

# PINE TREE QUILTERS' GUILD OF MUSKOKA

P.O. Box 446, Bracebridge, Ont., P1L 1T7

Web page: [www.pinetreequiltersguildofmuskoka.com](http://www.pinetreequiltersguildofmuskoka.com)  
Email: [pinetreeguild@hotmail.com](mailto:pinetreeguild@hotmail.com)

Meetings at Bracebridge Memorial Arena,  
169 James St., Bracebridge, ON, 2<sup>nd</sup>, floor  
Second Thursday of the month 1 – 3pm

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm writing this on the first day of Winter. I love the changing of the seasons but skipping from Fall to Spring would suit me perfectly. I manage to do a lot of quilting during the Winter, either finishing up UFOs which I need to do or starting new projects which I shouldn't do. It is a great excuse not to have to go outside to deal with freezing temperatures and slippery roads. Hmmm. Maybe Winter isn't so bad after all!

Despite the nasty weather it didn't deter many of our members from coming to the Christmas pot luck. Delicious food, great socializing and fun Bingo games with lovely prizes using the fabric Bingo cards made for a delightful afternoon. Thanks to all for your contributions.

I have heard some very enthusiastic comments about our January meeting. I hope we have a good turn out for our all day Cuddle Quilt-in. Every effort will be made to show newcomers basic quilt techniques while increasing our inventory of donation quilts. It should be a very rewarding day. We will break for lunch and a short meeting with Show and Tell

To all a very Happy New Year.

Barb

## PROGRAMS

Submitted by Marianne Meeuwisse & Mary Reimer

**January 8, 2015, Social/Sewing day** to start at **9am or whenever you can get there** at Bracebridge Arena to make lots of cuddle quilts . Come for the day or a few hours and connect with your fellow quilters.

There will be sewing, cutting, sandwiching, "birthing" and finishing/tying stations.

Something for all of us, from beginner to experienced quilters.

**Bring** , sewing machines (if possible), thread and extra bobbins, scissors. Extension cords, cutting boards and cutting blades. Your lunch and drink.

**There will be a short guild meeting starting at 1pm, (announcements and Show and Tell)**

More social/sewing time.

**Feb.12, 2015. A trunkshow by Pat Reynolds** from The Haliburton Highlands guild. "*My Journey*" from knitting to quilting to textile art.

## WORKSHOPS

Submitted by Marta McIntyre

FEB 13<sup>th</sup> - There is signups for the February workshop with **Pat Reynolds** at the next meeting. The project will *be thread painting pieces of fruit*. The cost is only \$35...we are giving you a break this time on the price. It is going to be a great workshop!

## OUTREACH PROGRAM

Submitted by Joanne Smith

We are excited about our upcoming January meeting making cuddle quilts. We would like this to be a learning experience for those new to quilting and for those who have never made cuddle quilts. We would like those experienced quilters to work beside those who are new. Guide the “newbies” to do different stages such as using rulers and rotary cutters to cut fabric for kits, showing how to sandwich quilts, how we sew them, birth them, and how to tie quilts. It will also be a wonderful chance to meet and socialize with our members! We hope to see you all out!

## MEMBERSHIP

Submitted by Rosemary Carrington

I would like to thank everyone who has helped out on the Membership desk this year. Last month Marcia Grosforth and Pat Northmore stepped up at the last minute when I was unexpectedly unable to attend Guild. Thank you both - it was much appreciated.

Happy New Year to all our members and best wishes for 2015.

## CAPPING MEMBERSHIP

We have summed up the e-mails in the following report for you and removed all names and addresses for privacy reasons.

The summary of the verbal information would be very similar to what was e-mailed. Approximately 50 members let us know in that format.

We do not want the guild capped.

If you have to cap it, do so at room capacity or 150.

Many advised that they had made cookies, held quilts up and made cuddle quilts and felt that they had contributed to the guild in that format. Also said that not all can be on the Executive and if no one would work, they were willing to step up to the plate rather than cap the guild at 100.

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Motion It was moved the membership to cap at 151 (membership as of Nov 13, 2014) and let the membership by attrition reduce to 100”

A small committee agreed to accept comments from Guild members:

26 members took the time to respond,

22 NOT in favour of the motion;

1 IN FAVOUR of the motion as is;

1 IN FAVOUR of the motion with the cap set between 150-160

1 member indicated that the MOTION WAS DEFEATED.

All of the comments from respondents are included herewith:

1. Yes I believe the capping is great, when the guild was smaller I knew everyone, now I don't know all the members.

2. Yes, I think that setting the cap between 150 and 160 would be better and start a wait list. Although the room holds 178? Room is needed for tables around the sides. There must be other ways of getting volunteers, placing a poster at the front every month could work.

3. As I understand, the MOTION WAS DEFEATED at the November meeting.

It's never been clear to me as to 'what is the problem that needs to be solved' if the issue is lack of volunteers for management positions, then reducing the volunteer pool and restricting new blood will get existing volunteers even more tired. If the issue is that the guild cannot fulfil it's objectives – then that has to be clearly stated, along with the evidence of 'How do you know'. If the issue is volunteerism – then why not do a survey or a facilitated session as to the barriers to volunteering and the benefits of volunteering. Perhaps we have not been approaching volunteerism in a creative way. It could be a time to survey the membership as to what they think is working well and not working well. I am generally an optimist and think that if it becomes critical folk will always step up to the table.

4. Five members were represented in one e-mail which indicated that NONE were for capping the membership but were more focused on the aspect of the difficulty of finding volunteers to do the work.

5. I think things should stay open to new members. Capping the membership may have to come later but should come after a thorough discussion with a lot of time to think. We seem to be a very vibrant and happy group at the moment.

6. If you have to cap let it be at present membership. As this is a small community we

need to be as 'open' as possible. It's obvious this is a welcoming and creative group. Groups always need new people, ideas, etc.

7. I hope capping the membership is avoidable - the more the merrier and more resources. I am so grateful as a beginner quilter that there is a local group to learn from and be inspired from and look forward to a long term relationship. If there had been a waiting list and a limit I would have likely not bothered to pursue it.

8. I am strongly opposed to capping the membership at all unless restricted space would necessitate it, then I would look for a larger facility to accommodate the members. A larger guild brings in the resources to provide excellent teachers and speakers. Our members deserve that. Education should be a large component from our membership fees. That is why the membership has grown from 40 to 150 in the last seven years. To cap the membership at a number smaller than our existing would be ridiculous. Those that want it the way it used to be should be forming a smaller group within the guild to meet at another time. The meetings should be as interesting and inspiring as possible for as many as possible.

9. I'm hearing 'it acts like just a private club' I want to learn things not just make cuddle quilts' we need new members to get new ideas.

10. I think we should be celebrating the amazing interest in quilting. Get a bigger space if necessary but let's not become an elitist organization where membership could have to go through an approval procedure. We all love to quilt and share the journey with all our members. We all gain from the varied experiences we bring to the group. Let's find a way to integrate new members into established groups. Let's encourage participation but not reprimand those who stay in the background. We all have very different needs and skills. There is room for everyone. Let's start showing

that sharing and caring that quilters are known for.

11. I would like to see the guild continue on as it is now with no limit on its numbers. With the snow birds gone in the Winter, bad weather cancelling meetings and distances people must travel, I feel the more welcoming we are to new members the better.
12. I feel that the bigger the guild the prouder we will be. Just think of all the wonderful extra quilts we would get to see. We simply find a larger location.
13. I believe we have a communication problem. If there is a cap put in place at 100 there will be no room for any new members with new ideas coming in. My understanding is there is still room for at least 30 people in the room and there is usually never more than 80-90 people in attendance at any meeting. Many people have worked too hard to make this guild a treasure to be part of. I hope things can be worked out.
14. I do agree that we should have a cap on our membership but do not agree with the 100 suggested. The membership we currently have should be our maximum presently and if over the next few years that should reduce then at a point we should consider a lower number. I certainly have heard a lot of members complaining that the guild is getting too big and have heard people saying maybe another guild should be created.
15. I do not believe our guild membership should be capped, we should welcome anybody.
16. I understand that the executive is disappointed with the lack of participation by the members but as I recall at the meeting, **THE MOTION WAS DEFEATED.**
17. I believe there should be more discussion among the membership regarding any capping.
18. When I was able to join the Guild, I was extremely impressed with the talent and accomplishments evident in the group. I have always believed that any volunteer contribution no matter how small should not be discounted. Everyone has their own level of energy, ability and available time. My copy of the constitution does state that the maximum number of members will be proposed by the executive and ratified by the members. Has a limit been set in the past? Could people start attending meetings as guests rather than joining? Guests certainly would not be expected to volunteer or be eligible to sit on the executive. What is the real issue? Is it primarily the need for more people to volunteer? Would limiting the membership help that in any way? Is it the size of the room? Is it the cost of an alternate meeting place? If cost is the problem I would not object to raising the membership fee. I like the idea of a cuddle quilt workshop the morning of the guild meeting and look forward to meeting new members at that time. I would like that to happen several times a year if not every other month. I would like to have a current constitution available, as well as a current membership list available to each member. According to the constitution, it is to be updated every 5 years, it should be dated. Any changes should be approved at the AGM with 28 days advance notice. Are we incorporated?
19. Cap the membership at the capacity of the room. We are not far off that, I think members would accept that as a valid reason. Limit membership to anyone who pays taxes in Muskoka. Using the arena for cuddle quilt day and a meeting is a great idea. Try to think of other days that would work that way...dresses for Africa would work...making easy quilt tops in teams for the day would work...these days would allow members to meet other members for the day. When we have a speaker, we do not meet members. The guild should not be trying to teach beginner quilters...that is for the guild shops to do or smaller groups.

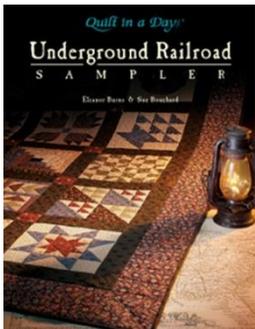
## LIBRARY

Submitted by Halina Dales

Welcome to the new year! New ideas! New Projects! New books to stimulate creativity.

Three books have been added to the library this month. Do you remember the Underground Railroad quilt that Marianne Meeuwisse showed a couple of months ago? It was based on an old book and it's taken me this long to find a copy that is reasonably priced. At the same time, I purchased 'Hidden in Plain View' which provides more history on Underground Railroad quilts.

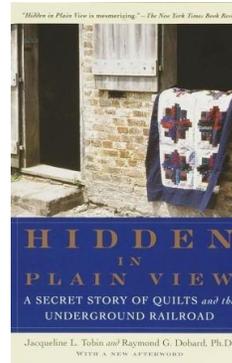
I like to send out reminders after Xmas as to which library items you have that should be returned. Our guild meeting is very soon – so if the reminders are not out by the January meeting, they will be done by the February meeting.



### **#551 Underground Railroad Sampler** by , Sue Bouchard

Take a trip on the Underground Railroad! Join Eleanor Burns and Sue Bouchard as they guide you through the story of the Underground Railroad. Learn how fifteen quilt blocks may

have played a significant role in communication between the slaves and how it helped them on their way to freedom. The book has 168 full color pages with step by step instructions for each of the 15 blocks. There are also directions to make a miniature Underground Railroad quilt. The book contains yardage and cutting charts in addition to fabric identification pages that will assist the quilter in cutting and marking her fabric for this beautiful sampler. "Underground Railroad Sampler" also includes a color page depicting the "Story of the Underground Railroad" that can be photocopied onto Photo Transfer Fabric and included in the quilt.



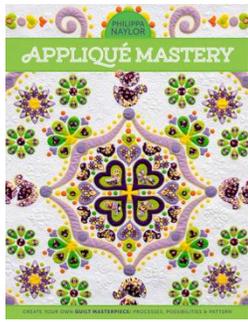
### **#552 Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad** by Jacqueline L. Tobin, Raymond G. Dobard

In **Hidden in Plain View**, historian Jacqueline Tobin and scholar Raymond Dobard offer the first proof that certain quilt patterns, including a prominent one called the Charleston Code, were, in fact, essential tools for escape along the Underground Railroad.

In 1993, historian Jacqueline Tobin met African American quilter Ozella Williams amid piles of beautiful handmade quilts in the Old Market Building of Charleston, South Carolina. With the admonition to "write this down," Williams began to describe how slaves made coded quilts and used them to navigate their escape on the Underground Railroad. But just as quickly as she started, Williams stopped, informing Tobin that she would learn the rest when she was "ready."

During the three years it took for Williams's narrative to unfold--and as the friendship and trust between the two women grew--Tobin enlisted Raymond Dobard, Ph.D., an art history professor and well-known African American quilter, to help unravel the mystery.

Part adventure and part history, **Hidden in Plain View** traces the origin of the Charleston Code from Africa to the Carolinas, from the low-country island Gullah peoples to free blacks living in the cities of the North, and shows how three people from completely different backgrounds pieced together one amazing American story.



**#553 Appliqué  
Mastery : Create Your  
Own Quilt Masterpiece:  
Processes, Possibilities  
& Pattern**

By Philippa Naylor

Appliqué Mastery is the most exciting appliqué book on the

market as it gives readers an exclusive peek into the studio of award-winning appliqué master Philippa Naylor.

In this book, Philippa takes quilters on a step-by-step journey through her process of designing a competition appliqué quilt from start to finish. Stunning full-color photographs will awe and inspire as you learn appliqué techniques from Naylor.

A wide range of appliqué techniques are explored—from the very easy to the very involved—including turned edge, satin stitch, blanket stitch, free-motion raw edge and bias strip. Naylor encourages quilters to break the rules and experiment. She says, “One method is not better than the other. So try them out and use the ones that suit you and your way of working best.”

Appliqué Mastery includes a quilt pattern with detailed instructions so quilters can put the appliqué techniques into practice immediately. Bird by Bird a gorgeous medallion-style quilt includes repeated motifs of flowers, birds, hearts, circles and long swag shapes. The book is structured so it’s perfect for a month-by-month project; individuals and groups can choose to use the structured schedule provided, or set a personal time frame and work at your own pace.

Naylor’s expertise and enthusiasm in Appliqué Mastery will spawn creativity in all quilters.

Don’t forget Thursday’s meeting will be a **cuddle quilt workshop, 9 – 3pm.** Stop in for however long you can.

**There will be a regular meeting at 1 pm with announcements and show & tell.**

Remember to bring sewing machines (if possible), Scissors, cutting boards rotary cutters, rulers, thread, bobbins, thimbles and lunch if you are staying for the day!

## **BINGO CARDS**

If you were not able to make our potluck lunch meeting last month please remember to bring your bingo cards with you on Thursday! We are still collecting them and plan on making some of them into cuddle quilts during the workshop.