



President's Message

Hi Everyone,

Another month behind us and I'm assuming a lot of us have received our vaccines by now. I just wish some of those nurses would have been given a refresher course on inoculating humans.

After spending a week cleaning out my flower beds, now I can sit back and enjoy the next week of rain. The ground is so dry for this time of year, that I worry about what our summer will look like.

Enough about rattling on. I hope you are all doing well and keeping busy. Till next time.

stay safe and healthy,

Your president,

Diane



Whipping Cream Substitute

Summer is coming, along with the fresh berries that taste so good with the addition of fresh cream (as do many desserts). Perhaps you have a spouse who is either Lactose intolerant, or allergic to cow's milk, or both. Or you may be that way yourself. Finding decent substitutes for cream is difficult: many substitutes contain whey, others ingredient lists I can't pronounce, never mind know what they are, while others are "edible plastic".

Invariably, once you find one that both tastes good and is available, then not enough people buy it, so the stores no longer stock it.

The following is a substitute I have used for many years. It combines unsalted butter - yes, from cow's milk, but the whey has all been washed out leaving behind pure fat.

Even if you are not lactose intolerant or have milk allergies, this is a cheap substitute for fresh cream.

You will need either a stick blender, food processor or regular blender.

Ingredients

5 fluid ounces milk or milk substitute (almond, soy, rice, cashew)

4 ounces unsalted butter (1/2) cup

1/2 teaspoon powdered gelatin

Put the milk/substitute in a pan along with the butter cut in small pieces, and heat gently until the butter has melted.

Remove from heat, stir well and sprinkle the gelatin over the top, and stir well to mix.

Leave to cool for 1 or 2 minutes, then blend very well using whichever blender you have.

This takes about 2 minutes, or until it is creamy.

Chill in refrigerator, then whip as required.

Enjoy

Carreen

Comox Valley Schoolhouse Quilters' Guild

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Community Quilts Newsletter Item – May 2021

The **Community Quilts Group** continues to be busy, although the spring sunshine makes it harder to stay focused on sewing projects. Here are some of the things that our group has been up to:

On Friday April 16, **Barb Bocking** delivered 42 “cuddle” quilts (20 adult and 22 children's) to the Comox Valley Transition Society. Heather Ney, the Executive Director of the Society, says that Lilli House is very busy now – over 300 women and children stay at Lilli House each year, and approximately 100 women access services at Amethyst House. Sadly, the number of women and children experiencing violence is increasing.

Many thanks to everyone who supports Community Quilts, either with helping hands, financial assistance, or good wishes.



Nerissa Thomas presented a Quilt of Valour on March 31st to Philip Gray in Comox. His wife (standing beside him) nominated him. The lovely quilt was made by "Community Quilter" Peggy Hawkins.

The Baby Group continues to work away at their projects. Teddies and Toddlers have a supply of quilts and fabrics on hand for when the schools and day care are back operating normally.

We continue to receive thank you notes from women who have received breast cancer kits (bags and pillows) after surgery. Another supply will be delivered in the coming weeks.

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Community Quilts Continued

If anyone is looking for small projects to do over the next few months, we could use some placemats. The Soroptomists use the placemats when making up SoroptiPaks, which are given out to women who are leaving the Transition Society centres and setting up their own homes.

We could use sets of 2, for single women, and sets of 4 or more for those with children.

I do have some fabric that could be used for these, so contact Myra Shearer (myra.shearer@telus.net) if you are interested.

You can find some simple placemat patterns on our website:

www.schoolhousequilters.com



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SUSIE SINGER'S MAY NEWS

I'm happy to say the sewing room has been reorganized and I now have a permanent place. Hopefully, I won't be spending any more time in my carrying case in the closet... YAY!

April was quite productive. The colorful 2 ½ inch squares were all cut & ready to be made into a baby quilt. I sewed the blocks together with sashing & there are six rows waiting to be sashed & bordered to finish the quilt. Oh, how I love to sew! I hope all you ladies have been busy sewing too.

I was lucky to have some time off to enjoy the beautiful weather and we made a trip to the beach. That was a real treat. We are so lucky to live on this beautiful Island.

Things have been pretty quiet in the production department this week as cleaning up the yard & potting plants have taken over. It looks like rain in the forecast; which we could use for the lawn & gardens, so I'll probably be back to work soon to get the baby quilt finished.

Take care & Sew On!

Susie



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Newsletter Advertising:

To advertise in the newsletter please contact Sandy MacDonell for rates. Submit advertising by the **15th** of the month for inclusion in the next month.

nlads@schoolhousequilters.com

Newsletter Deadline:

Please submit all entries for the newsletter by the **15th** of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

Submit articles to Hope (current editor) using the email:

editor@schoolhousequilters.com

Meetings before COVID

Guild Meetings before COVID-19

Normally our guild meets every Thursday from 9:00am to 9:00pm for quilting at the Cumberland OAP Hall.

General Meeting (September to June) on the **1st** Thursday of each month at **6:30 pm**

Executive Meeting (September to June) **3rd** Thursday of each month at 1:00pm

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Suggested Sizes for Community Quilts

Seniors (The Views) 40" x 50" or 45" square

Adult lap (Lilli House) 45" x 60"

Children' 40" x 50"

Quilts of Valour 60" x 80"

Embroidery Group

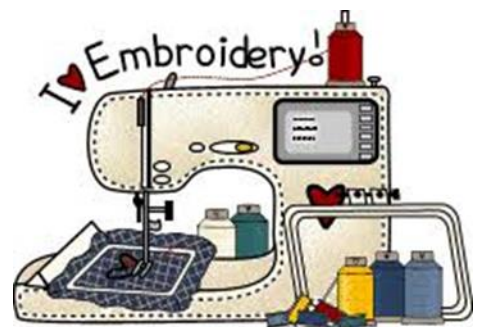
Are you a guild member who has: a sewing machine with an embroidery attachment? A dedicated embroidery machine? Interested in embroidery machines?

Are you interested in starting a group in our guild?

We could:

- Exchange information on new designs
- Talk about stabilizers and threads
- Troubleshoot stitch out issues
- Exchange best Facebook groups to join
- Discuss project of the month and stitch along

If you are interested please contact Tracy Richards



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Member Activities

Sharon Hansen has been busy

Over the last 3 months I've been working on finishing 5 quilt projects that my Mother-in-law Shirley Hansen was unable to finish before she passed away in 2019. Shirley was a member of the guild back in '99, she loved quilting and got me started. When my father-in-law asked me to finish these I couldn't say no. The reversible quilt was just blocks so I sashed them and then did a two tone binding. The fall sampler was a class at Huckleberry's and it was long armed by Sandy Harysym Lloyd. The Blue and Burgundy sampler was also a class at Huckleberry's and it is a "Shirley" quilt for sure as these were her favorite colours. I finished the blocks and assembled and bound it, quilted by Charity Briosi. It is so nice to see her projects and her visions come to life. I have labeled them with her name and dates for future generations. The quilts will be gifted to other family members for them to enjoy her love of quilting and family.

Now I'm on to finishing a few of my own projects hopefully I'll have one in the next newsletter.

I'm trying to keep active and working in the gardens again. We are missing our grandchildren and can't wait til we can hug them again. □.

Happy Spring



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Dates to remember in 2021

Daylight Savings	March 14th
St Patrick's day	March 17th
Good Friday	April 2nd
Easter Sunday	April 4th
Easter Monday	April 5th
Mother's Day	May 9th
Victoria Day	May 24th
Father's Day	June 20th
Canada Day	July 1st
British Columbia Day	Aug 2nd
Labour Day	Sept 6th
Thanksgiving Day	Oct 11th
Halloween	Oct 31st
Remembrance Day	Nov 11th
Christmas Day	Dec 25th



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Our guild member Sandi Lloyd-Harasym

BIB n' TUCKER QUILTING

May Sale

All floral textures and floral prints

Any fabric with a food item

½ m minimum cuts

20% – 30% off 2m+ (same bolt)

1006 Craigflower Road Victoria ,BC

250-386-6512 (Tues- Thurs 11-3 Sat 12-4)

Members Activities



Colleen

I combined two purse patterns and tweaked the measurements to come up with this.
I am carrying it now and am pleased with the result.

Lois J. has been busy



My grandson loves chickens so made him a pillow for his BD.

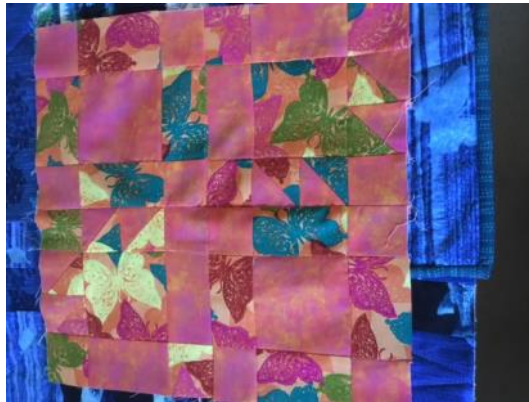
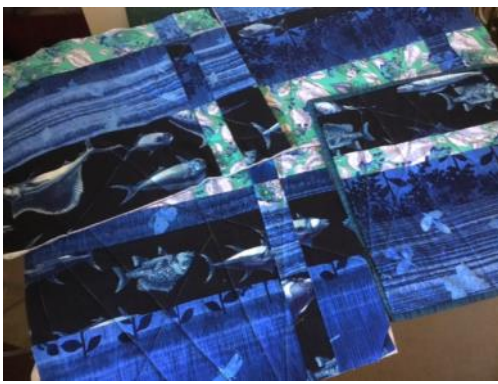
My daughter asked for a quilt with Bees on so made this one with the Yellow Brick Road pattern.

Member Activities

Claudette has been busy

"Take four "placemats by Cary Flanagan for my Son who is building a house on Denman . Binding needs to be finished.

The block of the month gave me many problems and I had to unsew the half square triangles numerous times. I still don't think they are correct but no way am I changing them again. Last month's block was much easier and I hope the May block will be easier. Claudette



Lois W. has been busy

One queen size 'flimsy' makes three quilts.....I found an Ocean Waves top, made several years ago, and decided I had no use for it . I cut off the top area and made a smaller quilt which was given away as a wedding gift. I then used the leftover piece to make two baby quilts for the baby group which gives quilts to disadvantaged newborns. Nice to think the flimsy is useful, finally, and hope the babies like the teddy bears. Lois Warner



More Member Activities

Jan Hill has been busy

So...Lindsay wanted colourful...think this will do??



Julie Ann has been busy

I want to send you these pictures for the newsletter. I haven't been quilting much but did manage to get these done and sent away. Sandi long armed the chicken wire stitching on both of them and they looked really cute.



What I learned from my first quilt project

Years ago now it was my sister who was the quilter, not me. She had already made me a nice wall hanging – and so one year I asked her to make me a table topper for my coffee table – for Christmas. Most Christmas commercial products are red or green – but my couch has a rosy tone that turned pink if I decorated with red, and wanted something that would better suit my odd colour requirement.



I thought I was asking for a simple thing – and was rather insulted when she responded – " make it yourself ". Little did I realize or appreciate what I was asking – giving no consideration at all to the amount of time it takes to create – nor how difficult it can be to make something for someone else – outside of your normal colour range & the responsibility of choosing fabrics / designs and hoping that you met the vision in someone else's mind. I have since learned how difficult it can be to match someone else's vision.

Determined, I drew out this star I wanted ... and showed her what I wanted to make – to which she said " You can't do that " And being the little sister; that just woke up every stubborn bone in my body – who did she think she was, telling me I could not do that. So I went on down to the Red Barn for assistance with my idea – only to be told " you can't do that " ... you see, I had never heard of bias edges – let alone try to figure out the angle of what I wanted to cut. Now I was really determined that this was possible – how dare they !

I then went down to a quilting shop downtown – trying hard to remember the name – Bird's Nest ? or something like that ? And the lady there took me under her wing and walked me through each and every step – choosing colours that would go with this odd rose couch – and talking about the movement in the fabrics (never did figure out what the movement part was about). Anyhow – she chose the colours and had me cut out my star and add that quarter inch – and sew very carefully – press very carefully – and I carted this project back and forth to the store on a regular basis.

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She had me put extra fabric on the edge pieces – didn't realize until much later this was so the points floated and avoided that risk of cutting one's points off. Eventually came the batting / sandwiching ... and she suggested some simple straight line quilting that would be very effective and even in metallic thread. She was an 'angel'.

Binding – she told me to go buy the current month's issue of Fons & Porter magazine and it had step by step instructions for how to do the binding ... WOW – I was so impressed that she would know what issue the instructions were in – little did I realize those instructions are in EVERY issue.

I was thrilled with the results – (I showed them, didn't I). and I still love this table topper. The only real problem with this topper is the very large lump in the center, with all those seams in one spot. You certainly don't want to sit a candle in the center of this topper – or that glass of wine ...I would like to think I could do a better job of that lump now – but have never tried to replace this one – it shares every Christmas with us.

It was years before I did anything else – after all, it was my sister who was the quilter – not me. A few years later, she developed cancer – and died And one of my tasks was to pack up her sewing room – not a small task as you all know. Donate those books – donate that fabric – donate those rulers, notions – the whole swack.

About a year later I was somehow affected by the quilting bug – took a quilting class at Huckleberry's – and had to buy so many of those things I had arranged to be donated She frequently 'sits on my shoulder' when I quilt.

Jean Lewis

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Have you seen the wonderful online demos that Huckleberry's staff have been doing? If you missed them check them out here.

All their videos are on their YouTube channel ☐

Most people may already know this – but just in case

Huckleberry's have been doing some you-tube videos – some a demos of a new product or ruler – some are just tours of the store – for anyone who might be missing just the visual of shopping

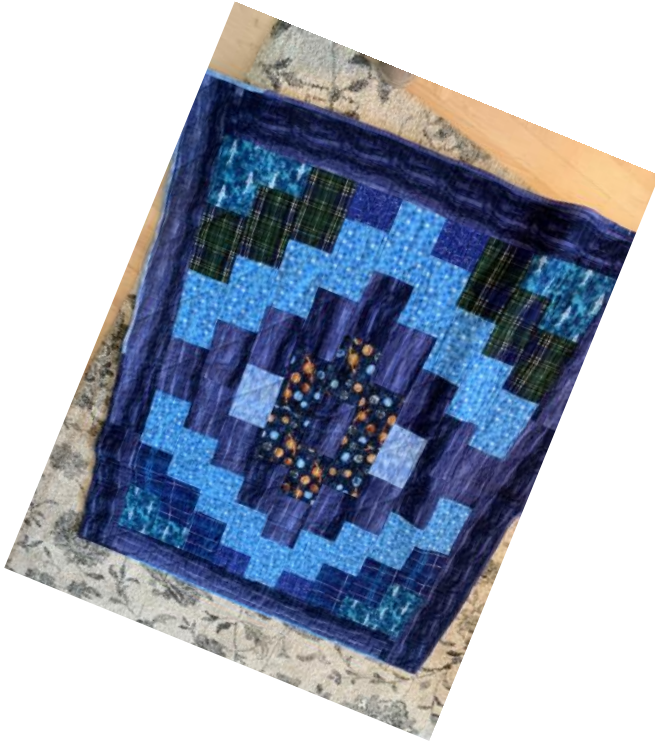
This is link to the latest 'store tour' – it is February of course no doubt there will be a March one but not sure when

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kElYh_SRgr0

More Member Activities

Anita Jones Gould has been busy

Quilts for Boys



More Member Activities

Eva has been busy

When I go into my workroom, I am so overwhelmed by all the fabric that I don't even know where to start! It's hilarious!

And since I keep buying more of the current fabrics, something has to go. So recently I have been measuring and labelling and my new motto is "Move it Out!" By the time you read this, it should all be gone.



I'm looking forward to starting Edyta Sitars new mystery quilt that starts right after Mother's Day. Since I have way too much fabric, I've managed to find ALL the fabric I need for a bed size mystery quilt in my stash! Here's the link to the mystery quilt. I did her mystery quilt last year and it was gorgeous!

<https://www.laundrybasketquilts.com/blog/mystery-quilt-2021/>

Life is good! Take care, keep busy with your hobbies, gardens, and whatever else you enjoy!

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SUNSHINE

Another month has rolled on with some spring like weather and the feeling that things are getting better. Hang onto that feeling because it will be awhile yet before we can get that summer feeling.

If we all do our part things will get back to what we looked at for normal.

Still no big gatherings or spring weddings.

If you have information that you think someone would benefit from our best wishes please let me know.

Be safe.

Please continue to let me know when you hear of a time when a need is there, without your input I cannot do my job.

Thank you.

Florence

Email me at: sunshine@schoolhousequilters.com

Some Block of the Month done by our members

Claudette's Block 3

The block of the month gave me many problems and I had to unsew the half square triangles numerous times. I still don't think they are correct but no way am I changing them again. Last month's block was much easier and I hope the May block will be easier.



Judy Flynn's Block #3



School House Thread Orders

Did you know that the guild has access to a thread supply?

A Canadian company, CanSew, has been supplying us with Cone threads at wholesale prices.

Ardythe Crawford has been providing this service, usually once yearly, for the past 15 years. The guild would like to thank Ardythe for this service as she is retiring. Marlene Hooper has offered to take over for Ardythe.

If you have ordered thread before then you know the process. If not here is some information.

Two types of thread are available – 100% cotton and 100% polyester. The spools hold 6000 yards of thread. The colour choices for the cotton thread are a bit limited with only 33. The polyester has more of a colour selection with over 100. A colour chart is available for your choices. Arrange with Marlene to view the colour chart.

You can contact Marlene at her e-mail (available from the membership list), to place your order. To best reduce costs – she will wait until there are at least 10 orders before the order is placed. The wholesale cost per spool usually varies between \$30 - \$35 per spool for cotton thread and \$25 - \$30 for polyester thread.

A mandatory deposit of \$30 per spool for cotton thread and \$25 per spool for polyester thread will be required for the order. The final cost may vary – depending on the updated costs during these Covid times and the cost of shipping.

The delivery time is usually a few days – if the thread is in stock in Vancouver. Otherwise, the thread comes from Montreal and takes about a week.

Usually, Ardythe would bring the thread to the guild on Thursdays. Currently the thread pick up will have to be arranged between the purchaser and Marlene who lives in Courtenay, close to the Driftwood Mall.

Let Marlene know if you are interested.



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Happy May Birthday

Please wish everyone a Happy Birthday



Carreen	Webber	5/1
Paulette	Clark	5/3
Karen	Clement	5/3
Clare	Ireson	5/3
Wyona	Hertwig	5/9
Mary-Jean	McEwen	5/17
Tina	Manders	5/20
Catherine	Benson	5/29
Brenda	Levirs	5/30
Jan	Hill	5/31

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The new Guild Facebook group page is up and running. When you click the link (or copy and paste it), you will be asked to join. Then you will be added to the group. This allows the group to be a closed group to just our guild membership. Why the new group page? This new group will be attached to a guild account rather than a personal page. It has quite a few benefits - it will allow all group members to post their own pictures, interact with other group members and can allow us to have video calls with each other.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/813194142640864>

If you have difficulty joining the group ask Tracy Richards or Hope Rychkun for help. You can find their email in the Members Only section of our website www.schoolhousequilters.com

Let's have some fun sharing ideas, quilts and more.
Only guild members will be allowed in this group.

More Member Activities

Sandi Lloyd-Harasym has been busy on her **Last Dream**—WOW



Coby's Quilting Adventure

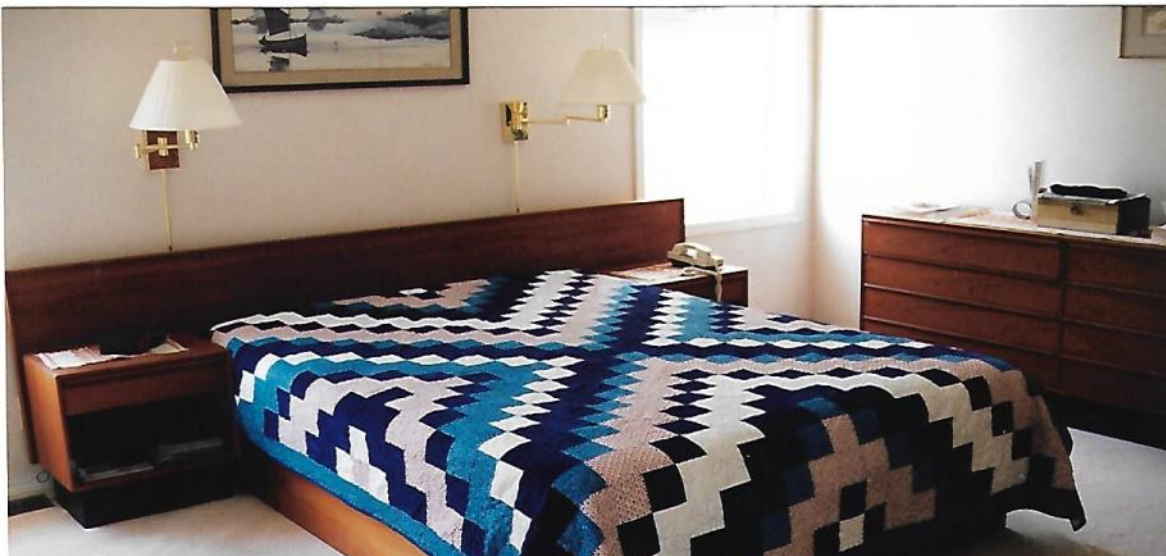
My foray into quilting started in the late 1970's. I worked for Sears in Ottawa and they had a fabric department. One of the girls that worked there had a Mom who was a quilter and from time to time she would come into the store and do a quilting demo. She hand pieced everything and the quilts were all hand quilted.

I loved the look of her work and decided "I can sew so I can do this also". I found a pattern in Family Circle, Feb. 3, 1978 magazine and decided to make it. I used red and blue floral Cranston VIP prints, white poly cotton and royal blue cotton velveteen. All the fabric was cut out with pinking shears. We did not have any fancy rulers, rotary cutters or cutting mats back in the '70's.

I think I unpicked a lot of the blocks 3 times because I didn't like the way it was going together, as a result the blocks ended being smaller than the original pattern directions. Some one told me "You can always throw it out", being frugal I couldn't do that.

The quilt was finished and quilted by a machine quilter in Whitehorse, YT on September 24, 2001. It is still being used but getting thin in places.

Coby Sherstone

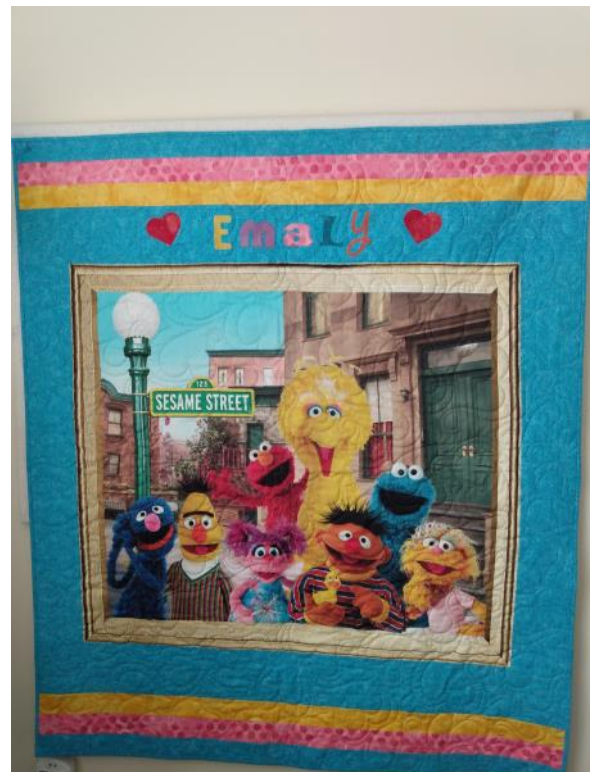


More Member Activities

Nerissa has been busy

I made this quilt some time ago with the pattern & encouragement from Pat McEwen. It was gifted to a friend's new Grandson in New Zealand.

This is Emaly with the quilt I made for her 13th birthday. Her Mom is a friend of my daughter's. She has been through a lot in her 13 years & she is a real fan of Sesame Street.







Block 4 Borrow & Lend

This makes one 12" block



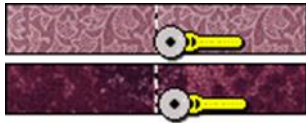
Supply List is for one 12" block

	Colour 1 needs one 2 ½" x 13" strip And one 2 7/8" x 11 ½" strip
	Colour 2 needs one 2 ½" x 13" strip And one 2 7/8" x 11 ½" strip
	Colour 3 needs one 2 ½" 20" strip
	Colour 4 needs one 2 7/8"x 23" strip

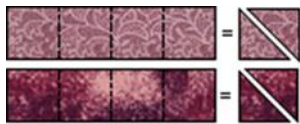
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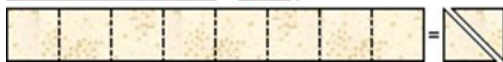
Preparing the pieces and sewing the block



First mark and cut the Colour 1 and Colour 2 - 2 1/2" x 13" strips into two 2 1/2" x 6 1/2" rectangles of each



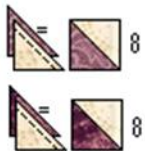
Then mark and cut the Colour 1 and Colour 2 - 2 7/8" x 11 1/2" strips into four 2 7/8" squares of each



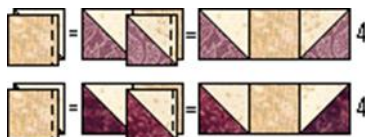
Mark and cut the Colour 4 - 2 7/8" x 23" strip into eight 2 7/8" squares. Now cut ALL of these 2 7/8" squares in half once on the diagonal



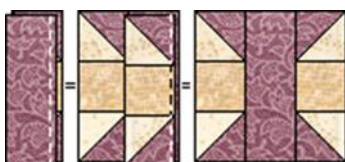
Next mark and cut the Colour 3 - 2 1/2" x 20" strip into eight 2 1/2" squares



Sew half squares, using the Colour 1 & Colour 2 and 4 half square triangles. Make eight of each Colour arrangement shown at left



Now sew side units, by sewing a Colour 3 - 2 1/2" square to the right of a Colour 1 half square, right sides together and using a SCANT 1/4" seam. Press seam allowances towards the center square. Add another Colour 1 half square to the right end, again pressing seam towards center square. Make four units like this, and four more using the Colour 2 half squares...



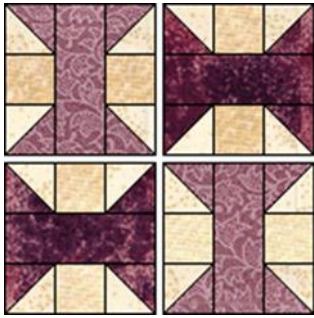
Next Sew a Colour 1 rectangle between two of the Colour 1 units

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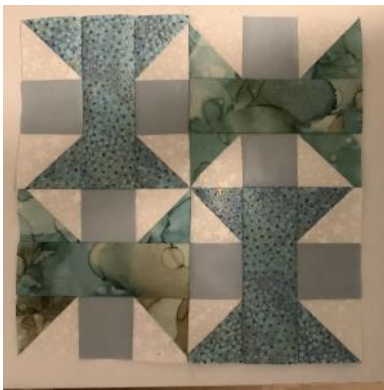
we just made, pressing seams towards the rectangle. Make one more unit like this. Make two more units in the same manner using the Colour 2 rectangles and side units...

Piece the block by making two rows of alternating units. Press the seam of each row towards the Colour 2 side. Join the rows, and that makes the block!

Have fun with this 4th block.

Our block testers have some great suggestions for doing this block. Check them out on the following pages.

Kathy's



Sheila has included a different method for making HST that she found in a magazine. Give it a try.



Clare's



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Block of the Month continued...

Jean's Block 4 comments

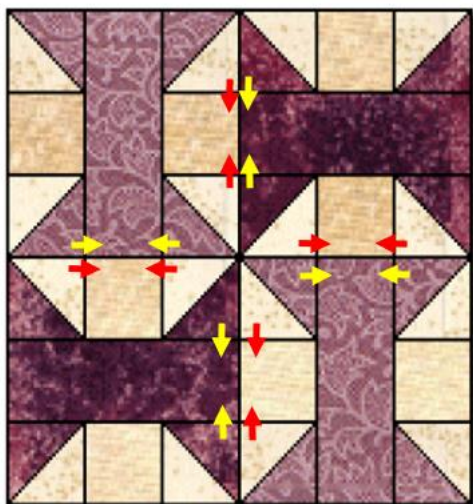
I tried really hard this time to actually follow the written instructions – rather than go by the pictures

Making the HST's

- *I had a bit of trouble following these directions*
- *They have you cut squares of 2-7/8 and then cut them all on the diagonal to triangles --- and then have you sew all the triangles together. With this cutting there is NO wiggle room at all - and then direction is to use colour 1, 2 and 4 to make HST's – and make 8 of each colour arrangement – this had me trying to match up 1 & 2 --- 1 & 4 – and 2 & 4 – which is not right - I think you should change the wording to take 4 squares of colour 1 and 4 squares of colour 4 --- draw diagonal line and sew on each side – to make 8 HST's – that should finish at 2-1/2" square*
- *take 4 squares of colour 2 and 4 squares of colour 4 – draw diagonal line and sew on each side – to make 8 HST's – that should finish at 2-1/2" square*

Pressing

- *I followed the pressing instructions – which does have you able to nest the seams of the HST's in the corner --- but has all 4 seams on the same side at all other join points – which creates a fair bit of bulk.*
- *Does not say what to do with final seam – so I spun the center to cut down on bulk right at the center point.*
- *If you look at the diagram below – I have drawn RED & YELLOW arrows as to which way they have you press seams – so you can see all the spots where all 4 seams are on the same side.*



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Clare's comments on Block 4



The instructions were good, as before. However I did make some modifications to avoid cutting all the 2 7/8" squares into triangles and re-sewing into squares, if you're interested. (Text and method taken from previous block instructions.)

For Colours 1 and 2: cut one 3" x 12" strip, subcut into four 3" squares. For Colour 4, cut one 3" x 24" strip, subcut into eight 3" squares.

On the back of the Colour 4 squares lightly mark the diagonal line. Stack these with four Colour 1 and four Colour 2 squares. Sew a scant 1/4" above and below the marked diagonals. Cut these apart on the diagonals between the rows of stitching, giving you 8 of each colour arrangement shown on the diagram. Press the seam allowances to the dark side. Trim these to 2 1/2". Continue with the side units to complete the block.



BOM done by our members

Barb Messer's first three blocks




Sheila's eight at a time HST method

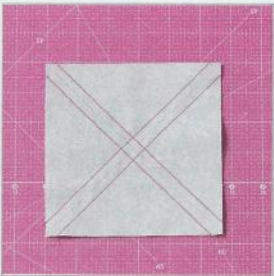
The trick to this method to work for any size triangle is to cut squares twice the finished size of HST plus 1 3/4 inches.



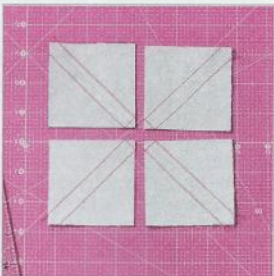
Use this method to make eight matching triangle-squares at the same time.



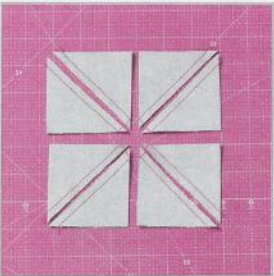
1. On wrong side of lighter square, mark diagonal line from corner to corner. This will be your cutting line. Mark sewing lines 1/4" away from each side of cutting line. Repeat for opposite diagonal.




2. Place marked square on top of darker square, right sides facing; sew along marked sewing lines.



3. Cut sewn squares vertically and horizontally to make four equal sections.



4. Cut along marked cutting lines to make eight triangle-squares.



5. Press seam allowances toward darker fabric.

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Guild Member Personal Information

If you need to contact any of our guild members, executive or committee members please go to the **Members Only** page and then to **Memberships** on our website for the most up to date list of all email, addresses and phone numbers of current guild members. Remember you will need to be a paid member to get the userid and password to enter this area.

To protect the privacy of our guild members' personal phone numbers or email addresses will not be published in the newsletter unless specifically requested by the committee member. Most committees have a guild email address that is redirected to their personal address.

If your committee does not as yet have one or you are organizing a special event please send an email to our webmaster using webmaster@schoolhousequilters.com to request one.

As a paid member you have received the login and password for this section.

Personal Information Changes

Please notify the Membership Committee of any changes to your email, phone number or address.

The Membership Committee will then pass this information on to those who need the information to update email lists, and membership files.

Keep your information up to date in order to receive email regarding guild events.



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Executive & Committees 2020–2021

President	Diane Cave	Treasurer	Colleen Love
Vice-President	Debbie Maxwell	Secretary	Beth Ritchie
Past President	Jan Hill		

Community Quilts

Comox Valley Transition Society	Coordinator—Myra Shearer	
Breast Cancer	Barb Bocking	
N. Island Health Newborns	Myra Shearer	
Seniors	Joy Whitehouse	
Teddies & Toddlers	Verna Power & Nerissa Thomas	
Pregnancy Care Centre	Gladi Lyall & Carreen Webber	
Quilts of Valour	Nerissa Thomas	
Hall Open & Close	Nerissa Thomas	
HAW	Carol Metner, Judy Morrison & their teams	
In-House Draws	Hope Rychkun	
Library	Brenda Levirs	
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Newsletter	Terryl Essery, Carol Metner	
Photography	Editor—Hope Rychkun	Advertising—???
Programs	Barb Messer	
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