

# SNIPPETS



Newsletter of  
The Kenya Quilt Guild

March 2012

## A note from the Chairlady!

*Dear Members,*

*It is good to be back home. We have a busy year ahead of us.*

*I am sad to say that this will be our last copy of "Snippets", and would like to thank Goodie for a job well done. Thank You, Goodie.*

*Ladies if there is anybody out there who would like to continue to do "Snippets", then please come and see me, otherwise you will now have to check our KQG Blog for updates and information.*

*We now have all the posts on the Executive Committee vacant and therefore would appreciate it if members would come forward to fill up these vacancies.*

*If I will not have any volunteers - then I will have to pick members myself.*

*We have lots of interesting classes coming up, so ladies please do join in and get the full benefits of all these classes.*

*Regards, Neela*

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# KQG QUILTER PROFILE: FARHAT KHAN

I started quilting in 2006, when I joined Kenya Quilt Guild. Later I served on the KQG's Executive Committee as the Newsletter Editor for two years. I participated in almost all the KQG's yearly exhibitions including "The Quilts of East Africa" in Ailsa Craig, Canada, in 2008.

Africa inspires me, both the wildlife and African cultures are rich sources of inspiration. Whenever I can, I participate in African challenge quilts. I depict hand carved wooden spoons, the Jacaranda tree, and beautifully carved gourds in my hand painted quilts/wall hangings.

Silk is a supple material and is loved by everyone. It is produced by silk worms. In places like Japan and China, people raise the worms to produce silk. The female moth lays about 500 eggs. After about 20 days the eggs hatch. The caterpillar feeds on mulberry leaves. When they reach maturity, their body becomes translucent ready to spin a cocoon. A silk worm is capable of spinning up to 1500 meter single silk thread in 48 hours.

It may take more than a hundred cocoons to make a small silk scarf. It's worthwhile to get a small piece of pure silk to make a scarf, likewise a very expensive pursuit, but once I am through with painting it, it pays my hard work off simply by looking at it.

I started painting silk scarves and material to make my own clothing as a pastime. It felt so gentle to the skin that I started loving it. It seems that it runs in my blood now. I am making an effort to at least let people know about it. Some of the samples that I made are shown in the pictures. Many are in the process of making. Some I use to make quilted wall hangings.

Pure silk absorbs color and is fun to paint on. Washing at home needs lot of pampering. Silk is washed with lukewarm water and is naturally dried. I do not wring the water out or deal with rough hands, a soft gentle touch is required. I do not iron directly. There has to be a cotton cloth between the iron and the silk. The best way is to get it dry cleaned but I have to give special instructions to the dry cleaner about ironing. It does not form static electricity as other synthetic fabrics like nylon do.



## MEETINGS

Regular general meetings of the Kenya Quilt Guild are held on the third Thursday of every month except August and December. Monthly meeting dates for 2012 are planned as follows:

April 19 2012

May 17 2012

June 21 2012

July 19, 2012

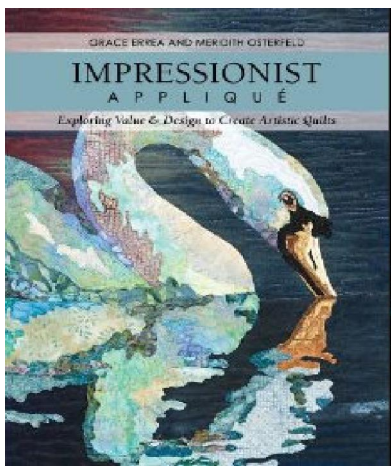
September 20, 2012

October 18, 2012

November 15, 2012

Monthly meetings are held at Shalom House off Ngong Road just past The Junction Shopping Centre. Meetings open at 9:30 am for a 10:00 am start, and generally run until lunchtime.

Visitors may attend up to 3 meetings gratis before being expected to join the Guild.



*This message has arrived from Grace Errea, who has taught patchwork quilters in Kenya in the past:*

Hello dear friends and Happy New Year?, Valentine's Day? Oh wait...St. Patrick's day, whatever! Long time and many days have passed and I am happy to send this email to all of you to let you know a few exciting things!

1) My book, Impressionist Appliqué, is finished. Finally I can move over to another page in my life. Not quite on the market yet. It will be in mid-April. But I have copies for sale and my website has the ability to offer you the book with or without the Value Chart or the Gray Scale. Take a look: <http://www.amazingquiltsbygrace.com/for-sale/>. The book looks beautiful. I am happy with it and I believe that you will be, too.

Impressionist Appliqué by Grace Errea

Impressionist Appliqué by Grace Errea

2) Classes have begun. I did a 4-day wonderful class at Road to California in January. It was a real fun class. I will be teaching again at Quilters' Paradise in Escondido starting April, May and early June. Maybe you would like to join me there! Check out my calendar for more dates and classes.

3) If you are interested in longer classes and want to get out of the winter cold weather, I have three classes in Scottsdale, Arizona in January 21-25, 2013. It would be nice to see you there and spend some quality art quilting time together. Check out the QID website: <http://www.quiltcamp.com/>

Please keep in touch and send me photos of your finished pieces. I would love to see them and enjoy them.

HAPPY QUILTING TO YOU! From my studio to yours!!!!!!

The Kenya Quilt Guild congratulates Grace on the publication of her book.

*Dear Members,*

*Please remember that March monthly meeting is on Thursday this week (March 15th). Deanna will be talking about batting and will share her expertise with us. We will also welcome Patricia Downes, visiting from UK, who is currently doing a course of lessons in machine embroidery. She has brought some of her exquisite work to show us during the meeting.*

*Please note that KQG will no longer be providing mugs or cups for coffee for guests or members. At Shalom House we do not have the luxury of kitchen staff to clear up after us. In spite of requests to members to wash their mugs after using them at the past few meetings our chairlady and other kind volunteers have been washing all the dirty mugs before packing them away. So if you want to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea - don't forget to BRING YOUR OWN MUG. If you have invited a guest, please remember to ask them to bring their own mug - or bring one for them.*

*Still on the subject of refreshments, the committee has also decided to do away with sign-up lists for goodies to enjoy with our coffee. We know that everyone leads very busy lives and it has become increasingly difficult to get volunteers to sign up to bring food along. So from now on - if you feel like bringing some goodies, please feel free to do so - they will be most welcome. If everyone is too busy to bring anything - well... will just enjoy our coffee!*

*Gill Rebelo  
on behalf of KQG committee*

## *Bits & Tips*

The most important aspect  
of measuring and estimating fabrics  
is accuracy.

Accuracy of measurements  
&  
accuracy in the cutting of fabrics.  
Measure twice, cut once!

## **THE KENYA QUILT GUILD NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

We have an exhibition scheduled for the weekend of May 10, 2012 at the Village Market. The price for the hall rental has risen almost 25% over what we paid for our last show. We are looking for sponsors to help offset this increased rental as well as to help cover our other expenses. An increase in entry fees for exhibitors will help, but it cannot cover the total shortfall.

If you can see your way clear to help us raise our goal of 50,000/= (about USD 600 or € 460 or £ 390), please contact us immediately, using the contact any of the committee members or email [kenyaquiltguild@gmail.com](mailto:kenyaquiltguild@gmail.com)

Many thanks for your kindness and generosity!

Ladies,

*The message below was sent out on February 18th, but some members say they never received it. There may have been a technical hiccup, so we send it out again:*

At the Executive Council meeting held on Monday, February 13th, there was a unanimous decision taken to postpone the KQG AGM until the April meeting. As you know, we are operating under a new Constitution, properly accepted and submitted to the Registrar last year. The need to push our AGM to the April meeting is one of two major issues of our new Constitution that we believe require re-examination.

Below is a list of proposed amendments to the Constitution that we expect to put forward at the AGM. Each amendment is accompanied by an explanation.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments for the Annual General Meeting to be held on April 19:

1. Proposed Amendment to change the date for the Annual General Meeting Present language: Annual General Meetings shall be held before April 1st of each year.

Proposed language: An Annual General Meeting shall be held during the regularly scheduled meeting time for the month of April of each year.

Explanation: In the past, AGMs have often been held during the regularly scheduled meeting in April. When the Constitution was written and approved in 2011, the thinking was to bring that date forward a little, but experience now shows that more time is needed between the holidays and the AGM. This time permits the Treasurer to finalize her records, submit them to the Auditors and for the Auditors to do their work approving the accounts and get their reports back to us before the AGM in April. A March AGM simply puts too much pressure on everyone.

2. Proposed Amendment to suspend publication of Snippets newsletter indefinitely.

Present language: Subcommittees shall be established as Membership, Education, Newsletter Publication, Exhibitions, Community Outreach [later in the document "and Charitable Works], and Advertising and Promotions.

Proposed language: Subcommittees shall be established as Membership, Education, Exhibitions, Community Outreach [later in the document "and Charitable Works], and Advertising and Promotions.

If accepted, this Amendment would require removal of the section under Purpose and Duties of Subcommittees, Newsletter Publication Subcommittee. This section provides general administrative guidelines for publishing a newsletter.

Explanation: We have been producing a more professional looking newsletter in recent months than in all our Guild's history. Producing that kind of newsletter requires extensive computer skills, something few of our members possess, and we do not at present have an editor. Most of the information going into Snippets is now broadcast to our members via our blog and content-specialized email messages like this one. Because of advances in computer technology in Kenya, and our members' gradual, albeit reluctant, acceptance of them, we can now both collect and communicate news to our members by means other than a published hard copy newsletter and we can do that in a fraction of the time. The feeling of the Executive Council is that Snippets has become a redundant and costly tradition that we can ill afford to maintain.

In addition to these two proposed amendments, there are some discrepancies in the Constitution that are minor but should be corrected: One of these is that Subcommittee Delegates to the Executive Council are in places referred to as Subcommittee Chairmen.

Another of these is the Subcommittee for Community Outreach and Charitable Works has been in at least one place referred to as the Subcommittee for Community Outreach only.

A third is that the items in the Constitution would be far more easily managed if a Legal or Harvard numbering system were implemented.

In the next week or so, we will undertake to make these non-substantive corrections and supply you with a fresh copy of our otherwise unaltered Constitution at least 30 days before our AGM. In the

meantime, please give the two proposed substantive amendments your full consideration and be prepared to speak for or against them during the AGM.

The Agenda for the AGM is included in our Constitution. It calls for election of Officers and a call for volunteers to serve on the Subcommittees BEFORE any discussion of proposed Constitutional amendments. Each of our Subcommittees involves more work than one person alone can manage, and your present Executive Council is struggling hard to keep up with all the affairs of the Kenya Quilt Guild.

All positions for Officers and Members-at-Large will be open for nominations: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Member-at-Large, Member-at-Large  
A call will go out for volunteers to serve on each of the Subcommittees:

If only one person volunteers to serve on a Subcommittee, that person by default becomes that Subcommittee's Delegate to the Executive Council and must attend all Executive Council meetings unless otherwise excused. If more than one person volunteers to help with a Subcommittee, it will be for all members of that Subcommittee to decide who amongst them will best represent their Subcommittee's interests on the Executive Council and that person becomes the Delegate

Each Subcommittee will meet as, when and where they decide, and perform their duties to the best of their abilities.

The Subcommittees are: Membership, Education, Newsletter Publication, Exhibitions, Community Outreach and Charitable Works, Advertising and Promotions

The Guild needs your talents and skills, however humble. We need your time and energy, even if all you can contribute is one hour a month. Most of all we need your willingness to help. Whatever contributions of these factors you can make will strengthen our organization and keep us all moving forward.

The day for our Annual General Meeting, April 19, 2012, will be upon us before we know it. Please think now about how best you can help your Guild, and come forward without having to be asked a second time!

Best regards, The Executive Council of the Kenya Quilt Guild; Neela Shah, Chairperson

#### 2011 Kenya Quilt Guild Executive Council

Family Name	Given Name	Office	E-mail 1 - Value	E-mail 2 - Value	Phone 1 - Value	Phone 2 - Value	Address 1 - Formatted
Arensen	Patty	Community Outreach and Charitable Works Subcommittee Chair	BPArensen@aimint.net	parenzen@aimint.net	0720 896 402		PO Box 21010 PC 00505 Nairobi
Bhamra	Poley	Member-at-Large	poleybhamra@gmail.com		020 445 0098	0733 770 938 ::: 0721 289 110	PO Box 17539 PC 00500 Nairobi
Crain	Dena	Advertising & Promotions Subcommittee Chair; Public Relations Officer	dena@denacrain.com		0733 782 147		P.O. Box 1141 Nakuru 20100 ::: PO Box 1141 PC 20100 Nakuru
Davies	Goodie	Newsletter Chair; Snippets Editor	goodie@affricaninteriors.co.ke		0727 516 877		P. O. Box 2323 - 00202 Nairobi
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Phull	Jasvinder	Immediate Past Chairman (non-voting)	The_Phulls@hotmail.com		020 374 6161 ::: 020 374 270	0733 785 786	PO Box 48338 PC 00100 Nairobi
Rebelo	Gill	Education Subcommittee Chair	rebelo@iconnect.co.ke		020 418 2776	020 4183593 ::: 0722 613 105	PO Box 44485 PC 00100 Nairobi
Shah	Noela	Chair	noelashah20@hotmail.com		0723 987 160 ::: 020 712 0300		PO Box 66619 PC 00800 Nairobi
Sokhi	Jasbir	Member-at-Large	daljiv_s@hotmail.com		0733 782 011 ::: 020 851 2236		PO Box 44499 PC 00100 Nairobi
Syan	Raji	Librarian (non-voting); Education Subcommittee Member	rajisyan@gmail.com		0722 362 362		PO Box 48045 PC 00100 Nairobi

# A Summary of February Meeting!

A lively and informative meeting was lead by Gill Rebelo, who announced that the Guild's AGM will take place at the April meeting (Thursday 19th). She reminded the membership of the need for volunteers for various roles on the Executive Council.

Raji Syan, our Librarian, advertised the book sale of the day and reminded us about the new arrangements for borrowing books – KSh 1,000 for the year, entitling the subscriber to take out two books per month. Those who wish to borrow on an occasional basis will pay KSh 200 per book.

Kundan Pattni explained that members can pay their dues at The Woman Shop and displayed the new plastic membership cards with lanyards. This may entitle members to a discount from certain fabric merchants.

Then Gretchen Sanders Mwaura showed some of the embellishments she is selling. These delicately polished and dyed animal and other motifs are made from bone by an artisan in Kibera called Kennedy. His wife has recently given birth to twin boys whom he has named Tony Blair and Bill Clinton!

Pauline Mang'ana talked about the upcoming KQG Quilt Exhibition at Village Market. She reminded us to look for sponsors and voiced the need for more volunteers for the Exhibition Subcommittee. The Subcommittee meets every Thursday.

Jasvinder Phull talked about the raffle quilts which she and a keen group of members are making to raise money during the exhibition for charities, the AMREF Obstetric Fistula program and The Dream Project Children's Home. She displayed a lovely top which is already finished. More volunteers are needed to help to complete the other two during the afternoon session. This is a valuable learning opportunity as well as a good cause.

Gill told us about the teaching spots she will be organising during the afternoons after the monthly meetings. Today's will be about hand-piecing. Six ladies were eager to attend. Gill went on to tell us about the Turkish quilter, Selma Kenter, who visited Kenya recently and brought catalogues of previous exhibitions held in Istanbul. There was a call for previously shown Kenyan quilts to go on display in Istanbul in May.

Gretchen informed us about the International Quilt Festival of Ireland being organised by Jim West. It sounds very interesting with lots of original types of exhibitions such as a 3-D quilted garden and loads of activities and displays such as traditional Irish handicrafts, dry stone walling, aran knitting and pub crawls! The idea of the '100,000 welcomes' quilt of green and white decorated hand print blocks was welcomed with much enthusiasm! There should be quite a collection of 'Karibu' blocks from Kenya.

Gill went on to tell us about the teachers who will be giving classes over the next few months. Sarah Brewin will be teaching her 'Dancing Ladies' quilt and Magie Relph has several possible classes lined up.

Show-and-tell was lots of fun. There were some beautiful bags on display, produced in Rhonda Denney's workshop last month. Loise's family were so impressed by her bag that she has had to make another four, one for each daughter! She had the very original idea of buying suit pieces (for salwar kameez) from Eastleigh where they are very reasonably priced. These printed pieces of fabric are especially designed to go together and made very attractive bags.

Jasvinder showed the bag she designed and made for carrying her equipment to workshops. She will be teaching a two day course on this next month. ?Gill showed a very colourful carpenter's wheel to inspire another monthly class in March. Patty displayed her lovely landscape quilt, started in Rhonda's class. Induben showed her landscape quilt of Mount Kenya which included a small figure – her grandson – observing the grandeur!

After a break for refreshments, we had a really interesting and enlightening talk about fabrics from Gill Rebelo. She demonstrated the burn test for determining whether a fabric is pure cotton or not and gave us lots of other information on fabric structure, design and choice for quilting.

Welcome to the Kenya Quilt Guild!