

The Common Thread QUILT GUILD

NEWSLETTER

April 2009

President's Message

Catherine Patterson

I finished my quilt for the Odawa Centre and although it isn't a masterpiece I feel very satisfied to have completed an item for Community Quilts and on time! This is my first contribution made entirely by me from my stash.

I know most of you were there before me because this year we have donated a record number of quilts from Cuddle size to Comfort size and I think that shows we are a group with a lot of community spirit and caring. In an increasingly impersonal world there are people who will take the time to try and give comfort to someone in need and our idea of comfort is a quilt.

Victoria and her merry band at the Community Quilts table have worked hard to keep the projects available, the fabric organized and new

ideas flowing. Check the Retreats News to find out what is happening in April that you can participate in and watch Community Quilts News for what the summer challenge will be. Prizes will be pouring out for the summer quilters.

So keep up the good work. I'm happy to be involved with such a caring group.

Next Meeting

April 14, 2009

Programme

Janet Hope

In April, we are going back to school. We will be having four demos with tricks of the quilting trade. In addition Challenges will be due.

In May we will be having our Annual General Meeting, social tea and time to see the Challenges and Row Robbins.

In June we will be having a truck show of local talent-inspiration for the summer months!

SHOP OF THE MONTH

The Country Quilter

FAT QUARTERS THEME

jewel tones and batiks

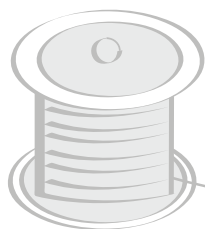
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Executive Team

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Challenge	Yvette Lessard
Webmaster	Sylvia Gilfix
Community Projects	Victoria Van der Linden
Quarters Club	Gale Joyce Marjorie Hanson

To reach members of the executive write to info@commonthread.on.ca



Announcements

...Old MacDonald Had a Farm...

EE I EE I O

OK ladies time to finish up on your challenge. Don't forget, bring it in for next meeting, which is Tuesday, April 14th, by 9:00pm. Don't disappoint Mr. AND Mrs. MacDonald.

Renfrew Trip

The trip to the Renfrew Quilt Guild is scheduled for April 21st, in the afternoon. We have at least 6 who have signed up, so far. It is a show and tell, so do not forget your projects. There will be directions available at the April meeting.

Fat Quarter Club

Gale and Marjorie have enjoyed the last few years, at the Fat Quarter table, but it is time to say adieu. We are looking for someone else to fill their shoes, for September. Thanks to them for their efforts.

Ovarian Cancer Quilt for 2010

Angels in Action have asked if we would consider providing another quilt for them to raffle in Ottawa. The last two quilts were given in the name of Bonnie Parks by her friends and fellow guild members, with financial assistance from the Guild. If your quilting group would like to respond to this request with a queen-sized quilt in blue, delivered by January 2010, contact Victoria Van der Linden for more details.

Helen Fujiki Truk Show

The Upper Canada Quilters Guild invites all quilters to see Helen Fujiki and her trunk show "Japan through the Eyes of a Quilter" at the Iroquois Civic Centre on Friday, May 1, 7-9 pm. Admission is \$10.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the door.

If you attended the Picton Quilt Show last year, or Quilt Canada, you saw Helen's award winning quilts, both traditional appliqué and her own Fuji Wa style wall hangings. Her work is beautiful. She will be teaching at workshops in Stampville, just north of Iroquois, on May 2 (Free Motion Quilting) and May 3 (Fuji Wa). Interested? Contact Kelly Pratt at 613-543-3868 or kellys.kreations@sympatico.ca

Quilt Musings for April

Jane Maddin

Well, you can certainly tell that it is SPRING.

And it isn't the robins, the melting snow, the black ice (oops, how did that slip in there?), the rising temperatures, or the pictures of crocuses that my friend sent me on Facebook from her trip to Niagara Falls, where it is evidently warmer than it is here! (My front yard still has more than two feet of snow on it - no crocuses yet!)

No, I went into a quilt shop (my favourite quilt shop, as it happens!) on Friday, and then again on Saturday - and what did I see? Great bright SPRING colours!

Very inspiring!

Now, I'm not saying that those colours weren't in there all along - perhaps it was just me... You know, you're kind of feeling a bit chilly, the snow is (or seems to be, anyway) MILES deep, the sun isn't up very long - and when the day is clear it's so cold you want to be snuggled under a quilt, or better yet, sitting by a pool somewhere tropical, wondering what the poor people are doing...It's hard to see all those bright greens and pinks, if you are stuck in the winter-time blahs!

And, you know, in the winter I'm inspired by plaids and stripes, by dark blues and browns, and by patterns like friendship stars and bear paws - don't they even SOUND warm and cozy? And in the winter, I

want to be sitting at my machine quilting like mad, and then sitting under the quilt doing the binding, which I love to do by hand. (It means that you are finished another one AND you can do that hand work ANYWHERE, you aren't tied to your machine.)

Anyway, on Friday, as I was saying before I got so side-tracked by winter, I went into this shop looking for baby fabric, and expecting tons of pastel things. And what do I find? Just the greatest, brightest, most uplifting fabric that you could imagine! Bright blues and bright oranges - little kittens at the beach, bubbles, and brightly coloured bathing suits. And the binding and backing looks EXACTLY like beach towels! I actually had to go back and buy the bubbly fabric on Saturday, because I couldn't sleep on Friday night thinking that I had missed a bet by not getting enough of that fabric to make a border... Now was that inspired or what? And I just thought of spring the whole time I shopped.

(I hope the lady that I'm making this baby quilt for is thinking springtime thoughts too. Because this baby blanket isn't going to be the pastel - not at all - this is going to be a Spring time quilt for a spring time baby!)

Happy Spring and Happy Quilting!



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Community Projects

Victoria Van der Linden

Community Projects Committee: Victoria Van der Linden, Catherine Senecal, and Barb Donaldson

How does the committee work? You can sign out a bag of donated fabric to sew into a top or finished quilt; or sign out a quilt top to be quilted; or donate a quilt; or donate fabric and batting—come see us for details. Remember: we will pay for your batting if you quilt a quilt for us. You can contact us ahead of the meeting and we will bring a batt cut to the size of the quilt you have made.

1) The Common Thread Quilt Guild collects monthly donations of Cuddle Quilts for use on the isolettes at the General Campus. The tiny at-risk babies look less clinical in their quilt-covered bed, and the families take the quilts home. Barb Donaldson can tell you more about sizes, can show you patterns, and can give you donated fabrics and batting. **Thirty-seven Cuddle Quilts were delivered in March.** Visit Barb to pick up pre-cut batting for your quilts.

2) We support the Victims of Violence outreach program with young child/teen/adult themed Comfort Quilts (40" × 60"). **Ten quilts were delivered in March.**

3) We support the St. Mary's Community Outreach Centre with baby/child themed

quilts (anything from 30" × 40" to 40" × 60"). The young mothers benefit from counseling and instruction. **Eighteen quilts were delivered in March.**

Cottage Industry

Summer Contest 2009

Last year, the summer contest produced 19 finished quilts and 26 tops! The contest this year will be run along the same lines: sign out a bag of

fabric along with the pattern sheets. A finished top or quilt must be returned by the October meeting to win \$50.00 (quilt) or \$10.00 (top) at your favorite quilt store. This year, you can even return blocks and win \$10.00! Full rules and the patterns are available on the website.

Demonstrations at the April Meeting

Be sure and visit Catherine Senecal who will show you the quickest and neatest way to attach our label. We have noted quite a variation in finishing techniques over the last year. Come and see the approved method so that all our quilts will have uniform labeling.

Barbara Donaldson will be demonstrating two methods for creating the scrap Easy

FREE STUFF: Are you coming to the in-town retreat in April? Victoria will be there Saturday, April 18, with fabric with instructions to make an on-point Rail quilt. Even if you can't sign up for the whole retreat, start a top for Community Quilts that day and we will provide your supper. Free instruction for everyone, free fabric, and free supper if you only come that day—**what is there to not like?**

Rail blocks which are part of the Summer Contest, and how to make an easy quilt from them. Whether you want to participate in the contest, or just learn how to utilize scraps, this demonstration is worth a look.



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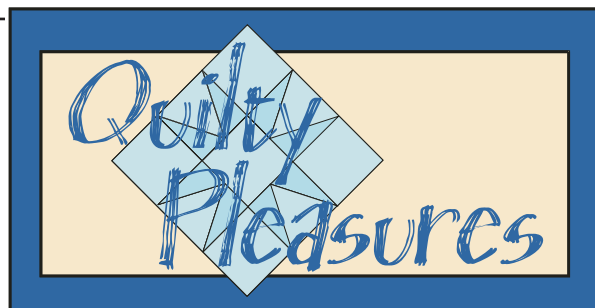
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Retreats

Barb Till

Hello everyone! Here are a few details for one more retreat before the 'summer break':

Held at the Notre-Dame-des-Champs
Community Centre

- Saturday, April 18—8:00 am – 10:00 pm
- Sunday, April 19—9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Options:

- Helping Community Projects – Saturday only
 - You give 4 – 5 hours (more if you like)
 - Victoria will give a mini workshop for a 'Community Quilts summer project'
 - You take away the quilt to finish
 - Community Quilts will provide fabric
 - Meal(s) provided
 - No charge
- Combination Retreat/ Community Projects – Saturday & Sunday
 - Plan to attend the retreat (both days)
 - Spend time at Victoria's mini workshop Saturday afternoon
 - Take away 'the project'
 - All meals provided
 - Cost is \$25.00
- Attend the 2-day Retreat – Saturday & Sunday
 - Spend the time working on your projects, being inspired by other retreat-goers.
 - All meals provided
 - Cost is \$40.00

Send an e-mail to retreats@commonthread.on.ca to reserve a spot— don't forget to tell me which option you want; Look for me at the back of the room at our next meeting (Tuesday April 14th).

Quarters Club

Gale and Margie

Another Guild season is almost over and we hope that everyone, who won at the Fat Quarter Club, is busy making a quilt for the Fat Quarter Club Theme Challenge. The project is due April 30th. The prize is a large basket, filled with quilting goodies—books, patterns, needles, threads, etc. Please phone Gale (841-1950) or Margie (830-6810), when your projects are ready.

THE RULES: use at least **five** of your winning fat quarters on the front, the size required starts at 60" by 80"; use the pattern of your choice and it can be finished by hand, machine, tied, etc.

The winner will be announced, at the May meeting.

Next month, the fat quarter theme is jewel tones and batiks.

Thanks for the pillows, for CHEO, and the denim fabrics for the Adolescent Unit, at CHEO.



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Quilt Show 2010

Hi there:

I'll introduce myself—I'm *Shirley MacFadden-Geiger*, and I've volunteered to chair the 2010 Quilt Show Committee. It was an easy decision—no committee, no quilt show—and we all like quilt shows!

So, what's your favourite part of the Common Thread Quilt Show? The quilts that our members have made, and are willing to share with all of us? The shopping? The variety of fabrics, tools and ideas that the merchants are willing to part with? (For a price of course!) The guild displays that describe what our guild does with all the quilts you donate, or the Challenge quilts that you made? Or do you just like getting together with friends and taking in the whole package?

This will be the fourth quilt show that I have helped with, and I've realized that one of my favourite aspects of the quilt show is the work itself. I've been fortunate to have worked with great groups of ladies who have come together for a common purpose, and have not been shy about expressing their opinions, but have also been willing to listen to the ideas of others. Yes, it's work, but the reward of seeing the quilt show come together far outweighs the glitches and hurdles we surmount. We have had so much fun and laughter getting to the event itself!

Some members of the 2008 committee have already volunteered for the 2010 show, and I am thrilled to be working with them again. But, it's always a good thing to have new volunteers. New people bring new ideas, and former members supply the continuity and experience. We need people to head up the sub-committees. You get to help make the decisions that will result in next year's show.

Will you join us? During the coming year we'll have about 10 meetings to plan the BIG EVENT! First meeting is this month—to meet each other, and decide on a theme for the show. If you want to be part of this event, or you're even thinking about it, please e-mail me at: toolittletime2@yahoo.com. I won't pressure you, and I will try to honestly answer your questions.

As I said in the opening paragraph—no committee, no show. It's all up to you now.

Workshops

Sylvie Proulx

There are two more workshops offered this guild year. Both of the workshops will be held on April 25.

—Appliqué Techniques: Fused, Faced, Template-Free, Reversed, Needle Turn; all of them by hand or by machine

—Chop Suey

Row Robins

Cairine Hinch

Just in time for Spring! Our Row Robins will be greeting Spring at the "Spring Tea." See you all at the May 12th meeting where the Row Robins will spring forth their quilts, wall hangings, table toppers, whatever they have created. Isn't Spring a great time of year!

Cottage Industry Guild Summer Contest 2009

The Rules:

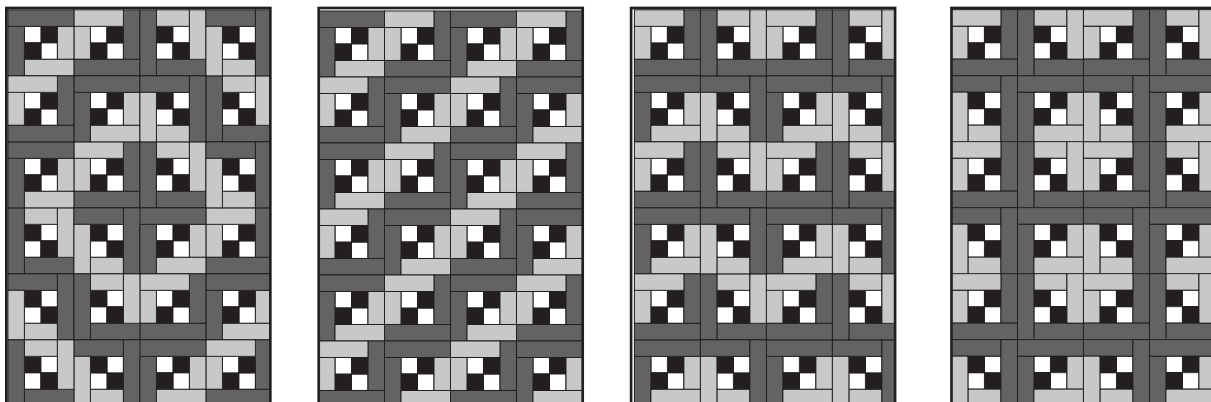
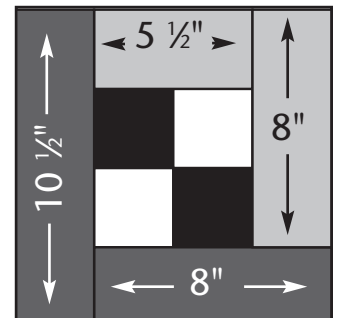
1. sign out a bag of scraps/fabric.
2. cut it into 3" wide strips. (If you have strips that are not 3", save them for Easy Rails)
3. **USING THE THREE PATTERNS GIVEN HERE**, build a Log Cabin , Courthouse Steps or Easy Rails quilt
4. the quilt must be 40" x 60".
5. the quilt must be quilted and bound. Don't forget to take a label for it!

Three ways to win!

1. Turn in the finished quilt by the October meeting. One name will be drawn in November. The lucky winner receives a \$50.00 gift certificate at her favourite quilt store.
2. Can't manage to quilt it? Turn in a 40" x 60" top instead. The lucky winner will receive a \$10.00 gift certificate at her favourite quilt store.
3. Remember all those leftover bits? Either foundation piece or strip piece 8" Rail blocks. Count them, put them in a bag with your name, phone number, and the number of blocks. *She who makes the most Rails wins.* In the case of a tie, one name will be drawn. The lucky winner receives a \$10.00 gift certificate at her favourite quilt store.

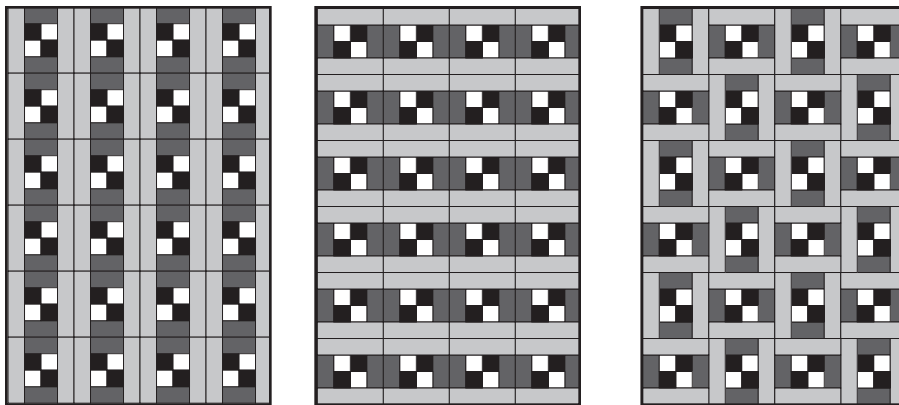
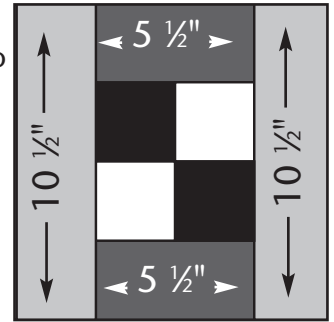
Easy Log Cabin

1. The center is a Four-Patch. Sew two highly contrasted fabrics (red and white) into strip sets. Press to the dark fabric (red). Subcut (48) 3" units. Sew in pairs to make 24 centres. Always begin with the dark square to the upper left and you will see a secondary pattern when the blocks are sewn together.
2. Separate the scraps into Dark and Light/Medium. From whichever pile is smaller, cut (24) 5 1/2" strips and (24) 8" strips. From the other pile, cut (24) 8" strips and (24) 10 1/2" strips.
3. Holding the center with the upper corner the same every time, add the 5 1/2" strip to the top. Press toward strip. Continue adding clockwise and pressing. The block is 10 1/2" RAW. Make 24 blocks.
4. Lay out four blocks per row. Make six rows. Machine baste close to the edge of the quilt to stabilize it for quilting. Quilt. Bind to finish.

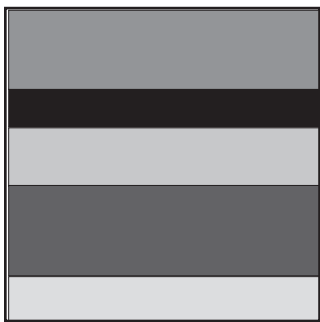


Easy Courthouse Steps

1. The center is a Four -Patch. Sew two highly contrasted fabrics (red and white) into strip sets. Press to the dark fabric (red). Subcut (48) 3" units. Sew in pairs to make 24 centres. Always begin with the dark square to the upper left and you will see a secondary pattern when the blocks are sewn together.
2. Separate the scraps into Dark and Light/Medium. From whichever pile is smallest, cut (48) 5 ½" strips. From the other pile, cut 48 10 ½" strips.
3. Holding the center with the upper corner the same every time, add the 5 ½" strip to the top and bottom. Press toward strip. Add a 10 ½" strip to both sides. The block is 10 ½" RAW. Make 24 blocks.
4. Lay out four blocks per row. Make six rows. Machine baste close to the edge of the quilt to stabilize it for quilting. Quilt. Bind to finish.



Easy Rails

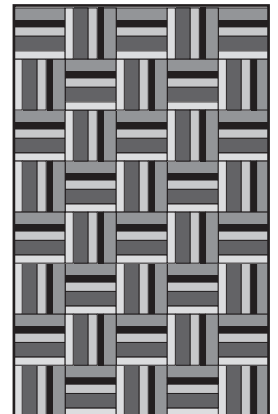


Sew strips together to make a strip set any length that is at least 8" long and 8" wide. Press all the seams to one side before cutting 8" x 8" blocks. *These can be turned in as blocks.*

OR continue to make a quilt: use 40 blocks to make a Rail Fence.

1. Lay out a row of five blocks with every other block sideways. Lay out the next row with the order reversed to create

a woven effect.



2. Continue to make a quilt of eight rows. Machine baste close to the edge of the quilt to stabilize it for quilting. Quilt. Bind to finish.

Foundation Pieced Rails

Cut 8½" blocks of waste fabric: something ugly, flannel, muslin. Lay the first strip right side up on this block. It does not have to be straight. Place the second strip face down on the strip. Sew the seam through both fabrics and the waste fabric. Fold open and press. Continue adding strips until the block is covered. Cut the block to 8". Quilts made from foundation pieced blocks can be made without batting. A layer of flannel or fabric of an equal weight plus a backing finishes the quilt.