February started off with a bang, and I had the opportunity to meet lots of new guests and tape so many interesting segments - can't wait til they air and you get to see them.

On February 7, my guest was Matthew Festa and he represented Guardians of Rescue. Matthew talked about how to adopt homeless animals, post traumatic stress disorder and how animals help these people overcome their issues, and humane education, which is geared to teaching children to have respect and compassion for animals. This program is called “The Junior Guardians” and is offered to groups of kids in schools, organizations, scouting programs, etc. If you’d like more information, you can go to their website at: www.guardiansofrescue.org. This is their logo:

Matthew and his wife are just two of thousands of volunteers who are involved with this project, which is based in New York, but they have similar programs in many other cities across the country.

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Since I love all kinds of crafts, I was so pleased to have two representatives of **Close To My Heart** here on February 14th to tape. **Kristine Widtfeldt** taped one segment titled Practically Perfect Party Favors using the Cricut Artiste Collection which is easy and fun to do. It uses “themed keys” that group like elements together for viewing and cutting and you can create everything you need to pull off a unique party, including invitations, envelopes, cupcake liners and picks, as well as favor tubes and bags. Another segment was called Mini-Album, Maximum Fun, and these small albums make a great gift or a unique keepsake or a specific event, trip or even a person. Fun and fast to make! Since I love to make cards, I really was wowed when Kristine showed how to make 16-cards in ONE HOUR! These mini cards are just right for adding to a gift or as a note to a friend, and you can make lots of them in advance for just the right occasion.

After Kristine finished, **Carlie Robertson** showed how to make photo-fabulous layouts with Flip Flaps - a great way to incorporate multiple photos on a single page without making it look messy. Now I’m going to go back through some of my scrapbook pages, and use this newly-learned technique. Carlie also showed some clear polymer stamps that are fun to use, easy to clean and oh-so-versatile once you know a few basic techniques.

The third guest on February 14th was **Kimball Starr**, an interior designer from San Francisco, CA. Her company is **Kimball Starr Interior Design**. Kimball talked about picking paint colors for your home, design tricks to reshape your room size, design tips for small space living, and ways to inspire your home with pattern, color and texture. She had the nicest photos to illustrate each of her talking points, and it made the segments even more interesting.

On February 21st, I had the pleasure of meeting for the first time another interior designer from Cherry Hill, NJ. **Beth Secosky** is the owner of **EASY Designs**, an interior design and real estate staging firm. Beth was recently voted Best of Houzz and that happens to be one of my favorite websites. (It’s [www.houzz.com](http://www.houzz.com) in case you’ve never visited it.) Beth taped a segment on budget decorating - low cost ways to perk up your home and she, too, had wonderful examples of photos and fabrics to illustrate her points. Another segment was on updating window treatments using a current trend - color blocking. And, last, but not least, she explained how to select a color palette to work with. Great ideas and very practical information.
I may have told you this before, but people always ask me “Where do you find your guests?” First of all, most of them will tell you that they didn’t know they were lost! (That’s a joke!)

One of my co-workers and her husband recently celebrated an anniversary, and she had some cake left over from the party. She brought it to the station for some of us to enjoy, and she also brought pictures of the cake before it was cut. The cake was about 18” tall and about 12” wide, and it was a very realistic looking slot machine - complete with a jackpot winning roll! When I asked who had decorated the cake, she gave me the name of a lady who lived just 19 miles north of where I live! I “found” her on Facebook, and invited her to be on the show. She turned out to be a fantastic guest and a very talented lady who is getting ready to move to Germany with her Air Force husband and their 4 children. I am so glad I met her and had a chance to work with her before she leaves this area. Her name is Laura Haselden, and her business is called Simply Sweet - Cakes by Laura. It’s amazing what all she can do with fondant which is what her two segments were about. She showed how to make ribbons and bows with fondant, and the other one showed how to make pigs and other animals. Not only were her cakes delightful to look at, they were delicious - she left them here for us to eat. Thanks, Laura and best of luck to you and your family in Germany.

My first guest on February 28th was Louix Dor Dempriey, Spiritual Master and President/CEO of Louix Dor Dempriey Foundation in Laguna Hills, CA. He was so interesting to talk to and he taped 4 segments with us: Optimizing Nutrition, Meditation, Creating Abundance in Your Life, and Sustainable Living. He has a world-wide following and you can view some of his retreats, talks and seminars by going to his website. I’m anxious to watch his DVD on meditation.

My second guest was Cheryl Phillips, owner of Phillips Fiber Art in Delta, CO. Cheryl showed a Simple Curves tool she designed and how to use it to make a curved table runner or quilts or for other projects. Another tool she designed was for making perfect circles EVERY TIME, and she used it to show her version of the popular Drunkard’s Path quilt. She also told how that quilt pattern got its name - do you know the story?

Hope you’ve enjoyed the Newsletter. Lots of interesting guests coming in March and our newest Creative Living series, the 6500 series, starts on March 6 - check your local TV listings for day and time where you live.

Sheryl