



Happy Halloween! I know it's a day late but I had a spectacular technology fail yesterday that prevented this email from getting sent out. What happened? I listened to some bad advice and I ignored that little voice in my head that said "I don't think this is a good idea."

A couple of months ago I had an issue with video on my classes website. Something was using too much storage, bandwidth and maxing out the site. Which didn't make any sense, but the tech support guy said I should set up a thing that would cache the video and blah blah and it would fix everything. I tried to understand what this app was supposed to do to help me, but I have to admit I **let myself listen to that little voice** that said "this is too technical for you and you don't understand it so you should just listen to the expert tech guy and do what he says". So I set it all up and I've been monitoring all the reports and do you know what I saw? Absolutely nothing. Not only was it not solving my problem, but it actually completely shut down all of the emails from my site. No one could reset their password or get their class registration email. The webhost blamed Gmail, Gmail blamed the webhost, the plugin blamed Wordpress... Everyone said "talk to someone else". And it turned out when I followed my own instincts and shut off that new app completely and set everything back to the way it was, it all started working again. (I think.)

It turns out that **instead of solving my problem by adding something, all I needed to do was simplify**. Instead of that app, I tweaked the setting on one file on my website, deleted some videos,

found a different way to store them, and that original problem was solved. I think that's going to be my theme for the rest of the year: when something looks like a problem, how can I simplify it? How about you? What's your theme for the end of 2023?

what's new?



FRIDAY, NOV 10 / 5-9P
SATURDAY, NOV 11 / 12-5P
SUNDAY, NOV 12 / 12-5P

Part of NEMAA Fall Open Studios!

NKB
NORTHROP KING BUILDING
open studios • live art •
demonstrations • food trucks • gallery
exhibitions • interactive activities •
family friendly • free parking • over
400 artists in one building!

I'll be a guest artist in Northrup King 401B for [Art Attack](#) on November 10-12. I've made some really special ornaments and new velvet bags just for the show. I hope you'll stop in!

And then I'll be at [Darn Knit Anyway](#) for their [Makers Market](#) in November 19th. I love the crew at DKA and can't wait to spend the afternoon there.

Holiday Makers' Market



Sunday, November 19th 11am-4pm

Darn Knit Anyway  Stillwater, MN



classes



My second class is available at Skillshare and it's making Tie Dyed Toucans.

[Check it out here.](#)

You'll learn both how to tie dye wool felt in a kitchen safe way, and then how to make your own colorful toucan. These make really fun ornaments!

Aren't a Skillshare member? Once again I've made 5 seats available in the class for free for newsletter subscribers. You just have to hop over and [register with this link](#) and it will be free for the first five to claim it.

If you do use the free link I would appreciate it enormously if you would interact with the class (favorite, comment, post, watch video, like, anything!). The more people interact, the better the search engine can find it and show more students.

on the studio table



On the studio table this week:

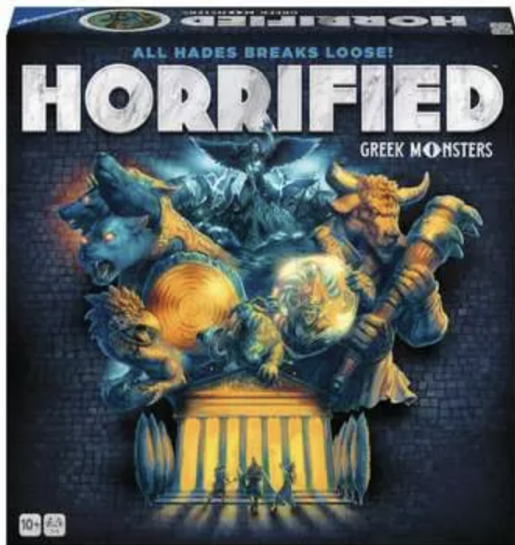
Tools: I saw this [ceramic phone holder by AskeyColeCeramics](#) pop up in my social media someplace and it looked like the perfect holder for my phone to shoot hands-at-work videos. (I usually use a roll of packing tape!)

Music: A new track by Sting and P!nk who are two of my very favorite musicians ever? Yes please! [Dreaming by Sting, P!nk & Marshmello](#)

Display: I don't often share things like this, but I found this [lighted "birch" tree display piece](#) for some holiday ornaments I'll be selling at shows and it was so nice and so inexpensive I had to share. I was very pleasantly surprised.

get in the game





I decided to switch up this section of my newsletter for a bit and talk about another thing I love: games! With lots of family gatherings coming up for a lot of people, I wanted to share some of what we are playing with our friends and family. We just got a copy of [Horried: Greek Monsters](#). It's a cooperative game, which means you all work together to beat the game. In our first adventure we battled a basilisk and Cerberus. It's really fast to learn and you can switch up the monsters every game which makes it different every time you play. Here's a [great "how to play" video](#) you can check out.

links you'll love



I LOVE this [monarch-inspired knitted hat by Nancy Bates so much!](#) I might be motivated to level up my stranded knitting skills to make this one.

This is amazing: [Adobe introduced Project Primrose](#), an interactive dress that can dynamically alter its design and style, shifting and animating in a second.

This knitted, striped Elkmont Cowl [<ravelry link>](#) by [@aopiedesigns](#) also caught my eye. I think I have some leftovers in my stash that would be perfect for this.

I saw this video on [Saoirse's Instagram and immediately signed up for a mini class with her](#). It was a fun technique to learn. Her hand movement and the way she explains it is elegant.

We made this [Creamy Pumpkin Polenta with Balsamic Roasted Beets](#) for dinner the other night and it was delicious. We added some goat cheese crumbled over the top and it was the perfect addition.

A really [cool video about book restorer Sophia Bogle](#). I would love to learn those skills AND see that Wizard of Oz book in person!

A fascinating piece by the National Gallery [about indigo \(both the color and the pigment\) used in paintings and what it can tell you about the work](#).

If you run across ["That's It" fruit bars](#) anywhere give one a try! My favorite is mango or maybe cherry. As someone with some food intolerances, I love that these are just fruit and nothing else.

I wanted to make myself a cotton flannel bathrobe (because you can't buy one anywhere) and I couldn't find flannel that wasn't just plaid or "baby" prints, so I bought a set of king sized flannel sheets! They were so much less expensive and [I found a cute dog print](#) and [a free pattern from Mood](#).

If you need a little serotonin burst and love dogs like I do, check out [@nickel_labradors_mi](#) on Instagram. They have two 3-4 week old litters of English Lab puppies and she posts videos every day.

And if you are wondering about the photo at the top, this is the 17th year (?) that my husband and I have made a Halloween photo. It is a tradition we LOVE. May the Force Be With You.

Becka Rahn

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