

Centrestitch

Quilters Unlimited Centreville Chapter

From our President

Dear Quilters,

I often think that quilters should have been the people to invent software. Whenever I think I know all of the ways to perform some of the simple functions, I seem to learn another. I knew I could save this document as I wrote it using the Save button, using the Save function on the File menu, or by pressing a combination of the Control and the "S" keys. Today I learned that if I have more than one document open, I can also press Shift first and a new Save function appears on the File menu – Save All, which saves them all in one operation.

Quilters find new ways to be efficient and creative even faster and more regularly than software developers. I knew that to make half square triangles I could stitch along the diagonal sides of two triangles (which sometimes stretches the fabric), draw a line from corner to corner of two squares and stitch 1/4" away on each side (time consuming to draw all those lines), iron a square diagonally and stitch 1/4" away from the

fold (also time consuming to iron all those squares), put a line on the base of my machine or on the diagonal of the square with quilters masking tape (fairly efficient but can leave goo if you leave the tape on too long). Today I found my new favorite way – Lynette Jensen put a Post It note on the diagonal of the square and stitched 1/4" away from that. Fast, easy to move from one square to the next,

and no excess glue.

Learning from each other is one of the best aspects to our guild, for me. I think Patti has done a wonderful job of arranging workshops and I hope everyone has had, or will have,

a chance to take advantage of at least one this year. Jean has worked really hard on programs to bring people like Eileen Doughty in so we can look at quilts from a new point of view. (Eileen had some excellent new quilts I hadn't seen in previous trunk shows!). Now Jean has put together a bus trip for us in May to visit multiple quilt shops in one day, accompanied by food, games, and fun.

The annual QU meeting to elect new officers and amend by-laws will be May

4. They are looking for a treasurer among people with financial and tax experience; please consider it if you are interested or have time. Centreville elections are May 11. Volunteering, whether for big QU or our chapter, is based on a counterintuitive reality – as our chapter gets bigger, about the same number of people actually participate in meetings larger than a bee, so we still

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April 2006

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have only about the same size pool of volunteers to draw from. As QU forms new chapters and each one gets bigger, chapter activities satisfy needs which used to be filled by big QU, so there are fewer people who consider big QU jobs, instead of more. Signup forms for Sue Nickels' classes will be in the next big QU newsletter.

(Continued Page 2, Presidents Letter)

This month's meeting takes place on April 20th! The third Thursday of the month!!!

Centreville QU Needs You!!

We have a volunteer for the auction! It is Karen Hoss and she is a little nervous about the job but I assured her that there would be plenty of help as she undertakes this endeavor.

The Scrappy Sew 'n Sews have volunteered to be in charge of the Community Service projects! What a worthy endeavor and so appropriate for such generous ladies. We certainly have talented and giving members in our Centreville QU.

How about you? We all need to participate in taking on a job for the

Centreville QU. Your participation makes each endeavor a success. I'm sure you've learned in life, that the more involved you are, the more worthwhile and memorable the experiences are.

So, give me a call and let me know how you and your bee would like to help for next year.

My phone number is 703-675-9738. Be sure to leave a message because I rarely get the phone out of my purse in time to answer it.

Or you can email me at susanboyle@lycos.com.

I look forward to working with all of you next year!

Susan Boyle



We Can Do it. Color poster by J. Howard Miller

http://teachpol.tcnj.edu/amer_pol_hist/_use.htm



Jean Schachner has planned a bus shop hop for Saturday, May 6, 2006. The bus will be leaving from the parking lot in front of Glory Day Bar and Grill (around the corner) from the Artful Quilter, 13850 Braddock Road

Road Trip!!! Shop Hop!!! May 6th!!!

at 8:30am and returning at 4:30 pm. We will be going to the following quilt shops:

- [Kelly Ann's](#) - Warrenton, VA
- [The Little Quilt Shop](#) - Madison, VA
- [House of Fabric](#) - Front Royal, VA
- [The Artful Quilter](#) - Centreville,

VA

The cost is \$35.00 payable to CQU at the April 20th Chapter meeting.

You will need to bring - a lunch including a drink and a pair of old scissors.

If you have any questions email JeanSchachner@hotmail.com.

President's Letter (continued)

Retreat is coming up in April. Get your money in if you haven't already and start planning some exciting new quilt projects to accompany the fun and friendship. I've added a new section to the newsletter this month, to explain one aspect of Quilters Unlimited each month for new members. I spoke to someone this week who had been coming to

another chapter's meetings for 3 months and didn't know much about basics of the organization yet, and I got to thinking about how long it took me to figure this group out. This month is retreat. Let me know if you find this section useful.

Came across a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson today: "I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for

my friends, the old and the new."

Piecefully yours my friends,
Bonnie

If you are new to Quilters Unlimited...

You might not know what a “retreat” is. Retreat is a weekend of stitching with other chapter members, minus all usual responsibilities. A mini-vacation with the focus on quilting. Centreville QU plans two retreats a year, one in the fall, and one in the spring. Signups for the next retreat start the month after the last retreat, and require a \$50 deposit. We try to keep the cost as low as possible, so accommodations are comfortable but Spartan, and meals are very basic.

People going on retreat take their sewing machines, all the fabric they expect to need, patterns, tools, thread, etc. Some people bring their own sewing chairs, or extra cushions for the retreat chairs, extra lamps, or other setup items like anglers under their machine, to make their retreat

location as comfortable and productive as they are at home.

Packing and unpacking can seem like a major production, but the amount of stitching you accomplish in a weekend with no family interruptions, no meals to cook, no paperwork, housecleaning, errands, etc., is amazing. Some people are up and stitching by 6 a.m. Some people are stitching until 1 a.m., or 3 a.m., or 5a.m. Late morning and afternoon naps are a luxurious indulgence.

Visits to local quilt shops are common, and can be a remedy for forgetting tools or not enough fabric. Don't forget your pedal or power cord for your machine, however; that can totally change the direction of your weekend. I loved taking my new sewing machine on retreat, because I

had no choice but to learn how to use it, and Deb Dratch or Lisa Smith to help when I just couldn't get something to work. I've been very grateful for multiple eyes and suggestions when choosing colors. I've gone home more than once and started quilts based on inspirations I had over the retreat weekend.

Many of the 12 chapters of QU have at least one yearly retreat, some with workshops. Many bees have a yearly retreat, often for a full week. Some QU members run retreat locations, such as Jennifer Betar and Betty Dietz. Some cruises offer retreats with classes and nationally known teachers. I've always come home feeling creative, productive, and enriched.

Bonnie Wilbur

Cotton Pickers Bee Donates Quilt to Colin Powell School Auction

The Cotton Pickers Bee (Jean Klimek, Sara Stone, Mary Jane Meehan, Susan Catlett, Terri Klear, Susan Boyle, Linda Dyer, Moko Wharton & Marianne Stana) made a flannel quilt for the Colin Powell Elementary School Silent Auction. The fabric was donated by Jean Roop & the machine quilting was done by Patti Prevallet. Proceeds from the donation will benefit the CPES PTA.

Centreville Retreat! This Month!

The Centreville Spring Retreat is fast approaching....start packing those unfinished projects or getting organized with new projects. There will be 24 of us attending the retreat and we will be happy to show all of you what we did during the weekend when we get back.

Several people still owe balances of \$55.00. This balance will be due by the April 20th meeting. If you would like to mail it to me before then, please email me. Otherwise, please bring a check to the April meeting.

Mary Jane Meehan
mjmeehan1016@aol.com



The Delectable Mountains Quilt Guild invites YOU...

'The Delectable Mountains Quilt Guild in Berkeley Springs, WV, is now taking registrations for a week-end of quilting events featuring Jean Ray Laury, internationally known quilt artist.

'The quilting events begin on Friday May 5 at 7:30 p.m. with a lecture entitled 'My Life and Good Times as a Quilter.'

Saturday, May 6, Ms. Laury will conduct a workshop called 'Quick Printing,' a combination of stencil and silk screen printing.

The Sunday, May 7, workshop is

'Stamping on Fabric' which uses rubber stamps in a whole new way.

Ms. Laury is the author of numerous books, among them Stamping on Fabric, Imagery on Fabric, and No Dragons on My Quilt. She has been the featured artist on 'Simply Quilts' with Alex Anderson and most recently demonstrated 'Quick Printing' on that show. A resident of California, Ms. Laury prefers to teach on the West Coast, so this may be your only opportunity to take a workshop from her.

'Prices for these events are: Lecture, \$10; 'Quick Printing' workshop, \$82.00; 'Stamping on Fabric' workshop, \$78.00. Prices include supply kits. If both workshops are taken, the lecture fee is waived. You may register several ways: call Pat at 304-258-5580; email delectable-quilts@yahoo.com; or to use a credit card, call Acorns & Oaks, Quilts and More, 304-258-2277. Payment required at time of registration.'

Submitted by Marilyn Moser

CQU March 2006 Meeting Notes

President Bonnie Wilbur - Bonnie welcomed everyone at 7:35 pm.

Big QU News – Bonnie Wilbur

Quilt Show

Joyce Tobias introduced: Call for quilt show volunteers

Make hearts for fund raiser

Call for President's block

Quilt-In reminders: bring paper goods or soda.

Directions to venue provided.

Please bring coolers for icing the drinks.

Shop hop date: May 6.

Participating shops listed on hand-out.

Pack a lunch, bring an old pair of scissors.

CQU news

April meeting will meet the third Thursday.

April Redwork bee will meet at the Centreville library the fourth Thursday.

Workshops – Patti Prevallet

March 26 12-5pm: Carpenter's Star

April 9 12-5 pm: Sassy bags

Quilt Show – Connie Gallant and Bonnie Wilbur

Class brochures available

Quilt Collector – Barbara Williams's bee

Come to March 16 Redwork bee at C'ville library for QU sleeve demo

84 Applications submitted

Collected in May up to the June 2. Quilts to be in zippered bag.

Library Display – Deb Dratch and Jane Beaver

Display goes up 1st Monday in April

Fill out form, attach same to loan

Community Service – Adele Dillie absent

Donation fabric and batting available

Block of the Month – Merlene Lewis and Kathy Nagle

Four gift certificates of \$25 each to be awarded to sampler quilt top finishers (9 blocks set to qualify)

Drawing won by L. Kerr and D. Cogar

Membership – Jacqueline Lehman

Name tag drawing won by Margot Twohey

Nominating committee – Marianne Stanna for Susan Boyle

List of open offices circulated

Fat quarter drawing – Delia Cogar and Lin Kirk

Packets of greens won by 16 members

Polka dots and stripes for April

Introduction of new members

Show and Tell

Program – Jean Schachner:

Door prize

Eileen Doughty and art quilts

Respectfully submitted, Susan Haftel

Community Service

To pick up patterns for the baby caps, American Cancer Society recovery bags, and teddy bears, stop by and see me at a monthly meeting or email me at vaquilter@hotmail.com. For those making baby caps – thank you—and please carefully note the size. Fair Oaks Hospital advised us that some of the crocheted hats donated were too small for the preemies. I guess thankfully the babies are a little bigger than the adorable hats.

Community Service quilt sizes for:

- **Crib Quilts:** Approximately 36" x 36" (newborn), up to 40"x44" (toddlers to 6 years)
- **Compassion Quilts for Veterans** – size: 45"x60". Please remember our men and women vets at Walter Reed.

We collect labels from Campbell's foods to donate to Colin Powell Elementary School where we meet. If any member would like to donate their Giant register receipts to Colin Powell Elementary School, it would

be greatly appreciated. This can be done at the Giant stores or via their website.

Please remember when you bring any of these items to one of our meetings, to sign the "donations" master sheet with your name and what you have donated that evening and also fill out a slip for gift certificate drawings to be held at our June social.

Adele Dillie

Helpful Books in Our Library

Here are a few books that may help you to learn a new skill, or improve on one that you already have:

The Quilter's Guide to Rotary Cutting by Donna Poster: Inside you'll find useful rotary cutting techniques and equipment descriptions; directions for accurately cutting 30 basic shapes and their variations; six new quilt designs, including two for beginners; a special chapter aimed at the beginning quilter.

Happy Endings, Finishing the Edges of Your Quilt by Mimi Dietrich: Contains information on how to finish your quilt with or without binding; finishing your quilt with backing; finishing your quilt with special techniques such as prairie points, pleats and covered cording.

Mastering Machine Appliqué by Sue Nickels: Explore a sampler of machine appliqué techniques: how to do easy invisible appliqué, template and

starch appliqué and raw edge fusible appliqué.

Mastering Machine Appliqué by Harriet Hargrave: Easy exercises let you practice your new skills. Covers everything you need to get started, from sewing machine basics to satin stitch and more. Learn how to choose and use the right needles, threads, fusibles and stabilizers.

Machine quilting: A Primer of Techniques by Sue Nickels: All aspects of beginning machine quilting are covered including straight-line and free-motion machine techniques.

Fast & Fun Machine Quilting from Rodale Press: Packed with many tips, time saving tricks, and trouble shooting ideas. Learn how to tame machine tension troubles; handle big, bulky quilts; ways to use decorative threads; innovative marking methods and more.

To reserve a book email Chris White cwhite743@aol.com

Don't forget to visit our web site to see a listing of our books.
www.quiltersunlimited.org/docs/cvillelibrary.pdf

Membership Report

We have one new member this month: **Colleen Buchanan**

Be sure to give her a big welcome at our next meeting! We also had two renewals. Our total for 2005-2006 is 131 members. No new memberships will be taken in April. We will start renewals for 2006-2007 at the May meeting.

Congratulations to Margo Twohey our nametag drawing winner in March. Be sure to wear your nametag and put your name in the basket for a chance to win at our April meeting.

Jacqueline Lehman

| April | | | | | | |
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| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

| May | | | | | | |
|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

| June | | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

| July | | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

Fat Quarter Lotto Schedule

- April – stripes and polka dot
- May – Florals
- June – White Elephant (the FQ you can't wait to get rid of!)
- Sep – Americana
- Oct – Home Spun Plaids
- Nov – Batiks
- Dec – Christmas

Upcoming Events

April

- 4/9/06 CQU Workshop, 12pm - 5pm Centreville Library, Sassy Bags—spots are still open—contact Deb Cobb if you're interested in attending (deb@cobbsoft.com; 703-437-2025)
- 4/20 Centreville QU Chapter Meeting, 7:30pm Colin Powell Elementary School;** Mary Kerr will be speaking about Quilt restoration - "What's your Grandma's Garden Worth?"; Bring \$35 fee for Bus Shop Hop trip—May 6th.
- 4/20—4/22 “Pieces of Our Lives” 16th Biennial Guild Quilt Show Presented by the Faithful Circle Quilters. First Presbyterian Church of Howard County, Route 108, east of US29 Columbia, MD. More Info: Peg McClelland 410/465-1825
- 4/21 - 4/23 Friendship Star Quilters “Forever Friends” Quilt Show, Montgomery County Fairgrounds Home Arts Building, <http://www.friendshipstar.org/>
- 4/22 - 4/23 Mason Dixon Quilt Show, Hagerstown Community College, ARCC on Robinwood Drive, Hagerstown, MD.
- 4/22 - 6/4 Delectable Mountains Quilt Guild annual show and sale, each weekend April 22 - Jun 4. Located at the Ice House, corner of Mercer and Independence Streets, Berkeley Springs, WV
- 4/27 Redwork Bee, 7:00pm, Colin Powell Elementary School Cafeteria. Come one, come all! This Bee is open to all every month—and you don't have to do Redwork!**
- 4/28-4/30 Centreville Chapter Retreat, Contact Marianne Stana for info, mhstana@cox.net

May

- 5/6 8:30a - 4:30p Centreville Chapter BUS SHOP HOP!!! The bus will be leaving from the parking lot in front of Glory Day Bar and Grill (around the corner) from the Artful Quilter, 13850 Braddock Road. \$35 due at 4/20 meeting; Contact Jean Schachner with questions JeanSchachner@hotmail.com. Bring a Lunch and an old pair of scissors.
- 5/11 Centreville QU Chapter Meeting, 7:30pm Colin Powell Elementary School;** Barbara Zygiel - Quilting with Novelty Prints.
- 5/18 Redwork Bee, 7:00pm Colin Powell Elementary School Cafeteria. Come one, come all! This bee is open to all every month—and you don't have to do Redwork!

June

- 6/2 - 6/4 Quilters Unlimited Quilt Show,** Dulles Expo Center
- 6/16 Centreville QU Chapter Meeting, 7:30pm Colin Powell Elementary School;** Rose Rushbrooke - How to make a Fractal Quilt; Summer Social, those with names ending with M-Z, please bring food!

Need to add an event to the Calendar? Contact Deb Cobb. deb@cobbsoft.com

Block of the Month

March's Block of the Month was a great success. We had 36 Single Irish Chain blocks turned in and divided that into 2 stacks of 18. The winners were Delia Cogar and Lin Kirk. Congratulations to both of you!!!

April's block will be the peony block. You may use any color for the flower, not just pink, red or yellow, and you may use any method of appliqué as long as the edges of the appliqué are secured down. The leaves may go in either direction. Please don't stress over this block, there are

no "Y" seams to frustrate you. For the center of the flower, please use half square triangle squares of the same fabric. This will help with the illusion of diamonds when quilting.

Just a reminder, we will have four \$25 gift certificates to local quilt/fabric stores as prizes in a drawing for those who made samplers from this year's blocks of the month. The top needs to be completed with 9 of the blocks, but the quilt doesn't need to be finished. Merlene and I hope you will consider making a sampler. If

you don't want to keep it, you can finish it and turn it into Community Service as a baby quilt, soldier quilt, etc.

Any questions you can call Kathy at 540-785-9904 or e-mail her at kenagle@adelphia.net Merlene will be in North Carolina awaiting the birth of her first grandchild. We wish her and her family all the best.

Kathy Nagle & Merlene Lewis

Treasurer's Report: 2/9/06 - 3/8/06

| | <u>Debits</u> | <u>Credits</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Opening Balance (February 9,2006): | | | \$14,763.22 |
| Credits: | | | |
| Membership Dues 2005-2006 | | \$20.00 | |
| Magazine Subscriptions | | \$20.00 | |
| T-shirts | | \$63.00 | |
| Retreat | | \$540.00 | |
| Debits: | | | |
| Membership | \$169.85 | | |
| Programs | \$200.00 | | |
| Pins | \$40.00 | | |
| Magazine Subscriptions | \$10.00 | | |
| Retreat | \$129.29 | | |
| Library | \$36.75 | | |
| Community Service | \$19.69 | | |
| Social | \$66.40 | | |
| TOTALS: | \$671.98 | \$643.00 | |
| Balance as of March 8,2006: | | | \$14,734.24 |



April Block of the Month: A Peony for Spring

3 Fabric required:

Background: white, white on white, bleached muslin

Flower: bright yellow, pink, red, any color that a peony would be

Leaf & stem: scrap of green

Cutting Instructions:

Background Fabric: 2 - 3½" squares

1 - 8" square

1 - 3½" x 12½" rectangle

Flower Fabric: cut 1 - 8" square

2 - 4" squares

Leaf & Stem Green: 6½" x 7" piece

Step 1:

Layer white & flower 8" squares together, rst. Mark vertical & horizontal 4" squares, mark diagonals as shown. Sew ¼" both sides of diagonal lines. Cut on drawn lines to make 8 half-square triangle squares. Press to dark and trim to 3½".

Step 2:

Repeat with the two 4" flower squares. This step is needed to create the illusion of diamonds when quilted. Trim to 3½". Please do not use 3½" squares for this step. Sew together according to diagram making sure all diagonal lines are going in the same direction out from center of flower.

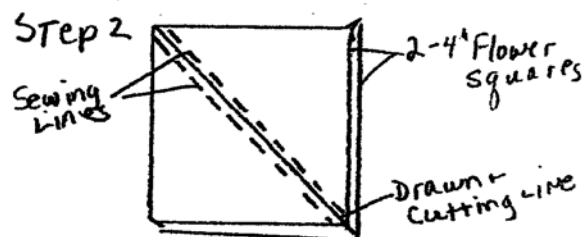
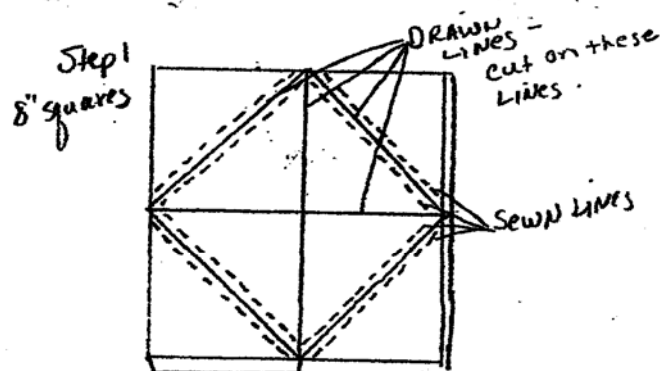
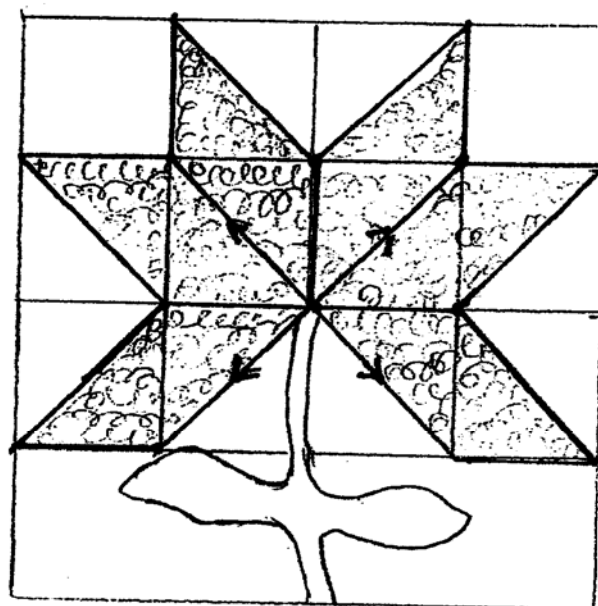
Leaf and Stem: (Pattern on page 9)

If you are hand appliquéing, please add 3/16" to ¼" seam allowance.

If you are using fusible, please make sure all raw edges are secured with stitching. Reverse pattern..

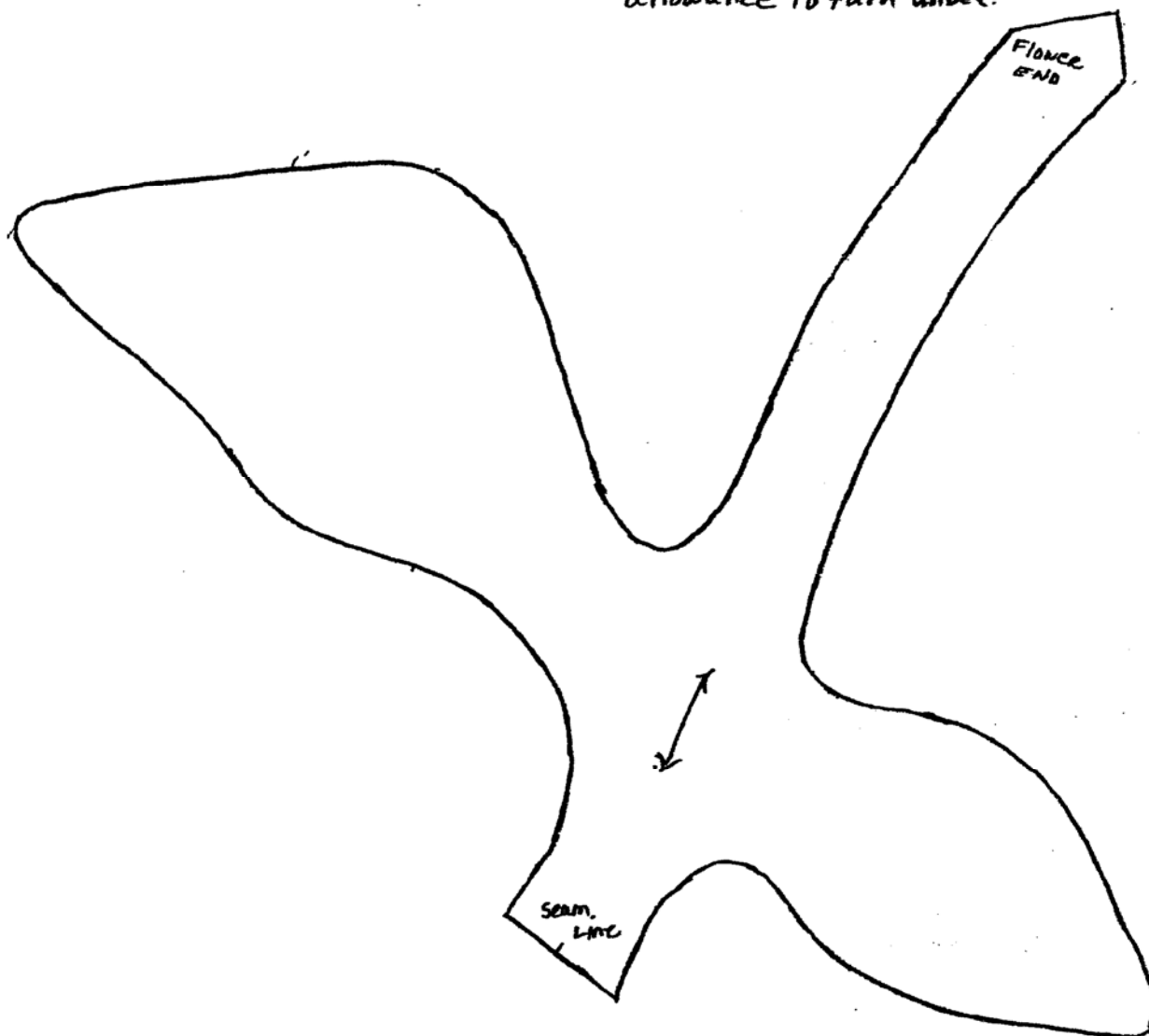
By doing this block this way, we have avoided having you do y-seams which can be a problem.

This block should finish at 12" or 12½" unfinished. Please contact Kathy Nagle at 540-785-9904 or e-mail me at kenagle@adelphia.net if you have any questions or problems.



BOM (continued)

FOR FUSIBLE - Reverse pattern
 FOR Hand applique - Do NOT Reverse - add $\frac{3}{16}$ " to $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance to turn under.



Mystery Quilt: Part 7

Borders: The last steps were given for joining sections together to make blocks and then assembling rows. The next stage is attaching the border of your choice. After attaching a narrow inner border of either background fabric or one of the colors in the quilt, you can then use scraps to make a border consisting of short strips or small blocks. Or, after attaching the narrow inner border, you might want to add a border in a print that complements the colors in the body of the quilt.

Show and Tell: Bring your finished tops to the June meeting. The names of those bringing in a finished top will be entered in a drawing for a prize.



**Quilters Unlimited
Centreville Chapter**



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