

The Florida Register

Your Statewide Guide to Premier Shopping and Events

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FREE-TAKE ONE

Sept. & Oct. 2024



The Florida Register

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Just A Note...

Don't you just love Fall! Our advertisers are ready to help you bring in the new season! If you are looking for a fall/holiday project to work on, need seasonal décor for your home, gifts, or a little something for yourself — you'll find it within these pages.

Have fun exploring the shows and shops holding special events that are summarized in our Shows & Events Listing — mark your calendar now for all these great Fall happenings!

Please be sure to visit our Facebook page and like us. We post lots of updates about shops and events, plus we welcome reader comments and interaction. When you visit our website, you can find links to our advertisers' web sites, view the current shows and events listing, register to win a \$25 gift certificate to your favorite advertiser's shop and subscribe to the paper.

We do ask that you please let the shop owners know that you saw their ad in our publication - it is extremely important! Advertisers want to know that their ad in our paper is effective, and they like it when you mention you saw their ad. Without the advertisers, our publication wouldn't be possible, so they need to know the paper is working for them. Also, feel free to pick up extra copies of the paper for your friends ... we would love for you to share it with them.

If you know a shop that should be advertising in the paper, please let us know (via email, phone, or mail). We are always looking for new shops to add to our list of great advertisers.

Would your group or guild like to receive FREE COPIES of each issue? Just send an email to amy@theregisterweb.com or call 1-866-825-9217. Let us know how many copies (25 minimum) and a street mailing address.

Summer flew by for our family! Rachel was able to make it home to Georgia from Colorado a couple times for short visits which included interviewing at several hospitals in the region. She will graduate in December with her Anesthesiologist Assistant degree. Grace worked a lot at a local restaurant during the summer and made quite a bit of money! She is living in the Chi-O sorority house this fall at UGA (her sophomore year).

We wish you wonderful SHOPPING as Fall begins. Don't forget to use our publication as your road map.



Amy, Grace, Rachel and David

Amy & David

Publisher Contact Numbers Across the USA & Canada

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COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE

Pecan Tarts

Judy Mortensen, Brush, CO



- Mix 1/2 cup butter (room temperature) and 1/2 cup sugar.
- Stir in 2 egg yolks, 1 teaspoon almond extract and 2 cups of flour.
- Press evenly into mini-muffin or tiny tart pans.
- Bake at 400° for 8 to 10 minutes.
- Bring to a boil:
- 1/2 cup butter, 1/3 cup dark Karo syrup and 1 cup powdered sugar.
- Stir in 1 cup chopped pecans and stir into shells.
- Bake in a 350° oven for 5 minutes.

Mary Esther, Milton, Panama City, Pensacola

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Shows & Events



November/December events due by October 1

Mail a check for \$25 with your event info to the address at the top of page 2.

- Facebook Live or App Events**
- Mondays 3:30 pm Quilted Twins (pg. 11)
- Mon-Sat 5:30 pm Quilts and Lace (pg. 26)
- Tuesdays 6 pm Inspire Quilting & Sewing (pg. 15)
- Wednesdays 7 pm Crafty Quilters (pg. 14)
- Thursdays 10 am Miss D's Quilts (pg. 23)
- Fridays 9 am Boutique 4 Quilters (pg. 28)
- Fridays 3:30 pm Quilted Twins (pg. 11)
- Fridays 5 pm Sweet Darling Quilts (pg. 16)

September

- Aug 28-3 Scorching End of Summer Sale at Margie's Sew Much Fun in Crestview (pg. 4)
- 1-30 Bernina Trade In Month at Margie's Sew Much Fun in Crestview (pg. 4)
- 3-7 Ryan's Cases for Miles of Smiles at Inspire Quilting & Sewing in Plant City (pg. 15)
- 4-Oct 1 Kangaroo Sewing Furniture Sale at Sew 'N Quilt Co in Holly Hill (pg. 24)
- 13-14 Circle of Creativity Husqvarna Viking Event at Scrap & Sew in Lutz (pg. 17)
- 17-21 Fabric Sale at Brick City Cross Stitch in Ocala (pg. 5)
- 19-21 QuiltFest at Prime Osborn Convention Center in Jacksonville (pg. 21)
- 19-21 3-Day Handi Quilter Event at Jax Quilt Show with Miss D's Quilts (pg. 23)
- 23-Oct 19 Big Blowout Sale at Bee's Quilt Shop and Studio in St Augustine (pg. 22)
- 27-28 New Ownership & Holiday Kick Off Event at Inspire Quilting & Sewing in Plant City (pg. 15)

October

- 5 Visit Front Porch Quilt Shoppe at Claybank Jamboree Quilt Show in Ozark, AL (pg. 4)
- 7-10 Florida Sewing Sew-Ciety Annual Conf at Lake Yale Baptist Conf Cntr in Leesburg (pg. 10)
- 12 Super Saturday Bernina Sale at Stitcher's Quest in Mary Esther (pg. 3)
- 12 Airing of the Quilts Festival at Gee's Bend Welcome Center in Boykin, AL (pg. 4)
- 18 Kimberbell Gingerbread Christmas Embroidery Event at Quilts and Lace in Melbourne (pg. 26)
- 22-26 Pattern Special at Brick City Cross Stitch in Ocala (pg. 5)
- 24-26 3 Day Stitching Retreat with Brick City Cross Stitch in Ocala (pg. 5)

November

- 15-16 Quilters' Workshop of Tampa Bay Quilt Show at Higgins Hall in Tampa www.quiltersworkshoptampa.org
- 15-16 41st Fantastic Quilt Show at the Venetian Center in Leesburg (pg. 10)
- 15-16 Suncoast Quilt Expo at Harvest United Methodist Church in Lakewood Ranch (pg. 18)
- 22-Dec 7 Visit the participating shops during the Central Florida Shop Hop (pg. 9)

January 2025

- 31-Feb 1 Celebration of Color Quilt Show at First Presbyterian Church in Lake Placid (pg. 14)

February 2025

- 4-6 Harbor Hookin' at Charlotte Harbor Event & Conf Center in Punta Gorda (pg. 20)
- 7-8 Vero Beach Quilt Show at Indian River County Fairground in Vero Beach (pg. 26)
- 14-15 Mid Pinellas Quilt Show at Seminole Rec Cntr in Seminole www.midpinellasquiltshow.com
- 14-15 Quilts From the Heart Quilt Show at Central Panhandle Fairground in Panama City (pg. 3)

Halloween
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an activity played on Halloween.
S V A M P I R E Z O M B I E B
L N R E T N A L O K C A J Y O
U B C B N G R A V E Y A R D E
O G A K C O F F I N D A W N M
H O N C T I T N K R C F E A U
G B D I N O I E A S U G R C T
W L L T N K M C L L A W E Y S
I I E S P E U B L E O M W R O
T N M M K L T M S R K B O E C
C S U O A U O H C T A S L T S
H P M O F O L E G T O O F E E
E R M R N A R L S I H N P M L
S P Y B M A E R C S R G E E P
L E T A C K C A L B S F I C P
G H O S T S S R E D I P S N A
APPLES BATS BLACK CAT BROOMSTICK CANDLE CANDY CEMETERY COFFIN
COSTUME DRACULA FRIGHTENING FULL MOON GHOSTS GHOULS GOBLINS GRAVEYARD
JACK O LANTERN MASK MUMMY NIGHT PUMPKIN SCARECROW SCARY Scream
SKELETON SKULL SPIDERS TOMBSTONE VAMPIRE WEREWOLF WITCHES ZOMBIE

Win A \$25 Gift Certificate

We give away a \$25 Gift Certificate each issue to redeem at a local advertiser's shop! You can register online at www.theregisterweb.com with the link "Register to Win" or complete the form (photocopy is acceptable) and mail to: P.O. Box 2419, Cumming, GA 30028. Please also include a favorite recipe, quote, tip or a craft project you want to share with other readers.

The drawing will be made prior to the next issue. The winner will be mailed information on redeeming their certificate and also announced in the next issue. Note: We do not place your information on any mailing list.

And the Winner is...
Our winner from last issue is Peggy Dehli. Peggy will receive a gift certificate to spend at Cedar Valley Crafts in Englewood. She enjoys this shop because "they are extremely friendly and helpful. They go out of their way to help you." Congrats Peggy!

The Florida Register Gift Certificate Entry Form
ALL ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PRIZE DRAWING
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My favorite advertiser in this issue is: _____
I enjoy visiting this shop because: _____
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Building Harmony *by Jeff Capps*

Renee vs The Rock

Never give up. Always turn adversity into triumph! Every disaster holds opportunity.

You may have heard me mention a neighbor of ours named Renee. He's a strapping six-foot six man: big hands; blue eyes; a French air force pilot who retired young and settled out here next to the mountains. He decided to live the single life in the country to get away from all the romantic entanglements he'd been through. Situations, he said, he found scarier than flying in a war. The country life does seem to agree with him. I've always found him to be a friendly neighbor.



A few years ago, people started to put up driveway gates in our neighborhood. They were practical at first, for security. Over time though, they've become somewhat trendier. To fit in, Renee decided to build the kind of gate that best suited him - big and solid. It guarded a lovely winding driveway that led down to his house.

For weeks there were cutting, grinding, banging and welding noises coming from his acreage. Then he had his equipment at the end of his driveway placing a 6-ton boulder with a crane. Was going to be a monster. The entire neighborhood waited in anticipation.

One warm morning, the noise suddenly stopped. People from up and down the road slowly came to investigate. We all gathered in front of the most stunning gates any of us had ever seen.

They were black solid steel with wrought iron spiral design pickets; hung on massive, stylish posts. The stonework was exquisite. This gate was solid enough to stop a bull dozer. It weighed tons and needed to be placed in a very large hole. This operation took a crane taller than his house, but it was worth it because the rock represented him: steady and solid. Always there. Always enduring. Unmissable. It was a challenge, but Renee beat the boulder. It stands as a monument to man's ingenuity. As he told this story, he reached into his pocket and pulled out a remote control.

"Now," he said, "it is done." With that, he pushed the button and the gate slowly swung open behind him. "I am proud to 'ave built this fine gate. I am happy you like it." The gate kept opening. "De hole thing was fun, but somewhat of a struggle." The gate was almost fully open. "I learned a lot doing this thing and can say I am better for it!" The gate kept on opening until it hit the boulder. "I consider this a great victory!"

Well, the ground was soft from the rain two nights before and that boulder started to lean back. Slowly at first, until it popped out of its hole... and headed down the hill towards Renee's house! Renee (seeing the look in our eyes), turned around just in time to see the boulder disappear down the hill.

We all ran over and looked down. The boulder was traveling down the hill like an out of control toboggan and looked like it was going to land in his living room! Some covered their eyes. Renee's jaw dropped to his belt buckle. I winced. We all braced for the noise. There was a large cloud of dust... then nothing.

The dust slowly drifted off. Nobody blinked. Miraculously, the boulder stopped mere inches from his deck and lay perfectly flat. Actually, it looked great there!

All is well in the end. The gate works perfectly and still looks great. Renee has placed a quaint table and chairs on the rock with just the right lighting, plants and grass all around it. It's become his favorite spot for watching the stars at night, with his romantic entanglements.

Never give up. Always turn adversity into triumph! Every disaster holds opportunity.

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HAPPY Grandparents Day

Sunday, September 8



AIRING OF THE QUILTS FESTIVAL

The 2024 Airing of the Quilts Festival will take place on Saturday, October 12, from 9:00 am-5:00 pm in and around Gee's Bend (Boykin), Alabama. Now in its third year, the Airing of the Quilts Festival continues a long tradition of outdoor quilt displays in Gee's Bend and allows visitors to explore this vibrant artistic community that has given rise to generations of African-American quiltmakers. This is an annual celebration of generations-old quilting tradition, featuring quilt displays and sales, workshops, guided tours, food, music, and much more. The festival traces the living story of Gee's Bend from the area's Antebellum origins, through its significant role in the Civil Rights Movement, to its present as one of America's most renowned artist communities after decades of underrecognition and disenfranchisement.

"Gee's Bend is an essential destination in the history and future of American art, with a sphere of cultural influence that has only continued to grow," said Dr. Maxwell L. Anderson, president of Souls Grown Deep. "There's no better way to engage with this enduring tradition than by paying a visit and supporting the quilters' artistry firsthand, both during the festival and through year-round programs and exhibitions."

At the festival, visitors will be able to explore two new exhibitions at the River Gallery, located inside the Gee's Bend Welcome Center, both opening on October 12. Just Look Where He Brought Me From: The Family Quilts of Mary Lee Ben-

continued on page 15

Lady Lake, Oxford

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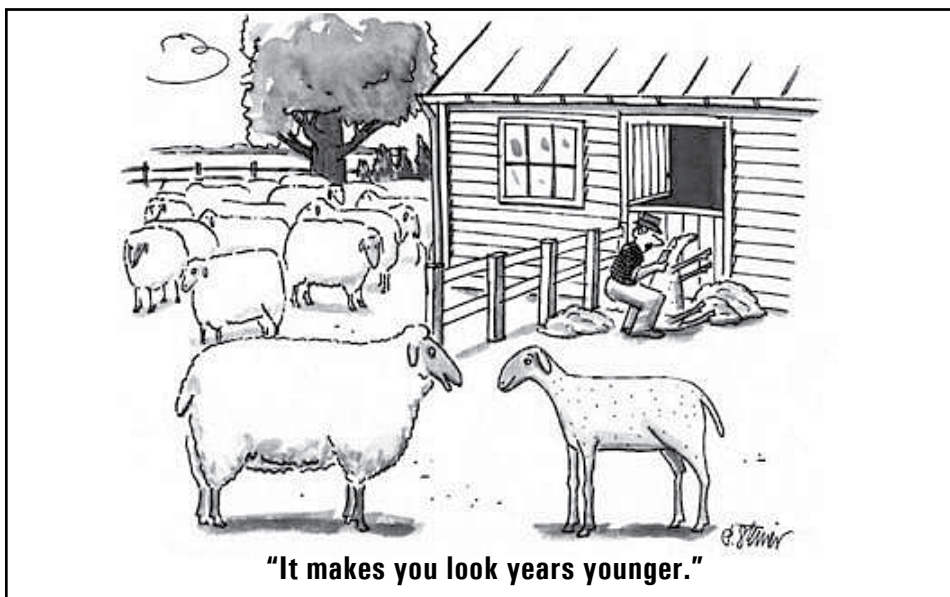
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KISSed Quilts

by Marlene Oddie

Time for a Positive Attitude

If you haven't had breast cancer yourself, you probably know a family member or friend that has been through this experience. My mother is almost a 20 yr survivor. I am so grateful to still have her in my life. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. When given the opportunity to participate in a Pink-tober event, I designed this Positive Attitude quilt to remind us all, no matter the occasion, having a positive attitude is always a good thing.

This was originally made up in the Positively Pink collection from Island Batik (top). I started with a 10" square stack and added a background fabric to mix in with the low volume prints. Strategic placement of the low volume pink fabrics made for a subtle symmetrical design in the background.

I've also made it up in the Benartex collection by Christa Watson called Stitchy (bottom). This is a large collection with several low volume fabrics which begged for a scrappy background. Creating a strata of five fabrics with the same motif and ordering them in a reverse rainbow for the outer border gives it an extra glow.

There are so many possibilities with this design. The key is to maintain a contrast between the background and the plus symbols. Within the plus symbols there is medium and dark values to show smaller plus signs.

As we draw attention to Breast Cancer Awareness month—don't forget to do monthly self exams and get your mammogram annually. Positive Attitude patterns available at www.kissedquilts.com.

Happy Stitching!

Marlene Oddie (marlene@kissedquilts.com) is an engineer by education, project manager by profession and now a quilter by passion in Grand Coulee, WA at her quilt shop, KISSed Quilts. She quilts for hire on a Gammill Optimum Plus, but especially enjoys designing quilts and assisting in the creation of a meaningful treasure for the recipient. Fabric, patterns, kits and templates are available at <http://www.kissedquilts.com>. Follow Marlene's adventures via <http://www.facebook.com/kissedquilts> and <https://www.instagram.com/marlene.kissedquilts>



DeLand, Orange City

Gals Getaway

by Judy Sharer

For three days every year, my friend Linda and I take a gal's vacation to the shore where we catch up and enjoy each other's company. It's a five-hour drive to reach our destination and we talk nonstop from the time we leave until we return.

Once there, we shop, eat out, go to a show, walk on the beach, and go to the pool to work on our tans. And, of course, we talk. Linda usually brings a book to read at the pool and I enjoy watching other people enjoying their vacations, dip my feet in the pool, and work on my latest novel. The entire trip is relaxing and just what we busy women need, a complete break from husbands and daily routine.

You would think by the fourth day on our drive home, we'd be talked out but that's never the case when we're together. I mentioned that it was a welcome not having to cook for a change and that kicked off sharing favorite recipes. Conversation turned to odd food combinations our mother's cooked to stretch the food budget when we were young. We laughed about having to sit at the table until we finished everything on our plates.

Conversation about food was endless. We covered the entire gambit of crock pot meals, casseroles, meat dishes, meatless dishes, quick fix meals, salads, side dishes, sandwiches and soups, and my favorite - desserts. We shared which cookbooks we have and who wrote them, although we both agreed we seldom follow the recipes without adding some personal favorite spices or other ingredients to make the recipe our own. The drive home flew by and before we knew it, our getaway was over.

This year my go-to recipe, especially for gatherings, is Orange Fluff Salad. It's easy to make, light, tasty, and everyone seems to love it. Enjoy! *(See in this edition.)*

©Judy Sharer is the author of A Plains Life series published by The Wild Rose Press. Settler's Life, Second Chance Life, Civil War Life, and Love-Challenged Life are now available wherever online books and eBooks are sold. Judy's sweet historical romances has a thread of quilting that runs throughout the family saga series. Visit judysbarer.com for more details and watch for the release of her next true romance novel.

Judy's Recipe Box
Orange Fluff Salad

Ingredients:

- 16 oz. container of cottage cheese
- 8 oz. container of Cool Whip
- 15 oz. can of mandarin oranges, well drained
- 2 cups mini marshmallows
- 4 oz. box of orange Jello
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans are optional.

Mix together the first 3 ingredients, then fold in the Cool Whip and marshmallows. Refrigerate for at least three hours. Once set, lightly dust the top with cinnamon and optional nuts.

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Clutter Happens Aging is Not For the Weak Hearted

By Julie Pirtle

Aging. Not something that you think about much in the earlier decades of your life. If there were a training manual that came with us when we entered this realm, it should say DON'T TAKE YOUR YOUTH FOR GRANTED!

So, let's start this out with a disclaimer. I am not a doctor, attorney or financial advisor. The information I share here is strictly from observation and personal experience. What I AM is a middle-aged woman with an equally middle-aged spouse, adult children, grandchildren, elderly parents and a business that helps me organize the world.

Sometimes I think it was sooooo much easier when my children were small. Even though times were hard, we only had them to worry about. As years progress, so do the worries...ten-fold.

I think the first elephant in the room would have to be the fact that we now WISH we would not have taken youth for granted. Am I alone, or do others of you in my life stage wake up not thinking about the day ahead? Instead, my internal conversation goes something like this:

"OK. I am on my back. It hurts. Neck is good. Legs are good. Small headache, but manageable. Hip is aching. Let's try rolling to the side and see if I can get a good stretch. Dang! Back feels a bit better but neck is now killing me. Argh."

There are body parts that are creating havoc that I frankly have never even acknowledged as belonging to me! I go to the doctor to get something checked out and I walk out with five other things wrong that need attention.

I'm starting to feel like a car that goes into the shop for a 100,000-mile checkup. Instead of a quick oil change and a new filter, the diagnostics come back on an oil continued on page 19

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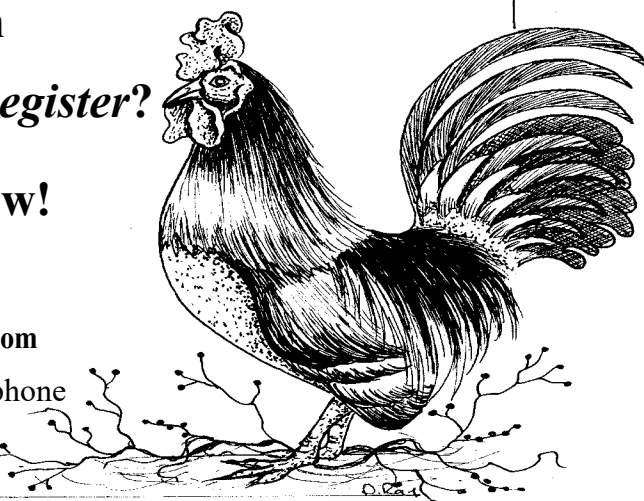
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Recipe **Butternut Squash Soup**
Courtesy of Unknown Reader

Ingredients

- * 3 lb. squash
- * 1 onion diced
- * 2 cloves garlic minced
- * 2 tsp. Gingerroot minced
- * 1 tbsl. Curry powder
- * 1 tsp. Salt
- * 2 cups unsweetened soy or almond milk
- * 4 cups chicken broth
- * 2 pears or apples

Directions:
Cube squash and cook in butter until soft. Or roast squash for an hour, until soft in a 400 degree oven. Let cool. Cook onion, garlic for 5 minutes. Cook ginger for 1 minute. Puree all ingredients in a blender. Heat all ingredients in a pot until hot, then serve. Enjoy!

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Finished Project!

I started this quilt in June, '22 when several family members on my mother's side gathered for a reunion in Kentucky. I brought 2.5" x 5.5" fabric pieces ironed onto freezer paper and gathered signatures. When I got home I realized I didn't have nearly enough to make much of a quilt. I had a complete list of several generations of family and spouse names so I hand printed 1st through 4th generation's names on the fabric strips. I machine pieced and hand quilted, completing the quilt at the end of 2023. I sent the quilt to my aunt as a surprise as a thank you for hosting many family gatherings each year on July 4th.

Shared by reader K. Brewer of Ocala, FL

Wit and Wisdom *by Judyann Grant*

Who Tells Them?

When looking out the window, or stepping out the door, one is greeted by sure signs of autumn: once-green maple leaves now turning shades of yellow and orange; bouquets of pink and purple mums replacing bedraggled petunias in the garden; woolly bears making their pilgrimage across the road and flocks of little birds foraging on the lawn.

For me, the one unmistakable sign of the autumnal change is the sound of the geese. Long before I see them, their honks fill the heavens with the music of the season. Standing on the back step or driving down the road, I scan the sky for their tell-tale v-formations. No matter how many flocks I see, it is always a bittersweet moment – because while I welcome their sight and sound, I know what it means ... winter is coming.

Yet, how do the geese know when it's time to go? Who tells them? For that matter, how do the smaller birds know? It's usually in late August that I begin seeing flocks of blackbirds lining the telephone wires, clusters of sparrows congregating in the trees, and crowds of geese pecking away in corn fields.

Also, in late August, the flower garden begins to take on a different look as the bright splashes of summer color give way to the deeper, richer hues of autumn. How do the cosmos know when it's time to close up shop and make way for the chrysanthemums?

Birds don't have access to all the modern technology that we do – such as the weatherman telling them the exact day and time of the autumnal equinox – nor do they have the convenience of a calendar to flip. So how do they know? Do they see deserted beaches as folks close up their summer homes? Do they notice the sudden reappearance of school buses after a long absence?

No, they have something better than external indicators, they each have an internal indicator – one placed within them by their Creator. They don't need gadgets and gizmos. They know by instinct when it's time to begin preparing for the next step in their journey.

Scientists offer lengthy explanations as to how and why the natural world knows its time to shift their focus, but I know that it was all God's idea and His plan in the beginning. "Mourning doves, swallows, and cranes know when it's time to migrate. But my people don't know that I, the Lord, am urging them to return (Jeremiah 8:7 GW).

God has instilled in us an internal indicator – one that points to Him. When acknowledged, this internal indicator will lead us back to our heavenly home. Unfortunately, many people turn a blind eye and a deaf ear.

Imagine what would happen if the birds 'did their own thing' and ignored their God-given instincts. The natural world would be in chaos – much like the peopled world we live in today.

© 2024 Judyann Grant and her husband, Don, live east of Lake Ontario, in northern New York. While her husband is tending to his vast gardens and road-side vegetable stands, Judyann is working on the second book in a three-book series, *Be God's Hero*. (Book #1 is available from Talking Donkey Press.) In the early 1990's four Christian friends, with a shared interest in writing, began meeting once a month to learn the writing trade. The four were each active in their various churches. As part of an outreach ministry, they decided to write an inspirational newspaper column as a way to reach a wider, and perhaps mostly secular, audience. Contact the authors at: witandwisdomwriters@gmail.com

Winter Haven

When Grace Amazes

by Kerri Habben Bosman

This September 6th it is eighteen years ago since my grandmother passed away. It was at exactly 1:12 pm as I sat alone with her in her hospital room. My mother was down the hall by the elevator waiting for friends on their way to see her.

My grandmother was 99 years old. Her name was Augusta Weisgerber Mai.

For much of her life she was called Gussie. When it was discovered that the midwife had incorrectly recorded her as "male" on her birth certificate, everyone began to teasingly call her Gus. She liked the shorter version so much that it stuck. It inspired her playful streak.

To me, she was simply Huba. I began calling her this when I was nine months old. She became Huba to all my friends as I grew up. It is Huba who taught me how to crochet when I was nine years old. She especially taught me how much love flows through our hands and into what we make. I felt her passion and creativity; this devotion fed my desire to learn. Through watching her share what she made, I discovered how much tangible grace there is in giving. It is a grace that affirms two ways, both for being able to give and for knowing your gift was accepted and appreciated.

In her later years, Huba kept extra items she'd made in her back bedroom. We'd be sitting in her living room, visiting with friends. It didn't matter if she'd known someone twenty years or five minutes, but when someone compelled her, she would catch my eye. Then she would give the slightest movement of her head towards the hallway leading to her cache of blankets. I would always know which one she wanted me to bring. Together we'd watch the person's face light up when receiving the unexpected gift.

Huba learned to crochet when she was eight years old from a shopkeeper near where she lived. There were square potholders in the store window, and my grandmother liked them. She stared at them so long and for enough days in a row that the lady invited her in and asked her if she wanted to learn.

For the rest of her life, crocheting was a haven for her. She crocheted through every joy and every grief that life brought her way. Her hands moved the same when the sun was shining and when the winds blew too hard. She only stopped the last three weeks of her life when aplastic anemia had weakened her.

When I married my husband, Wayne, his family became my family. Everyone receives a handmade gift for their birthday and for Christmas. It is a gift of grace to shower love upon all of them and to receive it in return.

I also donate much of what I make, from baby hats to blankets. When asked about this, I answer that it is for my grandmother, who taught me. Her hands are still now, so I carry on her work.

When I was sitting with Huba eighteen years ago this September, I doubted she could see me. When I'd come in, her eyes were open, unmoving, and vacant. But I didn't touch her. I didn't want to draw her back when there was nothing physical remaining here for her.

Instead, I sang to her. Portions of three of her favorite hymns: How Great Thou Art, Will the Circle be Unbroken, and lastly, Amazing Grace. She stopped breathing during the third verse at the line "And grace shall lead me home."

When I hear this hymn without warning, my eyes fill with tender, redeeming tears. I look up say thank you for this last moment of grace Huba and I shared together.

© 2024 Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer living in Cape Carteret, NC. She can be reached at 913jeves@gmail.com.

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Recipe

Ingredients
* 3 c. vanilla wafers, crushed (2 pk wafers)
* 1 c. Confectioners' sugar (plus some extra)
* 1 1/2 c. finely chopped walnuts
* 1 1/2 T cocoa
* 2 T Karo light corn syrup
* 1/2 c. dark Meyer's rum

Directions:
Combine crushed vanilla wafers, sugar, walnuts, cocoa, corn syrup and rum; mix thoroughly. Form into small balls and roll in confectioners' sugar. Wrap in wax paper. Allow a day or two for flavors to intensify before serving. They freeze well. Yields 40 to 50 balls.

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AIRING OF THE QUILTS, cont. from page 4

dolph delves into the life and work of one of the foremost quiltmakers of Gee's Bend and the artist behind the 2024 featured festival quilt. A History of Gee's Bend from 1816 to the Present is a new permanent installation outside the gallery that marks the latest expansion of the Gee's Bend Heritage Trail, a self-guided driving tour celebrating the makers of the 10 iconic Gee's Bend quilts featured on U.S. postage stamps. This year's festival will also include a site-specific installation by Oklahoma-based textile and fiber artist Rachel Hayes, known for her vibrant large-scale textile sculptures that respond to and complement the landscape. Hayes will also collaborate with Gee's Bend artists, including Essie Bendolph Pettway, Mary Margaret Pettway, and Sharon Williams, on a second public art installation.



Local food vendors will provide a taste of the region's cooking. The festival will feature live music and entertainment, including from the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. served as pastor from 1954 to 1960. Festival programming also includes hands-on adult and youth beginner quilting workshops led by local quiltmakers, a drop-in Kids' Creative Corner where chil-

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dren of all ages can explore artistic activities inspired by different steps of the quilting process, and readings by children's book author Tangular Irby (Pearl and Her Gee's Bend Quilt, Charles and His Gee's Bend Quilt) and acclaimed quilter and author Tinnie Pettway (The Gee's Bend Experience).

The Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy – located in nearby Alberta, AL, and accessible during the festival by a free shuttle bus – will offer guided museum tours, where visitors will learn about the rich history of the local quilting cooperative and its deep connections to the Civil Rights Movement.

“Meeting people from around the world and sharing my quilts in person makes the Airing of the Quilts Festival truly special,” says Doris Mosely, Gee's Bend Quilter. “It's more than just selling quilts—it's about connecting with visitors and sharing the story of Gee's Bend. The festival has grown each year and has become something we all look forward to.”

The Gee's Bend Airing of the Quilts Festival is supported by organizing sponsors Souls Grown Deep and Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy. This festival is open to the public. Registration is free with a recommended donation of \$40 to support the Gee's Bend quilt-making community. Additional fees apply to quiltmaking workshops and tours. Register at www.airingofthequilts.org.

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Stories of a Farm Wife

by Tammy Page

Autumn Sights and Smells

If you don't get to experience the autumn seasonal changes in your part of the United States, you're missing out on some spectacular and beautiful sights and smells. Around early September in Indiana, I can feel a change in the air from hot and muggy with 90% humidity to temps in the 70's with a dramatic drop in the humidity. The heaviness of the air has begun to be lifted and we can all breathe a little easier.



The Friday night football games are the best with temperatures in the 60's where all I need is a sweatshirt to ward off the chill in the air. There's nothing like the coolness on my face from an autumn breeze while I sit in the high school bleachers cheering on my grandchildren on the field. The smell of hot buttered popcorn drifts out of the concession stand and makes its way to where we are sitting. The scent of hot chocolate fills our nostrils as the air gets colder and we sit a little closer. The colorful, fallen leaves have started to dry up and you can hear them crumble under the fans feet as they make their way around the field to the stands.

The vibrant colors in Indiana are the brightest of bright. Sometimes so bright they startle you as you come around a bend in the road and see them for the first time. Vivid reds, burgundy's, oranges and golds adorn the country roadsides and pastures making a magnificent sight. Last fall I stopped on my way to work when a misty dew was still on the bean fields and took a picture of the tree-lined edge of my son-in-law's field where the trees displayed their peak colors. What a gorgeous sight it was! I've also paused on my way home to take a picture of the golden, orange sunset with the tall trees behind it. I'm sure I am not the only one who has stopped to take pictures of these eye-catching sights. At the same time the leaves are changing colors, the bean and corn fields are being harvested. Even the colors and smells of the dried crops are unique. The smell of clean, fresh grain and cannot be easily described. The golden glow of the ears of corn peak out from under the shucks as they are ready to be combined. And, when you stop to think about how many people the harvest will feed, it makes it even more special. The light brown dust can be seen for miles at times as the combine makes its way down each row. Many late nights, lights from the combines and tractors can be seen against the dark skies as the farmers try to get as much done as they can before the next rainfall.

As the last glimpse of color is left in the leaves and the limbs on the oaks are empty, I can still enjoy the autumn colors I've added to the inside and outside of my home especially when there is a never-ending bowl of sweet candy corn and peanuts on my coffee table-my husband's favorite!

—© 2024 Tammy Page writes from her family farm in Indiana.

From Tammy's Recipe Box
Candy Corn Trail Mix

Mix 2 bags of candy corn and 2 jars of honey roasted peanuts (you can use salted peanuts too) to make a habit-forming craving of this autumn treat. Be ready to buy more because it goes quick!



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A Cup of Tea with Lydia

Priori-TEAS

by Lydia E. Harris

I love all things tea and all things writing. So, years ago, when I received a call from the editor of TEA: A Magazine to write an article, I was doubly excited.

"I have a tea shop I need written up for my next issue," she said. "Are you interested?"
Interested? Of course! Who wouldn't want to be published in this prestigious magazine?

It would require a trip to Whidbey Island, about an hour's drive and ferry trip away, and would need to be completed in three weeks. It sounded appealing. But the day before, I learned our daughter had developed problems in her last trimester of pregnancy and was put on bed rest. She needed my help with meals, housework and caring for her two-year-old son. Though I love all things tea and writing, they can't always be my priority.

I paused and swallowed hard. "I would love to write the article," I said. "But I can't at this time." I explained my situation and asked her to keep me in mind for future writing.

My daughter was my priori-TEA. I knew I had made the right decision. Even so, during the next weeks, I kept thinking about the assignment I had declined and wished I could have accepted it.

After the birth of our second grandson, Alex, a healthy baby boy, my daughter was on her feet again. To my surprise, I received an email from the same editor. "I didn't publish the piece on the tea shop yet. Could you write it now?"

I smiled. The timing was perfect. I sensed God had honored my priority towards my family and had saved the assignment for me. Now I did have time to make tea and writing a priori-TEA.

My husband and I enjoyed our trip to Whidbey Island to visit Anna's Tea Room, which was new to us. We received a warm Victorian welcome from the proprietor, who was eager to tell us about the tea shop while we sipped delicious blends of tea. I enjoyed a black flavored tea while my husband sipped an autumn blend that combined Earl Grey and apricot teas. We also sampled tasty foods, including a decadent chocolate dessert.

I returned home eager to share my warm memories with readers.

When the copy of TEA: A Magazine* with my article arrived, I was thrilled. The background palette for my two-page spread used my favorite pastel colors—pink, periwinkle, and blue. It looked so beautiful, and I felt gratified to see my priori-TEAS rewarded.

My husband and I returned to Anna's Tea Room several times over the next years and took our granddaughter Clara there for a tea outing. "It's so fancy," Clara said as she touched the lace curtains.

During our last visit, we sadly learned that Anna's Tea Room was closing. However, the owner generously shared her recipe for the rich chocolate dessert on her menu. I've included the recipe for Chocolate Satin Pie for you to enjoy. When I serve it, my taste buds dance and I'm reminded of the time God rewarded my priori-TEAS.

*This magazine was published from 1994 to 2012 and I had the joy of writing for it several times.

—Lydia E. Harris is a tea enthusiast and the author of three books for grandparents: GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids, In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together, and Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting, all available anywhere books are sold.

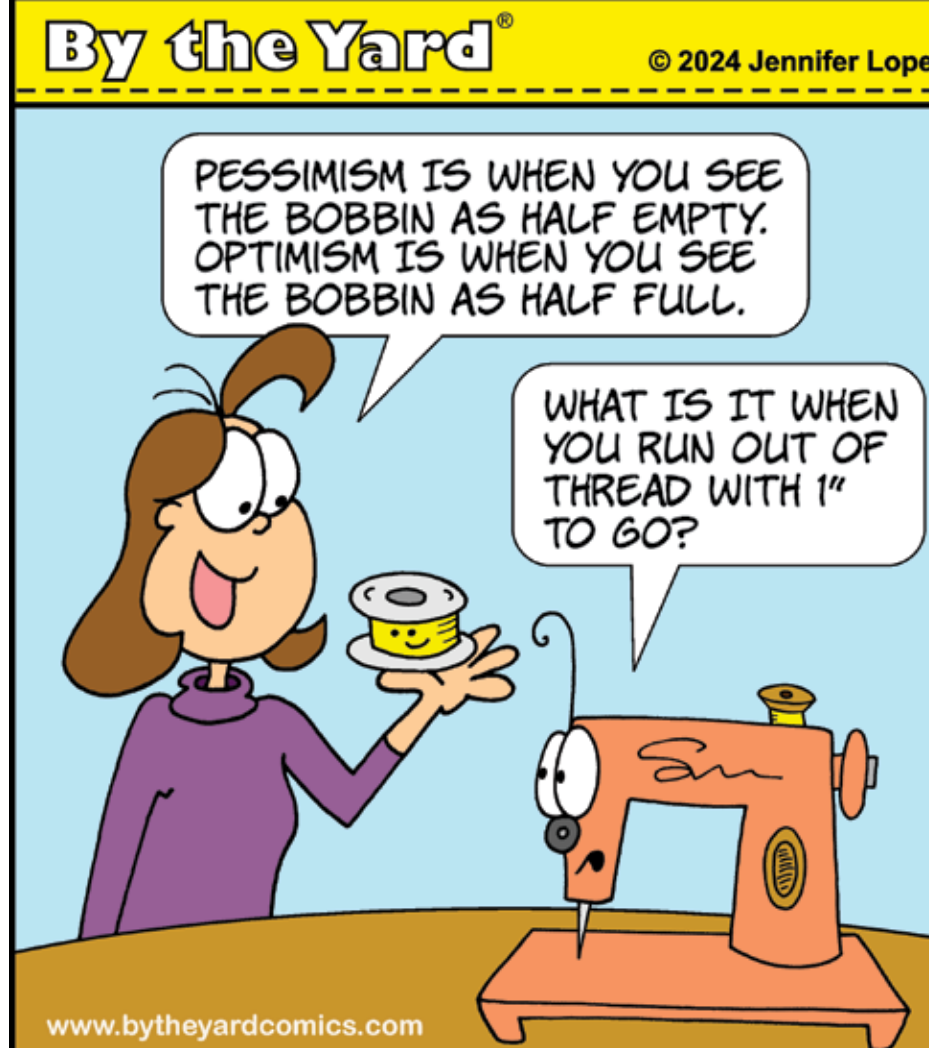
From Lydia's Recipe File: Chocolate Satin Pie

Ingredients:
1 ready-made 9-inch pie crust
Pie Filling
1 12-oz. can evaporated milk
2 large egg yolks, beaten
2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
(12 oz. bag)

Directions:
1. In a medium-sized saucepan, combine the milk and egg yolks. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon, until the mixture thickens. Do not boil.
2. Remove from heat and stir in chocolate chips. Stir until melted and combined.
3. Cool filling. Then pour it into the pie crust and chill for several hours or until thickened.
4. When ready to serve, top with whipped cream.
5. If desired, garnish with nuts, shaved chocolate, or swirls of chocolate syrup. Or for the holidays, top with crushed candy canes.
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Random Acts

by Maranda K Jones

Chips and Dip

"Come on over!" is a rare phrase to escape my mouth. I am constantly in awe of the authors who write articles about their hosting abilities, welcoming people into their homes and serving them well-thought out treats, willing to please. These gracious people are sure to satisfy their guests' wants for conversation and confections. Thirsts are quenched at these parties, and I would love to be comfortable inviting others into my home. I am just not there yet.

Hospitality is indeed a spiritual gift that some have been blessed with. This was a recent topic of discussion in Sunday School with myriad opinions. Why do more people not invite others into their homes as much as they used to? Some people feel inadequate, fear their messes will be judged, or keep such a busy schedule that it feels impossible. Maybe it is a perfectionist attitude that thinks the menu needs to be elaborate and nothing will measure up to the guests' expectations. Do we worry that we won't measure up? We are humble people that need each other. Our society in general has shifted from gathering with neighbors often, and it shows in the layouts of our communities. Porches were once commonly placed on the front of the houses, lined up facing the street, calling to passersby to stop in, enjoy a refreshing drink while rocking and talking to (or about!) other neighbors. Now a backyard oasis is the ultimate getaway, the coveted landscape project of many home improvement plans.

My improvement plan involves prayer and developing this spiritual gift of hospitality. I usually pray that someone else will host and that I will be a gracious guest! Time for some transformation. Others have been blessed, and I feel I need to work to grow in this aspect of my life. Today I am feeling convicted about this self-construction project. Can I renovate enough to feel comfortable and eager to please? We shall see. We are starting small, with a snack.

My youngest daughter and I love chips and dip. When we take a road trip, we make a stop for those must-have snacks. Her go-to grab is always chips and dip. Whether it is salsa, cheese dip, bean dip or guacamole, one of these sides and tortilla chips is always her first choice. A combination of French onion dip and wavy potato chips comes in second, for she is not picky. When we are home, chips and dip are an easy appetizer for three hungry teenagers. They will grab a bag, a bowl, and a jar to feed their growing appetites. Snacking on chips and dip before a meal while we are cooking, they stand near the counter crunching and munching, conversing about whatever comes to mind.

This got me thinking. If conversation comes this easily over a simple shared snack, we should offer to share chips and dip with a neighbor. We could invite friends or relatives to come over and catch up over a bowl of chips. It isn't fancy, but neither am I. My friends and family already know that, so I should stop waiting and start feeding my growing appetite for connections. We would not have to clear a whole day, or even clear our whole table, to offer some grace, attention, and friendship to someone we love. And on those days when hosting at our own home feels too hard, we could still be outgoing. We could meet somewhere to break bread, or chips, rather.

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Maranda Jones' new book **Random Acts** is now available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

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Aging, cont. from page 7

smudged invoice that contains a laundry list of necessary repairs.

My doctor and I are playing this game. I am the car and he is the mechanic. At this point in my life, I guess it's all about maintenance! It must be the same for most people I know because medical issues seem to be the center of conversations these days.

The perils of aging do not just center around physical health. Financial health can be just as demanding. Having your "affairs in order" (as they say) can be a stressful task. These days, it is important to note that having a will is sometimes not enough.

In many states, it is just as important to have a trust (again... disclaimer above!). Not having a trust can stall the disbursement of your estate and make it extremely difficult for your loved ones who are left with the task of settling your affairs.

Recently, it came to mind that there is another sign that we are truly aging. That sign was when my adult children started telling me what they wanted of my possessions when I am gone. WHAT? I still am using my life's collection of "stuff" and have no intention of turning it over!

In all seriousness, the Organizer in me appreciates the fact that it would be a great idea to make a list of family heirlooms and who wants to claim them (or who I want them to go to). Again, it will make it easier for the family to take care of.

To sum it all up...don't ignore your engine. Do the maintenance. Keep the paperwork in order. Try not to fill every conversation with the who knows who of medical disasters (... "Did you hear about Gladys and her gallbladder? Poor dear.")

Age is truly a state of mind...with a bit of self-awareness attached. We can age without acting like we are. (Note to self: Be aware of grunting noises when getting up out of a chair. Definitely not a young person's habit.) C'mon. We've got this. I know we do!

Julie Pirtle lives in Eagle Point, Oregon. She is a Professional Organizer and owner/operator of Clutter Happens. She also works with clients nationally through video consultations. The Clutter Challenged can reach her at clutterhappens@gmail.com, on Facebook: [clutterhappens](https://www.facebook.com/clutterhappens) or her website www.clutterhappens.com

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Labors of Love Last Forever by Barbara Kalkis
 If the Year gave a party, I think September would stroll into the room with quiet assurance and accompanied by the muffled drum beat of a military marching band. There's an aura about the month that screams "schedules," "routines," "order," "discipline," "school is in session," and, worst of all, "summer is over" – although summer doesn't even end until the third week of the month!
 What makes September feel like Summer is Over? I think it's because kids are back in school's structured days, and the autumn sports, band practices, and drama club rehearsals are in full swing. At home, chrysanthemums and zinnias still blaze in their vibrant colors; fields fade to yellows and creamy whites. Trees begin their slow turn to autumn with red, orange, gold and yellow outlining the veins of once vibrant green leaves.
 Mostly, I think September stands out because of Labor Day. In the parade of months January hosts the new year. Hooray! Out with old! In with the New! February keeps us in suspense about when winter will end based on the whims of a groundhog. March boasts a Lion and a Lamb to excuse its alternating onion snows and breezy spring days. April welcomes fools. May begins honoring International Workers, Moms, and those lost in war. Who can compete with that?
 June formally welcomes Summer, regardless of not having a groundhog or other prescient animal. And what's not to like about all the graduations and weddings? July is Independence Day and just plain fun with 31 days of summer. August languidly meanders into the year's party with its dog-days of heat and the listlessness of doing nothing but lazily dreaming in a hammock, or dreaming of owning a hammock. Barely waking from the wonderful dreams that Summer inspires, September arrives to wake us up to the reality of work.
 Unlike May's focus on people who work, September focuses on the jobs that workers do. Labor Day is about all those occupations that require physical effort. Is there any word that speaks to intense physical effort, shoulder-to-the-grindstone, head-down concentration on getting a job done? I don't think so.
 But every cloud has at least one silver lining, and September has many. There's honor in labor. Sure, there's honor in work, but work isn't the same as labor. Work is something we all do, like homework, housework, field work, earning-a-living work. Labor requires the diligence of doing a difficult job masterfully well, concentrating with a needle-eyed focus. Labor is about the pride we feel when we've completed a chore perfectly or close to perfect.
 The crafting projects we undertake pale next to the labor of building a skyscraper, farming crops that will feed many, manufacturing electronic devices that drive technology, or working in a factory. What binds us are the qualities required for any job well done: energy, determination, and a deep-down love of doing something really well for ourselves and others. However, you labor – for work or for love or both – happy Labor Day! Join the party, September!

—©Barbara Kalkis, 2024. Barbara is a writer, teacher and high-tech consultant. She views these jobs as fun work, while cooking and house chores are labor. Her poetry book is *Little Ditties for Every Day: A Collection of Thoughts in Rhyme and Rhythm*.

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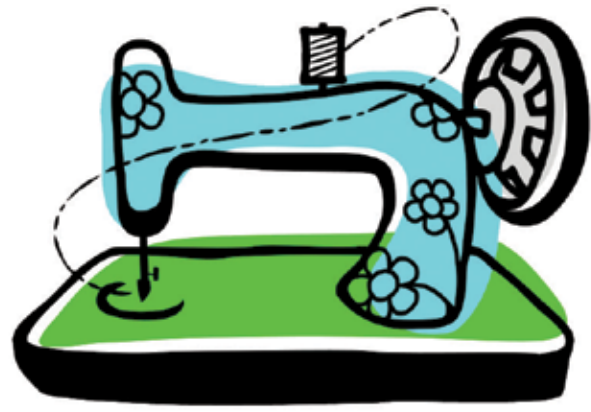
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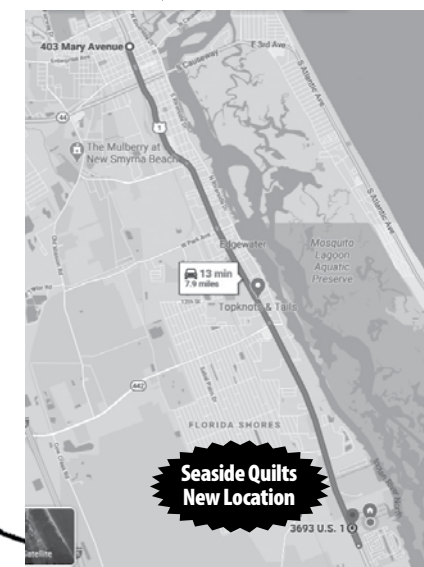
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The Comfy Cozy Quilt

by Deb Heatherly

The leaves are falling, the days are cooler and it's time to pull out those fall quilts for snuggling.

Nothing feels better on a chilly day than a flannel quilt. Whether it's used for a quick nap, to wrap up at a Friday night football game or just to cuddle under while watching a good movie, a flannel quilt just makes you feel loved.

This quick and easy quilt can be stitched up in no time at all. Pre-wash and dry your flannel before starting because flannel tends to shrink and then cut and sew this in a day. Sew in rows and then sew the rows together. Tip: I use sticky notes to hide all but of the row I'm working on. This will help you stay organized so that the right colors end up in the correct position.

With just 3 colors, fabric selection is easy. Make it in school colors, Christmas colors, winter blues or whatever fabric 'speaks to you'. Gather a group of friends and have a quilting party! Have everyone pre-cut their squares, bring their favorite fall treat and then settle in for a day full of fun.

The Comfy Cozy Quilt finishes at 71" x 71". Mine is well loved and starting to show its age, but it's the first thing I pull out every year in the fall! I keep telling myself to make a replacement, but wrapping up in this one is like hugging an old friend.

- Material:
- 1 1/4 yd. Color 1: Dark
 - Cut (7) 6" x WOF strips. Sub-cut (41) 6" squares
 - 1 1/4 yd. Color 2: Medium
 - Cut (7) 6" x WOF strips. Sub-cut (40) 6" squares
 - 1 1/4 yd. Color 3: Light
 - Cut (7) 6" x WOF strips. Sub-cut (40) 6" squares
 - Outer Border:
 - Cut (7) 6" x WOF strips
 - Binding:
 - Cut (8) 2 1/2" x WOF strips
 - Backing: 4 yds.



-© Deb Heatherly is a designer for Creative Grids® rulers and the author of eight popular pattern books. Creative Grids® fans are invited to join her Facebook group, "Grids Girls," for tips and inspiration, and two free mysteries each year, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/770429649800457/>. Shop Owners are invited to join her group just for you, "Grids Girls for Quilt Shop Owners Only" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/273593657256524/>. Visit Deb's website at www.Debcatsquilts.com.

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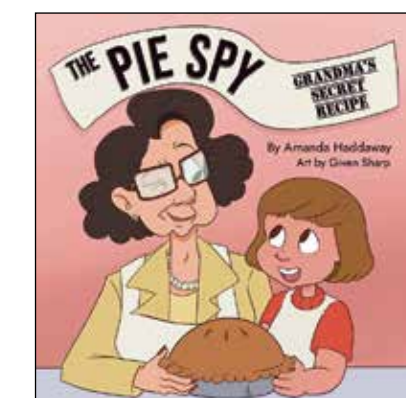
National Sewing Month.org
SEPTEMBER

National Sewing Month is presented by the Sewing & Craft Alliance with participation from the American Sewing Guild

Book Review – Register to Win
The Pie Spy: Grandma's Secret Recipe

Article By Amy Carter,
The Country Register publisher

In this heartwarming story, a young girl named Kate discovers that her grandma was a spy and used her baking skills to hide secret messages. Through baking pies together, Kate learns about her grandma's exciting past and the importance of bravery, creativity and love for family.



I met the author, Amanda Haddaway, when we lived in Frederick, MD. I can't remember the first time we met because we crossed paths often: church, networking groups, social events, supporting each other's businesses, etc. I saw on Facebook that she wrote a book and as I learned more about it – I reached out to her about doing some book giveaways in this publication because I know our readers will be interested in purchasing the book. The Pie Spy is for new

young readers (ages 5-9 but others will enjoy) and their adults. The book is a great way to connect with family and share time reading together – and maybe even bake a pie together!

This is truly a passion project for Amanda. A portion of the book sales will be donated by Amanda to Butterfly Ridge Elementary School (in Frederick, MD) "because you should never forget where you came from (in full disclosure, this school wasn't around when I would have gone there, but I can see the house I lived in when I was a young child from the school's parking lot and my Rotary Club has 'adopted' it.)"



Photo of Amanda's grandma, the inspiration behind The Pie Spy.

Buy on www.amazon.com for \$7.77. Given Sharp (Illustrator). ISBN 979-8991063807.

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Chicken in Cream Sauce over Happy Rice
Serves 4 to 6

Hide any leftovers so you can have them all to yourself for hot lunch tomorrow. Roasted carrots or plain string beans are both good w/ this.

- 2 lbs. skinless, boneless chicken thighs and/or breasts
- 1 tsp. dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne
- salt & pepper to taste
- 4 Tbsp. butter
- 3 c. sliced mushrooms
- 1/3 c. minced shallots
- 1/4 c. chicken broth
- 1 c. dry white wine
- 1 c. heavy cream
- 1/3 c. chopped parsley
- HAPPY RICE (below)
- 3 red pears, diced

Wash & cut chicken into 1" pieces; sprinkle them w/ thyme, cayenne, salt & pepper. Melt 2 Tbsp. butter in lg. skillet; cook chicken over med. high heat for 3 min. do not overcook. Add in mushrooms & cook 2 min. more. Remove chicken & mushrooms from skillet & set aside. Melt remaining 2 Tbsp. butter; cook shallots for 2 min., stir often. Add broth & wine to pan, bring to boil, scraping up brown bits from bottom of pan. Simmer 5 min.; add cream; simmer 5 min. more. Put chicken & mushrooms back into skillet, add parsley & heat through. Spoon chicken over rice. Sprinkle chopped pears over all & serve.

HAPPY RICE Makes 6 servings (5c.)

- 1/2 c. uncooked white rice
- 1/3 c. golden raisins, chopped
- 1/2 c. sliced almonds
- seeds from 1 lg. pomegranate (opt.)

Cook rice according to pkg. instructions. When done, stir in all additional ingredients. NOTE: You can make Happy Rice even HAPPIER (when serving it in a menu that has no sauce) by adding 1/2 stick butter, 1/2 c. minced green onion, 1 Tbsp. minced fresh thyme, 2 Tbsp. orange zest, salt, pepper & 2 diced red pears.

HAPPINESS! HA-CHA-CHA!
LOUIS ARMSTRONG

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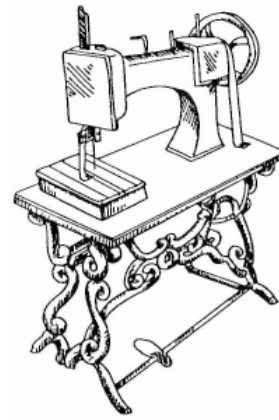
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And Sew On

by Wayne M. Bosman



It might have been the cowboy shirts. Or maybe the black corduroy pants. Either way, some of my earliest memories center around Mom's sewing machine.

When my two older brothers were at school during the day, my brother, Ron, and I spent a good bit of time in Mom's bedroom watching her work at the old Singer treadle driven machine.

The cowboy shirts were a memorable special project for her, finishing one for each of us before Christmas. I remember the corduroy pants for the softness and warmth in the Wisconsin winter.

Eventually, as we became teenagers and as she had to spend more time being the unpaid worker at Dad's growing business, the Singer started to gather dust.

As time went on, my fascination with sewing machines remained. I spent 49 years as a car mechanic, and learned to value machines of all types for their simplicity and usefulness.

The latest acquisition is a 1984 Montgomery Ward machine that cost \$10 at an estate sale.

I always have mixed feelings when I get something from an estate sale. Someone is clearing out all of the personal items from another person's life.

Kerri learned to sew from her mother. Her skill of choice is crocheting, so she only pulls out her mother's 1960 Singer when she decides to make a new apron or alter a dress for dancing.

-© 2024 Wayne M. Bosman is a retired auto mechanic living in Cape Carteret, NC. His email is wbosman1@gmail.com.

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As time goes marching forward, and it marches oh so fast, it seems that only memories are all we have that last. They may be of a loved one, or a special time or place, or remnants of a wedding dress, some ribbons and some lace.

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.

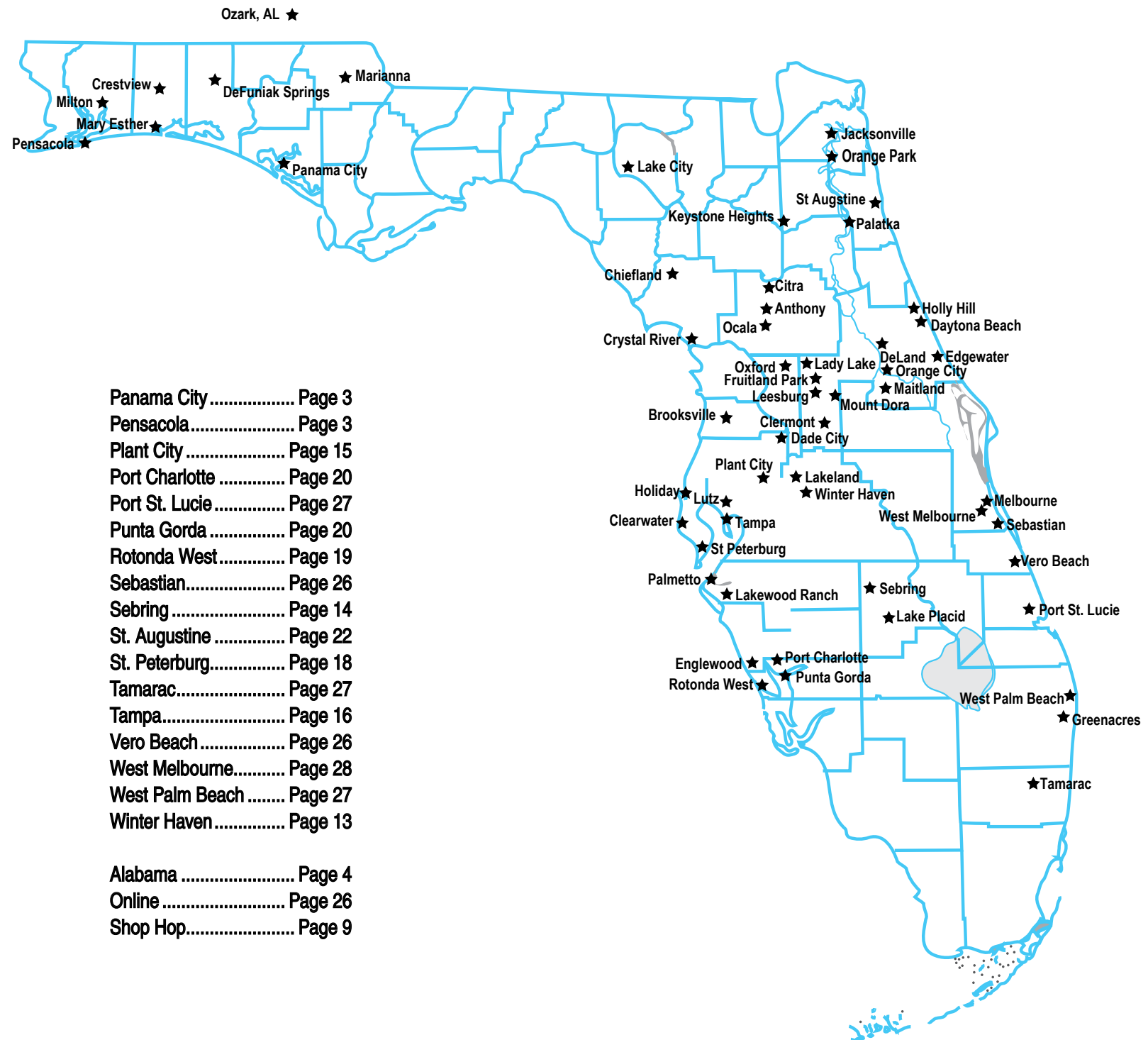
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