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# Experience

- 1. The name given to our mistakes.
- 2. What you get when you're expecting something else.
- 3. What you have left after you've lost everything else.
- 4. The best teacher but often late to school.
- 5. That accumulated body of practical wisdom that enables us to have handy, whenever we are offered and unpleasant task, a completely logical reason for not doing it.

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This time, we are going to mix it up a bit – we're doing size options! The first size finishes 48 x 48. The second size finishes 60 x 76. Since the first size is baby quilt size or a lap cover for the car, someone wheelchair bound, etc., you can choose fabrics accordingly. If you want the bigger quilt, that will be Part 3.

The other neat thing about this quilt is, it's designed with just two fabrics. The key is to make sure you have a light to medium – I used a subtle print - that is complimented or enhanced by a dark – I used a tone on tone black. Erica has had this line of fabric in her store for a bit and every time I pass by it, I slow down and drool over the rich shades and tones in it. So, the quilt is designed around this line of fabric.

### **Fabric Requirements:**

Quilt Option #1

Fabric A - 2 3/4 yards Fabric B (dark) - 2 yards Binding (dark) – ½ yard

#### Quilt Option #2 (additional fabric needed)

Fabric A – 2 yards Fabric B (dark) – ½ yard Binding (dark) - 3/4 yard

#### **PART I:**

Making the Block: (Make 36 blocks) Cut (per block):

#### Fabric A

 $1-5 \times 5$  inch

 $1 - 2 \frac{1}{2} \times 4 \frac{1}{2} \text{ inch } 2 - 2 \frac{1}{2} \times 6 \frac{1}{2} \text{ inch } 1 - 2 \frac{1}{2} \times 8 \frac{1}{2} \times 8 \frac{1}{2} \text{ inch } 1 - 2 \frac{1}{2} \times 8 \frac{1}{2} \times 8 \frac{1}{2} \text{ inch } 1 - 2 \frac{1}{2} \times 8 \frac{1}{2} \times$ 

 $1 - 5 \times 5$ 

 $2 - 4 \frac{1}{2} \times 4 \frac{1}{2}$  inch

# Watch the Magic Mystery Quilt - 2024

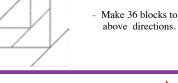
Designed by Ann Jones, Nevada, MO

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



- On the wrong side of Fabric A,  $5 \times 5$ , mark a diagonal line. Matching right sides together of A & B, sew ¼ inch on either side of the drawn line. Press.
- Cut on the drawn line. Press towards B.
- Square these two blocks to 4 ½ x 4 ½. See diagram below. Set aside.
- On the RIGHT SIDE of the above A/B square, right sides together, sew the 2 ½ x 4 ½ Fabric A. Set seam, press open towards A.
- On the bottom, right sides together, sew a 2 ½ x 6 ½ Fabric A. Set seam, press open
- On the two 4 ½ x 4 ½ B squares draw a diagonal line on the wrong side.
- On the above set, right sides together, place a 4 ½ x 4 ½ Fabric B in the BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER, making sure the corners and sides line up. I strongly encourage you to pin these together at this point so that the  $4 \frac{1}{2} \times 4 \frac{1}{2} \times B$  block
- doesn't shift when you sew.
- Take your time, and sew on the diagonal line. I found it to be more accurate if I set my needle position a stitch to the right of the diagonal line so I wasn't sewing directly on it. That gives the fabric room to fold over and "square up" to the corner. Set the seam and press open towards Fabric B. See Diagrams
- At this point, you will have three layers of fabric in the bottom right corner which is a bit bulky. If your corner matches up and your block is a square  $6 \frac{1}{2} \times 6 \frac{1}{2}$ , then you can trim the excess fabric so the block isn't too bulky. Cut the excess "triangle" and set aside. These triangles can be sewn together and squared into  $3 \frac{1}{2} \times 3$ ½ half square triangles for another project!
- Following the instructions and diagrams above, right sides together, sew a 2 ½ x 6 ½ inch Fabric A to the RIGHT SIDE of the above block. Set seam and press towards A.
- On the bottom side, right sides together, sew a 2 ½ x 8 ½ inch Fabric A. Set the seam and press towards Fabric A. At this point, your block should be 8 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches.
- Taking the second 4 ½ x 4 ½ inch Fabric B block, right sides together, place it in the bottom right corner, making sure your corners and sides match. Pin in place. Sew along the diagonal line. Set seam and press open towards Fabric B. Again, make sure block is square and then trim extra fabric and save for another project. See diagram below.



Make 36 blocks total, following the















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Saskatoon, SK





SASKATCHEWAN:
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Misty Gardens Pg.7
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Mistatim:
Cotton Meadow FabricsPg.6
Moose Jaw:
Quilters HavenPg.6
Moosomin:
Sew Creative & Interiors Pg.10
Nipawin:
Elaine's Fabric & More Pg. 6
Outlook:
Broderick Garden CentrePg. 6
Regina:
Bird Films Pg.8
Corben ToursPg.8
Humble Life Acres
Regina Antique Mall Pg.8
Queen City Antique & Vintage Market Pg.8
Saskatoon:
Century TextilePg.3

Prairie Lily KnittingPg.	.2
Sew Charming CraftsPg.	.2
The Sewing Machine StorePg.2, 9 & 1	6
Volseley:	
Tilli-Beans Bakery & Coffee Shop Pg.	8.
∕orkton:	
Colette's Sewing Machines Plus Pg.1	0
Modern Stitch Co Pg.1	O
North 40 FabricsPg.1	C
MANITOBA:	
Arborg:	
Sew Happy Quilts N MorePg.1	2
Ashern:	
Mama Bear's Quilt Shoppe Pg. 1	2
Austin:	
Big Wheel Quilt ShopPg.1	4
Brandon:	
Brandon Sewing Centre LtdPg.	9
George Strange's Prairie Showcase Pg.1	2
Mama Bears Quilt ShoppePg.1	2
Carroll:	
SLM AlpacasPg. 1	2
Morden:	
Aspen Grove QuiltingPg.1	1
Barnswallow Quilt ShowPg.1	1
Dak Bluff:	
Mook Fabrics Pg.1	3

Periwinkle Quilting and Beyond ...... Pg.2

Rossburn:				
Gone Scappin' In Bloom Pg.12				
Stanley:				
Aspen Grove QuiltingPg.11				
Steinbach:				
Fay's Fabric VillaPg.14				
Stonewall:				
Up Along QuiltingPg.14				
Swan River:				
Empty Bobbin Quilts & FabricPg.9 & 12				
Thompson:				
Needle's Eye FabricsPg. 9				
Virden:				
Flower Attic & Gifts Pg.14				
Winnipeg:				
Carellan Sewing CentrePg.9 & 16				
Design Wall (online only)Pg.15				
KTR Sewing Centre Pg.15				
Mook FabricsPg.13				
OTHER:				
Husqvarna/VikingPg.16				

PFAFF......Pg.9

## THE COUNTRY REGISTER MB/SK PAGE 5

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#### In This Issue

Mystery Quilt (Part 1 of 3)	Page 3		
Map page	Page 4		
Find this ad contest	Page 5		
2 Minute Lift: Build Your Life on Shoulds	Page 6		
Reader Submitted Stories	Page 7 & 12		
Keeping in Touch with Cindy and Joe Ashfield	Page 8		
Reader Submitted Recipes	Page 11		
A Cup of Tea with Lydia	Page 13		
Irish You a Happy St. Patrick's Day	Page 14		
Humble Life Acres	Page 15		
Recipes			
Slow Cooker Irish Stew	Page 10		
Brownie Pie (Gluten Free)	Page 11		

#### ф Oh NO!!! Carl has a screw loose!

Marinated Carrots ......Page 11

Tea Biscuits ......Page 11

Royal Rings......Page 13

Irish Soda Bread ......Page 14

Or, maybe it was a nail! All Carl is sure of is that he dropped something while he was hurrying to open the store. Whatever it was, he thinks he dropped it amongst the pages of The Country Register and he needs your help to find it.

Regular readers of The Country Register will know that Carl runs a small town store that sits smack dab on the Manitoba and Saskatchewan border, and that Carl fancies himself as a bit of a handyman, but his eyesight is not what it used to be. Can you help him find it?

It looks like this: This is not a contest, just some fun for you, our readers.

## Did you find Carl's loose screw in our last issue?



It was on page 6

Carl must have dropped it when he was reading "Be Productive" by Judy Ann Stupak



Last issue's winner of Can You Find This Ad Contest are:

**Louise Wilson** 

Tara Hynes

our mystery ad was ... D&S Family Fabrics

Get your entries in before January 15th to be eligible for this issue's contest. Can You Find This Ad?

Pictured in the magnifying glass above is a small portion of one of our ads. Can you find the ad that it came from?

Just fill in the form below and send along to us at: The Country Register P.O. Box 801, White City, SK S4L 5B1 \*\*SAVE ON POSTAGE! Put your friends' entries in with yours!\*\*\*\*

YES! There will be two \$50 prizes drawn for correct entries.

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#### Mistatim, SK



# 2 Minute Lift

TWO MINUTE READS TO FLIP OUR SCRIPT

BY: KATHY J. SOTAK

### **Don't Build Your Life On Shoulds:**

Choose every morsel of the day

I had two meetings the other day. The purpose of both was me seeking counsel from two distinct teams regarding unrelated topics. It was a typical work day.

However, both meetings had one common denominator. I was asked the same question by different people in each meeting: "Kathy, what do YOU want?"

Even though they were referring to business outcomes, my mind must have taken it to my heart. I woke up that night at 3:02 a.m., with their voice ringing in my head. "Kathy, what do YOU want?" I then realized this was a pivotal question for my own personal life.

"What do YOU want?"

I shouldn't want more. I already have a lot of beautiful things. I am blessed with a kind husband, boisterous kids, family, friendship, home, career, dogs, chickens and great health. But any good life is filled with retrospection, introspection and a bit of dreaming for the future. Right?

It rings again. "What do YOU want?"

I really don't think I've ever answered that question. My life was built on auto-pilot with too many

- I should go to college then build a dependable career
- I should be responsible then do the practical thing
- I *should* put my dreams in a box
- I should wait until -

To clarify – no one should on me. I did it myself. I simply followed the societal program of shoulding.

#### "What do YOU want?"

I looked at the clock again at 4:00 a.m. on the dot, still lacking the courage to answer that question. I spent a lifetime asking others that question, but forgot to ask myself that same one.

This question is a gift. I've now identified where I'm on auto-pilot and flipped the manual switch to intentional choice. It has shifted me to micro-choose every morsel of the day.

Our micro-morsels are small but they transform to be big and lifealtering. The theme of my micromorsels are moments of joy. Like digging up my favorite childhood music. Buying a hula-hoop. Dancing more around the house. Making the impractical decision of getting a second, high-shedding large-breed dog. Learning how to brew kombucha. Baking sourdough bread with my very own starter. Then eating it with zero guilt and all joy. Starting a new skills-trade group in my community to build connection and enrichment. More fires in the fireplace.

Will you join me in this walk? Let's do less shoulding and more choosing. Together, we will walk the longest, most treacherous 18inch journey from our head to our heart, to answer that question.

 $\mathscr{Plus}!!$ 

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"What do YOU want?"

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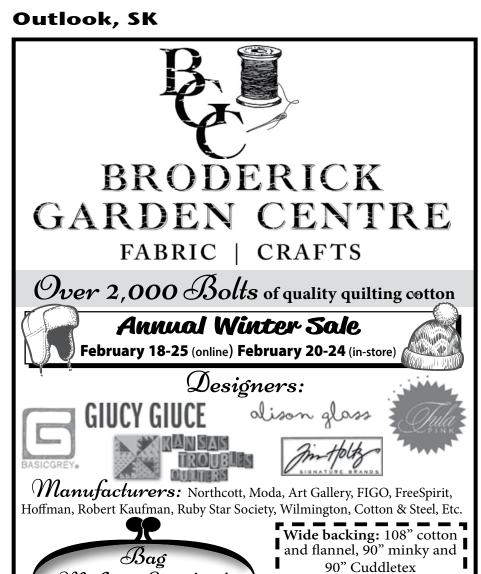




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Let's see, what to write about on a very cold January morning. The good news about January days is that the minutes of sunlight are stretching out...seems more noticeable at the end of the day, to me.

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### Regina, SK



while we are waiting out winter's chilly weather. We have a large woolen blanket that I bought from a Canadian Woolen Mill in P.E.I., called McCauslands. When I phoned to order it, I talked to the fellow who owns the mill. How often does that happen these days? This is also the time of the year for long johns for some and warm woolen sweaters. Many of ours I have knitted and are vears old. And then there is the afghan

warming up the inside of the house

For me, this is a good time for

that my mother crocheted, that is not only warm, but brings a warm memory with it. Probably, people would call our meals "comfort food." There are rich,

thick stews, pots of soup bubbling on

the stove & a slice of homemade bread,

which make up some of the menu. The smell of bread baking in the oven has a warmth of its own. These are followed by some of the old recipes for dessert once in a while. I like to experiment a little this time of the year, but the old stand-bys are still a favourite!

How many of you have a pet? There is something about the unwavering friendship of a pet that "warms the heart." For us, dogs were our choice. Joe liked Black Labs & he named his Annie. He says he found them to be friendly, warm & kind. When he went away for a few hours, Annie would wait by the living room window & watch for his return and was right there to greet him when he came in. My little Cock-a-poo, Sarah, was like that as well. But for us, there was one other dog who seemed to adopt us. He was a Golden Retriever who belonged to our neighbour down the street, who was still a working man. When I asked the dog's name, my neighbour said, "Oh, just call him Hey You"...so we did. He always joined me on my daily walk around the outskirts of town. One spring day I was kneeling in a flower bed in the front yard after dinner and I guess Hey You thought it was time for our usual walk. When he found me, I reached up to give his ear an affectionate scratch, but my hand got only as far as his chest. He gently took it in his mouth. The message was quite clear to me that it was time for our walk, so away we went, which was exactly right for both of us. For some folks, it is a favourite breed. Oueen Elizabeth liked Corgis. Often these days it is rescue dogs that are made available. Perhaps it takes a little longer for that bond to grow, but what a great way to give your dog a second chance.

By now, my seed catalogue pages are all dog-eared, and if you are a gardener like me, your thoughts are filled with garden plans. I like to start a few things indoors and always watch for the first sprouts with all their promise. Let's hope it won't be long before outside activities have changed from clearing snow to all the activities that spring brings. Til next time in the Register!

#### Regina, SK

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Slow Cooker Irish Stew hard to go wrong with a hearty stew, but if your family is balking at the leftovers, try reheating it with a can or two of coconut milk added, canned chickpeas and curry spices.

- 1 Tbsp oil
- 1.5 lbs. beef stew meat in 1-2 inch cubes
- 2 onions peeled and very thickly sliced
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 1 lb. potatoes peeled and cut into chunks
- 4 carrots peeled and cut into chunks
- 3 sticks celery sliced
- 2 cups beef broth
- 2 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 4 Tbsp flour
- ½ tsp salt
- Ground black pepper to taste
- 1 sprig rosemary, or 1/4 tsp dried rosemary
- 2 bay leaves

I usually double this recipe and it fills up my extra-large, oval slow cooker to the brim. It's

2 Tbsp cornstarch stirred into 3 Tbsp cool water to make a slurry

Heat the oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Add beef and brown; remove and add to 4-6 quart slow cooker.

Add the onions to hot skillet and sauté over medium heat until softened. Pour in about ½ cup of the beef broth, scraping any browned bits off the bottom of the pan. Pour into the slow cooker over the meat. Place the potatoes, carrots and celery in slow cooker. Whisk together broth, Worcestershire sauce and flour in a measuring jug. Pour over meat and vegetables in slow cooker, stir. Add in the herbs, close lid and cook on LOW for 7-8 hours or on HIGH for 4 hours.

To thicken: open the slow cooker and pour in cornstarch slurry, stirring to combine well. Simmer WITHOUT the lid for 15-30 minutes on HIGH, until thickened

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# READER SUBMITTED RECIPES

# Brownie Pie (Gluten Free)

Cheryl R., Regina

#### **Crust:**

½ cup butter, softened

¼ cup brown sugar

1 cup gluten free flour mix

½ tsp xantham gum

½ cup coconut, fine grind

Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease a 9-inch pie pan.

In a bowl, cream the softened butter and ¼ cup brown sugar together. Use a pastry cutter to blend in the gluten free flour mix, xantham gum and fine grind coconut. Press mixture into the bottom and side of a 9-inch pie pan. Bake for 5 - 8 minutes. Remove from oven to cool.

#### Filling:

½ cup butter

1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cups chocolate chips, mini size, gluten free

2 large eggs

½ cup light brown sugar

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup sugar

1 ½ tsp vanilla extract

½ cup gluten free flour mix

½ tsp xantham gum

½ tsp salt

Melt ½ cup butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add 1 cup of the chocolate chips and heat for a few more seconds, then remove from the heat. Set aside for 5 minutes. Whisk to smooth the chips and butter together.

In a medium bowl, combine the eggs, white and brown sugars, and vanilla, then stir until evenly blended. Add the melted chocolate and whisk to blend. Add the gluten free flour mix, xantham gum, and salt and stir until combined. Add in the remaining 1/3 cup of chocolate chips. Pour the filling into the pie crust and smooth the top.

Bake in oven for 25 - 30 minutes, or until a crust develops and the filling rises slightly. A tester inserted into the center will not come out clean.

Serve warm with a whipped topping or ice cream. Serves 8.

**Note:** This recipe can be adapted replacing the gluten free flour with regular flour, and omitting the xantham gum.

Morden, MB

May 3 & 4



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## **Marinated Carrots**

Alma F., Saskatoon

3 lbs. sliced carrots

1 or more Spanish onions

10 oz. can undiluted tomato soup

1 tsp. pepper

 $^{1}/_{3}$  cup oil

34 cup vinegar

34 cup white sugar

Cook carrots – drain and put in a bowl.

Sit onion into vinegar and add to carrots.

Combine remaining ingredients in saucepan and bring to boil. Then pour over carrots and onions, and cool in fridge.

Keeps up to 2 weeks.

# **Tea Biscuits**

Lorraine T., Weyburn

2 cups flour

4 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp salt

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup margarine

1 cup milk

Mix flour, baking soda and salt. Cut in shortening until mixture is the consistency of cornmeal.

Make a well in center of the ingredients; add liquid slowly When all the liquid has been added, stir dough rather vigorously until it comes freely from the side of the bowl. Turn dough onto lightly floured board knead lightly for a few minutes. Roll or pat out to desired thickness – about 1/2 an inch. Cut dough with 2 inch floured biscuit cutter. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Baking in hot oven 450°F 12 to 15 minutes.

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#### Have You Ever Noticed?

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he knows when he's really in trouble.

#### Brandon, MB



Alright. I admit it! I have an

addiction. It's Sunday night and

5 bunnies line the sofa - a visual

display of a weekend's work. It

would have been 6 but my 14 year

old daughter rescued one for her

collection. Guess we still haven't

totally lost her to the teenage

world! Oh, and I also cut out 4 more

bunnies - just in case I can sneak in

the time to make 1 or 2 (3 or 4? 5 or

6?) during the evenings this coming

While sewing, I also discovered a

new technique for gathering ribbon.

Now I have yards and yards of

gathered ribbon, waiting for further

inspiration. Should I make flowers?

But what shape? How will I hold

it together? Put it on what? I need

time to think... I put it on the counter



# Stories From Down on the Farm Addicted

by Judy Ann Stupak

by the sewing room.

This weekend though, the house got a brief dusting. Just don't look close. The floors never got washed (again!), piles of laundry didn't quite find their way back into drawers, and I never phoned my brother. I really meant to do all those things. But I just didn't find the time.

Now it's Monday. Off to work for another week. Visions of bunnies dance in my head. I could make some in silk, in satin, in velvet, two-tone blue, pink, white. I could make them big or small; dressed, undressed. Easter is in 4 weeks. How many can I make? How to market them? But, no time for bunnies now. I have to work. Concentrate. Concentrate. Oh, this is sssoooo boring. Write a memo, phone a client, attend a meeting. Well, lunch is coming. I'll go browse ... look in the stores ... look through magazines at the bookstore. Maybe I'll see something different, something inspiring.

The work day is over. My heart wasn't in it. I could have done more. I could have stayed late to finish that report. I could have volunteered to take that trip next month or sit on

where I will see it every time I walk a committee. But, that would take away from more important things - like bunnies! At lunch, I found Christmas ribbon on sale - 70% off! I bought - well, let's just say I bought enough for any project I might need it for in the future.

> The children are in bed. They had piano lessons, then one had hockey; the other, soccer. Somewhere, we found time to eat. Now I turn on the news and go into my sewing room. Spools of thread, ribbon, notions and tools line the pegboard. The ironing board remains set up at all times. Sewing machines sit, waiting for my command. Fabric and patterns fill the closets. Remnants of my last 5 projects are on the countertop. This is my world. Heaven on Earth. I have full control. Today it may be bunnies; tomorrow it could be jewelry, flower arranging, painting, or something else. There is no one to impress... no pressure to perform... no bottom line to worry about... no corporate ladder to climb... no business plan to follow... no office politics... no family strife. At my fingertips is a piece of string, a scrap of fabric, wire, ribbon and fiberfill. A bunny appears.



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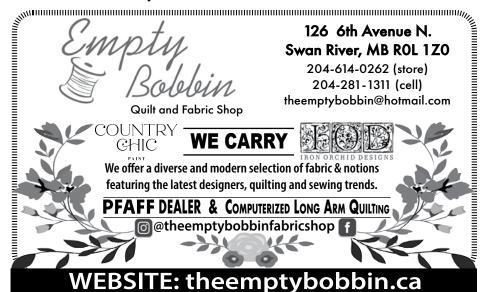
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### THE COUNTRY REGISTER MB/SK PAGE 13



# A Cup of Tea with Lydia

By Lydia E. Harris
Tea Parties That Say, "I Love You"

"Love Makes the World Go Round" is a song from the 1960s musical Carnival. Sixty years later, the lyrics still inspire me. In this new year, we have many opportunities—including Valentine's Day—to share love with others. Here are a few ideas for tea parties that say, "I love you," which could help us make the world go 'round.

#### **Tea Parties at Home**

Last year, when my extended family celebrated the engagement of my niece Lena and her fiancé, Dylan, the couple requested ideas for dates. I set a "date" for them to come for tea.

On a sunny afternoon, I served Dylan and Lena tea outdoors on our deck. A large red heart, a potted pink Gerbera daisy, and two wedding cake toppers decorated our setting. One came from my sister's wedding cake and featured a bride and a sailor—like the navy man she married. The other bride and groom had graced my cake 56 years earlier.

While we nibbled croissants filled with chicken salad and sampled other treats, I enjoyed getting to know Dylan and hearing about their wedding plans. In honor of their recent engagement, I had baked Royal Rings, a cookie shaped like a ring with sweet candy jewels. (See recipe below from my book). I also served several tea blends and rhubarb punch, a popular family beverage. We sipped tea from my mother's pink floral teacups. Since Lena was named after my mother, Helena, I gave her the set of teacups as a gift. And because this was a "date" for them, I offered them dates to eat.

I sent them home with the flowering centerpiece and a few favorite cookies. They said good-bye with beaming faces, anticipating the joy of their not-too-distant wedding day.

#### Tea Parties to Go

My friend Barbara and I enjoyed making memories together in tearooms. But when I became ill and couldn't get out, Barbara made the hour's drive to my home with a tea party to go. In addition to a tea lunch, she brought a cheery yellow floral teacup. "This is your sunshine cup," she said as I sipped tea from my new cup and savored homemade goodies. The tea and her kind gesture warmed more than my body. It also warmed my heart and added joy to my life.

#### Tea Parties by Mail

If you can't deliver a tea party in person, you could share love by mailing a tea party. That's what I recently did for my friend Barbara. Now, years after she brought me a tea party to go, her health has declined, and she lives in a skilled nursing facility. Since I can't make the long drive to bring her tea, I mailed a tea party in a box. I contacted her daughter in advance and arranged to have her share the tea party box and enjoy teatime with her mother.

The box included two floral china teacups, several tea blends, shortbread cookies, and other treats. I also sent paper plates, napkins, silk flowers, and a few small gifts. Just as

Barbara's tea party brightened my day, now I could return the favor via mail and add cheer to her life.

#### **Tea Parties in 2024**

As I recall the song "Love Makes the World Go Round," another song plays in my mind. During my childhood, I learned the song "Brighten the Corner Where You Are." I still embrace those words and seek ways to add love and joy to the lives of others. Teatimes are one way that works for me. And when I bless others, it also adds joy to my life.

Throughout the year, I hope you will join me and look for ways to show love to others. Perhaps we'll serve tea in our homes, deliver a tea party to go, or mail one in a box. Whatever we do, let's make the world go 'round with our love.

# From Lydia's Recipe File: Royal Rings

#### Ring-shaped cookies with sweet candy jewels

(Recipe from Lydia's book GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids, pgs 213-14)

1/2 cup soft butter (1 cube)

2/3 cup sugar

3 egg yolks (save whites for another use)

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 1/2 cups flour

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1/4 teaspoon salt

Multicolored sprinkles

Candied fruit or small candies that won't melt (such as Boston Baked Beans, Juicy Fruits, or Dots)

#### Make

- 1. Preheat oven to 375°.
- . In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar.
- 3. Add egg yolks and vanilla to creamed mixture and beat until light and fluffy.
- 4. Combine flour, baking powder, and salt. Sift dry ingredients into the sugar mixture and mix well.
- 5. Shape into 1-inch balls.
- 6. Push your finger through each ball to shape it into a ring. Make sure the opening is at least 1/2-inch wide, so it doesn't close while baking.
- 7. Dip the top side of each ring into colored sprinkles. Place on a lightly sprayed baking sheet.
- 8. Add a piece of candied cherry or small candy on each cookie for a jewel.
- 9. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown.
- 10. Carefully remove cookies to a cooling rack.

#### Makes 24 rings.

Lydia E. Harris is a tea enthusiast, grandmother of five, and the author of three grandparenting books: GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids (2023); In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together; and Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting. All are available online and wherever books are sold.

#### Oak Bluff, MB







# Irish you a happy St. Patrick's Day

food.





St. Patrick's Day celebrates Saint Patrick (and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland), and the heritage and culture of the Irish. Wearing of green clothing or shamrocks, plus parades and festivals are common ways to commemorate

Saint Patrick's Day is a public holiday in both the Republic of Ireland & Northern Ireland, and in Newfoundland and Labrador (for provincial government employees).

How did the story of St. Patrick start? At sixteen, Patrick was kidnapped by Irish raiders and sent as a slave to Ireland. Patrick spent six years there working as a shepherd, and during this time, he found God. Patrick eventually fled to the coast, where he caught a ship to take him back to Britain; and Patrick then went on to become a priest.

According to tradition, Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Orthodox Christianity. He evangelized in the northern half of Ireland and converted thousands. His efforts became the story in which he drove "snakes" (heathen practices) out of Ireland, even though actual snakes were not known to inhabit the region. On Saint Patrick's Day, it is now customary to wear shamrocks and green clothing, as he used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Trinity.

Today, we celebrate St. Patrick with parades and festivals, Irish traditional music, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks. Which reminds me, what do you call a fake Irish stone? A shamrock.

Christians may also attend church. The Lenten restrictions on eating and drinking alcohol are lifted for the day. Perhaps because of this, drinking alcohol, particularly Irish whiskey and beer, has become associated with the celebrations.

One of the longest-running and largest Saint Patrick's Day (le jour de la Saint-Patrick) in North America occurs each year in Montreal. Did you know that Montreal's city flag includes a shamrock? The parade has been held yearly without interruption since 1824, so it's time to paddy like the Irish do!

The Toronto Maple Leaf's hockey team was known as the Toronto St. Patrick's from 1919 to 1927 and wore green jerseys. In 1999, when the Maple Leafs played on Saint Patrick's Day, they wore green St Patrick's uniforms.

St. Patrick's Day gives us a reason to celebrate Irish cuisine too. Most of us immediately think of Irish stew when asked about Irish food. Slow-cooked to perfection, the meat becomes tender, and the vegetables absorb the rich broth, creating a comforting and filling dish. It's said that every Irish household has a unique twist on the classic stew, a closely guarded secret passed down through generations.

Potatoes, known as the "Irish apple," have been pivotal in Irish cuisine since

tianity in their introduction in the 18th century. A favourite is colcannon, a dish made by combining mashed potatoes and cabbage with butter, a simple comfort

We must also pay homage to the "full Irish" breakfast, which includes fried eggs, bacon, sausage, black pudding, grilled tomatoes, and toast.

Another food staple that comes up when mentioning Irish cuisine is Irish soda bread. Soda bread, which is quick bread leavened with baking soda, has a crusty exterior and tender interior, which makes it the perfect vehicle for a generous spread of butter or a dollop of jam. And, why do Irish bakers use baking soda? It's faster than Dublin the dough with yeast.

St. Patrick's Day, a global celebration of Irish culture, serves as a testament to his enduring legacy, fostering a sense of unity and pride among the Irish and enthusiasts worldwide. Ireland, with its vibrant traditions and enduring spirit, stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of St. Patrick, embodying resilience, community, and a deep-rooted appreciation for life's simple joys.

# Irish Soda Bread

This is quite good served with the Irish stew. I usually mix up the bread first thing in the morning, and then start chopping up ingredients for the stew while the bread bakes.

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbsp baking powder
- ⅓ cup white sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 1/4 cup butter, melted

Preheat the oven to 325°F. Grease a 9x5-inch loaf pan.

Combine flour, baking powder, sugar, salt, and baking soda in a large bowl. Blend egg and buttermilk together; add all at once to the flour mixture and mix just until moistened. Stir in the melted butter. Pour into prepared pan.

Bake in the preheated oven until the top is golden brown, about 65 to 70 minutes. A cake tester inserted into the bread should come out clean. Cool on a wire rack. Wrap in foil for several hours, or overnight, for best flavor.

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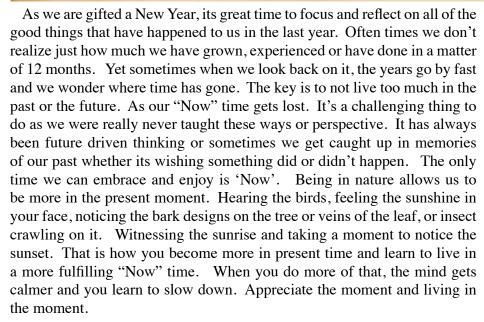






By: RESHA & TIM from HUMBLE LIFE ACRES

# The Gift of Today and Living in the Moment of your Journey



We cannot change the things in our past but you can make peace with the things that may need that to heal. When we keep carrying that around then it becomes like a heavy backpack that we keep carrying through the years which has taken up a lot of time, and weighs us down. If we live too much in future and running to that, then we lose precious time of what is today and right now. There is definitely a balance and some days it isn't easy but when we are mindful of this and make the effort to be Present then like anything else it gets easier. Being in the moment and truly enjoying day with gratitude is where the magic is. It's like putting on a special pair of glasses and seeing things differently than what you are used to.

Waking up each day on earth is a gift! We get to experience so many things and interactions in just one day. Let alone one year. When you think of it in that perspective, each day is truly a blessing. To add to that, it is also seeing that everything is happening for you not to you. It is all a part of the experience on the journey of life.

My husband I started a new journey a few years ago and moved from city life of 20 years to country life. He grew up in the country most of his youth, but I have always been a city girl. We dreamed of having our own chickens for a long time and space to have a large gardens but mostly to have the space to just be free. After years of us looking at different acreages and going through the motions of 'it has this many check marks on our list but doesn't have this'. We soon realized that we need to make it our own. It was enough talking about it and start just doing it.

Fast forward to today, we have our own flock of laying hens, we are bee keepers and strive to live more self -sustainable by also living in harmony with nature and the land. The biggest deterrent is getting used to the fact

#### Winnipeg, MB (online only)



that you are not going to know everything. It's comfortable to have that for sure but realistically its learn as you go, learn as you experience it and learn from others. The real recipe is harnessing our history by learning from our ancestors and others, the old-fashioned way and add a dash of modern thinking with existing knowledge. There are quite a few cups of learning as you go.

The biggest deal is not seeing the first step as success or failure. Especially when you're learning or doing something new it needs to be more like: try this version then try it again to get to the version of your success. The other thing is to stop caring about what other people think. You are living your life not others and while its nice to have support and insight from others sometimes it can be not helpful. You do you! Trust in the flow and know that with patience, time and determination, you will get to where you want to be. In fact, it will better than you initially thought! From today and each day this New year and chapter: Enjoy today and see each day as a Gift! Live in the present time and remember; "The best time to do all of the things you've always wanted to do, is while you are alive... Right Now!"

'Never get tired of sunrises, sunsets, calming rain and watching the stars at night. If your lucky you'll get to witness the magical light. Fill your cup with Gratitude and sip it slowly. Slow down to enjoy the journey. Treat yourself with love, compassion, understanding and patience. This beautiful life is meant to be experienced and to learn. To be in harmony, love and surrender to the flow. Not saying it's all rose colored glasses, but if you put the glasses on you will see a world that is magical. If you listen close, you will seek to understand. The wealth is time. What we have is: Now. The gift is in the small, beautiful things. Enjoy the Journey!

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