



Royal City Quilters Guild

P.O. Box 30039, 2 Quebec Street, Guelph, Ontario N1H 8J5

Monthly Newsletter

February 2005

President: Sue Keuhl

826-7914

Vice President: Maureen Kay

843-1778

Secretary: Shelly Palframan

824-0768

Guild Treasurer: Helen Meyer

855-6597

February Meeting

Tuesday February 8, 2005

Westwood United Church, Willow Rd., Guelph

6:45 Doors Open

7:15 Opening Remarks

7:30 Program

8:30 Break

8:45 Show and Share



Treat List

Carol Cousins
Susan Knabenshuh
Lana Phillips
Val Richardson
Lois Frederikse
Jane Berberich

Thank You!

Things to Remember

- ♥ Name Tag
- ♥ Library Books
- ♥ Food Bank Donation
- ♥ Show and Share Items
- ♥ Block of the Month
- ♥ Zehrs Tapes
- ♥ Cup or Mug
- ♥ Newsletter Submissions

Greeters

Cindy Schwan
Ann Reynard



"A Gift from the Heart"

Food Bank donations will be gratefully received this month. Toiletry items (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, feminine protection), socks and underwear are particularly needed at this time.

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A Message from the President

Sue Keuhl (821-7914)



The start of a new year usually makes us refocus on what we are doing and where we want to be in a year from now. For quilters, our New Year's resolutions take on many different forms. We may resolve to finish UFO's, learn new techniques, take new courses or start a new project that has been waiting in the wings. If anything, most of us wish to devote **more time** to our passion - the art of quilting. Often people who want to be painters are told they should paint everyday. What about quilters? How can we practice and create everyday? Our goals and resolutions can be really motivating but sometimes they can be stifling. Sometimes they can block us from developing our creative spirit. Remember going to the craft table in Kindergarten? All the coloured paper, stickers and paste? There were no instructions. Remember the sheer joy of mucking around with your scissors, glue and creating whatever you could in the moment. Can we do this with our quilting?

In January 2003, I took on a project I had wanted to do for the longest time. It was an idea from *Threads Magazine*, Taunton Press, May 1997, #70. Yes, this was an idea I had on the back burner for a long time! There is an article by Nancy Halpern on page 37 called "*Quilting Day by Day*". It details an exercise she gives her students: to keep a quilt journal or calendar. Her rules are simple: "Wait until the day has begun to take shape before starting a block. Finish the block at the end of the day...and never work ahead". The article is about her experience with keeping a quilt journal for a year. The whole idea intrigued me so I decided to do it for a month (a good way to start).

I made a 4" x 4" square each day. Some days I would do a quilt block and other days I would just choose a fabric from my collection to reflect something I was working on or my particular mood that day. Ugly fabrics REALLY come in handy for days that aren't so rosy. This project was immensely rewarding. It made me touch and handle my fabric everyday. If I didn't have the right fabric, I had permission to buy a fat quarter! Even if it only took 15 minutes, I became conscious of significant things like the shape of the moon, certain constellations and when the evenings started to become lighter again. This process really made me conscious of the world around me and how to interpret it in fabric. This was also a very special month. It was a time of many changes and tremendous growth. This can easily be seen in my quilt journal and I feel so fortunate to have a record of the changes I experienced at this time. On some blocks I wrote inspiring verses or poems. It was also really gratifying to pick out fabrics that resembled feelings of joy, accomplishment and contentment.

I also used journal entries to try new techniques on days when I had more time. I attended a few workshops at this time so some of my samples became entries. I also endeavored to try a few free form techniques from two of my favourite books. Jan Mullen's book *Cut-Loose Quilts* (ISBN 1-57120-154-8) has a series of exercises to try new techniques without patterns or exact measuring. A similar book, *Liberated Quilting* by Gwen Marston (ISBN 0-89145-878-6) also encourages a variety of blocks "on the fly". These books represent a break away from rigid, exact measuring and precise sewing. These kinds of ideas really lend themselves for experimenting with your fabric because these techniques can be done quickly.

I have read other articles on different types of quilt journals. *Quilting Arts Magazine* has shown mini quilts that are made to resemble a whole month instead of a day. You may also recall guest speaker Judy Martin from Manitoulin Island who came to our Guild in 2003. She made cloth books to resemble specific periods of time or events in the news.

There are other ways to play with your fabrics, similar to those days back in Kindergarten. Recently, I picked up a great book called *Quilter's Playtime-Games with Fabrics* by Dianne S. Hire, ISBN 1-57432-826-3. The title immediately grabbed my attention. The book encourages you to play with your fabrics via a variety of patterns named after our favourite games. Exercises range from Hopscotch, Tic-Tac-Toe, Pin the Tail on the Donkey, Musical Chairs to Tiddly Winks. These simple exercises will have you creating original quilts with an explosion of colour.

Another idea is simply to schedule yourself time to play with your fabrics. I know of two Guild members who meet regularly to try new techniques. They block off time at least one afternoon a week just to get together and work away on new ideas. It really stretches them as quilters, and I know they really look forward to this special time to encourage each other on.

If we were writers, we would write every day. If we were athletes, we would train every day. If we were singers, we would sing every day. As quilters, have you found a vehicle to get you to play with your palate of fabrics in a spontaneous, liberating way?

Happy Quilting!

Sue Keuhl

koolhouse@rogers.com



PROGRAM

Maureen Kay (843-1778) and
Sharon Beach (836-4639)

Tips, Tricks and Tools Trade Show and Chair Sale

Please join us in February when we will be demonstrating special techniques, shortcuts and a variety of tools designed to make quilt making easy and fun. We will also have on hand a number of 'unconventional' tools not found in your local quilt shop.

In addition to the Trade show, during break we will be having a Chair Sale! What's that, you ask? It's a community garage sale...in miniature...only better, since it's only for quilting- and sewing-related items!

If you would like to participate as a 'vendor', please bring your unwanted items to the February meeting, where you may 'rent' a chair for a minimum donation of \$1.00. All of the rental proceeds will be donated to the Food Bank in addition to the toiletries and grooming products we will be collecting from the membership that night! You get to keep all of your sale profits to spend, save or donate as you please!

Please bring each item or group of items packaged, bagged, tied or otherwise contained, and clearly labelled and priced in advance. When pricing, think of what you'd like to pay for similar items at a garage sale... Also, please bring a small container for collecting payments (maybe a margarine container with a slit in the lid?) and a box or box-lid or Rubbermaid-type container roughly the size of a chair's seat (maybe around 12" by 18"?), which will sit on the chair to hold your sale items and the money container.

Everyone bring lots of \$\$\$, particularly plenty of change, for shopping! We will be using the honour system, just as we do at the annual December bake sale; after all quilters are honourable people!

See you there!



ASK A QUILTER

Liz Bayne (763-6337) and
JoAnne Oldridge (821-3112)

Dear Expert Quilter,

How do you square a block or a quilt top?

Thank you,

Suzie Sewer

Dear Suzie Sewer,

Your instructions will tell you the finished size of the block. To this you must add 1/4" on all sides for seam allowances. For example, a 9" block would measure 9 1/2" before sewing blocks together. Use a square ruler if you have one, or your 6" ruler, to trim and straighten 2 sides and then the other 2 sides. Make sure corners are 90 degrees. This is very important - Always use the interior lines on your ruler, aligning them with the seam lines in the block, to keep things square. You can use two rulers together to get a larger dimension like 9 1/2". If one part of your block is slightly short, sew your 1/4" seam line where you know it should be, making the seam allowance on the short piece narrower. Even if it is only 1/8" wide it will not pull out. And always remember - accuracy is the most important thing. If you cut accurately and sew accurate 1/4" seams, the blocks will turn out to be the proper size. Also iron carefully so as not to distort the block. You can sometimes correct an off-kilter block with careful re-ironing.

Ellie Expert





FROM THE LIBRARY

by Barbara Jordan (837-0818)



A Book Review

By Norah McGuire-MacLeod

WOW!

December's Deli & Bake sale was a tremendous success! We raised \$464.00 for library purchases. Look for the yellow sticker on the new items listed below. You may recognize some of the new titles from our December speaker, Rosemary Plummer. For those in the Crazy Quilt group, the *Treasury of Crazy Quilt Stitches* has 208 pages of beautiful stitches. If you are a Stack `n` Whacker, or just wacky, Bethany Reynolds uses her stack `n` whack method on the Lemoyne Star in *Stars A La Carte*.

New items in the library

Affairs of the Heart by Aie Rossmann
Foundation Quilts by Jane Hall & Dixie Haywood
Kaleidoscopes & Quilts by Paula Nadelstern
Karen K Stone Quilts by Karen K Stone
Smashing Sets by Margaret Miller
Snowflakes & Quilts by Paula Nadelstern
Stack the Deck! By Karla Alexander
Stars A La Carte by Bethany Reynolds
Treasury of Crazy Quilt Stitches by Carole Samples
Surface Design Magazine Fall 2004



Look for more cotton fabric, decorator fabric and magazines at the library's chair at the February Chair Sale.

Zehrs tapes collected in December and January have earned us a cheque for \$91.05 from Zehrs which will be used for new library purchases. The Ultra, Dominion or A&P tapes are still being collected. If you wish to put your Canadian Tire money donations in the bag with the grocery tapes, we will forward it to the workshop committee. Marjorie and Maria are hoping to purchase a new iron with the collected Canadian Tire money.

Snow Flakes and Quilts

by Paula Nadelstern

ISBN 1- 57120-155-6

Paula owes much of her inspiration for this book to Wilson Alwyn Bentley, the Snowflake Man. At the age of nineteen, he became the first person to photomicrograph a snowflake. Every snow crystal that floats to earth is unique and equally compelling. Like a good quilt, a snowflake doesn't form instantly. It starts with a tiny nucleus and develops a geometric pattern of remarkable regularity around it, changing in form as it encounters differing atmospheric conditions and temperatures on its free fall journey to earth. That's why, like a quilt, each snowflake has its own unique story.

Paula starts by introducing the quilters to the tools of the trade. She explains the importance of using reliable measuring tools from the beginning to the end of the project. Paula then describes how to make the templates used to mark the fabrics. Paula designs a snowflake using her ideas, her fabric and a Bentley photomicrograph. Sewing lines and templates follow her fabric choices. She marks her decisions on the diagram which result in a design plan. This step enables her to develop the relationships between all the idiosyncratic patches and ensures they will fit together. Paula takes the quilter step by step through her design process.

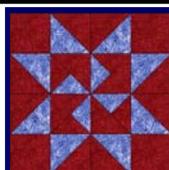
The chapter on power stitching explains how to strip-piece the very small patches and how to choose the fabric necessary to accomplish this. Pictures provide the quilters with great visual references. The Finishing Touches chapter is where the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts and all the individual wedge pieces are put together to reveal the magic of the snowflake.

Paula gives the reader a whole chapter on fabric selection, with pictures and explanations of their relevance in designing snowflakes. Lastly, Paula provides the reader with examples of 4 different snowflakes, her fabric choices and design placement. Paula's work captures the elegant structural symmetry of the snowflake in all its glory. I encourage all quilters to read this fascinating book, if only to appreciate Paula's amazing Snowflakes.



WORKSHOPS

Marjorie Mansell (822-1106) and
Maria Hilts (836-7657)

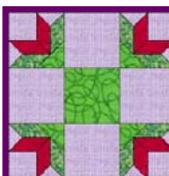


www.checkitout.ca

Cindy Schwan (836-5319)

Still Some Spaces Left!

There are still spaces left in the Fabric Dyeing workshop which runs February 19th from 9am-3pm at the Dublin United Church. The cost of this workshop is \$40. The April retreat also has three spaces. **Remember if you have signed up for the retreat the balance of your payment is due at the February meeting.** The extra **Scrap Magic** class in September is almost full. If members wish to switch from the April or May class to the September class please let the Workshop Committee know.



MEMBERSHIP

Susan Martin (623-8622) and
Gillian Robinette (927-9431)

The cost of membership for the remainder of this Guild year is now \$17.00. The fee for a guest is still \$5.00. If you bring a friend to the meeting as a guest, please escort them to the membership table where they can be welcomed and given further information about the Guild.



Guild Cookbooks

Guild Cookbooks are still available at the membership table. They make perfect gifts for those husbands who don't mind doing the cooking, while we're sewing or shopping for fabric. The cost of a cookbook is \$7.00.



Guild pins are also still available (\$4.00)

These days, I am trying not to spend too much time surfing the web. I am, after all, in the UFO (unfinished objects) club and should be working hard to finish those seven projects I showed my fellow club members at the start of the Guild year. I am beginning to panic, and I am wondering what you call an unfinished UFO - a UFUFO???

Anyway this month, I was fortunate to receive an email from one of our members directing me to a favourite website of hers. It is www.womenfolk.com, and it is a delightful site. There are many interesting topics - including the history of women through quilts (women's fight for rights and the women's temperance movement), poems and stories, an exploration of women's creativity, and a section on transcending chronic illness. Copyright laws prevent me from pulling excerpts from the site, so I encourage you to visit it and enjoy it for yourself.

If you follow one link in particular, there is an international call for six inch quilt blocks for a tsunami relief quilt. The quilt will be auctioned and all proceeds will be donated to UNICEF. For those interested, the block is due on February 15, 2005.



National Quilt Month is Closer Than You Think

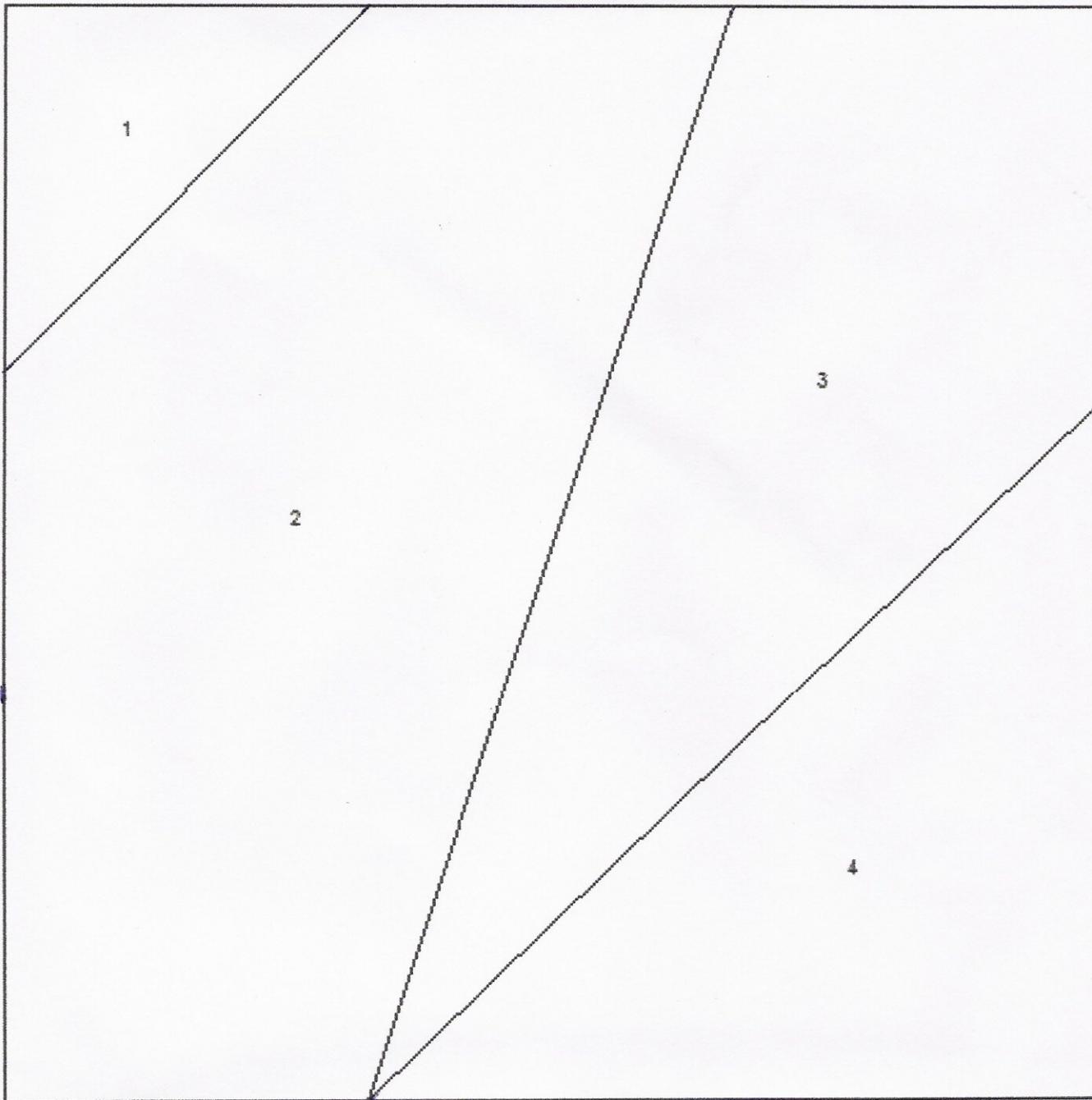
It may still be snowing, but snowmen will melt and May (National Quilt Month) will arrive! The Guild displays wall hangings and small quilts in the Guelph Public Libraries for the month of May. Please consider displaying some of your work. Marion Usborne will be looking for quilts during the next few months. If you have something to show, please email her at mrusborne@sympatico.ca or call her at 821-5445.

Treat Volunteers Needed

We will be placing a sign up sheet for treats on the coffee and juice tables this month. Please consider signing up to bring treats for the months listed. We thank you for your generosity.



This one is so easy, you will want to make several. Think SPRING! Get out your bright blues and greens. Please use: **Solid yellow for piece #1, Blue print for pieces #2 and #3, Green print for piece #4.** This finished block is 7 -½ inches square. It is from *Simple Pieces Block*, designed by Susan Druding - www.equilters.com





NOMINATION NEWS

Jackie James (824-1342)
Judy Rowan (824-5108) and Liz Honnegar (821-1718)



Nominations Are Now Open

Volunteers are the hands and heart of a guild!

January marked the opening of nominations for next year's Guild Executive. All positions, with the exception of Past President and Past Treasurer, are open to any paid member of the Guild.

January also marked the start of recruitment of members to serve on the Executive and the various committees. Volunteers are essential to the success of our group and are the backbone of all organizations including our Guild. Every member of our Guild is invited to participate in its operation by volunteering in some way, be it a big or small contribution. If you feel you have the necessary skills or an interest that would serve the Guild please consider being a volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering or need more information please contact a member of the Nominating Committee or any member of the Executive.

The following is a brief description of the positions of the Executive, Conveners, and their committees

President: Shall preside over and conduct the general and the executive meetings, and serve as ex officio member to all the committees

Vice President: Shall assist the President when necessary, and cover any areas not covered by other committees.

Secretary: Is responsible for general correspondence and shall take accurate minutes of proceedings at the executive meetings and the AGM.

Treasurer: Is responsible for all the Guild funds, keeping up to date records, and preparing financial reports.

The remainder of the positions are comprised of a convener and committee members.

Program: Is responsible for planning and arranging interesting and varied programs

Membership: Is responsible for keeping membership lists updated, collecting annual dues and admitting new members

Workshop: Is responsible for planning and organizing workshops and arranging for facilities

Publicity: Is responsible for publicizing guild meetings and workshops, and other events as necessary

Newsletter: Is responsible for preparing and distributing monthly newsletter to all guild members

Social: Is responsible for preparing tea, coffee and juice and arranging for snacks at guild meetings

Special Projects: Is responsible for organizing special events/activities as requested by the executive

Librarian: Is responsible for the operation of the Guild library, and the recommendation of new purchases to increase the library's inventory

Historian: Is responsible for the written and pictorial history of the Guild.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of the following positions, please contact Jackie James (824-1342)



A Quilter's Calendar

Greenwood Gallery

Red: A Group Show
 February 1 - 28, 2005
 275 Woolwich Street
 Guelph, Ontario
 (519)-822-2790

Art in the Mill

Call for Entry
 Juried Art Show and Sale
 May 14-28, 2005
 Entries due April 1, 2005
 www.gymc.ca
 Guelph Youth Music Centre
 519-837-1119

CQA/ACC National Juried Show

Call for Entry
 Entry deadline February 14, 2005.
 Entry form available on CQA website.

Mennonite Quilting Bee

Demonstrations and Relief Sale
 May 21-25, 2005
 466 Queen Street South, Kitchener
 (519) 742-7752

Wee Quilt Challenge

Call for Entry
 Entry due March 1, 2005
 Quilt due March 31, 2005
 McDougall Cottage
 89 Grand Avenue South
 Cambridge, Ontario
 (519) 624-8250

Oakville Festival of Fibre Arts

Common Threads Exhibition of Fibre Arts
 The Gallery, Sheridan ITAL
 1430 Trafalgar Road, Oakville, Ontario
 May 12 - 29, 2005
 www.oakvillearts.com/fibrearts.htm

Important Notice Regarding Inclement Weather

Please note that should the meeting be cancelled due to inclement weather, there will not be time to contact members. Please stay tuned to CJOY radio - for an update regarding the Guild meeting cancellations.



Membership Book Updates

Please make the following changes to your membership book.

Cindy Schwan
 e-mail: realschwans@yahoo.ca

Sue Keuhl
 e-mail: koolhouse@rogers.com

Marjorie Mansell
 Phone: 822-1106

Next Executive Meeting

The next meeting of the RCQG Executive will be held Tuesday, February 15, 2004, at the Co-operators Building on Macdonnell Street. We start promptly at 7 pm and finish at 9:30. Please review your January minutes prior to the meeting.

Editor's Note

Cindy Schwan (836-5319) realschwans@yahoo.ca
 Thank you to all who submitted information for this newsletter. The deadline for the next newsletter is the February Guild meeting



