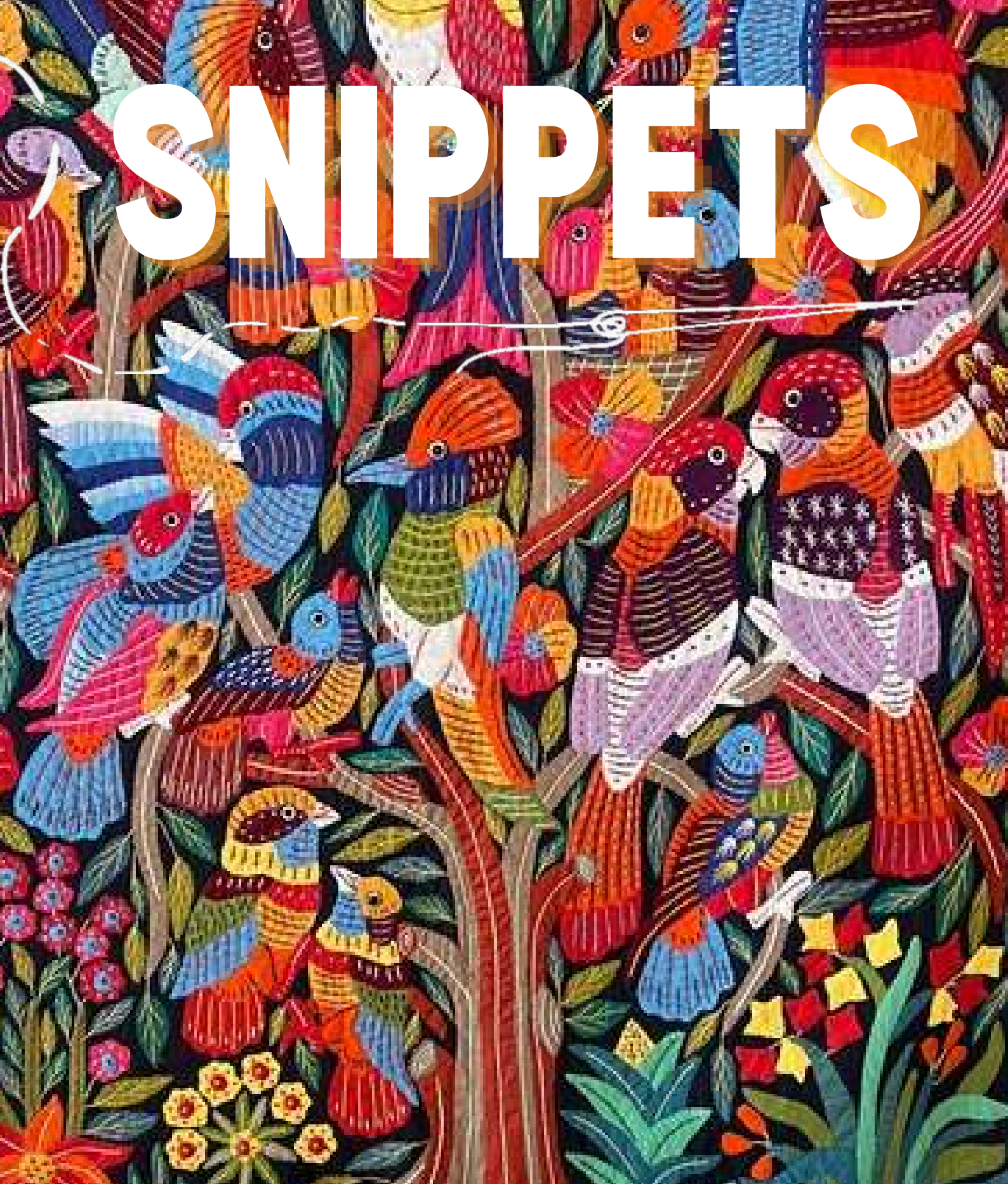


SNIPPETS



OCTOBER 2026

Cover Quilt by Hany Mahmoud

Chairlady's Report

Dear Members,

I'm happy to share the success of the first workshop with the Tentmakers of Cairo in Nairobi. It is a real honor for the Kenya Quilt Guild to host Hany, who comes from the original tentmaker's family. He will be teaching us the traditional way this beautiful craft has been made since the 10th century this whole week.

We have a fantastic line up of workshops for beginner and advanced levels planned at two different venues, and I'm so pleased to say that most of the slots are already sold out. Thanks to all the members who have signed up, and special thanks to Rohini and Nancy for giving their time to help with the class set-up and marketing.

Sheryl will be starting the Mystery Quilt in October. The introduction, fabric estimate, and instructions for the first block have already been sent out. I really hope many more members will take part, and I'm looking forward to seeing lots of beautiful quilts by the middle of next year. The Mystery Quilt instructions will be completed in August 2027.

In November, we'll enjoy our end-of-year potluck lunch at the general meeting on Thursday. More details will be shared at the meeting and will be sent out by email. At the same meeting, we'll display the quilts that were exhibited in South Africa this year, and members who participated will be able to collect their artwork after the meeting.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all this Thursday.

Happy quilting,
Amber



TRAVEL DIARIES

Festival of Quilts at the NEC in Birmingham

by *Caroline Harris*

As a person new to quilting I was thrilled to be in the UK and able to attend the Festival of Quilts at the NEC in Birmingham this summer. It was a great day out seeing the display and competition quilts was inspiring so many styles and techniques on display.

There was a huge range of stalls with every aspect of quilting supplies you could wish for. From hugely expensive and beautiful sewing machines to threads and haberdashery items to suits all budgets and skill levels. I took a friend who has never quilted before and was able to kit her out with a starter kit and book with some simple projects to get her going.

The events offers lots of workshops and talks and thanks to Rohini's encouragement I booked onto a workshop and was I was delighted to attend. In the session we were shown to make a simple Christmas wall hanging and came away with all the elements to make several at home afterwards.

It was a great day out and to be honest I wished I had stayed overnight and had been able to spend two days there as there was more to see than could be managed in one visit. I cant wait to visit again. If you find yourself in the UK I would thoroughly recommend it.'





ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Laura Wasilowski



Laura Wasilowski is a textile artist creating free-form hand embroideries and improvised art quilts. Working with her hand-dyed fabrics and threads, her artwork is narrative in nature and whimsical in style expressing her joy and love of making art.

Laura's art is collected and exhibited internationally and has appeared in multiple publications since her career began in 1992. She is also the author of 5 books on creating textile art and an online instructor with Creative Spark.

Living in Elgin, Illinois, she tends her garden, cares for her family, and creates small ceramic sculptures when not stitching her colorful fabrics.

Please visit:

<https://laurawasilowski.com/about-the-artist/>

Follow on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/laurawasilowski>

Sent By Raghbir Syan

Why Do Your Machine Stitches Look Uneven?

By Sheryl Fowler

If your stitches on the top of your quilt start to look irregular, it could be the type of thread you are using. It's always a good idea to use 100 percent cotton thread for your bobbin, even if your top thread is more decorative and not as heavy or strong. The metallic threads can sometimes be difficult to stitch.

Using the right kind of thread to begin with can be immensely helpful. A 50 weight cotton thread is usually a good choice, because it won't pull or lint up.

For hand quilting you want an even heavier thread, usually around 28 weight count. Remember the lower you go in number, the stronger the thread will be!

Rethread your machine and bobbin: Sometimes just a simple correction works.

Another possible reason for uneven stitches is a faulty needle. Try changing your needle and see if the problem is solved.



QUILTING MATTERS...

Shared from **Ridge & Root**
by Brenda Whitehead
Tasmanian Quilt Guild

Look up at the ceiling in that picture. Those four ropes are the reason that room could hold a quilting frame and still be the family's front room, and that frame is where most of what happened in that community actually got decided.

A full size frame is four long rails and it swallows an entire room. So it hung from hooks screwed into the ceiling joists and got hoisted up flat against the ceiling when it was not in use, then let down to waist height when the women came. Some frames stayed up there for generations, and the hooks are still in the joists of old mountain houses right now with nobody in the family sure what they were for.

And when it came down, seven or eight women came with it and sat around it for hours at a stretch, sometimes for days. That is the part worth understanding. In a country where houses sat a mile or two apart, the roads were bad, and a woman's day was spoken for from before daylight, the quilting frame was the one standing appointment where women were in a room together with their hands busy and their mouths free.

So that is where it happened. Who was expecting and when. Who was sick and needed food carried to them. Which girl



was seeing which boy and whether the family was going to allow it. Who had been laid off, who had been taken advantage of at the store, which widow was about to lose her place and what the community was quietly going to do about it. Decisions got made at that frame and then got carried out by men who were fairly sure they had made them.

The quilt mattered too, and it was real work. Ten or twelve stitches to the inch, done by hand, in a pattern the women argued over first.

But the frame in the ceiling was never only about bedding. It was the mechanism a scattered mountain community used to stay one community, and it went up and down on two ropes in somebody's front room.

Sent By Gretchen Sanders

BLAST FROM
THE PAST!

SNIPPETS JULY 2012!

Snippets 10/26 . 6

SNIPPETS

Kenya Quilt Guild Newsletter



JULY 2012

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello Members

First of all my apologies for the chaos at last month's meeting, which was beyond our control, but things got sorted out in the end, although we were a bit cramped up, and in spite of it all the meeting went well.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at this month's meeting which is going to be different and fun, as we have young children who will be attending. If you have any of your grandchildren who are above the age of 18, you can bring them along also.

Our workshop, after the meeting last month, which was organised by Gill, was a real success.

I'm sure Gill will have more to say on this. Dena Crain's classes are now changed to the 25th, 26th and 27th September. Ladies, please sign up for these and take advantage of our local international teacher. Gill will elaborate more on this.

Please note that there will be no meeting in August, and our next meeting will be in September when we will be having members demonstrating different kinds of applique.

Have a great holiday.

Neela Shah

DENA CRAIN CLASSES

Goodbye to the Grid: Are you eager to transition from traditional quilts, built on the block system, to your own original designs? This class will introduce you to the elements of composition, how best to use color and how to make the most of contrast. You will master these skills by designing and sewing a piece that you create in class. Dena will guide you from your first sketch to a finished top. Her construction methods allow you to sew anything you can imagine. Your artistic toolbox will be full when you complete these lessons. Level: requires intermediate sewing skills and a willingness to experiment.

True Quilts: Dena will teach you how to square a quilt with her Stack-to-the-Back method, bind it with her Fusi-Free Binding method, and hang it from-the-bottom-up—everything you need to know about how to finish a quilt and achieve professional quality results. If time permits, she will share methods of Quilting Without Marking, as well. Participants need to bring a quilt top smaller than 30" on its largest side, ready to stack and finish.

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JULY 2012

A GIFT OF QUILTS

In 1996 the summer Olympic Games were held in Atlanta, Georgia. Caught up in the excitement of hosting such a prestigious event, quilters throughout Georgia set to work to make quilts, to donate to all the countries who participated, as a symbolic gesture of friendship from the people of America. My son, aged 17, took part in the 1996 Olympics, representing Kenya as an

archer. I remember hoping that he might be the lucky recipient of a quilt—maybe as the youngest member of the team.... No such luck! Two quilts were presented to each country—one to the chef de mission and one to the flag-bearer. You can see the two quilts which were presented to the British Olympic team on this website <http://www.agiftofquilts.co.uk/>.

Sir Steven Redgrave, renowned rower, and Dick Palmer, 1996 chef de mission, loaned their quilts for display at the Stitch and Craft Show at London's Olympia exhibition hall earlier this year.

These two quilts were part of an exhibition at Olympia, of 420 quilts, made by quilters throughout the UK for the project called A Gift of Quilts.

A Gift of Quilts

A collection of quilts made by the Stitch and Craft Show



"Prisoners produce work of a very high standard."

Like the quilters of Georgia in 1996, British quilters from all walks of life—individuals, quilting bees, guilds, church groups, young quilters, schools, Brownies and Guides have been busy sewing quilts for the last couple of years under the patronage of well known textile artist and designer, Kaffe Fassett, as part of the Cultural Olympiad. Kaffe is also patron of Fine Cell Work, a charity which teaches inmates of British prisons to create needlework and quilted items. Many of the teachers are from the Embroiderers' Guild or the Royal School of Needlework and, under their tuition, prisoners produce work of a very high standard. Bob, a member of Fine Cell Work, has made the quilt below, inspired by Gee's Bend quilts. Bob's quilt will be donated to Spain's flag-bearer. Other quilts will be given to the flag-bearers and chefs de mission of all participating countries of both the Olympic and Paralympic Games. A pictorial record has been published featuring all of the quilts which have been made. It is available from

www.trapletshop.com at a cost of 14.95 GBP. An accompanying project is Q4L, or Quilts 4 London which is aiming to collect 14,000 pennants, one for each of the athletes taking part in both the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Donated pennants have been received from all over the world and a selection were exhibited at the House of Commons last year.



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JULY 2012

THE TENTMAKERS OF CAIRO

Australian quilt artist, Jenny Bowker, spent fifteen years living in Arab and Islamic countries, accompanying her diplomat husband on his various postings. Their last post was Cairo and it was there that Jenny got to know the Tentmakers who work in Khan Khayamiya – the Market of Tentmakers. Tentmaking has a long history in Egypt; the Bedouins have lived in the desert in tents made of white cotton or brown or black animal hair for thousands of years. In the cities tents are used for all sorts of festive occasions – weddings, Ramadan feasts, henna parties and funerals. The outsides of

the tents are plain white or grey canvas but inside they are lavishly decorated with intricately designed wall hangings.

The traditional hangings give the appearance of stone work, when hung inside a tent, or of stained glass as the rays of the sun shine through, illuminating the rich colours.

The designs are often geometric and many are inspired by the marble inlay patterns and mosaics, which decorate the walls and floors of Cairo's medieval mosques, or paintings on the walls of Pharaonic tombs.

However these are made,

not from stone or glass, but from brilliantly coloured fabric pieces sewn onto a canvas background. They are in fact applique work and they are made in Egypt by men not women. Tentmaking is a family craft and the skills have been passed from father to son for generations. In Khan Khayamiya you can find around 50 shops which double up as workshops where you can see the men stitching their beautiful designs using the needle-turn method of applique.

The picture below shows the inside of a shop. Sadly there is less demand for tent hangings in present day Cairo so the tentmakers

have adapted their pieces to appeal to tourists. Their appliques are ideal to use as wall hangings or for cushion covers. Similarly the subject matter has changed and, whilst traditional Islamic flowers and the Pharaonic lotuses are still popular, other designs – Egyptian street scenes and birds and more modern designs can also be seen.



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JULY 2012

THE TENTMAKERS OF CAIRO

Over the last few years, Jenny Bowker has been working hard to promote the tentmakers internationally. As tourism to Egypt has been affected by the troubles of the last year, this is a life-line for the craftsmen. Jenny has taken some of the stitchers to France, Spain and Australia and last year they were demonstrating and selling at the Festival of Quilts in Birmingham UK, where they were a tremendous hit. If you go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39xkCcQWp0>

you can see an interview with some of the master craftsmen and examples of their work.

You can see more images on Jenny's blog at <http://jennybowker.blogspot.com/2009/12/my-son-marked-google-map.html> and if you go to her Flickr site at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jennybowker/sets/7215760141392345/> you can see a whole exhibition of the quilts.

Magie Reiph has many beautiful pieces of their work for sale through her African Fabric Shop – you can see the pictures at http://www.africanfabric.co.uk/egyptian_appliques.php



If any of you are visiting the US during the coming holiday season you can find the tentmakers at the Stitch Like an Egyptian exhibit at the American Quilt Society exhibition in Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 22nd to 25th.

Do You Have a Jelly Roll and Have No Idea What To Do With It?

Here is a Quick and Easy Pattern created by Brigitte Heitland of Zen Chic for Moda Fabrics

Always read through a pattern before embarking on the project.

FABRIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE QUILT TOP:

- One Jelly Roll
- 3 yards plain fabric (42" - 44" wide), a contrast colour of your choice

CUTTING DIRECTIONS:

- Cut your contrast colour in strips 2 ½" x WOF (Width of Fabric)
- Then cut them in half: 2 ½" x 22"

PIECING DIRECTIONS:

- Join a Jelly Roll strip and a contrast strip, right sides together, at the 2 ½" end to form a ring.
- Cut through the Jelly Roll part of the ring (somewhere between the middle and about 10" from the contrast section).
- Make these cuts in the Jelly Roll for every strip just randomly, so they are not all the same.

NOTE: Before joining the strips, decide whether you wish to make the quilt top so you can quilt it in the ditch or with a pattern or QAYG (quilt as you go).

- If you use the traditional method of quilting, not QAYG, then join strips on their long side as shown in the quilt layout diagram.

Sent by Sheryl Fowler



LIBRARY CARE GUIDE

Handle Materials with Respect:

Treat books gently. Do not fold page corners, write in margins, or tear pages. Use a bookmark instead.

Do Not leave Books on the table after browsing:

Leave browsed books in the same cart. Put them back yourself, as misfiled books become nearly impossible for others to find and is an added work for the librarian who is offering their time and effort for us.

Respect Due Dates:

Always return books on time or renew them before the deadline so other waiting readers can access them.

Check Out Properly:

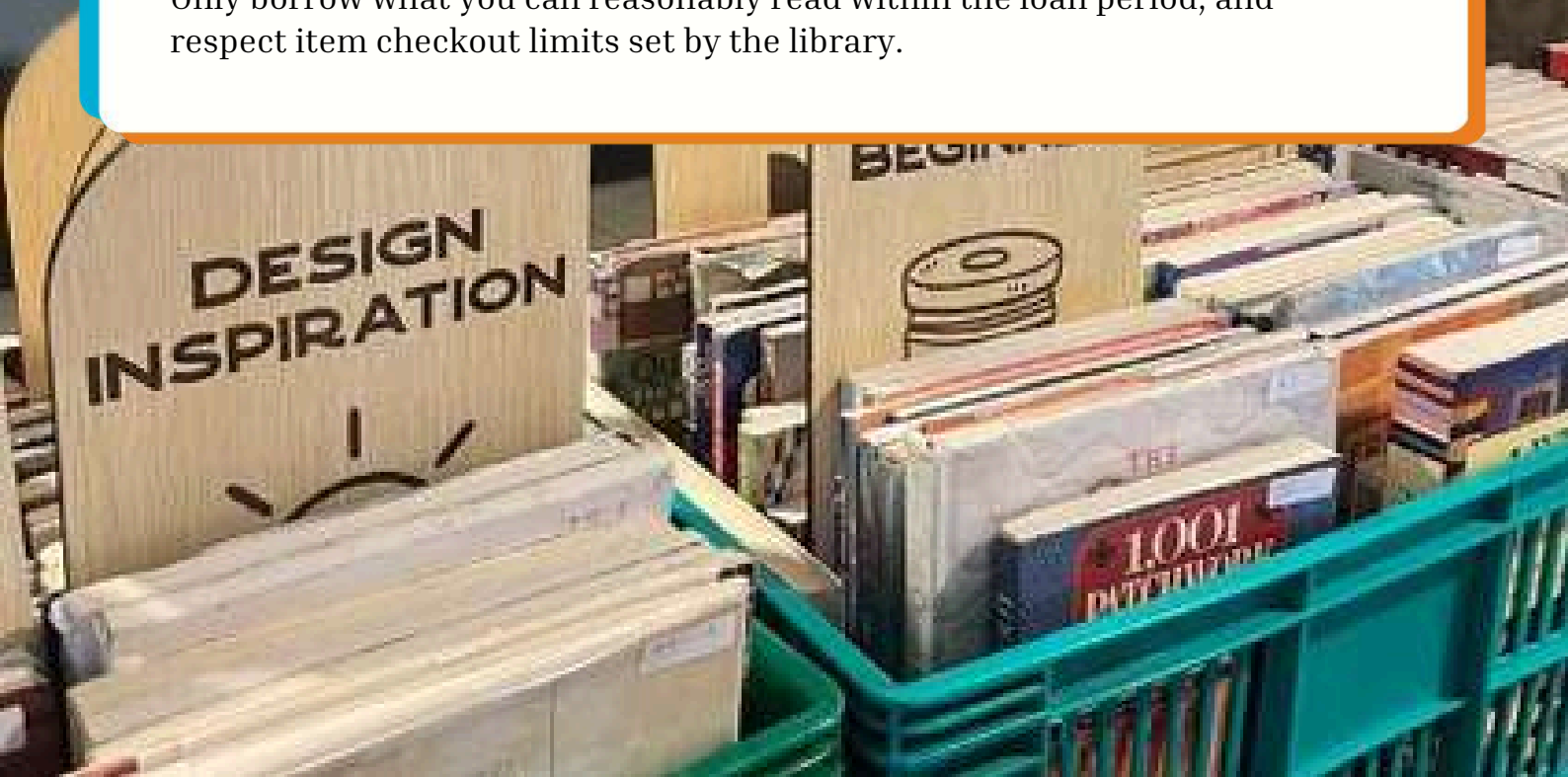
Never take any library book without officially checking it out.

Report Damage or Loss:

If a book gets damaged or lost while in your possession, notify the library immediately.

Be Mindful of Limits:

Only borrow what you can reasonably read within the loan period, and respect item checkout limits set by the library.





KENYA QUILT GUILD MEETINGS

OCTOBER

SATURDAY 3RD

Trademark Hotel

THURSDAY 15TH

Sikh Union

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 7TH

Trademark Hotel

THURSDAY 19TH

Sikh Union
Members
Holiday Party!

DECEMBER

**ENJOY
THE
HOLIDAYS!**

10AM - NOON
FREE BEGINNER QUILTING CLASSES AFTER EACH MEETING

WWW.KENYAQUILTGUILD.ORG
KENYAQUILTGUILD1@GMAIL.COM

Become a MEMBER in 2026 and...

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KQG MERCHANDISE



Badges



Totes



Handmade keychains



Hexies pouch



Ornaments



Suckers



Journals

LIST OF TEACHERS OFFERING CLASSES

BEGINNER'S CLASSES		
GILL REBELO	LORESHO	0722 613105
RAGHBIR SYAN	NGONG ROAD	0721 372208
RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
AMBER SIDDIQUI	SPRING VALLEY	0717 492210
ROHINI DESAI	BROOKSIDE	0722 840 846
POLEY BHAMRA	BROOKSIDE	0721 289110
APPLIQUE CLASSES		
AMBER SIDDIQUI	SPRING VALLEY	0717 492210
ROHINI DESAI	BROOKSIDE	0722 840846
RAGHBIR SYAN	NGONG ROAD	0721 372208
RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
MACHINE QUILTING/ FREE-MOTION QUILTING		
ROHINI DESAI	BROOKSIDE	0722 840846
RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
HAND QUILTING & HAND EMBROIDERY		
CHRISTINE KIBUKA	SIMBA UNION	0734 440688
AMBER SIDDIQUI	SPRING VALLEY	0717 492210
BARGELLO CLASSES		
RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
LOG CABIN, SAMPLER QUILTS, CATHEDRAL WINDOWS AND OTHERS ON REQUEST		
GILL REBELO	LORESHO	0722 613105
ROHINI DESAI	BROOKSIDE	0722 840846
SMALL PROJECTS-BAGS, FABRIC BOWLS & GIFT ITEMS		
RAGHBIR SYAN	NGONG ROAD	0721 372208
ROHINI DESAI	BROOKSIDE	0722 840846



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.

BOOK RENTAL: 100 Kes



WEBSITE

www.kenyaquiltguild.org



DOOR PRIZES

You have the opportunity to win a fun prize at each meeting! Don't forget to sign in at the door when you get your name tag.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

**DID YOU KNOW? WE ARE ON FACEBOOK,
INSTAGRAM AND NOW PINTEREST! PLEASE
LIKE, FOLLOW AND SHARE WITH ANYONE WHO'D
LIKE TO SEE WHAT THE GUILD IS UP TO.**



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PAYMENTS:

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

PAYBILL NO:

542542

ACCOUNT NUMBER:

478121

KQG'S MEETINGS:

TIME: 10:00 AM TILL NOON
(Kenyan Standard Time)

**3RD THURSDAY
OF THE MONTH
SIKH UNION**

**1ST SATURDAY
OF THE MONTH
TRADEMARK HOTEL**

KQG CO-ORDINATES:

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TELEPHONE: +254 735 369 612

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