

The Scrapbag Rag

The Official Newsletter of the Blue Valley Quilt Guild

October 2015 Issue

Greetings, October has finally arrived, my favorite month of the year. Leaves turning bright, lovely colors;, sweaters getting pulled out of the trunk; hot apple cider, or hot cocoa while. quilts are getting put on the beds. When I was a kid it would have also brought the smell of burning leaves in the air.

I want to thank you for putting up with me as your president this past year. I can't tell you how nervous I was at the beginning, still get that knot in my stomach every third Monday. I want to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful board member, past presidents and follow members of the guild for all the help along the way this year. We have an outstanding new board and I look forward to another wonderful year in the BVQG. Happy Fall and Many blessing to all of you, Bonnie

***** HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE BLUE VALLEY QUILT GUILD *****

A group of quilters got together 25 years ago, and started a club for the learning and enjoyment of quilting. Please come to a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. on October 19th. We'll have our potluck dinner first and continue with a fun and festive meeting, where our new Officers will be installed. Table service, drink and dessert will be provided.

Mystery Quilt Reveal



Online Quilt Database

Nebraska History Museum, 15th & P Streets, Lincoln, NE The Nebraska State Historical Society's collection of over 400 Nebraska quilts are now searchable and available for viewing on the web through an [online data base at nebraskahistory.pastperfect-online.com](http://nebraskahistory.pastperfect-online.com) Just type "quilt" into the search box to see all the items or enter more specific terms depending on your needs.

The International Quilt Study Center offers programming to educate and entertain. Various activities and events are available to all. Check it out at <http://www.quiltstudy.org/visit/programs>

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Cottonwood Quilt Guild (Elkhorn NE) is hosting a Quilt Show October 15 -17, 2015. The show will be held at the Lutheran Church of the Master, 1200 North 181st Court, Omaha NE. Look for our ad in the September/October edition of the Country Register for a \$1.00 off of admission coupon.

If you would please share the information about our show with your members, we would appreciate that. A flyer with show details is attached. Share the details with your members, post in your newsletter or web site.

You will find a link on our website all about our show. www.cottonwoodquilters.org. Thanks for helping out our guild. If we can publicize any event for your guild, please let us know.

Deb Herink



**Blue Valley Quilters
Treasurer's Report
September, 2015**

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Beginning Checkbook Balance | 08/31/15 | \$336.51 |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|

INCOME:

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Dues | 340.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | <u>340.00</u> |

EXPENSES:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Marilyn Varner--Newsletter copies | 19.40 |
| Quiltmaker Magazine Library Renewal | 22.00 |
| State Fair Prize--WQ Min HQ--Ann Bade | 25.00 |
| State Fair Prize--Sr Adult WQ Med--bobbie Crosby | <u>25.00</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 91.40 |

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|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Ending Checkbook Balance | 09/30/15 | 585.11 |
| Petty Cash | | 20.00 |
| Savings Account @ Cattle Bank | | 2,010.93 |
| TOTAL BALANCE | | <u>\$2,616.04</u> |

Lori Duffek, BVQG Treasurer

SILENT AUCTION

For the November 2015 meeting, we are planning a **Silent Auction as a fund raiser** for the Guild. We are asking each member to donate at least one item to be sold with all proceeds going to the Guild. Items to donate might include a completed project, fabric, patterns, books, quilting tools, kits, antique sewing items, or things that you feel another quilter/member would purchase.

Each item will have a bid sheet, with minimum increase in each bid. You will be able to bid before the meeting, and during the break, with the item going home with the highest bid at the end of the November meeting. You can bring your items to the Oct. meeting, or bring early to the November meeting or leave with Mona or Lori before that time.

It is time to think about Christmas shopping, restocking your stash, or a purchase to support your guild. If you choose not to donate items, please consider making a cash donation, and be prepared to bid on items for sale. Remember all the proceeds are going to the guild to provide for interesting programs and speakers. Thank you for your generous support.

Gaining Satisfaction - ways to make more gratifying quilts

Dorothy Heidemann-Nelson - Quilt talk for BVQG - Sep 21

Here are the results of BVQG data taken during the talk: Data based on the 42 people in attendance at the September 21, 2015 meeting and estimates of their spontaneous answers.

What size/kind of quilt do you make?

- 50% mostly functional bed quilts
- 30% mostly functional small quilts (throws and juveniles)
- 20 % mostly non-functional quilts that aren't typically washed (wall quilts and art quilts)

So most (80%) of us present at the BVQG meeting are making mostly functional quilts that keep people warm rather than ones that decorate our walls. That's good. We have a lot of cold weather in Nebraska!

What was the distribution of quilts by types at the 2015 NSF?

- 55% functional (bed, throw, juvenile)
- 35% non-functional but conventional (wall quilts)
- 10% "art quilts"

The distribution of quilt types exhibited at the 2015 NSF was probably a little different from the distribution of quilt types most Nebraska quiltmakers make. Most of us probably choose more often to make functional quilts that we share with those we love rather than quilts to hang on the wall. Not a bad thing for sure!

Where do we buy our fabric?

- 54% buy it within 25 miles of the Seward Civic Center
- 20% buy it on shop-hops
- 26% buy it on line

Here I put in a plug - please support your local home owned stores whenever you can!

What amounts do you typically buy of each piece of fabric?

- 10% most often buy fat quarters
- 63% usually buy around a yard
- 27% usually buy more than a yard

And many in the room agreed that when material was half price they usually bought double what they normally would have purchased which really is a funny way of saving money!

How many of you know what you are going to do with the fabric at the time you buy it?

- 34% yes - they have specific ideas
- 66% no - often not a clue ---One person shared with me that she thought that was something that really mystified non-quilter but as she put it, it's just the way most of us quilters do it and we don't even apologize about it!

How long do you typically keep fabric before using it?

- 5% - within 6 months
- 2% - within 2 years
- 33% - within 4 years
- 60% - within 10 years - evidence that we all plan on living a good deal longer!

Do you ever consider fabric as "expired"?

50% - yes - Color palates do change over time. Also, the types of quilts we choose to make.

How many of you pre-wash your fabrics versus use "as is"?

- 30% pre-wash (that includes me even though most of my quilts are now non-functional)
- 70% use "as is"

Survey Continued

What quilting methods do you use?

- 24% hand quilt - this includes both people that like to hand quilt and people that do mostly hand quilting
- 36% machine quilt - doing it themselves
- 30% do some of both hand and machine quilting
- 10% use a commercial quilter

I am in the ranks of someone that still loves to hand quilt, but I don't do that much of it any more. Part of that is because of time involved and part is because I get a different look with machine quilting that I can't get with hand quilting. I've really become intrigued by thread painting in the last year.

How does this compare with the 2015 NSF quilts?

- 8% were hand quilted (44 out of 548 total quilts not counting Best in County division)
- 63% were 1-person quilts with 12% of those being hand quilted (42 quilts out of the 345 1-person quilts)
- 37% were multi-person quilts (203 out of 548 total quilts) with 32% (177 out of 548) being commercially quilted

Today, well-done machine quilted quilts are just as competitive in shows as well-done hand quilted quilts. But most people who like to compete in top prizes at Fairs and Shows usually machine quilt their quilts, whether they do it themselves or pay to have it done. There is no question that you can make more quilts faster with machine quilting. And there are tons of people that now own long-arm machines for their personal use. Plus, many people use their regular machine for machine quilting.

Hand quilting is still highly respected by all quilters. Unlike today's quiltmakers, many people who are not quiltmakers often do not recognize that machine quilting is a well-respected art in itself.

As hand quilting becomes less popular, the average level of skill we often see in hand quilting diminishes - so that provides a great competitive opportunity for good hand quilters who like to exhibit their quilts!

Important lessons learned from the night:

We are more alike as a group than different.

We may make different kinds of quilts but we definitely all share the same love of working with fabric and recognize that our quilts, regardless of type, are a form of art. Some people may be too modest to openly admit to that, but I hope they leave our meetings knowing that their quilts are indeed art and should be cherished. It's a legacy we can leave for the future.

We all really love to buy fabric and agree that while the logic in our fabric purchases doesn't always make sense to those who aren't quiltmakers, it makes perfect sense to us.

We can all identify things we do well and things we could learn to improve upon.

My hope is that we all left the meeting on Sep 21th with a feeling of pride about our accomplishments and a challenge of identifying perhaps one thing in our quilting that we can focus on improving over the next year.

Many thanks for your participation and enthusiasm. I think the numbers are fascinating! Dorothy

October 9 & 10, 2015 Buffalo County Fairgrounds Expo Building
3807 Avenue N • Kearney, NE

Quilted Chronicles by Katy Baatz Coleman

Katy Coleman will present "Quilted Chronicles" at the 2015 Thread Across Nebraska Event.

Quilts are records of special events, big or small, for ourselves and those we love. They are fabric chronicles of our lives. And so it is that Katy Baatz Coleman is immersed in the art and craft of quilting. She invites you to share in this adventure through classes, lectures and exhibitions of her quilts. From Seward, Nebraska, Katy is a mother, grandmother and mortgage loan administrator who tries her best to make time for quilting every day. Katy will be at the show both days to show her quilts and share her "Quilted Chronicle". Plan to take some time and visit with Katy and see this exciting exhibition while you are at Threads Across in Nebraska.

Happy Birthday BVQG Members

October Birthdays

- Sheila Beins 16th
- Gretchen Gebhardt 15th
- Maralee Meyer 12th
- Diane Swartzlander 12th



Paul Sorenson from Creative Sewing, care and maintenance check list

Cleaning:

Spool pins (use WD-40), feed dogs, bobbin case, hook, needle bar linkage, hook & feed drive linkage, outer housings and covers.

Oiling, Grease:

Hook, needle bar, gears, grease metal to metal gears. Use only good quality sewing machine oil. DO NOT use 3 in 1 oil. Do not over oil

Troubleshooting:

Thread loose or looping on bottom of fabric: Set tension dial on normal, re-thread machine, keep tension on thread as you are pilling it through the guiles, check tension with tension release (presser foot up, loose—presser foot down, tight), change needle, clean tension assembly

Thread loose or looping on top of fabric: set tension dial on normal, re-thread bobbin, re-thread machine, change needle, clean bobbin case

Fabric not feeding properly: set presser foot pressure on normal setting, check to see if correct presser foot for fabric and stitch type, raise feed dog

Skipping stitches: change needle, be sure right type and size of needle for fabric and stitch type, re-thread, Use good quality needles and thread.

September Meeting Minutes

The Blue Valley Quilt Guild met on Sept 21, 2015 at the Seward Civic Center at 7 pm. President, Bonnie McMann, called the meeting to order with 37 members and one guest, Vanetta Schroeder present.

Birthday Quilters were recognized with the singing of "Happy Birthday" and a fat quarter for each.

Linda Reisberg introduced the program for the evening. Dorothy Heidemann-Nelson gave the presentation "**Gaining Satisfaction - ways to make more gratifying quilts**". Thank you for a fun evening, Dorothy.

Thank you to Cindy Milligan and Judy Frerichs for the refreshments

The Guild will hold the annual Potluck Supper at 6:30 at the October meeting. We will also be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Guild. Past Presidents and members are invited to attend. Presidents are asked to bring their President's quilts, tops or blocks.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved as printed in the newsletter. Please pay \$20 dues ASAP and before the end of the year, so you are sure to make it into the Yearbook for 2016.

The slate of Officer Candidates were voted in as follows= Co-Presidents: Lori Duffek & Mona Kunasek, Vice President: Katy Coleman; Treasurer: Cindy Milligan and Secretary: Laurie Rouse.

Volunteers for Committees: Planning: Lori Duffek, Jeanie Hecker, Linda Riesberg. Quilt Show Coordinator: Becky Wallroff; County Fair Superintendents: Susan Minchow, Maralee Meyer; Librarians: Shirley Schluckebier, Carol Isaac; Discover NE: Sheila Beins; Star Fair Contact: Dorothy Heidemann-Nelson.

Dorothy Heidemann-Nelson reported that there were 597 quilts at the State Fair.

Susan Michow thanked everyone who helped at the County Fair. She is working hard to get more space to display the quilts next year.

A thank you note was read from Maralee Meyer, who received a County Fair award, sponsored by the Guild.

Sarah Wunderlich revealed the Mystery Quilt pattern. Sarah, Lori Duffek and Cindy Milligan all showed their projects.

PhD winners will be drawn in November. Thank you to Linda Riesberg for the extra nice basket she donated for FIRST PRIZE.

Show and Tell was held and meeting was adjourned.

Mona Kunasek, Secretary

Blue Valley Quilt Guild
PO Box 142
Seward, NE 68434

Find us on the web at:
Blue-valley-quilters.tripod.com

BVQG Board of Directors

President: Bonnie McMann
Vice President: Sarah Wunderlich
Secretary: Mona Kunasek
Treasurer: Lori Duffek
Non Voting Assistance Provided By:
Past President/Advisor: Gretchen Gebhardt
Library Coordinator: Shirley Schluckebier and Carol Isaac
Program Committee: Lori Duffek, Linda Reisberg, Jeanne Hecker
County Fair Liaison: Susan Minchow
Newsletter Editor: Becky Wallroff
Webmaster: Becky Wallroff

Remember to bring:

- Potluck food
- Nametag
- Show and Tell
- A happy smile
- A positive attitude

General meeting is held the third Monday of each month, excepting December, at the Seward Civic Center (lower level) at 7:00 PM. Board Meeting is held the first Monday of every month or as decided by board. Any member may attend. Contact any board member for time, date, location. Any interested quilt maker or quilt lover is encouraged to attend a meeting as our guest!

