

# PATCHWORK



The Vernon Silver Star Quilters Guild Newsletter—March 2026 Vol 19, Issue 7



*Greetings from our President*



Happy March Quilters!

Every time we gather, we come in like a basket of fabric scraps — all different colors, textures, and opinions. Some of us are florals. Some are bold geometrics. Some are solids who like things calm and orderly. And a few of us... well... we might be that mysterious piece we bought on sale and still aren't quite sure what to do with.

But somehow, when placed together with intention, those pieces create something beautiful.

*That's what this guild is meant to be.*

We are united by a love of quilting — the smell of fabric, the thrill of a new pattern, the confidence of saying, “Oh, that mistake? I meant to do that.” We come to share knowledge, encouragement, and maybe just a little bit of fabric enabling.

*But beyond the stitches, we are stitching together community.*

And just like in quilting, tension matters. Too much tension in thread can pucker a quilt. Too much tension between us can do the same. We don't need to agree on every pattern, technique, or opinion — heaven knows quilters can debate binding methods like it's a national election. But we do need to agree on kindness.

We are here for a common purpose: to share a common craft. And that requires respect. It requires listening. It requires assuming the best in one another.

Let us be known not only for straight seams and sharp points — though we certainly appreciate those — but for gracious hearts and gentle words.

Because in the end, the warmth people remember won't just come from the quilts we make... it will come from the way we treated each other while we made them.

So, let's sew beautifully. Let's laugh often. And let's be as generous with kindness as we are with our fabric stashes.

May we stitch with skill and treat one another with grace.

Thank you, Creatives.

*Deborah*

Newsletter Editor—Jean Donker Guild Website: [www.vssq.org](http://www.vssq.org) VSSQ Mailing Address: PO Box 20014, Vernon, BC V1T 9L4

Deadline for March Newsletter submissions isy March 25, 2026

# Let's make a Koinobori



## Wind sock *with Mary-Lou Wightman*



**\$5  
per person**

**Thursday, March  
12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

*Pattern  
will be provided  
by email*

**You provide:**



- 1 metre of quilt cotton (this is enough to make 2 wind socks!)
- (2) 6" x 6" scraps of contrast for Eye background
- (2) 6" x 6" scraps for Eye Swirl (strong contrast)
- (2) 1-1/4" x 16" Bias strips (contrast) for Gills
- (4) 10" squares (or equivalent) - contrast inside tail
- Use Polyester thread (will not breakdown in sunshine)
- Coloured thread for machine applique (eyes & swirls)
- Non-stick needles for fusible appliqueing the eyes.

**\*\* These are GREAT for machine applique. Prevents gumming up of needle and thread breakage.**

I recommend these, but not a must.

I recommend using a machine with blanket stitch or zig-zag to attach your appliques.

**ALL OTHER SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE CLASS**



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### Qu'Artz

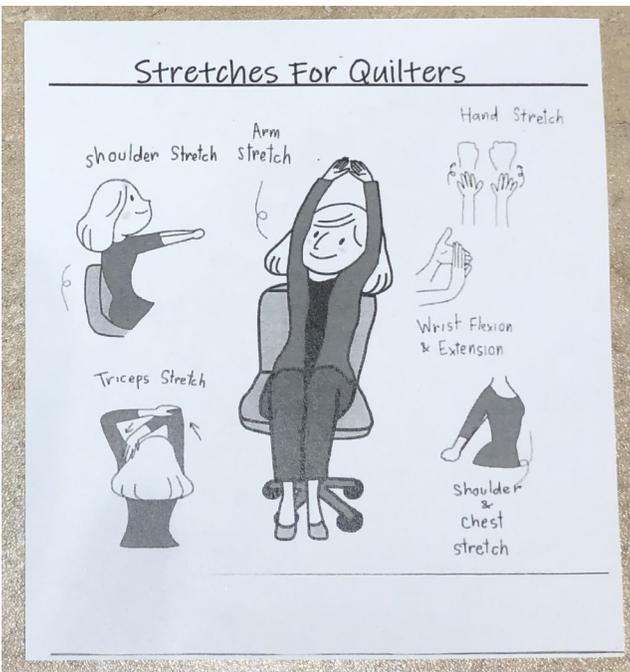
Another beautiful sunny day had us back at QuArtz and continuing our explorations of art quilting techniques.

We played with fabric covered paperclips to make beads and then added more beads to decorate them.

We also took a deep dive into different techniques for using couching and cording in surface design. Next month we will get to see what everyone created!

Cath

### Just A Reminder



**March Calendar Highlights**

*These will no longer be printed in the Patchwork.*

*Check the online calendar for any updates.*

**PAT'S CUSTOM QUILTING**  
*Taking Pride in Finishing Your Quilts.*

**Pat Bennett**  
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Susan Wilson  
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## COMMUNITY CARE SEWING DAY – February 12, 2026

We had a great turnout of at least a dozen volunteers who came to participate in the Community Care sewing day. Several more people stopped by to either pick up or make up a kit to take home to work on.

- Some had a great time “shopping” for just the right fabric to match their chosen or available pattern.
- Many brought their sewing machine and supplies and made significant progress piecing a new community care quilt.
- Others organized the bonanza of gorgeous materials into colour groupings to help with fabric selection.
- A roll of batting was cut to size for the various flimsies and “all used up.”
- Another task was choosing appropriate backing and binding for the prepared quilt tops.

By the end of the day many kits were completed and ready for distribution for sandwiching, quilting, and binding. These kits are available at the Community Care table at regular quilt guild meetings for you to take home and complete.

Most of the quilts range in size from 40 x 40, or 40x 50, with a few 40 x 60 inches. All of these can be comfortably quilted on domestic machines although if you have access to a long arm quilting machine that could be convenient as well.

Since the sewing day a dozen baby quilts have been warmly welcomed by the hospital, and we are in the process of finalizing an opportunity to distribute elder care quilts at a complex care residence. If you have suggestions regarding community places that may benefit from receiving quilts, we'd be happy to hear from you.

A hearty THANK YOU to those who were able to join the February sewing day. There will be another opportunity in October to help again. Meanwhile, continue completing the kits realizing that you will make recipients warm and happy as they enjoy the beautiful quilts.

Betty, Linda, and Yvonne



(Both Ventures Inc.)

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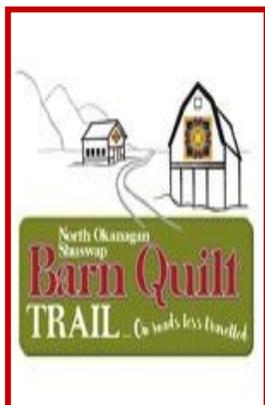
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## Columbia's first barn quilt trail aExplore British *nd now 10 years young!*

The *North Okanagan Shuswap Barn Quilt Trail* features beautiful, painted quilt block squares on local barns and businesses in or around our community. These quilt blocks bring together and highlight the traditions of quilting and farming; two traditions that are very much alive in the region today!

Armstrong Spallumcheen Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Centre, in partnership with Quilting For You, Nor-Val Rentals, and volunteers, are thrilled to host the North Okanagan Shuswap Barn Quilt Trail.

'Barn quilts are a form of rural graffiti that honour quilters and the textile arts as well as drawing attention to Armstrong Spallumcheen's important agricultural heritage,' says Lori Shepherd, President with the Armstrong Spallumcheen Chamber of Commerce.

"It gets people off of the track and onto roads less travelled," adds Susan Wilson, of Quilting For You.

Since its launch in 2016, the North Okanagan Shuswap Barn Quilt Trail has grown from six quilts to over 50 quilts, with each showcasing a beautiful and unique pattern. The barn quilts are centrally located in and around Armstrong Spallumcheen. The southernmost quilt is located at Davison Orchard in Vernon and the northernmost quilt is located at Blue Hills Lavender Farm in Salmon Arm.

Wilson and her team of volunteers research quilt patterns, collaborate with the property owners, and paint the barn quilts. Participants of the barn quilt trail may choose to paint their own barn quilt, with the conditions of using a non-copyrighted pattern and installing the quilt where it is visible from public property. With the support of Nor Val Rentals, a team of volunteers build the plywood frames and install the completed barn quilts.

The barn quilt trail is a self-guided tour, and participants can pick up a map at the Armstrong Spallumcheen Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Centre, located at 3550 Bridge Street, or download at [North Okanagan Shuswap Barn Quilt Trail \(aschamber.com\)](http://North Okanagan Shuswap Barn Quilt Trail (aschamber.com)) or [North Okanagan Shuswap Barn Quilt Trail | Facebook](http://North Okanagan Shuswap Barn Quilt Trail | Facebook)

For more information, or if you are interested in joining the North Okanagan Shuswap Barn Quilt Trail, please contact the Armstrong Spallumcheen Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Centre by phone 250-546-8155, or email [manager@aschamber.com](mailto:manager@aschamber.com).

**This sounds like a great day out with the family and still enjoying our love of quilting. May even get some great ideas for your own quilt. ... editor ,Thanks to S.Wilson for the article.**



**Membership** Guild pins are available at the sign-up table for \$5.

## Quilt Life

Like people, quilts develop a life of their own

And sometimes, with the quilting, I come up with a poem.

Made with love, and to welcome to a world touched with Grace ,

A child a new life, - just finding her place.

May your life fill with Blessings ,

like family and friends

And may you learn to enjoy

all the blessings He sends. ©

***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.*

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 quiltinghereandthere@gmail.com

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**Teddy Bear anyone? - Let me know**

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### MARCH WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

Spring is just around the corner, but we still have lots of activities to look forward to within the Guild this month.

Our business meeting is on March 5, and will also include another session of “Library Secrets”, which has really been an interesting and educational addition to our meeting.

Mary-Lou’s “Fish Wind Sock” class is on March 12. Registration is full, so we are looking forward to seeing all the finished “fish”.

REMEMBER – there WILL NOT be a Guild meeting on March 19, as it is Spring Break and the church is not available to us.

There will be an “Open Sewing Day” on March 26, to finish up all those winter projects, and to help start getting your projects ready for “Spring Retreat” which is from March 30 – April 2.

Don’t forget to check the Guild calendar for all the subgroup dates as they sometimes need to change their dates.

Just a couple of important HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS. First, we are now going to take registration/sign-up for all “Open Sewing Days”, even those which are free, as we have to ensure we have the required minimum number of people attending. Last minute drop-ins are still welcome.

Secondly, many of you have noticed that the information that we are giving you here in the Newsletter, and at the meetings, and the VSSQ calendar sometimes differ. The Workshop Committee is actually responsible for providing the information for the VSSQ calendar, and we apologize for any confusion. If there is a discrepancy between the Newsletter and the Guild calendar regarding workshops and sewing days; please refer to this notice as the correct information.

### THE WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

	<p><b>Thread &amp; Paper</b></p> <p><i>We Carry Quilting &amp; Yarn Supplies</i></p>	<p><b>Machines, Classes, Edge to Edge Quilting, Fabric and MORE!</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Guild Members save 10% off most items</b> Shop online CODE: GUILD-DISC or visit us in store</p> <hr/> <p><b>BERNINA</b> <small>MAKING TO CREATE</small>    <b>Authorized Sales &amp; Service Depot</b>    <b>brother</b> <small>at your side</small></p> <p><b>accuquilt</b>    <b>Cottage Quilting</b>    <b>elna</b> <small>SWISS DESIGN</small></p> <p><b>The Grace Company</b>    <b>www.cottagequilting.ca 250-860-1120</b>    <b>INNOVA</b> <small>INTERNATIONAL QUILTING ASSOCIATION</small></p> <p>Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm Sat 11am-4pm 110-2000 Spall Road Kelowna BC</p> <p>Follow us on FACEBOOK &amp; INSTAGRAM</p>
<p>#102 - 650 Trans Canada Highway, Salmon Arm, BC 250-832-3937 Email: <a href="mailto:threadnpaper@shaw.ca">threadnpaper@shaw.ca</a></p> <p>Open Monday - Friday 9:00 - 5:30 Saturday 9:00 - 5:00 Closed Sundays &amp; some holidays</p> <p>Shop online and check out our class schedule at <a href="http://www.threadandpaper.com">www.threadandpaper.com</a></p>		

### A MEMBER REACHES A MILESTONE!

The Scrappy group celebrated Pat Schley's 90th birthday.

Pat has been a member of the guild for over 30 years. She was instrumental in organizing the guild's first shop hop to the USA. It was a great trip and too much fabric was purchased. LOL! She is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to quilting as well as life in general. We enjoyed many retreats with her. She was always available to help out fellow quilters. Pat, we wish you the best and hope to share many sewing days to come.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



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