



Cyber Friends Guild News

Officers: PresidentSpottedcow

Vice President.....Beachdreams 2nd VP(Membership)Nana7

Secretary/Treasurer.....JudyTX

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President's Message

I cannot believe how fast this year is going, it seems like we are just getting started with things and it's already time to start thinking about the holidays. I'm already getting excited about the second CFQG Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov.12th in Tyler, Texas. Everyone had so much fun last year and this year looks like it will be ever more fun, if that's possible, with several more members coming that couldn't make it last year. I just wish every one could come!

We only have about a fourth of the membership signed up for the siggy. I was really hoping more would join in the fun. I would love to have a block from each one of you and I know all the others would too. There's not much time left to sign up, so give it some thought and join the rest of us.

I want to thank Spamby for the great job she is doing. The mystery quilts are great and who knows, there may be one in the works for the holidays. Think Christmas! (Hint) Keep up the good work, Spamby. I also want to thank each member for helping others, supporting the guild and just for listening when others need to vent. We have one great bunch of ladies. Thank You!

Welcome to all the new members we have gotten in the last few months, if you have any questions or problems, just ask and everyone will do their best to help you. I cannot say enough about the wonderful ladies in this guild who provide so much valuable information and help to others. You guys are great.

We have several members going through some difficult times right now, please continue your prayers to them that they will all heal, that home life will get back to normal, and that their loved ones will get better. There 'IS' power in prayer.

I guess that's about all for now, remember to sign up for the siggy if you haven't already and try to make it to Tyler in November for good eats, laughs, and to help sort the Siggies. Don't forget about the second Mystery Quilt that has started, the state blocks being done, and all the other swaps that are going on.

Thanks to everyone for making CFQG a wonderful guild.

Happy Quilting
Janet/Spottedcow

Treasurer's Report

Beg. Bal. 6-20-05-----\$1920.22

Deposits--\$10.00 (2 new members)

Balance on 07-17-05---\$1930.22

Fact or Myth

There are many tales and stories that go along with early quilt making. Historians believe that if it's not written down, as a proven fact, then it must be a myth. I thought maybe it might be interesting to investigate some of these stories.

Let's start with the Double Wedding Ring. What can be more romantic than to receive one of these quilts on your wedding night? This pattern is thought to be a twentieth century pattern but it appears to have come from a very old design. In the 4th century it was used to decorate Roman cups and in the 15th and 16th century the double rings were found in the gimmel ring; a tool of matrimony. These rings were made to interlock. During the engagement, the man wore one and the woman wore the other. When they were married, the rings were fitted together and worn by the wife. Many believe the Germans who settled in Pennsylvania brought this custom to America in the 17th century. The pattern of interlocking rings was produced on coverlets as well as other decorative items in early America. Some believe the pattern was first published by Capper's Weekly, a Topeka, Kansas publication. I can remember my Grandmother getting this paper each week and saving all the patterns she found in it. Capper's added a little story to go along with the pattern telling of how an unknown man conceived the idea of a double ring ceremony which gave his new wife the idea of making a Double Wedding ring quilt. Then there's the story of a young couple who had to delay their wedding because the groom-to-be was wounded in the war and took several years to mend. When he finally came home and

the wedding date was set once again, there were no rings for the ceremony. The young bride went to her aunt to explain the rings would have to wait. Being a quilter, the aunt said she could furnish the rings. She got out a beautiful quilt made of interlocking rings she had been saving to give as a wedding gift. She handed the quilt to the bride and told her these were their rings and they would call the quilt the Double Wedding Ring. Is this fact or myth?

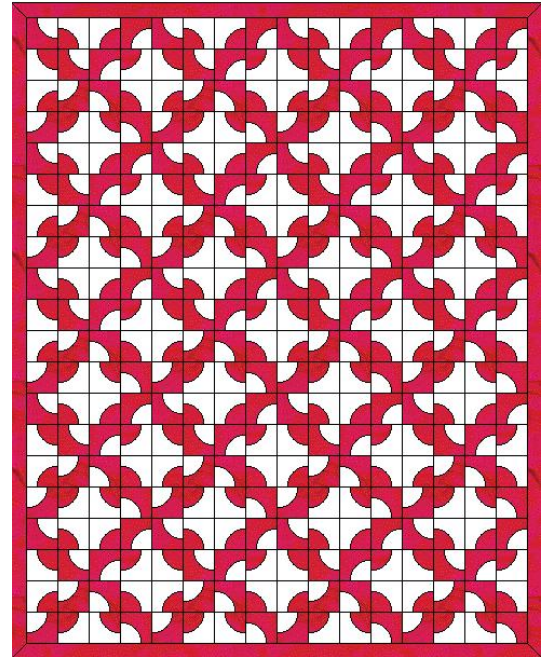
And what about the Irish Chain, did it come from Ireland or somewhere else? This may have been a pattern that Irish ladies brought with them from Ireland when they came to America, or possibly the Irish developed the pattern after they arrived in the colonies and named it Irish Chain to remember their homelands. Some believe that the pattern originated in America in the early 1800s. But there is documentation of a very early quilt that appears similar to the Irish Chain, brought to America in 1805 by Margaret Kee when she immigrated here in 1807. This quilt is made like the single Irish Chain only set on point making the chains appear square instead of diamond shaped. This would lead us to believe that the Irish Chain pattern actually did originate in Ireland. Or did it?

Another story that has never been totally proven or disproved is the Underground Railroad quilts. Can we believe quilts were really used to help the slaves flee to safe territory or is it all fiction? I wonder how many other stories there are about quilts that may be fact or myth.

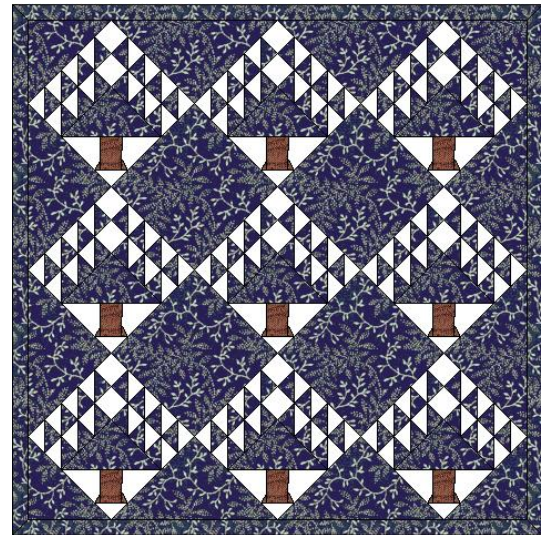
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Temperance Quilts

Many quilters and organizations like to have a 'cause' to give their quilts to. The giving of quilts to aid in comfort or to raise money is an old tradition. One such 'cause' was the Women's Temperance Movement. More quilts were made for the cause than any other. The National Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was founded in 1874 in Cleveland, Ohio. This organization was developed as a non-violent protest to the dangers of alcohol during the Women's Crusade in 1873-1874. Housewives held pray-ins in local saloons and demanded that the sale of liquor be stopped. Behind the WCTU's temperance reform was "protection of the home." The slogan "For God and Home and Native Land" (later changed to "Every Land") expressed the WCTU's priorities. Through education and example the WCTU hoped to obtain pledges of total abstinence from alcohol, and later also tobacco and other drugs. The white ribbon bow was selected to symbolize purity, and the WCTU's watchwords were "Agitate - Educate - Legislate." Like all organizations, the WCTU needed money so they made many quilts for this purpose. In the late 1800s, women would pay a dime to get their name on one of the quilt blocks. These quilts were sometimes called Crusader Quilts. Although any quilt patterns could be used, the Drunkard's path and the Temperance Tree were used more than any other. These quilts were usually made of two colors, blue with white or red with white.



Drunkard's Path



Temperance Tree

These block patterns were known by many other names but may have been renamed to fit the prohibition theme. As you can see from the Drunkard's Path quilt pictured above, the design makes one think of a drunk's staggering walk. There were other patterns used, one being the 'T.' Quilt patterns recorded

around the turn of the century were Double T, Kansas T, and Capital T. This signified the temperance movement or the pride of being a teetotaler.

Temperance implies moderation of use while teetotaler implies total abstinence. Some of the surviving quilts have names and slogans on them to show their purpose. If you find a quilt with WCTU in embroidery or ink you can be sure the quilt was made to promote the prohibition of alcoholic beverages.



Revolving Cutting Mat

Turn the mat instead of your fabric with this rotating table with a cutting mat on one side and a padded ironing surface on the other side. The rotating turntable allows you to turn the cutting mat easily without disturbing the fabric. This turntable has a large work surface. Eight chrome ball bearings in the base assure smooth rotation and the rubberized feet eliminate slippage. The neutral colored, self-healing mat is perfect for use with light or dark fabrics.

Quilting Class Tips:

Getting the most out of your class

You have just signed up for a great class, and you cannot wait to learn the new technique or make that fabulous quilt. Perhaps this is your first class, or you may have a new teacher. To make sure you get the most for your time and money, some preparation is necessary. Before running out to buy all the goodies on the supply list, read through these tips to make your class a more successful experience.

1. Make sure you **know exactly what is being offered in the class**. Are you making a project or is it a technique or design class? Have you seen the sample? Are you there to make a project, learn something new, or just to visit? Knowing exactly what is being offered as well as what you want from the class makes it a more enjoyable experience.
2. **Read the supply list carefully** and make sure you bring everything required. Sometimes the teacher will require certain things for a reason. If you want to bring an alternate brand, or don't feel you want to buy a particular supply item, be sure to contact the instructor and ask if it is satisfactory. Anticipate things that the instructor may not have put on the list, such as extra bobbins or needles, a new rotary blade, etc.
3. Always **buy the book or pattern being offered**. You may need the reference material when you get home and it is important to support the designers.
4. Make sure you are familiar with your well-tuned sewing machine. **Nothing ruins a class faster than a machine**

that does not work properly! If one of the requirements is a special foot for the machine, try it out at home first. It is important to be prepared just in case the store or show doesn't have what you need.

5. Be prepared for a **room that may be too hot or too cold.**

6. Be sure to **follow good classroom etiquette.** Do not show up to a class at the exact starting time. Arrive with enough time to set up and be acclimated to your environment. Leave your cell phone at home. If you absolutely need to make a call, leave the room. Make sure you are listening carefully while the instructor is speaking. Chatting at the wrong times can be very disruptive to others and annoying to the teacher.

7. Although you know a different method that can achieve the same result, always **try what the teacher is demonstrating.** You may learn something new!

8. **Don't bring your best fabric to the class** expecting spectacular results, especially for a technique class. Sometimes you have better results if you learn the technique and then try it again on new fabric at home. This way you can relax and not worry about the cost if you don't like how the project is turning out. On the other hand, don't bring your 1970s junk fabric. Christmas fabrics are good, because you can always use a Christmas project—either for yourself or as a gift!

9. **Give yourself permission not to finish every class sample** especially from a technique class. You may not like the technique, or you may be ready to

start a whole new project with that technique.

10. **Be careful about comparing your progress to others in the class.** Don't fret if someone is going faster than you are—it isn't a race! Don't worry that others in the class have a better color combination than you. Most quilts look wonderful with different color combinations, and it is normal to like a lot of them. Instead of letting it discourage you, look at it as a bonus lesson. You just discovered that you like the look of a certain color or fabric grouping that you have not considered before.

11. **Be patient with yourself!** Many people sew better at home without distractions. Learning new things is never easy and it is even more difficult when you are hard on yourself. If you find yourself falling behind, make sure you listen to the instructions. Let the teacher know you may be having trouble. She could show you why you are having difficulty and even offer some extra help when you are behind.

12. Come prepared to **have a good time.** Remember that is why we do this—for fun!

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Quilters Ten Commandments

1. Thou shalt not do buttons.
2. Thou shalt sew 1/4" seams.
3. Thou shalt leave no bolt unturned.
4. Thou shalt not rip - only un-sew!
5. Thou shalt not envy thy neighbors stitches.
6. Thou shalt never pass a quilt shop.
7. Thou shalt cook and clean but once a week.
8. Never quilt tomorrow what you can quilt today.
9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors stash.
10. Thou shalt not reveal funds spent on quilting supplies.

