

EVENTS CALENDAR

Add your event to this calendar or change it by sending details to news@oelweindailyregister.com, editor@oelweindailyregister.com, mailing them attn: Calendar or bringing them to the Daily Register, 25 First St. SE, PO Box 511, Oelwein, IA 50662. Specific prices will not be included, so include contact info or a website.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Friends of the Oelwein Public Library spring book ‘n bake sale, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Today is the only bake sale day.

Healing Heart (formerly Grief Support Group) meets at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at a location to be announced. Contact Linda Jensen to see about alternate plans, 563-380-7758.

TOPS meeting, 5:15 p.m., Grace United Methodist Church. Call 319-283-0147 for more information.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Friends of the Oelwein Public Library spring book sale continues, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Hootenanny, 6 to 9 p.m., Oelwein Coliseum. Live music, fellowship and dancing. Guest musicians are always welcome. Free will donation.

Oelwein Senior Meal Site service by The Kitchen of Dec-orah, 11:30 a.m., V.F.W. Post 1725, 120 N. Frederick Ave. Meals by Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A), open Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Older adults can reserve a meal two days ahead by calling the Oelwein Senior Center, 319-239-8019. Diners under age 60 must pay the cost of the meal. Roasted pork loin, cheesy potatoes, veggie, fruit, dinner roll.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Friends of the Oelwein Public Library spring book sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 28

Oelwein Senior Meal Site service by The Kitchen of Dec-orah, 11:30 a.m., V.F.W. Post 1725, 120 N. Frederick Ave. Meals by Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A), open Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Older adults can reserve a meal two days ahead by calling the Oelwein Senior Center, 319-239-8019. Diners under age 60 must pay the cost of the meal. Polish sausage, fruit, sauerkraut, veggie, dinner roll.

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# The Amish Cook: Healing hearts together

By GLORIA YODER

Six children are tucked in bed while I listen to the birds waking each other with their morning song. It’s Saturday morning in Knox County, Ohio. Yesterday we enjoyed traveling as a family, today we want to go see my wid-owed grandmother in Holmes County, Ohio.

I pause and again listen to the birds; the moon is shining as the clouds pass over it as dawn begins to break. Isn’t it a picture of life? The good-ness of God is there, the birds still sing, however clouds pass over us, casting a shadow over the things we face.

My husband, Daniel who has gone to be with Jesus three years ago, now had a cousin join him in that heavenly home. Miriam was a beautiful example of the tenderness of Jesus as she patiently battled cancer for over a year. It is with sadness in our hearts as we bid her good-bye, yet deep within, our hearts leap for joy. She is safe with her Savior, whom she loved so dearly. Before her passing she saw numerous touching scenes which she related to those with her. One of which she saw Jesus. When asked how Jesus looked she said, “His face was shining.” Glory hallelujah, may we live for Him no matter the cost, if our sins are under the blood we’ll see Him one day!

One of my favorite mem-ories of Miriam, was when their youth group came to our house last fall. The girls all slept at our house, never once



complaining of piling into our basement. It was one of those times I relished every moment, and all too soon the trip was past, yet never to be forgotten! Those girls were all so sweet and so fun to have around, even our children agreed that it was so perfect having them here.

As we rejoice, knowing that Miriam’s body is healed in heaven, we know that as the oldest daughter, she will be missed by her dad, step mom, as well as her five sis-ters, five brothers, and many friends. Then I think of the joyous reunion her and her mom (who had passed three years ago) must have had inside heaven’s gates!

When Miriam’s mother was called to go be with Jesus Daniel and I were discussing whether or not we would take all the children to Ohio. His perspective was, “I want to take them to show them what life is about.” He longed to impress on their young hearts how we want to live for God and one day go to be

with Him. Up to that point most of the children had not remembered ever being to a visitation before.

Less than two months later it was their Daddy who was called to Heaven. He knows what those little ones need. The night we found out that Miriam was relieved from her earthly discomforts, son Joshua who is four, was in my bedroom. When I entered the room he excited told me, “I saw something! There was a light here in the bedroom. It was Miriam, yes, I think it was Miriam going to Heaven.”

Later he explained that this white beam came shining in from the north window.

As I attended the visitation last night I was beyond bless-ed by all the love and support shown by friends on all sides. God uses many things to touch and encourage his own, whether it is a light shining from heaven, or simply the support of others. In a sense the loss of Daniel came back raw and fresh, yet somehow

it was even more precious than painful. There is an awesome Heart Healer who is able to restore the crushing of hearts.

This forenoon the ladies from Miriam’s church are gathering to make potato casseroles for Sunday lunch after the funeral. They served almost 500 people, everyone was seated at long rows of folding tables. The church there did amazing in serving, cooking, cleaning, and all that goes with hosting and serving on both visitation days and the funeral.

I am touched as I see many hands working together, and perhaps even better (yet harder) is grieving together. Difficult things have a pro-found way of drawing hearts in a way that nothing else seems to touch.

**Hot Chicken Salad**  
This hot salad is good on a bun, in a wrap, or just on a plate by itself.

Ingredients:  
2 cups chicken cooked and chopped  
1 cup celery chopped  
to taste red onion chopped  
1½ cups shredded Cheddar cheese  
½ cup slivered almonds  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
1 cup salad dressing  
Directions:  
Preheat oven to 400°. Mix all ingredients and spoon into a 2-quart casserole dish.  
Sprinkle crushed potato chips on top.  
Bake for 20 minutes and serve warm.

# Gift ideas for Mom that keep on giving

By MELINDA MYERS

Even though your mom may say “It’s the thought that counts”, you want to find the perfect gift this Mother’s Day to express how much you appreciate all she does through-out the year. No matter your budget, it’s possible to give mom a gift that provides days, months, and even years of joy.

Cut flowers rank as one of the most popular Mother’s Day gifts. No dusting and maintenance are required, and they are sure to generate a smile. Behavioral research at Rutgers University found the gift of flowers had immediate and long-term benefits.

Extend her enjoyment further by helping her grow, tend, and enjoy gardening throughout the growing season. A gift certificate to her favorite garden center, hobby store, or retail location allows mom the freedom to select her own gift. She can enjoy time shopping for something special that she wouldn’t normally buy for herself.

A hanging basket or con-tainer garden is another way to give mom a season of flow-ers and much more. Gardening helps improve health and well-being by reducing stress, lowering blood pressure, strengthening muscles, and increasing flexibility.

If mom likes to cook, a potted tomato, container of greens, or window box of herbs may be the perfect gift. She can grow, prepare, and boost the flavor and health benefits with fresh, flavorful, and nutrient-rich vegetables and herbs.

If she prefers to do her own planting, consider giving her a container, potting mix, and some seeds or plants. Add some plant labels and let her create her own container garden.

Update her garden tools and accessories with some-thing colorful like the Burgon

& Ball® British Meadow pruner and holster set. This pretty and functional gift with comfort grip handles allows mom to keep gardening longer. The colorful holster keeps them right where she needs them for deadheading and pruning small branches.

No matter what mom’s age or fitness level is, it’s important to protect her joints when gardening. Gifting her a colorful Kneelo® kneeler or knee pads (coronatools.com) will encourage her to do just that. The bright colors make them easy to find and the shock-absorbing foam interior provides a very comfortable surface that helps reduce knee stress.

Add a hat to further protect mom from the heat and sun when working outdoors. If it’s comfortable and looks good, she’s more likely to wear it. Include some sunscreen and a pair of sunglasses for added sun protection.



Photo courtesy of Corona Tools

**Stylish garden gloves and a pruner with comfort grip handles are functional gifts, allowing mom to garden longer.**

Many mothers appreciate the gift of time. Helping mom in her garden, working around her home, or assist-ing her with another hobby is a great way to spend time together and create memo-ries while doing something mom loves.

Consider giving mom one of these or another gift that provides immediate and

long-term enjoyment. She’ll appreciate your thought-fulness when she opens the package, unwraps the flowers, or puts the tools and accessories to use all season long.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Garden-*

*er’s Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda’s Gar-den Moment radio program.*

Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Corona Tools* for her expertise to write this article. Myers’ website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

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