



# Sunflower Piecemakers Newsletter



Volume 22, Number Four

April 2011

Ottawa, Kansas

Our April meeting will be held Monday, April 18th at  
7:00 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 13th & Maple, Ottawa  
Wear Your Name Tag - There Will Be Prizes!

## Letter from the President

I went on the KC spring shop hop this week. I finally went to two quilt shops I've never been to before. The first was the Peddler's Wagon in Parkville. I'm a transplanted Iowan and the only time I have been to Parkville before was to a cousin's stepdaughter's wedding. And that was after dark. So, Parkville was totally new to me. My first thought was: hilly! It was fun to explore all the nooks and crannies of the old building looking for treasures. And I found one or two. One of the store's employees gave us a tip for where to lunch so we ended up at Stone Canyon. Yummy! I highly recommend it.

I have also never been to Leavenworth before. I have been to the fort cemetery but no closer. Quilter's Quarters has moved to 200 S. 5th Street. As we wandered through the store we bumped into people we had bumped into in other quilt shops all morning. Makes you feel all connected. The one similarity I noticed in all the shops was how creative they were with their decorating. They used old crates, bed frames, etc. to display projects and quilting supplies. It makes it really fun to browse.

I know the shops organize the hops to make money. After all, they are in business. Yes, I get new quilting supplies, patterns, or tools, but what I get out of the hops is so much more. I get to see dozens of quilts on display. I get to pet lots of fabric. I get new ideas for my own quilting. But more importantly, I get to spend the day with friends laughing, eating and sharing. That's worth more than whatever I spend in the shops.

At least that's what I tell my husband!

Celia

## April Program

Our program will feature Ruth Powers of Carbondale, Kansas. She will present a trunk show titled "Creativity: Where Ideas Come From." That's a topic we can all benefit from!



"Eat right, exercise regularly,  
die anyway."  
**Unknown**

## Reminder!

Be sure & fill out a Quilt Entry Form for **each** quilt you'd like to hang at our annual show. Minis do not need a form; Challenges do. Every quilt (other than minis) **MUST** have a 4-inch sleeve on the back. Turn in your forms to Mary Schleicher no later than the May meeting.

## Minutes of Sunflower Piecemakers' Meeting March 21, 2011

The meeting of the Sunflower Piecemakers was called to order by president Celia Davis with 42 members and four guests present. The president read a list of upcoming quilting events. Kathy Roehl won the name tag drawing.

Last month's minutes were approved. Treasurer Tammy Hostetler reported a balance of \$3,528.95. Ruth Powers of Carbondale, Kansas will present a trunk show in April titled "Creativity: Where Ideas Come From." We were also reminded of the Challenge, based on our favorite movie.

Mary Schleicher reported the rent for the gym for quilt show will be \$1,500.00. We are to write our name on the back of the Opportunity Quilt tickets we sell to be entered in a drawing. Quilt entry forms are available on the web site and are due in May. We received \$100 from the Visitors Information Center toward advertising. Mary passed around a sign-up sheet for working at the quilt show. Quilts to be displayed must be at the Middle School no later than 7:30 Saturday morning. Kathy Dionne reminded us to be making things for the craft table.

Chris Campbell announced a workshop for next year's Opportunity quilt on April 11 at 1:00. You need to bring a short, sharp pair of scissors. Kim Finney and Cindy Weaver will co-chair next year's (2012) Opportunity quilt.

There was a list of members who wanted to get the newsletter by mail; they were asked to check to see if it was correct.

Mary Redeker has the Historian's book ready.

Florence Milliman stood in for Kim Finney on the block of the month. Gloria Musick won the 13 Irish Chain blocks. Next month's block is a floral picture frame. Kathy Dionne asked for help making heart pillows.

Show and Tell: Gloria Musick: two minis, Delores Dyer: star, Denise Saubers: dinosaur quilt, Mary Schleicher: mini and baby blanket, Dora Davis: two strip quilts, Andrea Rogers: throw, Melinda Clark: two mini quilts.

The program was presented by Susan Stewart of Pittsburg, Kansas.



With Easter right around the corner, many kid's (& adult's!) thoughts turn to the delicious treats the Easter bunny brings. A few statistics:

Americans ate (average, per capita) 24.3 POUNDS of candy in 2009. This figure has been fairly steady for several years. That's almost half a pound of candy every week per person! Surprisingly, only 11.6 lbs. of that is chocolate.

We spend about 2 billion dollars on candy during each of the "big three" holidays: Halloween (most candy bought & consumed), followed by Easter & Valentine's Day.

Americans will eat about 15 billion jelly beans this Easter. According to research (who *does* this stuff?), boys are more likely to eat a handful at a time while girls like to eat them one by one. Most people eat them in this order: red, purple, green, yellow, then black.

Easter or not, the most popular American candy is still the Snickers bar: over 15 million bars are produced every day. That's a lot for a little rabbit to carry around!



## Opportunity Quilt 2012

Our 2012 "Circuit Rider" quilt will soon be underway! Appliqué & piecing will be done in various workshops to be held at Chris' Corner, the first of which will be held on Monday, **April 11**. Come learn a new technique - this quilt will use the machine appliqué method detailed by Jenifer Dick in her books. You don't have to appliqué - you can piece, press or assemble, too!

Additional workshops will be announced. Stop in, sew awhile & help make this beautiful quilt come to life!



## Opportunity Quilt 2011

Remember, if you would like to display the quilt & sell some tickets, it's available. Talk to Liz Smith about scheduling, etc. This is a beautiful quilt that anyone would love to have in their home, so it should be easy to generate multiple sales!

---

## Show Time! Minis, Craft Table, Quilt Entry Forms

Mark these on your calendar now - deadlines are coming up fast!

- Keep working on those minis for our auction! They will be due at the May meeting so we can promote them around town plus post pictures on Buddy Griffin's auction website. Some members have already completed theirs (and some of us haven't!).
- Remember to plan ahead to make a few items for the Craft Table at our show. We need lots of different items to tempt shoppers - plus quilt magazines, patterns, books, kits & templates can all find new homes if you're not using them.
- Fill out your entry forms for the quilt show, one for each quilt you'd like to display. Challenge quilts need a form; minis for the auction do not. Entry forms will be available at meetings or just go to the "Archive" section on our website & print out as many as you need. These will be due to Mary Schleicher no later than the May meeting.

## Just for Fun!

We're all drawn to certain colors in choosing clothing, paint for our homes or fabric for our quilts. Your choices may just say something about your personality! See if the following lists fit your characteristics:

### YELLOW

Cheerful, charming, magnetic, intelligent, confident, and creative. Somewhat psychic, and enigmatic. A good leader and negotiator.

### GREEN

The perfect balance between the physical and mental. rounded, logical, not easily influenced, rarely judgmental. An intensely loyal friend - and has lots of them.

### VIOLET

Also an old soul. Intense, cerebral, wise, loving, generous, sentimental and artistic.

### ROSE

Main qualities are strength, love and leadership. Turns visions into realities.

### GOLD

Radiates love, joy, compassion and understanding.



## LIGHT BLUE

Optimistic, empathetic, flexible, idealistic, tranquil, patient, devoted. A natural mother.

## ORANGE

Balanced both mentally and physically. Happy, loyal, takes each day as it comes.

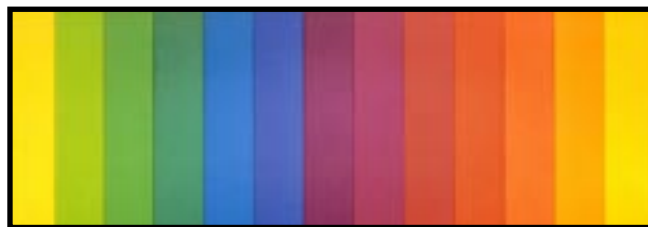
## RED

The most dominant personality. A visionary and risk-taker: energetic, passionate, tenacious, flamboyant and courageous.

## INDIGO

You're a brilliant old soul who is intuitive, sensitive, impulsive, curious and ambitious, with a great lust for life.

(Of course. if you like to mix all the colors together, you're probably perfect!)



## April Birthdays

Shari Bailey - April 12  
Muggs McCleary - April 8  
Roberta Ochs - April 10  
Therese Payne - April 9  
Charlotte Rocker - April 11  
Renita Ubel - April 5



"I still have a full deck;  
I just shuffle slower."  
**Unknown**

## Block of the Month Drawing Floral Picture Frame

Perfect for spring - it's a no-weed garden!  
Use the following fabrics:

**Color 1:** A contrasting "frame" for Fabric 2.

**Color 2:** Choose a spring/summer floral print (any size flowers). This would be an opportunity to use some of those large-scale prints from your stash.

Block is 12" unfinished / 12 1/2" finished.

Directions were provided at the meeting or visit

[www.quilterscache.com/P/PictureFrameBlock.html](http://www.quilterscache.com/P/PictureFrameBlock.html)

Bring your completed blocks to the April meeting.



## Hooray for Hollywood - Quilting Style!

Our Challenge Quilt for 2011 is to depict your favorite movie in a quilt! No size requirements; we'll present them at the June meeting plus hang them at our annual show. Have fun with this - use your imagination. Try out some embellishment, piecing or quilting techniques you've been hesitant to attempt on a larger project. Let's go to the movies!

- To put a spark in your quilt, use a little yellow or black.
- An old car mat under your sewing machine foot pedal will keep it from traveling.



## News from Chris' Corner

**242-1922** ...where quality, knowledge and service is the norm, not an exception

**Hours: Mon- Fri 9:30-5:00 Sat 9:30- 3:00**

**Spring/ Summer Classes 2011**

**Fire & Ice** Another project that will make your friends wonder how you did it! Melanie will be teaching this class on Saturdays, **April 16 & June 11**; you choose which day. Class fee is \$40.00 plus supplies, and lunch is part of the deal! The sample is here now to take a look at.

**Prairie Flower Sunrise** This quilt combines piecing & machine appliqué and will be done in three Friday morning sessions: **April 29, May 6 & May 13**. Class times are 9:30 - 11:30 am. Yours truly will be your teacher; class fee is \$35.00 plus supplies.

**Larry's Wallet** Saturday, **May 14** Larry Ford, "The Bag Man" from Madison, Kansas will be here to share with you his skills for making these one-of-a-kind wallets. This is a rare opportunity for you to learn a new technique and spend the day with a truly unique & inspiring man! Class fee is \$25.00 plus supplies, which we will have available here, of course. Class begins at 10:00 am and will last about 4 hours. You may brown bag for lunch if you'd like. We have a project sample here for you to look at. Larry also does some very interesting bags and perhaps in the future we can schedule a return visit.

**Stack & Whack 4-Patch** Saturday, **May 21st** Pat Noel from Paola will be here to teach this versatile block. Class will start at 9:30 am; class fee is \$35.00 plus supplies. And of course we'll provide lunch! We'll have a sample here soon for you to see.

**Two-Color Quilt** You'll enjoy this quick project that looks more complicated than it really is. Just two fabrics and a variety of four-patch blocks and you have a striking quilt. Melanie will be teaching this class on **June 4**. Class fee is \$40.00 plus supplies, and we furnish lunch for these day-long classes.

Join us on Facebook: Chris' Corner Quilt Shop - Thanks for all your support & friendship!

**Contact Chris for additional information on all classes. Class size may be limited.**



**Fiber Facts** With the price of our favorite fiber going up, perhaps we could learn a little more about it. (If you've ever had to pick it, though, you probably never want to see a plant again!)

The earliest cultivation of cotton in the Americas occurred in Mexico, some 8,000 years ago. In the Old World, cotton was first cultivated about 7,000 years ago by the Indus Valley inhabitants, (parts of eastern Pakistan and northwestern India). Greeks and the Arabs were not familiar with cotton until the wars of Alexander the Great, noting that "there being trees on which wool grows" in "Indica".

In Peru, cultivation of the indigenous cotton species was the backbone of the development of coastal cultures. The Spanish who came to Mexico and Peru in the early 16th century found the people growing cotton and wearing clothing made of it.

During the late medieval period, cotton became known as an imported fiber in northern Europe, without any knowledge of how it was derived, other than that it was a plant; noting its similarities to wool, people in the region could only imagine that cotton must be produced by plant-borne sheep. John Mandeville, writing in 1350, stated as fact the now-preposterous belief: "There grew there [India] a wonderful tree which bore tiny lambs on the ends of its branches. These branches were so pliable that they bent down to allow the lambs to feed when they are hungry." By the end of the 16th century, cotton was cultivated throughout the warmer regions in Asia and the Americas.

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Indian markets were increasingly forced to supply only raw cotton and were forced, by British-imposed law, to purchase manufactured textiles from Britain. By the 1840s, India was no longer capable of supplying the vast quantities of cotton fibers



needed by mechanized British factories, while shipping bulky, low-price cotton from India to Britain was time-consuming and expensive. This, coupled with the emergence of American cotton as a superior type encouraged British traders to purchase cotton from plantations in the United States and the Caribbean. By the mid-19th century, "King Cotton" had become the backbone of the southern American economy, furnishing raw material to mills in the northern states as well as overseas.

Cotton plantations required vast labor forces to hand-pick cotton, and it was not until the 1950s that reliable harvesting machinery was introduced into the South (prior to this, cotton-harvesting machinery had been too clumsy to pick cotton without shredding the fibers). During the early 20th century, employment in the cotton industry fell, as machines began to replace laborers & the South's rural labor force dwindled during the First and Second World Wars. Today, cotton remains a major export of the southern United States, & a majority of the world's annual cotton crop is of the long-staple American variety. China produces the most raw material, followed by India & the U.S.



## Hold the Presses!

Congratulations to Reeze Hansen/Morning Glory Designs, whose paper-pieced pattern is featured on the cover of April 2011 *Quilter's World*. Brenda Weien quilted the spring-themed beauty, so we have two celebrities among us!

Copies are available at Chris' Corner (maybe Brenda would even autograph yours!).

## Letter from the Editor

Spring has arrived in all its glory - hope everyone survived the hail! I was lucky: my daffodils were shredded, but nothing else damaged. Funny how weeds never get mashed, just the pretty blooming things that cost money to replace.

The spring peepers (a.k.a. Northern Chorus Frogs) have been replaced by leopard frogs calling at night. I have a couple in the garden pond next to the house - they are loud! Somehow the females always manage to find them, because there are plenty of tadpoles in there every summer. I still haven't figured out why they come all the way up to the house: there's a perfectly nice big pond across the road where the only thing to bother lusty amphibians are cows & deer (no lawnmowers, weed-pulling or prickly rose bushes!). But they take up residence every year - maybe the bugs are more delicious in my flower beds.

It's a good example of the natural "insistence on persistence." Mother Nature never quits. I would do well to act likewise! Like a lot of quilters, if a project isn't working out the way I'd like, or I think it's unbelievably ugly or I can't decide how to finish it, it goes into the PIGS pile (that's **P**rojects **I**n **G**rocery **S**acks!). Shame on me! I should finish it & give it away to somebody else. It's of no use at all sitting in a bag.

It's hard to work on something you don't like; that's really not an excuse, though. Most folks don't like to clean the toilet, either.

So I've made a list of projects that have been residing quietly in bags & boxes (I'm sure there are others I've forgotten about, too). I'm going to make a special effort to retrieve them, make some kind of plan for completion & get them done. Writing things down makes it "official," somehow. If it's on the calendar, I'm more likely to actually do it. One of my UFOs is now 22 years old; I still can't beat my mother's record-setting 69 years between starting & finishing a quilt, but if I don't get to it, I might come close!

Granted, they may not end up as fabulous as originally intended, but like a lopsided cake, it "still tastes good." Nobody but me knows what the original plan was, anyway. So slap some icing on it & serve it!



### Sunflower Piecemakers - Ottawa, Kansas - Est. 1985

President	Celia Davis	Treasurer	Tammy Hostetler
Vice-President	Michele Altendorf	Newsletter/Web Editor	Kathleen Leary
Secretary	Brenda Weien	Historian	Mary Redeker

Sunflower Piecemakers meet at 7 pm on the third Monday of each month (there is no December meeting). Meetings are held in Roberts Hall at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 13th & Maple, Ottawa, KS. Memberships are \$25 & renewable every January. Guests are always welcome. For more information, write: Sunflower Piecemakers, P.O. Box 822, Ottawa, KS 66067 or e-mail [chriscorner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chriscorner@sbcglobal.net). Submit items for the newsletter to

[learyo@centurylink.net](mailto:learyo@centurylink.net) no later than the **4th** of each month.