

### Executive Board and Committee Chairs

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	
- Pam Elliott	253-941-9052
Past President	
- Linda Hill	253-661-9281
Vice Presidents	
- Diane Kellar	253-874-0537
- Debby Coleman	253-709-9494
Secretary	
- Connie Mayor	253-331-8962
Treasurer	
- Nan Naubert	253-445-4198
Membership	
- Janine Walker	253-941-4958
Newsletter: Jill Ellis	
- <a href="mailto:jillzquilts@hotmail.com">jillzquilts@hotmail.com</a>	253-927-1260

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Auction 2012	
- Diane Kellar	253-874-0537
Audit	
- Teresa Koe	253-845-1612
Block of the Month	
- Suzanna Gantt	253-431-5659
- Jan Bruell	253-661-2211
Community Outreach	
- Barb McClure	206-244-4333
Community Outreach BOM	
- Anna Hudson	253-405-7170
Email	
- Mici Wiggins	253-335-3051
Hospitality	
- Roxy Dysert	253-839-9967
Liaison with Emeritus	
- Pam Elliott	253-941-9052
Public Relations	
- Susan Alcalá	253-344-1767
Raffle Quilt (2011)	
- Jean Snedden	253-761-0412
Retreats	
- Janine Walker	253-941-4958
- Laura Coy	206-824-6087
- Kathy Wyckoff	206-824-3307
Scrapbook	
- Gail Woods	253-344-1104
Storage Unit	
- Janine Walker	253-941-4958
Sunshine	
- Colleen Linstead	253-859-0690
Telephone	
- Margaret Mortenson	253-839-0954
Webmaster	
- Agnes Rischarde	253-833-8302

## President's Pieces

### Pam's Palette

*"The President's piece is always a mix of thoughts - the colors of our lives."*

The flowers are poking their heads up and we have set the clocks forward an hour--it must mean that spring is around the corner.

I so enjoy listening to the birds chirping early in the morning. Yesterday when the wind was blowing so hard, I wondered if the birds felt like they were on a carnival ride in their nests. I'm looking forward to getting outside without getting blown away or soaked.

I get a 2-week break from school and already have lots of plans for the time, especially doing some appliqué.

Until later,

Pam

#### New Executive Board

Elections will be in April.

President, Diane Kellar  
Vice Presidents: Frances Painter and Carol Novotny (way to step up, new people! ☺)  
Treasurer: Susan Alcalá  
Secretary: Connie Mayor.



**Multi-Service Center Donations:** Books and toys for children, along with money for diapers and formula.

Other items always needed include tealight candles, canned goods, easy-to-open meals, personal hygiene items for women, baby food, baby formula, and diapers.

#### Newsletter Contributors

Pam Elliott	Connie Mayor
Marianna Garrett	Diane Kellar
Janine Walker	Nan Naubert
Mici Wiggins	Sue Shee
Susan Alcalá	

This is YOUR newsletter. If you have something you'd like to contribute, please email me ([jillzquilts@hotmail.com](mailto:jillzquilts@hotmail.com)) or send it to me (P.O. Box 4243, Federal Way 98063) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Thanks! jill

## 2012 Raffle Quilt

Tickets for the 2012 raffle quilt have been printed. Sue Smith will be in charge of ticket distribution, so get your tickets from Sue. Dorothy Le will schlep the quilt around to various locations. Sell those tickets!



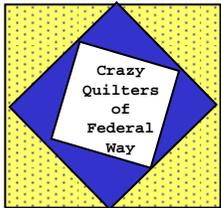
### 2012 CQ Retreat Schedule

Those who didn't attend the previous retreat may sign up first. Retreats are \$23 a day. Contact Janine Walker.

April 20-23	October 19-22	Reminder: if you'd like to attend a retreat, but find it to be a financial burden, the guild may be able to sponsor you. Contact Janine Walker.
July 6-9	November 12-15	

The February retreat was a very pleasant get-away. There was still some snow on the ground at Gwinwood, which took us back a couple of weeks to our own snow experiences. We had 21 ladies coming and going. There were 3 1-day visitors, 2 who came for 2 days, 8 who were there 3 days, and 8 who stayed all 4 days. We had 2 first-timers, who both said they had a great time. The food, as always, was delicious and plentiful. It's always fun to come home with a new recipe to try out. A new, very interesting way to bind a quilt was demonstrated. And, of course, there were quilts in all stages of production. Some have seen several retreats, and some went together so quickly that we were amazed. Angie Eichholtz won the 30 blocks that were made for the drawing. Shopping at the local quilt stores with a 15% discount for being with the retreat is a pleasant bonus.

Come and join us for a day or four, and see why we think it's such a wonderful perk for being a Crazy Quilter.



### Wear Your Badge! – Janine Walker

At each meeting, please sign in to the Membership Book. Signing in not only satisfies the insurance requirement to know who is present in case of an emergency, but you may also win a prize! At each Business meeting, I will draw a name from the members signed in and if the person whose name is called is wearing her membership badge (one made of fabric, not the plastic one), a prize will be won! If the name of someone not wearing her badge is drawn, there will be no winner for the month. If you need directions for making a badge, they are on the website ([www.quiltersfedway.com](http://www.quiltersfedway.com)).



### April Hospitality and Birthdays

Please bring hospitality goodies to guild meetings during the month of your birthday. In addition to bringing treats, you are responsible for helping with room setup and cleanup. Contact Roxy Dysert, 253-839-9967, if you have questions or are unable to attend.



<i>Happy Birthday!</i>			
Nan Naubert	3	Agnes Rischar	26
Judi Shipley	5	Angie Eichholtz	26
Kathy Wyckoff	25	Carol Novotney	29



## Directory change:

Sally White has a new email: whitefoote@yahoo.com



## 2012 Auction

We're going to have an auction this year. Diane Kellar is in charge; details to follow. Start gathering those things you no longer need, the things you wonder why you bought them in the first place, and the things (UFOs) you just plain hate—you KNOW someone will bid on them!

## 2013 Quilt: Get ready, ladies: we are about to start sewing! – Kathy Wyckoff, Linda Hill, Kay Thomas

We have been busy putting together packets for each of you to take and make a block for the 2013 Raffle Quilt. We are putting together kits that will include your background fabric and 8 different colored 5x5-inch squares and the instructions for construction. Each member will take a kit and make their block and bring them back for assembly.

This is going to be a very scrappy quilt and lots of fun to look at. The block is easy and we have included the pattern for the whole quilt, just in case you might like to make a whole quilt for yourself after making your block(s) for the raffle.

We passed out kits at the last meeting. You will all be given one block to do and can get additional blocks after you bring back the first one. We want everyone to share in the joy of making this raffle quilt and make it a true Crazy Quilters Quilt. If you didn't get a kit at the last meeting, you will get one at the next meeting.

<b>Name:</b>
<b>Description of your project:</b>
<b>Date project was started:</b>

## UFO Rules – Xenia McGowan



- \* Project must have been started prior to June 2010 and completed by April 2012..
- \* Project start date is the date CQ member began work on the project.
- \* "Started" means some progress has already been made (cutting, stitching, etc). Simply buying fabric/patterns doesn't qualify as a UFO.
- \* Total outside perimeter must be at least 54 inches.
- \* "Finished" means that quilting and binding are done. Embellishments are optional.
- \* UFO Entry forms should be submitted when project is shown during Show & Tell at business meetings.
- \* Entry forms may be submitted with a picture of completed project if project is not be available for Show & Tell.
- \* UFO projects other than quilts are eligible for entry if project has at least 6 hours labor involved in completion.
- \* Have fun. Get creative!

## Calling All Art Quilters

The Peninsula Art League in Gig Harbor, Washington, is holding their 10th Annual Open Art Exhibition, "Outside Your Comfort Zone". This art exhibition awards over \$3,100 in prizes. The 2012 Juror is Rock Hushka, curator, Tacoma Art Museum.

Accepting 2D and 3D art.

Exhibition dates: August 9 - September 13, 2012

Deadline for entries is May 31, 2012

Call for Artists application attached or you may apply directly on line at: <http://www.onlinejuriedshows.com>



**Places to Go . . . Quilts to See**

**March 30-31**, “Stitching Stars,” presented by Tri-City Quilters. Three Rivers Convention Center, 7016 Grandridge Boulevard, Kennewick. Hours Fri, 10-6; Saturday 10-5.

**April 6-7**: Fidalgo Island Quilters of Anacortes, Washington, is holding its biennial Quilt Show April 6-7 at the Anacortes Middle School. There will be approximately 400 quilts, two featured artists, demonstrations, a tea room, merchant mall, and a style show (Saturday only). This year we are offering the services of a quilt appraiser, by appointment only. Ann Bodle-Nash, a certified quilt appraiser, will be available during show hours to appraise quilts. The charge is \$45 for a 45-minute inspection, a written appraisal (includes a stated monetary value) and a photo; or \$20 for a 15-minute inspection and oral evaluation (no monetary value assigned). Those interested should contact Ann for an appointment, by phone at 360-391-1696, or by email at annbow\_2002@yahoo.com. For more information regarding the show, go to our website at www.fidalgoislandquilters.com.

**April 14-15**, Stray Threads Quilt Show, Hollywood Schoolhouse, Woodinville. Hours 10-6 both days.

**June 1-3**, “Blast of Stars,” presented by Woolley Fiber Quilters. 817 Metcalf Street, Sedro-Woolley. Hours Fri & Sat, 10-6; Sunday, 10-4. 200% quilts, vendors, demonstrations.

**June 20-24**, Western Washington Quilt Shop Hop. Hours Wed-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Over 60 shops this year. Info www.washingtonquiltshophop.com.

**July 27-29**, “BEEutiful Quilts,” presented by Busy Bee Quilters of Snohomish, Monroe High School, Monroe.

**August 24-26**, Pacific West Quilt Show, Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center, Tacoma.

**September 20-22**, Northwest Quilting Expo, Portland Expo Center, Portland OR. Info www.nwquiltingexpo.com

**September 28-30**, “It’s a Whale of a Quilt Show,” presented by Sea Pals Quilters, Ocean shores Convention Center, Ocean Shores WA. Free admission, donations accepted. Info www.seapalsquilters.org

**October 5-7**, La Conner Quilt Festival, October 5-7, La Conner WA.

**October 19-21**, Washington state Quilters show, Spokane County Fair & Expo Center.

**November 15-17**, 2012 Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival, presented by Rusty Barn Promotions Group, Western Washington Fairgrounds, Puyallup.

**Special Historical Quilt Discussions – Contributed by Cheryl Belcher**

**Pioneer Quilts and the Oregon Trail**, presented by Susan Olds, Art Historian. The thousands of women and their families who braved the dangers of the Oregon Trail in the mid-1800s left an amazing legacy found in their quilts. This program features true stories of intrepid women quilter who braved the westward migration of the 1800s. Learn how the women coped with harsh frontier conditions and kept their connections to home through their quilt-making.

March 24	2:00 – 3:30	Kirkland Library
March 31	2:00 – 3:30	Kent Library



**Civil War Quilts**, presented by Susan Olds, Art Historian. As the nation was divided, women of the North and South made utilitarian quilts for soldiers. In addition, many created commemorative quilts recounting the lives of Civil War heroes and major events of the war. Drawing from actual diary entries and Civil War quilt blocks, Art Historian Susan Olds presents a visual account of the amazing quilts and the women who crated tem. A list of recommended books, website links, and DVDs will be provided.

March 26	7:00 p.m.	Shoreline Library
March 29	7:00 p.m.	Redmond Library
April 14	2:00 p.m.	Kent Library
April 29	2:00 p.m.	Bothell Library

**Stash Bash – Ongoing Competition – Jill Ellis**

Using only your stash, create something wonderful. You can purchase fabric for the four Bs (back, borders, binding, and batting), but the fabric for the rest of the top has to come from what you already have, using nothing purchased or given to you after June 1, 2010.

Each item will be measured along all four sides and the total number of inches will be on the slip put in the drawing box (I will provide a tape measure at each meeting). Those with the highest amount of inches at the May 2012 business meeting will be winners (number of winners to be figured out later). The item must be complete, which means quilted and bound, in order to count as a finished item.

## Advice from the Experts: Amy Gibson & Ann Petersen Offer their Solutions to Quilting/Sewing Trouble (found at [Craftsy.com](http://Craftsy.com))

We recently sat down with the superstar stitchers and Craftsy online class instructors, Amy Gibson and Ann Petersen to get some words of wisdom. Their quilts have won tremendous accolades, and together, they have nearly 80,000 students enrolled in their online Craftsy classes. Their points are precise, their seams are straight, and their blocks are beautiful. In other words, they know what they're doing! In this post, they give their biggest pieces of advice on how to avoid the following five quilting follies:

**Pleated/Wrinkled Quilt Backs:** When preparing for basting the quilt sandwich, be careful not to stretch that back so tightly that you see pull marks. When you pull that tightly, then release it, you end up with pleated and wrinkled backing.

**Blocks that Turn Out Too Small:** Check your seam allowance! This is a hard-learned lesson, especially if you're making a block for a bee and it must turn out a specific size. Better to take the time to make sure your seams are accurate, before having to re-make a block because it came out too small.

**Thread Tension-Related Problems:** There are really two things to consider here. The first is how to prevent them in the first place, and the second is to minimize how visible tension inconsistencies are. First of all, consider that our sewing machines are factory set for garment sewing with polyester threads. So don't hesitate to adjust your tension dial as you sew. (But make a note of where it was in case you want to go back.) Then, use the same color thread in your bobbin as you are quilting with on the top. It will help minimize those little tension inconsistencies that happen as you change direction. You can hide the color of thread on the back by picking a busy print, or flaunt it with an almost solid color!

**Distorted and Wavy Borders:** Quilt evenly! If you quilt one part of your project very heavily, but then put very little quilting in another section (especially the border), you are absolutely guaranteed to get waves and distortion in your borders. Balance is the key! (Tip by Ann Petersen, instructor of the online Craftsy classes)

**Boring Blocks:** Of the many secrets to making interesting blocks, here are two that—interestingly—might seem at odds with each other. The first is to not limit yourself. Never, ever rule out a pattern or technique just because it looks like it might be too difficult. Sure, there are some techniques you will just not enjoy once you've given them the old college try, but you never know until you actually try them out. And you might be surprised at what turns out to be a fantastic new addition to your skill arsenal. Secondly, don't get hung up on originality! No one wants to be unoriginal, of course, but don't sweat it. The fact is, nearly every modern block has clear roots in an older traditional block. It's so rare to come out with a pattern that's 100% new and unique (after all, it's only geometry!), so don't let this keep you from being inspiring to create and design what you love. You can still make a design yours by putting your own spin on it with creative choices in fabric selection, layout, and quilting.

Marianna Garrett collects empty wooden and plastic thread spools and cones to give to her niece, who is a nursery-school teacher. If you'd like to save a little bit of landfill space, please bring your empty spools to Marianna at any guild meeting.



## Another Fun Project for Foster & Homeless Kids! – Contributed by Susan Alcalá

On Nancy Zieman's February 25 program, a guest showed how a little fabric could brighten kids' existence, whether it be a pretty pillowcase or a Super Hero Cape! The foster children (boys AND girls) in South King County would be very happy to receive (besides our quilts) some **Super Capes** to give them power and strength. As a pre-schooler, my little boy rushed around with a bath towel safety-pinned to his neck shouting "Super Omar with super powers!" I'm sure a lot of you had little super people, too!

They take a yard of print and a yard of lining (2 yards total) fabric and some velcro. The pattern is for a child younger than five, but add 6-8" to the length for kids 5-8 years old. If you have an overabundance of cotton fabric like me, put it to good use for some capes for the foster kids and those in homeless shelters. The pattern can be found at [www.enchangedmakeover.com](http://www.enchangedmakeover.com).

## Understanding Free Motion Quilting – found at <http://freemotionquilting.blogspot.com/2012/01/understanding-free-motion-quilting.html>

Free motion quilting is literally FREE, which means you have total freedom of movement of your quilt on your sewing machine. This is different from all other ways you normally use your sewing machine. Normally you allow the machine to feed fabric forward using the little teeth called feed dogs that grip and move the fabric evenly. Different quilters disengage these feed dogs in different ways. Personally I leave my feed dogs UP and just turn the stitch length to 0. The teeth will still move a bit, but they won't really feed your quilt forward so long as your free motion foot isn't squishing your quilt. I top the whole thing off with a Supreme Slider, which makes the quilt easier to move over the surface of my machine. Is it absolutely necessary? Nope! It's a tool that makes life easier, but you can certainly free motion quilt with your feed dogs up without it. Other quilters believe in dropping the feed dogs. Some machines have a little button, or knob, or switch for this and some do not. It really just depends on your machine. Understand that you have some choices when it comes to how you get rid of the feed dog aspect of your machine. I've written in more depth about this choice right here.

With free motion quilting, you're not using those feed dogs because you don't necessarily want to feed the fabric only forward and backward, you'll want to be able to move your quilt in every direction you can think of. Because of this, all the normal rules that apply to your machine, stitch length, speed, and tension are pretty much thrown out the window. It is no longer your machine that dictates the stitch, but you. So let's break the stitch down:

A stitch is made by the needle dropping into the machine and coming back up again, then dropping back down. The size of your stitch is determined by how much your quilt moves while the needle is up. If your quilt moves a long distance, and it takes a long time for your needle to move up and down, then your stitches will be very big. Giant stitches aren't terrible, though my usual test is if you can catch a toe in them, you might want to rip them out and try it again. Catching your toes in your quilt in the middle of the night isn't fun!

If your quilt doesn't move and it takes a very short time for your needle to rise and fall (if you're stitching super fast) you will stitch in the same place repeatedly. If you do this too many times, you will create a knot on the back of your quilt. Again, knots aren't anything to be afraid of, though if you stitch in the same place you'll usually end up breaking thread eventually which can be annoying. But somewhere between taking giant stitches and taking tiny stitches, there is a happy medium stitch that looks great and secures your quilt. The trick is just finding it!

There are really two parts to this process: The movement of your quilt - operated by your hands. The speed of the sewing machine - operated by your foot

No wonder free-motion quilting is challenging! How many people can play the piano the first time they sit down at it - playing the keys with both hands while pumping the pedals with their feet? How many people can sit down at a drum set and instantly synchronize the movement of all their limbs on each drum? They can't! These things require skill, and to gain these skills requires practice. It's really as simple as that. I certainly wasn't able to free motion quilt very well when I started. I can remember clenching up as soon as my hands hit the quilt. How do I move this thing around again? How fast should I go?

The most difficult thing I found was remembering where to go and how to move the quilt to keep the design flowing. The problem there is simply not having the design memorized and you can easily work on that by doodling designs at the table when you're eating breakfast. The more you draw something, the better you will understand and remember those movements on your quilt. The other thing I struggled with was getting my speed right. I would always start very slowly, but my stitches would be HUGE, then I'd speed up and they'd get smaller, but eventually my hands would speed up too and the stitches would get big again.

Eventually I found it was the noise of the machine that was throwing me off. You hear that loud noise and think "I must move faster" and move your hands even faster, then the machine needs to go faster, and then it ends up getting so fast you lose control. There is a happy medium between the speed and movement of your hands. It's definitely there. You just might have to stumble through a few quilts to find it! When you get started free motion quilting for the first time, chances are it will feel pretty weird. Remember, you're using the machine in a totally different way than you've ever used it before!

Usually when you try something new, it's very easy to get judgmental about what you see happening. Try not to do that. Because I'll be honest: you will see ugly things come out of your machine. You will see bad looking stitches. You will see huge toe catchers and gob-knots and all manner of thread nests. This sounds terrifying, but this is NORMAL. This is why I advise you to try free motion on a plain fabric sandwich, or at least not on your prized appliqué quilt you've taken the last 4 winters to hand stitch together. The more time you took to get the quilt together, the more you will agonize about every messed up stitch, and the less fun you will have. And that is really the point, right? FUN! This can actually be FUN!

Yes, when you let go of your death grip on the quilt and release your shoulders from up around your ears and relax your chest enough to breathe, it can actually be fun to free motion quilt! So here's a few tips I've put together to make free-motion quilting a bit less terrifying and hopefully a lot more fun:

1. Drink and Quilt - a little booze in your system always makes free motion quilting easier, or the bad stitches harder to see, not sure which!
2. No Seam Rippers - If you're going to rip out every missed stitch, you're not going to get very far, baby! Make it a seam ripper-free zone and work to get experience, not perfection.
3. Groovy Music - Everyone has a set of songs that just make you want to dance. Listen to these tunes while you're free motion quilting and you'll find it much harder to get tense and stressed out. The most important thing is don't be hard on yourself. Are you really going to get better stitches after beating yourself up? Nope. Just make it a fun time and as soon as things get too stressful, take a break.

I'm going to shut up and go quilt now!

## Minutes from the February Business Meeting – Connie Mayor, Secretary



Visitors - Pat, she will be joining again.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Secret Pal Reveal - finished tonight. There was a bit of a mix-up as to when we were revealing, but everyone eventually found out who their Secret Pal was. It was fun, and we'll be doing it again in a few months. Thanks to those who participated.

Vote taken on price of the tickets for the Dresden Plate Quilt for in house raffle. \$5.00 per ticket. Drawing will be held at the April business meeting.

Ugly Panel challenge ends March 8th. This is the program for the night.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Mici is raffling a quilt to raise money for the Relay for Life.

Sue Smith will handle the 2012 Raffle Quilt tickets..

Auction items should be given to Diane Kellar. Date has not been set at this time.

Officers lineup has been set. We will vote at March business meeting. Need someone for Hospitality.

TREASURERS REPORT: Income \$217.00 Expenses \$545.00 Checking Bal - \$5622.00 Savings Bal - \$3612.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: 5 kits to be picked up by volunteers for assembly.

2013 RAFFLE QUILT: - The quilt is called Morning Star. Block packets ready and will be passed out tonight. Need to be brought back at the March Business meeting. Some of the pieces are already cut. Sign them out from Linda Hill or Kathy Wyckoff.

RETREAT: next one starts April 20 - sign up with Janine.

BLOCK in a BOX: Pick up your boxes.

BLOCK of MONTH: Next month is Churn Dash pattern in florals.

### DRAWINGS

BOM - Cheryl Belcher

Badge - no winner.

We voted on the Fairy Godmother quilts. Marianna has the patterns for all six godmothers, if you'd like them from her.

Sue Smith had Most Beauteous and My Favorite with Batzeppa.

Anna Hudson had Makes Me Smile with her Medusa - #4 on her quilt.

Do not remember who did Sashella that got Means Business and Best Name.

### Upcoming Events for Crazy Quilters

April 12	Program Night: 7:00, Emeritus Assisted Living, 31002 14 <sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Federal Way Trunk Show & Tips by our own Eileen Peacher.
April 26	Business Night: Committee reports, Show & Tell, Half-Square Triangle Exchange.
Friday Friends (every Friday)	Join several club members every Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Milton Community Center, 1000 Laurel Street, Milton 98354 Bring your lunch, work on your unfinished projects or start a new one, and have fun with fellow Crazy Quilters. We generally do not meet the Friday before a major three-day holiday such as July 4, Memorial Day, Labor Day, or if the Community Center is closed.