



Sunflower Piecemakers Newsletter



Volume 22, Number Five

May 2011

Ottawa, Kansas

Our May meeting will be held Monday, May 16th at
7:00 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 13th & Maple, Ottawa
Wear Your Name Tag - There Will Be Prizes!

Letter from the President

Several of us were talking at a quilt shop about guest speakers. I figured we weren't the only ones to wonder what programs area quilt guilds were having. I decided I would share some ideas for how you can find out what is going on in the area.

You can find out what our programs are by going to our web site and clicking on Calendar of Events (<http://www.sunflowerpiecemakers.com/calendarofevents.html>)

Here are a few other links to guilds and their meetings:

- Kaw Valley Quilters Guild

<http://www.kawvalleyquiltersguild.org/meetings.html>

(click on the link to see the list of programs)



- Starlight Quilters Guild (Mission) <http://www.starlightquilters.com/programs>

- Olathe Quilters Guild - <http://www.olathequiltersguild.com/Calendar.htm>

- Blue Valley Quilters guild (Olathe)- <http://www.bluevalleyquiltersguild.com/Events--Happenings/Events.htm>

- Miami County Quilters Guild - <http://www.mcqg.org/>

For a list of Kansas Quilt guilds (many with links to guild web sites or an email address) go to <http://www.quiltguilds.com/kansas.htm>

Celia

May Program

Delores Rieck will present the program for our May meeting.

We'll also have an Orphan Block swap - see page 2 for more details.



"Learn from the mistakes of others;
you can't live long enough to make
them all yourself."

Unknown

Quilt Entry Forms Due at Meeting!

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 April 18, 2011

President Celia Davis called the April meeting to order with 39 members present. Karen Hughes is a new member.

Celia reported on upcoming quilt shows. Chris Campbell reported on quilt appraisal day. The birthday question was, "What is your favorite quilt show?" Terri Powers won the name tag drawing.

Treasurer Tammy Hostetler reported a balance of \$3,521.40 in the treasury.

Vice president Michelle Altendorf reported that Delores Reick will be the speaker in May. The challenge quilts are due in June and an orphan quilt block exchange will be held at the May meeting.

Mary Schleicher reminded us quilt show entries are due in May. Minis need to be turned in by May to be put on Buddy Griffin's web site. The quilt show work schedule was passed around. Chris Campbell reported the workshop for the 2012 Opportunity Quilt went well. The next workshop is May 7th at 10:00 and another will be held on May 23rd at 1:00. You need to bring short, sharp scissors. There was no old or new business.

Kim Finney presented next month's block: a Double Bowtie done with dots. Verna Jones and Judy Meyer won the April blocks.

Show and Tell: Michelle Altendorf: block of the month and vacation quilt, Gloria Musick: apple core quilt, Mary Jo Arnold: Not a Perfect 9 Patch, Peggy Watts: tea cozy, Melinda Clark: baby doll quilt, Denise Saubers: mini quilt, Mary Redecker: diamond in a square mini and French poppy material wall hanging.

Ruth Powers of Carbondale presented us with a trunk show.

Orphan Block Swap - May Meeting

Spring means spring cleaning (at least in theory!). Do you have a stack of odd blocks that you don't know what to do with? Blocks that you made, then relegated to the bottom of a drawer? Or the back of the closet? Do you hate the fabric? Or maybe it's a project you started, got bored with & never finished.

Here's the solution! Bring them to the May meeting. We'll have a table set up (you can even sneak yours on when no one's looking!); look over the other blocks & get inspired. Take a few & make something fabulous!



- An easy way to fold fabric for a neat & tidy stash stack: use your long ruler (most are 5 or 6 inches wide by 24 inches long) & roll your fabric around your ruler, then slide the ruler out, fold fabric in half & you have a perfect stackable fabric; you can neatly roll several yards of fabric this way.

- Do you have extras of those flat advertising magnets? Use them to safely store & handle rotary cutter blades. Use one to pick up the blades instead of your fingers.

Opportunity Quilt 2012

Like the roads, our 2012 "Circuit Rider" quilt is under construction! Appliqué & piecing will be done in various workshops to be held at Chris' Corner.

Upcoming sessions will be Saturday, **May 7** at 10:00 am & Monday, **May 23** at 1:00 pm. 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!

Murphy's Law

Did you know there was a real Murphy? Capt. Edward A. Murphy, an engineer working on Air Force Project MX981 at Edwards Air Force base in 1949 found a transducer wired wrong and commented about the technician who installed it, "If there is any way to do it wrong, he'll find it." The project manager kept a list of "laws" and added this one, which he called "Murphy's Law." Here are a few just for quilters (all totally true!):

- Every quilt will take twice as long to make & be half as beautiful as you expect.
- There are only two kinds of masking tape: that which won't stay on & that which won't come off.
- The value of any piece of fabric is directly proportional to the speed & ease with which you will ruin it.
- You will find the perfect fabric for your quilt only after it has been discontinued by the manufacturer.
- No matter how much fabric you have bought, you will need another quarter-yard to finish your project.

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- Self-adherent wrap bandages are made of a stretchy, crinkled material & can be purchased in any first aid-department or under the brand name "Vet Wrap" for veterinary use. Because it sticks to itself, you can use it as a wrap around thread spools or cones to keep them from unwrapping.
 - Use skirt or pants hangers to keep your cut strips free of wrinkles until you can use them.
 - Transparent plastic report covers in green & red can be used instead of Ruby and Jade Beholders.



Only Seven Weeks Left!

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

- Finish your mini 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. Several have already been turned in; we should have a good turnout this year.
- Remember to plan ahead & 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. If you've been to craft shows recently, think what items caught your eye; those will be the things we need to feature at our show.
- Sell those tickets for our Opportunity Quilt; we need to fatten up our treasury balance. This is how we pay for the programs every month, plus rent, etc., so don't be shy when asking folks to buy a ticket. Chris has more tickets if you need them.

May Birthdays

Michele Altendorf - May 14
Joy Basel - May 19
Florence Milliman - May 7
Linda Russell - May 28
Mary Schleicher - May 4



"Everything in moderation,
including moderation."

Julia Child

Block of the Month Drawing

Double Necktie

Great for any Dad you know - Father's Day is June 19th!

Use the following fabrics:

Color 1: Choose a fabric featuring dots or circles.

Color 2: A **different** fabric with dots or circles.

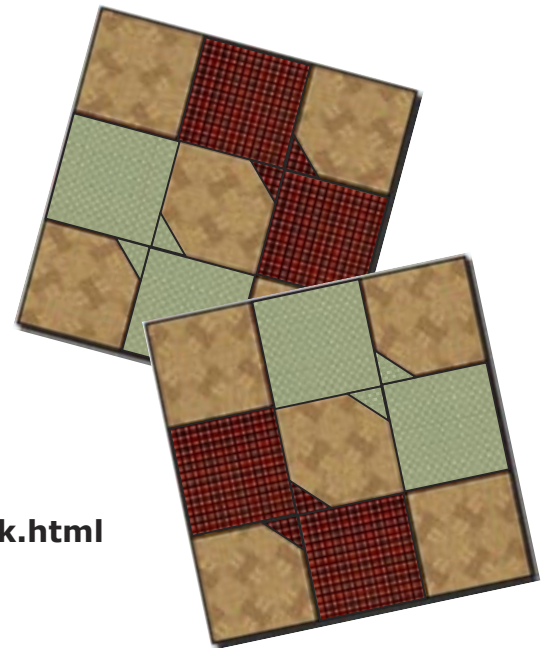
Color 3: For the background, use a neutral tan/beige fabric.

Block is 9 1/2" unfinished / 9" finished.

Directions were provided at the meeting or visit

<http://www.quilterscache.com/D/DoubleNecktieBlock.html>

Bring your completed blocks to the May 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!



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 Saturday, **June 11**. Class fee is \$40.00 plus supplies, and lunch is part of the deal! The sample is here now to take a look at.

Larry's Wallet Saturday, **June 18, starting at 10:00 am** 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. I'll even pre-cut part of it for you! You may brown bag for lunch if you'd like. We have a project sample here for you to look at. These would make wonderful Christmas gifts, sure to amaze family & friends!

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 have a sample here 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.

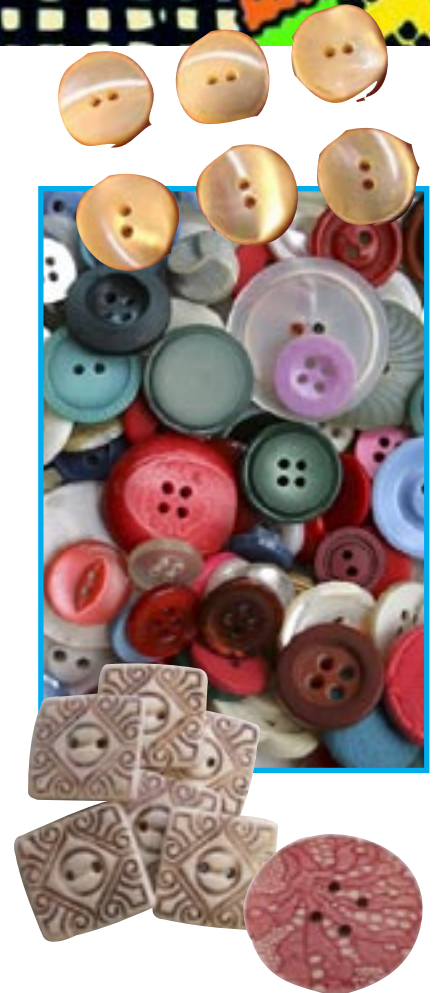
Join us on Facebook: Chris' Corner Quilt Shop - Thanks for all your support & friendship!

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



We button our clothes every day & don't even think about it. We use buttons to decorate our quilts & there's even a button museum. But how did this very simple invention come into use? And how did people keep their clothes on? A few historic notes:

- Button-like objects have been found in the Indus Valley of ancient Pakistan and date back to around 2000 B.C.E. These were not used for fasteners, but for ornaments. Before they were used for fastening, pins, leather lacing and belts were used to secure clothing.
- Before buttons could be used as fasteners, the button hole had to be devised. Evidence dates the first button and button hole closure systems to the 13th century in Germany. This may have been a solution to the problem of how to secure clothing that was becoming more and more form-fitting, without having to resort to sharp pins.
- Ever wonder why men's suit coats have non-functioning buttons sewn on the sleeves? Some say they are just for decoration, but there is also the story that King Frederick the Great of Prussia started the practice in the 18th century. The rumor goes that after an inspection of his troops, he ordered that buttons be sewn on the sleeves of their coats to discourage soldiers from wiping their noses on them!
- With the increased cost of ivory in the 19th century, button manufacturers began to make them out of a nut from a South American palm, called vegetable ivory, or corozo. When dried it is a very reasonable facsimile for genuine ivory & is still used today.



- The first buttons made from celluloid, one of the first types of plastics, were made in the 1860s. The majority of the more popular mother-of-pearl buttons made in the U.S. throughout the 19th & early 20th centuries came from mussels harvested from the Mississippi & Missouri rivers.
- Before World War One, most button manufacturing was done in Europe, specifically England. After the war, the United States became the center of button making until modern times.

Letter from the Editor

Mother's Day is this weekend; if you're fortunate enough to have your mother to celebrate with, make it a memorable day all around. We can honor other women of influence in our lives, too: aunts, grandmothers, teachers. (And make sure you leave some VERY broad gift hints for your own children to take advantage of!)

The older we get, the harder it is to think of things suitable for gift-giving: picture frames, candy, bathrobes & macaroni collages eventually get tiresome. Vacuum cleaner bags, wrinkle cream & screwdriver sets are NEVER appropriate, believe it or not. Cut flowers are nice; plants for the garden or porch are even better when somebody else does the dirty work!

Think back on all the important things your mother taught you: how to curl your hair, how to write a thank-you note, how to get into a car while wearing a short skirt without flashing the whole neighborhood. She probably also instructed you on how to stretch dinner to feed three more unexpected guests, how to get ketchup stains out of a good blouse, how to walk in heels & what to look for when picking out a package of pork chops.

Some learned how to can peaches, milk cows, throw a baseball & drive a car from their mothers. Others mastered false eyelashes, fashionable attire, foreign-language menus & fancy restaurant luncheons. Whichever camp you fall into, you owe so many of your skills to your Mom. Thank her!

Of course, there are other things we learn from her: do not wait for smoke to come out of the oven before checking on the meatloaf. Cutting your kids' hair at home is not always the best plan. After burning the entire yard, apologize to the neighbors. Mayonnaise does not keep forever. Do not say things in front of toddlers unless you want them repeated in church. Never run out of toilet paper in a house full of girls.

I'd wager most of us learned basic sewing skills from her, too. I was allowed (or forced, by my reckoning) to start hand-sewing at age five. By eight, I graduated to the "big machine" & started putting together my own clothes under her supervision.

My mother hand-pieces & hand-quilts, period. She quilted back in the 60s when nobody knew where quilts came from, much less how to make one. I made my first quilt when I was 16 & hand-quilted it, too. First & last time for me! She & I still argue about what's best: she says I'm just in too big a hurry to do anything right & I tell her there's not enough time left in eternity to sew anything by hand. We've never reached a compromise.

Even if your mom didn't quilt or sew, she still showed you how to match colors, use a pair of scissors, ask questions & read directions, all building blocks for do-it-yourself learning.

You shouldn't need a holiday to remind your mom how special she is; every time you think of a new quilting project, cook a meal or look at your own kids, she's there, one way or the other.

Happy Mother's Day to ALL moms!

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. Submit items for the newsletter to learyo@centurylink.net no later than the 4th of each month.