

# *The Country Register*®

Available across the USA & Canada

*Ohio's Complimentary Guide to Specialty Shopping & Events - Jan/Feb 2024*

Gifts • Antiques • Collectibles  
Primitives • Vintage • Farmhouse  
Quilting • Needlework  
Home & Garden  
Festivals & Much More!



*© April Charny*

[www.ohiocountryregister.com](http://www.ohiocountryregister.com)





# Do you Recognize these Scenes from Around Ohio?



Hello!  
Happy New Year!!!

Thanks for picking up a copy of the Country Register! Use it as part of your calm after the hectic holidays!

Sit down and read it cover to cover with a nice cup of your favorite beverage. Use it to plan your next big shopping trip! Lots of shops are having post-holiday sales and many have started decorating for spring already... (what?!!) Let's all do our part and support our local shops.

We have included some new recipes for you to try, some practical hints, and some great articles.

Our Secret Shopper shares her story about visiting **AnnaLouisa's Quilt Shop** in Navarre.

We've also listed (on page 6) our winners from our Nov/Dec give-aways. Congratulations to the winners! And a BIG Thank You to Billy Jacobs Gallery, Susan Branch, Bridgewater Primitives, By The Yard, Judy Condon and Country Rustic Magazine for making donations for our give-away!

So sit back, relax and enjoy this issue. Make a note: the next issue will be out in shops by March 1st!

Here's to a wonderful 2024 - Cheers!!

*Barb*

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## Photos

Photos from above: (left to right) murals around Ohio - Race Street in Cincinnati; Wilmington; and Circleville

## The Country Register Story

The Country Register began in Arizona in the fall of 1988 to provide effective and affordable advertising for shops, shows and other experiences enjoyed by a kindred of readership. Since then, the paper has spread to many other areas, all of which are listed below. Look for the paper in your travels. To receive a sample paper from another area, mail \$3 in the USA or \$4 in Canada to that area's editor. Advertising rates area available upon request. The Country Register is available at the shops that advertise and often at other unique locations. We hope you enjoy this bi-monthly publication and let the advertisers know. For additional information, visit [www.countryregister.com](http://www.countryregister.com). The Country Register Founder: Barbara Floyd, Phoenix, AZ.

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British Columbia: Bryan Stonehill, 800-784-6711  
Manitoba & Saskatchewan: Scott & Marj Kearns, 306-736-2441  
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## The Ohio Country Register

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## The Country Register In Your Mailbox? We Can Do That... SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Country Register is distributed as a complimentary gift from its advertisers, and we encourage you to stop by your favorite shop every two months to pick up your new copy. However, for the convenience of those who may not be able to get to a shop, we do offer subscriptions for \$18 per year (Continental U.S.) to cover the cost of postage and handling.

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| Name: .....                            |                 |
| Address: .....                         |                 |
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| Mar/Apr: _____                         | Sept/Oct: _____ |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$18 Enclosed |                 |



Mail To: **The Ohio Country Register**  
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# SHOWS & EVENTS!

 **Quilters Market Day**  
**April 20, 2024**  
 10am-3pm - \$5 admission

**A FLEA MARKET FOR QUILTERS**  
 Buy & sell quilting tools, fabrics, books, patterns, quilted items. Quilt Show. Lunch available.  
 Fredericktown School, 111 Stadium Dr, Fredericktown, Oh  
 Fat quarter drawing - bring one to enter. For info visit [www.fredericktown.org/qmd](http://www.fredericktown.org/qmd) or 740-694-6140

**FEBRUARY FABRIC FLING**  
 Feb 28-29 & March 1-2, 2024  
*Lots of Specials*

Co-Hosting This Great Sale Event:  
**Wertz Variety**, 6 N. Miami Street, West Milton, 937-698-5212 &  
**Fabric Crafts**, 2810 S. SR 48, Ludlow Falls, 937-698-4066

 See West Milton Ad, page 8

 **2024 Spring Gathered Treasures Show**  
 Arts & Crafts Bldg, 750 North Home Road  
 Richland County Fairgrounds, Mansfield, Ohio  
 April 13, 10am-3pm

Adm \$3  
 Contact: 419-689-9274

Join us on our FACEBOOK Events Page

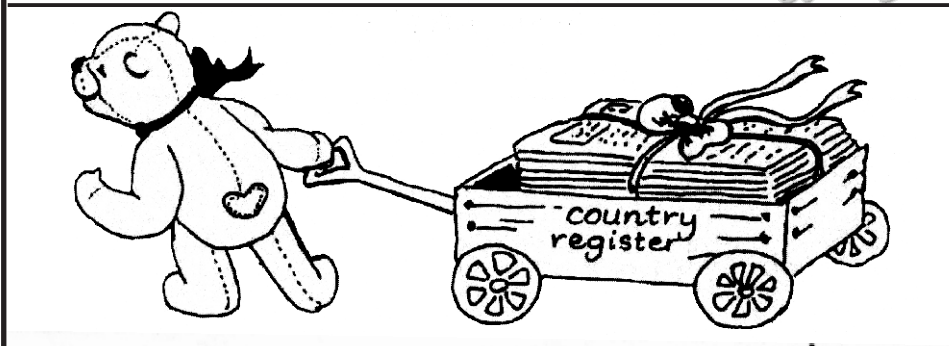
Antiques - Primitives - Hooked Rugs  
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## Ohio's Parks

One of the greatest ways to embrace the beauty and individuality of Ohio's terrain is through its state parks, nature preserves and metro parks. With 74 state parks and 130 nature preserves – it's clear that Ohio's parks have an abundance of activities for your family to enjoy, and some of the most breathtaking views the region has to offer.

No matter the season, Ohio's parks and nature can provide not only stunning sights, but a refreshing experience for you and your family.

For more information on Ohio's parks & events, check [www.ohio.org](http://www.ohio.org).

## Ice Festival

The Medina Ice Festival will be held Presidents Day Weekend – Feb 16-20, 2024 in the historic square in downtown Medina, Ohio.

Beautiful artwork made from ice will be featured as carvers compete in crafting ice sculptures. Enjoy an ice garden, an evening with a fire set to an ice tower, and photo opps galore.

For more info, phone: 440-717-1940

## ABOUT THE Cover Artist



### Angela Bawden

Angela Bawden is an artist from Utah. She paints unique contemporary style wall art of animals, nature and botanicals, working with a wide range of media, including oil paint, acrylic paint, inks, plasters, polymers and gold leafing. She enjoys the free-flowing artistic expression of playing with different mediums and incorporating various distinctive techniques into her work. She has skillful talent to create aesthetically pleasing and soothing paintings that go well with classic, rustic and modern design equivalently.

Angela's extraordinary distinctive style of work has quickly caught the attention of lovers of contemporary realism and abstract art alike. With her work in high demand, she has been able to pursue her passion of creating art full time.

To view Angela's art prints, go to [www.PennyLaneFineArt.com](http://www.PennyLaneFineArt.com) or call Penny Lane Fine Art at 800-273-5263 for more information.





## Bellefontaine - Columbus

Tue Mar 19

### A Robbins NEST

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Fri-Sat 11-8, Sun 12-5



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JAN 5-6 - HEALTH & WELLNESS WEEKEND

FEB 2 - CHOCOLATE WALK

MARCH 1 - EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

## Country Register Recipe

### Crispy Parmesan Carrot Sticks

1# carrots, medium or large sized  
2 T. olive oil  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
1 c. grated Parmesan cheese, divided  
1/2 tsp. each paprika, chili powder, onion powder + Italian herb seasoning  
salt to taste

Preheat oven to 425°

Slice carrots into 3" long pieces and then slice those in half lengthwise so there is a flat side to each piece. To a large bowl, add olive oil, garlic, 1/4 c. grated Parmesan, spices and salt to taste. Toss in carrot pieces to coat. Put 3/4 c. Parm in a shallow bowl and dip the flat cut side of each carrot into the cheese. Transfer carrots onto a baking sheet, spacing out, cheese side down. Roast for 20-25 min. or until tender. Roasting time will vary with the size of the carrot pieces.



## SCOTT ANTIQUE MARKETS

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DEC 16 & 17

### 2024 Shows

JAN 27 & 28

FEB 24 & 25

MAR 23 & 24

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Directions: I-71 Exit 111 (E 17th Avenue) to Ohio Expo Center

800-1,200  
Exhibit  
Booths

**740.569.2800**

[www.scottantiquemarkets.com](http://www.scottantiquemarkets.com)





# finders keepers

## V I L L A G E

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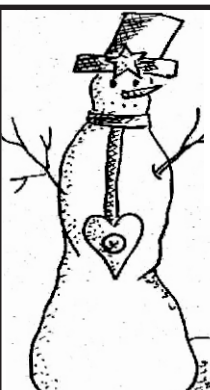
## Country Register Recipe

### Apple Pie Cups

- 1 tube refrigerated cinnamon rolls
- 1 can apple pie filling, chopped
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Divide cinnamon rolls (set icing aside). Place one roll in each space of a non-stick muffin tin. Press down with your fingers to form cups.

Chop apples by running a knife down into the can. Add cinnamon to pie filling. Fill each cup with generous 2 T. pie filling. Bake at 375° for 15 min. Cool in pan 5 min. Remove from pan and drizzle icing over top of each cup.



### The Farmer's Daughters on Main

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## GIVEAWAY winners!

Here are the winners from the giveaways that were in our Nov/Dec 2023 issue:

The winner of Billy Jacobs Christmas Cards is Kathi Hamilton from E. Sparta; Susan Branch's 2024 Calendar goes to Pat Goslin from Newark; the 2024 calendars from By The Yard go Shirley Metro from Delaware and Janice Pierman from Strongsville; Gail Picking from Wooster will receive a one-year subscription to Country Rustic Magazine; Cindy Dunham from Urbana wins the Trencher from Bridgewater Primitives, and Debi Moreland from Mt. Vernon and Janice Skiles from Gettysburg win copies of "All is Calm, All is Bright" from Judy Condon. Congratulations to all!

If you would like to order something from any of these contributors here's the contact information for each: [billyjacobs.com](http://billyjacobs.com), [susanbranch.com](http://susanbranch.com), [bytheyardcomics.com](http://bytheyardcomics.com), Bridgewater Primitives (check their ad on page 15), [countryrusticmagazine.com](http://countryrusticmagazine.com), and [www.marshhomesteadantiques.com](http://www.marshhomesteadantiques.com).

A special thank you to our generous contributors. We appreciate their donations and help with our holiday give-aways. And also a big thank you to everyone who entered.



## TREASURES AT FORTY SEVEN



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an eclectic mix of  
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& seasonal decor



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## Happy New Year

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B W E B G X M K G K L G L L N I M X R K R U W N  
N Y W B W P H V O X B M U V S W Y A M R S C V W  
A E W O M X U E A Y B V Y F M I O A Q B R K S Q  
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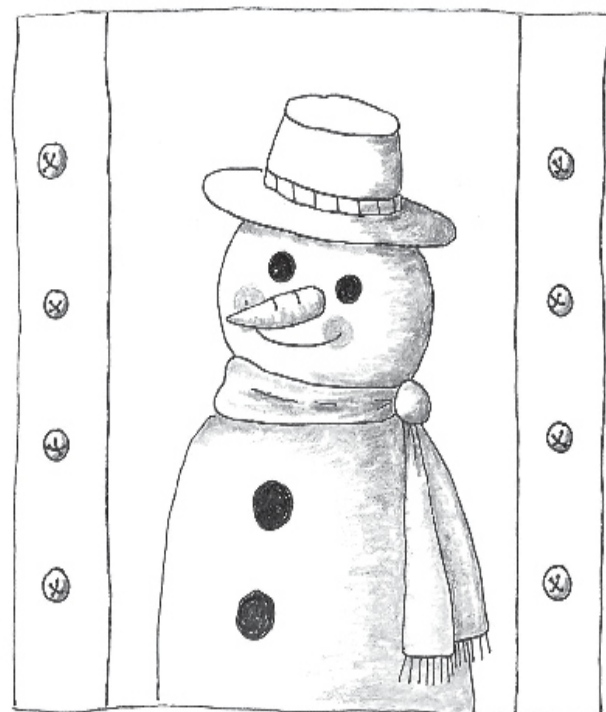
|           |            |            |               |
|-----------|------------|------------|---------------|
| sparklers | Resolution | Noisemaker | Party Poppers |
| Goals     | Cheers     | Clock      | New Year      |
| Happy     | January    | fireworks  | celebration   |
| balloons  | midnight   | confetti   | countdown     |

## Countryberries Designs Frosty Pillow

This Snowman has so many possibilities! He was designed to be a wool applique pillow top with bells or buttons but could also be a table mat or wall hanging. He could be a punchneedle or hooked rug piece. If you're a painter, create Frosty on paper, wood or canvas. He'd make a cute note card.

Enlarge this pattern to your desired size.

Whatever craft you choose, have fun and be creative! Not for commercial use. Please give the artist credit.



© GRAHAM '23

Designed by Kathy Graham

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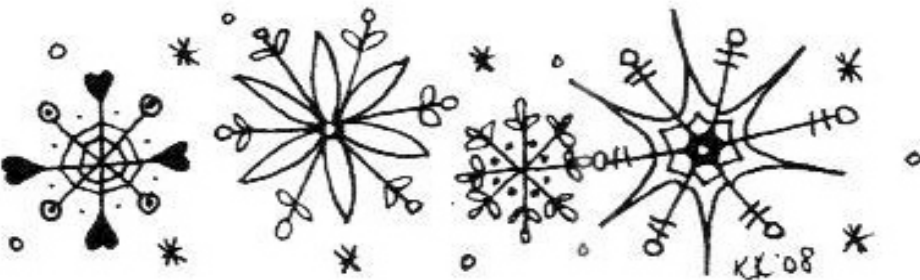
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you never know what you're  
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*Forrest Gump*



## The Country Register

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| *California: (888) 942-8950  | *Maryland: (866) 825-9217      | *North Carolina: (888) 942-8950 | *West Virginia: (888) 616-8319     |
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| *Georgia: (706) 340-1049     | *Montana: (605) 568-0181       | *Pennsylvania: (888) 616-8319   | Canada                             |
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**www.countryregister.com**

\* Indicates these editions are available on-line at [www.countryregister.com](http://www.countryregister.com)

## West Milton

The Shoppes of West Milton  
wish you a Happy New Year!!!



### Village Peddler

50 N. Miami Street, 937-216-1000  
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Feb. Fabric Fling - Feb 22-25, 2023 (see ad on page 3)

### Now & Then Antiques

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(proceeds to Alzheimers & MS)  
DeJaVu to New Clothing Boutique  
Something for Everyone!  
Thurs-Fri-Sat 11-4

## Country Register Recipe

### Buffalo Chicken Bites

2# boneless skinless chicken breast, diced into 2" pieces  
1/2 c. cornstarch  
2 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. cracked black pepper  
1 tsp. onion powder  
1 tsp. garlic powder  
1/2 tsp. paprika  
2 T. olive oil  
1 c. hot sauce  
2 T. butter

Combine cornstarch, salt, onion powder, garlic powder,  
pepper, and paprika in a large mixing bowl. Add the chicken;  
toss until evenly coated.

Heat 1 T. olive oil in a 12" non-stick skillet over med. heat. Add  
half the battered chicken in a single layer. Saute 5 min. on  
each side until the breading is lightly golden brown. Remove  
and transfer to a plate. Repeat with the remaining chicken.

Add butter to the skillet and melt, scraping up browned bits as  
it cooks. Add the buffalo sauces to the melted butter and whisk  
until combined. Add the cooked chicken to the buffalo sauce.  
Toss to coat, then cook an addition 3-5 min. until chicken is  
cooked through and sauce slightly thickens.

Serve immediately with blue cheese or ranch dipping sauce  
and sliced carrots and celery.



## Become Inspired

By Annice Bradley Rockwell

**Peaceful Dwellings** - As the festive, fast-paced excitement of the holidays draws to a close, we are given a chance to create a protective sanctuary of peace to enjoy the season of winter. Winter weekends might find us venturing to nearby antiques shops searching for perfect pieces to add to our room arrangements. Early baskets, blue decorated stoneware jugs, early treen and country lighting are all wonderful investments that add touches of warmth to our indoor vignettes. Tavern tables flanked with wing-back chairs can be moved closer to the hearth now for a cozy fireside arrangement in which to enjoy a piping hot meal of chicken pot pie and homemade cranberry chutney.



**Symbols of Comfort** - Our outdoor additions can be equally fulfilling. Setting up the evergreen tree that graced our keeping room during the holidays as an outdoor sanctuary for our wildlife can add visual interest and appeal. Adding natural decorations such as pinecones filled with peanut butter and birdseed can provide a special winter treat for our feathered friends.

As the snow falls and blankets the roads, our home takes on a whole new look against the new backdrop of white. Silhouetted against a stark landscape its features often stand out now as a symbol of comfort and shelter against the season's cold and blustery days.

**Shift to Stillness** - Being outside in the elements to gather our seasoned wood for the fire, we are reminded of how blessed we truly are to have the safety of home. Unexpected snow days where a depth of snow provides a day off from our normal daily work provides us with time we can spend enjoying the pure beauty of nature. A winter walk enveloped by the stillness of winter is a country treat meant to be savored. Despite its initially withered and worn appearance, the woods are actually quite vibrant and alive. The sun's radiant rays on the snow create a brilliance that only belongs to winter. As it is enjoyed, we may catch a glimpse of small creatures endeavoring to forage. We might take advantage of a spectacular new view of our maple swamp as its bare trees allow us to see even more of its fringed beauty.

Winters slower pace grants us the blessing of quiet time. Along with this calm rhythm often comes the ability to nurture our ideas and plan for the season ahead. Whether it is being excited about beginning a new business venture or repurposing a small room in our home to be used for a hobby we have come to love, the winter season is the ideal time to allow our concepts to come together and take shape. This season embrace the shift to stillness. Take in the slower moments that allow you to enjoy observing the beauty that abounds in nature. And when you experience that beauty, share that wonder with those you hold dear.

--Annice Bradley Rockwell is an educator and owner of Pomfret Antiques. She is currently working on her book, *New England Girl*.  
NewEnglandGirl2012@hotmail.com

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MEMORIES are created  
FRIENDS are always welcome  
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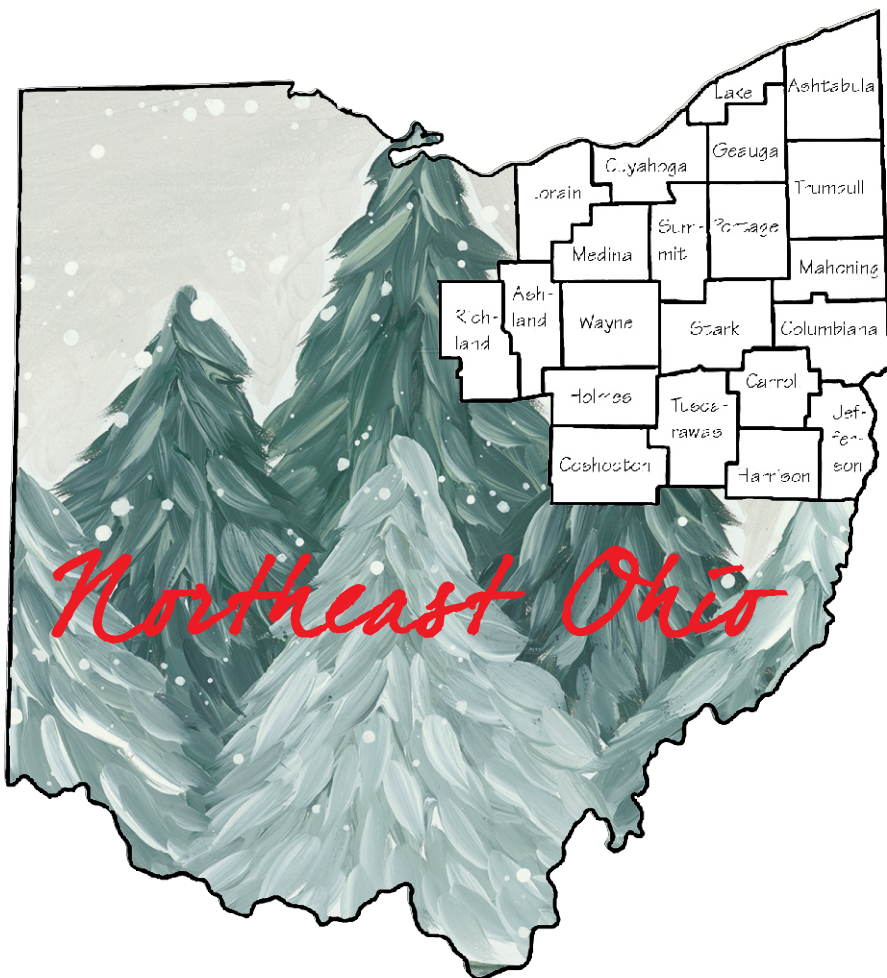


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NEW FABRICS and NOTIONS! Merchandise is arriving slower from  
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We will be in the "ALL OHIO SHOP HOP" again this year (Sept-Oct)  
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and meeting new friends this year!

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## Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

### Can the Afterglow Last?

The soft strains of Silent Night continue to echo in my mind. I'm still basking in the warmth I felt from the loving holiday companionship of family and friends. Yet, Christmas 2023 is past.

Burnt candles remain on the mantel but they have been snuffed out, leaving ugly charred wicks and dripped wax.

In the corner of the living room the Christmas tree still stands. Once it was beautiful with gaily wrapped gifts tucked beneath its branches. Now the gifts are gone—except for one to the neighbor. I ran out of time and failed to get it delivered. Somehow, the once gaily decorated tree has become an eyesore. The decorations are dusty, making the glitter and charm seem tacky. It's funny how packing "Christmas" back into the storage boxes is never as fun as the unpacking had been. The anticipation of Christmas seemed to dissipate just as quickly as the wrappings on the gifts were ripped off.

The days following Christmas come with sharp contrast, reminding me of the real world. Though the throngs of shoppers in the mall are in a hurry to exchange those slippers that didn't fit or the shirt that didn't match. There's no choice but to take a number and patiently wait. I also must remember to stop by the grocery store for milk, bread and potato chips to make sandwiches for lunch with the leftover turkey and ham.

I don't even want to listen to the news. It's upsetting and even discouraging.

Finally, once New Year's Eve is past, the holiday season is officially over. As the week progresses, every trace of Christmas is finally and completely packed away. Enlisting the family to rally around to undecorate is difficult and the chore is usually left for me. In solitude, reflections on the various "special" ornaments and decorations—gifts from loved ones or others we've enjoyed through the years, and yes, even for decades, are indeed satisfying. There's also the knowledge that when December 2024 comes there will be joy in their rediscovery.

Amid my musings, I find myself wondering:

Did Christmas 2023 hold any real and lasting meaning?

Were any lessons learned that I'll successfully apply into my daily existence?

How long into this brand new year can I cling to the challenge of keeping even a faintly glowing ember of the Christ in Christmas alive?



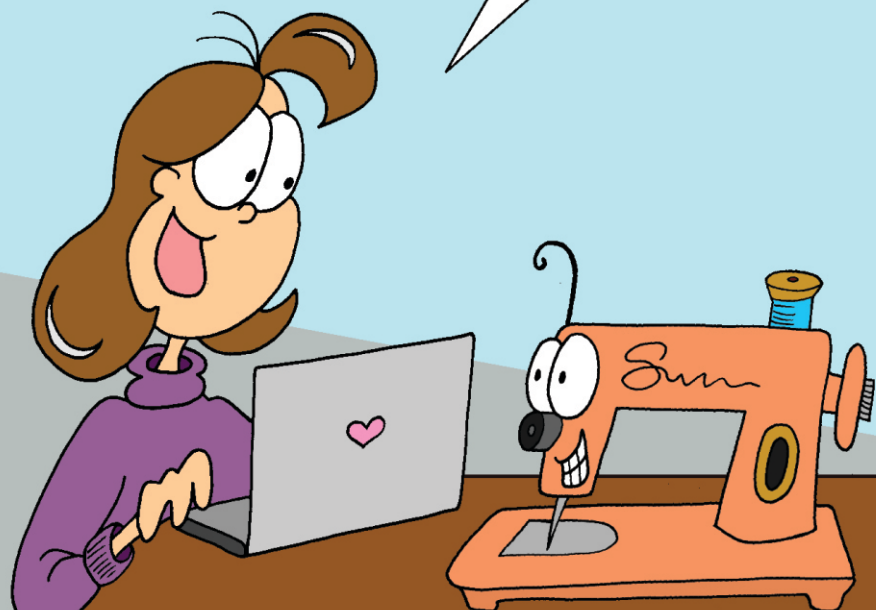
©2024 Jan Keller No reprint without permission Jan shares other pieces of her life in her books, *Pieces From My Crazy Quilt*, and *The Tie That Binds*. These books can be ordered by calling 719-866-8570, or writing: Black Sheep Books, 11250 Glen Canyon Drive, Peyton, CO 80831



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by Jennifer Lopez

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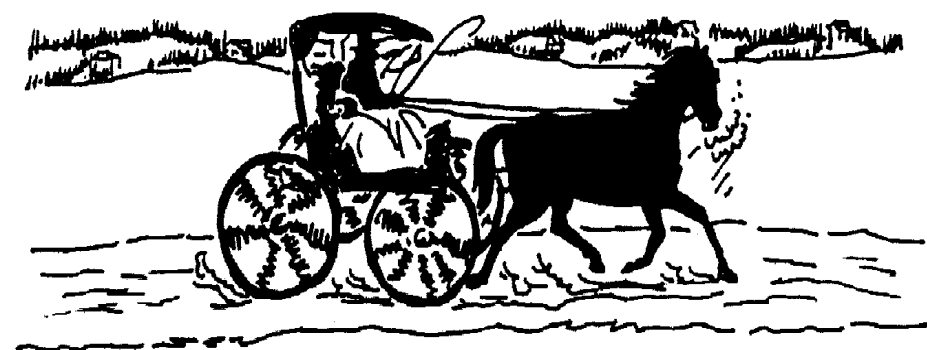


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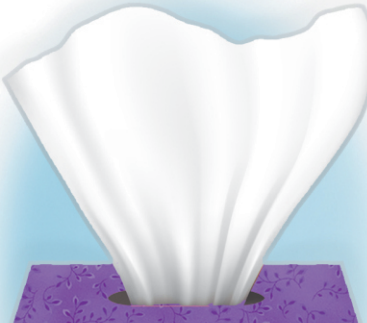
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## GIRLFRIEND WISDOM

### Achoo! ~ Bless You!

Hummm....  
Ever wonder why we "Bless" people who sneeze?  
It is unknown exactly why we say "Bless You" in response to a sneeze.  
There are many theories, and some believe it started to ward off demons and spirits or to bless someone with good health. Research shows that the response remains commonplace because of its connection to good manners.



The tradition of blessing someone after a sneeze is so old that even Roman scholar Pliny the Elder wrote about it in Natural History (77 AD) and puzzled over its origins. When a person sneezed it was to expel evil spirits from their body, and the blessing was given to prevent them from going right back in!

**GIRLFRIEND WISDOM:**  
Whether it be ancient tradition, or good manners, expressing a Blessing is positive, uplifting, and spreads good will to friends, family and strangers alike!  
Positive thoughts bring healing thoughts that all will be well in time. When sharing a blessing, a blessing is also received. Give it a try at your next opportunity and share some good will!

Joy & Blessings, *Jody*

**BLESS YOU!**  
Numbers 6:24-26  
**The Lord** bless you and keep you;  
**The Lord** make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
**The Lord** turn his face toward you and give you **PEACE.**

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

## Country Register Recipe

### Chicken Piccata with Lemon Sauce

8 boneless skinless chicken breast halves  
2 eggs, beaten  
2T. plus 1/4 c. dry white wine or chicken broth, divided  
5 T. lemon juice, divided  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
1/8 tsp. hot pepper sauce  
1/2 c. flour  
1/2 c. grated Parmesan cheese  
1/4 c. minced fresh parsley  
1/2 tsp. salt  
3 tsp. olive oil, divided  
2 T. butter

Flatten chicken to 1/4" thick. In a shallow dish, combine the egg substitute, 2 tablespoons wine, 2 tablespoons lemon juice, garlic and hot pepper sauce. In another shallow dish, combine the flour, Parmesan cheese, parsley and salt. Coat chicken with flour mixture, dip in eggs, then coat again with flour mixture.

In a large nonstick skillet, brown 4 chicken breast halves in 1-1/2 tsp. oil for 3-5 min. on each side or until juices run clear. Remove and keep warm. Drain drippings. Repeat with remaining chicken and oil. Remove and keep warm.

In the same pan, melt butter. Add the remaining wine and lemon juice. Bring to a boil. Boil, uncovered, until sauce is reduced by a fourth. Drizzle over chicken. Serve with pasta or rice



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**GRANDMA HAD IT**  
**MOM THREW IT OUT**  
**I BOUGHT IT BACK**



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Winter  
Wishes

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Free Embroidery Pattern – May not be sold or used for commercial purposes. Use this pattern for embroidery, wool applique, punch needle or rug hooking, painted projects or whatever your imagination can dream up! Reduce or enlarge pattern as desired.

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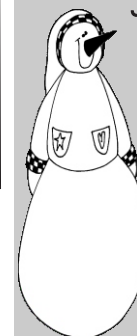
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# Millersburg

## Country Register Quick Tip

If road salt leaves a white residue on your boots or shoes, clean them up with a mixture of equal parts vinegar and water. Use a rag to dab the solution onto your shoes, then wipe them with a dry towel. Let them dry naturally, then buff them with a soft cloth.

**HAPPINESS**  
*is not something*  
ready made.  
It comes from  
**YOUR**  
*own actions.*

DALAI LAMA

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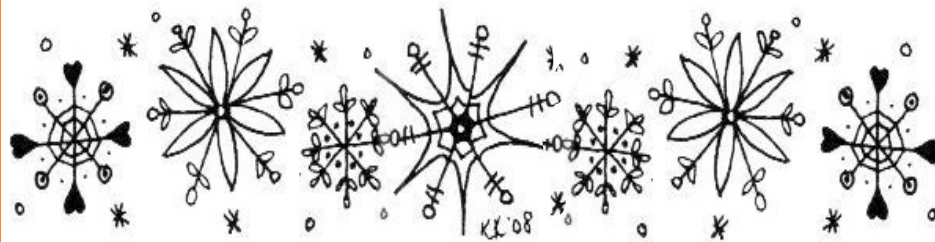
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## From the Journal of the Country Register Secret Shopper!



Hello Friends -

Hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. I had a great time with family and friends and I recently celebrated the beginning of a New Year by treating myself to a shopping trip! (why are you not surprised?!!) After consulting my Country Register, I decided to take a trip to **AnnaLouisa's Quilt Shop** which is located just outside of Navarre. I have several sewing projects in mind for this winter and thought this would be a good place to get supplies. As I drove to the location I was amazed at the surroundings - a beautiful country setting complete with a small lake (ducks, fountain, and all!).

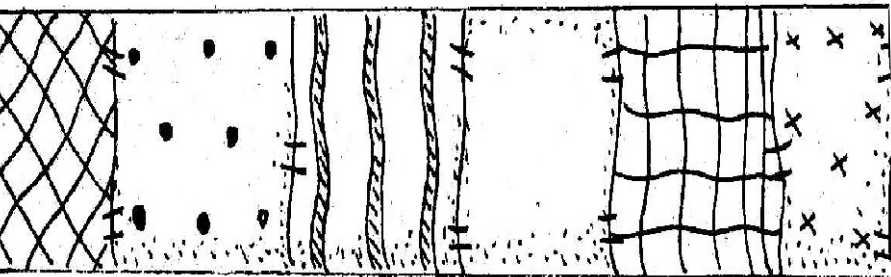
My amazement continued as I opened the door into the shop. I was given a very friendly welcome by the shopkeeper as I entered. She told me that shop owner Barb Stevens has been sewing since she was five years old and she hand-dyes the shop's wool and loves to help customers create works of art.

The fabric selection is gorgeous ...complemented with beautiful displays to spur the imagination. There is a room filled with hand-dyed woolens and a Civil War room. A variety of books, patterns, classes, groups, and Block of the Month is offered. They specialize in kits and original patterns!

I left with a couple of their special kits and some of the hand-dyed wool for a special project. You know how quilt shops are... they have a way of drawing you back time and time again so I'm sure I'll return in the near future to this special shop for more project supplies. Treat yourself with a trip to **AnnaLouisa's** soon.

**AnnaLouisa's Quilt Shop** is a unique fiber arts store located at 5225 Leona Avenue SW, Navarre, OH (it's just a few miles off I-77). You can visit on FB and the website [www.annalouisas.com](http://www.annalouisas.com) for the online shop. Phone 234-458-0000. Their winter hours are Tues thru Sat 10-4, with regular hours resuming Tuesday, March 5.

I'm wishing you all a very happy 2024! Stay safe and well. And happy shopping! I'm sending you Country Blessings - from your Country Register Secret Shopper.



## Country Register Quick Tip

Wheels spinning on ice? Take the floor mats out of your car and place them under your tires. You'll need to throw them under whichever wheels are spinning. Your mats may be a little beat up but at least you're not stuck anymore.



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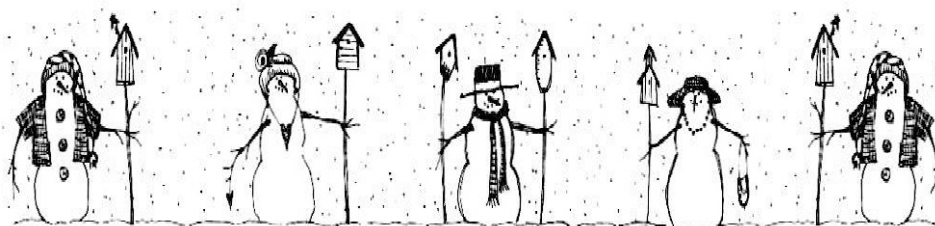
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This time, we are going to mix it up a bit – we're doing size options! The first size finishes 48 x 48. The second size finishes 60 x 76. Since the first size is baby quilt size or a lap cover for the car, someone wheelchair bound, etc., you can choose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

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

### Fabric Requirements:

#### Quilt Option #1

Fabric A - 2 3/4 yards Fabric B (dark) - 2 yards  
Binding (dark) – 1/2 yard

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

Fabric A – 2 yards Fabric B (dark) – 1/2 yard  
Binding (dark) – 3/4 yard

### PART I:

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

#### Fabric A

1 – 5 x 5 inch  
1 – 2 1/2 x 4 1/2 inch 2 – 2 1/2 x 6 1/2 inch 1 – 2 1/2 x 8 1/2 inch

#### Fabric B

1 – 5 x 5  
2 – 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 inch

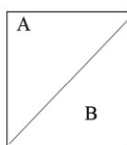
## Watch the Magic

Mystery Quilt - 2024

Designed by Ann Jones, Nevada, MO

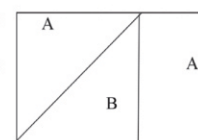
If you have any questions contact Erica at Nine Patch Quilt & Fabrics, Nevada, MO  
ericaskouby@gmail.com or 417-667-7100. Miss one of the parts?

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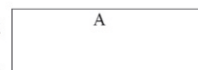


- On the wrong side of Fabric A, 5 x 5, mark a diagonal line. Matching right sides together of A & B, sew 1/4 inch on either side of the drawn line. Press.
- Cut on the drawn line. Press towards B.
- Square these two blocks to 4 1/2 x 4 1/2. See diagram below. Set aside.

- On the RIGHT SIDE of the above A/B square, right sides together, sew the 2 1/2 x 4 1/2 Fabric A. Set seam, press open towards A.
- On the bottom, right sides together, sew a 2 1/2 x 6 1/2 Fabric A. Set seam, press open towards A.

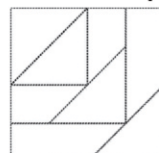
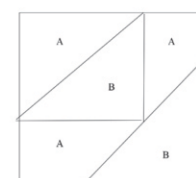
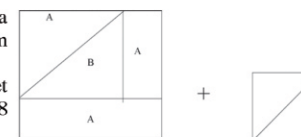


- On the two 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 B squares draw a diagonal line on the wrong side.
- On the above set, right sides together, place a 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 Fabric B in the BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER, making sure the corners and sides line up.
- I strongly encourage you to pin these together at this point so that the 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 B block doesn't shift when you sew.
- Take your time, and sew on the diagonal line. I found it to be more accurate if I set my needle position a stitch to the right of the diagonal line so I wasn't sewing directly on it. That gives the fabric room to fold over and "square up" to the corner. Set the seam and press open towards Fabric B. See Diagrams below.



- At this point, you will have three layers of fabric in the bottom right corner which is a bit bulky. If your corner matches up and your block is a square 6 1/2 x 6 1/2, then you can trim the excess fabric so the block isn't too bulky. Cut the excess "triangle" and set aside. These triangles can be sewn together and squared into 3 1/2 x 3 1/2 half square triangles for another project!

- Following the instructions and diagrams above, right sides together, sew a 2 1/2 x 6 1/2 inch Fabric A to the RIGHT SIDE of the above block. Set seam and press towards A.
- On the bottom side, right sides together, sew a 2 1/2 x 8 1/2 inch Fabric A. Set the seam and press towards Fabric A. At this point, your block should be 8 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches.
- Taking the second 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 inch Fabric B block, right sides together, place it in the bottom right corner, making sure your corners and sides match. Pin in place. Sew along the diagonal line. Set seam and press open towards Fabric B. Again, make sure block is square and then trim extra fabric and save for another project. See diagram below.



- Make 36 blocks total, following the above directions.



## Random Acts

by Maranda K Jones

### Love Letters—A Love Story



I love letters! I enjoy receiving letters in the mail, but I really love the letters of the alphabet. I spend a lot of time with those 26 characters while I work with first graders. We say the sounds, we write the symbols, and we put them together to make words. We read and write letters all day, and I cannot think of a better job. It never feels like work!

My love of writing started in third grade. Mrs. Martin taught us cursive that year, which was very exciting for someone who had been printing her entire life. I felt empowered by this change and wanted to perfect my penmanship. She gave us time to practice, and she gave us great examples. She showed us how to write a wave of connected c's between the dotted midline and the baseline. She swept up from the bottom line to the top, came down with a point and repeated twice before ending this exercise in a sweep to the right. My teacher praised my hard work and encouraged me to keep writing.

Just when I thought life could not get any better, we were given homework. I looked forward to working on my spelling homework in a brand-new red spiral notebook each week. I was expected to write each word, in cursive of course, use the word in a sentence that showed I understood the definition, and then go back and underline the word. After skipping a line, I would start the process over with the next word on the list. I felt so happy writing in my red notebook and wanted to construct the best sentences possible. I felt inspired to create something new that had not yet been written.

So, I started another notebook. This notebook had a plastic purple cover with three sections divided by manila folder pockets. Each section would have its own subject, and the first one was math. I made a multiplication table with a ruler and the preprinted lines. I wrote each multiplication fact, forward and backward. I stored the flash cards we had made in class in that subject's pocket. Mrs. Martin cut hundreds of orange construction paper rectangles, and I wrote math facts with a black crayon on each card. She met with me and made sure I had mastered each number's facts before I was allowed to make the next set. I was rewarded with a big rubber band to keep all the cards together when I reached the 9s. I felt such a sense of achievement and independence.

The next section held a record where I wrote down a list of all the books I read. It never filled the entire section because I checked out the same books from the library over and over again. I enjoyed reading, doodling, and rereading with the instructional drawing books. I borrowed every book by Lee J. Ames in the school library for most of my elementary years. When I was not filling the notebook with drawings, I was trying to figure out what was so funny in the books by Fred Gwynne. *The King Who Rained* and *A Chocolate Moose for Dinner* are so clever and the word play makes me laugh even harder today.

The third subject of this notebook was filled with stories and poems. I wrote acrostic poems for everyone I knew. I wrote lists of friends and family members. I rewrote fairy tales and illustrated my new characters. This was a place to get things out of my head and onto paper. This section was all mine, no right or wrong answers. Writing felt like such a treat to me, and I need to make more time to enjoy it again. It is my quiet time to figure out what I am thinking about. I like putting my thoughts into words and seeing a visual representation of what is going on in my mind, in cursive of course.

This year is a red spiral notebook with empty pages begging to be filled well.

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Valentine's  
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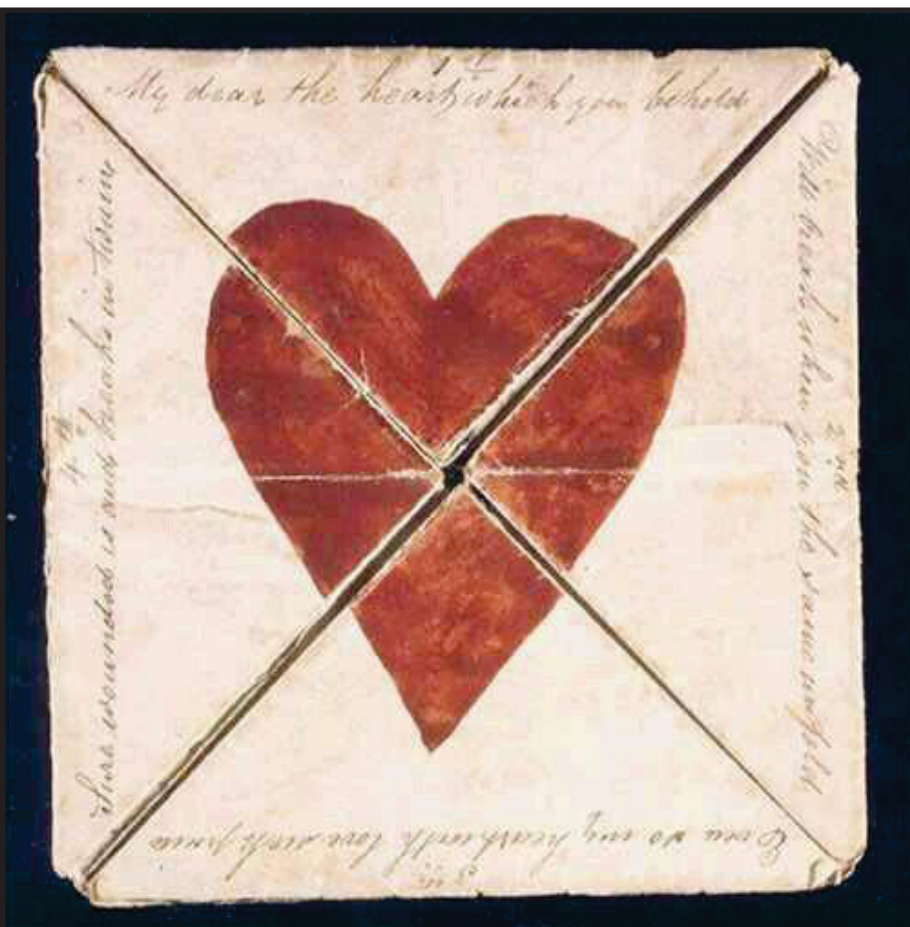
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This puzzle is the oldest preserved Valentine card, dating back to 1790. It reads: "My dear the Heart which you behold, Will break when you the same unfold, Even so my heart with lovesick pain, Sure wounded is and breaks in twain."



## Northwest Ohio

### Country Register Quick Tip

When you come in from the cold and snow, your shoes are going to be soggy and wet. Instead of setting them near a heat vent, which can make them brittle, simply pull out the insoles and shove a few crumpled newspaper sheets inside. If they're super soaked, change out the newspaper every few hours.



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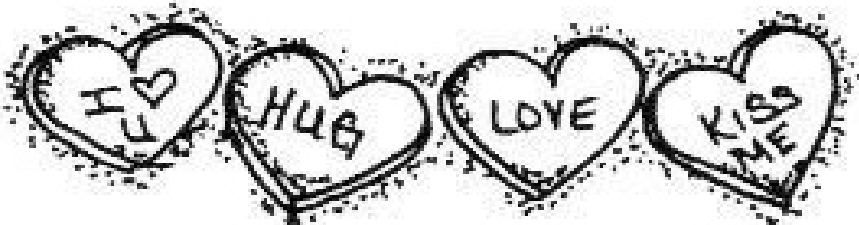


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## Writing From Life

by Jeanette Lukowski

### Marcia, Marcia, Marcia!

For those of a certain age, the ring of that name repeated three times can only mean one person: Marcia Brady. Although her co-star, Eve Plumb, spoke the words, it's Marcia's face which appears in my brain every time. Imagine my surprise when I discovered Maureen McCormick—the skilled thespian behind the character's name—had designed a line of quilting fabric!

No kidding. I learned about it during the pandemic lockdowns of 2020/2021, so I veered from my usual path of only purchasing from a brick-and-mortar quilt store: I purchased a small quantity of several designs from the line available through a reputable online retailer.

Working with a small budget allotted for quilting fabric (as I already have so much, please and thank you), I reviewed the choices carefully. "This one looks like the fabric in a dress my mother made for me when I was about 6 years old, so a half a yard will be lovely. That one looks like the flowery fabric of a dress one of the girls wore, so I'll take a half a yard of it. Oh, and that one? That reminds me of..."

A modest collection, it fit nicely into a small shoe-box sized plastic box in my sewing room. My plan was to make myself a "flower garden" quilt some day, using a simple 9-patch block and Kelly green sashing between. (Maureen McCormick had made her fabric line display quilt using hexagons, I believe; I am not there yet, skill-wise, but 9-patch is definitely in my skill-set.)

I moved before I had a chance to start that quilt, though, so the fabric remained packed, and the priorities for unpacking boxes re-shuffled the order of projects to be worked on next.

Back in Minnesota for the Shop Hop in brick-and-mortar stores during 2022, I spotted the end-of-bolt sale for one of McCormick's fabrics! I didn't hesitate: I purchased the remaining yardage. Yes, I had the same fabric at home...but it was on a clearance rack! I had to have it, especially when the purchase included an end-of-bolt discount.

That was the day I devised the plan: every woman in my family of-a-certain-age were going to get something made with some of that Maureen McCormick fabric. Some day.

Discovering a second set of fabrics designed and released by Maureen McCormick during the 2023 Minnesota Shop Hop, I got on the task (once again limiting my purchases to one yard of just two of the newest fabrics).

Welcome to my year of Marcia Brady table runners! It's the surprise birthday gift I'm quietly making and popping into the mail for three women in my family, and two of my best friends. I'm using the same clearance-rack yardage for all five, but the coordinates and approach to my three block Disappearing 9-Patch table runner are creating some really fascinating differences! So far, one has included Gnomes, the second is three-color, and the third is scrappy.

They look so different!! And I'm having fun.



© Jeanette Lukowski 2023. Jeanette is a mother, grandmother, teacher, and author who lives in Mankato, MN. She is inspired by the lives of strong women. Her email address is: [writingfromlife@yahoo.com](mailto:writingfromlife@yahoo.com)



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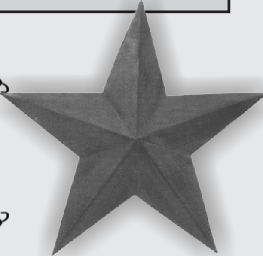
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## Snow Place Like Home

by Cheryl Potts

Some people think I'm crazy because I like winter! There's something about that cozy home feeling, holding a cup of hot cocoa, and a good book that is so inviting and relaxing. There are a slew of indoor winter activities and projects that I can hardly wait to begin when temperatures plummet and the white stuff falls. This time of year, one of my most relaxing activities is to pull out my sewing machine and work on quilts, gifts, making clothes or trying out new craft ideas. With soft music playing in the background and a cup of tea to sip, I'm content to stay in my sewing sanctuary for hours.



After a while, I take a break from reading and sewing as I launch into writing. I enjoy writing poetry, short stories, and "eachers books." I've discovered the more I write the more ideas I get! Especially recording little things my children used to say and do that I don't want to forget. Someday they will be surprised to read about themselves in my journals and family poetry album. I even keep a folder of ideas and anecdotes to complete the next time I have some spare time to write.

An on-going hobby of mine is scrapbooking. When my sister-in-law introduced me to this creative activity over ten years ago, I'm sure she never thought I would spend hours upon hours condensing and cropping 17 photo albums into 5 scrapbooks. In fact, since my family pictures are all caught up, I've been working on my parents' albums. It's been a great family history study as well! However, since I'm an organized and somewhat obsessive-compulsive personality, I've expanded the scrap book concept to my classroom scrap book, as well as, my church family album, my mother's Red Hatter album, and even a scrap book for my parents' dog. Yicks!

And then there's playing the piano... great emotional outlet. My parents made a very worthwhile investment, for I was a most unusual child. I loved to practice! Now it's a great past time and a skill I can use for church and school.

So, you see that's why I enjoy winter. There's never a dull moment. There's always something to write about, read, a project to finish, an idea to pursue, music to play and moments to savor! I thank God.

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about!





## Country Register Recipe

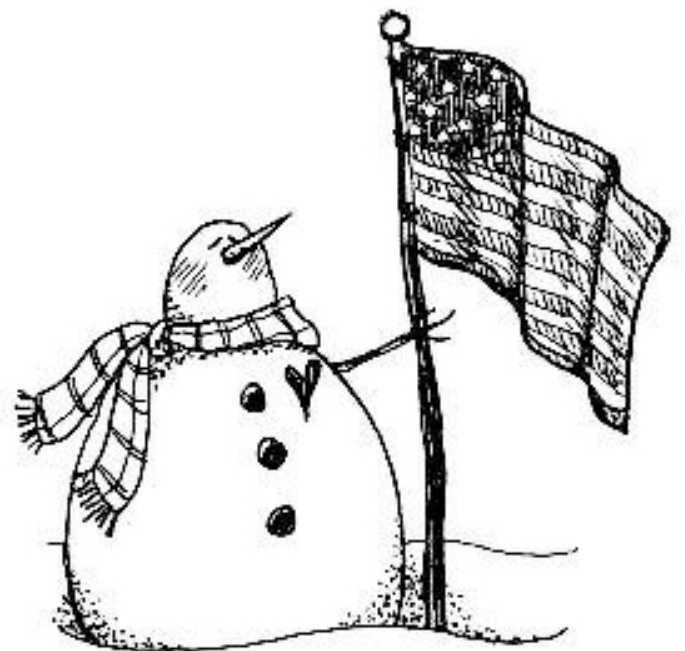
### Roasted Mustard Salmon

- 1 fennel bulb, sliced into rings, reserve fronds
- 1 T. olive oil
- 4# skin-on fillet of salmon, remove bones
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 c. whole-grain mustard
- 3 tsp. fennel seeds, toasted and crushed
- 2-1/2 tsp. coriander seeds, toasted and crushed

Preheat oven to 300°

Place the slices of fennel in the middle of a rimmed baking sheet and drizzle with olive oil. Place the salmon skin-side down on top of the fennel. Sprinkle with salt. Spread mustard evenly over the top of the salmon and sprinkle with fennel and coriander seeds. Press gently to help the seeds adhere.

Roast until a fork inserts easily in the thickest part of the fish, approximately 1 hr. Remove to a serving platter. Sprinkle with the reserved fennel fronds and drizzle with olive oil. Serve immediately.



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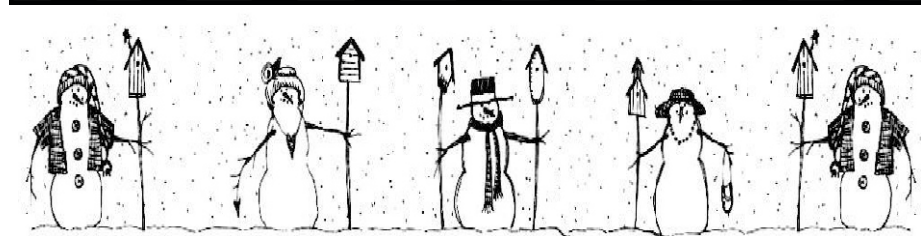
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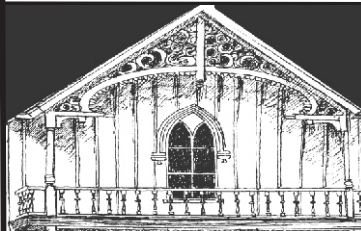
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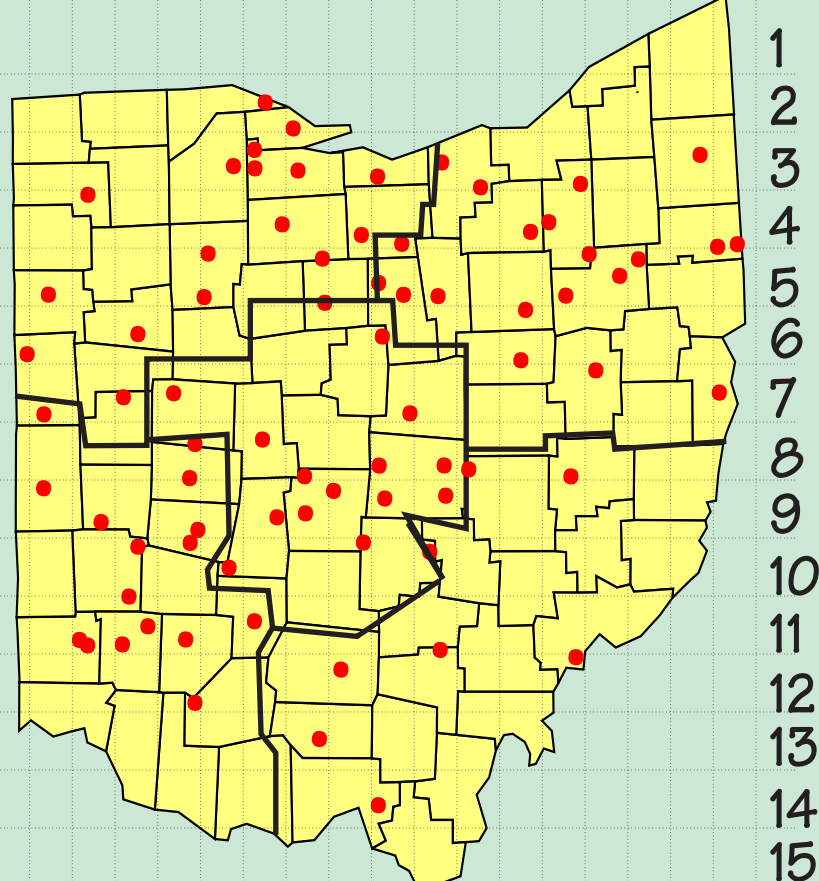
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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R

### City/Page/Shop Map

#### Central

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Bellefontaine                 | E-7 |
| 4 A Robbins Nest              |     |
| 3 First Fridays Bellefontaine |     |
| Columbus                      | H-9 |
| 4 Scott Antique Markets       |     |
| Heath                         | K-8 |
| 5 Finders Keepers             |     |
| Mt. Vernon                    | K-7 |
| 6 Black Walnut Holler         |     |
| 22 Woolson Company            |     |
| Pataskala                     | J-8 |
| 18 Calico Cupboard            |     |
| Utica                         | K-8 |
| 6 Farmers Daughters on Main   |     |

#### Out of State

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Sturgis MI      |  |
| 21 Amigo Centre |  |

#### Web Ads

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 21 A Primitive Place Magazine |  |
| 21 Country Rustic Magazine    |  |
| 21 NeedleTravel.com           |  |
| 21 Primitive House Designs    |  |

### City/Page/Shop Map

#### Northwest

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Anna                         | D-7 |
| 17 Kari's Custom Quilting    |     |
| Bowling Green                | F-3 |
| 18 Wood County Park District |     |
| Lima                         | D-6 |
| 22 Grand Avenue Treasures    |     |
| Ottawa                       | D-4 |
| 17 Eclectic Company          |     |
| Pemberville                  | G-3 |
| 6 Country Cupboard-Ohio      |     |
| Sandusky                     | J-3 |
| 19 Lake Erie Gifts & Décor   |     |
| Willard                      | J-4 |
| 19 Picket Fence              |     |

### City/Page/Shop Map

#### Northeast

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Alliance                         | P-5 |
| 15 Bridgewater Primitives        |     |
| Aurora                           | O-3 |
| 22 Secret Garden Antiques        |     |
| Berlin                           | M-6 |
| 12 Country Gatherings            |     |
| 12 Country Life Antiques         |     |
| 12 Plaid Sheep Company           |     |
| Boardman                         | R-4 |
| 6 Bernina Store                  |     |
| Fredericktown                    | R-6 |
| 3 Quilters Market Day            |     |
| Jeromesville                     | L-5 |
| 10 Country Charm Fabrics         |     |
| Mansfield                        | J-5 |
| 3 Gathered Treasures Show        |     |
| Medina                           | M-4 |
| 22 This 'N' That                 |     |
| Millersburg                      | M-6 |
| 13 Chestnut Ridge Sewing         |     |
| 13 Country Road Primitives       |     |
| Mineral City                     | O-6 |
| 22 Material Girl                 |     |
| Navarre                          | N-6 |
| 14 AnnaLouisa's Quilt Shop       |     |
| North Lima                       | R-5 |
| 16 Piney Creek Primitives        |     |
| Oberlin                          | L-3 |
| 22 Main Street Antiques          |     |
| Olmsted Falls                    | M-3 |
| 11 Second Thyme Around           |     |
| Wintersville                     | R-7 |
| 15 Country Crafts From the Heart |     |

### City/Page/Shop Map

#### Southwest

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| Camden                     | B-10 |
| 7 Treasures at Forty Seven |      |
| Englewood                  | C-9  |
| 8 Log Cabin Comforts       |      |
| Ludlow Falls               | C-9  |
| 3 Fabric Crafts            |      |
| Washington C. H.           | G-10 |
| 24 North Shore Primitives  |      |
| Waynesville                | D-10 |
| 9 Early Country Antiques   |      |
| 9 Waynesville Area Chamber |      |
| Urbana                     | F-8  |
| 3 Monument Square District |      |
| West Milton                | C-9  |
| 8 Angel Heaven             |      |
| 8 Marmee's Pantry          |      |
| 8 Now & Then Antiques      |      |
| 8 Treasure Chest           |      |
| 8 Village Peddler          |      |
| 3,8 Wertz's Variety        |      |

#### Southeast

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Belpre                | N-11 |
| 20 Neffs Country Loft |      |



*Thanks for reading  
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