

Willow Woods Quilt Guild

Newsletter October 2022

Meets the Second Saturday of each
month at Elks Lodge
26584 Highway 18,
Rim Forest, CA

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Month at a Glance

Upcoming Events for October and
Beyond:

- Saturday, October 8th - Meeting at 10:30 to noon at Elks Lodge in Rim Forest

Special items to bring to the next meeting:

- Show & Tell items! What have you been working on?
- Sack Lunch - no potluck this month
- Your dues if you haven't already paid.
- Something to work on if you plan on staying after the meeting.



President - Kelli Agner

Dear Willow Woods Quilters,

As we fall into Fall, I look forward to cooler days and the opportunities to sit with a quilt on my lap while lovingly hand stitching the binding. This may be rather elusive unless I get my unquilted tops under the needle and brave the work of machine quilting them!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our meeting on Saturday, October 8th. I encourage all members to attend and cast their vote for the team that will lead us in 2023. Please bring your show and share. We all enjoy seeing what has been keeping you busy.

Following the meeting, all are welcome to stay and work on assembling the charity quilt blocks started a few months ago. Lots of helping hands and laughter sew love into these quilts. We managed to remain busy with other things last month after the meeting, so these blocks are still a stack of free agents! Stay and sew, bring something to work on, or just stay to enjoy the company.

See you on the 8th!

Kelli

Secretary - Cheryl Wood

Willow Woods Quilt Guild Minutes

September 10, 2022

President Kelli Agner called the meeting to order 10:30am. 13 members present.

Secretary Cheryl Wood: The minutes written by Kim Wingert in Cheryl's absence for the August meeting were presented. Kaaren Nowlin motioned the minutes be approved as written. Minutes approved.

Treasurer Judy Green reported that the account is balanced with a value of \$4,537.18.

Show and Share: Pamela explained leaders and enders with a useful tip. Sylvia showed her beautiful quilts from the thrift store. Darrell showed a tool he made to separate and flatten seams. Yolanda shared her beautiful reading pillow. Judy Green told everyone about the quilt show in Santa Barbara September 24th and 25. Judy also gave tickets to the Big Bear Quilt show on Oct 14th and 15th to Kaaren Nowlin. Pat Duebbers shared a beautiful Boarder Print Quilt.

Learning Techniques: Kaaren Nowlin passed out packages and everyone learned how to embroider stems and buttonhole stitch the pumpkin.

Challenges: In Jen Lanak's absence Kelli Agner ask everyone to bring an abstract quilt (any size) to the December meeting.

Trisha and Yolanda said they have nominees Kelli Agner to be the next President and Judy Green to be the next Treasurer. They are requesting all member to think about volunteering, we have 5 positions to fill.

Quilt Walk September 23, 2023: Kaaren Nowlin reported the theme of the Quilt Walk will be "We're Back". The featured quilter for this event will be Pat Duebbers. Trisha will talk to Kelly at Camp Paivika regarding using the credit card machine. Kaaren Nowlin says when the income is received it should be going to Willow Woods Quilt Guild. With this money we will pay our costs then give Camp Paivika the percentage of the income we agree to. Our reasons for having the Quilt Walk and Auction: 1) We want to continue our vibrant engagement in our community on the mountain. 2) We want to support Ability First(Camp Paivika) with our donation from money raised at



Secretary (Minutes Cont.) - Cheryl W.

the auction.

Guild Memorial Quilt: Kimberly Everhart after the meeting Kim will give a description on how to complete the blocks. For those that signed up you will be receiving a block to complete via email.

Left-Right-Center game played Kim Wingert won.

Meeting adjourned 12:50PM

Proposed Ballot - Nomination Committee

Nominations

Elections are on the upcoming agenda! The following slate has been submitted. Last call if you are interested in being nominated for voting (please email us by October 6th):

- President- Kelli Agner
- VP- Kaaren Nowlin
- VP- Jen Lanak
- Treasurer- Judy Green
- Secretary- Cheryl Wood

Your Nomination Committee, Yolanda, Jen & Trisha

Challenges - Jen Lanak

UFO Challenge

Is anyone still playing along? October's number is #5! On my list is Fancy Forest 2. As I often do, when I make a pattern that I like, I often cut enough to make two quilts. I did this several years ago when I made my first Fancy Forest by Elizabeth Hartman, which I pieced at one of our retreats. Well, the other one sat all cut and ready to go until a couple of years ago when during another UFO challenge, I managed to finish the blocks. Now the darn thing has been sitting and waiting for me to sash those blocks into a finished top and quilt it. It might happen.... but probably won't. I have a few other UFO's from other months that are closer to the finishing point and I am more inclined to pull one of those out. But you never know!

My September #8 still hasn't seen the light of day in years. Oh well!

Abstract Challenge

Any size, shape or color goes. Any technique. Use whatever embellishment you like. Just have it done by the December meeting.

What is abstract art? The dictionary says it is "art that does not attempt to represent reality, but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, forms, colors, and textures."

I also really liked the article at <https://www.imagined.com/art-glossary/what-is-abstract-art/> by Harriet Maher. While her article is still an overview, she provides good examples and links artwork and video to reference. Check it out.

December Gift Exchange

Not necessarily a challenge, but I want to remind everyone that we will be doing a handmade gift exchange at the December meeting. It is purely optional to participate!!! If you want to, please make something handmade to exchange in a blind swap at the December meeting. It does not have to be a quilt! Remember those amazing wood turned objects that Darrell made last year? And those lovely folded fabric ornaments made by Judy and ?? Please do not make anything too large! We are talking about a small handmade item, exchanged for fun.

What Have You Been Up To?

Pamela Abell

"ABSTRACT QUILT" theme for this year's challenge

I am almost finished with my Abstract Quilt challenge and found the experience uncomfortable most of the time. I had to repeatedly restrain many of my design and piecing habits – harder to do than I expected!

I decided to try following some of the Modern Quilt principles using geometric shapes which involve lots of empty space between large units, no borders or noticeable sashing, no corner-stones, and weird color combinations. All of this to be asymmetrically placed.

Here is where I deviated:

- Weird colors became a set of pre-cut subdued Civil War print hexagrams that I sorted into the soft blue-green and tan-rust ones.
- Asymmetrical became evenly placed units, but with the colors switched around
- Large units became 8-inch hexagrams
- Blank spaces became as much as I could stand
- No borders became a 5" border around the entire quilt because it looked stupid without borders

I ran into the same discomfort while piecing the back too. I might set a goal for myself to make one Abstract/Modern quilt per year just to expand my style.

LEADERS & ENDERS update

A big YES for all future sewing. I am so pleased with using little 4-patches for now that I have about 200+ matched up and ready to go by my machine. I also made a list of other shapes I could use such as rail fence, 9-patch, triangles, strip piecing, coping strips, etc.

See you at the next meeting!

Pamela

Darrell Harris

[We] had an interesting weekend. My son and his family came in from Arizona for him to go to a paint ball tournament and they stayed with me. One night after he picked up a book Sylvia had on nine patch and asked if he could do one so the next day he went through scraps of Kash's baby quilt and he made a place mat using the singer model 66 Sylvia tuned for me. The mat turned out pretty good and now Sylvia has to find him a machine. Was great to see him liking too sew. Also on a side note he woke me up at 4:45 one morning because a bat got into the house, that was interesting.



Yolanda Douglas

WHAT I DID IN SEPTEMBER 2022

You know you're from the mountains when . . . you find deposited in a corner "little sausage shaped gifts". Too big for mice. Ground squirrel? Then when putting something in the car's backseat, more gifts. Google pointed at ground squirrel. Called pest control to warn them for an already scheduled appointment. Then I pulled out trash can under kitchen sink. Oh, no. I know they [gifts] were not there the day before when I emptied trash for Burrtec.

Next day, dishwasher full and I turned it on – silence. I thought, this has not been a good year. Dead microwave. Collapsed deck. Horror stories of delays in delivery of, among other things, appliances. Called my electrician. Flipped GIF. Flipped breakers. No change. Electrician paid a visit and discovered that my "guests" had chewed through the cords for the dishwasher and garbage disposal.

My pest control guy said "not mice", probably ground squirrel or rat(s) and set traps. I keep checking the traps (time away from quilting . . .) and bought some little sonic pest repellent devices from Amazon. Plug-in and the high frequency sound drives the little boogers crazy and they run screaming to some other residence. (Sorry, Neighbors.) Small, white, with a soft blue light that makes for a nice nightlight. A real two for one.

So, that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

TRUE CONFESSION: I did not even touch my One Block Wonder, the project that I was supposed to finish for the September UFO Challenge. I guess it will be revisited in 2023.



Now that that is off my chest, I had a lot of fun working on a landscape quilt for a friend. She took a photo of a beautiful Arizona sunset and asked if I could make a quilt for an empty wall. I sent her shopping and she selected beautiful batiks for the sunset and the mountains seen from her home. It is not a curvy landscape. Rather because of the angles in the desert terrain I used squares, rectangles and flip-and-sew technique. She loves the result. She is currently on a road trip in the Southwest and her assignment is to find a backing that she likes. It was a lot of fun figuring out how to achieve the result that she wanted.

I made a Gratitude Gift for some friends who, when in the neighborhood, bring me goodies: wine, chocolate croissants, fresh picked oranges. Given the season, I made a small leaf quilt. Finished except for a little bit of binding left to be tacked down.

I finished the tiny pumpkin block started at our last meeting. I have materials for two more and I think Kaaren Nowlin is expecting a pumpkin/whole cloth quilt . . . Thank you Kaaren for the mini-class. I love the idea of learning a little skill and having a project to show for it. And it ended up encouraging so much interaction among members. I hope that we can have more of these sessions.

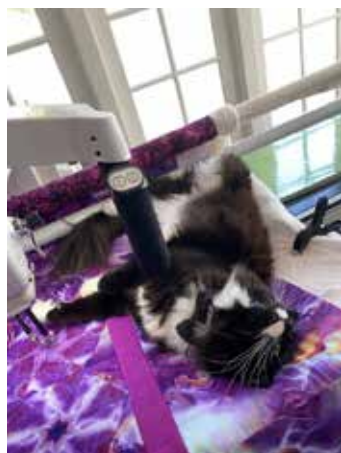
I miss attending quilt shows. But there are many available on YouTube and I was binge watching but terribly annoyed by the background noise and the chatter of the "videographer" ("Oh, look. TinkerBell quilt. Oh, Tinky Tinky Tinky. You're so cutie.") and the nausea from the swift moving camera. I realized I could stop and look more closely at a quilt and read the information about the quilt and its maker by hitting the hold button. And I turn the sound off and ask Alexa to play Mozart or Brahms (or your choice) and it became a restful, pleasant experience.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Yolanda Douglas

Jen Lanak

Geez I feel busy! After being sick, it seems like I've done a lot in the last few weeks. I finally finished quilting my purple OBW, no thanks to "Mr. Fluffy-pants", Milo.



Last week, I attended a SAQA Summit down in San Diego, where I took a workshop with Betty Busby. It was more of a surface design class, but she did incorporate the use of a cutting machine for some of her techniques. I learned so much! I have some fun samples to bring to the meeting to show.

In other news, Ashley did get her driving license at the end of September and is already a huge help. I think Lizzy might be trying to break a record for most social high school freshman. And poor Olivia broke her arm last week playing soccer. Thankfully, nothing too bad and she should be out of a cast in a few short weeks.

Show & Share - photos by Trisha Skalnik

Fifteen pictures from the last quilt meeting. Note the last "mess" in the middle of the floor, the winner of Left-Right-Center!







Special Feature: Did you Know? - Trisha Skalnik

Dear Quilters:

I recently heard a radio commercial (yes, I still commute...) stating that you don't have to "triple wash your laundry to get odors out". We know this is true from the last newsletter. Just grab that vodka and spritz it! Of course, doesn't everyone know this (ha ha)!

The next tip is that we are sorting our laundry "wrong". This has been a long-followed tradition from the wringer-washers from way back. It has never been updated. Pamela could have straightened us out on this with her color class. The updated method: first load- whites; second load- blacks, third load- cool colors (blues, greens, and purples, and gray)- include blue jeans, towels, sheets; fourth load- warm colors- reds, yellows, browns and oranges. Ah—but one more. Tech, high-performance workout activewear along with fabrics made of polyfleece. These materials "hate water and love oil". For this category, add a detergent with hydrogen peroxide, which breaks down the oil and makes them smell good again. Not sure about the suggestion of mixing towel colors with clothing... (Laundry Love, Finding Joy in a Common Chore, Richardson, Miller, 2021).

Happy laundering (ha ha). Being quilters, is this laundering before measuring and cutting materials, or after your done with the quilt? Another article...

See you next week.

Happy Quilting!

--Cheers, Trisha

Special Feature: Inset Strips - Jen Lanak

Finally! The promised tutorial on inset strip piecing. I apologize for not providing it last month, but life got in the way. Inset strips are pretty darn easy, but they can add a lot of interest to your abstract quilts. Let's get started....

Step One: Collect some scraps in the colors you have chosen, and you will also need some bigger pieces in whatever background fabric you have chosen.



Step Two: Starting with a piece of your background fabric, use your rotary cutter and ruler to slash a cut to separate it into two pieces. You will notice that I did not choose to cut it in exactly half, nor did I cut it straight across or vertically. This is a design choice. I feel it makes things a little more interesting if the cut is not symmetrical and is not on the perfect vertical or horizontal. HOWEVER, I have seen some quilts that do this very successfully. It is your choice!



Step Three: Choose a strip to insert in the cut you have made in the background. Your strip can be any width - but again, I think it is more interesting if they are narrow strips. The strip I have chosen here is 1.25 inches wide. Sew it to one side of the background, then press the seam toward the background. Then sew the other side. Again, press toward the background.



Step Four: Decide if you are done, or if you want to add additional strips. If you are done, square up your block and call it a day. If not, repeat steps 2 & 3 until you are done.

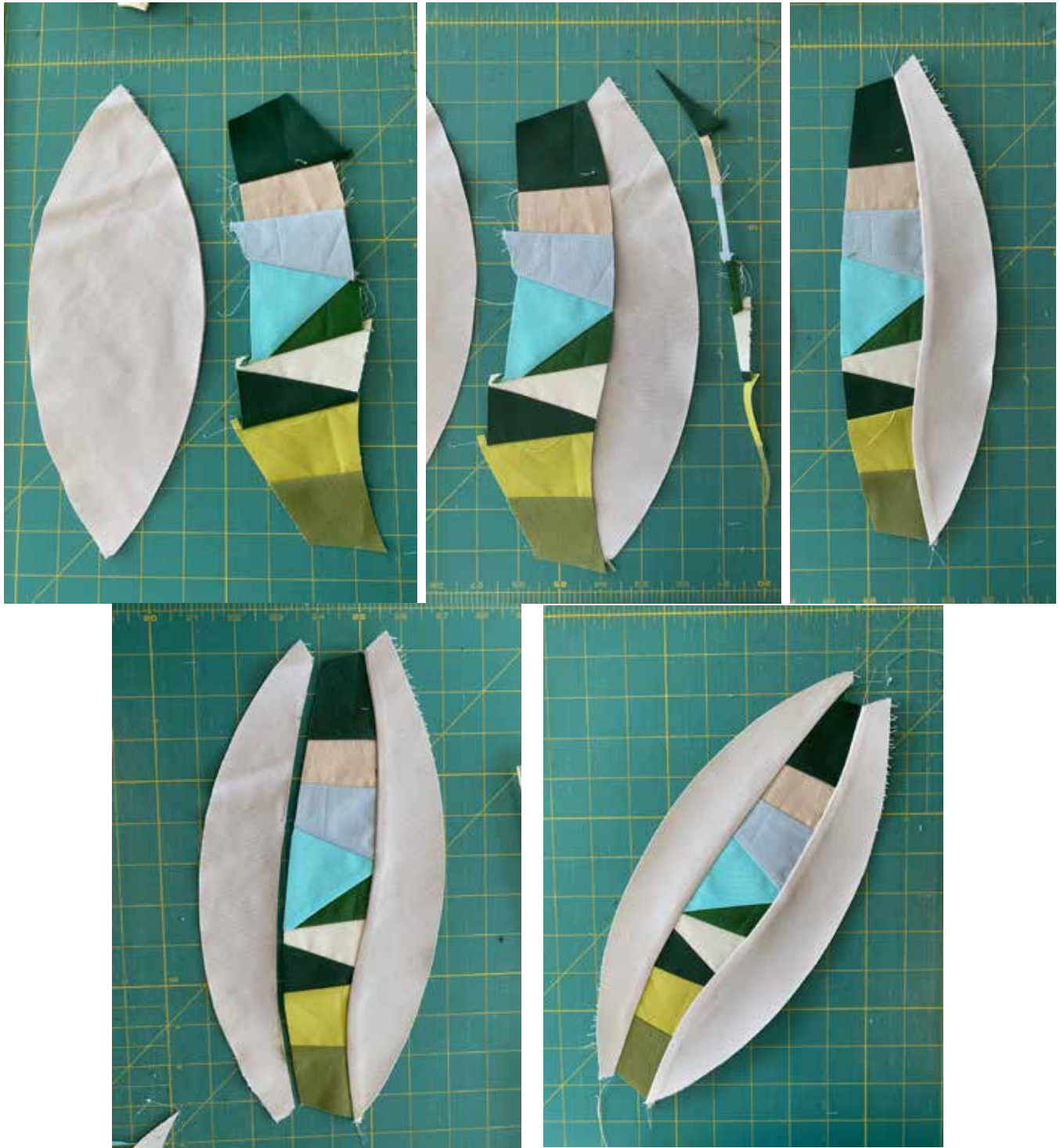


Now we are going to take it a little further!

Option One: you can inset a pieced strip instead of one from a single fabric. The results are pretty nifty. I took the straight pieced strip on the right and inserted it into my background using the method above. The other pieced strip, I used for option 2!



Option Two: curved inset strips!! When I pieced the strip on the right (above) together, it wasn't very straight, so I decided to incorporate our previous lesson on Improv Curved piecing to use a curved inset strip instead. I also had these funky pieces of background fabric that weren't going to get used doing something else, so bonus! First, I used my rotary cutter to cut the curve from my pieced strip. Then I placed it on top of my background piece (right sides both up), making sure to leave as much background fabric as possible showing (since my pieces were funky and small). Then I cut my background fabric to match the curve of the pieced strip. I sewed them together, pressed toward the background, and repeated the process on the other side.



Option Three: Let's revisit the first block we made with the solid inset strips. There is nothing preventing you from crossing your strips. Lining things up does get a little tricky, and of course, I didn't document how I pin stuff so I'll have to do my best to describe it.

So, just like before, you cut a slash through your block where you want your next strip to go. The first side is easy, just sew it in place and press toward the background. Sewing the next two pieces together and having your previous strips line up is where it gets tricky. Of course, if you don't care if they line up, then proceed as you like.



The first time I sewed my pieces together, I just kinda guesstimated where they needed to be by flipping over my background piece and estimating 1/4 inch seam and lining things up as best I could. I was really close, maybe only a 1/16th off. So, I grabbed my pins. I tackled the thinnest strip in the background first (the one on the right). I used a removable ink pen (Frixion) to draw a dot on my light green strip, straight across from the already sewn seam (following the line of the strip) AND a 1/4 inch from the rough edge of the light green strip. (in theory this is where the stitching of my seam will be right?) Then I put a pin - from the backside of the fabric) in the seam of my background piece where the previously sewn strip was sewn. Then I stabbed that pin into the dot I created and held the pieces in place with the pin sticking straight up. Then I placed a pin to hold the two pieces together. If your first pin is still sticking straight up, then your pieces haven't shifted. Repeat for the other seam of the other previously sewn strip (the one on the left).

By the way, this pin trick works amazingly well for lining up all kinds of piecing. I use it especially when doing foundation paper piecing.



So, now that you know how to do Improv piecing, Improv Curve piecing, and inset strip piecing, is it a little easier to look at something like "Finding Neverland #2: Free Fall" by Jan Soules of Elk Grove, CA (below), and figuring it out how she did it? Look at each section and see if you can figure out which technique she may have used and where.

