



Cyber Friends Guild News

Officers: PresidentSpottedcow

Vice President.....Beachdreams Second VP(Membership)Nana7

Secretary/Treasurer.....JudyTX

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A Word From The President

It's really hard to believe we have ended our second year already. I don't know where the last year has gone. We have accomplished many things and experienced joy and sadness together. We have also learned the power of prayer as many of our loved ones made it through difficult times and illnesses.

All of our Cybee groups finished their community projects with several of them donating multiple quilts. Thank you to all the Cybees for your generous work last year. I am very proud of each and every one of you. I know you will continue this wonderful work in 2006.

Our second annual quilt show was a great success but I expect 2006 to be even better with many more entries and some spectacular quilts on display. So let's get started on them now! Don't be like me sending pictures to JudyTX just before the deadline! Lol

Be prepared for more mystery quilts from Spamby and maybe the Mice will even get busy and do more sewing. Spamby did a wonderful job with the mysteries last year. Thank you very much; I know the members enjoyed them.

And many of us had a great time with the FQ Trains. I love the goodies the diner car brought! And then there was the Siggie Swap - what fun that was and

JudyTX still has some hair left! I hope we do another one for 2006 because I love having siggys for each year. What a nice way to remember all of my wonderful friends.

I look forward to this New Year filled with new projects, renewed members and many new members. I hope everyone will be thinking hard about new projects for all of us to try.

Thank you for a great 2005!

Janet/Spotted Cow

Did You Know?

... You can determine a fabric type by doing a burn test?

All fabric is either a natural fiber, a man-made fiber, or a blend of natural or man-made fibers.

Cotton is a plant fiber. It burns with a steady flame and smells like burning leaves. The ash left after it is burned can be easily crumbled.

Linen is a plant fiber. Linen takes longer to ignite because it is made up of longer fibers than cotton. The fabric closest to the ash is very brittle.

Silk is a protein fiber and does not burn with a steady flame. It smells like burning hair. The ash is easily crumbled.

Wool is a protein fiber and does not burn with a steady flame. It also smells

like burning hair. The ash crumbles easily.

Nylon is a man-made fiber that is made from petroleum. Nylon melts and burns rapidly. It smells like burning plastic.

Polyester is man-made from coal, air, water, and petroleum products. Polyester melts and burns at the same time. The melting, burning ash will drip and bond to any surface it touches including skin. The smoke is black and has a sweetish smell.

Rayon is man-made from a regenerated cellulose fiber that is almost pure cellulose. Rayon burns rapidly and leaves a slight ash. It smells like burning leaves.

Blends consist of two or more fibers and are supposed to take on the characteristics of each fiber in the blend. The burn test does not really work with a blend.

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Which needle is best?

Sharps: General purpose needle. They are available in sizes 5, 6, and 10. Sharps are of medium length with a small, round eye and a sharp point. This is a good needle to use for most hand stitching projects. The larger the number, the smaller the needle.

Between: Between are referred to as quilting needles. They are available in sizes 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12. They are quite short in length, have a small round eye and a sharp point. Their small size is very good for doing small stitches quickly and accurately. Between are used for hand quilting.

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The Yo-Yo

The history of Yo-Yo quilts goes back a long way. They were also sometimes referred to as 'Puff' or 'Bed of Roses' in the 1800s. At first these little gathered circles were used as decorative additions to tablecloths and curtains, as collars on dresses, and many other places.

This pattern died out for a time but was revived in the 1920s. Many quilters were making yo-yos because they were easy to take along and work on. Some yo-yo quilts can be found where each little yo-yo has been stuffed before being tied off. Besides bed quilts, quilters began making dresser scarves, chair pads, and even doilies with yo-yos. As bed quilts they were more of a decorative item since there was no warmth because of the holes between the yo-yos. Some quilters added a backing to them, which made the quilt somewhat useable.

I think it would be pretty to make all white yo-yos and place on a red or green background to decorate at Christmas time.

Perhaps the name for this gathered circle of cloth became known as - or changed to - the yo-yo because the yo-yo toy became very popular in the 1920's.





Quilters Cache has a pattern for making yo-yos. www.quilterscache.com

A truly happy quilter is someone who has more stash than they will ever use, has a 40% off coupon and is headed for the local quilt shop!

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Did you know?

...a spider web stitched into your quilting design was supposed to be a symbol of Good Luck?

...a butterfly stitched into your quilting design was supposed to be a symbol of Eternal life?

...a bee or beehive stitched into your quilting design was supposed to be a symbol of good industry?

Sashiko

Do you need a new quilting idea to finish off your quilt? Try checking out some Sashiko [Pronounced: SA-SHEE-KOE] designs.

Sashiko stitching was used in the early 18th century by the wives of Japanese fishermen and framers to make warm garments for the men to wear. They stitched two heavy pieces of fabric together using fine running stitches throughout the entire garment.

At first Sashiko was used to reinforce or repair damaged fabrics but later became more decorative.

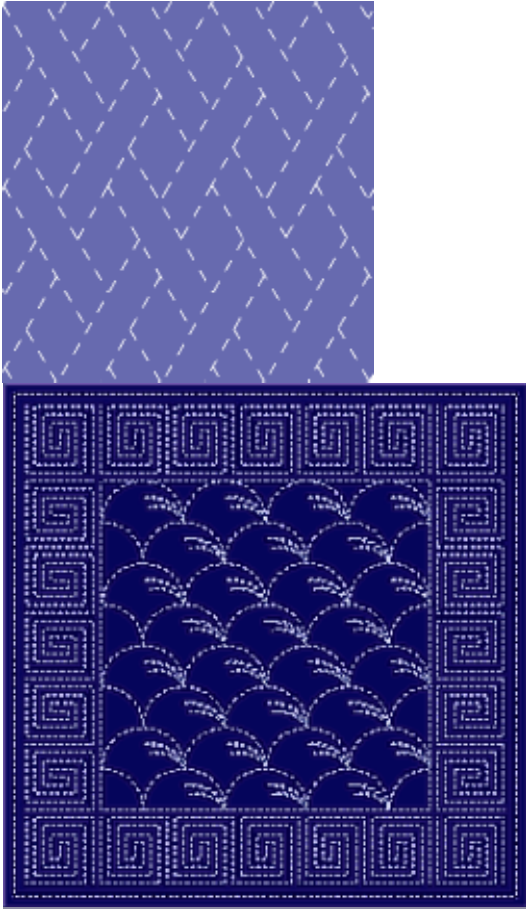
The heavy cotton fabric was first dyed a very dark blue with the roots of a native plant. We now call this color indigo. The thread used was usually white since it was available everywhere.



Around the late 18th century, Sashiko appeared in the larger cities and the designs became more elaborate. Patterns were adapted from fabric weaves, bamboo, flowers, etc.

If you do a Web search for Sashiko you can find many, many designs that can be used for either hand quilting or machine quilting. Some could even be adapted to trapunto work.

These are some of the Sashiko designs used.



Sashiko is also used to decorate pillows, table runners, and rugs.

So, the next time you want a different quilting pattern, try finding Sashiko designs.

Tips

Spray adhesive is great for appliqué; spray the small pieces then place on background fabric. It's less stiff than fusible. Ed. Note: Use the spray in a shallow box so the overspray doesn't get on surfaces you will have to clean later!

When sewing a practice block, stitch it up in Christmas fabrics. Before long you'll have blocks for a holiday quilt.

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Cybee Group News

The **Florida Sunshine Cybee Group** did some special Holiday projects.

They did a Secret Sister Gift Exchange and an ornament swap – handmade, of course, and for the most part quilting related!

They also delivered four charity quilts to the Ronald McDonald House right before Thanksgiving.

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The **Show Me Bees** ended the year with an ornament exchange and online Christmas chat. Each member made handmade ornaments from fabric for the other members of the hive. We had ornaments that were paper pieced, embellished, yo-yos, and fused appliqué. The fabrics were very festive and ranged from gold flecked to flannel. The variety was appropriate for our little group of very different quilters who range from beginners to accomplished quilters, and each ornament will be cherished just as we cherish each other. Our Christmas chat was our chance to say "thank you" for the ornaments and for the friendships we have formed over the last two years. This guild has given us all a chance to share our love of quilting with others, and it was especially gratifying to be able to provide baby quilts for each baby born to the families in one small church-based shelter in Baton Rouge, Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. We wish all of our quilting sisters the very best of this season of peace and joy.

Marla Lawson, Queen Bee of the Show Me Bees

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The **Stompin' Stitches** had a Christmas Wall Hanging exchange. The deadline was November 12th at our Thanksgiving get-together in Tyler. Not all participated as some were very new members and others had other commitments. It turned out the ones who participated were all in Tyler for the get-together.

Everyone enjoyed it so much we forgot to get pictures of the group and our wall hangings! The participants were to take pictures after getting home, but I think we have only five available.

Marv Grunke - "Heartoftexas"

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Endorsements and Recommendations for Joining a Cybee Hive

If you join a quilt guild, you need to participate. Due to time constraints, some members don't seem to get involved at all. But surely the online monthly meetings, at least a few times a year, aren't too difficult to visit. When you belong to a hive, the small group within a geographical area, you can surely 'meet' either in one of the guild's chat rooms or at a free online Yahoo group site (which some of the Hives have) to 'discuss' ideas and get to know one another.

Our Guild is so helpful to everyone. We have Swaps, BOMs (Blocks of the Month), Book Reviews, Quilting Instructions, Patterns, Chats, and we meet and chat online with nationally-acclaimed quilt teachers like Carol Doak and Bonnie Browning.

For those who don't have time for Swaps or BOMs, there is the Block Lottery. You only need to make one 12-inch block a month. You can even skip a month here and there. Yet for each block you send, your name is written on

a ticket and a winner is drawn to receive ALL the blocks for that month.

The close-knit hive can be fun. You 'meet' your fellow cyberquilters, exchange ideas, choose a charitable community project, give advice, get help, both quilting and personal. Sometimes several in a group actually get together for a luncheon. How superb! You can even meet each other in person. I haven't done that myself, but others in my group have and loved their time together.

If you don't want to get too involved, it's not necessary. But try getting involved at least a little. Why else did you join the guild if not to participate???

I don't want to hear anyone say they can't get involved. No one is pressing you to do anything you can't handle. But do SOMETHING.

Personally, I'm medically challenged. There are times I can't do any quilting for several days or weeks at a time, but I still manage to be a part of my Cybee/Hive group. I fulfill my charitable commitment. I check into our Nimble Divas Yahoo group site to check for updates and learn who's doing what and when. I love checking the latest pictures in the photo albums. I participate in our birthday exchange which is so wonderful. Everyone sends a birthday card and a fat quarter to the member having a birthday. That means I got seven wonderful fat quarters from new friends last year. What fun to get those in the mail, and feel loved by the sender! I can't manage swaps, but I enter the monthly Block Lottery most months.

This is a great guild filled with wonderful people and I've made good friends here, even though we may never meet.

So I suggest to all members, contact your Hive/Cybee leader/Queen Bee. If you don't know to which Hive you belong, contact Stashbuster (see member list at guild site) or Nana7. If you don't have a Yahoo group yet, ask your Hive leader/Queen Bee to start one. Become a player, if only a minor leaguer. Find out what your Hive is doing and participate, if only in one project. You'll make good friends and be glad you did.

A satisfied member, quiltbea/Sandra
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Fun in the Sun for the Florida Gals

The Florida Sunshine Cyber

Quilters have gotten off to a running start for 2006! Although last year was a bit of a challenge at times, we still managed to make at least five community quilts, do a Secret Sister project for a few months, start our own group newsletter, and have an ornament swap for Christmas. This year, since merging with Georgia and Alabama, there are more goodies in store for our group. We are continuing our Secret Sister project and have already been assigned new sisters, have begun our first community quilt project, put out the first edition of our newsletter - appropriately dubbed *The FatQuarterly* - and also made a comfort quilt for one of our own members who lost a dear friend. Our goal this year is to make more community quilts, try to complete some of our personal UFOs, and above all - TO HAVE FUN!!!

Being a member of a Cybee Group is a definite advantage in an online guild such as CFQG. It gives you a chance to get to know those who live nearest you, and have buddies to attend quilt shows with and "partners in crime" for shopping excursions. It allows for lots

of interaction via email about many interesting subjects - everything from batting & binding to birthdays & babies, and from beef stew & Bundt cakes to biopsies & beauty secrets. It provides the member with a social outlet and opportunities to make new friends and find people with whom you have things in common. It can keep you from being lonely late at night when your significant other is out of town, or if you need a sympathetic ear when you have to unwillingly un-sew an entire quilt block or row. It creates a sounding board for design ideas, fabric selection, technique how-tos, and sewing product reviews. It is even a way to pair up with someone to help you find that last elusive bunny on the online FabShopHop! And most importantly, it is an opportunity to expand your quilting knowledge and ability and to keep the creativity flowing through the talent of good friends who are always more than willing to help (and to share their coffee and chocolate!) I know it has also meant a lot to me personally and enabled me to get through some tough times, knowing that someone who cares and can help is only a few keyboard strokes away.

With such a close-knit and talented group, there is always someone online to chatter with, to help remind you about upcoming guild meetings or interesting things on the message boards, to share problems with, to ask advice from, and to bounce ideas off. We have many more projects in store for the coming months. Everyone is working together to come up with new ideas, keep the current projects moving along, and plan get-togethers in person when possible. All it takes for a successful Cybee group is great leadership, great ideas, lots of participation, and a willingness to have fun - and we have all the

ingredients for that recipe to be a quilty
success!

Linda J. Gomez/boobookitty

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