

QUILTERS' QUILL

"The Executive will work together as a team to support and encourage new quilters, challenge and draw upon experienced quilters and provide warmth and comfort to those in need." As your Executive Committee, we are designing some things to meet the above goal."

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Items for Quilters' Quill should be submitted by the Monday of **two weeks** before the Guild Meeting. Please call Joanne Kavanagh 345-2269.

E-mail: kavanagh@tbaytel.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is December and I am sure all of you are busily preparing for Christmas. Creating and buying the perfect gift, then wrapping the gifts, baking, decorating and then planning special meals as well as attending the various social activities and preparing for them. That is what December looks like as we prepare for Christmas.

During this busy time I hope you find the time to take care of yourselves. Take some time to cherish the blessing you have in family and friends. Enjoy the time you spend with those you love during this season.

Time passes very quickly and as we age it becomes more precious. So, this Christmas spend your time wisely doing the things that make you happy and fulfilled.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Norma

DISTRIBUTION OF THE QUILL

Some of the members of the Guild require a printed copy of the Quill since they do not have access to a computer and/or printer. Joanne only runs off hard copies for these members. Unfortunately, some of our members have not had a Quill since September since when they arrive no Quills are left.

In order to correct this situation, a list has been generated of those members who are to receive a hard copy at the meeting has been generated. The greeters will have this list and will distribute the Quill to the names on the list. If your name is not on the list, you

will not receive the Quill.

Thanks for understanding and co-operating in this matter. Norma

CHRISTMAS POT LUCK DINNER

A big thank you to Lynne Wilson, Julia Wojciechowski, Pauline Mills, Deb Asher-Palmquist and Roberta Gorrie for planning and hosting the Christmas pot luck.

Since this is the first year we are having the dinner at Calvary, things will be a little different. As you know the hall is a little smaller than we are used to. The tables will be rectangles and will be set up in long rows. The food will be set up in the room on the other side of the kitchen from the meeting room.

Please be patient with us as we try this out. If you have any suggestions to improve the pot luck after this dinner just let us know and we will do our best to implement your ideas.

Thanks to all for participating in our dinner.

Norma

QUILT GROUPS

Just a reminder if you are interested in belonging to a Quilt group please let Norma know. I have a couple of beginners who would like to get together with other beginners as well as a couple of intermediate quilters. Belonging to a quilt group is the best way to advance your skills and interest in quilting.

Norma

5 STEPS TO AN ORGANIZED WORK SPACE

The New Year will soon be here and if you are like me, one of the resolutions you make will be to organize your sewing room. Here are 5 steps to an organized space from the publishers of Quilting Arts. I hope they are helpful.

1. **SORT.** Go through your space and sort each general element, (fabric, beads, embellishments, patterns, books), then sort within the area (fabric by colour, books by theme etc.).
2. **Purge.** As you sort, set aside materials and supplies you seldom if ever use. Make a plan to sell or donate those items.
3. **ASSIGN A HOME.** Look at the materials you have left and think about how you use them. Keep all the supplies you use for a specific task together or near each other.
4. **CONTAIN.** Now that you know what you have and how you use it, you have better idea of your storage needs. See-through containers help you identify what's in them instantly, but opaque containers- especially if they're uniform- help reduce visual clutter.
5. **Equalize.** Now, that you have your space set up, set up a routine to maintain order daily. It's a good idea to put away utensils like scissors, rulers etc. so that you can start right in the next time. A good way to do this is to stop working 10 minutes before you need to and use that time to position your tools for the next use.

Norma

HINTS AND TIPS

- Number flat flower-pins 1-10 with permanent marker to use as row markers when assembling a quilt.
- Silly Putty in your thimble keeps it in place, moulds around long nails, and doesn't stick to your finger or leave a residue.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DECEMBER 2010

Members have given the Executive a very strong mandate in regards to classes and activities. To date three successful classes have been held – Mantel Cloth taught by Doris Dungan and two winter snowmen appliqué classes taught by Cindy Cockell. I had the opportunity to visit and chat with members at two of the classes and can report that there was much creativity, laughter and happy friendship happening. What a great opportunity for all of our members to become involved, learn new methods/skills and share with one another their love of quilting.

New classes planned in the New Year are as follows:

1. **Machine Quilting with Doris Dungan**

Cost: \$30.00 – payable at the December meeting

Currently we have 18 members signed up with room for a few more members who are interested in making this vest. To ensure that our members are comfortable and have plenty of room to spread out we will offer this class on two different dates:

Both sessions will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church

Monday, January 24 and Monday, February 7, 2011 - 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 2 and Wednesday, February 16, 2011 – 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Please see me at the December meeting to confirm which session you will be attending.

2. **Bryce Canyon Vest with Doris Dungan**

Cost: \$30.00 for class + cost of pattern – the first session of this class will be held before the January Guild meeting, therefore confirmation of session date and payment must be made at the December 13th meeting.

Currently we have 20 members signed up and to ensure that our members are comfortable and have plenty of room to spread out we will offer this class on two different dates:

Both sessions will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church
Saturday, January 15, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 5, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

3. **Buggy Barn Whack and Stack with Alva Llewellyn**

www.buggybarnquilts.com

This class has 10 members currently signed up. I will have the sign-up sheet available at the December meeting and will report back on a date and location at the January meeting.

4. **Possibilities Club: Great Fabric Recipes**

www.modabakeshop.com

With 22 members signed up this Club is ready to take off in the New Year. We will be meeting once a month to discuss and provide assistance with the latest ideas, techniques and instructions along with some real yummy baking treats, hot and cold beverages and just a whole bunch of good quilting fun! Each month will feature new fabric lines/designers, patterns, books and great projects.

A date and location will be announced at the January meeting.

5. **Bonnie Hunter Scrap Quilts with Maria Bell**

www.quiltville.com

11 members already signed up for this great class. The sign-up sheet will be made available once more and then a date and location will be announced at the January meeting.

6. Patch Abilities Monthly Minis

www.patchabilities.com/mminisbase.html

We have 14 members interested in this monthly club. I will have the sign-up sheet available at the December meeting for any other member who wants to still join this club. Once I have a firm number of participants, I will contact Patch Abilities, Inc. and make arrangements to start up the mailing of the monthly minis to the Quilt Guild.

7. Ricky Tims Shop Hop and Seminar – Eau Claire, Wisc

www.rickytimes.com/seminars

THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MAY 12, 13, 14, 2011

Group Registration - \$179.00 (saving of \$40.00)

Hotel – Ramada Inn Convention Center - double occupancy \$85.00/night

Transportation – Chartered Motor Coach – TBA

8. Thimbleberries Club – January 2011

www.thimbleberries.com

Since the closing of Patchworks there has been a very real need to start up quilting classes and clubs. The Thimbleberries Club was a very popular and well attended club. With some modification, it is once again possible to offer a Thimbleberries Club to our membership. An information package will be available at the December meeting along with a sign up sheet to see if indeed there is enough interest in starting up this Club in 2011. Stay tuned for more information to be shared at the January Guild meeting.

And finally I would like to share with all of you this poem that I came across as I searched for meaningful quotes/ideas for the December report. How appropriate this poem seemed in sharing the joy and spirit of Christmas. Very real questions asked by innocent children to a very wonderful and heartwarming response from Santa.

In the spirit of giving, I wish you and your families good cheer, good health and great joy this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

Lucy

CAN SANTA BE BLACK?

It happened in the kindergarten class,
Right at the table where they were having snack.

Joanie asked the question and they all sat back:
"Mr. Slater? Can Santa Claus be black?"

Poor Mr. Slater didn't know what to say,
Christmas vacation was twenty days away.
There were snowflakes to cut and
Window wreaths to be hung,
Christmas cards to be painted,
And Christmas songs to be sung.

He hadn't time to think
What Christmas was about,
In twenty more days,
School would be out!
Why couldn't they wait
And ask their questions then,
When mommies and daddies
Were home to answer them?
"Mr. Slater? Can Santa be thin?"
"Is Santa Clause always a him?"

Mr. Slater looked at twenty pairs of eyes,
Twenty children of every shape and size.
He ate a bit of cracker and finished his drink.
"Children," he said,
"I'll need some time to think."
As soon as class was over,
He ran down the hall,
Skidded 'round a corner,
Crashed into a wall.
Ran up the steps to the second floor,
Rapped on the window of the principal's door.

"Ms. Frazer, Ms. Frazer, what can I do?
The children asked these questions
That now I ask of you:

'Can Santa Claus be black?'
'Can Santa Claus be thin?'
'Does Santa always have to be a him?'"

"Mr. Slater, it's a difficult task
To find answers to the questions you ask.
I think with these I'll need some assistance,
But I'll get you the answers with a little persistence."

Ms. Frazer turned in her swivel chair,
Picked up the phone and dialed Mr. Dare.
Mr. Dare was the head of the P.T.A.,

He called for a meeting the very next day.

"Thank you for coming,"
He began with a greeting.
"I'd like to get right to the point of this meeting.
Mr. Slater, in charge of the kindergarten class,
Needs the answers to some questions
And he needs them fast."

"Can Santa be black?"
"Can Santa be thin?"
"Does Santa always have to be a him?"

The parents didn't know what to say,
Christmas vacation was nineteen days away.
There were cookies to bake and lights to string,
Gifts to wrap and carols to sing.

They hadn't time to think
What Christmas was about,
In nineteen more days
School would be out!
Why did children have to ask questions when
Parents had no time to sit and answer them?

"Well, Parents?
Are there any suggestions?
Do we have any answers
To these difficult questions?"

"Who knows best
What Christmas is about?
Let's ask Santa!"
Someone called out in a shout.

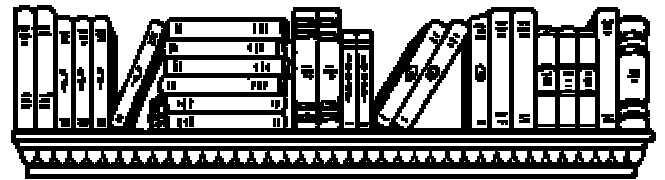
The secretary of the P.T.A.
Sent a letter to Santa the very next day.
The reply came back very, very fast,
Addressed to Mr. Slater
And the kindergarten class.

Dear Mr. Slater, Dear Girls, Dear Boys,
Once a story writer caught me bringing you toys.
The year he spied me opening my sack,
My skin was white, my boots were black.
You probably know how that story goes . . .
I laid a finger aside my nose?
All these years, needlessly,
That story worries children who don't have a chimney.

All year long I listen to the news,
Read people's thoughts, see people's views.
At the end of the year, when I see what's needed most,
I take that shape, like a Christmas ghost.
I can pass through keyholes, windows and locks,
Apartment buildings, hospitals, tents, and trailer lots.

One year I used a wheelchair in place of my sleigh,
Once I was blind and had to feel my way.
It's hard to understand when I don't leave a toy:
You can't unwrap a gift like hope or health or joy.
My skin has been black, white, yellow, red, brown;
My eyes have been slanted, crossed, and round.
Sometimes I have been a she:
All these things are a part of me.
You may not believe all this is true,
But that's okay, boys and girls, because . . .
I believe in you.

—B. J. Wrights



This month I would like to focus on quilt book authors who are also quilt fabric designers. It is always a treat to find authors who are passionate about textiles and quilting and go on a journey of discovery with them by reading their books, becoming acquainted with their fabric lines and understanding the process that took them along their chosen paths.

Kaari Meng – www.frenchgeneral.com
Book - French General Home Sewn

As the founder of the renowned crafts and notions store French General Kaari Meng scours the French countryside and Parisian flea markets for vintage treasures. Now this beloved designer has gathered her favourite patterns into a charming source book sure to be coveted by crafters Francophiles and home decorators. She offers 30 simple sewing patterns for French-inspired projects scalloped tablecloth piles of pillows and bedding a festive party garland totes and more. Lay-flat spiral binding and ready-to-use pattern sheets and embroidery transfers plus step-by-step directions gorgeous photographs and helpful

illustrations make it easy to bring the palettes and pleasures of traditional French living into any home.

**Moda Fabric Designer of the following fabric lines:
Le Petite Ecole - newest fabric line available in
December 2010**

It's back to school with French General's latest collection of vintage fabrics for Moda. The colors sport a weathered patina as if you stumbled upon elements from a old school in a French flea market. Kari continues to employ a distressed faux linen background and her signature beaded selvage edge.

Maison de Garance - a beautiful collection of reproduction French textiles using rich chocolate to complement the traditional reds. Beautiful Jacobean florals form the centerpiece with vibrant green foliage offsetting the rich reds and browns. A wildflower and bird stripe provides a dramatic border pattern. The attention to detail shines through in small patterns including Clochette, Tilleu, Grenadier, and Fougere.

Lumiere de Noel - is one of the Christmas fabric collections, but I wouldn't say that it is particularly Christmassy. French General's collections all have a vintage French theme to them and this is no different. The color palette includes taupes, creams and French reds which could be used at any time of the year.

Rural Jardin - French-inspired fabric filled with shades of soft pinks, wood blue, rural reds and pale aqua - this collection will make any home feel like a French farmhouse.

Rouenneries - It's a wonderful collection of antique floral prints mixed with bold ticking stripes and polka dots - very rural looking but contemporary enough for our modern lives

Biography on Kaari Meng.

French General first opened in our barn along the Hudson River in 1997, the year my daughter Sofia was born. I was interested in staying home more and the idea of a barn filled with treasures we collected every summer while visiting France sounded like the perfect solution. We stocked the shelves with old textiles, ribbon and notions; we opened once a month and served lemonade and French biscuits. Soon, we had a loyal following and decided to move our rural home collection down to New York City, where we opened in an old blacksmith shop on Crosby Street, just around the corner from the classic French restaurant, Balthazar.

After a couple of years of owning a shop in Soho,

we decided to pack it up, once again, and head out West to California - where I am originally from. French General found it's new home in an old Spanish bungalow right in the middle of Hollywood. We continued to stock old hemp sheets, florals and tickings from France, as well as a working notion room where we taught craft classes with vintage materials. To mix things up a bit, we began writing craft books covering home style, jewellery making, sewing, entertaining and early craft techniques.

After our sewing book **Home Sewn** was published in 2008, people were very interested in using some of the same fabric we had used in our designs. The textiles we had used were antique and in limited supply - not to mention found in the flea markets of France!

KIM DIEHL – www.kimdiehl.com

BOOKS

Simple Graces

Eight original quilts, plus at least one (and often more!) coordinating "spin-off" designs for each of these quilts, equals more than twenty projects in all! Dust off your sewing machine and break out your stash, because this book will fuel your creativity and inspire you to stitch.

Simple Comforts

Twelve cozy patchwork and applique projects combine traditional designs with Kim's fresh approach to color. Best of all, you'll find time-saving tips and techniques to help you fill your home with the comfort of quilts.

Simple Seasons

This best-selling book features a collection of Kim's tradition-with-a-twist quilts inspired by each season of the year, plus her very own home style recipes.

Simple Traditions

Photographed in Kim's Idaho home, this best-selling sequel to Simple Blessings features 14 cozy patchwork and appliqué quilts in her signature scrappy style.

Biography on Kim Diehl

With just the third quilt she'd ever made, self-taught quilt maker Kim Diehl entered and won American Patchwork & Quilting magazine's "Pieces of the Past" quilt challenge in 1998. This win took her life down a new and unexpected path, and with her fourth quilt, Kim began publishing her original designs. In the years since her challenge win, Kim has seen her work published in numerous national and international magazines.

With her new-found hobby quickly blossoming into

a career, Kim realized that she needed to complete her quilts more quickly to meet her ever increasing deadlines. Although she loved using traditional needle-turn methods to hand stitch her applique designs, Kim began experimenting with invisible machine applique. She soon developed a technique that enabled her to machine-stitch her appliques in a fraction of the time, and she was delighted to find that they had the appearance of being hand sewn -- Kim has seldom needle-turned a seam since!

In 2004, Kim began partnering with Martingale & Company to share her "tradition with a twist" quilting designs and time-saving techniques through her books. To date, she's authored several titles in her best-selling "Simple" series, with her newest and fifth book, Simple Graces, released in October of 2010...and already another "best-seller"! Kim's next book, Simple Charm, will focus on her love of scrap quilts and is already in the works.

The opportunity to begin designing fabrics for Henry Glass in 2008 enabled Kim to combine her love of richly-hued prints with her "scrap-basket" approach to quilt making, and her designs reflect this. "My goal is for my fabric designs to work together beautifully without looking as though they were created together. What could be more fun than designing a quilt, and then creating the fabrics to bring it alive?" This endeavour has been especially rewarding for Kim, because she has no formal artistic training and she loves seeing where her natural instincts lead her.

Henry Glass and Co., Fabric Designer of the following fabric lines: Winsome

These colour-drenched prints feature warm and sunny hues, but their tones have been very slightly muted to enable them to mix and blend well with a variety of quilting fabrics and styles. Available in quilt shops early 2011, you'll want to add scads of these to your stash for instant sparkle in your quilting projects.

Along the Fence

This collection of richly-hued prints for Henry Glass & Co. is versatile enough to blend beautifully with your existing stash, and you'll discover that it's equally suited to creating an instant scrap basket look when used all on its own. As of winter, 2010, these prints are becoming scarce, but still can be found!

Inchie Quilts by Nadine Ruggles

Join the latest trend in quilting and make the tiniest

quilts yet -- only 1" x 1" square. They are perfect for collecting and trading, each of these exquisite little gems is a miniature work of art! Nadine shows you exactly how to make and embellish Inchies, then offers a variety of ways to attach them to your quilts adding a new kind of texture and interest. Included in the book are complete instructions for ten quilt projects as well as a detailed list of tools, materials and fabric selection tips.

Techniques: piecing, quilting, and embellishment

10 projects -- 79 color pgs.

Enjoy and Happy Reading

Luci Andreacchi

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

1. Thank you to those ladies who showed those interesting techniques at the November meeting.
 1. Carol Richards
 2. Lynn Wilson
 3. Linda Nykanen
 4. Debbie Palmquist
 5. Ellen Olson
 6. Margaret Brown
 7. Alva Llewelyn
 8. Maria Bell
2. WOOF quilts - let's keep bringing strips. Thank you to all participants.
3. Remember to bring your paper pieced STAR.
4. Don't forget the gift exchange- something you can recycle- to become someone else's treasure.
5. Your donation of non perishable food items will be the centrepiece for your table.
We'll see you at the Christmas Potluck dinner.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Do you know how to cut out your own unique 6-pointed snowflake?

In January, let's learn how!

Please bring to the January meeting:

- a pencil
 - a ruler [with angle lines -12 inch is good]
 - paper cutting scissors
- Paper will be supplied.

We have some ideas for the new year. HOW

ABOUT YOU?

Write your idea on a paper and give it to us.

Or send it by e-mail to Marlene Mc Robb or Linda Guitard

Marlene McRobb & Linda Guitard

NOVEMBER QUILTING BEE REPORT

The Quilt Bee sorting and cutting was held Monday, November 8 and Tuesday, November 9. The actual Bee

was held on Friday, Nov 12 and Sat. Nov. 13th. The actual turnout was very disappointing, however, based on how many tops were completed during the 2 days the output was great. We did have tons of fun and everyone learned something new.

With a large group such as us, I personally do not like to thank people individually by name. I would be afraid that someone may be forgotten. It doesn't matter where or how you help, what sheet you signed, or forgot to sign, or how much time you can give, all your efforts are very much appreciated and you all know who you are.

The recipients of our quilts are warmed by our efforts every time they put their dinner plate on one of the placemats or wrap themselves in the warmth from one of the hundreds of quilts that are donated each year, and your efforts have also gone to help feed the less fortunate. Every bit of help does make a difference and we are very fortunate not only to have you on our team but to have known/met you personally.

On behalf of Alanna and myself we would like to thank everyone who contributes to the Quilting Bee in any way, for the donation of fabric, for any amount of time you spend, be it quietly at home or in person, for as much time as you are able to give. It all makes a difference.

We ask that you give us input to how we can do this better/or not. With the prep work and all else we do not have time to follow-up with telephone calls and will use the email postings and our newsletter to remind everyone prior to future kit making and planning for the next quilt bee.

I am going to ask Cathy Ridley if a sign-up sheet can be posted on our TBQG web site to make it easier for members.

Ellen Olson

A BIT OF CALMNESS FOR CHRISTMAS

I am passing this on to you because it definitely works, and we could all use a little more calmness in our lives. By following simple advice heard on the Dr. Phil show, you too can find inner peace. Dr Phil proclaimed, "The way to achieve inner peace is to finish all the things you have started and have never finished."

So, I looked around my house to see all the things I started and hadn't finished, and before leaving the house this morning, I finished off a bottle of White Zinfandel, 2 bottles of beer, a package of Oreos, the rest of the cheesecake, some Doritos, and a box of chocolates, and a half bottle of rum.

You have no idea how "peaceful" I feel right now.

PLACEMATS & EMPTY BOWLS

Forty placemats were picked up in November. Twenty went to Meals on Wheels and the rest into storage for the Empty Bowls Dinner on Oct 16, 2011. There are so many placemats on hand, that Meals on Wheels should be able to give a placemat to every long term client just before Christmas. Keep up the good work!

I just received a box of batting samples that are the perfect size for placemats. Thanks Alva for getting these from Laura at Fabricland.

Nelly Reedhead

CLASSIFIEDS (BUY/SELL/TRADE)

Two-line non-business quilt-related classified ads can be placed in the Quill for \$2.50. Each additional line costs \$1.00 Please pay Aila Metsa in advance.

THUNDER BAY QUILT GUILD MEMBER PROFILE

NORMA WYNN

I was born and raised in a small town in Southern Ontario called Port Colborne at the entrance to lake Erie. I am the middle child. I had an older brother and have a younger sister. I was an elementary school teacher, librarian and principal. I started sewing when I was 12 because we had a sewing class through the school system. My mother was not a sewer. I sew many of my own clothes then I started sewing for members of my family. I really enjoyed making clothes for my nieces when they were young.

I started quilting in 1993. A friend asked me to go to a class at Patchworks on Algoma. It was a Roman Stripe class taught by May Carlson. All I knew was that the language of quilting was very different from other sewing language. So I decided to take a beginners course and thoroughly loved it. No one in my family quilted. My sister is now a quilter also.

I like to quilt in all seasons. I really enjoy piecing a quilt. My least favourite part is preparing for and sandwiching a quilt. I also like to make quilted stuff you know like wallhangings, place mats, purses and bags. To me quilting is like a puzzle...you take small pieces of fabric and put them together until you have a quilt or whatever. It sure is fun.

I tend to buy country colours. Most of my collection are mediums and darks. I usually buy 1 metre of fabric but if I really like them 2 or 3 m. I hate left over strips. They take too much room to store. I keep them in a large basket until its full then I give them away or use them for stuffing. I sort my fabric by colour.

I do not do a great job of documenting my quilts. I always seem to forget that part.

I do not pre wash my fabrics. Pressing is a very important part of the quilting process. It is a part of the process that I enjoy doing. My seam ripper is one of my most useful tools since I get to use it quite frequently. I do not make a sample block before I begin. I bet if I did I would have less ripping out to do.

I have a wonderful quilt group that I travel with to quilt shows, retreats and seminars. We have been to the Minnesota show a few times as well as Canmore Alberta, and Hutchinson, Minnesota. We are planning a trip to Colorado for a 5 day workshop with Judith Baker Montano in June. I love to travel by car and I love to have someone else do the driving. I also have taught many classes and I always learn so much from the students. Everyone has such great ideas.

I have no quirky sewing habits; at least I don't think so.

SEWING TIPS

Cutting, pressing and 1/4 " seam are very important to ensure success. Having the right thread and needles also helps in producing a great product with less problems. I piece with a top stitch needle and 50 wt. thread. Lots of rulers everyone must have lots of rulers. I am a sucker for gadgets..any new one interests me until I realize most of them don't work the way they promised.

Have fun

Norma