

December 2021 Theme: I Surround Myself With...

Jane P. Brooks -- Having recently sustained a great loss, I surround myself with family and friends even more than previously. My family have given me love, compassion, and especially time - to keep me company and share meals. They have alleviated the need to eat alone and they call often so I can hear their voices, from the youngest one to the oldest. Their hugs and smiles are wondrous. They planned a surprise for a special birthday - a magnificent dinner at a great restaurant with much cheer and great wine. Friends have not left me alone, so that I can now stand on my own feet and enjoy life with confidence.

Sally Fine -

HOLIDAYS

Twinkling lights shining so bright,
Brilliant stars a wonderful sight.

Packages tower high under trees,
Christmas cheer for all to see.

Seeing friends, sending wishes,
and of course delicious dishes.

Ice cream and cookies there to eat,
a plethora of wonderful treats.

Smiles and laughter all around,
Joyous music in the air abounds.

Sitting by the fireside
enjoying memories past,
Comforted by family, days fly by so fast.

Lee Paine --

In who we draw to ourselves,
we all have unending choices
of listening to unpleasant people
or to reasoned, loving voices.

In what we draw round ourselves
in booty and possessions,
reveals who we really are -
our loves, our obsessions.

If we live with things we love,
that remind of our past,
may they only bring us joy,
as life goes by so fast.

New things you can buy from stores
have rarely interested me.
I love things that all have stories,
understood only by what you see.

So I surround myself with the love
of family, friends, nature, art,
classical music, literature, family treasures,
I'll keep until I depart.



Adrienne Reedy -- I Surround Myself With Dishes!

Anyone who knows me, know my affinity for a table set beautifully with dishes. One of the most difficult things for me to do is to bypass a sale on dishes. Whether it's at a major department store or flea market, I love, love, love, dishes and find it difficult to walk on by. Every Sunday since I've been married, I enjoy using our china and crystal.

Even when my boys were young, we would eat Sunday & holiday dinners in the dining room on our china. It surprised me when I would meet people who never used their china because they were saving it for a special day. For me, every day is special. There's our Lenox Bellaire wedding china, and my mother in law's Wedgewood Devon Sprays wedding China. I have the English Country Rose, blue and white Willow set and many more sets including plain white china to mix in with my pretty colorful china if someone stops in and I don't have enough place settings. I have sets with place settings for 32 people, 16 people, 8 people, and as little as 6 people. Not to mention, my favorite beautiful Holly Berry Christmas china. The secret is out; setting my table is intoxicating as I set tons of dishes plus glasses to match, down to the linen tablecloths and cloth napkins. It's so beautiful and I think about all the people who graced my dining room table over the years. The endless conversations and memories, I just realized that I surrounding myself with dishes helps make it fun to surround myself with people.

Heather Sandifer -- I surround myself with cookbooks and plants.

January Theme: New Skills for The New Year

GUIDELINES -- Original artwork and photographs: Jpegs no larger than 500 kb. *Proofread* stories, essays and poems: 150 words *more or less*; photographs related to your story are permitted. Music: one page scores only, with text. Send your submission no later than the 20th of the month for the upcoming month. I.e., for January send Dec. 20th; February send Jan. 20th, etc. Email: dorismady42@gmail.com.

Let's hear from YOU!

dorismady42@gmail.com

Past themes:

- June: [My Ideas Come From...](#)
- July: [Why I do Art](#)
- August: [My Bucket List](#)
- September: [Our 65th Anniversary -- My Vision for GPW's Next 5 Years](#)
- October: [What Makes Me Happy](#)
- November: [What I Am Most Proud Of](#)