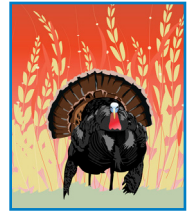




Sunflower Piecemakers Newsletter



Volume 20, Number Eleven

November 2009

Ottawa, Kansas

Our November meeting will be held Monday, November 16th at 6:30 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 13th & Maple, Ottawa. Wear your nametag - there will be prizes!

Letter from the President

Well, this is my last president's letter! The time sure has flown! It has been a fun time and I have enjoyed receiving blocks for my president's quilt. Please keep them coming! As a reminder, I would like blocks to be finished 3" increments (eg. 3", 6", 9", 12") in muted Christmas colors. For example, I would like the greens to be dark forest green type colors, the reds to be dark burgundy shades and the whites to be off-white instead of bright white. The blocks can be Christmas themed in any way you choose, colors, patterns, motifs - I just really want to see your interpretation of Christmas. Thank you all so much for the blocks - what a great tradition!

We will be voting on our 2010 officers at our November meeting. For several months we have been asking for volunteers and the following is our proposed slate of officers for 2010. Kathleen will serve again if no one volunteers, but please let us know if you'd like to be the newsletter editor - she doesn't want to keep someone else from becoming editor if they are interested.

President - Celia Davis
VP - Michele Altendorf
Secretary - Gloria Musick
Treasurer - Tammy Hostetler
Newsletter Editor/Web - Kathleen Leary
Historian - Mary Redeker

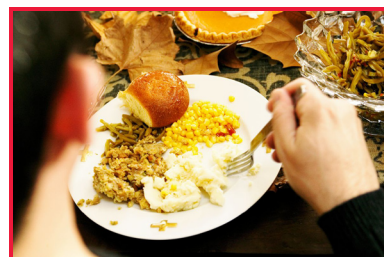


There are many benefits to being a member of the Sunflower Piecemakers and one of the best is the opportunity to meet other people who are interested in quilting. As we meet others with our same interests it is only natural that we separate into smaller groups and socialize outside of guild. It is important to remember, however, that these smaller groups are not organized or sponsored by the guild - they are formed individually by those involved in the group and their activities are not guild functions. If you are feeling like you would like to be a part of a smaller group, just look around at the other faces at our meetings and you are sure to see someone else who is feeling the same way. I know many members who have started or been a part of a smaller quilting group would be happy to give someone who is forming another small group tips and pointers. It is great to see so many people enjoying quilts and each other in so many different ways.

See you at the November meeting!
Melanie

November Program & Potluck

We'll be having our annual potluck this month, a fabric swap, election of officers for 2010 plus lots of other activities & some surprises! We'll start the serving line at 6:30, so mark your calendar!



"Generosity is giving more than you can,
and pride is taking less than you need."

Kahlil Gibran (1883 - 1931)

Minutes of the Sunflower Piecemakers Meeting

October 19, 2009

President Melanie Brungardt called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. on October 19, 2009, with 32 members and one guest present. Florence Milliman moved to accept the minutes of the September, 2009 meeting as printed in the newsletter. Brenda Weien seconded and the motion passed. The guest for the meeting was Beverly Griffin.

The winner of the drawing for wearing her name tag was Mary Jo Arnold. Members present with October birthdays answered Melanie's question, "What are your special holiday projects?"

Melanie Brungardt read the **Treasurer's report** for Terri Powers, who was unable to attend:

Previous Balance	\$5,166.18
Deposits	0 .00
Checks	-589.59
Ending Balance	\$4,576.59



Celia Davis explained the drawings to be held at the November meeting for a couple of mini whole cloth quilting pattern packets that had been donated to the Guild. The annual Pot Luck dinner will be our November meeting, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. There will be a fabric gift exchange for those who wish to participate. Bring one yard of fabric (one whole piece, two 1/2 yards pieces, four fat quarters – your choice) gift wrapped for the exchange if you wish.

Gloria Musick has the 2010 Opportunity quilt to put on the binding and sleeve.

Michele Altendorf reminded everyone of the Craft Show to be held November 15th from 9 am to 4 pm at the Middle School. She has received some donations for the booth, but you may either give your donations to her, drop them off at Chris' or bring them to the school the morning of the show.

Mary Schleicher said several places, including the Visitor's Center, have been notified of the date for the 2010 Quilt Show and she has already requested the Hoffman Challenge display for those days. She will have a sign-up sheet at the November meeting and plans the first organization meeting in January.

Announcements: There are several newsletters from other guilds and notices of upcoming events at the sign-in table for anyone interested.

New Business: The rent for Westminster Presbyterian Church for our meetings has been increased from \$30.00 to \$50.00 per month. Melanie said that this increase has been included in the 2010 budget (which is available from any officer if you wish to see details). After discussion concerning options for possible alternative meeting places, Mary Schleicher made a motion to remain here for the present time. Golden Peterson seconded the motion and it passed.

Melanie said she has received a few blocks for her President's Quilt. Anyone wishing to make a block (or more), the theme is Christmas Holiday with muted colors such as burgundy and forest green in finished sizes divisible by 3 (3", 6", 9", etc.).

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. for Show and Tell and the program.

Show & Tell:

Peggy Watts: UFO Autumn wall hanging; Roberta Ochs: Christmas table runner; Beverly Griffin: "Hanky Panky" antique handkerchief wall hanging; Mary Jo Arnold: Snowman quilts for her grandchildren, items for the craft sale including stockings, a table runner and 2 pictures; Florence Milliman: Breast Cancer Ribbon wall hanging; Santa mini, "X & O" baby quilt from the blocks she won in last month's drawing and 61 stockings for the craft sale; Dora Davis: "Hands" quilts for a disaster relief donation (she has made 4 of them); Celia Davis: Split 9-Patch baby quilt for her grandson.

Mary Redeker won the drawing for the blocks this month.

Susan Martin presented a program titled "Quilts made for Children - Olde & New". She had many examples of old quilts and displayed many others she has made. She included pieces of large old quilts, baby quilts, doll quilts and wall hangings.

Block of the Month Drawing

The last block of 2009 is a String Block. These blocks have been made since dinosaur days, I think - they can make an old-fashioned style quilt or an eye-catching contemporary piece. Having a white strip in the center allows for lots of different settings.

Instructions were provided at the meeting.



Food for Thought

We know the first Thanksgiving didn't feature turkey, but what did they eat? In truth, this looks like a pretty ample table to me!

The Pilgrims' Menu

Foods That May Have Been on the Menu

Source: Kathleen Curtin, Food Historian at Plimoth Plantation.

Seafood: Cod, Eel, Clams, Lobster
Wild Fowl: Wild Turkey, Goose, Duck, Crane, Swan, Partridge, Eagles
Meat: Venison, Seal
Grain: Wheat Flour, Indian Corn
Vegetables: Pumpkin, Peas, Beans, Onions, Lettuce, Radishes, Carrots
Fruit: Plums, Grapes
Nuts: Walnuts, Chestnuts, Acorns
Herbs and Seasonings: Olive Oil, Liverwort, Leeks, Dried Currants, Parsnips

What Was Not on the Menu

Surprisingly, the following foods, all considered staples of the modern Thanksgiving meal, didn't appear on the pilgrims's first feast table:

Ham: There is no evidence that the colonists had butchered a pig by this time, though they had brought pigs with them from England.

Sweet Potatoes/Potatoes: These were not common.

Corn on the Cob: Corn was dried & stored at this time of year.

Cranberry Sauce: The colonists had cranberries but no sugar at this time.

Pumpkin Pie: It's not a recipe that exists at this point, though the pilgrims had recipes for stewed pumpkin.

Chicken/Eggs: We know that the colonists brought hens with them from England, but it's unknown how many they had left at this point or whether the hens were still laying.

Milk: No cows had been aboard the Mayflower, though it's possible that the colonists used goat milk to make cheese.



November Birthdays

Celia Davis - November 19
Kathy Dionne - November 20
Karen Gibson - November 23
Fran Hastings - November 22
Mary Hughes - November 25
Saundra Peterson - November 11
Terri Powers - November 19

"Walking isn't a lost art:
one must, by some means,
get to the garage."

Evan Esar (1899 - 1995)

November "To Bring" List

I forget everything - especially when I'm in a hurry. Here's a list to help you be better organized than I.

- Dish & serving utensil
- President's block (Christmas theme in subdued colors)
- Fabric for exchange (one yard, any combination)
- Completed Block of the Month (String block)
- Name tag
- Show & tell items
- Christmas Craft Fair items



Last Chance!

The Craft Fair is the 14th!

If you have items for the annual Craft Fair, you'll need to get them to Michele Altendof prior to the sale or take them directly to the sale. We hope to have a good selection of items this year, so if you haven't finished yours, there's still a little bit of time!

News from Chris' Corner - 242-1922

New Arrivals

Jim Shore Heartwood Creek Collectibles

Come in soon to see the new additions for fall & Christmas.

It's never too soon to start Christmas & holiday projects - we have some beautiful prints to spark your imagination!

The fall quilt show circuit is in full swing & there are plenty of local shows to enjoy. We have flyers from most of the area shows here in the shop. Drop by & take a look!



Upcoming Important Dates

Yes, we have to think about Thanksgiving & Christmas. Our **Annual Holiday Sale** will begin on **Friday, Nov. 27** and run thru **Saturday, December 5**. This year, in the spirit of giving we will host a lunch here in the shop on Saturday, Nov. 28 with a free-will donation to the Women's Transitional Care Services, an area agency which assists victims of domestic violence. Mark your calendar now - complete information will be coming soon!

See Chris for additional information & class policies.

Class space may be limited

November Full Moon Lore

We know September has the Harvest moon & October the Hunter's moon, but what about November? Here are a few different names from different cultures:

Colonial American: Beaver moon

Chinese: White moon

Cherokee: Trading moon

Choctaw: Sassafras moon

Dakota Sioux: Moon When Horns are Broken Off

Celtic: Dark moon

English Medieval: Snow moon



Letter from the Editor

November is the month for Thanksgiving & the realization that Christmas is only a month away. Hopefully, the Halloween decorations have been packed away before it's time to bring the turkey to the table; conveniently, the more naturalistic things can stay put (like Indian corn, berries, squash, wheat & leftover Hershey bars) to be enjoyed throughout another month.

It's the month for garden cleanup - no fooling around anymore. Face it: everything is *really* dead by this time & needs to be cut down. No hoping the marigolds will somehow escape another frost & keep blooming or that the green onions are still edible under their canopy of oak leaves. This is the time I build massive piles of vegetative *stuff* & wish I had bought a shredder when it was warmer & drier. It's time to plant daffodils & the elephant garlic for next year; they both smell wonderful, but not interchangeably. Who wants floral-flavored chicken Alfredo?

The darkening days (often accompanied by pervasive rain) can be a bit depressing for some folks. I see it as a perfect excuse NOT to have to go outside - I can spend the time inside trying to catch up on all the projects I let fall by the wayside in favor of zinnias, tomatoes & pulling weeds. I can sort fabric, get started on the three thousand-odd Christmas projects I envisioned over the summer, finish up a few UFOs, turn that bag of sweat-shirts into amazingly clever jackets . . . well, I have good intentions.

With Thanksgiving looming on the calendar's horizon, it's a good time to sit down for a few minutes (with a nice hot drink, of course!) & write down some of the things we're thankful for. We so often forget how fortunate we are, but every one of us can tell a story of some other person with troubles far worse than our own. We all like to complain, too, but maybe this is the time to step back & see the big picture. And I've noticed that even if folks *are* having a tough time, there will be some friend, neighbor or stranger step up & help out. That's one thing to be thankful for: we live in Kansas where people care.

I try to use what skills I have throughout the year to make useful things for people who might need them: blankets, jackets, tote bags, knitted hats, scarves & mittens. I've been on the receiving end a few times & I can tell you, these things mean a LOT. A warm hat, a sandwich & a place to sit down can be the greatest gift in the world.

I'm thankful I can be on the giving end now - it's just as satisfying, maybe more. I'm thankful I can take my neighbor shopping now that he has trouble driving. I'm thankful I have the skills & materials to sew & knit for others who would be cold this winter. I'm thankful I can provide some cash for the homeless shelters in the area. I had a friend who was homeless for many years - somebody shot him dead one night in the middle of the street. It was hard to tell his family he'd been living just a few miles away from them all that time; they thought he'd been working out in Oregon.

I'm thankful for the people I know, the time I have (even if I squander some of it), the useful things I have & the things I can give to to others. Really, what else do I need?

Editor Needs Help!

I'm going on the assumption that I'll be putting together the newsletter & web site next year. **DON'T LET THAT KEEP YOU FROM VOLUNTEERING TO TAKE THE POSITION!** Anyway, I need some assistance in keeping the Calendar of Events better supplied with upcoming events. Please let me know at least a month in advance if there's a show happening in the region, an exhibit, a lecture, a workshop, etc. that would be of interest to our members. I can't know everything & I rely on guild members to be my eyes & ears.

Take a few minutes & help me make our Calendar more complete & useful for everyone!

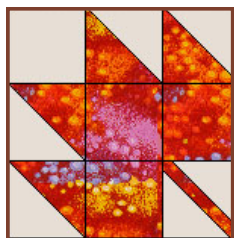
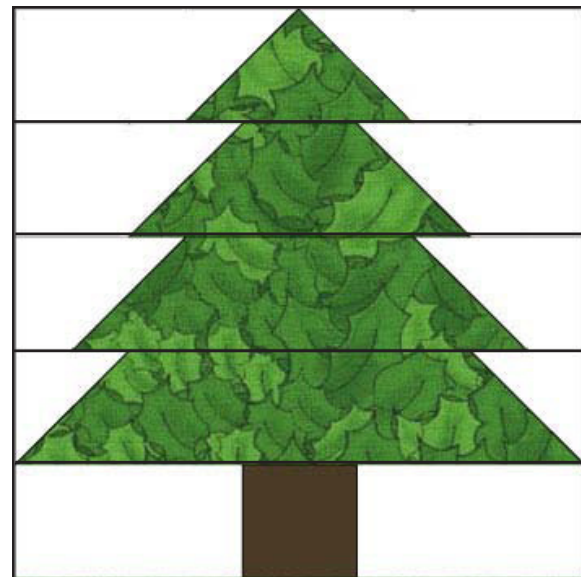
NOTE: My e-mail address has changed: **learyo@netzero.com**

Holiday Blocks

Here's a quick paper-pieced 3" pine tree block for wintertime. Piece each "strip", then sew together. These are nice mixed with stars, cabins or mountain blocks for a "northwoods" theme.

I also saw a cute use for those "bug jars" patterns that were so popular a few years ago. Instead of putting bugs or frogs in the jars, use candy-print fabric. It's as pretty as the real thing but SO much better for you!

Another fun project for kids (with some adult help!) is to make a "handprint" turkey, but use fabric that has a fusible on the back. Let the kids cut it out after you help trace their hand, then let them choose & cut out feathers, head & feet from prepared fabric. Help the little ones iron on the pieces. These could easily be put on purchased placemats for a great holiday table setting, or put them together as a wall hanging. After adding on for a few years, it will be an irreplaceable memento of family dinners. Stitch the date on each year's grouping. Have each child sign their bird, too.



- Turkeys are the only breed of poultry native to the Western Hemisphere.
- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 45 million turkeys are cooked and eaten in the U.S. at Thanksgiving—that's one sixth of all turkeys sold in the U.S. each year.
- The turkey is actually a type of pheasant.
- 91 per cent of Americans eat turkey at Thanksgiving.

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@netzero.com** no later than the **4th** of each month.