

Christmas is over, and the next holiday will show us the way to a new year. I suppose many people are thinking about potential New Year's Resolutions. Instead, I am thinking about January, one of my favorite months.

I like January for several reasons. For one thing, as much as we all enjoy holidays, it is equally satisfying to get back to one's usual routine. We (or at least I) can take only so much celebrating. At some point, it is good to return to plain food, regular activities, and a quieter life.

Then, too, January is often a month with a little more sunshine, and we begin to notice the lengthening of the daylight hours. There is something "new" about January.

Mostly, though, this first month of the year is pleasant because it is the time I try to get back to projects I had begun earlier and also those that I have been contemplating for a while. So, I have a mental list of things I want to get done during January.

First on my list is in my line of sight every day. The little loom has about twenty yards of warp left, all wound on, threaded through the heddles, and tied up ready to weave. I took off a piece of white linen/cotton before Christmas that will be enough to make curtains for our east windows. We need either curtains or blinds there to close against the sun on bright mornings. But, there is a lot of warp left. I want to weave a length of red to use as a valence on another window, and the rest of the warp I'll weave in white again to "have on hand." I want to get the warp off the loom so I can begin another weaving project.

This past fall, I ripped out a handknit wool sweater that had become baggy and unpleasant. I washed the yarn and skeined it up again. I want to knit another sweater of that yarn. Hopefully, January will have enough time to get a start on that.

Then, there is the four drawer oak filing cabinet that holds so much--some necessary papers, some less important but worthy of keeping, and some junk. I'd like to go through everything in the drawers and discard what we don't need or want. One full drawer of "writing resources" needs a lot of organizing.

I need to make more felt for mittens, too. And, after we shear the

ewe lambs, I will have wool to wash and dye.

As always, there are books on my list to read. But, that is not unique to January. There are always books I want to read.

So, January is no "letdown" after the holidays. Rather, it is a period when there is time for some of the special projects we put on the back burner during busier times of the year. And, in fact, every month, every year, even every day, is something to anticipate.