



Royal City Quilters Guild

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

Monthly Newsletter

March 2005

President: Sue Keuhl

826-7914

Vice President: Maureen Kay

843-1778

Secretary: Shelly Palframan

824-0768

Guild Treasurer: Helen Meyer

855-6597



March Meeting *Celebrating Our 14th Anniversary*

Tuesday, March 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

Peggy Arnott
Andrea Curtis
Katrina Gordon
Helen Hughes
Helen McKinnon
Berni Neville
Judy Rowan
Frieda Steiger
Marion Osborne
Henny Veldhuizen

Thank You!

Things to Remember

- ♥ Name Tag
- ♥ Library Books
- ♥ Show and Share Items
- ♥ Block of the Month
- ♥ Canadian Tire Money
- ♥ Zehrs Tapes
- ♥ Cup or Mug
- ♥ Newsletter Submissions

Greeters

Isobel King
Margaret Austin



*Some of us come on earth seeing...
Some of us come on earth seeing colour.*

Louise Nevelson

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At the time of writing, I am at the eve of finishing my home renovations. Yes, finishing! It has been a three year odyssey and I often asked myself, "What made me think I could do this?" Well, I think the answer lies within the fact that I am a quilter. We are natural DIY - Do It Yourself - people. After all, we buy yards of beautiful fabric, cut it up, and sew it back together. Why? It would be much easier to go to the store and buy a blanket, but it just isn't quite the same. At many times during my renovation process, I found similarities between quilting and building. One of our talented members, Sharon Beach, assured me that there are many "transferable skills" we can take from quilting. Now for your amusements, I am going to support this claim.

I think the renovations started with a very innocent trip to one of the Big Box hardware stores. The experience was totally intoxicating! The next closest thing would be walking into a quilting store. Instead of bolts of fabric, there was aisle after aisle of projects. Store signage said "Yes you can do this" and there were books to show me how. Did I say books? Yes, as quilters we yearn for "How to" books. As well as books there are TV shows. I became fascinated with home renovation shows and decided I could do it too! While I was researching my "How to" books, I found that many other quilters love to build things. Three years ago I was waiting for a Guild Executive meeting to start. I pulled out my copy of the Lee Valley catalogue. At first I was a little self conscious about doing this. A few executive members peered over at what I was looking at and we got into an empowering conversation about women doing woodwork. I remember Marjorie Mansell describing the furniture she made. I certainly felt inspired to press ahead. To my amazement, it seems other quilters find this renovation business a bit of a charge too!

A few months later, while I was part way through sanding my floors, I attended a quilt workshop out of town. During lunch, I was invited to sit with a group of ladies at their table. At first, I didn't think we would have much in common. Lo and behold, we got into a riveting discussion about power tools - what kind to get and when to buy! I not only learned new quilting techniques that day, but walked away thinking if they all had mitre saws, so could I! Soon, that "Big Boy" of the tool world was mine.

Like sewing, home renovation involves many quiet solitary hours. Lots of time to let your thoughts meander. I often thought about how much my quilting skills helped me work away through each project. Here are a few thoughts!

Measure twice, cut once! My familiarity with a dressmakers measuring tape transferred right over to the carpenter's tape measure. I remember blushing when a contractor commented on how well I used a measuring tape. It went straight to my head! A word of caution: be careful when holding the tape upside down, it is very easy to transpose the numbers! I almost ended up with a few extra feet of kitchen cupboards. **Quality tools are essential!** I began with an inexpensive drill and now own three. Think of how many sewing machines we owned before we broke down and got the one we really wanted! **Tiling?** A quilter's must do! A new medium to arrange into squares! Remarkably, I found I was drawn to tile patterns that looked like quilt patterns. Hmm.... **90° angles?** No sweat! Just pull out your rotary cutting rulers! **Cutting a straight line in a hurry?** My vinyl tile floor became transformed into the grid of a very large rotary cutting mat! Very cool! **Need to make something fit?** In quilting, we call it "easing a seam", in construction it's called "Where's the hammer?" If the situation is more serious, it is upgraded to a pry bar. With fabric you can re-do the same seam many times. In home renovation, it is a little harder to undo your work! In home renovations, there are no such things as UFOs. It just isn't possible to leave projects incomplete. At least with quilting, you can tuck your work away or hide it in a closet. The renovation process teaches you to stick with the project until completion. There are a few projects you just can't do alone. There is huge value in working with other more experienced renovators. You will learn all sorts of techniques you can't learn from reading a book. Like Quilt Bees, the project you can do with friends, neighbours and family are the most satisfying and memorable.

Well as I said, I am just about to declare myself done. It has been an adventure I will never forget and many experiences I will laugh about. I will never forget locking myself in a room, locking myself out of a room, hosting a committee meeting without heat and as well the few floods that came dangerously close to my boxes of fabric. Soon it will finally be time to unpack my sewing supplies for the last time. In the past three years, I have moved my sewing area 7 times. Now that I am ready to hang up my paint brush and hammer, I am ready to do something that only a quilter can do. It is time to make my house warm and cosy with a few endearing quilts. By the way do they make fabric with power tools on it?

Enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter. There are lots of exciting things coming up. Please consider how you may volunteer for some of the upcoming opportunities on the Executive and the Quilt show.

Regards

Sue Keuhl

koolhouse@rogers.com



PROGRAM

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



ASK A QUILTER

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

The Executive Quilts

We are a talented bunch! We love fabric, colour, piecing and quilting. We buy books, patterns and gizmos. We love to talk quilt-talk and we are delighted when we meet someone who has just discovered the joy of quilting. In fact, we are just like everyone in our membership! So... we are going to share our talents with you along with the anecdotes for each quilt. Come and enjoy the evening and don't forget how much we look forward to your participation in show and share. First quilts always get special applause!

Mini Demo



Please join us at break for a mini demo on foundation piecing by JoAnne Oldridge and Liz Bayne.



NOMINATION NEWS

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

2005-2006 Executive Positions

The Guild is looking for volunteers for the following executive positions: Historian, Program, Library, Publicity and Newsletter Editor. Without your help, the Guild cannot operate efficiently. Please consider volunteering for a position or working as part of a committee. If you have any questions, or wish more information, please contact one of the nominating committee.

Jackie James (824-1342) jjames@uoguelph.ca,
Liz Honegger (821-1718) elizhon@aol.com, or
Judy Rowan (824-5108) rowans@sympatico.ca.

Dear Expert Quilter,

How do you make a prairie point edging on a quilt?

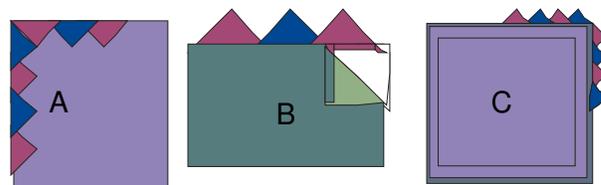
Suzie Sewer

Dear Suzie Sewer,

Folded triangles (prairie points) work well on quilts with patchwork triangles. Points can be added to the quilt top before quilting, or after, if the quilting does not reach the edges of the top.

To make points cut 3½ inch squares of a fabric. Use one fabric or use several different coloured fabrics. Each point will cover 2½ to 3 inches of the quilt edge. Measure your quilt edge and cut the necessary number of squares. Fold each square in half diagonally with wrong sides facing; press. Fold in half again forming a smaller triangle; press.

With rights sides facing align long raw edge of each prairie point with the raw edge of the unquilted quilt top. Begin at the centre of a quilt side, slipping folded edge of the prairie point into an open side of an adjacent point so that they overlap slightly. Adjust the overlap as needed to position triangles at the corners and then machine stitch (A).



After quilting is complete, trim backing and batting even with raw edge of the quilt top. Trim an additional ¼ inch of batting. Turn prairie points so that they face out from the quilt top, bringing raw edge of quilt top to the inside (B). Turn in ¼ inch of quilt backing. Blindstitch folded edge of backing to point edges, concealing the machine stitching (C).

From Quilter's Complete Guide: Marianne Fons and Liz Porter



FROM THE LIBRARY

by Barbara Jordan (837-0818)

The February Chair Sale was a fun event, allowing members to mingle, learn and shop until the money ran out. Over \$40 was raised for future library purchases at the sale. Thank you to the members who donated items to the library: your generous donations allowed for our participation in the chair sale.

Liberated Quiltmaking by Gwen Marston has been mentioned by two Guild speakers, Rosemary Plummer and Daphne Alevan. This book, from 1996, is in its third printing and is now in our library.

The following new books are also in the library:

Foundation Piecing With a New Attitude

by Ellen Rosintoski

Growing Up With Quilts

by Mimi Detrich and Sally Schneider

Hearts A Plenty

by Lynda Milligan and Nancy Smith

Liberated Quiltmaking

by Gwen Marston

Machine Quilting

by Sue Nickels

Picture Piecing

by Cynthia England

as well as two new magazines,

American Patchwork & Quilting April 2005 Surface Design Winter 2005

Many thanks to committee members Teresa Bryant, Florrie Lonsdale, Dawn Labelle, Bev Matson and Pat Wright for helping in the library while we were open during the program. A special thanks to Elaine Gostick for pitching in this month when the library was shorthanded.



A Book Review

By Norah McGuire-MacLeod

Hall and Haywood's Foundation Quilts Building on the Past

Jane Hall & Dixie Haywood

ISBN 1-57432-748-8

The quilters of the past used a foundation method to piece string, crazy, log cabin and pineapple quilts. The authors Jane and Dixie explore these four categories of quilts with their updated version of foundation piecing.

A foundation is a base on which fabric is pieced. The most common foundation techniques is pressed-piecing, also termed "sew and flip" or "flip and sew." Traditionally, this process involves sewing two fabrics together on top of a foundation, stitching through all the layers and pressing open the top piece against the foundation.

The first chapter of the book is an overview of the four categories and a little of the history behind their development. Chapters 2 through 5 explore the various quilts and their techniques. The authors explain the history of the quilts and their techniques at the start of each chapter. The readers are then introduced to the technique and given several quilt patterns that can be reproduced. The last chapter gives the quilter several quilting design ideas that can be used to finish the quilt.

So whether you are new to foundation piecing or would like to refresh your understanding of the finer points, Jane Hall and Dixie Haywood's **Foundation Quilts Building on the Past** will provide the quilters with great ideas for updating the ageless techniques of quilting.

National Quilt Month

The Guild will be displaying small wall hangings and quilts for the month of May in several of the branches of the Guelph Public Library. If you have something to show, please email Marion Osborne at mrusborne@sympatico.ca or call her at 821-5445.



CELEBRATING OUR GUILD

Joanne Ariss (Historian)



This month marks the 14th anniversary of our Guild. We have certainly grown in the past 13 years. Our original founding member, Evelyn Lane, in February of 1991, put up signs in fabric stores, grocery stores, malls, and libraries and also placed ads in two local newspapers advertising for interested quilters to meet and discuss the possibility of starting a quilting guild in Guelph. Evelyn was hoping for at least 6 people to reply to her ads, as this was the minimum number of participants the CQA info sheet indicated was necessary to begin a Guild. When twenty people called to express an interest, Evelyn was delighted. The first meeting of the Royal City Quilters Guild was held in Evelyn's livingroom on March 12, 1991. Several of the original founding members are still members of our guild and continue to attend our monthly meetings. Our membership has now grown to 174 members.

As we celebrate our 14th anniversary, let us reflect on many of the highlights of the past year.

Under the guidance and leadership of Sue Keuhl, many of our members attended a Quilting Bee in November. More than 50 lap quilts were constructed that day. By the end of March, 2004, all of the quilts were keeping seniors warm and comfortable. They were donated and distributed to Eden House, Meadowcroft Place, Elliot Place and St. Joseph's Hospital.

In April, 2004, our Guild donated a beautiful raffle quilt appropriately named "A Garden of Hope" to The Homewood Health Centre. Maureen Kay, her committee and instructors, taught the members at a fun filled instructional workshop how to construct 3D flowers. These flowers were assembled and attached to the quilt which was then machine quilted by Kay Valeriotte. The Homewood was very grateful for this generous donation.

"National Quilt Month" in May was acknowledged by a showing of 40 small quilts at the Guelph Public Libraries. Marion Osborne and her helpers, collected and hung the displays, which were warmly received by all.

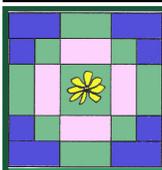
Sue Keuhl and her committee have once again organized the Special Interest Groups consisting of the Tinnors and Block Buddies, along with two new groups, the UFO and Crazy Quilt Groups. All groups have generated a lot of interest among our members.

The exciting and informative programs have continued under the guidance of Maureen Kay and Sharon Beach. The "Colour with Courage" theme has proven to be a huge success with several wonderful speakers and their trunk shows. At our November meeting we were taught how to construct Cathedral Window block ornaments. These ornaments were donated to the Salvation Army to attach to their Christmas hampers.

The December Bake and Deli Sale with delicious homemade goodies was once again a big hit. Our librarian, Barbara Jordan continues to add new books to our Library on a monthly basis. The two yearly raffles Barbara plans are both fun and entertaining, and a great way to raise money for more new books.

All of the workshops offered this past year were very successful. Lana Phillips and Kay Valeriotte, Marjorie Mansell and Maria Hilts have offered our guild members interesting, informative and very enjoyable workshops enjoyed by all who have attended. The two day Reta Budd workshop and also the John Willard workshop were two of the highlights and well attended.

We hope you will continue to enjoy being part of the Royal City Quilters Guild. Be sure to visit the Anniversary table this month at the meeting, where our Archives will be on display.



BLOCK OF THE MONTH
 Andrea Curtis (821-3576) and Judy Taylor
 (822-3985)



www.checkitout.ca

Cindy Schwan (836-5319)

Think flowers! Think Spring!

For this month's block, find a flower (fussy cut) or a floral print fabric for the centre block. If the single flower you find isn't 4½ inches square, add to the sides of it. The centre block will be 4½ inches square.

You will need:



Light fabric

Four rectangles 4½ inches by 2½ inches



Medium Fabric

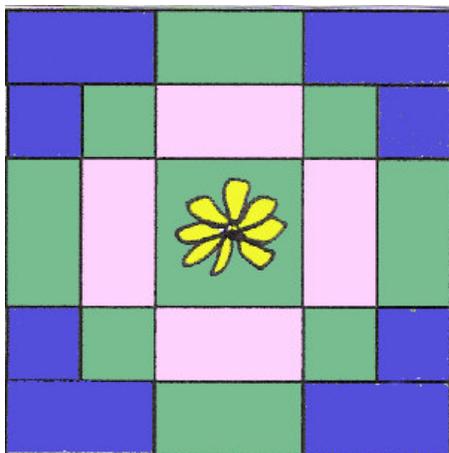
Four 2½ inches squares
 Four 4½ inch by 2½ inch rectangles
 Plus the centre fabric



Dark Fabric

Four 4½ inch by 2½ inch rectangles
 Four 2½ inch squares

Assemble the block as shown.
 The finished block is 12 inches square!



Thank you to all members who participated in last month's block and a special thank you to



Len's Mill



for donating prizes for the participants

This month's program is a showing of quilts made by members of the Executive - and while you won't find a gallery of my quilts on the web, you can see our June guest speaker's works of art at www.blumoonfabricarts.com. Martha Brown's website is filled with a wonderful collection of quilts - nicely displayed in full colour. Take a peak at what's in store for you in June.

Well, it wouldn't be my column if I didn't include some of the more fun and uninformative sites I have recently found. Last week at a luncheon of quilters, one of our members wore a fabulous pair of colourful cat socks. For those of you who collect unusual socks there is a website (www.twistedstitcher.com), that sells socks with several choices of quilt blocks woven into them. I am really trying to refrain myself from purchasing the Sunbonnet Sue pair.

And lastly, a site for all you movie buffs. Do you know what the film *Rhapsody in Blue* (1945) has in common with *My Dog Skip* (2002)? Well apparently they both have a cameo appearance of a Singer 66 in them. Yes, someone has compiled a list of movies and TV shows (complete with episode name) that have sewing machines in them. The website is: www.silverwing.net/cabinquilter/funstuff/movies.html This person must not have any UFO's hanging around. And speaking of UFO's.....

Let Me Let You In on a Little Secret!

If you want to have a great time next year, I encourage you to join a Special Interest Group. If you are a little bit shy and have a hard time meeting people this is the perfect opportunity for you to meet a few members at a time. The UFO club has met each month since October, and we have shared stories, laughs and goodies, and oh yes - our finished projects. Don't have any UFO's! You have my permission to buy patterns and fabric this summer and create some!



A Gathering of Quilts 2006

In celebration of our 15th Anniversary



It's time to get ready for A Gathering of Quilts 2006

April 22nd and 23rd, 2006

Royal Canadian Legion
Guelph, Ontario

In April of 2006, the Royal City Quilters Guild will be holding its third quilt show. Reflecting back on our last two very successful quilt shows we can be very proud of the Guild and our members' creativity. The hard work of the show coordinators, their committees, and all the volunteers provided Guelph with a first class presentation of the creativity of quilters from Guelph and neighbouring areas.

It is now time to start thinking about the organization of next year's show. It is time to get involved. We need committee members for a variety of tasks. There are many jobs available, so we will be able to use your strengths to the fullest. If you can help out in any one of the following capacities, please call Sue Keuhl at 826-7914. Volunteers are needed to help with publicity, judging, the mini raffle quilts, the challenge quilts, the silent auction, rentals, logistics, vendors, the tea room, the awards and the coordination of volunteers.

It is also time to start thinking about making quilts for the show. Large bed quilts, wall hangings, minis and wearables will be accepted in the Winter of 2006. We will be introducing the challenge fabric and its theme in the Fall of 2005.

Your help with next year's show will ensure its success. Please consider volunteering for any position you feel comfortable with. Bring a friend with you! We could really use your help!



Our First Quilt Show



A Quilter's Calendar

Greenwood Gallery

Martha Brown

March 1-29, 2005
 Reception March 5th
 2:00 pm to 4:00pm
 275 Woolwich Street
 Guelph, ON
 (519)-822-2790

Fanfare 2005

Dunnville's Own Tiny Stitchers
 April 8-9, 2005
 Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-5pm
 Calvary Pentecostal Church
 1241 Highway 3 East
 Dunnville, ON

Patchwork Pathways

Port Perry Patcher's Guild
 May 6-7, 2005
 Fri 10-8pm, Sat 10-5pm
 Scugog Community Centre
 1655 Reach St.,
 Port Perry, ON
 Mary McLaren (905) 852-5349

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

Quilted Odyssey 2005

Bramptom Quilter's Guild
 May 14-15, 2005
 Sat 10-5pm, Sun 10-4pm
 Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre
 292 Conestoga Dr.
 Brampton, ON

Mennonite Quilting Bee

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

Oakville Festival of Fibre Arts

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



Membership Book Updates

Please add the following members to your Guild membership book

Ruthanne Finnigan
 27 Mountford Drive
 Guelph, Ontario N1E 6E7
 822-9805
ruthfinn@enoreo.on.ca

Maria Kee
 Box 731
 Erin, Ontario N0B 1T0
 510-833-7051
mariak@vision2000.ca

Cindy Dowling
 5366 Ninth Line
 Erin, Ontario N0B 1T0
 519-833-7558
dowling@aztec-net.com

Next Executive Meeting

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





FROM THE LIBRARY

by Barbara Jordan (837-0818)

