

Happy New Year ! And time for resolutions. In addition to the old standards – eat healthier, get more exercise (yawn) – I’ve decided to make some important quilting resolutions. My first priority will be to work on my accuracy: more accurate cutting, piecing and pressing. Taking a bit of extra care here will improve the quality of my work and also speed up my work by making seams and points match more easily, fewer pins and less need for “re-sewing”. First on the agenda was to upgrade my task lighting. Sewing after dark, in the basement, in the winter made this first step a no-brainer. I’ll be looking for methods to increase my speed, too. I’ve already begun studying patterns and where possible, pieces that will be sewn together will be cut together with their right sides facing. Then, there will be no reshuffling or shifting of pieces on the way to the machine. And, I know my pressing needs work, too. I’ve been paying attention and I seem to distort my pieces with the heel of my iron. I’ll be looking for tips here, too. Finally, I will be working on that UFO pile (even tho there will be some babies joining our extended family this year) and my fabric stash.

Or perhaps I’ll just delegate those UFOs ?



What quilting resolutions have you made ?

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE:

FOOD BANK DONATION: Thanks to all of our Quilt-o players, we were able to donate over \$ 110 to the Good Shepherd Food Bank.

QUILTS FOR MY SISTER’S PLACE: At the December meeting, we donated 43 comfort quilts, 43 stockings and 16 Santa Sacks.

QUILT RAFFLE WRAP UP: With our community’s support, we have held another successful quilt raffle. We will make presentations of \$ 425 to both My Sister’s Place and Matthew’s House Hospice at the February meeting. We have kept the same amount for our operating/program fund. We have also set aside start-up money should we decide to hold another raffle.

Lots of good work from our small guild.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS:

Thankfully, most of our executive positions have now been filled with candidates, but we have two important positions still empty, and here are their descriptions:

Vice President: Assist and replace the President when necessary

Chair the Program Committee

Attend committee meetings and act as liaison between committees and the President

Archives: Record with photos and print material, everything pertaining to guild activities

Be responsible for maintaining the Guild Archive Books

Be responsible for sending photos to the webmaster in a timely fashion

Non-executive

Hostess: Judy W has been our hostess for several years now and she'd like to move to another position. The hostess coordinates snack volunteers and maintains our supplies of coffee/tea/condiments, etc. She also oversees setup and cleanup of snacks and prepares the hot beverages for snack time. If this is a responsibility you are able to undertake, please let us know.

If you think you would be interested in taking on any of these jobs, please let someone on the executive know. *No experience required !*

QUILT SHOW, 2015

There is great interest in presenting another quilt show for June, 2015. We cannot offer this wonderful exhibition of our work without a show chair. No way to sugar coat it – this position involves a lot of work and there are many i's to dot and t's to cross along the way. But, as the shows have progressed, records have been kept on how things ran, contacts, suppliers, etc. from previous years. Those who have served as committee heads are also available for reference. Some might even volunteer again. If you think you have the time to devote to this project, please let us know.

FROM CQA:

We received the following call for submissions from *Canadian Quilting Association* for their quarterly magazine –

The CQA/ACC magazine 'The Canadian Quilter' is a quarterly one which focuses on Canadian designers, what Canadian quilters are doing and the presentation of information of interest to quilters. Your guild probably submits news to your Regional Representative for their report for it as well. We have spaces for 15 representatives (see the list at: <http://www.canadianquilter.com/contact-us/regional-representatives.php>), but there is one vacancy at the present – Coastal British Columbia. If you live in this area and are interested in sending us your quilting news, please do contact our vice-president, Jackie White, at vicepresident@canadianquilter.com. We'd love to have a CQA/ACC member to represent this area.

Another interesting facet of the magazine is that each issue has a theme and any Canadian quilter is welcome to submit any size article or story for consideration. The Spring issue deadline has passed, but the theme for the Summer 2014 issue is ‘**Different**’. As you can guess, this theme could apply to different methods for approaching block or quilt making, different ways that you have found to meeting with other quilters, different places and times you have held workshops or retreats,...and so on. The deadline for the Summer issue is Apr. 1, 2014 (no joke!). The following issue’s theme is ‘**Tell Your Story**’ and the deadline is July 1, 2014. We know from our own guild meetings, that almost every quilter’s story is unique – for each quilt and for their quilt adventure. Send your stories to editor@canadianquilter.com..

We invite your guild and your members to submit their stories to our magazine as well as to your Regional Representative.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Thanks to Irmgard for continuing her contacts with the quilting groups in Germany and India. She sends the following updates:

Germany – We are in touch with two groups - The “Klatsch Mohn Quilters” send along their thanks for the Christmas postcards. The other group – “Groebenzell Quilting Group” received some maple leaf fabric from us when Irmgard visited them last May. This group is interested in sending along some works for our 2015 quilt show using the maple leaf fabric, and they were wondering if we already have a theme for the 2015 show. Their next show (near Munich) is in 2016 and they have invited us to participate. The theme is – *A Glimpse into the Orient*.

India – This online group – Desi Quilters - has opened registration for a fabric for gizmos exchange and will let us know what the interest is at their end. Brace yourselves – this could be big ! They have over 500 members in this group !



This quilt was donated to the local kindergarten that suffered a fire in 2012.



HOW FAR CAN YOU STITCH ?

The inches are adding up slowly and Canadian quilters have made it to Yellow Knife. Only a few more months remain to make our goal of Brock University and Quilt Canada 2014. Keep those machines humming ! And, don’t forget – our annual \$ 100 UFO Draw takes place at the March meeting.

ON THE WEB

Here's an interesting webpage that shows microscopic views of some familiar threads:
<http://owensolivia.blogspot.ca/2012/10/your-sewing-thread-under-microscope.html>. There are also some links for other sites with more thread information and even a few thread videos.

Free from www.craftsy.com – 2014 Block of the Month, exploring colour theory. If you're interested in continuing this exploration, visit http://www.craftsy.com/class/2014-block-of-the-month-craftsy-color-theory/463?moneySymbol=C%24&reviewSize=0&NAVIGATION_PAGE_CONTEXT_ATTR=CLASS.

Some new year's tips from Moda: [http://modafabrics.blogspot.ca/2014/01/new-yearnew-quilts.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+ModaTheCuttingTable+\(Moda...+the+Cutting+Table\)](http://modafabrics.blogspot.ca/2014/01/new-yearnew-quilts.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+ModaTheCuttingTable+(Moda...+the+Cutting+Table))

If you're wanting to hone your free motion quilting skills on her domestic machine, Leah Day has weekly tutorials at: <http://freemotionquilting.blogspot.ca/>



Is this your quilt ? It was on display at the Angus library and I was asked if it was for sale. If so, you can contact Angie at the Angus branch.

CALL FOR ENTRIES/DONATIONS

You may be familiar with the organization *Grandmothers to Grandmothers* who work to support Grandmothers in Africa who are raising their orphan grandchildren whose parents have been lost to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Omas Siskona (Grandmothers Together) in Kitchener Waterloo will be holding a textile art auction and is looking for donated works. 40 items will be selected for the auction. Deadline for entry is March 1, 2014. For details, www.omas-siskonakw.org.

AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Our program committee has another interesting evening planned for our February 4th meeting. Cathy D. has agreed to share her quilting history with us as Quilter of the Month.

Cathy has been quilting since 2003 when two coworkers brought in their quilt blocks from a recent course. The next day she and Janice enrolled in a class of their own. It is this first quilt, stitched entirely by hand, of which she is most proud. While there were no quilters in her family, Cathy's father was an upholsterer and did make a few quilts from upholstery fabrics in the 1960's.

Cathy quilts mostly on weekends and holidays and is fortunate to share her quilting with her sister who often joins her in her sewing room for whole weekends of sewing during the winter months. She is currently working on her free-motion quilting skills on her Janome 7700 Horizon and admits to being a

bit of a ruler and gadget junkie. With resolve to finish up some of her UFO's, she is also starting on the kit for McKenna Ryan's Wind in the Whiskers, a heavily appliqued project. Cathy loves her three cats – and would welcome a few more, and enjoys the plethora of quilting videos on YouTube. We look forward to hearing more about her quilting at the February meeting.



Our International Sunbonnet Sues will be revealed, we'll vote for viewers' choice, and we'll draw for block sets.

Back by popular demand, Judy C. introduces our Block of the Month, 2014 Edition that will begin in March. Judy's got something special on tap for us. She'll have some samples and fabric requirements in February with Block One pattern in March. Member sign-up fee is just \$ 5 (to offset photocopying costs) and will cover all the monthly patterns and finishing instructions. We hope to have a display of these challenge quilts finished for our 2015 Quilt Show.

Ann V. and Judy W. have been attending the meetings for the Simcoe County Quilt Rug and Craft Show and the International Plowing Match Quilt Show and Ann has an update for us. She also confirms that the Corner Store will be open at the Plowing Match with an estimated 20,000 shoppers at the event. Sewn items are welcome at the store – 15% of the sale price is retained by the Show, the remainder goes to the seller.

Also at the February meeting, we have a hands-on Valentine's craft, Executive round-up, Show 'n Tell and all the usual.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March Meeting – Election of Officers, Membership renewal, Block of the Month begins, \$ 100 UFO draw

May 19 – 24: Ailsa Craig Quilt Festival – Quilts of Great Britain <http://www.ailsacraigquiltfestival.ca/>

Don't forget for the February meeting: Sunbonnet Sue, Show 'n Tell, Raffle change, Mug

Chins up ! By the February meeting, we'll be halfway to Spring !!