

CALICO CAPERS QUILT GUILD

January-March 2015

STRETCHING YOUR QUILTING WINGS AKA: Thinking Outside the Block

It's time to try something new! Now is the time for you to challenge yourself to try piecing or quilting something outside your comfort zone.

Yes, I know, there is a reason the comfort zone is so cozy. There is nothing unexpected there, nothing you need worry about. No one will criticize you for anything you create in your comfort zone because you do it all so well. There is absolutely no reason to leave your place of contentment.

Except...you don't really know what you are missing, do you? Learning a new favorite technique, creating something unexpected, discovering an original design only happens when you step outside your comfortable home and venture into the wilderness.

Yes, you will make lots of mistakes. Lots and lots of mistakes. Don't be afraid them, they are good things! Consider them all constructive criticism. Remember Thomas Edison who said, *"If I find 10,000 ways something won't work, I haven't failed. I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is often a step forward...."*

Besides, everything you do backwards today will be a funny story tomorrow:-))

Experimenting with a new idea need not be a lifelong commitment. You tried it, worked hard enough to know how to do it well and still don't like it. After all that work, what did you gain?

In a word, confidence. You did it, even though that little voice in your head said you couldn't do it. Or maybe you didn't do it precisely the way "everyone" said you should do it, you did it your own way. Hooray! You didn't give up and now you have the confidence to work through another challenge. Isn't it great to know that you now have the ability to make a decision based on what you want to do - or want to challenge yourself to do - rather than the only thing you know how to do?

In her book, *It's Okay If You Sit On My Quilt*, Mary

Ellen Hopkins encouraged quilters to try the unusual, not just stick with the tried and true. Sometimes she imagined the possibilities with graph paper and colored pencils, and sometimes she just sewed until she got done. If she didn't like it, she cut it up and put it together in a new way.

Sometimes it's fun to not to know the ending to a story.

Let me tell you about a class I once created called the No Whining Quilt. This was in the mid 90's, when the internet was in it's infancy and quilters still drew inspiration from each other in classes and workshops.

In this class, I encouraged students to think outside the box - to come up with new ways of creating blocks and putting them together. We started with what is now called the disappearing nine patch. As a group, we experimented with different ways to color the nine patch, and different ways to put it together.

After that, we would come up with different blocks to cut apart - not necessarily in fourths - and sometimes we would put different blocks together, cut them up, and put them back together again.

You can do the same without a workshop. I would like to encourage you to choose an idea and experiment with it. You don't need to use your best fabric, although I do have to warn you the colors you choose will greatly influence your perception of the final product.

You don't need to create an entire quilt. A block will do just fine, or a placemat or tablecloth if you want to see a repeating design. If you like your practice piece, you can always use it for a potholder, pocket on an apron, bird cage cover, doll quilt, pillow or other home decor project.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings will be held at the Trinity United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall located at 234 N. Church Street, Endeavor unless otherwise noted.

January 5th—6:15 pm Snacks/6:30 pm Meeting

- ★ PROGRAM: *Quilts of Valor [QOV] Foundation* mission is to cover service members & veterans touched by war with comforting & healing quilts. Tonight our special speaker will be sharing QOV with us and how we can contribute to this loving cause. FYI: The Traveling Wall will be in Madison in August 2015 and the goal of that chapter is to have 100 QOV for donation.
- ★ *Reaching Out* BOM
- ★ Show 'n Tell & JOT
- ★ Hostesses

February 2nd—6:15 pm Snacks/6:30 pm Meeting

- ★ PROGRAM: *What Is Your Quilt Saying?* Sometimes only actual words can convey what we want to say. Learn about the many ways to put words on your fabric projects.
- ★ *Reaching Out* BOM
- ★ Show 'n Tell & JOT
- ★ Hostesses

March 2nd—6:15 pm Snacks/6:30 pm Meeting

- ★ PROGRAM: With chill of winter or the hint of spring—here in Wisconsin keeping track of the degrees is hard at times. *What Degree Is It?* Is also a challenge when it comes to our rulers in quilting. Tonight, we look past our 30°; 45°; 60° & 90° into some of the other degrees that help us create lovely projects. If you have worked with a certain degree, please bring along your project and ruler to help with this program.
- ★ *Reaching Out* BOM
- ★ Show 'n Tell & JOT
- ★ Hostesses

Hostesses:

Thank you for sharing your hospitality with us.

We ask that you have the snacks ready for members by **6:15 PM**. We will start with this and then proceed to our meeting promptly at 6:30 pm.

Doors at the church Fellowship Hall will be opened by 6:00 PM for your convenience unless you make other arrangements.

Thank you.

REACHING INTO THE COMMUNITY

Here is a listing of where your stitches and time have helped as we have '*reached out into our communities*'. Know that however you have contributed, it has been appreciated by the recipients. Check out ccqg.org for pictures and updates.

- Baraboo's Ochsner Park Zoo
- Endeavor Village
- Endeavor Library Hobo Dinner
- Relay for Life/Columbia County
- Nathan Gerbitz Benefit
- Budda Box
- Operation Santa [2013] Doll Quilts
- Marquette County Veterans' Memorial
- Wheelchair/Walker Bags to Columbia & Marquette Counties Commission on Aging
- Church of Christ Banner & Quilt for Harvest Supper
- Stockings & Stuffers [2014] for soldiers in Afghanistan
- Operation Santa [Marquette County 2014] & Santa's Workshop [Columbia County 2014] Backpack Bags; Doll Quilts & Lovies.

The BOM that you have been stitching on and donating will be put together for the Salvation Army Outreach we are doing for 2015. Our goal is to have a number of them ready by our June meeting for donation.

Workdays for 2015 are: January 27; February 24; March 24; April 28; May 26; September 22; October 27 and November 17. We will meet at the Endeavor Community Center from 9:00 am—2:30 pm. Sign-up at our monthly meetings or call 608-429-3020 so the committee can plan accordingly and let you know what to bring along for the session.



MEETING CHANGES & UPDATE FOR 2015

Last year we tried something different with how our committees reported their upcoming events and need for volunteers. We set aside 6:40-6:55 pm of each meeting for our '*committee table review*'.

Committees had an informational area setup for members. It was up to each guild member to check out this area before the meeting or during the allotted time and secure handouts or answer questions from a committee representative.

Feedback from members & committee chairs tell us that you would rather have verbal reports. We appreciate you letting us know, because this is your organization and we want you to enjoy your monthly meetings.

In 2015, we are going to try something different. We will still set aside the 6:40-6:55 pm time slot for committee meetings.

Each committee head who wants to report at a monthly meeting is encouraged to contact an officer team member to be put on the agenda. We ask that your report be 5 minutes or less in length [no we wouldn't have a timer (but you never know with our president—remember she works at a 4-H camp and ski hill!) but ask that you stay within the time limit]. If you feel you have more to share than fits the time limit, please have a handout for members to cover all the points you need to share.

We have speakers and programs planned and need to promptly start that portion of our meetings by 7:00 pm.

- Remember, there is a quarterly newsletter that is always looking for things to include in it—how about an update or report?
- The officer team tries to keep members updated between meetings and newsletters by sending out emails, so if you have an address—share it to keep current. Note that your email addresses do not go out to anyone else without your permission.
- Lastly, www.ccqg.org has happenings and events and so much more. Check it out on a regular basis.

Thank you committee members for serving and keeping us current.

LOVE

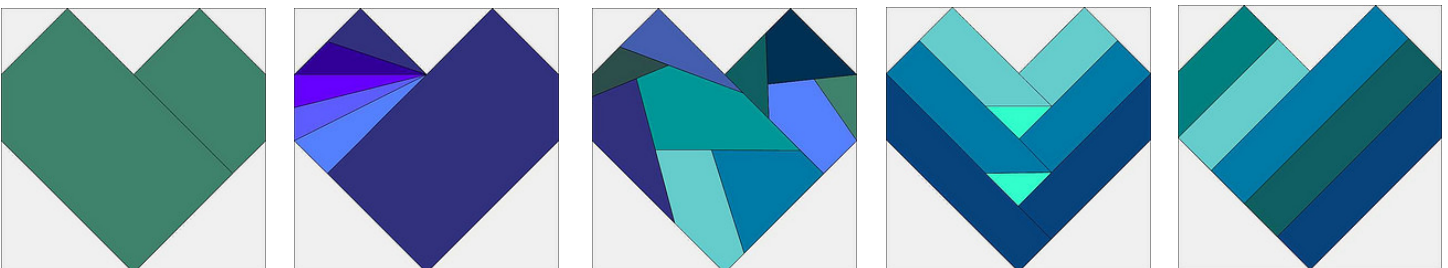
Love...

It is often written that life is impossible without love. Yet there isn't just one kind of love, and the key to happiness seems to be finding, giving, and getting enough of all sorts.

- ♥ There is the head-over-heels love that most of us aspire to.
- ♥ Then there is love for family—sometimes easy, sometimes trying.
- ♥ There is love for our pets, who bring such joy yet demand so little.
- ♥ And there is love for friends, the people who choose to be in our lives.
- ♥ Perhaps most important is the love we give.

Love is a bond in whatever form it comes, I like to think of it as the thread that weaves, ties and sometimes knots, yet always connects and (hopefully) never breaks.

-Cassandra Ellis from Quilt Love



Heart designs—check out *Paper Pieced Heart Blocks* @ <http://piecemealquilts.com>



Challenge

Deadline:
Feb 1, 2015



Ferguson Enthusiasts of North America

50 SHADES OF FERGIE GRAY

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE with FENA patchwork quilters in a block challenge:
"Fifty Shades of Fergie Gray".

While attending the 2014 FENA Expo in the quilt mecca of LaGrange, IN, an idea was born. Create a quilt that could be raffled at the 2015 FENA Expo in Baraboo, WI. What a great way to promote the Ferguson legacy and connect with other patchwork quilters at the same time!

HOW CAN YOU BE A PART OF THIS PROJECT?
REQUEST THE FOCUS FABRIC AND SUBMIT A BLOCK!

Fergie Block Challenge
C/O Carol Fleagle
17051 Hwy 65
Indianola, IA 50125
cafleagle@yahoo.com
641-942-6145

Submit By February 1, 2015

The Details

1. To participate, request the "Fergie" gray Fat 8th focus fabric be mailed to you.
2. Create a 10 1/2 " unfinished block design of your choice and technique (no embellishments) using the "Fergie" gray focus fabric, plus
3. Add one or two prints, geometrics, 30's reproductions, plaids, etc. from your stash to complement the solid gray focus fabric.
4. Mail your block by February 1, 2015 to the above address including YOUR name and address so credit can be given at the 2015 Expo.
5. All blocks will become part of a finished quilt to be raffled at the 2015 FENA Expo with proceeds going to FENA.



PUTTING FUN IN OUR MEETING



Your CCQG FUNdraising Committee will be hosting something 'recycled' (you may remember this being done a few years ago) at each of our monthly meeting.

You will find quilt related items or a filled basket with the opportunity to have a *chance* to take them home. Each *chance* will be 50-cents - so bring those quarters or half dollars or even dollars. Throughout the evening you will be able to secure a *chance* or two or more and at the end of the meeting a winner will be drawn. Please join us in this monthly fun.

If you should have items related to quilting that just didn't work out for you or gifts that aren't you—please consider donating them to the FUNdraising Committee. We will incorporate them into one of our monthly drawings. As always, donations are greatly appreciated!

Look for us at the meeting!

Your Committee

FALLING LEAVES QUILT SHOW RECAP



The 2014 Calico Capers Quilt Show was held in conjunction with the Oxford Village Fall Fest.

Twenty-three members and four non-members exhibited quilts in this show. We had 143 entries in the following categories: #100 [Bedsized] 24; #200 [Wall/Crib/Lap] 53; #300 4-Patch [Items with 4-patches] 22; #400 Pre-cuts [Fat Qtrs/Layer Cakes/Charms/Jellyrolls] 11; #500 CCQG Sponsored WS [\$5 or \$8 Specials & Workshops] 10; #600T Antiques 6; #600R Home Accessories 12 and #600S Clothing/Totes/Purses 5.

This time around the committee decided advertise not only with the posters & bookmarks but purchased ads in the Country Registry and Quilters Travel Directory. The local Marquette County Tribune & Waushara Argus were wonderful with promoting our event at no charge. Our web-site has worked well with getting the word out there as well and many attendees commented on how wonderful it was.

There were 114 paid persons in attendance—that did not count the guild volunteers nor the Moundville HCE who teamed up with us once again to provide the food.

One may wonder why we continue to host a quilt show every other year. It is a wonderful day to get to better know our fellow quilt members and what better way to promote the art of quilting to the general public!

A B-I-G thank you to all who worked in any capacity. Thanks so much to the husbands & family members who helped with the setup and the take down. We couldn't put on such a production without their muscle and help.



Each volunteer who worked an area such as raffle, treasure/retail sales, registration, bed-turning—sharing yourself and your time was greatly appreciated!



Thanks to Anne & Bob for sharing their lovely cranks and treadles and the knowledge that goes along with it. We know the time it took on your parts before they even arrived at our show.

The Oxford Elementary School was fantastic to work with...Dan, the janitor went above and beyond to keep a group of women happy...their staff is to be commended for their help and encouragement.



The Viewers' Choice voting came up with the following winners: 1st Place *The Barn Quilt* by Betty Burns, Almond, 2nd Place *Aunt Gracie's Dresden Star* by Cindy Wilson, Montello and 3rd Place *Sandhill Crane* by Arthur LaFlex, Oxford.

Raffle Winners were: *Roman Stripe* Miranda Fritschler; *Four-Patch Charms* Kimmy Roidt; *Some Thing Special from Marquette County Mesh Tote* Patti James and *Quilted Purse* Judy Gauthier



CCQG Show Committee 2014

LEAVING YOUR COMFORT ZONE

This upcoming year, 2015 why not step outside your comfort zone and try new techniques. You never know which will become your new sewing passion until you try.

Here are some ideas to inspire you:

- Use an unusual (to you) fabric for piecing a quilt. For example: wool or silk; blue jeans; t-shirts; photos on fabric; selvages or men's ties. Each type of fabric will present new challenges. Rather than cut up good fabric, try the local charity store for cast-off clothing.
- Set a block on point.
- Do a row-by-row quilt with a group of friends. You need not create an entire row. Perhaps one of you could create the original block and everyone else could add a border or embellishment.
- Create a tessellating block.
- Create a quilt in which the sashing is the focal point of the quilt. Or perhaps the blocks continue into the border.
- Experiment with curved piecing. Use a circle in a quilt, or make a Drunkards Path.
- Appliqué a bunch of colorful circles on a white background. Use a different method of appliqué for each circle. When you are done, use this top to practice machine quilting.
- Create a top with one or more three dimensional elements. Use this top to practice hand embroidery or adding embellishments like beads, bedazzles, yo-yo's or ribbons.
- Create a quilt that is not square or rectangular. Give it rounded corners, or perhaps make the whole quilt round Idea: Give a quilt an unusual border and/or binding.
- Choose a name for a block, then create the block. Pick a random word like "wind chime" and design a block for it.
- Try a batting you don't normally use.
- Tie a quilt with an unusual (to you) method. How about buttons or bells at each tie?
- Hand quilt something, even something small. Hand quilting is a great way to add accents and personalize a quilt
- Try thread painting.
- Buy or borrow a specialty ruler and use it to make something small.
- Use only ugly fabric (and a background) in a quilt. Remember, if you think it's ugly, you haven't cut it small enough yet.
- Quilt with a color you have never tried. Black, yellow, chartreuse.
- Give yourself a time limit or a fabric limit. Perhaps restrict yourself to only scraps.
- Stone Soup Quilt. Ask your friends to give you fabric for a quilt. Don't give them any clues as to what you want - whatever they give you is what you have to use.
- Do a mystery quilt.
- Stencil a quilt design instead of appliqué. These can look spectacular.
- Learn at least two methods of paper piecing. Create a quilt that illustrates the Fibonacci Sequence or other math idea, such as Pi.
- Take a block and enlarge it. Or miniaturize it.
- Take an orphan block and cut it apart into four pieces, six pieces or eight pieces. Rearrange them and put the back together again.
- Idea: Sew a 2" frame around a block, then cut the block on an angle. You have a topsy turvy block! This is a great way to resolve problems when all the blocks aren't the same size in a block swap.
- *Bias Beauty* a block. Take a pieced block and 'block of fabric same size' and sew them into a pillow by sewing all around the outside, then cut on an X.
- Try a unique Quilt Sleeve.
- Celebrate the fact you can think outside the Quadrilateral Parallelogram!