



SNIPPETS

The Kenya Quilt Guild Newsletter

January 2015

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"Happy New Year!" - A Word from our Chairperson

This isn't an unusual greeting in this world. What is different is WHEN you say it. Where I come from, it is a greeting used on the first of January. One day. When I moved to Nairobi and lived through my first holiday season, I was surprised how long people kept using this greeting. It seems one continues to say, "Happy New Year!" the first time you have seen a person since 1 January. I have been greeted this way throughout January and into February! In Nairobi, "Happy New Year!" is more than a greeting, but it is a blessing one gives their friends for the coming year. So... "Happy New Year," Kenya Quilt Guild! May 2015 be filled with God's blessings in each one of our lives!

New Year's is also a time of setting resolutions, or goals, for the new year. You may remember that last year I set a goal of making a new quilt every month. I saw a need to simply speed up the process of quilting. What I thought

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1,500/- p.a.

was a matter of speed ended up being more of an issue of making time to quilt. I love to sew and create, but life had a way of crowding out what I love. So I cleared away time eating things, became more efficient in the tasks about the house, and learned to say “No!” to things that I could do but wasn’t particularly good at doing. Then I had the time to do what I really love. Quilting.

In September, opportunity knocked, a request beyond what I had even hoped for. My pastor from my home in Minneapolis came for a visit and commissioned me to design and make 6 double-fronted quilts for the sanctuary of our church. They are huge – 3.5 feet by 8 feet. They would like them done by May when we visit the States. I don’t think it possible for me to have all 6 done, but possibly 5. I would have never even considered this task, if I hadn’t first discovered that I could make a quilt a month. So clean up your schedule and make time for what you REALLY love – quilting.

Happy quilting! Happy New Year, Kenya Quilt Guild!
Patty Arensen

It's time for the Next Challenge - It's the New Year

Our Guild’s Challenge last year was a great chance for our members to experiment with their creativity. We had 39 entries, all different, all interesting. They made a spectacular display at ‘The Magical Art of Stitches Exhibition - 2014’.

Each member that wishes to participate, will be issued with a packet that contains: The guidelines for the Challenge, such as size restrictions, a template and two pieces of fabric.

Starting with the larger piece of fabric and the template, you will be able to construct an applique elephant. This can be raw edge applique using straight stitch, zigzag, blanket stitch, satin stitch or any decorative stitch. If you wish you can needle turn the edges, use freezer paper, x-ray sheets or Heat and Bond. This can be attached by hand or machine. The smaller piece of fabric is for the

3. Kits & Calendars

elephant's ear.

4. Quilting Tip of the
Month

Your finished piece can be no smaller than 12" and no larger than 36" on any side. Shape has no restriction, but the piece must be sandwiched and quilted, and most importantly have a **sleeve** and a label containing the **quilter's name** and the **name of the piece of work** on the back. Hand quilting or machine quilting will be acceptable; as little as you would like or as much as you would like.

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

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

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

- January 15, 2015
- February 19, 2015
- March 19, 2015

The elephant must be situated somewhere on the front of the quilt. The rest of the design is up to you. Let your imagination run away with ideas. Any type of embellishments can be added to your liking.

You will have quite a while to finish this Challenge, so there is no rush. The Committee will decide which future monthly meeting will be the most appropriate and you will be advised well in advance.

If you are unable to attend the January 2015 meeting, Challenge packs will be available for collection from The Woman Shop. The cost of the kit is totally subsidized by the Guild, so if you take a pack, please make sure that you finish the Challenge.

YOUR CHALLENGE QUILT WILL BE EXHIBITED AT A FUTURE MEETING, VIEWED AND VOTED 'VIEWERS' CHOICE. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD PLACES.

Sheryl Fowler

How to make Continuous Prairie Points

In case you cannot attend the January Monthly Meeting and have missed the video and talk on Continuous Prairie Points, here is a summary:

- **Step 1.** Measure each side of quilt, and add 6 inches to each measurement to get the length of the fabric needed for each border.
- **Step 2.** Cut lengths of fabric 8 inches wide for each side.

Membership Renewal:

Being a member of the Kenya Quilt Guild provides each one of us with many opportunities to learn, interact with fellow quilters and have lots of fun. The Committee is sure that we all want to keep this valued membership alive - and it is that time of the year when membership renewal fees are due. So, dear members, please remember to bring in Kshs. 1,500/- per member to renew your membership for 2015!!

Kits & Calendars:

We will be selling the kits and calendars at the meeting. There are limited numbers left, so please ensure that you have the opportunity to buy whatever you would like. Don't forget to bring money along.

Quilting Tip of the

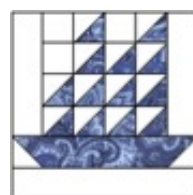
- **Step 3.** Fold each strip in half lengthwise, wrong side together, press sharply.
- **Step 4.** Unfold. Starting on one edge, mark off in 4 inch segments on each side of center line. Stagger the lines 2 inches apart on either side of the fold.
- **Step 5.** Cut on each mark being careful not to cut center line.
- **Step 6.** Make prairie points with right side of fabric down.
1st fold: on first 4" segment, fold corner diagonally.
- **Step 7.** 2nd fold: fold 2nd corner diagonally.
- **Step 8.** 3rd fold: fold corner diagonally on 2nd segment:
- **Step 9.** 4th fold: fold prairie point #1 up:
- **Step 10.** 5th fold: fold 2nd corner diagonally on prairie point #2:
- **Step 11.** Press and pin prairie points.
- **Step 12.** Repeat step 6 through end of fabric strip.
- **Step 13.** Sew prairie point strip 1/8" along straight edge.
- **Step 14.** Pin and sew to quilt top.
- **Step 15.** Turn quilt to back, turn under edges of quilt back, and sew around perimeter of quilt.

You can watch the YouTube presentation on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25fnkU7L2qc>

Sheryl Fowler

Block of the Month - *Tall Ships*



Month:

Super-fine glass head pins are fabulous for piecing. Because they are so thin, they don't distort or shift the fabric when pinning, and because they have glass heads they don't melt when ironing over them. They also come in extra-long.

Contributors to this month's edition of Snippets:

- Patty Arensen
- Sheryl Fowler
- Gill Rebelo

This Pattern is fun and makes a cute baby quilt. Since there are many small pieces, please ensure that your seams are an accurate **scant** ¼" and that you iron carefully to prevent puckers and loss of measurement.

Fabric Requirements:

Colour 1: Any Medium Fabric	One Strip 2 7/8" x 20 1/4" One Strip 2 1/2" x 12 1/2"
Colour 2: Tone on Tone: (Provided by KQG)	One Strip 2 1/2" x 43" Then cut again into: <u>one</u> 2 1/2" x 12 1/2" strip And <u>two</u> 2 1/2" x 8 1/2" strips And <u>five</u> 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" squares One Strip 2 7/8" x 20 1/4"

Directions:

1. Take the Colour 2 Tone on Tone 2 7/8" x 20 1/4" strip and on the back side, mark vertical lines at 2 7/8" intervals making seven sections. Draw one diagonal line through each square alternating the direction of the diagonal lines.



2. Pin this Colour 2 strip, right sides together onto Colour 1, 2 7/8" x 20 1/4" strip. Sew **scant** ¼" on each side of each diagonal.

3. Cut apart on each drawn line, making 14 half square triangles. You will only need 13 for this pattern. Iron towards darker fabric. Cut off 'rabbit ears' and trim to 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" if necessary.

4. Using the half squares you have just constructed and Colour 2, 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" squares, construct the four rows as shown. (Finished sails 8 1/2"x8 1/2").



5. Place the remaining two Colour 2 squares right sides together against the ends of the Colour 1 2 1/2" x 12 1/2" strip, with edges aligned. Draw in the diagonals as shown

and stitch **ON** the drawn line. Cut off the excess corner, pressing the remaining ¼" towards the triangles.



6. To finish up the block, sew the two Colour 2, 2 ½" x 8 ½" strips to the sides of the centre unit. Sew the Colour 2, 2 ½" x 12 ½" strip to the bottom of the boat unit. Add the boat unit to the top part, and it's done!

Sheryl Fowler



Quilting Classes for Beginners

I am planning to start quilting classes for new quilters again, hopefully by the end of the month or early February. I am moving house to Bendera Lane, Spring Valley shortly and the start date depends on how quickly I can get settled. The class will be once a week, possibly Wednesday but I can be flexible, and it will be a full morning, starting at 9.30 am. I will be charging 500/- per class and this money will go into the Guild fund which we are launching to buy a new sewing machine for classes and demonstrations.

At the class, you will learn to make a sampler quilt using a selection of the hundreds of traditional 9 patch blocks available for quilters. Once you learn the method I use you will be able to make many of these blocks without needing to follow a pattern. We will be piecing by machine but I can also teach hand piecing for those who prefer. You will be able to make either a small lap quilt or wall hanging, or if you are ambitious you can make enough blocks for a bed quilt.

If you attend the January meeting this week you will see the quilt top I am using for teaching samples which will be used for a Block Challenge this month (see below for more!)

I will have a sign up list at the meeting. If you need more details you can contact me at gillrebelo@gmail.com or on

Gill Rebelo

Member Opportunity - *Jelly Roll* *'Jewel in the Park'* Workshop



Sheryl Fowler will be offering a Jelly Roll workshop for KQG members in February, venue Simba Union, date to be announced at the January Monthly Meeting, but we are hoping for Thursday, 12th February if the rooms are free.

A full day workshop will cost only Shs. 1500.00, all proceeds to be donated to the Guild's 'Sewing Machine Fund' which will be intended to purchase new machines. The Guild will be sponsoring the room rental cost and quilters will be supplying the fabric. Members will be asked to bring a pack lunch and drinks. Coffee and tea will be provided.

'Summer in the Park quilt' is made using strip piecing techniques and tubing method of construction. This workshop is suitable for beginners, intermediate and advanced patchwork quilters.

There is **no** need to purchase Jelly Rolls for this workshop. The main colour fabric can be cut from your stash and you will need only 2 m of co-ordinating background/sashing fabric and 1 m of fabric for your border/binding to complete the quilt front. This will make a quilt that is approximately 56" x 72".

To cut the partial jelly roll you will need 12 pairs (24 in all) of colour strips cut 2 ½" x WOF (width of fabric 42" wide). You will need 32 strips of background/sashing fabric cut 2 ½" x WOF. All cutting of strips must be done in advance.

Supplies:

- Sewing machine, extra needles and extension cord (instruction booklet);
- Neutral thread (off white/light grey etc.) and bobbins pre-wound with same thread;
- ¼" foot
- *Rotary cutter
- *Cutting mat
- *12 ½" square ruler
- Pins
- Seam ripper
- Scissors

**Can be shared*

Irons and ironing boards will be supplied by the Guild

In order to enrol, a deposit of Shs. 1000.00 must be paid in advance. A sign up list will be available at coffee time and thereafter at the Woman Shop. We can only accommodate 15 ladies so we will be on first come first serve basis.

Sheryl Fowler

Block Challenge at January Meeting

For me, a fun part about making traditional blocks is looking into their names. Some of these have fascinating histories; others are random and obscure and open to our imagination. They can be derived from nature (Clam Shell, Maple Leaf, Snowball), from animals (Bear's Paw), birds (Flying Geese, Turkey Tracks), from people (Dutchman's Puzzle, Contrary Wife) or from a host of other sources. I could go on but instead I will invite you to take part in the 9 Patch Challenge.

The 9 patch block has hundreds of variations and is one of the most versatile quilt blocks. It is the block I use to start beginners on their quilting journey

At the meeting this week I will be showing my teaching sampler quilt and challenging members to name the thirty 9 patch blocks it contains. You may find you know a particular block by more than one name. That's fine - you will pick up extra points! There will be a small prize for the winner so do a bit of block homework before the meeting and see if you can name them all.

Gill Rebelo

The Woman Shop - Discounts offered!

10% discount on fabrics, minimum purchase of ½ metre.

Quilting books will be available for sale by Kundan at the meeting for Shs. 1200.00 each.

Kundan Pattni

Wanted - A Volunteer Photographer

We are in need of a member to take photographs during the monthly meetings of presentations and 'Show and Tell'. This member need only take snapshots with a small digital camera or iPad and send them to Dena each month. Please speak to Patty if you are interested.

KQG Committee

Snippets Editor: Jharna Kamdar (jharna.rk@gmail.com)

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.

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