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NEW JERSEY & DELAWARE

Nov & Dec 2020



Your Statewide Guide to Premier Shopping, Hobbies and Events

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NOV 21-21

The Country Register™

of NJ and DE



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EDITORS' CORNER

Happy Holidays from all of us!
Shop with our advertisers for your gift giving.

I know! I find it as hard to believe as you must, can it be true that it's the Holiday Season already. If you need proof just visit any of the shops advertising in this issue of *The Country Register* and see the beautiful Thanksgiving and Christmas displays that only our advertisers can bring you. They have worked for months hand making, shopping for and gathering all the best for the Holidays and you will be amazed at the choices you find this year. Review the list of Holiday Open Houses the shops have scheduled, which are listed on the following page, and mark your calendar accordingly. You won't want to miss them! Now is the time to "make your list and check it twice" to be sure you don't miss that special, one-of-a kind gift you know your loved one will cherish.

Our writers have lots of ideas not only for making your Holiday Season less stressful but also for recipes and gift ideas that might simplify your planning and gift giving. Gayle Cranford writes about the

Thanksgiving at Grandma's House and Lydia Harris tells about a Gingerbread Man Tea with a great recipe in *A Cup of Tea with Lydia*. Carol Nixon has suggestions for non-traditional Holiday celebrations while Janette Hess offers some great Thanksgiving recipes in *Town & Country Cooking*. Donna Jo Copeland has an update on Breezy Manor Farm happenings and Tammy Page penned a story about their Farmer's Christmas. *Cathy Elliott's* heart warming story about her Mother's favorite ornament is below.

When you visit the shops and events who advertise with us this season please remember to thank them for bringing you *The Country Register*. It is their ad dollars that keep this publication coming your way every two months.

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Gail & Merle

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Cozy Comforts from A Cozy Author

The Bell Tolls for Mother

by Cathy Elliott

All through my growing-up years, my mom displayed her favorite Christmas ornament during the season. T'was a deep red bell with a fancy tassel. Whenever Mother wound it up, it played "Silent Night." Sweetly. Her most-loved carol chimed out like a lullaby. When she wound up the bell, we heard the tender knock of Christmas on our wreath-hung door.

Many, many Christmases passed and the time came for Mother to move to Assisted Living. I packed up the bell, along with some decorations she enjoyed and decked out her room for the holiday. I knew leaving the bell on her bookshelf was risky. I'd been advised that things disappeared from the guest's rooms. Often and without explanation. But since I wanted her to have the bell she loved best at Christmastime, I took the chance. And as I'd been warned...it disappeared into never-to-be-found-land.

I was heartbroken at the loss. But Mother, who was quite forgetful by then, didn't miss it. Instead, I missed it for her.

A couple years ago, my daughter said she wished she had Grandma's bell and she was sorry it had been lost. Me, too. Of all the decorations from all the Christmas holidays, that bell was the one I wished I'd saved. An idea began to form. Could I replace it? Always ready to tackle a mystery, I researched Mother's bell. As I did so, I realized what a quality object it was and how many other lesser bells were on the market. I knew Mother's bell was purchased in the 1950s, made in Germany, and metal - not plastic. Finally, I found a bell on eBay that was very like. Not quite the same red as Mother's, but a rich red with a wonderful tassel. When wound up, it also played the sweet sounds of "Silent Night."

Excited, I bid on it, was outbid, increased my offer, and won the bell. Delighted, I gave it to my daughter as a memory of Mother and of so many family Christmases past. These days, when the new, but vintage bell is wound and "Silent Night" rings out, my daughter is reminded of the gentle Grandma and Mother we both loved so long. And still miss so much.

– © 2020 C. Elliott - Cathy Elliott is a full-time writer in California whose cozy mysteries reflect her personal interests from quilting and antique collecting to playing her fiddle with friends. She also leads music at church and cherishes time with her "grand-gems" Cathy's cozy plot-twisters include *A Stitch in Crime* released in tandem with the RErelease (previously published) of a companion book, *A Vase of Mistaken Identity*. She is also a contributing author to *Guideposts'* devotional books, *Every Day Jesus*, *All God's Creations* and *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books. For more information about Cathy, visit: <http://www.cathyelliottbooks.com>



The Country Register Publisher Contact List

The Country Register began in Arizona in the Fall of 1988, to provide effective, affordable advertising for shops, shows, and other experiences enjoyed by a kindred readership. Since then the paper has flourished and spread. Look for the paper in your travels.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT
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Dover, DE



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by Jennifer Lopez

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NEWARK - NEW CASTLE - WILMINGTON – DE



2nd ACT Gallery

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Located in the historic New Castle Opera House. We are an eclectic, 5000 sq ft, cooperative consisting of an expansive collection of art, antiques, jewelry, treasures and more. On-site framing services available. We're not your average antique store!

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2nd Act Gallery Offers a Large and Eclectic Selection of Art, Antiques, and Collectibles.

by Kerri Habben Bosman

Celebrating its 5th year in business, this 5,000 square foot cooperative is so much more than your average antique shop! With prices ranging from \$1 to \$50,000, you will find the ideal treasure within its walls, whatever your budget. From vintage to contemporary, art to jewelry, framing to watch repair, there is the perfect something for everyone.

Currently owned by Terra and Paul, who are also vendors. The gallery was originally founded by Michelle Quaranta. The gallery is gracefully housed in Historic New Castle's former Opera House and Masonic Temple of the early 19th century, which adds another intriguing element to your treasure hunting.

Terra and Paul are inspired and mentored by Kimberly Camp (Former President and CEO at The Barnes Foundation) to ensure that all forms of the 'arts' are accessible and affordable to the public at large. 2nd ACT strives to have something for every age group, taste and budget!

The following is a synopsis of 2nd Act Gallery's current vendors with more to come:

Tradewinds creates one-of-a-kind handmade custom jewelry, ships, vintage and contemporary items as well as providing watch and jewelry repairs. Walter is a master jeweler and designs custom pieces as well.

Jewelry CEO presents fashion and fine jewelry for men and women. Almost always each item is the only one like it, and prices nicely range between \$7 and \$40. Terra believes that showing your own unique sense of style and fashion doesn't have to be expensive. She offers live shows about this on Facebook and hopes to have them in person again soon.

Original Artwork by Margo M. Johnson is 2nd Act Gallery's very own in-house artist. Margo presents compelling scenes, faces, and as an old song says, "faraway places." You can often find her at work in the gallery, and she is happy to share a delightful story or two with you. Margo's greeting cards are especially popular as well.

Rodney Pratt Framing and Gallery is the gallery's artistic director and passionately works his magic of presenting quality art in an effective manner for all to enjoy. Rodney has been framing for more than ten years and uses the latest moldings and techniques to showcase your artwork. He offers 4th Friday ArtLoop showcases at 2nd Act Gallery.

Sarah's Heart abounds with art, antiques, collectibles, and treasures from all over the world. With regular visits to estate sales by the team creating Sarah's Heart, there is always something different, diverse and culturally interesting to discover.

This unique and comprehensive gallery ships around the world. For your peace of mind, all electronic payment options are fully compliant and secure. Also, Gallery Ca\$h is always available so you can offer someone you care about the opportunity to find a new treasure.

2nd Act Gallery offers a loyalty program in appreciation for your patronage and support. A amount of \$10 in "Gallery Ca\$h" is given to customers who meet specific visits and purchases. Inquire for more details. Be sure to add your email to their list as you will receive advance notice regarding sales and upcoming events.

Coming up soon in 2021, 2nd Act Gallery hopes to initiate estate sale services. This will be a valuable service to local residents to help set up, advertise, and hold a sale in their homes for buyers of vintage and antique items. In addition, 2nd ACT is looking forward to its new auction's website offering the public an opportunity to bid on items from the comforts of their home. 2nd Act Gallery is looking to be a major, antique and art destination in the Delaware region.

Historic New Castle is the oldest continually occupied town in the Delaware Valley and was originally founded by Peter Styvesant as Fort Casimir in 1651. Just 6 miles south of Wilmington, this charming colonial town offers the opportunity to enjoy history at its best, shopping, dining, bed and breakfast, and especially antiques and new found treasures at 2nd Act Gallery. (See ad for contact information.)





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Tidepool Toys and Kid's Ketch

Wide Selection of Quality Toys and Foster Family Traditions

by Kerri Habben Bosman

At Tidepool Toys & Games in Bethany Beach and Fenwick Island, DE, their motto is “Toys with a Porpoise.” It is their goal to give parents and children the option of toys with a strong play value and especially to bring forth many smiles. Their sister store, Kids’ Ketch in Lewes, DE, offers the same selection of high-quality toys along with a unique collection of children’s clothing that kids love to wear. Three store locations are full of every choice from books to puzzles, crafts to games, dress up to LEGOs, and baby gifts, too. There is something for every age, for learning and play, and always something for hours of effective, quality fun.

The shops carry over 5000 different items, mostly name brand and always unique. You can always find an exciting new toy and also more traditional ones that have stood the test of time. There are toys like science and craft kits along with old standbys like jacks and pick-up sticks.

Some of the best and unexpected things come to fruition from being a family. Inspired by seeking out unique toys for their now teenage children, Destin and Heather, Lori and Sandy founded Tidepool Toys & Games in May of 2011. It is entirely fair to say that the owners began their toy store venture with “two awesome toy testers.” This first shop is located just steps from the Atlantic Ocean.

Three years later in 2014, they opened a second location down the beach in Fenwick Island. Tidepool Toys is so named for how Destin and Heather loved to play in the tide pools that form when big waves cause water to rush into and get trapped behind higher sand. These delightful beaches are full of interesting things to find and are a wonderful place for kids to play next to the surf.

In 2019, Lori and Sandy purchased Kid’s Ketch in Lewes. Begun by Teresa Ford in 1990, the shop had grown and thrived for almost 30 years. The Smyths had long viewed Teresa and her son, Jake, as mentors in their own shop keeping. When Teresa felt ready for retirement, Lori and Sandy bought the shop. Teresa and Jake remain an integral part of the shop they lovingly created over the years. Kid’s Ketch moved to its current space with over 3700 square feet of fun in 1998.

Part of their success lies in filling the toy stores with excellent, dedicated employ many having experience as retired school teachers, moms, dads, and grandmas. They offer exceptional customer service and foster a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Mostly importantly, everyone involved prides themselves on helping you find the ideal toy for a treasured child in your life.

Open year round, all locations happily serve locals and visitors alike. It brings the entire family much joy to welcome back other families who return every year. The love of the area and toys continually helps to create new friendships and foster existing ones along the way.

You can also always shop online if you prefer to or are not in the area. They sponsor several events at their stores throughout the year, including Neighborhood Toy Store Day which takes place on the second Saturday in November. During this event, they spotlight the “Best Toys for Kids” while also giving back to the community that supports them.

At Tidepool Toys and Kid’s Ketch, you’ll find true neighborhood toy stores rooted in family and tradition, with exceptional choices and wonderful customer service. It all began with a family wanting fun and unique toys to play and learn by.

Both Tidepool Toys and Kids’ Ketch are open year-round and offer free gift wrapping at their Lewes and Fenwick locations.

For more information, please call each individual shop or go to their websites: www.tidepooltoys.com and www.kidsketch.com. They are also on Facebook. Kid’s Ketch, 132 2nd Street, Lewes, DE 19958 302-645-8448; Tidepool Toys: On the boardwalk: 98 Garfield Parkway, #104, Bethany Beach, DE 19930 302-539-TOYS (8697); and On the Coastal Highway: 100 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19940 302-581-0241.



Quilts Around the Bay Shop Hop
SAVE THE DATE!
Friday, April 23, 2021–
Sunday, May 2, 2021
Mon–Sat 10–5 • Sun 12–5



Mark Your Calendars for Quilts Around the Bay Shop Hop

Flowers Around the Bay!

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Become Inspired

Decorating, Entertaining and Living in the Early American Style

by Annice Bradley Rockwell

Shared Splendor

As the days become increasingly cold and crisp we often become even more grateful for the comforting warmth of home. There is something remarkably dear about coming home on a dark, chilly night to our snug spaces where we can be surrounded by pieces that contain a connection to the past and are still deeply loved.

Our home interiors are beautifully enhanced especially at this time of the year by early lighting that casts a glow of warmth upon all that it touches. Flickering candles in early hogscraper candlesticks or a crackling fire on the fieldstone hearth remind us that home is exactly where we are meant to be. And as we think upon the season of joy that awaits us just around the corner, we, as country homeowners now have a chance to infuse the splendor of the holidays into our dwellings as a way of celebrating a time of year that is indeed meant to be shared.

Glad Tidings

Preparing for the glad tidings of the season is a soulful and rewarding task. Putting our signature stamp on our arrangements of furniture is a way for us to happily create.



The Country Register

Nature’s hand can always be counted on to assist us in carving out an authentic look of early, country Christmas. Small evergreens tucked into primitive pieces such as painted firkins, rustic barrels or early splint baskets can be adorned with simple strands of soft white lights along with handcrafted or themed ornaments to add warmth to a once-dark corner of a room. Boughs of fresh greens along with red rose hips and dried cones can be tucked in and around pewter chargers atop a keeping room mantel or inside a step-back cupboard that has been touched by time. Groupings of brass candlesticks of various heights can be placed on an early sideboard in the tavern room and lit on evenings when friends and family come to gather together to enjoy a festive, homemade holiday meal. And whether our time is enjoyed this season in moments of solitude or in the bustling company of loved ones, our home is the backdrop that provides us with meaningful comfort, welcoming warmth and with the feeling that we can indeed be fulfilled when we honor our kindred connections to the past.

—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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A Farmer's Christmas

by Tammy Page

Farmers and their families’ might celebrate Christmas morning a little different than most families. The majority of families wake early in the morning, usually before dawn with children running into mom and dad’s bedroom and shake them until they drag themselves out of bed turning on lights so they can make it to the Christmas tree without stubbing a toe. But, farmers and their families have much to do before being able to sit while listening to the children sing Happy Birthday to Jesus and watch them tear open presents with wide eyes and squeals of excitement.

The morning chores on a farm come first before any of the festivities. Ours began very early as my husband and his father would get up each morning at 4:00 a.m. to bring in the 65 cows they milked two times a day. While we still slumbered under our warm blankets, he and his dad would milk 6 at a time in the stanchions of the old barn all the while feeding our black and white Holsteins their morning rations of beet pulp, corn and bean meal. After milking, it would be time to wash all the milkers and equipment, put out hay, and bottle feed any babies in the barn. There were always calves to feed!

The sun would be coming up over the fields about this time and the kids would be opening their sleepy little eyes with delight as they remembered it was Christmas morning. They would jump out of bed onto the cold floor, not waiting to put on slippers or a robe and run to my bedside jumping up and down with anticipation and yelling “get up mom, Santa has been here”.

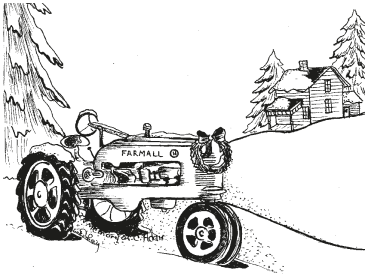
As my husband finished up with the morning chores at the barn, I reminded the kids that we could not open presents until their daddy was home. With groans, and frowns on their faces, I convinced them to crawl in bed with me until their dad got home. With lots of giggles, cuddles and even more wiggling, I tried to persuade them to stay in bed a little longer to see what Santa had left them under the tree.

Some Christmas’s they would have to wait a little longer because a calf might be sick or a cow might need doctoring. Other times, the weather would not cooperate and the road and drives would need to be plowed out just to get to the barn. When you have 4 family farm driveways to clear, it takes a lot more time. The clock would seem to almost slow to a stop when this happened. The kid’s eyes would light up as they thought they could hear the tractor and grader stopping at our house only to find out that they went on by to the next driveway. Finally, the truck could be heard pulling into its parking place and I would say “go ahead” and they would fly out of bed and run to their daddy telling him “Santa had come and that he needed to hurry to change out of his wet, milk-smelling clothes.

Our time together was very precious back then when we milked cows and ran a farm. We knew that at 4:00 that afternoon my husband and his dad would have to leave the festivities and start all over again, getting in way past dark like every other day of the year. You see, there is no “down time,” no “day off for holidays,” no “sick or vacation days” or trips out of town unless they are between the hours of 8-4. Farmers work an average of 16 hours a day filing silos, raking, mowing and baling hay, grinding feed and cleaning out stalls and even more hours during planting and harvesting season as they work the soil, fertilize, combine and chop silage to fill the silos.

On this one special holiday, the most special of all, a farmers steps are a little quicker, shortcuts might be made and cleaning out the stalls might be held off until tomorrow so there could be more time with the ones you love, for just a little longer on this blessed day.

—Tammy Page writes from her family farm in Indiana.





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Kissed Quilts

by Marlene Oddie

Quilting Around the Block

With quilt shows and market events cancelled, we’ve all been needing an excuse to see new ideas. Kathryn LeBlanc of www.dragonflyquiltshop.com and I both belong to a quilt designers group on Facebook. This is where Kathryn suggested that we conspire together to share designs on a block hop around the United States.

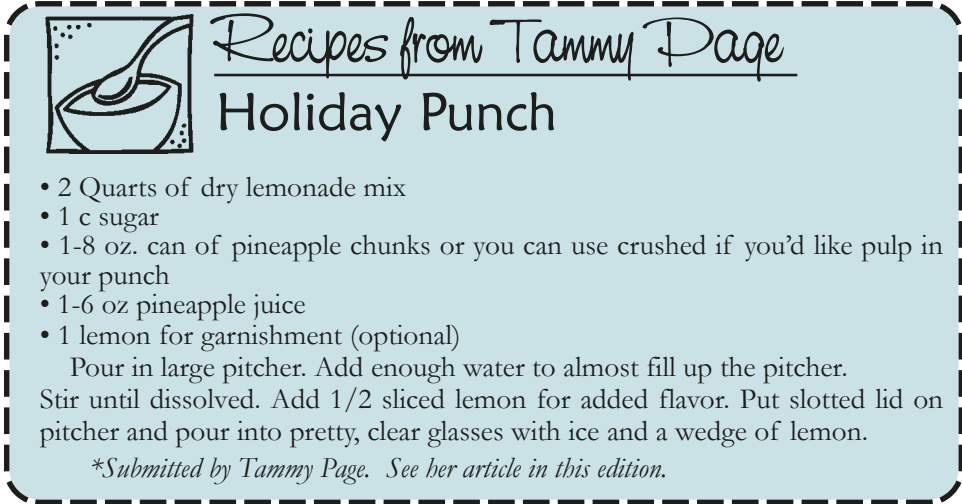
Each Sunday, a new 6” finished quilt block design is shared for free from one state. Each designer shares a bit about their state and how it inspired their block design.

Want to get in on the action? Join us at www.blockofthemo.com/us-tour/ or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/325504101782606/ for links to the featured designer each week. Shown here is the here is the week 3 - Washington block.

It is not too late to get in on this year-long event. Some designers have kits available and there is the opportunity to learn about new designers and all they have to offer. So zip back and forth across the country on a unique virtual voyage complete with complimentary 6” blocks, state and designer trivia and stories, giveaways and bonus blocks, too! Join us!

—Marlene Oddie (marlene@kissedquilts.com) is an engineer by education, project manager by profession and now a quilter by passion in Grand Coulee, WA, at her quilt shop, KISSed Quilts. She enjoys long-arm quilting on her Gammill Optimum Plus, but especially enjoys designing quilts and assisting in the creation of a meaningful treasure for the recipient. Patterns, kits and fabric are available at <http://www.kissedquilts.com>. Follow Marlene’s adventures via <http://www.facebook.com/kissedquilts> or <http://kissedquilts.blogspot.com>.





Recipes from Tammy Page
Holiday Punch

- 2 Quarts of dry lemonade mix
- 1 c sugar
- 1-8 oz. can of pineapple chunks or you can use crushed if you’d like pulp in your punch
- 1-6 oz pineapple juice
- 1 lemon for garnishment (optional)

Pour in large pitcher. Add enough water to almost fill up the pitcher. Stir until dissolved. Add 1/2 sliced lemon for added flavor. Put slotted lid on pitcher and pour into pretty, clear glasses with ice and a wedge of lemon.

*Submitted by Tammy Page. See her article in this edition.

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Life on Breezy Manor Farm

Working a Simple Cloth

My loom house has become my refuge, my safe place these last few months. Setting in my garden, surrounded by the sheep pasture, I can go in there, with ever present Jett, and let the world go away.

I hear birdsong, sheep baas, dog barking, and I tell my ears to tune out my neighbors tearing up and down the road. Cornflower blue sky lifts my spirits and white puffy clouds tease about rain, which hasn't happened much this past month. Birds in transit fly by the windows. Squirrels chirp. Roosters crow, hens cluck.

And Lady Mary sits center stage ready to go to work. A reminder to slow down. Enjoy the process. Barn looms have their own speed, their own rhythm and beauty.

For those unfamiliar with weaving I will give you a short lesson. On my looms each warp thread has to be measured out one at a time on a warping board, mine is 9 yards long. Currently Lady Mary is threaded at 284 ends. Once the warp is measured it is tied at intervals and taken to the loom where it is threaded thru the reed, one thread at a time, and then thru the harnesses in pattern. It takes a day to measure and thread, another day to beam or wind it upon the warp beam. Laced onto the cloth apron and then you are ready to weave.

There is a serenity in winding and counting threads. Time slows down. My mind centers down as well. Whispers from my ancestors, long ago weavers bring me joy. My hands follow the path forged by them at warping board and loom. In the same way mashed potatoes are a comfort food, these movements comfort my soul. Weaving a simple cloth.

Within the confines of the simple barn loom, my artistic psyche can still run wild in color and texture.

For a while this summer I wove Glad Rag rugs using fabrics from my quilt and clothing stash on different colored warp threads. I cut and sewed the strips together disregarding color and pattern. These rugs were amazing and fun! I giggled as I wove remembering where each strip came from—what quilt, shirt or dress. Some fabrics bought and never used. But now they all dance together in Glad Rags!

And my son will have a bit less to deal with when I am gone.... he will still have his hands full. I am a notorious pack rat of the highest order!

My current loom project is linsey woolsy cloth. I have been spinning Albert James, my Border Leicester wether, into a fine single yarn. Threading Lady Mary with linen thread, warp 9 yards long. It is a slow process. Then the weaving.

Once done, I will wash the cloth, hang it on the line. I have grown indigo plants this year and will make an indigo dye pot and dye the cloth blue, my favorite color.

The cloth is destined to be sewn into a shirt and vest for me to wear at next years' fiber art shows. Next year will be better, different, but better!

I just started my 71st trip around the sun. How in the hell did I get to 71?? Seems impossible, like I was 40 yesterday. And still livestock farming, pursuing fiber arts and refusing to grow up. With no one dropping in anymore, I give myself free days, spending all day in my pjs. Its fun and the sheep don't care what I wear as long as I have a full feed bucket in hand.

And that is something I would forget to do when I was younger—Play! Okay, I work hard farming alone, taking care of a 160-year-old farmhouse that is falling down, cleaning barns, gardening, fiber, caring for my over 50 animals and more. My days are long, starting before sunup and ending after midnight. But I make time to play every day, garner bunny, dog, kitty and sheep kisses and hugs. Sit in the swing and watch the clouds. Spend a lot of evenings watching fireflies, moonrise. Mixed up wild color combinations. Spun artsy yarns. Went 3 weeks without washing dishes—love paper plates and sandwiches!

Life is what you make it. Weave your simple cloth, enjoy the process. Smile as you work.

I am often reminded of my farmer grandpa's words when I am overwhelmed, "pray all you want, but get off your ass" a lot of wisdom in those simple words.

—Donna Jo Copeland is a 15th generation Farmeress and fiber artist who lives in Indiana. She raises sheep and rabbits to make yarn used to create her art. Breezy Manor, her farm, is located in Mooresville, IN. She also operates a shop located on the farm named "The Wool Shed." Her shop is Morgan County's only Farm Wool and Yarn Shop





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Breezy Manor Farm Recipes

Cinnamon Quick Bread

Perfect for chilly mornings.

Ingredients: ½ cup soft butter, 1 cup sugar, 1 egg, 1 cup buttermilk, 2 cups flour, 1 t. baking soda

Mix in bowl. Grease and flour a loaf pan, preheat oven to 350. Mix 1/3 cup sugar with 1 T. cinnamon. Pour about a third of batter into loaf pan. Sprinkle most of the cinnamon mixture over batter. Pour rest of batter into pan, sprinkle rest of cinnamon mixture. With a knife swirl the cinnamon into the batter making sure to go all the way to the bottom of the pan.

Bake about 50 minutes. Let cool a bit, turn out on a rack, slice and enjoy with some fresh butter.

**Submitted by Donna Jo Copeland, Farmeress at Breezy Manor Farm.
See her article in this edition for more information.*

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www.artsinbloomnj.com

Due to COVID-19, please check the web site the week of the tour for any changes to participating studios.



Arts In Bloom - November 28 & 29

by Arts In Bloom Staff

Salem County, NJ celebrates its artists on November 28 and 29 from 10am to 5pm with its 12th Annual Arts in Bloom free self-guided studio driving tour of its artists' studios. With 20 locations to visit and artists showcasing their work and studio spaces, this year's event is sure to please. The theme this year is Visions 20/20. What will you see? A wide variety of studios and galleries where you will meet the artists and get a unique look at their private workspaces. This is a wonderful opportunity for behind-the-scenes, one-on-one experiences with the artists. On the tour, you will see fine art, including painting, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, glass, wood, and more - there is something for all ages. Bring the children; they'll enjoy the Dig Into Art locations, sponsored by the Salem County Art League, where hands-on-art is the order of the day! Choose an area on the map in the Arts in Bloom map, available at many locations and on-line (www.artsinbloomnj.com) to see many kinds of art.



For the twelfth year in a row, artists from all over Salem County are coming together to share their studios with the public for a two-day, county-wide event. "Salem County Arts in Bloom." The event will span many locations throughout Salem County, NJ (towns such as Alloway, Canton, Carneys Point, Elmer, Elsinboro, Lower Alloways Creek, Mannington, Monroeville, Pedricktown, Pennsville, Pilesgrove, Pittsgrove, Salem, and Woodstown). You can see art and information on each participant at this website link: www.artsinbloomnj.com/portfolio

Chapter One Farms Creations has been busy getting ready for Arts in Bloom. Owner, Helene Paxton says: "The purpose of my painting is to raise money for the rescue horses. So during this time of isolation besides teaching, I have been painting. Chapter One Farms founded a charity, Chapter One Farms Equine Retirement, Inc. 501 (c) 3 to support retired horses and horses needing a second chance. One of the rescues named Barn Dodge has been a fabulous driving horse, calm and willing. A pacer, so cannot show, but so much fun to drive in any case and great for lessons.

The horses are typically Standardbreds which are rescued from PA kill pens. I coordinate efforts to rescue these beautiful horses with the Standardbred Retirement Foundation based in New Jersey. They don't all make it, but when they do, they have a happy life."

Her paintings are oil on board and/or canvas. They are reasonably priced and she can do commissions of your animals as well. She also sells art photography. (See top photo above.) Go to www.chapteronefarms.com and please click on "Support Us."

Sweet Things with Styles is located in Pittsgrove Township. Owner, Mary F. Styles Harbs creates whimsical art, jewelry, and paintings. Her gift/ice cream shop features art by local artists. She will be hosting Bill Futer (see second photo above of his art glass) and Emily Turin, an author and photographer. (third photo)

Mary's shop showcases local art, including pottery, sculptures, paintings, hand painted porcelain, jewelry, antiques and more. And, of course, she features fine candies, ice cream treats, and other delicious goodies. Find more information at: www.facebook.com/SweetThingsWithStyles

Take in the beauty of Salem County's landscape as you drive to any or all of the locations using the Arts in Bloom map to plan your visit. You may book a room at the local hotel or B&B to spend the weekend enjoying the quaint towns, local wineries and fine food. Bring the children; they'll enjoy the Dig Into Art locations where hands-on-art is the order of the day! Go to www.artsinbloomnj.com to get more information, sign up for future newsletters and plan your two day event!

–Read more about Arts in Bloom online and don't forget to take your copy of The Country Register along on the tour so you can stop at all the shops along your route!

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Helene Paxton, artist - fine art, mixed media, photography
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Karla Lehnhoff

A Cup of Tea with Lydia

by Lydia E. Harris

Holiday Gingerbread Teatimes

"Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"

What could be more inviting than the spicy aroma of gingerbread baking? Since young and old savor gingerbread, let's capture the gingerbread man and plan a fun and festive holiday par-TEA or two!



Children's Gingerbread Tea

When I learned the family temporarily staying next door bought a home in my son's neighborhood, I invited them along with my son's family for a gingerbread tea party. The dads were at work and already knew each other from childhood, but the moms and five children (ages 10 to 17) came to become acquainted.

The deck looked festive with red and green fabrics draped over the railing and tied with sashes. A fabric tablecloth with gingerbread men and teapot designs offered a cheery welcome. Red plates, Christmas teacups, and felt gingerbread men stickers added to the decor.

My grandkids' new Havenese puppy, Paisley Mae, also joined the outdoor party. She made a good icebreaker for the kids as they played with her in the backyard before teatime. Then Paisley joined us on the deck in her crate.

We started our teatime with a blessing. Then we enjoyed scones and toppings, fresh fruit, strawberry soup, individual bottles of sparkling cider, and herbal tea. Each table had its own pot of tea.

Next it was time to decorate and nibble gingerbread cookies. I had baked our family's favorite gingerbread recipe (recipe next page). Using three different-sized cookie cutters, I made enough gingerbread people so each person could have a family: a dad, mom, and two kids. Since both families have dogs, I also placed a Scottie dog on each plate.

The neighbor brought five small piping bags of homemade cream cheese frosting—one for each child. While they expressed their creativi-TEA with the frosting and sprinkles, I read the "Gingerbread Man" tale aloud. And then, just like the story ends, soon it was "snip, snap"—and the cookies were eaten. But those that got away whole were taken home to enjoy later.

Why not put on your favorite carols, brew a pot of tea, and create sweet and spicy memories with gingerbread teatimes? You'll be glad you did. Merry Christmas!

–Lydia E. Harris is a tea enthusiast, grandmother, and author of Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting and In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories .

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Book Review - Register to Win

Embroider the Psalms

Unique DIY Projects You Can Frame
By Michal Sparks

If embroidery is an activity you enjoy, you might be interested to learn that you can embroider on paper just as easily as you can on fabric. Yes, it's true!

This book will show you how and not only that, but you'll be able to stitch your creations directly onto the heavy card stock provided inside. Choose from twelve beautiful designs, each featuring an inspiring Scripture verse from the book of Psalms, easy-to-follow instructions, and perforated pages which easily detach for stitching. There are also convenient pockets to hold your supplies and projects in progress.

Embroider the Psalms is a delightfully unexpected way to express your faith while pursuing a hobby you love. Give your finished pieces away to bless someone's day or display them in your own home as a reminder of God's goodness.

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Shady Lawn Antique

by Dave Emigh

Restoring Antique Furniture And 'Listening' to Their Stories

It is hard to have a dialogue with a piece of furniture. Even though wood is an organic material, it does not have much of a vocabulary. However that does not mean a piece of furniture can't tell a story, especially if you are open to 'listening' for it.

There is really no chance of that happening on a project that only takes a couple of hours to complete. But on larger projects, which stretch out over several days, there is a good chance that a dialogue will begin to take place. When that happens, a 'relationship' gradually develops.

During our restoration projects, we often find things that perplex us. Recently I restored a farm table/desk. There were two boards nailed underneath the ends of the tabletop. Those boards fell exactly into the category of things that perplex us.

It seems to me that there were at least three possible reasons for those boards. They may have been added to stabilize the loose legs (but they were still loose). They may have been added because the tabletop had a crack in it (which it did). The third possibility is that they were added so that 1880's to 1900's hand-cranked kitchen tools, such as apple peelers or cherry pitters, could be clamped to the top. Thus the dialogue begins.

The thing is, unfortunately, we will never know exactly what prompted the addition of the boards. Whatever the reason for that repair/adaptation, it tells an additional story. It speaks to rural life a hundred years ago and even much earlier.

Those were the times when many farms barely produced enough to feed a family. The production of enough excess food to sell (to make money) was problematical if not impossible. Money was scarce to non-existent and everything was used well beyond the point of usefulness.

The table that I restored is emblematic of pieces that failed, were repaired/repurposed and then were used some more. That story is greater to our understanding of society/history than is the story of what specifically happened to the table itself.

In the case of the farm table, the additional boards posed the question that started 'my dialogue with the table,' and thus a relationship with the piece. Sometimes I pose the questions myself. This is particularly true with pieces of furniture that were handcrafted.

It is generally accepted that the transition from hand-built furniture to machine manufactured furniture began somewhere in the 1850s. Obviously some craftsmen continued to work with hand tools even as others began to use machinery.

I am always honored to have the opportunity to own, let alone, restore a handcrafted piece of furniture. I do not take this opportunity and/or responsibility lightly. The fact that a handcrafted piece of furniture has survived for over 170 years is amazing! Thus the dialogue begins as I ask myself what I could do today that would still be in existence 170 years from now?

I approach the restoration of a handcrafted piece of furniture with a very light hand. I strive to make my restoration efforts essentially invisible. There will be no stripping or sanding of their finish.

These pieces were fabricated with hand tools such as saws, planes and chisels. Their construction featured hand-cut joints, further strengthened with (animal) hide glue and perhaps a few screws and/or square nails. They were often finished with shellac, wax or a combination of both.

My restoration job begins with re-gluing loose pieces and replacing missing internal pieces such as drawer runners or stops. Then I enhance the original shellac finishes with techniques that are well short of 'refinishing' the piece. A coat of wax is applied and the piece is finished.

During these processes, I am standing in front of a workbench, working on the piece, just as the original craftsman was 170 years ago. When I am feeling the hand-planing marks that he left behind, I am 'in touch with him.'

A craftsman of the era would plane a board and then feel the surface. I know (without a doubt) that he would have asked himself if this felt true, level and smooth enough. At some point, he decided that it was good enough and moved on to the next step.



Morris County Historical Society at Acorn Hall

Founded in 1945, MCHS has operated Acorn Hall as a house museum since 1971. Nationally recognized for its original mid-19th century decorative and fine arts, Acorn Hall's recently restored exterior provides visitors an authentic Victorian Era experience.

In light of recent events, please contact MCHS for our latest schedule of historic house, exhibit tours and virtual offerings.

Cut From Different Cloth: Material Gains in Women's Opportunities

is the second in our exhibition series honoring the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, and focuses on the educational and professional advances of women between 1870 and 1930. Initially, work attainable by women often revolved around the needle, but from factory work to nursing, new professions and new technologies opened to women and expanded their role outside the home. The exhibit is available through early 2021.

Calling All Photographers: "Historic Morris County," a juried photo contest celebrating the rich and diverse history of Morris County, is open for submission through April 16, 2021.

www.MorrisCountyHistory.org

Find us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram @MCHSAcornHall
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Wit and Wisdom

by Cheryl Potts

The Pesky Squirrel

Sometimes life has its irritants. Mine, is in the form of a pesky squirrel running loose in either the basement or attic. It skitters across the floor over my head at night and evades the "have a heart" trap in my basement. Miraculously, it has cleaned the peanut butter and sunflower seeds completely off the trap without getting caught, twice. I thought I was smarter than the average pesky squirrel. Apparently not.

Living in an old farmhouse has its disadvantages. The stone foundation is so forgiving...critters dig their way into the basement and from there have access anywhere. A cat is not an option. A rat trap does not work, and now, even a trap meant to safely remove them alive is under achieving.

Though life has its "pesky squirrels," don't let them get you down. We can overcome those little stressors by being scripture smart. "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." Repeat scripture over and over, honestly, it brings comfort and peace. Try it. Blessed are the irritations of life that bring the irrigations of God.

—If you enjoy reading articles from the Wit and Wisdom Writers you may also enjoy the books authored by the group. Contact the authors at: witandwisdomwriters@gmail.com.



*: Snowy *: Days *: *

Now I run my hand over that board and agree with his assessment. How amazing it is that I can 'hear' a craftsman's (170 year old) question, which was undoubtedly never verbalized. Further, that I agree with his (internal) answer all of these years later?

I am just like everyone else who wanders through an antiques shop. I will look at pieces of furniture and think that I like this piece but I do not care for that piece. Depending on the day, my judgment might be based upon the styles, the functions or the appearances of the pieces.

It is only when a piece is in my workshop that the dialogue and, yes, the relationship begins to build. As noted, that relationship might be with the piece itself or with the craftsman who built the piece.

There are two parts to the antiques business that I find extremely rewarding. The first is the opportunity to restore a piece of furniture to give it a second life. The other reward happens in those fleeting moments when a dialogue begins and a relationship is developed.

—Dave Emigh and his wife Jill are the owners of Shady Lawn Antiques in Walla Walla, WA, perfectly located in the 1870s wood frame creamery buildings that Dave's great-grandfather purchased in 1897. A professionally trained woodworker, Dave and his son, Nick, specialize in the restoration of oak furniture. Shady Lawn, in its 25th year, has become a regional destination for oak furniture but is also known for a well-curated display of country, rustic, and rare and unique "small" antiques. Glimpses of the ever-changing Shady Lawn inventory can be seen on Facebook and at www.shadylawnantiques.com.



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Giving Thanks in a New Way

Be Creative This Holiday Season

by Carol Nixon

Patience will be or not be a main ingredient in the stuffing this year. What the weather will bring in November could result at more social distancing for Thanksgiving. Tables will be waiting for empty chairs to be pulled out, but will they be filled with people? Will frozen turkeys be stocked at supermarkets? There is always an alternative to boost the moral.

Maybe families and relatives can't be together, but celebration can be a phone call to all. Thrifty sewers can make turkey masks. Have Thanksgiving outside with tables scattered with the anticipation of eating turkey tacos. Children can create greeting cards to send to family not near. A new family tradition can be started with just mom, dad, and children at their own homes. Have turkey for breakfast with pancakes. Watch holiday movies. Turkey salad sandwiches can be the main course for dinner. Grandparents don't have to be orphaned. They can share the moments available by new grandparent tablets.

Christmas may also have to be celebrated in unique ways. Covid 19 Holidays can be exciting by thinking outside the box. For example, in Vermont there is dogsledding for the entire brood. In the south, Holiday meals and gatherings can take place outside with social distancing.

Don't let the dream disappear because of one awful year. Be creative. Give thanks in advance that a cure found. Be Happy!

—Carol Nixon A.K.A. Auntie Ca'h. "Children are our lifeline and writing in a diary to my nephew, is inspirational, and my reason for writing short stories. My persona is a 66 yr. young still dressing in blue jeans and sweatshirts with a bobbing blonde ponytail.

Sugar Cookies

1½ cups butter or margarine
3 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla
3 tablespoons milk
5½ cups flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt

Warm butter to room temperature, then cream in large mixing bowl. Add sugar and beat until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time. Beat well after each egg. Add vanilla and milk and mix until well combined.


In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. Gradually add to creamed mixture and beat until blended.

Form soft dough into four balls, wrap in wax paper and refrigerate overnight.



Preheat oven to 375° F. Warm dough to room temperature, then, with a rolling pin, roll out on floured counter or board to ¼-inch thickness. Cut into shapes with cookie cutters or rim of glass (dip cutters or glass in flour prior to each cut). Lay on baking sheet (leave space between cookies). Bake eight to ten minutes. Cool on cookie rack. Decorate!





Christmas Tacos
Pear and Pomegranate Tacos

Ingredients:

- 1 (10-count) package Small Flour Tortillas or 2 (12-count) packages Mini Stand & Stuff Tortillas
- 2 large cooked chicken breasts, thinly sliced or shredded
- 1 batch 5-Ingredient Pear Pomegranate Salsa
- ¼ cup crumbled cotija cheese

optional garnishes: fresh lime wedges, extra chopped fresh cilantro

Instructions:


- Prepare in advance: 5-Ingredient Pear Pomegranate Salsa (see below)
- If using the small flour tortillas, lay one tortilla out on a serving plate. Place a few slices of chicken in a line down the center of the tortilla. Then add a few spoonfuls of salsa and a sprinkle of cotija cheese on top of the chicken. Serve immediately.
- If using the mini stand & stuff tortillas, arrange them on a serving dish. Place 1 or 2 pieces of chicken in each tortilla boat, then add in a spoonful of salsa and a sprinkle of cotija cheese. Serve immediately.

5-Ingredient Pear Pomegranate Salsa

- 2 fresh pears (any kind), cored and diced
- 1 fresh pomegranate, seeded
- half a red onion, diced
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro leaves
- juice of half a lime

Instructions: Toss all ingredients together until combined. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve immediately, or store in a sealed container for up to 2 days.

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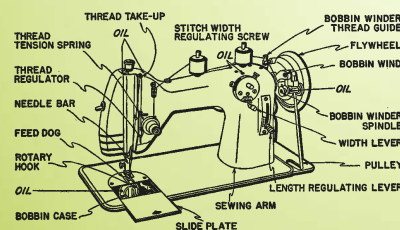


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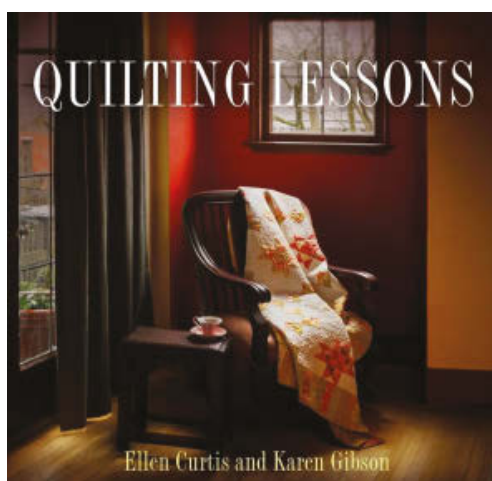
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—Gayle Cranford writes from her home in Pennsylvania where she enjoys golf, mahjong, quilting, and spending time with her family. She writes about her life memories and is an avid contributor to her local papers with letters to the editor.

