

Educational Tidbit for January 2021

JANUARY MUSINGS

Welcome to the year 2021. I hope this tidbit finds you well and that you have a fantastic and prosperous year.

Every January people make new year resolutions, but I stopped doing that a long time ago. This year, however, I resolve the following: Treat everyone with kindness and love my neighbor.

I don't know about you, but I am so glad to see 2020 in the rearview. One saying I take to heart these days is from Carl Sandburg:

“I tell you the past is a bucket of ashes, so live not in your yesterdays, not just for tomorrow, but in the here and now. Keep moving and forget the postmortems; and remember, no one can get the jump on the future.”

To keep myself busy and challenged, I have subscribed to two block of the month (BOM) quilts, and a bird of the month from “The Flock”. Each month I get a pattern and some fabric from the Fat Quarter Shop for a “Mystery Designer Quilt”, and from Missouri Star Quilt Company “All Stars”. From The Flock, each month I get a laser-cut bird-of-the-month package.

In addition to the bird-of-the-month, Joan Ford, who runs the company “Hummingbird Highway” sends out weekly email newsletters called “Good Migrations”. She is a hoot and is so very talented. Her work is diverse and wonderful. Some tiny things she has sewn involve ½-inch squares. She does cross stitch as well and has developed a method that includes cross stitch in the construction of quilt blocks. She has a presence on Facebook as well.

I have been sewing up the blocks for the BOM quilts each time they arrive, but I have been squirreling away the bird-of-the-month packages. I plan to tackle those after the two BOM quilt tops are finished. I want to savor sewing each pieced bird. Then I get to figure out what to do with each one. I may put them together in a quilt and/or make a bag or two.

All 9 setting hens have been completed and sewn and sashed together for the quilt I featured back in November. This quilt will be one for myself and I plan to use it as a dining table cover. The hens make me smile and I will enjoy looking at them while drinking my morning coffee, and while eating meals. I was sidetracked by Christmas sewing but I finally got back to my cute chickens. I am very pleased with the quilt top, and now it needs quilting and binding.

My husband and I share a craft room, however, during the pandemic, I moved my small sewing machine out into the living room and use that area as my sewing space. This allows my husband to use the craft room for his hobbies. We each need our own space, especially as we are locked inside for the duration. I have been using my regular sewing desk as a piling system for fabric, quilt patterns, quilt books, and bits and bobs. The last week of December, I was bitten by the organization bug and organized all my patterns and books. Next, I need to tackle the mounds of fabric that seems to be reproducing like bunny rabbits. Maybe I will tackle that next month?

Currently, I am sewing blocks for a log cabin quilt. I have never made a log cabin quilt before, so I thought I would try it out. My next quilt project is cut out and waiting to be sewn up. It involves Kaffe Fassett charm squares sewn into blocks involving a school of very colorful fish. I can hardly wait to get going on that one.

While perusing Amazon, I saw a cute T-Shirt with three sewing gnomes. The print said the following:

“Oh the weather outside is frightful, and this fabric is so delightful;
since we’ve no place to go, let us sew, let us sew, let us sew.”

I think I shall use this as my new anthem. Stay safe and stay healthy. I will be back next month. God bless you all.