

KANATA QUILT GUILD ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

It was another year where COVID changed the way the guild worked and how our members interacted. I want to thank and congratulate all the members for helping to make it the best year we could have, given the circumstances. We tried some in person events as COVID guidelines permitted, but overall, members were more comfortable remaining on the ZOOM platform for most of our events. On the plus side, this gave us new skills with new technology and new ways of doing things changed, leaving us better prepared for the future. After all, our sewing machines are now becoming sewing computers! And most of us rely on debit, credit or e-transfer these days rather than cash. These technologies and processes are reflected in our quilting lives and guild activities, and I hope you enjoy the impact of this on our futures. It was an active year, with great speakers and activities and I thank each and every member for contributing to the best of their ability.

Program Speakers

Judith Pach and Pauline Farey

The positive side of using the ZOOM platform for our Program Speakers was that we were able to obtain “world class” speakers from around the world, while sitting in front of our computers in the comfort of our homes.

Our first speaker for the 2021-2022 year was part of our 10th Anniversary Celebration, although a few years later. Hollis Chatelain is an internationally recognized and award winning textile artist who shared her early years with us of living and working in Western Africa. She gave us a lot to think about!

Mary Fons is also a world renowned quilter, author and blogger. She was very lively as she showed us a trunk show, while continuously climbing up and down a chair to show her quilts to their best advantage.

Our third speaker was Mathew Boudreau aka “Mister Domestic”. Mathew got into quilting when his husband bought him a sewing machine and he made a jacket for their daughter. He was an enthusiastic speaker who enjoys spreading joy through quilting. Our members were in awe of the jacket he made and his other quilts.

For one evening in December, we took a trip “Down Under” to visit Monica and Allure Poole, a mother and daughter duo who have taken quilting from a hobby to a business. They excel in Quilt as you go patterns, and Allure is in the process of creating her own fabric line.

Our January speaker was the always delightful Krista Moser. When Krista had difficulty reading patterns in her teens, she began making quilt patterns from her imagination. This propelled her into the creative and innovative designer she is today, Her blog, The Quilted Life, comes out every Sunday and offers tips, tricks and free patterns.

In February, we had both a morning and an evening speaker. In the morning, we had Kit Vincent a local art quilter who constructs fibre art using fabrics she dyes herself. She demonstrated the process she uses to dye her fabrics and construct her large award winning pieces. Our evening was spent in New Zealand with Sharon Keightley. Sharon is a great fan of vintage and reproduction fabrics, and both piecing and appliqué.

John McPhail of Art East Quilting in Cape Breton, was our March speaker. John has really hit the quilting world running, with his cute and quirky patterns, all traditionally pieced. Many members went on to take his on line workshops.

Sue Sherman, another Canadian and international award winning quilt artist, was our April speaker. Many of her quilts feature wildlife from her international trips. She recently released a fabric line for Northcott of penguins from her trip to Australia.

Our final speaker in May was Brigitte O'Flaherty from Perth. She spoke to us about sustainability in the fabric and quilting world and gave us an interesting and in-depth look at the environmental impacts of the products we use.

We decided to host our June meeting in-person as an outside Picnic in the Park. Since the COVID protocols were relaxed by then, we thought that having our meeting outside and a Quilt Show and Social would help us reconnect in person. Unfortunately, the rain forced the cancellation of our event, and our reconnecting. Maybe soon.....

We would like to thank the members for their support and positive comments on the program. And I would like to thank Judith and Pauline for their efforts to find interesting speakers.

Vice President and Secretary Reports Liz Poitras and Susan Joss

Since COVID, the role of the VP changed. Luckily, the VP monitored the questions that members posed for the guest speaker's presentation. It is quite busy for those organizing the ZOOM so having someone dedicated to monitoring the Chat function allowed us to capture and respond to members' comments and questions. I would like to thank Liz Poitras for her input to the Executive and the program we presented, and her role in the Zoom meetings.

Susan Joss took minutes of all the meetings and Executive meetings or decisions. She also undertook to collect all the guild's minutes in one place for future reference. It will be very useful for future guild years to have her record of everything. Susan also engaged the St John's Ambulance first aid team for our Picnic in the Park. Thank you Susan for all your efforts.

Treasurer's Report

Lynn Price

This was done orally in September, after the year closed, in order to avoid any problems with our finances getting onto the internet. Overall, our finances are healthy. Our books were reviewed by Carol Vahey and Judith Pach who were impressed by the quality of our work. Members can discuss any questions with Lynn Price at the address on the guild website contact page. Thank you Lynn for all your efforts, especially the extra time it took to process the e-transfers.

Retreats

Debby Holden, Lynn Price and Iwona Mooney

The KQG held two retreats this year . The first was an in-town retreat at the Kanata Legion on November 24-25, attended by 24 members. Due to COVID, we limited the number of activities, but overall, everyone enjoyed the get together, socializing, sharing ideas and of course, quilting. The second retreat was held at Fort Coulonge Spruceholme Inn from April 21 to 24 and attended by 27 members. There was a silent auction, door prizes, a name tag draw and a special happy hour enjoyed by all. Together, we sewed a community quilt - Ukrainian Star - which was donated to a Ukrainian refugee family. The venue allows for plenty of space to socially distance, and everyone enjoyed getting together once again.

Mystery Quilt

Krista Zaleski

Our Mystery quilt this year was called "Slow and Steady" in honour of the hours that people spent piecing the Snail Trail blocks! Twenty nine members participated and we will host a special Show and Tell of the guild quilts in October. Thank you Krista. It was fun and we appreciated your challenges to us!

Community Quilt

Carol Dworschak, Colette Gentes, Elaine Bradley

Our charities were the Rudy Shenkman Hospice Care, Quilts for Residential School survivors, Victoria's Quilts Canada and the Cornerstone Housing for Women. However, due to COVID security measures, we were not able to donate directly to our charities. Instead we donated 21 quilts to Ukrainian families who had recently arrived. They were very appreciative of our donations and hope to thank us in person some day soon.

Each month, we challenged the KQG members with a "Monthly Block Challenge" which proved to be fun for the members. Easy instructions were provided so that everyone felt they could participate. We made Log Cabin, the Confetti block, the Heart block and the Chicken block, as well as numerous blue and yellow blocks for Ukrainian refugees. We were able to make 8 quilt tops and have a number of them ready for next year. Thank you to Linda Anderson, Leslie Whitby, Beth Van Wyngarrten and Brigid Whitnall for helping to quilt these tops.

We continued to make quilts for the Queensway Carleton ChildBirth Program. We delivered 420 quilts in 2020-21 and about 200 this year. I want to thank Elaine Bradley for collecting and delivering these quilts and hope she enjoyed her small visits with these new Canadians.

We held a Sew Day for Charity in January and made blocks and tops, sandwiched quilts and bound others. Some members taught their techniques to the newer members. As usual, there was as much chatting as sewing as we were excited to work together on guild initiatives. Thank you Carol and Colette for all you efforts designing the quilts, preparing the instructions and working with our charities.

Membership

Nancy Wright and Ruth Bennett

Thank you to the 225+ members who joined this adventure this year. It amazed us that people were signing up in the last few months of the year, and our numbers kept growing! This made it interesting for other members to hear newcomers and each other and look forward to the day when we could get together to share our quilting journeys. Thank you to Nancy and Ruth for keeping us all organized and providing us with info about membership and our overall program elements, for the membership directory and updates.

Show and Tell Dawn Harkness

We are advised to keep learning to keep us active. And Show and Tell was a learning for members to load their pictures, and for Dawn to show them. We didn't get as many quilts to show as when we were in person, but we ranged from a low of 13 quilts to 29. It is so rewarding to see what our members have done with fabric and thread! Thank you Dawn and we know you are looking forward to showing many more quilts next year.

Draws

Joan Armstrong, Nancy Maloney and Iwona Mooney

COVID led Joan, Iwona and Nancy, to think outside the proverbial box to keep the draws going. Shopping for goodies for the various draws was out the question so they came up with the idea of "gift certificates". It was a win-win scenario for all involved as they purchased the entire allotment in two separate forays between lockdowns. They were determined to support local Ottawa and immediate area shops as they need our business and we definitely need their goods. One never has sufficient fabric, thread, supplies!

Gift certificates from the following stores were purchased, one was donated by Sew Inspired in Arnprior and our last Gift Certificate for June, for **TEXTILE TRADITIONS** in Almonte, was donated by the outgoing Draw Coordinators as their farewell gesture to a group of fabulous quilters and to say **Thank You** for supporting Kanata Quilt Guild's Draw Program.

Gift certificates (\$75 x 2 certificates) were drawn monthly. Special certificates (\$150 x 2) were drawn in December 2021, April 2022, and June 2022 draws that were postponed due to rain.

Sew Inspired, Arnprior
Textile Traditions, Almonte
Happy Wife Quilting, Carleton Place
Sew Crafty, Rideau Ferry
Quilter's Barn, Russell
Fabrications, Ottawa
Beth's Quilt Works, Kanata

Mad About Patchwork, Stittsville
The Pickle Dish, Carleton Place
Maker Savvy, Kanata
Quilty Pleasures, Orleans
Paisleys Quilt Shop, Carp
3 Dogs Quilting, North Gower

A huge thank you to these sponsors! They advertised in our newsletter and provided supplies when we needed them. We encourage our members to continue to support these stores who helped us make our draws exciting. And thank Iwona, Joan and Nancy for 3 years of traipsing around quilt stores to see what they carried and provide us with some fun!

Communications/Newsletter

Brigid Whitnall and Nancy England

Communications have been so important to the way the guild operates and shares. We learn about our program and activities, and how to arrive at the right day and time! Thank you to Nancy for an interesting and fun newsletter. The colours and humour keep one reading and conveys a lot of information to members. And thank you to Brigid for all your efforts using ZOOM to help us communicate! And keeping our Website current and up to date. All these communications efforts are huge undertakings and Brigid and Nancy do it so well. Thank you from all of us.

Finally, I would like to thank the membership, executives, and volunteers for teaching me so much and enriching my life with your presence. For the better part of 8 years, I have been the President of this guild and each year was different and interesting. I like that we worked as a team, with everyone stepping up to help make things happen. Our community contributions have been extensive and well received. We have tried to learn new technology and new approaches to being inclusive members. And above all, it has been fun to meet and work with so many different people in the cause of improving our quilting lives. I leave this guild in the hands of new, enthusiastic leaders, and I wish them well.

Respectfully Submitted

Leslie Whitby
President, Kanata Quilt Guild

