



In the Garden Shed Shops
2020 Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428
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News from the Nest

Spring 2010 Edition Free~Please take one!

For the latest happenings at
Birds of a Feather, visit our website:
www.2birdsofafeather.com

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Hello my Friend,

It's a new year. I am excited for the new beginning: New treasures to find, new friends to meet, new inspirations to come (I hope!). I hope that you, too, can share in this hopefulness for 2010 and look forward to the good things that are sure to come to pass in this new year.

I loved a quote that I heard on PBS the other day. They were discussing the last Kentucky Derby and the very unlikely, long shot winner "Mind that Bird." (Love that name!) When the jockey was asked what he did to make the horse perform so well, he responded, "I rode him like he was a champion." I thought about that and realized that a little card that I have on display that simply says, "Expect", is really so powerful. Expect that you will succeed, expect that you will find love in your life, expect that you will enjoy good health, expect that you will be able to create that painting that you have had bouncing around in your head for months.

Another great quote that I love is "Dream about the life that you would like to live ~ and then live it!" You must take the steps to make it happen...whether it is saving, stepping outside of your comfort zone, learning new skills...take that leap and pray for guidance and strength.

This March I am celebrating just that kind of leap--I dreamt of living on the Central Coast and having a little antique store, and now with your help I am living that dream and celebrating 10 years of Birds of a Feather! Thank you for helping me make that dream come true!

Come celebrate this anniversary with me on March 6-7, 2010.

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I Love You

Now that is something you can never hear too often! A heartfelt, "I Love You" is such a welcome message whether it be from a friend, a parent or child, grandchild or your true love! Right now at Birds of a Feather we are celebrating these expressions of love in a big way with hearts and flowers all over the store ~ and candy too!

A collection of old valentine cards is featured with everything for charming handmade greetings to lovely old fold-out cards and other sentimental forms of saying "I love you".

Our creative corner is sporting lots of new Valentine ribbons, old keys, locks, heart shaped quilt pieces, Valentine rubber stamps, old paper doilies, charms and who knows what will pop up next? I love finding things for this section and then hearing what you envision happening with them!

We are always looking for quality antique pieces for the store. If you have treasures that you would like to sell, just call Bonnie at the store ~ 805.927.2391.



South Coast Historical Society's Antique Show and Sale

Come celebrate Valentine's Day at this charming antique show! It is held at the South County Regional Center in Arroyo Grande. This is a 2 day show and the volunteers there provide a lovely lunchroom with soup, sandwiches and desserts, and there are friendly, quality dealers with a wide variety of treasures for sale. Please plan to attend ~ I'll be in my same 'ol booth #10.

Saturday, February 13, 10-6, Sunday, February 14, 10-4

Old English White Ironstone

Ever since Martha Stewart did a feature in her magazine on these wonderful old pieces, they have been *really* hard to find. I recently had the good fortune to purchase an extensive collection of large serving pieces including coffee servers, pitchers, bowls, covered dishes and tureens. Made in the late 1800's, this sturdy ceramic ware was made to be serviceable every day ware and because of that, many of these pieces have survived in good condition. The simple patterns and all white glazes blend well with most any style of dishes as accent or serving pieces.

Remnants of the Past Antique Show

April 24, 2010

Dana Powers Barn in Nipomo, CA

More details to come, but put it on your calendar ~
it is a NOT TO MISS event!

I recently toured a friend's fabulous home filled with his amazing collections and when we finished I asked him what was his favorite item out of all his collections. He thought for a moment and said, "Well, that would be hard to say. I like things not just for what they are, but for the place and time where I found the piece, the person that I bought it from ~ the whole experience." And I realized that it is so true...the things that I love too, are not just for the things alone, but for the memories, or the story, or for the fact that it is from someone special to me. My hope that the things that you adopt from my little store bring you those same warm feelings of joy, not just for the item itself, but for the experience of the day in Cambria and the happy memory that it evokes.

Ribbon, Ribbon and More Ribbon!

Some companies are cutting back on new merchandise to offer for Spring 2010, but not the ribbon companies!! I am happy to report that one new shipment just arrived and there are 7 more on the way! Such cute Valentine and Easter designs, beautiful new fabrics and amazing color collections! My favorite ~ lovely French ribbons ~ are really special this time and I am like a kid at Christmas as these boxes are arriving! Hope you like them too ~ come take a look...some are for wrapping, some for sewing, some for decorating and some just to add to your stash! (smile)

Calendar

We are posting our calendar for most of 2010 so you can mark the dates on your personal calendars and join us for
FUN!FUN!FUN!

Saturday-Sunday, January 29-30
Cambria Art and Wine Festival

Saturday-Monday, February 13-15
President's Day 3 day Weekend

Saturday-Sunday, February 13-14
**South County Historical Society's
Antique Show**

Sunday, February 14
Valentine's Day

Monday-Friday, March 1-5
Store closed to prepare for:

Saturday-Sunday, March 6-7
**10th Anniversary
Spring Open House**

Sunday, March 14
Daylight Savings Time starts!

Wednesday, March 17th
St. Patrick's Day

Saturday, March 20th
First Day of Spring

Sunday, April 4th
Easter Sunday

Saturday, April 24th
**Remnants of the Past
Antique Show in the barn in Nipomo**

Sunday, May 9th
Mother's Day

Friday-Monday, May 29-31
Memorial Day Weekend

June 1-September 6th
Birds of a Feather now open 7 days a week!

For the latest happenings at
Birds of a Feather, visit our website:
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10th Anniversary of Birds of a Feather!

Can you believe it? Ten years! As I mentioned in my letter on page 1, this is a dream fulfilled and I do not ever take for granted the fact that you, my dear customer and friend, are responsible for making it all happen!

My Spring Open House on March 6-7 will be the celebration of these 10 years and I hope that you will join me for the fun! I have several special things planned (think prizes) and some special guests are invited. Maybe our desserts will be a little fancier and I'll wear my 20 minute shoes (as Oprah says) instead of my usual comfortable ones! A flower in my hair? Maybe. A fancy outfit? Perhaps. But I will definitely be wearing a big happy smile because I am so grateful to be able to do something that I love to do ~ isn't that a blessing? I drive to work every day along the beautiful California coastline, spend the day in my cozy little shop with lovely people visiting me all day ~ what a lucky girl I am! God has given me the good health to be able to continue doing this work that I love and He continues to give me the courage go forward and the inspirations to create new things for the store.

My vision for my store is to have things that I love myself, things that I would put in my own home. That is always the guiding premise when shopping for inventory and so far it has worked well for me. Another bonus is that I can sell it with enthusiasm and display it with pride. The other thing that is important to me is to have items in all price ranges. I have always lived on a budget, and I remember how frustrating it was to go into a store that I loved and not be able to buy a single thing to remember that store by. I really don't care as much how much you spend in my store, but more importantly, that you find something that you love and that fits within your pocketbook.

In the future, I will strive to keep things new and fresh and ever-changing, and price things with a modest profit (in order to *stay* in business) and pass along a bargain when I find one! I will try to have things to inspire the creative soul in YOU!

The Spring Open House will feature artist made works, a whole host of Easter inspired pieces, wonderful Julie Whitmore pottery, some of Melissa Tereck's handmade paper mache figures, new Spring ribbons, old chocolate molds, old rabbits, and new stationery lines. There will be books (old and new), a whole section of old garden items, new and old bird pieces....I know I am forgetting some things!

Please join me for the celebration!
Saturday-Sunday, March 6-7, 10-5 each day

Potato Corn Chowder

Last night was a cold rainy night and soup just sounded perfect! Here is what came of items I had on hand!

3 Russet potatoes, cubed
1/2 large yellow onion, chopped
1 can whole kernel corn
About 1 quart milk (I used low fat)
2 T. butter
Wondra flour (about 3 T)
1 tsp. Seasoned salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/2 cup or so grated cheese

Peel and cut potatoes into cubes and boil with chopped onion.
While that is cooking, in a 2 qt. saucepan melt 2-3 T. butter. Add Seasoned salt and pepper.
Whisk in Wondra flour (it doesn't make lumps!)
Slowly whisk in milk until mixed well. Bring to boil and let it thicken some. Remove from heat.

When potatoes and onions are soft, drain in colander. Add to milk mixture and add corn and heat through. Serve with a little grated cheese on top and with some good crusty bread ~ yum!

Note: you can adjust the milk according to your taste ~ thicker or thinner ~ I like it thick!

Looking for a good silver polish?

I really like a product called "Blue Magic." It is a chrome polish, but it really cleans silver beautifully and as effortlessly as I have found ~ but you still need elbow grease! It costs about \$6 a jar and lasts a very long time. I get it at Auto Zone in Morro Bay, but have found it in other auto parts stores as well.

Have some lovely old things that you would like to turn into cash? I am looking for items from 1890-1940, in good condition, and especially old toys, sewing items, jewelry, holiday pieces (Christmas, Valentines Day, Easter, Halloween), old children's books and other children's items like chairs, beach toys. Small silver items like tea strainers, etc. are also on my list. Please give me a call if you have things to sell! 805.927.2391 or email me at: attic@thegrid.net