May 2019 Newsletter
Star Quilters Guild of Roanoke, Virginia, and the surrounding area of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains
http://starquilters.org/

Our May Program: The Spring Social
at Christ Lutheran Church, corner of Brandon and Grandin in Roanoke
on Monday, May 6, at 6 PM (an hour before our usual time)

Gisela O'Connor and her helpers have been busy making decorations and favors for our party. If you still haven't signed up to bring something (or have forgotten what you chose), talk to her: 540-293-6890 or giselaoco@outlook.com

This event gives us a chance to talk to other guild members and catch up on the news. We will not have a program, but we will enjoy Show- and-Tell after the meal.

JOIN THE STARRY EYED QUILTERS IN PLEIN AIR ON MAY 4

The Starry Eyed Quilters group meets to try new techniques to make art quilts. Talk to Susan Kraterfield if you'd like to join them at a meeting or on facebook.

Here is a notice of a Starry Eyed Quilters workshop to which YOU are invited.

Plein Air Quilting Play Date
Saturday, May 4, from 10 am – 2 pm @ Linda Badger's

Leave behind the four walls of your studio and experience quilting in the landscape. This practice was popularized by the French Impressionist painters. They wanted to paint light and its changing qualities. The advent of transportable paint tubes and the box easel freed the artists to paint “en plein air,” which is the French expression for “in the open air.” We've adapted it to quilting! Come give it a try.

Bring: fabric, scissors, glue, card table, lunch. We’ll each set up somewhere and work up a quilt design from something we see; the garden should be lush. We are scheduling 3 hours of work time and a break for lunch. Contact Susan at skraterfield@gmail.com to reserve a spot and get directions to Linda’s.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS … MAKE QUILTS
The Quiltessas will be meeting on Friday, May 3, from 10 to 2 at Our Lady of Nazareth Church on 419. Bring your machine and tools. There will be comfort quilt kits, or you can work on a project of your own. No machine? Come to help iron or cut.
Info: Judy Bradley bradxjude@aol.com
Officers and Committee Chairs for 2018-2019

President .......................................................... Judy McWhorter
Vice-President ............................................... Susan Kraterfield
Secretary ........................................................ Claire Hightower
Treasurer .............................................................. Sue Berry
Historian .......................................................... Kelly Zuber
Hospitality .......................................................... Gisela O’Connor & Judy Bird
Library ............................................................... Betty Tyree & Linda Badger
Membership ........................................ Jennifer Adams & Bonnie Blessing
Newsletter ........................................................ Laura Perry
Programs ............................................................ Dawn Schaben
Publicity ........................................................... Linda Badger
Quilt Show ......................................................... Judy Coffman
Service Projects ........................................... Judy Bradley & Ethel Simmons
Special Events ................................................ Cathy Russell
Sunshine ........................................................... Sue Thurston
Ways & Means ............................................. Donna Bohon (books and magazines)
Ways & Means ............................................. Cathy Henderson (fabric)
Web Page ........................................................ Susan Kraterfield

Their telephone numbers and email addresses are in the Membership Directory.

REMINDER

MEMBERSHIP 2019-2020

Have you renewed your membership for 2019-2020? Spring is the time to renew! Forms will be available at the meetings. Please be sure you are using a form that is dated 2019-2020. Dues are $20. Make checks payable to Star Quilters Guild. This year ended April 30, 2019, so now is the time to re-join!

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY FOR 2019-2020

It’s time to update the directory again. We would like to get a picture for everyone in the directory. If you would like to use the same picture from the last directory, that is great. Please check in at the membership table if you need a photo taken, or submit a head shot to Jennifer Adams at aboy4me4x@gmail.com

Thank you for your help with this project.

~ Jennifer Adams and Bonnie Blessing, Membership Committee
What’s Ahead at our Monday Meetings

June 3 - Nancy Oldham has been digging into her blanket chests to find treasures to show us. She will have quilts made by her mother-in-law and others purchased at auctions, including a very old four-patch from York County, Pennsylvania, and she will tell us about their designs and history.

July 8 - Bonnie Scott -- “The Creative Process.” She will talk about how having fun has led to creativity in her glass work, in her quilting, and in her drawing - with examples. This is a program for people who feel they have little creativity and few original ideas, who hesitate to take on new projects because they fear failure, or who have hit a brick wall on a project. We will discuss how to think outside the box while playing and experimenting without defined limits and no judgment, so that “creative accidents” can happen.

August 5 - to be arranged

September 9 - Cathy Fandel will lead a program on Christmas Quilts and other Christmas ideas. Everyone is invited to bring Christmas quilts to share with the group.

Future programs: the new quilt store at Smith Mountain Lake, UFOs, and Marietta Price (make accessories to go with that lovely quilt!), to name a few.

~Dawn Schaben, Program Chair

New Guild Challenge: What’s Virginia Known For?

Now that the adrenaline and high energy of the quilt show is fading, put on your thinking caps for a “just for fun” guild challenge. Our home state is filled with so many remarkable things. Let’s commemorate them in quilts! There are no rules:

◊ Traditional, art, modern, or downright avant garde if you wish
◊ Miniatures, queen-size, and barn quilts are all welcome.

Work on your idea for 6 months and bring it to the December social to share with all of us. No judging; but you’ll vote for your favorites.


~ Susan Kraterfield

A Short Film Well Worth Watching!

Quilt/Courtepointe

Watch quilt blocks dance, interplay, and morph into Log Cabin, Drunkard's Path, and other favorites in this 6-minute film underwritten by the National Film Board of Canada.

https://www.nfb.ca/film/quilt/?fbclid=IwAR2b8cVsiGs_AOp3FqUW5oFoNDhx91mPkpqnvZjXcKgH60tm140qBj13xE
Convergence Quilt Workshop led by Susan Kraterfield

Saturday, June 15, 10-3
at Cave Spring Methodist Church
4505 Hazel Dr, Roanoke VA 24018
Cost: $5

Want to make a convergence like those terrific quilts in the quilt show? Come join us! You’ll finish a convergence top, ready to enhance with borders or applique.
RSVP to skraterfield@gmail.com

Supply list:
· sewing machine, needle, thread, pins, clippers, etc.
· extension cord
· cutting Mat, rotary cutter, and a cutting ruler as long as your mat
· marking pen (it won’t show)
· iron & ironing pad or board if it’s practical for you to bring one
· 4 fat quarters of fabric + border fabric as desired – more suggestions below
· Ricky Tims’ book Convergence Quilts (if you have it) to share
· a bag lunch and drink for yourself

Fabric Suggestions:
· 4 fat quarters makes a convergence about 28”x36”. You can start with any rectangle sizes that you are comfortable with. Ricky Tims, the creator, recommends 14 or 16 inches. The pictured example started with 21”x27”rectangles. The finished convergence was around 35x45.
· If you want to re-use fabrics from the convergence for the border, make sure you have extra of those fabrics. Convergences look great with multiple borders; a contrasting smallish inner border frames it well.
· The convergence preserves the fabric design, so it’s a good choice to showcase a fabric you are loathe to chop up. Example: use 2 fat quarters of a single large scale fabric, and pick up its colors in 2 other small scale or solid fat quarters. (That’s the way I did it in the example pictured above.)
· Another example: choose 4 solids that speak to you. Yellow, red, blue, and black? Coral, aqua, teal, and lime?
· For inspiration about fabric, Google [search online] images of Convergence Quilts, search “convergence” on the guild facebook page, or search Pinterest pages.

continued on next page
Reference material:
· The best instructions are copyrighted by inventor Ricky Tims; I won't try to improve on them. Ricky Tims' book is *Convergence Quilts: Mysterious, Magical, Easy, and Fun*. I'll bring mine, and we have one in the guild library.
· FAQ on our website.. *Convergence Calculator*
· FAQ on our website.. *Handout* from Pat Wade's mini-class in 2012
· FAQ on our website.. *Slideshow* for the workshop

**QUILT RETREAT IN SEPTEMBER AT SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE**

Our Quilt Retreat will start on Wednesday, September 11th, and conclude on Sunday, September 15th. It will be held at the 4H Center at Smith Mountain Lake in Franklin County.

Thanks to the 20 members that have signed up for the Quilt Retreat.

We do need 4 more members, so if you are interested, I can still add you to the list. A $50.00 deposit is needed. The total amount is $280.00, which includes your room and meals.

Lodging is 2 to a room. Each room includes a full bed and a twin bed, a desk, and a bathroom. It also includes breakfast, dinner, and work space.

Supplies that you need to bring will be listed later.

Please let me know ASAP if you would like to go. Also who you would like to room with.

Members who have signed up should make payment for the remaining amount due by August 23, 2019.

Please come and join us on the above dates. Sewing, fellowship, getting new ideas, finishing projects, no distractions from home, and just enjoying yourself in doing a craft that makes you feel good.

Cathy Russell
bfmshmk@yahoo.com
540-494-0522

Information about the 4H Center at Smith Mountain Lake in Franklin County:
https://skelton4hcenter.org/
Video Tour: http://skelton4hcenter.org/take-a-tour/
facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Skelton4HCenter/
THE QUILT SHOW WINNERS

Susan Kraterfield has posted lovely photos of these quilts on our website at https://starquilters.org/2019/04/16/2019-guild-show-winners-list/

Best in Show: Jeremy's Dream Aquarium by Nancy Oldham
Viewers Choice: Designing with Hexagons & Scraps by Bonnie Blessing
Best Hand Quilting: Flower Vases by Cindy Mobley
Best Machine Quilting: Easter Egg Rose by Kelly Zuber

Challenge Quilts
1st: New Day - Bonnie Scott
2nd: Queen Anne’s Lacey - Nancy Oldham
3rd: Fifty Shades of Gray - Judy McWhorter
Honorable Mention: Solar Flares on a Starry Night - Kelly Zuber

Applique Quilts
1st: Flower Vases - Cindy Mobley
2nd: Quilt Sign - Dawn Schaben
3rd: Nessie - Judy Byrd
Honorable Mention: Eye Spy - Patricia Snowadzky

Art Quilts
1st: TRANSfiguration: Polyphemus Silk Moth - Karin Tauber
2nd: Something Fishy Going On - Nancy Oldham
3rd: Moonglow - Linda Fiedler
Honorable Mention: Spice Bazaar - Karin Tauber

Fashion
1st: Feathered Retro Gown with Quilted Bodice - Jenna Pynn
2nd: Flying Geese Away - Bonnie Scott
3rd: Doodle The Yo-Yo Doll - Laura Perry
Honorable Mention: Once Again - Bonnie Scott

Miniature
1st: Pumpkin Patch - Peggy Ramsey
2nd: Blue Star Madness - Donna Kittelson
3rd: Val’s Scrappy Rainbow #1 - Val Stricklin
Honorable Mention: unnamed #1 - Val Stricklin

Modern (small)
1st: Fusion - Linda Fiedler
2nd: Lagniappe - Loretta Bedia
3rd: The Matrix - Bonnie Scott
Honorable Mention: Balancing the Rainbow Colors - Stephanie Schaefer
Modern (large)
   1st: Not a Traditional Wedding Ring - Loretta Bedia
   2nd: Endgame - Mick Belcher
   3rd: Morning Sun - Stephanie Schaefer
   Honorable Mention: Malawi Passages - Danette High

Special Techniques
   1st: Jeremy’s Dream Aquarium - Nancy Oldham
   2nd: Whoooterville - Sue Thurston
   3rd: My Hummels - Elsie Bailey
   Honorable Mention: Paradise in Blooms - Lois Atkins

Traditional Individual (small)
   1st: Tiny Diamonds - Donna Kittelson
   2nd: Chinese Checkers - Kathy Martin
   3rd: Love Through the Years - Jessica Tims
   Honorable Mention: Carnival - Laura Perry

Traditional Individual (medium)
   1st: Berry Mango Delight - Elaine Boyd
   2nd: Tribute - Celeste York
   3rd: Glimpses of Elegance - Karen Hatten
   Honorable Mention: Spring Sunshine - Karen Hatten

Traditional Individual (large)
   1st: My Lone Broken Star - Linda Whisman
   2nd: Trains for Rick - Donna Watts
   3rd: Texas Lone Star - Dawn Schaben
   Honorable Mention: Galaxy of Stars - Loretta Twiford

Traditional Collaborative (small)
   1st: Sew Many Circles - Donna Kittelson
   2nd: Cherry Kitchen Quilt - Gisela O’Connor
   3rd: Kite Season - Diane Markert
   Honorable Mention: Butterfly Garden - Laurie Lyons

Traditional Collaborative (medium)
   1st: Ocean Voyage - Kelly Zuber
   2nd: This one is for MOM - Angela Miller
   3rd: Spring Dresdens - Diane Markert
   Honorable Mention: Log Cabin Revisited - Joyce Moorman

Traditional Collaborative (large)
   1st: Easter Egg Rose - Kelly Zuber
   2nd: The Heritage Quilt - Gisela O’Connor
   3rd: Passion for Purple - Kelly Zuber
   Honorable Mention: Delectable Blue Ridge Mountains - Loretta Bedia
ENTER YOUR QUILTS IN THE 2019 SMOKY MOUNTAIN QUILTERS SHOW

Why not share your quilt with others who will appreciate it? The Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee will offer more than $6,000 in awards at their show on August 2 and 3, 2019 at the Knoxville Expo Center in Tennessee. There will be 16 categories in which to enter your quilts and 12 special awards. Deadline for entries is June 14, 2019. Please visit https://www.smokymtnquilters.com/quilt-show.html for more information on the competition, for entry forms, and for a slide show of winners.

Pictured: one of the winners from the 2018 show.

New Member Asking for Help

I have a question to ask about getting a quilt quilted economically. I cannot afford to pay for computerized long-arm quilting. Is there anyone in the immediate Roanoke area who has an older, hand-operated long arm? Or is there an Amish community that does hand quilting? We had an Amish community near where I used to live, and they quilted by hand at a very reasonable price. The quilt I have now is about 80 by 88 inches. Call me at 540.339.9788 and leave a message, please.
- Clare Melick

An Invitation from Cathy Henderson

I’d like to invite members to a show I’m directing for Attic Productions opening May 16th at the D. Geraldine Lawson Performing Arts Center at 7490 Roanoke Road in Fincastle. The show is “The Trip to Bountiful,” and it runs May 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 & 25 at 7:30 pm and May 18 & 25 at 2:30 pm. https://www.roanoke.com/calendar/arts/the-trip-to-bountiful/event_835d3364-6122-11e9-bc64-4fbe22156d15.html
Cathy 😊

YOU CAN HELP THE VIRGINIA QUILT MUSEUM

The Virginia Quilt Museum’s online auction will be held in October, and it is accepting new donations for that fundraiser! The items sold usually are little quilts or objects like purses, table runners, Christmas tree skirts, toys, ornaments, etc. Would you like to donate something? The sale of your work will benefit the museum!
Minutes of the Star Quilters Guild Monthly Meeting on April 1, 2019

President Judy McWhorter called our meeting to order at 7:00. She welcomed us and led a round of applause for all of us for the success of our Quilt Show. She reminded us that our dues are to be paid in April of each year. On a sad note, she announced that member Lori Lyons will be moving to Pennsylvania shortly.

Program

Program Chair Dawn Schaben introduced our program speaker, Carolyn Goins. Carolyn presented a program and trunk show on various settings for her Fiona Block, which she created to showcase fabric lines for the quilt shop where she worked. The block is a square made of three or five fabric rectangles. Carolyn's quilts illustrated how this single simple block, with various fabric placement and block orientation, can be used to create a variety of quilt designs. Carolyn had her book and patterns for sale following her program.

Business Meeting and Announcements

Secretary: Minutes of our March meeting appeared in the April newsletter.

Treasurer: The Treasurer's report is available in our newsletter.

Library: Chair Betty Tyree had new library books on display.

Comfort and Service Quilts: Co-chair Judy Bradley announced that five quilts were turned in at the March meeting, and 81 quilts were distributed last week.

Hospitality: Chair Gisela O'Connor announced the April birthdays. Gisela also gave details of our May Social. We will have a salad bar, with items provided by members; look for a sign-up sheet in email. The social will begin at 6:00 PM, an hour earlier than our usual meeting time. Flowery attire is suggested.

Special Events: Chair Cathy Russell announced details of a Quilt Retreat she is organizing. The retreat will be held September 11-15 (Wednesday through Sunday) at the 4H Center near Smith Mountain Lake. The fee is $280 and includes lodging, breakfast, dinner and workspace. A deposit of $50 is due soon. A maximum of 24 people can be accommodated; nine have signed up so far.

Raffle Quilt: Kathy Wickham announced that our income from raffle quilt ticket sales was $1052 as of Saturday morning at our Quilt Show. She thanked all who made blocks and sold tickets; she also thanked Cathy Fandel for quilting it. She announced that the drawing winner was Elaine Blackford of Christiansburg.

Quit Show: Chair Judy Coffman reported that the show had 1095 admission tickets sold, many more than our break-even point of 700 tickets. She led recognition of the Show committee members and volunteers.

Membership: Chair Jennifer Adams announced that 69 members and six guests were in attendance. Five of the guests joined for the 2019-2020 membership year.

Ways and Means: Co-chair Cathy Henderson announced that members spent $119 at our Ways and Means sales table. We will not have a Ways and Means table at our May meeting.
Workshop: Dawn Schaben announced that there are two openings for the Phyllis Reeves workshop on April 27.

Starry Eyed Quilters will hold a plein air quilting event at the Badger residence to create a picture from fabric scraps.

Newsletter editor Laura Perry announced a quilt show at the Heritage UMC in Lynchburg will be held the weekend of April 13.

Closing

Following Show and Tell, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15. Our May meeting, our Spring Social, will begin at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Hightower, Secretary

EVENTS

"America From the Heart Quilt Show" will take place Friday and Saturday, May 3-4, 2019, from 9 am to 5 pm at the famous Dixie Classic (Winston Salem) Fairgrounds! For more information, see [http://www.hottqg.com/](http://www.hottqg.com/)

"The Fiber of Art" will be displayed in the Hayloft Gallery from April 13 - June 1, 2019. See [http://floydartcenter.org/call-to-artists-the-fiber-of-art](http://floydartcenter.org/call-to-artists-the-fiber-of-art)
Busy Hands

You are welcome to join a small group of members on the 3rd Monday of the month, May 20th, at Barnes and Noble, Tanglewood. Time 6:30 for about 1 ½ hours. It’s a great time to work on those hand-work projects. Spring is here, so let’s start new projects. Enjoy a cup of coffee if you like while working and discussing your project. Any questions, contact Ann Ware.

Guild Income and Expenses, May 1, 2018 - April 30, 2019

Income $18,102
Expenses $13,379
Cash-on-hand: $16,447

Cash-on-hand includes carry-over amounts from previous years, quilt show proceeds from the recent show, and some memberships for the next year.

… and an important note

The Guild’s accounting year ended on April 30. I would like to prepare the final reports for the year by May 15. Please give me any receipts for the accounting year May 1 through April 30, 2019 for which you need reimbursement and any income items that you may have collected for the guild. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

~ Sue Berry, Treasurer

Spring Tea at VQM

The Virginia Quilt Museum in Harrisonburg will hold a Tea and Lecture on May 18th. Deborah Schupp will be talking about "How To Ignore the Quilt Police." See http://www.gumbodesignstudios.com/
This is sure to be a fun and lively talk! Tickets are $40, and seating is limited. Get your tickets today at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-tea-with-speaker-deborah-schupp-tickets-59264201823
For more Quilt Museum events and announcements, including a program on indigo dyeing, new exhibits, and a quilt block sampler challenge, see www.vaquiltmuseum.org

COMFORT QUILTS DELIVERED!

On March 26, 81 quilts were delivered to local groups that help those in need. This was the tally: 14 quilts to Ronald McDonald House; 8 quilts to Bethany Hall; 6 quilts to Ram House; 20 quilts to Turning Point; 21 quilts to Family Promise; and 12 quilts to Blue Ridge Women’s Center.

Many, many thanks to the quilters who meet every first Friday to make these quilts, and to guild members who make comfort quilts at home.
Above: A message from Susan K’s friend Nancy Powers

Visit Boone’s Country Store at 2699 Jubal Early Highway (Rt. 116) in Boones Mill
Several people who came to our quilt show said they had heard about it there!
THE QUILT SHOW NUMBERS ARE IN

We had over 200 great quilts! The weather was beautiful, people had read about Nancy in the newspaper, and our signs were all over the Valley! Those are some of the reasons why this year’s quilt show did especially well. We had 1095 visitors, and most of them made a point of telling us it was a great show.

The final profit, which goes into the Guild account, was $3,838.97. Pretty good!
Believe it or not, planning for the 2021 show begins in January 2020.
I have been asked, and am willing to be, Chair for the next show. This will have to be voted on at our first show committee meeting on January 21, 2020. If you’d like to work hard, make new friends, and have a lot of fun, join us!
~ Judith Coffman

Library Committee Report

Our May meeting is a good time to check out the Library’s books. Several new titles have been returned and are ready to go out again. If there is anything in particular you are looking for, let me know. Thanks ~ Betty Tyree Jbnt9999@yahoo.com

QUILT SHOW DOOR PRIZE AND RAFFLE WINNERS

In case you've been wondering, here are the lucky people who made us losers --
Batik Gift Basket .................................................. Janet Strickler
Monochromatic Blues Gift Basket .......... Laura Hubbard (Hubbert?)
Modern Gift Basket ........................ Clare Melick
Patriotic Gift Basket ................................. Judy Cuddington
Moda “Martinique” fabric kit ............... Sara Johnson
Log Cabin Raffle Quilt .............................. Elaine Blackford

SEWING MACHINE FOR SALE

I have a Bernina Artista 200E for sale, along with a Koala Dual Mate IV sewing cabinet. I’m asking $750 for the 200E. It includes the embroidery module and the dual suitcase system as well as all of the original books, feet, and accessories. The workbooks for both the machine and the embroidery module are also included. The machine was just serviced at Alpine Sewing Machine Company in Roanoke. It has 45 hours of sewing time on it.
I have $2500 invested in the Koala table and will sell it for $1500. It has two motorized lifts (I don’t think it will handle the bigger machines, but works well with the 200E and the 400QE generations of machines), remote and manual controls, the shelf packages for the doors and the quilt extension shelf on the rear. If someone buys it, they would need to move it and it is in my upstairs.
Thanks for your time!

Sharolyn Heatwole, 2170 Blue Jay Lane, Blacksburg, VA 24060-6754, 1-540-951-2505 or Sharolynheatwole@aol.com
**Things You Might Want to Bring to Monday's Meeting**

(1) Something delicious to add to the Salad Bar or Dessert Table.
(2) Items you'd like to Show and Tell.
(3) Your name tag - don't be a stranger!
(4) Comfort Quilts you've finished making and want to turn in.
(5) Receipts you have for items purchased for the Guild and money collected for the Guild to turn into our treasurer, Sue Berry. April 30th marks the end of our fiscal year.
(6) Books and magazines and fabric to donate to our Ways and Means table.
(7) Books to return to the Guild Library.
(8) A friend who is interested in quilting.
(9) Your membership renewal form and $20 for your 2019-2020 membership.

**COULD YOU DO THIS TO A QUILT YOU HAD MADE?**
Learning From Our Quilt Show Judge – by Sue Berry

During our last quilt show, I wrote down all the comments our judge, Scott Murkin, made about the quilts entered for judging. This was quite an experience! I have never been in the judging room for the entire process, and I learned a lot from hearing all the comments.

I did not write down the name or number of each quilt. So, I do not know from my notes which comment relates to which quilt. The show committee always strives to maintain complete confidentiality surrounding the judge’s comments. Persons in the judging room are not aware of whose quilt is being judged unless, of course, by chance, their own quilt or a friend’s is being judged.

The positive comments that Scott made about the quilts were unique to each quilt. Thus, it would be difficult to generally summarize the positive comments. However, each quilt entered had positive comments made about it. In my opinion, however, the judge reacted most positively to those quilts in which the actual quilting enhanced the design of the quilt top. If you remember, this is the same general comment that Neva Hart, who judged the challenge quilts made: the quilt design should enhance the design of the quilt top.

Following is a general summary of items that he said could be improved in one quilt or another:

Piecing/Applique/Labels
- More consistency is needed in knife-edge piecing.
- Visible piecing threads are distracting and should be hidden.
- Long seams and edges need to be straight.
- Sashing should be straight, consistent in width, and line up across the top.
- Be sure to square your quilt at each stage of construction.
- Exercise consistency in cutting same-sized applique pieces.
- Use great care in the density and spacing of applique stitches; take care to avoid slanted stitches.
- A shorter stitch length makes it easier to achieve smooth curves.
- Avoid fraying in your applique pieces, especially the smaller pieces.
- Be sure that the label you apply on the back of quilt does not distort the quilt top.

Quilting
- Remove markings for quilting before entering your quilt for judging.
- Quilting should be in scale to the overall size of piece.
- Different quilting and/or thread choices can enhance the attractiveness of the quilt top.
- Quilting should stay within the intended design areas; also, it should fill the designated space.
- Strive for consistent stitch length in machine quilting; use extra care in changing direction.
- Be precise when you start and stop machine quilting. Also, starts and stops should be secured.
- Try to achieve consistency in machine tension.
- Additional quilting often can add to the stability and durability of the quilt.
- Make sure your quilting does not include skipped stitches.
- Repeated shapes of the quilting motifs should be consistent in size and placement.
- Make sure that quilted parallel lines are evenly spaced.
- Be consistent when you retrace quilting lines.
- Additional quilting can help to minimize surface distortion.
- Be sure that your quilting has not caused puckers on the quilt borders.
- Strive for consistent stitch length in hand-quilting.

Binding
- Binding should never cut off points of piecwork or encroach on border quilting.
- Corners should be mitered, not rounded.
- Miters of binding should align with miters of borders.
- Make binding the same width on the front and back of the quilt and fill it completely with batting.
- Binding stitches should be tighter and closer on back of quilt and not come through to front of quilt.
- Flange (a decorative strip of folded fabric in a seam) should be consistent in width.
- Be especially careful in applying split binding (front and back of the binding in different fabrics with a seam down the center).
- Facing fabric should not show on the front of the quilt.