



Starlight Express

Starlight Quilters Guild

www.starlightquilters.com

April 2011

Presidents Message

By Lue Anne Christensen

Hello all quilting friends:

It seems (I can't honestly use the word "is") to have arrived in our area. My hope is that the spring winds, hail and rain storms do not ruin the beautiful flowered trees and beautiful spring bulbs that have bloomed. As always bad weather allows us time to quilt, but I will gladly sew looking out of my sewing room windows as I piece or quilt my next project. Of course, I really need to organize my sewing room, but it seems to me that if I complete projects that is a more pleasant way of organizing my sewing room! The shop hop didn't help my organizing plans since I gave into the many temptations presented by the eleven shops on our shop hop journey.

Thanks to Mary Honas for our informative program in March with three representatives of local charities presenting opportunities for us to help others with our sewing projects. I was so proud of our guild when the Quilts of Valor representative announced that she had no more kits or block patterns to pass out. Starlight members had taken all of the projects to complete for American war veterans from World War II to our present involvements in the Middle East. Our next meeting on April 26 with Edie McGinnis of Kansas City Star Quilts promises to be equally entertaining and informative. I am also looking forward to Starlight's spring retreat in Pleasanton on May 14-16. There are still some openings if you haven't signed up for the first spring retreat. We should all have a relaxing but productive experience just a few steps from home. Although I can sew at home in my unorganized sewing room, it is so much more fun to sew with old and new friends in a more organized environment.

Again, I want to challenge all Starlight members and especially those of you who belong to small groups to complete items for the quilt show in October. Peggy Spaith presented several more ideas for the boutique items that would be simple and marketable. Just think, small group members can have more opportunities to chat while making these boutique items as a group and be productive at the same time. Knitting, crocheting and sewing will be effortless with the company of friends.

Wishing everyone opportunities to start and complete sewing projects, great spring days with no night storms, and warm friendships among quilting friends,



April Program

Edie McGinnis, *Kansas City Star Quilts*

Edie McGinnis began her career with *The Kansas City Star* in 1987. She recently retired after nearly 21 years with *The Star*, but continues to work as a consultant, editor and author, and contributes as a columnist on *The Star's* Web site,

Pickledish.com. Edie has been quilting for over thirty years and has written and had published over a dozen quilt books and several single patterns. Edie and Jan Patek teamed up and designed *Across the Wide Missouri*, the very popular 2010 Block of the Month series that ran in *The Kansas City Star*.

Edie's lecture will focus on *The Kansas City Star* quilt patterns, their history and the designers who worked at *The Star* in the early years. She will bring many quilts – including antique quilts, her own special feed sack quilts, and hopefully she will give us a peak at her soon to be published book based on the *Bird in a Cherry Tree* quilt that she discovered in a museum in Iowa.

If you have any quilts made from old *Kansas City Star* patterns, or cherished feed sack quilts, bring them along for show and tell. I know Edie and all the SQG members will love seeing them.



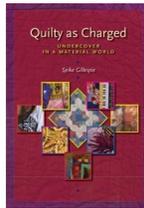
Quilters Wisdom

Quilting is a scrap of happiness.

Book Review-

By Lue Anne Christensen

After many years of assigning book reviews to my students, I am taking this opportunity to share my view on an "autobiographical" account of the writer's first experience at the Houston International Quilt Festival. Spike Gillespie, the author of *Quilty as Charged*, is both a humorous and informative writer. She expresses her confusion with quilting and festival terms, an experience many of us can relate to when we first began quilting. She attended her first festival as an Austin, Texas journalist to discover what was so special about quilting, quilters and quilt festivals. She is very open about her reactions to the overwhelming size of the Houston festival, the number and variety of vendors, and the beauty and uniqueness of the quilts in the festival show. She also describes the quilting friends she made at the festival as a journalist whose assignment was to interview quilters and describe their quilts. I enjoyed the author's light humor as well as her short biographies of significant quilters such as Staci and Marti Mitchell, Ricky Tims (His chapter is entitled "Caveman Quilting", which signifies her light humorous touch), and ordinary quilters such as her son's middle school teacher who had her students make small quilts as a history project. She allows the reader to see into each quilter's individual need to quilt and personal affection for quilting.



I checked this non-fiction book out of the Johnson County Library at the 87th street location. It can be found among the "how-to" books. I promise you will enjoy this short (173 pages) book that will make you laugh out loud as she describes her first attempt to piece a quilt without ever taking a quilting class and on a borrowed sewing machine.

Project Linus --

By Karen Moore and Mary Funk

How many ways can you say Thank YOU ??? We are doing great with our blankets - 239 to date and our goal is 400 - maybe we should up that.



For those of you who did not get to come to the March meeting or those of you who did not have a pencil the new web site for Linus is ... www.projectlinuskc.webs.com. On the web site you can sign up to be a blanketeer, even though you already are one, and it will make it easier for Patty to get the newsletter to you. The web site has pictures, patterns and a blog so please check it out and HAPPY blanketing.

Suzy Scissorhands



Dear SQG Friends,

This month Suzy wants to send out a big thank you to Susan Jarsulic. Last August Susan showed us all how to save our poor eyes and cut down on frustration by using the Clover Desk Needle Threader. This is not your ordinary needle threader – you know, the one where you put the needle in, lay the thread across the opening, push the button and still end up with an unthreaded needle. This needle threader really does work. I had to prove it to myself by going out and purchasing one. Oh decisions, decisions. The limited edition pink? The fabulous purple? Or the very trendy green? I thought they are all identical except for the color. But by carefully reading the card I discovered that one was for “sewing and quilting needles” while the others were for “sewing and patchwork needles”. Quilting needles are almost impossible for me to thread so I chose the one for quilting needles.

The threader is clearly labeled as to where you put the needle and thread, and also has a cutter on it. Once the needle and thread are in position, you push down on the lever and voilà -- your needle is threaded! So far it has worked for me every time. It costs a bit more -- \$12.99 most places – but it is worth every penny.

Happy Quilting

Suzy



Membership

Marilyn Carr

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Karen Berley
Breeanna McSpadden

March Attendance

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Members | 70 |
| New members | 2 |
| Guest | 3 |
| Total | 75 |



Membership Cards and Rosters

There are still a few 2011 Membership cards and rosters to be picked up.

Library News-

Sandy Fey and Cheryl Tomson
It's been Christmas in March at my house! Why, you might ask? It's because most of the books that Cheryl and I ordered for our library have arrived. We'll try to have them available for checkout at our next meeting, but I thought I'd give you a sneak preview of what you can expect.

1. Quilts from the Selvage Edge - Now we're keeping and using everything to make quilts.
2. Helen's Mix and Match Quilting Patterns - Everything from tips to various quilting patterns - traditional, continuous lines and specialty designs
3. Pathways from Quilt Tops to Quilted - Pattern selection, marking, loading, borders and more
4. Paper Piecing with Alex Anderson - The how-to of this technique with several quilt samples
5. Cuddly Snuggly Quilts - Quilts for children that Grandma would make
6. Thread Work Unraveled - Thread, needles and how they can transform your fabric
7. Clowns on Parade - How to create part of a circus
8. Flying Colors - How to design quilts with freeform shapes and flying geese
9. More Loose Change - More quilts from nickels, dimes and fat quarters

Additionally, we have two books that are back-ordered and should arrive in April. The are "Quilts from Textured Solids" and "Ladybug and Friends Quilts."

We hope you visit us and the library often. Be sure to bring back the ones you checked out so everyone has a chance to see them.



Condolences

Our hearts and prayers are extended to the family of Kay Van Durme. Kay's grandson, Mason Arik Kempf, passed away on March 29 at the age of 9 of brain stem cancer.

Mystery Quilt

MYSTERY QUILT PART 2-

Shirley Lewis

The second clue for the Mystery Quilt will be available at the April meeting. Pickup your copy, 'cause you can only get it at the meeting!

So some of you astute members noticed that I had you using more fabric for the backing than you need. Really, you don't require 4 yards for the backing. I won't discourage you from purchasing 4 yards, since I work at a local quilt shop, but 3 1/4 yards would be enough, with some left over. Thanks for keeping me honest.

Pick up your second clue at the April meeting. Most importantly, have fun with this!

Website-

Bernadine Farrow



Spinning new webs is so much fun. Hope you are enjoying a different look on the web site each month. Be sure to check out the "What's going on.." page to see what quilt shows, quilt activities, etc are going on. Let me know of any you would like to have listed. Remember this is your web site, so let me know what you would like to see on it.

Blog update-

Toni Caro

A LINKY LINK HAS BEEN CREATED TO HAVE OUR OWN QUILTERS *BLOG* HOP!!! IN SPIRIT WITH EASTER & THE KC BLOG HOP ... HIP-PITY HOP ON OVER - CHECK IT OUT! AND IF YOU HAVE A BLOG LEAVE YOUR LINK ... HAVE A FAVORITE *LINK* ? ... LEAVE A COMMENT!

April Fat Quarter Drawing- "You Get to Chose"



Knit-a-square-

Ginny Nelson

Once you have finished your projects for the small boutique, knit-a-square is a project you might want to consider if you are a knitter or crocheter. A mindless way to use up left-over yarn is to knit or crochet an 8-inch square for babies and children in Africa. The square should be of a tight weave--for instance, the garter stitch in knitting. If you give the squares to Ginny Nelson, she will send all that she collects at the end of this year of the first of 2012 to the ladies in Africa who will put them together into blankets. If you wish to check it out, go to Knit-a-square.com. The site explains the project and also offers patterns. They prefer that you not use polyester yarns but will take anything. Ginny will also bring copies of a knitting patter and a crotchet pattern for you to pick up at the next meeting.

Zingy Log Cabin Workshop

August 20, 2011

Teacher: Jeanne Poore

Watch the web site and newsletter for more information.

Metallic Thread

School of Threadology Manual by Superior Threads

Trying to turn real metal into a smooth-running sewing thread is not an easy task. Many quilters are wary of using metallic thread due to the poor quality that has almost ruined the product's reputation. But, there is quality metallic thread available, and at prices less expensive than some of those very poor imitators. Bob Purcell suggests that quality metallic thread should these three essential components for smooth and successful stitching.

Does the thread have a nylon core? A nylon core is an indicator of strength and quality. Polyester and rayon are weaker. A nylon core, combined with 'paper-pasting', prevents tangling.

Is the thread 'paper-pasted'? The best metallics will have a coat of rice paper pasted over the nylon core. This adheres the nylon core to the metal, resulting in a stronger thread. Metallic threads without the rice paper pasting do not hold up as well during high-speed embroidery. Paper-pasting makes the thread cohesive and flexible.

Does the thread have a protective coating? If the thread has a protective coating over the outer metallic layer, the thread will run better with less friction. An outer coating also protects against fraying and shredding.



Spring Cleaning – To Clean or Not to Clean?

It's time for Spring cleaning, but when comes to our quilts, especially old and perhaps fragile quilts, should we clean them or not?

Generally the answer to this question is a resounding "no!" Washing a quilt has too many risks involved to recommend it. Colors can bleed and the agitation and abrasion of washing – even a gentle hand washing – can damage fragile textiles. It is best to consult a textile conservator before washing a quilt or heirloom textile.

A musty smelling quilt can be aired by placing it outside on a sunny day (sandwiched between two sheets) and monitoring it closely. If it appears dusty, the quilt may be vacuumed by putting a piece of tulle (a soft, sheer netting) over the [attachment] nozzle, setting the vacuum cleaner at its lowest suction level, and gently passing the nozzle over the surface.

Excerpted from **To Protect & Preserve: Caring for Family Quilts in the Home**

Published by the International Quilt Study Center & Museum

Do you have a Birthday This Month?

Well, Happy Birthday! Please bring a snack or dessert for the Hospitality Table to share. Fellow SQG members will be deliriously happy to share your goodies! No doubt someone will beg for your recipe. This month's birthdays are:

Marsha Reeves

Luella Roemer

Karen Vertin

Arlis Wickstrom



KVQG QUILT SHOW

1861--2011: 150 Years of Kansas Quilting

April 30 - May 1, 2011

10 a.m. - 5 p.m., both days

Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg. 21

Lawrence, Kansas

Admission: \$5 adults, kids 12 & under free

MQS—"It's Magic"

May 11-14, 2011

Overland Park Convention Center

6000 College Blvd.

Overland Park, Kansas

Admission- \$10

Multi-day Pass \$25

www.IMQA.org

2011 Events Calendar

April 26---**Edie McGinnis, Kansas City Star Quilts trunk show**

May 24---**Tony Munoz, The Five W's of Mystery Quilts: Who, What, When, Where, Why**

June 28---**Linda Mooney, Doll quilts and miniatures**

July 26--- **Joanna Figuero of Fig Tree Designs, TBA**

August 23---**Fat Quarter Bingo**

September 27----**Sewing Bee**

September 16-18— Retreat –The Barn

October 25---It's A Mystery, Author event

November 15---**Ada Niedenthal, Timeless Textiles**



Communications-

Let us know of any concerns, deaths, triumphs, or if someone needs help with something. This way we know what is going on with our fellow members and can send cards, etc. Contact one of these members:

- Rosie Brinker---913-268-8819 or rosie474@aol.com
- Shirley Lewis---913-722-5486 or sll849@aol.com
- Barbara DeMack---913-485-3966 or barb-stoys4u@hotmail.com



Blog-

For those of you who are interested in quilts, especially old quilts, Donna DiNatale has started a new blog that will talk about some of her quilts. She will include information about collecting and caring for quilts, old and new. She'd love to have you follow along and provide comments. Here is the link: <http://heartlandquilts.blogspot.com/>



Advertisements

FREE! Post your AD HERE! If you are a guild member in good standing and would like to run your **FREE** ad, send your information to the newsletter editor. See back page for details.

Pieces in Plaid Quilting – Owner / Operator Lynne Zeh, a full service long arm quilter with 8 years experience. Located in Lenexa, KS.

Machine Quilting by Karen - Let me help you with your quilting! 913-638-4625 Karen Huffman. Quilts up to 52 inches in width.

Machine Quilting. Custom Quilting by Peggy Skaith. especiallyquilts@att.net or 913-341-0525

Machine Quilting by Julia Day. Is your piecing ready to transform? Call for your consultation today. .



Starlight E-site—the Yahoo Group

---Lea Robrahn
Starlight E-Site is an online club where Starlight members get together to share photos, links, documents or files, and have a message board to post items of interest.

It sounds more complicated than it is. You can elect to read all information on the E-Site, which leaves your inbox less cluttered.

To join:

1. Send an email message to Lea Robrahn (remove spaces) leannieq@hotmail.com
2. You'll than be sent an invitation from Starlight E-Site
3. Join.

"FIND US ON FACEBOOK" <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=106359079270>

Tip- If you are having trouble with color confidence and your quilt is mostly one color, add a small amount of the opposite color on the color wheel, using fabrics that are a little more intense than the others in the palette.





Membership Information:

2010 Membership, New or Renewal, \$25.00. Your annual dues bring the newsletter chocked full of information and news of upcoming events to your e-mail or home; provide a lending library of quilting books available to members; and other benefits too numerous to mention!

Newsletter Deadline:

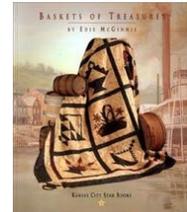
Articles are due the 5th of the month. E-mail your article to Margaret Welch at mwelch5@kc.rr.com (913-432-4515) .



NEXT SQG MEETING!

Tuesday, April 26, 2011 6:30 PM—Meet friends, gobble some goodies, bring some boutique items or tickets, sign up to volunteer!

7:00 PM— Edie McGinnis, Kansas City Star Quilts trunk show



Meeting Date and Time:

Monthly guild meetings are held 6:30-9:00 PM every 4th Tuesday, January-October at **Countryside Christian Church, 6101 Nall, Mission, KS**. The November meeting date is determined each year based on the Thanksgiving holiday. There is no December meeting.

Meeting Cancellation:

SQG meetings will be canceled if the Shawnee Mission School District cancels classes. Monitor announcements on TV and radio when bad weather threatens.



Changes: If you have moved, changed your name, e-mail address or telephone numbers (home, work, or cell), please bring them with you to the next guild meeting or mail them to Starlight Quilters Guild, PO Box 9362, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201

Remember to bring:

- Nametag
- Show and Tell
- Library Books
- Goodies (if it is your Birthday)
- Fat Quarter (see list)

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