

# Scraps of Wisdom

*Newsletter of the Waterloo County Quilters' Guild*

1984/1985

25th Anniversary

2009/2010

*Volume 25 Issue 8*

*May 2010*

*Program for May 19, 2010*

## **A WONDERFUL DINNER – TO CELEBRATE OUR 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Your 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Program Committees have been working hard all year with our celebration. This is the finale with a wonderful dinner, great door prizes, and other surprises. This is also an opportunity for us to meet and talk with several of our founding members without whom we would not be celebrating 25 years.

Our Guest Speaker will be Diane Shink, from Montreal West, Quebec and “quilting is her passion”. She is a lecturer, author, and is a certified AQS quilt appraiser.

Her trunk show will be “What Comes Around Goes Around” – a look at ‘NEW’ trends in quilt making that were also used by our grandmothers. We think that ‘machine quilting’ is new, but she will be showing us a 100-year-old quilt that was machine quilted. Her new book, co-authored with Karen Neary, “Canadian Heritage Quilting – Quick Creative Designs” was published in 2008. She will have her book at the dinner, if you are interested in purchasing an autographed copy. Her website is [www.dimacquilt.com](http://www.dimacquilt.com).

Our Guild Meeting and Dinner will be held on Wednesday, May, 19, 2010 at St. George Hall, 665 King St. N. Waterloo—Cash bar at 6:00 p.m. with dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

Joline Freund

Your Anniversary Committee—Marg Cassel, Joan Doke, Lynn Fisher, Joline Freund, Fabia Joyce and Colleen Robertson

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*Presidents' Meanderings . . .*

Recently Meredith, my five-year-old granddaughter, started sewing her first patchwork quilt. She picked out all the fabric and after I helped her cut it, she laid out the pieces in the pattern she desired. It is simple, colourful but very symmetrical. It makes me warm inside to know that she is creative.

But as I see the pieces coming together, I know that all too often life is not symmetrical or orderly.

Today my life seems like a Crazy Quilt. There are six messages to answer on the phone, I have a meanderings article to write, my car needs the snow tires taken off, I have 6 counseling clients today plus a bereavement group to facilitate, I didn't sleep well last night as I worried about my responsibilities for today, I'm supposed to preview the choices for our church kitchen renovation and then there is dinner and laundry and vacuuming to prepare for the weekend.

Ever had days like that? Does the Crazy Quilt seem to be a metaphor for your life? Do you feel that all your pieces are scattered and strewn far and wide without making any sense? The original patterns were meant to convey beauty and even opulence. How we have digressed!

Crazy Quilts are haphazard and discordant. In the past Victorian era, these quilts were more showpieces than functional and usually smaller unquilted "lap robes" used to decorate the parlor. They were the perfect showpieces for the lavish interior decoration of the day. Many of them have a fan design and even jewels woven into the elegant brocade, velvet, and silk fabrics.

It seems to me that, a little over one hundred years later, the fair women of our land are consumed in craziness not unlike our Victorian sisters. On the outside, we are younger looking, healthier, and more fashionable than women of any century. But on the inside, our lives are a crazy knot of conflicting responsibilities and duties and dreams.

I want my pieces to be orderly. I don't want to be so fragmented that no beauty shines through. I still harbour regret for all those times I was driven and busy and didn't stop to watch a cardinal feed. I need to take time to do the hard work of "embroidery" – those "extras" that make life meaningful.

What choices do you make each day? Why is it that when we're young, we think there are lots of throw-away moments? Yet, as we grow older, we know that each moment is precious and we cling to them instinctively.

Let us not allow ourselves to become too much like Crazy Quilts. Take time to seek quiet. Gather up all the pieces of our lives and reflect upon the divine weaving of fabric and faith. Look for parables in the patchwork of your life.

Marilyn



*And what is life? A crazy quilt;  
Sorrow and joy, and grace and guilt,  
With here and there a square of blue  
For some old happiness we knew;  
And so the hand of time will take  
The fragments of our lives and make,  
Out of life's remnants, as they fall,  
A thing of beauty, after all.*

Douglas Malloch

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Map directions: To Kitchener, Downie St, to Woodrock, to London, to Mitchell, We are here! - beside 7/11

### *Raffle Quilt 2011*

The next raffle quilt process has started. We are going to do a 'Quilt-As-You-Go' quilt again using Emily Hunsberger's new 'Stash-Busters' pattern. Watch at the next Guild meetings and pick up your focus fabric and instructions. There will be 3 blocks to choose from, a flower, a log cabin and a piano key. They will be completed as 11" blocks with batting and a flannel backing.

If you have a charity to suggest to receive the proceeds from our Guild Raffle Quilt please pass the name on to Thelma Ignor, she will receive your suggestions up to the September 2010 guild meeting.

Jean Carberry

### *From the Library*

[www.librarything.com/catalog/wcqq](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/wcqq)

A reminder that there will be no library in May (we are meeting offsite) so all books should be returned in June.

The **Library Book and Magazine Sale** will be held at the June meeting. Books will be priced at \$2.00 to \$3.00, magazines at 25¢ each or 5 for \$1.00. Bring loonies and toonies and treat yourself to some summer reading. Payment will be by the honour system. There will be a special **Library Raffle** and the proceeds from the sale and raffle will be used for new book purchases next year. The sale is possible thanks to the generous donations of members.

We have grouped some magazines together in a binder and the binder and its contents are signed out as one item. This will speed up the sign out procedure and give a good selection for reading.

Audrey and Bonnie

*Brentwood on the Beach Retreats*

Retreats at Brentwood on the Beach have been arranged for:

September 16 to 19, 2010 at a cost of \$330 for Friday to Sunday plus \$90 for the Thursday night

and

March 10 to 13, 2011 at a cost of \$285 for Friday to Sunday plus \$75 for the Thursday night

The September retreat will include a project that is very suitable for the beginner quilter and both retreats will see the return of "Teaching Snippets". If you are interested in attending either retreat, please contact Megan Stauch at 519-748-1254 or at [megan.stauch@rogers.com](mailto:megan.stauch@rogers.com) as soon as possible.



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## *Mannheim Quilting Circle*

The next date is Wednesday, May 12,  
2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This will be our last meeting for the  
year. Bring your own project and your  
lunch/snacks/beverage—smiles optional.

Bernice Gammy and Fabia Joyce

June Newsletter Submissions are due on **May 14, 2010**. Please send to Carol Williams at [twotaffy@yahoo.ca](mailto:twotaffy@yahoo.ca) or by mail to P.O. Box 192, Plattsville, Ontario N0J 1S0

*On the Calendar*

**May 25 to 29, 2010 – Quilt & Fibre Art Festival - Waterloo Region and Beyond** featuring 17 events in 9 communities. For more information go to [www.stjacobs.com](http://www.stjacobs.com) or contact [lbrubacher1942@rogers.com](mailto:lbrubacher1942@rogers.com)

**Relief Sale Quilts - Preview Locations**

Kitchener City Hall Rotunda, May 1 – May 25; Waterloo City Hall Atrium - May 3 to May 26; Joseph Schneider Haus - May 5 to May 27; St. Jacobs Mennonite Church - May 25 to May 28 “Quilts for the World”.

All the quilts to be auctioned can be seen Friday May 28, 2010 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the New Hamburg Arena. The auction begins Saturday, May 29, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. and runs until about 3:00 p.m.

*Quilt-As-You-Go Stash-Busters* 12 page booklet with detailed instructions is being sold as a fundraiser for the Relief Sale. They sell for \$12.00 with no added tax and are available at various quilt shops and at Guild meetings.

**Ongoing to June 13, 2010 - Threadworks 2010: Trees**, a traveling juried textile art exhibition. Weekdays - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends & holidays - 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is by donation.

Wellington County Museum & Archives is proud to host and support this special project of the Ontario Network of Needleworkers. Held every three years, the 2010 theme “Trees” will showcase a range of interpretive works of the highest technical and artistic quality. Entries are as varied and spectacular as the techniques and material used to create them; ranging from dramatic wall hangings to small three dimensional sculptures. With over 200 works submitted, only 65 pieces are chosen by the jurors, award-winning textile artists and academics Dianne Gibson, Judith Dingle and Susan Burke.

For more information on upcoming exhibits please visit our website at [www.wcm.on.ca](http://www.wcm.on.ca) or phone 519-846-0916. Wellington County Museum & Archives is located on Wellington Road #18 between Fergus & Elora.

**Ongoing to Labour Day, 2010 – Celtic Connections** - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual display of small quilts at the McDougall Cottage, 89 Grand Avenue South, Cambridge, Ontario.

**June 4 & 5, 2010 – Flutter-By Quilt Show** – Mildmay Carrick Complex, 24 Vincent Street, Mildmay, Ontario. Friday 10 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Featuring Viewers' Choice, Certified Quilt Appraiser Judy Lyons, Vendors Market, Mini-Quilt Toonie Table, Boutique and Tea Room.

**June 5 & 6, 2010 – I Dream of Quilts** – Quilters Guild of Renfrew & Area, Ma-Te-Way Activity Centre, 1 Ma-Te-Way Park Drive, Renfrew. Contact Elaine Basinet-Smith, 613-649-2605.



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*Members who make a Difference*

In March we recognized a person who, with an occasionally heard single sentence, elicits laughter and applause from our Guild members. This star comes to the microphone and says, "I have an idea". When the laughter and applause subside, the idea unfolds and we are drawn into a new and innovative project complete with teaching workshops. Remember the Hawaiian appliqué lessons—the postcard classes—choosing pictures for the landscapes captured by Carl Hiebert. How about the *Kaleidoscope of Nations* quilt?



Renske Helmuth was born in Friesland in Northern Holland. Her lessons in her five-year teacher-training program included art, art history, and needlework, knitting and crocheting. After teaching for two years in Holland, she immigrated to Canada. She and Laurence make their home on a large farm in the Moorefield area where Renske carefully and lovingly produces both large and small beautiful quilts. She is a faithful Guild member in addition to being a teacher both near and far for members of other guilds, national organizations such as the Canadian Quilters' Association and quilt shops.

Renske has garnered many accolades and awards for her quilts over the last 1 ½ decades. Some examples include *The Critter Quilt*, which won three awards at Quilt Canada – Best Traditional Wall Hanging, President's Award for Excellence in Appliqué and Viewers' Choice. Does it get much better than that?

*Springtime in Ontario* won first in its category at the World Quilt Competition in Michigan. This quilt was also the winner of first prize and Viewers' Choice at the Ontario Juried Show in 2001 and Honourable Mention in its category at the International Quilt Festival in Houston.

Renske's recognition for her quilt-making skills began in 1994 at the Waterloo County Plowing Match and has continued through block competitions, Guild shows, national shows, and acceptance at international juried shows (Holland, Pacific International Quilt Show). Renske has been the featured artist at The School House in St. Jacobs.

Renske served as President of The Waterloo County Quilters' Guild in 2000. Over the years, she has coordinated the making of quilts by the members for shows and charity donation. In the spring of 2002, her quilt graced the cover of The CQA magazine and that issue contained a feature article on Renske and her quilting.

Although appliqué remains Renske's passion, she is ever a student. She hones and shares her talents in landscapes, sashiko, and Hawaiian appliqué for example.

Submitted by Elizabeth King

*Members who make a Difference*



Also recognized in March was Lynne Fisher—a very remarkable woman. Crafts, it appears, have always been something that she has enjoyed.

She did not start as a quilter but as a Spinner and Weaver and some years ago took a Master Spinners Course at Georgian College. She not only made her daughter's wedding dress but also spun and wove the material.

She is a founding member of the Waterloo County Quilters' Guild.

She enjoys many forms of quilting but her favourites are paper piecing and patchwork.

Her quilting has gone with her on her travels. On a trip to Cuba in 1985, she taught a quilting course and had a three-week quilt show of her own work in Santiago de Cuba. She was made an Honorary Member of the Arts Council in Santiago de Cuba.

She enjoys flower arranging and painting and for both the 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities she has made the invitations and flower arrangements for the events.

As well as doing all of the above, she has been married to her husband Don for 52 years and will celebrate her 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on May 18, 2010.

Submitted by Marg Cassel



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*Members who make a Difference*



In April we recognized Marney Heatley, an innovative and creative woman who easily shares her talents.

She has been instrumental in involving our guild in her comfort quilt/story book project. She has organized four projects between the library and the guild. Marney picks a story about a quilt then asks the guild to assist in making an appropriate quilt. This quilt and book travels from library to library, to school classrooms, to day cares for children to cuddle in the quilt while the story is read. The project won the Ministers' Innovative Award from the Ontario Library Association.



Her current comfort quilt/story book project is the Rag Coat story. We were asked to donate a square of meaningful fabric for her to assemble into a rag coat. I look forward to seeing the completed project.

Marney is a grass roots person who enjoys recycling material from clothing into quilts, then quilting it in the traditional hand-sewing method. She always has a quilt in a frame and quilts with the Calvary United Church women weekly.

When Marney isn't busy with a quilt project she recycles and repairs "cycles" from the landfill to give people a hand up.

Thank you Marney for sharing your gifts and your talents.

*Quilting Bee at Joseph Schneider Haus*

Tuesday, May 25, 2010 to Thursday, May 27, 2010. If you would like to help out for half a day (or more) and enjoy a free lunch, please contact Emily Hunsberger or Mary Snyder. We will be working on Mary's sampler quilt.

*Members' Corner*

We were saddened to hear of the death of a long-time member, Hedy Walker on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at the age of 84 years. Hedy was a member of the Waterloo County Quilters' Guild and was honored as the featured artist at the St. Jacobs Quilt Show in 2006.



*Members who make a Difference*

In April we also recognized two women who have made a difference in the Waterloo County Quilters' Guild by hosting the Mannheim Quilting Circle held on the second Wednesday of the month.

Fabia Joyce has always enjoyed sewing her own clothing. When her son was born, she was alone at home with no car or bus transportation, living on the edge of Scarborough. A new journey into the quilting world began when her neighbour invited her to her church to quilt.

In 1984 she moved to Kitchener and returned to work. Her quilting was halted until she met Arpi Semerjian who invited Fabia to the guild meeting and was very impressed with the Show and Tell. In fact, 4 years ago, she retired to quilt and sew more.

Fabia also enjoys singing in two choirs, hikes, bikes, skis and tries to fit in reading. Her dream is to kayak on the river beside her perfect home. Any day, she will be grandma to a little boy.

Fabia's partner in the Mannheim Quilting Circle is Bernice Gammy and together they make a good pair.


Bernice is also a coordinator for the Alzheimer Touch Quilt program in addition to contributing to Smile Quilts, Mothers Without Doctors Quilts, and Memory Quilts.

She participated in the Waterloo Public Library quilts and books program and has quilted at the Joseph Schneider Haus for the past 5 years. She enjoyed contributing to the post-card quilt project with Renske Helmuth and all five postcards were returned and incorporated in the finished quilt.

As a teacher, she introduced quilting to her grade 1 & 2 students and facilitated a senior student quilting project. Her latest work is piecing tops for MCC for relief distribution with her 89 year old mother. Bernice sews and her mother irons.

Thank you Bernice and Fabia for your enthusiasm and energy in these many endeavours.

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Waterloo County Quilters' Guild

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- Monthly meetings take place at the Albert McCormick Community Centre, 500 Parkside Drive, Waterloo, in the Community Room.
- To accommodate our large Guild, we have an afternoon meeting and an evening meeting each Guild day, with identical contents. Meetings are usually 1 & 1/2 to 2 hours.
- Guests are welcome at all meetings (except the June business meeting): \$7.00 at the door (includes a coupon towards membership).
- New membership: \$40 (includes nametag)
- Renewal membership: \$35 per year
- Guild pins (available at the membership table). \$6
- The Guild is run entirely by volunteers and help is always appreciated. Just speak to anyone on the Executive to get started.

*Guild Executive Contacts*

Officers:

**Co-Presidents:** Marilyn Hollinger and Sandy Bussey  
**Vice President:** Vacant  
**Secretary:** Vacant  
**Treasurer:** Lisa VanGalen  
**Past President:** Carol McLaren

Committee Chairs

**Program Co-Chairs:** Joan Doke, Joline Freund  
**Newsletter:** Carol Williams  
**Historian:** Ruth Hicks  
**Website:** Kathleen Bissett  
**Membership:** Cindy MacKay-Musso  
**Library (Afternoon):** Audrey Vrooman  
**Library (Evening):** Bonnie Murdoch  
**25th Anniversary:** Fabia Joyce

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### More Facts about the Guild (2004-2005)

May 2004 - Renske Helmuth wins honours again with her *Critter Quilt* at Quilt Canada in Winnipeg where she won first place for Large Traditional Wall Hanging, Excellence in Applique, as well as Viewers' Choice!

April 2005 - 40 members of WCQG traveled to Paducah, Kentucky to the American Quilt Show.

September 2005 - WCQG used RIM Park for the first time for the "Celebrations Quilt Show"

Quiltbox - "A disease where you can never have enough fabric or the time to quilt it" - former guild member.

Ruth Hicks

### Bus Trip

In September we have an opportunity to visit Quilters' Cupboard in Uxbridge, northwest of Toronto. I'm told from a number of sources that this is a "must see" shop. We will do our usual tour of the store and have lunch in a very nice restaurant in Uxbridge. A change for this trip is that we will have time for a prepared tour of the Lucy Maude Montgomery home in which she wrote most of her Ann of Green Gables stories from the manse.

The cost of this trip has not been finalized, but if you are interested, please let me know at the guild meetings or call me. It promises to be great fun, so plan to join us on Saturday, September 25, 2010 right after our first guild meeting in September. Sign-up and cost estimate will be ready by the June meeting.

Colleen Robertson



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*From Your 25th Anniversary  
Committee*

**Anniversary Challenge**

"Silver Threads Among the Guild".  
These are due back in June. We will be presenting the Viewers' Choice awards in September.

**UFO's or Unfinished Fantastic Opportunities**

Did you pick one up? Were you pleasantly surprised? You have all summer to create something unique. Anything goes—create a hat, coat, bag, placemat, or even a quilt. Please bring your finished masterpiece for Show and Tell in October.

**Calling all New Members**

Are you new to the Guild this year? Introduce yourself to an Anniversary Committee member and your name will be entered in a draw for a fabulous prize. Draw to be held at our last meeting in June—don't be shy.

