

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

With just a few hiccups, Spring has arrived. The winter of 2012 was a different kind of winter but we all are ready for sunny warm days. I know that those of you who like to garden are anxious to get your hands dirty.

I have been spending some time on YouTube watching the tutorials from the Missouri Star Quilting Company. Please check out the tutorials on the Double Cut Layer Cake and the 3 Dudes. They are quick, easy and make wonderful quilts. The World Wide Web offers many great tips and interesting blocks. Be careful though or you will spend more time **watching** others make quilts than **making** your own.

Just a reminder, the need for a new President, Vice-President and Program Chair is coming quickly. So if you have been thinking of letting your name stand for these roles, please talk to any member of the executive and do it.

The last weekend in April is the Dryden Quilt show. It is always a great show. The members of the Guild do a great job. It makes a great day trip.

I hope you had a Blessed Easter.

Norma

PILLOWS OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY

Diane Chase has graciously consented to collect all of our scraps or, at least those you will not be using, to make pillows for the animals at the animal shelter. Diane will also like any old pillow cases you may have to fill for this great cause.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

I want to thank Shirley Aussant and Pat Inch for a very interesting presentation at the March guild meeting.

Apr: Inspiration from world renowned quilter Libby Lehman on her Sheer Ribbon Illusions.

May: Quilters' Challenge Part II by Shirley Aussant, Pat Inch and Val Kosloski, "All God's Creatures Great and Small". Bring your creation and share it with us!

Jun: Yearly Potluck Dinner before summer break. Hopefully we will have a quilter of the month to inspire us to quilt during the summer months!

See you at the meeting

Linda

NOW IS THE TIME

Yes, now is the time to volunteer for a position on the Guild Executive. As you know, our guild is successful due to the contributions of many members who help things run smoothly. In June we will be electing three new members of the Executive for two-year terms – President, Vice President and Program Chair.

The duties as described in our Constitution and By-Laws are listed below, so you can think about how your interests and abilities can best serve. Speak to me or any member of the Executive for more information about what is involved. We're counting on you to step forward!

The **PRESIDENT** will preside at all meetings of the Executive and General Membership, will call executive meetings, prepare agendas, be responsible for public relations and will liaise with the community.

The **VICE PRESIDENT** will preside at meetings in the absence of the President; liaise with the Program Committee and be responsible for coordinating the workshops and retreats.

The **PROGRAM CHAIR** will be responsible for the organizing the monthly program portion of the general meeting.

Doris Dungan

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There has been a very positive response for the Colour Theory Class. This hands-on workshop will enable members to learn about colour and the colour wheel. How to apply this in their selection of colour, fabric, pattern placement and design in their quilts. It will assist the quilter in their decision making process when visiting a quilt shop and in the design of your quilts. The principals presented in this workshop will give you more confidence in your colour and fabric selection, enhancing your quilt making experience.

The sign-up sheet will once again be made available for all interested in taking this class. More information on dates and location will be made available once we have enough members signed up for this workshop.

The second in the series – INTERMEDIATE QUILT CLASS being offered by Doris Dungan and Marlene McRobb - the signup sheet will also be available for any member interested in sharpening their quilting skills, learning new techniques or simply to refresh all of those quilting skills that you have gathered over time.

Once it has been determined that there are enough members interested, we will provide more information as to dates and location.

I recently read a very interesting and informative article in the May/June Quiltmaker magazine and would like to share with all of you:

QUILT LIKE A CHAMPION

If quilting were a sport, what would it look like? How would you play? Could you be a champion? Here's a playbook to get you going.

Learn the Fundamentals

Start with a beginner's class or check out some library books. Learn the basics and learn them well. Although a lifetime can be spent on these skills, include critical essentials at the start:

1. Understanding colours, prints, value
2. Rotary cutting
3. Accurate piecing with a ¼" seam
4. Pressing, quilting, binding

Understand the Rules

Hmmm....exactly what are the rules about quilting?

The best rule of all is that there are no rules. If you can make something work and you like the results, then it's acceptable for you. Do create quilts with a degree of quality workmanship so they'll hold up, and enjoy the process of creating as much as the end result.

Invest in Good Equipment

Purchase the tools you'll need as you are able. Consider basic sewing items, a sewing machine and a design wall. Read product reviews and test new equipment at quilt shops and shows.

Set Goals

Think about what you'd like to accomplish through quilting. It can be simple or lofty. Set a goal to learn a technique, read a quilt design book or list the quilts you want to finish.

Find a Buddy

If you've never had a quilting friend, by all means find one! There is nothing like the companionship of a like-minded creator to inspire you.

Find a Coach

Is there someone who's willing to answer your quilting questions? You'll find her to be invaluable. Some quilt shop owners are willing to fill this role for customers (please don't buy your fabric elsewhere and then expect the quilt shop to help you).

Find a Place to Play

Establish a spot in your home where your machine and supplies can live permanently. It's best if they can stay out all the time, so you're free to grab a few minutes of quilting here and there.

Join a Team

Your quilting life will be richer and fuller if you do it with others part of the time. Find other quilters through a local quilt shop, quilt guild, church or community college. Or get involved in an online quilting community – there are many, and there will be one that suits you.

Be a Team Player

Wherever you get involved, be more than a bench warmer. Make plans to contribute! Volunteer to help out with a task. Many hands make light work.

Practice Sportsmanlike Conduct

Be KIND to the people you meet through quilting. Everyone has different skills, ideas and preferences. There is room for all of it! Beware of publicly criticizing any quilt harshly. Be a cheerleader for others who are learning and exploring just as you are. Support your local quilt shop and businesses – they make the quilt world go round!

Winning and Losing

When things go your way, smile. When they don't, smile! It's quilting; it's not life or death. Learn from your mistakes and move on.

Becoming a Champion

If your willing to try these suggestions, you will be a champion. Anybody who is spending time and money to make beautiful quilts for the people they love can be nothing less!

This was a great article with very timely quilting advice. I hope you enjoy the read as much as I did.

Luci

LIBRARY REPORT

The Education Wing buzzed with excitement as members came looking for all of those wonderful new books that have made their way into our Guild Library.

The book sale was once again very successful. Many books that have been taking up space in our library have found new homes and now we can look forward to a new selection of more current and updated quilting books. We will continue with the sale of these older books, so remember to bring your loonie and toonies to the April meeting and find a treasure that needs a new home. Come to the Education Wing and see what awaits.

Sales from the book sale has been used to purchase the following:

Summer at the Lake Quilts – 11 New Projects from Maw-Bell Designs – Quilts, Bags & More

Double Take – Quilts with that Hopscotch Twist by Heather Willms and Elissa Willms

Make Your Bed – Quilted Bed Runners, Pillows, and more to suit your Style - Leslee Evans

A Baker's Dozen – 13 quilts from jelly rolls, layer cakes and more – from the staff at That Patchwork Place

Fast, Flirty, and Fun – Easy Quilts from Fabulous Fabrics – Sarah M. Bisel

Debbie Mumm Quilts Santa's Scrapbook – Elves and teapots, crazy quilts and leaping deer; preserve the holiday spirit all through the year!

Hope to see you there and remember to bring back the books that you took home in March, so that all members of the Guild can have a chance to enjoy the great quilting resources that their library has to offer.

Thank you and happy reading,
The Library Committee

Luci Andreacchi, Meghann Choquette, Ellen Lang,
Betty Maki, Sharon Melville, Wendy Royston

TNT - THE QUILTER'S DYNAMITE

Use TNT, the "Top Notch Ten" or "Ten Nifty Tips" to play around with your quilt pattern.

- #10 - adjust the number of rows or blocks
- #9 - add borders
- #8 - use sashing
- #7 - use framing
- #6 - add a header/footer row
- #5 - use only part of a quilt pattern
- #4 - use diagonal layout and setting squares
- #3 - add spacers
- #2 - adjust block size.
- #1 - adjust the pattern layout.

Why would you use TNT?

... You could use one or more TNT techniques to adjust the top to fit your desired sizing.

... You could use TNT to give a pattern a twist and make it your own.

... By using TNT techniques, you can be adventurous and design your own quilt. Take an idea and then play around with the square sizing, layout and borders. The end result may surprise you. Have fun playing with TNT, the quilter's dynamite.

Shirley Aussant

PLACEMATS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- 47 Placemats donated in February. 24 went to Meals on Wheels

- 36 placemats in March, 5 to Meals on Wheels

Just a reminder that we are having a placemat bee on April 21 at the Unitarian Fellowship across from the Italian Hall on Algoma St. Bring sewing supplies and an insulated mug. If you can't carry your machine, there is always sorting and pressing to be done.

Lunch is provided

9:30 to 2:00 pm.

We are always looking for more volunteers for our committee and to help on the day of the Empty Bowls event which is Oct 21 this year.

We need someone who is able and has to time, to set up a new website for Empty Bowls. The old one is outdated and has no-one to service it.

Nelly Reedhead, 473-5646

**CLASSIFIEDS
(BUY/SELL/TRADE)**

Three-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.

WANTED

A used dress form for teenager interested in clothing design. Please call Joyce McKinnon 577-9866

**THUNDER BAY QUILT GUILD MEMBER PROFILE
WENDY CURRIE**

As a little girl I was always fascinated by sewing and all that it involved. My mom made almost all of our clothes and so always had her machine set up with fabric and notions around (I often wonder how many times she had to readjust her tension because I'd been playing with her machine), I can't remember not having at least a little stash of fabric, and I always loved spending time in the fabric departments of Eatons and the Bay in Winnipeg just touching and looking at all the different fabrics.

One year when I was around 5, I remember being given a Raggedy Ann doll that a neighbour had made and was invited to her house for a visit. That lady had a whole room designated for sewing, oh the fabric she had and the dolls and doll clothes she made. I think of those visits as seeds of inspiration to my young mind.

Years later, while watching Little House on the Prairie, I commented to my Mom that I loved the blankets on that show. We laugh now, but my Mom's response was "oh those are quilts...only poor people make those!" I thought to myself, "someday I'm going to learn how to make those!"

At 23 and expecting my first child, I made my first quilt. I used a Simplicity Pattern and the Poly Cotton fabrics I found at Zellers. Some of the blocks were embroidered. I put it all together and even quilted it but I never could figure out how to finish the binding. I used the quilt anyways and it ended up being used for all four of my babies. It still isn't finished and I've decided that I won't finish it just because it makes me smile the way it is.

Making that first quilt did not satisfy my need for making quilts, so I was always thinking about them and wondering how I could find a way to make those beautiful quilts on that show. My parents had moved to Calgary, and during a visit there they took me to a small quilt store, where my Mom bought me a beginner's book, a small mat, ruler and rotary cutter.

One day on PBS I met someone very important (to me anyways), Eleanor Burns. She said you could make a quilt in a day! I would watch her show, taking notes and then make the project. Still, I wished I could meet someone who I could share this interest with.

A few years after that I did meet a friend who knew about quilting, she had just moved to Thunder Bay and her husband told her that there was going to be a quilt conference in the city and gave her the info pkg. We signed up for a couple of classes. That conference turned out to be Quilt Canada!!! I even met my TV friend Eleanor Burns! One of those classes is where I met someone who has become one of my very favourite friends and mentors. At first I would run into her from time to time and always when I had a quilting question. Eventually we would get to know each other and she has always encouraged me in my quilting. Alva Llewellyn has been my quilting cheerleader for 20 years now!

Years later, and as a single Mom to my 4 girls...my Dad called one day and asked if I knew anything about Long Arm Quilting Machines. I told him I did that I'd seen the advertisements for them in Quilt Magazines. He suggested that I might be able to have a home business quilting for others which would enable me to be home with my girl which is where my heart really is! My Dad spent a lot of time researching the different machines and one day called me at work and asked if I could have a room ready for an APQS Millennium in 2 weeks because that was when it was arriving! I had never actually seen a Long Arm before let alone used one. When I mentioned to Alva that my Dad was looking at these machines and she was so supportive and encouraging.

Another really special friend came into my life at this time; one day at work I received a call from another Quilter, Lori Smetaniuk who at the time was the Long Arm Quilter in Thunder Bay. At first I was worried that she would be upset that I was planning to start quilting for others. But no, instead she was so excited for me and insisted on coming over to help me get set up and to teach me how to use my new machine. Thank You Lori!

I am a self taught quilter for the most part, though I have taken classes and I always learn something new in each class.

I am now Quilt for a living, mainly machine quilting for others though I do make quilts to sell as well. My business is called Wendy's Quilting. I really enjoy working with other quilters to help them bring their quilts to completion. I also love to share what I know about quilting by teaching others what I've learnt, Quilting really is a sharing art.

As an office worker I could hardly wait for my shift to end so that I could get home, and yes quilt. Now that I am quilting full time, I still enjoy spending many of my evenings in my studio piecing more quilts.

Submitted by Bobbie Dafoe

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