

Circle in the Square Quilters

May 2021

Volume 37, Issue 2



May Meeting - Tuesday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom



Textiles and the Tokaido Road

Join us as we welcome Maggie Weiss for our May virtual meeting.

If you missed last month's speaker, make sure you don't miss our upcoming May speaker who will feature Japanese quilts. A benefit of the pandemic has been our ability to have nationally known quilt experts make presentations for our guild. Travel expenses would be prohibitive for us. But watching a presentation over Zoom puts the whole world at our fingertips with a few clicks on our computer to watch a Zoom presentation. So don't miss our May meeting. Just as you bring a friend to our in-person guild meetings, you may invite a friend or relative who loves quilts to join us.

We can't say anything better than what Maggie says in the [bio on her website](#), "For as long as I can remember, I have loved fabric, texture, and creating things." Maggie will talk with us about traveling in Japan in 2018 and visiting esteemed textile artists, establishments, and towns with "Textiles and the Tokaido Road." She lives in Evanston, Illinois and is good friends with CSQ member, Clara Asnes. Her website is:

www.maggieweiss.com.

Mystery Quilt

Are you playing along? The first two Mystery Quilt clues have been revealed. Here are a couple of very different color palettes guild members have selected for their quilts. If you need to get caught up and don't have the clues, please contact Marilyn Raphael at marilyn.raaphael@yahoo.com



Message from the President

At this time of year, working outdoors always seems so important to me—getting a jump on the weeds, planting flowers, and getting vegetables in the ground at our community garden top my list. I also hope to find time for quilting. I am delighted to say that I had a wonderful time in my sewing room this weekend and managed to finish Clue 2 in our guild's mystery project. I think it helped me a lot to find fabrics I really liked, ones that felt like spring, in my own stash! I hate to think of how long I have owned the background fabric and am so pleased that it is being used for this project. I plan to make it as a baby quilt and donate it to Operation Shower. I look forward to seeing the results of our different fabric choices and hope you will consider joining this group project (if you have not already done so).

I have been enjoying our virtual guild meetings. They have provided opportunities for us to learn from speakers from across the country and to explore topics we might not be able to explore in person. I am particularly looking forward to hearing our May speaker, Maggie Weiss, discuss Japanese quilts. Gwen has been wonderfully tenacious in finding and scheduling these speakers.

I know we all look forward to being able to see one another in person, safely. At present, the church restricts gatherings to 10 people, with both masks and social distancing required. At our last meeting, the council decided that it would be prudent to plan for another virtual meeting in July and to hope to gather in person outdoors for our September meeting when an outdoor gathering should be more pleasant.

Happy spring to all,

Carol

CSQ Council 2020-2021

Carol Peck, President

Gwen Clopton,
Vice-President

Betsy Sweeney,
Treasurer

Peggy Harris, Recording
Secretary

Joyce Johnson,
Corresponding Secretary

Lou Kaufman,
Membership

Betsy Sweeney, Charity
Quilts

Gwen Clopton, Website
& Quintessential Quilt
Show

Joyce Johnson, Raffle
Quilt

Marilyn Rafael, Mystery
Quilt

Laura Falk, Newsletter

2021 Raffle Quilt

Thanks to everyone for adopting Dear Jane blocks for our 2021 raffle quilt. Of the 225 blocks in the quilt, 117 have been turned in and 55 are out with members. Of the 52 left to be adopted 4 are applique, 25 are mixed method and 22 are pieced.

The blocks are available at Kim Donermeyer's front porch: 208 E. Jackson Road, Webster Groves, 63119. Please also drop your finished blocks off at Kim's house. There is a binder there so you can sign out your blocks, and a blue bag where you can place your completed blocks. Please contact me if you have any questions: Joyce Johnson (joyce.starr.johnson@gmail.com or 636-288-3681).

Field House Museum Needs Quilts for Exhibition

The Field House Museum, a small historic house and history museum in downtown St. Louis is planning an exhibit on the history of quilting, which will feature a mixture of quilts from their collection and quilts loaned from other sources. There are a few specific types of quilts they are seeking for the duration of the exhibit (July 1 to Oct. 25):

- A quilt made in the 1950s or '60s
- A quilt made in the 1970s (for the section of the exhibit about the American quilting revival of the '70s)
- An American bicentennial quilt
- A protest/activism quilt
- A quilt we can put on a table for visitors/kids to touch

If you are interested, please call Lea Konczol at 469-682-5637. For more information on the museum itself, visit fieldhousemuseum.org

City Sewing Room - A place to learn, create and have fun

City Sewing Room, a non-profit co-op, was the recipient of fabric, books and notions recently donated by CSQ members. It was opened by Anne Stirnemann in 2015 but it was my first visit.

The space is bright and open with cutting tables, dress forms and a variety of sewing machines. Anne and her staff offer both sewing and quilting classes for all skill levels and ages. Classes include all needed supplies. Fabric, patterns, notions and buttons are available for sale as well. You can learn to quilt on a king size long arm or hire someone to do it for you.

Volunteers are needed in various capacities. If you'd like to share your talent and passion as an instructor, there are several options available. Please visit citysewingroom.com or contact Anne at 314-255-5857.

Charity Sharity will be relocating and partnering with City Sewing Room in May. As part of their opening, they will be having a FabricPaloosa May 15, 10-4 and May 16, 12-4. Pricing will be on a donation basis, whatever it's worth to you. Looks like a fun road trip for all our members, who'd like to join me?

-Marilyn Raphael 314-956-9037

Hours are Tues, Wed, Thur 12-8; Sat, Sun 12-4; Closed Mon and Fri.
6700 Arsenal St, St Louis 63139

March 16, 2021 CSQ Guild Meeting 16 participants

Carol Peck opened the meeting. Two guests were welcomed.

Gwen introduced our speaker Ellen Lindner of Adventure Quilter by noting the top ten things about Ellen. Her topic was Confessions of a Fabric Whisperer. Ellen started by talking about her adventures in cooking. She experimented by

using a new recipe, a new technique or a new gadget. While she focused on the end goal – dinner (her “Adventure Meals”) – she said that the process is still important.

She said that the same process could be applied to quilting. The process is valuable to the end result of learning something new. Try a new gadget, a new technique or a new recipe (quilt pattern). Even though other people have used those gadgets, techniques or patterns, if it is new to you, you are being creative. Only try to do one new thing at a time! Baby steps. Make small projects first – pillow or a tote bag. Don’t hurry. She stressed that you should listen to your fabrics – pay attention to them.

Her Construction Techniques:

- She is often inspired by nature. She will take a photo, put it in her computer then do heavy editing.
- She uses muslin as a base for her projects to give them structural support. She pins pieces of fabric to the muslin. When she is satisfied with the results, she uses tiny single dots of glue (Glue-Baste-It by Roxanne) where needed to hold the fabrics to the muslin, then takes them down carefully, assembles a quilt sandwich with batting and backing then free motion stitches the fabrics together. She does not sew around each individual piece of fabric unless she wants the stitching for a special effect.
- Her motto: Why use one fabric when twelve will do?
- She often uses jagged edge cutting which gives an irregular edge to the pieces. This is good for foliage. Scrunch fabric, then cut.
- She does raw edge collage which is a flexible design technique. No turning edges back, sewing seams or making paper pieced points.
- If your project just doesn’t seem to be working, listen to the fabric. Experiment.
- She will use small, fine prints for the background and larger visible plaids or patterns for the foreground.
- To make a wire, she will use embroidery floss.
- She has plenty of conversations with her quilt projects and will use black stitching, French knots, cross stitches and beads.
- When adding beads, she does not like exact, formal arrangement of beads. Therefore, what she does is paint some glue on the fabric then place a small number of beads – gently lets unglued beads fall off. The random placement is much more pleasing to the eye.

Ellen’s Tips:

- We recognize things by their shape, not their color, so Ellen says we have full artistic license to make familiar objects any color!
- When you go to the fabric store and you are picking out colored fabrics for a quilt, assemble the fabrics in the same proportion that you will use in the quilt. (Her example: white, orange and blue bolts of fabric. The quilt will have a white background, large sections of blue and small dots of orange. You should place a bolt of your white fabric down, then several bolts of your blues and finally, tuck a few fat quarters of your orange fabrics in between the blues. You will have a much better idea of how your final project will then look.
- If you are selecting a multi-colored fabric with a small print, colors can change on you when you are looking at it up close versus from across the room. Put that bolt of multi-colored fabric on the floor, then walk across the room and see color it will read.
- A way to alter the color of a fabric is to add one or two layers of tulle to it. Cut the tulle larger than the piece you want to cover, pin it well, stitch around the edge, then carefully use embroidery scissors to trim to proper size. Tulle is a useful tool. It is just a piece of plastic. It won’t unravel. It can create shadows of trees (may need 4 layers to get your desired effect.)
- She has used fabric paint to lighten a piece of fabric.
- Watercolor or Neocolor will work, especially if the quilt is an art quilt and will not be washed.
- In a scrap quilt, you are focused on value – the composition of using light and dark.
- If you make one mistake, make two more! Make it intentional!

- You don't need to exactly replicate the image in your photo. Her example, she had a photo of a scene by a river. Tall trees had long pine needles and she was originally planning to thread paint the needles. Instead, she used an airy fabric which gave the impression of foliage.
- Cropping. If you are using a photo, zoom in close to the subject. Try looking at various portions of the photo until you find one that is the most interesting to you. Art teachers often tell students that the subject should touch the edges on two sides. This helps to hold the viewer's interest.
- How little can I show and make it look like _____.
- If you make one change to your project, most likely you will need to make another.
- To add emphasis, she often places a double layer of stitching around the edges of small pieces. They don't need to overlap, but be slightly apart.
- Study and figure out what you don't like about the art quilt and take the time to change it!

Border Design:

- Not every quilt needs a border.
- You want your border to enhance the interior, not show it up and draw more attention.
- The border should relate to the interior.
- An inner border can use a contrasting color.
- Sometimes an irregular edge of your art quilt can be left as is. Don't square it up. Instead place it on a contrast fabric as a frame. In one example, she added a tiny black line binding for strong contrast.

Ellen has free tutorials, videos and several on-demand classes online on her website. www.adventurequilter.com

After our speaker did Q&A, Carol started our business meeting.

Marilyn Raphael is in charge of the guild's mystery quilt. The finished quilt will be a 48" square, which would be perfect for Operation Shower or add borders to make a larger quilt. There are squares, triangles, rectangles and flying geese in the pattern. She will send one set of pattern instructions each month for 6 months.

In May, our speaker will be Maggie Weiss who will talk about Japanese quilts. July will be a virtual meeting since there is uncertainty about whether we can gather safely in person.

September, we hope to gather outdoors in person. Rather than bringing a potluck dish to share, members should bring a brown bag meal. We are working on securing a space.

Newsletter deadline is Monday, April 26 by 5 pm. You may send photos, announcements, random thoughts, etc. although we reserve the right to edit random thoughts.

Kim is reviewing the Dear Jane blocks and will have an exact number of completed blocks, blocks that are still in member's hands and blocks that still need to be adopted.

Show and Tell. In addition to several gorgeous quilts, we were able to meet Joyce's exciting new puppy and see Carol's affectionate dog.

Carol adjourned meeting before 9 pm.

March 9, 2021 CSQ Council Board Meeting 6:30 pm on Zoom

Attending: Carol, Gwen, Betsy, Lou, Joyce, Laura, Peggy

Gwen told us about our speaker for May – Maggie Weiss, the Fabric Whisperer.

Discussion about July, September and October meetings. Most had reservations about July, suggesting that we play it by ear and possibly hold it outdoors. Covid restrictions may be lifted by September. Traditionally, we have had a

potluck in September, but it would be better for everyone to BYO. We should look into booking an outdoor pavilion or indoor space since many are already booked.

Mystery Quilt – Marilyn Raphael will lead it. Finished size will be 48” x 48” so it would be easy to make a baby quilt or add borders and have a lap quilt. There are only 5 clues, so if we start in March, members could finish their quilts by our October meeting.

Budget. Betsy said that our current bank balance is about \$4,500. She deposited another check today.

Membership. Lou said that last year, we had 39 paying members. So far this year, only 21 have paid dues. Discussion about giving a nudge to those who haven’t yet paid. Carol suggested that we allow those who are experiencing financial hardship to continue their membership in the guild. Lou will give Kim Donemeyer the list of unpaid members who are part of the hand piecing group and she can remind them to pay.

Lou asked if we could start some other activities such as a machine piecing group. Peggy offered to host a machine piecing group at her home once restrictions are lifted and people are vaccinated. No start date was set.

Lou also asked about holding a retreat. One of her former quilt guilds held a retreat at a hotel once a month starting Friday night through Saturday. Lou also said it would be fun to hold a longer retreat and stay for 4 days at a hotel. Others pointed out that the Quilted Fox has hosted retreats and Jackman’s has said they will host one this year. A thought after the meeting – hold the retreat at a nearby hotel so that if members couldn’t afford a hotel room could still come to sew and talk but sleep in their own homes.

Discussion about the new member questionnaire. Peggy suggested alternative language for questions 4 and 6:

4. Are there any quilting skills that you would like to improve? (i.e., such as sewing curves, paper piecing, etc.)

6. Please note your interest in joining any of the following guild activities:

Hand piecing group _____

Newsletter _____

Operation Baby Shower Charity quilts _____

Presenting a quilt skill or do a trunk show at a guild meeting _____

Programs _____

Quilt challenge _____

Quilt Show Tasks:

- Helping to assemble block kits _____
- Assemble completed blocks _____
- Binding _____
- Help plan layout for show display _____
- Show set up _____ breakdown _____

Quilts of Valor group _____

Teaching a quilt skill one-on-one or small group _____

Website _____

The group liked ideas. Joyce and Peggy related their negative experiences with other quilt guilds who were not friendly to new members. Both mentioned that members of CSQ were much friendlier.

Suggestion that as members check in at a meeting, the membership chair could ask if they would be willing to guide a new member at that meeting. The guide could then show the new member around and introduce to other members. We could create a database of skills that our members would be willing to share and perhaps the current member could meet informally with one or several new/current members. Peggy is willing to draw up a questionnaire and assemble the responses.

Discussion about holding a workshop on the Saturday before our 2022 quilt show opened on Sunday. Charge \$45 and that should cover expenses and also may attract new members.

Discussion about website security. Gwen stressed that she never puts any personal contact information on the website and has talked with a security expert to get tips to make our website more secure.

Newsletter. Due date to submit info for the newsletter by April 26. Email the newsletters during the last week of April or first week of May as reminder of the May speaker.

Meeting spaces. Discussion of options:

- Laura shared info about the Edge in Webster Groves with adequate space and parking.
- All Saints Church has a community room but it is not suitable.
- The Mid-County Library has meeting space. 3-hour rental is \$10. Must leave before the library closes at 9 pm.
- The Heights in Richmond Heights has multiple community rooms.
- St Roch's Church.

Membership list will be available at beginning of April. Gwen has experienced some snags getting PayPal set up, but is making progress.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Show and Tell



Marilyn Raphael: Baby quilt for her goddaughter's new baby - Marilyn showing the back of the quilt and Woods Charles (3 weeks old) showing off the front.



Operation Shower quilts: (Left) Made & quilted by **Kim Donermeyer**; (right) Made by **Pat Owoc** & quilted by **Nancy Kollmar**.



Left: **Nancy Kollmar** - "This is "Happy Memories" consists of 900 1" 4 patches. Machine quilted." Nancy said she was inspired by **Janis Friedman**'s postage stamp quilt (right).



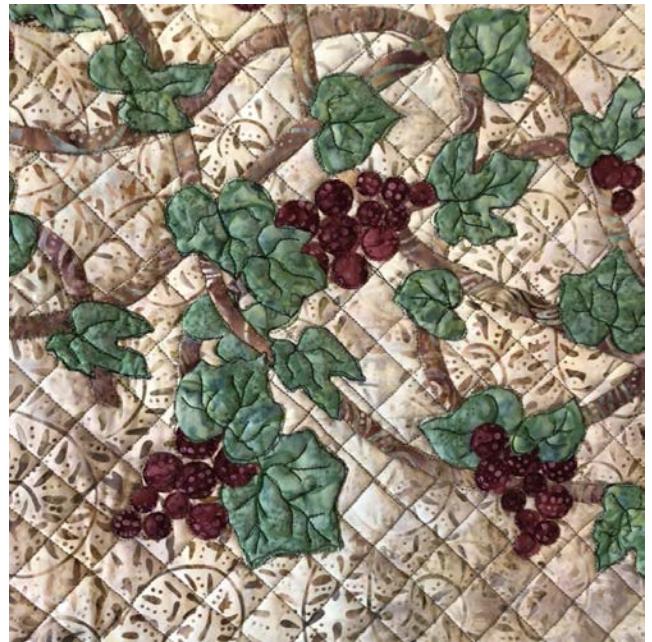
Nancy Kollmar: "For my 2nd great grandchild, Calla. I have done some machine quilting and will finish with hand quilting."



Joyce Johnson: Millefiori quilt; pattern by Willyene Hammerstein.



Joyce Johnson: "My daughter helped me pick out these fabrics 4 years ago. Took me awhile to get it finished - I still fear appliqué."





Star quilt pieced by **Laura Falk** & quilted by **Sandy Etheridge**



Laura Falk: Wall hanging



Peggy Harris: "My first attempt at modern quilting."



Nancy Kollmar: "Quilt is for the Tiny Homes for Homeless Vets project, to be located on Grand about 10 blocks north of Powell Hall."



Clara Asnes: Yukata Quilt features octagons cut from fabric designed to be made into summer kimono (yukata). I used only white designs on blue backgrounds. I've completed all 12 rows for the center. I didn't have enough unique fabrics, so I supplemented ~10 solid blue blocks with my own sashiko stitching with white cotton thread.



Operation Shower quilt



Quilts by **Carolyn Stoll**



Operation Shower quilt



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