

### Executive Board and Committee Chairs

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Co-Presidents	
- Susanna Gantt	253-431-5659
- Sharon Meeds	253-941-0224
Vice President	
- Anna Hudson	253-905-7170
Secretary	
- Kathy Wyckoff	206-824-3307
Treasurer	
- Lisa Martin	206-235-2701
Membership/Newsletter	
- Jill Ellis	253-927-1260

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives	
- Maddie Hall	253-293-9870
Audit	
- Teresa Koe	253-845-1612
Block of the Month	
- Theresa Fancher	425-562-4149
- Gail Woods	253-344-1104
Community Outreach	
- Tina McCarter	253-737-8122
Community Outreach BOM	
- Marianna Garrett	253-347-1345
Email	
- Mici Wiggins	360-519-3442
Hospitality	
- Pam Elliott	253-941-9052
Liaison with Avalon	
- Sharon Meeds	253-941-0224
Public Relations	
- OPEN	
Quilt Show 2015 Chair	
- Linda Hill	253-661-9281
Raffle Quilt (2015)	
- Cheryl Belcher	253-278-2576
- Mary Ann Morris	206-353-6377
Retreats	
- Janine Walker	253-941-4958
Storage Unit	
- Janine Walker	253-941-4958
Sunshine	
- Peggy Pierce	253-750-0220
Telephone	
- Margaret Mortenson	253-839-0954
Webmaster	
- Lisa Martin	206-235-2701

## President's Piece: Sharon Meeds

Wow! So can you tell me how it got to be March already? And how did I get to be this old? In my mind, I'm pretty sure I'm still about 30-ish. They say time flies (tempus fugit) and they, whoever they are, are correct. Time flies and I seem to fall behind on what I want to get done. Oh, well.

Some great things just recently in our Guild! We got Officers for the 2015-2016 year. Thanks and good luck to our new ladies as they get ready to be officers in May.

AND the really cool thing (if you missed the February business meeting) is that we have the 2016 Raffle Quilt Committee Chairs: Tina McCarter and Debbie Guthrie! They are planning (as of that meeting) on doing something with batiks. Then, the next day (or maybe it was the day after, since time was flying), I got an email from Marianna Garrett, and she is going to head up the 2017 raffle quilt, with the help of Cheryl Belcher, and they will be doing a Grandmother's Flower Garden. And the other cool thing is that somebody offered to audit our books!

If that doesn't beat all, we had a fantastic auction at the March program meeting (thanks to Anna and her team!) and made \$611 (at least, that was the amount I got before I walked out the door). I know everybody there was having a great time and that Anita Seigenthaler, Char Peterson, Rebecca Keller, and a few others were really bidding away, although Margaret Mortenson, I believe, got the body parts. I don't remember who got the "penis" flowers as they were named by Jill Ellis, our auctioneer.

Be thinking about what great quilts you want to share at the quilt show in October, or what you may wish to sell for your own profit (see last month's newsletter for info about that, or ask me or Susanna Gantt). Also be thinking of what you may wish to make to donate for the guild to sell.

Now, since the deadline will be here before I can remember, I will sign-off and send this to our newsletter editor so that I keep with the timeline.

See ya at the Business meeting!



**Multi-Service Center Donations:** Personal toiletry items such as tampons, toilet tissue, Kleenex, disposal razors, bars of soap, small containers of hand lotion, hair brushes/combs, hair accessories, etc. Connie Mayor is our volunteer who takes donations to the MSC. Thanks, Connie!

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



#### Newsletter Contributors

Sharon Meeds	Susanna Gantt
Mici Wiggins	Lisa Martin
Anna Hudson	Kathy Wyckoff
Janine Walker	Marianna Garrett



I was given a large amount of fabric for the charity quilts. The stuff had a strong smell of mothballs, so I put a load in wash machine. I went to put it in dryer and it still smelled strongly of mothballs. Went to Google, how to get it out. Uh oh. Best way is to air it out in the breeze and indirect sunshine. That is a few more months away, for this area. Or wash in vinegar. The vinegar wash did nothing to help. So the stuff is safely stored till summer, as it is very large pieces of nice stuff.

1. Moths do not eat or affect cottons, at all. Mothballs are not needed. Just keep cottons dry. Mildew is the enemy of cotton.
  - \* Mildew remedy. If cottons are just musty and do not have black discoloration, just wash in a weak bleach wash with hot water. I use Lysol liquid laundry sanitizer with my vintage finds. Dry completely in dryer, then iron with a very hot iron.
2. Mothballs are very toxic, even when used for your woolens. Be careful with their use, look for alternatives.
3. Don't try to wash smell out, it wont. It must be aired, outdoors if possible, in a breeze. It will not air out in dryer with Febreze!

With the high cost of fabrics now, we must learn how to properly store and care for them.

### Dues are Due! – Jill Ellis, Membership

Our year runs May 1 through April 30 (because we're CrAZy Quilters), and the annual dues are \$30. At the January business meeting, a discussion was held about newsletters that are printed and mailed 11 times a year. A stamp is currently 49 cents, so 11 newsletters per year costs \$5.39 per person. We currently have 10 members getting their newsletters by U.S. Postal Service. A discussion was held about charging \$5 more per year for dues for those who want a printed/mailed newsletter; a vote was taken and it was passed. This change will start with our new year and the May newsletter. As everyone pays their dues, I will make sure to ask those now receiving newsletters via the mail if they still want to receive their newsletter that way, and make sure their dues is \$35. Another option: If you don't have email, you can pick up your copy of the newsletter at the business meeting each month, though you won't be getting reminders 4 days prior to the meeting about programs, or what you need to bring (potluck, Block in a Box, etc.). If you're not at the business meeting, I will hold onto copies until the next meeting, but won't mail to out. You could always read it on the website, too.

### Retreats – Janine Walker

There has been a change to our June retreat dates. What I was given evidently had been promised to another group that traditionally has that weekend. Our June retreat will be Father's Day Weekend, June 19-22. 2016 will also be Father's Day weekend. Also, I'm trying to get the April 2016 retreat moved to March, but that involves waiting for a cancellation from another group. So our upcoming retreat dates are:

April 24-27    May 11-14    June 19-22    October 16-19    November 9-12

The cost is \$25 per day per person, plus splitting the cost of one meal for the group. Come have fun with us. At most retreats, we have a retreat block, and it's up to you as to whether you want to participate. For each block you make, you get your name in the drawing. At the January retreat, Theresa Fancher won 14 blocks. ☺

**In Our Thoughts**

Special thoughts and big hugs go out from all of us to:

**Nancy Kelly, Helen Backer, Pat Bernard, Sue Smith , Beth Tays**

If you know of someone who needs a sympathy card, a get-well card, or any other kind of card, please let Peggy Pierce know. [peggyperce@mail.com](mailto:peggyperce@mail.com), 253-750-0220

### 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 Pam Elliott, 253-941-9052, if you have questions or are unable to attend.



Nan Naubert	3	Kathy Wyckoff	25
Mia Pratt	15	Agnes Rischard	26
Eileen Burns	17	Carol Novotney	29



**Quilt Show: Challenge Project – Kay Thomas, Chair**

The theme for the show this year is, "Imagination"? Your imagination will be stretched in a new direction with the challenge project I've dreamed up this time.

Your mission, should you decide to accept it, will be designing and creating a stocking for any Holiday or special occasion EXCEPT Christmas. Let's be trend setters. We're Crazy Quilters, now let's prove the crazy.



Imagine a stocking for:

- Valentine's Day: imagine the goodies that could go in there.
  - Easter: more goodies and a bunny, too.
  - Mother's and/or Father's Day: appliances won't fit.
  - 4th of July: don't hang this one near the chimney.
  - Halloween: wouldn't it be fun to pass out candy from a Halloween stocking?
  - Birthday: specific to a person or a whole family. Would be fun to have a birthday stocking to wake up to.
  - Anniversary: Sweet tradition to start for a new couple.
- ...to name a few.

The intention is that your stocking be used at least once a year according to its purpose. It should not commemorate a special vacation or event, because those would not be celebrated or observed on a regular basis.

Perhaps you are an avid gardener and seed collector. Maybe your garden stocking could hold seed packets, new gloves, etc in anticipation of your annual garden.

I'm sure you'll have unique ideas too, just be sure your stocking has a yearly or regular basis use.

**ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENTS:**

- The size can range anywhere between 8 and 18 inches tall, and the width needs to be proportionate to the height.
- It must be a functional stocking, able to hold items.
- It must have a loop attached for hanging. The loop should not extend above the top of the stocking by more than 2.5 inches.
- It must have a purpose. You will need to include a short paragraph explaining the occasion and reason for your choice that can be displayed at the show.

It may be hard to shift from a Christmas mindset in regards to stockings since we've just finished preparing and recovering from Christmas. Light a candle, relax. Your brilliant idea might surface in a tipped glass of wine.

Please consider participating in this challenge. It's sure to gain attention and interest at our show in October. This will not be a judged competition other than having a daily People's Choice, where votes will be deposited in your stocking. The challenge is thinking outside the box and creating a stocking for an untraditional purpose and hopefully starting a new tradition.

If you are now thinking, "What a crazy, hair-brained idea this!", I thank you! I'm going to take that as flattery, intended or not. :-D

Kay Thomas: Challenge Chairman and keeper of the loose screws.



**Treasurer's Report – Lisa Martin**

Checking: \$1,612.99  
Savings: \$7,505.58

Income: \$ 43.00 - Raffle Tickets  
\$ 30.00 - Membership Dues  
\$ .83 - Interest Earned Checking/Savings

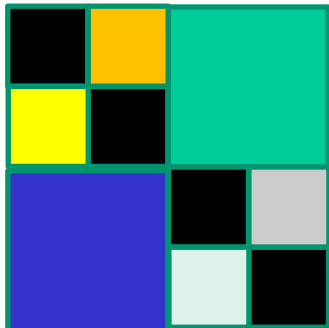
Expenses: \$280.25 - February Speaker  
\$100.00 - Seed money for Auction for change, will be deposited back into account in March  
\$ 13.97 - Hanging rods for challenge quilts at Avalon

\*\*\$1,627.00 total earned for 2014 Raffle Quilt\*\*

Note: I will not be attending the March business meeting or either of the April meetings due to medical procedures and a trip out of town late April. If you have any check requests, you can mail your requests to my home address. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Lisa Martin  
206-235-2701  
22 Second Avenue South  
Algona, WA 98001

## Community Outreach Block of the Month – Marianna Garrett



Cut:

- 2 6.5-inch dark squares (scrappy)
- 4 3.5-inch light squares (scrappy)
- 4 3.5-inch BLACK squares

Please make sure your black squares are positioned so the diagonal is going in the correct direction. Your block should measure 12.5 inches



### Places to Go . . . Quilts to See: Road Trip!

**March 27-28:** Tri-City Quilter's Guild Annual Show at the Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. "The Story Begins at Home," Guest Artist: Mary Lou Weidman. Info [www.tcquilters.com](http://www.tcquilters.com)

**April 9-11:** "A Journey Through Time," sponsored by Clark County Quilters. Vancouver Church of Christ, 9019 NE 86th Street, Vancouver, WA. Admission \$7.00, or \$10 for 3 days (\$7 is too much to pay to get in, keeps people away. And it's not that big of a show, you wouldn't need to go back...just my observations from having been a couple of times). Info [www.clarkcountyquilters.org](http://www.clarkcountyquilters.org)

**April 17-18:** "Our Timeless Treasures, A Decade of Quilting" Quilt Show. Bi-annual quilt show, Eagle Ridge Community Centre, 1089 Langford Parkway, Langford, B.C. 300 quilts, large Merchant Mall, Guild Boutique store, displays, demos. Admission \$6 for both days. Hours Friday 10-7, Saturday 10-5. Info at <mailto:dmasson@shaw.ca>.

**April 17-19:** "Fabric of the Forest," presented by Piecemakers Quilt Club, Forks High School Auxiliary Gym. Hours Friday, 12-6; Saturday 10-6; Sunday, noon-4. Classes, vendors. Featured quilter is Judy Niemeyer-certified instructor, Kathi Carter, from Salt Lake City. Info [www.piecemakersquiltclub.org](http://www.piecemakersquiltclub.org).

**April 25-26:** Central Washington Quilt Show, "Quilts Along the Trail," Kittitas Valley Event Center, Ellensburg, Washington [www.barnquilts.washington.org](http://www.barnquilts.washington.org)

**April 24-25:** Fronen Steppdecker Quilt Club Spring Fling Show, Odessa High School Gym. Info [www.odessaquiltclub.com](http://www.odessaquiltclub.com), email [pandle@odessaoffice.com](mailto:pandle@odessaoffice.com), phone: Laura Estes 509-982-2908.

**April 25-26:** "35 Years of BEE-utiful Quilts," Busy Bee Quilters of Snohomish, Evergreen State Fairgrounds bldg 400, 14405 179th Avenue SE, Monroe. [www.busybeequilters.com](http://www.busybeequilters.com)

**April 25-26:** 30th Annual Quilt Show, sponsored by Seaport Quilters Guild, Clarkston High School, 401 Chestnut street, Clarkston WA. [www.seaporquilters.org](http://www.seaporquilters.org)

**April 25-27:** The Metropolitan Patchwork Society, "Quilts! Glorious Quilts!" Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR. Info [www.metropatch.com](http://www.metropatch.com).

**May 1-2:** "A Festival of Quilts," sponsored by Northwest Quilters, 41st annual quilt show. Portland Expo Center, Exhibit Hall D. 2060 North Marine Drive, Portland, Oregon. Info [www.northwestquilters.org](http://www.northwestquilters.org)

**May 15-17:** "Quilts in the City," Yakima Convention Center, 10 North Eighth Street, Yakima. Info: Karla Griffin, 509-930-0203, [www.yakimavalleyquiltersguild.org](http://www.yakimavalleyquiltersguild.org)

**May 23-24:** Chewelah Arts Guild Annual Quilt Show, Jenkins High School, 702 East Lincoln Avenue, Chewelah WA 99109. Over 100 quilts from local quilters displayed every Memorial Day weekend. Vendors, fabric, patterns, tea room, featured artist.

**June 5-7:** "Blast of Farms," Woolley Fiber Quilters quilt show. 250+ quilts, vendors, demos, challenge quilts, bed turning. Friday & Saturday, 10-5, Sunday 10-4. Downtown Sedro-Woolley. Follow the signs to various locations for viewing quilts.

**June 21-September 8:** Row-by-Row Experience. All 50 states are participating this year. There are 59 shops registered for Washington State, up from 34 last year! I bet a lot of people will start the Row-by-Row at the same time as they do Shop Hop, and the first 3 days (6/21-23) will be quiet for Row-by-Row shops. Go to [rowbyrowexperience.com](http://rowbyrowexperience.com) to see particulars.

**June 24-28:** Western Washington Quilt Shop Hop. [www.washingtonquiltshophop.com](http://www.washingtonquiltshophop.com) for your passport and information.

**July 24-26:** "Roaring Twenties," sponsored by Covington Quilters, celebrating 20 years as a guild. Judged quilts, vendors, a fabulous tea room, bazaar, bed turning, charity quilt display, I Spy for children, door prizes, and lots of beautiful quilts. Cedar Heights Middle School, 19640 SE 272nd, Covington. Hours: 10-5 Friday and Saturday, 10-4 Sunday. Admission is a \$5 donation.

**July 17-19:** Sunbonnet Sue Quilt Club quilt show, Sequim Middle School, 301 West Hendrickson Road, Sequim WA. Friday & Saturday, 10-5, Sunday 10-4.

**July 28:** 11th Annual Seattle Mariners Stitch 'n Pitch Night, 7:10 p.m., Safeco Field. Buy your tickets at Pacific Fabrics, through the Mariners website, or at selected local yarn stores and you will receive a giveaway at the game when you present your ticket.

**August 1:** Hold the date, because you don't want to miss this one! Testicle Festival, noon, downtown Conconully WA. Join the fun of our cowpie-eating contest, cake walk, udder toss for the children and horsehoe tournament for all ages. Accompanying our delicious great country and city balls, we also serve coleslaw, cornbread, baked beans, and a large cow-chip cookie. I'm speechless.

**August 15-16:** Conconully Outdoor Quilt and Craft Show, Main Street, Conconully WA 98819. I have no idea where this town is located. I just looked it up and it's northwest of Omak. Main Street/Silver Street/Lottie Street, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: Janet Warner, 509-826-2241, [www.conconully.com](http://www.conconully.com)

## Business Meeting Minutes – February – Kathy Wyckoff, Secretary

Meeting called to order by our President Sharon Meeds

Slate of Officers for 2015-16 was announced:

President : Sharon Meeds  
Vice president: Char Peterson  
Secretary: Kathy Wyckoff  
Treasurer: Janine Walker



- Other committee chairs were announced too. We still need a Block of the Month Chair and a Hospitality hostess.
- Sharon has a purple notebook that was left at a meeting a few months ago. She will not bring it again to a meeting, so if you're missing one, get it back from the Quilt Show Sales committee.
- We had representatives from the Gig Harbor Quilt Guild tonight, selling tickets for their 2015 Raffle Quilt.
- We welcomed two guests this evening (sorry I did not get their names).
- Minutes were accepted as written.
- Financial Report, see newsletter from last month. If you have questions please contact Lisa. Lisa will not be available for the next couple of months, so if you have receipts to be reimbursed please contact her ASAP.
- Marianne is taking block of the month: Several blocks from last month are missing....Please check your sewing rooms and bring them to Marianna at the next meeting.
- Raffle Basket Sign-up for the Quilt Show....see Rebecca Keller
- Show and Tell: Fabulous as usual...keep on working ladies...I love seeing what beautiful quilts you produce.
- Joan Bassen came to visit. She is moving back from Winthrop in October and stopped by to say Hi to old friends. We are so glad you are coming back to us.
- Snowman Blocks will be shown next month, so be prepared.
- We voted to amend our bylaws to reflect a vote for the next year's board positions at the February Business Meeting. This will correct the election time frame. Vote must take place two months in advance. Passed.
- Time to work on a budget for the upcoming year.
- Newsletter cost: Newsletter cost: People who are getting and will continue to get their newsletter via regular mail will have to pay an extra \$5.00 per year for that hard copy, this cost difference covers only the cost of postage...well, almost the cost of postage. If our current gift from one of our members who prints the newsletter for us is not able to continue doing this, then we will have to revisit the cost of any hardcopy newsletters. Passed
- Kay Thomas has fabric for us to pick from for the Stocking Challenge for our Quilt Show. You may, of course, use your own fabric for this Challenge.
- Maddie Hall: Maddie will have a booth at Geek Quilt Girls and would like our guild to share booth space. It would be 1/3 the cost (\$100) for a 2-day show at the Convention Center. This would be 2016, cost would be taken out of next year's publicity budget. We will be able to have our guild information and our raffle quilt on display and sell tickets at this event. This is to promote Crazy Quilters and hopefully attract a new, younger members to our aging membership. Passed
- 2015 Quilt Show: Linda Hill-Chairman
  - If you have anything entered in the quilt show, you are required to work a minimum of 2 hours, either before, during, or after the quilt show.
  - Date of Quilt Show: October 23-25
  - Can enter 3 quilts; this does not include Color Challenge (Xenia's challenge) or the Stocking Challenge (Kay's project), the Block in a Box quilts, or the 50 Shades of Gray quilts.
  - We will hold entries to 200-250 for the show
  - Mici will send out form(s) for entries, contact her if you need any.
  - Sharon has Quilt Store information
- Badge Drawing: Won by Carol Berge.....congrats!
- Dues are due: \$30/year, due by May 1. If you want your newsletter mailed to you, your dues will be \$35/year.
- Diane Kellar, concerning raffle ticket record keeping. This must be kept accurately, as government regulations require good records. For the 501 C3, we must keep records and do paperwork.
- 2015 Raffle Quilt, we need someone to take care of ticket distribution and money collection.
- 2016 Raffle Quilt will be made by Debbie and Tina....Thank you for stepping up.
- Janine: April and May Retreat sign-up sheets are here.
- Next meeting we will reveal the Pieced Block in a Box from 2014
- March meeting is our auction.

## Quilt Show 2015: Boutique – Sharon Meeds, Boutique Co-Chair

Here are a few thoughts for our quilting friends as we draw nearer to our October Quilt Show!

The Boutique will feature both donated and consignment items, which includes handmade or gently used items. (We are not calling anything a Garage Sale.)

**Donated Items:** We would love to have many wonderful, handmade items donated for our Boutique Sale. Pincushions, cord minders, aprons, and tote bags are some suggestions. Gently used patterns and quilt books are also great. The Guild benefits 100% from the items sold in the “donated” category.

### Consigned Items:

- People wishing to have items consigned to the Boutique for their own sales will pay, in advance, \$25.00 to the Crazy Quilters Guild. Think of this as your “booth fee,” the same you would be charged if you were taking part in a Christmas bazaar at a local school or church or event.
- Items consigned by our members will need to have sales tax charged at the Federal Way rate, which is currently 9.5%.
- Consigned items will need to have tax figured into the cost – for instance, you have an item you are willing to sell for \$10.00. That would be \$.95 in sales tax. Please price your item at \$10.50 or \$11.00. Please DO NOT price items at \$11.35. In other words, please use round numbers and a note on your sales tag that says “tax included”.
- Members consigning items will need to have a state-issued Temporary Business License; there is a temporary business license for special events, which has no charge. A “temporary business” is defined as no more than two events per year with each event lasting less than one month. Each certificate is good for only one event. Yes, the individuals need to collect sales tax on their sales. The link is here. [http://dor.wa.gov/content/doingbusiness/BusinessTypes/Doingbus\\_tempreg.aspx](http://dor.wa.gov/content/doingbusiness/BusinessTypes/Doingbus_tempreg.aspx)
- Consigners of their own goods will be given a number which must be on the sales tag of their item. This is to assure that you get the money due to you. You will be paying your own sales tax from the proceeds of your sales, after accounting is completed by the Quilt Show Treasurer.
- Items that are donated for Guild sales will not have a consignment number, nor any designation other than the cost.

Items that sold well last year:

- Books
- Pin cushions
- Aprons
- Doll/preemie baby clothes
- Yarn (if you’re giving something like this, it needs to be useable to a “new” owne
- Patterns
- Electric cord holders
- Fabric (please bag or have it together somehow)
- Baby stuff

Things that didn’t go so well:

- Potpourri pie thingies
- Garage-sale type stuff
- Tote bags (unless they’re like feed bag ones or crocheted plastic bag ones)



### Raffle Baskets – Rebecca Keller

Below is a list of raffle baskets we would like members to volunteer to make (including providing the basket). If there’s a name after the basket theme, that person is doing that basket.

1. Sports
2. Patriotic
3. Cat’s Meow (Charlotte, Diana, Xenia)
4. Doggie Bag (Sharon, Kathy)
5. Applique
6. By the Numbers (basic arithmetic for quilting)
7. Apprenticeship (teaching young quilters)
8. New family additions (baby items)
9. Finishing Touch (trims, borders, stitchery)
10. Everything a Doll Could Want (quilted items for dolls)
11. “Beary” Friendly (bear-themed items)
12. Wildlife
13. Reading (books, magazines, etc.)
14. Fat quarters (Jill Ellis, floral)
15. Christmas (Kay Thomas)
16. Holiday
17. Batik (Kay Thomas)
18. Chocolate
19. Frog
20. Crazy Quilt



## Tips – found on the Martingle.com website

From *Schnibbles Times Two* by Carrie Nelson: I always do one last thing before my quilt top is truly finished and ready to be quilted: I always **stay-stitch around the outer edge of the quilt top**, stitching about 1/8 of an inch from the edge. This helps keep the edges from stretching and also prevents seams on my pieced borders from separating. Most of the quilters I've worked with say it helps, especially if you're planning to have your quilt top professionally machine quilted.

### Kim's Pin Points: Color and Design

- Having trouble finding fabric in just the right color for your quilt? Try using the wrong side of a printed fabric.
- When arranging your blocks into a quilt top, always position pieces with strong hues in the corners. This will clearly define and anchor your quilt center.
- The value of any print can change depending upon the colors that are positioned immediately next to it. If putting a light print into a quilt top that largely features darker tones, position it next to a medium-toned print to minimize the difference. The medium print acts as a bridge to blend the surrounding colors, and the lighter print adds interest without distracting from the overall look of the quilt.

### Kim's Pin Points: Staying Organized

- When you begin a new project, take a moment to wind three or four bobbins. You'll save time later!
- To easily organize patchwork sets or appliqué pieces, especially for travel or classes, layer them between paper plates. Notes or instructions can be written directly on each plate, and the plates can be stacked together to keep your work neat, compact, and easily portable.
- If you are constantly losing your scissors, apply a 3M hook to the side surface of your sewing machine or an adjacent wall. Hang a pair of scissors on your new holder, and they'll never be lost again.

### Kim's Pin Points: Machine Sewing

- As you begin sewing a machine-stitched seam, grasp the spool and bobbin threads and pull them gently as the fabric begins to feed under the presser foot. This will enable the fabric to feed smoothly and will also prevent thread snarls.
- For patchwork that includes layered triangles or squares that are pinned together or joined with a diagonal seam, pin the pieces together as usual, then place a small dot of basting glue within the seam-allowance layers near each point to prevent them from shifting as you stitch. Your stitched patchwork will always have perfectly aligned edges.
- If your pieced blocks are consistently just a bit small, even when using a quarter-inch foot, here's a quick little trick that may make a difference in your accuracy. For sewing machines with incremental needle positions, try setting the needle just one notch to the right of the center position. Sew a test block and measure your results—this slight adjustment can be just enough to compensate for the thread or two that is lost to the fold of fabric when your seam allowances are pressed.
- To increase your accuracy, when you seat yourself at your sewing machine, position your chair squarely in front of the needle. This may seem overly simple, but sitting at even a slight angle to the needle can distort your view as you sew and cause variances in your seam allowances.

### Kim's Pin Points: Pressing

- To save time as you press, position your ironing board next to your sewing machine at table height, eliminating extra steps.
- If your iron doesn't feature a nonstick pressing surface and it begins to show signs of residue build-up, unplug the iron and let it rest until the pressing surface is cool to the touch. Next, gently rub a dampened Mr. Clean Magic Eraser over the plate to remove any build-up, then wipe thoroughly with a clean dry cloth.
- To easily protect your ironing board surface and keep it in "like-new" condition for longer, try ironing a sheet of freezer paper onto the cloth pad before you begin pressing your appliqués. The paper will protect the surface from any fabric adhesives, and once your pressing is complete it can be peeled away and discarded.
- For a quick and portable pressing board, particularly for classes, cut a square or rectangle of corrugated cardboard from a sturdy box. In addition to being lightweight and disposable, cardboard makes a perfectly flat and firm work area that can be ideal for achieving well-pressed appliqué edges, and the finish enables your iron to glide smoothly across the surface.

### Kim's Pin Points: Smart Tips for Every Quilter

- For wall hangings that lie smooth and flat, place a second hanging sleeve at the bottom edge of the quilt and insert a small dowel or flat strip of wood that has been cut slightly narrower than the width of the quilt. The added weight will eliminate any ripples and your piece will hang beautifully.
- When "un-sewing" a seam, a clean eraser or the sticky side of a length of masking tape can be lightly rubbed over any remaining threads to loosen and remove them from the cloth.
- Consider using quilting thread when hand sewing your binding to the back of your quilt. The fibers are made to be pulled through the layers multiple times, so there will be less fraying and tangling, and your stitches will be sturdier.
- When you are signing quilt labels or signature blocks, first iron a piece of freezer paper to the wrong side of the fabric to stabilize it. Remove the paper after you complete the writing.
- For quick cleanup after sewing, wrap masking tape around your fingers, adhesive side out, and use it to retrieve fallen threads and fabric scraps from your carpeting and clothing.