



SNIPPETS

The Kenya Quilt Guild Newsletter

July 2015

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A few words from Gretchen Sanders

At the May meeting someone said to me 'I wish I was as good as you'. She was referring to my quilting. This started me thinking.....

We all aspire to be better, that is a good thing. But sometimes such aspiration can block our way. We can become overwhelmed by all the amazing achievements of others and feel we will never reach that level of expertise.

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General Information

KQG's Coordinates:

Address:

P.O. Box 39482, Parklands
- 00623, Nairobi

Some of us are self-taught, others attended classes but we all started somewhere, even me!

As a quilter you can never stop learning, for the possibilities in this art form are infinite. Everyone needs to learn the basics and everyone needs to brush up on their basic skills too. It is easy to become sloppy, to save time or thinking 'I know it all, I don't need to attend that class or read that book' By attending a class or participating in 'Block of the Month' for instance, you become more skilled.

Inspiration is everywhere- just look around you. It may be a mix of colours, a tiled floor, some architecture, a carved door, a book, a photograph. Keep a note book nearby. The times I have thought of an idea in the middle of the night are endless! If you are lucky to have a work room, cover the walls in inspirational images, collect interesting things.

If your mind is blank, your muses are taking a vacation, make a traditional block, follow a pattern, do something. Ideas will come. Artist's block is scary, especially if you have a deadline- it often happens to me. I have a small bag full of pieces of paper numbered 1-30. Each number corresponds to an instruction. I pull out 10 numbers at random and follow the instructions. This is a great way to get going again.

Learn from each other, if you want to learn a certain technique- ask someone who knows to teach you. Let us know what you would like to learn.

Finally, NEVER put yourself down. Strive to do the very best work you can and be proud of what you achieve.

Gretchen Sanders

Quote of the Month!

Email:

kenyaquiltguild@gmail.com

Website:

www.kenyaquiltguild.org

KQG's Meetings:

Venue: Simba Union Club,
off Forest Road

Time: 9:30a.m. to

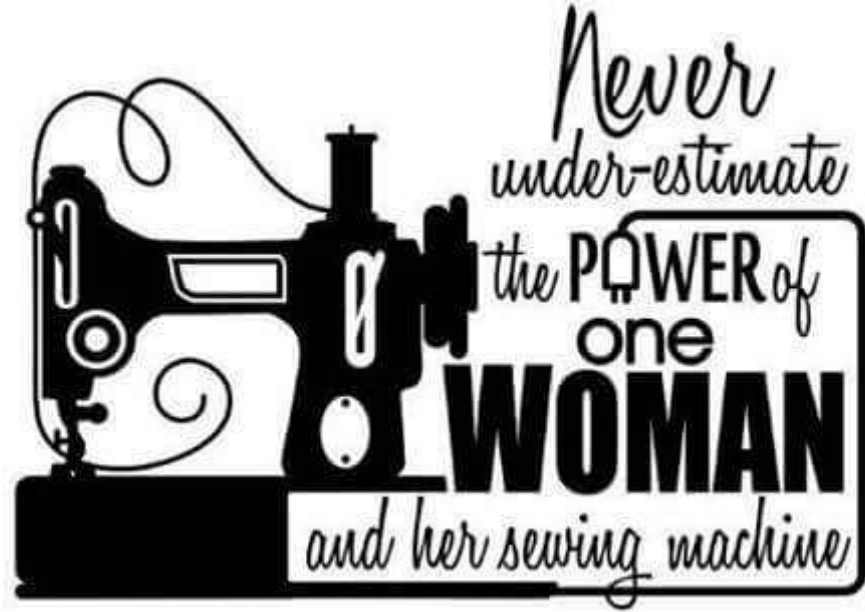
1:00p.m.

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

- July 16, 2015
- No meeting in
August 2015.
- September 17, 2015

Payment by M-Pesa:

You may now pay for
your Kenya Quilt Guild
Subscription or your
classes with M-Pesa!
Our telephone number
is 0726 849033. We
are all about being

**KQG Calendar - 2016 - Important!**

For those of you who submitted photos of your quilts at the June meeting as well as those who subsequently submitted photos to Kundan at The Woman Shop, please bring the original quilts and give them to Gretchen at the July meeting. Gretchen is liaising with the Photographer who will make the final selection of the quilts to be included in the KQG 2016 Calendar.

The Log Cabin Block

DID YOU KNOW?

There are thousands of quilt blocks and patterns that have been designed, created and sewn throughout the years in America. Many of the patterns were the work of homesteading women.

You might well ask what is 'homesteading'? The Homestead Act was the brainchild of the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. In essence this act enabled any person to file for 'free land' that was given by the federal government for settlement. Often the trek to the granted land took months. A list of supplies was given to grantees and on this list were always quilts.

convenient!

Nibbles:

Apart from the fun we have at the monthly meetings and the visual feast we enjoy through 'Show and Tell', there is much fun and enjoyment to be had when our taste buds are tantalised and our stomachs satisfied!

A kind request to members - please bring some snacks to share at our monthly meetings if you can.

Kenya Quilt Guild's

Facebook Group Page

Dear Members,

The Kenya Quilt Guild has a presence on Facebook, as a Facebook Group at:

There were over a hundred and twenty years' worth of popular patterns which were used between 1862, when the Homestead Act was first introduced and when the Act was repealed in 1986.

The **Log Cabin** is one of the most well-known and popular of all patchwork patterns. To the pioneers, it symbolised home, warmth, love and security.



The centre square was made from red fabric to represent the hearth, the focal point of life in a cabin or home.

The name, **Log Cabin**, comes from the narrow strips of fabric, or "logs" arranged around the centre square. Each fabric strip or log was added to the pattern in much the same way logs were stacked to build a cabin; and because the straight lines and small pieces of the pattern could utilise almost any fabric scrap available, it often became the final step in the recycling of fabric.

Many **Log Cabin** patterns were worked in two colour schemes, lights and darks, divided diagonally in the middle. This represented the sun's east to west movement in the sky. As the sun rose, its light shown on the cabin, creating the light side of the block. As the sun travelled west, part of the cabin was left in the shadow, creating the dark side of the block. This is often called the Sunshine and Shadow.

<https://www.facebook.com/>

[groups/134328889915923/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/134328889915923/)

This Group Page is eagerly awaiting the participation of all KQG Members - look forward to seeing posts from all of you on this Page.

Contributors to this month's edition of Snippets

- Gretchen Sanders
- Sheryl Fowler
- Gill Rebelo
- Jharna Kamdar

Sheryl Fowler

Elephant Applique Challenge

How are you getting along with your Elephant Applique Challenge? If you have finished your project, you can hand it over to Gretchen at the next meeting. We will be collecting the Challenges up until, and including the September meeting.

At the September meeting, the entries will be hung for everyone to see and members will have the opportunity of voting for their favourites. The three ladies who receive the most votes will receive gift vouchers.

It will be exciting to see how many different variations we as a Guild can produce. Last year, the diversity was amazing and the talent of our members was astounding.

Please remember that each wall-hanging must be sandwiched, quilted, have a sleeve and a label. The label should have the title of your Challenge and your name along with any other information that you wish to include.

Sheryl Fowler

Raffle Quilt & Member Involvement

As mentioned in the June edition of Snippets, the main raffle quilt for the 2016 Exhibition will be designed using pinwheel blocks.

We are asking our members to provide the Committee with **FIVE DIFFERENT, 5" x 5" BLUE 100% COTTON SQUARES**. It seems that blue and white quilts are very popular and will attract more raffle ticket sales.

This is an opportunity to dig around in your scraps and find suitable pieces to cut for the raffle quilt. We will need a great number of squares to make a king size quilt.

We look forward to receiving your 5" x 5" squares at the July meeting. We will need hundreds of squares to accomplish our goal.

Sheryl Fowler

Sad News re: Jane MacAskil

We are sad to announce the death last month of KQG member Jane MacAskil at Diani where she and her husband had a home. Jane was diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus shortly after volunteering to edit Snippets and had been courageously battling this disease for the last few years, remaining her normal cheerful self and not letting her illness alter her life style. Our thoughts go to her husband and family at this sad time.

Gill Rebelo

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.