

The Plain and Practical

Year Six, Issue 53, May, 2013

“Live simply, that others might simply live.” Elizabeth Seaton

Dichotomy and The Gray

Many years ago in college down at Ohio University, teachers did their best to fling out big new words for me to wallow around in, words you wouldn't have read in a newspaper (those are fourth-grade reading level, did you know?) or scanned on the instructions to your lawnmower assembly. Some of the words were rooted in the study of art, such as chiaroscuro and gestalt; some in education, such as Montessori and Patterned Learning. I received words in engineering presentations, including Autarky and Thermoforming—I doodled funny little critters in my notebook to fit those names, which helps explain why I'm making sculptures now instead of the big bucks at a manufacturing facility.

But there was one word that kept popping up. A philosophy teacher scrawled it, four feet long, on an old slate board in an equally old stone building, and explained how human beings see left opposed to right, up opposed to down. My religious studies teacher used Dichotomy to explain how sky vs. earth religions formed and developed. An art teacher used Dichotomy to express the desire of the human eye to select—with unbelievable precision—subtle differences in color, line, and form. I started seeing examples of Dichotomy everywhere, in the way the bell curves were subdivided on the huge walls of the statistics boards, the cracks in the sidewalk as concrete met brick, the ways red cars were parked below the fifth-story windows in the parking lot, even in the lines inside my coffee cup.

I had a friend once who would pay five dollars for a quilting magazine, and at the time, I thought that was a lot of money. She told me, “If I get one good idea I can use and sell from that magazine, it's worth it.” While I haven't paid back all my student loans yet, I can tell you the one idea I carried away from five years of University life, was the concept of Line. Don't discount a book or experience or a conversation, long as you get one good idea you can fold into yourself and keep until your last day.

Line probably doesn't seem like much to you, but the concept of Line is my whole life. There's the figurative Lines that I set for my boundaries—my limits, my goals, my Straight Path to walk to keep myself as good a Christian as I am able, it's in everything from Stand Up Straight to Be Direct in your Communication.

Then there's the Lines in my view throughout the day, superimposed over my world, lines that help me adjust grain of fabric or wood, help me “see” my path of errands overlaid onto a map so that I don't waste fuel. When I look at a clock and calculate forty minutes until the next task, my eye stretches the minute hand around and fills in that area with a color, creating a solid block representing a percentage of the hour.

My art is the truest representation of Line in my life. I can walk up to a wall and create a sculpture of curves and straights, positive and negative spaces, over and over and over, choosing and discarding and finally selecting one. I walk away and not a nail hole or mark remains, but I have hung a hundred finished works upon that wall and enjoyed each. My eye can not only put the sculptures up there, but calculate how the shadows will be cast as the available light moves across the windows through the day and through the seasons. I can change the color of the wall, the color of the sculpture, install track lighting and decide where the units should be best aimed.

But lately, I've realized, Line is not enough. It is limiting, even though I communicate, develop, organize and create with it. Lines stop somewhere. They die at the corners where walls run dry and ceilings begin. They lack immortality when I use them to shape a dinner plan, to control my errands, or to plot out gardens.

Part of how we sort out good from bad, hungry from fed, friend from foe, is contained in the concept of Dichotomy. We are at our most simple, an animal with a left hand and a right hand, we stand up, we lay down. In that sentence are the building blocks for north, south, east and west. We are symmetrical, vertical, our vision units arranged on the front of our faces so that we see straight forward more than we see to the sides; do not doubt that this has had a great impact on how we physically move, how we interact with each other, how we contribute to the knowledge base of our world.

(continued on page two)

Spring Cleaning

Many of us don't have the option of setting aside a week of paid vacation time, or even unpaid long weekends off of work and other responsibilities, just to start at one end of the house and finish at the other end, and have six bags of donations/recyclables on the porch when we're done. Delving into each closet and the corners of the basement and garage, or sifting through a box of old papers and photographs, is a time-consuming task and mostly, that's why we shove it off and avoid it in the first place.

But our possessions can take over and own us, instead of the other way around. If you reduced your worldly goods by even twenty percent, what could you save on heat and cooling? Storage fees (including packaging, baggies, totes, etc.)?

We all have an internal meter for how much stuff we like to have around. I've seen Zen-like sparse houses owned by the same people who have barns crowded with materials and workshops. I've seen people who's jobs require painstakingly close attention to elimination of every “extra” component and then their offices at home are piled with years of papers and debris that are cascading to the floor.

So for all of you who want to divvy off a bit of their worldly goods, but have trouble finding the time, here's a trick to try and see if it works for you.

Pick one day a week, even a time slot of five or ten minutes, and make a list of the seven things you're going to divest yourself of that week, where you think they are located, and who/where they will be delivered. Each day, select something on that list, go find it, and take a few minutes to dust it off, write a note if needed, bag it up, and so on. Place it in your car for drop off, or on the porch for pick up, or in an envelope to be mailed.

This might result in a whole week's worth of “list” fitting into a space as small as a plate, or large as a van, but it's a manageable amount mentally. One thing a day. One shirt, one bundle of newspapers, one knick-knack, one pot you never use, one tool, one of something you can somehow live without. The benefits of living in your space with fewer visual elements of clutter, as well as the responsibility for them, is worth the effort.

Clothesline Time

It's a beautiful time of year for using that clothesline, and not just for your clothes! It's a great place to hang up all kinds of things. What's on this list that needs doing at your place? And if you don't have your own clothesline, consider lunching with a friend who will let you use theirs.

- ⇒ Wash your tent and hang it up to treat all the seams with sealer
- ⇒ Wash and scrub the floor mats and other accessories from your vehicle
- ⇒ Air out down comforters and sleeping bags and quilts
- ⇒ Hand wash and clean your flags
- ⇒ Do all the rugs in the house
- ⇒ Wash and hang up the curtains
- ⇒ Vacuum off lampshades and let the sun at'em to air out
- ⇒ Clean and air out fabric wall décor items
- ⇒ Wash and air out the winter items before storing them away—wool socks, blankets, long underwear, sweaters, vests, and heavy coats

“And in the morning, her bare feet in the cool dew, she would hang the washing and then thrust the lines skyward with notched poles, so those dresses and quilts became flags against the Indiana sky. The old patterns were proclamations of a different freedom, freedom of choice, taking what one loved from grandmothers and mothers and repeating it so that in your own back yard, on your own clothesline, you in turn kept the promises they had made.”

May 2013

Fifth Month

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

12th Mother's day

18th Armed Forces Day

27th Memorial Day

“It is the thirtieth of May, the thirtieth of November, a beginning or an end, we are moving into the solstice and there is so much here I still do not understand.”

Adrienne Rich, Toward the Solstice

Handmade Buttons

There have been times in world history where people have found the financial strata unsatisfying, and revolted, sometimes in small groundswells that grew to topple governments, or change social bias, or gain independence for an entire class of people trapped in a system for generations. It may have been an unfair tea tax, or rationing of salt to the poor; perhaps closed doors to universities or public parks because of one's color. In a more perfect world, we would all have an equal chance, without discrimination, to access all the possibilities. So in a very small way, I am publicly changing one aspect of myself, my very Plain self, and starting to do so today, on my 52nd birthday.

It's such a little thing, I am sure most people will not notice. But it is a political and social statement, a visible and tangible object on my person that is meant to represent the pursuit of fairness and freedom and independence.

It's a button. I have been making buttons for a few months now, sawing and sanding and staining with natural oils. I've used black walnut juice to dye them, used a woodburner to carve in designs, made big buttons and square ones and rectangular shapes. I've sheared copper and steel and hammered and drilled and sanded their edges. I am using all scraps and foundling materials, so nothing is wasted either in my learning curve's mistakes or even in a perfect production.

It's just a button. But making my own, in a world filled with millions of stomped plastic buttons shipped from overseas, means a great deal to me. It's a symbol that I am free to make for myself a common everyday object that has purpose. Although I have not used a lot of buttons in my personal clothing, being Plain, I am no longer going to seal up the buttonholes and install snaps or hooks and eyes. I'm not going to shun an article of thrift store clothing that has a need for a button—I'm going to replace it with one that I have made myself.

I love the grain of the wood, the feel of a thick, large button. It's not jewelry, it's not flashy or shiny. Most people won't even notice this change in my garb. I understand that it is an embellishment, but I am comfortable with this decision after much thought and prayer. When I sew my handmade button, wood or metal, to one of my garments and then go out in public, I want to demonstrate that an individual can make for themselves even this small daily necessity. When I fasten these buttons, I will think upon all the ways, as I go through my day, that I can make and do for myself and my loved ones, from my own hands, with the materials and tools I find around me.

(Dichotomy and The Gray, continued)

We know when we took that stick and whacked our little friend, and they cried, and mother came and took the stick and shook the hand that held it and said "Don't do that ever again" the feeling that grew in the pit of our stomach became "sadness" or "regretful" or "ashamed." We know when we came outside one day and our ball we'd left in the front yard was gone, someone had taken it, and we had a feeling in the pit of our stomach that we labeled "sadness" or "regretful" or "ashamed" because we'd been told to put our things away, and we didn't, and the consequences were exactly the same. Whether you were the one doing the poor behavior, or the one that suffered because it was done to you, that see-saw of Right and Wrong, Good and Bad, Happy or Sad, that dichotomy of one or the other was played out, recorded, remembered.

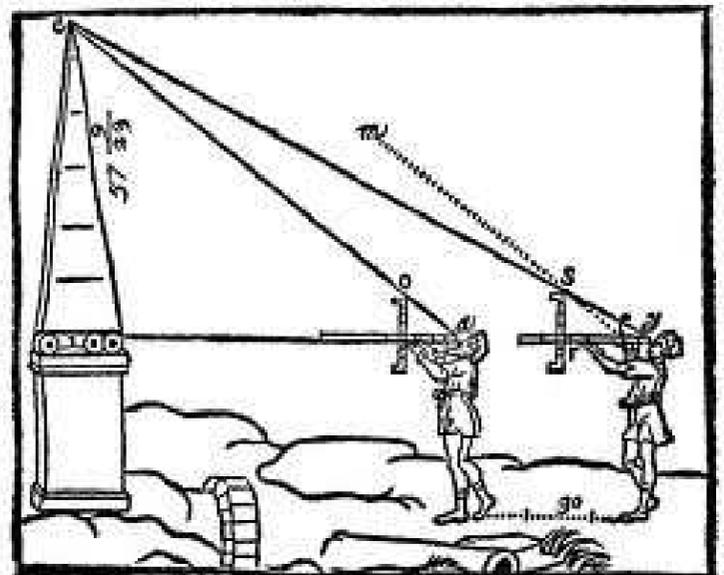
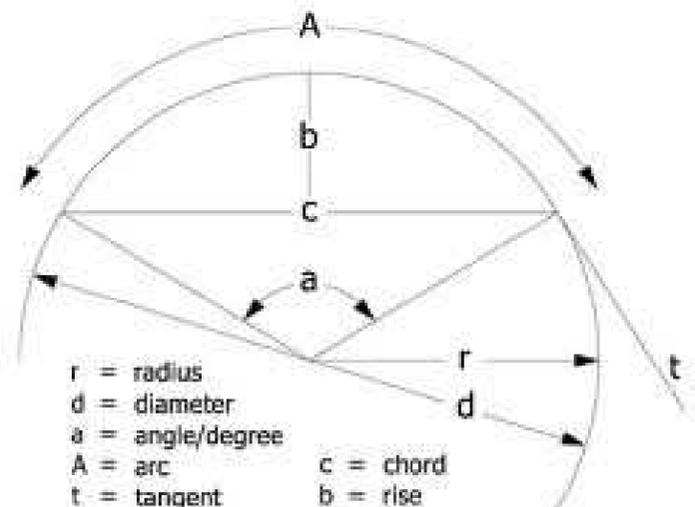
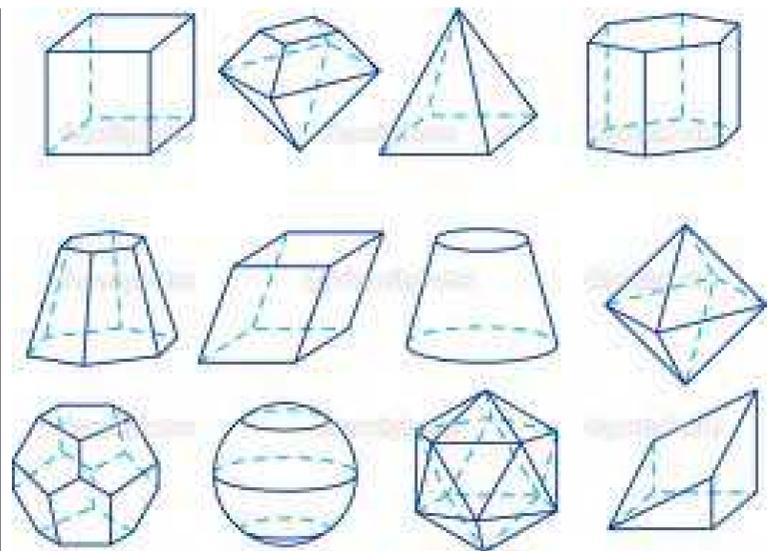
It isn't enough that we teach others how to move through this very short life in a way which impacts in positive ways to those around us. We also need to come to grips with an understanding within ourselves of our own Dichotomy, our own Lines. Where is your own north, south, east, west? What is to your left, right? Where is up, and down, forward and back, to you? Do not tell me time only moves forward, I know too many people who spend more time in the past than in the current or future. Do not tell me you know someone who is 100% upright; even if their deeds seem only to be of the purest motives, how many times have we seen great leaders, seemingly flawless, disappoint because it was revealed that they too were merely mortal men and women like ourselves. They failed our Lines; did they fail their own?

We are wired, educated, socialized and forced to live in a world that practices Dichotomy and limitations. There is always a balance equally and mathematically perfect, half to the one, half to the other. Yes, or No. Black, or White. But this is not the best way to live.

Instead, push half to one side and half to the other, and look hard—concentrate—to find the Gray in the middle. Do not be satisfied with Black and White, Day and Night, Before and After. Do not be limited by only two choices, whether the argument is political, historical, philosophical, or religious. I argue with thee that Gray is the color of Peace, of concernment and understanding, a neutrality that encompasses All the Spectrum, all of the points presented.

It's time as a world and a race, to set aside thinking in terms of one or the other. For and against. Right and wrong. We find ourselves in a fuller and more exciting era in which we can finally see multiple dimensions which were always there. It's time to use all our university words and our intellect to convey three choices, four, twenty. It's time to include not only the far ends of Yes and No, but the million what-ifs and maybes that are sandwiched infinitely, enticingly in the middle. In those Gray areas, I believe we can find peace for all.

I had a wonderful discussion last weekend, wherein several bright minds were around a table, enjoying good food and drink, some had been friends for decades and others were introduced as new to all around the table. The topics flittered from mathematics to behavioral psychology; from friends who have passed on to couples who welcomed a new baby. We spoke of historical examples of changes in the past that were rising again around us; we compared theories of a thousand years ago to current designs in clothing and structures. I sat some of that time as an observer, noting that we are not so different through the ages; we are born, grow up, fall in love, choose a partner. We find work for our hands, put shelter over ourselves, clothe ourselves against the elements, prepare food, enjoy our rest and our sleep when we can find them. All the electronic devices in our pockets and on the table, have changed us but little.



"There is geometry in the humming of the strings, there is music in the spacing of the spheres." Pythagoras

"Everything one invents is true, you may be perfectly sure of that. Poetry is as precise as geometry." Gustave Flaubert

"A multitude of bees can tell the time of day, calculate the geometry of the sun's position, argue about the best location for the next swarm. Bees do a lot of close observing of other bees; maybe they know what follows stinging and do it anyway." Lewis Thomas

Ways to Recycle A Lumpy Pillow

Bed pillows get washed, and they get lumpy. What then?

- Stuff into a 16” square pillow cover for another couch pillow
- Take the stuffings out, pull them apart with your fingers, replace them
- Put four lumpy pillows into a large tube, so it’s a body pillow
- Shake until most of the mass is in the middle, then tie two diagonal corners, and it’s great for napping in the back seat of the car
- Put into the truck of the car, for when you need padding around objects
- Two old pillows in a large pillowcase = cat bed
- Four old pillows in a folded afghan = dog bed
- Take out the stuffing, pull it apart, and stuff a toy with it
- Take out the stuffing, pull it apart, and make draft stoppers for winter

This Month’s Crazy Idea—Get Rid of Your Books

While I advocate for books—the good, old-fashioned way to keep information around—I find they are bulky and sometimes contain wrong information.

My suggestion is that you create a scrapbook—use a photo album or bind your own sturdy pages—and collect a custom set of information and facts on the topic you want to pursue in study. Instead of dozens of cookbooks, collect the recipes you need and use, some you want to try—and mount those into your own book. Photocopy or hand write, or shoot a pic and then print it—all of these methods will result in a non-electrical option if ever needed.

From recipes to patterns and clothing construction, to ways to butcher or store food, even children’s games and toys and other pastimes, you can record this in your own unique and individual way and store it in a single topic-volume on your bookshelf or in your blanket chest or a “library file cabinet” for easy and secure storage.

This results in a more “living” rather than static development of material pertaining to your topic. You are more likely to add and contribute and use such a collection, letting it grow to suit your needs. Then you are free to pass on your books to others, so that they may also enjoy them.

Historical Names

Here’s a list of names popular in past decades, do you see parents and grandparents matching the decades?

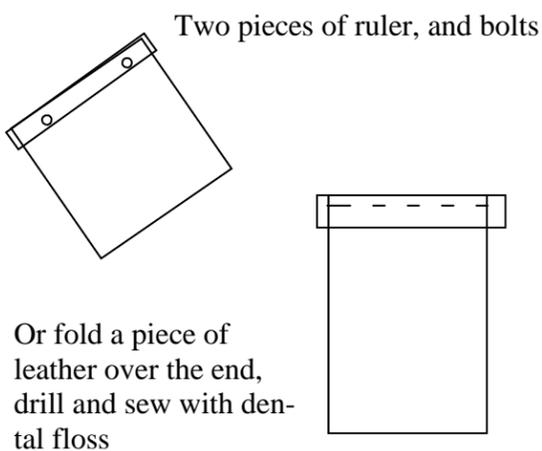
- 1990 – Jessica, Brittany, and Samantha; Michael, Daniel, and Justin
- 1980 – Jennifer, Melissa, and Heather; Michael, Christopher, Jason
- 1970 – Jennifer, Lisa, and Tammy; Michael, James, and Brian
- 1960 – Mary, Susan, and Lisa; David, Robert, and Mark
- 1950 – Linda, Barbara, and Nancy; James, John, and David
- 1940 – Mary, Judith, and Betty; James, William, and Charles
- 1930 – Mary, Dorothy, and Helen; Robert, Richard, and George
- 1920 – Mary, Ruth, and Virginia; John, Edward, and Frank
- 1910 – Mary, Anna, and Mildred; John, William, and Joseph
- 1900 – Mary, Elizabeth, and Ethel; John, George, and Henry
- 1890 – Mary, Emma, and Florence; John, William, and Harry



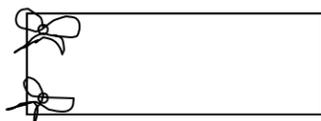
In the way we hang clothes, how we pack our fruit jars or arrange them on the shelves in the larder, braid a child’s hair or lay plates upon a table for supper, let us concern ourselves with our movements, to be gentle always.

Making Recycled Paper Writing Pads

It seems you always need a pad of paper around, after you have reached “a certain age” because frankly, stuff doesn’t stick in the noodle the way it used to. So instead of coming back from the store without the milk, or standing in the aisle of the hardware wondering if that was a 3/8th or 1/2 inch dowel you were supposed to buy, make these paper pads from good-one-side paper and your choice of binding.



Or punch two holes and tie with shoestring or scrap baker’s twine



Time to think about getting more liquids into yourself while you mow, take long walks, paint the porch, wash the car, and spiffy up the homestead. Water is best, of course, but here’s some more beverages to consider!

H E L A R E G N I G
 S C O F F E E A E T
 R A N E M I L K A A
 E E S U E D A T E E
 E N E S P A H N C G
 B E O E A T C I I N
 T A E M E F I M U A
 O A A A E E R U J R
 O A K C A L B A R O
 R E D A E M I L S F

Root beer, Lemon (and) ade, Black (and) tea, Coffee, Mint , Orange (and) juice
 Milk, Sassafras, Fruit punch, Ginger ale, Birch ale, Limeade

“Research has shown that creating or tending things by hand enhances mental health and makes us happy. Dr. Kelly Lambert (www.kellylambertlab.com) explored the relationship between hand use, current cultural habits, and mood. She found that hands-on work satisfies our primal need to make things and could also be an antidote for our cultural malaise. Too much time on technological devices and the fact that we buy almost all of what we need, rather than having to make it, has deprived us of processes that provide pleasure, meaning, and pride.”

Editor's notes

Owners: Craig and Valerie Hibbard. Expenses covered by Editors. Ads selected by Editors and given freely, and we reserve the right to refuse any ads. Email comments to valerie@plainandpractical.com, or mail to: 216 S. Plum Street, Marysville, OH 43040. We’d like to hear your comments. You may read PNP free on the web at www.plainandpractical.com, or order print copies by writing or emailing the editors. Valerie sells her things on Etsy, at www.apronsrecycled@etsy.com, and has a blog for diary entries, at www.plainandpractical.typepad.com

A Few Plain and Practical Resources for Self-Sufficiency

Need something for the Home, or Clothing?

- Lehmans, 877-438-5346, or write for a catalog, 289 N. Kurzen Rd., Dalton, OH 44618.
- Healthy natural soaps and salves, Cindy High, 905 Egeler Lane, Dexter, MI 48130
- Gohn Brothers, Box 1110, Middlebury, Indiana 46540-1110, toll free number 1-800-595-0031. All sewing done by local seamstresses to your measurements, at very reasonable prices for good quality.
- Prayer caps, Plain and Simple Head coverings, Bayley Thompson, P. O. Box 185, Bagdad, KY 40003.
- Aprons, Dresses and Coverings, Mennonite Maidens, <http://www.mennonitemaiden.com>, or orders by phone, 703-622-3018 or 304-492-5590. Wide variety of all offerings, reasonable prices.
- GVS, clothing for the entire family, baby supplies, toys, stationary, sewing supplies—many hard to find items. Highway 5, Versailles, MO 65084.
- Sisterthreads is a group of three Christian women who sew together in the daughter's house amongst her four children, one of which is special-needs. Although they focus on quilts, they also do a variety of purses and organizers for knitting needles, crochet hooks and other sewing items. By mail: Sister Threads, P. O. Box 91, Herrietta, MI, 49638, or telephone, 231-389-0253.

Need something wholesome to read?

- The Budget, a Mennonite rural newspaper, P. O. Box 249, 134 N. Factory Street, Sugarcreek, OH, 44681. Several editions, so ask for information, 330-852-4634.
- Keepers At Home magazine (Plain homemakers) \$13 year/4 issues. 2673 Township Road 421, Sugarcreek, OH 44681
- Quaker Hill Farm, children's books, P. O. Box 10, Harrisville, MI 48742 (recently featured on Animal Planet!) Quaker Anne has all kinds of good things made from her farm, web site is www.quakeranne.com
- An Encouraging Word, P. O. Box 374, Covert, MI, 49043, \$20/year includes yours and one gift subscription.
- Plain Interests newspaper (Plain lifestyle), 420 Weaver Road, Millersburg, PA, 17061. Monthly, \$16 yearly.
- Young Companion, Pathway Publishers, 2580N=250W, LaGrange, IN 46761, scripture-rich moral stories for young people, many are reader-contributed. They also produce Family Life, as well as Blackboard Bulletin, and I recommend all three as suitable literature to leave around where you find yourself spending a few moments in the day, they are uplifting, spiritual, and helpful. \$23 annually for all.
- Pendle Hill, 338 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA 19086. Quaker literature resource.

Want to stop and get bulk food on your next trip?

- Clintonville Community Market, 200 Crestview Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43202, 614-261-3663
- Yutzy's Bulk Foods, 614-873-3815, 6010 Converse Huff Road, Plain City, Ohio 43064
- Countryside Bulk Foods, 4230 West Pike, Zanesville, OH 43701, telephone 740-450-1595
- Bulk Food Depot, 5457 Radford Road, Athens, OH 45701, 740-594-5053.
- Apple Hill Ltd., 8690 Vermilion Road, Amherst, OH 44001-9475. Telephone 440-965-7077
- Coon's Candies, 16451 County Highway 113, Harpster, OH 43323, telephone 740-496-4141
- American Harvest 51323 County Road 16, Coshocton, OH 43812, 740-622-2855
- Swiss Village 309 S. Broadway St., Sugarcreek, OH 44681, telephone 330-852-2896

Need supplies for Making it yourself?

- handspun yarns for knitting, soy candles, black walnuts for dyeing: Beverly Thorne, 1941 S. Camp Ten Road, Elmira, MI 49730.
- Leather: Scrap Leather, lacing, and hides, all American leather, Real Leather People, P. O. Box 251, Sonora, KY 42776 or 270-369-8880 or sales@realleatherpeople.com
- Make your own brooms—Broomcorn and supplies at R.E. Caddy, Box 14634, Greensboro, N.C. 27415, 336-273-3609.
- Sewing Supplies, Home-Sew Inc., P. O. Box 4099, Bethlehem, PA. 18018-0099, 1-800-344-4739, homesew.com.
- Linen and wool fabrics, 1-888-546-3654, FabricsStore.Com, 6325 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite #102, Hollywood CA 90038
- Countryroad Fabrics and Gifts, 2195 N 700W Shipshewana, Indiana, 46565, good resource for fabrics, snaps, prayer caps, and more.
- Knit Picks, P. O. Box 870760, Vancouver, WA 98687, 1-800-574-1323. Fine quality wool and wool blend yarns—their natural color, dye your own selections are especially well priced. Many sock yarns, patterns, and superior quality needles. Online also.
- Raw Wool for Spinning at \$2-4 pound, also well priced natural roving, and shepherd's supplies, Mid-States Wool Growers Co-op, 9449 Basil Western Road, Canal Winchester, OH, 43110-9278, 614-837-9665, call for hours and directions.
- Wm. Booth, Draper. 18th century reenactment supplies, I get my linen thread, horn thimbles, and other well-made, old fashioned items from this resource, 2115 Ramada Drive, Racine, WI. 53406, or, <http://wmboothdraper.com>, or 815-648-9048.
- Discount fabric, Guhl's, 710 E. Main Street, Jackson, Ohio, cash only, closed Sundays.
- Makes Scents, candle supplies, wicks, waxes, jars and bottles. 10465 Columbus Parkway, Pataskala, OH 43062. 740-927-3526.

Self-Sufficiency and Preparation Supplies

- Bathtub liner for 100 gal. water storage—Water Bob, from Way Safe Florida, Inc, 14175 Icot Blvd, Suite 100, Clearwater, FL 33760 1-800-966-8044, approximately \$25. Available on Ebay as well.
- Seeds to store, \$55 for small garden, non-hybrid—Baker Creek Seeds, 2278 Baker Creek Rd., Mansfield, MO 65704.
- Archery supplies—Obsession Archery, 8289 Burden Rd. Machesney Park, IL 61115, 815-877-1212
- First aid supplies—a number of professional-level kits from \$71 to \$415, First Aid Supplies Online, 1-800-874-8767

Honey and Honey Products: Honeyrun Farm, 9642 Randle Road, Williamsport, Ohio. 43164, 740-225-2462. Candles of the rolled beeswax as well as poured, beeswax in all amounts for sewing and crafting, honey straws, honey and combs. On Etsy, Honeyrunfarm.

Art and Scrap Box—paper, drapery and wall paper sample books, yarn, wood scraps, fabric scraps, tubes, all \$7 fill a paper grocery bag: 581 State Circle, Ann Arbor, MI (734) 994-0012.

Arts and Scraps—more sewing and yarn than previous listing, lots of paper, mat board, interesting magazines and books to cut up, wood scrap, tile section, posters to recycle: 16135 Harper, Detroit, Michigan, 48224, (313) 640-4411, Tues-Sat. \$6.50 fill-a-bag.

There is a free store in Commercial Point, Ohio, the United Methodist Church runs entirely with volunteers and community donations. It's open Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon; Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. It's on E. Scioto Street, right in the center of town, you can't miss it. Clothing and household items, they will take a cash donation if you twist their arm but it's all free. Bring your unwanted and drop them off while you're there.

Lumber Mills—I've recently needed to stock up on supplies for sculptures and have found these good resources, either I've been there myself, or they were recommended by folks I trust:

Kreis Sawmill—728 N. Main Street, Marysville, OH 43040, 937-537-1248. Closed Mondays; cash.

Judson Lumber Company, 321 W. Bigelow Ave., Plain City, OH 43064, 614-873-3911

Almendinger Sawmill, 5501 Caswell Rd., Johnstown, OH 43031

Do-Over Reclaimed Wood and Products, 15 miles south of Mansfield, in Morrow County, 419-512-5592

Decker Custom Woodworking, 505 W. McGormley Road, Fremont, OH 419-618-4657.

Also, if you're a woodworker, there's postings on Craigslist across the country from teachers looking to use your small scraps for kids' projects (key rings, small boxes, jewelry) and wood identification charts. Don't throw them out!