



www.quiltingcorners.org

quiltingcorners@gmail.com

Volume 6 Issue 9 November, 2011



Next meeting is Tuesday, December 6th, 7 PM

On the December agenda....

There's lots on the go at the December meeting – take a look at the “Don't Forget” Section of the newsletter for a check-list.



~ Refreshments ~

It's our potluck supper ! Bring along your favourite dish to pass – appetizer, main dish or dessert. Your choice ! We'll share a meal together and have a chance to chat and “catch up.”

And, remember; bring your own place setting.

Don't Forget Your Name Tag !



~ Quilter's Bingo for the Food Bank ~



Empty your pockets, raid the piggy bank, even look under the sofa cushions for a few spare loonies or toonies. Bingo in support of the Food Bank returns at the December meeting. In lieu of presenting members with sweet treats this year, the executive has elected to ante up a cash donation to get the Food Bank kitty started.



A New Challenge for the New Year

If you attended the Simcoe County Quilt Rug and Craft Show this year, you may have been inspired by the dimensional wall hanging crafted by Christie Davidson. She has graciously agreed to display the quilt at our December meeting and we'll explore some 3-D techniques beginning at our February meeting.

~ Thank you, thank you, thank you ~



Thanks to all those who participated in the Block of the Month Challenge and were gracious enough to share their efforts in our quilt show. And, what a successful show it was ! So many wonderful quilt tops and several quilts already completed. If you enjoyed this adventure, stay tuned – the Program Committee has been hard at work and has more challenges lined up for the New Year.

Special thanks go to *Lilac Lane Quilts* and *Country Concessions* for the use of their quilt racks and to everyone who helped with the quilt display and take down.

Thanks also to Karen, Sally and Senora for their excellent demonstrations and to Shirley F. for sharing her mini-Cathedral Windows quilt.



Looking Ahead.... *What's happening at upcoming meetings*

- * **January** – Happy New Year ! No meeting. See you in February !
- * **February** – Applique by hand and machine
- * **March** – Year in Review, Elections, Idiom Challenge Begins
- * **April** – Presenter: Elizabeth Alexander Landscape Trunk Show

~ Comfort Quilt News ~

Another batch of comfort quilts will be presented to My Sister's Place at our December meeting. If you have a kit under construction, keep the December deadline in mind and pass the top along for quilting and binding, if needed.



We'll also present our completed Christmas stockings to My Sister's Place at the December meeting – after we have a chance to admire them ! Don't forget the December deadline for these items, too.

Remember – every stocking donated will receive a ticket for a chance to win in our “Thanks for Participating” Prize Draw !

~ Raffle Quilt ~

Don't forget your ticket stubs and payment for the raffle quilt draw !

We'll draw the lucky winner at the December meeting.



~ Items Wanted/For Sale ~

Ann V. has a wooden quilt frame free for the taking. If you're interested, you can reach her at 705-435-5315 or email at gbogaart@sympatico.ca.

~ March Madness II ~

For lots of folks, March Madness means the final four – and to those of us in the guild, it means only four more months to get our UFO's finished up and entered into the March draw for \$100. Check out your closets, drawers, even under the bed, and get to work on your forgotten projects.

With that March deadline in mind, my slumbering New York Beauty project has been dusted off.



Both EQ Design Software and the Olfa rotary circle cutter have proven helpful in getting this project back on the rails. The Curve Master foot remains a bit of a challenge, tho, even after re-reading the instructions and some help from YouTube videos. But, having down-sized the project from bed quilt to wall-hanging, the finished quilt might yet make it to Show 'n Tell before the March **2012** deadline !

If you have a plethora of tools in your collection, why not sort thru them, consult the instructions or search Google (YouTube seems to have a video for EVERYTHING) for some tips and put them to use ? And make a point to take a peek at the notions area whenever you visit your local quilt shop – the perfect gadget to finish *your* aging beauty might be right in front of you.

If you've been good this year (and who hasn't ?) why not make a few notes for your “wish list” while you're at your favourite quilt shop to pass along to your Santa ? You might find just what you want under the Christmas tree and support our local quilt shops at the same time.

~ Tips ~

From www.kayewood.com:

Scissor Tips....

As much as scissors cost these days, it's important to know how to care for them the right way. Plus, the better the care, the longer they'll last and the better results you'll get from them!

So here are a few tips on how to care for your scissors.

1. Keep your scissors in a cool, dry, safe place.
2. Regularly wipe the blades with a light coating of sewing machine oil, to prevent rust or corrosion. Don't forget a drop where the blades come together by the screw. After oiling, cut on some scrap fabric to remove any excess oil.
3. Your scissors can be washed with soap and water, but you have to dry them thoroughly and oil them too.
4. After each use, wipe off the blades to prevent build up on the blades and screw area.
5. Handle your scissors with care. When you drop them, it can knock them out of alignment, break the tips and nick the edges.
6. Respect your scissors and their uses, they are not for metal, plastic, etc. Keep the ones you use to cut your fabric in a certain spot, and use them for only this purpose

50 Tips from McCall's Quilting follow at the end of the newsletter.



~ Out and About ~

- April 26 – 28 Piecemakers Quilt Show, Pyramid Rec Centre, St Marys. Quilts, Merchant Mall, Boutique, Demos, Tea Room. For speaker's list, events, directions, etc: www.huronperthquiltersguild.com
- August 10 – 11 Quilt and Garden Show in conjunction with the International Plowing Match. New Dundee Community Centre, \$ 7.00. 100 Judged Quilts on display, vendor marketplace, tea room, garden displays, quilt block challenge, door prizes. www.ipm2012.ca, dianeburkhart@ipm2012.ca.



~ Don't Forget ~

Things to bring to the December Meeting

RAFFLE TICKETS and payment

Comfort quilts

Stockings

Pot luck item to share, place setting, mug, cutlery, etc

Name tag

Tips, Newsletter ideas

Program Suggestions

Show 'n Tell

From lessons at www.quickquilts.com:

50 BEST READERS' TIPS

This wonderful collection of quilting tips comes from you, our readers! A while ago, on our McCall's Quilting and Quick Quilts web sites, we asked you to share with us your best quilting tips. We heard back from many of you, offering advice on fabric choice, design, cutting, piecing, and much more. Certain themes arose over and over in your tips, and there was an overwhelming emphasis on the importance of accuracy—when cutting, piecing, and pressing. Many thanks to all of you who contributed. We are pleased to be able to share with you a comprehensive list of the tips you submitted.



FABRIC CHOICE AND PREPARATION

1. Don't be afraid to use color in your quilts.
2. Pick a print that grabs your attention. Coordinate colors around that print.
3. Always pick a fabric that is a little different from the others to add interest.
4. Choose fabrics from the same collection. They usually blend well and have a variety of lights, mediums, and darks, as well as different scales.
5. Purchase extra fabric (1/4 yd. or more). You might make a mistake or need an extra strip or two. Plans for quilts change!
6. When shopping for fabrics, take the pattern. Also, tack fabric samples to a 3" x 6" index card so you can find just the right fabric by comparing it to what you already have.
7. Wash and press fabric before cutting.
8. When prewashing fabrics, clip the corner of each piece to prevent a big, tangled, spider web mess when the machine stops!
9. To straighten fabric after washing, in preparation for cutting, fold across the bias and pull. Get a friend to help. Pull at the fold and every few inches out to the points.

QUALITY COUNTS

10. Get the right tools
11. Use high-quality, 100% cotton fabrics.

ACCURACY MATTERS

12. Press as you go.
13. Be sure to cut accurate templates.
14. Cut accurately when using the rotary cutter.
15. Do whatever is necessary to achieve accurate 1/4" seams. You'll have fewer headaches!
16. Learn to sew accurate strip sets.
17. Be sure to square up each block before stitching them together. Square up your quilt top before adding borders.
18. "From my dad, a master cabinetmaker, MEASURE TWICE, CUT ONCE"

WORKSPACE AND ORGANIZATION SUGGESTIONS

19. Use a flannel board or design wall and place fabrics/blocks on it while piecing.
20. Stick a small stack of Post-It Notes beside the presser foot as a 1/4" seam allowance guide.
21. On your sewing machine table, draw two lines, one for the stitching line and the second, 1/4" to the right. These will help with machine piecing accuracy.
22. Use a scrap of fabric for a starter when chain piecing.
23. Speed up your piecing by chain stitching.
24. Always have your seam ripper nearby.

50 Best Readers' Tips

Page 2 of 2

LEARN THE BASICS

25. Choose patterns with clear instructions and useful diagrams.
26. Read through the pattern before you start cutting.
27. Make a practice block.
28. Learn proper pressing techniques!
29. Use diagonal seams when piecing binding to cut down on bulk.
30. Learn how to properly turn corners when stitching binding to your quilt.
31. Learn the difference between half-square triangles and quarter-square triangles. Then learn the calculations for adding seam allowances (finished dimension + 7/8" for half-square triangles and +1 1/4" for quarter-square triangles).
32. Sew the hanging sleeve onto your quilt while attaching the binding.

BE EASY ON YOURSELF

33. Don't feel guilty about starting a new project even though you already have lots in the works.
34. It is OK to have a mistake in your quilt. No quilt is perfect.
35. When learning to hand quilt, focus on making even stitches, not on stitch length. Long stitches look just as good as short ones, provided that they are the same size.
36. Quilt with your friends.
37. Practice. Have patience with yourself.

TRY NEW TECHNIQUES

38. Be open to trying new methods.
39. Take classes at your local quilt shop.
40. Buy a rotary cutter. They have revolutionized quilting.
41. Follow the step by step rotary cutting instructions provided on the McCall's Quilting web site.
42. Learn to use a grid for making half-square triangles.
43. Make flying geese with rectangles and squares, using the corner sew and flip method.
44. Use safety pins to baste your quilts, and close them with the aid of a grapefruit spoon.
45. Learn to make bias binding (see Continuous Bias for a quick lesson).
46. Binding can be done with straight-of-grain strips.
47. Visit the McCall's Quilting web site, www.mccallsquilting.com, to find quilting motifs and tips for using them.
48. Make use of all the quilting links on the Internet! A great place to start is www.mccallsquilting.com!
49. Listen to advice from experienced quilters, then listen to your inner self. Don't be afraid to try something different.
50. Remember that each quilt is different, each quilter is different, and all have value.