

# Almonte Quilters Guild Newsletter

January 2012

## Sew What's New

This newsletter is posted on the guild website at [almontequiltersguild.com](http://almontequiltersguild.com).

### **President's Message – Diane Gale**

Christmas is finally over. That wonderful time of family, friends, good cheer, hope, peace on earth and love for all. Thanks goodness!!! Now it's time to get back to what's really important! Quilting!!!!

I've been looking at our schedule for the rest of this year, and I can tell you it looks exciting. Our executive has great things lined up for us. Crafts, blocks of the month, trunk shows, and speakers. What a great couple of months we're going to have. I hear this month's speaker is truly amazing. I can't wait to hear her.

So bring your slippers and mugs and meet me at the Civitan to learn about all things quilting. We're going to have a great time! Oh and bring a friend.

See you there  
Dianne

**The Almonte Quilters Guild Meetings** are held at the Civitan Centre, 7:00 pm, on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting is January 16, 2012.

**Charm Squares** are YELLOW for January. Remember to bring 9 – 6 inch squares.

**Charity Quilts** - We are always looking for volunteers to put together or quilt our small lap quilts for the senior's home. Please see Elva or Carolyn at the guild meeting.

## 2011-2012 Programming – Sue Rushton

### Upcoming Speakers:

Diane Gale – Quilt Judging, January 16, 2012

Leslie Whitby – Trunk Show, March 19, 2012

Catharina Breedyk Law, Fibre Artist, April 16, 2012

Nancy Wells – Appliqué, 3-D Flowers, May 21, 2012

### Saturday Workshops:

Paper Piecing – Sue Stewart, March 24, 2012

### Special Topics:

February 20 – Easter Egg Craft Workshop

Monthly Mystery Project Swaps

When possible, we will try to feature one of our local Quilt Shops.

If you have a suggestion, are willing to help out by either teaching a Saturday workshop, or providing a pattern for the monthly mystery swap, please contact me at [niemi\\_sue@hotmail.com](mailto:niemi_sue@hotmail.com) just remember to put AQG in the subject line so I know it's not junk mail.

### **Block of the Month – Elva Lock**

This month we will be working on the guild raffle quilt instead of the Underground Railroad. The pattern is called Flower of Spring and consists of 42 appliqued 9 1/2 "blocks set in a green lattice sash and border. I have the material for the background and flower leaves, and you supply the colour for the petals and centre your choice. We need 41 volunteers to make one block each and return it by the February meeting. Then I'll ask for volunteers to help me with the sash and borders. Diane Gale has kindly offered to quilt it for us. I'll demonstrate the block at the January meeting.

Bring in your completed Drunkards Path from November as usual.

## **Fibrefest September 8-9, 2012 – Leslie Whitby and Diane Gale**

Fibrefest is a celebration of all things fibre, quilting and buttons, and a terrific opportunity to showcase the AQG quilts. It takes a lot of hands to make a quilt show a success and the AQG needs yours. Plus the Canadian Quilters Association donates a Viewer's Choice Rosette for presentation to one of our quilts. Diane and I are going to organize our display and we have some new ideas for next year. We would appreciate a few more hands and ideas on a small planning committee, and we will be looking for volunteers to manage the show on the Fibrefest weekend. .

If you are new to the AQG, this is chance to meet others and put on a great show.

Come join in the fun! If you have questions, comments or wish to volunteer, email me at [lwhitby@compmore.net](mailto:lwhitby@compmore.net) or Diane at [swampgirl@familygale.com](mailto:swampgirl@familygale.com) and please put Fibrefest in the subject line.

## **“Catch of the Day” Bags for the Canadian Quilters Association Meeting in Halifax, May -- Cathe Baker**

My Catch of the Day Bag is finished at last and on the website! It will proceed to Halifax to be presented, full of goodies, to a delegate at Quilt Canada 2012.

Our little Almonte Guild is a member of the Canadian Quilters Association which has asked guilds from across the country to submit these bags for the big shindig at the end of May. It's a real treat to receive a memento like this, especially when the donor signs it with her name and guild, so check your stash for some fat quarters and get sewing!

The instructions are available on our AQG website and the CQA website “Catch of the Day Bag”. I plan to make another bag with a lobster on it because I unearthed just the right fabric, BUT I had trouble getting the top of the bag to hem smoothly so I'm gonna do the next one MY WAY. If you're interested in my fix, email me at [cbcatbaker@gmail.com](mailto:cbcatbaker@gmail.com). You can also contact me if you don't have a printer for the fish shape and I'll get you a hard copy.

So far we have two bags to send but I'd love to overhear somebody in Halifax admiring her bag and wondering “Where in the world is Almonte?” You have until the April 2012 meeting to get it to me and be part of the show even if you can't make it to Halifax.

## **Angel Baby Quilts – Jen Empre**

The High Risk Birthing Unit, Civic Campus of the Ottawa Hospital (4th floor) is looking for quilties for deceased babies. This Unit is different from the Rich Little Nursery. The parents can wrap their babies in a quiltie and have some pictures taken to add to a memory box that includes the pictures, the baby's foot print, the baby's arm band and the quiltie.

They recommend the size for preemies is 10" x 10" and for full term babies is 24" x 24". Quilts can also be any size in between. They suggest subdued baby fabric, nothing too happy or too bright -- parents are grieving -- flannel on the back and 100% cotton on the front. Pastels work well and butterflies are significant for representing the death of the baby, and a path to heaven for the wee one

If you are interested in making these quilts throughout the year, we will collect them and put a note on them, to let the High Risk Birthing Unit know that they were made by quilters from the Almonte Quilters Guild.

If you have any questions, please let me know and I will obtain answers for you.

Thank you!!

**Victoria's Quilts** meets the second Monday of the month from noon to 4pm at the Civitan Hall. There is a lot of camaraderie – and goodies -- working together to provide quilts for people with cancer. It is also an opportunity to learn new skills and tips from fellow quilters. People of every skill are needed as there is a lot to do in the afternoon. Kits and supplies are available, and donations of quality cottons and flannel are most appreciated. Please bring them to the Victoria's Quilts meeting or the next guild meeting for collection.

## **Library News – Irene Lefebvre**

As an AQG member, you can borrow books from our Library. Some of the subjects of the collection: hand quilting, machine quilting, embellishments, The Elm street Quilt Series (novels), landscapes, sashico, borders, paper piecing, bindings, edgings, fabric folding, art quilts, baby quilts, modern quilt techniques, traditional quilt techniques, and Canadian Quilter Magazine.

New titles for 2011

A Star for all Seasons

Terrific Tees

Quiltmakers 100 Blocks Summer 2011

Sensational Sashico

Redwork Winter Twitterings

## Free Advice on the Internet

If you can avoid the temptations of ordering fabric on the Internet, all of these sites have a wealth of information for your quilting pursuits.

**Superior Threads**, makers of King Tut and many other thread lines, has a video on how to use every one of their threads, colour compatibility charts between types of thread and lots of info about threads – plus a monthly newsletter and funny joke. Most local quilt stores carry Superior threads and the site offers advice on using them, especially if you have any problems. This company has led the changes in technology for thread manufacture – yes there have been huge advances! – as well as the consumer education information, and offers it free on their site. [Superiorthreads.com](http://Superiorthreads.com)

**Interweave Publishers** provide free eBooks to subscribers to their newsletters. There is no charge, although they do send ads for books in many craft lines (which you can turn off). For example, the Quilting Arts section has a nice 3 minute video with the basics of mastering free motion quilting. Subscribe to the newsletter: [Interweave.com](http://Interweave.com).

**eQuilter.com** is a commercial site but offers so much more. Luana Rubin is one of the earliest fabric designers and her site offers a wealth of info, from the weekly creative nudge (you don't need to look at the links to fabrics when you read it), to videos from the big quilt shows, to free quilt patterns and the useful design wall, to the latest info on colour changes – purple is in for this year! [equilter.com](http://equilter.com)

McCalls has a quilt block reference section, free patterns and advice, videos on techniques, current articles from their magazines, and subscriptions if you want them. [mcCallsquilting.com](http://mcCallsquilting.com)

The Quilt Show with Ricki Timms and Alex Anderson is still my favourite. You don't have to subscribe to benefit, but subscriptions give you access to all the shows. The ideas you can get without the shows is amazing, and they link to many short videos on techniques and design. There is a weekly newsletter and a quilt e-jigsaw to do. [thequiltshow.com](http://thequiltshow.com)

**Remember to shop at your local quilt stores and support those who support us.**

## Free Motion Quilting

Here is a little article, from **Quilting Arts eNewsletter**, with tips on free motion motifs that you could add to your new notebook.

### Marking and Stitching By Judy Coates Perez

If you would like to add representational images to your quilting, draw a few key elements of the quilting design on the fabric first with a chalk-based marking tool.

1. Begin drawing the main veins and a basic outline of the leaf shape with chalk.
2. Use these lines as a starting place for the machine stitching and then improvise the free-motion quilting details as you stitch, adding extra branches to the veins and echoing the shape with another row of stitching to fill the inside of the leaf.



**Judy marks her stitch lines with a chalk mechanical pencil.**



3. Next, stitch the outside of the leaf following the drawn outline. Add more elaborate scalloped edges to build up the design.
4. After completing the leaf design, continue free-motion quilting to the next motif, filling the open space with smaller leaf designs or ornamental stippling quilting.
5. Continue in this manner until the whole area is filled with machine quilting designs that create a surface filled with texture and imagery to keep the eye moving around the quilt.

**The Quilt Shows are starting soon.** Here is the list so far:

The Common Threads Quilt Guild Show-May 11-13, Ottawa

Hollis Chatelaine Workshop – May 18,-20, Heidelberg, ON

Courtepointe Quebec – May 24-27, Montreal, QC

Quilt Canada –May 29-June 2, Halifax

Ricki Timms Seminar with Alex Anderson and Libby Leman -- July 12-14, Rochester, NY, hosted by the Genessee Valley Quilt Guild. (I am organizing a package deal to the show so email me if you are interested)

## Tracking your ideas

Do you keep your quilt ideas together in a notebook or sketchbook? I was at the bead show in November and one of the bead artists wanted to show me her latest idea. She pulled out her sketch book and the sketches were exquisite – not just of beads, but of all sorts of things that interested and inspired her work. I felt so privileged to view it. Then I thought about my stack of unorganized “quilt ideas” in a box in my studio. Here are some ideas for recording your ideas borrowed from the beading world and elsewhere:

- A basic sketch of the quilt designs or patterns you want to make
- A colour palette using your favourite pens or pencils
- A list of fabric requirements and embellishments
- Swatches of fabric that may or may not be used
- Photos or cards that inspire me with colours and patterns
- Scraps of yarn, fibres and ribbon that may be used
- Quilting motifs I have seen and might use
- Who I might make the quilt for and why it is important

Maybe this is the year I’ll get all my ideas organized in one place!

## Don't Forget to Bring to the Meeting

1. Name Tag: (Fines may be collected and donated to the charity quilt fund.)
2. Indoor shoes or slippers, and a bag for your boots in winter
3. Mug
4. Food if it is your turn
5. Library books
6. Block of the Month
7. Charm Squares
8. Show & Tell
9. \$\$Money\$\$ for the 50/50
10. Donations of Door Prizes
11. Donations of fabric, batting, "orphan" blocks for charity program
12. A friend

## **Executive for 2011-2012 Season**

President - Dianne Gale  
Vice President – Jen (JC) Empey  
Secretary – Sue Stewart  
Treasurer - Elva Lock  
Membership - Joan Armstrong  
Program - Suzanne Rushton  
Social - Elaine Henry  
Library - Irene Lefebvre

[program@almontequiltersguild.com](mailto:program@almontequiltersguild.com)

## **Volunteers**

Block-of-the-Month - Elva Lock  
Charm Squares –Linda Moulton/  
Janet Fenn  
50/50 - Brenda Million/Debbie Hunt

Charity Program - Carolyn McLellan  
Website – Carole Treggett  
Newsletter – Leslie Whitby  
Fibrefest – Leslie Whitby

[webmaster@almontequiltersguild.com](mailto:webmaster@almontequiltersguild.com)  
[newsletter@almontequiltersguild.com](mailto:newsletter@almontequiltersguild.com)

**Next Newsletter will be in early March. Please send your submissions by March 1<sup>st</sup> to Leslie Whitby.**

**Old Quilters never die, they just go to pieces!**