

# Scars and Blessings

If I asked you to remember back in years and tell me what year was the best of best for you, which year would you choose? The year you married, the year you started/finished college, the years your children were born, the year you finally got on track with your destined career, or the year you finally achieved that coveted dream you dreamed on for years.

I have had so very many good and unexpected things happen in my life it would take me days, weeks, or even months to list them all. The things that stand out are my marriage at seventeen, (58 years next month), the births of my three children, going to college at the age of sixty-five, publishing my first short story, realizing my dream of writing a newspaper column, and on and on and on.

But this year that we are fighting and struggling through, will be undoubtedly be the most remembered year of my life. Not for the joy that it has brought to me but for the uncertainties, worries, and improbabilities

it has rendered. We were on the gulf coast in March for spring break, that lasted for three months, when this horrifying disease was just beginning. We had no idea it would be as devastating as it has been and that our lives as we once knew them may never be the same again.

Some of the things my family has persevered through have been my husband going by ambulance to Jackson, with what they believed at the time a stroke, our country log home totally burning, one of our sons experiencing Covid 19, our businesses in a chaotic state, to secure groceries for our hometown, my son-in-law trying to work through a serious illness, and several other things that have taken its toll on my family.


But, being the one to see the light at the end of the tunnel and finding all my blessings, I can say that my husband is fine, our log house is being built back, my son survived Covid 19, we are able to supply groceries, and our son-in-law is on the mend. Some of the other things might leave a scar on us, but we are going forward and I hope and pray another 2020 will never happen again.

It seems like all I do is cook and EAT.....Here is one of my favorite recipes.  
**SCRATCH BROWNIES**  
½ cup melted butter  
1 cup of sugar  
2 eggs  
2 t. vanilla  
1/3 cup cocoa powder  
½ cup flour  
½ cup chocolate chips  
Preheat to 350\*. Spray 8x8 inch pan. Mix all ingredients, adding the chocolate chips last and pour into your pan and bake 30 minutes

*\* Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.*



## Peggy's Take



### Bridal Registry

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## THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



# Wicker: Amy Coney Barrett is outstanding pick for supreme court

*President's nominee could shape high court for a generation*

President Trump struck gold with his selection of Amy Coney Barrett for the Supreme Court. She is an outstanding pick who has the right character, temperament, and philosophy to serve on our nation's highest court. As an accomplished professor and judge, Barrett has shown that she understands the role of a judge is to set aside personal views and be bound by our laws and Constitution. Her intellect and philosophy are so strong that during her previous judicial nomination, she received the endorsement of the entire faculty at Notre Dame Law School, where she taught for 15 years.

Recently I had the chance to meet with Judge Barrett. We covered a number of topics during our approximately 25-minute chat. She showed the same gracious spirit all

of us had witnessed at her announcement ceremony the previous Saturday. I especially enjoyed hearing about her upbringing in Metairie, Louisiana, and her undergraduate education at Rhodes College in neighboring Memphis.

Judge Barrett was already a familiar face in the Senate before her recent nomination. It was only three years ago that senators vetted her, questioned her, and confirmed her to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. I supported her confirmation, as did every Senate Republican and three Democrats. The Judiciary Committee will soon hold another hearing for Judge Barrett, allowing her to share her record and philosophy with the American people.

**Judge Barrett is**

# The often overlooked color brown

What common garden color is not part of the rainbow?

Most landscapes are largely plants of green and its variants. However, though the contrasts between glossy dark magnolia and cherry laurel, the bright greens of holly and pine, the softer cedars, and variegated evergreens are usually taken for granted, combinations of their hues and textures can sure be stunning.

But when considering garden color we usually overlook brown, that complicated mélange of red, yellow, and blue which, sadly, won't be found in a rainbow. It's generally thought of as a little dull, though the naturally warm, wholesome color represents simplicity, friendliness, and dependability.

Yet notably, back in 1903 when Smith and Binney came out with the first 8-pack Crayola crayon box, brown was there. Over the years they introduced many variations, including raw umber, burnt sienna, taupe, ochre, ecru, and tumbleweed. And who could ever forget the now-abandoned pale brown they called flesh?

Though I have seen dirt that is nearly black, rusty red, or bluish, it's mostly brown. Dry dust is light brown; when wet it's dark, but still brown.

Other hues of brown include auburn, chestnut, cinnamon, russet, tawny, chocolate, tan, Brunette, fawn, mahogany,

oak, bronze, terra-cotta, toast, cocoa, coffee, copper, khaki, and beige. And those are just the easy ones off the top of my head; a computer search of the color brown or visit to any paint store will boggle your mind.

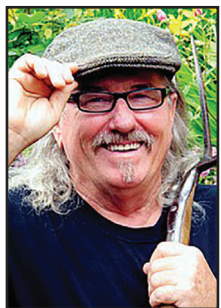
So, when I gaze upon an all-green garden I notice the browns, too. By combining different-shaped shrubs and elements of just brown and green, we can create interesting monochromatic gardens, even in winter.

Along with evergreen foliage, think of a medium brown pine tree trunk against the dormant winter lawn, with tan pampas grass topped by off-white plumes. Add bark or straw mulch, a wooden bench, half whiskey barrel planter, and flagstone paving, and there's enough to command the most color-snobbish person's attention.

Those are great all on their own; throw in berries, variegation, colorful containers, and of course seasonal flowers, and the garden will start to shine.

But there's more fun to be had. Last week, while preparing for my MPB radio broadcast, in my habit of talking up seasonal vegetables or herbs, heirloom passalong flowers, and native plants, I gathered some stuff from the garden. Whatever eye-catcher was doing its thing that day.

I started with a yellow-fruited Lemon Boy tomato



**FELDER RUSHING**

## Committed to the Constitution

Judge Barrett has spent her entire adult life in service to our Constitution and founding principles. Her legal career began in 1997 when she graduated at the top of her class from Notre Dame Law School. As a professor, she became a strong advocate for the conservative legal philosophy of her late mentor, Justice Antonin Scalia.

Judge Barrett has followed that approach as a circuit judge. She has authored dissenting opinions defending the Second Amendment and certain Trump Administration immigration policies. She has been a leading defender of due process rights for the accused. And when her court struck down two pro-life laws in Indiana, she disagreed and defended the state's right to tighten abortion regulations.

Amy Coney Barrett could be the most important addition to the Supreme Court in a generation. She is already President Trump's third Supreme Court pick in four years – a remarkable feat. But more importantly, she would be the first conservative to replace a liberal on the court since 1991. If she is confirmed, six of the court's nine justices will have been

appointed by Republicans. At just 48 years old, Barrett could shape the court for decades to come.

## Barrett Reflects American Values

For many years, the Supreme Court has lacked voices from the American heartland. Every sitting member of the court attended law school at Harvard or Yale, and all except for Neil Gorsuch grew up on the East or West Coast. Judge Barrett brings a different background. She hails from Middle America and would bring a much-needed perspective to the nation's highest court.

Born in the Deep South, Barrett has spent most of her adult life in Indiana, a state known as the Crossroads of America. She is the daughter of a longtime deacon and the oldest of seven children. Today, she has seven children of her own, including two adopted from Haiti and one with special needs. She has already balanced many challenges as a mom, a professional, and a public servant. As a grandfather to five young girls, I believe Barrett's service on the Supreme Court – like that of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg – will be an inspiration to my granddaughters and others of their generation.



**Rainbow veggies**

and a color-contrasting red jalapeno pepper, but kept going through my flowerbed veggies, grabbing a long pod of burgundy okra, a snip-pet of indigo-colored basil, and... suddenly it struck me that without really planning for it I've been growing a hodge-podge edible rainbow.

Not counting flowers, between just vegetables and herbs tucked here and there in various beds and containers I have the main "Roy B Giv" rainbow colors - red, orange, yellow, blue, green, indigo, and violet.

Intrigued by the concept, I grabbed a few more, including a purple bell pepper, a stem of pale violet beautyberry, some nearly blue leaves from my just-planted Lacinato or Tuscan blue kale,

and threw in a couple of small home-grown orange sweet potatoes harvested the day before.

And those marquee beauties were just the handful that I had on hand one morning. I skipped pink, a major garden player, because it isn't in the rainbow. Once in the studio I arranged them in a stubby rainbow, adding a stem of brilliant yellow (and edible) goldenrod, and my MPB coffee cup for extra blue.

Point is, brown is many useful colors, and can be used proudly. Meanwhile, I'm eating a front yard rainbow.

*Felder Rushing is a Mississippi author, columnist, and host of the "Gestalt Gardener" on MPB Think Radio. Email gardening questions to rushingfelder@yahoo.com.*