

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

Welcome Back Everyone!

I trust everyone has had a wonderful summer?

With the smell of autumn in the air, life as per usual begins again. Children start school. For our mums with younger children, a sigh of relief is sounded; and quiet moments can begin again. With that in mind, amazing quilting projects can take shape.

I do want to extend a big thank you to the old executive members, Luci Andreacchi, Doris Dungan, Linda Guitard and of course Norma Wynn who will not be going too far in her new role as Past President.

Congratulations to our new executive members, Sharon Melville as Vice President, Louise Blake and Sheila Meloche as program chairs.

I would also like to congratulate our long standing members, Muriel Squires for 30 years, Bobbie Dafeo for 25 years, Judy Wrigley, Barbara Powell, Joyce Pavelick, Betti Ann Maki, Jocelyn MacKinnon and Luci Andreacchi for 10 years and of course Norma Wynn for being entered into the Hall of Fame.

Bear with me ladies. I may not know all of you, but I look forward to getting to know you all in the next two years. I am terrible with names and would most likely forget my own if not reminded on a regular bases.

With that thought in mind, would you please wear your nametags for September's meeting, it be greatly appreciated.

Alva Llewellyn will be continuing to do her amazing demos at 6:15pm; be sure to come to the meetings early and learn something new.

I am looking for people interested in doing demos at

the Possibility Meetings on the last Tuesday of every month Oct thru to May excluding December. Thank you in advance to anyone interested in sharing their knowledge with the group. Please let me know if you can, in person, by email or phone.

I look forward to a wonderful two years.

Sincerely your president, Meghann Choquette

HALL OF FAME

Norma Wynn will be inducted into the guild "Hall of Fame" on September 17th, 2012.

Norma joined the guild in 2001 and in 2002, became the guild vice-president, and in 2004 became president for a 2-year term. She once again presided for yet another 2-year term in 2010, when our guild was in jeopardy of folding, due to lack of volunteers to fill board positions. Thank you Norma!

She has participated in most all aspects of the guild, from teaching workshops, presenting demos, planning and assisting at Quilt Bees, and auctioneering at our fundraisers, just to name a few of the areas.

Norma has always participated and quickly injects her enthusiasm, wit and wisdom into every meeting.

We thank you Norma for passing on your knowledge, skills and your efforts on the guild's behalf, to keep this a strong, progressive guild.

We are indeed very fortunate to have you in our membership. We congratulate you as you enter the guild "Hall of Fame"; a sincere thank you on behalf of all guild members.

Betty Whittingham
Co-Chair HOF Committee

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Hello, Everyone!

Welcome back to a new year of Guild meetings, and an exciting year of programs! Sheila and I have been busy for most of the summer scanning websites,

magazines and books, as well as wracking our brains for new ideas to present to you, the members. We've planned a great year, and we thank you in advance for your active and eager participation.

Our themed project this season is a "strip-of-the-month" project, which will appeal to quilters of all abilities, from the experienced to the novice. The completed project could be a donation quilt, as we've taken the size into consideration, or you could make it for a youngster or yourself. It's bright and cheery and will appeal to everyone!

We've named it "Quilt Me A Rainbow"! Sheila, Jennifer Marks and I had such fun combining our personal fabric collections and constructing the first two strips for demonstration at the upcoming meeting, and this gave us a great idea for all of you. *Get together with a few friends to sew these "rainbow" strips, and share and swap swatches of fabric from your stash.*

Everyone's quilt will look different because you determine the order of fabrics and the width of the strips used. We're looking forward to showing you the beginnings of this great project on September 17th.

And speaking of September 17th, we've got an interactive program planned for the opening of the new quilting season! Our topic is "Quilting Wellness and Ergonomics". This presentation involves some physical activity related to quilting, and we will have a guest to help us out with this. Make sure you come to the meeting prepared to have fun!

Sheila and I are excited to begin our term as Program Co-chairs, and anticipate your participation in show and tell, as well as possibly doing a demonstration for the membership at one of the monthly meetings. Happy sewing!

Louise Blake and Sheila Meloche

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome back from our hot and humid summer. The Fall with its cooler temperatures will be a welcome change so we can get back to quilting.

I would like to thank you for putting your faith in me to be your Vice President. I am new to the Guild but I have been a self-taught quilter for over 35 years as well as taking class when I could; it wasn't easy when you worked shift work. I got back to quilting five years ago when I retired from a nursing career.

Sign-up sheets will be available for all those interested in taking classes this fall and winter. More information on dates and times will be announced when

we have enough members signed up.

The COLOUR THEORY CLASS will be taught by Joyce Gilmore.

The second class in the series – INTERMEDIATE QUILT CLASS which is being offered by Doris Dungan will run in 4 to 6 sessions every two weeks, this class will include curved piecing, paper piecing, y-seams, applique and alternate ways of doing blocks ie. using specialty rulers. This class can start either Monday January 14/13 or Wednesday January 30/13. When you sign up please put which date would work for you; the majority will decide on the day.

Alva Llewellyn has agreed to continue with the Demos before the Guild Meetings. She has taught us a lot of new ways of making blocks and quilts which have been very helpful to new and more experienced quilters.

I know most of you have more the knowledge and expertise so I am hoping you will be willing to assist me with ideas or would like to teach workshops, demos or classes please feel free to contact me as I am new at this and will need all the help you can give me and your advice will be appreciated. Sharon

LIBRARY REPORT

The September meeting is always a busy evening with registration and catching up with old and new quilting friends.

If you have a few moments, remember that the Library will be open and ready to welcome you back. Come and check out a few books, start thinking about those special projects you plan to make and get ready for another exciting quilting year with the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild.

We open the library one hour prior to the start of the meeting – 6:00 p.m. and once you have completed your registration for 2012/13 come and browse and take out a few books. Remember that you, as a paid member, are entitled to three books per month with valid library cards.

Hope to see you there. The Library Committee
Ellen Lang, Wendy Royston, Sharon Melville, Luci Andreacchi

JACKIE BLACK DEMO

Please join Jackie Black at Circle of Friends Quilt Shoppe on Tuesday, September 25 at 1:00 p.m for a demonstration of her very popular technique of piecing the comfort quilts.

The "Quilt as you go" technique will give quilters a

choice when it comes to finishing comfort quilts and will result in more comfort quilts being completed without the need to sandwich and quilt.

COMFORT QUILTS

Thank you again to all the members who generously donated their time and skills to the quilt bee last year. Also, thank you Luci, for allowing us the place to store the fabric bins as well as providing us space to cut the kits.

A well attended kit cutting session was held last spring and we now have over 20 kits. These kits will be available before the meetings and during break.

We are looking at holding a quilt bee in late February or early March next year. Details will follow once we have a definite date and location.

As always any suggestions would be appreciated.

Aila and Linda

QUILT SHOW 2013 COOKBOOK

Hi ladies, time to dig out those favourite recipes and the ones everyone asks for after the pot luck suppers. We are going to produce a cook book to be sold at the 2013 Quilt Show. The last time we did this was for our 20th anniversary in 2001! Hard to believe it was that long ago.

All recipes must be in by the January 2013 meeting but the sooner the better. Start with your recipe for what you bring to the June potluck! Indicate a suitable category for the recipe if it isn't obvious. Last time we had 200 recipes so we're looking for that number again. You may submit more than one.

It will help if you submit them via email so we don't have to re-type them. But if that's not possible then neatly print them and give them to one of us at a meeting. Submit to:

Cindy Cockell ccockell@tbaytel.net

or

Marg Marks mjmarks@tbaytel.net

Thanks,

Cindy and Marg

PLACEMATS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Our Thunder Bay Quilters Guild have been contributing placemats to both Meals on Wheels and Empty Bowls for many, many years.

All new clients of Meals on Wheels receive a new handcrafted placemat soon after they start enjoying their meals. We have made placemats for about 14 years for

Meals on Wheels.

The Empty Bowls dinner event is a fundraiser to support Shelter House and the Thunder Bay Food Bank. A \$30 ticket will give you a meal prepared by one of our volunteer chefs as well as a handcrafted pottery bowl or a set of two coordinating placemats.

As always I will have some starter kits, backing and batting available to be picked up. We are always looking for sets of two placemats for the Empty Bowls dinner and singles for Meals on Wheels. This is a great way to get rid of orphan blocks in your collection.

Sixteen placemats were turned in at the June meeting to be added to the collection.

The Empty Bowls event takes place on Oct 21. Doors open at 4:45. If anyone has some time to spare that day, we are always looking for more people to volunteer. Please see me at the break. Just look for the table with the placemats.

I also have dinner and raffle tickets available

Nelly Reedhead, 473-5646

Chairperson Empty Bowls Committee

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.

THUNDER BAY QUILT GUILD PROFILE

MEGHANN CHOQUETTE

My Life As A Quilter – by Meghann Choquette

I was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. My great-grandmother whom I lovingly call Nana brought me home from the hospital when she was 72. I was the family community project. My grandmother taught me how to sew, iron (which by the way is not right by quilters standards) knit, cook and clean. My aunt and my great grandmother, whom I spent a weekend a month with taught me how to make a bed, set a table but my most favourite lesson was needlework. All of these wonderful lessons began before I was five. My other grandmother taught me to garden, which led to my fascination with colour. My youngest aunt, my mother's sister shared her love of sketching and painting with me. Later on my mother taught me embroidery and expanded on my sewing skills to include Halloween costumes and clothing. I have been known to pick up a paintbrush; as well as, pencils and pastels.

I went to a Catholic school where the boys played on one side and girls on the other side of the playground. Needless to say my upbringing was not the norm but I wouldn't change a thing. It made me who I am today. I tell you this because I don't have a formal education this was my education, all the women in my family came together to create a diverse life experience. You see I never had the chance to finish high school. I was on my own at the age of 14 when Nana went into an old folks home later she died when I was sixteen after a series of heart attacks. So, my love of fabric, colour and all things handcrafted came about because of these wonderful women who gave their time, patience and most of all their love to raise me.

My first quilt happened by chance, I was expecting my first child and I was embroidering some kittens, and puppies etc onto squares of fabric. Money was tight and baby needed a blanket so I took some plain squares and embroidered squares and made my first quilt. My next quilt was not until my daughter was expecting her first child and I took a class at Patchworks. I gave this quilt to her so she would always have a piece of Mummy close by. And so it began. I have run the gamete between traditional quilts, appliqué, art quilts wherever my imagination has taken me.

My favourite part of quilting is the self-exploration that one is granted when you begin a new project. Let me explain, there was a time in my life, when I lost myself and when I say lost I mean lost. I couldn't even tell you what my favourite colour was and through quilting I began to get to know myself all over again or maybe for the first time. I can tell you I love autumn colours and I had always fancied myself a girly girl, not so. I have learned that making a mistake is another chance to learn something new and not something to become distressed about. Nana always said patience is a virtue, never does this ring truer than in quilting. Seeing my fabric choices come together to create something beautiful as well as functional gives me a sense of pride I haven't found anywhere else. But the best part about quilting is a mistake is not only accepted but encouraged because it will make your quilt your own, so every time I see a mistake I smile cause that just makes me me.

I am not the most organized quilter. I have many containers but I always seem to need more. I have a strip container and a container for just random pieces that one day I will use, yes I do believe this. I have containers for my favourite designers such as Nancy Halverson and Thimbleberries. I have containers for Christmas, novelty and snowmen and one container that is full of my first bit of stash just to remember how this whole thing began. My most famous

saying is all I need is more containers then I can organize my stash but between you and me there will never be enough containers. I just continue to buy them and fill them before I can organize. Maybe if I stop buying containers ... ? Nah.

I am Scottish through and through so I never throw anything out, I have a bag of scraps that nothing can be done with but I could not throw out until we decided to make pillows for our furry friends at the Humane Society, thank goodness. I was starting to look at my sewing table and see a future episode of Hoarders.

I never prewash my fabric. I like the feel and stiffness of fabric right off the bolt. I also like my seams better when I don't prewash. I do use best press but mostly with my hand quilting.

I did thoroughly enjoy my Ricky Timms road trip and look forward to the Thimbleberries trip in October. Remember ladies what happens on the bus stays on the bus. YaHoooo.

I joined the Guild; well it will be 2 years in October I believe. After several years of coaching by my good friend and regular customer Karen I came to a meeting and joined that night. I have made many good friends in these last two years and now can't imagine life without it. I am on the library committee, the donation quilt committee and the Quilt Show committee. I belong to the Appliqué Club and the Civil War Club and have a wonderful support group of women in our Breakfast Club. I anxiously await what lay ahead in the years to come.

My next quilting endeavour will be art quilts and I think this will be where I land maybe not forever but I think this is where my heart is leading me to in the future. I know this because I recently came home from Victoria, BC. I went for my grandchildren's birthdays. I had a layover in Winnipeg for 3 hours and the better part of that 3 hours was spent watching the sunset over a grassy field and trying to decide what fabrics, paints, beads, embellishments and colours would best depict the magnificence of that sunset. If you have ever seen a prairie sunset you know exactly what I mean and if not wait till I finish that quilt one day and you will know what I mean.

Quilting has been and will continue to be a wonderful resource for friendship, self-expression and personal growth; I couldn't do it without you wonderful ladies.

Thank you for the experience.

Meghann Choquette

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JOIN US and SHARE in our
1ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENT
on Saturday, September 15, 2012
from 10:00 p.m – 5:00 p.m

Cake, coffee and tea

Enter your name for an extra special 1st Anniversary Draw

Sign up for Fall/Winter Classes and Clubs

Gather your friends and come and see what is new in our

Fall and Winter selections

Browse through our patterns and books

or pick up a kit and get started on some

great gift giving ideas

We look forward to seeing you and sharing in your quilting adventures

Open to serve you

Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed Sunday and Monday

We hope that you will join us for

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Friday, November 9, 2012
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

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