

# SNIPPETS



Newsletter of  
The Kenya Quilt Guild

Jan & Feb 2012



## A note from the Chairlady!

Dear Members

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR. Hope all of you have had a good holiday and cant believe that we are already into 2012. How the year has passed so quickly!

This New Year we have lots to look forward to. We are starting the year with classes from Rhonda, from the day of our first meeting. For those of you who have not signed up, please do so as we are really running out of time.

Its once again time for our yearly subscriptions, so ladies please start

As you all know by now, that from this year we will be holding our monthly meetings at Shalom House, so we hope to have an even bigger turnout of members at the meetings, as we are now not in town and can't complain about traffic. Ladies, I would also like to point out that as this is a new venue, please be careful of all your belongings and handbags and do not leave them lying around as we do not want complaints later that some people are missing stuff.

Ladies, its going to be time for our AGM in March, so once again we have to get new people for all the positions. Please start thinking about it and let me have names, otherwise I will have to go around picking at you all. I know all of you are capable and so please, we need new names.

As we had mentioned last year, this year we will be having a library fee of 1000/- for the year and those of you who pay upfront, will be able to take out 2 books every month and/or if you take one book than you will have to pay Kes.200/- per month. Also this way we are making it easier for our librarian - less paper work, and costs you Kes.50/-per book. So make sure you all join this month.

I hope all of you are working hard for our Exhibition this year which is nearing soon. I would like to inform you all that Village Market have given us a discount on the renting of their Hall.

I will be away for next month's meeting, as am travelling, but will see you all in March.

*Neela Shah*

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# My Apologies!

*Due to unavoidable circumstances I was unable to send Jan 2012 Snippets,  
I therefore combine some bits from last month.*

*I encourage you as a KQG member to share your quilting experiences, tips, jokes, recipes etc.  
to this newsletter to make it fun and interactive.  
If you have any ideas of making it better - please share.*

*It is our newsletter, what role will you play to make it fun???*

*Have a fun filled month, show some care and love to all dear to you!*

*Happy Valentines!*

*Goodie O Davies*

## 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:

January 19	April 19	July 19
February 16	May 17	September 20
March 15 (Annual General Meeting)	June 21	October 18
		November 15

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.



*May no one ever come to you  
without going away better and happier.*



*Everyone should see kindness in your eyes, in your smile.*

*Mother Teresa 1910-1997*

# JANUARY 2012 MEETING REPORT

For our January monthly meeting, we met on the 19th at 10:00 a.m. at Shalom House off Ngong Road just past The Junction Shopping Centre. The meeting started with our Chairman Neela Shah welcoming all members and visitors after the Christmas break.

A word of thanks was extended to Bibiana Pereira, one of our Guild members who offered her wonderful home to members to celebrate 2012 Christmas lunch.

Neela made a few administrative announcements and recognized Mercy Mungai, one of the visitors who joined the Guild the same day.

Neela informed members that the Executive Council was working hard to get a good retreat place around Naivasha or Limuru. Though Resurrection Garden in Karen, 20km from Nairobi, was floated as a good venue, it was felt that members should be in a more distant place, away from the hassles of the City. Brackenhurst Conference Center had been earlier suggested as a possible place through the Kenya Quilt Guild Face book. The decision is still to be arrived at by the Executive Council.

It was good news to hear that Village Market has given our members a discount on the rental fee for the exhibition and Neela requested members to look for sponsors from various companies. The last day for submission of quilts for the Exhibition is 19 April 2012 and there will be a charge for late entries.

Neela announced the coming Annual General Meeting to take place on 15 March 2012 and new Executive Council members are invited to come on board. This happens every two years according to our Constitution.

Dena Crain gave a practical presentation on how to access the KQG blog. Dena expressed her concern that every member should interact with the blog regularly. The practical presentation was done with a lot of clarity and professionalism that left members wiser than when they came in. Dena highlighted that sending information to be included in the blog is a form of advertising and every member was free to do so. She added that linking with other internationals expands our networks through hyperlinks and blogging. More link-up was important with those quilting groups who are like minded.

We had a wonderful show-and-tell session and members rushed to the front to exhibit their work. All in attendance enjoyed seeing and learning a few techniques from the different finished pieces.

## *Be a Queen*

*"Be a queen. Dare to be different. Be a pioneer. Be a leader.  
Be the kind of woman who in the face of adversity  
will continue to embrace life and walk fearlessly through the challenge. Take it on!  
Be a truth seeker and rule your domain,  
whatever it is - your home, your office, your family - with a loving heart.*

*Be a queen. Be tender. Give birth to new ideas and rejoice in womanhood...  
My prayer is that we will stop wasting time being mundane and mediocre,  
we are here to teach the world how to love.  
It does not matter what you have been through, where you come from,  
who you are - not your social or economic status. None of that matters.  
What matters is how you choose to love, how you choose to express that love  
through your work, through your family, through what you have to give the world.  
Be a queen. Own your power and glory!"*

*Oprah Winfrey*



# International Quilt Festival of Ireland

## June 7th - 10th, 2012

# YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE

Jim West, founder of Sew Many Places and Quiltposium Magazine, will arrive soon in Kenya to personally collect six round-robin quilts made by six of our members especially for the Patchwork Promises Exhibition, part of the International Quilt Festival of Ireland to be held in June of this year. We cannot show you our quilts for the Exhibition, as all are under wraps until the Festival opens.

Will YOU be there?!

Below is a copy of an open letter to the Kenya Quilt Guild from Caitlin Hacker of the International Quilt Festival of Ireland.

Why not enter one or more of the amazing exhibitions that are lining up fast? ANYONE is permitted to enter!

*Dear Kenya Quilters,*

*My name is Caitlin Hacker and I am emailing on behalf of the International Quilt Festival of Ireland. I am contacting you because we thought it would be a grand idea to invite members of your quilt guild to show quilts at our festival, and represent your entire guild with a quilt for one or two of our exhibits. I wanted to share with you two unique exhibits that we feel are going to gather a lot of attention at the festival. The first is called, "My Quilted Garden" and the second is "Yin & Yang."*

*"My Quilted Garden" will transform a large room in one of NUIG's (the university campus we have turned into a Quilter's Village) oldest building into what we envision will be an extraordinary walk-in garden, with beautifully colored 3-D flowers, plants, shrubs, trees, grass, and even a stream, while birds are chirping, bees are buzzing and incredibly colorful flower and garden quilts line the walls to enclose the garden setting. It is going to be lovely. We are offering a \$1000 (approx. 750 EURO) cash prize to the best entry in the exhibit, whether it be flowers or a quilt that hangs on the wall.*

*"Yin & Yang," however, is something on the opposite side of the spectrum that is more challenging, but equally as fun. Each quilters who participates will have to create two quilts, one that represents their artistic side as an art quilter and one that allows them to create something traditional. it is the same theme for both quilts, one made using more of a right brain application and the other using the left brain. The winner of this exhibit entry will receive a cash prize of \$2,500 (approx. 1,750 EURO). Having one quilter from your guild to represent the entire guild would be truly exciting.*

*The deadline to complete these entries is April 1st, which would mean the creativity and quilting would need to start soon. The sizes are not very large, so we feel it is very do-able within the timeframe, especially making the 3-D flowers and plants for My Quilted Garden.*

*Just to let you know, we have all of this information available on our festival website, <http://www.IQFOI.com> and if nothing else, the Ceard Mile Failte quilt block entry could also be a nice contribution to the exhibits, as quilters around the world trace their hand and make a quilt block they applique and design that will be sewn with other blocks as the official "welcome exhibit" at the festival each year it is presented.*

*Thanks for considering all of this, and I do hope members of your guild would like to participate. To be honest, I think it could be really fun for members of your guild to sit around one afternoon or evening and make fabric flowers and represent your guild with a nice little bundle or patch in the garden. That sounds like a lot of fun to me!*

*Have a wonderful day, and thanks again for your kind support!*

*Cheers, Caitlin*



### 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
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# KQG QUILTER PROFILE: GRETCHEN SANDERS MWAURA

I began with patchwork. Its therapeutic precision, discipline and repetition reawakened my mind, which had been rendered void by severe depression. Having retired from nursing in 2005 I immediately joined the Kenya Quilt Guild where a whole new creative world opened up for me.

With three traditional quilt tops ready to be quilted by someone else I met Alison Farmer, a prolific hand quilter. With a little blood and a few tears she taught me to hand quilt and I was well and truly hooked!

Living in Kenya for twenty-three years has given me a passion for all things African. It's wealth of inspiration almost matches the infinite possibilities of quilting. All this can be somewhat overwhelming and as a 'budding' quilter I like to be guided, whether it is by a book, a challenge, a theme or a teacher.



*Helping Hands by Gretchen Mwaura*

My aim is to flower as a quilter and develop more as an artist in my own right.

I have a passion for fabrics, colour, beads and embellishments. I love dabbling into other mediums that can later be incorporated into quilts. I am inspired by the vastness of Africa, her quirkiness, the wildlife, landscapes and people.

My marriage to Peter, a Kenyan, has given me tremendous insight in to the Kenyan way of life and its challenges.

Through him I have been given opportunities that I would never have dreamed. We have a luxury tented camp for tourists in the Masai Mara, a haven of peace and beauty.



*Yuvuzela! by Gretchen Mwaura*

I have exhibited in the Kenya Quilt Guild shows in Nairobi and at Ailsa Craig in Ontario, Canada, and have sold several wall hangings.

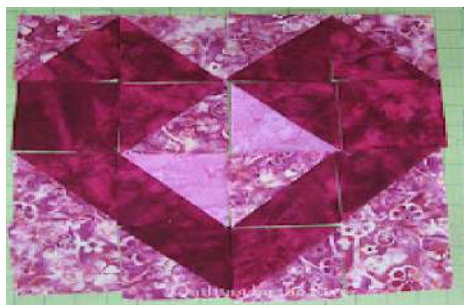
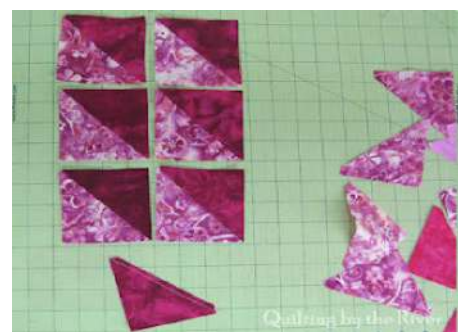
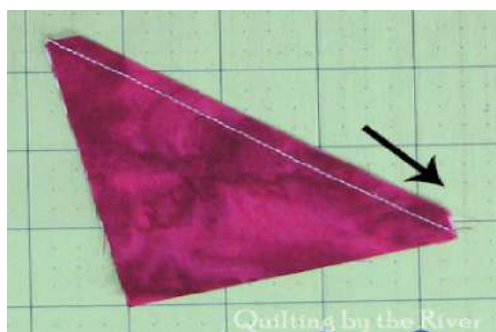
Currently I am working on a commissioned piece and a 'round robin' quilt that will be exhibited in Ireland next year at the International Quilt Festival of Ireland.

Quilting is unifying. I know that I could contact a quilt group anywhere in the world and be welcomed. I thank all the friends I have made through this art for their inspiration and guidance.



*Sun and Sky by Gretchen Mwaura*

# Picture Inspiration!



## Garlic Ginger Pork

2 cloves garlic chopped  
1/4 cup chopped fresh ginger  
1/2 cup chopped sweet onion  
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley  
salt and pepper to taste (if desired, you won't miss it if you don't add it)  
3 Tablespoons Olive oil

1 pork loin roast I used a 1-2 pound roast for 4 people.

Combine all ingredients except the meat in a large ziploc bag and let "marry" for about 10 min. Add the roast and then squeeze as much air out of the bag as you can and rub the marinade around the pork and put in the refrigerator for 2-3 hours to marinate.

Pre-heat oven to 425. Line your baking dish with foil (for easy cleanup)  
Add your roast marinade and all, cover with foil.  
Bake for about 40 min or until done.

# Selma Kenter – Turkish Quilter in Kenya



Our encounter with Selma Kenter, a Turkish Quilter, visiting Kenya this month was very exciting. Her brief on her quilting life and overcoming many obstacles was worth listening to as the old Chinese Proverb goes that "... a conversation across the table is worth more than reading a dozen books ..."

Selma's dream of becoming a quilter was difficult during her early stages. However, doors opened after she met with one of the Turkish Textile Arts Association teachers who was a great source of encouragement to her.

Selma's interaction with Kenya quilters gave a good platform for promoting our African theme quilts in Turkey.

This was a continuation of what we heard separately from our Kenyan quilter and artist Dena Crain even as she was quoted recently in the Business Daily that "Our quilters are gradually gaining confidence with the African designs.

Selma has been able to get nuggets of wisdom from The International Quilt Study Center & Museum which is the home of the largest known public collection of quilts in the world.

Kenyan quilters are now wiser and ready to bring forth more designs as needle encounters fabric.



## *Bits & Tips*

Take care not to stretch the bias edges of the quilt top when pinning and stitching the borders

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The use of walking or even feed foot is very helpful when machine quilting.

It feeds top and bottom fabrics through the machine evenly.