

Hello Tuesday Morning!



Taking advantage of the beautiful weather to do laundry on the line

Unlike most bloggers, I do not write my posts weeks in advance. Sometimes I just make my cup of coffee and start writing on the morning of sending it out to you. Especially now, when we are all living in a one day at a time scenario. Today is one of those days where I need to take my own advice, from the [post last week](#) on Ways to Navigate Life Now. I am feeling a bit like I'm walking through concrete. But then I scold myself because we are blessed with good health and a safe place to be.



So today I will share what I have been doing to keep busy and focused. Over the weekend, and with the new recommendations about wearing a mask in public, I tried a few different patterns on making masks. It is impossible to find elastic here and though I searched my sewing items, I didn't find any. What I did find was a terrific collection of fabric! Many of my friends don't have a sewing machine, but my husband made one without it, just using 2 sheets of paper towels, elastic bands and a stapler.



In searching the internet, there are many choices, but the first one to pop up is [The New York Times pattern](#). In my opinion, it is not well written and when I printed it out, the pictures accompanying the instruction were so small and difficult to read.



This pattern did, however, have 4 long ties on their style mask. I understand health care professional prefer this so they can use it over their N95 masks. The mask's top ties do not stay on the top of your head, especially if you have straight hair. You must hook them over the top of your ears and tie them behind the base of your skull. The lower ties do help secure the bottom of the mask and these tie behind your neck.



The easiest and best fitting pattern I found online with Hobby Lobby. The video is short, walks you through the steps, gives you pleat dimensions and makes a mask that has an opening on the back to add a filter. I understand a coffee filter or a paper towel works. Click [here](#) for the video.



For the ear loops I used thin ribbon. I have very small ears and anything thicker did not stay in place. The dimensions of the mask fit my face perfectly, but was too small for my husband.



With some slight adjustments, I was able to make him a well-fitting mask. Once I get some elastic (ordered it online with a delivery date of next week), I believe this mask will work well for most. Also, I am happy to make masks for anyone who needs them. Hoping it won't come to that, but I feel better if we are prepared.



I also added pipe cleaners in the top seam that fits against your nose. It was an easy way to bend the mask and make it conform to your face.



Easter is on Sunday and I hope to get an energy boost to do a lovely table. It will only be the four of us, but Easter is one of my favorite holidays. Last Sunday, on Palm Sunday, we missed getting our palm crosses from church.



Being in the DIY mode, I searched the yard and found that palm trees are not equal. Since I needed a certain length of palm frond, the fan palm was the only one that would work. Date palm fronds were too short.



It was a bit of a revelation as I had never REALLY looked closely and noticed the different kinds of palm trees we have. The things we learn during this crisis! It's all part of being resourceful and creating a new norm in time of need.

I've been trying a few new recipes. My daughter, Elisabeth stated she wanted to learn to cook more. A happy benefit for me to spend more time with her in the kitchen. This vegan pineapple, lime, coconut and ginger cake from Twigg Studios is a relatively easy cake to make. Click [here](#) for the recipe.



The texture of the cake is more dense, like a carrot cake, and the canned pineapple provides plenty of moisture and flavor. I skipped the part that suggests making pineapple flowers out of fresh pineapple. The icing is a simple blend of coconut cream, confectioner's sugar and lime juice. Really quite tasty. Happily shared most of it with our neighbors.



On a vegetable note, we also made Baked Parmesan Zucchini sticks from Damn Delicious. They are easy to make and so tasty. Click [here](#) for the recipes.



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parmesan zucchini

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I am still working on washing windows. It's taking longer than I'd like. In addition to washing windows, I am also cleaning the rooms as I go along. Hoping that accomplishing tasks keeps me moving in the right direction. Being in a funk just isn't fun.

Thought I would share this picture of Cooper. He's our first line of defense and does such a great job patrolling the yard and checking out the area. He takes his job seriously, even though he has a sweet temperament.

And you can see another project getting done~~wall repair!



Paws on the 6' perimeter wall

What do you have planned for the week? Best wishes for a Tuesday filled with joy and simple pleasures.

Mary