



June 2025

snippets

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Dear Quilters

(By the end of the report, you would have read the word “exciting” 100 times but that’s how I am feeling writing this.)

We are halfway into 2025 already. There is so much to do, so many exciting projects I have in mind and so little time to do them. But the KQG team is working tirelessly to make the rest of the year most interesting and exciting for the members. We have incredible workshops lined up, so many more fun meetings to enjoy and so much more to learn and UN LEARN.

June meeting is bringing many valuable subjects that will be beneficial for all skill levels. Sheryl will talk about her experience on “Help! I Need to Make a Baby Quilt in a Hurry”: A Lesson in Planning and Efficiency with a bit of Quilting Terminology Revision Thrown In.

I am super excited about Rohini starting the Sampler Quilt Project. It will not only be useful for the new members who have just started their quilting journey but is equally important for the seasoned quilters to update their knowledge. We shall start with a 9-Patch block which is the foundation of patchwork and teaches most of the basics of hand and machine piecing. The cutting instructions are included in Snippets and will also be sent out through other mediums.

The new members who are yet to buy their own sewing machines. We have got you covered!!! We will have some quilting supplies available on the day for you. Just come with your fabric as mentioned in the instructions and we will help you cut and sew.

Another exciting news to share with you all. We will have a weeklong exhibition of all the Challenge Quilts at Provisions in September 2025. Provisions is a beautiful setup by our members, Nancy, Lucy and their mum, featuring a curated selection of the best artisan products sourced from Kenya. They host some wonderful workshops and is visited frequently by passionate artists and creative individuals.

So you better start thinking about the Challenge quilt, if you havent yet.

Now my excitement is spilling over. Starting August 2025, we will be adding another day to our monthly meetings. Huge thanks to Nancy for finding the most perfect venue, we have organised to have a meeting on Saturday, the 2nd of August, at TradeMark Hotel Village Market, to facilitate requests from students and professionals, who want to join us in learning this meditative craft. Please mark your calendars and tell your families and friends who have always admired your quilts and wanted to learn.

There is more exciting news but you will have to attend the Thursday meeting in order to know more about them. See you all on Thursday, June 19th.
Life is short – Buy that fabric

Amber

*Quilt used for Border and
Background throughout
Snippets by Raji Syan*



A STITCH OF QUILTING HISTORY

In May I volunteered at the Affordable Art Show. I enjoyed chatting with Kayuri and Gretchen about their quilting history.

Gretchen made her first hexi quilt when she was about 16 years old. When she moved to Kenya, she found an ad in the newspaper. The ad stated that a woman in Muthaiga invited others to join her for quilting, and she shared her phone number. Gretchen called the number and the rest is history!

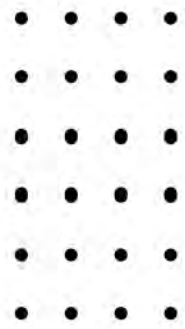
Kayuri learned how to quilt about 30 years ago, and was taught by a woman in Hamilton House. Quality fabric, even threads, were very scarce in Nairobi at that time, so at these meetups, you would draw a number and you could choose a bundle of fabric that was brought in from Overseas. We also chatted about Kayuri's quilt entry for the Canada Exhibition, and thanks to Neela who found a quilt in storage from the 2008 Show.



Kayuri and Gretchen

The international quilt from
the 2008 Canada Expo





NINE-PATCH BLOCK

Why 9 Patch Block to Begin With?

It is a classic beginner-friendly pattern made by sewing together nine equal-sized squares in a 3x3 grid. It's one of the best starting points in patchwork quilting. It helps focus on basic piecing without complex shapes or angles.

Some Of the Benefits of Making This Block:

- It uses squares only, making it easy to cut and sew. This teaches how to measure and cut the squares accurately- a fundamental patchwork skill.
- Reinforcing consistent **¼ inch seam allowances** (a key to accurate piecing), this block offers multiple opportunities to master them.
- Helps reinforce **Pressing** the seams correctly, either open or to one side.
- Encourages attention to matching seams and keeping rows straight, repetition of simple steps builds confidence and leads to precision.
- Can be made with just two fabrics or a variety of scraps, teaches colour contrast, value placement and balance in design.
- It is a versatile foundation block which can be used alone or as part of a larger quilt, lending itself into more complex variations like Irish Chain



SUPPLIES:

- Cotton Fabric in two contrasting colours (5" x 25" each) or fabric scraps (enough to give 9 squares 4 ½" x 4 ½")
- Rotary cutter, mat, ruler
- Sewing machine with ¼" foot
- Medium grey or matching thread, small scissors.
- Iron (will be provided).
- Pins

Starch the fabric, if possible, press the fabric before cutting.

Sewing Rooms

Charu's Zen Den

Started to sew at a very young age, Charu developed her style to assymmetrically design the traditional sewing projects. Adding creative imagination, she created her own unique patterns. The sewing room has many refurbished furniture pieces and old boxes belonging to her family which are used to store quilting supplies for easy access to enable time to maximise productivity.



Keeping sewing machine tools close to the machine saves time



Precious collections add interest and make the room look pretty



An old tool box keeps all the threads in place



Having a large cutting mat near the machine is very useful with storage underneath



Repurpose the shelves or cabinets you own already to increase storage



Clear plastic boxes work best to organize colour coordinated fabrics



Using an empty wall in the living room as a temporary design wall really helps visualise your patterns



Charu's mood board - it has all the pieces that were made according to how she felt on a particular day

I Wish Someone Told Me...

"I Wish Someone Told Me..."

Things every beginner sewist
needs to hear



...that no one's first project
looks perfect.
Seriously. Not a single one.

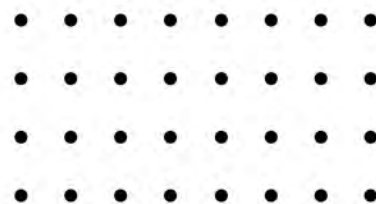
...that seam ripping is normal.
You're not doing it wrong –
you're learning.

...that pressing is everything.
Crisp seams make magic
happen.

...that "good enough" is plenty
good.
Progress over perfection
every time.

...that it's okay to walk away
when you're frustrated.
Breaks are productive too.

...that your stitches WILL get
straighter.
Just keep sewing – muscle
memory kicks in.



QUILTERS' CORNER

Evesham, Worcestershire, West Midlands, England

Recently I had the opportunity of visiting an independent quilt shop in Evesham, England called "Quilters' Corner". It is owned by very welcoming and accommodating lady, Charlie Gannon.

Her shop is cozy and crowded with quilts and supplies. She has personally made variety of quilts which are hung on walls throughout the shop and displayed in her shop windows.

The shop opened 10 years ago and is full of an abundance of supplies. She has a well-stocked notions wall, large variety of Mettler threads and beautiful fabrics including Liberty, Moda, solids and others from high-quality manufacturers. She also sells fat quarters and by the yard.

The owner has been trained to service sewing machines. She operates a Gammill longarm machine in the shop and takes commissions. She offers workshops for beginners and more experienced quilters, holds weekly quilting groups on Tuesday and Friday mornings. She promotes patchwork and quilting in the village, well worth a visit.



FUN QUOTES

Curated by Lakhbir Virdee

WHICH SEWING NOTION WOULD YOU CHOOSE?



1. A bobbin that never runs out.



2. A seam picker that unpicks all your mistakes by itself.



3. Thread that never breaks.



4. A rotary cutter that cuts all the patterns by itself.



5. A needle that never breaks.



6. A sewing machine that does your quilt's binding by itself.

**There are no mistakes
in quilting.**

Only new patterns.

JANOME

*Remember, people will see your
quilts long after you are gone...*



not your housework.

*In this crazy quilt of life I'm glad
you're in my block of friends*





SO WHY IS MY ROTARY CUTTING GIVING ME PROBLEMS?

When things are going well with cutting, it's a dream, but sometimes you are faced with wobbly cuts, shredded edges and skipped threads. This can be very annoying to say the least, so here are a few suggestions that may help.



Is your rotary blade old? Have you cut a great deal of fabric? Has it been a long time since you have changed the blade? It is probably time to put a new blade into the cutter.

Does your blade have a chip in it? This can happen accidentally by nicking your blade on your ruler or template. This damage can lead to irregular cutting, leaving bits of the cutting line needing a second shot at the rotary cutter. What's more, you can damage your mat. There is no repair for your blade, so it should be changed.

Is the new blade working poorly? New blades come oiled to preserve them. Sometimes without realising it, have you installed two blades that are stuck together.

Just changed the blade but why it is cutting incorrectly? Check that the blade has been put on the correct side of the rotary cutter with the correct side of the blade (printing on blade) pointing outward. See photo top right.

Still a thread here and there resisting a cut? This might not be a problem with the blade, but with your mat. Dull blades can lead to problems with your mat. Fibres can get caught in grooves. Olfa recommends that you use cool water, mild detergent, and a soft brush or cloth to gently scrub away fibers and dirt. For a deeper clean, soak the mat in a solution of white vinegar and water before washing with soap. Always allow the mat to dry completely flat to avoid warping.



CHAIN PIECING

Chain piecing is a method of stitching several blocks of a quilt in a continuous chain of two pieces/layers, one right after another without lifting your presser foot or cutting the thread.

This type of piecing is good for making lots of stacks for blocks like half square triangles, four or nine patches etc

How to be organized and sew in an assembly-line way to produce many of the same patchwork components:

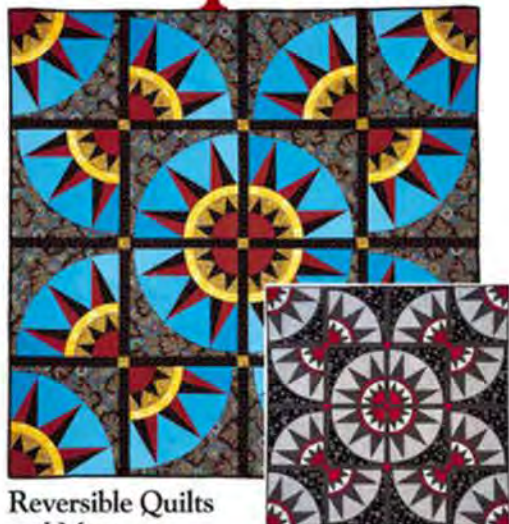


1. Cut the fabric for all the blocks intended for chain piecing accurately.
2. Separate the pieces according to colour and size.
3. If time allows pair two pieces right sides together or make piles of same size and same colours.
4. Organize the stacked pieces neatly near the sewing machine.
5. Start with a leader piece.
6. Start sewing with a consistent stitch length. Continue sewing off the fabric after one piece is stitched.
7. Insert the next two pieces and keep stitching.
8. Make a long chain of pieces like buntings with all the pieces.
9. Take the chain to the ironing table. Press open the seams to the darker side.
10. After pressing keep stacks of each colour or size together.
11. Snip the threads between the pieces.



BOOKS ON FOUNDATION PAPER PIECING IN OUR LIBRARY

FOUNDATION PIECING



Reversible Quilts
and More

Wendy Hill

TWO-FOR-ONE FOUNDATION PIECING *BY WENDY HILL*

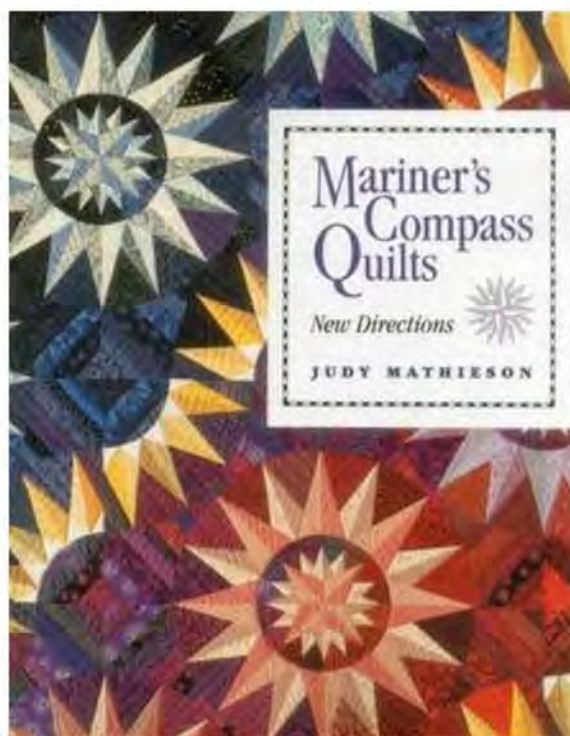
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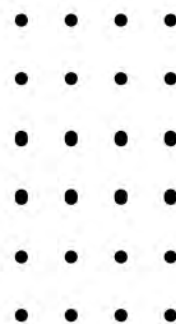
“If you can sew a straight line, you can make these fun, reversible foundation-pieced quilts, clothing, and accessories. Work with two color schemes or use coordinating fabrics to create a big surprise for your family and friends - a second, different version on the flip side.”

MARINER'S COMPASS QUILTS *BY JUDY MATHIESON*

SERIAL NO: PP - 4A

“Judy shares stunning examples and projects, and gives 11 full-size patterns for traditional 16- or 32-point compasses, as well as designs based on the sparkling six-spoken wheels of Costa Rican carts and other dramatic off-center compasses.”





CHALLENGE QUILT MAY 2025

Welcome to the captivating world of challenge quilts on small scale.

The challenge is to create a quilt with

1. [Foundation paper piecing technique](#), (<< clickable link)
2. Each block or element no bigger than 4"x4" finished.
3. Must be a quilt: 3 layers- (top, batting, backing) and quilted.
4. Finished quilt size 24"x 24"

Deadline 30th August 2025

This challenge is where precision meets creativity on a smaller scale. This can be a tiny version of full-size quilt. This will challenge our piecing accuracy, experimentation with colour and design. It can be traditional, modern or wildly whimsical, and perfect for exploring a technique without a big fabric commitment. Following is an example of full-size quilt which was inspiration for the small quilt.



"Spring In My Garden" 90"x 90" by Rohini Desai 2012



Mini Roses in My Garden 18"x 18" by Rohini Desai 2018

Hope to have many of our members participate in this challenge, giving us a good number of quilts to have an exhibition 😊.

Looking forward to seeing amazing creativity from our talented members.



LET'S JOIN HANDS TO MAKE LIVES BETTER

At the KQG Charity, we believe that giving isn't just about money or goods, it's about kindness and community. One of the most meaningful ways to contribute is by offering your time.

The Executive Committee warmly invites you to participate in our ongoing charity projects, which are discussed and planned during our monthly executive meetings. These initiatives need more than ideas, they need hands and hearts to bring them to life.

Our meetings are opportunities to connect, inspire, and align around a common purpose, and much thought and preparation goes into making them enjoyable and seamless. At our last meeting, only a third of attendees signed up to support the Amara Charity Project, a rewarding effort that takes just a couple of hours of your time. Imagine the difference we could make if more members joined in.

From one member to another: I sincerely ask you to consider giving a little of your time. Your presence can make a world of difference.



Sewing Rooms

Sew Peaceful at Samita's

Samita Shah has creatively turned her home into an oasis of serenity while designing the areas to maximize utility for the whole family. Repurposed furniture, antique pieces and cracked jars are not thrown but given a new meaning. Fortunate to have a big space, the study has an aesthetically planned sweet nook for the sewing machine and storage for sewing notions.

The gym in the basement is also strategically used by placing the sewing machine near natural sunlight and storing the quilting supplies on the wall to utilize the vertical space.



The happiest of moments are spent on the sewing machine when the space is created mindfully



Having the quilting feet and notions close to the machine saves time



To maximize storage, wall space can be used to hang scissors, rotary cutters and patterns in small bags



An old desk to organize all the rulers and the pressing mat



Clear plastic containers are best to store fabrics



Another old bookshelf repurposed for storage



Multipurpose room - Study/workspace when kids are home and sewing space when the kids leave

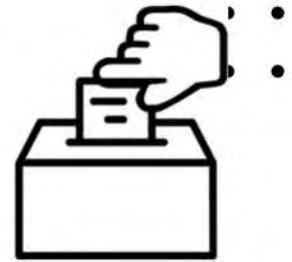


Terrarium/fruit punch bowl with colorful threads is bookshelf goals. The cracked cookie jars with vintage spools look adorable

Suggestion Box

Quilting Techniques

*What are specific quilting techniques you would like to learn?
Give it a thought and let us know in this month's suggestion box.
Take a photo if you don't know the name of a technique you've
seen, or check out this reference sheet for ideas.*



HAND QUILTING



PAPER PIECING



PINNING/BASTING



FREE MOTION



ENGLISH PAPER PIECING



APPLIQUE



STRIP PIECING



BINDING TECHNIQUES



SQUARING UP



QUILT AS YOU GO



COLOR THEORY



BORDERS & SASHING

Sewing Rooms

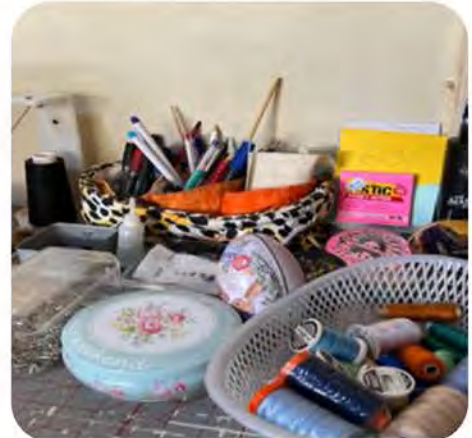


Raji's Happy Place

We all have seen Raji's beautiful long arm machine quilting, now you can see how she has organised very intelligently a small room in her beautiful home to accommodate the long arm machine, her Bernina sewing machine and all the storage for sewing supplies.



Measuring the machines and furniture to fit helps planning maximum utility of a space



Adding a personal touch to organize always adds more meaning and makes work more enjoyable



The tools should ideally be close to the machine for easy access

Creative patchwork to add interesting details



Repurposed wooden old tabletop converted into a high ironing/cutting board



By hanging the tools one can create so much space within a small area.
Use the door of the cupboard or your room to add storage

Important Announcements

Workshops Calendar:

June : *“Help I Need to Make a Baby Quilt in a Hurry”*: A Lesson in Planning and Efficiency/ Quilting Terminology by Sheryl Fowler

July : Appliqué Technique

Charity:

The deadline for the Charity square in square and the orphan block quilts is at the forthcoming meeting on **Thursday 19th June**.

Please measure the quilts tops and I will provide the batting.

Suggestion Box:

What are specific quilting techniques you would like to learn? Give it a thought and let us know in this month's suggestion box at the meeting.

Take a photo if you don't know the name or check out this reference sheet for ideas.

Challenge Quilt —

Foundation Paper Pieced Miniature:

Welcome to the captivating world of challenge quilts on a small scale.

The challenge is to create a quilt with

1. Foundation paper piecing technique,
2. Each block or element no bigger than 4”X 4”finished.
3. Must be a quilt: 3 layers- (top, batting, backing) and quilted.
4. Finished quilt size 24”x 24”

Submission Deadline **30th August 2025**

NEW! Saturday Meeting:

Saturday, August 2nd, 10am,

Trademark Hotel, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Village Market

KQG AT THE AFFORDABLE ART SHOW, NAIROBI NATIONAL MUSEUM



KQG AT THE AFFORDABLE ART SHOW, NAIROBI NATIONAL MUSEUM



Quilting Acronyms

AOD - All over design	MAQ - Mid arm quilter
B2B - Border to border	MQG - Modern Quilt Guild
BOM - Block of the month	OBW - One block wonder
BSK - Basic sewing kit	PIP - Project in progress
BSS - Basic sewing supplies	QAL - Quilt along
COC - Cream on cream	QAYG - Quilt as you go
CQ - Crazy quilting	QR - Quilt related
DJ - Dear Jane Quilt	QST - Quarter square triangle
DSM - Domestic sewing machine	RR - Round Robin
EPP - English Paper Piecing	RSFT - Right sides facing together
EQ8 - Electric Quilt version 8	RST - Right sides together
F8 - Fat eighth (9" x 22")	SA - Seam allowance
FHS - Free hand sewing	SAQM - Small arm quilting machine
FLIMSY - Un-quilted top	SAS - Steam a seam
FMQ - Free motion quilting	SID - Stitch in the ditch
FPP - Foundation paper piecing	SnW - Stack'n whack
FQ - Fat quarter (12" x 22")	SOG - Straight of grain
FQB - Fat Quarter Bundle	SWAP - Group exchange
FW - Fusible web	TBQ - To be quilted
HP - Hand piecing	TOT - Tone on tone
HRT - Half rectangle triangle	UFO - Unfinished project
HST - Half square triangle	WIP - Work in progress
ITH - In the hoop	WISP - Work in slow progress
JR - Jelly Roll	WOF - Width of fabric
LAQ - Long arm quilter	WOW - White on white
LAQM - Long arm quilt machine	WST - Wrong sides together
LC - Layer Cake	YD - Yard
LQS - Local quilt shop	YOYO - Puffy circle of fabric
M - Metre	

LIBRARY

You can now borrow great quilting books for a small fee from our library at the meetings. Please return any library books you may have borrowed in the previous years.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Please follow the OFFICIAL Page for Kenya Quilt Guild Facebook:
<https://web.facebook.com/thekenyaquiltguild/>

DOOR PRIZES

You can start winning lovely door prizes again. Number of prizes will depend on the number of present members. The process will be the same. You will be able to collect your prizes later. SO MAKE SURE TO BE THERE !!!!!

LIST OF TEACHERS OFFERING CLASSES

BEGINNER'S CLASSES:

GILL REBELO	SPRING VALLEY	0722 613105
RAGHBIR SYAN	NGONG ROAD	0721 372208
RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
JASVINDER PHULL	WESTLANDS	0733 785786
AMBER SIDDIQUI	SPRING VALLEY	0717 492210
ROHINI DESAI	BROOKSIDE	0722 840846
POLEY BHAMRA	BROOKSIDE	0721 289110

APPLIQUE CLASSES:

NEELA SHAH	REDHILL ROAD	0723 987160
RAGHBIR SYAN	NGONG ROAD	0721 372208
RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
AMBER SIDDIQUI	SPRING VALLEY	0717 492210

BARGELLO CLASSES:

RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
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SMALL PROJECTS – BAGS, FABRIC BOWLS & GIFT ITEMS:

JASVINDER PHULL	WESTLANDS	0733 785786
RAGHBIR SYAN	NGONG ROAD	0721 372208

HAND QUILTING/ HAND EMBROIDERY:

CHRISTINE KIBUKA	SIMBA UNION	0734 440688
AMBER SIDDIQUI	SPRING VALLEY	0717 492210

MACHINE QUILTING AND FREE MOTION QUILTING:

RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
ROHINI DESAI	BROOKSIDE	0722 840846

LOG CABIN, SAMPLER QUILTS, CATHEDRAL WINDOW AND OTHERS BY REQUEST:

GILL REBELO	SPRING VALLEY	0722 613105
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QUILT COACH:

CHARU PATEL	RAPHTA ROAD	0724 521768
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PAYMENTS:

You may pay for
Kenya Quilt Guild
subscription of your classes
at one of our monthly
meetings or by

Paybill no: **4043847**
Account Number: **Your**
Name

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Nairobi

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SOCIAL MEDIA:

FACEBOOK PAGE:

**[https://web.facebook.com/
thekenyaquiltguild/](https://web.facebook.com/thekenyaquiltguild/)**

*The group page is eagerly awaiting
the participation from
all the members.*

INSTAGRAM:

**[https://www.instagram.com/
thekenyaquiltguild/](https://www.instagram.com/thekenyaquiltguild/)**

KQG'S MEETINGS:

TIME: 10:00 AM TILL NOON

(Kenyan Standard Time)

Monthly Meetings:

3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

Monthly Sewing Day:

4TH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

SIKH UNION CLUB

FOREST ROAD

Disclaimer: The content in this newsletter is
solely for the benefit of KQG members and is
not intended for any commercial purpose.



KQG Saturday Meeting

**Saturday, August 2nd 10am
Trademark Hotel,
2nd Floor Meeting Room,
Village Market**

Our first Saturday meeting is coming up soon! It will be the same content and format as the Thursday monthly meeting, so you have a choice of which to attend based on your schedule.