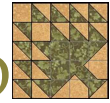




WILLOW WOODS QUILT GUILD



Newsletter August 2020



MEETS THE SECOND
SATURDAY OF EACH
MONTH
ELKS LODGE
26584 HIGHWAY 18
RIM FOREST, CA

President – Judy Green

Thursday, July 30, 2020

July is nearly gone. I am now a year older, and I thank Willow Woods for the lovely card. I was wishing for wiser, but so far...nothing.



I'd love to see pictures of your projects, and wish mine was finished to show, but not for a while. I'm learning that in the wintertime it is easier for me to get excited about sewing. Or it's likely just being with friends to pique my interest. But, in spite of this heat we're having, I will push on.

Month at a Glance

Upcoming events for August and beyond:

- ????

Special Items to Bring to the next meeting:

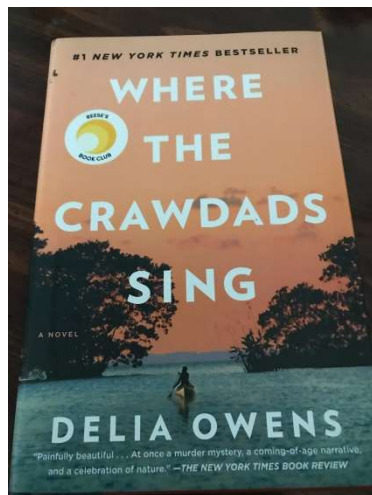
- Dues - \$30
- Cup of Comfort Blocks
- Comfort Quilts

Also Don't Forget:

- Your name tag
- Refreshments (if it is your turn)



Today, my new book arrived in the mail. I remember at our last meeting, there was a lot of positive talk about it. Now, I am going to happily read something new, hopefully, in a cool spot. The book is, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, by *Delia Owens*. I'm anxious to begin learning about the "Marsh Girl" of the North Carolina coast.



Hope all of you are doing well.

With hope of seeing you all soon
Love, Judy

Our guild is dedicated to promoting the art of quilting through education, sharing and learning, and using our efforts to benefit the community through annual contributions and in time of need.

Secretary – Yolanda Douglas

There are no minutes as our meetings since February have been cancelled.

New Officers

President – Judy Green

Co- Vice President – Jeanne Folta

Co- Vice President – Jennifer Lanak

Secretary – Yolanda Douglas

Treasurer – Sherry Schliskey

Superstars

Hostess –Pat Montgomery

Membership –Kim Everhart

Community Liaison/Publicity
– Yolanda Douglas

Fat Quarter Drawing – Sherry Schliskey

Hospitality – Cheryl Wood

Sunshine/Shadows – Melanie Hermanson

Quilt Challenges – Jen Lanak

Web Site – Trisha Skalnik

Newsletter – Jen Lanak

Facebook – Jen Lanak

Treasurer – Shelly Schliskey

Treasurer's Report:

We still have money in the bank and our account is balanced. The storage space is paid through December and the p.o. box is paid through December. The storage space rental fee has increased to \$75.00/month.

Sherry Schliskey, Treasurer

Challenges – Jen Lanak

There were only two people interested in the postcard swap – so perhaps they will swap postcards with each other.

The UFO Challenge:

August's new number is #8.

My #8 is a One Block Wonder I started with Judy's Club. It needs borders and to be quilted. Fingers crossed I will have some time to work on it this month.



July's number was #5 and was my second Fancy Forest quilt. I am happy to report that I have finished all the blocks! Now I need to add sashing and borders and get it quilted. I doubt I will be able to pick this one up again for a while, but have high hopes that I can get it done before Christmas as sweet Lizzy has expressed an interest in it.

How have you been doing on all your UFOs??

Share Section - What has everyone been doing?

Pamela Abell –

My older brother died at the end of January and because of the lockdown, we 3 sisters decided to wait until June to get together for his family memorial. Quilts played a huge role in our small gathering, going back to the first quilt I made and he loved.

Ten years ago, when I first started quilting with no stash of my own, someone kindly gave me around 100 2” squares hand cut from fabrics dating from 1970-1990. I deboned and cut up a lovely soft taupe cotton XL man’s shirt, which yielded over 1 yard of background fabric. The soft taupe calmed down some of the wilder 70s prints. I was in 4-patch scrap quilt heaven.

To assemble the quilt, I made square-in-a-square with the 4 patches in the center. I then found enough scraps of very muted blue-grey-green Japanese print for the alternate squares. Everything was very soft, blended and neutralized with the 4-patches glowing in the center. I took the quilt top down to LA and when my brother, an engineer and physicist who rarely comments on quilts and such saw it, he said it was the most beautiful thing he had ever seen. The 3 of us dropped our jaws in unison. I knew it was for him.

My older sister and I went to Joann’s to search for border, backing and binding fabric. We found a soft gray plaid of all things. Debra C. quilted it and my brother used it daily for years. He even had it on his bed during hospice care and on the day he died.

My older sister took it back to Washington state with her where it now graces the top of her bed. She purchased soft gray-green bed linens and it looks lovely. Her husband also said it was the nicest quilt he has ever seen.

I think men respond to those colors instinctively, from the earth and minerals. Not florals. I am sure they see the colors first and not my sewing or novice quilt making skills, which improve with each quilt I make. From there we dug out the few quilts from our grandmothers, which was like looking at a small quilt history timeline. I showed 5 quilts I had been working on. What a lovely way to feel deeply, connect back with memories, and move forward.

Pat Montgomery –

I just spoke to Jack, Nicki's husband, and he said she isn't doing very well. Nicki is in Hospice at home and I guess they are not sure if she is going to make it. Please pray for her and the family. Take care and be safe.

Love you all
Pat

Melanie Hermanson – I have been long arm quilting, but now I'm all caught up! If anyone needs a top quilted there is no waiting!! Here are some photos. Kelli Agner gave me these gorgeous quilts to do.



Here is a beautiful quilt pieced by Brenda Shingleton



Susan Wade –

Thought I'd forward these pics...have made approx 180 masks for family, friends and Mt Community Hospital.

Also, Improv feathers for a sweet quilt pieced by Colleen Quine.

Hope you and your sweet family are well and protected...miss you, and send you love! Sxo



Yolanda Douglas -

What was Yolanda doing in July?

Do you remember “The Magic Porridge Pot”, the children’s story about the woman whose oatmeal pot kept producing oatmeal and more oatmeal?

I have not been shopping. I am using lots of scraps. AND I keep finding more fabric --- my quilt room overfloweth! And I have not done well at organizing.

I may follow Jen’s suggestion to piece quilt backs so that I can complete some of my UFOs. I just found some wonderful Asian fabric and a black on black that may be just perfect to finish my One Block Wonder!

I finished a scrappy half-hexie lap-sized quilt (top) made with a Dresden Plate ruler and some pre-cut strips that I had. Maybe I can find some good backing fabric for it, too.



And I found a great use for orphan blocks and test blocks. I got a new ruler and wanted to make sure that I had mastered its use before I cut into the “good” fabric. The third time was a charm. The test blocks became pincushions!



A long time ago, I saved a pattern for a cute summer mini-quilt. I made two of them as Thank-Yous to dear friends for their love and kindness for me. “Summer Sips” (1 and 2) are similar and scream “happy summer days”.



Alex Anderson (The Quilt Show) is doing a Mystery Quilt live online (on most) Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays. She is using a great book called The Quick & Easy Block Tool. (The Block Tool has cutting charts, tips, and project ideas for over 100 blocks in five sizes.) Many participants are using Kaffe Fassett fabrics, but everyone is being encouraged to “do your thing”. Alex does not know what the end result will look like. She is a “create as you go” artist and one of her goals is to help others become more comfortable with that style. She is working as she usually does, one step at a time and seeing what evolves. She chats as she works and gives many helpful tips and tricks as she works. My skills have improved in the weeks that I have been “attending” her sessions. A better quarter inch seam, more even stitches, greater understanding of color usage, and much more.



I will share one of tips that I LOVE – glue stick. I have used glue stick when I foundation paper piece to keep fabric from slipping. Now I also put a tiny dot at the beginning and end of a seam to keep the pieces from slipping as I start and finish. It works even better than pins. Alex uses a special glue stick for quilters. I use what I have – Scotch Permanent Glue Stick, available at Costco, office supply, and probably even RiteAid. My blocks are really flat and accurate in size and matching points and intersections.

Another tip – Trader Joe’s Jalapeno Limeade. A little zippy, not too sweet. Great by itself; better with a splash of tequila!

What's your tip or trick? For anything, quilting or not. BTW, I miss you and knowing what you are doing!

Yolanda Douglas

Jen Lanak –

I have no idea what I did last month. It seems like the chickens have taken up all my time. Why? Well, let me tell you my troubles. You see, there is a cardinal rule about getting chickens – CARDINAL rule! – have your coup situation figured out BEFORE you get chickens. Well Ladies and Gentlemen, I have broken that rule big time and am now paying for it.

You see, in my defense, I ordered a super fancy-schmancy chicken coup from a highly recommended company, and I did so the same day I ordered chicks. I scheduled it to arrive the same week the chicks would, knowing that they would need to be in the house for several weeks before they were able to move into the coup. See, I had a plan, and it even had some wiggle room.

Things did not go according to plan.

First, despite the quoted ship date of June 15th, once I got my paperwork finalized and the deposit paid, my ship date was moved to July 6th. No problem, the chicks would only be two weeks old and they usually don't move into the coup until 6-8 weeks depending on the weather. My ship date came and went and I didn't hear from the company. So, I called them and was told that due to Covid, they were running a little behind and an additional 2 weeks were needed to ship out my coup. Okaaaay.....I can be reasonable. Meanwhile, my chicks had completely grown out of the brooder that we had them in inside the house. It was fine for them to continue to sleep in, but during the day they were just going to start picking on each other due to the cramped space. So, I built an outdoor "cage" out of PVC pipe and chicken wire.



Unfortunately, this cage is NOT predator proof. It is downright rickety. On day 2 we came outside to find a hawk sitting on the cage, staring down at the chicks trying to figure out how he was going to get to them. I've since learned that they would have been able to figure it out, no trouble, and we were lucky we came outside when we did. Not to mention, a coyote would be in there within a few seconds. So...we have started taking turns sitting out there with the chicks and keeping an eye on them. I call it the Chicken Tender Schedule. No one was excited about this, but if the kids were just going to be sitting on the couch staring at their phones, they can sit outside with the chicks and stare at their phones too.

So, this solution helped, but didn't solve my problem. Within a week, we really couldn't stand having them inside the house anymore. I ended up sacrificing a camping tent that we weren't using and have it set up in the garage for them to sleep in. It was working brilliantly until this heat wave. I have a devil of a time cooling the garage down enough for them to go to bed.



Meanwhile, another ship date has come and gone and I've received a letter from the company that says that it should be another couple of weeks. I'm beyond frustrated! Everyone keeps telling me to just build a coop myself – and I could – but I've already spent so much money on this fancy coop and I'm stubborn. Really stubborn. I just don't want to spend any more money than I already have.

Fingers crossed that we will get a shipping notice this week. 'Cause my girls are growin' and need their own house to live in.

I've also been canning and quilting when I am able. I pressure canned for the first time, and hope to do so more. I just picked about 10 pounds of fresh figs, so I have so jam to make later today. I am also about halfway done with this machine applique Christmas wall hanging that I am making for my Mother-in-Law.



Jen