

A Different Kind of Anniversary

by Melissa Bieman & Dawne Rudman

This past year the Oakville Quilters' Guild turned twenty! Activities that spanned the full year were planned. There were a few goals in mind.

- Any activity involved in the celebration should have a quilting focus.
- Any of our members could participate, regardless of level of ability.
- There would be a number of activities, not just one.
- The members could benefit from the activity.
- Our own members would have an opportunity to show off their talents.
- And, of course, that it would be fun.

At the September meeting the membership was introduced to the activities. We also had a special anniversary cake which was made by Anita Blomberg, one of our members.

A series of five workshops were run during the course of the year. As a gift from the guild, each member was entitled to enroll in one workshop free of charge. If a member wished to participate in another workshop or two, they could put their name on the wait list. If there was space, and with payment of a nominal fee, the workshop would then be filled up. All the workshop leaders were guild members. The workshops included:

- *Eight-pointed Stars Demystified* led by Patricia Dear.
- *Needle-turn Cut-Away Appliqué* with Chris Booth at the helm.
- Julia Curitz taught an *Israeli Inspired Silhouette* workshop.
- *Every Which Way but Flat* was run by Carol Goddu.
- Diana Burnett took on the *Old Masters in Quilt*.

The feedback from the 61 members who took the classes was very positive and enjoyed by all.



Three Friends by Janet Rhind

The next activity was an *Anniversary Challenge*. Each member who signed up for the challenge received a voucher entitling them to receive three fat quarters, of their own choice, to be selected from our local quilt store, the Quilters Garden Patch, on Bronte Road in Oakville. This created a huge buzz and a long line to join in the fun. As a second gift from the guild, the tab for the fabric was picked up by the Guild.

The challenge had only three rules:

- 1 The minimum size of the quilt would be 24" x 24".
- 2 The maximum size of the quilt would be 48" x 48".

3 The finished quilt, with a label, a rod and a sleeve attached had to be brought to the April guild meeting.

There were however a number of non-rules, making it wide open.

The non-rules:

- Any size in between those listed would be acceptable.
- Other fabrics could be added.
- Any technique could be used: piecing, appliqué, paper-pieced, etc.
- It could be embellished or not.
- Any design could be used—it could be from a pattern, from a book, from a class or an original design.



Bloomin Flowers by Kathryn Gaj



Doors by Margery Towers



Red Brick Road by Val Garnett



Seeking the City Lights by Barb Croucher



Blustery Days by Diane Thurner



Tiny Street by Melissa Bieman

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- Even two or more quilts were fine, so long as the three rules were adhered to.
- There are no prizes... SEW no judging was involved.
- Whatever was made was acceptable.

The third part of the celebration was that the *Anniversary Challenge* quilts would be displayed in the Hall Galleries at Queen Elizabeth Park Community & Cultural

Centre (QEPCCC) on Bridge Road in Oakville, from April 28 to June 12, 2014.

Members of all levels got involved in the challenge, from award-winning quilters, to those who had only been quilting for a year or so. The response was really good. From a membership of just over 85, 57 quilts for the *Anniversary Challenge* arrived to exhibit.

We put the high level of participation down to a few main factors. There were no awards involved with the challenge, so members who normally would not enter a competition enthusiastically signed up. Members loved the fact they could make



My Feathered Nest by Ruth Brown



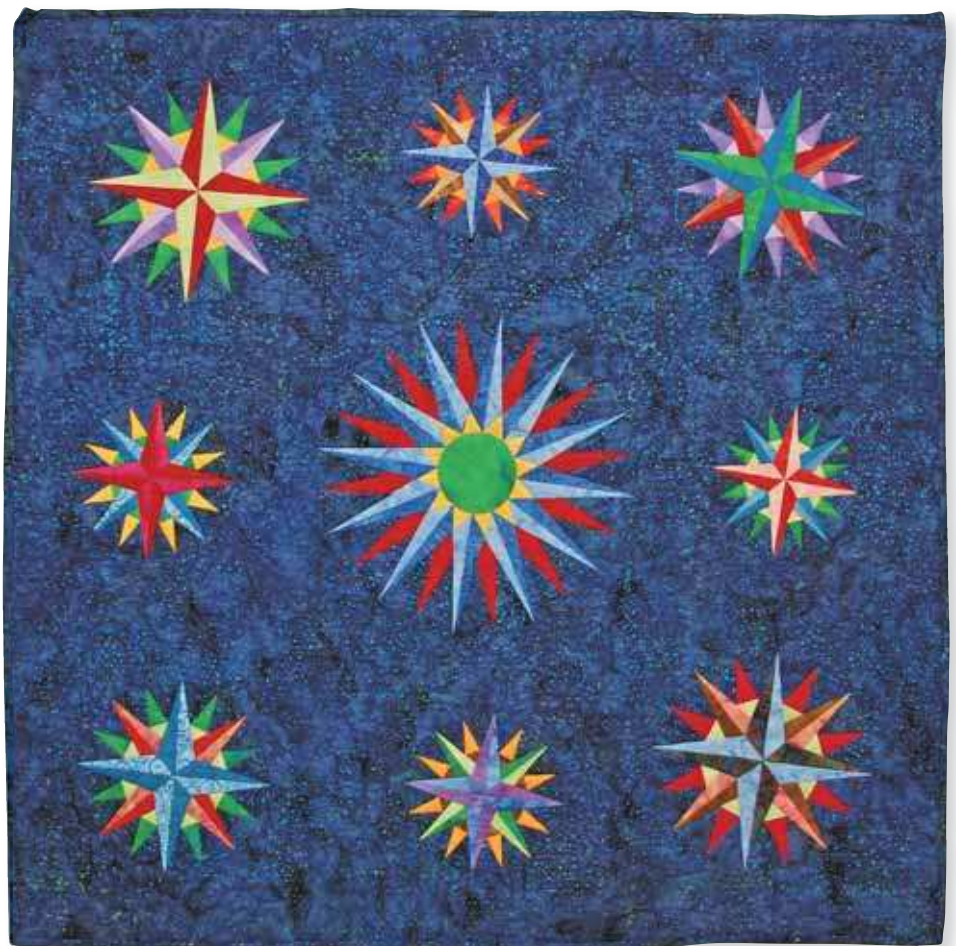
Spring Wagon by Aurea Bielby



Trellis by Maureen Marlborough



An Eye on the Goal by Alice Geertsen



Awesome Sky by Pat Dewar



Stars of Bali by Christine Courtney

something of their own choosing. And further, the fabric choice was theirs and theirs alone, without the restrictions that normally come with a challenge.

The venue for the May meeting was changed and was held at QEPCCC where the quilts were on display. The meeting took on the role of an exhibition opening, with special treats and punch (non-alcoholic, of course). Members were able to

walk the halls and admire the huge variety of quilts on exhibition. Wonderful feedback has been received regarding this exhibit. Staff at QEPCCC reported that many people stopped by to view the quilts, with lots of Ooh's and Aah's.

Overall the Anniversary Celebration was a great success.

Mission accomplished!