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- Nan Naubert

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- Janine Walker

Newsletter: Jill Ellis

jillzquilts@hotmail.com, 253-927-1260

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- Teresa Koe

Block of the Month

- Suzanna Gantt

- Jan Bruell

Community Outreach

- Barb McClure

- Carol Berge

Email

- Mici Wiggins

Hospitality

- Roxy Dysert

Liaison with Emeritus

- Pam Elliott

Public Relations

- Susan Alcalá

Raffle Quilt (2011)

- Jean Snedden

Retreats

- Janine Walker

- Laura Coy

- Kathy Wyckoff

Scrapbook

- Gail Woods

Storage Unit

- Janine Walker

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- Colleen Linstead

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- Margaret Mortenson

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- Agnes Rischar

President's Pieces

Pam's Palette

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

Hi everyone,

I went to the last retreat so I could have time to sit down and sew. Life was been a buzz lately.

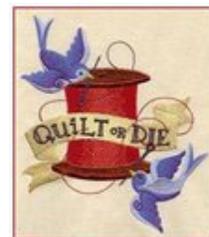
While sitting there, I thought about the ladies of the past and their quilts compared to ours today. We have so many beautiful fabrics to pick from, so many sources for patterns and retreats to share ideas. Of course, we all know that the most important task is to sew. But, having all the housework or chores done prior to leaving is NOT required!

The ladies of the past didn't have the privilege of just up and leaving for a weekend retreat. Just having time to quilt meant a long day of cooking, cleaning and laundry before sitting down. But they did establish the origin version of retreat (quilting bees). I wonder if they also had lots of food to share.

Of course, putting the finished quilt on a frame that could be raised and lowered saved them the time of loading and unloading everything for their retreat. The one thing that does puzzle me is, if the ladies of the past used a broom to sweep the floors which inevitably sends dust and dirt to other places while sweeping the floor, opened their windows to get air (and dirt and bugs), then how in the world did they keep the quilt that was on the frame from being so dusting/dirty so that when they worked on it, it wouldn't puff dirt in their faces (like the image of Linus in the Charlie Brown comics)?

My conclusion, if the quilt collected the dust when they cleaned, and when they lowered it, the air motion caused the dust to fly off, then they wasted their time cleaning and should have just quilted.

Later,
Pam



The Multi-Service Center donations for August will be whatever you want to bring.

We continue every month to donate baby items, as they are always needed: diapers, food, clothing. Other items always needed include tealight candles, canned goods, easy-to-open meals, personal hygiene items for women.

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

Newsletter Contributors

Pam Elliott

Connie Mayor

Mici Wiggins

Carol Berge

Barb McClure

Barb Lobdell

Janine Walker

Art Work

Diane Kellar

The Great & Powerful Oz

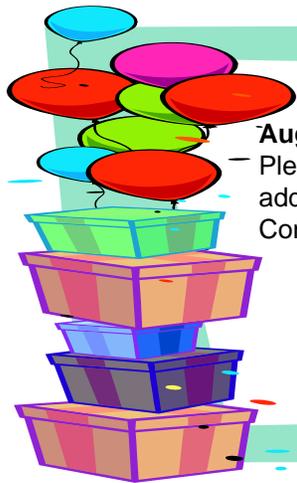


Quilt Buddy Program – Jill Ellis

The Quilt Buddy program is underway and a big thank you to all who have stepped up to be a mentor to new members. Being a Quilt Buddy is simple: seasoned guild members explain to a new member how things work, introduce her to other members, and help her feel comfortable at meetings. You will NOT be teaching them how to make a quilt, unless you want to do so. Please see me to volunteer; I'd like to have 3-4 names in reserve so we're ready each time someone joins the guild. This will be a rewarding experience for new and old members alike!

2011 Raffle Quilt – Jean Snedden

The quilt is being passed around for the appliqué to be added. I would say it is over half done. My hope is to have the quilt done by the middle of July, or very latest, end of July. We are almost done with the middle. Will have to show at the next meeting. As soon as a name is picked, the tickets can be made.

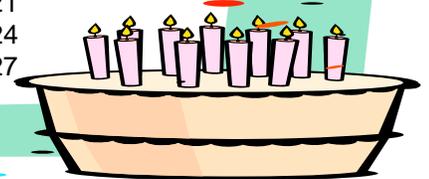


August Hospitality and Birthdays

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.

Happy Birthday!

Laura Coy	3	Karen Holm	21
Teresa Koe	3	Barb McClure	24
Martha Lamerson	19	Cheryl Belcher	27



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, please see me.



2011 CQ Retreat Schedule

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

October 21-24
November 14-17

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.

The July Retreat was wonderful. The weather was beautiful. We saw a mama deer with 2 babies. We made new friends, newbies and visitors. Jean Snedden won the 9-patch blocks (over 100) that we made for the in-house drawing. That was the most blocks made so far for one of these contests. There were 14 of us who stayed full time, and 3 who came down to spend Saturday and/or Sunday with us. It must be baby season, because many of the ladies were making baby quilts. Some of us were finishing projects from previous retreats. Some of us took long walks, and some of us dipped our feet into the lake and watched the water skiers and fishermen. If you haven't been to a retreat yet, come down on a Saturday or Sunday and spend the day with us (\$15). Bring your machine and a project, and stay for dinner (\$5). Our next retreat is October 21-24. The signup sheet will be at the meetings, or you can email me.

Places to Go . . . Quilts to See!

How about a road trip? Near or far, there's a trip for you.



June 20-July 31: "Piece by Piece: A Quilting Art Show." A juried gallery show celebrating the art and beauty of quilting. Arts of Snohomish Gallery, 105 Cedar Avenue, Snohomish. Info: hcv11@frontier.com or readtobe2002@yahoo.com.

July 29-31: "Spooktacular," 31st annual quilt show sponsored by Busy Bee Quilters Guild of Snohomish. 17001 Tester Road, Monroe. Hours 10-5 Friday and Saturday, 10-4 Sunday; admission \$7.00. Info www.busybeequilters.com.

August 26-28: Association of Pacific West Quilters (formerly APNQ). The venue has changed to the Tacoma Convention & Trade Center. Fri & Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 10 to 4. Admission \$10 daily, 3-day pass \$20. Info www.apwq.org.

August 26-28: 3rd Annual Crazy for Quilts Show, "Old Meets New," sponsored by The Crazy Quilt Shop, 104 East Pennsylvania Avenue, Roslyn WA. Friday Night Fabric Art Walk with live music 5-9 p.m.; Saturday's Main Event Quilt Festival and Show, 9-5; Sunday, 10-2; admission is free. Info 509-649-3777 or crazyquiltshop@hotmail.com.

August 27-28: 13th Annual Outdoor Quilt Show and Folk Art Sale, sponsored by The Buggy Barn, 28848 Tramm Road North, Reardon WA 99029. Admission free, hours 10-4. Info www.buggybarnquilts.com/quilt_show.htm.

September 1-October 15: La Conner Quilt Walk, featuring quilts from the Tri-City Quilter's Guild of Southeast Washington. The group was founded in 1982 and has over 350 members. Maps for the Quilt Walk will be available in late August at www.laconnerquilts.com/quilt-fest/quilt-walk, at the Quilt museum, or any participating shop.

September 9-11: 16th Annual Leavenworth Quilt Show, Leavenworth WA. Quilt walk through all shops September 7-11. Show hours 10-5 Friday & Saturday, 10-4 Sunday; admission \$5 for all three days. Featured artist Jan Tolleson from Leavenworth and Guest Artist Laura Estes from Odessa. Info www.quiltersheaven.com

September 15-17: Columbia River Gorge Quilters' Guild Quilt Show, featuring Maggie Ball (www.dragonflyquilts.com). Skamania County Fairgrounds, Stevenson WA. Admission \$6; hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info www.gorgequiltersguild.org.

September 16-18: Walla Walla Valley Quilt Festival, Southeast Washington Fairgrounds, Community Building, 360 Orchard Street, Walla Walla WA. Hours 10-5 daily, admission \$5 for all three days. Info www.wallawallaquiltfestival.org.

September 16-17: "Essence of Evergreen, presented by Evergreen Quilters. 400 Meadowbrook Court, Bellingham. Info www.evergreenquilters.org.

September 22-24: Northwest Quilting Expo, Portland Expo Center, 2060 North Marine Drive, Portland OR. Hours 9-5:30 Thurs & Friday; 9-5 Saturday; admission \$9.50 per day or \$27 for 3-day pass. Info www.nwquiltingexpo.com.

September 30-October 2: La Conner Quilt Fest. Hours Friday & Saturday 9:30 to 5, Sunday 12-4 at Maple Hall and the La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum. A \$10 donation includes entrance to both venues. Workshops and quilt events can be found at www.laconnerquilts.com.

October 7-9: "It's Raining Quilts," presented by Crystal Quilters. Buckley Hall, 127 North River Avenue, Buckley. Hours Friday & Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-4; admission \$4 (all profits go to Buckley Food Bank). Bring a nonperishable food donation and receive a free fat quarter.

November 11-13: "Color Expressions," sponsored by Block Party Quilters, Issaquah Community Center. www.bpquilters.org.

New Member

Anna Hudson
32654 Ninth Place South
Federal Way 98003
253-405-7170 home
annamhudson@yahoo.com
Birthday: October 21

Email Change

Peggy Pierce
pierce_laptop@comcast.net

Phone Change

Barb VanderWeil
360-975-3790 home

Address change

Sonya Parisi
32128 18th Lane SW #246
Federal Way, WA 98023

I had a friend who would say, "Peace out" when he left, like he was a leftover hippy—used to really bug me. I like this much better!



If you haven't paid your dues, this will be your last newsletter.

Hoarders – Linda Hill

I have been thinking. Yeah, I know that is dangerous, but let me share what has been going through my mind.

Have you ever watched that TV show called Hoarders? Well, I did. I was appalled at what I saw! How could those people keep so much junk? What were they thinking? This was a show that was definitely on my “do not watch” list.

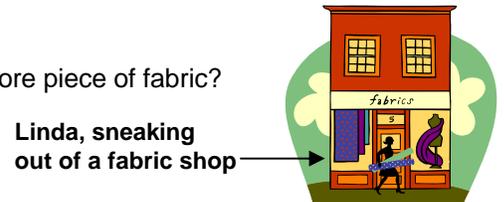
Then, I was reading some magazine (I can't remember which one) and this quote jumped out at me. “There is a very fine line between hobby and mental illness” – Dave Barry.

Back to my thoughts about the Hoarders show. What does being a hoarder actually mean? I did some research on the internet. A hoarder is described as someone who believes they cannot throw anything away for fear that they may need it later or because it holds some sort of emotional significance.

The more I thought about that this, I thought, “Could that be me some day”? Nah, definitely not! But then I looked around the Meadow (aka sewing room) and began to think that YES! I could very easily become a hoarder.

Some of my thoughts went like this:

- Why do I have so much fabric that I will *never* be able to use all of it in my life time?
- What was I *thinking* when I bought this piece of ugly fabric?
- Is that lavender flowers/butterfly panel really sacred?
- Why is the Meadow becoming a *safety hazard*? (Yeah, I know I preach safety but I guess I forgot to listen to myself while reminding others.)
- How many more boxes of scraps am I going to accumulate? And will I really sew those same scraps into quilts, especially since I am not a fan of scrap quilts?
- How many *more* UFOs will I start and never take time to finish?
- How many patterns does it actually take to make a quilt? Probably one, so why do I have hundreds of patterns – purchased, from magazines, books, the internet?
- Why do I have rulers and tools sitting on the shelf that have never been used?
- Why is it that I cannot go into a fabric store and not come out with at least one more piece of fabric?
- Do I suffer from *Obsessive-Compulsive Behavior*?
- Can I really change my way of thinking?
- What will my children do with all this stuff when I die?



Now that I have identified a potential problem in the making, I now vow that I will learn how to go into a quilting shop and not buy a single piece of fabric. I will use fabric that I have in my stash and shop said stash in any new quilts I start in the near future. My backs will be a mixture of fabrics including those ugly pieces I mentioned before. I will not keep any scrap smaller than 1 ¼" x 5" (and very few of those) and make as many scrap quilts as it takes to empty a couple of boxes of scraps. And, I will finish up those UFO's. I need the space for more fabric.

After all this thought, here is my conclusion. I AM NOT A HOARDER – JUST A SICK QUILTER WITH AN OBSESSION TO ACCUMULATE FABRIC AND OTHER QUILTING STUFF!

FEATHERED FIBERS by Carla Barrett



What Machine Quilters REALLY Think

Stash Bash Contest Results – Jill Ellis

Barb Lobdell won the Stash Bash contest with a whole bunch of inches, way more than anyone else, but I can't remember how many that was. I lost the little scrap of paper on which I wrote all of the information. I also can't remember who came in second, but I do know I came in third, and Kay Thomas was in there somewhere—or was that last year? Barb received two yards of a neutral fabric, kind of a yellow. Everyone else received a yard of fabric, except me, because I don't want any more fabric. I keep buying more, but I really don't want it—I just can't help myself. Anyway, if I find the piece of cardstock with the information on it, I'll post the winners. I'm sure you're all sitting on the edge of your seats, waiting to read the details. Happy quilting, friends, and use up that stash!

Newsletter

By the way, thank you to several members for the recent compliments on the newsletter. I try to make it interesting and fun. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, please let me know! Thanks for the support, ladies!

Fat-Quarter Exchange at Business Meetings – Marianna Garrett

Here are the categories for the Fat Quarter Exchange for 2011.

July	Patriotic	October	Any food / any animal except dogs & cats
August	Anything	November	Very warm or very cool
September	A favorite of yours	December	Looks like gift wrapping paper



For each fat quarter you bring for the drawing, your name will be put in a bag. The name drawn will win all of the fat quarters.

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.

Website - Agnes Rischard

Jill Ellis was kind enough to allow her contact information to be added to our web site in lieu of a separate email account. I appreciate that very much. So, Jill, hopefully you'll be getting a flood of potential new members contacting you!



Upcoming Events for Crazy Quilters

August 11	Program Night: Community Outreach. We will be preparing backs, binding, and batts for the quilts to be tied at the Puyallup Fair. Not too hard or too much work, so maybe bring a project of your own to work on in case we finish early and you want to stay and visit with friends.
August 25	Business Night: 7:00 p.m., Emeritus Assisted Living, 31002 14 th Avenue South, Federal Way Reports from committees, Show & Tell, Block-of-the-Month, drawing prizes.
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.

Business Meeting Minutes – June – Connie Mayor

- Visitors - Carol and Anna, who found us online (Anna joined as a member--yay!)
- Treasurers Report: \$4925 in checking, \$3609 in savings for a total of = \$8535. The auction brought in \$1262.25.

Old Business:

- Mici walked 12.75 miles in Relay for Life. Her team captain won the quilt Mici was raffling.
- Dues are due. Dues must be paid up to date to participate in club functions such as Block of Month, etc.
- Tops still needed for Fair. If you didn't get enough fabric in a kit, turn it back to Barb or go to her for more fabric.
- Sign up with Mici to tie at the Fair.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to donate \$250.00 to the Joplin, Missouri quilt guild to replace supplies lost in the tornado.
- UFO Contest new Chairpersons are Nancy DePoorter and Xenia McGowan.
- Secret Pal will be Sept. to March. Get forms from Jill or from newsletter and return them to Jill by August Business meeting.
- Raffle Quilt for 2012. Linda Hill and Kathy Wyckoff to head. Committee to begin work now so we will have a full 12 months to sell tickets.
- Community outreach. Pam has 38 boxes of Fabric at her house from an estate. Cotton will be for guild quilt tops.
- Fair Tops, 5 need parts 8 possible. Need 14 still.
- Alternate Quilt at Evergreen Quilt Shop to raffle off. (Celtic Square?)
- Block of Month chairs are now Susanna Gantt and Jan Bruell; they will alternate months. This month's is from Susanna, \$1 for pattern/kit, can make with triangle on roll.
- Community Outreach Block is from Cathy Norgaard, hourglass pattern. 12 1/2" block. Free kits. Carol will collect them at July business meeting.
- Block in a Box started in June. There are 12 participants. Gail is in charge of this.
- Nan has more fabric from friend. Jean and Kathy will take noncotton fabric.
- Will be doing 4" finished square of 1/2 sq triangles. Gail and Jill will set up rules, which will be handed out at the July business meeting.
- Motion was made, seconded and passed to buy 200 \$1.00 Beanie Babies from Laura Coy for Multi-service Center donations.
- Drawing winners: BOM, Betty Howard; Fat Quarters, Theresa Fancher; Name Badge Drawing, Dee Lord.

There is More than One Way to use your “Stash” – by Mark Lipinski, found at www.marklipinskisblog.wordpress.com/2011/07/22/there-is-more-than-one-way-to-use-your-stash/

If you are a sewer, rug hooker, knitter, fiber or mixed-media artist or a crafter, then I already know without even really knowing you, without ever having visited your home, sewing space or art studio that you have way more supplies than you'll probably ever use. There isn't any kind of judgment in this statement. I understand. I'm right there with you.

Be warned, however, that having more “stash” does not make you more creative. As a matter of fact, having more stuff can actually work *against* your creativity.

Take, for example, those of you who have boxes and shelves full of fabric for patchwork. If, every time you walk past your fabric, you think, “QUILTS,” then, without even realizing it, you have stifled your imagination.

Now, take another look at your fabric. What else could you do with it? If you weren't a quilter and had access to all of your fabric and tools, what could you create? What new ways could you use the fabric besides cutting squares, rectangles, and triangles?

Sit down and make a list. No, really, a pen to paper list.

How many new, wonderful ideas can you come up with to use your fabric that has *nothing* to do with patchwork or quilting? What can you do with all of the supplies that you already have that will transform them, and your art, in a way that you can produce the unexpected, the unique, the creatively surprising? How can you change your quilting mindset to a fresh, resourceful and powerful way of thinking that will transport you from the familiar and into the stratosphere of an artist?

Of course, I used fabric and quilting as an example in this post, but no matter what your craft or art of choice, take time to regularly work with your supplies, your technique and skill set to make them do more for you, to push your supplies and your talent in unforeseen and unplanned directions.

Once you challenge and change the way you *literally* see your booty of creative tools, you allow yourself the freedom, and give your unconscious muses permission, to break out of what has always been expected and move into the infinite possibilities of new, exciting creativity.



Article contributed by Diane Kellar, found in Country Living Magazine

The latest art craze? Quilting. Humble handicraft meets out-of-this-world vision in the work of Madison WI artist Leah Evans. Evans begins with aerial photos and satellite images, then reinterprets the bird's eye views using salvaged textiles (in this case, a vintage kimono and plaid shirt) to create high art with earthy appeal (\$1000 each, leahevanstextiles.com)

2011 Raffle Quilt – Jean Snedden

The 2011 Raffle Quilt is ready for Phase 2, which is the next round that needs to be appliquéd.

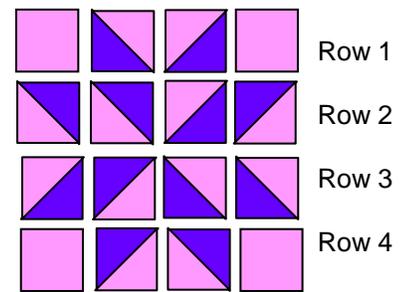
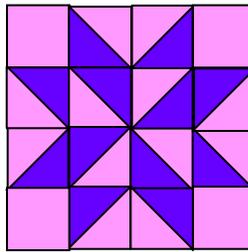
The club had an alternate raffle quilt hung at Evergreen Quilting for the Shop Hop and tickets will be on sale at this week's business meeting. The raffle will end on the next business meeting.

2012 Raffle Quilt – Linda Hill & Kathy Wyckoff

The 2012 raffle quilt committee met July 18 to decide on a pattern for the quilt. Hopefully we will have a final decision to report at the July business meeting.

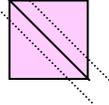
Community Outreach Block of the Month – Barb Lobdell Spinning Star

Pink Fabric	Cut 4 squares	3.5 x 3.5 inches
Pink Fabric	Cut 6 squares	4.25 x 4.25 inches
Purple Fabric	Cut 6 squares	4.25 x 4.25 inches



Lay one pink 4.25-inch square right-sides together with a purple 4.25-inch square.
Draw a line diagonally from one corner to another.

Sew a scant ¼-inch from each side of the line.



Cut on the drawn line, press toward the purple, and square it up to 3.5 inches.
Do this to all 6 pairs of pink & purple squares; you will end up with 12 half-square triangles.



Follow the diagram for placement of each row. Sew the four rows together, press seams toward the outside edges, and your block is done!

Why Quilting Improves your Health in Ways even Exercise can't Manage – found at www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2002862/why-quilting-uniquely-good-us.html, June 13, 2001

As devotees of a quiet and contemplative pastime, they would be the last to make a fuss about it. But quilters, it seems, have every right to celebrate their craft after researchers found that it is 'uniquely' good for you.

A study found quilting improved well-being in ways that physical and outdoor activities could not, and offered a creativity that had been 'stifled' in the modern world.

The University of Glasgow team concluded that all hobbies – 'from reading to train spotting' – should be looked at for their mental and physical benefits. They interviewed quilters and found the activity helped their cognitive, creative and emotional well-being, particularly among older people.

The use of bright colours was 'uplifting', the activity distracted from the stress of work, and quilting offered challenges such as maths and geometry. It also increased confidence and had an important social side.

Professor Jacqueline Atkinson, co-author of the study and a quilter herself for five decades, said: 'Doing something that engages you and that you enjoy is key. As adults, we don't often do enough that includes fun and play. We put a lot into studying the use of green spaces and that's useful to individuals and communities. But maybe we need to say there are other things too.'

Graduate student Emily Burt interviewed 29 members of the group and the transcripts were analysed for the study, published in the Journal of Public Health last week.

It concluded that: 'Whether it is growing vegetables, knitting a jumper or discovering a new scientific formula creativity may be fundamental for wellbeing and has received little attention so far within public health. Exploring creativity and what people do in their everyday lives, which they deem creative, may be an important avenue for wellbeing promoters. Additionally, more consideration needs to be given to all hobbies, from reading to train spotting, and their potential for enhancing wellbeing.'

Craft Scotland said interest in quilting amongst younger Scots was increasing but there was no measure for how many people take up the hobby individually or in clubs.

Emma Walker, chief executive of Craft Scotland, said the research backs up what they are seeing on the ground.

She said: 'We've definitely seen an increase in groups doing quilting socially but also individuals. There's an emotive connection as well as financial need to recycle. Historically older groups of women did quilting but women in their early 20s are getting together and children's groups are also taking it up. People are investing in quality pieces of quilting, but also looking to make items themselves and re-use materials they have in their homes. I can only see the popularity increasing.'

The craft industry contributes around £3 billion a year to the UK economy.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2002862/Why-quilting-uniquely-good-us.html#ixzz1PqbATKXy>

Community Outreach – Barb McClure

In the past year Crazy Quilters welcomed many new members and they may not know about the club's "fabric stash" that is available to make quilts for charity. All of it is stored and displayed on the 2nd floor of my home in an area of 500 sq ft. We also have huge rolls of batting 48" wide and 90" wide. There is a large cutting table with rotary cutters and cutting mats, Omnigrid rulers (most every size available) that I share with quilters when they come over to work on something or just to pick up more fabric for a quilt top they are making for Federal Way Multi-Service Center and other non profit groups that need a quilt for an auction or raffle.

The club's "fabric stash" has been at my home for the last five and a half years. Prior to that it was stored in large cartons with scraps of fabric all jumbled together and about ten partial bolts of fabric on metal storage racks.

All of this fabric has been donated by our members who were clearing out their shelves of fabric they didn't want anymore. That way they could fill it with new fabric! Also, families of quilters have donated fabric after their loved one passed away. If we ever receive fabric not useful for quilting we pass it on to nonprofit groups that could put it to good use.

Over the years as fabric was donated, we had fun sorting through it all and we grouped the printed fabric on open shelves by "shades" of colors, themes, novelty, kids, Christmas, stripes, plaids, solids, 30's reproductions, scraps (all sizes), fat quarters and batiks. There are also bindings already made plus leftovers to join together for the "scrappy look". Also we have a crate filled with multiple sized cut strips for fantastic strip quilts!

Recently, I announced I needed "HELP" to organize all of our fabric because as new stuff arrived we needed more shelf space. A great bunch of ladies answered the call – Thank You! They've made a big dent in all the "mess" by sorting and folding fabric on the shelves so it is easier to find that perfect fabric you'll need. But, there is another wall of fat quarters and also some fabric that is in the "large scraps" category that stills needs to be organized. Some new donations haven't been separated as yet and we still need volunteers to help with this task! "HELP" again! J Volunteers are what keep our Crazy Quilters from really going crazy.

We are renaming what we have been calling "Quilt Kits". That name used to be OK because most people think of the "kit" as having everything in the bag to create a quilt top. There was always a "design" in mind for each kit and the final size was given. Most times if a border or sashing was needed it was already cut to size. The binding was already joined and pressed, ready to apply. The only parts missing were the back fabric and the batting. Because we wanted the top to be returned before it was finished, we needed the binding to "travel" with the quilt top because it was color-coordinated with the top to be applied after the quilt was tied or machine quilted. This year these "Quilt Kits" have gotten tweaked a bit. Not all the fabric is included and cut to size (that became an overwhelming task). We now need more quilts that are twin-sized through queen because clients from Multi-Services Center have been requesting blankets and quilts because they were cold.

Each time when sorting through fabric donations I've been setting aside in clear gallon bags, pieces of fabric that just "jumped-out" at me and it said "Oh, I'm so cute, pick me and some of my friends, we go quite well together"! I've been doing just that for years now and it's gotten way out of control! I finally came to my senses and realized other quilters might find these are real treasures, too! That's how these "Mystery Bags" got started and more of us can "play," too! Have fun and enjoy the ride!

Now the "Quilt Kits" (old name) is changing to the new name "Mystery Bags" (bags of fabric to make quilt tops for charities). This is how the "Mystery Bags" works:

1. The committee has no idea what pattern or design you will come up with, so decide what you'd like to make.
2. The size is up to you; twin through queen is what we are looking for.
3. There may not be enough fabric in each bag to make a quilt top the way you have designed it. You can use fabric from "your stash" or pick out fabric from "quilt club stash".
4. Pick fabric colors you are comfortable working with.
5. Leftover fabric can be returned with your quilt top to be recycled again (and again)!

Any questions? Please don't hesitate to call me anytime between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. I'm very flexible with my time. I'm home most every day including Sundays, except when I run errands on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Just call to find out if I may be home anyway on those days.

So, whenever these "Mystery Bags" show up at meetings, open up your arms wide and say, "Sure, I'll take a bag because I like the challenge!" You will be loved for that and remember to look for fabric colors you like to work with - we don't want you to get the "grumpies"!