It’s almost Thanksgiving time, and after this month’s taping, I can already smell some new dishes that will be on my menu this year! I’ve had so many wonderful guests this month, and I’ll post all of their recipes on the Creative Living website under “Recipes.” I hope you’ll also try some of them. But, let’s digress and let me introduce you to each one in the order they taped!

On October 3rd, I taped with Kristina Rachel, a jewelry designer and owner of the Rachel Claire Collection in San Jose, CA. She and her husband, Victor, drove to Portales, along with their two bloodhounds - Huckleberry and Finley. She taped one segment on gemstones and their metaphysical meanings, another one on how to wear jewelry, including stacking and statement pieces, and a final segment on how to care for all types of jewelry. I learned so much – and that I wasn’t taking care of my jewelry like I should be.

On October 10th, I had THREE guests, and each had been here before, so we had a great time “catching up.” They are...
all designers and crafters, and I love the products and projects they showed. Can’t wait for you to see them. One guest was **Ann Butler** with **Ann Butler Designs** in Villard, MN. Ann has come out with a new line of geometric stamps and inks that allow you to create faux quilting - but it’s really all stamped. Amazing and beautiful.

**Marisa Pawelko**’s company is **Modern Surrealist** in Winfield, IL, and she represented **Westcott Brand Cutting Tools**, **Imagine Crafts & Tsukineko Inks**. Marisa always comes up with such creative no-sew projects, and they are quick and easy to do - just what I like. She demonstrated making a no-sew tee-shirt apron (like the one she is wearing) and a quick and easy tee-shirt scarf. Have you seen the new Westcott Scissor Mouse? You may want to get one for all your gift wrapping projects at Christmas. Marisa showed card making and gift wrapping using the colorful mouse. Then, she showed how to add instant pop and wow to your projects with Vertigo and Tsukineko inks. You can create optical effects on your projects using these products.

Last, but not least, was **Lisa Rojas** who is known as the **Stampin’ Queen** from Victorville, CA. Lisa showed how to make a faux quilt pillow using Ann Butler’s Faux Quilting Rubber Stamps, and then she demonstrated how to velvet stamp the cover of a photo book. Finally, she showed us how to create a jewelry set with a crystal sheet from Connie Crystal. I think the most fun part of my job - besides meeting and working with all these wonderful people - is finding out about all the new products on the market. Having all three of these gals here on the same day was such a delight for me. Can’t wait to see them again.

On October 17th, I welcomed back a guest who had been here in 2003 - so this was the first time she had seen the new Broadcast Center! **Jana Beus** previously represented Simplicity Patterns, and this time, she came as the spokesperson for her own company called **Doll Stuff by Jana**, and she’s from Ogden, UT. Accompanying Jana was her husband, Jim and their granddaughter, Kylee who appeared in two of the segments. Jana said that Kylee is the one who inspired her to start making this unique doll furniture using PVC pipe and pipe insulation, as well as embellishments and fabric. One segment was on applique, another one showed how to construct the furniture from PVC pipe, another one concentrated on various sizes and shapes of pillows for the different pieces of furniture, and the final one was on embellishing the furniture.
On October 24th I had the pleasure to meet and interview Andy Wells who is the Vice President of Product Design with Master-Brand Cabinets, Inc. in Jasper, IN. Andy was so delightful as well as knowledgeable about cabinetry for kitchens, bathrooms and mudrooms, which he explained in detail. We talked about tips for homeowners who are considering a remodel project and about some of the most popular trends not only now but on the horizon, as well as specific ways to bring your home into the 21st century.

And, now we come to our Halloween taping but it wasn’t scary - it was fun and delicious. These are the recipes I said I would post to the Creative Living website. One of my guests was K.C. Pomerling, the founder of G-Free Foodie, and she’s from Madera, CA. K.C. has celiac disease, and because of all her research, medical appointments and just the fact that she was feeling bad all the time, she came up with a website that will help so many others. She explained about what gluten is, how to find food substitutions, what some of the numerous hidden sources of gluten are, and how to look for gluten on labels. The best part of her website, especially if someone is just now finding out they are gluten intolerant, is the monthly Foodie Box Club. Just go to the website (click above) and see what this entails.

Following K.C.’s taping, I then taped FIVE segments with Karla Stockli, Chief Executive Officer with the California Fig Advisory Board in Fresno, CA. One segment dealt with pairing and comparing the different varieties of figs with the flavor notes of wine. We discussed the history of figs, talked about where they are grown - CALIFORNIA - and the harvesting and availability of figs. We also discussed nutrition and how to throw a Fig-tastic dessert party and finished with a segment on Five Ways with Figs. You wouldn’t believe how many delicious figs we enjoyed giving away after the taping. There are now lots of people trying fresh and dried figs for the first time - thanks to Karla and the California Fig farmers.

I wish each of you a very blessed and thankful Thanksgiving spent with family and friends. Let’s all try to remember how fortunate we are and give “credit where credit is due!”

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sheryl