

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

Business card ad - \$10; Half page ad - \$20

Full page ad - \$20+ printing cost/copy

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"What exactly is a polka dot?" I wondered as I heard quilters all around me excitedly prepare for this meeting. So, I went to my favourite source, the Internet, for some definitions. A typical one is this: "One of a number of dots or round spots forming a pattern, as on cloth."

Wikipedia enlightened me further with this information: "Polka dot is a pattern consisting of a series of dots that are not necessarily equally spaced and sized, often differently coloured. Polka dots are most commonly seen on children's clothing, toys, and furniture, but they appear in a wide array of contexts. The pattern rarely appears in formal contexts, however, and is generally confined to more playful attire such as bathing suits and lingerie. Occasionally white on black regularly spaced polka dots appear on more formal clothing. Polka dots first became common on clothing in the late nineteenth century in Britain."

So, now I know that the definition of polka dots is fairly broad, as I'm sure will be in evidence with the items we'll see at this meeting. I'm looking forward to it.

Another thing that I wondered about this month was our workshop offerings. When our membership is surveyed, the response is in favour of offering workshops. However, we've had limited response to the actual courses that we've scheduled. One member commented that we should have affordable workshops. We do our best to keep costs down. With a little bit of research and reflection, you should be able to confirm that our workshops by local teachers compare favourably in price to others that have been

offered locally, and our workshops with out-of-town teachers cost up to 2/3 less than they cost at the big quilt shows. Plus, we don't even have to pay big travel expenses to get to the class! So, keep that in mind the next time a class is offered, and consider joining in on these unique opportunities.

As I write this, I'm very much excited about Marilynn Wiebe's upcoming trunk show and workshop, and am anxious to see Marilynn's work and the resulting projects from the class.

Happy quilting! Doris

REGULAR MEETING TIME AND PLACE

With our logistical difficulties at the April meeting, we've had a chance to reflect on possible changes to our meeting time and place. The quick vote at that meeting indicated an overwhelming majority in favour of changing our meeting start time to 7 PM.

Also, there has been a lot of positive feedback regarding Calvary Lutheran Church as our meeting venue. Preliminary investigation indicates that they would be willing to become our "guild home" for our regular meetings and to store our library. The Executive will be polling the membership further to see whether we want to change to this venue from our current one. Even though it is less centrally located, the parking lot is paved and accessible, the meeting room feels cozier and friendlier, and we should be able to eliminate the access problems that we've had at our current location.

COTTON THEORY WORKSHOP

Tonight there will be a sign-up sheet for a proposed Cotton Theory Workshop by Dryden quilter Nancy Eichel, who is one of four certified instructors of this technique in Canada. Since Nancy is available for any of the first three weekends in November, if you are

interested in taking this workshop to make a table runner you should check your calendar so that you can indicate all of the dates that are acceptable to you. If there is enough interest, we will book Nancy for the preferred weekend, and a non-refundable deposit of \$50 from attendees will be required by the June meeting. Nancy would also do a trunk show for us.

The \$125 fee will include a full-day class and a \$50 kit, which is required. This kit will include a Cotton Theory book, adhesive guide, special batting, some thread, and pre-cut fabric (including top, backing and binding) for the table runner project. Nancy is currently working on a sample, and the course will include instruction in two different Cotton Theory techniques. Our library has some books on the Cotton Theory. Cotton Theory quilts are quilted-as-you-go in segments, completely machine-done, and reversible.

Congratulations also go to Nancy for winning the Viewer's Choice award at both the 2010 and 2008 Dryden quilt shows. To view Nancy and this year's winning quilt, go to:

<http://www.sunsetcountryquilters.com/>

HINTS AND TIPS

TAKING CARE OF STRONG ODOURS

There are several methods to remove odors from quilts or tops. If the odors are mild, hang the quilt outdoors, keeping it in the shade so sunlight does not affect it, and allow the breezes to clear the odor. If you do not have a place to hang the quilt, try placing a sheet on the ground (again, in the shade) and spread the quilt on top. Use weights in the corners to keep it flat.

Stronger odours can be eliminated by the following methods:

- Place the quilt in a container with a tight fitting lid. Wrap charcoal briquettes in a loose-weave fabric, such as cheesecloth, and place it in the container. Put the lid on and let it sit for 1-3 days. The charcoal should absorb the odors.
- Use the previous method, but instead

of charcoal, use a bar of Irish Spring soap.

- Spread the quilt on a floor, using a sheet under it for protection. Generously sprinkle baking soda over the quilt. Roll up the quilt in the sheet and let it sit overnight. Shake out the quilt (preferably outdoors!) and put it through an air cycle in your dryer.
- Some have suggested using a spray product such as Febreze, but note that some people are very allergic to the ingredients in these products and pets can be allergic as well. A home-remedy spray can be made with 1 capful of liquid fabric softener, 1 ½ cups water and 1 cup (cheap) vodka. Vodka is known to remove odors. I would test this on another fabric first. There is no odor from the vodka.
- Place the quilt in a dryer with dryer sheets, running it on just air without heat

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OUT-OF-TOWN QUILT SHOWS

The Minnesota Quilters Quilting in the Quarry 2010 show, **June 17 – 19** at the St. Cloud Civic Centre. For further information visit:
<http://www.mnquilt.org/mq2010/>

PROGRAM CHAIR

April - A big thanks to everyone who did the demos. In spite of the change of venue we managed quite well, even Luci who had to pretend she had her library with her. So thanks to Luci (library info), Alva (easy baby blocks), Helen Kitching (stand up hand quilting frame) and Norma (so many rulers) and Cindy (quick purses from placemats).

May - Polka Dots. Don't forget to wear polka dots and bring quilts with polka dots in them or anything else that's polka dots. We have special door prizes.

June - lots happening in June:

- don't forget it's the potluck supper so we'll start early that night (details in the June newsletter)
- book/pattern/magazine penny auction. I have some from the library and from members but donations are welcome - please try to let Cindy know ahead of time and get them to the June meeting before 6 pm. We will also accept

UFO's. So do a spring purge and clear out those old books or UFO's that are haunting you and preventing you from tackling new projects.

- vote on the Constitutional changes
- BOM** - a few people asked me if they would get all the blocks before May so they could make them all and donate them to the Bee. I said I'd do the draw in May just because June doesn't always have high attendance. But you can still donate blocks in June. If you want to donate the entire set then bring in what you have done so far and I'll keep your name on them so the May blocks can be attached to your group in June. I'll be drawing for a \$20 GC from The Stash.

Merchandise sale!!! May-June meetings. We are marking down all merchandise to try to sell it to make room for new items next year. Now's the time to get a water bottle or other items at rock bottom prices.

Quilt Show - ideas are always welcome i.e. new categories, different things we could do, merchandise for the Guild booth, etc.. I've had a few people volunteer to be on the organizing committee but we still need at least 1-2 people for advertising and 1 more for the vendor committee. Just see Cindy at the meeting. The job descriptions will be on the signup sheets. Most jobs don't require that much time. Don't worry if you're a new member, you can volunteer to help. If you want to volunteer for jobs at the show just keep that thought and I'll get your names next fall.

And don't forget the Quilt Show 30th **Anniversary Challenge**. Keep making quilts to display. Let's put on a great show for our 30th. For the new members....this is not a judged show so don't be intimidated by it, show us what you're doing. The public always is amazed by the quilts we make. Maybe we should have a section on 'first quilts'?

Cindy has checked into grants and we will be making an application for at least 1 of them. However, they don't make the decision until the Mar-Apr 2011 council meeting (it used to be Jan-Feb). So we'll have to budget without the money and maybe add some things if we get it. We were accepted 5 yrs ago so hopefully they'll accept us again. We are also making an application for a Penny Auction licence again.

Ugly Fabric Challenge - hopefully

everyone will have their placemat made. If you forgot to bring fabric to the April meeting you can still bring it in May. There may be a few of you and you can exchange. The idea is to make a placemat using the 'ugly' fat quarter and then donate it to Meals on Wheels. Any pattern will do but Cindy still has some patterns from the original challenge.

Constitutional Amendments - The Constitution was again reviewed and the proposed changes are included in the April and May newsletters. They are open for discussion at these 2 meetings. We will vote on them in June.

Cindy

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE

FOR THE QUILT SHOW 2011

The executive has decided on the challenge for the 30th anniversary of the Guild and the deadline will be next April in time for the Quilt Show. Final deadline to be published early next year. But we wanted everyone to have lots of time to plan their quilt. Since it's our 30th we decided the number 30 had to play an important part of the challenge. So have fun with it and be creative. We will have prizes for the top 3. This would be a great way to use up a charm pack since they typically have 40 fabrics all coordinated for you if you don't think you can do it on your own!

Here are the rules:

- it can be a circle or as many sides as you like BUT each side must be the same size and be either 30cm OR 30". So if you do a square it must be 30cm x 30cm or 30in x 30in. Or you can do a triangle with all 3 sides being 30cm or 30in. If you chose a circle it is the circumference that must be 30cm or 30in and unless you're into really miniature quilts a 30cm circumference is really small.
- It must be quilted in some way
- It may be embellished any way you choose but it is not necessary
- The edges must be finished in some way but not necessarily bound.
- You must provide a write-up explaining how your quilt meets the criteria.
- You must have a label on the back with your name and the name of the quilt.
- You can include any description with the quilt i.e. explaining your

- inspiration or ideas in making it
- Then you must incorporate 2 of the following (binding and backing don't count):
- it must have exactly 30 different fabrics
- it must have exactly 30 pieces
- it must have exactly 30 colors in the same color family
- it must have exactly 30 blocks
- it must be made entirely of 1930's fabrics
- it must have 1 piece of fabric from 30 different people (include the list of people with your quilt)

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The April meeting did not afford much time for discussion of the upcoming elections at the June meeting. We were all busy setting up chairs and trying to stay on schedule after our rather hurried move to Calvary Lutheran Church.

I have once again included the goals of the Guild and the job descriptions of the three executive positions that will become available in September 2010.

Our Constitution states:

Our Goals:

1. To provide a forum for quilters to meet and exchange ideas and expertise.
2. To promote interest and quality of work in quilting as one of the art forms – both as a heritage craft and emerging art forms.
3. To promote growth and interest of quilting in our community by holding quilt exhibits and displays to showcase the work of our members.
4. To do charitable work for the community. This includes making donation quilts for various community organizations (such as hospitals, seniors' home and crisis centers), making the placemats for Meals on Wheels and teddy bear & doll quilts for Christmas Cheer.
5. To provide quilting education and mentoring by and for the members.
6. To foster friendship and support among our members

The job descriptions in our Constitution for the three positions are as follows:

The PRESIDENT will preside at all meetings of the Executive and General Membership, will call executive meetings, prepare agendas, be

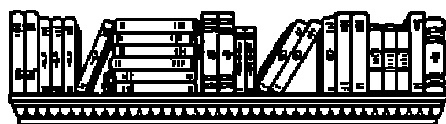
responsible for public relations and will liaise with the community.

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.

I hope that the above information will be helpful in your discussions with fellow quilters. Please take a moment to reflect on the goals, the ongoing commitment of the Executive and every guild member to insure continued growth and interest in quilting within our community. The continuation of charitable work, education, friendship and support within our membership that was created twenty-nine years ago and hopefully will continue to grow for many many years to come.

Thank you, Luci Andreacchi
Past President



LIBRARY REPORT

I bought two Bonnie K. Hunter for my own library and would like to share some information from *Scraps and Shirttails: Reuse, Re-purpose, Recycle! The Art of "Quilting Green"*.

Quilting books provide more than just patterns and instructions. The section on batting was so interesting that I wanted to share the information with all of you. I certainly was amazed at the different battings available today that are organic and earth friendly.

Probably the fastest growing part of eco-friendly products for the quilting industry today is in the area of batting. Numerous green options are available and more are being developed and perfected that will soon hit the marketplace.

Here is a brief review of environmentally friendly battings available today.

Organic Cotton: Cotton grown without the use of pesticides is referred to as organic. If organically grown from seed, cotton can be a sustainable,

viable crop without the use of pesticides. According to www.organic.org, if all the cotton in the world were grown organically, the use of insecticides could be reduced by 25 percent.

Organic cotton quilt batting is available from the following manufacturers:

1. Hobbs Heirloom Organic
2. NearSea Naturals
3. AirTech Organic Batting

Organic Wool: Sheep, alpaca and Hamas provide us with wool, a miraculous fiber. Wool's most remarkable quality is its ability to maintain comfortable body temperature, no matter the season. Wool produces warmth in winter without overheating, and in the summer, it can actually keep you cooler because of its natural moisture-wicking properties. Wool is also hypoallergenic and resistant to bacteria, mold and mildew, which can trigger allergic reactions in some people and is a natural flame retardant.

Silk: Silk is a natural fiber with an impressive 3,000 year history. There is nothing like silk for warmth and breathability. Spun soft and lofty, silk is as insulating as the finest down. This strong and long-lasting fiber is available in quilt batting and is a hand-quilter's dream for its easy needling and fine hand.

Hobbs Bonded Fibers has introduced a silk batting called Tuscan Silk. It is 90% silk and 10% polyester and is appropriate for hand or machine quilting up to 3 ½ inches apart and is washable, shrinking up to 5%.

Bamboo: Bamboo is the fastest growing plant on the planet, and it doesn't require any fertilizers or chemicals at all to grow. If you cut one stalk, two will grow in its place. This makes bamboo totally renewable.

Bamboo absorbs more carbon dioxide and in turn releases more oxygen than any other plant on earth, about two thirds more. Bamboo also has natural antibacterial properties.

Corn: Mountain Mist has developed a quilt batting made from PLA (poly lactic acid) fibers called EcoCraft. Lactic acid is derived from fermentable sugars that is found in corn and other plants. The lactic acid is spun into fibers that can be used not only in quilt battings, fiber fill and pillow forms,

but can be spun into fabrics as well. According to Mountain Mist, EcoCraft products are 100% nature-based, hypoallergenic, washable and can be quilted up to 4 inches apart.

Recycled Plastic: Although it doesn't fall into the organic category, this new batting deserves a mention. Dream Green by Quilter's Dream is a soft, cozy batting made from 100% recycled plastic bottles. Dream Green is wrinkle-resistant, may be quilted up to 12 inches apart and has little to no shrinkage after washing.

The amount of petroleum saved annually by using recycled bottles instead of new materials in the manufacturing process is enough to supply power to a city the size of Atlanta for an entire year! To avoid additional processing, Quilter's Dream has kept the soft "natural" green bottle colour but they state that it is colourfast and compatible for all quilting projects.

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.



Let's All Polka (Dot)

May's program theme is polka dots and we encourage everyone to bring or wear something theme-related.

Shirley Aussant, Pat Inch, and Val Kosloski will be showing a variety of projects started in 2009 using Val's Texas collection of polka dot fabrics.

There may be 20 ways to leave your lover but there are endless ways to incorporate polka dots into your quilts. Remember to bring your item(s) in May. Let's get creative!

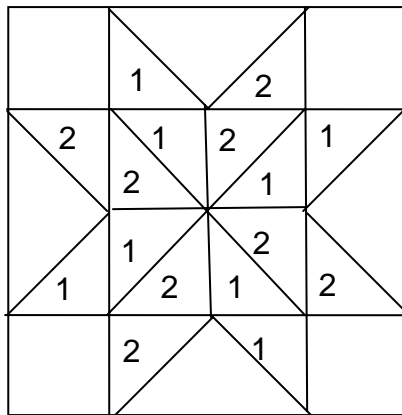
Thunder Bay Quilters' Guild

2009-2010 Block of the Month

This is the final block. I'm giving you 2 options for block #9. Version 9-1 will be an 8 1/2" block like the others and the setting will be a traditional 9 block setting with sashing. Version 9-2 is a 12 1/2" where the center block is bigger and there will be some setting blocks.

Both layouts will be in the June newsletter. The additional setting blocks will be in June also.

BOM #9 – 1 (the 8 1/2" version)



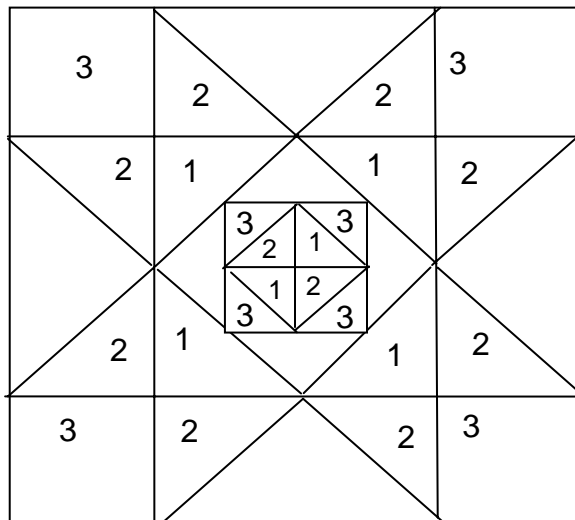
- Corners (BG) 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" – need 4
- Center (color 1) 3 1/4" x 3 1/4" – need 2
- (color 2) 3 1/4" x 3 1/4" – need 2
- Flying geese (BG) 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" – need 4
- (color 1) 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" – need 4
- (color 2) 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" – need 4

1. Make the flying geese units just like in BOM #1 except use color 1 for the left hand piece and color 2 for the right hand piece in all 4 geese.

Making the center block (half square triangles (hst)):

2. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of either the color 1 or color 2 squares (3 1/4") whichever is a lighter color
3. Place a 3 1/4" color 1 and color 2 square right sides together and sew 1/4" on each side of the line you drew. Cut on the line you drew. Press to darker color. Repeat with other 2. You have 4 hst's. Square up to 2 1/2".
4. Sew the half square triangles together to make a 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" center block as shown
5. follow steps 6-8 in Putting the Block Together from BOM #1. It will measure 8 1/2"

BOM #9-2 (the 12 1/2" version)



- Corners (color 3) 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" – need 4
- Flying geese (BG) 3 1/2" x 6 1/2" – need 4
- (color 2) 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" – need 8
- Center (color 1) 3 7/8" x 3 7/8" – need 2
- (BG) 2 7/8" x 2 7/8" – need 2
- HST's in the center of the center block:
- (color 1) 2 3/4" x 2 3/4" – need 1
- (color 2) 2 3/4" x 2 3/4" – need 1
- (color 3) 2 3/4" x 2 3/4" – need 2

OR you can make a pinwheel in the very center by using only color 1 or 2 and cutting 2 3/4" squares instead

1. Make the 4 flying geese units just like in BOM #1 except you are using 3 1/2" color 2 squares on the ends of the 3 1/2" x 6 1/2" rectangles

Center block – starting at the very center and working your way out.

Make the half square triangles (HST) for the small center block using the 2 3/4" squares in colors 1,2,3.

2. pair up color 1 with a color 3 and color 2 with a color 3. Draw a diagonal line on whichever is the lighter color. Note: if you choose to do the pinwheel version pair both color 3 squares with either color 1 or 2 whichever you choose.
3. Sew 1/4" away from each side of the line. Cut on the line.
4. Square them up to 2"
5. Sew together as shown in diagram 1 or you can sew them together in a pinwheel format if you choose to only use 2 colors – diagram 2. There are other patterns you can make as well with the 4 HST's.
6. At this point it should measure 3 1/2" x 3 1/2"

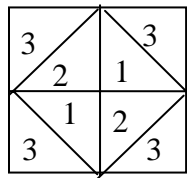


Diagram 1

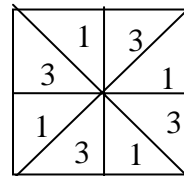
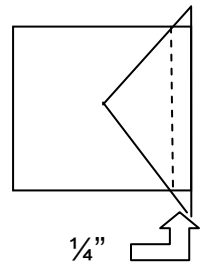


Diagram 2 - pinwheel

Now add the first round of setting triangles

7. Cut the 2 background (BG) 2 7/8" squares on the diagonal so you have 4 triangles
8. Sew them to the 4 sides of the center block you just made. You are matching the bias edge of the triangle to the edge of the block. The tips of the triangles will overhang. The point where they intersect the block will be 1/4" from the edge so that when you press it open the sewing line is right in the valley.
9. Press towards the triangles. This should be square and measure about 4 5/8"



Now add the final round of setting triangles just like above

10. Cut the 2 color (1) 3 7/8" squares on the diagonal so you have 4 triangles
11. Sew them to the 4 sides of the block section in the previous step.
12. Press towards the triangles. This should now measure 6 1/2" x 6 1/2"

Follow steps 6-8 in Putting the Block Together from BOM #1. It will measure 12 1/2"