

AQG Monthly Newsletter



Jan 2026

PRESIDENT - SUE FOWLER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope you had a great holiday season, spent extra time with family, maybe ate some special, yummy foods and generally had time to relax. Whatever and however you celebrated, I hope it was wonderful! I also hope you had bonus time to quilt, sew, hand sew - do any creative work that fuels you.

So, welcome back to the friendly quilting guild for our second term this season. Member meetings will be on Zoom for the January, February and March meetings which are the third Monday of every month. Our Program Director, Lori, has some great speakers lined up for us. We head back to the Civitan hall for our April, May and June meetings.

I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to each member of the Executive for all the work they do, for their creative ideas, and for their unconditional support of our guild. Without them, all of them, we would cease to exist. Maybe spend these indoor winter months thinking about what job you might take on, either on the Executive or to chip in. If you'd like to chat about it, you can always reach me by email, text or phone. You'll find executive list and contact info at the end of this newsletter.

Thanks for reading and I'll see you online!

Sue

Things to Remember

Zoom link open at 6:30 pm for chatting
Meeting starts at 7:00 pm

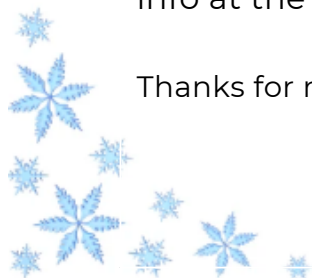
- Send in your SewNTell pictures
- Finished Block of the Month drop off is Textile Traditions
- Go to our website to get your 50/50 tickets and **draw tickets?**

Membership for 25-26

- Full Membership \$35
 - Six In-person
 - 3 Zoom
- Virtual Membership \$20
 - 3 Zoom
- Both Memberships incl.
 - Workshops
 - Retreats
 - Sew days
 - Social meetings
 - 50/50 and Draws

January Treats

Grab a mug of your favourite hot beverage and a snack.



Recap of November Meeting

What Judges See in Quilting

Presenter: Bonnie Rankin

Despite a power outage, Bonnie Rankin delivered an engaging, informative, and memorable presentation on what quilt judges look for — and how quilters can avoid common pitfalls. Drawing on her 35 years of quilting experience and her role as a CQA/ACC Certified Quilt Judge and 2025 Quilt Canada Jury Coordinator, Bonnie shared insights that were valuable for all quilters, whether or not they plan to enter quilt shows. Bonnie reminded us that judges typically have only five minutes per quilt, making first impressions and strong visual impact especially important.

Key Takeaways from the Evening

- **Movement matters:** Quilts should guide the eye naturally — generally bottom to top and left to right.
- **Colour confidence:** Understanding the colour wheel is essential. Analogous and complementary colour schemes are powerful tools.
- **Value creates dimension:** Many quilts struggle here — flat values result in flat quilts. Light, medium, and dark values create depth.
- **Light, shadow, and reflection** add realism and interest, especially in pictorial quilts.
- **Proportion counts:** For landscapes, the classic one-third rule (sky, land, water/rocks) helps compositions feel balanced.
- **Fabric placement:** Heavier or darker fabrics belong toward the bottom of a quilt to ground the design.
- **Skies are tricky:** Making them believable takes careful value and colour choices.
- **Miniature quilts:** Often overlooked, but competition is lighter — a great category to explore.
- **Credits matter:** Always acknowledge patterns, designs, and collaborators, and ensure permission is granted when required. Co-authored quilts are becoming more common and widely accepted.

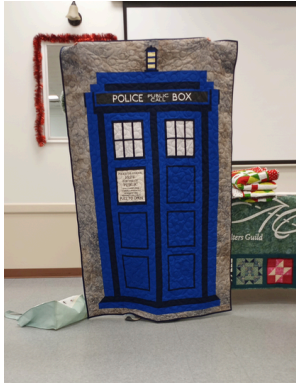
Workmanship: Where Quilts Often Lose Points

Bonnie emphasized that edges are the most common area of failure:

- Don't rush the finish — straight, full, and consistent edges matter.
- Corners should be crisp, mitered or neatly finished.
- Binding alone will not square a quilt; careful preparation is essential.
- Facing is a professional alternative to binding — and Peter Byrne workshops are highly recommended for mastering it.

The presentation was filled with practical, encouraging advice and reinforced Bonnie's passion for helping quilters of all skill levels confidently share their work. Even without electricity, the discussion stayed lively and inspiring — a testament to both Bonnie's expertise and her dedication to the quilting community.

Show and Share



Our medium is fibre and that does not diminish our work.

Yes, it is our hobby.

And our craft.

It is also our art.

Our passion.

2025-2026 PROGRAMS

Jan. 19

Terry Aske

My Evolution as an Art Quilter



Terry Aske is a quilt artist from Vancouver, BC. Her quilts have been published in well known magazines, and juried in many national and international exhibits and shows. She has won awards in both the artistic and modern quilting categories.

Website: [Terry Aske Art Quilt Studio](http://TerryAskeArtQuiltStudio.com)

Feb. 16

Susan Madu

A Different Perspective on Copyright



Susan Madu is a Canadian quilt pattern designer and teacher whose work has evolved from sewing commercial patterns to creating her own original designs under the Modern Blended Quilts banner. In this timely and thought-provoking presentation, Susan will explore how copyright supports and protects quilting creators by giving them control over how their original work is used. She will share practical, easy-to-apply guidance on respecting copyright in everyday quilting, along with clear insights into how to document, apply, and display quilted art in a way that honours both creativity and creators.

Shop on Showcase

Kate's Open Quilt Studio

Welcome to a vibrant world where creativity meets color and life! At Kate's Open Quilt Studio, we believe quilting transcends mere hobby; it is an art form that allows you to express your deepest emotions and unique vision.

Located in beautiful Shediac, NB

Visit the shop at [Kate's Open Quilt Studio](http://KatesOpenQuiltStudio.com)



Current BOM
Sue Spargo's Trade
Winds

2025-2026 Program

and

Shop on Showcase

Jan 19 - Terry Aske (Zoom)
My Evolution as an Art Quilter- from raw beginner to award winner
Shop on Showcase - Kate's Open Quilt Studio

Feb 16 - Susan Madu (Zoom)
A Different Perspective on Copyright

Mar 18 - Terry Rowland (Zoom)
Attack Your Scraps

Apr 20 - TBD / Movie Night
Shop on Showcase - Quilters Barn and Gifts (Beth Ruitter)

May 18 - Annual General Meeting
Tips & Demos

Jun 15 - PotLuck
Shop on Showcase - Mad Moody - Phyllis Moody



February Block of the Month: Crown Jewel

Escape the chill and stitch a little sunshine! This month's Block of the Month invites you to dream of tropical shores (blue waters, golden sunlight) right in the middle of winter.

Fabric requirements are blue, yellow, peach, and white, perfect for capturing that breezy, beachy feel while brightening up the season.

Finished Size - 10" by 10"

Please deliver your completed block to Textile Traditions by February 13. Don't forget to pin a Post-it note with your name on your block – all entries will be given a chance to win the blocks. We can't wait to see your sunny creations!

Part 1 is on the next page

Part 2 is on the bottom of this page

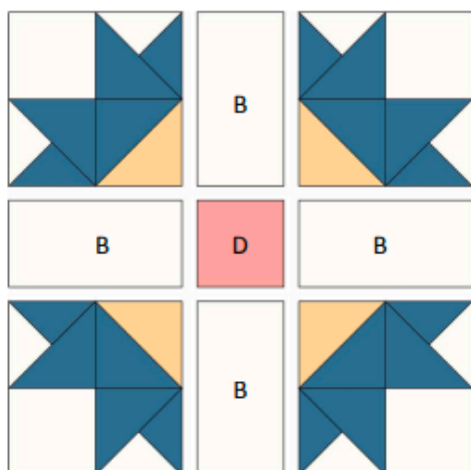
Crown Jewel

10" x 10" Finished

by Sandy Gervais

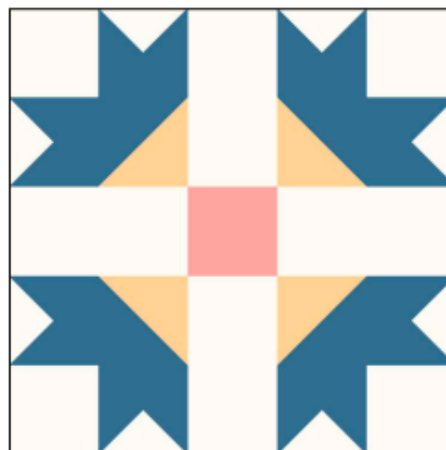
piecesfrommyheart.net @gervaisandy

6. Arrange (4) Corner Units, (4) **B**-rectangles, and (1) **D**-square as shown below. Sew the pieces together into rows. Next, sew the rows together to make Block 11. Block 11 should measure 10 ½" x 10 ½" unfinished.



10 ½" x 10 ½"

Your block is complete!



Crown Jewel

10" x 10" Finished

by Sandy Gervais

piecesfrommyheart.net @gervaisandy

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

Fabric 1 (WHITE):

- A – (2) $3\frac{1}{2}" \times 3\frac{1}{2}"$ squares
- B – (4) $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 4\frac{1}{2}"$ rectangles
- C – (4) $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$ squares

Fabric 2 (PEACH):

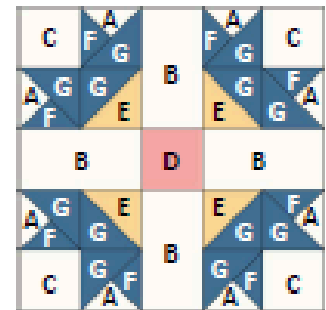
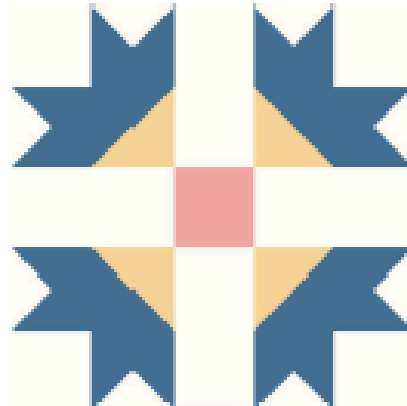
- D – (1) $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$ square

Fabric 3 (YELLOW):

- E – (2) $3" \times 3"$ squares

Fabric 4 (BLUE):

- F – (2) $3\frac{1}{2}" \times 3\frac{1}{2}"$ squares
- G – (6) $3" \times 3"$ squares



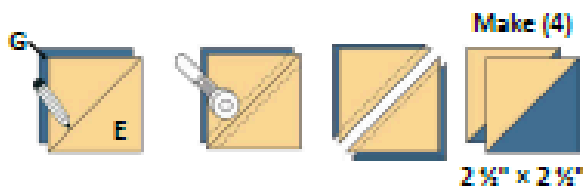
RST = Right Sides Together

HST = Half Square Triangle

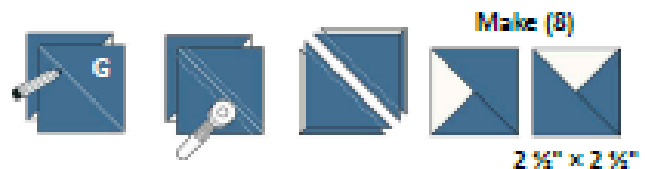
Sew all seams RST and with a $\frac{1}{4}"$ seam allowance. Press seams as desired unless stated otherwise. Dimensions listed in steps are unfinished sizes.

SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of (2) A-squares, (2) E-squares, and (4) G-squares.
2. Place (1) marked E-square on (1) unmarked G-square, RST. Sew $\frac{1}{4}"$ away from both sides of the drawn diagonal line. Cut along the drawn diagonal line and press towards the yellow to make (2) E/G HST units. Repeat to make (4) total units. Trim each unit to measure $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$.



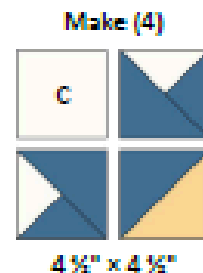
4. Align (1) marked G-square on (1) A/F HST unit, RST, with the marked line perpendicular to the seam line. Sew $\frac{1}{4}"$ away from both sides of the drawn diagonal line. Cut along the drawn diagonal line and press towards the blue to make (2) triangle units. Trim each unit to measure $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$. Repeat to make (8) total units.



3. Place (1) marked A-square on (1) unmarked F-square, RST. Sew $\frac{1}{4}"$ away from both sides of the drawn diagonal line. Cut along the drawn diagonal line and press towards the blue to make (2) A/F HST units. Repeat to make (4) total units. Trim each unit to measure $3" \times 3"$.



5. Arrange (1) C-square, (2) triangle units, and (1) E/G HST unit as shown below. Sew the units together in pairs. Next, sew the pairs together to make (1) Corner Unit. Repeat to make (4) total units.



Virtual Sew Days Sat 9am - 3pm



We have AQG Virtual Sew Days on Saturdays for guild members to come for a little bit or the whole time and work on projects of your choosing from the comfort of wherever you are.

We always seem to find support, answers, and inspiration from each other, not to mention many laughs.

Links will be sent by email to all members. Advanced sign-up not required.

We are coming to the end of the Bonnie Hunter Mystery Quilt and looking forward to see what members have created! The hope is that the laughter part of the “Lupine and Laughter” was achieved.

You can join for part or all of each Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm EST via Zoom.

Virtual Hand Sew Days Thurs 7pm - 9pm



The Virtual Hand Sew Evenings meet on Thursday every 2nd week

Some of us will be working on English Paper Piecing projects, but feel free to work on any hand work project of any technique of your choice.

The only rule - no machines!

Links will be sent by email to all members. Advanced sign-up not required.

Our next Virtual Hand Sew Evenings will be Thursday Jan. 15, and 29, Feb. 12 and 26 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm EST via Zoom.

QUILTIES

Thank you to all the members who have generously donated their time and materials to make quilties for the Almonte General Hospital. These small quilts are really appreciated by the families of new babies. I delivered 30 quilties to the hospital in January.

At the November meeting 20 quilties were donated and members picked up some packages of batting and backing to be used for to make these small quilts.

Any Members who wish to participate in this program and have questions please see me at the meeting or get in touch with me by email.

Finished quilties can be dropped off at Textile Traditions.

Rita

QUILTIE INFORMATION

Quiltie Size: Each quiltie should be about 24" x 24".

Backing:

- Cut backing at 27" x 27" to allow for some wiggle room.
- 54 inches (1.4 m) of 42–44" wide backing fabric, =2x27" squares +2x14/1x27"

Batting:

- You can cut 96" wide batting to 27 inches long, which is three pieces 27" x 27" square, plus a half piece left over (about 17").

Community Quilts

We are encouraging members to continue to make wheelchair quilts for seniors in long-term care in Almonte. They should measure approximately 40 in x 40 in.

If you require batting or fabric, please contact Carole cjtreggett@gmail.com and I can arrange to meet you to supply what you need to work on these.

We will be having a drop in sew day on Thursday, February 19th at Textile Traditions in Almonte for those who have quilts finished or who would like to join Carole and friends in working together on a few. Please save the date. We so appreciate your help in this important endeavour!

Workshop

Quilt As You Go: 7 Techniques Saturday, Feb 7, 2026

Join La Quilting Coach, Marie Claire Charette for a workshop to learn seven "Quilt-As-You Go" techniques that will teach you how to **Position** your quilt section by section.

It's challenging to fit a large quilt through the opening of a sewing machine, but you don't want to spend a fortune on professional quilting services. Join this full-day workshop with La Quilting Coach, Marie Claire Charette, and learn how to quilt section by section before assembling your quilt.

Have no fear! These techniques will empower you to **quilt your own piece!**



In this workshop, you will discover the advantages of each of the 7 QAYG techniques, how to select the best method to achieve your desired results, and how to modify a standard pattern into a QAYG to achieve stunning outcomes.

By the end of the workshop, you will have created a sample of each technique **for your binder** as a reference for the future.

Bonus: you will have the satisfaction of completing your own quilt from beginning to end.

There are still a few spaces left.

Get them while they are still available

AQG 2026 Spring Retreat

May 2, 3 & 4, 2026



Saturday, Sunday, Monday

Brunton Hall, 9th Line, Beckwith

Saturday, Sunday – 9 am to 9 pm

Monday – 9 am to 3 pm

There are only 25 spots available.

Come for the creativity, laughter and inspiration and leave with lasting memories!

More Information closer to the Retreat.

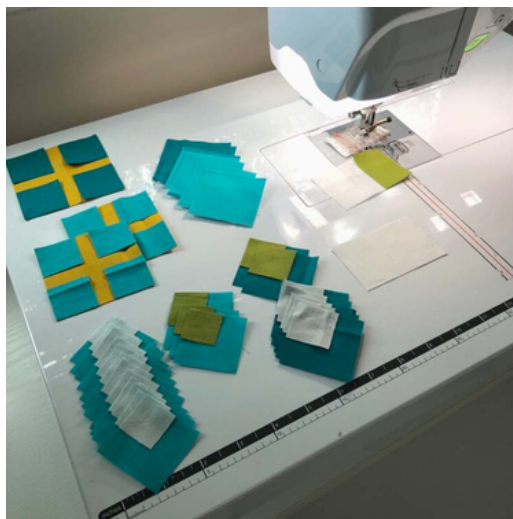


Quilting Tips, Tricks and Trivia

Tip

Chain Piecing

We all want to make the most of our time when we're quilting or sewing. The faster we are, the more projects we can make! Prep and gather as many pieces of the pattern as possible to take to the sewing machine. Then, lay them out next to the sewing machine and start chain piecing. It's so efficient!



Did you know....

The generally expected lifespan of cotton is 100 years.

The Singer Featherweight is referred to as "The Perfect Portable"

The purpose of the "groove" on the needle is to allow thread to lie close to the needle as it passes through the eye of the needle.

Bobbin tension varies with the type of thread used.

The numbers on the thread spool indicate the weight of the thread. 40wt means 40 km of thread per kilogram. The higher the number, the finer the thread.

The term "loft" refers to the batting's puffiness.

EVENT CALENDAR

JAN 19	MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING - TERRY ASKE
FEB 16	MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING - SUSAN MADU
MAR 16	MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING - TERRY ROWLAND
MAY 2-4	SPRING RETREAT
APR 20	MONTHLY MEETING - TBD / MOVIE NIGHT
MAY 18	MONTHLY MEETING - AGM & TIPS / DEMOS
JUNE 15	MONTHLY MEETING - POTLUCK / ICE CREAM SOCIAL
JUNE 15-17	QUILT CANADA 2026 - WINNIPEG

Quilt Canada



NJS Submission - All quilters can enter the National Jury Show at Quilt Canada. For more details, click on this [link](#).

TrendTex Challenge - Do you like a quilting challenge? Want to try something new? How about trying this year's TrendTex Challenge at Quilt Canada. This year's theme is confluence; the act or process of merging. Click on this [link](#) to find out more information.

AQG Executive Roster

Thank you to all our volunteers for supporting us throughout the year. If you are interested in helping out in 2026-2027, please let any of the executive team know or contact almontequiltersguild@gmail.com. The official role descriptions are available here [AQG By-Laws](#)

ROLE	2025/2026	e-mail address
President	Sue Fowler	alwaysbeautifullycreative@gmail.com
Vice President	Krista Zaleski	vp@almontequiltersguild.ca
Past President	Helen Racette	past-president@almontequiltersguild.ca
Treasurer	Pam Ross	treasurer@almontequiltersguild.ca
Secretary	Carolee Todd	secretary@almontequiltersguild.ca
Webmaster	Jessica Tripp & Katie Childs	webmaster@almontequiltersguild.ca
Membership	Katie Childs	membership@almontequiltersguild.ca
Program Director	Lori McCluskey	program@almontequiltersguild.ca
Newsletter	Mara Harrison	newsletter@almontequiltersguild.ca
Communication Director	TBD	
Community Project	Carole Treggett	cjtreggett@gmail.com
Quilties	Rita Martin	Ritamartin324@gmail.com
Retreat Coordinator	Cate MacLean	retreat@almontequiltersguild.ca
Workshop Coordinator	TBD	
Block of the Month	Johanne & Amanda Vajda	almontequiltersguild@gmail.com
Social	Cate Maclean	cokecancate@gmail.com
Library	Louise Miller & Zuzana Dobias	almontequiltersguild@gmail.com
Draws	Helen Larson	almontequiltersguild@gmail.com
2025 Quilt Show Chair	Leslie Whitby	quiltshow@almontequiltersguild.ca
Current Quilt Show Chair	Krista Zaleski	quiltshow@almontequiltersguild.ca