

BLUE VALLEY
 QUILT GUILD
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The Scrappbag Rag

The Official Newsletter of the Blue Valley Quilt Guild

Seward, Saline, Lancaster & Butler Counties, Nebraska

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Regular Features

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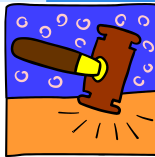
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February 15 Meeting & Program

A trio of quilters from Ord, Nebraska will be guests of Gen Kusek and the Blue Valley Quilt Guild at our February 14th meeting. Sharon Foth and Mary Lou Koll will present several quilts along with speaker Jo Felker, who will be sharing her experience with the use of "the Cotton Theory" by Betty Cotton.

Unlike traditional quilts which are pieced together, layered with batting and then quilted, Cotton Theory projects are quilted first, one segment at a time, and then assembled using Betty Cotton's fold-and-finish method. Come here more about this interesting technique, and stick around for the Friendship Block Exchange, news of the annual challenge, Show-and-Tell and lots of other goodies! See you there!



Snow Day

by guest columnist Katy

I've a new snow shovel. It looks like the front end of a bulldozer, but it's plastic with a metal blade attached, so I feel powerful and capable as I head outdoors to conquer the white desert. Working my way down the front steps, I notice that the snow closest to the concrete has already started to melt, thanks to the salt I sprinkled the night before. I scoop and toss, scoop and toss till I reach the sidewalk where some phantom with a snow blower has blazed a trail down the whole west side of the street. Carefully removing the snow blanketing the brick walkway from the sidewalk to the street, I smile as I remember the summer before when my son sat with bags of sand and a trowel and patted the bricks into this jigsaw puzzle.

To the backyard I go, realizing quickly that there is no graceful way to carry this snow shovel with its angled handle, so I drag it through the unblemished expanse of snow in the side yard which even the birds have been too reverent to mar. There is something elevating about being the first to put down prints in new snow, especially this powdery, twinkling variety. The 9-year-old in me aches to escape the middle-aged packaging and go sailing down

(Continued on page 3)



Your Board At Work

Blue Valley Quilters Guild Board Meeting
Monday, February 1, 2010 5:45
Toast Coffee Shop, Fallbrook



Officers Diane Swartzlander, President; Joanne Neeley, Vice President; Pat Parrott, Secretary; and Lori Duffek, Treasurer attended the meeting.

- Maralee Meyer requested the Board set a date for Bonnie Kucera's September workshop as Bonnie preferred not to do the workshop the same day she was doing her presentation at the Guild meeting. The date for the workshop will be September 25.
- Pat Parrott will update the 2010 calendar/yearbook after receiving membership list from Lori and template from Katy Coleman. Marilyn Varner will copy and assemble.
- Monthly program committees and a nominating committee will be selected at the next Board meeting. All members will be participating.
- The 2010 bus trip will be June 5.
- February Guild meeting:
 - Gen Kusek program chair
 - Members will be asked to commit to completion of their 2010 UFO's.
 - The "Color Purple" challenge quilt fabric and instructions will be available.

Gretchen Gebhardt will let members know what they need to bring for the March meeting work night..

Meeting adjourned at 6:45. The next Board meeting will be held March 1 at 5:45 at Toast Coffee Shop.

Pat Parrott

Secretary

Media Review

by Dorothy Heidemann Nelson

Electric Quilt 6

Computer Quilt Design Software

EQ6 is the most recent update for the quilt design computer software by the Electric Quilt Company. This software package retails for about \$150 and requires XP or Vista and internet connection for the 4 activations included. It will run on Macs through Virtual PC or Parallels (XP or Vista version).

The software enables the user to design quilts, draw blocks, scan in fabrics or select from over 20,000 blocks, fabrics, colors and border options contained in the software library. Once the block has been chosen, multiple color and layout options can be applied. This can be a real plus for making decisions in the quilt planning stages.

The software is quite user-friendly but without frequent use, it's equally easy to forget how to apply the many details required especially if you are creating blocks not in the library. This is a problem since most of us don't design a new quilt on a daily basis! I purchased the software about a year ago. I've used it a lot and I would purchase it again. But I would be the first to confess that I always need the User Manual beside me.

I took two EQ6 classes at 2009 Quilt NE. Both were taught by Andrea Bishop of Electric Quilt Company You've probably seen her on The Quilting Arts TV program. She is a great teacher. The training gained in these classes was a good investment.





Blue Valley Quilters
Treasurer's Report
January 2010

Beginning Checkbook Balance	12/31/2009	\$5152.32
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INCOME:

Dues—2010	\$120.00
Quilt Show Vendors (4)	<u>200.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$320.00

EXPENSES:

Sheila Green (Jan Program & Mileage)	87.40
Marilyn Varner—Copies & Postage	13.56
NE Revenue Dpt (Sales tax)	34.03
IMT 2010 Insurance Policy	<u>200.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$334.99

Ending Checkbook Balance	1/31/2010	5,137.33
Petty Cash		<u>20.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	12/31/2009	<u>\$5,157.33</u>

2010 Quilt Show Balance	2,102.23
Remaining Guild Balance	<u>3,055.10</u>
	<u>\$5,157.33</u>

Lori Duffek,
BVQG Treasurer



(Continued from page 1)

the neighborhood hill on an old-fashioned sled. But the homeowner in me wins as I continue the project of driveway clearing and back sidewalk manicuring. The dog has made the back yard into a maze of paw print trails, each leading everywhere and nowhere, to the limits of the fence on all four sides.

On a whim, I grab the broom. The lord of our manor went to work this morning in my car while I had a day off. His truck remains parked in front of the house, now under a deep frosting of crystals. The broom and I push and scrape and flourish the snow off the roof, windshield and hood of the truck until now I too am frosted. I brush off the sprinkles at the bottom of the stoop, sending thousands of tiny prayers sparkling into the morning sky.

Inside, I am warm again, but I don't really remember being cold. The frost tracings on the front porch windows tell me it is still below zero outside. I snap a few pictures of the tracings backed by the nine foot fir tree. This beautiful and solid blue spruce was a four inch seedling when my son planted it over twenty years ago. It's a good day. Later I will work on a quilt, call my mom for a nice long phone visit and bake brownies. But for now, I'll sing psalms in my head to the Creator of this gift of winter.

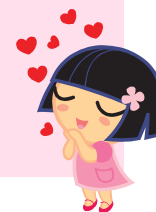
Happy Birthday to You!

February Birthdays

Gen Kusek	February 2
Kim Piitz	February 7
Marian Fosler	February 17
Opal Bowmaster	February 21
Eileen Meyer	February 28
Joanne Neeley	February 28

March Birthdays

Katy Coleman	March 12
Jan Stehlik	March 15
Lillian Beckler	March 20
DeElda Herschberger	March 25



Hostesses for
the
February
meeting are
Jeanie Hecker
and Barbara
Pike

FabriCamp -- April 16-18, 2010
with Terry Clothier Thompson

Interested in learning more about the dates and origins of your quilts and those of your family and friends? A 3-day weekend class is now forming to learn how to date and understand vintage quilts and clothing. The instructor, Terry Clothier Thompson of Lawrence, Kansas, will bring her large collection of teaching quilts, tops, blocks, vintage clothing, and fabrics. This is a unique opportunity to learn more about your quilts, to identify their dates of construction and their social and political history. For enrollment information contact: Kathy Moore in Lincoln at 402-488-5620 or kathy-moore@neb.rr.com. (Cost – to be determined - \$150-\$225)

Enrollment Deadline: February 1, 2010

Friendship Block of the Month

The friendship block for February is a 6 1/2" unfinished block in your choice of technique, that features a heart theme in some way. Use your imagination and bring one or more blocks to the February meeting, and enter your name in the drawing once for each block you bring!



January Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 18, 2010
Blue Valley Quilters Guild Meeting
Seward Civic Center
6th & Bradford, Seward, NE

Sheila Green shares one of her "Discover Nebraska" quilts—a teaching tool for Nebraska schools.



The January meeting of the Blue Valley Quilters Guild was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Diane Swartzlander.

Elaine Nielsen introduced the evening's speaker, Sheila Greene, who presented a program on "Discover Nebraska", a program presented to local school children relating quilts to the history of Nebraska. She also announced that March 20 will be a free day at the International Quilt Study Center sponsored by the Lincoln Quilters Guild.

The November minutes and treasurer's report were approved as printed in the newsletter.

January birthdays were recognized with members receiving a "fat quarter" as a gift and the door prize drawing was held. Those members forgetting to wear their name tag to the meeting were asked to share their "favorite snow memory" with the group. Gen Kusek was the winner of the January snow themed friendship blocks.

Sheila Beins passed out a questionnaire for input on where and when members would like to go on this year's bus trip.

Sheila Beins (along with Connie Phillips and Becky Reisinger) announced that they are going to start a "Discover Nebraska" group to take the program to local schools. The meeting will be held February 8 at 5:30 at her home.

Barbara Pike and Kriss Moulds announced a "Fabric Camp" will be held April 16-18. The camp will cost approximately \$130 depending on the number of attendees and quilt and fabric identification will be taught by Terry Clothier Thompson of Lawrence, Kansas.

Announcements:

--Quilt Show & Auction in Colona, Iowa will be held 4/22 - 24.

--Creative Quilters Guild has requested an 8" quilt square with our guild name be sent to them by February 25 for the Ellis County Quilt show in Texas to be held 7/16-17.. Lori Duffek volunteered to do this.

--Guild insurance papers have been signed for the upcoming year.

--A Round Robin quilt will not be started this year.

--UFO's are due next month.

--The challenge theme for this year will be the "Color Purple".

Marsha Cieslik gave a report on the upcoming quilt show. Publicity has been started. Currently four vendors have signed up and there is a possibility of having one additional.

They will be checking with the group that handled the food previously to see if they want to do it again. Marilyn Varner and Jean Jones will be laying out the quilt blocks for the raffle quilt during the upcoming weekend.

Members of small groups were asked to share information about their groups, when they meet and if they are accepting new members.

"Wandering Threads" - a show and tell group with approximately 13 or 14 members. They are at their maximum membership. (Phyllis Hronik)

"Babes Back Alley Bunch" meets 2nd Wednesday from 6:30 - 8:00. New members welcome. (Kriss Moulds)

Show & Tell group meet 2nd Sunday 1:30 - 3:00 (Barbara Pike)

Johnson Babes - rent house annually in fall at Johnson Lake to quilt. (Diane Swartzlander)

"Stitch n Bitch" four members meet to sew together (Jeannie Hecker)

Lori Duffek would like to start a group in the Lincoln area and anyone interested should contact her.

The friendship block for February will have a heart theme.

The meeting was adjourned and Show & Tell was held.

Pat Parrott

Bonnie McMann at Show- and-Tell.

Secretary



ANNUAL BLUE VALLEY BUS TRIP

Plans are being paid for this year's bus trip. The plan is to visit several stores around Des Moines. I hope to have more details at the February meeting. We will have a sign up sheet. At this point, I don't know what the cost will be. But - it won't be more than \$45 for members of BVQG.

Reserve the date - JUNE 5th.

NOTE: For those with great memories, yes, it usually has been in April. BUT - to avoid competition with our Nebraska Independent Fabric Stores Shop Hop, we are changing the date. This way we can all enjoy that shop hop and give our checkbooks a month to recover.



Upcoming Events

Discover Nebraska !

Notice to BVQG members:

There will be a meeting to make plans for our Discover Nebraska presentations. Anyone who is interested in helping should come. All are welcome!!

We will meet on Monday, February 8th at 5:30 at Sheila's house, 903 N 6th St in Seward. Hope to see you there.

- Sheila Beins



Now thru March 28th *The Linda Carlson Four-Block Quilt Collection*
IQSC&M
1523 N 33rd
Lincoln, NE 68583

Blue Valley Quilt Guild

PO Box 142

Seward, NE 68434

We're on the web!

blue-valley-quilters.tripod.com

BVQG Board of Directors

President—Diane Swartzlander

Vice President—Joanne Neeley

Secretary—Pat Parrott

Treasurer—Lori Duffek

Non-Voting Assistance provided by:

Past President/Advisor—Mary Robbins

Library Coordinator—Gloria Bell

Program Committee—Membership

County Fair Liaison—Sheila Beins

Newsletter—Katy Coleman

Webmaster—Becky Wallroff

Programs—Elaine Nielsen, Marian Fosler, Jean Jones,
Becky Reisinger and Kim Piitz

Don't forget to bring:

Nametag

Show and Tell

Friendship Block

General meeting is held the third Monday of every month except December in the Seward Civic Center lower level at 7:00 PM.

Board Meeting is held the first Monday of every month.

Any interested quilter in the Blue Valley area is encouraged to attend a meeting as our guest!

