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Complimentary NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE

Sept-Oct 2026

*Your guide to specialty shopping & events in
North & South Carolina and Tennessee*

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Tennessee
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starting on page 14*



The Country Register of North & South Carolina and Tennessee

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Who Knew That Quilting Could be Dangerous?

by Deb Heatherly

As quilters nothing is better than sewing pieces of fabric together to make wonderful creations for our family and friends. Our quilts add beauty and comfort to those who receive these special labors of love. Choosing just the right colors and patterns for each project is a feeling that only another quilter can appreciate.

But who knew this passion could be dangerous?

I am very aware that a rotary cutter must be treated with respect. Having once dropped one that impaled itself in my wood floor only inches from my bare foot, I am extremely cautious with this tool. In fact, it's probably why I have not sewn barefooted in years.

This type of situation stays in your memory bank and apparently when I am teaching, I tell this story and stress this fact a lot. So much so, that I once had a beginner student ask timidly after I opened the class with a short introduction of safety precautions, if she could just use scissors.

This was a 4-week class and it took at least one entire class to reassure her that all would be well. She finally understood that I would not only teach her to quilt but would also teach her proper precautions for this handy tool. Soon she became a confident rotary user and was cutting up a storm. My next task was getting her to realize that learning to make a 4-patch did not make her an expert quilter and that we had many new things to learn. Getting her to try half square triangles took several more classes. She said she was perfectly content to make 4-patches forever.

And then there were my sweet girls in kids club. I did not let these students, age 8-10, use a rotary cutter. Instead, I had them focus on basic sewing skills using fabric I had precut for each class. They learned how to thread their machines, clean out the bobbin area, wind a bobbin and how to sew a straight line. My goal was that they learn to follow my written instructions, see pinning as not a chore but a helpful step and to sew slowly and accurately. They learned to sew pillowcases and small, useful projects that could be completed in a single class. The thrill of accomplishment was what I was striving for as I hoped to instill in each of them a lifelong love for sewing.

But I apparently over stressed that sewing over a pin could be dangerous. I explained that the needle could break if it hit a pin and fly up into their faces and that this very thing had happened to me in the past. My first hint that maybe I had overdone that lecture was the next class when 3 of them showed up in goggles.

Speaking of pins and needles, my first husband swore that I dropped them in the carpet at just the right angle so that they would inflict the most pain as they found their way into his feet. He once asked, while pulling a needle from his foot that contained green thread, if this was a reminder to buy lettuce, peas or some other green food item when he went to the store. He thought he was being funny. (Maybe that's why he was husband # 1.)

My response was, "If you stay out of my sewing room you won't have this problem." While I did not booby trap that room as he accused me of doing, thinking back maybe it was not a bad idea.

That brings me to my most recent dangerous activity. It's one I am sure I will tell about in a future class and haunt some unsuspecting student.

Picture it. A quiet day, the TV playing and me happily stitching. What could be better? Yes, I was on a deadline sewing a sample for a new ruler release and yes, maybe I was stitching a little faster than normal, but progress was being made and I was a happy quilter. I was actually pressing my very last block and had picked up the iron to press the final seam when something being said on the TV caught my attention. I must have glanced away just long enough that the iron did not come down on my block, but instead on my left hand. By the time I could move the iron, two blisters appeared. There may have been some technical language when the iron hit my fingers but my sister assured me that it was okay because in times like this, "Oh crap," just does not do it.

Then adding insult to injury, when I googled "what to do when you burn your hand with an iron," I learned that the cold water I immediately placed my hand under was not the preferred method of treatment. I also learned that the ice I had tossed in a Ziploc bag to place on my aching hand was another no-no. Who knew that medical experts say lukewarm water is preferred over anything cold?

My thought... maybe whoever wrote that little bit of wisdom had never been on a deadline and ironed his hand while sewing.

Stay safe my stitching friends! Stay alert to all of the dangers in your sewing room but keep on stitching. There's someone out there just waiting for your next fabulous creation.

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.Debcatsnquilts.com.



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http://www.busybeesquiltguildsc.com

Facebook: Busy Bees Quilt Show

Guild’s Challenge Pushes Quilters to ‘Give of Ourselves’

by Sue Hodges, Busy Bees Quilt Guild

Recently, a friend and I participated in our Quilt Guild’s brain teaser. The goal was to express a visual representation of our internal ideas. When the Guild presented the challenge and explained that our expression could be simple or elaborate, the task sounded easy. All we needed to do was to come up with a creative piece of quilt art. No problem, right?

What I didn’t expect was the multi-level learning experience that the challenge presented when I immersed myself into this “creative process.” It was more than “Put piece A next to piece B” and it would be done.

Instead, I was challenged to follow in the footsteps of other artists, be it those who write, paint, sculpt, build or express themselves through photography or music. I had to “give of myself” to discover a means to get my vision out of my head and into the world. And to give substance to that internal pull that some call passion, I needed to dig deep into the core of my imagination to give form and shape to my personal vision.

Working with the resources I had on hand, I entered my creative journey by sorting through my fabric and selecting various color palettes to support my design vision. Then I experimented with various shapes and combination of sizes while keeping in mind that the end product needed to be functional as well as expressive. As I began to pull the process together, I realized that in “giving of myself “ to the empty space in front of me, I also needed to incorporate basic quilting techniques to give the viewer a sense of rhythm, balance and proportion in its final form.

By combining this technical support with creative expression, I was better able to express and support my unique perspective. My friend experienced this as well. And when the project was completed and I was able to view her work, I was struck by how drastically different the choice of colors and techniques were that we used to express our individual vision. We worked with the same challenge ... the same core idea, but showed our inner being in our choice of colors and techniques to display our personal vision. I chose clear vibrant colors and wild shapes; she chose soft muted comforting colors and basic shapes. Same concept, but with entirely different expressions. Each lovely in its own way.

In completing this challenge, I also learned of the patience and perseverance one needs to overcome when faced with the obstacles that emerge as we struggle with our self-doubt, technical difficulties and outright mistakes. And, of course, our need for perfection is constantly showing its ugly head, because the creative process is never complete as we struggle with other possibilities or other solutions. This is true as well when we are working with prescribed directions (patterns). But each time we “give of ourselves” and face these creative challenges the quilting arts present, whether it be following a pattern or producing a pattern we created, we build resilience and confidence as we discover practical solutions for future challenges. Our individual creativeness blossoms as each maker presents a part of himself or herself in innovative and exciting ways.

You will have an opportunity to see this variety of expression in the upcoming **Aunt Het “Honey of a Quilt Show”** held October 2-4, 2026. Presented by the **Busy Bees Quilt Guild**, the show hours are Friday October 2 from noon to 4 p.m., Saturday, October 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, October 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Fountain Inn Activity Center, 610 Fairview St., Fountain Inn, South Carolina. Come, see, be impressed!

For more information visit the website www.busybeesquiltguildsc.com or follow on their Facebook pages: Busy Bees Quilt Guild or Busy Bees Quilt Show.

Sue Hodges is a member of the Busy Bees Quilt Guild from Fountain Inn, SC

I Am 75, After All

by Wayne M. Bosman

I have never been one to celebrate my own birthday, possibly because there have been so many. That may be why I was shocked when my 8 year old grandson looked up at me and said,” Grandpa, did you know we’re having a surprise party?”

Well, it was my birthday and almost all of my children were there and 7 of my grandchildren, but I thought that was serendipity, not planning. That two of my sons were busy at the grill and a few hundred local oysters were waiting to be steamed did not strike me as abnormal. We’re a large clan and sharing food is a time-honored ritual. When a few of my friends arrived, I was tickled. Apparently my children and my wife, Kerri, thought that turning 75 was special, and of course it was.

Since then, I have used the phrase “I am 75” shamelessly. I use it as a quick defense when I lose the word for one thing or another. I have decided that I no longer have to be the main “muscle” when heavy things need to be moved. “You guys get this one, I am 75 after all”. Before that, I felt a little guilty asking for help with anything. What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger was part of my credo.

What is apparent to me now is that at this point in my life, what doesn’t kill me feels like it is trying to and that maybe taking a break isn’t the worst thing. I am 75, after all.

Genetically I have been very gifted. Mom’s side of the family, who I most take after, have been graced with long active lives. When Mom passed last November at 104, she had only spent the last 2 years in serious decline. She was still doing charity work, albeit in a

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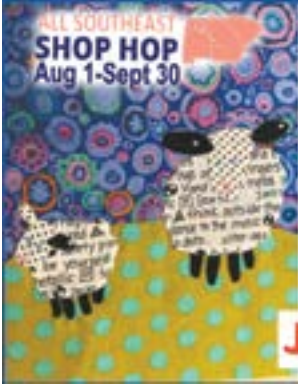
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A Cup of Tea with Lydia

by Lydia E. Harris



Any Day Is Grandparents Day

by Lydia E. Harris

Fall usually means back to school, back to work, and back to scheduled routines. It’s also back to Grandparents Day—which is celebrated on the second Sunday of September each year. This year it falls on September 13. But my husband and I don’t need an official holiday to celebrate with our grandkids. We enjoy time with them as often as we can.

When our grandkids arrive at our home, I often ask them, “What day is it today?” Their usual reply is, “Funday!” Any day with them is fun for all of us.

One day when they arrived, they answered, “Workday!” That’s because Anna, Owen and their mom, had offered to help us with housecleaning and yardwork.

“We can still have fun,” I said, as I began to sing Whistle while you work.

Work they did—and with a good attitude! After they vacuumed and washed the floors, cleaned the bathrooms and dusted furniture, our home almost shone “like the top of the Chrysler building,” as Miss Hannigan says in Annie. The yard looked better, too.

Of course, it wasn’t all work. We took time for tea and treats, enjoying the sunshine on our deck while sipping their favorite peach herbal tea.

“These cookies taste good,” Anna said when she took a bite of the chocolate chip cookies I’d baked the previous day.

I also served oatmeal cake, gluten-free chips and fresh strawberries, which they love eating dipped into sour cream and brown sugar. They think it almost tastes like dipping them into caramel sauce.

Their help that day was a win-win situation. They were planning to attend an out-of-state church camp so I wrote out a check to help cover some of the cost.

“That’s a lot of money,” Anna said when they started to leave.

“Thanks for helping us,” I said and smiled. “Do you know what else you were doing?” They waited for my reply. “You were laying up treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6:20).

They drove away smiling and I smiled as well when I stepped inside our clean home and I knew God was smiling, too.

Any day is Grandparents Day. And any occasion can turn into a tea party with fun memories that linger and bless others and ourselves.

Lydia E. Harris enjoys serving tea to family and friends. 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 Cookbook—In the Kitchen with Grandma:

Popcorn Cake

(Fun to make with grandkids)

Gather with Grandma

3 1/2 quarts (14 cups) popped popcorn

1/2 cup butter (one stick), melted

1 10-oz package miniature marshmallows

20 unwrapped caramels, cut in half

2 cups favorite small candies, such as candy corn, M&M’S®, gumdrops, or a mixture of candy

1 cup lightly salted or honey roasted peanuts or mixed nuts (optional)

Make with Grandma

1. Lightly grease an angel food cake pan with butter or nonstick cooking spray.

2. Measure the popcorn into a large container that holds at least five quarts. Mix in nuts and candy, except the chocolate candy. Measure the chocolate candy into a separate bowl to add later, otherwise the chocolate will melt and turn the cake brown.

3. In a large saucepan or microwave-safe bowl, melt the butter and caramels together until the caramels are soft, stirring with a wooden spoon. Add the marshmallows and melt them completely.

4. When melted, pour the marshmallow mixture over the popcorn mixture. Mix the cake with a wooden spoon.

5. After the mixture cools slightly, stir in M&M’S or other chocolate candy.

6. Press the popcorn mixture into the cake pan using wax paper or fingers greased with butter. Press down until the cake is compact.

7. Refrigerate the cake for an hour or until firm.

8. Remove the cake from the pan and place it on a plate. Serve at room temperature. Slice with a serrated knife.

9. To keep the cake fresh, wrap it tightly with plastic wrap or foil or place it in an airtight container. This cake is best eaten in a few days. Wrap and refrigerate the uneaten cake to prevent it from becoming sticky.

Serves 12 to 16

Tip: For popcorn—use plain popcorn, kettle corn or lightly salted and buttered





Happy Grandparent's Day

Sunday, September 13th

Carolina Renaissance Festival Returns with New Entertainment

The **Carolina Renaissance Festival** returns for its 33rd annual season with a fresh lineup of new entertainments joining all the beloved fan favorites. Located just north of Charlotte, NC in Huntersville, the **Carolina Renaissance Festival** weaves together imagination, fantasy and history within a 25-acre outdoor storybook village. With trumpets blaring and cannon blasting, the village gates swing open Saturday, October 3 and the festivities continue for eight consecutive weekends through November 22nd, 2026.

Tickets are date specific and limited in availability each day and often sell out! Complete ticket information as well as more details about the **Carolina Renaissance Festival & Artisan Marketplace**, including videos, is available at carolina.renfestinfo.com or by calling 704-896-5544.

The Festival is located north of Charlotte between Concord and Huntersville on Highway 73 at Poplar Tent Road (between I-77 and I-85). Parking is free courtesy of Harris Teeter.



Win Free Tickets to Carolina Renaissance Festival!

Enter to win free ticket vouchers to the annual **Carolina Renaissance Festival & Artisan Marketplace** by sending an email to carolinas@barlomedia.com before September 18th and put Carolina Renaissance Festival in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and where you pick up The Country Register. You can also send a note or postcard to: The Country Register, PO Box 74035, Phoenix, AZ 85087. The drawing will be held on September 21st and ticket vouchers will be mailed at that time.

The Country Register’s giveaway will be for complimentary “ticket vouchers.” Each voucher features a unique, one-time use promotional code to be entered at the online ticket purchasing portal on the Festival website for 100% discount off the price of a single date specific ticket that is the same shared inventory made available to the public. Complimentary admission vouchers cannot be redeemed for dates that no longer have tickets available.



59th Annual Southern Christmas Show Returns November 11-22

Every family has a soundtrack to the holiday season. Whether it is a favorite carol, children laughing around the tree, familiar songs playing while gifts are wrapped or traditions passed down through generations, those sounds have a way of bringing Christmas memories to life. Inspired by the songs and sounds woven into holiday traditions, the **Southern Christmas Show**’s theme *Sounds of Christmas* celebrates the music that brings families together during the holiday season.

Hosted by Marketplace Events, the 59th Annual **Southern Christmas Show** returns to The Park Expo and Conference Center in Charlotte Nov. 11-22 with its 2026 *Sounds of Christmas* show. For nearly six decades, the show has marked the unofficial start of the holiday season for generations of Carolinians, bringing families together to shop, celebrate and discover new traditions inspired by the music and memories of Christmas.

The **Southern Christmas Show** spans the equivalent of 11 football fields and features more than 400 specialty merchants. More than one-third of the show is devoted to handcrafted treasures from talented artisans and makers, alongside gourmet foods, festive décor and unique gifts for everyone on the holiday list.

Guests can explore decorated designer rooms, stroll through Christmas Tree Lane, step back in time in Olde Towne, visit Santa, enjoy live entertainment on the LeafFilter Entertainment Stage and sample wines from North Carolina wineries in the popular wine pavilion.

Opening Day coincides with Veterans Day, and this year’s event partners with Veterans Bridge Home to honor the men and women who have served our country. The partnership highlights the organization’s work connecting veterans and their families with resources, support and community.

Special events include the return of Early Bird VIP morning on Saturday, Nov. 14, offering limited attendance and early access from 8 to 10 a.m. before the show opens to the public. Girls Night Out also returns Friday, Nov. 20, with holiday shopping, giveaways and festive fun.

For ticket information visit the website <https://southernchristmasshow.com/information>. Buy your tickets online through November and save on adult admission. On-site parking is \$10 and valet parking can be purchased at the norma entrances to the main parking lot for \$20 with cash or credit card.

Win Free Tickets to the Southern Christmas Show!

Enter to win free tickets to the **Southern Christmas Show** by sending an email to carolinas@barlomedia.com before October 12th. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and where you pick up *The Country Register*. You can also send a note or postcard to: The Country Register, PO Box 74035, Phoenix, AZ 85087. The drawing will be held on October 15th and tickets will be mailed to the winners.

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Dream of Seams

When Sabrina Miller opened **Dreams of Seams** in July 2025, her dream was to create a quilting studio that blended craftsmanship, community and opportunity. Her goal was to build a place where people could learn longarm quilting, access professional equipment and receive the kind of hands-on guidance to help them grow into confident creators. **Dreams of Seams** began with a simple mission: to make longarm quilting accessible, supportive and skill-building for everyone who walks through the doors - “where your quilting journey starts.”

Alongside her professional experience, Sabrina has a passion for longarm quilting and sewing. “Over the years, I’ve learned machine operation, tension troubleshooting, pattern selection and maintenance — experience that now supports our longarm training, sales and service,” she shared with us.

This combination of technical expertise and creative passion has allowed her to build a studio that is both well organized and welcoming, where students can learn confidently on the two longarm machines and in the sewing area.

Dreams of Seams is located inside a building in Eden, NC that once served the community as a local pharmacy. The space carries that small town charm and history with wide front windows, a welcoming storefront and the familiar feel of a place that has long been part of everyday life in Eden. Sabrina told us, “The building’s past as a pharmacy adds a sense of continuity: a place that once served the community in one way now serves it in another. **Dreams of Seams** was intentionally designed here to grow into a longarm training and service center for quilters across the Triad region.”

Dreams of Seams offers a growing list of quilting services and training opportunities that include professional longarm quilting service, Nolting Longarm Machine Sales, Training and Service, Quilters Select, Quilters Dream Batting, Glide Thread, Riley Blake, David Textiles and other longarm supplies.

Sabrina shared, “Unlike a traditional quilting shop, we focus heavily on hands-on learning, machine education and helping quilters build confidence with longarm equipment. Our studio is intentionally small, allowing students to receive individualized guidance. We also offer Nolting Longarm Machine sales and service, giving customers a trusted local resource for Nolting Longarm ownership and maintenance.”

Over the past year, **Dreams of Seams** has grown in ways that reflect both creativity and connection. Beginning as a two machine longarm studio, the equipment footprint hasn’t changed — yet its reach certainly has. One of the biggest milestones has been becoming a TikTok creator, sharing quilting tips, machine insights, behind the scenes studio moments and the joy of longarm quilting with a wider audience.

This new platform has allowed Sabrina to connect with quilters across the country, build community and inspire people who may never have visited Eden in person. It has also strengthened the training approach, as more people are discovering her studio and have expressed interest in learning longarm quilting.

These milestones — expanding into social media education, refining the training sessions and building a stronger online presence — have laid the groundwork for the larger programs they hope to implement once funding becomes available. The goal is to grow from a small training studio into a full longarm education center, and this year has moved them one step closer.

Their first anniversary celebration Studio Open House will be held on September 19th, featuring machine demonstrations, training previews, customer appreciation gifts and special pricing on Nolting Longarm purchases. It will be a celebration of creativity, growth and community support.

Dreams of Seams is built with heart. Every quilt, every lesson and every stitch reflects their commitment to helping people learn, grow and feel proud of what they create. “While we are still working toward funding our larger training center and women’s program, our mission remains strong. We are grateful for every customer, student and supporter who helps us move closer to making that dream a reality,” shared Sabrina.

The long-term vision includes building a full longarm training school, expanding to additional machines and creating a structured program that supports women seeking stability and new skills. Sabrina plans to eventually develop a larger facility designed specifically for longarm education, community quilting and workforce development.

You can visit Dreams of Seams in person at 256 The Blvd in Eden, NC and also follow Sabrina’s quilting tips and behind-the-scenes studio moments on TikTok @dreams_of_seams. Visit the website www.dreamsofseams and follow on Facebook and Instagram.



I Am 75, continued from page 4...

much reduced role into the last year of her life. Her brother George, my godfather and hero, was still hooking his boat to the car and driving 3 hours to the family cottage into his 90s. He would spend a week fishing and preparing his catch to distribute to family and friends. Mom held her breath when he went on those outings, but he lived a full life and it wasn’t his driving that finally got him. If I have any targets and expectations they provided them to me.

Further, as recently as a year ago, before I let my beard grow, I would often have to show my driver’s license to get a senior discount at some stores. Maybe it was store policy, or the cashier was trying to make me feel good, but I chose to believe what I chose to believe. I am 75, after all.

The hard part of being 75, besides the glasses and hearing aids, is reading the obituaries. Most of us have had friends who died young, but my friends are too old for that now.

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The grim reaper has absolute job security and the older I get, the better the odds that my time will be due. Maybe that is one of the reasons that I stopped celebrating my birthday. Whistling in the dark... I’m 75, but I can still whistle after all.

My son-in-law, who was raised by his grandparents, is always amazed by my ability to work hard at 75. Sometimes he comes by and finds me on my back under a car, hopping up quickly to get more tools or parts just like I did for 49 years of my work life. Old habits die hard and I only see the job that has to be done. Till later, every muscle in my body is sore. I let him lift the heavy stuff now. I am 75 after all.

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

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From Sketch to Stitch:
How the Ashli Quilt Came to Life

By Kathryn LeBlanc

People often ask where quilt ideas come from. Sometimes it's a vintage quilt, a beautiful fabric collection, or a traditional block. Other times, it's something far less expected. In this case...an acrylic lipstick organizer.

One morning, my friend Ashli from Quilt2EndALZ.org sent me a photo and asked, "How would you turn this lipstick case into a quilt block?"

My response? "Challenge accepted."

I started studying the organizer, focusing on its angles and repeating shapes rather than its purpose. Before long,



I was sketching ideas in EQ8 (Electric Quilt 8), where those clear acrylic compartments evolved into rows of colored squares set on point, and connected by sashing & corner stones, to create a striking lattice design.

One idea led to another, and before I knew it, an entirely new quilt had emerged.

With Ashli's blessing—and because she inspired the challenge—it was only fitting to name the finished pattern Ashli.

One of the things I love most about quilt design is that inspiration can come from almost anywhere: a tile floor, a garden gate, the shadow cast by a staircase—or, in this case, a lipstick organizer. As quilt designers, we learn to look beyond what an object is and instead see the shapes, lines, and patterns hidden within it.

The next time something catches your eye, take a second look. You never know—it just might become your next creative project.

The photos below show the journey from: the original lipstick organizer, to the digital EQ8 design, to the finished Ashli quilt. The link to the printed quilt pattern is here: <https://authorkathrynmykel.com/store/ashli-printed-pattern/>



Kathryn LeBlanc (also known as best-selling author, Kathryn Mykel) is a creative force in the quilting world. A talented pattern designer and storyteller, she blends her passion for textiles with her love of mystery and heartwarming tales. Through both her sewing patterns and fiction novels, Kathryn inspires quilters and readers alike to embrace creativity, community, and connection. www.quiltandfiction.com www.facebook.com/DragonflysQuiltingDesignStudio/ www.instagram.com/dragonflysquiltingdesignstudio/ Newsletter: <https://authorkathrynmykel.myflodesk.com/magazinequilters>

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Giveaway Winners from July-August

We have one giveaway winner from our last issue. We love giving away prizes!
Sharon Green from Spindale, NC will receive a \$25 Gift Certificate to spend at her favorite Country Register advertiser, **Schoolhouse Quilts** in Forest City, NC. Sharon told us this is her favorite shop because, “The store is so cute & owners are super nice! Love all the fabric!”
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 PLUS tickets to the Carolinas Renaissance Festival and the Southern Christmas event so be sure to enter and don’t forget to tell us where you pick up the newspaper!
Take a copy with you as you travel in and around the Carolinas and Tennessee this Fall!

A Nice Remembrance Twenty Years Later

by Kerri Habben Bosman

As I was contemplating ideas for this autumn article, two things happened.
First, I dreamt of my grandmother, who passed away twenty years ago on September 6th. Even though I feel her with me every day, I almost never dream of her. Second, I went to the doctor for my annual wellness check. I came away from both these events with gratitude and a renewed awareness of all my grandmother gave me.
In my recent dream my grandmother was as she was towards the very end of her 99 years. While she passed away at the hospital, in this manifestation she was resting in her bed at the assisted living facility. We were holding hands, gazing steadily at one another. Even as I realized she was dying, I also had that surreal feeling when you know you are in a dream. I made a semiconscious decision to not awaken, so that I could fully feel her essence longer.
I was alone with my grandmother when she died in 2006. Outside of gradual aging in her 90’s, she was fortunate to enjoy good health (save for elevated blood pressure and high cholesterol) until 99 ½. Then she developed aplastic anemia, wherein her white blood cells and platelets stopped working. It was, at least, a peaceful way for her to leave this world behind. I sang hymns to her at the last. She stopped breathing during Amazing Grace, as I sang the line, “and grace shall lead me home.” Even now if I unexpectedly hear that hymn, tears overtake my eyes.
When I was nine months old, I started calling my grandmother, “Huba.” I said it with a short “u” sound. She embraced my nickname for her, and throughout the years she became “Huba” to my friends and even adults who came into her life.
Huba made the best mashed potatoes in the world. “I beat the hell out of them,” she used to say as a genuinely sweet smile emerged. Every time I mash potatoes, I hear her voice.
She crocheted from the time she was eight years old, making beautiful and warm things that turn houses into homes. Over her 91 years of needlework, she gave much of what she made away to family, friends, and to those in need. One of her favorite phrases as she grew older and older was, “it will be a nice remembrance.”
I was nine when she taught me how to crochet. Therefore, Huba is in everything that I make. She taught me how to give with an open heart, so I, too, give away much of my crocheting. My work is her living legacy.
Huba cared for her husband and her sister through long illnesses when they were both in wheelchairs, and she never lost her joyful and playful spirit. Somehow she always had more to give.

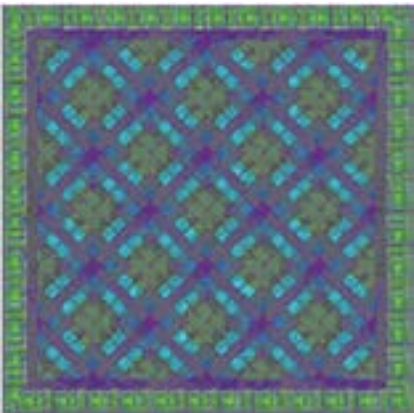
Which brings me to my doctor’s visit. Huba does indeed have more to give, even after two decades. All of the tests they did were normal, save for my cholesterol level. I learned that I have her high blood pressure. Though I suppose I should be a responsible adult and claim it as my own. No medication at this point, but a check-up in six months.
After a few internet searches, I see many breakfasts of oatmeal and refreshing drinks of green tea in my future. As well as more walks than I usually enjoy around the neighborhood. Thankfully, I read that nearly everything I like to eat, including potatoes, is good for monitoring cholesterol. One article said to add fiber to my day, which surely must mean that all my yarn and crocheting helps too.
A grandmother’s love and a little amazing grace won’t hurt either.
Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer living in Cape Carteret, NC. Her email is 913jeeves@gmail.com.



KISSed Quilts Design Ideas Sometimes Need to Percolate for ...20 Years?

by Marlene Oddie

When presented with the new fabric collection from Frond Studios - Bells of Ireland distributed by Northcott, I immediately remembered a block design that I developed over 20 years ago. I fortunately found it in an old file cabinet and worked on creating it in Electric Quilt 8 to start playing with it on a larger scale – an entire quilt.
This collection has a beautiful canvas panel for bag making and a couple of different large print running yardage SKUs, but I chose to focus on the more color saturated SKUs combined in a way to make this beautiful Tartan—fussy cutting the printed tartan for the border.
This *On Point Plaid* pattern and the Bells of Ireland collection of fabrics are shipping to your local quilt shop now. If you need patterns, templates, fabrics and/or kits—please ask!
The possibilities for this pattern are endless. Find your favorite plaid color combination, a family tartan, one that works with your personal aesthetic or dream up your own.
I’ve written the pattern in such a way that you are making strata sets and then cutting and reassembling the entire block and the pieced setting triangles. The key is to get your color placement of the block correct so that with the sashings, cornerstones and the blocks it makes a continuous plaid.
Marlene Oddie, of Grand Coulee, WA, is an engineer by training, a project manager by profession, and a quilter by passion. At her quilt shop, KISSed Quilts, she quilts for hire on a Gammill Optimum Plus and especially enjoys designing quilts and helping create meaningful keepsakes. Fabrics, patterns, kits, and templates are available at kissedquilts.com. Follow Marlene’s adventures on Facebook and Instagram.



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GIRLFRIEND WISDOM

just

IMAGINE

live simply DREAM give be BIG LOVE laugh GRATEFUL LOTS

Just Imagine if we Lived Simply, had Big Dreams, shared our Love, was Grateful for everything, and Laughed alot ~

How would we experience our world today?

This question is worth some time and contemplation. The definition of contemplation is inspiring ~ concentration on spiritual things as a form of private devotion ~ an act of considering with attention ~ the act of regarding steadily.

Contemplation about anything is pretty rare today. When was the last time you spent a considerable amount of time thinking about anything? We live in a fast pace world and we often want tasks or decisions to be resolved even faster.

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM

Find a comfy place and simply “contemplate” on one thing of your choice. It might be a challenge ~ be patient with yourself ~ Give yourself some Grace!

Joy & Blessings, *Jody*

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



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The drawing will be held on October 1st and the winner will be announced in our November-December issue. The gift certificate will be mailed to the winner.

Entry Deadline is October 1, 2026

(Names are not sold, given away or used for any other purpose.)

Drawing Entry Form

Name _____

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Name of my favorite Country Register advertiser is: _____

Tell us what makes this advertiser your favorite (required to enter): _____

To enter, complete this form and mail to:

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(Photocopy of form is fine. Be sure to answer all questions.)

Or email the information to: carolinas@barlomedia.com and put “Gift Certificate” in the subject line.

Please tell us about a local North or South Carolina or E. Tennessee Bazaar/Festival, Craft Show, Tea Room, etc that you would like to see advertising in the next issue of in The Country Register:

We welcome your comments and/or suggestions about The Country Register. Include a note with your drawing entry, send us an email or give us a call at 1-888-942-8950. We enjoy hearing from our readers!





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The Original Sewing & Quilt Expo Returns to Lebanon, TN October 1-3

Tennessee’s favorite three-day creative escape is back. **The Original Sewing & Quilt Expo** returns to Lebanon, TN Thursday through Saturday, October 1–3, 2026, at the Farm Bureau Expo Center at the James E. Ward Agricultural Center, 945 East Baddour Pkwy. Set in the rolling hills of Wilson County, **The Expo** welcomes sewists, quilters and fiber-arts enthusiasts of every skill level. World-class instructors, 50+ vendors and hands-on classes come together for this year’s Expo.

The Exhibit Hall is a maker’s dream, open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. More than 50 vendors will fill the floor with fabrics, notions, patterns, kits, tools and the latest sewing and quilting machines. Attendees can test new models from leading brands, meet designers and discover products to refresh their sewing rooms.

Local and regional makers will be well represented, including Lebanon Vacuum & Sewing Center, Nashville’s Smart Art + Craft Supplies, Murfreesboro’s MavaNell Studio and Quilting Bees Guild, Quilts of Valor from Mount Juliet, Twisted Sisters Quilt Shop from Alcoa and the Threaded Needle from Tullahoma.

Throughout the hall, Quick Make-It Take-It projects offer hands-on introductions to new techniques. At the Sewing for a Cause booth, attendees can also stitch items to benefit veterans and children in need.

The classrooms are the heart of the event. Dozens of workshops cover quilting, garment sewing, serging, machine embroidery, bag making and more, all taught by experienced instructors.

Two favorites bring a local connection. Chelsea Swindle, the Lebanon native behind She Sews Seams, teaches approachable projects including the Big Beautiful Quilted Bow and the Courtney Carry-All. Nashville textile artist Sandra Chandler leads From Quilt to Catwalk: Quilted Blazer, helping students turn fabric into wearable art.

National instructors add even more depth. Joe Vecchiarelli, founder of French European Dress Forms, presents Drape Like a Fashion Designer. Jim Suzio shares Tailor’s Tips for a Professional Look, LuAnn Hartley teaches Continuous Line Quilting with an Embroidery Machine and Nancy Sapin of Sulky of America offers Free-Motion Made Easy.

For an extended learning experience, “More the Day Before” classes begin Wednesday, September 30.

The Expo also offers plenty to see. The Display Gallery features quilts from across the country, including entries in the annual Quilt Contest, a highlight of the Nashville show. Visitors can admire everything from hand-quilted heirlooms to bold modern designs and vote for their favorites.

The Expo Stage runs all three days with runway fashion shows, trunk shows and 30-minute presentations filled with tips and inspiration. Daily Super Prize Drawings will send lucky attendees home with sewing machines and prize packages.

Admission is \$10 online or \$15 at the door. Parking is free. The Farm Bureau Expo Center is just off I-40, minutes from Nashville International Airport.

Full schedules, class descriptions, hotel details and advance tickets are available at sewingexpo.com or by calling 800-699-6309, Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. ET.

Whether you come for one day of shopping or all three days of inspiration, October in Lebanon, TN will be worth every stitch. Grab your tote bag, call your sewing friends and make plans to be there.

The Original Sewing & Quilt Expo, produced by Hoffman Media, LLC, is one of the nation’s leading consumer events for sewing and quilting enthusiasts. Held in cities across the country each year, **The Expo** brings together nationally recognized instructors, top industry vendors and a passionate community of makers for an experience unlike any other. For more information visit sewingexpo.com.



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The *All Southeast Shop Hop Magazine* will go on sale Mid-June at all participating stores. It's your passport to embark on the *Great Sewing Adventure™* across the Southeast!



There are only two seasons:
Autumn - & waiting for Autumn.

In the village store someone says, "I heard the geese go over," & there is a moment of silence. Why this is so moving, I do not know. But all of us feel it. Gladys Taber

Whoosh went the wind around me, shhh went the leaves. And the church clock rang the hour.

With LOVE from the Heart of the Home & me... Susan Branch