

Mary's Medley

April 2006
Vol. I Issue 4

APRIL ~~~

Fourth month of the Gregorian calendar
Begins on Friday and contains 30 days

Poetry Month

April 1-April Fool's Day

April 14-Good Friday

April 16-Easter

Birthstone: Diamond

Flower: Sweet Pea

**April Showers
Bring May Flowers**

Happy Birthday to Diane and Ed!!

~tea~

TEA of the MONTH

Queen Mary. This is one of my very favorite teas! It is a bracing black tea from the world's top tea gardens.

Queen Mary is a blend of three teas. A round cup. Good flavor tempered with malty and floral notes. (If you know me, it can't be too much floral.) It is an English favorite. I'm sure it will become one of yours, too!

~tea~

TEA TIPS and TIDBITS

READ. Yes, read the ingredients list on the label of the pre-packaged "tea" you are purchasing. It may not be tea. The name may say tea but many blends may not contain any tea whatsoever. These blends may be very tasty and healthy for you but if you want **tea**, (and I hope you do), **read** the label.

History Meets the Arts

This year is the 9th Annual event held in Gettysburg. It is internationally known. The artisans, authors, and crafters are from near and far. Don't miss it!

My guests will include Pamela Hurlbert, beadwork artist, demonstrating Native American-style bead weaving on a loom. Connie Morris, a fast and proficient crocheter, will be showing-off her technique. Call the shop for details. **An Early Elegance** carries Pam's fashion jewelry and Connie's christening gowns as well as their other handmade items.

~tea~

WHAT'S on MY BOOKSHELF?

The Country Flowers of a Victorian Lady. This beautiful book has become one of my very favorite books. It is not only lovely but informative. The Book of Memory, the original title of Fanny Robinson's book of paintings, poetry, and commentaries, is recreated in this wonderful publication. Gill Saunders, senior curator at the Victoria & Albert Museum, interprets the Victorian era symbolism of Fanny's florals.

Plate 24, pages 56 & 57, in this outstanding book is "Sweet Peas." The purples and rich pinks of April's flower are so vivid and velvety looking, you'll want to pluck them from the page or at least try to inhale their non-existent aroma.

Your purchase of this gorgeous pictorial benefits the British charity, Landlife.

April is Poetry Month

I thought I would choose something appropriate to complement the month. The selection is a brief four-line segment of a much longer and pleasant poem by Keats penned in c.1817. The poem is titled:

I Stood Tip-toe Upon a Little Hill

Here are sweet peas, on tiptoe for a flight:
With wings of gentle flush o'er delicate white,
And taper fingers catching at all things,
To bind them all about with tiny rings.

~tea~

What to do? Where to go?

History Meets the Arts. Gettysburg, PA
April 20-23, 2006. 717-339-6161
hmtarts.com

Arbor Day-USA. Your hometown.
April 28, 2006. arborday.org

"Six Plants We Can't Live Without" is a permanent exhibit sponsored by the U.S. Botanic Gardens, Washington, DC. Visual stories of corn, cocoa, citrus, cotton, **TEA**, and rice are told. From farms around the world to your home, how we depend globally on each other.
www.usbg.gov

~tea~

Important

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In the Kitchen

"Asparagus Roll-Ups"

yield: 24 savory sandwiches

24 slices firm white bread
1 cup crumbled Roquefort cheese
paprika
butter
24 pickled asparagus tips **OR**
24 steamed asparagus tips marinated in
¼ cup French-style dressing

- Roll bread slices with rolling pin
- Butter each slice of bread to the edge then trim the crusts from the slices
- Sprinkle the buttered bread with paprika
- At one end of the bread slice, place one asparagus tip on the buttered bread extending ½" of the top over the edge
- Sprinkle remainder of the buttered bread slice with about 1 tablespoon of the crumbled cheese
- Roll-up the bread like a jellyroll starting at the asparagus end
- Place on a cookie sheet with the open edge down
- Broil for 3 minutes or until golden brown and serve warm

~tea~

Just a Note

The wonderful *Queen Mary* tea and the book, *The Country Flowers of a Victorian Lady* may be purchased from *An Early Elegance* at the shop, by fax, telephone or mail. Be sure to include your contact information so the purchase and shipping can be completed

~tea~

Dear Readers,

May you be blessed with~
Good friends,
Good health, and
Prosperity until we meet again.

Mary