

SNIPPETS

Kenya Quilt Guild Newsletter



MAY 2013

ADINKRA SYMBOLS



Kenya Quilt Guild

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Quilt by Jaya Kamdar

KQG 2013 EXHIBITION

AT THE SARIT CENTRE

SNIPPETS

Kenya Quilt Guild Newsletter



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

MAY 2013

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Dear Members

I want to begin my first Snippets letter with thanks to all of you for your vote of confidence at our AGM. I am honored to be able to serve as the chairman of the Kenya Quilt Guild and will strive this year to bring us all further along in our abilities as quilters.

This is the season of exhibitions! We are all basking in the success of our recent combined exhibition "Magical Stitches" with the Kenya Embroiderers Guild. It was truly amazing what can be done when we work together with our fellow stitchers. Our exhibition committee continues to work hard as we are currently gathering our African quilts to send them to London, Ontario for the "Out of Africa"

show. We are hoping for over 100 of our quilts to go accompanied by our members: Veena, Ludmilla, Dena, Sarah and I will definitely be attending and we have hopes of others as well.

My family will be "Out of Africa" for the next three months. Our son is graduating from college and we will be spending time with our family and the people and churches that support us. I will be returning on 6 August and am looking forward to our year of Stitching Together,

Patty Arensen

MAY MEETING

Gill Rebelo will give a talk and slide show on the Modern Quilt Movement.

Gill will be resuming the free afternoon Sampler class for Beginners - and others.

Diane Bannister will be selling exciting fabrics from West Africa – so don't forget to come prepared with plenty of cash!

THE MAGICAL ART OF STITCHES

VISITOR'S CHOICE

What a success it was! So much so, that the committee are looking into holding another exhibition next year, but possibly in October rather than May, to give us a little extra time to make more wonderful quilts. We heard from the Sarit Centre that their system recorded 3,700 people passed through the doors during the three days of the Show. Even allowing for our members going in and out several times we reckon on a conservative estimate of around 3,000 visitors.

Sarah Brewin's delightful **Mnyama viatu (Animal Shoes)**, was voted the most popular quilt in the Show. See it below, with a detail of her adorable blue hippo wearing ballet shoes. Sarah was awarded the Viewers' Choice trophy together with an engraved crystal bowl at the April meeting, shortly before she left for her home in Boston.



Natasha Khromova's **Point of No Return** received the second highest number of votes. Visitors were fascinated by this striking Bargello design



Elefteria Ntanavara received the third highest number of votes from our visitors. This was a remarkable success with her first quilt – an exquisite sampler quilt, largely hand pieced, in soft shades of cream and brown.



Jasbir Sokhi came fourth with **Mother's Love** and Patty Arensen fifth, with **Planted by the River**. Congratulations to all of you and to all those who exhibited. A big thank you to Mike Gaudaur who took all the wonderful photos which we have on a disk and which we will show at a future meeting.

TIT BITS

KQG QUILT CHALLENGE

In preparation for our next exhibition, the committee has planned another Challenge. The required dimensions of the CHALLENGE QUILT are designed to qualify your quilt for the prize offered at the September Meeting and for entry into the 2014 KQG Exhibition. Your quilt **must be** a wall hanging.

1. The size must be no less than 12" and no more than 24" on any side. It can be square, rectangular or any other shape providing it is within these dimensions.
2. It must be a finished quilt: Top, batting, backing and be quilted. Piecing and quilting may done by hand or machine. It must have a sleeve and a label with the name of your quilt and your name.
3. It can be of any design or pattern of your choosing: Appliqué, paper-pieced, art quilt or pieced. It is your choice, your design, your pattern. Let your imagination run free.
4. You must use the common piece of fabric in your quilt. This piece of fabric (6 inches by 6 inches) will be provided free of charge by the Guild. You may use the piece as a whole or cut it up and use the pieces in your design, but try to use as much of the fabric as possible please. The fabric is our common thread that will link everyone's quilt together.
5. You may enter as many quilts as you wish, but must use one piece of the common fabric in each quilt.
6. The fabric will be available at the May meeting but if you cannot collect the fabric, it will be available at The Woman Shop at the Sarit Centre.
7. There will be a prize for the 'Viewer's Choice' at the September meeting.

GOOD LUCK LADIES AND ENJOY THE CHALLENGE!

SHOPPING NEWS

BUTTONS AND BOWS has lots of new fabrics in stock and Anila is still selling old stock at a discounted rate. She also has new stocks of rulers, rotary cutters, cutting mats and DMC quilting threads. The shop is now an agent for Brother sewing machines and they are also servicing these machines.

THE WOMAN SHOP also has a wonderful selection of new quilting fabrics in stock in gorgeous colours. In addition they have a new range of indigo blue Japanese fabric – something quite new in Nairobi and very desirable!!

GENERAL MACHINES in Kijabe Street not only services all types of sewing machines but also stocks some quilting equipment such as rulers, mats and rotary cutters



Deanna is selling an "almost new" Bernette 56, a basic sewing machine with 21 stitches. It comes with 5 feet (button foot and 1/4" foot included) and all original accessories. It is a 220 v machine, and is great as a second machine for taking to classes or for traveling. Comes in original box, perfect for a gift! Price: 20,000/= available anytime.

TIT BITS

CANADA EXHIBITION cont'd

By the time you read this all our quilts will be in Canada. We have sent around 145 pieces over the last few months and we hear that the excitement is mounting in Ontario as they are received and viewed. Induben Shah's Maasai quilt is featured on the posters and it certainly looks stunning



Several of our ladies will be travelling to the exhibition. Bev Rebelo and Claire Hickman, a former KQG member now resident in Harare, will be representing Zimbabwe. Below is the latest quilt sent by Bev for the exhibition.



APRIL 2013 MEETING

Gill Rebelo gave a fine talk on the history of *kangas*, the ubiquitous brightly coloured cloths worn the length of the East African coast, from Somalia to Zanzibar and inland, wherever Kiswahili is spoken.

Kangas derive from the Portuguese *lenço*, a handkerchief or headscarf which became popular in Mombasa and Zanzibar in the 1860s. It is thought that the early designs were spotted, hence the name *kanga*, which means guinea fowl in Kiswahili. *Kangas* are also known as *lesos* from the

Portuguese *lenço*. *Kangas* always feature a border (*pindo*), a central panel with a design (*mji*) and a Kiswahili proverb or saying (*jina*). The *jina* may give a political message or may be a health warning, against the spread of HIV for example, but often it is a more personal message and frequently one to be exchanged between husband and wife. It might be wise to get the *jina* translated before gifting *akanga* in case the message is not appropriate, although usually these messages are subtle and can be interpreted in different ways. Examples of *kanga jina* can be enjoyed [here](#).

The largest collection of *kangas* in the world is held by the Erie Art Museum in Canada, which held its first exhibition of *kangas* in 2008. There is a strong cultural link between this museum and the Lamu Museum in Kenya. The British Museum in London has recently had an exhibition of *kangas* amongst other textiles of eastern and southern Africa. Barack Obama's victory *kanga*, popular after his election as USA President, was one of the *kangas* featured! There are plans afoot by the British Museum to make a documentary film on the *kanga*.

Members were asked to wear a *kanga* at the meeting and a few ladies brought along their favourites. The prize for the best dressed *kanga* lady went to Brij Datta and her prize was – what else but a *kanga*? This one was a particularly fine one from The Woman Shop – see the picture below.

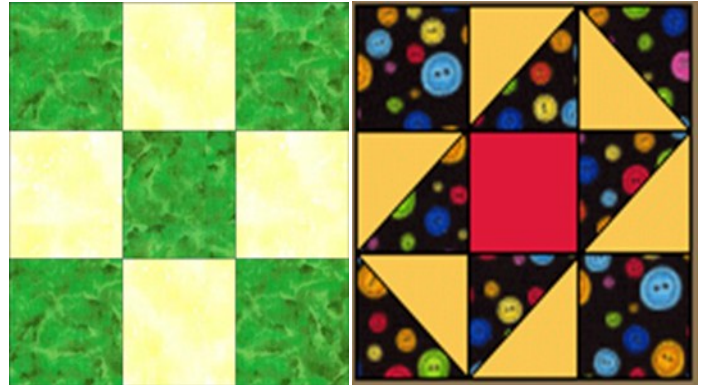


FUTURE PROGRAMMES

FREE SAMPLER CLASS AFTER THE MEETING

We are planning to make one block each month, starting with an easy block and progressing to more difficult ones, so that at the end of 9 months you will have enough to make a sampler quilt. When the blocks are ready we will teach you how to put them together with sashing and borders and how to sandwich and quilt your work.

We will be working on a variety of 9 patch blocks and the first one will be the basic 9 patch block. You will learn to make this by hand or by machine. See the picture on the right from quiltblocklibrary.com



FUTURE MEETINGS

June 20th... Jana Mead will be giving a demonstration . There will be a slide show of the Exhibition quilts.

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.

THE KENYA QUILT GUILD

PO Box 39482

Parklands 00623

RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS:

Email:kenyaquiltguild@gmail.com**Website:**www.kenyaquiltguild.org**Meetings****Venue:**

Simba Union Off
Forest Road

Time

9.30am– 1.00pm

Raffle Prize	Ticket Number	Winner
King Size Quilt	0677	Mrs. Classen (Zoe Gibbs)
Floor Frame and Tapestry	2651	Julie Wubs
Embroidery Hamper	1650	Bharat Shah
Lap Quilt	2348	Elizabeth Fowler
Tapestry Kit and KEG Sub	1351	Frances Cattermole
Seat Frame and KEG Sub	1146	Kusum Patel
Baby Quilt	0762	Bharti
Tablecloth Kit and KEG Sub	2161	Gurpreet Virdee
Tapestry Kit and KEG Sub	0520	Manta Shah
Manicure	1827	Diana Shaw
Manicure	2577	Rajan Jani
Manicure	1051	Sonal Shah

Monthly meeting date

May 16, 2013

RAFFLE PRIZE FOR RAFFLE QUILT MAKERS

The winning ticket for the colourful Flying Geese quilt, which was the first raffle prize, was bought by our late member Jean Classen. Many of you will know that Jean passed away recently, and as her daughters had pre-deceased her, the quilt was given to her grand-daughter Zoe Gibbs. We hope that it will give Zoe happy memories of her grandmother's love for quilting.

This month's contributors

- ◆ Gill Rebelo

Gill Rebelo won the draw for all the members who made Flying Geese block for the large raffle quilt. She won a rotary cutter and blades kindly donated by Sarah Brewin

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.