bit about my library love.

Libraries and I have a long history. Actually, the library I'm referring to is the little bitty one I've patronized since I was old enough to read. The library itself is simply a doublewide mobile home that's literally 3 minutes from our farm. It's on the outskirts of my old hometown, and it's the same one that my grandfather would drive me to in the summertime to fill up on more Nancy Drew's. (I ate those things like candy.)

I've always loved to read and the nearness and familiar comfort of our little library encouraged that habit. I couldn't wait until I turned 13 – that was the age you had to be in order to volunteer at the library. The summer that my best friend and I “came of age,” we signed up at the same time. What bliss it was (yes, I'm a nerd) to hear the clunk of the book charger as it inked the due date onto a card, but it was even better to be the one who MADE the clunk.

During my high school years, the library was used mostly for homework help and term paper resources. That season of my library experience was more about business, less about the sheer love of reading.

But library love flourished again when my husband and I began our family. Our three sons were introduced early in life to story time and the joys of the summer reading program. Every week would find us lugging home book bags full of treasures. As our sons grew, our use of the library grew. Since we homeschooled before all of life was entangled in the worldwide web, the library was our main source of knowledge. We literally couldn't have homeschooled without it. When the boys were in the early grades, I'd plan unit studies on all kinds of topics to introduce them to the incredible world around us. Library books opened their eyes to places and things and concepts that they might never have known otherwise.

Those boys are grown and gone now, yet even in my empty nest years, the love remains. It's rare that a week passes when I'm not at that same little library picking up more books to read on our deck in the sunshine or audios for my husband and I to listen to on monthly trips to our cabin.

And I'm happy to report that my library love continues on into the next generation. Our two sweet grandbabies have been introduced to the joys of our little library. They've both already reached their goal of having 1,000 books read to them before kindergarten. I love seeing their faces pop up on the library's TV screen celebrating their achievement, along with the other children who are blessed to have parents who know the incredible importance of library love.

If it's been awhile since you frequented your local library (big or small), check it out and show your support for all that libraries contribute to our communities. You just might fall into library love yourself.

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

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Country Register Recipe Exchange

Cherry Pie

submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN

- 1 (15oz) pkg of refrigerated pie crusts, or your own recipe for 2-crust pie
- 2 (16oz) cans pitted tart red cherries in syrup - drained or two 21 oz cans cherry pie filling or 4 cups pitted fresh tart cherries.
- 1 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup all purpose flour
- 2 tbsp margarine or butter
- 1/4 tsp almond extract if desired

Prepare pie crust for two crust pie using 9-inch pie pan. Preheat oven to 425°. In large bowl, combine cherries, sugar and flour. Toss gently to mix. Prick bottom of crust with fork. Spoon into crust-lined pan. Sprinkle with almond extract if desired. Dot with margarine or butter. Top with second crust. Seal edges and flute. Cut slits in several places in top crust. Bake at 425° for 35-45 minutes or until juices begin to bubble through slits in crust.

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Reuse • Repurpose • Recycle

by Kim Keller



May and June are beautiful months! They bring a rejuvenated Earth back to life again! Trees get their green leaves, green grass is growing like crazy, flowers are blooming and the sun...the warm beautiful sun is shining bright! I thoroughly enjoy the warm bright sun shining through my windows. I will open up every blind just to let the sun in. It



makes me feel good!

I also enjoy bright beautiful colors! What could be better than combining the two? Sun catchers are a fun way to bring some extra color into your life! There are many ways to make sun catchers, but I decided to use some of my daughters' left over beads from when they were younger. They joined me making the sun catchers and we had a lot of fun!



1. Fill the bottom of a baking dish, muffin tin or decorative pan with a single layer of beads.
2. Start the grill and set at a medium temperature.
3. Place the pan of beads directly onto the grill.
4. It should take about 10 minutes or so to melt the beads forming a smooth layer.
5. Remove from the heat and set to cool outside.
6. The beads will shrink slightly as they cool so they sun catcher will pop right out after cooled completely!
7. After removing from the molds, drill a hole into the catcher.
8. Tie either a string or fishing line through the hole.
9. Hang the sun catchers in the window and enjoy the colors as the sun shines through!



NOTES: The beads will release some fumes as they melt so definitely do this in a well ventilated area! This is why I chose to do it on the grill, and boy was I happy I did! The cheaper the beads the better! We discovered the more expensive "fancy" beads didn't melt well, or even at all! The cheap pony beads worked the best!

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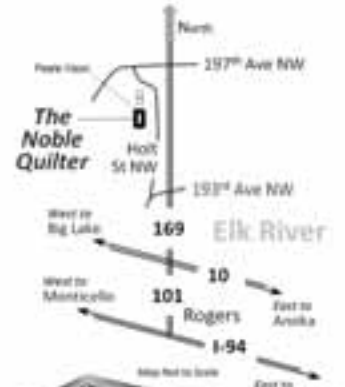
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Lucretia Garfield

by Jan Keller

Lucretia Rudolph was born in 1832 in Garrettsville, Ohio. Her parents believed in the importance of education and insisted that their daughter attend school and receive a thorough education, which at the time was not the norm.

Lucretia attended the Geauga Seminary in Chesterland, OH, studying history, mathematics, Latin, Greek, and English. It was also where she met her future husband, James A. Garfield. In 1850, she enrolled in the Western Reserve Eclectic College (now Hiram College). When Garfield transferred to Williams College in Massachusetts, in 1853, the couple continued their relationship through correspondence. In 1858, he finally proposed and they were married. James Garfield went off to fight in the Civil War and then his political career led to long absences from home. Lucretia once recalled that in the first six years of their marriage they were together only six weeks.

As a devoted wife and mother, Lucretia took on many domestic chores for her family which probably didn't appeal to her as much her literary and cultural interests. Years before she became the First Lady, while up to her elbows in flour as she kneaded bread dough, she adopted a philosophy to help her overcome her dislike for a chore by taking a very special interest in it, writing: "...the whole of life became brighter. The very sunshine seemed to be flowing down through my spirit and into the white loaves, and now I believe my table is furnished with better bread than ever before; and this truth, as old as creation, seems just now to have become fully mine—that I need not be the shrinking slave of toil, but its regal master."

Lucretia Garfield dearly loved her husband, but she wasn't pleased by his political career. She wasn't comfortable being thrust into the spotlight—but supported his bid for the presidency when Garfield won the support at the 1880 Republican Convention on the 36th ballot. He went on to win the election by a margin of only 10,000 popular votes against Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock.

When the Garfields moved into the White House, they had already lived in Washington D.C. from 1863 to 1881 while he served in the U.S. House of Representatives. As First Lady, Lucretia began researching historic White House furnishings at the library of Congress, planning to restore rooms with original pieces. In May 1881, however, she contracted malaria and was not able to complete the project. While recovering from her illness, she traveled to Elberton, New Jersey hoping that the climate there would speed her recovery.

On July 2, 1881, while Lucretia Garfield was recuperating, her husband was shot by Charles Guiteau. Immediately she returned to Washington and arranged for her husband to be transported with her to New Jersey. One of the doctors who cared for Garfield was a woman, Dr. Susan Edson. When Lucretia learned the federal government paid Dr. Edson half as much as the other doctors, Lucretia wrote a letter in protest about "discrimination." Ultimately all of the doctors were paid the same. Lucretia was a devoted and loving nurse to her husband, but her efforts were in vain. James Garfield died on September 19, 1881.

For her optimism and strength during her husband's illness, as well as her composed demeanor throughout Garfield's funeral services, Lucretia Garfield was held up by the nation's newspapers as a role model for American women.

Lucretia Garfield retired to the Garfield home in Mentor, Ohio to raise and see to the education of their children. In 1901 she moved to Pasadena, California. For the rest of her life she responded to letters on her official "mourning" stationery.

Lucretia Garfield died on March 14, 1918 at the age of 85. She was laid to rest next to her husband in the mausoleum at Lakeview Cemetery in Ohio.



Lucretia
Garfield

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LUCRETIA GARFIELD'S POTATO BREAD

1 large russet or white potato	1/4 cup butter, cut up
1 1/2 teaspoon salt	4 1/4 to 4 3/4 cups all purpose flour
2 packages active dry yeast	2 eggs
all purpose flour	2 cups water

Peel and cube potato. In saucepan, combine potato and the water. Bring to boiling. Cook covered for 12 to 15 minutes or until very tender. Drain, reserving 1 cup of hot cooking liquid. Set liquid aside. Mash potato cubes with a potato masher. Set aside. Combine reserved cooking liquid, butter and salt. Cool to 120° to 130°. In a large bowl, combine 2 cups of the 4 1/4 cups flour and the yeast. Add reserved cooking liquid and eggs. Beat with electric mixer on low speed for 30 seconds, scraping side of bowl. Beat on high speed for 3 minutes. Using a spoon, stir in mashed potatoes and as much of the remaining flour as you can. On a lightly floured surface, knead in as much of the remaining flour as you can to make a moderately stiff dough that's smooth and elastic (6 to 8 minutes total). Shape into a ball. Place in a greased bowl; turn once to grease surface. Cover; let rise in a warm place until doubled (1 to 1 1/2 hours). Place dough down. Turn out onto lightly floured surface. Divide in half. Cover and let rest for 10 minutes. Shape into loaves or rolls. For loaves, shape each half of dough into a loaf. Lightly dip tops of loaves into additional flour. Place loaves, floured sides up in 2 greased 8 x 4 x 2 inch loaf pans. For rolls, divide each half of dough into 12 pieces. Shape into balls. Lightly dip tops into flour. Place on greased baking sheets. Cover bread or rolls. Let rise until nearly doubled (30 to 40 minutes). Bake in 375° oven. For loaves, bake 35 to 40 minutes or until bread sounds hollow when tapped. For rolls, bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pans; cool on a wire rack. Makes 2 loaves or 24 rolls.

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"When you think things are bad,
when you feel sour and blue,
when you start to get mad...
you should do what I do...
Just tell yourself, Duckie,
you're really quite lucky!
Some people are much more...
oh, ever so much more...
oh, muchly much-much more
unlucky than you!"

- Dr. Seuss



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Designed by Ann Jones

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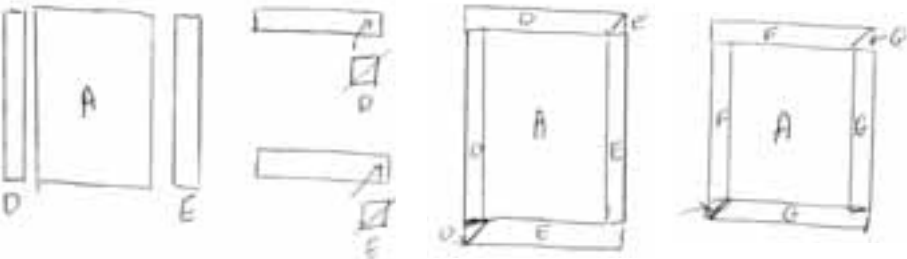
Part 2 - Block 2: 6.5" X 10.5" (make 20)
Cutting Directions for 1 block:

- (1) 4.5 X 8.5" Fabric A
- (1) 1.5 X 8.5" Fabric D
- (1) 1.5 X 6.5" Fabric D
- (1) 1.5 X 1.5" Fabric D
- (1) 1.5 X 8.5" Fabric E
- (1) 1.5 X 6.5" Fabric E
- (1) 1.5 X 1.5" Fabric E

Block 3: 6.5" X 10.5" (make 20)
Cutting Directions for 1 block:

- (1) 4.5 X 8.5" Fabric A
- (1) 1.5 X 8.5" Fabric F
- (1) 1.5 X 6.5" Fabric F
- (1) 1.5 X 1.5" Fabric F
- (1) 1.5 X 8.5" Fabric G
- (1) 1.5 X 6.5" Fabric G
- (1) 1.5 X 1.5" Fabric G

Mark the diagonal on each of your 1.5" squares. Piece according to the following diagrams. Block 2 and 3 are made exactly the same, but with different fabrics



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Flag Day Fireworks Dried Flower Bouquet

by Liberty Brammer

I had been wanting to do a dried hydrangea craft of some sort. At first, I had no dried hydrangeas. Last fall, the middle of the interstate median was full of them, but I knew it would be frowned upon if I stopped to gather a car full of them with vehicles whizzing past. But I was tempted. Then one day when I parked at the library, I realized some dried hydrangeas were right in front of me. I wasted no time going inside to ask if I could have them, and then if I could borrow some scissors. They gladly obliged and I was tickled to finally have the dried flowers. Well, they were wet because it had rained a lot, but they dried out in the house in no time at all, without any mold or mildew problems.



After I acquired the hydrangeas, I didn't know what I would do with them right away. I waited all winter to spray paint them.

And then, it hit me—these would make a great Patriotic Bouquet for Flag Day! I checked my spray paint collection, and was very happy to see that I already had red, white, and blue. I even had glitter that I had bought for another occasion and had not used. I also had a giant box, which helped contain the spray paint. The weather was perfect—just the right temperature, and not windy. Best of all, I was home alone and would not be interrupted!

Do you decorate with dried flowers? I much prefer dried flowers to artificial flowers or silk flowers. I had only a few dried bunches of hydrangeas. I carefully planned out how I would spray paint them. I wanted to test each color of spray paint, so I used a small bunch to try out each color.

Then I sprayed the glitter spray paint on them. I decided that the glitter paint made the white look dark, and more of a gray. When I spray painted my larger bunches, I only used glitter on red and blue. Again, on the large bunches, I carefully planned out which bunch I would spray red, white, or blue, according to how I wanted to arrange the colors in my vase. I don't always plan out things in such detail, but in this case, I am very glad I did.

I wanted something white to hold my dried flower stems in place. I decided to pop some unbuttered popcorn in my air popper for the vase filler. I thought it fit the fireworks look of the flowers. I used a large glass cookie jar for the vase. I saw that some people also call these apothecary jars.

The popcorn held the flowers in place very easily. Don't these bunches look like bursts of fireworks?

Do you like to use spray paint? If you haven't tried it yet, I encourage you to give it a try!

—Liberty Brammer is a homeschooling mother of two children. She lives in southern York County, Pennsylvania. Liberty blogs about this and other projects at www.B4andAfters.com. Contact her at b4andaftersblog@gmail.com, and can be found on Instagram and Pinterest.

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A MOTHER'S LOVE

by Lesley Nuttall, Dryden, ON, Canada

*They say love is blind, and it must be true,
A Mother's love stretches to the moon, and right back to you.
She loved you before you even opened your eyes,
with complete loving devotion that could fill the skies.*

*The magic component of a Mother's love,
has more loving patience than you could think of.
She provides gentleness daily, and a guiding hand,
inspiring joy and confidence as if it were planned.*

*A Mother is the greatest friend anyone has ever had.
She will cheer you up when you might feel sad.
And she can turn a frown upside down,
while encouraging smiling faces all around.*

*She has given the gift of life to you.
Her loving heart overflows; if only you knew.
Being loved by such a Mother, as time quickly flies,
is a blessing for you, with a Mother so wise.*

Happy Mother's Day • Happy Father's Day



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

Watermelon Poppy Seed Salad
submitted by Shirley Ross

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 bag (6oz) sliced <u>almonds</u> | 1/4 tsp pepper |
| 1/2 cup sugar | 2 tbsp poppy seeds |
| 1 cup (8oz) <u>sour cream</u> | 1 large batch of <u>romaine lettuce</u> |
| 1/2 cup olive oil | 3 cup chopped watermelon |
| 1/4 cup white wine vinegar | 3 celery ribs, <u>chopped</u> |
| 1/4 cup honey <u>mustard</u> | 1 pint blueberries |
| 1/4 cup honey | crumbled feta cheese to taste |
| 1/2 tsp salt | |

Place almonds in a skillet and sprinkle with sugar. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until sugar is melted and almonds are golden brown. Spread candied almonds onto a cookie sheet to cool. In a blender, place sour cream, oil, vinegar, mustard, honey, salt and pepper. Blend until well combined. Add poppy seeds and blend again until mixed. Toss bite-size pieces of lettuce with dressing in a large salad bowl. Top with watermelon, celery, blueberries, candied almonds and feta cheese.

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Reckless Abandon

by Aminta Geisler

I am not a very patient person by nature (My husband snorted when he read that sentence. He says I am NOT AT ALL a patient person).

Like, for instance, when I get an idea in my head. I will ruminate on it for about half of a day, but then I have to take action and do it myself. Unfortunately, rushing gets me into situations that require help when no help is available.

This "gotta happen right now" mentality is how the green carpet got partially ripped out of my entryway (that stuff gets heavy!) and it is also how I ended up drowning in a sea of hair as I attempted to give myself a haircut on Saturday.

Yep. You read that correctly.

I attempted to cut my own hair because I thought it needed to be an inch shorter in the back. I just got it styled by an amazing friend of mine, too... but for some reason I decided it needed to be tweaked. Right now.

Y'all, I can't even.

What was I thinking?

I have the world's thickest hair. And it's naturally wavy. And I was cutting the back, which I could barely see.

I didn't think it through. I just grabbed the scissors and started to snip.

About an hour and a half into it, I began to sweat, wondering if I would ever get it right. I felt gross because I was literally covered in hair. In my impatience, I hadn't bothered to put on a cape or a sheet, so I closely resembled Bigfoot's sister. Plus, the hair was itchy and when it got sweaty, it became sticky.

HELP ME JESUS.

I could hear my three boys fighting in the living room and one was screaming for help, but I was a prisoner in my bathroom...held captive by the scissors in one hand and the 4" round mirror in the other hand.

"MOMMY IS TRYING TO CUT HER HAIR! PLEASE BE KIND TO EACH OTHER!" I yelled in vain.

Yeah, right.

A few minutes later my 15-year-old came to check on me. When he opened the door, his eyes went wide and he stopped talking mid sentence. He backed slowly away, not wanting to get sucked in and afraid I would ask him to help.

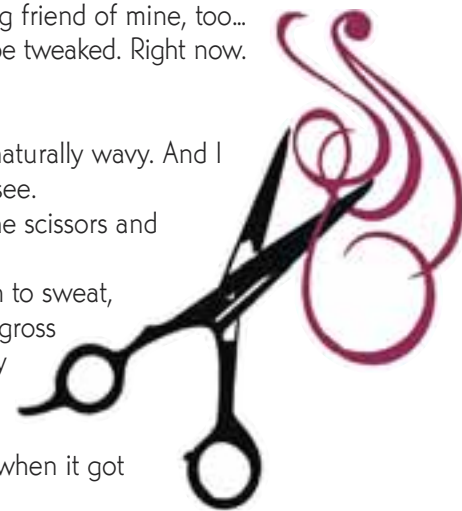
It was a hot mess.

In the end, the boys survived. My hair turned out fine...(I just need to visit the salon super soon!), and almost all of the hair got cleaned up.

But I could have avoided a giant disaster and saved two hours of my life if only I had been patient and waited until I could get in to see my stylist.

It got me thinking about how often my faith is like that too. I get tired of waiting for God to move and decide to take matters into my own hands. Most of the time, it doesn't work out and I am left with a mess to clean up. The impromptu haircut was a good reminder that patience is a virtue and that I need to wait for God's timing no matter what. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 reminds me that there is a time for everything, and that God is in control of that timing. I must wait in patient trust until he says, "Now, it's time."

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



COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE
Cake



Submitted by Helen Manzanarez

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 large eggs | 1 cake mix, any flavor |
| 1 can pie filling, any flavor | |

Place all ingredient in a bowl and mix well. Pour batter into a 9" x 13" pan. Bake at 350° for 35 minutes. This makes a cake with almost a pudding texture, lighter than pound cake. It is spotted on the inside with little pieced of fruit on the inside. The edges are crispy like you would get with brownies.

Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

Grandma Pat

Reaching out has been challenging since we've all been instructed to practice social distancing—but not impossible. I know because recently my life has been personally touched by Grandma Pat.

It all started when my friend Julie (who works in a senior care center) contacted me to ask for my cell number. She said, "I have one of my Elders who is reading your book, *The Ties That Bind*. In the midst of the virus, I thought I'd share with you what she said."

I promptly sent Julie my cell and moments later I received a video.

When I clicked to open the video, the first friendly words I heard were, "Hi Jan! I'm Grandma Pat!" Immediately I was enchanted by this bright and engaging lady who was reaching out and who went on to leave her indelible mark on my heart.

Grandma Pat went on to tell me that she had found my book, *The Tie That Binds*, in the library at the senior care center where she lives and that she was very impressed. She also went on to share how very much she appreciated all of the staff where she lives, mentioning my friend Julie by name.

As my book was being discussed, Julie had shared with Grandma Pat that I was recovering from recent back surgery and that prompted the video.

As I listened to Grandma Pat's greeting, I heard her saying: "Be happy! I'm not saying all the time because that's not what life is all about! But please, my dear, be happy—and be healthy! Please, please take care of yourself ... my thoughts and prayers go to you and I say L'Cheim. Peace."

My goodness! It seems to me Grandma Pat's greeting to me should be our sincere wish for everyone we know—and for the entire world!

Julie had told me that the staff at the residence does their best to make birthdays and other events special for the residents and in the video Grandma Pat had shared that she was days away from celebrating her 90th birthday.

Wanting to add a surprise to Grandma Pat's birthday, the very next day I prepared a birthday greeting card and got it in the mail, along with an inscribed copy of my other book, *Pieces From My Crazy Quilt*. I also wrote that once the care center is once again open to visitors, coming to see and to meet her is very high on my list of priorities.

I hope Grandma Pat is as excited to meet me as I am to meet her. I can hardly wait!!



©2020 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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Strawberry Shortcake in a Mug

- 1 1/2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 3 tbsp 2% or whole milk
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- 1 strawberry, diced (additional strawberries for topping)
- Whipped cream (topping - optional)



1. Place butter into mug.
2. Melt butter in microwave.
3. Add the milk, sugar and vanilla.
4. Whisk to combine.
5. Add the flour, baking powder and salt.
6. Whisk until well combined.
7. Add the strawberry pieces and push down into batter.
8. Microwave on high for 60 seconds.
9. Microwave in 15 minute increments until the cake begins to pull away from the sides of the mug.
10. Top with extra strawberries and whipped cream.



Adapted from kitchn: www.thekitchn.com

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**Country Register Recipe Exchange
 Rhuberry Pie**



submitted by Shirley Ross of Alexandria, MN

- 1 cup chopped Rhubarb
- 1 cup chopped fresh strawberries
- 2 cup raspberries
- 1 to 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 4 tbsp flour
- pastry for double crust pie

Mix together the rhubarb, berries, flour and sugar. Flour and sugar should be mixed throughout. Put bottom pastry in pie dish. Spoon the fruit mixture into the curst. Brush crust edge with a small amount of water. Put top crust on, seal and flute edge. Cut slits in pastry top and add sugar (sprinkle). Bake in 400° oven for 35-40 minutes until golden brown.

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**Country Register Recipe Exchange
 Party Punch**



submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN

- 2 quarts water
- 2 packages of Kool-aid
 (raspberry, cherry or lemon lime)
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 large can pineapple juice
- 1 bottle ginger ale

Mix together ingredients. Add ginger ale right before serving!

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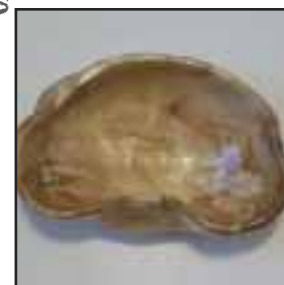
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The UFO

by Barbara Polston

Several years ago, I bestowed a small wall quilt upon a friend. I thought it the perfect gift for her as it featured yellow roses, her favorite flower. She liked the quilt and hung it in her home. Recently, she moved. Through a somewhat mysterious chain of events, I discovered that the quilt was lost to her. She felt badly, as did I.

What to do? Good thing that quilters have UFOs (Unfinished Objects). You might wonder how this happens. Why is a project, started with interest and enthusiasm, languishing unfinished? The reasons are many. An occasion like a wedding or birth demands the creation of a different project on a particular timeline. The quilter has learned what she wanted from starting the project and has lost interest. Encountering a new "shiny thing" has the quilter dropping everything else to answer the call of the new sparkle.



I have more than one UFO waiting for a time when it might interest me again. My oldest has been patiently waiting for, maybe, ten years. Periodically, I sort through all those projects. Those that no longer hold interest are broken down. Fabric goes back into my collection. Finished bits are donated, recycled or disposed of. Those that still speak strongly to me are stored away again waiting for the right time to be called forth and finished.

My current quandary—a new quilt gift for my friend—was resolved by using a UFO. She loves the outdoors! An avid hiker, she has completed weeklong hiking experiences, carrying everything needed and sleeping under the stars. In my UFO collection, I had a small landscape piece depicting mountains and a peaceful lake surrounded by a stand of aspen trees. I completed this piece and presented it as her holiday gift. It now hangs in her library room.

"When I look at it," she says, "I feel centered and calm. It's like looking out of a window into another place that makes me happy."

I believe that all those UFOs will, one day, find their time and purpose. I hope all of your Unfinished Objects meet with the same happy end!