

The Common Thread QUILT GUILD

NEWSLETTER

December 2008

Husband's Chair

Donald Gilfix

Where is the Cotton?

Cairo, a city of 22 million people with an area 10 times that of Ottawa, home of the Great Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx and the largest fabric market you have ever seen. Unknown to me, even though I'm the person who made the hotel reservations, we were one block away from the fabric souk (market). Go figure!

Taking minor bits of time to see the ancient wonders of the world, Your Most Humble Servant (YMHS) accompanied She Who Must Be Obeyed (SWMBO) down small crowded alley ways looking for Egyptian cotton. Even shops, so small you couldn't turn around in them, had a chair for husbands to sit in and wait. In a country where women are often only spoken to directly if there isn't a man present, in the fabric souk, I was considered merely a donkey for carrying. I was simply shown to the chair and offered tea while SWMBO perused the fabric.

Although we went back to the souk several times (after all it was only a block away) it

was the last time that we went that was the most moving. Since most of the fabric merchants are Christians, the regular shops are closed on Sunday. The market is taken over by people who come to sell whatever they can to raise a little money; by that I mean stuff that we here in Canada would have thrown away. On that day we saw a demonstration what real poverty is. Everywhere in the world, even here in Canada, there are people in need. I therefore want to take this opportunity to say that, despite my jokes about the constant buying of fabric, I appreciate that the Common Thread Quilt Guild and other guilds like it, share their quilts to comfort those in need.

So let me take this time to say thank you and happy holidays from those who sit and wait in Husband Chairs everywhere.

Next Meeting

December 9, 2008

Programme

Janet Hope

Come join us for our social tea. Be sure and bring a project to work on. We have lots of surprises for you and you get to spend time visiting!!!! Should you be available to assist with the tea service please contact Janet Hope at either thehopefamily@rogers.com or 613-841-2483.

SHOP OF THE MONTH

Quilting Quarters

FAT QUARTERS THEME

Pine trees, cones, poinsettias

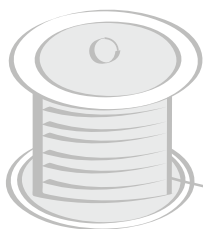
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Newsletter	Sylvia Gilfix
Challenge	Yvette Lessard
Webmaster	Sylvia Gilfix
Community Projects	Victoria Van der Linden

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



Announcements

December Agenda

December's meeting will be a social evening. Please note that the Show and Tell will be held *early* in the evening. Bring some hand-work to do: tables will be set up and refreshments will be available.

6:30pm Doors open

7:30pm – Meeting called to order
– Business, announcements, monthly draws for door prizes, Fat Quarter Club draw.
– Special presentation: 2500th Cuddle Quilt thank-you's
– Draw for whole-cloth quilt

8:15ish: Show and Tell and draw for prize

8:30 ish: Visit your neighbor, enjoy a holiday treat, sew a little, or investigate the patterns up on the stage.

Happy Holidays and Piece on Earth!!!

Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard

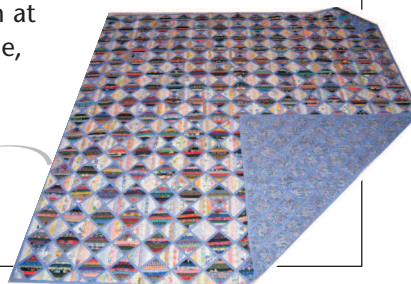
We will once again be collecting toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes etc.) for the food cupboard to be distributed to clients as special extra items for the holidays



Quilt for Sale

This is a picture of the quilt I showed at the Quilt Guild meeting on November 11, 2008. The name of the design is scrappy lattice and is reversible to a blue and pink paisley print. The quilt is 98" x 104". I am asking \$800.00 or best offer. My telephone number is 613-837-5815, e-mail address is waynefarrell@rogers.com, or the quilt can be seen at 1032 Serenity Avenue, Orleans. Thank you,

Joanne.



Quilt Musings for December

I have a wonderful 'quilting' husband. I don't mean that he quilts – that wouldn't be correct. I suspect that he would be good at the geometry of quilting – and heavens knows, he's picky enough about anything he sets his hand to, that I suspect all his points and corners would match – and right now! (He has just retired from the military and at one time he was a Sergeant Major – I think things would be expected to line up and look lively about it!

However, I have friends who are now, or once were, married to military men, and they aren't great 'quilting' husbands. In fact, most of the husbands that I know seem to feel that quilting is a complete waste of time. Have you heard their description of quilting? We quilters buy large pieces of perfectly good fabric, cut it up into little pieces AND then we sew it back together! What could be more wasteful than that?

My husband goes with me to fabric shops and waits patiently, INSIDE the store no less, while I wander around with bolts of fabrics, as often as not, putting most of them back and picking out new ones to lie on top of one or two on a table, before I settle on the big pieces that I'm then going to take home and cut up.

And he makes intelligent suggestions about colours and designs – and by intelligent, I mean that he essentially agrees with me.

He has given up the spare room to me as a Quilting Studio (although he grumbles, once in awhile, about me getting every-

thing that I want – although I really think it is the computer desk that is the big bone of contention there! His laptop sits on the buffet!) And he will come in to the Quilt Studio and render opinions on block placement and colour with only a little coaxing!

So I broached the topic the other day – why was he so understanding and non-critical? And he pondered that for a few moments and offered this comment. He also has a hobby – he creates fine scale military models (he has entered them into shows and won prizes) and I show some understanding for that. He buys zillions of these little plastic, metal or resin models and he cuts, carves, whittles, glues, trims, modifies, paints, applies decals and builds trees, bushes, buildings and other dioramas to hold them. I have gone into model shops all over the world (well, Europe, Canada, and the US) and waited for many boring hours (okay, sometimes there are jigsaw puzzles in those shops, so it isn't a complete loss!) while he hunts for some obscure model. And I show some forbearance when he heats up sprue (left-over plastic) and stretches it to create 'in-scale' antennas and so forth.

So I guess the whole point of this is: We were made for each other. I think I'll keep my Quilting Husband.

Jane Maddin, Quilter



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Membership Desk

From Wendy Warren and Pauline McNally

We are now 204 members strong! You may pick up a new guild pin for \$5.00 when signing in.

HELP!

Looking for someone with Access programming experience. We have all of the data in the program but need someone to advise on preparing reports. It would take approximately 1 hour of your time.

If you can help, please contact Pauline McNally at 613 749 9604 or at polly@travel-net.com.



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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 a quilt top to be quilted; or donate a quilt; or donate fabric and batting—come see us for details.

Want to try out your machine quilting skills? Visit our table at the right of the stage to join in finishing our many quilt tops for the following charities:

- 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.
- 2) We support the Victims of Violence outreach program with young child/teen/adult themed Comfort Quilts (40" x 60").
- 3) We support the St. Mary's Community Outreach Centre with baby/child themed quilts (anything from 30" x 40" to 40" x 60"). The young mothers benefit from counseling and instruction.

FREE PATTERNS: the 2007 pattern booklet is available from Barb Donaldson.

How to Use Even the Smallest Scrap

During our social evening in December, Catherine Senecal will be available up on the stage to demonstrate patterns that allow you to use up ALL your fabric bits. Visit her to see the samples and take home a pattern or two.

Ovarian Cancer Quilt Ruffled

In 2005, Bonnie Parks inspired the creation of two quilts designated for fund raising to fight ovarian cancer. A teacher and quilter, she saw the two quilts tops, but never had a chance to see the finished quilts. Alma Eccles designed and executed the top of one from fabric which was donated by Northcott Fabrics, Canada. It was quilted by Jane Mitchell of Legacy Quilts, Orleans. Linda Laframboise of Angels in Action reported that the quilt raised \$2,846.00. It was won by Brenna Bellhouse on November 14. Linda expresses sincere thanks to us for our donation of this quilt to help the cause reach their goal of \$35,000.00.



Frances O'Neill

Quilter

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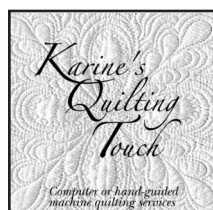
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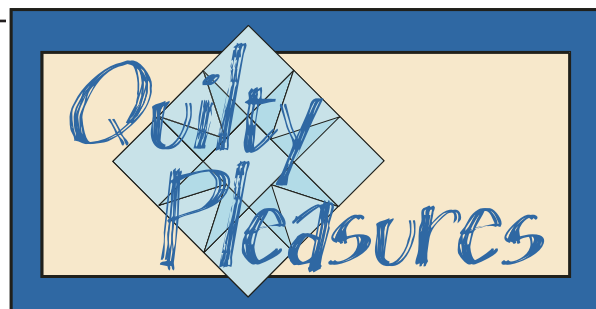
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Community Projects *(continued)*

LET'S CELEBRATE THE 2500TH CUDDLE QUILT!

The first Cuddle Quilts were collected in October 1997. In the ensuing 11 years, 2,500 have been donated by guild members for distribution at the Intensive Care Nursery of the Ottawa General Hospital. Although the donations are made anonymously, you may have noticed that this fall the committee recorded the names of the quilters as the quilts were left at our table. This was to enable us to celebrate the donation of the 2500th quilt. It arrived in October among the 59 that were turned in that month, made by one of 15 quilters. In the spirit of the season of giving, we will present a token of our thanks to all 15 of those quilters at the December meeting.

AND HERE IS ONE FOR YOU

We appreciate the work that you do for our community projects, whether you make one quilt a year or many.

To thank all of you for your support in our tradition of giving, we will be awarding a finished 40" x 60" whole cloth quilt to one lucky member of the Guild. It was made of donated fabrics, partially hand quilted at the Quilt Show 2008, and finished by committee member Catherine Senecal. It is perfect for a special chair, or a special child, or as a donation to your favourite charity's Silent Auction table. Be sure to sign in at the December meeting!



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Row Robins

Cairine Hinch

Have you formed a team of row robins yet? There is no deadline for registration... just for the show and tell at the Spring Tea.

Your team mates must use the fabrics you have given them! They can add as many other fabrics as they wish when designing your row. Block size can also be interpreted as row width. Perhaps one of the team mates decides on making a 5" wide row while another makes a 6" wide row. **The row length should be the same for all the team mates** (unless you are going for that "artsy look"). The real rule is there are no rules...make it up as you go, and have fun!

If you are looking to join a team or start a team, come and see me at the sign-up sheet. It would be great if an established group(s) could offer to accommodate our new/lone members. If someone would like to volunteer as a team leader, please let me know.

*Be kinder than necessary,
because everyone you meet is
fighting some kind of battle.*

Fabric Shopping: The Cairo Experience

Sylvia Gilfix

As my husband pointed out, on our recent trip, we spent quite a bit of time in the fabric market in Cairo. It was an amazing experience and I would recommend it to everyone who loves fabric. The market is a maze of narrow streets with tiny shops filled to the rafters with all kinds of fabric. In fact a couple of times we kinda got lost. I do have to point out that while Egypt is famous for cotton they have pretty much no idea about patchwork. So while I thought I would be bringing home a suitcase full of fabric (yes I brought an extra one) I was sadly disappointed! All the cotton they had in the souk was basically upholstery weight.

Shopping in the souk is a different experience than what we are used to. The vendors are all men anxious to make a sale. There is no such thing as quietly looking at the different fabric in the store ... perhaps even touching it. You tell the shopkeeper approximately what you're looking for:

he may speak some English. You are then expected to sit beside the husband in the husband chair, while the shopkeeper unrolls bolts and bolts of gorgeous fabric of the type he interpreted you want. My eyes could barely see as quickly as they unrolled. I have to say it made me a little anxious. As I said, patchwork is not something they're aware of, so there is no such thing as a fat quarter.

You are expected to buy meters of fabric, and you're expected to do it quickly!



In short shopping in the fabric market isn't for the faint of heart or even the polite. You truly have to be able to say no assertively. I confess, I wasn't assertive at first and bought some, albeit beautiful, fabric that I know for sure I will never use. I'm embarrassed to say I bought three metres of each because I couldn't say no after the man had gone to all that trouble. Don't tell the husband in the chair!!!

CTQG Calendar of Scheduled Activities

November 28, 29 & 30	Retreat	NavCan, Cornwall
December 9	Meeting	<i>Program:</i> Social Tea <i>Shop of the Month:</i> Quilting Quarters <i>Fat Quarter Theme:</i> pine trees, cones, poinsettias
January 13	Meeting	<i>Program:</i> Rive Designs speak on Fabric Art <i>Shop of the Month:</i> Quilty Pleasures <i>Fat Quarter Theme:</i> professions
January 17	Workshop	Basic Machine Quilting Techniques
January 31	Workshop	Reversible Quilt-as-you-go
February 10	Meeting	<i>Program:</i> TBA <i>Shop of the Month:</i> Julee's Homecrafts <i>Fat Quarter Theme:</i> love: reds and purples
February 28	Workshop	Chop Suey
March 6, 7 & 8	Retreat	In-Town
March 10	Meeting	<i>Program:</i> TBA <i>Shop of the Month:</i> Running Stitch <i>Fat Quarter Theme:</i> pastels and polka dots
March 28	Workshop	Appliqué Techniques by hand and by machine: Fused, Faced, Template-free, Reversed
April 14	Meeting	<i>Program:</i> Social Tea; Challenge quilts due by 9 pm <i>Shop of the Month:</i> The Country Quilter <i>Fat Quarter Theme:</i> jewel tones and batiks
April 20	Excursion	Montreal Shopping
May 11	Excursion	Montreal Shopping
May 12	Meeting	<i>Program:</i> Annual Meeting; Row Robin Show; voting for Challenge quilts <i>Shop of the Month:</i> Sew For It <i>Fat Quarter Theme:</i> sweets, cakes, ice cream etc.
May 25	Excursion	Montreal Shopping
June 9	Meeting	<i>Program:</i> TBA, Membership Renewal for 2009-10 <i>Shop of the Month:</i> Aunt Beth's Quilt World <i>Fat Quarter Theme:</i> tone on tones