

SNIPPETS

Kenya Quilt Guild Newsletter



JUNE 2013

UNSHACKLED

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Unshackled 1

From the Chair 2

Quilter in Space 3

Tit Bits 4

Notices and Classes 5

Future Programs 6

Inspiration 7



**Quilt by Charu Patel.
KQG 2013 EXHIBITION**



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Members,

Our chairman is occupied with other matters this month so I am writing this short message in her absence. As you can see from the picture below, taken at the Out of Africa exhibition in Canada, Patty has been very busy, representing the Kenya Quilt Guild, selling our quilts and generally looking after our interests. Well done Patty, and a huge thank-you from us all. A big thank you also to Ludmila who has been manning the sales table together with Clare Hickman, a former KQG member now resident in Zimbabwe and a member of the Harare Patchwork Quilters and to Veena who was also helping. Forty quilts were sold and the remaining unsold ones are being brought back by Dena and Veena for which we are very grateful.

We have 2 classes coming up this month, taught by Sheryl and Farhat. Next month we hope to have classes from Marcia and Brij running. If any other members have quilts or techniques they would like to share please contact me to discuss. We would like to encourage our members to share their skills.

Gill Rebelo



Patty hard at work at the Out of Africa show. More pictures on the KQG blog at <http://kenyaquiltguild.wordpress.com>



This beautiful hand appliquéd quilt, made by the Tentmakers of Cairo, was part of the Out of Africa exhibition. To learn more about these talented men, go back to the July 2012 Snippets and read Gill's article and see more pictures.

QUILTER IN SPACE

NASA astronaut plans to turn orbital rags to stitches

By James and Alcestis Oberg



When astronaut Karen Nyberg is launched to the International Space Station, she'll bring something entirely new to the space frontier: the art of quilting. "I enjoy sewing and quilting," she explained during a televised interview from Moscow. "I am bringing some fabric with me, and thread. I'm hoping to create something. I don't know what yet it will be — that's part of creativity. It comes with the feeling of the day. So I have the supplies at my hands to create, if I get the opportunity and the creative notion to do so."

When she's launched into space on May 28, she'll be taking four "fat quarters" with her (pieces of fabric that are 18 by 22 inches), along with some needles and thread. But up-cargo limitations and safety issues mean she can't take a sewing machine, an iron, paints, a rotary cutter or other common tools of quilters.

Stitching in zero-G: To do quilting in zero gravity, she'll have to brace herself somewhere so she and her fabrics don't float around, find some good light, and keep her thread and thread clippings under strict control so they don't float into someone's face and eyes. Precision stitching will surely be a challenge for her too, since she, the fabric, and the thread will want to float free, not sit steady and still. As she explained in a recent tweet, "It will be great experiment controlling everything!"

Though she's limited in the material and equipment she can bring into space, Nyberg can use fabric or patches from the discarded astronaut clothing already on board the space station — some of it quite colorful. As a rule, the space station crew members wear a flight suit for a week and then discard it. There are no laundry facilities aboard the space station, so the uniforms are generally added to the trash heap that builds up inside a Russian Progress resupply ship after it is emptied. Eventually, the Progress is jettisoned, and everything in it burns up in Earth's atmosphere.

The issue of obtaining sewing scraps from a readily available "rag bag" in orbit first came up in a face-to-face interview in Houston last month. She broke into a broad, excited smile: "Discarded clothing — fantastic idea!" And although paints and dyes are forbidden on the space station, Nyberg pointed out that there are condiments aboard that can take their place, which might be used as decoration — ketchup, mustard and chili sauce can make for some interesting painting materials.

If Nyberg has access to a cosmic rag bag of discarded uniforms from many countries — the United States, Russia, Canada, Italy, Japan and others — think of what her fellow quilters back on Earth could do with such star-struck materials. NASA could decide to recycle space-flown uniforms back to Earth someday, and distribute them to quilters as part of a citizen outreach project. Nyberg has not mentioned any designs for her quilts. She said that she's "counting on creativity when I get there." She has a sketch pad, a pencil and a pencil sharpener to draw out the ideas that come to her. Whether it follows a traditional design, or a new look dictated by cosmic imagination, whether it's simple or fancy, the first quilt in space will undoubtedly become one of those precious images we'll have sewn into our culture.

Extracted from: <http://science.nbcnews.com/news/2013/05/14/18254269-first-quilter-in-space-nasa-astronaut-plans-to-turn-orbital-rags-to-stitches?lite>

TIT BITS

QUILT CHALLENGE IN GLASGOW

On Saturday 8th June 2013, almost 4,000 donated quilts were displayed at Hampden Park National Football Stadium, Glasgow. This was a project started by Ann Hill, Quilter in Residence for Alzheimer Scotland to raise funds for this Charity. <http://www.quiltingboard.com/pictures-f5/hampden-quilt-challenge-glasgow-scotland-t223425.html>



What a wonderful effort! Maybe something we should think of doing in Nairobi one day.

LIBRARY NEWS

From this month's meeting, the library will be set up in the back room annex to allow more space for members' seating. Be sure to visit it and check out any books that may be of interest to you. The Executive Committee, and especially our Librarians, are pleased to announce that there will be a sizeable injection of funds into the library this year. Members that have specific interests in aspects of quilting and patchwork or know of any exciting books, please see the librarians and submit your suggestions at your earliest convenience.

DOOR PRIZE

Last month to replace the raffle, we had a Door Prize. This was very popular, and as a result, we will be holding a monthly

Door Prize which will be drawn during the coffee break and announced before the presentation. Please ensure that you sign in at the entrance with the Membership Secretary in order to be considered for the Door Prize. This month the prize will be a gift certificate from The Woman Shop. Good luck everyone.

CHALLENGE

Sheryl will have the fabric available at the meeting for those who did not attend last month or have not had the opportunity to collect it from Kundan. We hope to have as many entries as possible for the Challenge at the September meeting. Remember that there will be three Viewers' Choice prizes available for these quilts after the Summer break. This is the first in a series of projects for our members in preparation for the 2014 KQG Exhibition. A new project will be introduced in September. Details of the rules for the Challenge were published in last month's newsletter.

2014 KQG EXHIBITION

Since our exhibition was such a success, the Committee has booked the Sarit Centre Hall again in 2014. Please put the following dates in your diaries: 3rd 4th and 5th October 2014. If everyone sets their goals now, we should have no problem filling the display spaces. Get sewing!

OUT OF AFRICA QUILTS

A reminder from Sheryl – some of the quilts will be returned at the June meeting. If you wish to collect yours you must either come to the meeting or send a letter/email to Sheryl giving the authority to collect your quilt to a named person. No quilts will be handed out without this permission.

NOTICES & CLASSES

MISSING BOOKS

Kundan has asked that you all please check your book shelves and see whether you might have either of the following two books:

FABLED FLOWER INNOVATIVE QUILT PATTERNS, INSPIRED BY JAPANESE SASHIKO AND ORIGAMI TRADITIONS & MARINERS' COMPASS by Judy Martin.

Kundan lent both to members some time ago and has not had them back. Please if you have either of them bring it to next meeting or drop it in at the Woman Shop.

DISCOUNT VOUCHERS FROM BUTTONS & BOWS

These will be handed out at the June meeting. If you present one at Buttons & Bows you will receive a discount on Anila's old fabric stock. The discount does not apply to new fabric or other items.

SILK PAINTING

Farhat Khan will shortly be holding a full day class on painting on silk fabric. Farhat will take up to 10 people for this class and it will be held at her home in Riverside Drive on Thursday 27th June from 09.30. The cost will be 1000/- for the day and Farhat will provide a small piece of white silk for you to practise on but you will need to buy another 1/2 metre piece for further experimentation. The supplies you will need are:

1. paint brushes (sable) number 6 any Chinese make will do
2. pure silk washed about 15" by 15" - white or cream
3. embroidery ring or quilt frame
4. silk paint colors from textbook center
5. duster to wipe brushes
7. 2 small cups to keep water

Farhat suggests Azna, a shop in Krishna Plaza (opposite Amani Plaza) near High Ridge Nakumatt for buying the silk fabric. If you want to do the class and have any queries about supplies please ring Farhat on 0733950699.

If you want to book a place please email me and be ready to pay Farhat at the June meeting.

LANDSCAPE

Sheryl Fowler will shortly be teaching a Landscape class in two parts. This is an interesting class composed of several techniques. It was first taught in Nairobi in 2008 by Suzanne Agnew, organiser of our Canadian exhibitions. If you enrol to do the class you will be provided with a full kit.

PART 1 will cover making a background using curved strips of fabric. This class will be held after the meeting at Simba Union on Thursday June 20th.

PART 2 will cover machine embellishment and embroidery on the newly created background. This will be held after the July 18th meeting. If we find this date is not convenient because members are travelling it can be postponed until the September meeting.

COST OF CLASS

Tuition fee - 500/- per class (total of 1,000/- for the 2 sessions)
Kit fee - 1,200/- (Please note this is a bargain as it has been reduced from the original). In the kit you will receive:

1. a range of fabrics to create your landscape picture.
2. batting, bonded fabric and backing to create a finished panel
3. 4 reels of thread for machine embroidery
4. One packet of Smetchz Topstitch needles

Please Note: You will need to bring a sewing machine which can do a zigzag stitch.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

FREE BLOCK OF THE MONTH WITH CRAFTS: WITH LAURA NOWNES

Join the quilting adventure, and make 10 blocks of various sizes, including LeMoyne Star, Tumbling Blocks, Stripy Spools and Offset Log Cabins. Finish with a sampler quilt, a bevy of techniques, and new friends!

<http://specialoffers.meredith.com/cgi-bin17/DM/t/eDHIw0bAPyM04by03FGQOE2>

This free block of the month has an excellent introduction including choice of fabric and how to prepare it for cutting, and lots of tips for sewing . I would recommend it for all beginners even if you don't want to do the block of the month.

JUNE MEETING

- ◇ Jana Mead will be presenting the "Square in a Square" demo, which she learned at a quilt show in America. This will be a taste of the method developed by Jodi Barrows. Come learn a fun way of doing lots of different blocks!
- ◇ Deanna will be selling off all her cotton fabrics, rulers, mats and cutters. Come help reduce her luggage and grab a bargain at the same time!
- ◇ Sheryl will teach the Landscape class after lunch.
- ◇ Gill will continue with the Beginners' Sampler class – all are welcome!

FUTURE MEETINGS

July 18thHumble Beginnings. Some of our members will be showing their first and their most recent quilts to show how they have progressed in quilt-making.

September 19th..... 1600 quilt video followed by a Show and Tell of 1600 quilts presented by Sheryl

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INSPIRATION

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Meetings

Venue:

Simba Union Off

Forest Road

Time

9.30am– 1.00pm

Monthly meeting date

June 20, 2013

This month's contributors

- ◆ Gill Rebelo
- ◆ Sheryl Fowler



Some inspiration for those of you who learnt English Paper Piecing with Sarah Brewin recently. This stunning example by Megan from the Netherlands is on QuiltingBoard.com

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.