

# PATCHWORK



The Vernon Silver Star Quilters Guild Newsletter—June 2026



*Greetings from our President*

## Threads of Community: A Year with the Vernon Silver Star Quilters Guild

As another wonderful quilting season comes to a close, it's the perfect time to reflect on the creativity, friendship, and generosity that make the Vernon Silver Star Quilters Guild such a special community.

This year our gatherings were filled with colour, laughter, and countless stitches as members gathered to learn new techniques, share ideas, and encourage one another through every project — from first quilts to intricate masterpieces. Whether at monthly meetings, workshops, sew days, or community events, the spirit of quilting together continued to thrive.

One of the highlights of the year was seeing the incredible talent showcased in members' projects. From traditional piecing to modern designs, appliqué, hand quilting, and art quilts, every creation reflected the unique personality and skill of its maker. Our workshops and program presenters inspired many of us to try something new, proving that quilting is truly a lifelong journey of learning.

Beyond the quilts themselves, the guild continued its proud tradition of giving back to the community. Through comfort quilts, donations, and volunteer efforts, members generously shared their time and talents to bring warmth and support to others. These acts of kindness are a reminder that quilting is not only an art form but also a way of connecting and caring for our community.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedication of our executive, committee volunteers, workshop organizers, kitchen crew, set up/take down helpers, librarians, retreat committee, quilt show team, greeters, scrap table mavens, community care team, membership, caring, equipment, newsletter editor, special events crew, advertising coordinator, newcomers coordinators, grocery receipts, and every member who contributed behind the scenes throughout the year. Your enthusiasm and willingness to help keep our guild vibrant and welcoming.

As we look ahead to a new year, we are excited for more opportunities to create, learn, and celebrate quilting together. New projects await, friendships will continue to grow, and our shared love of fabric and creativity will keep inspiring us one stitch at a time.

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 September Newsletter submissions is August 25, 2026

# 40 Years

## A Ruby Anniversary Celebration



**RED** is the colour of the day!

- Wear something Red ?
- or a fashion from 1986 ?

Bring your oldest quilt creation (just 1)

No need to fly to Toronto to retrieve one from your family! Just one from your cupboard!



**Thursday**  
**June 25, 2026**  
**PICNIC LUNCH**  
 Arrive at 11:30  
 Pot-luck Lunch at 12:00



**Menu Sign-up sheets will begin circulation at April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting (after retreat)**



**Bring your own plates & cutlery**

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**Vernon Silver Star Quilters 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge – May to December 2026**

This is a **scrap table challenge** so you must use **either a pattern or fabrics** from the scrap table!

As this year is our ruby anniversary, you must include some **red** in your piece!

The **theme** is “forty”, and here are some options:

**Something that reminds you of when you turned 40**

**Something to celebrate the guild turning 40**

**Something you imagine for 2066 (40 years in the future)**

**Size:** Perimeter must be between 48” and 96”.

**Completion date:** December 2026 (the meeting before Xmas luncheon, TBA)



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**Summer means camps..**  
**Call to ensure studio is open.**

## Membership

***Autumn Quilts and Quilted Goods Sale-*** We have booked Halina Centre for our annual sale. You have all summer to create, but keep in mind that there is a strict limit of 10 of a single item. (for example, you can only make 10 microwave bowl cozies.) There will be a meeting in September for all interested in being a vendor to go over details, assign a number and hand out required paperwork. If you have any questions before then, you can contact Susan ([quiltingforyou2@gmail.com](mailto:quiltingforyou2@gmail.com)) or Anita ([antyneets@gmail.com](mailto:antyneets@gmail.com)). The date is Oct 17th, 2026.



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## Library

Please return the library books you have signed out to you at the upcoming meeting on June 4. If you are unable to attend the meeting could you please arrange for a friend to return your books. This is your last opportunity to return your library books before fall.

This meeting will be your last opportunity to sign books out for the summer. You are able to sign out up to five books for the summer. These will be due back on September 3. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Our annual book sale will be on September 17. If you are weeding through your magazines or books and would like to move them along, please consider donating them to the library book sale. The proceeds from the book sale are used to purchase new books for the library.

We look forward to our next quilt season with continued and expanded use of the library.




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### Membership



Membership pins are always available at the cash desk.

#### *Guild Meeting Days*

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

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#### *Subgroups and Classes*

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

*The following ins an article that I found in a Quilting Pattern Library Blog by Jody.*

*I hope you enjoy reading and learning the little things we forget.*

*Jean*

### A Yarn About Threads

Depending on the project you want to quilt, and the thread types available, each have something special to offer. The best way to learn about threads is to play with different ones and discover the effects each will have in various situations.

One important tip to keep in mind is you should always be able to break the thread by pulling on it between your two hands. If you cannot break it, do not use it for quilting! It is actually too strong and in time will wear and perhaps cut through your quilt. Put it to use in the garden to support your plants instead.

Threads come in different weights. Unlike when you step on a scale, a smaller number actually signifies that the thread is thicker. Remember, the smaller the number, the thicker the thread and the higher the number, the finer the thread. A spool of thread that has 30 wt on it is going to be thicker than a spool of thread that has 40 wt written on it.

Keep in mind that needle sizes work like dress sizes, which is the opposite of how thread works. The lower the size on the needle the smaller or thinner it is, and the lower the weight of thread the thicker it is.

Ply is another word used to describe thread. A ply is one strand of thread and one-ply thread will naturally be a very weak thread. Three-ply thread is three strands of thread twisted together and will be a stronger thread.



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

## Quilting Here & There

A Twist on Mystery Quilts

New workshops flyer—Early September



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It is important to consider the characteristics of thread types when choosing which to use in your quilting project.

Cotton thread is a natural fibre and has been around forever. Commonly used in many piecing and quilting projects it is available in various weights.

Polyester thread is a man-made fibre. It is quite a strong thread.

Rayon thread is generally considered a natural fibre. It is also a strong thread. When used in quilting it has a beautiful shine that looks a little like silk.

Metallic thread is a man-made fibre. Historically this thread was actually fine wires of gold, silver and copper. Nowadays the fibre content of metallic thread is not usually so exotic but rather polyester or a polyester and nylon blend.

Silk thread is a natural fibre (and probably one of the most expensive threads). It looks exquisite when used for quilting designs on quilts – especially in traditional quilting.

Monofilament is a man-made fibre. Many people despise this thread but it can be absolutely “tops” in many circumstances. It comes as 100% nylon or 100% polyester. The nylon is preferable to the polyester as the nylon is very fine, soft and flexible – almost like hair. It is not like fishing line!

If the monofilament thread you have tried before is thick and hard like fishing line throw the stuff away and make sure you buy a quality monofilament thread from your quilt store. The polyester seems not as fine as the nylon and perhaps has a little less “stretch” to it. A good quality monofilament will be easy, flexible and soft to use.

If you tried monofilament thread in the past and given up on it – do give it another try! With a quality monofilament thread, you will find that the benefits outweigh the drawbacks.

1. It comes in clear and smoke colour. The clear is good on light fabrics (e.g. pastels and medium colours) while the smoke works well on darker colours.
2. It is great to use “in the ditch”, around appliqués and embroidery, etc. Wherever this thread is used, it is almost invisible and is very comforting when you are learning to quilt a quilt, especially when stitching “in the ditch”. If you happen to oops out of the ditch on any colour of fabric, it is not noticeable. This makes it an ideal thread for beginner machine quilters. Straying from the ditch will leave an obvious sign if using any other type of thread.
3. It is smart choice of thread when you want to quilt designs on many different coloured fabrics. It blends beautifully with the fabric, which is better than trying to choose the correct tone on tone colour of thread for every different coloured fabric you wish to quilt.
4. Do be aware that you need to be careful when using the iron near these monofilament threads, as they are a little heat sensitive (the nylon is more sensitive than the polyester). Generally, it is not necessary to put an iron anywhere near a quilted quilt so this should not present a major problem.

Now that you have decided on what thread you will use here’s a final tip.

There are mainly two different methods of winding thread on to the spool – parallel and cross-wound. Cross-wound threads behave better when placed on a horizontal spool pin. Parallel wound threads behave best when placed on a vertical spool pin. To prevent the thread from twisting and knotting, you may need to place parallel wound threads on a thread stand, placed a small distance to the back of the machine.

**About the Author:** Since discovering quilting decades ago Bev McClune has become an award winning domestic machine quilter, a professional machine quilter and a popular tutor.



*For submitting all the great articles this past year.  
It has certainly made my job easier and more fun.  
Jean Donker (now retired)*



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