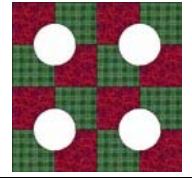


Pieceful Times



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NICE GIRLS DON'T GO TO TATTOO PARLORS

I was thrilled last year to see Carolyn Lynch's quilt "Sailor Jerry and the Rose Tattoo" at the QU Quilt Show. This quilt celebrates the tattoo designs, or "flashes," of a famous tattoo artist from WWII known as Sailor Jerry. Of course, the quilt does this with Carolyn's special brand of art and creativity that always makes me giggle and grin and send a special "salute" to a master who can find a wonderful quilt subject in such a unique art form. I also love those little tattoos you see on the women in the ads in our quilt magazines that state things like "I - heart - quilting" letting us all know what rebels these grandmothers/ mothers/ quilters are. I have a special place in my heart for these ads and Carolyn's quilt because I think they lend a little respectability to the art form of tattoos. This is kind of important to me because (dramatic pause) I have a tattoo.

How I came to have a tattoo is particularly remarkable when you consider that I was raised by a woman who was so strict that she wouldn't let me have or play with Barbies. (Barbie, with her hourglass figure and evening dresses to wear in daytime with pointy high heels was too slutty.) She also wouldn't allow me to have my ears pierced (nice girls didn't have holes

in their ears), and she had a meltdown on me when I came home from college one weekend at the age of 21 with pierced ears! So, you may ask yourselves, how did I come to have a tattoo? The answer is simple, perfectly understandable, and when I tell you, you'll wonder at yourselves for not thinking of it on your own -- IT WAS MY HUSBAND'S FAULT!!!!

Here's what happened. One day, my family and I were visiting my sister and her family at their home in Lewes, Delaware. My sister and I were at the kitchen table having a cup of coffee, when my niece came in the door from college, sporting a tattoo on her shoulder blade. She was at ODU on a hockey scholarship, and apparently the whole team had gotten tattoos. My sister asked me what I thought of it. My first instinct was to ask to be present when Grandma got to see it for the first time (see paragraph above). We both snickered at that one and argued over who would get to tell Grandma the good news. I then allowed -- casually -- as how I'd always wanted a little tattoo. My sister admitted that she had always secretly wanted one too. Just at that moment our husbands came in from a game of golf. They overheard our conversation, and to this day I don't know whose husband said what, but one of them said, "You are not going to get a tattoo!" and the other one said, "I strictly forbid it!"

What else could we do? My sister said, "I'll get my purse" and I said, "I'll get

the car keys” and off we went! An hour later, we arrived on the doorstep of Fat Larry’s to make our tattoo selections.

Fat Larry’s was a double wide trailer on a concrete lot. The interior was paneled in a lovely wood-grain plastic with an amazing “Alhambra” designed glue-down carpet on the floor. There were some black naugahyde chairs in the room held together with duct tape. My sister wanted to walk out upon seeing the interior of Fat Larry’s, but I persuaded her that we had to make a stand and get our tattoos!

I was expecting tattoo art to be displayed on the walls with numbers (sort of like you see at a tee shirt shop) so that you could pick the 57B capering fairy or the 12A rosebud. Instead, there were some photo albums on the door-over-plastic-milk-crates coffee table and some tattoo magazines with pictures of people of dubious character with tattoos all over their not-toned bodies. And what tattoos! Elvis at the Last Supper, eyeballs with daggers in them, and skeletons on motorcycles with impossible cleavage and a banner overhead proclaiming “Decieved.” (Actually, I wanted to walk out upon seeing “Deceived” misspelled – I was an English Lit major in college, and the thought of going through life with a permanently misspelled word etched on me nearly did me in, whereupon my sister grabbed my by the collar, told me to buck up and stick to my guns! I actually learned a great life lesson in this process. Peer pressure works! Turns out that if all around you jump off a bridge, you really will too!!!)

After much discussion with Fat Larry and his patrons (and their parole officers), my sister selected a small, tasteful rosebud and I selected a tiny heart. For those of you with morbid curiosity about such things, I recommend you bring your

own picture of what you want tattooed with you and don’t rely on the folks at the tattoo parlor for suggestions. Apparently they can come up with stuff that would make Wes Craven shudder! (And whatever you do, don’t let Fat Larry spell it out for you, although he did explain to me that the bad spelling was to honor a particularly famous tattoo artist who spelled that way, and that if the patron insisted, he was capable of spelling “Decieved” correctly! Yeah, right!) And yes, it does hurt a little. On a scale of one to ten, with one being a constant pounding of your thumb with a hammer, ten being natural child birth, and five being a bikini wax, I’d have to set it at a solid 4.5.



After two hours and \$100 dollars (Fat Larry’s was a cash only operation) we went home with our 1” tattoos feeling very worldly and wicked. (At least, that’s what we tell ourselves now!).

And I bought myself Tattoo Barbie when she came on the market. So there! Am I bad or what?

*Andrea Gribble
President*

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Our next meeting will feature "Make a Quilt Night" Andrea Gribble and Gayla Heath procured fabrics which are being cut and packaged. The block will be "Snowball" and we look forward to all participating. Please bring needle, neutral thread, scissors, and any other equipment you need to join in the fun of handpiecing these lovely blocks.

Sign up and payment for the February and March workshops will continue at the January meeting. Currently there are lots of openings. If the workshops are not filled after the January meeting, an announcement will be sent to *Quilters Digest*, and then the classes will be filled in a first-come first-served fashion; so make sure you get you a spot in the class by signing up and paying at the January meeting!

The February program is a trunk show by Sarah Pavlik, and she is giving the workshop the following Saturday, February 19, at the Calvary Baptist Church. The Workshop is "Going Crazy," and she will be teaching how to do crazy quilting and the many uses of this technique--everything from quilts to placemats to exciting purses. Sarah is a great teacher, and has a marvelous sense of color. She knows how to translate that color sense into great quilted items.

Sarah will share various "liberated" quilt making strategies in this fun and loosely structured class. She will help you explore concepts in making colorful and timeless "liberated" log cabins, nine patches and stained glass techniques, as well as funky houses, trees and villages. After a discussion of the techniques and possibilities, Sarah will help you throw your quilt rules and regulations to the wayside, and you can "go crazy." You need not come with a plan, as that will begin to be developed after you explore some ideas. An open mind is all that is needed! So bring your batiks and hand dyes as well as geometric prints, and explore the liberated field of quilt making. Cost is \$25.

March will feature Ann Littleton speaking on the "Joys and Pitfalls of Group

Quilts" Her workshop will be the following day March 16 and is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Vienna. If you never "embellished" your quilts or just want to learn some more interesting way to do so, this is the workshop for you. Cost is \$25. If you are not attending the January meeting, please call Amy Berger for reservations in either class. 703-757-2885.

Amy Berger



SEED MONEY FOR HAYMARKET

At the last Board Meeting on December 16, 2004, after a presentation by Treasurer Bill Rice on the previous three years' donations, the Board reviewed the balance sheet for 2004-2005 for VQU, particularly after expenses and income of the recent auction, and determined that there were sufficient funds to consider a donation to the recently formed QU chapter of Haymarket. The Board also considered the issue of the financial condition of sister chapter Mt. Vernon and discussed whether a donation should be considered for Mt. Vernon.

After extensive discussion, the Board determined that a one time, start-up donation of \$500 for new QU chapter Haymarket would be appropriate. After a motion was made and seconded, the motion was carried and approved, and Haymarket will be given a one-time grant of \$500 for start-up assistance from its sister chapter, Vienna. It was

stipulated at the meeting that it should be emphasized to Haymarket that this should be considered a one-time donation.

Thereafter there were extensive discussions about Mt. Vernon's financial condition and whether to consider making a financial donation to Mt. Vernon. Ultimately it was decided and agreed to by the Board that because Mt. Vernon was a member of long standing in QU, VQU should agree to provide its sister chapter with a donation of time, assistance, and expertise, to aid the chapter in getting back on its financial feet. Some things recommended were to help take raffle quilt generated by Mt. Vernon members around to appropriate events to sell raffle tickets, to have a garage/yard sale with donated items from members (as did Haymarket) and advertise in Digest, to help find new membership, etc. It is hoped that with non-monetary assistance, Mt. Vernon will be able to regain its footing.

NEED AN ALTERNATIVE TO POST HOLIDAY BILLS.....

Missing all the Christmas cards from friends and family? Already starting to receive those post holiday bills? You know then ones we mean.... Particularly if you shop like we do. "It's one gift for them and two for me, one for them two for me". Well, as those bills are rolling in this month, we're wishing we were receiving quilted post cards instead. Since we can't make the bills go away, we can at least ensure you get some fun mail besides bills. Make a quilted post card or 2 or 3 ... for the January post card swap, and we guaranty you'll receive some fun mail and interesting mail before the end of the month.

January's post card swap theme is "Still Crazy for Crazy Quilts." Bring your quilted post cards to the January meeting or mail to us in advance of the meeting. We are having great fun with the swap, and we hope

you are too. Since September's meeting we have collected and swapped out over 200 post cards. Keep 'em coming.

Themes for upcoming swaps are:

- January – Still Crazy for Crazy Quilts
- February – Starry Starry Night
- March – Spring Fling
- April – Black and White and "Red" or "Read" All Over
- May – How Does Your Garden Grow?
- June – Anything and Everything Goes.

Questions? Call Kathleen Kurke (703/352-2341) or Jennifer Klostermeyer (703/641-0249)

MAGAZINE ARTICLE RE QUILTED POST CARDS

If you're looking for more information or detailed, step-by-step instructions on how to make quilted post cards, check out the January/February 2005 issue of *Quilts with Style* magazine currently on newsstands. On Page 12, there's an article entitled "Postcards

From the Heart" by Paula Golden. Paula describes the phenomenon of art postcard quilts along with instructions for making them and pictures of several examples.

QUILT SHOW NEWS

The Quilters Unlimited 32nd Annual Quilt Show is scheduled for June 3 - 5 at the Dulles Expo Center and applications for quilt/quilted garment/doll entries are now being solicited from all QU members. This is a nonjuried show because our charter dictates that we are a quilting education organization, designed to help and support, not to judge, each other. We tremendously appreciate those special entries from our quilting professionals and long-time, skilled amateurs because they make the show exciting and help promote the return of visitors from long distances. We also really appreciate those entries of newcomers to quilting who are excited about sharing their new skills and artistic production and who probably do the most to convince nonquilting visitors that quilting is an achievement they might be able to master also. We hope everyone in the chapter will submit a minimum of one entry!

There is no charge to submit any quilt, quilted garment, or doll to this show, as there is to most shows. The only restrictions are that 1) the exhibiting quilter must be a 2004/2005 paid QU member, 2) that the exhibited item may not have been previously displayed in another Quilters Unlimited show, and 3) no quilt can be more than 120 inches in either its horizontal or vertical measurement (not total - each way)

. Each member is guaranteed display space for two quilts, two garments and two dolls, and more will be accepted depending on space at the Expo Center.

This show is put on entirely by Quilters Unlimited volunteers. Because there is no charge to submit items for display, the

costs are supported by vendors at the show (approximately 75 vendors' applications have been accepted) and entry fees from visitors. We have at least 4 visitors at the show who are non-QU members for every member who pays admission, but we need admission fees from everyone to be able to cover the extensive bills associated with a venue which is large enough to display the number of quilts submitted by the entire organization.

Volunteers will receive a 3-day pass for the price of a one-day admission, but whether that is of advantage to you or not, this is your show, and we could not put it on successfully without your help. Solicitations for volunteer slots for setup and takedown, white-gloving, admissions desk, vendor support, event rooms and other activities will begin in earnest in April, but please put the June 2 (setup), 3, 4, and 5 dates on your calendar now and plan to participate.

The quilt show entry form is now posted on our website at <http://www.quiltersunlimited.org/docs/ShowEntry05.pdf> and extra copies should be available from the Vienna quilt collector, Joan Gifford, at our next two meetings, January and February. Please remember the application form requires a colored picture of your quilt; so get that ready to submit along with the application. The February meeting is the final date to submit an application, and all quilts must be measured by Joan Gifford prior to the application being submitted.

It takes months and many hours of hard work to get the layout, program, proofreading and fire marshal approval done, which is why the applications must be submitted so early, but please remember that submitting the application is a complete

commitment to provide the item for display in June. Show entries will not be collected for submission until the May meeting, so if a couple of minor items are not complete before the application deadline, such as a permanent label or hanging sleeve, that is OK, but all piecing and quilting, real colors, and a final size has to be unquestionably clear to the quilt collector before an application can be accepted.

The theme area this year will be Breast Cancer Awareness. The "ribbon cutting" ceremony will focus on cutting a "ribbon" of 12 and 1/2 inch quilt blocks (unfinished) around the area of quilts associated with breast cancer which are currently being donated by members and which will then be made into quilts in one of the event rooms during the show to be auctioned to raise money for breast cancer research by those organizations.

The rooms which have been used for classrooms previously will be event rooms this year, with some machines provided by vendors to be used for making quilts for wounded service members, Project Linus as

well as breast cancer awareness, and demos. Plan to "take a load off" and accomplish some quilting for a good cause whenever you need a rest this year.

Advertisements for the show program are also now being accepted; so if any members want to advertise their business to other quilters, the link to the form is on the show page of our website. If you have any suggestions for businesses I should solicit for ads, please send them to bonnie_wilbur@hotmail.com or call 703-378-5802.

This show gets more exciting every year, from the displays, to the vendors, to the quilts for sale through the Big QU Silent Auction. (Yes, please consider making a quilt for this in your bee). It is great to see what other chapters have been learning and the innovations people are bringing to the art. Besides your volunteer time, set aside lots of time June 3-5 just to enjoy and shop at this wonderful show!

Bonnie Wilbur

JANUARY/FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/3	Dolly Siebelink	1/31	Nancy Devlin
1/4	Berta Smith	2/3	Gayla Health
1/6	Margo Twohey	2/8	Steve Carr
1/9	Hazel Carter	2/10	Linda Bowlin
	Jenny Klostermeyer	2/12	Barb Bracy
1/12	Barbara Cannon	2/14	Joan Gifford
1/18	Sandy Smith	2/15	Caletha Gould
1/20	Eleanor McCann	2/21	Barbara Dean
1/23	Marian Reeves	2/23	Maryanna Fournier
1/25	Cindy Allen	2/28	Lynne Stierman
1/29	Jo Sesow		

Q&A QUILT SHOW

“Garden Themes Come to Life in Fabric and Thread at Green Spring Gardens Park” is the current show at Green Spring Gardens Park in Alexandria. It features 23 art quilts by twelve members of the local fiber

artists group, Q&A Quilt Art. Included in the show is work by Quilters Unlimited members including VQU quilt artist Eileen Doughty. The show continues until February 28th. For gallery hours and directions, call Green Spring Gardens Park at 703/642-5173 or go to www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/gsgp/

Book Beat

by
Diane Dresdner

New Purchases:

Advancing on II With the Square in a Square Technique by Jodi Barrows. Produce quality quilt tops quickly and accurately. Fifteen completed quilt patterns, 17 options and 27 charts.

Square in a Square Technique Ruler. The accompanying ruler for the "Advancing on II" and other Square in a Square techniques/patterns.

Donations:

Uncoverings 2004: Volume 25 of the Research Papers of the American Quilt Study Group edited by K. Sullivan. “Quilt history... encompasses not only textile artifacts, but studies relationships, links between generations, social custom, decorative and design trends, economic aspects of production and distribution, and the nurturing and emotionally comforting aspect of bedcovers. “

Important Note: I will be at the January meeting but will need to leave by 8:00 p.m. So please plan to take care of returns and checkouts accordingly. Thanks.

Recycling:

Please bring and help yourself to quilting-related magazines and patterns. Our recycle box is located at the library table.

Reservations:

To reserve a book or video, please contact Diane Dresdner at 703/378-0994 or ddresdner@cox.net. For a listing of our library, go to the Quilter’s Unlimited website, click on the Vienna link and follow the instructions for the library listing. If you would prefer, I can e-mail the list to you.

QUILTING DATES TO REMEMBER FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

January 18	Make a Quilt Night
January 27	VQU Board Meeting
February 15	VQU Meeting at Kilmer Middle School (7:00 p.m.) – Sarah Pavlik Trunk Show
February 19	Sarah Pavlik Workshop on Crazy Quilting Techniques in Craft and Quilt Making (\$25)
February 24	VQU Board Meeting
February 24-27	Mid-Atlantic Quilt Show - Hampton, Virginia
March 2005	QU Winter Quilt In – Falls Church High School
March 15	VQU Meeting at Kilmer Middle School (7:00 p.m.) – Ann Littleton on the Joys and Pitfalls of Group Quilts
March 16	Ann Littleton Workshop “Embellished Wall Hanging or Vest” (\$25)
March 24	VQU Board Meeting
May 5	QU Annual Meeting - Guest Lecturer - Charlotte Warr Andersen
May 6	Workshop - Pieced Pictures - Charlotte Warr Andersen
May 7	Workshop - Appliqué for Realism in Brief - Charlotte Warr Andersen
June 3-5	QU Quilt Show

Clipart courtesy of Dawn Stewart at <http://dlstewart.com/clipart.htm>

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