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# QUILTERS' QUILL

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*"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.*

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## 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](mailto:kavanagh@tbaytel.net)**

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well I'm sure most of you are fast resembling elves at Santa's workshop, trying to finish this project or that, especially the ones that have to get shipped off to far off places. Christmas is such an exciting time but exhausting all the same. Make sure you take time for yourself, a nice bubble bath, a walk down at the marina whatever your heart desires that's just for you. As Barbara Walters and Whoopie Goldberg say just remember to take some time to enjoy the view there is nothing more beautiful than a gentle snowfall to put your heart at peace. I want to remind everyone that our Christmas Cheer Quilts and teddy bears are due at this November meeting. I hope we can beat last year's numbers. There were 141 lucky girls and boys that received a quilt and stuffy from our generous members. I am very proud to be president to such a generous group. I hope to have an example of the place settings we hope to raffle off at the Christmas party. As most of you know I am in school full time as well as work so you will have to excuse me if the placemat is purchased not made.

I look forward to seeing you at the November meeting.

Your president,

Meghann

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## HALL OF FAME REVIEW

Marlene McRobb will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Monday Nov. 19, 2012.

Marlene is a 23 year guild member, and showcases

her quilts often, most of them are her own design; she is also a past award winner at our quilt shows.

She has done demos often and more recently co-taught beginner quilting classes, she co-partnered the position of program chair with Linda Guitard for a 2-year term. She has participated in may kit-cutting sessions, quilt bees, and assisted Empty Bowls sewing groups, as well as Meals On Wheels placemats.

Marlene enjoys making miniature quilts and very large quilts, as well as embroidered quilted purses, bags and blocks, with many quilts donated to the community. We welcome her into our Quilt Guild Hall of Fame.

Betty Whittingham  
Co-chair Hall of Fame

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## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Can you believe how quickly the time passes? Soon it will be the holiday season. I'm sure most of us have already begun sewing projects to give as gifts or to decorate our homes. Well, reserve some time to complete the special "gift" that we have for you this month.

Sheila has designed and crafted (she is SO creative and talented!) an amazingly beautiful wall hanging that I will call ORNAMENTAL BRANCH. The pattern and photo of a completed project is included in this newsletter, and we'll show you the real thing at the November meeting.

Also at the meeting, we have planned a short demonstration tutorial all about one of my favourite techniques, paper piecing. To get a lot of you interested in trying the technique, Sheila will show you how to make a Quilt Guild logo name-tag. We have assembled "name-tag kits" for you to purchase for just "\$5 so you can wear your creation proudly to every guild meeting!

We hope you have been "stripping" during the past month! (tee, hee) .....of course I mean completing your orange strip for our strip-of-the-month Rainbow

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Quilt project! Don't forget to bring it to the meeting so we can have (another!) "strip show"! Next month (December) we hope you will have a few hours to complete a yellow strip to show at our Christmas pot-luck meeting.

*Louise & Sheila*

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### VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hope everyone is getting prepared for winter and the Christmas Season that isn't far off. Jack Frost has been giving us lots of warnings that winter is coming, when I get up in the morning in South Gillies the ground is covered in snow but when I drive down Mile High Hill I am disappointed that the snow disappears. I am one of those people who like when winter comes and it stays, I dislike when it is cold and then warms up if it is winter it needs to stay cold but not thirty below.

Joyce Gilmore will give the Colour Theory workshop on Nov. 20 from 6-10, the only thing you have to bring with you is a box of 24 crayons and if you wish to take notes bring paper and pen or pencil. All other supplies will be provided by the instructor. NO sewing machines or fabric are required for this workshop. Cost is \$35.00 to be paid at the November meeting by cash or cheque.

The sign up sheets for the 6 Week - Intermediate Quilt class with Doris Dungan will be in the so please sign up if you are interested in having it on the Monday, starting January 14, 2013 or the Wednesday, starting January 30, 2013.

The sign up sheets for the Cheryl Arkinson Scrap Management Workshop using **SUNDAY MORNING QUILTS** Friday, April 26 & Saturday April 27, 2013 will be at the front desk. The cost of this workshop is \$165.00 a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 cash or cheque must be paid when you sign up. There will only be space for 15 people.

The following is a book review of **SUNDAY MORNING QUILTS** by Cheryl Arkinson and Amanda Nyberg.

Reviewed by Carol Docker, pattern editor of the Quilt Pattern Magazine.

Sort those scraps! Then organize, select, piece, and quilt! Sounds so simple, but we all know how hard it is to get our scraps under control let alone actually use them to complete a quilt. In **SUNDAY MORNING QUILTS**, Amanda Jean Nyberg and Cheryl Arkinson do just that. This book is the result of their journeys through their own scrap piles in their online blogs.

They have gathered their collective wisdom into a very enjoyable, organized handbook that you can refer to over and over again.

They offer practical and easy-to-execute sorting tips to get your scraps under control and create groupings that allow you to see what you've got to work with. They provide a variety of organization and storage options; one is bound to work for you. They review quilting basics and show you how to create new fabric from scraps. There are 16 projects to inspire you, including one for making scrappy bins to store those precious scraps.

The authors call their quilts modern, but you will find that the projects have a timeless appeal. Many will remind you of early Gee's Bend style quilts. In keeping with a modern approach, the lack of borders and use of copious negative space make these projects fun and easy to execute. By the time you are done with your first thumb through, I guarantee you will have already picked out at least one must-do-project. If you are a beginner, you will find a great, basic quilt construction section, as well as useful information on buying and using fabric with an eye towards building your scrap stash, along with ideas for acquiring scraps from other sources.

My favourite feature of **SUNDAY MORNING QUILTS** is that the projects are truly make from scraps.

The authors define a variety of scrap types and then tell you how many of each you need to complete the project. They don't cop out and give you a materials list is fat eighths and fat quarters. They expect and encourage you to use your scraps.

As a pattern editor, I felt obliged to make of the quilts in the book before writing this review. I found the directions well written and easy to follow with beautifully-illustrated colour diagrams. I chose **GRASS** a quilt with a scrappy sassing paired with blocks from a budget-friendly solid. Although my choice of bold black and red scraps may not have been a modern colour scheme, the end result was a clean and simple quilt begging for some creative quilting. Because I spent so little on the top, I splurged and had it quilted with funky circles and variegated thread at my local shop. I can't tell you how great it felt to take a bin full of scraps and within a weekend, whittle them down into usable units and assemble them into a top. Look for pictures of my creation on Pattern Pastiche.

Sharon

## 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](mailto:ccockell@tbaytel.net)

or

Marg Marks [mjmarks@tbaytel.net](mailto:mjmarks@tbaytel.net)

Thanks, Cindy and Marg

## PLACEMATS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The results are in. We made over \$16,000 at the Empty Bowls Dinner last month. The raffle with the quilt as first prize, made \$7500 and we sold more than \$500 worth of placemats, the proceeds to be shared with the Food bank and Shelter House. Great work quilters! The pairs of placemats were very popular. They were in high demand as gifts for Christmas.

Keep up with the good work. We always need more placemats for the next Empty Bowls dinner (Oct 20, 2013) and for Meals on Wheels clients. I will have batting and some kits at the meeting, although I can't get anything out of storage yet after the May flood.

Thanks for all your great work on placemats. Quilters really are appreciated.

Nelly Reedhead, 473-5646  
Chairperson Empty Bowls Committee

## QUILT GUILD ANIMAL BEDS

I have been in contact with the Humane Society and they are very pleased with the beds. I have enough fabric to make several more covers but I will need more stuffing. I would like to collect batting pieces, plus I also can use fabric pieces and scraps as long as they are cut up. I hope to do about 20 more beds before Christmas. I go away in January and I will check again in March when I return and check on the beds again at that time.

Diane Chase

## 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.

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### **A Quilting Story by Suzan from American Quilters Society**

I've read that there are about 20,000,000 quilters in the US. In my travels I've met a lot of them with some pretty marvellous stories. But, no story touched me like the one I'm about to tell you. I've changed the names and locations....but, everything else is as true as can be.

I was eating at a Japanese restaurant in Georgia. The kind of restaurant where you sit around a table with strangers, while the chef cooks your food, all the while juggling knives and causing big flames to erupt right before your eyes. Not really the place for in-depth conversations. Still, I began to converse with the woman next to me.

We talked about how likely it was that we would get our dinner without being seriously sliced or diced and then moved on to where we were from and what we did for a living. Well, when she found out I worked for the American Quilters Society the conversation took a turn. She was a quilter. We talked about Paducah and shows and what kind of quilts we liked to make.

She got very quiet for a minute and then looked at me and said, "Let me tell you a story."

"I was adopted as a baby. I had wonderful parents and an absolutely perfect life growing up. Still, I always wondered about my birth mother and father. Since, I never wanted my parents to feel that I didn't love them, I never pursued any searches for my birth parents."

"When my father and then my mother passed, I decided to find out whatever I could about my birth parents. It wasn't easy and it took me years to track down any information at all. I finally discovered the name of my birth mother and with the help of the Internet found an address and phone number for her."

"I tried calling twice. Each time I lost my nerve when a woman answered and I hung up the phone."

"Finally, I got up the courage to drive to the address. It was about four hours away. I can't tell you how long I stayed in the car trying to get up enough nerve to go to the door. By the time I actually rang the doorbell, I was shaking with fear."

"A woman who looked just about the right age to be my mother answered the door. I asked her if Mary Smith was at home. She got a suspicious look on her face and asked why I was looking for Mary. I explained that it was a personal matter."

"She then told me that Mary had died the previous year. I must have looked really stricken because she asked me to come in and sit down. I told her that I had been looking for my birth mother and that according to the records I had been able to find, Mary Smith was my mother."

"It was her turn to look stricken and stunned, too. The lady was Mary's sister and her name was Emma. She knew the story of Mary and her baby and so over the next several hours she told me about Mary's life."

Mary had gotten pregnant when she was 17 years old. No one knew about the pregnancy but Mary's mother and sister. During those days, it wasn't something you could talk about and there was never any question of keeping the baby. Mary was sent away to have the baby and no one else ever knew. She never saw the child but knew that it was a girl."

"Emma said that Mary was different when she came back. There was an air of sadness about her. She attended teacher's college and became an elementary school teacher. Mary never married but loved the children that she taught. Mary received numerous teacher of the year awards and was revered and loved in the community. "

"Mary's main passion in life besides teaching "her children" was quilting. She made quilts for family and friends, but her main passion was charity quilts. She made baby quilt after baby quilt and donated them to the hospital, police force, missionaries, and anywhere there was a need."

“When Emma’s husband died she moved in with Mary and they had lived together for the last ten years. She said that she constantly nagged Mary about all of the fabric scraps that Mary saved.”

“Whenever, Emma would try to get her to throw or give them away, Mary would patiently say, “No, someone will come for them someday.” It was always the same reply, “No, someone will come for them someday.”

“I saw Emma looking at me strangely and then she said, “I think it was you. I think she was saving them for you.”

“I left that day with immense bags of scraps from Mary’s quilts. A carload really.”

My new quilting friend turned to me and said, “So, you see I had to become a quilter.”

“Throughout the years I have made quilts for my children, grandchildren, friends, and, of course, baby quilts for charity. However, every quilt that I have ever made has contained fabrics from Mary’s scrap bag. I like to think that it is our connection to each other and her connection to the family that she never knew.”

That was the story that the stranger told me at dinner that night. I never saw her again but, I never forgot her story.

Connected through quilting...all 20,000,000 of us.

Submitted by Peggy Skillen