



Scraps of Wisdom

January 2014
Volume 30 Issue 4

Newsletter of the Waterloo County Quilters Guild

Program for January 15, 2014

Our theme for the month is WINTER GLITTER and as I look out now at the landscape that is certainly true. We can only guess how long it will last!!!

Our program will be a **Members' Showcase** featuring Nancy Winn, Olga Mondoux, Heather Zinkewicz, Ilene Atkins and Mary Karen Gosselink. Be sure to mark your calendars for the 15th to see what these ladies have been up to!

Upcoming: The CHAIR SALE will be coming up in February, so start gathering your "stuff" now.

Judy Siegner

Evening Meeting Starts at 7pm

Thank you to all the members who took part in our November Membership Survey. The early results are posted below. As you can see, the response from members who were concerned about this item (presumably those who attend in the evening) was that they would overwhelmingly prefer to start earlier and the preferred starting time is 7:00 p.m.

After a thorough discussion of the impact of the change in start time, the Executive approved changing the start time to 7:00 p.m., starting with the January 15, 2014 meeting. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. We will try this for the remainder of this Guild year, then re-survey to see if members are satisfied with the change.

November 2013 Membership Survey Results*

Total # Responses: 67

1. Would you like the evening meeting to start and finish earlier?

Yes = 88%

2. What time?

7:00 p.m. = 73%

3. The results from the third question, "What should we do with the quilt made from the surplus Raffle Quilt blocks?" were not as clear and may be influenced by the members who received printed surveys. Watch the February newsletter for results of this question.

* Does not include results from paper surveys distributed to members who get printed newsletters. Based on the response to the email survey, the paper survey responses will not significantly influence the results shown here.

Meeting Checklist

nametag/lanyard
show and tell quilts
total perimeter of your show & tell quilts
library books/magazines
smile & memory quilts
fabric strips if in the exchange

President's Message

Hello Quilting Friends-

Happy New Year! As we start out a bright new calendar year, we are almost half way through our Guild year which provides an ideal time for reflection – on what has gone well so far this year and what remains to be done.

We had another amazing Quilt Show, thanks to the organization of Colleen Robertson and Marg Cassel and the many, many dedicated volunteers and we have had some wonderful Programs (speakers and workshops), thanks to the hard work of Judy Siegner and Olga Mondoux. There is much more to look forward to as our Programs for the balance of this Guild year are all in place. As well, Elizabeth King and Elizabeth McDowell-Heagy have already put together a full slate of Programs for the 2014/15 Guild year.

At the Executive level, things have been somewhat more challenging with the position of Vice President still vacant. This has, at times, made it difficult to establish a quorum of elected officers necessary to conduct Guild business. At our last meeting, Judy Pearce announced her decision to step down as co-President in favour of fulfilling the balance of the year in her Past President role. Over the past several years, Judy has made a significant contribution to the Guild's success and I am very appreciative that she will continue to chair the evening meetings for the balance of the year. This change will make it somewhat easier to form a quorum, but is not a solution to the vacant Vice President position.

American Express likes to say: "Membership has its privileges." That is certainly true when it comes to your Guild. We enjoy a fantastic library, excellent programs, group quilting events like the Mannheim Sewing Circle, retreats (mini and full), bee days and the inspiration and friendship of fellow quilters. But, when you belong to a volunteer organization like the Guild, membership also has its responsibilities. This means that if we want to continue to enjoy all these wonderful privileges, each member has to be an active volunteer. It is not the job of your Executive to guess who might be qualified or willing to take on the many jobs that need doing. It is the responsibility of each individual member to evaluate what contribution they are able to make, based on their own skills, the demands of their life and the needs of the Guild.

Who is the most important person in the Guild? Some people might say it is the President, others the Librarian, still others might guess the Program Chair. As a long time baker, that question, to me, is like asking "What is the most important ingredient in a cake?". Some might guess the larger volume ingredients like flour or sugar or eggs, but would you even begin to make your cake without that teaspoon of baking powder? The point is that every ingredient, no matter how small, has to be included for the cake to come out just right. Your Guild is no different. Every job, big and small, is equally important for our success. How will you fulfill your membership responsibilities this year? See our "Help Wanted" list for some ideas to get you going.

To all the member volunteers who form the flour, sugar, eggs and butter of our Guild, a heartfelt thank you for your contributions. Perhaps you know of a fellow member who could just be that pinch of salt, teaspoon of vanilla or piece of chocolate that would round out our Guild's delicious flavour!

Until we meet again -
Audrey

January Workshop - Convergence Quilt by Rosemary Terpstra

Saturday, January 25, 2014, at the Mannheim Community Centre, 9am to 4pm

Cost: \$45

This is a technique class taught by our speaker from last May. See the sample at the program table.

Requirements: .75m of 4 fabrics (2 lights/meds and 2 darks), .5m for contrasting border and binding, .25m for a narrow border

Please call Judy Siegner now to register and pay at the January meeting.

NOTE: According to our Members' Handbook, registrations for workshops are NONREFUNDABLE, so please, check your calendars carefully before signing up.

Judy Siegner

January Strip Exchange

Don't forget your fabric strips and ziploc baggies for the January meeting. The colour for January is medium blue. It can be printed, tone on tone, plain, batik, with medium blue the predominate colour. A good quality fabric 2 1/2" by the width of fabric, so 2 1/2 by approximately 43". Some in November were only 30" long.

Some members were concerned if the fabric strips were washed. If you are concerned about the strips you received, I would recommend you hand wash your own strips.

Please come to the table at the back and distribute your strips. I will set it up same as November. It will be easy to understand. Then at the end of the meeting come back to pick up your baggies.

Paula McDermott

Mannheim Quilting Circle

Wednesday January 8, 9am - 4pm

next: Wednesday February 12, 9am - 4pm (our famous stone soup)

Beat the January blahs - join us for a day of sewing, basting, quilting and laughing. Bring your own project and lunch. Coffee and tea provided. Fast food is a short drive away. Directions to Mannheim are in your handbook or on the guild website under Community Outreach.

Save the date: February - stone soup

May - games day

June - potluck picnic

Hope to see you in January!

Bernice Gammy and Fabia Joyce



"In November at Mannheim, Bernice and Fabia once again demonstrated that they are the hostesses with the mostest. They introduced a game of Musical Chairs. Those who participated brought a yard of Christmas fabric. We stood in a circle holding our fabric, and when the music started, the fabric moved to the right. When the music stopped we had to tear whatever fabric we were holding in half and drop that at our feet. We continued until we had very small pieces left. From this pile of various fabrics, a Christmas tree can be created by sewing 2 1/2" strips together from our new stash. Awesome fun."

OWLS

(Our Wonderful Leftover Stuff)



Nancy Troyak continues to lead the way in getting her projects completed. Remember to stop by the program table so we can document your completed projects and enter your name in the prize draw.

BONUS: Show something with an OWL on it and have your name automatically entered in a draw.

Program Committee

Announcements

As you might have noticed, this year we are trying something new with our monthly announcements – a printed handout of announcements available at each meeting. This is part of our effort to balance your need as a member for information about what is going on at your Guild, with the desire of many members to reduce the amount of time spent on business at monthly meetings.

Presently, you have three main sources for information about Guild happenings:

1. Your monthly Newsletter – most events and activities are published here
2. The Committee Tables around the perimeter of the room at each meeting – try to take a few minutes to visit each one at the meeting
3. The printed announcements at each meeting – if there is something on the list you want to remember, feel free to take the printout with you

Each month, we set the agenda carefully so that there is enough time allocated to each aspect of the meeting. If you have information that is important to members and wish to make an announcement, please help us to plan ahead by advising the President (Audrey Vrooman - 519 880-1435; avrooman@rogers.com) at least a week before the meeting date so that you can be included on the agenda or in the printed announcements. The cut off dates for announcements for the balance of this Guild year are:

January 8th, February 12th, March 12th, April 9th, May 14th, June 11th

Of course, there will always be exceptions and last minute items that arise and we will continue to do our best to accommodate you when this happens.

Audrey Vrooman



Presidents' Day

A date has been set!! Your president and past presidents are extending an invitation for you to join us.

When: Saturday, February 22nd

Where: Stanley Park Community Church at the corner of Ottawa St. and Dreger Ave.

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

What to bring: Large pieces of flannel and/or left over batting from your stash, neutral thread, and your sewing machine.

The room holds about 40 people working at sewing machines. We will have a signup sheet at both the January and February meetings. Lunch will be provided. If you are unable to come that day but have some flannel or batting to donate we'd be happy for them. We are challenging ourselves to complete all 50 of the touch quilt kits we have for the Alzheimer's Society! Come join the fun!

Judy Pearce, Sally Gray and Audrey Vrooman

Guild Retreat

The annual guild retreat is planned for March 13 to 16, 2014 at Brentwood on the Beach.

The cost is \$370 for Thursday to Sunday or \$295 for Friday to Sunday. This includes breakfast/brunch on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and dinner on Friday and Saturday. Thursday evening will be a pot luck supper. A \$150 deposit by January 15, 2014 will be required to reserve your spot. The balance is due on March 1, 2014. This is a wonderful time to meet new friends and enjoy uninterrupted quilting time! Please consider joining in the fun!

If you are interested, please contact Megan Stauch (contact info is in the blue handbook).

Help Wanted!

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with the following:

1. A position on the Executive, requiring a commitment of about 2 hours per month
 - Vice President
2. Evening Meeting Volunteers, requiring a commitment of about 15 minutes, per meeting:
 - Library Assistant (to open the Library for the evening meeting; about 30 minutes)
 - Scrap Bank (to put away the Scrap Bank after the meeting)
 - Bulletin Board (to put away the Bulletin Board after the meeting)
 - Speaker (to help the speaker load up)
 - Vendor Assistant (to help the vendor load up)

If you have some time and willingness to help out, even occasionally, please let any member of the Executive know. All volunteers are welcomed and appreciated.

- 5 -



Right: Laura Reed from the Kitchener Public Library thanking the WCQG for making quilt blocks for the children's area of the renovated KPL.



Sunflower Pattern Correction



There are corrections to Jen Houlden's SUNFLOWER PATTERN. Stop by the program table if you purchased one of those patterns or make the following correction on your pattern.

Page 4

At the end of making the tube after step 4 it should read:

Make a second tube as you did above by repeating the steps in the 7 fabric colour run, 5 fabric colour run and making the tube sections with the remaining A - G strips cut earlier. Cut each tube up as per instructions below to create two full Bargello stratas. Two are needed to cut the petals out of - there will be some left over which could be used to make a small sunflower.

Quilt Show - At a Glance

Paid Attendance – 679
 Total Revenue – \$10,528.
 Total Expenses – \$ 6,228.
 Profit – \$ 4,300.

Raffle Quilt – At a Glance

Tickets Sold – 5,208
 Total Revenue – \$5,246.
 Total Expenses – \$ 644.
 Net Income – \$4,602.

How profits will be spent: An additional \$2,000. has been allocated to the 2014/15 Program budget. Expect to see some exciting international speakers next year. An investment will also be made in maintaining and improving our Quilt show equipment (racks, sheeting etc.)

A cheque for \$4,500. was presented to Parents for Community Living at our November meeting. The balance will be used for fees for the 2015 Raffle Quilt.



Left: Kathy Loveys from Parents for Community Living, is receiving a cheque from the WCQG at the November meeting. PCL was the organization that we chose to raise funds for from our raffle quilt.

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Block Exchange Group

Three people have spoken to me about forming a group, but a few more are needed to make this group work. Please contact me if you're interested.

Bonnie Murdoch

WCQG Members' Top 10 Organizing Tips

At November's meeting, members were asked to give us their favorite tips for organizing their quilting space. Here's what they came up with:

10. Keep a supply of Ziploc bags on hand in various sizes to organize parts of projects e.g. cut strips or blocks, as you go along.
9. Use large metal rings to arrange stencils, templates and/or rulers, then hang the rings in a convenient place e.g. on the wall, on the side of a cupboard etc.
8. For the winter season, change the bulbs in your lighting to "grow" lights for clearer, natural and super bright light.
7. Install peg board on your wall to have small items e.g. rulers, tools, threads etc. organized and in plain sight.
6. Pin a small label with the size on each piece of leftover batting to make it faster to find the one you need.
5. Find scrapbooking boxes (for individual projects) or photo boxes (for storing FQs) on sale (sometimes available at Michaels or the Dollar Store).
4. Tidy up after each project and only work on a manageable number of projects at a time (suggestion from members: 3).
3. Use a small fishing box (found at Canadian Tire) for storing basic sewing supplies such as pins, needles, seam ripper, rotary cutter, wooden presser, extra scissors etc., so that it can just be and taken with you to classes, retreats, sewing bees etc.
2. Cut the binding for a quilt at the same time as you piece it and store it wrapped around a toilet tissue roll with the name of the quilt clearly marked on it. That way, you don't accidentally use the binding fabric for another project.

And, by far, the favourite tip from our members is:

1. Use clear plastic containers to organize your fabric stash, using your favourite method (by colour, theme or project) and making sure each container is clearly labelled.

Many thanks to all who participated!

From the editor

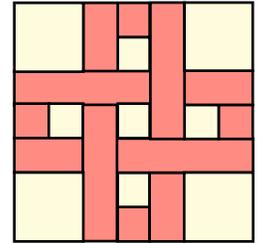
All members are welcome to submit articles for publication.
The deadline for the next newsletter is Jan 16.

Trudy Dey



An advertisement for De Olde Fabric Shoppe. The ad features a spool of thread icon and text: "De Olde Fabric Shoppe", "Over 2000 bolts of exquisite designer quilting fabrics to browse.", "Large variety of kits, books, patterns and notions.", "Register online for our Friday Freebie Offers", "327 Erie St., Stratford, ON, N5A 2N1 519-273-5773", and "www.yeoldefabricshoppe.com yeoldefabricshoppe@rogers.com".

Taking the Mystery Out of the Double Chain Block



For one block you need the following cuts:

From the scrap fabrics:

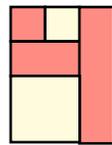
- Four 2" x 2" squares S1 
- Four 2" x 3½" rectangles S2 
- Four 2" x 6½" rectangles S3 

From the background fabric:

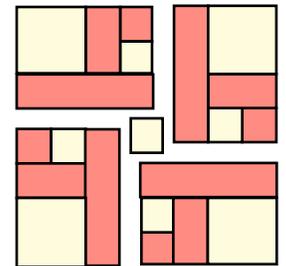
- Five 2" x 2" squares B1 
- Four 3½" x 3½" squares B2 

Construction

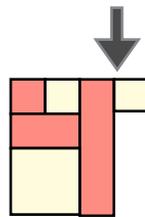
1) Make four units like this



3) All four will now join easily. Make sure all 3½" background squares are placed at the outside corners.



2) To one of the units **partially** sew on the 5th B1 patch. Start at the top where the arrow is pointing sew *part way* down.

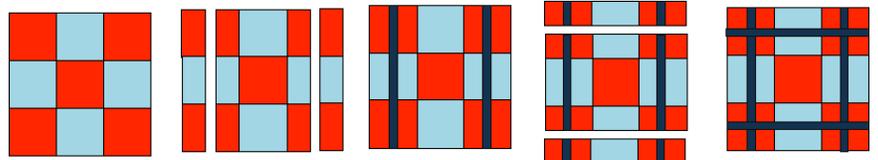


A Possible Border Idea

Use leftover scrap cuts as shown in the image of the quilt to the right.



BONUS Taking the Mystery Out of the Nine-Patch "Plaid"



Here is the nine-patch with the addition of 1" wide strips both vertically and horizontally. The block remains the same size after the addition of each strip. The result is somewhat like a plaid. When making your cuts calculate where the centre of the outside patches will be after the block is sewn into the quilt. This works with any size nine-patch.