

# SNIPPETS

## Kenya Quilt Guild Newsletter



OCTOBER 2012

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Ladies,

Once again its time already for our meeting again. Our September meeting was a really enjoyable meeting, and everyone liked all the different kinds of applique. I would, once again, like to thank all the ladies who did the demonstrations for the appliques. We have had requests for classes for these, and maybe next year we can do a few.

Ladies, we have so many exhibitions next year, so I would suggest to you all that you start making African, Traditional, Art and

whatever you like working on, and as many as you can. We need lots of quilts. So get cracking!!!

Christmas is now approaching fast and if anyone has any suggestions for our Christmas Lunch, please let me or Deanna know. Thank you

Regards,

Neela

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### CRAZY PIECED CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS



This is a full day class and will be held at Shalom House on Thursday 22nd November. If you would like to learn crazy quilting, but do not want to make a stocking, you can make a cushion cover using the same technique. If you plan to join the class, start collecting your scraps. Seasonal reds and/or greens make lovely festive stockings but you can also go for shiny silks, satins and velvets for a luxurious look. Light weight furnishing fabrics also work well. There will be some scraps fabric available at the class for sharing.

Cost of class 1,200/- Supply list will be distributed later.



## AFRICAN TEXTILES

The African continent has a long history of producing high-quality, museum-worthy textiles. If you spend just ten seconds looking up kente cloth, bogolanfini (mud cloth), or kuba cloth on Google Images, you'll be dazzled by the beauty and variety of just these first three examples of African textiles, and there are many, many more. As a quilter, though, you probably wouldn't find yourself cutting up those prints for a Nine-Patch block. I mostly use West African wax prints, batiks, and hand-dyes in my quilts, all of which are well suited for quilting, although the colors and scale of the prints might be a bit of an adjustment.



### WAX PRINTS

Wax prints came to the continent through the efforts of European colonizing nations to sell their machine-made imitations of Indonesian batiks in the African market. Flaws in the process of copying the batik style, which made these fabrics unappealing in Indonesia, became must-have variations that were very popular in African countries. Excessive cracking of the resist (resin in place of wax), and problems registering secondary colors in the printing process which led to slight overlapping of colors, are considered hallmarks of this fabric style. Despite printing advances which could easily eliminate these "problems," popular demand requires that wax prints retain these quirky bits of personality. Nowadays these fabrics are made in several countries, including cheaper copies made in China for the African market. Some of my favorites are from Senegal, Ivory Coast, and Ghana.

One of the most fun things about these prints is that their scale is often so large that you hate to cut them up because the 11-inch tall giraffe, 10-inch tall women, or 15-inch tall Korhogo figures will be lost!

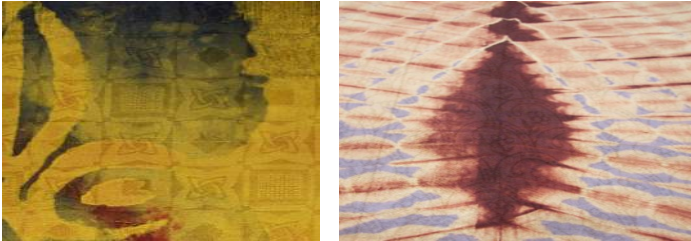
### BATIKS

African batiks are made in basically the same way as Indonesian batiks, with a pattern laid on cloth with wax and then over dyed, but the African patterns used are quite different. Geometric designs are more common than florals or botanicals, and the wax is most often applied using stamps carved by the artist from gourds or wood as opposed to the intricate metal tjaps traditionally used in Indonesia.



## AFRICAN TEXTILES

Other fabrics have been dyed using patterned brocade as a base. So, in addition to the design from the dye, there is also an underlying pattern from the weave visible when the cloth is turned to catch the light. This gives the fabric a depth that rewards closer look. In these two photos, you can see the pattern of the brocade under the dye:



Sometimes these beautiful hand-dyed pieces are sold paired with coordinating solid brocades, ready to be used as a skirt or trim I also find home decor fabrics here that I like—check out the photo of my favorites.



A company called Woodin in Ivory Coast is the manufacturer. They make excellent bags as you can see! for a garment made with the more flamboyant partner.

Many of these bold, striking, and dynamic fabrics are routinely used in clothing, which leads to a big problem for me. I often see someone wearing a shirt or a dress that is made from a fabric that I love and it's a struggle to resist hitting the brakes, pulling over, and begging these



unsuspecting people to sell me their clothing! I should be required to put a sign on my car that says "Warning: fabriholic in vehicle—your clothing is at risk!" I admit that I have serious fabric envy whenever I go out. I'm not looking for a ten-step program though—who wants to be cured? It's better to go shopping!

## QUILTS

I'll leave you with a couple photos of quilts made with African fabrics. The first is a quilt my students and I made in Ouagadougou for a raffle, which features motifs fussy cut from a delicious pile of prints.



This second quilt, "Susuwe," is mine. I combined many African fabrics with focus fabrics I printed using hand-carved wooden blocks from Namibia. In many ways, this quilt is really a collaboration between me and my friends who carve these fantastic pieces of art.



*By Paula Benjaminson*

# QUILTS FOR CHARITY

Sometime ago, we received unfinished baby quilts from Horse Quilt Shoppe in Canada. The owner, Jane Burise gave 18 ready quilt tops, backing and batting. They were brought to Kenya by Kundan Pattni and were quilted and bound by Kenya Quilt Guild members.

Heshima is a daycare home for special needs kids out near Lenana School. There are 17 children who come to school with their mothers every day. Moms work at a bead project in order to support themselves while their children get occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy.

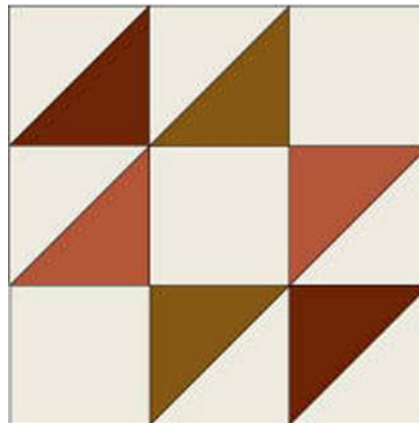
Patty Arensen & Elizabeth Cheserem visited Heshima daycare home on 10 October 2012 and distributed the 18 quilts. The faces tell the joy that these quilts brought to these children with more than their share of life's challenges.



## AFTERNOON QUILTING CLASSES

### FOLLOWING THE MONTHLY GUILD MEETING

There will be another free sampler class based on a 9 patch block after the meeting. You can join this class even if you have not been before. Bring along your sewing kit and some good quilting cotton fabric. If you don't have any you can purchase some at the meeting. You can learn to quilt by hand or machine - a Guild machine will be available for the use of members.



*You can see this image and find more about it at*

*<http://quilting.about.com/od/quiltpatternsprojects/ig/Free-Quilt-Block-Patterns/Old-Maid-s-Puzzle-Quilt.htm>*

## FUTURE TRAINING

Date	Topic	Trainer & details
Postponed to New Year	Silk Painting	Farhat Khan
22 November	Crazy Pieced Christmas Stockings	Gill Rebelo . Details TBA
TBD— information note will be sent at next meeting	crocheted embellishments	Philppa Yusuf

### **IQCAfrica 2013 - QUILT CHALLENGE**

The theme for 2013 is: "Free to Express" .

Cash prize of R15 000 for the Best Quilt on Show! Size: 900 x 900 mm (36 " x 36 " ), borders and binding included

Entry Fee: R200 (\$25) non-refundable. Includes return of quilt.

This is a juried competition. All quilts entered must be available to travel in 2013 and 2014.

The challenge is open to all quilters permanently residing

on the African continent.

A cloth label with your name, telephone number and title of quilt **MUST** be sewn to the back of the quilt.

The quilt **MUST** depict the theme "Free to Express". Entries must be the entrant's own original design and should have been exhibited before.

PLEASE SEE THE SEPTEMBER 2012 SNIPPETS FOR DETAILS

## THE KENYA QUILT GUILD

PO Box 39482  
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Nairobi, Kenya

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www.kenyaquiltguild.org

### Meetings

#### Venue:

Monthly meetings are held at Shalom House off Ngong Road.

#### Time

9.30am– 1.00pm

#### Monthly meeting date

#### 2012

- ◆ October 18, 2012
- ◆ November 15, 2012

### This month's contributors

- ◆ Gill Rebelo
- ◆ Jane MacAskill
- ◆ Patty Arensen

## Kenya Embroiderers' Guild Classes

The Kenya Embroiderers Guild have arranged for Mary Hickmott, founder and editor of New Stitches magazine, to teach the following classes in Nairobi in October 2012

- \* Tuesday 16 October—Needle weaving
- \* Wednesday 17 October—Shadow work
- \* Thursday 18 October—Stump work

Classes will cost 1,500/- for non-members of the KEQ plus 500/- for each class kit. Deposits are required.

If you wish to book please email Gail Langton at <langton@datacentre.co.ke> – or call her on 0733 739585

## KENANA KNITTERS LTD—CRAFT FAIR

Bruce & Paddy Nightingale's garden, Kenana Farm, Njoro 24km from Nakuru on Njoro-Elburgon road

**Sunday 11th November 2012**

**10:00am onwards**

wide variety of items on sale including Christmas and greeting cards, pottery, bead work, carvings, kiondos, rugs, kikois, cheeses, home-made produce, Pure Nature products, glass-ware, albums, mirrors, picture frames, lulu butter products, jaggery, Ziواني Weavers, leatherwork, trees, jewellery, candles, jams, pickles, honey, Aloe products and many more - plus all the Kenana Knitters range of accessories and gifts;

Exhibitors seldom seen at the larger Craft Fairs

Food (variety TBA); cash bar and snacks

Accommodation available – kembu@africaonline.co.ke

Tel: 020 2318087

Cell: 0715 262303

email: kenana.knitters@gmail.com

### ENTRY FREE

**Editor in Chief : Margaret Atandi (ondara2005@yahoo.com or ondra2005@gmail.com) The editor in chief welcomes contributions from all members. Please send articles for inclusion in the next edition of SNIPPETS to her email by 10th monthly.**