Welcome to sunny May and June. We hope you enjoy getting outside and visiting the many shops advertising in this issue. We have fun exploring the shops and showing special events that are summarized in the Event Listings - make your calendar now so you don’t forget to attend any of these great events.

The May-June timeframe seems to be full of gift giving events. Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, weddings, graduations, teacher gifts, and the list goes on. Please remember to visit the shops advertising in this issue so the shop owners can help you find that perfect gift for your special someone (and don’t forget yourself - while you are shopping). Or if you can’t decide what to give, most of the advertising shops offer gift certificates. So spread the news of your favorite shop by giving a gift certificate. If you know of a great shop that isn’t advertising with us, but should be, please email us with that shop’s name, number and address so we can send them a copy of the paper.

Please make a point to let the shop owners know that you saw their ad in our paper. It helps people to become regular shoppers and the shop owners have placed ads. When they hear from you that they saw their ad, they realize that their advertising is well placed and worth continuing. We appreciate your help with this effort. Plus, these shops and events that advertise with us depend on your support to remain in business. We want to thank our readers, for well being readers and shoppers. We also want to thank our advertisers who continue to make this paper possible. Thank you for reading this issue. Feel free to pick up a second copy and share it with a friend. Our July/August issue will be out right around July 4 — just in time for you to take issue with that you are on your summer vacations and visit some shops along your way.

Happy May & June to you and enjoy using our publication as your guide to the best shopping events and entertainment. Enjoy Shopping!
I realize not every lady embraces being a livestock farmer in her mid 70s. It is not that I am not passionate about the two certainties—if something goes wrong, it’s my fault, if something goes right it’s dumb luck. And I have enjoyed plenty of both. My city bachelor brothers are lining up to change my life. At our last family dinner, it was announced that we needed to sell our home and move to a smaller place. This is what we want to do, but we need to realize I would like this one’s first day. I do understand it’s hard for family not to understand lifestyle choices outside the box. They mean well. And I am sure others like me are having these conversations. But “we hang on, redneck, find love, passion and adventure.”

A dear friend, Penny, who is 15 years younger, gave me the honest advice—when I’m 75 I won’t find myself in any of these moments because my great grandchildren will be 25 years old. She didn’t die the entire time we were together. Most times when she was over, she would join my daughter at the piano to help her finish. As soon as she had done the piano, she would sit down and read my garden. Spring is coming, so now I have house parties. My bird’s graceful motions in changing course. I slip into a flutter and then catch myself. When it is indeed time to fly, they take off with a deliberate and passionate trill.

Finding Love In The Mourning Doves
by Kerri Alden Bowman

One reason I like to write these articles is to remind myself of what is important. They force me to check in with my life. I need to stop and notice my blessings. I need to stop and notice the present tense. Sometimes I get caught-up in my own way just by being grateful for having a home. There is much to be said for being dedicated to what needs to be done. It is when all the details begin gelling that I consciously slow down. If I didn’t, I might forget that simply being alive is a precious gift. For underneath all that accumulated minutia of living.

As I reflect on the relationship that my parents and I have, I can clearly see the stubbornness to save some time (and seam ripping) by absorbing her lessons. Her tiny, don’t pin it, I wing it”. After finishing her laughing, she again, re-taught me the patience. She patiently waited several more minutes for mine. The waitress reappeared and explained that she was especially busy... she would have to separately bring mine... scallops, mashed potatoes and green beans... because I had done.

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Because Joanne is a substitute teacher here, it took us over a year to decide that we would use this space to share some of Daily living tips. The wait was well worth it because the results were extraordinary. As I write this, Joanne is at the shop finishing up a lovely spring project. The Tulip Season quilt was almost complete and ready to be quilted. The Tulip Season quilt was almost complete and ready to be quilted. The Tulip Season quilt was almost complete and ready to be quilted. The Tulip Season quilt was almost complete and ready to be quilted.

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Mom's Really Quick Deviled Eggs
by Donna Jo Copeland

For our last family dinner, we took our children to our farm. It was a special occasion. While I was cooking, I had a mini-me in my mind because she was a baby, she’d have to be by my side and had taken on a lot of my short-fused moments and personal traits. We loved to base, we in our jammin’ late in the mornings and snuggle in a blanket watching cartoons or a favorite tv show. We were always happy to help me do dishes, fold laundry, vacuum and dust. She has spent many nights staying at our bed and break sets ending up sleeping with me as we pushed paper up to the guest bedroom. This is what we want to do, but we need to realize I would like this one’s first day. I do understand it’s hard for family not to understand lifestyle choices outside the box. They mean well. And I am sure others like me are having these conversations. But “we hang on, redneck, find love, passion and adventure.”

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What Connects Us? Recipes!

by Julie Pirtle

but didn’t. Couldn’t. I wondered why I cherish them. I went to the ‘web’ for an answer. Food. They are about sharing. They connect us. My mother’s handwritten recipes hand-carved in the salt shaker?”

she answered, “A Cookbook.”

because I was “too impatient” and never followed a recipe correctly. (Blame the many cooking contests, despaired of teaching me to cook)

of seven children and only four years old when her mother died. She never spoke of it, but I know now that conditions in her home were not good after that.

Grandma dropped out of school in 7th grade. She didn’t have clothes or shoes to wear. I feel sorry for her and for my great-grandmother who was my youngest. You see, my fondest memory of her is that she took me shopping before each school year and purchased any outfit I wanted to have.

Those outfits were special to me for many reasons back then. But the knowledge of her personal history behind them is lost to me now. Today this woman taught me many too many things to share here. But the one thing I most value from her was her fortunate.

Grandma E showed her love to me in the way she fed her family. Every family member has at least one quilt or afghan that she made for us. She always came to our home and took us to the grocery store in her car. She taught me that “Quilting was always fun and ended with chocolate milk shakes that I got to have in the living room... as long as I kept a secret from MY MOM!”

As an adult, I have fond memories teaching her how to make noodles and me teaching her how to use a pasta machine to cut them. (She thrilled not to have to make them by hand anymore.)

The older she got the more quilts she made. One of my earliest memories is sitting under her sewing table with my toys. She would teach me to make quilt blocks in the shape of a heart.

My mother gave me so many gifts. She taught me of singing. One of my earliest memories is sitting under her sewing table with my toys. She would teach me to make quilt blocks in the shape of a heart.

Mother taught me how to keep a meal a home, even if only my own. I can’t own that my own mother is always that way, but I do know that those skills I learned from her have provided me with the care she has today. Organizing and helping others is my passion and my livelihood.

I had the knowledge to keep such a successful and fulfilling business that I enjoy.

It was a good fortune for me to have so many women in my family. The impact they had (even my candy loving Grandma H!) is obvious when I watch my own daughters as they mother their helpers. It’s not the same as the women over their shoulders but it’s the same

Happy Mother’s Day to those who’re lost, those who hold us up and those who love us unconditionally. It’s time to take a moment to acknowledge the gifts they share and how they do it.

Cmron. We’ve got this. I know we do!

- Julie Pirtle is a Professional Organizer and owner/guru of Clutter Happens in Mass. To schedule a free consultation, call 413-593-8438 or email JLPirtle@gmail.com. For free tips, ebooks and webinars visit www.clutterhappens.com.
Candor, Endicott

Town and Country Cooking

Cruciferous Cooking

What is Brussels sprouts, broccoli and bok choy in common, besides being tasty and nutritious? For starters, all are related to cabbage, a cruciferous, fiber-rich vegetable that may be served raw or cooked, depending on the season. For spring, why not leave the cabbage behind and go for other forms of cruciferous vegetables.

Brussels sprouts currently are enjoying a huge surge in popularity, mostly because we've finally learned that they are much better baked than boiled. When tossed in oil and then oven-roasted with walnuts just to the point of caramelization, they become a sort of ‘vegetable candy’. Who could have imagined?

Broccoli and bok choy have become somewhat inseparable on modern menus. In the recipe for Garlic Roasted Broccoli, two forms of garlic – minced and powdered – help provide the appropiateness of the pairing. The more exotic, Saitouti Bro Choy is a quick, savory take on Chinese cabbage. Soy sauce, garlic and ginger give this dish distinctly Asian flavor.

Try one or all three to satisfy your intake of cruciferous vegetables.

Garlic Roasted Broccoli

- 1¼ pounds Brussels sprouts, washed and thoroughly dried
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 tsp minced garlic
- 1 tsp white or black pepper
- Place flowers in large bowl and thoroughly toss with oil and minced garlic. In separate dish, combine salt and black pepper. Sprinkle seasonings over broccoli and toss until all seasonings adhere to broccoli. Scatter on large, rimmed baking sheet and bake at 425 degrees for 25-30 minutes, or until browned. Shake pan halfway through cooking time.

For the menu, here's one idea lemonade iced tea (see recipe), croissants filled with brown sugar and anise seed, and watermelon slices. Once the half slice of watermelon is cut, you'll left with a smiling end and a smiling face. For desserts, make “watermelon” cookies from your favorite sugar cookie or shortbread recipe, but replace the dough light red. Roll out the dough, cut circles, and then cut the circles in half. Press mint chocolate chips into each slice before holding.

Dear Mom

In 1908 Anna Jarvis, the originator of Mother’s Day, held a memorial service for her mother on May 12, 1908 to honor her for all the work she had done throughout her lifetime. Before long other states joined by setting aside time in honor of their mothers. So, in 1914, it was only natural President Roosevelt would designate the second Sunday in May as Mother’s Day. And from that day to the present day Mother’s Day is alive and thriving.

So much so, that Anna Jarvis became so frustrated with the commercialization of the holiday, that she wanted it discontinued. Unfortunately, she passed before she could get her wish. And, perhaps Anna had a point. The day was to celebrate the greatness of our mothers, and not be spoiled by offerings of flowers, jewelry etc. If we want to honor our mothers today, how would we do so if keeping Anna’s original concept in mind. Pondering over this challenge, I came up with the idea of a hand-written note. Hand-written because it makes a more personal but if crisis reopened then, a type-written note will suffice.

In that, long of course, you would express your love for her, and how she sacrificed unconditionally for you. Perhaps you would thank her for all the time she spent with you, teaching you ways to become independent, so that one day you could be on your own. In defending you if you needed it, and for being the glue that held your family together even to this day.

If she is an active senior, you might want to compliment her on how you administer her against the activities she engages in, and takes pleasure in each new day. If you are beginning to spend more time with her, then you and husband need to start discussing, and let her know. She might enjoy the laughter it will bring. These are only suggestions to help you get started.

As a mother I can’t think of anything that would be more meaningful, more entertaining than to receive a heartfelt note from my adult child. So, perhaps this is the year to let your mother know how much she means to you. Don’t assume because she knows it, there is no reason to tell her, because you may be highlighting something she never would have guessed you noticed or even reached to.

I would like to end with a light-hearted quote by an unknown author. It goes like this:

“If at first you don’t succeed, try doing it the way Mom told you in the beginning.”

Remember Mom knows best!

Chef's Notes: I am a trained paralegal, who favors her writing on interesting facts and interesting foods. She is a Master Food Publisher with a few axes to grind, teasing and starting recipes. She lets you do the tasting.

From Lydia’s Recipe File

Lemonade Iced Tea

For sweeter, change the citrus juice with water and dip the sugar in.

Combine:

- 4 cups brewed tea (Use 5
- 1 cup cold water
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- Mint and/or lemon slices

Mix and chill. Serve as ice or with lemon slices.

Makes 5 cups. Chill glasses in the freezer until ready to use.

*Submitted by Lydia Harris. See article in this edition.

A Cup of Tea with Lydia

Watermelon Smiles

My face was as red as the strawberries I picked. By afternoon, my back ached, berry juice stained my hands, and my throat felt parched. I wanted to quit. Just then my father stepped by the field with a large, skilled watermelon, and cut a thick slice for me. What a refreshing treat! That was more than fifty years ago. But whether your looking for a sweet, or a savory, the following watermelon is rich in flavor and juicy sweetness of watermelon. So, from decorations to feasted foods, let watermelon seal the stone at your summer BBQ.

For a casual party:

Enjoy an outdoor party in your yard, or transport your party to the park. Add a piece to your menu with egg salad, watermelon-sliced candies and watermelon-print fabric that I sewed into a tablecloth. Or let kids make watermelon paper placemats to add to the decor. Draw a half-slice of watermelon on white construction paper. Then let kids color the green mold and red flesh with crayons or markers. Add black oval dots for eyes. Or buy a white paper tablecloth for kids to draw on.

For the menu, here’s one idea lemonade iced tea (see recipe), croissants filled with brown sugar and anise seed, and watermelon slices. Once the half slice of watermelon is cut, you’ll left with a smiling end and a smiling face. For desserts, make “watermelon” cookies from your favorite sugar cookie or shortbread recipe, but replace the dough light red. Roll out the dough, cut circles, and then cut the circles in half. Press mint chocolate chips into each slice before holding.

After the cookies are baked and cooled, frost the round edges with green frosting.

Enjoy your party to the fullest, and enjoy the weather, and the food, and the company, and the laughter unique to outdoor parties.

*Submitted by Lydia Harris. See article in this edition.

Patchwork Angels Quilt Shop

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Ellisburg

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Gardening Traditions

We often want to give gifts on special days, such as birthdays, Christmas, Hanukkah, and/or anniversaries. But who doesn’t enjoy receiving a little treat “just because”? It can be just because someone is a good friend, or just because we want to let a loved one know how much he or she means to us.

The gift doesn’t have to be large or expensive – as the saying goes, it’s the thought that counts. So, if your sister likes candles, buy her one at the little gift store in town and she’ll think of you every time she lights it. If your best friend loves chocolate, pick up a special bar or box the next time you stop at a chocolate shop. When the holidays, she’ll think about what a great friend she has. How about a nice tin of tea, or a sign that declares, “I’d rather be fishing.”

If you’re not sure what to buy for one of your favorite people, ask a salesperson for help. Small local stores are treasure troves of great advice when it comes to buying the perfect something. If your uncle likes fishing, they may be able to steer you to a box of lures shaped like fish, or a sign that declares, “I’d rather be fishing.”

Many of our local mom and pop shops are hidden gems full of the most unique and special items. Even if you don’t need to buy something at the moment, it’s fun to walk around, chat with the owners and get ideas. One day, when it’s need of a gift, something they may have been perfect thing. Or, someone else may mention a particular present, and you can send them to the right place.

Gifting can be all about love and appreciation. It doesn’t have to be congratulatory or obligatory, and it’s more fun to choose something fluid. Next time you see a scarf that Aunt Betty might like, pick it up and give it to her right away. There’s no bad time to receive a present.

Sue Baldani lives in New Jersey and writes articles for various publications across the country. You can contact her at susanbaldani@gmail.com or through her website at www.susanbaldani.com.

Gifting All Year Long

Mother Says Famous Last Words

If you don’t stop, your face will freeze like that. I only have 2 hands. Let’s make it better. Because I said so. Because I’m your mother. Go ask your father.

Eat it. It’s good for you. Did you put that in your mouth? You don’t know where it’s been.

Don’t care who started it. Get your hair out of your face. Yell that. It’s music.

Clean your plate. There are starving children. Money doesn’t grow on trees. If all your friends jumped off a cliff would you do it too? Don’t ever forget that I love you. You’ll always be my Darby.

Call your mother. Your mother.

www.susanbranch.com
Mother’s Day Trivia by Rachel Green

• During the 1600s, England celebrated “Mothering Sunday;” Servants would visit their families and bring cakes to their mothers. This custom was called “going a mothering.” Each mother received a “sinnett” (five hour) cake. Mothers would then give a blessing to their children.

• Chinese family names are often formed with a sign that means “mother” as a way of honoring their maternal ancestors.

• George Washington has been quoted as saying, “My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her.”

• Native American women have been honored with the name “Life of the Nation” for their gift of motherhood to tribes.

• Eve is credited in the Bible with being the “Mother of All the Living.”

• Ancient Egyptians believed that “Ise” was the mother of all cats on earth and that cats were sacred animals.

• Buddha said, “As a mother, even at the risk of her own life, loves and protects her child, so let a man cultivate love without measure toward the whole world.”

• Mother Goose is one of the most popular of all authors for children. Her books and stories have been loved for several generations.

• Some African tribes call themselves “Maharis,” which means “Mother-hoods.”

• Nine years after Mother’s Day was made an official holiday, Anna Jarvis, who had campaigned so hard to make it possible, filed a lawsuit to try to stop the over-commercialization of Mother’s Day. She lost her case. Today, cards, letters, candy, and dinners out mark Mother’s Day for most families. It has been Anna’s hope that the day was one of reflection and quiet prayer by families thanking God for all that mothers had done.

--Rachel Green owns Grandma’s Attic, a traditional quilt shop in Dallas, Oregon. A quilter historian, she gives talks on women’s work, the role of women in American history, and their connection to fabrics. She has written several books and patterns and runs Grandma’s Quilt Club, a monthly quilt class where participants article blocks, learn about quilt history and make new friends. Learn more at http://grandmasatticquilting.com

Free Embroidery Pattern

Let Your Dreams Blossom

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.

For more fun and creative inspiration visit www.JacquelynneSteves.com

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I didn’t get you a birthday gift. You are so hard to shop for.

You say that as if you don’t know where the quilt shop is.

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