

Sunflower Piecemakers Newsletter



Volume 20, Number Eight

August 2009

Ottawa, Kansas

**Our August meeting will be held Monday, August 17th at
7:00 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 13th & Maple, Ottawa.
Wear your nametag - there will be prizes!**

Letter from the President

August is the time when the summer starts winding down and everyone is getting ready to head back to school for another year. It always feels like a new beginning – a lot like January.

Which reminds me that it's time to think about our 2010 officers. Because officers have two-year terms, we will have four spots to fill for 2010: President, VP, Treasurer & Newsletter Editor. Celia has agreed to be on the slate as candidate for President and Michele Altendorf has agreed to be Vice President candidate. We still need candidate for Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. The Newsletter Editor position will also include maintenance of our website, so interested parties will have to be willing to do that portion of the job as well. Kathleen has offered to fill the position again if no one else will do it, but does not want to keep anyone from doing it if they are interested. Kathleen has done a wonderful job and I'd be happy to see her do it again, but I know that she could probably use a break – she's already done two terms – and I know that there are other people in our guild who could fulfill the duties of this position. If you are at all interested in becoming Newsletter Editor, please talk to Kathleen and she will explain what is required. Also, anyone who has questions about the Treasurer position should talk with Terri Powers for details.

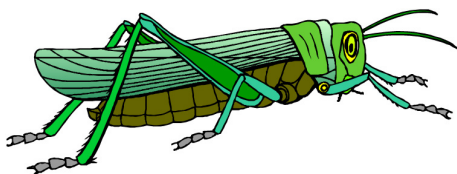
Please let me (or any other officer) know if you are interested in becoming an officer and I'll add you to the slate of proposed officers. We will vote on our 2010 officers at our November meeting.

See you at the August meeting!
Melanie

August Program - Guest Speaker Terri Thompson

Our August program will feature Terri Thompson, noted quilter, fabric designer & speaker. This is our big-name presentation for this year - be sure & invite your friends!

Non-members & guests will be charged a \$5 admission fee to cover the costs of this program. A bargain, indeed!



" I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

Thomas Alva Edison

Minutes of the Sunflower Piecemakers Meeting

July 20, 2009

Melanie Brumgardt called the meeting to order at 7 pm. with 29 members present. Liz Smith moved and Brenda Weien seconded to accept the June minutes as printed in the newsletter. Motion carried.

New member Mary Jo Arnold joined the guild. Guests included Helen Dionne and Beth Brecheisen.

Name tag drawing winner was Florence Milliman.

Ginger Bealmer (July birthday) answered the question, "What was your favorite thing about the quilt show?"

Terri Powers treasurer's report was given by Melanie in Terri's absence.

Deposits: **\$5,243.15**

Checks: \$3,291.68

Ending balance: **\$5,466.27**

Celia Davis, vice president/program chair announced the August speaker will be Terri Thompson. To defray costs, visitors will be charged \$5. The block of the month for August is the Ohio Star.

Michele Altendorf announced that the scrapbook is completed. It is available tonight and will be placed in the guild library at the church.

Mary Schleicher, quilt show chair, reported the guild had a very successful quilt show thanks to the hard work of all the members. All numbers were UP, attendance and door admission, opportunity quilt ticket sales, craft table sales and mini auction proceeds!! Those who were involved with organizing, making, selling, buying craft table items contributed to their sales doubling last year's. Hats off to everyone!!

Florence Milliman reported on the miniature auction at the quilt show. Fifty-one items were sold with the average selling price of \$45.29. Seventeen guild members were buyers. Florence donated an item to be given to a guild member buyer. Evelyn Barrett won the gift.

Kathy Dionne, 2010 opportunity quilt chair, thanked all who worked on it at the quilt show. Chris Campbell is ready to pass it along to another hand-quilter.

Michele Altendorf has the guild registered for the craft show November 14. She encouraged members to begin working on items.

New Business:

Melanie received an email from Laura Irwin, DVM. The animal shelter is holding an auction in October. She was requesting a quilt donation as part of their fundraiser. After discussion it was decided that members would donate on their own to this cause.

The meeting was adjourned for Show and Tell at 7:20 pm. The guild's annual garage sale would follow.

Show and Tell:

Kathy Dionne, Christmas runner; Liz Smith, fleece blanket; Frances Gordon, baby quilt.

Alex Anderson at the Marriott

My wife and I are very excited to host Alex Anderson, presenting "A Journey with Alex", on Monday, November 9, 2009 at the Overland Park Marriott. We want all Kansas quilters to know of this fantastic opportunity.

If you have any questions, or to register, please call me at the store, 913.341.6400.

Thank you,
Myron and Chris Schwery
Owners, Bernina of Kansas City

9:00 - 12:30, continental breakfast provided
\$25 per person

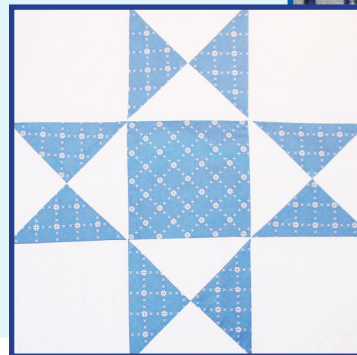


Block of the Month Drawing

August's block is "Ohio Star."

This block is an old-fashioned classic; we'll be using a white/cream background with a floral print star. Easy to make, this block can be set many different ways for a beautiful traditional quilt.

Instructions were provided at the meeting.



Hand Quilters Needed

The 2010 Opportunity Quilt is a masterpiece! Beautifully hand-appliquéd by Joyce McKenzie, this is sure to be a crowd-pleaser. It's in the process of being hand-quilted, so

If you hand quilt, your skill is needed to complete this stunning quilt. If you'd like to contribute your needle skills, contact Kathy Dionne. This will certainly be one of our most successful Opportunities ever!





News from Chris' Corner - 242-1922

On Saturday, August 15 **Jeanne Poore** of Overland Park will be teaching a class here called **Star Puzzle** - a great way to finish the summer by spending the day with such a renowned quilter. Let me know ASAP if you're interested; space is limited!

BASIC BARGELLO

It's been a while, so we decided to do just the basic straight Bargello again. There is a wide choice of sizes using this truly unique abstract design. Saturday, August 29 at 9:30 am and the class fee is \$25.00 (which includes the book!) plus supplies.

DESIGN YOUR OWN MEDALLION-STYLE QUILT

This will be a three-week class, and you can design your own special queen-size quilt, using the guidelines I have developed.

Evening classes will be Tuesdays 6:30 pm, Sept. 22, 29 & Oct. 6

Daytime will be Saturdays, 10:00 am, Sept. 19, 26 & Oct 3.

Class fee will be \$40.00 plus supplies.

New Holiday Arrivals

I know it seems early, but some of the new Christmas fabric has arrived! Also some of the Jim Shore Heartwood Creek Collectibles for fall, Halloween and Christmas - they are so cute!

See Chris for additional information & class policies.

Class space may be limited



August Birthdays

Evelyn Barrett - August 27

Melanie Brungardt - August 27

Carol Bulmer - August 27

Chris Campbell - August 15

Tammy Carpenter - August 20

Kirsten Esau - August 15

Pam Huddlestun - August 2

Bonnie Hull - August 13

Charlotte Macy - August 14

Mary Redeker - August 17

Charlotte Rocker August 11

Kathy Roehl - August 4

Angie Walker - August 25



"If you have always done it that way,
it is probably wrong."

Charles Kettering

Hey, Everybody - Christmas is Coming!

Michele Altendorf is again coordinating the guild booth at the Christmas Craft Show, which will be held on Saturday, November 14th at the library.

We need lots of holiday- or winter-themed items to sell! Last year's big sellers were Christmas decorations, gifts for kids plus smaller, less expensive items. Baby items & table linens sold fairly well.

Start now - dig out all those novelty fabrics, red & green fabrics, gold & silver fabrics & start sewing! If you aren't sure what to make, just ask Michele. Let's all "sew-sew-sew" some "ho-ho-ho!"



Joining Batting Pieces

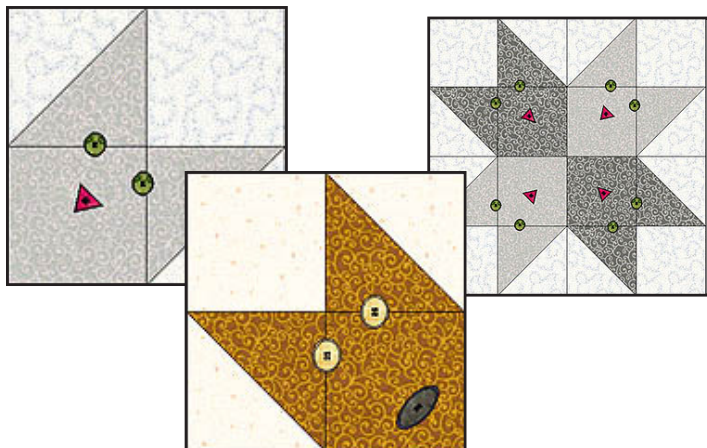
Quilters are trained not to waste - just look at our fabric scraps! Many people have good-sized pieces of leftover batting that aren't quite big enough for an entire quilt, but if put together would be the right size. Here are some tips from Quilter's Network:

"Instead of sewing the pieces together, use a lightweight fusible interfacing! Overlap the two pieces of batting and cut the joining line. Remove the trimmings and fuse the interfacing over the join! I wouldn't try it on a polyester batting, but I'm definitely going to try it on cotton!" Margo

"I butt my pieces together and use what is called a multiple zigzag stitch or tricot stitch (many machines have a similar stitch). This stitch looks like a regular zigzag, but each "zig" is made of two or three short stitches. This keeps the batting from puckering." maggieszafranski

"Place the two pieces so that the edges overlap by a couple of inches. Cut through both edges at once in a gentle curve, and discard the little excess curved pieces. Either loosely hand sew the butted curved edges or iron a strip of fusible interfacing over the join to connect the two bigger pieces." kfstitcher

I often use large pieces, but I do it a little differently. I remove half the thickness from each adjoining edge, then lay the two thin edges on top of each other & pat together. There is no need to sew or fuse, as the fibers will hold the pieces in place. It does take a while to do a good job, but the end join is totally invisible. Ed.

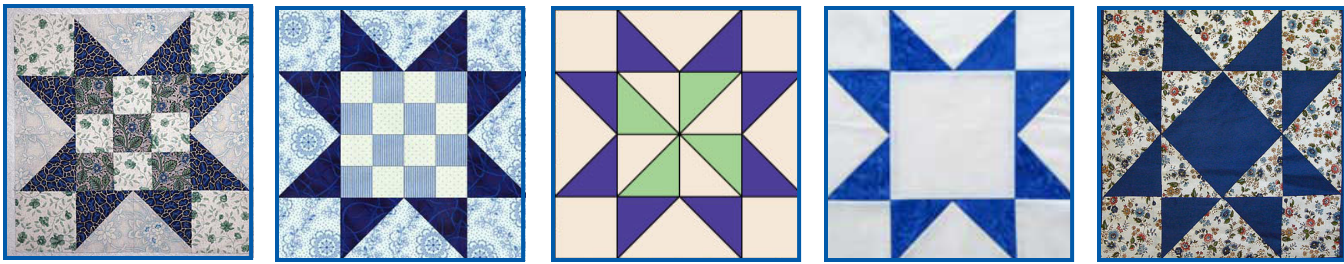


Dog Days Project

Maybe you've got a younger "helper" around who needs something to do . . . or maybe you need an idea for a quick quilt.

Since it's the Dog Days (until the 11th!), this would be a fast & easy block to make up. It can be a dog or cat & when combined with others, makes a nice star.

Use some fun buttons & embellishments to make your fabric pets extra-special.



Here's an event specifically about Kansas history - a quilt challenge! The entry form & web site do not specify any block other than "Evening Star;" above I have shown five different variations for centers (the outside points do not change). The blocks can be any size, although there is a size restriction for the entire piece. Time is short, but I think we could get a few entries included!

Quilt Challenge Contest Date: September 19, 2009

The Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum is sponsoring a quilt contest on September 19, 2009. This contest is one component of the "Ike's Abilene" program and is **free and open to the public**.

Rules for the Challenge

Create a wall hanging using the "Evening Star" block. The wall hanging should be NO LARGER than 36"x36." It is to be pieced, quilted and bound by the person submitting the wall hanging. There must be a hanging sleeve on the back. (4" is standard)

The "Evening Star" quilt pattern was selected as one made by Ida Eisenhower, the mother of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

TRADITIONAL: Use period or traditional fabrics, construction and quilt by machine or hand.

MODERN: Take the basic pattern and go wild! Stretch it, embellish it, twist it, turn it, and develop a wall hanging that is distinctive and unique. Shape, quilt and bind however you wish.

Event Info

Entry is by pre-enrollment due by September 9, 2009.

Contest date: September 19, 2009

Contest information is also available on the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum web site at **www.eisenhower.archives.gov**.

You may also contact Jan Hottman by calling **785.263.6700 or 877.RING.IKE**.

About Ike's Abilene, 1890 - 1910

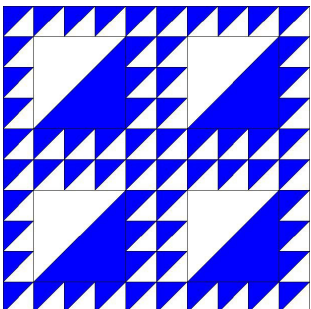
Through a series of programs, events and tours, the Abilene of Dwight D. Eisenhower's "growing up" years will be recreated. The years of 1890 - 1910 mark the two decades of Eisenhower's formative years in shaping his personality, character and values as well as leading him down the path of life-long leadership. Abilene has a long and proud American history of contributing to the success of many who have gone on to become national and international figures.

Lady of the Lake - Block History

History has it that the "Lady of the Lake" quilt block was named after a poem by Sir Walter Scott, published in 1810. The pioneer men and women loved the heroic tales of Sir Walter Scott, & the women honored him in their most-practiced method of artistic expression: by naming a patchwork block after the poem.

The "Lady of the Lake" block appeared shortly after publication of the poem, one showing up in Vermont prior to 1820.

The pattern must have been popular because examples are found in most parts of the country, plus it is one of the few quilt block patterns that have never been known by other names.



Letter from the Editor

Even though it's the hottest time of the year, everything tells me that summer is almost over: hummingbirds are fattening up for migration, grasshoppers are eating everything (including my fiberglass screens!), most plants have flowered & set seeds, the grass has turned brown & crunchy, the monarch butterflies are arriving, their caterpillars devouring the milkweed plants out by the road.

Of course it's still hot - my Almanac states that "during June, July & August, the northern hemisphere is exposed to more direct sunlight because the northern hemisphere faces the sun. Contrary to common beliefs, the seasons do not result from the varying distance between the Earth and the Sun. Instead the tilt of the Earth causes the Sun to be higher in the sky during the summer months which increases the solar flux.". Well, okay. The Romans believed the heat was a result of the additional radiation provided by Sirius, the Dog Star. Since it's so bright, it must be adding to the temperature here on Earth. That makes just as much sense to *me*.

Let's not forget that August is National Psoriasis Awareness Month, as well as National Goat Cheese Month. (I know which one I prefer!) It's the only month without a federal holiday. It also has the peculiar distinction that in a non-leap year, no other month begins on the same day of the week as August. In a leap year, February & August begin on the same day. Now there's some truly useful information.

But if you're a badger, August is surely the highlight of the calendar year: it's breeding season.

If you *are* a badger, you have much better things to do than read magazines & hand-sew. But since I'm not, those seem to be two very desirable activities that don't require much moving around. I like to use the excuse that any more exertion would make me stick to the furniture, thereby allowing plenty of time for those (usually) guilty pleasures. Chores that require walking more than ten feet in any direction (like mowing the grass or hanging out the laundry) must be completed before eight in the morning. Which, in addition to being energy-efficient (mine, not the electric company's) leaves the rest of the day for just slightly sweaty sit-down work. Clever, huh?

Even though September is the traditional back-to-school month (who's old enough to remember starting school *after* Labor Day?), it's August these days. It's not so bad, since schools are air-conditioned, unlike when I went to grade school (yes, with the dinosaurs, I assure all my younger friends). We sat in those high-ceilinged rooms, looking longingly at the open windows, all the Catholic kids praying very earnestly for a breeze, even a small one. I figured they had a better chance of getting one than I did: more direct access, maybe.

It's the time of year I make lists for all the stuff I want to get done by next spring: home repairs, painting, new flower beds, clean out the bookcases (which are in imminent danger of collapse), sort fabric & of course, sew, sew, sew. I mark multiple calendars with "get done by" dates for all the projects; it doesn't really do much except make it obvious in multiple places all the ways I've failed.

August is time for me to regroup & reassess what I've done & what I hope to get done. I can't do much else - it's too hot. So I camp out with my fan, iced tea, thick magazines & directions for crocheted snowflakes (which I'll *surely* have done in time for Christmas!) & consider whether I should organize the two tubs of scraps or contemplate life as a badger. Ed.

Sunflower Piecemakers - Ottawa, Kansas - Est. 1985

President	Melanie Brungardt	Treasurer	Terri Powers
Vice-President	Celia Davis	Newsletter/Web	Kathleen Leary
Secretary	Gloria Musick	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 \$20 & 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.

Submit items for the newsletter to **learyo@aceks.com** no later than the **4th** of each month.