

The Country Register[®]

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Complimentary

ARIZONA

February-March 2026

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N. Nevada
Shops & Events
starting on
page 25

Your
Complimentary
Guide to
Local
Shops & Events



The Country Register of Arizona

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The Deadline for the April-May Issue is March 1st for Ads & Articles.

Our feature articles will focus on Celebrate Mother's Day! Tea Rooms and More!

The Country Register is a United States and Canadian network of independently owned and published specialty newspapers for the consumer who enjoys outstanding shopping, events, day & overnight excursions and specialty classes.

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Send \$3 to any publisher below to obtain a paper from another area:

* Indicates these editions are available on-line at www.countryregister.com

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The Country Register provides targeted, effective, and affordable advertising for the promotion of Specialty Shops

For more information about publishing The Country Register contact Barb Stillman or Lolly Konecky at 602-942-8950 or info@barlomeia.com, www.countryregister.com

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(AZ)



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Quilt Fiesta! Let's Party!

It's a special year for the **Tucson Quilters Guild**! Founded in 1976, the guild is celebrating its 50th birthday with a truly fabulous quilt show – February 19th through the 21st! Besides the impressive display of award-winning judged quilts, there will be several special, one-of-a-kind exhibits.

Patchwork: Stitching Together Arizona History features priceless quilts and artifacts from the collection of the Arizona Historical Society. The exhibit includes the Centennial Quilt, made to celebrate Arizona's Centennial in 2012; a quilt made by Goldie Tracy Richman and heartbreaking commemorative quilts from the Migrant Quilt Project.

Old Glories: Antique Quilts from the collection of Lenna DeMarco is a gathering of patriotic and politically themed quilts. Enjoy viewing several eagle quilts, with the national symbol created with appliqué, including a four-block example from 1867. Exquisite versions of Democratic Rose and President's Wreath quilts will also be displayed. Lenna DeMarco will be doing daily presentations about these extraordinary quilts.

Fifty Fabulous Years features treasures from the past, showcasing ribbon winners and other quilts from past shows. From hand pieced and hand quilted pieces from the 1980's to the machine-made masterpieces of recent years, these quilts illustrate the evolution of the art of quilting.

Quilt Fiesta also offers enticing vendor booths as well as the popular Basket Bonanza raffle and the Small Quilt Sale for charity. You can also shop for quilts of all sizes at the Quilt for a Cause booth. Look for donated books and fabrics for sale by the guild at their tables for Books & Bits and What Will You Make?

The 2026 Opportunity Quilt, *Tucson Five-O*, is a quilted compilation of designs from past opportunity quilts with guild members making the various blocks and Athena Taylor providing the stunning quilting. Chances to win this beautiful quilt are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The center medallion, appliquéd by Monique Baczewski, was the



Tucson Five-O, 2026 Opportunity quilt

Continued on page 4...



Tombstone QUILT SHOW

February 1-24, 2026
Open Daily 10 am to 4 pm
Free Admission
Raffle Quilt Drawing February 21st
\$1450 to be Awarded in 9 Categories

2026 Raffle Quilt "Desert Blooms"
Tickets \$1, 6 for \$5

See our website for Entry Form and Rules: <http://www.tombstoneartgallery.com>
Entry Deadline is January 10, 2026

Tombstone Art Gallery, 383 Allen St (across from OK Corral)

FREE Admission!

26th Annual Coolidge Family Quilt Show

"Land That I Love"

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
March 6-7-8, 2026 10 am - 4 pm

**Held in conjunction with "Coolidge Cotton Days"*

**Opportunity Quilt Tickets, Raffle Baskets,
Boutique, Quilts for Sale, Vote for People's Choice**

Featured Quilter Brenda Lohr – Reception March 7 – 2 pm
Quilts of Valor Presentation March 8 – 2 pm
Drawings March 8 – 3 pm

Coolidge Women's Club 240 W. Pinkley Ave. Coolidge

sponsored by: Cotton Patchers, a chapter of The Arizona Quilters Guild
for more information, please email: coolidgecottonpatchers@gmail.com

QUILT FIESTA!

Celebrating
50
years
of the
Tucson
Quilters Guild

February 19-21, 2026

Thursday – Friday
9am - 5pm
Saturday
10am - 4pm
Pima County Fairgrounds
Old Pueblo Hall
11300 S. Houghton Rd., Tucson, AZ
\$10 per day or \$20 per 3-day pass

Hundred of Quilts!

Prize-Winning, Judged Quilts!

Fabulous Vendors!

Basket Bonanza Raffle!

Small Quilt Sale for Charity!



Special Exhibits:

"Old Glories: Antique Quilts"
from Lenna DeMarco
and
"Patchwork: Stitching Together
Arizona History"

Info at TucsonQuiltersGuild.com






Quilt Show & Sale

Sierra Vista, Arizona

Saturday, February 28 9am-4pm **Sunday, March 1 9am-3pm**

Quilts of the Huachucas

More than 200 quilts on display

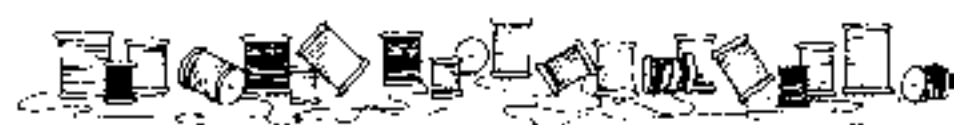
Vendor Mall HUGE Guild Boutique Demos Each Day
Quilt Appraisals "Desert Splendor" Opportunity Quilt

Admission \$7.00 Children under 12 free

Buena High School, 5225 E. Buena School Blvd. & Giulio Cesare Ave. Sierra Vista, Arizona
FREE PARKING HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

www.hummingbirdquiltguild.com







March 7, 2026
9 am - 4 pm
Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

- 200+ Show Quilts
- Beside Boutique
- Raffle Quilt
- Quilts for Sale
- Presale exclusive prize drawings

\$5 Presale/\$7 day of show
 Buy fix online@
www.grandstitchers.org
 The Grand-Chaparral Center
 19781 N Remington Dr
 Surprise Arizona

For more info
 Scan QR Code



Arizona Quilters Guild 2026 Quilt Show In New Glendale Location

The **Arizona Quilters Guild (AQG)** is thrilled to announce that our 2026 Quilt Show, *Let Freedom Ring*, will be March 20th and 21st to be held at a BRAND NEW location, the Martin Auto Museum and Event Center, 4320 W Thunderbird Road in Glendale, Arizona.

This new and exciting location allows space to hang over 300 quilts created by talented artisans of which over 200 are entered for competition. In addition, they will host a special Quilts of Valor display, Chapter Challenges, a Chapter Boutique and a raffle for a Chapter Opportunity Quilt.

Do you enjoy shopping for quilting items? **AQG** can help with that. There will be 30 vendors at this show showcasing an amazing variety of products to fill all of your quilting needs. A popular area of the show is the raffle basket booth with 24 supersized baskets, each of which has up to 75 yards of fabric, quilting notions and other quilting related items. The raffle quilt winners will be announced on Saturday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. The drawing winners of the quilts and raffle baskets do not need to be present to win.

If you have any young people in your life, consider bringing them along to the **Quilt Show**. **AQG** will be operating a Next Gen (i.e., next generation) booth with activities geared just for youths. Young people will have the opportunity to sew blocks using real sewing machines, participate in a scavenger hunt, view quilts made by other youths, learn about quilt classes they can register for and enter a youth-only raffle to win a new sewing machine.

To encourage youths to attend the show, **AQG** is offering a voucher that will give anyone under 18 plus one accompanying adult free admission to the show on either day. You can get a copy of the voucher by visiting www.arizonaquiltersguild.org. Electronic copies are acceptable.

If you have a husband or other family member who is a car enthusiast, they will love this new venue. Along with the **Quilt Show**, Martin Auto Museum and Event Center features over 170 vehicles including classic cars, hot rods, custom cars and imports. It also has one of the largest collections of auto memorabilia, antique gas pumps and signage anywhere.

Quilt Show attendees will be able to purchase a \$12 ticket for just the quilt show or a discounted ticket to both the quilt show and the auto museum for \$20. Parking is free. Be sure to mark your calendars for the **AQG Quilt Arizona! 2026 Show** March 20-21.

The **Arizona Quilters Guild** has 28 chapters and over 1,600 members in locations throughout the state. It has been active since 1978. To learn more about the Arizona Quilters Guild and the 2026 Quilt Show, visit the website at www.arizonaquiltersguild.org/quiltshow.



Palo Verde Patchers' Quilt Show
"Reach for the Stars"
 Saturday & Sunday
February 21 & 22, 2026 • 9-4

2026 Raffle Quilt
 Mariner's Compass
 95" x 95" a Judy Niemeyer
 Paper Pieced Pattern
 Need not be present to win

Palm Ridge Rec Center
 13800 W Deer Valley Dr.
 Sun City West, AZ 85375
patchers.sewclubs.com

Boutique Raffle Baskets
 Admission \$5
 Lunch Available on Patio

Pueblo El Mirage Material Girls Quilt & Sewing Show
Tuesday, March 10, 2026
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
PEM Banquet Hall

FREE ADMISSION

- Quilts • Bake Sale
- Silent Auction
- Quilts for Sale
- Craft Vendors
- Barn Quilt Trail

Buy a ticket for your opportunity to win this Amazing Quilt
\$1.00/1 Ticket \$5.00/6 Tickets
 Quilt will be given away at the Quilt Show!

Please contact Candy Jameson at 503-680-5820 or any Material Girls member for tickets
11201 N El Mirage Rd, El Mirage AZ 85335




Quilt Fiesta!, continued from page 3...

Quilters on Grand
2nd Biennial Quilt Show
Saturday, March 7, 2026 9am-4pm
Sunday, March 8, 2026 9am-3pm

*Quilt Show, Demos,
 Opportunity Quilt, Bed Turning*

Fairway Rec Center
10600 W. Peoria Ave, Sun City, AZ 85351
For more information, call Jo Ann: 970-261-1798



source for a digital print that was used in the quilts for the Desert Vista Challenge exhibit. See this challenge as well as the President's and New Member Challenges, with the winners previously selected by guild members. The drawing will be held on Friday at 3:30 p.m. and the winner does not need to be present to win.

Something new for this year's show is that it will be held Thursday to Saturday, instead of Friday to Sunday. **Quilt Fiesta** is February 19 and 20, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and February 21, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Pima County Fairgrounds, Old Pueblo Hall, 11300 S. Houghton Road in Tucson, AZ. Admission is \$10 and parking is \$8. For information visit the websites, www.TucsonQuiltersGuild.com or www.QuiltFiesta.com. Mark the dates on your calendar because you don't want to miss this party!



Viewers Choice, Retro Living by Tami Graeber



ARIZONA QUILTERS GUILD

presents **Quilt Arizona! 2026**
Arizona's largest Arizona-based quilt show

MARCH 20TH & 21ST 2026



LET FREEDOM RING

NEW SHOW LOCATION



Martin Auto Museum
4320 W Thunderbird Rd
Glendale, AZ 85306

Quilt Show \$12
Quilt Show/Museum \$20
12 and under FREE



arizonaquiltersguild.org

Sunland Springs Village Quilt Show
 The Textile Arts Center Presents
Keepsakes From the Heart



February 21, 2026 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Beautiful Quilts - Class Projects - Demonstrations
 Vendors - Textiles - Fabric Sale - Raffle Baskets
Admission \$2.00

2240 South Springwood (Auditorium),
 Mesa, AZ 85209



Viewpoint Golf Resort

2026 Quilt Show
2 DAYS THIS YEAR
 FRIDAY & SATURDAY
 FEBRUARY 27-5pm-8pm
 FEBRUARY 28-9am-3pm



Admission \$2
 Gift Quilt
 Basket Drawing
 Marketplace



Quilt Show Contact: Becky McNabb 281.744.6506
 Quilterspointofview.com

8700 E. University Drive, Mesa AZ 85207
 (Between Sossaman and Ellsworth-Enter on Hawes Road for Shuttle Service)

SUNLAND STITCHERS
2026 Quilt Show
 Featuring
Every Quilt has a Story
 Nancy Jarrett, Featured Quilter

Saturday, March 14, 2026
 9 a.m. - 2p.m.
 Admission: \$2.00



- * Bed Turning *
- * Boutique *
- * Quilt Sales *
- * Raffle Quilts *

Sunland Village East Auditorium
 8026 East Lakeview Avenue
 Mesa, AZ 85209

Upcoming Arizona Quilting Events

Havasu Stitchers present
 Bridge of Friendship XVI Quilt Show
 "Visions of Color in the Desert"
 February 5-7, 2026
 Thurs: 12-4:00 p.m., Fri & Sat: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Lake Havasu Aquatic Center, 100 Park Avenue,
 Lake Havasu City
 Admission: \$10 cash (good for all 3 days)
 For more information, visit www.havasustitchers.com



All Arizona & New Mexico Shop Hop
 February 1st to March 31st, 2026
 Over 50 stores, 100's of Prizes & Free Gift at
 Every Store
 Visit www.AllArizonaNewMexicoShopHop.com
 and join their Facebook Group
www.facebook.com/groups/allarizonanewmexicoshophop



HD SOUTH to Hosts 21st Annual Quilt Show February 24 to May 25, 2026

HD SOUTH Home of the Gilbert Historical Museum presents its 21st Annual Quilt Show from February 24 to May 25, 2026. The Art of Quilting Show will feature a wide variety of quilts made by members of the Museum's quilting group as well as the local community. More than 100 quilts will be on display throughout the Museum. There will also be a selection of quilts for sale.

A special focus for this year's exhibit is Red, White and Blue, honoring America's 250th Anniversary, the Semi-quincennial. In addition, during the month of April HD SOUTH is honored to have on display a traveling exhibit from the American Quilt Study Group. These special pieces are from the remarkable collection "Makers and Designers: 1945-1979". This curated collection highlights a dynamic and influential period in quilting history, one that ushered quilt making into the modern era. Visitors will discover pieces inspired by iconic figures such as Jean Ray Laury, Jinny Beyer and other notable innovators whose artistry shaped the evolution of contemporary quilting.

The Art of Quilting Show will be on display from February 24 through May 25, 2026, offering guests nearly three months to explore craftsmanship, creativity and the enduring cultural significance of quilts in American History.

Museum admission is required for one-time access to the exhibition. Admission fees are adult \$6; senior, ages 60+, \$5; youth, ages 5-12, \$3, and children under 5 years old are admitted free. HD SOUTH is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

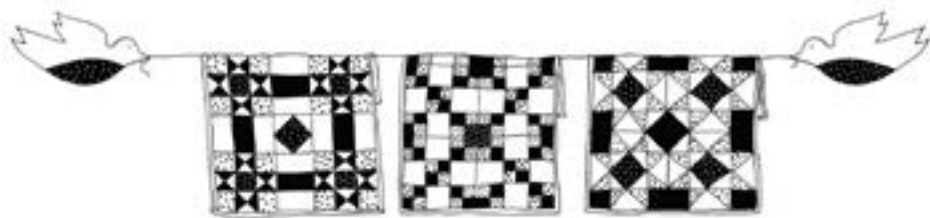
A Quilter's Boutique and Gift Shop filled with handmade items for sale is open year-round.

The quilting group at HD SOUTH formed in 2002 and members meet every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The live quilting bee is in the Home Life room and anyone is welcome to join the group, regardless of skill level.

These volunteers complete unfinished quilt tops for the public with all proceeds going to HD SOUTH. The quilters can complete up to fifteen quilts a year and receive quilt covers and orders sent from all over the country. Their quilting service is extremely popular and wait times can be lengthy, but if you have a quilt top that you just do not have the time or skills to finish, the volunteers will finish it for you at a price of just \$9/sq foot. They make tiny stitches, fastening the quilt tops to inner batting and backing to create beautiful bedspreads and wall hangings that are truly works of art.

HD SOUTH is located at the southern end of the Gilbert Heritage District at 10 S. Gilbert Road. Originally opened as Gilbert Elementary School in 1913, the Gilbert Historical Museum is the oldest building still standing in Gilbert and is the only one on the National Register of Historic Places. The Museum has been at the heart of the Gilbert community since 1982 and is a repository of artifacts chronicling the town's rich history, featuring newly remodeled exhibits and interactive displays. Programming includes something for everyone and every age: art workshops, history talks, science programs, music, storytelling, yoga and much more.

Become a part of this dynamic community for all ages. Learn more at www.hdsouth.org, on Facebook at HDSOUTHGilbertMuseum, on X @hdsgilbert, or Instagram at hdsouthgilbert. Email info@hdsouth.org or call 480-926-1577.



Sunland Springs Village Quilt Show in Mesa, February 21, 2026

Sunland Springs Village Quilt Show will present "Keepsakes from the Heart" on Saturday February 21, 2026, at the Sunland Springs Village Auditorium, 2240 South Springwood Boulevard in Mesa. Show hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and admission is \$2.00 per person.

Discover more than 100 stunning quilts on display, along with an array of handcrafted items including bags, rope bowls, Swedish weaving projects, knitting and crocheting. Enjoy a huge fabric sale, plus jewelry and kits with material and patterns.

Dottie Graves will be the featured artist. She has been quilting for over 25 years and has explored a wide range of textiles in her creative journey.

A beautiful quilt made by club member, Pat Hennessy will be available for a raffle drawing. In addition, there will be several themed raffle basket drawings. Tickets are available for purchase for \$1.00 or six for \$5.00. Winners will be announced at the end of the show. You do not need to be present to win. Proceeds benefit club supported charities.

Sunland Springs Village Textile Art Center was formed in 2002 as a quilt club and needle crafter group. Over the years various groups have been formed to include embroidery, appliqué, beading, clothing construction, knitting, crocheting and Swedish weaving. The club proudly supports charitable projects which include Arizona blankets for kids, Placemats for Meals on Wheels, Veteran's quilts, dog/cat beds and baby layettes.

For more information about the Quilt Show, call Joan at 253-249-4057.



GOOD LIFE RV RESORT'S
PIECEMAKERS QUILTING GROUP
 3403 E Main St Mesa, AZ
 BALLROOM
QUILT SHOW
 & Dessert Bar
March 2nd, 2026 10am-2pm
FREE Admission Everyone Welcome!! Door Prizes!

10 S. GILBERT RD, GILBERT, AZ 85296
21ST ANNUAL ART OF QUILTING QUILT SHOW AND SALE
 HONORING AMERICA'S SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL
 WWW.HDSOUTH.ORG
 HD SOUTH
 February 24 thru May 25
 OPEN TUESDAY-SATURDAY 10:00AM-4:00PM
 ADMISSION PRICES:
 SENIORS \$5
 ADULTS \$6
 YOUTH (AGES 5-12) \$3



Sunland Village
CREATIVE QUILT SHOW
 QUILTERS
FEBRUARY 21, 2026
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
SUNLAND VILLAGE AUDITORIUM
4601 E DOLPHIN AVE, MESA AZ 85206
ADMISSION \$2
BED TURNING 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM
QUILT RAFFLE • LUNCH AVAILABLE • NO PETS




Strawberry Patchers

28th Annual Quilt Show June 5 & 6, 2026

Cultural Hall in Downtown Pine • Hwy 87 Pine, AZ


Vendor Mall • Hourly Drawings • Free Demos • Bake Sale
Friday 9am-4pm • Saturday 9am-3pm • \$5 Admission
 Creative, innovative & traditional quilts • Viewers Choice Voting - Friday only!

For information and entry forms: www.strawberrypatchers.com
 Strawberry Patchers is a chapter of the Arizona Quilters Guild



2026 Quilt Show

Presented by
**Red Rock Quilters &
 Community Library Sedona**



January 5, 2026 through February 28, 2026
 Viewers Choice Awards to be presented in a variety of categories
 Community Library Sedona, 3250 White Bear Road, Sedona, AZ 86336
 (928) 282-7714




QUILT SHOW 2026

Golden Vista RV Resort
 3710 S. Goldfield Road, Apache Junction, Enter on Baseline
Saturday, March 14, 2026
 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
 Admission \$2.00
 Door Prizes, Demos & Bed Turning
 Vendors • Small Quilts for Sale



Mountain Top Quilters Guild Prescott, Arizona Presents

Stitches of Love Quilt Show

May 29 & 30, 2026
 Friday 9-5 pm
 Saturday 9-4 pm

- Over 300 Quilts on Display
- Boutique
- Vendors
- Raffle Baskets
- Small Quilt Auction
- Quilts with a Story
- Opportunity Quilt Raffle
- Food Available

Admission \$10
 (covers both days)
16 and under FREE



Findlay
 TOYOTA CENTER
 3201 N. Main Street
 Prescott Valley, AZ
MountainTopQuiltersGuild.com

The Reserve at Lost Dutchman

Quilt, Art & Craft Raffles
 Drawings at 1:30pm

Join Us!

Main Hall
 &
 Saguaro Hall

Saturday, March 7, 2026
 9:00am to 2:00pm

Don't miss this
 amazing event!

FREE ADMISSION!

The Reserve at Lost Dutchman
 400 N. Plaza Dr.
 Apache Junction, AZ 85120



Rim Country Quilt Roundup

The Rim Country Quilt Roundup Board and Committee would like to extend our thanks to all who supported our quilt show for the last 20 years.

The quilt show that was held on Nov. 7 & 8, 2025 was our last.

We are putting our heads together to come up with an event that will reach a broader audience.

Watch the Country Register for more information.

Thank You again! Contact phone number - 480-567-2788



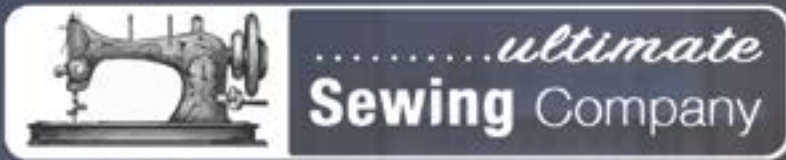

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KISSed Quilts

Inspiration Comes from Service Time Love Letters

by Marlene Oddie

As we approach that annual day when valentines are shared, I wanted to share a new and special collection from Lumin Fabrics/Island Batik called "Missing You". This was designed by Terri Vanden Bosch of Lizard Creek Quilting in Rock Valley, IA.

"This fabric collection is a tribute to enduring love, heartfelt devotion and the quiet strength found in life's most tender moments," says Vanden Bosch. Her father-in-love was a veteran. During his military service he and his wife wrote daily. These letters were found, wrapped in a cotton string and served as inspiration for this collection.

Terri created a variety of tjaps with the following themes: mail, cross stitch hearts, morse code words, ribbon meander with bows, ink splat and air mail love.

"This collection is my tribute, to love that lasts, to moments that matter, and to the quiet beauty of handwritten words. May these hand-drawn fabrics evoke your own cherished memories and offer comfort, connection and peace to all who use them."

Terri has put together several beautiful quilt designs, including "Mail Call Block of the Month", "Hometown Hearts", "Linen Letters", "Care Packages" and "Convictions". Other designers have also used the collection to create additional quilt patterns. I've used the collection to make up two versions of my Hugs and Kisses pattern originally designed to send a subtle hug and kiss from a mother to a teenage daughter. Do you see a large X and a large O in both of these? Squint at the picture. One has a blue X behind a light O and the other has a burgundy O in front of a light X. Placement of colors and values makes all the difference.

Ask at your local quilt shop that carries Island Batik fabrics for these fabrics and patterns. Check out Terri's website at lizardcreekquilting.com. The Hugs and Kisses pattern can be found at KISSed Quilts.



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>



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Giveaway Winners from Dec-Jan

We have several giveaway winners from our last issue. We love giving away prizes! Paula Alden from Tucson will receive a \$25 Gift Certificate to be spent at her favorite *Country Register* advertiser, **Quilter's Market** also in Tucson. Paula told us this is her favorite shop because, "They have a great selection of batiks!"

Carol Seipel of Surprise will receive a \$25 Gift Certificate to her favorite *Country Register* advertiser, **Quilted Country Bear** in Glendale. Carol said this is her favorite shop because, "They have lots of pre-cuts and different fabrics. Plus, the classes are entertaining."

We have several winners for Arizona Renaissance Festival tickets and each will receive their tickets in the mail. The Festival starts January 31st and runs through March 29th. Please see their ad in this issue. Make plans to attend and join in on all the FUN!!!

We love to hear from our readers about how they enjoy *The Country Register* and use it to discover great finds and fun events. In this issue, there is another \$25 Gift Certificate giveaway so be sure to enter and tell us where you pick up the newspaper.

Take a copy with you as you travel around Arizona visiting your favorite shops and finding new shops and events to explore!



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February 1-March 31

Sewing On-theGo

Making Money with Your Quilting/
Sewing Skills

by Steve Baker

Are you passionate about quilting, sewing or other crafting activities? Do you spend hours creating beautiful pieces of fabric art in your spare time? If so, turning your skills into money-making activities may be the perfect way to earn extra cash from your hobby or bloom into a full-blown business.

Let's discuss some tips on how to start making money with your quilting or sewing skills.

1. Start small.

If you're new to selling your creations, starting small is best. Make a few items, such as baby blankets or tote bags to sell at a local craft fair or on Etsy. This will give you a feel for what sells and what doesn't, and help you build up a client base and reputation for quality work.

2. Know your worth.

It's essential to price your items correctly so you're not losing money or undercharging for your time and effort. Research what similar items are selling for and factor in the cost of materials and the time it took to create them. Feel free to charge a fair price for your work.

3. Offer customization.

One of the benefits of handmade items is the ability to customize them to the customer's liking. Consider offering customization options such as fabric choices, embroidery or personalization. This adds value to your item and sets you apart from the mass-produced items available in stores.

4. Sell online.

There are many online marketplaces where you can sell your handmade items, such as Etsy, Amazon Handmade or even your own website. Be sure to take high-quality photos of your items, write detailed descriptions and keep your prices competitive. Presentation is EVERYTHING! Social media can also be a powerful tool for reaching customers and promoting your work. Most importantly, educate yourself about online marketing.

5. Collaborate with others.

Consider collaborating with other artists or crafters to create unique pieces or offer bundled items. This provides an opportunity to learn from others and expands your customer base as you tap into their followers and fans, and vice versa.

6. Teach classes.

If you're an expert in a particular skill or technique, consider offering classes or workshops to teach others. You can do this in person or virtually and charge a fee for your time and expertise. While it takes time, formally developing courses you can sell online can provide residual income for years to come.

7. Participate in craft shows.

Participating in craft shows and fairs is a great way to gain local exposure for your products and meet potential customers face-to-face. Research local opportunities and ensure that your display is eye-catching and professionally presented. This can't be overstated!

Lastly, from little things, large things grow. Put your fears and doubts aside, continue to educate yourself as you progress and jump in. You will learn more from just doing it. Your mistakes are valuable learning opportunities. Give yourself some grace and embrace the journey. It's your business. You are the differentiator from the competition, so infuse your brand with the best parts of YOU!

Steve Baker is the Director of Marketing at SewEndipitous located at 1093A Albright Road in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Visit www.SewEndipitous.com for more information.



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Those Were the Days!

Jeanne Valentine - Mistress of Papier-Mâché

by Jay Mark

Happy Valentine's Day! Because, I'd like to propose that February also be recognized as "Valentine" month. As in Jeanne Valentine Month.

Never heard the name before? Hopefully, you will grow to appreciate her after I relate the story of this remarkable mid-century artisan.

Jeanne Cecile Valentine was born in France about 1900. We don't know much about her early life, except, in 1926 she immigrated to the U.S. The records don't indicate an occupation. By 1940, while living in Greenwich, Connecticut, she emerged as a fashion designer.

Ultimately, her Mexican & French casual fashion creations caught the attention of prominent firms like Neiman-Marcus and Christian Dior.

During the 1940s, we lose track of Valentine until she emerges in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico in the 1950s. This 16th century city was ideal for her artistic bent. Akin to the style of Taos, NM, the highland's city filled with artists, restaurants and coffee houses, showed a strong European influence in its architecture and cobblestone streets.

By the late 1950's, her dress fashions had an international audience. A 1960 article described Jeanne Valentine as "an outstanding French designer of sportswear, dresses, etc. She also has beautiful hand-decorated sweaters and unusual objects of art."

A tireless innovator, by 1959, Valentine had entered an entirely new artistic field. Likely drawing on a French art-form, acquired during her early years in France, she began producing a "stream of delightfully crafted, sophisticated papier-mâché creations" that were soon "found in the most elegant shops of New York, San Francisco, Dallas, Paris and London."



One of the most popular Jeanne Valentine's handmade papier mâché pieces were clowns, produced in a variety of poses and expressions. Shown here with its original Valentine and store labels, they have been offered variously for \$100 to \$2000. Photo: Jay Mark

While her artistic talents remained concentrated on fashion design, she called on her talented son who was trained in the arts in San Miguel, and later built a successful career in New York, in his mother's words, "...as a leading theatrical designer, excellent painter and sculptor."

Nicholas Schlee, his mother said, "...can design anything." It was he who created most of the objects that would be transformed into colorful, playful, imaginative papier mâché objects for which the Jeanne Valentine name became most famous.

The ancient French craft art of papier mâché, is an exacting process. It involves plaster molds, scrap newsprint, glue, string, paste, and lacquer combined to create an objet d'art. In order to accomplish the expansion of her business, Valentine specially trained 125 artisans who performed the special skills of papier mâché.

That involved creating plaster molds, applying layers of paste-soaked newspaper into the molds, "removing dried, thin sections of paper from the molds, assembling them into sculpted forms, delicately accenting them with string patterns textured on the surface, painting the complete figures or the final skilled effect - 'antiquing' with stains and flying fingers."

This is where I confess that I have been in love with Jeanne Valentine's remarkable papier mâché work for

Continued on page 18...



Who could resist this heart decorated Jeanne Valentine signature cat. It sold recently for \$2200 at auction.

Photo: Jay Mark

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Tips for Preparing Your Quilt For a Longarm Quilter

You have spent hours and hours AND hours on your beautiful quilt and now it's time to prepare it for the finishing touch – Longarm. There are several professional Longarm Quilters advertising their service in this section of The Country Register and all are ready to take your quilt to the next level. Professional Longarm Quilters take pride in providing their best service to make your quilt one-of-a-kind. Here is a list of tips to get your quilt ready for the Longarm Quilter.

1. Prepare your perfectly ironed quilt top and backing so each will lay flat.
2. Backing should be 4+ extra inches on all sides.
3. Press seams open if backing is pieced.
4. Trim loose threads.
5. Mark the top and bring all layers (plus batting if providing your own) in a tote.
6. Communicate your desired design and thread colors clearly with your quilter.
7. Have your name and contact information available for your quilter.
8. Be sure your quilter knows your completion date needs.

This information was provided by Susan Thomas, Longarm Quilting by Susan, Phoenix, AZ

A Cup of Tea with Lydia
 by Lydia E. Harris

A Recipe for Love

by Lydia E. Harris

“Love makes the world go 'round,” according to the lyrics of a song from the sixties. And although love is in season year-round, Valentine's Day begs for special celebrations that brim with love. So, pick a time, a place, a menu and add love to someone's life. Maybe you'll plan something special for your Sweet-TEA or for a young grandchild you call Sweet Pea.

Serve a Heart-TEA Breakfast

Any big or little sweetheart would enjoy heart-shaped pancakes. All you need is a heart-shaped cookie cutter and your favorite pancake recipe. After the pancakes are cooked, cut them into hearts with the cutter. Or place a metal heart-shaped cutter (one that's open on top) on the griddle and add batter. When bubbles form on top of the pancake, use metal tongs to remove the cookie cutter and flip the pancake.

Serve these heart-y pancakes with favorite syrups and toppings. Strawberries and powdered sugar are delicious and pretty. Add bacon or sausage and English breakfast tea to the menu. For a unique twist, add a teaspoon of maple syrup to the brewed tea. If you start someone's morning with love and a little pancake pizzazz, the rest of the day will be sweeter for both of you.

Savor Sweetheart Scones

Whom could you treat to afternoon tea? Create an inviting ambiance with background music, cloth napkins, and a lovely rose in a vase. Then serve piping hot tea and scones.

To make sweetheart scones, cut scones with a heart-shaped cookie cutter. Before baking, cut a smaller heart or circle from the center of each scone, cutting only part way through. Remove some dough from the center to form an indentation but leave a layer of dough at the bottom. After the scones are baked, dust them with sifted powdered sugar. Fill centers with red jam—strawberry, raspberry, or cherry—and pass the whipped cream. Serve with fresh fruit and fragrant rose-petal tea. A-h-h-h, it smells like love is in the air!

Plan a Romantic Dinner Tea

When my college roommate and I were single, we used to have what we called “ro-tic” dinners. These were dinners without a “man” to make them romantic. Since I've been married for 58 years, I've enjoyed many roMANTic dinners. It's still nice to romance my one-and-only. Soft music, glowing candles and a crackling fire add warmth. Of course, the food is important. Sometimes I order takeout from a favorite restaurant and serve the meal on china plates. Other times a three-course, home-cooked meal says, “I love you.”

One way to serve a special meal at home is to set up a card table in front of the fireplace. Add a fabric tablecloth as well as your best silver and china and serve foods you both enjoy. Start with an appetizer, soup or salad followed by a main dish. For an added touch, include sparkling cider and end with a decadent dessert such as my truffle recipe.

Of course, you'll serve tea. Perhaps try a different blend with each course. We enjoy Harney and Sons Wedding Tea and their Valentine's Day tea with chocolate and rosebuds. Local shops and the internet offer hundreds of teas to sample.

Decorate with Love

Scatter Hershey's chocolate hugs and kisses on the dining table or tea tray. Also, place printed love sayings on the table or include Bible verses like “Love one another” or “Love is patient, love is kind.” You could even read aloud from 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter in the Bible.

My recipe for a loving teatime includes a beautiful table setting, delicious food and people sharing from their hearts. I'm ready to add love to someone's life. Won't you join me?

Lydia E. Harris enjoys serving tea to her grandchildren and others. Her books for grandparents are: Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting, In the Kitchen with Grandma, and GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids. All are available at amazon.com or can be ordered through local bookstores.

From Lydia's Recipe File: Cookie Dough Truffles

(Sweet confections lead to sweet connections.)


Ingredients:

- ½ cup softened butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups flour, heated before serving (see note*)
- ¾ cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans (optional)
- 1 (12 oz.) package dark chocolate chips, melted (optional)
- Extra mini chips, sprinkles, and cocoa powder for decorating (optional)
- ¾ cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk

Continued on next page...



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VNSAbooksale.org



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Sunday, Feb 22, 2026 - 3:00 PM,
St. Elizabeth Selton Church, 9728 W Palmaras Dr, Sun City, AZ
Sunday, March 8, 2026 - 4:00 PM,
First Baptist Church of Sun City, 11019 W Peoria Ave, Sun City, AZ
Sunday, March 22, 2026 - 3:00 PM,
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Jousting & Jesting, Just for YOU! Something for Kids of All Ages at the Annual Renaissance Festival

Longing for childhood days of make-believe? Mythic heroes slaying dragons, sea maidens appearing from the sea, steel-clad warriors jousting atop mighty steeds and knights in shining armor saving damsels in distress, this can all be found at the 38th Annual **Arizona Renaissance Festival**. There is definitely something for the children and the child in all of us to be found at the **Faire**.

Arizona's annual **Festival** is one of the largest in the nation, held on weekends January 31st to March 29th in its fanciful European-style village constructed on a 50-acre site just below the foothills of the Superstition Mountains, east of Phoenix and northwest of Tucson. This is where you'll find theater, circus, an arts and crafts fair, acrobatics, a jousting tournament, people-powered rides and a feasting – all rolled into a nonstop, day-long adventure!

Merchants hawk their wares, selling everything from clothing to custom ceramics. Observe the demonstrations displaying skills of blacksmithing, jewelry making, glassblowing, leather work and pottery throwing. Over 200 artisans are housed in the market lanes filled with whimsical storybook shops.

There are sixteen open-air stages where you can listen to raucous music and roaring comedy. On or off the stage you are bound to rub shoulders with delightful characters.

A variety of food and drink is available to satisfy your appetite; bread bowls, stews, steak-on-a-stake, roasted chicken and so much more. Amid this enormous feast, you'll find the King of festival foods - the huge roasted turkey leg. Tempt your diet plan with desserts from the Cottage Bakery, the Cappuccino Inn, Chimney Rolls or the Chocolate Shoppe. Pubs serve beers, wine and soft drinks to quench your thirst.

Kids absolutely love this place! With dozens of activities designed to bring out their smiles, guests of all ages will revel in the magic and mystery of the **Faire**. One of the highlights is the Living Mermaids, where visitors can witness the charm and beauty of these elusive sea fairies.

Children also enjoy riding the people-powered Swan Swing and "Voyage to the New World," the Slider Joust, and the Piccolo Pony—a rocking horse larger than an elephant. In addition to the rides, the festival offers interactive games like the dragon climbing tower, castle siege, Jacob's Ladder, a maze and an archery range.

HUZZAH! Are you ready to escape to the amusements of a much simpler time? It ALL begins January 31!

The 38th Annual **Arizona Renaissance Festival & Artisan Marketplace** site is located east of Apache Junction on U.S. Highway 60, just past Gold Canyon Golf Resort, 12601 East US Hwy 60, Gold Canyon, AZ. Nine consecutive weekends (Saturdays, Sundays, and Presidents' Day Monday) from January 31 - March 29. The **Festival** runs from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets are available online at www.Arizona.RenFestInfo.com or at Bashas' and Food City throughout the state. Children under 4 are always free. Tickets purchased at the gate are \$36 for adults (plus tax and fees) children 5-12 are \$24 (plus tax and fees). Parking is free courtesy of Bashas' and Food City. For more information visit the website: www.Arizona.RenFestInfo.com. Please check the website for updates about the upcoming season.

Paiper Mâché, continued from page 15...

decades. Back in the 1970's when we had a specialty store called Zoo...Whooo?, we discovered her pieces in a small art shop in Nogales, Sonora. We were thrilled to feature them in our little store.



Over the years, after we transitioned into the antiques business, we lost track of Jeanne Valentine and her work. Only to be recently reminded of renewed interest, not only of her fashions, but particularly her papier mâché figures.

A recent survey of eBay, the ultimate arbiter of popular taste and interest surprised me. A number of her mid-century papier mâché pieces were listed, some priced at \$5000. Although none levels that certainly demonstrate a genuine "appreciation" of her work. Auction houses have also been featuring Jeanne Valentine. A recent sale of a signature tiger hammered for \$2200. A charming cat sold for \$500. Another was offered for \$5500. While some pieces are beyond most pocketbooks, if you look carefully, you might just find an adorable mid-century figure in a range of \$30 to \$100.

Although little has been written about this special contributor to the advancement of the mid-century art movement, you can find more information on the Jeanne Valentine Facebook page.

If all this inspires you to start collecting Jeanne Valentine, then now maybe you can understand why I think such a remarkably talented artist, whose work has endured for decades, should be honored every February as Jeanne Valentine month.

Virtually an antique himself, or maybe a collectible, Jay Mark, has more than a half-century experience in the antiques business. He is president of *Those Were The Days!*, an online specialty bookstore. A recognized historian, he also teaches, lectures and frequently writes about antiques and history. Reach him at jaymark@twtdbooks.com

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Saturday February 14, 2026
 Open 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 General Admission \$5

DEALERS WANTED CONTACT:
 Betty Hartnett at 602-317-4438 or bettchem@cox.net
 Visit us at: www.phoenixantiquesclub.org



P.A.B.C.C. Antique Show & Sale on February 13th & 14th

The **Phoenix Antiques, Bottles & Collectibles Club (PABCC)** will be hosting their 43rd annual show on February 13th & 14th.

The big change for the 2026 show is a new venue located at the El Zaribah Shriners Auditorium, 552 N. 40th Street in Phoenix. This change also required a change in the dates of the show to an earlier weekend in February as well as new hours with early bird opening admission Friday from 12 to 2 p.m., general admission from 2 to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. General admission is \$5.00 and Early bird admission is \$15.00.

You can expect to see a wide variety of antiques and collectibles again this year along with a great group of vendors that you don't see at other shows with items such as Advertising and Signs, Blakely Gas Station Collectibles, Kitchenware, Linens, both costume and native American Jewelry, Old Tools, Depression Glass, Dolls, Vintage/Antique Bottles of all kinds, Railroad collectibles, China and more. There's just too much to list!

Saturday, February 14th is Valentine's Day so come to the show and bring a friend or sweetheart! You won't want to miss it!

The **PABCC** has approximately 45 members who meet 10 months out of the year on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. and visitors are welcome at the meetings. The meetings will feature guest speakers or club members giving a short 20-30 minute talk on their collection and Arizona history. Refreshments are served with time for mingling before a show & tell period and a raffle at the end. The location is Heritage Heights Clubhouse, 3030 E. Mission Lane, Phoenix, (32nd Street south of Route 51).

For more information on the show, please visit their website at www.phoenixantiquesclub.org or contact the show chairman Betty Hartnett at bettchem@cox.net.

Arizona Upcoming Events

World Doll Day Show & Sale
 March 14th 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Shrine Auditorium, 552 N 40th St, Phoenix
 Admission - \$10, Children under 13 - free
 For more information visit www.worlddolldayshows.com
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Building Harmony

The Road of Destiny

by Jeff Cappis

There is a 5 mile stretch of road that runs past our acreage and on to the destiny of our neighborhood. It's a gravel road and it is well kept. I call it destiny because there is always something happening down that road and it connects us all. It's where most country people meet. It's also where Cathy and I have many of our adventures.

Just down the way is the old fire hall. It hasn't been used as a fire hall in quite some time. Lately though, a group of guys have been using it for community work. As part of a government program, these guys clear deadfall, provide firewood and do general work for hire. Most are challenged in some way and are looked after by a guy named Sam. (Sam should get a medal for what these guys put him through). About 8 or 9 in all, we often see them going down the road in their big van, waving to everybody they pass. We often run across them piling wood around the firehouse when we go for walks. They like my dog Pudge. They actually stop stacking and hitting each other with firewood, just to say "hi" to him. Over and over again, eight or nine guys all saying "Hi Pudgey!" and waving until we're out of ear shot. They are a colorful and amusing lot.



Next to them is our neighbor Renee. He's French and a retired air force pilot. A better buddy you could never ask for, but I keep an eye on him around my women folk. He's a large 6'6" man with very big mittens and light blue eyes. He also knows how to build weapons out of household goods. For that reason alone, I'm very nice to him. Being retired, he fills his days with his quad and his chain saw. I think he's determined to build

Continued on page 24...

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Road of Destiny, continued from page 22...
 the world's largest fire wood collection. He's always bragging about how much bigger his pile is than mine.
 Next to Renee are the Andolinis. Mr. Andolini and his wife spend 6 months of the year here. The rest of the year they spend in Europe, where their family is from. They are very much into building ponds and massive landscaping projects. This puts them at odds with the environmentalists in the neighborhood who say it affects the moose migration in the area. I was skeptical about this until one morning...
 Cathy, Pudge and I were driving down the road in my Jeep. The road was slippery and I was trying to drive cautiously when all of a sudden, a moose ran out from the Andolini's property. (I guess the landscaping had changed their migration route- across the road!) I hit the brakes, but we just slid. Somehow, we missed the moose, but just then another one came running out and wasn't so lucky.
 It hit my fender, then, flipped upside down on the hood! It was surreal. There we were, sliding down the road with a scared moose on our hood! Renee couldn't believe his eyes as we passed his property and promptly raced after us on his quad. The guys at the fire station all stopped working and hollered "hi Pudgey!" as we slid by. None of them seemed to notice the moose.
 Finally, we stopped. The moose slid off the hood, gave itself a shake (and us a dirty look), then trotted off into the bush. Renee, the guys, the Andolinis and even the moose, we all had a piece of the adventure that day, and why not? It's our road.
 copywrite 2025 by Jeff Cappis Email: jcappis@telus.net



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Giveaway Winners from Dec-Jan Issue

We have one giveaway winner from our last issue. We have another give away in this issue, so make sure you enter!

Linda Howel from San Jose, CA will receive a \$25 Gift Certificate to be spent at her favorite Country Register advertiser, **The Granary Quilt Shop** in Sunnyvale, CA. Linda told why this is her favorite shop, "The Granary carries a large selection of sewing/quilting notions, books and patterns as well as a great variety of quality fabric. My favorites include the batiks, Christmas and reproduction fabrics, from which I recently made a Civil War nine-patch doll quilt for a great-niece. Their staff are always courteous, knowledgeable and helpful in making selections and recommendations.

Linda added, "I would love to see other local San Francisco Bay Area quilt and craft shops advertise in the Register. Currently **The Granary** is only local advertiser." So...if you know of a great shop in the Bay Area that other readers would love to know about, please let us know and we will contact them to advertise.

We love hearing from our readers about how they enjoy *The Country Register* and use it to hunt for great finds, interesting items and special events. In this issue, there is another \$25 Gift Certificate giveaway so be sure to enter and tell us where you pick up the paper. Remember to take a copy with you when you travel in and around Arizona, California and Northern Nevada this Spring!

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A Broken Thread

by Wayne M. Bosman

Anyone who has read my recent articles in the Country Register will undoubtedly notice one thread running through them. One way or another, my mother has appeared in almost all of them. That thread is soon to be broken. I am writing this at the kitchen table of the house I grew up in, which we are clearing out in the time leading up to her funeral. She was 104.

Clearing out another person's home can be a deeply personal, almost embarrassing, task. Not so much here. She spent these last years preparing to make it easier. Little stickers with names appear on many of the potential keepsakes. She insisted that we take some things home with us after visits to reduce the burden after she was gone. Her army of admirers understood that presents to her were no longer a practical idea. That was her way.

Little handmade items were still welcome, if not too expensive to make. Kerri and I focused on crocheted or woven items that she might actually use because of the love they were made with. Shawls, scarves, lap blankets all worked for her, as did little heart-shaped coasters. She kept some things in her drawers or on display because they were too pretty to use. That also was her way.

Kerri and I are spending our days helping my sister sort through Mom's things, trying to make sure that every family member has some meaningful keepsake to remind them of Mom every time they see it. Many of these are little ornaments or pictures that were made for her when her grandchildren were very young. Mom lived long enough to have great-great grandchildren who made her little things. Kerri kept Mom's soup ladle. I kept a cake plate that had survived potlucks and large family meals. I also brought home a herringbone scarf I wove for her a few years earlier. She was proud of it and proud of me for adding weaving to my life skills while in my 60s. She never ceased being proud of her children and grandchildren. To some degree, our successes were hers.

My sister has a list that Mom wrote with her of things that she wants different grandchildren to have. She is doing her best to carry out Mom's wishes about keepsakes. Then comes the rest of it all. My sister has a list of charities to best use everything in the house. From clothing to furniture to kitchenware and knickknacks, there is a place for everything. Almost nothing ends up in the landfill. That was how Mom lived.

Mom was a giver by nature and nurture. It made her happy to help my sister prepare things for the Giving Circle, a local project to give tangible help to people who needed it. As she got older and less able to make things herself, her job became to wrap up crocheted washcloths that went into each package. Age slowed her abilities, but not her desire to give.

My sister, Linda, inherited Mom's desire to give back. After the big push every year for the Giving Circle, the cycle starts again. By mid-January, the bin boxes are starting to get filled with scarves, hats, and other necessities for urban areas in the northern US. An active church group contributes year round to keep poverty at bay. For Linda, her friends, and for Kerri, the knitting and crocheting doesn't really stop, the focus just changes. Prayer shawls for the aging and lap blankets for people in Hospice are a never-ending need.

Mom lived a full and long life. Although her thread is broken, the love she wove into so many lives is still strong.

For Mary A. Bosman (December 17, 1920-November 2, 2025)

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



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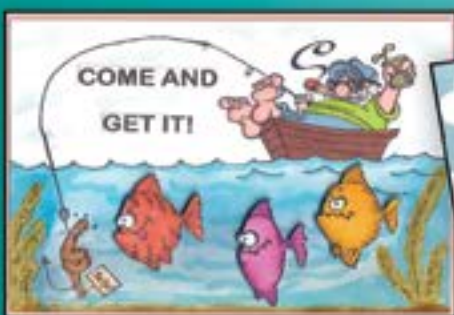
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