

WELCOME TO MY SHADE

Come sit with me under my (digital) shade tree and visit a spell. December 2016 broke a few temperature records – mostly high temps. Who knew my roses would still be blooming in our Christmas month? And that was after two hard freezes!

It is January 2017 already, but some of our days felt like summertime – a repeat of December. For example: Two days ago, it was 79 degrees. The temp dropped to 42 the next day and below freezing today – with a pending ice storm that closed schools, etc. Welcome to Oklahoma!

My rose bushes joined the other plantings and succumbed during recent pipe-bursting days, but roses and mums are hardy and will wake refreshed in the spring like lilies, daffodils, etc. Zinnias pop out later when the ground heats up.

As for my writing: Drum Roll, Please!!

MY picture book “The Potbelly Pig Promise” is on the publisher’s 2018 calendar, and the illustrator has been chosen by Doodle and Peck Publishing.

I won 22 awards in 2016 – the two most notable: “Outstanding Author of the Year 2016” from Rose State Writers Conference and the “Crème de la Crème” from Norman Galaxy of Writers.

My writing projects for 2017 make for a pretty long list but will take a backseat while I read and judge books for an international western novel competition. They said to count on about 10, but 38 books have come in so far, and we still have a few days before the deadline. Wow!! **Thanks** for stopping by. Come back again soon.



The Oklahoma Rose still blooming in December!

JANUARY SPECIALS - GREAT FOR WRITING PROMPTS

January is Hobby, Oatmeal, & Soup Month



- January 18th is Thesaurus Day
- January 19th is National Popcorn Day
- January 21st is National Hugging Day
- January 23rd is National Pie Day
- January 23rd is National Handwriting Day
- January 29th is National Puzzle Day
- January 31st is Inspire your Heart with Art Day

WELCOME!	1
JANUARY SPECIALS	1
FEATURED RECIPE	2

FEATURED RECIPE

Writing resolutions or goals – committing them to paper – is a great way to start any year just like breakfast is essential to begin each day for maximum energy and stamina.

Long ago, getting up before dawn on the farm meant being greeted by the aroma of fresh-cooked bacon or sausage and hearing the sizzle of eggs frying in an iron skillet. Yum!

Breakfast Casserole is a great substitute. Prepare it the night before, and it will be ready to pop into the oven the next morning – baking while you get ready for work.

Breakfast Casserole

- 1 pound ground sausage
- 8 eggs, beaten
- 6 slices white bread, cut into cubes
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded

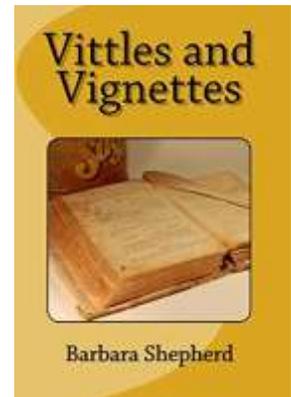
Spray 9”x13” baking pan with cooking spray.

Brown sausage in skillet; remove and drain on paper towels; set aside. In large mixing bowl, combine eggs, bread cubes, milk, mustard, salt, and cheese; stir in sausage. Pour mixture into baking pan; refrigerate overnight.

The next morning, remove pan from refrigerator and preheat oven to 350°. Bake casserole 40-50 minutes. Remove from oven; slice and serve hot.

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 some homemade pecan pralines, creamy and highly addictive. Here’s hoping 2017 is your most successful and “sweetest” year ever!

Thanks for sharing a few minutes with me,
Barbara



Happy cooking to you. 

Find Vittles & Vignettes on Amazon:
<http://tinyurl.com/zggn6p>



Barbara Shepherd
P.O. Box 54302
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
okcwriters@aol.com

www.barbarashepherd.com