

SNIPPETS

The Kenya Quilt Guild Newsletter
September 2014

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September Fat Quarter - Bring and Win!

This month our fabric is ANIMAL PRINT. Bring a fat quarter meter of a animal print material and you will be entered into a drawing to win all the animal fabric which others also bring! This is a great way to increase your stash quickly!

A Note of Thanks

Many thanks are to be given to KUNDAN PATTNI and JHARNA KAMDAR for their combined efforts in landing us the sponsorship from I&M Bank Ltd. for our exhibition. Kundan began the process with initial dialogue, getting the forms and filling them out on our behalf. Jharna was a former employee of the bank and, engaged in further dialogue, and helped us to fine tune our application, submitting a letter, prepared by Sheryl Fowler, describing our organization and the purpose of our request. This joint effort yielded considerably positive results, with I&M Bank agreeing to a generous sponsorship for the 2014 Magical Art of Stitches Exhibition. We are grateful to these ladies for their help.

Many thanks also to JHARNA for taking up the editorship of SNIPPETS. She has agreed to not only to edit Snippets, but to change us over to the new MailChimp format. Welcome, Jharna and thanks so much.

General Information:

KQG's Coordinates:

Address: P.O. Box 39482; Parklands 00623, Nairobi.

Email: kenyaquiltguild@gmail.com

Website: www.kenyaquiltguild.org

KQG's Meetings:

Venue: Simba Union Club, off Forest Road, Nairobi.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Monthly meetings (every 3rd Thursday of the month):

- * September 18, 2014
- * October 16, 2014
- * November 20, 2014

Contributors to this month's edition of Snippets:

- * Patty Arensen
- * Sarah Brewin
- * Sheryl Fowler

** A Word from our Chairperson

This September is a busy one for the Kenya Quilt Guild—our Exhibition at Sarit Centre is the first weekend in October. There are last minute finishes happening on quilts throughout Nairobi and our Exhibition Committee is in full swing. Our meeting this month is on the 18th and is the day that our quilts are due. We hope to see each of you with your arms full of your handiwork from the past 18 months.

As I was doing my own preparations, I came across the following story. I hope that it will remind us of helpful attitudes we should have towards one another:

“Gallopig Horses”

“I would have never stuck to quilting if it weren't for my Grandma Brown.” Laura stood by her quilt hung at the quilt festival. “My other grandmother, Grandmother Winters, always won first prize in quilt exhibitions. If she didn't think it was good enough to win, she didn't enter it. She demanded perfection from herself, ripping out and reworking so she could win. As a child I didn't notice the subtle differences that made one quilt win over another.”

“Grandma, let me stitch a little on your quilt,” I'd ask, but I was always given a different square for practice. Then Grandma checked it and turned it over to examine the stitches on the back, clucking her tongue all the while. She'd hand it back to me, telling me to rip it out and do it again. I spent more time ripping than sewing at her house. I hated it.

“But at Grandma Brown's house, she'd look at my work and call out to my mother or Grandpa, 'Will you look at Laura's quilting! She improves every day. Why I declare, she is becoming a little seamstress.'”

“When I'd get discouraged because the points and edges of my pieces weren't matching exactly right, she'd dismiss the problem with a wave of her hand saying, 'You'll never notice it on the back of a galloping horse.’”

Isn't that a wonderful way for us to look at the flaws in each other? Why point out the problems a person has? They are probably painfully aware of them anyway. If we dwell on another's faults, we forget to notice his or her good qualities, and we may become discouraged from offering

them friendship and acceptance. As we gallop through our days, life goes too fast to waste time criticising. Let's concentrate on noticing the improvements and strengths in everyone. Encouraging words create growth and determination to improve. "Galloping Horses" from The Quilt of Life, by Mary Tatem, Barbour Publishing, 2011.

So let's bring our quilts in to be shown in our exhibit. Let us be proud in how we have improved since our last exhibition. Let our words be encouraging to each other. Perfection is NOT the goal! Sharing and improving is. Remember –"You'll never notice it on the back of a galloping horse!"

Let's Celebrate Quilting—
Patty

** What in the world is a White Glove Lady?

There are many jobs that need to be done during our exhibition and one of them is that of a White Glove Lady.

If you choose this assignment, your work will be two fold. First, your job will be to welcome visitors and to make them feel at home. In a way, you are the hostess and you are welcoming them and answering any questions they may have. To set yourself apart, you will be wearing white gloves and your Quilt Guild name tag. If you see someone looking at a quilt intently, you may go and agree with them that it is beautiful and ask them what they like about it. This increases their enjoyment and may even sell a few quilts!

Secondly, the White Glove Lady's job is to protect the quilts. If you see someone touching a quilt, ask them not to do so. The quilts are not to be touched with bare hands. Hands may not look dirty, but their natural oil will stay on the quilts and attract dirt. You will be able to show guests the backs of quilts while wearing your white gloves. If necessary, you may lend them your gloves so they may touch the quilt for themselves.

There should be no food or drink around the quilts. How do you stop the drinkers? Don't scold them, but apologize. "I'm sorry, but we can't have coffee by the quilts. May I help you find a place to put it until you are ready to leave?"

So a White Glove Lady is a hostess of the exhibition AND she is a watch dog, but the watchdog must not forget to be a hostess first.

Patty

** African Quilts in US Show

To All Members of the Kenya Quilt Guild:

Hope all is well and you are busy finishing those last binding stitches for your entry to the Magical Art of Stitches.

My guild here in the states is having a show in March 2015. We always have a special exhibit and this time we would like to feature Quilts from Kenya.

So here is where you come in – I would like every much to bring home 20-30 wall hanging size quilts to be exhibited at our show. I remember some wonderful quilts from the last show and I am sure there will be many more at this year's show. I am looking for "African" looking quilts, design, embellishments and materials.

I will be responsible for bringing your quilts to the US and back to you and or bring you the sale amount if your quilt indeed does sell.

I will be at the Kenya show every day and would love to meet with you and talk about your quilt coming to the United States to be exhibited and sold if you so want. We can discuss a reasonable price which will be paid to you in US dollars. If you are not able to attend the show you can reach me on my mobile 0726 449028, I am staying with Sheryl Fowler so you can also reach me through her mobile.

This is a wonderful opportunity to have your work exhibited in the United States.

See everyone soon,
Sarah Brewin

** Deanna Gaudaur's Award-Winning "NEW BEAUTY"

Deanna Gaudaur may now live in Canada, but she is still one of us at the Kenya Quilt Guild. She recently won first place for her long arm free motion quilting on New Beauty. This incredible quilt was first shown at one of our KQG shows. Now the world knows what we have known all along: Deanna is a first-class quilter!
Patty

A description of this quilt by Deanna:

** New Beauty

Deanna Gaudaur, Trenton, ON
Visit artist's Web site/Blog (<http://www.quintestudios.com/quilting>)

Dimensions: 55" x 55"

Techniques: Longarm-quilted, free-motion embroidery

Photography: Michael Gaudaur

Artist's Statement:

New Beauty is a wholecloth quilt, based on the traditional New York Beauty block. Karen K. Stone's Cinco de Mayo quilt patterns and Emma of Sampaguita Quilts provided inspiration and permission. The designs were done on my shortarm machine, entirely hand guided while on the frame. This was intended to be a portfolio of stitches but suddenly a work of art emerged and I fell in love with the simplicity of the thread.

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Our Visit to Shipshewana, Indiana

Shipshewana is defined by its surrounding Mennonite and Amish communities and the small town character. Agriculture is the primary industry. The town is less than one square mile in size with a population of approximately 500 people. Shipshewana is home to the "plain people": Mennonite and Amish. Their influence contributes to Shipshewana's unique small town atmosphere, which is also characterised by quaint downtown buildings.

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Wanting to learn more of the Amish and Mennonite, we visited the Menno-Hof Museum. This was a fantastic centre that educates visitors on the people and their history and religious beliefs. Exhibits led us to understand their philosophy, religion and way of life. The Centre is fantastic in sharing the story of the Amish from their beginnings. Several rooms have videos as you go through the centre. Plus there are numerous stations and exhibits that further explain and assist in better understanding the Amish and Mennonites. Mennonite and Amish groups all stress that they should live out their beliefs in daily life. While the groups agree on basic Christian doctrine, their differences come in interpreting how those practices should be lived out.

Today some practices among the Amish include: Untrimmed beards and hooks and eyes in place of buttons on outer garments of the men; horse and buggy transportation; horse-drawn implements for farming; plain and distinctive dress patterns; no electricity or modern conveniences in homes. Mennonites believe in simple living, but express that simplicity in a spirit and awareness of the needs of others rather than completely separating from society as the Amish continue to do. They seek further education, hold jobs and mix with general society. So in short, Amish use no machines or modern inventions, including zippers. They are home schooled and kept away from modern thought and progress. On the other hand, Mennonites, have the same religious beliefs, but join in normal society practices. Quilts made by Amish are hand cut, hand pieced and hand quilted. Quilts made by Mennonites, have been cut using rotary blades, machine pieced and hand quilted.

Having seen the few quilts in the museum, we were still hungry to see more quilts from the area. We were advised to visit a particular quilt shop that took quilts on consignment from mainly the Mennonite Community. It was a nasty, rainy day, and it was the perfect choice for an indoor activity. Here are some of the quilts that we saw that day:

Sheryl Fowler

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The Editor welcomes contributions to Snippets from all members. Please send articles for inclusion in the monthly edition of Snippets by the 10th of each month.