

# Pieces of the North

## Yellowknife Quilters Newsletter

Website: [www.ykquiltersguild.ca](http://www.ykquiltersguild.ca)

April 2026 - Issue 218

Picture taken at June 2025 YK Guild – L. Whitford

### Inside This Issue

- ❖ President's Message .....1
- ❖ Adventures with an Old Quilt.....2
- ❖ Only a Quilter.....3
- ❖ Tamara Kate.....4
- ❖ Quilt Challenge 2025/26.....6
- ❖ Show and Tell.....7
- ❖ Block of the Month.....10
- ❖ Local Quilting Shops.....11
- ❖ 2025-2026 Executive .....12

### Next Meeting

April 9, 2026 at  
7 pm meeting @ Baker Centre.

### President's Message

Happy Spring Quilters!

The sunshine today is so beautiful! You can feel the



heat of the sun on your back and you know, with a few snow storms to come, that spring is definitely on its way.

Along with spring comes the dreaded (at least on my part) spring cleaning. Do as you must in the rest of your home, then concentrate on your sewing room and sewing machine(s). I start with clearing my cutting/collection table. Now is the time to dedicate an hour to cleaning and tidying, these may turn into many hours of cleaning, but in an hour, I can at least get started.

As I was taught in an early quilting class, I clean and oil my sewing machine every time I need to wind a new bobbin. There have been threads or fabrics that are particularly linty and require cleaning between bobbins. My Berninas appreciate the effort and they keep on chugging along. I also make an effort to have machines serviced annually. Yes, they need to go south most of the time, and I have found two service places on my trip to Squamish. I drop off my machine on the way out and pick it up on the way home. I am fortunate that our daughter has a machine for me to use.

Changing machine needles frequently is an excellent plan. Never stitch over your pins, though broken needles are an excellent reason for a new needle. Changing needles at the beginning of a new project is a great routine.

Now that everything is clean and tidy, enjoy your new project! It is sew much easier to work in a clutter free space.

I'll be working on two Guild projects during March. Linda Whitford has organized an Angel Bundles project for parents of babies who lost their battle with life. Then Teresa Watson has brought together a Honey Bear making day. All the bears will be donated to the Sharing Gifts program.

Finishing a couple more UFO's will fill out my sewing time this month.

Do you label your quilts? Whether you give your quilt away or keep it for yourself, labels personalize a quilt. Labels can be a very personal message to the recipient or a simple "Home made with Love" with your name and date of the quilt. Bring samples of some of the labels you use to our April meeting. It can be an actual label or a paper proof of former labels. Looking forward to seeing the variety of labels quilters use.

Enjoy the sunshine and see the beauty in the light and fluffy spring snow. See you at our next Guild meeting April 9, at 7 pm in the board room of the Baker Centre.

Keep warm, Love the sunlight and quilt on.  
Leslie Bromley

---

## *Adventures with an Old Quilt*

Submitted by Charlotte Babicki

In the 1930s, my Great-Aunt Iva Lieurance made a quilt. Hand appliquéd and hand quilted. The quilt stayed in the family, much used and often washed. I recently found it with my mom's treasures. It is thin and faded and not very appealing, but I was curious. How did it look when it was new?

I looked at it on detail, but I still was puzzled. The red and orange colours had survived, plus one green fabric. So, I took scraps from my stash and roughly basted them over the quilt designs. What a revelation! Those very pale-yellow sections were curvy stems leading to flower buds. The border was also curves and smaller buds. In the large blank squares, Aunt Iva quilted feathered circles – three concentric ones. Beautiful work, Aunt Iva.



Faded away



Basted design



Quilting

And that's what you can learn from studying an old quilt.

## Only a Quilter by Tom and Madge Powis, June 2003

Submitted by Linda Whitford

We've all heard the classic line that only a quilter would take yards and yards of material, cut it into little pieces and then sew them back together again. While this statement is true and a little funny to think about, it doesn't even scratch the surface of the things that only a quilter would do.

\* Only a Quilter would spend more hours sewing several hundreds of buttons on a quilt to embellish it, but wouldn't take five minutes to replace a button on a pair of pants.

\* Only a Quilter would give the gift of a wedding quilt two months after the birth of the couple's second child.

\* Only a Quilter would put hundreds of dollars worth of fabric into her fabric stash because she might find a use for it sometime, but wouldn't replace a 50-cent needle on her sewing machine.

\* Only a Quilter would let three later-arriving patients go ahead of her at the doctor's office because she is on the verge of completing a block.

\* Only a Quilter would rush to finish a gift quilt. Not so it's done in time for the recipient's birthday, but so it's done in time for Show and Tell.

\* Only a Quilter would make a special quilt to give to her son, who would then have to attend quilt shows just to see it.

\* Only a Quilter would use freezer paper in the production of something to keep someone warm.

\* Only a Quilter has a welcome mat at the door to her home and an "Enter at Your Own Risk" sign on the door of her sewing room.

\* Only a Quilter invites everyone to see her sewing room, then says, "Don't look at the mess."

\* Only a Quilter says, "I really don't need another project," then offers to make a quilt for a friend.

\* Only a Quilter will buy more than she'll ever need of one fabric for her stash, but slightly less than is needed of another fabric to complete a project.

\* Only a Quilter would give a quilt book to the guild auction then bid on it to get it back.

\* Only a Quilter would drive 40 miles in a hurricane to attend a quilt show, but call out to have her dinner delivered because it is drizzling.

\* Only a Quilter's family would put up with, understand and love a quilter.



## **TAMARA KATE IS COMING TO YELLOWKNIFE!!!!**

**MAY 28-31, 2026**



Tamara is a licensed fabric designer and quilter who is best known for the playful use of colour she employs in her designs and her fresh, inventive eye where quilt design is concerned. Her work has been featured in a number of international quilting magazines, she designs her own line of quilt patterns and she regularly creates original quilts for companies within the textile industry.

Tamara has been sharing her love of designing fresh, modern quilts and other needle arts with students internationally for a number of years. She equally enjoys teaching techniques and inspiring others to embrace their unique voice in creating contemporary textiles true to their personal vision.

### **Trunk Show and Lecture - Thursday, May 28/26**

**“For the Love of Colour”**

**Tamara will be discussing her work at a lecture which will be held Thursday, May 28. Location and time yet to be determined. This lecture will be free for all members and invited guests.**

### **Three Exciting Class Opportunities!!!**

**Designing a More Modern Quilt**

**Fri May 29**

**6:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

**\$50.00 for members (\$90.00 for non-members)**



Are you intrigued by modern quilts, but don't know how to jump in? Do you have the desire to move beyond the repetition of traditional blocks and create more original quilts? If so, this class should start all kinds of ideas and leave you feeling motivated to approach your craft in a new light! We will work only with paper because when the trepidation of cutting into precious fabrics is removed, we free ourselves to explore. We will start with looking at many of the basic principles of modern quilt design then you will be led through a variety of fun, creative exercises including simplifying shapes and layout, choosing more bold, yet harmonious colour combinations and designing based on an existing inspirational image.

## Curves and Transparency

**Sat May 30**

**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**\$100.00 for members (\$140.00 for non-members)**



Playing with the illusion of transparency in quilt design adds depth and luminosity to the pieces we create. Couple this with flowing curves and the result is a dynamic, eye catching, unique quilt that speaks volumes about the maker's personality. Learn the techniques Tamara uses to plan, cut and execute this style of modern quilt (no appliqué involved) and the colour theory that helps make it shine.

## EPP - Beyond the Hexie

**Sun May 31**

**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**\$100.00 for members (\$140.00 for non-members)**



Piecing by hand with shapes that would be more complicated to tackle with a sewing machine (y-seams, complex geometry and even curves) opens up many new possibilities in your quilting repertoire. Learn essential English Paper Piecing techniques, tips and tricks to tackle a variety of shapes and be well on your way to making a colourful, modern, mini geometric work of art. We will discuss shape, colour, layout and even start thinking about designing your own templates.

## How can I register??

Spaces will be limited so don't delay! The classes are filling up.....don't miss out your spot!! Sign up now!!!

Options are to pay by EMT to quiltingyk@gmail.com or in person at the next Quilt Guild meeting.

Regular cancellation policies are in effect.

If you have any questions, contact Donna!!

# Quilt Challenge 2025/26

Submitted by Debbie Gillard

## Thread Between the Lines... IDIOMS ...AROUND THE WORLD

As you dream up your entry for this year's [Quilt Challenge](#), remember: great quilts don't like to be rushed. Giving yourself plenty of time means more room to play, experiment, and enjoy the process—without racing the clock at the finish line.

A quick stitch-check: all submissions must be quilted (three layers sewn together). Your piece can be any size or shape, as long as it's no smaller than a Fat Quarter in diameter. Entries must be made specifically for this challenge. And when it comes to finishing, anything goes: embellishments, decorative stitches, special edges... or a clean, simple finish. Maybe you'll choose a different method for binding... Start early, stitch happy, and remember—don't cut it so close you're quilting by the seat of your pants!



## Newsletter Submissions

Please send articles in Microsoft Word format, news, favorite quilt websites, tips, recipes and other quilt related items for the newsletter to: [martamoir@yahoo.ca](mailto:martamoir@yahoo.ca) with the subject "For the Newsletter" Deadline for submissions is the 4th Thursday of the month by 7:00 p.m.



**Retreat June 5 - 7 at the Ski Club**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

# March Show and Tell







March's Mystery Bag Draw Winner  
Congratulations  
Tammy Soanes-White.

## Block of the Month Update

There are still a few blocks needed in order to complete the quilt tops, so continue making blocks for the incomplete tops (see list). If quilt tops were taken to piece together and have been completed, bring the quilt top to the meeting or drop it off at the Longarm of the North before the guild meeting.

	Block Name	Block size	Number needed	Number finished
Jan 24	Side Kick	12.5"	30 squares. 5 x 6 squares 60" x 72"	13
May 24	Rick Rack Block	10.5"	42 squares 6 x 7 squares. 60" x 70"	9
Oct 24	Twin Sisters Block	10"	48 squares 6 x 8 squares 57" x 66.5"	19
Nov 24	Hidden Wells Block	11"	42 squares 6 x 7 squares. 63" x 73.5"	19
Jan 25	Woven Block	10 1/2"	42 squares 6 x 7 squares. 60" x 70"	21
Mar 25	To Use Up The Pieces	12 3/4"	30 squares. 5 x 6 squares 60" x 72"	15
Apr 25	Children's Delight	10 1/2"	42 squares 6 x 7 squares. 60" x 70"	11
May 25	London Roads	9 1/2"	48 squares 6 x 8 squares 54" x 72"	4

Here is the link to find instructions to make these blocks <https://ykquiltersguild.ca/resources-page-1>



Side Kick  
Jan. 2024



Rick Rack  
May 2024



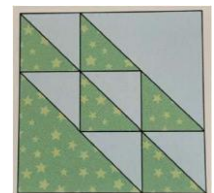
Twin Sisters  
Oct 2024



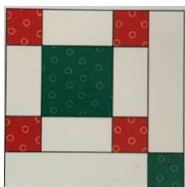
Hidden Wells  
Nov 2024



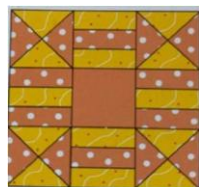
Woven Block  
Jan 2025



To Use up the Pieces  
Mar 2025



Children's Delight  
Apr 2025



London Roads  
May 2025

**Refer to the monthly newsletters for construction information, block size, and recommended colour options.**



## The Quilted Raven

[www.thequiltedraven.com](http://www.thequiltedraven.com)  
Email: [thequiltedraven@northwestel.net](mailto:thequiltedraven@northwestel.net)

5005 53<sup>rd</sup> Street  
1-867-920-0303

### *North of 60 Quilting Services*

Get those quilts finished  
with beautiful  
edge to edge designs!



Anita Griffore      867 446-2677  
[anitgrif@gmail.com](mailto:anitgrif@gmail.com)



### *Longarm of the North*

Offering quilting lessons, select fabrics,  
exclusive yarn, and more!

Open Tuesday- Friday 11-5pm and Saturday 12-5pm

Center 50 Mall, downtown Yellowknife, NT

# 2025-26 Executive

The YK Quilters Guild 2025/2026 Executive includes:

- Leslie Bromley - President
- Amanda Pierce - Vice-President
- Donna MacDonald - Treasurer
- Ilia Daniel - Secretary
- Leslie Thomas - Member at Large



## Meeting Info

### Draws at the guild meeting

The following draws take place at each Guild meeting:

Mystery Bag  
\$2 each  
Members only

Door Prizes  
Free  
Members & Guests

### Guest Policy

Guests are welcome to join us at any meeting. If a guest returns for a second or subsequent meeting, there is a \$5 charge per visit. For details, please see the full policy on the website.

### Members Giveaway Table

More and more Guild members are purging their stashes and offering items to Guild Members at the meetings. We will be setting up a table in the outer hallway for any items you would like other members to treasure.

### Meeting Etiquette

Please be courteous when someone has the floor and refrain from other conversations.



@YKQuilters



Yellowknife Quilters Guild

[www.ykquiltersguild.ca](http://www.ykquiltersguild.ca)

### **ADVERTISING RATES:**

Members for Sale Items FREE

Businesses \$35 full page

\$20 half page

\$10 quarter page

(or equivalent)



Canadian Quilters' Association  
canadienne de la courtepoinTE