



Starlight Express

Starlight Quilters Guild

www.starlightquilters.com

March 2013

President's Message—Donna Holloway

Dearest Quilters,

Is anyone just as ready to see a bit of Spring as I am? Although I truly enjoyed the snow and was really excited about trying out our neighbor's snow blower, I am ready to start my Spring activities. Those seed catalogs have been taunting me for weeks, but my garden beds are still under at least 6 inches of snow. Believe it will be a bit more time before I can start digging in the dirt.

It was a disappointment to miss everyone last month, but I think we made a good and safe call to cancel our meeting. We are excited that Deb Rowden was able to reschedule for later this year.

In a few weeks, we will be welcoming Annie Helmericks-Louder and I can't wait! Although I have never met her, she seems to have a lot in common with my California quilting mini-group buddies; and I am sure her presentation will bring back many fond memories.

My California mini-group is led by a woman who owns a quilt shop specializing in products one would use to develop art quilts. She also holds fabric dyeing workshops, and teaches lessons in embellishments, fabric painting, and thread painting, so her shop draws a lot of the local fiber artists from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara. Although I am far from being described as a quilt artist, I have a good friend in this group, and she invited me to join. They call themselves the "Extreme Quilters". When I first joined, I was clearly out of my element, but it became one of my most enriching experiences in my life. Many of the members have formal training in the arts and a passion to create using fiber, and most have never made a traditional quilt. We spent our meetings sharing what we were working on, showing any new techniques we had discovered, and discussing philosophical issues. One memorable discussion was around "when does a craft project become art... or art become a craft?" What do you think? I usually sat, observed, and absorbed all I could... this was fascinating stuff for me! You may know that I am a scientist, so all my didactic training was in math and science; art never crossed my transcript. I was like a sponge, trying to soak up all I could from this wonderful group of ladies.

The group frequently develops challenges, and at first, I remained an observer. As time went on, I gained some confidence and decided to join in the fun. This really forced me out of my box, and it was such fun to create things from scratch, especially when the group dictated what materials had to be used. Many of my pieces still had a more traditional tone to them... but it gave me an opportunity to try working in different color palettes, try new techniques, tap into my creative side, and free myself of all those quilting rules. I am now not so obsessed if one of my corners doesn't match!

Why am I blathering on about my old group? Because it was a real growing experience for me. It opened my mind to the many possibilities one can do with our art.. and yes, I consider all quilts a piece of art (not a craft!). Color choice and placement, color values, and proportions all contribute to our work, whether you are piecing a simple nine-patch or creating a complicated appliqué masterpiece. How many simple, but absolutely stunning patchwork quilts have we oohed and aahed



over? It's all in the fabric selection and block placement. Having some understanding of art basics can really help enhance your fabric creations, and I would encourage everyone to consider taking a few art classes at the local community college.

Who knows what could happen if this ends up resonating within you? Best example is one of my Extreme Quilters buddies, Paula. She is a retired 5th grade science teacher, who started to tap into her artistic side, took a few art classes, and began to play around with posterizing floral images. She transformed them into stunning, abstract appliqué wall hangings using hand dyed silk, lots of thread, and her 10 year old Bernina. Within a few years, her art was featured on the cover of Quilting Arts magazine.

Spring is just around the corner... what a great and inspirational time to begin thinking of fresh, new ideas to infuse into our fabric creations!

Happy Quilting! Donna Holloway

KC SHOP HOP 2013

Be sure to support our local quilt shops on April 4-7, 2013. Hours are Thursday-Saturday 9:00-8:00 and Sunday 12:00-5:00. The 10 participating shops are Harper's, Overbrook, Quilter's Quarters, Rustic Yearnings, Stitch on Needlework, Peddler's Wagon, Prairie Point, Quilters' Haven, Quilter's Paradise and Stitching Traditions. Further details are listed at kcshophop.com

Spring Fling Retreat



May 3-5, 2013. We have a few spots left for our third annual Spring Fling Retreat at the beautiful Cedar Crest Lodge in Pleasanton, KS on the weekend of May 3-5, 2013. ([http:// www.cedarcrestlodge.com](http://www.cedarcrestlodge.com)). Cost will be \$179/ person (2 per room: 1Q and 1T). Please check with me if you'd like a single room; we may be able to accommodate this. The cost includes room on Friday and Saturday night, six meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch), and your own personal sewing spot. Cedar Crest lets us arrive early on Friday (9AM), and leave mid afternoon on Sunday, so you can squeeze in almost 3 full days of quilting! See me at the meeting to sign up; \$50 deposit required, with full payment due by the April Guild meeting. Contact Donna Holloway (913 402 7559; DONNALHOLLOWAY@yahoo.com) if you have any questions!

Fat Quarters for March 2013

Hopefully you didn't get too attached to the Feb. **PURPLE** fat quarters. **BRING** them and also the **MARCH** fat quarters. If we have more than 5 fat quarters for February, we will have 2 drawings. Bring the **TEAL** or **AQUA** for March. It's a good excuse to go to the fabric Shop. Whoever wins Feb. cannot win March.

Joyce Verstraete.

Quilting Techniques 101

We are trying to initiate a series of mini-lessons on various aspects of quilting as a review for the experienced quilter and to provide basic knowledge for those just learning new skills. The first demo will cover binding a quilt and it will begin at 6:30, just prior to the start of our guild meeting. See you there.

Janette Sheldon



Annie Helmericks-Louder

We are so lucky to have Annie Helmericks-Louder as our March speaker. As soon as Susan Stevenson said Annie was her mentor, I knew we had to book her! Annie Helmericks-Louder is an instructor at UCM (University of Central Missouri) in the art department. Her professional experience is listed as being in drawing, painting, watercolor, design and fibers. In Annie's own words:



I am a maker of things--all kinds of things including: art textiles, paintings and drawings. From childhood, my experience of the earth formed my most inner personal landscape and art-making became my act of inquiry. I still most often begin my work with summer on-location drawings (<http://roadtriphelmericks-louder.blogspot.com/>) as direct contact with the land is essential for authentic experience. But most importantly, being on the land gives me joy; it fills me up. Winters find me making large studio works and teaching a few university art classes. This exchange with other artists is also a pleasure and balances my solitary time in the studio. I work in many styles and mediums as each has its unique voice and range of exploration. This past year I have found my work becoming quite abstract as I focus more closely on color, texture, and pattern and also on experiences that sometimes go beyond words and images. But I also love storytelling. When I see something.... 'true', I may not know why it feels this way, but I must reach out and try to capture it. My 'stories', often involving nature, reveal close intimacy and also uncover unresolved schisms; they question established hierarchies. So again, welcome and thank you for your interest. Come in and explore.

If you view Annie's work at [Annie Helmericks-Louder, Artist - Home](#), you'll see why we just can't wait until our March meeting!

Shirley Lewis and Karen Edwards

Programs & Workshops

My name is Mary Ann Marland and I am a member of a non for profit group called "Dress a Girl Around the World" (www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com). This group is based out of Phoenix, AR and has a motto that every girl deserves a dress. There are many "dress a girl" groups that have started throughout the United States and overseas that meet and sew simple sun dresses for girls ages 6 months -12 years old. I have a group of 5 women and this past year we have sewn and sent 167 dresses to orphanages in Haiti and Guatemala. Currently we are sewing for an orphanage in the Congo that will receive the dresses in May. Usually these dresses are delivered to the orphanages by individuals from churches or medical mission personnel that are going. If anyone is interested in donating fabric or sewing dresses please contact me at mamarland@kc.rr.com or 913-620-3398. A yard of fabric will make a dress sized 6 month- 8 year and 1 1/2 yards will make one for a 9 -12 year old. The fabric needs to be a darker solid or print cotton. We are unable to use pastels or really light colors due to the girls' dark skin; we want to preserve their dignity. On the "dress a girl" website, there are many photos of dresses to give you an idea of what they look like. Renee Arnett has agreed to take any fabric donated at the 3/26 guild meeting to Mary Ann. Thank you so much for your consideration.



Suzy Scissorhands

Dear SQG Friends,

If you follow the Starlight Quilters Facebook page, you will have seen my snow days project already. But in case you haven't, I'm going to repeat it here. This is such a fun and easy project that anyone can do, and it certainly keeps the kids busy on a snowy no-school day. Let's hope that my printing this here keeps us from having any more snow days until next winter!



Snow Day Quilt Block

Supplies: 10" square of white or light fabric

12 1/2" square of background (polka dot is great because it looks like snow)

1. Cut a piece of fusible webbing 10" x 10" or any square size you want. I like Lite Steam-A-Seam because it is thin and flexible – half the weight of regular Steam-A-Seam.

2. Fuse the webbing to the back side of your snowflake fabric. White-on-white is wonderful, but any light fabric will work. Do not remove the paper backing yet.

3. Fold the square in half, then in half again. For really small kids you might want to stop here. Otherwise, fold again diagonally.

4. Cut out your snowflake design. The more cuts, the lacier the snowflake. Remember to cut the center tip and the edge points.

5. Open the snowflake and look at it. If you like the design, go to the next step. You can refold and cut more if you want to.

6. When you are pleased with your design, open it up and smooth it with your hands. Now remove the paper backing.

7. Place the snowflake on a square of fabric at least 2" larger than the original snowflake square. For a 10" snowflake, use a 12 1/2" square; for an 8" snowflake, use a 10 1/2" square, etc. Make sure the snowflake is centered and that the fabric side is up, facing you, and the fusible is down next to the background fabric.

8. Now iron the snowflake to the background.

That's it! Your Snow Day block is done. Make as many blocks as you want, depending on how big you want your quilt. Or stop with one block and put it in a frame to hang on the wall. If your quilt is going to get washed often you will want to make sure the quilting goes over the snowflake, or sew around the outside edge to secure it to the fabric.

You and the kids now have a wonderful project to remember those no-school Snow Days.

Happy Quilting,

Suzy



Opportunity Quilt Winner Our 2012 Opportunity Quilt Winner was Teresa Saenz, a co-worker of mine.

She speaks Spanish as her first language, so when I called to tell her she had won the quilt, she didn't understand and hung up on me!! A friend called later to translate and when she told Teresa the good news, I could hear her squealing excitedly in the background. She was not able to make it to the November meeting to accept the quilt from the guild, so I took it to her. She said to say "Thank You!!" and that she loved it. KristtiOrr.



Project Linus

Even with all the snow we've had, we're already up to 59 blankets for Project Linus. To help with your blanket total, may I suggest a super easy Lili's Hug, Quick Quilt or Simple Gifts? We also have a new pattern drafted by Mary Honas: Snowball. There are quite a few kits made up for that pattern. Come pick one up at the meeting!

Please remember:

Do your best work on these quilts! If the borders need to be fixed, two layers of fleece untangled, or threads clipped, that just takes time from making other blankets.



Yes, yes, please:

- *Clip all threads.
- *Remove all straight pins.
- *Please leave your safety pins at home -- we need no identification on these blankets
- *If you wash the blankets, please use unscented laundry detergent and don't bother with fabric softener. Some of the blanket recipients are medically fragile and chemicals are not acceptable.
- *Single layer fleece only -- the double blankets are too hot and heavy and will have to be reworked, causing a delay getting a blanket to a child.
- *Regular sewing thread - no metallic threads for the blankets
- *Please, fleece and cotton blankets - no double knits
- *Use crochet thread or embroidery thread to tie blankets. Yarn may create a choking hazard.
- *Applique for embellishment only - please no ribbons, buttons or anything that could be pulled off by a little one.
- *Neutral odor only - the blanket must have **no** smell --Strong and musty odors are not acceptable either for fabric donations or blanket donations. We cannot use musty, smelly fabric and will handle appropriately.



LIBRARY CORNER PRECUT PARADISE

January's speaker had great ideas for using precuts and I know many of you are looking for ideas to use the gorgeous precuts you just couldn't resist picking up. Our library has a number of books filled with projects for using them. Consider "Fat Quarter Fancywork" by Menaugh, Brackman, & Ralston for applique ideas, "Fat Quarter Friendly" by Fons & Porter, "Fat Quarter Quilts" or "M'Liss Rae Hawley's Precut Quilts" by M'Liss Rae Hawley, "30+ Projects Using Fat Quarters" by Leisure Arts, or "5, 10, 15+ Fat Quarters" by Jeanne Stauffer. Have some jelly rolls? Try "Jelly Roll Quilts", "Jelly Roll Sampler Quilts", and "Layer Cake, Jelly Roll, and Charm Quilts" by Pam & Nicky Lintott or "Jelly Roll Quilts and More" by Kimberly Einmo. "Nickel Quilts" by Pat Speth and "More Loose Change" by Plett & Weaver will have you using up those charm squares. These books have been very popular, so if you haven't looked at them yet, please do.

Cheryl Tomson, Linda Clatterbuck, Kristi Orr

Membership Cards and Rosters

Under separate email, the new 2013 Starlight Quilters Directory was electronically forwarded to members only. For those who don't have email, a copy will be provided at the March meeting. Also, membership cards will be available on the Membership table. For those members who have not paid their dues yet, I will be collecting at the table. This is the last month you will receive the SQG newsletter unless your dues have been paid.

WELCOME NEW JANUARY MEMBERS—Gwen Brustad, Terri Callison, & Linda Hill

January Attendance

Members	70	Membership Cards and Rosters
New members	3	Marilyn Carr
Guests	<u>5</u>	
Total	78	

May your sorrows be patched and your joys be quilted.

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

The First Kansas City Regional Quilt Festival is in the Works!

The first Kansas City Regional Quilt Festival will be held in June, 2015. Representatives from many area guilds have been meeting regularly for almost a year. Incorporation as a LLC in the State of Missouri is in the works. The officers include Nancy Wakefield, president, Lynn Droege and Janette Sheldon, vice presidents and co-chairs, Cheryl Williams, treasurer, and Sarah Rathgen, secretary. The position of web manager is yet to be filled.

The location of the festival has been narrowed to two places. The final decision will be made soon. In the meantime we are in the process of developing a web page and logo.

There have been some concerns which need to be addressed. First of all, this show DOES NOT preclude any guild or group from having a show or activity in 2015. Many guilds look to their show as a much needed money maker. Each guild can still do that. A question that keeps coming up is "Will this cost our guild money to participate?" The answer is no. The show costs will be covered by sponsors and vendors. Participating in the festival will not cost dollars, but we will need manpower, and a lot of it.

We are asking all guilds to make a decision whether to participate or not by June. That will be two years out from when the show will be held. We know there are a lot of unanswered questions. I will be making a short presentation regarding this show at our next meeting.

Janette Sheldon

Requirements for Quilts of Valor

In last month's newsletter, a chart showed the basic requirements for Quilts of Valor. The last item on the list was a presentation case. At the work day for QOV at Harper's this past month, presentation cases were made by RuthAnn Bonin. Thank you, RuthAnn!

So what IS a presentation case? Straight from the QOV website, It is a reusable bag for the quilt. Think of it this way, the best way to store any quilt is in a pillowcase. Pillowcases are quick and easy to make. Here's the link from the QOV website: <http://www.qovf.org/content/presentation-case.html>. And there are many other tutorials on youtube or on line. So find your favorite. If you don't have time to make a quilt, you might just be able to make a presentation case for a soldier. Mary Honas

2013 Guild Challenge Redux

Last month I told you about the 2013 Guild Challenge: "Toys in the Attic". You get to create whatever you believe you would find in your toy attic - cat toys, rocking horses, dress up chests, Barbies, GI Joes, Creepy Crawlers, blocks, Tinker Toys, dog toys, bird cages, sorting rings, Chatty Cathies, dollhouses, stuffed animals, teddy bears, baby dolls, slinkies, silly putty eggs, whew... I could go on & on here but you get the idea or hopefully lots of ideas!

Now, apparently I had more than just toys in my attic (maybe bats in my belfry) and forgot to say how big this toy attic should be! Let's put a cap on it at 48" square or 192" all the way around. Anything smaller is just fine. The quilts are definitely due at our August meeting. They will be displayed and favorites voted on during the break. The top 3 winners will get ribbons and maybe something extra. If there are enough entries, I may split the group between smaller and larger.

Stay tuned for further developments! And start designing your master attic.

Starlight Starbright 2013 Quilt Show Update

October 18th & 19th at the Abdallah Shrine Temple, Overland Park KS

The following Quilt Categories will be judged by Viewers Choice at the 2013 Quilt Show:

Miscellaneous, Small (longest side less than 40"), **Medium** (longest side between 40" and 60"), **Large** (longest side between 60" and 90"), **Extra-Large** (longest side greater than 90"), **Hand Quilted** and **Best of Show**.

The following Committee Awards will be judged before the show by the Quilt Show Committee

Best Representation of Show Theme (Starlight Starbright), **Rookie Quilt** (best entry by beginning quilter) and **1st Show Entry** (best entry by quilter who has never displayed in a show before)

* There will be a special display only category for **Antique Quilts**. This will not be judged, but provided for the enjoyment of the viewers. A special area will also be set up to display **Linus Quilts**.

Be thinking about where your quilts fit in!

The next planning meeting will be held on April 9 at the Johnson County Central Resource Library at 6:00 PM. For info, Janice Craig or Kim Cauthon

SQG 2013 Programs

March 26—Annie Helmericks-Louder—
Beyond Words: Visual Stories by Annie
Helmericks-Louder

April 23—Janet Stone—Alphabet Quilt
Madness Trunk Show

May 28—Jane Kennedy -Trunk Show

June 25—TBA

July 23—Farmer's Dotter - Feedsacks &
Recycling Trunk Show

August 27—First & Favorite Show & Tell

September 24—Deb Rowden— Flea Market
Quilts—Improv, Gees Bend & a Pile of Wild
Quilts

October 22—Candy Hargrove—My Quilt
Journey from Beginner to Published Design-
er

November 19—Mary Honas—Color Play

Website to View Quilt Auction

More than 200 quilts will be auctioned on
Sat. April 13 at the Kansas Mennonite Re-
lief Sale in Hutchinson. They have a web-
site where you can view the quilts. [http://
kansas.mccsale.org/quilts.html](http://kansas.mccsale.org/quilts.html)

I really like this website because you can
look at 200 different quilts and enlarge the
screen to full size. You get ideas for colors,
etc. Most of the quilts donated are hand
quilted by a group. Some are exquisite, some
aren't.

Linda Clatterbuck

Do you have a birthday this

month? Enjoy your day! Please bring a
snack or dessert for the Hospitality
Table to share. This month's birth-
days are: Nancy Buzzell Charlya Cooley



Julia Day Pam Eckel Kris Harrison

Amy McCarthy Julie Moyer Pat Pennington

Sherry Snare Carolyn Spohn Celesta Tiner

Brigita Wade Rosemary Watrak Margaret Welch

April Birthdays: Karen Boyd Marsha Reeves
Luella Roemer Karen Vertin Arlis Wickstrum

Because there are so few April birthdays, we'd also love
donations from February people who didn't get to bring
their goodies to our cancelled meeting!

Advertisements

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to run your **FREE** ad, send your information to the
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Membership Information:

Membership, New or Renewal, \$25.00. Your annual dues bring the newsletter chock-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!

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



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



Newsletter Deadline:

Articles are due the 9th of the month. E-mail your article to Sandy Fey sandyfey@kc.rr.com (913-432-0855).

NEXT SQG

MEETING! Tuesday, March 26, 2013 6:30 PM— Meet friends, gobble some goodies, bring some boutique items or tickets, sign up to volunteer!

6:30 PM— Binding Mini-lesson

7:00 PM— [Annie Helmericks-Louder](#)

Remember to bring:

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

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