

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

Well here we are, spring has almost sprung, St Patrick's Day is Sunday and I have graduated from losing mittens to hats. It was bound to happen cause I ran out of mittens to lose; so it was obvious I would graduate to hats. Count, 3 pairs of lost mittens and two hats. It's ridiculous, but I did apologize to all three of my children for getting upset and forcing me knit yet another set of mitts before bedtime. If this keeps up I might surpass my son who lost everything. Anyhow, the Easter bunny is on his way. I look forward to seeing all the wonderful Easter projects. I love bunnies and always see wonderful patterns with bunnies and chicks on them and think I should do that, but considering I barely have time to breathe these days it will have to wait. Only six more weeks till biology and chemistry are finished and my life should simplify considerably.

I want to thank Joanne for the wonderful job she does for us. I have been late for my President's Corner every month since January and I do apologize. Thanks for being you.

Your President

Meghann Choquette

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Time continues to fly and soon the nice weather and the Quilt Show will be upon us! Sheila and I have been very busy in our personal lives, as well as our quilting lives, and so we were not able to pull together a "make and donate" day this month. Our apologies to all who may have been looking forward to this.

We hope you have been putting the last touches on

your show entries, and to help a bit (we hope!) our March program is all about quilt labels.

Speaking of quilts, has anyone finished the last strip for the rainbow quilt? (which is purple, by the way..... "show and tell on Monday!") Has anyone put their strips together and produced a completed rainbow quilt for the Quilt Show? (We hope, again!)

Happy Spring and Happy Easter, to all! See you on Monday.

Sheila Meloche and "Grandma" Louise Blake (it's a baby girl, Eleanor Marie Elizabeth Blake, who arrived 10 days late, on February 24th!)

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

We have been working on a new constitution and procedural manual which will be available for the members consideration. This is your first notice of change as per our constitution.

Peggy Skillen
Constitution Chair

QUILT BEE

The Quilt Bee Committee would like to thank all the talented ladies who attended the Quilt Bee on March 2nd. We managed to get approximately 14 quilt tops done, and another 6 kits got started or taken home to be completed. Thanks to all who joined us!! We still have kits available for anyone interested in helping out. There is a continuous need in our community for neo-natal, comfort quilts, and kids quilts.

Thanks again, Aila & Linda

PLACEMATS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

History of Meals on Wheels and Empty Bowls Placemats

For those who are fairly recent arrivals to our guild I

would like to explain some of the history of the placemat collections I have been taking.

I started the Meals on Wheels placemat program when Carol Bernardson was president which is about 14 years ago. I heard about it from someone who lives in Goderich and it seemed a good fit for our guild. I called Elizabeth Pym of Meals on Wheels and she was very enthusiastic. She estimated that we would need about 185 placemats each year, one for each new client. We did fairly well for a few years in producing these numbers, but Meals on Wheels would often fall short during the summer, so I would whip up a dozen or so placemats just to keep them supplied.

In 2002 Carol Bernardson approached me about working with her and the Empty Bowls committee, as the potters found it too difficult to supply enough pots. Carol and I, with others, met at my house every Tuesday to make placemats and prepare kits using donated fabric. Carol was the main Empty Bowls promoter/collection person while I did the Meals on Wheels placemat collection. Carol came up with the idea of a placemat Bee once a year to help promote the event and acquire more placemats. The Empty Bowls committee, along with the Unitarian Fellowship, host this bee each year. Between the prepared kits and the placemat bee the volume of placemats doubled, to the point that one year Meals on Wheels was able to give each long term client a replacement placemat.

Community Quilters, which include people other than our guild, as well as our guild, have continued to produce between 300 and 350 placemats each year. Meals on Wheels was never short of placemats once Empty Bowls became part of the program.

Most people (about 250 of the 275 attendees), who pay the full meal price at the Empty Bowls event, come to get a pottery bowl but many do purchase one or more pairs of placemats as Christmas gifts. All money raised this way is given directly to Shelter House and the Thunder Bay Food Bank to help feed the less fortunate. Some placemats are also sold at the Unitarian Fellowship after the event and the funds go into the bank account for the following year.

The potters have always sold surplus bowls after the event to raise even more money to feed the hungry in our community. Naturally we also sold placemats for the same purpose and all funds go to the charities. Carol and I felt that it would be nice to thank our student volunteers by letting them choose a placemat after the event. This might encourage them to volunteer later in life, when it isn't a graduation requirement.

During Carol's illness and after her passing, I continued with the placemat collection and kit preparation, obtaining donated fabric and batting from many different sources. Having prepared kits encourages new quilters to try something new. Many of our senior quilters appreciate the batting, as they may have a lot of fabric scraps, but no batting to use. Alva obtained a huge number of batting samples from Fabricland several years ago and we have almost worked our way through those. Wendy Currie donated 7 bags of batting scraps a few years ago. In the past the guild has also donated fabric pieces and batting strips after a quilt bee. Many orphan blocks have also been donated. Fabric seems to find its way to my house from many different directions including the 55plus centre, as people are trying to downsize.

Last year the Empty Bowls committee felt that pairs of placemats would be more popular and quilters have been asked to make pairs instead of singles for Empty Bowls. The response has been great!

So keep those placemats coming and reserve April 13 to join us at the Placemat bee.

Placemat Bee: at the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship on Algoma St, Sat April 13 from 9:30-3:00. Lunch and snacks are provided. Just bring your usual quilting supplies, insulated mug, and machines if you wish. Sponsored by the Empty Bowls Committee and Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship

Placemat Report

- Dec 2012 about 12 placemats were picked up at the meeting
- Jan 2013: there were no placemats at the meeting
- Feb 2013: two pairs of placemats and one set of 4 to total 8

Nelly Reedhead
Placemat organizer



Linda Clark (Born to Quilt) will be doing a demo of her techniques with paint sticks during the Quilt Show. Her demo is Friday at 6pm. She sent this picture to show the different prints you can make to create your own fabric.

More Paintstik Fun

Learn how to use Paintstiks to personalize your quilts by creating your own special fabrics...no art training necessary. The demo will focus on stencilling, with special tips for my own Paintstik adaptation – Brush Rubbing. It's a simple technique that yields stunning results. The finished product looks like it's been appliquéd. Also learn how to shade your REAL appliqué projects with dry brushing.

THUNDER BAY QUILT GUILD PROFILE

SHARON MELVILLE

Sharon was born and raised in Sarnia, Ontario. She is the oldest of 7 children. She came to Thunder Bay in 1964 one week after marrying Garry at the age of 18. She registered to take the RPN course but did not take it as she was pregnant 2 months after the wedding and at that time you couldn't be pregnant when you took the course, in 1983 she graduated from the RPN course having gone back to school after her 2 children were both in school. She retired from the Ministry of Health after 28 years and most of those years working 12 hour shifts in all areas of the LPH.

Sharon sews a lot which she first learned in Home Economics. She sewed clothes for her Mother as she was 6ft. tall and a bigger woman and she did not sew. Larger clothes made for taller women were not available unless you paid a lot of money to have them custom made. Sharon's daughter Tonia grew to be 6 ft. tall she sewed for both of them.

Sharon also had a love for crafting , knitting crocheting and a small amount of woodworking making small projects with Garry's help. She has taught to a lot of friends and co-workers to knit and to do crafts. Sharon also sold items she made to help supplement their income before she started to work outside the home.

Sharon from a very young age loved the quilts that both her Grandmothers made on their treadle machines, these are the two women who encouraged her the love of fabric and sewing. She has quilted for several years just picking up information while watching her Grandmothers and from information obtained from friends. The first course she took was from Jackie Black and then later from Patchworks she took a course with her daughter Tonia it was a log cabin and wasn't finished until about three years ago. They both love fabric and have large stashes of it and hope someday to use it up but they always seem to find another piece that they can't resist. They now have a longarm machine and Tonia is doing really well but Sharon is not doing as well, she thinks her co-ordination is not what it used to be. Quilting has been a blessing for Sharon as when her husband Garry became ill with cancer and he was no longer able to do a lot except sit around home or the hospital she did machine piecing at home and hand piecing and quilting at the hospital. Sharon joined the Guild in 2010 and met Luci Andreacchi who had just purchased her store and invited Sharon for coffee at the shop, she started going to the shop once a week for coffee then when Garry had to be admitted to Hospice Sharon would go to Luci's shop for 2 hours every afternoon while he slept, the support of the quilters at the shop was wonderful and she can't thank them enough. Sharon still volunteers at the shop as she feels it has helped her deal with the loss of Garry after 47 years of marriage as she has no family in Thunder Bay, her son Randy, wife Yuka and her 2 grandchildren live in Canmore, Alberta and her daughter Tonia and her husband Mike live in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Sharon is happy to belong to the Quilt Guild as she is with other quilters who love to quilt as much as she does. Sharon became involved right away when she volunteered to assist in the Library and this year became Vice- President, and is on the Quilt Show committee for 2013 assisting to find volunteers for the Guild booth and Greeters.

Sharon is a life learner and feels she learns something new almost every day and looks forward to the times she spends with her quilting friends.

Submitted by Bobbie Dafoe