



Cyber Friends Guild News

Officers

PresidentSpottedcow
Vice President.....Lorilei
(Membership)Pecasa

Treasurer.....Cathy/OH
Secretary.....JudyTX

2nd VP

Volume 1 Issue 1

January-March 2004

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Things have gone fairly well with the Guild. This is all new to everyone and we work daily to get all the bugs worked out and in keeping everything running smoothly. I am very pleased with the size of our membership and the wonderful quilters that have joined.

It also looks like everyone is having a great time, joining swaps, making the BOM's and now we have the Bingo game getting ready to start. I just love all the pictures that are being posted of everyone's blocks. They are all great.

I don't get a chance to get on the message board as much as I would like but I know that will change soon. I have been really busy with the 17 Cybee Groups, getting all the leaders for the groups, scheduling meetings, and just watching as the groups get so fired up over all the things they want to do. It just amazes me how a few quilters can get together for a meeting and within a hour have named their group, decided on their first project and even have all the details worked out. I am so proud of every one of you. I know the Charities that receive your donations will be equally proud to have the gifts.

I would like all the leaders to be sure and take lots of pictures of your Charity projects, especially the delivery, so we will have them for our achieves.

I want to thank all the Committee Members and Queen Bees for all the hard work they have done. I

also want to thank Pecasa for keeping the membership up to date, and Judy TX for answering emails, when my computer crashed, and everything else she has done to help me. Then there's CathyOH and Lorilei, there are not words to say thanks to these two. Without them, none of this would have been possible. I am very grateful to both of them for all the work they have done setting the Guild site up and making it such an enjoyment to so many people.

I'm still working out the bugs in my new computer, but hopefully everything will be cleared up soon. My computer friend built this one from scratch for me and we have discovered that the new XP upgrade doesn't like Norton Security 2004, so sometimes I can't get online. But as soon as he can get here, I'm up and running again.

If any of you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to email me anytime. I will do my best to help you in any way I can and as soon as I can.

Thanks to everyone.

Janet/Spottedcow
President CFQG

TREASURE REPORT

| Deposit made 1/5/04 \$730.00
| Deposit made 1/6/04 -\$75.00

| Cathy for start up 1/7/04 -\$291.80
| Deposit made 1/13/04 +\$320.00
| Deposit made 1/16/04 +\$25.00
| Deposit made 1/19/04 +\$80.00
| NQA individual
 dues 1/19/04 -\$20.00
| Deposit made 1/23/04 +\$30.00
| Membership cards 1/28/04 -\$26.67
| Quilter's Cache Fund 1/28/04 -\$82.50
| Deposit made 1/30/04 +\$60.00
| Membership lam film 2/2/04 -\$57.61
| Deposit made 2/9/04 +\$101.00
| **Balance** **\$942.42**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Since the initial offering of CFQG membership and the incredible onslaught of membership applications were processed we have seen a reduction in solicitation but a steady growth pattern.

We are pleased to report that we are now at 236 members with almost 90% paid memberships. *Ladies need to send a SASE for the return of there membership cards.*

The outstanding is primarily new members - and efforts are being

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (cont.)

made to keep all members current in dues.

The members are being activated through a number of programs covered in other articles in this

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newsletter. The board members are also working on special programs to motivate membership participation and incentives.

Sincerely

Pecasa

2nd.Vice

President/Memberships

CYBEEKEEPER REPORT

We have the most wonderful group of Queenbees ! They have been busy buzzing around their hives and getting their groups together. We have seventeen Cybee groups and each group now has a leader or Queenbee, and a name. The names are original and eye catching .Looking at the Guild Calendar you can see how active the groups are and the number of meetings going on. I think the Queenbees will start meeting in the Coffee Chat room because of scheduling. Personally, I think this is wonderful.

The Cybee Groups meet weekly to once a month. The groups average 8-10 to a group. Some have more and some have less than eight. Each group makes their own decisions and chooses their meeting time and date. They have also chosen group building activities such as Secret Sisters, FQ Birthday showers, and other activities. They have learned of many health and financial problems within our community and are devising ways of offering emotional support. Some have chosen Hospitality chairpersons who organize card showers and sometimes card and FQ showers.

Most of the Groups have now chosen their Charity projects with a surprising number of these projects being related to Cancer. Quilts are being donated for Cancer education as well as research and most are addressing Breast Cancer in some way. Each group decides how they will run each charity project, whether its supplying blocks , working from a fabric theme or each bee supplying a lap quilt.

Take a bow Cybee Groups and Queenbees! You deserve it!

Introducing Our Wonderful Queenbees.

These ladies have worked very hard to get their groups up and running.

They truly are "Queenbee's" :

Group A Quackers -Pecassa

Group B Block-Heads - Marjbelle

Group C Charmed Cybees- Char77

Group D California Dreamers - TriciaS

Group E Show Me Bees - Memaconnie

Group F Friendship Stars - Dcquilter

Group G T.A.G. Quilters - QuiltsRfun

Group H Sew Southern - MSC

Group I Florida Sunshine Cyber

Quilters - LRMart

Group J Jezabees - Swimmom

Group K

Kindred Northwestern Kwilters -

JudyOR

Group L Liberty Quilters -

Needles&pins

Group M Main to Maryland

Madwomen Quilting-Beachdreams

Group N Nimble Quilting Divas -

JudyTx

Group O Stomp'n Stitchers -Spottedcow

Group P Patchwork Hive - Bunnie

Group Q Quality Quilters/ Double Q's-

Marjbelle/Cybeekeeper

For Your Information

The Joy of Swapping

Everyone loves to swap and thanks to our Swap Chairman, Vbbfl, we're going to have a lot of great, creative ways to do this. Swapping is a way of sharing your work and seeing what others are doing and no one is denied participation because they're just beginning to learn to quilt. (Most swappers are of the opinion that a well-made beginner block is just as beautiful as a complicated block by someone who's been quilting for years so beginners are always welcome.)

Every swap has a set of rules, set up so that the blocks or fabric swapped will be welcomed by everyone and it's important to follow these rules

completely. Read ALL of the rules carefully and be kind to the swap leader. She's created these rules for a reason and when the rules aren't followed, it creates more work for her that shouldn't have to be. Effort on the part of each participant makes swapping more fun and makes the swap a fun experience. The following was found on the web and certainly should be applied to all of our swaps:

Etiquette Rules for Block Exchanges

by Aunt Pitty Pat

- **Always, always** do your best work!
- **Give only blocks** of which you are proud and which you would be glad to receive.
- **Use only first quality fabrics**, again, giving only that which you would be happy to receive.
- **Always, carefully, read** and follow directions on fabric selection and block construction. Use the indicated number of fabrics, or stay within the options given. If you wish to make "maverick" blocks, make them for yourself only, unless someone specifically requests them.
- **Press your blocks** as you go, and press well. If you are unsure of how to press a particular block, ask others in the group for advice on the best way to do it.
- **As a group**, determine what are acceptable size variances -- usually no more than 1/8" in finished size.
- **Always square up** your blocks to the correct unfinished size! Otherwise, your blocks are not finished! Squaring up a block's patches as you construct it will help insure a finished block of proper size. Make a test block or two. If they are not measuring up correctly, ask for help from other group members to find out why and how to fix

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them.

- **Set a cut off date** for declaring whether one is "in" or "out" of a particular exchange. This should give everyone time to decide if one will be able to complete the project on time.
- **If you do not** think you will be able to finish a project, **DO NOT SIGN UP** for it!
- **If you do sign up** for a project, you are expected to finish it in a timely manner. However, life does happen. If an emergency arises and you are late in finishing or must drop out, it is your responsibility to notify everyone of the situation and to distribute any blocks you do finish to others. You should not expect blocks if you do not complete the project.
- **If you are unsure** about ANYTHING: fabric choices, construction, yardage, pressing, timing, squaring up, or size variance tolerance, **ASK** your group leader or several other participants! Do not flounder about!
- **Most important of all** -- ENJOY the stitching!! Just remember to do your best work!!

Source: ©2003 *Aunt Pitty Pat*, www.thequiltercommunity.com

The only issue not mentioned, but important is the matter of postage. A lot of the veteran swappers now use Priority Mail because it's easier - if you can cram it into that envelope, it'll always cost the same amount. The only problem with this method is that it's a little more expensive so if you're using regular mail, make sure that the return envelope has the same postage as the outgoing envelope. (Don't assume that the Post Office is doing this for you. Check it.)

If you're choosing to use a special rate, such as Media Mail, make

sure that the return envelope is stamped just as clearly as the outgoing envelope. Because of increased care in receiving mail by the Post Office, swap leaders are now required to bring all the packages to the counter to be checked. Nothing is more frustrating to a swap leader to discover that more postage is needed for a package. Sometimes, it can be a sizable amount, but often it's an amount that is so small that mailing it to the swap leader costs more than the amount due. However, if the swap leader has to add 20-cents postage to every envelope in a 45-person swap, that's \$9.00 she has to pay to make sure everyone gets their packages back. It's not reasonable to expect the swap leader to pay this.

Good luck swapping! May all the blocks or fabric you receive be as good as the blocks or fabric that you sent!

By MSC

Slave and Abolitionist Quilts

In the pre-civil war south the children of slaves went to work when scarcely out of infancy. Some went to work in the master's household. The big plantations had "sewing slaves", who made the clothing for the members of the household and also made quilts. Sometimes these women sewed quilts alongside the mistress of the house. Pre-Civil war southern quilts speak of leisure and refinement. Endless hours of time went into the making of this elaborate appliquéd quilts. Many of those hours were either put in by slaves or made possible by the fact that slaves did all the household tasks, leaving the mistress free to do needlework. At the same time these slave women were making quilts for their own use.

Their African languages and Religions were banned but they used their African designs in the appliqué quilts that they made and the sense of color and style in their pieced quilts was also inspired by African tradition. A

slave might be given a blanket once every three years. Quilts were a necessity. These women knew from their mothers how to make vegetable dyes and could turn rough slave cloth into every color of the rainbow.

They used worn clothes and scraps from the mistress of the house. Few of these quilts survived, they were used until they wore out. As the abolitionist movement grew in the north quilts were sold to raise money for the abolitionist cause. Women inscribed their needle cases with the phrase "May the work of our needles prick the conscience of the slaveholder".

Quilt patterns associated with the abolitionist cause include, Underground Railroad, Jacob's Ladder, North Star, and Slave Chain. It is said that quilts hung on the line designated a safe stop on the underground railroad. Harriet Powers, while a slave, made one of the most treasured quilts in the American quilt tradition, The Harriet Powers Bible Quilt. This quilt is in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution. The licensing of the image of this quilt for reproduction by foreign companies for import into this country contributed to a massive furor and scandal, which rocked the Smithsonian. Quilters from all over the country flooded the museum with complaints and boycotts.

This lead directly to the RJR collection of reproduction Smithsonian fabrics.

The museum discovered that this was a much more acceptable way of using their collection to raise funds.