



Scraps of Wisdom

Newsletter of the Waterloo County Quilters Guild

March 2014
Volume 30 Issue 6

Program for March 19, 2014

Thanks to all who participated in the Annual Chair Sale. It looked like a thriving marketplace, especially in the afternoon. Hopefully everyone was pleased with their sales and purchases.

Our theme for March is "New Beginnings". Let's hope it truly is the beginning of spring!!! Winter has been long enough!!!

ELEANOR PETRIE, our speaker from Listowel, has made her own fresh start. Following a successful and enjoyable career in education, she has embarked on the "quilting journey". She has found it exciting due to the numerous wonderful courses that have taken her "OUT OF THE BOX". Her trunk show will feature traditional quilts to her latest adventure with improvisation, along the lines of Vikki Pignatelli. Be sure to come out, relax and enjoy the colourful, creative presentation.

Judy Siegner

Reminder: Evening Meeting Starts at 7pm

Change of Location for April Meetings

The Waterloo County Quilter's Guild will be meeting at a different location for the month of April only due to a figure skating event hosted by the City of Waterloo which requires the use of our usual space at Albert McCormick.

On April 16th we will meet at Waterloo North Mennonite Church, 100 Benjamin Road (corner of Weber and Benjamin) Waterloo. Our meeting times will be the same, 1:30 and 7:00 p.m.

We will need to set up chairs and tables at the church. If you are able to arrive early or stay late to help with this, it would be greatly appreciated. Or perhaps there is retired husband or two who might be willing to help? If this is the case, please let a member of the executive know.

The City of Waterloo was willing to move our library for the evening but this seems a daunting task that could disrupt our meetings. It has been decided that members can take out 4 library books for two months at the March meeting. Here's your chance to complete a larger project from one of the books in our wonderful extensive library.

See you at 100 Benjamin Rd. on April 16th!!

Judy Pearce

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:

What do you like best about our shared passion – quilting? There are so many skills and so much knowledge, some passed down through the generations before us, that make up our wonderful craft. There are the choices of design, fabric and techniques; the need for organization and problem solving; the dedication of time, mental and physical energy; the need for creativity and flexibility. But what I love best about quilt making is the joy of the special connections you make with other quilters!

Starting out by walking and talking about quilting almost 15 years ago, my dear friend Sandy and I have morphed into a “quilting couple”. We enjoy leaving our wonderful husbands for one or a few days to travel to quilt shows, have sewing days or create our own “shop hop” days. We can focus on our quilting and they are free to pursue their own interests for a bit.

Dear friends Marilyn and Marsha enjoy the thrill of the hunt for that fabric that will inspire a new creation or complete the vision for a project underway. They, too, are fun traveling companions and quilt show junkies who help expand my creativity by including me in their excellent adventures. Their friendships have helped to expose me to the limitless possibilities of quilting as a craft and an art form.

We quilters share a unique bond, just like the women before us who gathered in their homes to socialize over the quilt frame. Whether we are sewing together at the Mannheim Sewing Circle or learning together at our Guild meetings, these shared activities can form the basis for friendships that provide laughter and joy in good times and hope and support through life's inevitable challenges.

So, I hope when you come to our Guild meetings and events, you too will find a way to connect with other quilt makers who become special to you. The easiest way to do that is to become an “active member”, someone who is involved with others in the Guild through shared tasks. My quilting friendships, many started at the Guild, continue to enhance my love of quilting and enrich my life. Take a chance – get involved! You may be surprised at the rewards.

Until we meet again,
Audrey

March Strip Exchange

For March the colour for the strip exchange is medium beige. Please remember to use only 100% cotton. Some people are asking me about the colour for the strips in June. I had suggested any colour you want, but maybe a more specific colour would be better. Let me know your opinion on this at the next meeting or by email.

Paula McDermott



Mannheim Quilting Circle

Wednesday March 12, 9am - 4pm

next: April 9, 9am - 4pm

Come out for a day of sewing and friendship. It is always sunny and warm at Mannheim. Bring your projects and lunch.

Directions to Mannheim are in your handbook or on the guild website under Community Outreach.

Bernice Gammy and Fabia Joyce

Come Join Us – Spring Mini Retreat – Saturday, April 5, 2014

It has been a long cold winter, but Spring is on the way!! To celebrate, we are holding a mini retreat on Saturday, April 5th at Waterloo North Mennonite Church, 100 Benjamin Road, across from the St. Jacobs Outlet Mall. Here are the details:

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30

What's Included: A full day of quilting, lunch and dinner

If you would enjoy spending a fun day quilting on your own projects with your fellow Guild members, secure your space by signing up with payment at the March Guild meetings. Space is limited to 35 members. Payment is non-refundable.

Smile Quilts Bee Day – April 26, 2014 at Mannheim

The next Smile Bee will be on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at Mannheim Park (directions are at the back of our Members' Handbook) from approximately 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

We will have 'signup' sheets at the March 19, 2014 Guild Meeting, at the Smile Quilt table.

From September 2012 to June 2013, Peggy took 211 Smile Quilts to the Grand River Hospital and from September, 2013 to January, 2014 she has taken 95 quilts. This is wonderful work from all of you and as you know, from the letters of thanks that the Guild receives, they are all very much appreciated. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

Bring your sewing machine, equipment and project to work on. Don't forget your lunch.

Again, we will bring flannel backing and batting to cut for you. We will also have a simple pattern for you, just for inspiration.

Your Smile Quilt Committee – Joan, Helene, Peggy, Judy and Deb



OWLS

(Our Wonderful Leftover Stuff)

Are you taking advantage of these cold days to complete your projects? Please remember to stop by the program table so we can document your completed "OWLS" and enter your name in the prize draw happening at the May meeting.

BONUS: Show something with an OWL on it and have your name automatically entered in a separate draw. You could be using some of the fantastic owl fabric now available or quilting with an owl motif!!! Good luck!!!

the Program Committee

A Smile Quilt Story

Many of us in the Guild sew Smile Quilts to donate to the Outreach program for sick kids at the local hospital. Sometimes we hear wonderful stories back about how deeply they are appreciated. Here is another one.

Recently, Cindy, our Guild treasurer, was doing her banking business for the guild when the bank teller paused and said "What is this quilt group anyway?". Cindy gave her a brief explanation which included the Smile Quilt Outreach program. The teller said "Oh my goodness! When my daughter was 3 years old she was quite ill and spent time at K-W hospital. They gave her one of your quilts. She is a teenager now and that quilt is still one of her most prized possessions!".

Thanks for sharing this story, Cindy.

Ruth Hicks

Report on Presidents' Day

W.C.Q.G. Celebrated President's Day on February 22 by sewing Touch Quilts for our Outreach Program. The event happened at Judy Pearce's church on Dreger Avenue in Kitchener. 23 members sewed up the 50 kits that were available and a very good time was had by all. It was wonderful to see each completed quilt being pinned up unto the wall as they were completed. As the day progressed, the wall became very colourful.

The added bonus was that Judy and Audrey fed us a lunch, as always, fit for kings. Others had brought snacks to enhance our coffee breaks.

Ruth Hicks

Right: Two touch quilts made by Ruth Hicks



Stash Busting

Thank you to everyone who stepped forward at the February meeting to help deal with the miscellaneous items that once belonged to Bev Bechthold. I apologize to those who attended in the evening only, as there was nothing left at the end of the afternoon! It was heartening to see that the fabric will be going to many good places. If you would consider taking a picture of some of your projects, or have stories to share, I would love to pass them along to Blain Bechtold, who didn't want to see Bev's things go to waste.

You may be wondering why there weren't larger pieces of fabric. I volunteer at the women's prison, working with inmates who are making comforters that go to MCC and sent around the world. These women don't often get nice fabrics to work with. I took two boxes of anything larger than 8"x8" for them to cut into 8" or 10" squares. They have been very industrious, and appreciative of this gold mine. The recent comforters are quite attractive!

I was sorely tempted to slip some of my own stash into this offering, when I saw how easy it was to find people eager to use up other people's "scraps"! Is there anyone who would like a LOT of 1.5" squares, including a large full cookie tin that has them paired, ready for sewing 9-patch blocks that finish at 3"x3"?

Emily Hunsberger

Favourite Websites

<http://www.missouriquiltco.com>

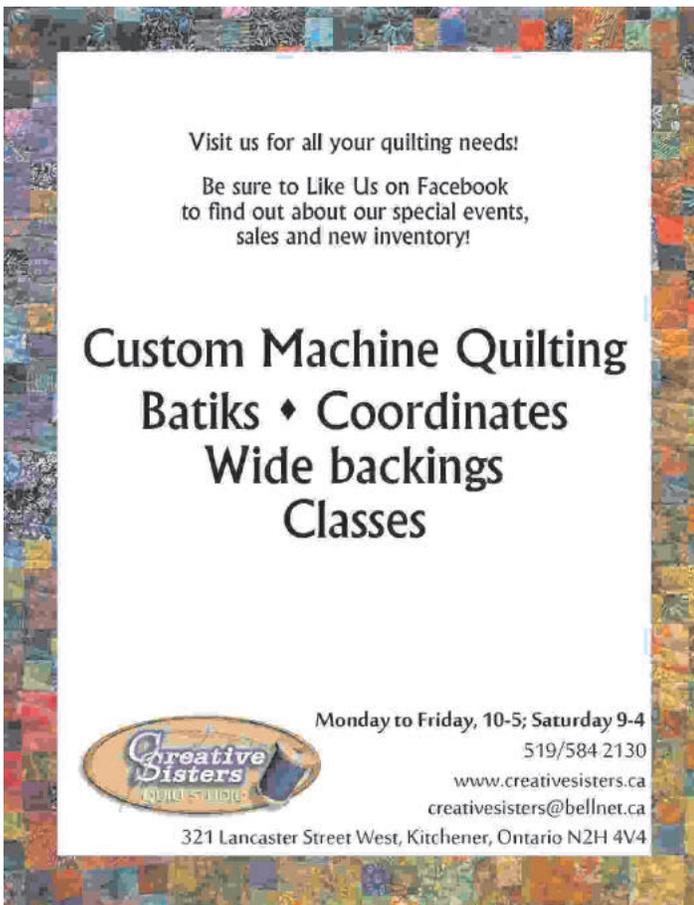
This site has great tutorials that are inspiring, quick, easy, and fun. If you sign up for their newsletter they email new tutorials once or twice a month.

Sylvia Cadman

From the editor

All members are welcome to submit articles for publication. The deadline for the next newsletter is March 27.

Trudy Dey



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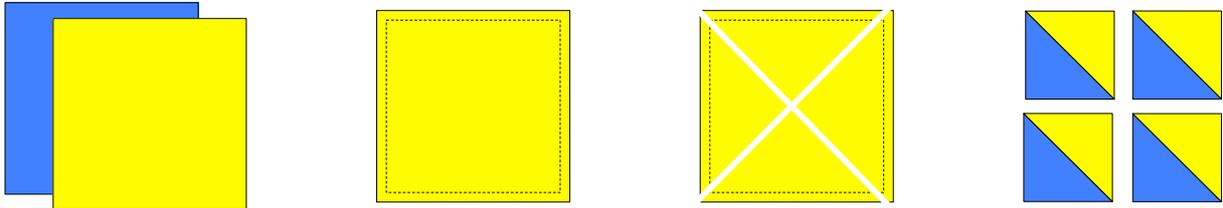
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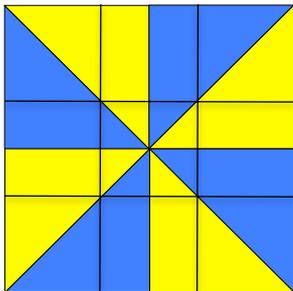
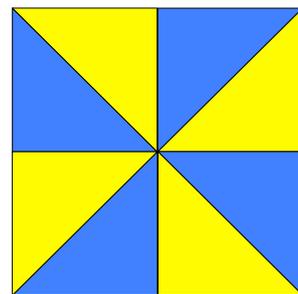
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Pinwheel Variations

At our February meetings Vikki showed us a quick method of making pinwheel blocks that she found on the Missouri Star website (www.missouriqltco.com). The tutorial on the website calls it *Fast & Easy Pinwheels*. The advantage of the method is that it is fast; the disadvantage is that all outer edges of the blocks are all on the bias.



With a quarter-inch seam allowance, squares of equal size are sewn together on all four sides. Next they are cut in quarters diagonally, resulting in four patches that can be assembled as a pinwheel block.



Also, on the Missouri Star website there is a tutorial for the *Disappearing Pinwheel*, in which the pinwheel block is cut into nine equal "patches". Then the "patches are rearranged into different configurations, such as the traditional churn dash and shoo-fly quilt blocks, each with a small pinwheel in the centre.

And Vikki's variation of the *Disappearing Pinwheel*, the pinwheel block is cut equal distances from the edge of the block, rather than in equal patches. Then the outer "patches are rearranged into a different arrangement.

