

# Threads That Bind

Issue No. 10

October 2010

## Opportunities Disguised as Mistakes

Several years ago, after a very long dry spell devoid of any quilting inspiration, I happened upon a quilt pattern that ignited my desire to make my first king-sized quilt. The quilt consisted of four large appliquéd blocks on point which joined together to make a center medallion. Surrounding the medallion were borders and enormous triangular corners, each constructed of several intricate paper-pieced pineapple blocks. This particular pattern caught my attention because it combined the appliqué that I love with complex paper piecing, which offered me a challenge. Fabric selection is one of my favorite parts of quilting, so after a couple of hours at the quilting shop, I emerged with a plump bag of varied fabrics, an emaciated wallet and an ear-to-ear grin. Once all of my "material treasures" had been washed, ironed and cut, it was time to start sewing.

Being who I am, I hand appliquéd the four large center blocks first. When there was nothing left to appliqué, I began piecing the pineap-

ple blocks. I loved the way all of the different fabrics added interest to the blocks. When I had finished about two-thirds of the pieced blocks, Mistake #1 made itself evident. I was running short of several fabrics, so back to the fabric shop I went.

Of course, they no longer had any of those fabrics in stock. Enter Opportunity #1: The opportunity to choose additional fabrics with compatible color, value and scale, which made the blocks even more interesting. Feeling rather pleased with myself for gracefully leaping over the first quilting hurdle, I completed the rest of the pieced pineapple blocks and breathed a sigh of relief. Little did I know that Mistake #2 was waiting to pounce.

It was time to sew the four large appliquéd blocks together to construct the center medallion. Enter Mistake #2. Imagine my horror when I discovered that I had mistakenly cut the background of one

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*Guild meeting 10/18*

*To bring to the guild meeting:*

*Your nametag  
Your opportunity  
quilt tickets*

*Board meeting 10/25*

*Ornament workshop  
10/30*



## Meetings

**When:**

Third Monday of each month (unless otherwise noted)

**Where:**

Public Health Auditorium  
260 E. 15th St., Merced

**Time:**

Setup - 6:30  
Meeting starts - 6:45  
Call to Order - 7:00

Come early for library tickets, membership items, chatting, etc.



## Officers

### President

*Karen Mous*

### President Elect

*Michelle George*

### Secretary

*Judith Dake*

### Treasurer

*Janetta Gibson*

### Membership

*Diane Swenson*

### Programs

*Susan Hammon*

### Information Services

*Carol Berry*

### Quilt Show Chairman

*Priscilla Hise*

### Opportunity Quilt Chairman

*Virginia Wagner*



## Ornament Sew Day

Dear Quilt Buddies:

Congratulations—we are nearing our goal of 200 ornaments. If you have not made your ornaments yet, there is still time to get them done. Two great options—bring in 6 completed ornaments to the October Guild meeting and receive a kit (fabric & pattern) for a table runner top, or join us for a fun-filled ornament sew day.

We are going to sew ornaments one more time for our tree at the Merced County Courthouse and Museum. I have some great new patterns and supplies for you to try. I am going to provide you with a demonstration for “Inchie Quilts”. These are so much fun and a great way to use up small scraps of fabrics and those beads that have collected from previous projects (and also random purchases because I simply have no self control!!!). I will have the supplies for this project—but you will need a sewing machine that has a zig zag stitch option. Also bring your basic sewing supplies.

We are going to be sewing at my house on Saturday, October 30th. Space is limited so please RSVP. I will reserve table space for the first 12 people to call. Call me to RSVP at 385-3525. We will sew ornaments from 10 AM to 3 PM. Bring a potluck dish to share. I'll provide the paper ware, plastic ware, and drinks. Looking forward to seeing your latest holiday creations.

Michelle George

## JO-ANN'S V.I.P. DISCOUNT CARD

Jo-Ann Fabrics Corporation has changed their procedure for obtaining V.I.P. Discount cards. The easiest way to sign up for your card is by telephone. You will need to call 1-888-739-4120 and wait for a customer service agent. Simply ask them to register you for your card. They will ask for your name, address and e-mail address. I was told that they will not share your information with anyone else.

Your new V.I.P. card will be mailed to you and will need to be activated when you visit your local Jo-Ann's store. Be sure to take your Gateway Quilters Guild membership card with you. The new V.I.P. card entitles you to a 10% discount on your entire purchase, including sale items. You will not be able to use it with other discount coupons. For example: If you purchase a yard of fabric with a 40%-off coupon, you cannot use your V.I.P. discount card to obtain an additional 10% discount. The cards will be valid for one year, but the representative with whom I spoke suggested that you reactivate your card after 11 months to avoid a lapse in discount privileges.

While having to apply for our cards individually is less convenient, we remain grateful to Jo-Ann's for continuing to offer this discount which saves us all a considerable amount of money, especially in these challenging economic times.

~Karen Mous

Upcoming Guild Programs— Susan Hammon

Dear Guild Members:

As I am writing this article, it is hard to believe that it is Fall. I hope when you receive this that we have gotten some relief from the warm weather. It is hard for me to get in the mood to quilt when it is so "hot" out.

Our program for October is Yvonne Porcella, Her lecture will be "Dogs, Frogs, & Cherubs". The workshop, Abstract "Four on the Square," still has a couple of spots; please call me if you are interested. The workshop will be held at our regular meeting place on October 23 & 24. Workshops are always a fun way to renew friendships or make new ones. Hope you will think about joining us.

The Christmas program will be held at the Merced Courthouse Museum on December 6th. We will start at 6 P.M. touring the museum and the decorated Christmas Trees. I am sure our tree will be the best, thanks to Michelle and everyone that has made ornaments. We will have live music, light refreshments, and lots of time to socialize. Please put it on your calendar so you won't miss this fun celebration!

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"Will Massage for Quilts" Incentive Program for Quilters Embrace

For September the winner of a free massage goes to Allison Scott. Congratulations, Allison!

As a reminder, to be eligible for each drawing, you must be an active participant for the current month or since January 2010. Active participation will include any of the following: donation of a finished quilt, quilt top, fabric, completion of a kit or participation in a sew day. A ticket will be given for each donation.

To be fair, the winner will be different each month. You will only be eligible to win once in a 12-month period, thus your ticket will remain for future drawings. The winner may also choose to give the massage to a family member/friend if desired. To assist in my scheduling, the massage certificate must be redeemed within 30 days and a signed disclaimer will be required by the Guild. Thank you.

*Kimberly Farnham*

Quilters Embrace September Quilt Distribution

**12 to Red Cross**

**15 to CPS**

**10 to Health Center New Mother's Program**

**10 Preemies to Mercy neo-natal**

**9 Receiving blankets to Mercy Maternity**

**15 Quilts to Mercy Pediatrics**

Special Note

**The committee has checked with some of the above agencies to see what ages they are predominantly working with so that we can better meet their needs. Red Cross serves adults and requests throw-size quilts in the 60x70" range. CPS has a need for more quilts for ages 7 to 16, which would be quilts in the 50x60" range. Mercy Pediatrics serves children up to 13 years of age. The 50x60" range would work here as well.**

**We are doing great with baby and small children's quilts (40x50"), but when quilting for charity, think of the need for quilts for the older children and teenagers. With this last distribution, our inventory is very depleted. Our next distribution will be at Christmas time. Please consider donating a quilt. These agencies love our quilts, and are very appreciative. And, it's great PR for our guild.**

*Kimberly and Virginia*

**Let the Sunshine In**

If you know a guild member who could use a note of cheer, a get well wish, or has an occasion to celebrate, contact Jeanne Kimball, our Sunshine Chairman, at 358-4250, and she will send a card with our good wishes.

**Quilt Sizes for Charity Quilts**

Small Quilts: 40" x 50"  
Larger Lap Quilts: 56" x 70"

All donations are greatly appreciated.

Finished quilts of all sizes will continue to be accepted.

**Opportunity Quilt News**

We want to express A Big Thank You to three quilt shops that have helped us by displaying our quilt and selling raffle tickets or allowing us to sell. As you shop in these shops, let them know that you are a guild member and express your own thanks to them.

**Quilter's Cabin** (an actual log cabin)

630 N. Yosemite Ave., Oakdale, CA 95351

Phone – (209) 847-4487

Email: marie2cabin@comcast.net

Owner: Marie Lewerenz

Specializing in: Fabric – 4000 bolts including lines in batiks, florals, metallic, and landscapes  
Basic free-hand quilting  
Quilt supplies

**Cloth and Quilts**

625 E. Main St., Turlock, CA 95380

Phone – (209) 632-3225

Web site: [www.clothandquilts.com](http://www.clothandquilts.com)

Owners: Margaret, Debbie and Cindy

Specializing in: Books, with an in-store library  
Quilt classes  
Fabric – 6000 bolts  
Bernina dealer  
Custom and computerized quilting

We also want to express thanks to Sew Central Quilt Works in Hilmar who displayed our quilt twice. But because of going out of business in mid-September, we are not listing, at their request, information about their store.

**Reminder: Ticket stubs and monies due at the October meeting.**

Sincerely, Virginia Wagner, Chairman

### **Opportunities Disguised as Mistakes** (continued from page 1)

of the four already hand-applied blocks two inches smaller than the other three blocks! I didn't have any more of the background fabric nor did the fabric shops, so remaking the block wasn't an option. Cutting down the other three blocks would have left me with a medallion too small for the planned quilt. It was at this point that the entire quilt became a temporary UFO (unfinished object), simply because I was disappointed with myself for not having been more careful when cutting the background. It remained a UFO for several years (long enough for the paper on the back of the pineapple blocks to turn yellow) as I moved on to other projects.

But, as is often the case, that pesky UFO kept calling my name because, after all, I really did want to make that quilt! Opportunity #2 surfaced when I decided to reevaluate the entire quilt design afresh and discovered that I actually preferred to enlarge the entire quilt. I'm now engaged in reconsidering the medallion itself and am in the process of modifying not only the medallion, but the entire quilt, which I hope will eventually produce a more pleasing quilt for our bed. In hindsight, I am actually grateful to have been challenged by and to have learned from my mistakes. They were actually opportunities to explore creative problem-solving, even if it took years to be willing to go through the process. Perhaps one of the reasons we have UFOs is because we aren't ready or willing to learn the lessons they are waiting to teach us.

So I challenge us all to take another look at our UFOs, turn on our creative problem solving abilities and salvage the projects we were not previously ready to master. We might learn a great deal in the process and become more confident quilters who actually look forward to learning from the next unplanned quilting challenge. As for me, I am hoping to finish this UFO in time to hang it at our next quilt show a year from now. Shhhhhh! Please don't tell anyone it was ever a UFO.

Your Quilting Friend,  
*Karen Mous*

REMINDER: Please be actively selling your Opportunity Quilt Tickets or buying them for yourself or your family and friends. All proceeds stay within our Guild and help pay for the outstanding guest speakers, inspiring workshops, the stunning Quilt Show and friendship-building social activities we all enjoy. Let's each do our fundraising part by selling as many tickets as we possibly can before December 4th. The size of our budget directly influences the quality of our Guild activities.



## **Library Corner**

A list of the guild's library books can be found at:

<http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&uid=1199847027286182703>

### **NEWSLETTER**

Please send articles for the newsletter to Carol Berry at

[cberry@elite.net](mailto:cberry@elite.net).

They should be received no later than the weekend following the board meeting.

**MEMBER NEWS:** A warm welcome to **Sherry Boyer**, a Merced resident of five years who came to love quilting after joining a quilt class after moving to Merced. Sherry also enjoys gardening and is a Red Hatter and member of Habitat for Humanity.

Welcome back to returning member **Debbie Dunn**, whose presence will make you smile. Debbie also enjoys cross stitching and making cards.

Our guild now has 98 members and many new faces. **Please remember to wear your nametag** to the guild meetings so we may get to know one another better.

~ Diane Swenson

### **Lost and Found**

I have lost my "small ironing board with an off white cover". I think I might have left it at the Christmas in July sew day.  
~ Virginia Wagner

After a sew day in July I believe that I left a box, a clearish white plastic box with a white lid or something close to it, when everyone left for home that evening. I forgot to make a plea for the box last month and I am so hoping that some good person has it and has just forgotten about it. In it are the blocks for the months of March thru July. There are no extra blocks to buy as Sandy does not make extra blocks. Could someone make copies of the blocks of the month from March to July and put a piece of the material used that month on it? Maybe then I could buy a fourth or more of the material from Sandy on the internet store. Thank you very much.  
~ Sara R. Martindale

### **Wheel Chair Bags and Christmas Stockings Projects**

Last year at Christmas time our guild contributed 55 wheel chair bags to 2 of our local nursing homes. Quilters Embrace would like to do the same this year. This is the pattern if you care to participate. Cut an 8" x 15" piece of fabric. Fold in half on the 15" side, wrong sides together. Sew the long sides and hem the top. It's like making a pillowcase. Add 4 ties 15" long, one inch from the side seams, two ties per side. A great way to use up some of your scraps. The bags can be plain or you can embellish them however you like. Consider making more than one bag, but one from each member would be greatly appreciated. Also last year, the leftover Christmas Stockings from our Christmas Party Contest were donated to the nursing homes. If you care to make any number of these, any shape or size, they would be welcomed.  
Sincerely, Kimberly and Virginia

## **It's Magic! The 2011 Fabric Challenge**

To be a participant in the challenge, you will be asked to donate a yard of fabric. Will it be the homeliest yard of fabric in your stash? The brightest? The wildest?

Stay tuned for more details.

The "magic" will happen at our January 2011 meeting.

*Janetta Gibson and Carol Berry, Co-chairs*

**Interest Groups—open to all members**

**Happy Stitchers:**

Contact Sandy Coelho for information about this group.

**Handquilting:**

Contact Janetta Gibson if you are interested in participating in this group.



**November Birthdays**

Kimberly Walterscheid	11/6
Diane Hatmaker	11/9
Paula Miller	11/11
Michelle Latta	11/12
Michelle George	11/16
Ida Escola	11/19
Eleanor Carlos	11/26

**Upcoming Guild Programs (continued from page 3)**

Lori Nelson will be offering her class on Shards in either January or February. We will nail down a date by the next meeting, so think about signing up. More to come about lots of fun things after the new year. It is hard to believe that we are moving into 2011.

I hope everyone is making lots of quilts for the 2011 Quilt Show. Don't forget to put that sleeve on as you are finishing the binding.

See you at the October meeting. ~Susan Hammon

**Classified**

Please mark your calendar and invite all of your friends to attend the annual

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**  
 at CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 Hoffmeister Center, 1920 Canal Street. Merced

**Saturday, December 4, from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.**

You and your friends are invited to enjoy free hot apple cider while shopping in 30 vendor booths filled with a wide variety of hand-crafted items. Enjoy taking a break while savoring a delicious home made luncheon. You might even be the lucky winner of a special raffle prize. You are likely to leave with the Christmas Spirit in your heart and much of your Christmas shopping already done.

- \* Parking and admission are free
- \* All proceeds benefit the C.P.C. Mt. Hermon All-church Conference



# Gateway Quilters' Guild

PO Box 3793

Merced, CA 95340

E-mail: [newsletter@gatewayquiltersguild.org](mailto:newsletter@gatewayquiltersguild.org)



## Classifieds



701 W Olive Ave.  
Merced, CA 95348

*Dorothy Kieley,*  
S.R.E.S., ePro, R.C.C.  
Short Sale and Foreclosure Resource Certification

REALTOR®

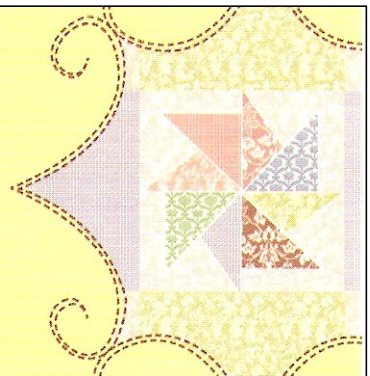
Phone: 209-489-0621  
[www.DorothySellsMerced.com](http://www.DorothySellsMerced.com)  
E-mail: [DKieley@GonellaRealty.com](mailto:DKieley@GonellaRealty.com)

**Good Moves Start Here**

*Merry Quilters*  
your quilt is our passion

*Mary Ann Dailey*  
owner/operator

1512 Lynn Ave  
Modesto CA  
209 576-7151  
[quilterkat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:quilterkat@sbcglobal.net)



I'll Be In Touch...with you

Where the mature adult can feel vibrant again...

Kimberly Sterry-Farnham

Certified Massage Therapist

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