

Saturday Meanderings



Rhododendron in bloom in Connecticut

It feels so good to get back to writing a Saturday Meanderings. The last two weeks have been a bit of a whirlwind and I appreciate you understanding my lack of posting. Happy Saturday and let's chat about what is going on.



The day after our houseguests left I excitedly left Phoenix to Orlando, Florida to meet up with 3 of my favorite blogging friends ([Design Morsels](#) and [Chas Crazy Creations](#)). For me, this trip would be full of creative ideas, new sites and new memories. I landed in Orlando late on a Wednesday night and got to see Celebration, Florida for the first time.



Celebration is a master planned community designed by The Walt Disney Company. The town, which has approximately 12,000 residents, is architecturally beautiful, fabulously landscaped, and impeccably maintained. Think Main Street USA but far better. My friend, Chloe, from [Celebrate and Decorate](#) lives in a gorgeous home with a large Southern front porch. Hosting our blogging get-together at her lovely home is such a treat.



Mickey inspired finial and door bell

The length of my trip was supposed to be Wednesday through Sunday. However, the very next day, I received notification that the Norwich, Connecticut police found my aunt dead in her home. My aunt, Gail, is the last of my father's siblings and lived alone. Her death was unexpected as she was in good health, extremely active and independent (still driving) for

her age of 100. She would have been 101 in August.



My Aunt Gail

I ended my trip to Florida after one day and got the first flight up to Connecticut. With no children or living spouse, I am the person responsible to handle Aunt Gail's finality and estate. Fortunately, I locate some documentation with her burial wishes and we had a lovely farewell ceremony the following week. Now probate begins and who knows when I will need to return to manage the rest.



The good news is that spring flowers are in bloom in Connecticut and my aunt has 3 very large lilac bushes. I cut armfuls and fill her home with their lovely scent. Azaleas and rhododendrons are also at their best.



Now I am back home in Phoenix and quickly had a day to do all the laundry from our last house guests. We are entertaining our new delightful house guests this week. So it's been a bit busy and as a result, I've hardly spent time on my blog or social media.



While I was away, the sunflowers opened up and the birds are enjoying the fresh peaches on the tree.

Daydreaming

But life happens and we manage. Maybe as a result of experiencing a loss, you think ahead. Lately I am dreaming about designing my own home someday. Or at least thinking about being able to renovate a home *exactly* the way I want with an unlimited budget! Wouldn't that be nice. But I seem to

like several different styles. Which of these appeal to you?

Stark and serene?



Chic and Country Magazine

Classic and clean?



The Glam Pad Tallwood Country House

Warm and elegant?



Chic and Country magazine



From Pinterest

Or lots of character and charm?



From Pinterest



Origin unknown

Oops!

Do you remember last year when I changed the color of the front door from red to blue? Look what I just found! Ha! Funny how I did not notice the unpainted edge until now..ah, another project.



Just recently, I started reading a wonderful book series from Karen White. [The House on Tradd Street](#) is the first book of many and it is a brilliant, chilling story featuring a Charleston real estate agent who loves old houses~and the secret histories inside them.



I am looking forward to a quiet and relaxing weekend here at home. Thanks again for joining me today!

Mary