

PATCHWORK



The Vernon Silver Star Quilters Guild Newsletter—February 2024 Vol 17, Issue 6



Musings from our President...

January is in the books. We went from no snow to freezing cold to snow— what a ride. I finally was able to make the snow blower work so that was a plus though I do love shoveling snow when it is of a manageable amount. The freezing caused our truck to die so we now have it plugged in so that makes all the difference.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge all the volunteers that assist in the kitchen, set up/take down, heading up and working on the various sub groups and those working in the various committees. Without these volunteers where would our guild be? Thank you everyone! As you know these are some positions that will need filling in the next year as people move on to other adventures. Please consider stepping up and filling one of these positions. Maggie Tomich can be contacted regarding this and you can check the members only site for some of the job descriptions.

As part of our 'recovery' process from COVID I am gathering the names of the members that have reached the youthful age of 80 and move into the Life Time Membership category. Thank you to Elaine, our membership person. I believe I have the members that are turning or turned 80 with the birth years in 1942,43 and 44. If you have not been acknowledged for reaching this milestone please let me know as I really do not want to miss anyone. Stay tuned for more information on the plans for honouring these members.

Retreat is coming up and registration is beginning. Please consider attending. It is a lot of fun and a great way to get some sewing/quilting done, relaxing and socializing. The venue can hold up to 30 and we need a minimum of 24 to make it happen. Read on in the newsletter for more information from Maggie. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meetings in February.

Julie



- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| February 1 9:30 am | Business Meeting |
| February 5 9:00 am | Scrappy Sub Group |
| February 8 9:00 am | Paper Piecing |
| February 12 9:00 am | Classics Sub Group |
| February 15 9:30 am | General Meeting |
| February 22 9:00 am | Pizza & Piecing |
| February 26 9:00 am | Talk Around the Block |
| February 29 9:00 am | Community Care |

Guild Meeting Days

*Doors open at 9:00 am
Meeting begins at 9:30 am*

Subgroups and Classes

*Doors open at 8:45 am for set up,
Ending at 3:00 pm.*

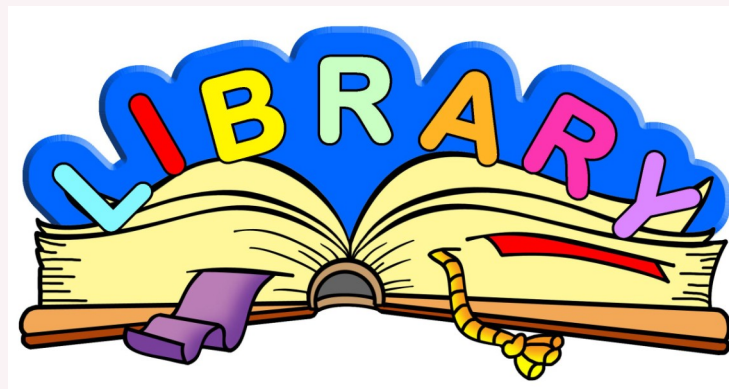
Newsletter Editor—Deborah Brown Guild Website: www.vssq.org VSSQ Mailing Address: PO Box 20014, Vernon, BC V1T 9L4

Deadline for March Newsletter submissions is February 29, 2024

Library News—Rhonda Harvey & Marlene Lawrence

Check out some of our new titles:

- Quilts As You Go for Scrap Lovers
- Quilt Your Own Adventure
- Simple Double-dipped Quilts
- Zig Zag Rope Sewing Projects
- Tumbler Quilts
- Barn Star Sampler
- Twist and Turn Quilts
- Quilts from Tilda's Studio
- Crumb Quilts
- Quilting with Panels and Patchwork
- Exploring Dimensional Quilt Art
- Just One Charm Pack Quilts
- Just Two Charm Pack Quilts
- Quilts from Quarters
- Third Time's a Charm
- Trendy Table 2



Remember: Please try to have your books returned at the next meeting and find some new treasures to sign out.



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Workshop Committee

Lately we have had all kinds of weather; extreme cold, lots of snow. Winter is a great time to start or finish projects, making our quilting passion a great alternative for filling your days.

Mark Your Calendar

- * Feb 1st - Business Meeting - As well join Debbie MacLeod for a Round Robin Show and Tell #2
- * Feb 8th - Paper Piecing Round Table - traditional & freezer paper piecing methods - \$40 for the class and \$2 for the pattern
- * Feb 15th - Paint Chip Challenge Reveal & RMT Korenna Corby will discuss body ergonomics for quilters
- * Feb 22nd - Pizza & Piecing - cost \$10
- * Feb 29th - Community Care Day

We have had lots of requests for Paper Piecing. On February 8th you will learn traditional paper piecing and paperless paper piecing. As well you will be taught how to organize your project and how to draft your own pattern. It is not too late to sign up.

You can register at the upcoming Business meeting or if you are not at a guild meeting you can simply e-transfer the workshop fee to vssqtreasurer2@gmail.com and put in the comments section what the workshop is that you are paying for. For example, send \$100 to the address and comment that it is the Make and Take Workshop. Treasurer will advise workshop committee of receipt and you will be sent the requirements for the workshop.

If you have any ideas for us we continue to look for members to share an area of expertise or knowledge with other members. If you have had positive feedback from something you have shared with the guild and would be interested in sharing "the how to" with others, fill out the form (which is on the website - Members Only Page - in the shaded box on the right-hand side) and pass to one of the Workshop Committee members. If you are unsure please approach one of us as we are more than willing to help. And finally, a reminder that all guild activities are deemed scent-free in consideration of those members with "scent-sitivities". Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Sue Beaudry, Deborah Coffey, Julia Jones & Susan Wilson

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Please remember! All our meetings are scent free. Thank you!

Paint Chip Challenge

Participants!

Remember that February 15th is the date for presenting your completed or partially completed challenge entries.

Please do not be concerned if your project has grown and wants to be bigger than the suggested finished size.

Any size is fine! *Julia Jones*



February BIRTHDAYS

February 3	Garnette Kormany
February 5	Joan Muller
February 7	Glenda Valair Pat Schley
February 8	Jean Donker
February 9	Lorene Woronchak
February 10	Jeanne Kimmitt
February 11	Linda Hoovewr
February 13	Anne Drover
February 14	Val Tucker
February 17	Debbie Demoskoff
February 19	Judy Gervais Judy Steward
February 21	Nancy Tindall Terri Schmitke
February 24	Elaine Leipe Wendy Radies
February 25	Susan Zacharuk
February 26	Maggie Tomich Deborah Brown Sandie Guenette
February 27	Linda Forbes

2024 Nominations

Secretary
Treasurer
Equipment
Set Up and Clean Up
Social
Kitchen
Workshop (1)

My sincere appreciation to all the members who have served in these roles. You are the silent heroes who work effortlessly to make our guild a place to come for knowledge, socialization, comfort and kindness . Please contact Maggie Tomich if you are interested.

Spring Retreat!



Spring Retreat is Coming!

Date: Monday April 8 to Thursday April 11/24

Cost: \$310 Minimum 24 attendees

Sign up for Retreat has begun. It is a two step process. We are collecting money and names until we are over 24 people. Refunds will be given if we don't reach 24. Deadline is the second meeting in March. The theme is the Turtles Return.

Refund policy- no refunds after we submit numbers to Gardom usually 10 days before retreat. Cancellation due to illness will be considered. Requests for room assignments will be considered but no guarantees! We will consider outside people who will need to pay a guild membership fee so they meet Quilt Canada's criteria for guild activities covered by insurance.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Maggie

My First VSSQ Retreat—Deborah Brown

Should I or shouldn't I? That was the question for me as a newcomer to VSSQ three years ago when registration for retreat was announced. We moved here 3 years ago during the last waning days of COVID. We had closed our Quilt Shop in Ontario, sold our home, said good-bye to friends and family, and made the move west so we could be closer to our daughter and son and their respective families. What I was also giving up were my wonderful twice yearly retreats with all my quilting buddies.

Due to the most fantastic MLS who was assigned to orient me to VSSQ I was quickly feeling quite at home in my new guild. I joined Classics sub group, got to know more ladies and attended all the meetings the guild offered. What I was missing was retreat! So last fall I decided to give it a try and boy did I have fun! Maggie worked hard to make us all feel welcomed and had scheduled a few games that turned out to be very entertaining. I made sure I packed several projects so I wouldn't run out of sewing.

The facilities are beautifully set in a wooded area on the edge of a lake. I picked a table and spread out ready to sew the days away. My view from my sewing table was of lovely pine trees and a small pond. The main room was huge with a cathedral ceiling and wood burning stove surrounded by comfy couches where I took some time to put my feet up with an afternoon cuppa and work on my knitting.

Our snack table was filled with lots of goodies—all contributions from attendees. The coffee and tea supplied by Gardom Lake was a nice touch during the day.

Meals were served downstairs in a lovely dining room and if you picked a different table each meal, you got to know more ladies. We had some lovely meals and great conversation.

By the time I hit the sack at night, I was filled up in many ways and the quiet and fresh air contributed to a restful sleep. I thoroughly enjoyed my first VSSQ retreat experience and plan on making retreat a part of my spring and fall calendar. As one woman said, retreat is a mini vacation for her. I second that!

All this to say, give it a go this spring and join us for a time of quilting, sewing, sharing, eating and relaxation in a beautiful facility in a beautiful location. I'm sure you will not be disappointed.

Deborah

Cruise our Library for Lots of Inspiration Using Fat 1/4's

Fat Quarter Draw—February

The theme for the fat quarter draw for 2023-24 will be “Shades of Colour”.

February will be shades of Pink. From light pastel pink to deep pinks and everything in between.

March will be shades of Grey.

April—Green

May—Purple

June—Black and/or White—either prints or solids

Note from Editor: If you would like to be featured in our “Getting to Know You” column for the newsletter, please let me know! This is a great way for you to share how you got started in quilting, projects you are currently working on, and anything else you would like to share about yourself. You will be sent a set of questions to answer if you wish in order to help you get started. Don't worry about your writing style—I can edit. Thanks for considering being our Person of the Month! My email address is at the bottom of page 7 of the newsletter.



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Newcomers—Rene Gutyan

Happy New Year everyone. Welcome to 2024!

It looks like another very busy year for our newcomers group at the guild. We had a great Christmas wind up party in early December and even though we thought we would just do “appies” (not apples ladies) we ended up with 2 jampacked tables of, mouth watering food. Lots of visiting and getting to know each other was done. The group even got to find out a few surprising attributes about Rene and Shirley. We played a few games and won a few prizes.

At our first meeting in January we started the newcomers tote. We had a good turn out and will continue to work on it hopefully to be finished sometime in February. The guild will be treated to our tote Fashion Show in March.

Originally the New Comers Group was started to help new people become familiar with the workings of the Guild by belonging to a smaller group and having a one on one atmosphere. It is easy to miss some activities as the Guild is a large group with many things going on at all times. For Shirley and me as well as the MLS’s (people who have belonged to the guild for a while, who serve as buddies to the new comers) it is a very rewarding job. The newbies are the most excited, ambitious and friendly bunch you would ever hope to meet. These are attributes most quilters exude and because of that the busy newcomers group is a truly welcoming place to be. We have quilters of all capabilities from the very accomplished to those new to the game. As much as we help the newbies settle in and learn about our guild it can honestly be said the oldies gain so much as well!

Rene



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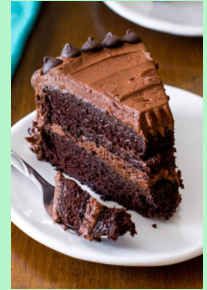
Winter Schedule posted on Facebook

Deliciously Moist Chocolate Layer Cake by Sally's Baking Addiction

1 and 3/4 cups (219g) **all-purpose flour**
3/4 cup (62g) unsweetened natural **cocoa powder**
1 and 3/4 cups (350g) **granulated sugar**
2 teaspoons **baking soda**
1 teaspoon **baking powder**
1 teaspoon **salt**
2 teaspoons **espresso powder** (optional)
1/2 cup (120ml) **vegetable oil** (or canola oil or melted coconut oil)
2 large **eggs**, at room temperature
2 teaspoons **pure vanilla extract**
1 cup (240ml) **buttermilk**, at room temperature
1 cup (240ml) freshly brewed strong **hot coffee** (regular or decaf)

Chocolate Buttercream

1 and 1/4 cups (2.5 sticks or 290g) **unsalted butter**,
3 and 1/2 cups (420g) **confectioners' sugar**
3/4 cup (65g) **unsweetened cocoa powder**
3–5 Tablespoons (45-75ml) **heavy cream** (or half-and-half or milk), at room temperature
1/4 teaspoon **salt**
1 teaspoon **pure vanilla extract**



Instructions

Preheat oven to 350°F (177°C). Grease two **9-inch cake pans**, line with parchment paper rounds, then grease the parchment paper. Parchment paper helps the cakes seamlessly release from the pans.

Make the cake: Whisk the flour, cocoa powder, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, salt, and espresso powder (if using) together in a large bowl. Set aside. Using a handheld or stand mixer fitted with a whisk attachment (or you can use a whisk) mix the oil, eggs, and vanilla together on medium-high speed until combined. Add the buttermilk and mix until combined. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients, add the hot water/coffee, and whisk or beat on low speed until the batter is completely combined. Batter is thin.

Divide batter evenly between pans. Bake for 23-26 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove the cakes from the oven and set on a wire rack. Allow to cool completely in the pan.

Make the buttercream: With a handheld or stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat the butter on medium speed until creamy – about 2 minutes. Add confectioners' sugar, cocoa powder, 3 Tablespoons heavy cream, salt, and vanilla extract. Beat on low speed for 30 seconds, then increase to high speed and beat for 1 full minute. Do not over-whip. Add 1/4 cup more confectioners' sugar or cocoa powder if frosting is too thin or 1-2 more Tablespoons of cream if frosting is too thick. Taste. Add another pinch of salt if desired.

Assemble and frost: If cooled cakes are domed on top, use a large serrated knife to slice a thin layer off the tops to create a flat surface. This is called “leveling” the cakes. Discard or crumble over finished cake. Place 1 cake layer on your cake stand or serving plate. Evenly cover the top with frosting. Top with 2nd layer and spread remaining frosting all over the top and sides. I always use an **icing spatula** and **bench scraper** for the frosting. Garnish with chocolate chips, if desired.

Perfect for Valentines!

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