



Joan's Jibberish!



The end of April seems to have come very quickly. I want to thank Julie, our Vice President, for stepping into my shoes for the past month while I was away. I knew I was leaving the Guild in very capable hands. Thanks Julie!

While I was travelling down to Vegas, I met a couple who had lived in Hay River, NWT. Now you think may that this isn't strange, but Hay River is a small community with maybe 1500 people living there in the winter and it's also where I met my husband. We were able to have a great chat before we landed in Vegas to go our separate ways. It also brought to mind, how we should look back and remember the good times we have had and the people we shared them with.

As we were driving back to Canada, we stopped in Carson City. We toured around the city, driving past all the old mansions that are still being lived in. Can you imagine what stories they would tell of the people who have lived in them. They are all well looked after homes with absolutely beautiful yards that would look great in a quilt or in one of the old movies!

The one place I fell in love with was Virginia City. It is found in the hills outside of Carson City. The old boardwalk sidewalks added to the old-time feeling of the place. From the town you could look out and see the valley below. The saloon also had the boardwalk floors and was made up like the movies – all in wood. It was neat to visit.

Another quilted scene was found between Lake Tahoe & Reno. The snow, packed on each side of the road, the bright blue sky and the scenery – All I could say was, WOW!!

No matter where we quilters travel, we can see beauty in everything and can envision a quilt. I encourage you all to love the quilts you make, even if they don't turn out like you wanted them to. It is a journey and is beauty in the eye of the beholder.

Love to you all and have great Mother's Day!!

May Events

(Check our online
Calendar for updates)

May 1:

Scrappy Subgroup

May 4:

Guild Business Meeting -
Newcomers follows, then
Fidget Quilt instructions.

May 8:

Classics Subgroup

May 9:

QuArtz Subgroup

May 11: 10:30-noon

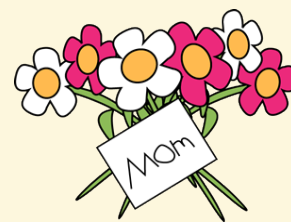
Paper Bag Mystery return;
noon-3:00 Fidget Sewing

May 18:

VSSQ General Meeting
and Garage Sale

May 25:

Two Bottom Bag Workshop



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.*

Ways to Get Involved in the Guild

by Julie Glinsbockel

The Guild is still looking to fill the following positions that normally run a two year term and will commence in August/September. The Job Description can be found on our Member's Only web page or you can email me directly and I can provide them. There is no expectation for any of the positions that you have been a member of the Guild for a set period of time – these positions are open to any Guild member. What a great way to not only get involved but meet other members of the Guild.

Show and Tell - everyone enjoys seeing what other members have done and I am sure the members love to display their creativity and accomplishments. The person, or persons, take charge of seeking volunteers to hold up the articles and have some volunteers do the folding of the articles after they have been displayed. They also keep the show organized and moving along. Great way to get involved in the Guild and meet other members!

Communication - Sends out emails to the members at the request of the President. Another way to be involved in the Guild.

Newsletter - This is a chance to not only get involved in the Guild but to put your stamp on how information is circulated to the membership. Yes, you need some computer skills, but you can make this newsletter your own in respect to how it is laid out. You don't necessarily need an expensive template – you can find many free templates on the web or you can use a format found on Word. Your choice, a lot of freedom to experiment and test out your skills! If you're nervous about taking

this on alone, find a friend to assist you – two heads can always be better than one!

At the AGM in June, one agenda item will be to elect a new **Vice President**. If you are interested in this position please talk to me, to Joan Muller, or one of the Past Presidents about what is involved. This is another opportunity to get involved in the Guild and get to know other Guild members, plus you can organize Retreat!

If you are interested in any of the above opportunities, email me or see me at the Guild meetings



Workshop Report

by Lorene Woronchak

Where has this month gone! Like most of us, I'm starting to set aside my quilting projects and have ventured outside to enjoy the spring

weather and finally rake up leaves. That being said, those involved in Workshops are always looking for interesting and fun projects for VSSQ members to explore. Thanks to Val Tucker and Catherine Henderson for organizing a sewing event to make the fidget blankets that are so much loved and needed to help those young people in our community who are working through the anxiety of a loss.

Those who have worked to complete the Paper Bag Mystery Challenge will, no doubt, be waiting with expectation to receive the finished product and meet the quilter.

The Scrappy Sampler workshop has finally come to a conclusion with amazing results thanks to the diligence and enthusiasm of both the students and teachers. We can't wait for the show and tell!

As always Workshop is working to provide quality quilting experiences that are designed to meet a variety of tastes and abilities.

Well, I noticed the dandelions are already out enjoying the sunshine so I had better meet them with my sprayer.



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Mother's Day Brunch Idea?

Editor's Note: I've made a few light dinners with a similar recipe without the dough but with Parmesan-Romano cheese sprinkled on top. When I found this recipe online, I immediately thought it would make a great Mother's Day Brunch – but, if you're lucky enough to be treated to a special meal out somewhere – save this recipe for Father's Day!

Quilt Pie with Asparagus, Eggs and Ham

- 14 oz (400 g) puff pastry dough, thawed
- 2 onions, thinly sliced
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- 1/2 lb (225 g) chopped Black Forest ham
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) sour cream
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) whole-grain mustard
- 24 to 36 small green asparagus spears, and 24 to 36 small white asparagus spears, all trimmed and cut into 5-inch pieces
- 6 eggs

Line a 12 x 17-inch baking sheet with parchment paper. On a floured surface, roll the dough out to a 12 x 17-inch rectangle. Transfer to the baking sheet. Fold the edges of the

dough inward, making a 1/2-inch border all around. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

In a skillet, brown the onions in the oil. Season with salt and pepper. Let cool. In a bowl, combine the onions, ham, sour cream and mustard. Refrigerate. In a pot of salted boiling water, blanch the asparagus for 1 to 2 minutes or until tender. Transfer the asparagus to a bowl of ice water. Drain and set aside.

With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 400°F. Spread the ham mixture evenly over the dough. Mentally divide the pie into six 5-inch squares. Lay about 8 white asparagus pieces vertically in the first square. In the next square, lay about 8 green asparagus pieces horizontally. Repeat with the remaining squares, alternating colours and directions to create a quilt effect. Bake for 25 minutes. Remove from the oven. Crack an egg at the centre of each square. Bake for 10 more minutes or until the eggs are cooked. Cut into 6 squares and serve.

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Quilting Here & There

A Twist on Mystery Quilts

Make & Take – Sewing Room Edition
May 24 9-3:30 Register ASAP



We have a small barn quilt at our place – not visible from the road but from the BX Ranchlands Trail. Have you seen it?

Getting to Know You...

Linda Ensing

We bought some acres 25 years ago which inspired pioneer ideas – I bought a book about raising chickens and signed up for a “Make a Log Cabin Quilt in a Day” workshop. Continuing the homesteading theme, I hand quilted that queen-sized quilt; subsequently I did not attempt another for many years.

Ten years ago, news that a first grandchild would be arriving inspired another quilt-making notion. Meanwhile, several friends from the Langley area were approaching retirement and began gathering annually for a quilting weekend. I was invited to join, and my interest was rekindled.

An elderly friend encouraged me to join the VSSQ Guild, but the “guild” word was intimidating – how crafty did one need to be to

belong! A neighbour down the road expressed interest so we agreed to bravely arrive together one fall Thursday in 2018 – we LOVED it! The welcome, the library, the scrap table, the friendly membership, coffee break, the show and tell – it was all so wonderful, and we promptly joined.

Baby quilts, table runners, wall hangings, and even a few queen-sized quilts have occupied me. My Langley connection provides a new challenge every year – that’s fun. The Guild workshops introduce new ideas – so motivating! The retreats are also exciting – so many skillful projects on the go. Although my stash is not extensive, I enjoy working with “what I’ve got” and plan to hunt for treasures on the scrap table more rigorously.

The piecing step of constructing a quilt is still a delight, but the quilting aspect has become a favourite as well. Venturing into free motion quilting to respond to the “quilt as desired” instruction is feeling less risky. Guild members have shared their methods and techniques so generously that it is almost time for me to relinquish that novice quilter term even though there is still so much to learn!

In my dreams I make an art quilt - the QuArtz projects are amazing. But meanwhile, I’ll continue browsing for interesting patterns, practice careful cutting and accurate seams and brave quilting, and experiment with new colour choices and combinations. I may even try hand quilting again! Such a delightful hobby supported and shared by so many fine quilting friends is one of my favourite retirement activities! We no longer have chickens on the property, but the quilting persists!

Caring



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

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The Merits of Different Quilt Battings

As found by an Internet Search

The three most common types of quilt batting are Polyester, 100% Cotton, and a Cotton/Poly Blend and each has its own pros and cons. Wool, Bamboo and Silk Batting options have become more available in recent years. These other natural batting options have wonderful qualities, but are usually more expensive.

Polyester doesn't shrink, so if you're trying to avoid crinkling or puckering, polyester is a great choice. Another benefit of polyester (and blends) is that it tends not to show fold lines as much as cotton. However, polyester doesn't have the same drape or soft feel as other types of batting, and may not be as warm. Polyester fiber retains shape better than cotton or wool fibers. Thus, polyester batting takes repeated machine washings better than cotton or wool battings. Also, polyester holds up well under heavy use and its higher loft adds more dimension to the finished quilt.

Cotton is a great choice for quilt batting, especially if your quilt top and backing are also made from cotton fibers. It's best known for being soft, breathable, warm, and easy to work with. It does shrink when you wash it, which creates a crinkly/puckered look on more dense quilting designs.

Cotton/Poly or 80/20 batting offers more loft and less weight than traditional cotton batting, is durable and machine-washable, and is suitable for a variety of applications, including for use in: utility quilts, children's quilts, charity quilts, and for quilts being given as gifts,

as well as in table runners, placemats, wall quilts/hangings.

Wool batting is naturally sustainable, warm, and soft. In fact, it may be the warmest quilt batting. Many types of wool batting can be machine-washed and may even come pre-washed and preshrunk to take away that extra step. Wool batting is beautiful in bed quilts because it drapes nicely. It may have a slightly higher loft than cotton, but not as high as polyester.

Bamboo batting is very breathable and ideal for machine quilting. It's machine washable with 2-3% shrinkage. Bamboo is processed into luxurious fiber using pollution-free methods with little waste. Bamboo is a wonderful batting type from an abundant resource. These battings tend to have a bit of shrinkage, but a very soft hand and lightweight feel. They're a great choice for summer time bed quilts and lightweight throw quilts.



Silk batting is lightweight, and has a beautiful "drape" for garments and quilts. It is suitable for hand and machine quilting. It does not shrink unless the fiber in the blend is cotton - and yes, most silk battings are a blend. Silk batting is a natural fiber made from the silkworm cocoon. It is one of the newer battings to come on the market. Batting made from silk is very light, fluffy and drapes like no other batting. It is often blended with polyester as this helps manufacturing stability. The ratio of the blend is usually 90% silk and 10% polyester.

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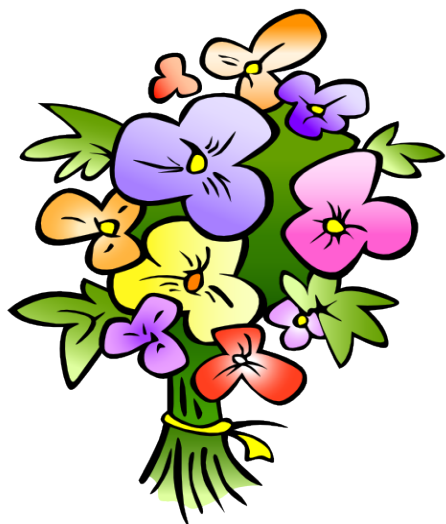
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Happy Birthday



Happy Birthday to our VSSQ May Babies!

May 1	Brenda Winkler
May 3	Linda Ensing
May 11	Marlene Derksen
May 11	Tonny Penny
May 15	Sharon Hopkins
May 17	Cheryl Lloyd
May 18	Angie Wood
May 18	Bev Keith
May 19	Alanna Robson
May 21	Shirley Prakke
May 24	Peggy Paziuk
May 25	Nina Grundell
May 29	Eveline LeNoble
May 31	Rhonda Harvey

Save the Date...

JUNE 15

Church Picnic

for a **PICNIC AT THE CHURCH**
Potluck Luncheon
Organized by
Maggie Tomich



Fat Quarter Draw for May



The next draw will take place during the **May 18th** Guild meeting and the colours for that draw will be **Yellow and Blue** (*playful and authoritative*). As always, you will gain one entry for

each fat quarter 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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Crumb Quilt Ideas

from *The Little Mushroom Cap - A Quilting Blog*
by Amira Saryati Ameruddin

Editor's Note: I recently came across a blog that was expounding on different ways to make a crumb quilt. This is currently an interest of mine due to a desire to use up some of my eensy weensy tiddly bitty pieces of fabric that I don't have the heart to toss out. Below are some of Amira's thoughts, but you can find her complete blog at thelittlemushroomcap.com

What is a crumb quilt? A crumb quilt is basically a quilt made of tiny scraps pieced together into blocks. It can be a full-blown crumb quilt made with absolutely just tiny scraps (*photo 1*), or it can also be blocks made of crumbs but arranged with other fabric to provide some place to rest the eyes.

Amira loves the thought of having some control over her scrappy quilts – ones with some yardage put in to keep the scraps kind of contained but adding an additional look to the overall quilt rather than totally made from scraps. So, she went scouring around the web and put together some of these wonderful ideas that could be an inspiration to some of us.

If you have made a double wedding ring quilt before, consider another one using up some crumbs in the arcs of the rings of the wedding ring quilt pattern (*photo 2*). Amira feels it is just so creative and loves keeping the main design with a solid centre.

Another idea is to create a crumb quilt with frames and sashing. You can first frame the busy crumb blocks with a tiny black frame and then sash with a wider white fabric. The choice of black and white is perfect to frame the colourful crumb blocks (*photo 3*).

Separating the busy blocks with a shadow is another perfect way to kind of let the crumb blocks stand out and yet not compete with the shadow block design. It allows the blocks to be appreciated and lets the eyes have some place to rest (*photo 4*).



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Are You Aware of These Sewing Tips?

Excerpts from a Janome Life Blog by Monique Wilson

When you need to raise or lower the needle of your machine, some machines have a convenient Needle Up/Down button, while with others you need to turn the balance wheel at the side of the machine. **Always turn that wheel forward**, toward you. Never turn it backwards as this could damage your machine. Once you turn it forward, keep turning it to complete a full cycle of the needle going down and up. This is a good habit to get into. When you want to change the needle, turn the wheel forward to raise the needle bar.

When changing threads, cut the thread just in front of the spool, unthread the needle and pull the thread down through the guides and tensions of the machine. **Do not pull it backwards** through the machine. Pulling the thread backwards will cause lint to go back up into the tension discs, which could easily cause stitching problems the next time you start sewing.

Regularly clean out the bobbin area, including between the feed dogs. **Do not be tempted to use canned air** to blow the lint out of the bobbin area. The canned air will just blow lint down further into the enclosed areas of the machine, which could cause problems down the road. Instead, use the little brush which came with the machine, or something similarly soft, but firm to get out all the lint. You can never do this enough!

When you're about to start sewing, lay your thread gently onto the side thread cutter/holder of your machine. Almost every Janome sewing machine has this handy feature. From back to front it's a thread cutter, but **from front to back it's a thread holder**. Hang the thread up there before you start sewing and this will avoid that big clump or knot of thread on the bottom of the fabric. This is just another good practice to start doing to improve the quality of sewing or piecing. *(See photo below.)*



Autumn Sale

As you may recall, the Guild will be having an Autumn Sale each year falling between our regular Quilt Show years. That means that this autumn you will have an opportunity to sell quilted items! The date is booked – **October 14th at Halina Centre**.

In keeping with the established process, any new quilted item can be sold if you have made it. Each vendor will be assigned a vendor number, will have to prepare the price tags and related paperwork, is expected to help with set up and take down, work a specific number of hours during the sale period and finally reap the rewards of the day!

More details and information will be forthcoming, but if you have questions please feel free to talk to **Susan Wilson or Anita Reimer**.

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