

# THE STATE OF THE ESTATE

December 2019



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## Juliet's Corner

By the time this edition of the newsletter reaches your mailbox, both Thanksgiving and my birthday was a zero on the end of it will have happened, but before I say goodbye to November, I want to share with you FIFTY (50!) things I'm grateful for:

1. My wonderful husband Scott
2. Our beautiful girls Jane and Eva
3. Both sets of parents are going strong as active grandparents in our kids' lives
4. Mo the chocolate lab
5. Frankie the cow cat
6. Our late kitties Peppy, Polo, Sidekick, and Bottlebrush
7. Tea
8. Coffee!
9. Chocolate
10. Sunshine
11. Tennis
12. Tennis friends
13. Our adopted hometown of Temecula
14. My goldfish (Carl and Leonardo de Carp-rio)
15. The fragrance of roses on a warm afternoon
16. Blowing bubbles with toddlers
17. Falling asleep at the beach on a warm day to the sound of the surf
18. Scary movies
19. Binge watching TV shows on Netflix
20. Turning on my phone to find a new episode of one of my favorite podcasts
21. I Love Lucy
22. Mel Brooks
23. The Rolling Stones
24. The Beatles
25. Stephen King and his dozens of novels
26. Agatha Christie mysteries
27. Playing chess with Jane
28. Walking around exploring a new city
29. Mah jongg
30. Entering (and sometimes winning) contests
31. Dancing at weddings
32. Hummingbirds
33. Dragonflies
34. Kittens!
35. The smell of wood smoke on a clear, bright, chilly morning
36. Fresh baked sourdough bread with butter and jam
37. Dipping my toes in the ocean
38. Setting out first thing in the morning on a road trip
39. Finding \$5 forgotten in a pocket
40. Playing old favorite songs on the piano (the ones I can remember!)
41. Turning a fresh page of a new notebook and writing with a great pen
42. Rediscovering a forgotten favorite lipstick color
43. Japanese movies
44. Walking through a fabric store touching all the fabrics
45. Knitting, forgetting how to knit, and learning again
46. Catching up with old friends over coffee or tea
47. Looking at old pictures
48. Walking around a store or on the street holding hands with Scott
49. Hugging someone for an extra-long moment after I haven't seen them for a long time
50. Every day is a brand new opportunity for something wonderful and unexpected!

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# Pom-Pom Christmas Tree Ornament

## MATERIALS:

- Pom Pom
- Craft Stick
- Cardboard Piece
- Construction paper
- Red Ribbon
- Acrylic Paint (Gold)
- Gem Stickers | Buttons | Sequin
- Glue



## DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut out a triangle shape from a green construction paper and glue it on a craft stick.
2. Cover the triangle paper with pom-poms. Alternatively, you can hot glue the pom-poms directly in the shape of a triangular tree instead of gluing them on a paper.
3. Decorate the tree with jewel stickers or buttons or sequins if you like.
4. Cut out a star shape from cardboard or coffee sleeves and color it with golden paint.
5. After the paint dries, glue it on the top of the tree.
6. Lastly, glue a red ribbon at the back to hang the ornament.

For Full Instructions: <https://www.thejoysharing.com/2018/12/pompom-christmas-tree-ornament.html>

## Spare Sock Snowman

### Materials:

- White sock
- Orange cloth
- Blue Cloth
- Craft googly eyes
- Fluff
- Rice (or something to hold weight down.)
- Glue
- Scissors



### DIRECTIONS:

- Start with a plain white sock, and fill the toe with split peas (or something else that will give it some weight and keep it sturdy). Secure with an elastic.
- Add some cotton filling for the head, and secure with an elastic.
- Fold the top of the sock down to form a hat.
- Use glue to add a pom pom to the hat, googly eyes, a felt carrot nose, and buttons. I used tacky glue that is suitable for use with fabric.
- Draw a mouth with a permanent marker.
- Cut a strip of felt to make a scarf, tie it around the snowman's neck, and use scissors to fringe the ends.

<https://eastcoastmommyblog.blogspot.com/2015/12/spare-sock-snowman.html>

# Nantucket Christmas Cranberry Pie

The full directions can be found here

<https://barefeetinthekitchen.com/christmas-cranberry-pie-recipe/>

## INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans

## \* GLUTEN-FREE ALTERNATIVE

- 2/3 cup brown rice flour \*
- 1/3 cup tapioca starch \*



## TOPPING INGREDIENTS

- 3/4 cup butter softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour \*

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Combine the filling ingredients and stir to combine. Pour into a generously buttered 10" pie plate.
- Combine the butter and sugar in a mixing bowl and beat until smooth. Add the eggs and almond extract and beat again until fluffy. Add the flour and beat once more.
- Spread the thick batter over the cranberry mixture in the pan. I used a small cookie scoop to quickly dollop spoonfuls across the top of the pie. It doesn't need to look perfect.
- Bake for 40-50 minutes, test doneness with a toothpick, just to make sure the topping is cooked through. Serve warm with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream. Enjoy!

## Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup old-fashioned oats (not quick oats)
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 1/3 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 large egg
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1 cup mini chocolate chips
- 1 cup Christmas mix peanut butter m&m's
- 3 tablespoons Christmas sprinkles

## Santa's Cookie Bars

<https://togetherasfamily.com/santas-peanut-butter-cookie-bars/>



- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 9X13-inch baking pan and set aside. Or you can line with parchment paper or foil, and use the overhang to lift the bars out so they're easier to slice.
- In a small bowl whisk together the flour, baking soda, salt and oats. Set aside.
- In a large bowl, or in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream together the butter, peanut butter, brown sugar, and sugar until fluffy looking and light in color. About 2 minutes.
- Add in the vanilla, egg and egg yolk. Blend together and scrape down the sides of the bowl.
- Add the dry ingredients into the wet and mix just until combined. Add chocolate chips and the peanut butter m&m's and blend together until mixed in.
- Press the batter into the prepared pan. Top with the sprinkles and gently press them onto the dough.
- \* I reserve some of the chocolate chips and m&m's and press those on top of the dough as well (before baking). This gives the bars a pretty presentation.
- Bake for 14-16 minutes or until lightly browned on the edges.
- Let the bars cool in the baking pan for 20-30 minutes. Cut into squares and enjoy!



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Happy Thanksgiving!



This newsletter is intended to educate the general public about probate, trusts, wills, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained in this publication, you should consult with experienced, competent counsel regarding your specific situation

## Options For What To Do When A Trustee Stops Paying Taxes

Trustees who forget or neglect to pay federal or state taxes could cause harm to the principal of the trust. Ultimately, this means that the beneficiaries will suffer harm, as well. Estate taxes that are paid late could be subject to interest and fees in addition to the actual tax itself. Had the trustee fulfilled all of his or her fiduciary duties, these extra costs would likely never have existed.

Furthermore, what can a beneficiary do if this occurs? The following is an overview:

1. First of all, seek removal of the trustee if you are concerned about the safeguarding of trust assets.
2. Additionally, seek fiduciary surcharge, where the trustee is ordered to pay back the lost money out of his or her personal finances.
3. Lastly, get the probate court involved as oversight of the trust administration process if they are not already a part of it.

Your first step after realizing that the trustee of a trust of which you are a beneficiary should be to contact an attorney. Pursuing a claim for funds as a result of the negligence of a trustee is not an easy process. To learn more about taking legal action against a trustee or other party during the trust administration process, view our free guide, *Winning the Inheritance Battle: The Ultimate Guide to California Trust and Probate Litigation*.

In conclusion, did you find this article helpful? We would like to know! Consider sharing it with your family and friends on Facebook! Someone you love may be struggling with the same or a similar issue. Our helpful information, tips, and articles could provide answers to the questions that both of you are seeking