

SNIPPETS



September 2011

A note from the Chairman!

Dear Members,

Hello to all and hope you all have had a good summer holiday. Hope you all are working hard on getting quilts done for our upcoming exhibition which has now been decided to be on the 10th-13th May, 2012. The venue will be Village Market for now but if any changes we will let you know.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lulu, our secretary, who has resigned as she is now starting full time college, for the good work that you have done although it was only for a short period. All the best to you.

Also FINALLY the time has come for us to submit our Quilts for the African Challenge at our meeting on the 15th, so ladies please bring your quilts all ready to be submitted and shown at the meeting. I would like to point out to those of you who are submitting quilts that your quilts will be on show at the current meeting and we will have a people's choice, but the quilts will also be judged by our judges and the results will be announced at the next October meeting. The prizes are going to be as follows:

We will have 3 prizes:- 1) Judge's Prize - Kes. 3000/-.

2) Judge's Prize - Runner Up - Kes. 2000/-

3) Viewer's Prize - Kes.2000/-.

All the prizes above will be used to cover the cost of classes to be held in 2012 only. The winners will be handed out signed letters which should then be presented at the classes for next year.

Ladies, I would like to inform you all that from January 2012 our subscription fees for membership will be going up to Kes.1500/- per annum. There will be no subsidy for anyone except for those who have been awarded honorary membership. For those of you who wish to pay half yearly may do so.

With regard to the Library, from January 2012, members can pay Kes.1000/- upfront for the whole year and they will be able to take out 2 books per month, which means that you get to 20 books for the whole year. For those of you who would not like to pay upfront, books will be Kes.100/- and DVDs will be Kes.150/- and magazines will be Kes.50/-. Ladies, do take advantage of this, as you can take more books out and we have lots of new books in the library.

That's all for now and Happy Quilting

Neela

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ALISON FARMER'S FAREWELL BLOCKS

Alison Farmer was in Nairobi for a few days recently and some of us were lucky to be able to meet her and catch up with her news.

Alison is now settling into life in Italy and has made contact with other expatriate quilters there, although she is yet to link up with Italian quilters. She has a lovely studio in her Rome apartment and continues to quilt avidly when not exploring the streets and restaurants of Rome or entertaining visitors. Maureen Dougherty visited her recently when passing through Rome and Alison says she would love to hear from any other members who might be heading to Italy.

One of Alison's first quilting projects, after settling in to her new flat, was to assemble all the lovely blocks made as farewell gifts by KQG friends. Before she left Nairobi last year Alison chose a red and white kanga fabric and distributed pieces to interested members to challenge their creativity. The result was over 30 blocks, each one very different.

Alison chose to make two quilts from these - one a small wall quilt which hangs on her studio wall, and the other a large fleece backed lap quilt to cuddle under when she watches tv on cold Italian winter evenings. As she says, she is surrounded by memories of her quilting friends from Kenya.



Quilts...

Many of the quilts of yesterday took a lifetime to make. Perhaps the mystical part of quilts—the aspect that makes them almost human—is the countless hours of work and devotion it took to create a masterpiece of the heart.

Beyond their beauty and usefulness, quilts possess a magic that will never die, for all of life's hopes and fears, loves and hates have been sewn into them. Long ago, a woman whose quilt took her nearly 25 years to finish, remarked, "I tremble sometimes when I remember what that quilt knows about me."

Log cabin quilt
Log cabin quilt

Little is known of the women who stitched the quilts of old; most remain anonymous. The exact origin of quilts is also somewhat sketchy. The name derives from Latin meaning "stuffed sack," which was translated into Middle English as *quilt*, meaning "wrap around the body," providing both padding and blanket. A partial unraveling of quilt history reveals that the oldest example of patchwork, a canopy for an Egyptian queen, dates back to 960 B.C.

Generally speaking, a quilt consists of three layers: the top, the filling, and the back. Wool, silk, or cotton were common fabrics for the top layer and muslin for the backing.

In the earliest quilts, grass and leaves or feathers were used for the filling. After the top had been meticulously pieced together, the three layers were assembled and laid over a quilting frame supported by legs, sawhorses, or chair backs. In the South, the quilting frame was often suspended from the ceiling. The layers were then joined together by quilting, the running of stitches through the three layers of material.

SOUTH AFRICAN QUILT FESTIVAL 2011

After qualifying for our South African Accredited Judge awards in July, Dena Crain and I were free to attend the 16th S African National Quilt Festival. Hosted by the Good Hope Quilters' Guild, it was held in Stellenbosch in the Western Cape, the heart of the wine producing area. Unfortunately it was freezing cold for most of our stay and we didn't venture into any vineyards - all wine tasting was done in the comfort of cosy restaurants although most of our dining took place in the girls' school hostel where most of us were staying. Stellenbosch is the second oldest town in S Africa and many of the buildings are built in the picturesque Cape Dutch style. It is a charming town, surrounded by hills and full of interesting shops and galleries and well worth a visit if you are in South Africa

The theme of the Festival was "Alive with Colour" and the Festival Logo showed Table Mountain in rainbow stripes - a play on the Rainbow Nation.

You can see pictures of the winning quilts on the quilt festival site at [SAQG website](http://www.saqg.co.za)
www.quiltsouthafrica.co.za/gallery.php
and a few more on <http://www.quiltfestival2011.co.za/page42.html>

Gill Rebelo

News

British quilter Lynne Edwards, who held very successful classes in Nairobi for KQG members a couple of years ago, was invited to hold an exhibition of all her quilts alongside the annual Quilt Guild of the British Isles conference earlier this year. Lynne is known worldwide for her books especially Sampler and Cathedral window books.

When she was in Nairobi she was starting a new series of quilts based on historic tiled floors. The picture shown is a recent one in this series.



*Blessed are the children of the piecemakers for they shall inherit the quilts!
Every quilter has a masterpiece within. Finished is way better than perfect!
I'm creative. You can't expect me to be neat too.
Quilting is cheap therapy. The one with the most fabric at the end, WINS!*

African Quilt Challenge

Deadline Postponed

KQG Members, please note:
The deadline for completion of your
African Challenge Quilt

at our regular monthly meeting on

September 15, 2011.

This extension of time should ensure that we receive
the best possible entries, and plenty of them.

Use your summer holidays wisely, and work on your
African Challenge Quilt!

please let us know if you are participating in this challenge,
to help in organisation: kenyaquiltguild@gmail.com



"Masai Woman," Quilt by Bubby Ghataure
- courtesy KQG blog

Next workshop will be on 22nd of September at Jasvinder house from 10 am to 4 pm. Bring your machine, some pieces of purples and greens or some african fabrics left over...please make a point of coming even shortly we are working on the raffle quilts for our next exhibition!

Fabrics...we need some greens and purples for one of the raffle quilt...so bring along the extra piece you may have either at our next meeting or at next workshopwe also need some african print as we ran out ...do I need to say it should be 100% cotton ... thanks for your support, looking forward meeting you there!

Martine Chamorel



KQG lap quilt - quilting not yet complete!

FEATHERED FIBERS by Carla Barrett



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Humour

You know you are a Quilter If.....
There's more Fabric in the House than Food
"Fat Quarters" are not the heaviest part of your body
Your ironing board is always set up but you never iron clothes
You think of your job as an interruption of your quilting time
You pet Fabric
People are always picking threads off you
You can measure a scant 1/4 by eye
"Featherweight" Doesn't mean Boxer
You clean up your sewing room & your family thinks

SEPTEMBER 15th MONTHLY MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the Kenya Quilt Guild will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011. Our guest speaker will be Dena Crain, who will give a digital presentation and lecture titled "World of Color." This presentation is a simplified version of color physics and theory. It's a must-see for all quilters who want to learn more about why some colors work well together and others do not.

at Shalom House on Ngong Road
beginning at 9:30 a.m.

*** check map on google or kqg blog



MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETINGS

September Thursday 15th
October Thursday 20th
November Thursday 24th

Participate by send any tips, quilting inspirations stories, recipes, jokes etc - together we can make our KQG newsletter worth looking forward to!
kenyaquiltguild@gmail.com

Friendship Quilt A quilt made by a group of friends for one person, with each participant making and signing a block or more for the quilt top. Sometimes called a Signature Quilt.
Round Robin Swap - a popular swap among a group of friends either online or not. A small piece of a quilt is started by each, then sent to the next quilter who adds to it, then it moved to the next and so on. When the Swap is complete each quilter has back the original piece with the additions of everyone else in the group

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	BFArensen@aimint.net	parenson@aimint.net	0720 896 402		PO Box 21010 PC 00595 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@africaninteriors.co.ke		0727 516 877		P.O. Box 2323 - 00202 Nairobi
Kuria-Chamoro	Martine	Vice-Chair; Member of Education Subcommittee; Member of Exhibition Subcommittee	mchamoro@gmail.com		0722 236 266 :: 0733 619 235		PO Box 6390 PC 00100 Nairobi
Mang'ana	Pauline	Exhibition Subcommittee Chair	jpmangana@gmail.com		0722 491 567 :: 0722 434 146		
Oniango	Lulu	Secretary	oniangolulu@gmail.com		+254 700 346 553		P.O. Box 29086, Nairobi 00625
Patel	Rashmika	Treasurer	rashmika17@gmail.com		020 444 3453	0733 879 719	PO Box 41027 PC 00100 Nairobi
Patni	Kundan	Memberships Subcommittee Chair	cnpatni@thowomanshop.net	kcpatni@yahoo.com	020 374 8374	0734 304 820 :: 0722 671 550	PO Box 39482 PC 00623 Nairobi
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	Neela	Chair	neelashah20@hotmail.com		0723 987 160 :: 020 7 12 0300		PO Box 66619 PC 00890 Nairobi
Sekhi	Jasbir	Member-at-Large	dajiv_s@hotmail.com		0733 782 011 :: 020 851 2236		PO Box 44498 PC 00100 Nairobi
Syan	Raji	Librarian (non-voting); Education Subcommittee Member	rajsyan@gmail.com		0722 362 362		PO Box 48045 PC 00100 Nairobi

TIPS & TRICKS

If you've ever had problems with your sewing machine you know how frustrating it can be to have your project held up and your time wasted while you try to fix what you think is wrong. Here are a few tips to help you keep your machine running smoother longer.

1. If you're having problems with your machine the best first step is to clean it, then lubricate it where needed (lint can absorb oil). Removing dust and lint from the machine may be all you need to get it working smoothly again.
2. Lint that's built up in small areas may be removed with dental floss. Use the non-waxed kind to avoid getting wax in your machine.
3. After you've oiled your machine sew on some scrap fabric first. This will pick up any excess oil and help keep it from getting on your next project.
4. If you're considering doing anything more than routine cleaning and oiling, check the manual first. Some parts of the machine are meant to be serviced only by professionals, and if you remove anything else you may void the warranty. (This isn't an issue, of course, if the warranty has already expired.)
5. Cover your machine when you're not using it. This will keep dust out of it - a big consideration if you live in a dry climate.
6. It's a common practice to moisten the end of the thread when you're getting ready to thread the needle. But some experts say this isn't such a good idea, because it makes the thread swell, making it harder to get it through that tiny hole. Instead, try snipping the end of the thread at an angle. The "point" you create when doing this should make threading easier.
7. Does the pedal of your sewing machine "travel" across the floor as you're using it? Try putting a piece of something rubberized, like a non-slip drawer liner or a mouse pad (with the top fabric removed), under it.
8. If the light bulb burns out let it cool before changing it (unless your machine has a special sheath designed for that purpose). This might sound like a no-brainer, but it can be frustrating to have your work interrupted and tempting to just get the change done as soon as possible. Unfortunately, your efforts to speed up the process may actually slow things down if you burn yourself trying to remove a hot bulb.
9. Regarding sewing machine bulbs: When you're purchasing a replacement make sure you match the wattage, either by consulting the manual or by taking the old bulb with you to the store. If the wattage is too high the bulb could get too hot and melt any plastic parts nearby.
10. Use the best quality thread you can get. Cheap thread will make more lint, which will increase the chance of problems with your machine or your project and require the machine to be cleaned more frequently.
11. If your machine is computerized plug it into a surge protector rather than straight into the wall outlet. This will help eliminate major damage from electrical surges produced by thunderstorms and other less natural phenomena.
12. Be careful where you put magnets (like magnetic pin holders) if you have a computerized machine. Just like a "regular" computer, some of these machines can't handle being too close to objects that have magnetic fields.

The sewing machine is a wonderful tool for many projects. Take good care of it and it will reward you with many years of faithful service.