

# RCQG March Newsletter

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 [mailchi.mp/e68ca5e25bfe/march2021-newsletter-4598985](https://mailchi.mp/e68ca5e25bfe/march2021-newsletter-4598985)

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## Royal City Quilters' Guild

The Zoom link (to watch) and phone numbers (to listen) to the meeting will be emailed to the RCQG List on Monday by Becky Fiedler.

Sponsorship ads are spread throughout the newsletter this month, so don't close the newsletter just because you've reached an advertisement. The newsletter ends with Show&Share. If you don't see the end of the newsletter visit the [RCQG website](#) to see a full version.

## February Program - Dawn Hunt



Dawn Hunt  
March 9, 2021

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### *Valuing Your Work*

All types of quilts whether they are old, new, work of art, block of the month, family heirloom, or flea-market find, have value. Along with the sentimental value associated with these textiles there is often also considerable monetary value. Dawn will explain what factors impact the value of quilts, why people who either own quilts or have other peoples' quilts in their custody should have quilts appraised, and, what's involved in having a quilt appraised. If you are planning to sell, buy, bequeath, donate, raffle, exhibit, or give a quilt as a gift you will want to attend!

Quilt appraiser, teacher and judge

Website: <http://www.fibrework.com/>

**Presentation:** Valuing Your Work  
**Website:** <http://www.fibrework.com/>

Dawn is a new member of the RCQG, and we're so happy she was able to step-in for the March programme. She is a quilt appraiser, teacher, and judge.

Programme description: All types of quilts have value; whether they are old, new, works of art, blocks of the month, family heirlooms, or flea-market finds. Along with the sentimental value associated with these textiles, there is often also considerable monetary value. Dawn will explain waht factors impact the value of quilts, why people shoudl have quilts appraised, and what's involved in appraisal. If you are planning to sell, buy, bequeath, donate, raffle, exhibit, or give a quilt as a gift - this is valuable information.

## Member Spotlight

Helen Martin



Helen and Poppies of Remembrance, based on a pattern by Pam Bono.

Helen Martin has been part of the RCQG since its inception...almost. She was unable to attend the very first meeting but she was at the second meeting and has rarely missed a Guild meeting in the thirty years since.

She remembers those early years of the Guild when it was small, but lovely. There were often less than 20 people at a meeting, and what stands out to her was the fellowship of gathering with other quilters who had a common interest. She doesn't have particular memories of the programs or activities, but does remember that the meetings were enjoyable, and it was always nice to gather.

Over the years the RCQG met at a location on Delhi Street that was the old nurses residence, and at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, and Dublin Street United Church before moving to the current location at Three Willows United Church.

Helen has fond memories of travelling with friends she has met through the Guild to see trunk shows hosted by neighbouring Guilds when they sponsored well known quilters like Elly Sienkiewicz.

Helen has a few particular loves when it comes to quilting - she loves applique, she loves hand-stitching heirloom quilts for her family, and she especially loves saving and collecting old quilts along with their stories.

Helen's story of quilting begins with her mother, Clacey Andrews and her grandmother, Helen Layman. When Helen and her husband Don got married, her mother made them a wedding quilt - having never made a quilt before. Helen's grandmother was a quilter, but her mum had been so busy raising children that she hadn't time to quilt. Clacey was a thrifty woman, and when she made the wedding quilt she used the unworn corners of old flannel sheets for batting, and whatever fabric she could find. After learning more about quilting, and after

having developed a smaller stitch, Clacey decided to take the original wedding quilt apart, and re-quilt it. That was Helen's introduction to quilting. She and her mother worked on it together.

When Helen's family was young, she made quilts for all her nieces and nephews as wedding quilts. As she says: "We had three kids, and no money, and I could make a quilt for twenty-five dollars. You can't even buy batting for that now!"

Helen's love of collecting quilts started with quilts and quilt tops that belonged to Don's parents. As their house was cleaned out Helen brought all the quilts home with her to make sure they were saved.

As far as her love of quilt stories goes, the first story Helen collected was from her mother about her own wedding quilt. Helen's great-great-aunt, Phoebe lived in Michigan and came to visit Helen's great-grandparents in Sheffield. They had decided to move to Saskatchewan to become homesteaders. Phoebe brought along a quilt top that she had made, and gave it to her sister, Jen as a going-away present. The quilt top was taken to Saskatchewan where it was quilted at a bee by the women in the community there. When Clacey got married, she was gifted her grandmother's quilt, and it returned with her to Ontario in 1941.

Helen has collected about one-hundred quilts, tops, and sets of blocks along with their stories. The most recent in her collection (other than the ones she has made herself) are from the 1970s. Helen has marvelled at how generous people are with their stories. She has discovered that it is usually family quilts that have survived over the years because they were given at meaningful milestones in people's lives like weddings, and births. This past year, Helen has worked to write down the stories of all the quilts in her collection in hopes that the stories will be passed along with the quilts.

The most recent quilt Helen finished was her Provincial flowers quilt. She started it in 2014 and it took two years to plan and design. Then it took her four years of stitching before it was completed in 2020. It was stitched completely by hand: the piecing, the applique, stitching the backing together, the quilting, and the binding. Helen loves hand stitching because it can be taken with her (the butterflies and birds from this quilt travelled to South Africa, Dubai, and Zimbabwe with her). She also loves that it is slow and thoughtful. At this point in her life she doesn't mind taking six years to complete a quilt because she has already made so many that have been given to everyone she loves, and now quilting is mostly about making something she really loves and it doesn't matter how long it takes.

As I spoke to Helen on the phone this week, she was sitting with a cast on her knee and on her elbow after tripping while out for a walk. She is worried that she won't be able to do any stitching for a few months, but she may start to imagine her next quilt design. Whatever she comes up with, it promises to be beautiful.



Provincial Flowers, designed and made by Helen Martin.

## RCQG 30th Anniversary

In March we celebrate the RCQG's anniversary. This year marks 30 years since its founding by Evelyn Lane. At this month's RCQG meeting there will be a slide show to share some photos from the last few years. The Executive hopes to host a more formal anniversary event in 2022 for the "30th + 1 Anniversary".

Some of the documents about the Guild's inaugural meeting have been added to the RCQG website: <https://royalcityquiltersguild.ca/rcqg-history/>



## March 20 - International Quilting Day

The RCQG and York Heritage Guild have planned a full day of programming for everyone! The event is free for members, but you must register AND sign-up for the sessions you want to attend.

**Sign-up and register**

**Sign-up for the day**

**Sign-up for sessions**

**Join us for International Quilting Day!**  
 Saturday, March 20  
 A virtual, all-day celebration

Presentations, demonstrations, mini-workshops, prize draws,  
 sew-together breakout rooms, and more!

Free for members of Royal City Quilters' Guild & York Heritage Quilters Guild.  
 Guest fee \$20

Register at <https://rcqg.square.site/>

#InternationalQuiltingDay  
 #RCQG #YHQG

**USEFUL LINKS**

International Quilting Day information: <https://royalcityquiltersguild.ca/activities/international-quilting-day-2021/>

Sign-up and register for sessions: [rcqg.square.site](https://rcqg.square.site)

Submit a quilt for the virtual show: <https://tinyurl.com/27386d9r>



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## Community Outreach

In February we delivered 61 quilts to the Wellington Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care and Treatment Centre. This a huge accomplishment! Thank you to all our members who assisted us by sewing blocks, sewing tops together, quilting and also binding these beautiful quilts. Betty at the Guelph General Hospital was delighted with them. She repeated something she's said before 'Quilt arrival day is my favourite day at work'. I love that these quilts put a smile on so many faces.

Just a reminder that our comfort quilt size parameters are 50 inches to 54 inches wide and 60 inches to 64 inches long.



Stashbusters will be working on a new pattern in April and May called Five Star Quilt! It is designed to use charm squares or a layer cake. Community Outreach has adapted a version in comfort quilt size using yardage of a light, medium and dark fabric.

If you would like to make a comfort quilt using community outreach fabric we have kits available for pick up at the end of March. Email Katrina by March 15th to get a kit and the adjusted instructions.

### **Stashbusters - Come and Sew Together**

○

On April 7, Pauline Isbester will introduce the Stash Busters to their next new project. Stashbusters is for everyone, and you can sew for yourself or get a kit and sew for Community Outreach.

The April and May pattern is Five Star Quilt (finishing at 61" square) from Jordan Fabrics.

[Tutorial from Jordan Fabrics](#)

[Tutorial from YouTube](#)

To participate in Stash Busters send an email to stashbusters [at] royalcityquiltersguild.ca to let the organizers know you would like to participate. They will send you a link so you can join.

For more information about the [Stash Busters](#), please visit the [RCQG website](#).



**Community Outreach Bins**

Drop-off completed BOMs and quilts and  
pick-up Community Outreach kits.

Email Katrina Baklarz to request a kit.

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**Trish's House:** 12 Trillium Court, Guelph

**Cindy's Office:** Tacoma Engineers, 176 Speedvale Ave., Guelph 8am to 4pm,  
Monday to Friday.

[COMMUNITY OUTREACH WEBSITE](#)

[COMMUNITY OUTREACH PHOTO GALLERY](#)



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The Guild received a thank you card from the recipient of one of the Community Outreach quilts. This is what was written (anonymized to protect the person's privacy).

## February Meeting

Valerie Bothell demonstrated her love of embroidery and crazy quilts in February. It was interesting to hear about the history of crazy quilts as well as about some of her own quilts and about the hidden messages in much of the embroidery - especially in the flowers! Read more about the Language of Flowers.



**Presentation:** Valerie Bothell - Crazy Quilting

**Website:** <https://www.valeriebothell.com/>

### The Crazy Quilt

Oh, say, can you see by the dawn's early light,  
What you failed to perceive at the twilight's last gleaming;  
A crazy concern that through the long night  
O'er the bed where you slept was so saucily streaming;  
The silk patches so fair,  
Round, cornered, and square  
Gives proof that the lunatic bed-quilt is there.  
Oh, the crazy-quilt mania triumphantly raves,  
And maid, wife, and widow are bound as its slaves  
On that quilt dimly seen as you rouse from your sleep  
Your long-missing necktie in silence reposes,  
And the filosele insects that over it creep,  
A piece of your vest half-conceals, half discloses;  
There is Kensigton-stitch  
In designs that are rich,  
Snow-flake, arrasene, point russe, and all sich.  
[...]  
But make it she must,  
She will do it or bust,  
Beg, swap, and buy pieces or get them on trust,  
Oh, the crazy-quilt mania, may it soon cease to rave  
In the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Poem published in Good Housekeeping, October 25, 1890. Author Unknown.

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## Membership Update



Welcome to the RCQG's newest members: **Dawn Labelle (returning), Hega Bretz, Ellen Lauersen, Colleen Lawrence, Suzanne Zacharczyk, Sylvia Owens, Mary Lynne Simpson, Monica Ferguson, April Temple Spears, Marian Baidacoff, Lynn Monroe, Betty Henry, Liz Martin, and Bonnie Sands.** We're happy to have you join us!

As of February 1st the membership fee for the balance of the Guild year (including September 2021) is \$25.00. The fee includes monthly meetings, Worldwide Quilting Day events, and other Guild activities.

## Executive Update

Welcome to the two newest members of the RCQG Executive.

**Jann Snell** is a new member of the RCQG, and has enthusiastically agreed to step-in to the role of Community Outreach Co-Chair to take over from Katrina Baklarz next year. A big welcome to Jann, and thank you for being willing to hold this important part of our Guild's work.

**Pat Gage** has kindly agreed to fill the role of Secretary. She brings a keen eye for detail, and a sharp wit to the role - keeping the executive on-task at our meetings.

## **Missing in Action**

Community Outreach is missing a Missouri Star Block book that was included in a Bee Month kit.

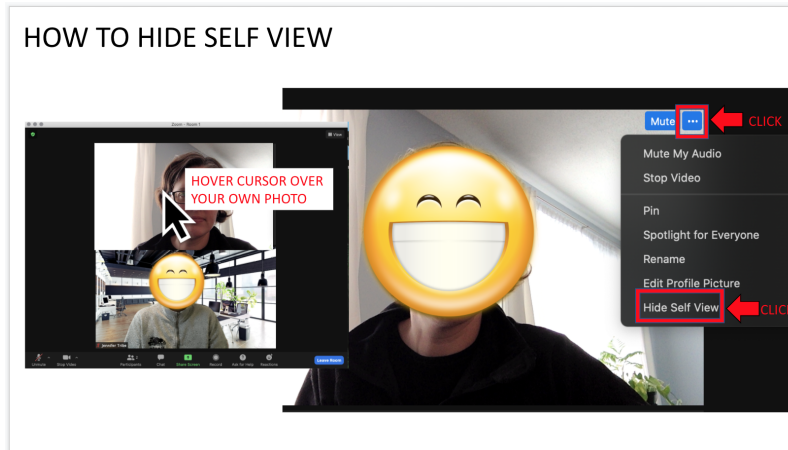
It has Wendy Oskam's name in the front cover. Please email Wendy if you have this book.

## **Zoom Zoom Zoom**

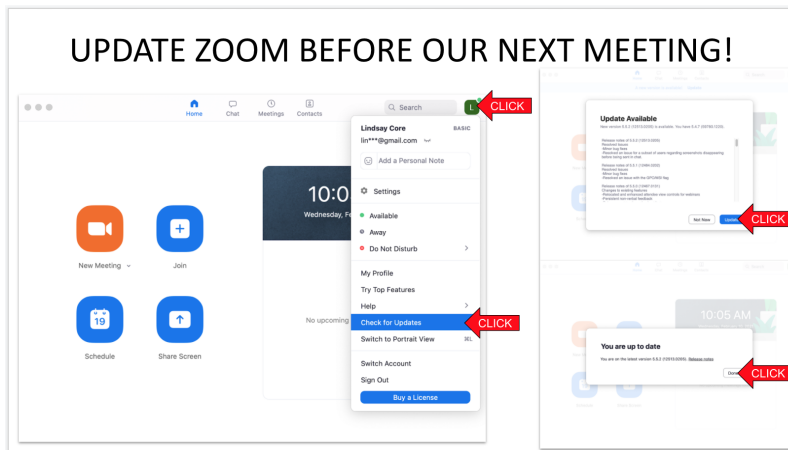
At the last couple of RCQG meetings during the Zoom tutorial Lindsay has explained how to turn off your "self-view". There is some new research that explains that turning off your self-view helps to reduce Zoom-fatigue.

Read about it here: [Stanford Study about Zoom Fatigue](#)

To turn off your self-view:



Please update Zoom before the next Guild meeting:





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## News and Interest: "Sewing is Therapy"

Many of you may have seen this [CBC news item](#) about a mother in Nunavut who sews puaqs (parkas) for her children. I think many of us feel the same way about quilting - wanting to make something beautiful and useful for our loved ones.

To see more beautiful sewing, CBC North moderates [Arctic Sewing Room](#) on Facebook with the following goal: "From pretty parkas to amazing amautiit to beautiful blankets, sewing is a way of life up here and we want to celebrate it."



## Black History Month



The most recent issue of the CQA Magazine (Spring 2021) had an article about African Canadian quilting, and the story of some quilters in North Buxton near Chatham, Ontario. Unfortunately, that story is only accessible to CQA members. <https://canadianquilter.com/members-only-studio/stitching-community/>

In 2016 there was a quilt exhibit at the Dalhousie Art Gallery in Nova Scotia called 'Family Quilts' that tells the story of a rural Black Nova Scotian family. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/dalhousie-university-art-gallery-black-african-families-stories-1.3854368>

For more Black quilting history, the story of Gee's Bend, Alabama is an interesting one. <https://www.soulsgrowndeeper.org/gees-bend-quiltmakers>

## CQA News and Events



CQA is offering a webinar on March 13, 2021 with Ana Buzzalino called "[Creativity in Times of COVID-19](#)".

## Calendar of Events

The Guild has lots of online offerings, from Stash Busters, to Special Interest Groups. Find all the happenings here:

[RCQG Calendar of Events](#)

## **2020-2021 RCQG Program**

Click on each link to visit their websites:

[April - Melissa Marginet](#)

May - Joanna Dermenjian (World War II and Quilting)

[June - Rhonda Dhort](#)

A short video of the program for the year is available [here](#).

The 2021-2022 Program is being planned. If you'd like to be involved, or if you have some ideas for either in-person or virtual speakers please get in touch with Becky Fiedler.

## **2020-2021 RCQG Program**

The Prince Edward County Quilters' Guild has tickets available for their quilt raffle. They have had a hard time selling tickets due to COVID, and are hoping that other Guilds will spread the word. Visit <https://pecqguild.weebly.com/> to buy tickets.

# Raffle Quilt



Made by the  
Prince Edward County  
Quilters' Guild



To purchase tickets,  
please visit the PECQG Website:  
[pecqguild.weebly.com](http://pecqguild.weebly.com)

Hand Quilted Bed Quilt  
*"Evening Sky"*  
A Cheryl Malkowski pattern  
(92" x 114")



Draw Date:  
Sunday, July 11, 2021  
@ 3:00 p.m.



Tickets \$2.00  
each or 3 for \$5.00

6000 tickets printed  
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## Neighbouring Guilds - Speakers and Workshops



There are lots of great virtual speakers visiting our neighbouring Guilds. Visit their website to find out how to get a guest pass, attend a workshop, or how to join their Guild.

### YORK HERITAGE QUILTERS' GUILD

March 16: Sandra Johnson - Denim Quilts

March 27: Workshop by Sandra Johnson about re-purposing denim into a quilt

### WATERLOO COUNTY QUILTERS' GUILD

March 17: Leanne Parsons - Devoted Quilter

### OAKVILLE QUILTERS' GUILD

April 15: Jeannie Jenkins - Paper Piecing

May 20: Bill Stearman - Double Disappearing 9-Patch

### GRAND QUILT GUILD

March 10: Mary K. Hopkins - Trunk Show

### MISSISSAUGA QUILT GUILD

March 4: Eleanor Levie - 12 Ways to Rock Your Quilting

March 6: Workshop with Eleanor Levie

### REGION OF YORK QUILTERS' GUILD

March 24: Toni Smith. The Pixel Revolution.



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**Show and Share from February**

Diane Black  
House on a Hill  
2020 Stash Buster from Border Creek Station



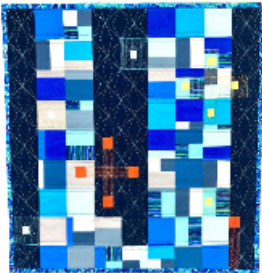
Gretta Atkinson - Christmas Tree Skirts



Pamela Eng  
Phoenix cushion and Mini quilt



Cheryl Cowan  
Cityscapes from a Peter Byrne workshop



Sharon Bourque  
Edge to Edge workshop with Melissa Marginet



Joan Hett  
Birds of a feather



## RCQG Sew Safe Policy



*Due to the current COVID-19 environment, our concern for members' well-being, and liability concerns for the Royal City Quilters' Guild, all Royal City Quilters' Guild activities are to be conducted remotely. This includes, but is not limited to monthly guild meetings, executive meetings, committee meetings, special interest groups, and workshops. In-person events are not supported by the Royal City Quilters' Guild at this time.*

Advertise in the RCQG newsletter.

### **Questions or comments about the newsletter?**

Email: [newsletter@royalcityquiltersguild.ca](mailto:newsletter@royalcityquiltersguild.ca)

Any member of the Guild may submit content for the newsletter by sending it to the email address above.

Please note that submissions may be edited for clarity and length.

Newsletters are published on the first Tuesday of the month, one week before the RCQG meeting.

All content must be received on the Sunday nine days before publication.

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**Our mailing address is:**

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