

SNIPPETS

Kenya Quilt Guild Newsletter



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A Word From Our Chairwoman

Our guild is filled with fascinating women. We come from many different backgrounds and even countries. One of our members is Gretchen Sanders Mwaura. She has been a member for many years and currently serves on the executive committee as the head of the Charity Committee. You will often see her at our meetings, operating the projector. This month, I asked her a few questions so we may get to know her better.

How did you come to make Kenya your home?

I consider Kenya to be my home. I do miss my family and friends but would never live in UK again. Kenya is too exciting. While visiting my aunt here I went for an informal interview at Nairobi Hospital and was hired on the spot! Two years of battling the red tape and I was finally here. Just before I came I met my

partner Peter, a Kenyan- love at second sight!

How did you start quilting?

After 17 years I retired from nursing due to severe depression. It was a very difficult time and to help me through it I made a quilt. It was a 4 patch block in African fabrics alternating with plain black, double bed cover. The discipline and repetitiveness of it was very therapeutic.

I then joined the guild and the executive committee. Since then I have never looked back!

My creativity returned when I met Alison Farmer who made me into a hand quilting monster!! I quilted my first quilt with some very funky designs.

What do you do when you are stuck on a project? How do you get going again?

Quilters block is a real challenge. I have experienced weeks of it at a time. It is scary as for me it can be a sign my depression is returning. To get going again I will sometimes make something from a pattern. If it happens when I am working on a theme based art quilt I ask other people for ideas. Sometimes the themes we are given are very wide and can be overwhelming.

I am looking forward to seeing you this month at our meeting, which is earlier in the month – the third Thursday is 15 May. I will be there –

*In Stitches,
Patty Arensen*

Meeti ngs

Thursday 15th May — Calendar voting.

Bring a picture of the quilt you want to enter for voting. Bring two, because we may allow you to submit two quilts, if there aren't enough. Also, we will have two categories: Traditional and Art Quilts. Once the voting is done, we will have a demo on the 1-Meter Challenge and then everyone will have an opportunity to sign up to participate. Each group of seven will pick a theme for their challenge and at the June meeting will have the Challenge play.

Thursday 19th June — 1-Meter Challenge Play. If you've signed up to participate in the 1-meter challenge, please remember to bring your fabric so that your team can play. After we complete general business, each group will play the 1-Meter Challenge game. Participants will be

encouraged to use the fabric to make something for the Exhibition in October. We will also show a video from LeahDay.com showing her husband Josh learn how to machine quilt on a domestic sewing machine.

Thursday 17th July — Modern Quilting, Baltimore Album Quilts, Kansas City Star Patterns, Crazy Quilts, etc. Quilting fads change through time. Today, Modern quilting is all the rage. But how has what's new and modern changed over the past hundred years, and how has it influenced how you quilt, even if you're a traditionalist. Suzanne Waithaka will give a presentation called, "What's Modern Got To Do With Me?" chronicling how trends in quilting (what's modern) changes and influences each generation of quilters.

Block of The Month

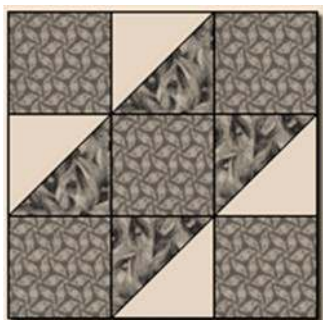
We had an overwhelming response to our first Block of the Month. The lucky winner will have a bumper number of blocks to piece together to make her quilt. The Guild has supplied the pattern and the background fabric for these blocks. Please remember that if you have taken a BOM kit and have not returned the made block, you will not be eligible to take the next month's kit.

The past block was not difficult to cut or piece and the same is true of this month's block. The made sample will be on display at the meeting. The blocks will however, become increasing more complex, but even inexperienced quilters will be able to cope with them.

Remember, if you are unable to attend the meeting, spare blocks are available at the Woman Shop each month.

There will be new block in June, but no block in July as the meeting will be followed by the Summer break. The BOM will recommence in September.

Contrary Wife



CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS:

Colour 1: (Medium Fabric)
One 4 ½" x 22 ½" strip
(Then cut again into five 4 ½" x 4 ½" squares)

Colour 2; (Dark Fabric)
One 5" x 10" strip

Colour 3: (Tone on Tone)
One 5" x 10" strip

PIECING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Speed piece Colour 2 and Colour 3, 5" x 10" strips right sides together and all edges aligned. On the back of the top strip, lightly draw in the 5" square line, then draw in the diagonals as shown below. Now sew a **SCANT ¼"** above and below the marked diagonals, pivoting at the square line. Cut this apart on the square line and on the marked diagonals between the rows of stitching. This will give you four half squares. Press seams towards Colour 2.
2. Trim to measure 4 ½" if needed.
2. Using the illustration at the top of the page, set the rows together.

Mystery Quilts

At present, there are a number of ladies working on their Mystery Quilts. Corrine shared her finished quilt with the members at the April meeting. In July, we wish everyone to bring their Mystery Quilt along to the meeting to Show and Tell. At coffee break we will be voting for Viewer's Choice and there will be a prize for the winner.

(continued on page 8)

Rhododendron Quilt Show

I think that spring has finally come to New England, the weather is getting warmer and the sun has been shining.

We are in full wedding mode at the Brewin household with my daughter's wedding next weekend (May 17th) and of course my granddaughter's come to Nonie's house quite a bit.

I have been working hard on different items for the next "Magical Art of Stitches" in October, my three entries for the October show are complete are yours?

At the same time I have agreed to be the Chair of the Rhododendron Needlers Quilt Guild, my guild here in the states. The theme to the show is African Quilts and I would like to have a special exhibit of quilts from Kenya. I am thinking they should be no larger than a wall hanging size.

I will be coming over for the show in October and at that time I would like to set aside a day that people can bring their possible entries to Sheryl Fowlers house, I will meet with them and we can decide if the size and design is what I am looking for. I would like to see wall hangings that have a very "African design" to it, embellishments, color and texture.

I would like to bring back between 20 & 30 wall hangings so please keep them smaller than a twin bed size. I also am willing to collect money if anyone wants to send their wall hanging to sell and I of course will return any not sold or not to be sold quilts. I will sit down with anyone who wants to sell their quilt and help you figure out a fair market value for it.

If interested or if you have any questions please contact me atsbrewin@comcast.net and I will try to

answer any of your questions or concerns.

I also have come up with a great idea for a workshop when I come in October so stay tuned for information about that.

Thanks to all of you in advance for participating in this wonderful chance to show how wonderful you are.

Best,

Sarah Brewin

One-Meter Fabric Exchange & Challenge

This is a Guild challenge idea or just something fun to do among quilting friends. We guided everyone to select a BATIK fabric, but you can come up with your own colour scheme. Guidance is needed as it helps keep the final color palette in a easier to use collection for the challenge.

Here is how to start:

- ◆ Everyone is to bring one meter of fabric that they LOVE. The reason you need to love it is because you will take home ½ meter of this piece. It will be the largest piece of your seven-piece collection.
- ◆ If doing it as a large group exchange, have everyone bring a small pair of scissors.
- ◆ Have the group sit or stand in a circle.
- ◆ Start by opening up the one meter of fabric with the selvage edge at the top and bottom.
- ◆ The name of the game is this for each round of the exchange: **"Fold It – Snip It – Rip It – Drop It**

– Pass It”

- ♦ Keep one ½ meter and pass the other ½ meter to the person on the right.
- ♦ You will now be in possession of new ½ meter of fabric.
- ♦ From here on out, always hold the fabric in your two hands with the LONGEST side across the top.
- ♦ Repeat “Fold It – Snip It – Rip It – Drop It – Pass It”
- ♦ Repeat until the sixth piece is ripped into about a 4” x 5” rectangle.
- ♦ Pass the seventh piece and now you are done!

You will now be the proud owner of 7 pieces approximately measuring:

- ½ meter (your original color)
- Fat Quarter (18” x 22”)
- 1 – 11” x 18”
- 1 – 9” x 11”
- 1 – 5 ½” x 9”
- 2 – 4 ½” x 5 ½”

You may introduce other fabrics to your original fabrics. The challenge is to now make something, large or small.

Challenge Quilts

Ladies, these quilts are still unidentified. If they are yours, see Sheryl at the meeting to identify them!



LEARNING TO QUILT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

By Suzanne Waithaka

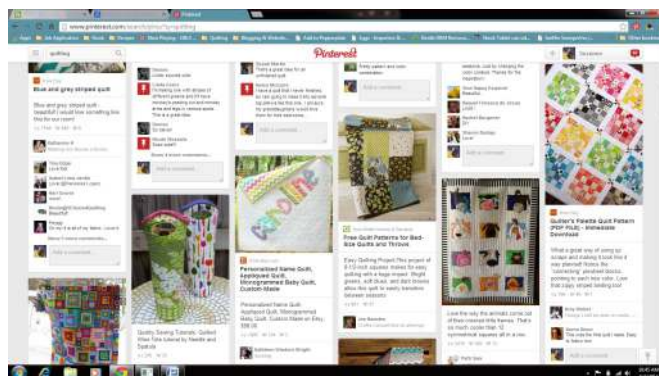
In past generations, women learned to quilt at their mother, or grandmother, or aunt's knee. Girls learned to trace templates, cut them out, and stitch them together in pleasing patterns. They learned to handle needle and thread and gossip at quilting bees.

In more recent times, many women learned their craft through classes at local quilt stores, by reading magazines and books or quilt guilds. But today, there is another way to learn how to quilt. With the growth of the internet over the past twenty years, we have seen a proliferation of blogs, Facebook pages, websites and YouTube videos that teach quilting. A simple search of the word quilting yields over 25 million hits.

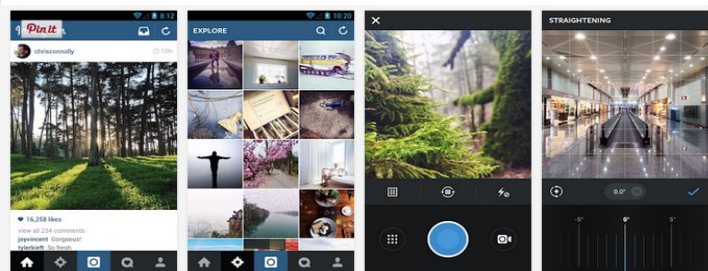
Inspiration

Most quilters get interested in quilting because they have been inspired by something they saw. When I was a girl, seeing the quilt my mother was making inspired me to piece my first quilt. Your first inspiration to learn how to quilt may have been similar. But today, there is such a vast variety of sources for inspiration, it can almost be overwhelming. Of

course, there are quilting books and magazines that carry beautiful sample quilts along with patterns you can make and alter to suit your needs. There are also wonderful trips to quilt stores that have samples and patterns for purchase. Online, you can find inspiration in many places.



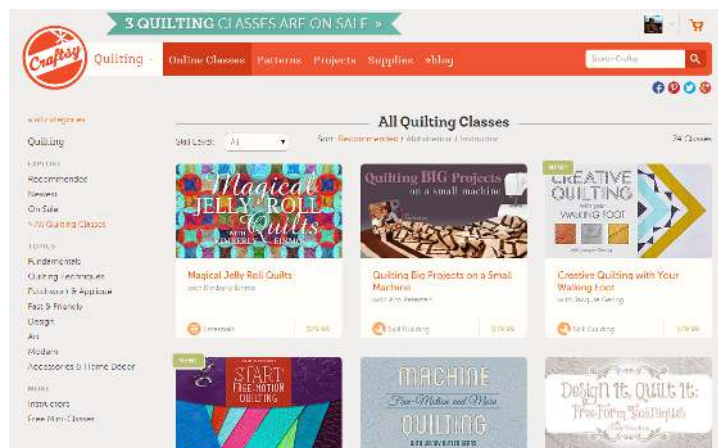
Pinterest is a great site that I was introduced to last summer. Create an account at www.pinterest.com using your email address, your Facebook profile or Google+ profile. Once a member, you can search for quilting, quilts, sewing, etc. The search will yield hundreds and thousands of wonderful images of



quilts, how-to's, patterns to download, and other sewing tips and tricks. Pinterest uses "pinboards" where you can save things for later. You can create your own boards; I have about fifty boards for everything from recipes, to gardening, to quilts I love and books I want to read. When you see something

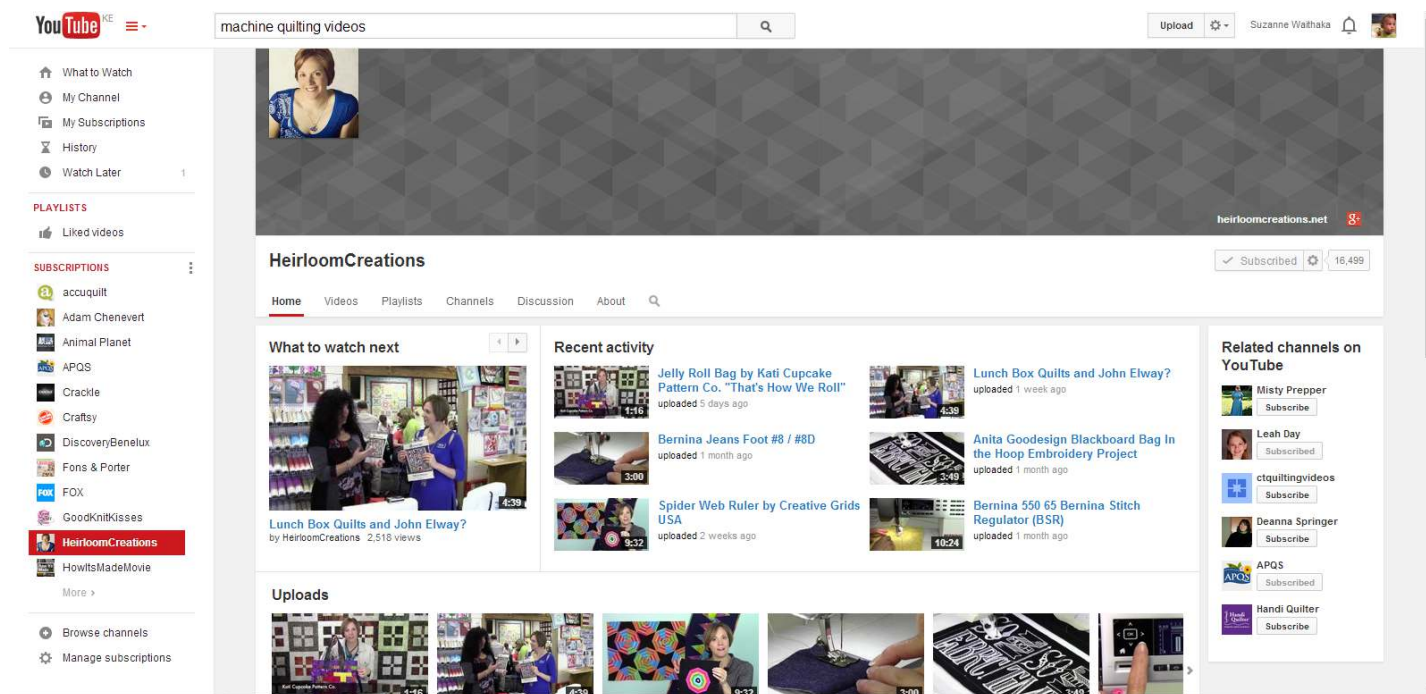
you like and want to save, you just click on the Pin it button and select a board to pin it to. You can also make a comment to help you remember why you pinned it like, "Make this for Sammy!" or "These colors are fabulous!" Many of the pins on Pinterest lead back to a website or YouTube video with more information. Be careful though; it's easy to lose an afternoon looking at Pinterest!

Instagram is another great place to get inspiration. Many quilters post pictures of their quilts on Instagram (especially the Modern Quilt Guild which I'll mention more about later). With literally thousands of pictures, you're sure to find a quilt you'd like to use as inspiration for your next project. Google+ and Facebook also have lots of members with quilting pictures and you can search for quilting and find hundreds of pages to follow. Finally, a Google image search can yield thousands of images linked to blogs, quilting websites, Facebook pages, etc.



Education

All quilters are lifelong learners. With each project we make, we learn something new. A new technique, a new pattern, a new thread, all these things thrill quilters. With the web, you can learn the basics, new advanced techniques, machine quilting, hand quilting, how to use specialty products and learn other complimentary crafts too. Sites like YouTube are a treasure trove of videos for learning about quilting and quilters, how to sew and piece, and how to both hand and machine quilt. A



quick search on the word “quilt” leads to 275,000 hits. You can filter your search further by using more specific search parameters like, “beginning quilting, quilting videos, quilting patterns, machine quilting, etc”. You can also subscribe to YouTube channels like AQS (American Quilters Society), Fons & Porter (publishers of books and magazines, as well as producers of the shows Quilty and Fons & Porter Quilting), The Missouri Quilt Company, Leah Day, and many many others. You will receive notification in your email when one of your subscribed channels uploads a new video, or you can “channel surf” looking for videos you want to watch from your favorite channels.

In addition to the free video education available on YouTube, you can also find many wonderful classes on Craftsy.com. Craftsy’s platform is wonderful for several reasons. You purchase a class for \$20-40 USD and have access to the class forever. You can watch and re-watch. You can also post questions and comments to other class participants and the teacher. Craftsy teachers will always respond to your questions, as will many of the participants. Also, you can upload pictures of your creations, leading to yet another source of inspiration. While Craftsy classes do have an initial outlay of cash, they are very well done, and usually teach much more than any single YouTube video will teach. You will learn how to do a new technique in depth and make a project during the class. Additionally, Craftsy frequently has specials and offers some free classes and free patterns. You can also buy patterns, books, and fabric kits for classes from their site. I’m not sure if they ship internationally at this time, but if they don’t now, they probably will soon.

Many quilting websites, like leahday.com, teach

individual techniques or have quilt-a-longs, or online classes. They are wonderful ways to learn a technique and can be watched repeatedly. The best thing about taking classes online is that you can “join the class” whenever you want and learn “on your own schedule”. If you only have one day a week or even one day a month to take a class and work on a project, that’s okay, because the online class is always available.

Patterns and Supplies

Now that you know how to find inspiration and education online, it’s time to find patterns and supplies online. Each of the sites previously mentioned (along with hundreds of others) offer free patterns. Many fabric companies and fabric designers offer a free pattern online to go with each new fabric line. The patterns are typically downloadable PDF files that you can print or save to your computer or tablet. Of course, not all patterns you see online are free. Many are listed for sale as PDF’s or patterns that would be shipped to you. These patterns are more typically from pattern publishers. Many quilting sites use or feature new products, rulers, and techniques and most either sell the product or have links to where you can purchase the product. Although, many of the international sites don’t ship to Kenya, we have some wonderful quilt stores here in Kenya that can get products for you and eventually online purchasing will be more available here. One place to buy patterns (and other craft items) is a fairly new site in the U.S. called Etsy. Some Etsy sellers ship to Kenya, but the patterns that are for sale are frequently downloadable PDFs. Etsy carries finished items as well as supplies. It’s kind of an upscale eBay or OLX for crafts and household goods.

Modern Quilt Guild (and other online quilting communities)

About two years ago, the Modern Quilt Guild was launched. It is an online guild with many local affiliate guilds. They held their first QUILT CONN in February of 2013, and plan to have their next QUILT CONN in 2015. You can see many of the speakers from the first QUILT CONN in a free Craftsy class. Fabric designers like Tula Pink, professional quilters like Amanda Walters, and 2nd generation quilt legends like Mary Fons spoke to huge audiences of ladies and you can see it for free.

The Modern Quilt Guild is as diverse as Modern Quilting is, and the online nature of the guild is phenomenal. The guild encourages members to post pictures on Instagram and has a blog and chat functions for members. This young and vibrant guild is growing around the world and the things they offer to their members through online offerings will only continue to grow.

No matter what your level of quilting knowledge and skill, the internet can be a source of inspiration, information, education, community, and even patterns and supplies. Take some time this month to learn a new technique, find a new pattern or just browse the internet to see for yourself what's available. I know each time I look online, I find another

teacher, another pattern, another Pin to inspire me. I challenge you to find your next quilting project or technique online.

SOPHIE STANDING TEXTILE ART

Some of you will remember Sophie Standing who showed us her work at a Guild meeting a couple of years ago. Sophie creates amazing textile art using appliqué and machine embroidery to embellish images of wildlife. Her latest exhibition will take place at the Talisman Restaurant in Karen 13th May through 1st June. All are welcome.



F.Q. of the Month

The premier FQoM was a huge success! Ragbir was the proud winner of over a dozen marbled fat quarters. If you want to join in this month, bring one (or more) fat quarters (18 inches by 22 inches) of a fabric fitting the monthly theme. Turn your fat quarter in when you sign-in and we will draw a winner after the tea break. Please roll your fabric

into a tube and put your name on it. We will draw one winner for every twelve fat quarters we receive.

May — Pastel fabrics
(prints or solids)

June — Black & White
fabrics

July — Polka Dots

September — Animal
Prints

October — Neutrals
(grey, beige, creams, or
browns)

Final Notes

PO Box 39482

Parklands 00623

Email:

kenyaquiltguild@gmail.com

Website:

www.kenyaquiltguild.org

Meetings

Venue:

Simba Union Off

Forest Road

Time

9.30am– 1.00pm

Monthly meetings

May 15, 2014

June 19, 2014

July 17, 2014

August—No Meeting

**This month's
contributors**

- ◆ Patty Arenson
- ◆ Suzanne Waithaka
- ◆ Sheryl Oliver
- ◆ Sarah Brewin
- ◆ Gill Rebello

MYSTERY QUILT

If you are unable to attend the meeting in July, please send your quilt with a friend or give it to a Committee Member before-hand. The quilts will be collected at the end of the meeting and taken away so they can be catalogued ready for the October Exhibition. It is important that there is a label on the back of the quilt with the quilter's name and don't forget the quilt will need a sleeve on the narrower side.

LIBRARY

The With a new quilt guild year starting, we'd like to find two missing books. If you haven't already checked your house, please check to make sure you don't have either of these books.

The missing books are:

327—Folded 3D Blocks by George Baron and Esther Vermeer

150—Blocks for Baby Quilts by Susan Briscoe

Editor in Chief : Suzanne Waithaka (suziwaithaka@gmail.com) the Editor-in-Chief welcomes contributions from all members. Please send articles for inclusion in the next edition of SNIPPETS to her email by 10th monthly.