

I also attended the Needle Arts Show this year. The embroidery work displayed in this show was outstanding (all done by hand, of course!). Many of our members are also part of this guild. If I could only find a way to fit this into my days, I'd join in a flash! Like our group, there are many talented needle women willing to share their knowledge and tricks of the trade.

The Next KHQ President

This is the last newsletter I will be writing as President of this fine group of quilters. Simone Lynch has agreed to take over as President in the fall. I have thoroughly enjoyed my long stay as your President and will happily come back in the future. It is time for a change for the group and for me. I thank you for having me for so long and know you will support Simone as she takes over this special and fun position. I will still be close-by as Past-President, webmaster, and any other things I can help with.

I hope you will take on an executive position sometime soon and get to know some of the wonderful women who direct our group. I promise you, you will not be sorry. We are now looking for a Vice-President. Any volunteers? We are a happy, sharing Executive who would help you help our group. As the Executive said to me in 1990 when I did my first stint as President, "We won't let you make a mistake! We are with you every step of the way!" And that is exactly what they did!

We are also looking for someone to help our Historian, Bea Walroth. If you're interested, please let Simone, me, or one of the Executive know.

See you at the Church Hall!

OUT and ABOUT- Kingston Heirloom Quilters on the Road

AQS show in Lancaster, PA

Lorna Grice

Simone and I joined the bus trip to the American Quilters Society first show in Lancaster PA organized by the Limestone Guild. The fun began on the bus with games of quilt bingo with prizes donated by local quilt shops. The fabric shopping began on the way down in Litiz, PA and continued on side bus trips arranged by our leaders Lillian and Bev for Thursday and Friday afternoons. I'm still green with envy at the prices American quilters pay for fabric.

The rest of the time was spent looking at quilts, 400 of them and vendor stalls, 300 of them! I attended 3 lectures: the talk by Cindy Walters was very informative on the difference between mediums-acrylic paint, oil paint, crayons, dyes and inks, and that by Charlotte Angotti was the most humorous. A busy but enjoyable 3 days.

Almonte Bus Trip

Jocelyne Ezard

On Friday, April 16th some of our members took part in a bus trip organized by the Cataraqui Guild of Needle Arts to the Textile Museum in Almonte to view a reproduction of the Bayeux

May 2010 2

Tapestry. This tapestry depicts the leadup to the battle of Hastings in 1077. The original is now displayed in Bayeux, France.

The reproduction was embroidered by Ray Dugan and we were fortunate in having him present at the museum to give us an account of the history of the original, its journey to this day, and of his own personal journey in reproducing it in our time. Those who attended were fascinated with all of it. Since the original was badly frayed and the last part of it was missing, Professor Dugan added his own version of its ending, from historical accounts.

The trip was great fun. We arrived in time for lunch and spread throughout the town to find nourishment. Then some of us found our way to the quilt shop in town before going to the museum display and lecture.

The 'friends of the museum' had provided refreshments and muffins for us to enjoy and we still finished 30 minutes early. Some avid quilters negotiated for a stop at Almonte's other quilt shop on the way out of town. It was situated next to a quaint bakery which sold huge butter tarts and the mall also contained a 'tea room' -- guess that will be for another trip!

All in all, it was a great day, in spite of the rain and a good time was had by all. We were home for supper, just after 6:00 p.m. Thanks, Theresa, for organizing this trip.

Quilt and Stitch Visit – April 22nd 2010

Sylvia Curry

Kingston's two well known quilt shops began 2010 by merging into one spacious quilting and sewing facility; something we'd have to check out! And so, duly warned, Margaret Millar and Adrianna Wyngaarden welcomed us, providing yet more chairs and handout pamphlets as more of us arrived. They reviewed the three subjects in which we had expressed interest: batting, threads and needles.

As Margaret discussed the features of each type of batting, Adrianna brought in samples. New to many of us are the variety of batts now available, from all cotton, wool or polyester to blends with other fibres, such as bamboo, and treatments such as siliconization and resin bonding. Of eight varieties of batting, there is one for every need.



Next we examined a variety of threads, again at least one for every need. Cotton thread, especially the Egyptian long-stapled variety, is the universal favourite. The thread weights: 40 for quilting 50 for general piecing and appliqué, and 60 for finer piecing and invisible appliqués. Silk thread is also popular for appliqué and fine sewing, as it becomes almost invisible when

stitched. 60 weight thread is becoming increasingly popular and works well with a size 70 machine needle. Margaret cautioned that if machine sewing with polyester thread, the bobbin must be wound slowly to prevent the thread from stretching. A stretched bobbin thread will relax when sewn, producing a puckered seam. Machine needle numbers increase as the needle size increases, while hand sewing needle numbers increase as the needle size decreases. In general, the finer the needle, the smaller the hole and the flatter the seam.

In reviewing machine care, Margaret stressed the importance of cleaning the machine regularly and changing needles every 4th bobbin, but above all she maintained one should never be

frustrated with her sewing machine. If that should happen bring it to Margaret. Boy, is she leaving herself open for a deluge! But with or without our machines, we will all be back to enjoy all the fabrics, sewing and quilting notions at Quilt and Stitch. Many thanks to Margaret and Adrianna for a most informative and interesting visit.

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What's New at the Library

Lorna Grice

Three new books - that's what! Simone and I each chose a title while we were in Lancaster at the AQS Show. They are: "Scrap Basket Surprises" by Kim Brackett and "String Quilts" by Elsie M. Campbell. Jane Lay's friend has made a quilt from Scrap Basket Surprises which Jane will show when she does her trunk show on May 20. How's that: a new book and a sample quilt! The third book was purchased at Quilt & Stitch and is titled "Paradise Stitched- Sashiko & Appliqué Quilts" by Sylvia Pippen. Exotic floral designs, some with embroidery, are quilted with sashiko patterns in the background. They reflect Sylvia's life in Hawaii by depicting Orchids, Plumeria and other exotic flower and birds.

In Memoriam

It is our policy to donate books to the Kingston Frontenac Public Library in Memory of deceased members.

A book titled "Appliqué - The Basics and Beyond" by Jane Pittman has been given in memory of our co-founder Margaret Rhodes.

A second book titled "Machine Quilting - The Basics and Beyond" by Lynn Witzenburg has been given in Memory of Kay Reynolds a long-time member of KHQ who passed in late March.



Both books

are hard bound with interior coil binding which allows them to lie flat for easy use.

Some History of the Kingston Heirloom Quilters

Bea Walroth & Donna Hamilton

Wanting to include Margaret's Rhodes original "Basket of Flowers" design in an upcoming tribute to her in the 2010 summer issue of *Canada Quilts*, Bea turned to *Lady's Circle Patchwork Quilts*, November 1988 issue in which it had been previously published. This

brought back memories of an exciting time when KHQ was lauded internationally. Bea shared the magazine with Donna.

Thoroughly enjoying re-reading the magazine and in particular the *Heirloom Quilting* article (November 1988 *Lady's Circle Patchwork Quilts* magazine, page 55, written by Karen O'Dowd), Donna thought current members would enjoy this bit of KHQ history. It was such a beautiful description of Kingston and her quilters.

What follows is the story behind the story, an excerpt from the 1988 article, and reaction to the article. You can find the full article in the magazine at the Library Table. Enjoy ...

The Story Behind the Story

Bea Walroth

In 1988, it was the practice for *Lady's Circle Patchwork Quilts* to travel the U.S.A. from state to state, seeking quilts to feature in their magazine; i/e "the Quilts of Omaha" or "the Quilts of Kentucky". In the spring of 1988, they chose to swing up through Canada and dedicate a few issues to their large northern subscriber base. Thus it was that Editor-in-chief Karen O'Dowd and Photographer Myron Miller landed in Kingston in the early morning of June 15 and found an embarrassment of riches; pages and pages of copy for their upcoming and several subsequent issues.

Karen called Phyllis Vanhorne a week prior, to set up a possible meeting. But it was not until the night of June 14 that the visit was confirmed. The "Agnes" was running their show "Infinities" at that time, a pairing of antique and modern quilts with modern paintings from their permanent collection. KHQ's president, Doris Waddell, convinced the visitors that a stop there would be worth their time.

The meeting was set up for 9:00 am, June 15, at the Agnes. What a scramble it was for Margaret Rhodes, Diane Berry, Doris and Phyllis as well as Agnes curator Dorothy Farr to gather the quilts (several KHQ group quilts including our *Appliqué Sampler*, *Tea Leaves*, and *Buds and Blossoms*) and get them to the Agnes where all of the photos were taken. Doris describes this in great detail in KHQ's fall '88 newsletter.

Karen requested patterns of some of these works including five from our *Appliqué Sampler* (shown to the right). Margaret, Diane and I busied ourselves putting this packet together. They later asked for all the rest of the patterns of the blocks in the Quilt, to which we complied.

Karen O'Dowd returned in the fall to present a slide lecture and had a complementary magazine placed on every seat. So we all received a copy of our "fall of fame" issue. Margaret billeted her and took great delight in preparing her bed with antique lace edged pillowcases and a glorious quilt.



Heirloom Quilting

By Karen O'Dowd, November 1988 Lady's Circle Patchwork Quilts magazine, page 55

On the distant shores of a clear, cool, sparkling lake there lies a harbour guarded by Martello Towers. There you will find a fairy tale kingdom of quilters, where streets are named for kings and queens and princes and princesses. Sailboats cavort on the harbor's sparkling waters, people lounge on the lumpy green banks, and no one ever seems to be in a hurry. The sun shines so brightly, and the sky is so blue, everyone is inspired to have a happy heart, and make heirloom quilts to express their good feelings.

There are no bumpy knots showing on the quilts *these* quilters make, and all their stitches are tiny and even. Borders lie flat, corners are always square, and they use *piping* in place of ordinary binding. In this kingdom, one good turn deserves another, a constant spirit of sharing and giving prevails, and every quilt made is ordained to be of masterpiece quality.

There are long days set aside for uninterrupted quilting with others, in a public building with light, bright windows near the quilting frame. It is a place where questions about quilting are answered, quilt problems solved, and mistakes are turned into assets.

The *Art Centre* in this kingdom (affiliated with the *Queen's University*, of course) welcomes quilts as art, has room to store and display them correctly, has ladies-in-waiting to care for them, and lets the public have access to them with a smile.

Compliments abound, and sharing and working together on quilts or in the community is the rule, rather than the exception. There is financial support for quilt projects from local businesses, and a quantity of enthusiastic media coverage given to exhibitions and other quilt-related happenings.

Though it *sounds* like a fairy tale, the setting described exactly suits *Kingston, Ontario*. It is a real place with real quilters doing all these things and consistently insisting that nothing but the best is good enough when making or displaying quilts.

And, when asked "who is the fairest quilter in this kingdom?" all eyes go to Margaret Rhodes, who continues to be the driving force among the quilters in Kingston. She has high standards and great expectations, but is ever willing to share her time, knowledge and creativity. Her attitudes and skills trickle into the quilting group and out into the community.

In 1979 a group of women who had taken quilting lessons from Margaret Rhodes and Diane Berry decided they wanted to continue quilting together, dedicated to the creation of fine heirloom quilts. They chose the name *Kingston Heirloom Quilters* for themselves. The group has since expanded to include other experienced quilters in the area, and now has approximately sixty members. They have established a solid reputation with their outstanding group quilts, which have taken top awards in several exhibitions and shows.

Noted for their exquisite hand-worked traditional quilts, the *Kingston Heirloom Quilters* believe there should be a bit of extra quilting in a work, and no project, however small, should be less than heirloom quality. Special attention is always given to borders and bindings, and their use of piping (fabric covered cording) has become a trademark.

Margaret and Diane both say their new students never question this extra effort, they think this is just the way it's supposed to be done!

...

Each day has a happy beginning, with more quilting challenges to face, more doors to open, and the opportunity to make their dreams of masterpiece quilts a reality. And, of course, there has to be a happy ending each day too, in this fairy-tale-like-story about the *Kingston Heirloom Quilters*. You just know every member goes to sleep at night with a smile, wrapped snugly in their favourite heirloom quilt, awaiting dreams liberally sprinkled with quilting ideas to enjoy happily ever after.

Reaction to the Heirloom Quilting Article

The following, written by Bea Walroth, appeared in KHQ's September 1989 newsletter, page 9.

Fan Mail

The coverage of some of our group's early quilts last fall in the *Lady's Circle Patchwork Quilt Magazine* has generated a lot of fan mail, nearly all deposited in Doris Waddell's mailbox.

Her delight soon turned to dread at seeing the mailman trucking in more and more requests to buy "patterns for all the blocks in the *Sampler Quilt*". Would that we had them and that they were ours to sell. Copying a published pattern for one's own use is one thing, but selling them is quite another. Her only recourse has been to direct them to the sources where they might be found.

The letter (shown to the right) was passed along to Margaret by the Agnes Etherington Art Centre where it had been flown from the wilds of Wisconsin. Suspecting that this quilter may not have access to a library, Margaret poured through her books and magazines, managing to locate every pattern except one.

Watch for clones of the quilt to be popping up in a year or so.

July 25-89

Dear Agnes.

I would want to buy 15 patterns of quilt. I like your quilt very much.

You can notice 15 red cross that mean I need to have 15 patterns.

light blue cross 5 patterns from patchwork quilt magazine.

Hope to hear from you real soon.

Thanks,

Membership

Gail Jennings

Due to the success in recent years of the Early Bird membership drive, it will be available to members in May (with the draw date to be determined). Please remember to bring your \$30 cash or cheque to the next meeting.

Snippets

Ros Hanes

*



Lorna Grice gave an interesting demonstration of how she made her “Summer purse”

* Other demonstrations since Christmas were “Coffee filter fans”, a quick method demo with Sally Hutson and “How to piece accurately by hand – Do’s and Don’ts” The instructions for the latter will be part of our “KHQ Quilting Binder”

* Our French friend Annick was back in town for a short time and managed a visit with a small group. Annick was looking well but shared the sad news that she had lost her sight in one of her eyes suddenly. “But not worry”, she told us, “my other eye works well!” She brought us another gift of fabric bits and pieces from France – more challenges! Some will probably find its way into a frame on the fashion quilt.

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Many years ago I was taught to quilt by Diane Berry and the late Margaret Rhodes at the Sydenham Street United Church and I had the best mentors. At first I believed I went there for the crustless egg salad sandwiches and cookies (all the same size) which were served at tea time - far away from the quilting frame; - that was my first lesson - never forgotten. The second was if I pricked my finger and if I bled on the quilt, only my own saliva spat onto a white linen hanky could remove the "stain on our escutcheon". The third and most relevant was "Only G-d is perfect" and so when a masterpiece was finished, a tiny copy of this wisdom was purposefully placed along a stitched line of ten to the inch.

This last lesson was the catalyst for my dream of creating a quilted wall hanging as a gift to Beth Israel for its centennial celebration. If only that experience of old could be recreated. That is, women working with women offering help in perfecting the skill, offering support to each person's personal life challenges: loving acts of kindness proffered with generosity: shared wisdom in all aspects of life. All this, in an intergenerational environment - that was my dream. Would it truly matter if the outcome was not perfection?? I thought not.

The Board had a different view - would it be a work of beauty? Would it be kosher? Where would we hang it? What size would it be? Would it be a precedent setter? They did their job and I did mine presenting the case: but, I was scared and it was difficult to convince myself that it could be done.

The odyssey began in October 2008. I joined the Kingston Heirloom Quilters (KHQ) on a three day trip to the Niagara area. We were to view an African Quilt display and stop at quaint backroad shops to purchase fabrics for individual quilt projects.

Margaret Knapp, **Suzanna Keller** and I decided on the colours which would enhance the yellow brick wall which was determined the wall of exhibition. I believed that memories, Jewish symbols and accepted 1st testament biblical blocks could be combined to create an original design.

I was intrigued by the colours of those African quilts and inspired by their use of black stripping which not only separated the blocks but united them into a whole picture. My colleagues in KHQ were drawn to our project and most helpful to me in finding bits of fabric we needed: "Here's a yellow brick"; "Here's a burgundy brick"; "This would be fabulous greenery fabric"; "Look at this trim for the wedding canopy". I was blessed and encouraged by their enthusiasm.

Suzanna and I held several workshops at my home for the pieced biblical blocks. Our members took templates, instructions, and fabrics home with a stern deadline of mid January for completion. She used a book entitled "Symbols of Faith" as the source for embroidering her blocks and they were finished while packing up her household for their move to Ottawa.

I worked with those who invoked gentle persuasion to attempt that art of appliqué for the memory and life cycle blocks. These works of art were labours of love – all of the blocks were- for most had little knowledge of needlework in general. It was a glorious day in June when Suzanna and I spread all of the completed blocks out on my dining room floor and moved them around until we were satisfied with the balance of story and colour.

My "personal trainer" was Diane Berry. She worked with me on the floor of my dining room for three whole days. We penciled all the quilting designs and the lines; then secured the quilt top batting and backing fabric with basting stitches; nothing must shift during quilting. On the fourth day, her husband Jim helped us put the quilt on its frame in my dining room. Thanks goes to Diane Berry for binding the quilt and correcting some of the glaring errors on the backside - her diligence and love for this project was beyond my hopes. She made our dream come true.

For five months my family ate in the kitchen - no matter whose birthday, Yom Tov or distinguished guests were served. Everyone who came to the house admired the work in progress as they lifted the bedsheets protecting it from the sun and sticky fingers.

Our quilting bees were enhanced by KHQ quilters placed strategically around the quadrangle frame: they instructed us; they encouraged us and they quilted with us. Then, we were solo. We met every second week

for whole days. Then we met weekly and finally we met almost daily so that the last stitch was placed one week before I left for my sabbatical in Mexico. We laughed, cried, and ate together and formed a sisterhood that cannot be described. Our mottos were "For the glory of Beth Israel" and "What is said around the frame - stays around the frame".

Baby Quilts

Joan and Peggy

Thank you to all who have helped with the baby quilts this year. We have given 64 to the hospital so far since September and will have a few more before the end of June. We will be trying to do more hand quilting on the sailboat quilt at the next few meetings. Also we can now add colour printed KHQ labels to our baby quilts thanks to Jane Lay and her husband.



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Upcoming events:

MAY 2010

****New** May 5 to July 4, 2010 "Say it in Red"**

Hand embroidered Redwork quilts from 1880 to 2010. Collections of Marilyn Crawford and Mary Young and other permanent collections. *Mississippi Valley Textile Museum*, 3 Rosamond Street East, *Almonte*, Ontario. Hours: Wednesday to Sunday 10am to 4pm.

JUNE 2010

****New** June 5-6: 2010 "I Dream of Quilts" Quilt Show**

presented by Quilters Guild of Renfrew and Area, MA-TE-WAY Activity Centre, 1 Ma-te-way Park drive, *Renfrew*, Ontario. Saturday June 5 10am-5pm; Sunday June 6 Noon-4pm. Raffles, Tea Room, Demo's, Merchant's Mall. Admission: \$5. For more information call 613-649-2605

June 25-27: Piecing Together the Past and the Present

The Vermont Quilt Festival, Juried quilt show, special exhibits, classes and vendors. 105 Pearl St, *Essex Junction, Vermont*. Fri-Sat: 9:00am-6:00pm; Sun: 9:00am-3:00pm. One-Day: \$12; seniors age 65 and over and groups of 25 or more: \$10; Two-Day Pass: \$21; seniors and groups: \$18; Three-Day Pass: \$28; seniors and groups: \$24; Children under 14: free with paying adult. All admissions include free parking. For more information, visit <http://www.vqf.org/>

JULY 2010

July 10-11: A Stitch in Time 2010

Prince Edward County Quilt Guild presents their show at *Picton* Prince Edward Community Centre - Fairgrounds 375 Main St. E. Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5 judged competition, quilt sales, members boutique, quilt raffle, merchant mall, tea room, demonstrations, featured artists, scissor sharpening, silent auction. Admission: \$5. Contact Mary Tucker at 613-476-0334 or email barry.mar@sympatico.ca or visit the web www.pec.on.ca/quiltersguild

July 17: Quilts in my Garden 2010

The Runaway Quilters, working in partnership with the Meaford Museum would like to offer you the opportunity for a fabulous experience this summer, "Quilts in my Garden 2010" in *Meaford*, ON. The gardens of six Meaford citizens will be opened to the public and each garden will be decorated with quilts made by local quilters. They will be offering discount coupons to local garden and quilting suppliers and for the gift shop at the Meaford Museum as well as door prizes for those who visit all six gardens. Tickets are \$15 each before Apr 30th, otherwise \$20. **Lunch** provided by local churches at set cost of \$8 per person. Directions to these locations will be available when you arrive. There are also a number of Meaford restaurants to provide for other taste buds. In addition, in the days before and after the event, they will be hosting a number of quilting related **lectures and workshops** including:

- * 2 Free Motion Quilting Workingsop with [Helen Fujiki](#) (July 14, 15, \$80)
- * a Fabric Conservation Presentation by Curator Pam Woolner (July 16, \$5)
- * Trunk Show "Japan Through the Eyes of a Quilter" (July 16, \$10)
- * Fuji-Wa Design Workshop with [Helen Fujiki](#) (July 18, \$80)

Please visit the Museum's web site at www.meafordmuseum.ca and click on Events. Tickets are available through the Meaford Hall box office at www.meafordmuseum.ca or email tickets@meaford.ca or call 1-877-538-0463.

July 23-25: Haliburton Village Haliburton Highlands Quilt Show 2010

Haliburton Curling Club Mountain St, Haliburton Village Fri 3-8 Sat 9-4 Sun 11-3 Show theme, "Journeys", with Traditional, Art and Heritage Quilts. Merchant Mall, Boutique with other than quilt-craft items, books, door prizes, quilt raffle, demos and refreshments. Featured Quilter Kim Bolender Admission: \$6.00 Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild. For more information, call Charlene Cooper 705-455-9212 or email g47pic@hotmail.com

AUGUST 2010

Aug 9-14: Fourth Annual International Quilt Exhibit: Quilts of Gee's Bend

Cotton-by-Post thrilled to announce that the fourth annual international Quilt Exhibit will feature the Quilts of Gee's Bend, Aug 9-14, 2010, London Convention Centre, London Ontario. Featuring: over 100 quilts, quilter's from Gee's Bend, workshops with these quilters, lecture/slide show daily, gala dinner & music on Saturday evening; Hilton, London (attached to the Convention centre) is offering special rates for accommodations. To learn more about the quilters and their quilts go to www.quiltsofgeesbend.com. Advance tickets: \$7 for show and \$8 for lecture and slide show. Tickets at the door: \$8 for show and \$8 for lecture and slide show. Gala Dinner (Includes dinner, music and awards) \$40 (doors open at 7pm, dinner at 8pm). For more information call 519-518-6134 or email garnet@cotton-by-post.com

Aug 14-15: Hooked On Fabric

Kemptville Quilt Guild presents their quilt show at Kemptville and District Community Centre, 285 County Rd 44, *Kemptville*, Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4 Featuring: Display of quilts and rughooking, Demos, Vendors Mall, Tea Room. Admission: \$6. Contact Jean Drozda at 613-657-3125 or email jddrozda@sympatico.ca