**Presidents’ Address**

**Happy New Year Everyone!**

We hope you had a good Holiday, and are all keen to get back to some serious quilting before the gardening season calls us away. Just to get us motivated, with the help of *Quilt Block of the Month.com* (1-7), and Paula Reid of *Batts in the Attic.com*,(8-9) we’ve found some handy hints to help us on our way.

1. Everyone has UFOs . Make the effort to go through them and decide what you do actually want to finish, then you can cull the rest and either give them to friends or charity, or sell them.

2. Quilting can be good exercise too! Keep your ironing board well away from your machine and get in the habit of getting up to press every seam as you sew.

3. It is best to select a busy print for the backing if you want your quilting stitches to be less easily seen from that side.

4. Maintain your machine - there's nothing more frustrating than a breakdown when you're in the middle of sewing. The quickest job is to keep the bobbin case clean from lint - a quick brush and you're right to continue.

5. To piece together two curved patches (like a Drunkards Path block), it is easier to sew with the convex (outer) curved patch on the top.

6. If you press your pieced seams open, the block will be flatter and the points sharper, which makes it easier to then match up your seams accurately.

7. Look around you - when designing patterns for your quilt, don’t forget you can use everyday items to draw around. Plates, cups and saucers and even cookie cutters all make great templates.

8. Are your stitches not as straight and even as you would like them to be — even when you are using a walking foot? Two things help make your stitches straight: a single hole throat plate for your machine and using the right needle. It's been my experience that a universal needle is too rounded to stitch perfectly straight; it merely finds the point of least resistance and stitches there. I find that a denim/jeans needle (I use a Schmetz Denim/Jeans, size 80/12) will punch right through needle punched cotton batting so that my stitches are straight and even. Try it!

9. Free motion stitching takes practice! There is nothing scary about it, it just takes the time to sit down and practice and “acquire the skill”. I have read in several places that it takes 20 to 25 hours to acquire a skill. That means that if you practice your free motion stitching an hour a day for 3 weeks or 1/2 hour per day for 6 weeks, you will become proficient. It’s putting in the practice until you find your rhythm. Once you find this rhythm (or “sweet spot”, as I call it), you won’t ever lose it. A few minutes of warm-up and you’re ready to go!

10. Finally, just remember there are no rules about what you can create through quilting. Experiment, learn new skills, practice them, and HAVE FUN.

Quilt On!

Nerissa & Carol
From the Editor’s Desk

Newsletter Advertising:
To advertise in the newsletter please contact Joan Johnsen.
forjj1@shaw.ca

Newsletter Deadline:
Please submit all entries for the newsletter by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month’s newsletter.
Submit articles to the editor’s email: editor@schoolhousequilters.com

Guild Meetings:
Our guild meets every Thursday from 9:00am to 9:00pm for quilting at the Cumberland OAP Hall.
General Meeting 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00pm
Executive Meeting 3rd Thursday of each month at 1:00pm

Our Website:
www.schoolhousequilters.com

Show n’ Tell December 2012
Book Review

Two Block Applique Quilts
Claudia Olsen
Martingale & Company  2004
It is in our guild library but I don't have the number

At first glance this book may appear to be yet another ho-hum applique combined with pieced blocks. Take another look..........the author cleverly combines a pieced block with another compatible pieced block, but eliminates some of the sections of one of the blocks to make room for applique. The results are stunning, since the two blocks, when set together also form many other patterns which gives a feeling of complexity to the quilt.

Some quilters aren't comfortable with applique. Claudia has put a lot of thought into the section "Applique techniques" which clearly shows and explains freezer paper, fabric starch and needleturn applique. She ends this section with "perfecting the applique stitch", as well as including tips and tricks when constructing circles, flower petals etc. If you still aren't convinced that hand applique is something you would like to do, why not fill in those spaces which you have created with fusible applique?

As with most good quilting books, the author provides a section on Materials and Supplies, as well as Basic Quiltmaking Techniques. Helpful explanations are given as to why the author chooses particular supplies and tools.

The quilt patterns are varied, from simple two block combinations as in Windblown Pinwheels (pg. 36) to Azalea Album (pg. 42). Azalea Album uses the Lighthouse Beacon block combined with the Album block but, by substituting some of the dark colored block corners with a white print, another area for applique is created after the blocks are joined together. The result - a circle of appliqued azaleas around a medallion type centre, but with "stars" surrounding the blooms - simple, yet complex in appearance.

Each pattern provides you with the finished quilt size, pictures of the two blocks used in the quilt, a list of materials, cutting instructions and directions for assembly of the project. All instructions are clearly written and illustrated and applique patterns are included with each project. You may wish to substitute your own applique in the blank spaces to truly make your quilt "one of a kind". A book well worth borrowing from our library.

Lois Warner
Intersections: Where words and quilting meet

Let Your Light Shine
by Jessie Schut

I’ve just come back from participating in the Advent Spiral. I’d never heard of it before, but our grandchildren attend a school where this is a yearly practice and I was invited to join in. I’m glad I did.

Outside the room where the ceremony was to take place the common area was buzzing with children, parents and grandparents milling about. But when the door opened, we entered another space altogether. The room was darkened, filled with a mood of wonder and anticipation. Teachers had laid out a large spiral path of evergreen boughs. In the centre of the spiral they had placed a large flickering candle resting on a tree stump. Along the edges of the spiral they placed golden paper stars, evenly dispersed along the path. A harpist played seasonal music as people quietly took their places on chairs set out around the perimeter of the room.

The leader read a very short introduction, then handed a small candle stuck into an apple to the first mom and child. The child was invited to walk the spiral with her parent, slowly moving to its center, where she would light her candle from the large one, then place hers on a golden star before they would quietly, meditatively, walk back out of the spiral. Then another child and parent would repeat the ritual. As the small candles were placed around the spiral, the room would begin to brighten. What a lovely symbolic practice, I thought: in these busy days leading up to Christmas, we need to take time to go back to the Centre, to draw strength from the light, and then to return back to the world where our lights can shine brighter to lighten up other people’s journeys.

Well, that was the way it was supposed to go in theory. But when you gather 15 preschoolers together, things have a way of taking on a new life. It was endearing and enlightening to watch how each child responded to this invitation. The first child, chosen because he was already squirming and squealing on his mother’s lap, didn’t want to place his candle on the star; instead, he put it down as close to the central light as possible. The next three children followed suit, and so there were four little candles huddled together close to the source of the light, instead of dispersing the light throughout into the room.

The next child found the star and put it down in the right place, but wasn’t so sure he wanted to leave the circle at all. Another child ran exuberantly around the spiral, laughing all the way. One child meditatively chewed on his apple candleholder on the way into the spiral, then, wasn’t too keen to give it up. Several children hopped into and out of the spiral over the cedar boughs instead of walking it. A little fellow shyly hid behind his mom’s skirts as he walked in and out of the spiral. One very little one lit her candle then walked over to her grandma to give it away.

(Continued on page 5)
I was enchanted by it all. Sure, the intended underlying message made an impact on me, but, as with many worthwhile learning experiences, it was the unintentional messages that also enriched me today. This experience was a lovely practice of a community sharing meaning together – and isn’t that what we as a quilt guild are also: a community that shares meaningful practices? In doing the practice – quilting – we share our common desire to make things of beauty to brighten up our world. But as with the preschoolers, we do so all in our own way.

Some stick close to each other and to the sewing practices they’ve been taught, finding security in these. Some run full bore ahead, making up with enthusiasm what they may lack in skill. Some find great meaning in the act of quilting; the finished product is only secondary. Some jump right in, taking shortcuts to get to the goal faster. Some are tentative and anxious, preferring to let others take the limelight. And some of us don’t really think much about the underlying meaning of a guild but love to make things and give them away. All of us are needed in this interconnected web we call our guild.

In the end, no matter how they participated, the little ones all accomplished their mission: they lit their candles and set them down somewhere in the circle, and the room was brighter when we left than when we arrived. We left, glad that we’d taken the time to take in these moments of meaning and thoughtfulness. And I think that’s the way it is with our guild, too. We all participate in our own way, and the world is a more beautiful place because of it. We participate together, because that makes the most impact, and we gather strength and happiness by sharing with each other.

In 2013, may we continue to let our lights shine.  
Shine on!

Jessie

Show n’ Tell December 2012
Block of the Month for 2012/2013

I hope more people will participate in the Block of the Month exchange. The idea is to make a different nine patch block each month with the colours from the chart found in the newsletters. The blocks are 9 ½ inches unfinished for the block draw. If more people participate, whoever wins will have enough to make a small quilt, instead of a placemat or table runner.

Please participate...it’s fun and easy!
Sharon Latham

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>BIRTHSTONE</th>
<th>COLOUR</th>
<th>FLOWER</th>
<th>COLOUR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>Sapphire</td>
<td>deep blue</td>
<td>Aster/morning glory</td>
<td>mauve, reddish brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>Opal</td>
<td>multi/pinkish blue</td>
<td>Marigold/calendula</td>
<td>golden yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>Topaz</td>
<td>amber</td>
<td>Chrysanthemum</td>
<td>golden brown/rust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>Turquoise</td>
<td>mid blue</td>
<td>Narcissus or Holly</td>
<td>white or Red/green</td>
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<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>Garnet</td>
<td>dark red</td>
<td>Carnation or snowdrop</td>
<td>red/pink/white</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td>Amethyst</td>
<td>purple</td>
<td>Violet or primrose</td>
<td>violet blue/yellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>Aquamarine</td>
<td>pale blue/teal</td>
<td>Daffodil</td>
<td>yellow/white</td>
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<tr>
<td>APRIL</td>
<td>Diamond</td>
<td>white/clear</td>
<td>Daisy/Sweet pea</td>
<td>white/yellow/red</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>Emerald</td>
<td>green</td>
<td>Lily of Valley</td>
<td>creamy white/green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>Pearl</td>
<td>creamy/pink</td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>red&amp; deep pink</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>larkspur or water lily</td>
<td>blue/purple or russet</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUGUST</td>
<td>Peridot</td>
<td>light lime green</td>
<td>Gladioli</td>
<td>Orange red</td>
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</table>

Christmas Hampers

We collected $888.92 + $4 worth of lottery winnings (thanks Carol) for the hampers. Sharron Woodland, Ardythe Crawford, Barb Messer & I went shopping at Superstore. We got all the food, gifts for all the family members & a $25 gift certificate for each family.

We had a blast!!! I have enough change left over to buy 3 Christmas cards. Thanks to everyone who contributed funds to this endeavor. I have 206 placemats to give the hamper people to put into the unsponsored hampers –lot of sets of 2, a few sets of 4, and a couple of sets of 8.

Thanks so much to all who made placemats, they are really appreciated!!

Have a Wonderful Christmas everyone! See you in the new year!!

Quilts warm the heart as well as the body!!
Thank you, Sharon
I have made and presented six quilts to a wonderful Canadian organization - Quilts Of Valour - Canada. The blocks I showed at the December Show ‘n Tell were made for their Hugs Across The Nation initiative. Here are pictures of my Maple Reel quilt and of my blocks.

![Figure 1 Maple Reel](image)

The mission of Quilts of Valour is to ensure that our injured Canadian soldiers are recognized for their bravery and their commitment to our country. We make no statement of the politics involved in Canada’s military deployment.

We give this support through the presentation of quilts of comfort made for our military service people. As of November 2012 we have been able to deliver over 3300 quilts to our injured service members and to veterans! We have quilts going out to our armed forces bases, rehabilitation hospitals and veterans homes right across the country! If you need a hand with the quilting, we have long arm quilters registered for you to connect with and work together to complete the quilt. When a quilt is completed, we ask that you label it, wash it and forward it to a representative close to you (see the website for long arm and representative contact information), or if there is a specific soldier you know and wish to present the quilt, then please let us know you have presented the quilt by registering your contact information with Register@QuiltsOfValour.ca. This helps us keep track of how many quilts have been distributed.

We do not know who will receive the quilts, as that information is private. However, we are hearing back from the soldiers and we know they are being received and treasured.

Any quilt you make for our soldiers and veterans that are delivered through QoV Canada is consid-

(Continued on page 8)
ered a QoV Quilt — and you are then a QoV Quilter!

In addition to this program, we have begun a program to collect blocks made by quilters from all Provinces and Territories. We will group these into bundles to be sent out to volunteer quilters who have agreed to create Hugs Across The Nation quilts.

This program features the fabric collection OH CANADA created by Northcott designer Linda Ludovico in support of Quilts of Valour – Canada. Nine fabrics are in this Stonehenge line - and Quilts of Valour – Canada is inviting quilters across the country to make a block (or two, or more) from this line. Northcott is sponsoring Quilts of Valour – Canada through the sales of this line. The fabrics are shown here.

Don Sparks

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**News from the Program Committee**

Have you ever wondered just what the judges are looking for at a quilt show. Our own Margaret Yells is going to review the particulars for us at the January meeting. Hopefully this will be of assistance to you the next time you enter a show.

Our February meeting will feature a wonderful trunk show by Pippa Moore, she will also have some items for sale to help her projects in Africa.

The program committee hope to see you at the meetings. Do you have some great ideas for programs for our guild? Let the nominating committee know as we will be needing quilters for the committee for next year.

Program Committee
June Boyle
Gayle Lobban
Florence Labrecque
Indian Summer Quilt Retreat at
Vancouver Island Mountain Centre
http://www.vimountaincentre.com

Catered by Custom Gourmet
http://www.customgourmetchef.com

A special invite to all the new members of CV Schoolhouse Quilters and the old timers too!, to a retreat at Vancouver Island Mountain Centre, catered by Custom Gourmet.

The date is September 26, 27, 28 & 29 2013. I will require a deposit by March 7th 2013 of $50.00 to hold a spot for you. For more info contact:

Moreen Reed 250-650-7678 e-mail: cardinal7678@gmail.com
Happy January Birthday

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joyanne</td>
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<td>Janis</td>
<td>Davis</td>
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<td>Carrie Ann</td>
<td>Beech</td>
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<td>Sharon</td>
<td>Pederson</td>
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<td>Jeanann</td>
<td>Alderson</td>
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A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to all Guild members from the Refreshment Committee.

Thank you to all who helped with the refreshments at the December Potluck, and we now know that we should make more regular coffee for daytime Potlucks!

January’s meeting is fast approaching, so members whose surname begins with the letter “L”, it is your turn to bring a snack. There are not so many members with surnames starting with “L”, so this might be a good time for others to bring in surplus Christmas baking!

Thanks Carreen, et al.

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Upcoming Events/Quilt Shows

**March 5—17 2013**

Mark your calendars for a Fabric Arts and Photography Show with Beverly Michaluk and Elvy Gustafsson at the Pearl Ellis Gallery open Tues.-Sat.10:00am - 4:00pm Sunday 1 - 4pm. 1729 Comox Ave. Love to see you all there.

**March 22 – March 24 2013**

It Started With a Stitch Westshore Quilters’ Guild Quilt Show.

**Quilt Canada 2013—Halifax**
Penticton Trade & Convention Center May 15—18 2013 www.canadianquilter.com

Check out the www.canadianquilter.com website calendar of events for more show...

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Refreshments 2012 - 2013

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Workshops 2012-2013

“Journal Cover” January 12, 2013 10:00 am to 4 pm  Cost is $25
Anne McCullough will present a one day class to make a creative and textured embellished journal cover.

“Fabric Wallet” January 26, 2013 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  Cost is $25 plus $8.00 for pattern
Raelene Robertson will present a one day class to make her popular fabric wallet.

“Mystery Quilt” March 2, 2013 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  Cost is $25
Janis Davis will once again present a Mystery Quilt workshop.

“Animal Images” April 6 & 13, 2013 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  Cost is $110.00
Two day workshop with Judy Farrow. Learn how to create an animal image in fabric. Suitable for all levels of quilters.

Contact someone on your workshop committee if you have any questions. Sign up for workshops any Thursday between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., or on Thursday evenings if Judy Morrison is there or at the general meeting.

Your Workshop Committee
Florence Labrecque, Judy Morrison, Margaret Yells, Sandy MacDonell, Carol Metner, Hennie Aikman

SUNSHINE

If anyone knows a guild member who has been ill or has illness or a death in their family or who just needs to be cheered, please call:

Jennifer Harrison at 250-339-4754
so that a card may be sent

Bernina Walking Foot for sale

Will fit 'older' Berninas - models with four numbers, or the really old ones with three numbers.

So, the 1090, 1230, 1530, etc. or the 'old' 830.

The original price is still on the box - $119 and we are asking $65.

Contact Sharon Pederson ssped@telus.net or 250-337-8323
### January 2013

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<td>3 General Meeting</td>
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<td>12 Journal Covers Workshop</td>
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<td>17 Executive Meeting</td>
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<td>26 Fabric Wallet Workshop</td>
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### February 2013

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<td>14 Valentines Day</td>
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Pillow Cases

Quilters from the North Island are looking for help making pillow cases for the new Children’s Hospital. They are planning for this to be an on-going contribution for the children.

French seams or serger finished seams should be used. Colourful and fun, cheerful and pretty. Anything you can make will be appreciated.

A Bee day will be scheduled in the New Year for those interested.

Any finished pillow cases can be passed on to me for collection from the North Island Quilters.

P.S. The best instructions for pillow cases is at www.allpeoplequilt.com/millionpillowcases/instructions/rollitup.pdf

Thank you, Janis Davis

December 2012 Show n’ Tell

Venue News

The Schoolhouse quilters hope to enter two sale events for 2013.

The first being Nautical Days – Aug. 3-4-5- in Comox and Charles Dickens Craft Sale Nov. 8-9-10 in Courtenay.

All members of the guild are eligible to participate.

Charles Dickens is a juried show, which means that two photos of recent work must be submitted to the Venue committee by the end of February, so we can submit them to the show’s organizer.

Nautical days is a self-juried show, so items must be seen by the committee (photo’s) so that minimum standards of workmanship are maintained.

Any questions please call

Maureen McCannel 703-2209 or Shirley Woodbeck—338-1176
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Authorized PFAFF & BABY LOCK dealer:
Service & repairs to most sewing machines & sergers
105-6750 Island Hwy. N. Nanaimo, BC
Mon. - Fri. 10-5:30pm Sat. 10-5pm

Show n’ Tell December 2012
Seeking creative inspiration or just want to try something new?

Drop in to South Hollow Gallery Leapenhi Paper to discover what’s new in papercraft techniques, products & embellishments. Whether you are into needlecraft, mixed media fabric arts or simply love to try new things, expect to discover a unique shopping experience along with some exciting creative ideas.

- Ask about Zentangle® and how you can use it to enhance your projects. Easy-to-follow Zentangle® instruction books are in stock plus fabric markers and a variety of inks to complete your design.
- Want to try painting on silk or other natural fabrics? We carry a rainbow of Dye-na-Flow, “the paint that acts like a dye” along with all the supplies you’ll need - even pre-sewn Chinese silk scarves!
- Have a photo or original image you’d like to include in your project? Try printing a copy out on one of the new 8.5” x 11” silk inkjet printer sheets and then attach it to your work. Very simple!

Now in:
angelina fibres, alcohol inks in vibrant jewel tones, stamps & stamp pads including embossing, dye and pigment inks, gold, silver & copper leafing in sheets & crumbs, distress inks to enhance character & historical appearance, white, gold, silver & copper pens for a quick touch of elegance, specialty papers you can sew through, unique embellishments including Chinese coins & skeleton leaves, colour kits packed with specialty papers, beads & textures, clever clips & bamboo sticks for hanging finished work, kimono fabric in pieces & full lengths, fabric ribbon in a range of widths, Aleene’s Flexible Stretchable Fabric Glue, clear embossing fluid, Lutradur fabric for textile arts,...

Our experienced staff are always happy to share our knowledge with you. And we love to hear from you too! Hear of a new technique or a good product we should carry, please let us know.

How much fun can you have in one store?

South Hollow Gallery
Leapenhi Paper

218 - 5th Street in Downtown Courtenay
Ph. 250.334.0221 Email southhollow@shaw.ca southhollow.ca leapenhi.com
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Show n' Tell December 2012
Word Puzzle

2013 What is the question??
Moreen

dis your t ts ie i e e
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w n e y a r s v i o o n d
n o o n v t d t d t d t o f u
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