

WELCOME TO MY SHADE

Come sit with me under my shade tree and visit a spell. It's March already, but in Oklahoma this year, it feels more like early summer. With temperatures in the high 70's, I have green – roses leafing out, new mums working as ground cover, daylilies shooting up and blooming daffodils. Pretty, but winter freeze still threatens. Home and garden stores are packed; one reported his sales are up 173%.

Winter 2016 had been scheduled for staying inside where it's warm, looking out on snow-covered lawns, and choosing between writing and sorting through boxes of papers to shred or haul out to the curb for recycling. Somehow, I've discarded fewer boxes than planned and written little. I have entered a few contests, judged poems for a poetry society, written newsletters and sent out press releases for writers' groups, critiqued manuscripts for fellow writers, etc. Time to refocus – I need to get serious about churning out pages to move my major projects forward.

March is National Women's History Month, and my non-fiction article about voting is timely. Although I turned it into a 10-minute play, I've been told by playwright, Janis Montgomery Contway, the play needs to be much longer. The actual incident I chose is so significant, she says it needs to reach a wider audience.

That's happening with most of my writing. My readers want more. Although pleased they have become invested in my characters, how will I ever finish anything?

Thanks for stopping by. Come back again soon.



February Daffodils

MARCH SPECIALS

March is Women's History Month



- March 4th is National Grammar Day
- March 8th is National Proofreading Day
- March 14th is National Napping Day
- March 19th is National Quilting Day
- March 27th is Easter**
- March 30th is National Pencil Day

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FEATURED RECIPE

Pineapple Upside-Down Cake

1/3 cup butter
 ½ cup brown sugar
 1 (20-ounce) can sliced pineapple, drained
 Maraschino cherries, drained
 Pecan halves
 1 cup sugar
 1 1/3 cups flour
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 ½ teaspoon salt
 ½ cup shortening
 2/3 cup milk
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 1 egg

Preheat oven to 350°.

Melt butter in heavy 10" skillet or baking dish. Sprinkle brown sugar over butter. Place pineapple rings on top of brown sugar. Place cherries in center of pineapple rings and pecan halves, upside down, around pineapple. (Substitution: Drained crushed pineapple instead of sliced; omit cherries and pecans.)

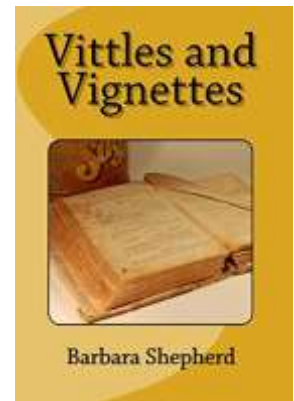
Combine granulated sugar, flour, baking powder and salt in mixing bowl. Add shortening, milk and vanilla; beat 2 minutes with mixer at medium speed or 300 strokes by hand. Add egg and beat 2 more minutes. Pour batter into skillet over pineapple design.

Bake 40-50 minutes. Remove from oven and place a serving plate on top of skillet. Immediately turn skillet upside down on serving plate. Wait a minute or two before lifting skillet straight up from cake. Serve warm.

Under the Shade Tree is my way of sharing a digital glass of iced tea with you. If you *were* here under my tree, I'd offer you a piece of pineapple upside-down cake – Debbie's favorite. My cousin, who is a grandmother, is celebrating her 16th birthday today, February 29th. (She's a Leap-Year Baby.)

Thanks for sharing a few minutes with me,

Barbara



Happy cooking to you. 

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