



Joan's Jibberish!

I must start with apologizing to everyone – yes, once again I was the last one to have their article in to Nancy for the Newsletter. Nancy, you only have to put up with me for 4 more issues!!! You are so lucky.

So you may ask: What have I been doing instead of writing my article? Truth be told, I have been watching the Skating Competition here in town.

My granddaughter participated in two categories: Freeskate – she placed in 3rd place (Bronze Ribbon) and the Syncro (we used to call it Precision skating back in the day) – her group placed second and won a Silver Medal! I am so blessed that my grandkids are here in town and I can watch them grow up and do the activities that they love to do.

I have also been cutting out fabric for a big king sized quilt!! It is exciting, but sooooo much cutting. I am also thinking of cutting up the fabric for the Brown Bag Mystery Quilt we are doing. My appetite is back for quilting and I am excited to do a few projects that I want as well. The sun must be giving me awesome energy.

So, as we say goodbye to January and hello to the month of love, hugs, kisses & of course CHOCOLATES, we welcome it with sunshine which is so cheerful. I would like to send out hugs and a big thank you to all our leaders and executives who keep our Guild running. We are such a fortunate Guild to have so many of you who step up to the plate when we need help and say "How can I help" or "What needs doing". As we begin the last half of the year, start thinking of whether you would like to help by being part of the executive as we will be looking for people to fill empty positions in the near future.

Have a GREAT Valentine's Day everyone!



February Events

(Check our online Calendar for updates)

February 2:

Guild Business Meeting
- Newcomers follows.

February 6:

Scrappy Subgroup

February 9:

Scrappy Sampler #1

February 13:

Classics Subgroup

February 14:

QuArtz Subgroup

February 16:

VSSQ General Meeting

February 23:

Open Sewing Day

February 27:

Talk Around the Block

Guild Meeting Days:

doors open at 9:00 am
meeting starts 9:30am

Subgroups and Classes:

doors open at 8:45am
for setup, ending 3:00pm



*Please remember,
our meetings and
classes have been
designated as
fragrance-free.*



Newsletter Editor: Nancy Bradley | Guild Website: www.vssq.org
VSSQ Mailing Address: #92-12560 Westside Road, Vernon BC V1H1S9.

Deadline for the MARCH issue of Patchwork is February 24th.

Community Care Report

*Your Community Care Team:
Betty, Joyce, Debbie and Linda.*

We had another great sew day on Thursday, January 26th. There were 14 people in attendance. We had a short demo of machine quilting with lots of sharing amongst the group. Lots of new information exchanged between our members. Our next community care sew day is April 13.



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by Mary Ellen MacGregor

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Newcomers Report

by Rene Gutyan

The first Newcomers sewing day of 2023 started off with great excitement as we all viewed the different fabric choices everyone had made for the construction of this year's Newcomers Tote. We had lots of variety of fabrics as well as wonderful color choices. Since September the Guild has had a busy year and welcomed 16+ new members. The purpose of this group is to provide a chance for people new to the Guild to meet and get to know the Guild and its activities on a more personal level. It allows new members a chance to ask questions and get answers easily, and to learn all the Guild has to offer. By assigning each person a member of longer standing (MLS) they have their own personal guide.

Plans are in the works for a Shop Hop to take place in the spring. This will be a chance for Newcomers and their MLS to look for fabrics to use when they make a special quilt block which will be collected and used in a draw. One or two members will win all the blocks and make a quilt of their own. The quilt block chosen for use this year is new and looks exciting, so we should have some gorgeous quilts for next September's Show and Tell.

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Today's Quilting Trends

Excerpts from:

A Summary of the Quilter's Survey 2022

funded by Premier Needle Arts

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Data for the Quilter's Survey was collected February 2022. Over 1 million quilters were invited to participate via email through 5 leading brands, with over 26,000 responses and 20 million data points. 92% are from the U.S., 6% from Canada, and 2% from other countries.

Who is the Quilter?

She is:

- Female
- In her 60's
- Retired
- With household income \$65k+
- 17.5% have a full-time job
- Comfortable with tech
- She's been quilting for over 10 years
- She starts 10 to 12 quilt projects a year, mostly Lap or Queen size, in a traditional style
- She spends more than 6 hours a week working on projects



Three factors that drive where she shops:

1. Availability (products).
2. Location convenience (in-store or online). She prefers to shop 30 minutes or less from home.
3. Fabric choices.

Current Trends:

- Product availability is more important than price/promotion.
- "How to" driving an increase in search traffic.
- Majority of quilters (84%) are spending the same or more time than previous years.
- Using more of her stash rather than replenishing vs. previous years.
- Choosing to shop locally vs. online continues to be her preference and actually where she is shopping.
- Utilizes digital/social media daily for connecting, but prefers hands-on/in-person.

Quilting Industry - Looking Forward

- Strength of the Quilt Market will continue to provide stable and solid growth, approaching \$5 billion by 2026-2027.
- New Quilters represent 8-10% of the population annually.
- Independent interest continues to be the main driver for new quilters entering the market.
- The majority of the new enthusiasts enter during their 50's, when and where they have additional time and discretionary spending.

Key Learnings - Looking Forward

- Digital learning and inspiration continue to be in high demand, driven through YouTube and other digital media.
- Consumer experience before, during, and after the purchase will remain a variable of the purchase decision.
- Preference will remain to purchase locally or through an independent quilt shop/sewing machine center.

View the entire report on the Members Only webpage.

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Getting to Know You...

Alanna Robson

Q: *When did you start quilting and what prompted you to begin?*

A: I grew up to the sound of my mother on the sewing machine; first an old treadle machine, later her prized electric Singer. She learned to sew from my grandmother, who made quilts in addition to all kinds of clothing.

When my grandmother died in 1982 we found a red and white pinwheel quilt top in one of her drawers. Mom thought it was from the 60's. I decided I wanted to finish it, and enlisted the help of an experienced quilter in Fort McMurray who helped me pick out border and backing fabric. We used red wool to tie it, in the manner that my

grandma might have chosen. That was it until 1997 when an old treadle machine in the window of the quilt shop in Maple Ridge caught my eye. I went in, signed up for beginner classes, and learned about piecing. I was hooked! I joined the Ridge Meadows quilting guild and soon had my own impressive fabric stash.

Q: *When did you become involved with VSSQ?*

A: I joined the VSSQ Guild in 2016 after moving back here for retirement. I got involved with the library a year later. The library experience was a great way to expand my quilting interest.

Q: *What type of quilts do you make?*

A: At first my quilting efforts were limited to whatever classes the local shop was offering. Then I branched out to buying kits, and block of the month projects. Now I am pretty confident in selecting fabric for a project and modifying patterns to suit my taste and skill level. I still enjoy piecing. I have had fun with basic foundation paper piecing and appliqué. I have dabbled in designing landscape wall hangings. These days I'm mostly making baby quilts and small gift projects. I'm still learning and working at improving my skills. I have found inspiration being part of the library, and from the stunning quilts our guild members share at show and tell.

Q: *What do you see in your quilting future?*

A: I am able to do fairly accurate straight line quilting or basic meandering stitching to finish my projects and my goal is to improve my free-motion skills, at least on smaller pieces.

Caring



If you know of a Guild member who has lost a member of their family, or has been ill, please let Evelyne Reitsma know so she can send a caring card on behalf of all of us.



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Stitch Up a Little Love for your Favourite Fur Baby

Check out this free pattern by Jennifer Keltner for a dog or cat pillow for your well loved companion to cuddle into. Random placement of assorted pieces from a fat quarter bundle was used for this cozy patchwork pet bed cover. Finished cover is 41" in diameter, but the simple construction should allow for easy size alterations.

There are lots of free patterns available online for similar projects, but this one is courtesy of American Patchwork & Quilting. Find this full pattern at: allpeoplequilt.com/bags-pillows-gifts/pillows/creature-comfort



Healing Hearts Come Together

A Quick Valentine's Project

Courtesy of Deborah Brown

Healing Hearts Come Together is a Table-runner or banner full of love and unity. Make one for yourself, make one for a friend – better yet, make one with a friend!

The pattern, designed by Susan Fuquay, makes an 18.5" x 42.5" runner and uses a combination of applique and piecing methods. Fabrics can be different fat quarters (ten in all) or a combination of scrap yardage.

Two different rectangles are sewn together and with the use of a heart-shaped template, hearts are cut out and then appliqued to a background square along with fabric dots. Quarter squares are sewn together to make three larger blocks and borders are added.

See the full pattern for fabric requirements, cutting and assembly instructions on the Members Only page of our website.



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Cheesy Cupcakes

from Company's Coming Tempting Treats and Cookies, courtesy of Ruth Dixon

8 oz. cream cheese (lactose-free works well)

1/2 c. sugar

1 large egg

1 c. chocolate chips

Beat cream cheese sugar and egg. Add chips and set aside.

1 1/2 c. flour

1 c. sugar

1/3 c. cocoa

1 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. salt

Mix together make a well in centre.



6 tbsp. hard margarine

1 c. warm water

1 tsp. vanilla

Add to well, beat for 2 minutes. Line 20 cupcake cups with papers. Divide chocolate batter into cups, top with cream cheese mixture. Bake at 350° for 30 to 35 minutes, until wooden toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean.

Note: Photo is an approximation from a web search.

Fun Facts About Colours

from National Quilters Circle

In past issues of Patchwork, there have been articles about colour as it relates to quilts - e.g. colour wheel combos for contrast or complementing, and the "emotions" behind colour choices. Here are a few fun facts courtesy of the National Quilters Circle. If you'd like to read their entire article, visit www.nationalquilterscircle.com and search for **Choosing a Color Personality for Your Quilt**.

Red Fun Fact: Matadors often use red capes to enrage bulls, however, bulls are actually colour-blind! They are only attracted to the movement of the cape, not the colour.

Orange Fun Fact: Frank Sinatra once said, "Orange is the happiest of colours."

Yellow Fun Fact: In the United States, being "yellow" is a term associated with cowardice, whereas in Japan, yellow is a colour of courage!

Green Fun Fact: The human eye is most sensitive to the colour green. It has been reported that even people who are colorblind can show sensitivity to subtle green shades.

Blue Fun Fact: Surveys show that blue is widely accepted as most people's favourite colour.

Purple Fun Fact: The colour purple originally came from a dye made from mucus glands of a tropical sea snail. The snail is known as the murex but its Latin name was purpura, which gave us the word purple.

Fat Quarter Draw for February



The next draw will take place during the **February 16th** Guild meeting and the colours for that draw will be **Pink and Burgundy** (*Charming and Individual*).

As always, you will gain one entry for each fat quarter that you bring to submit for the draw, and each should be about 20" x 22" of good quality cotton. The more fat quarters you submit, the better your chance of winning more back!

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to our VSSQ February Babies!

- Feb. 3 Garnette Kormany
- Feb. 5 Joan Muller
- Feb. 7 Glenda Valair
- Feb. 7 Pat Schley
- Feb. 8 Jean Donker
- Feb. 8 Susan Wilson
- Feb. 9 Lorene Woronchak
- Feb. 10 Jean Kimmitt
- Feb. 11 Linda Hoover
- Feb. 13 Anne Drover
- Feb. 14 Val Tucker
- Feb. 17 Debby Demoskoff
- Feb. 19 Judy Gervais
- Feb. 19 Judy Steward
- Feb. 21 Nancy Tindall
- Feb. 24 Elaine Leipe
- Feb. 24 Wendie Radies
- Feb. 25 Susan Zacharuk
- Feb. 26 Deborah Brown
- Feb. 26 Maggie Tomich
- Feb. 28 Sandi Guenette
- Feb. 27 Linda Forbes



Workshop Report

by Lorene Woronchak

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce a new addition to the workshop committee – Deborah Coffey. I'm looking forward to having her on board.

The scrappy sampler workshop begins on February 9th. I know that amazing quilts will be created. Just a reminder that the February 2nd meeting is the last time to pick up your pattern if you have signed up for this event unless other arrangements have been made. The number of patterns have been ordered and prepaid in response to people signing up. If you have signed up to attend the workshop or to receive the pattern, please show your commitment by paying on the 2nd.

On the 16th Debbie MacLeod will give a trunk show representing the Round Robin challenges she has participated in over the past several years. Perhaps the Guild will chose to participate in our own Round Robin this fall.

Your input is appreciated and necessary in providing quality workshops.



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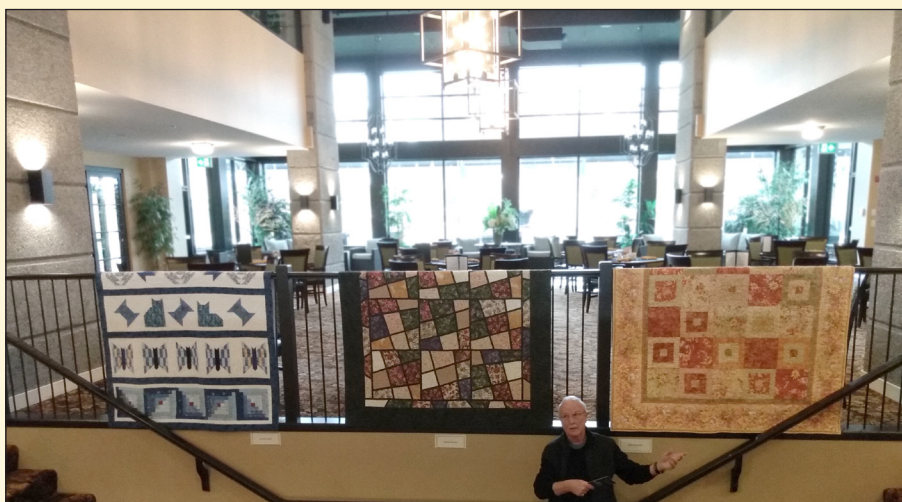


QUILT FOREVER!



Quilt Show at Regency Parkwood Retirement Resort

As you may know, we recently received an invitation to attend a quilt show on January 27th for both residents of Parkwood Retirement Resort and the public. There are many talented residents who regularly put their quilts on display throughout the Resort – some of whom are VSSQ members. The tour started at 1:30pm and covered three floors of the residence with many and varied quilts to appreciate. It was well attended and we enjoyed home made treats in their Country Kitchen after the tour. Thank you to Anna Hyett of the Regency for organizing the event.



Offering workshops in unique mystery locations. You will be notified of the location the day prior to the workshop. Contact Susan at 250-308-6635 or quiltinhereandthere@gmail.com

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