## February 2019

## Message from the President

Hello everyone,
Well, it looks like we are getting winter after all! One of the good things about it is the birds that come to the feeders. I was very excited today to see a flock of evening grosbeaks in the tree and on the ground by the bird feeders my husband puts out. We haven't seen them in years! We used to see huge flocks of them all the time. They have been scarce the past 10-12 years at least. Hopefully they will continue to come around.
We are all set to have movie night for the February program and Jan Kuhn has a berry basket demonstration in March to share. I am still working out the details of the April program. Pauline Lang, a certified Deb Tucker instructor will be our guest speaker and she will offer a workshop on Saturday, April 6th. We have a few things to work out and will have all the details at the next meeting and newsletter.
Finally, I would like to say Thank You to all the volunteers that make this guild such a great group!

Andrea Blaisdell


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Common Threads Quilt Guild
meets the first Thursday of every month
at 6:30 PM at the Sterling View Club House in Hyde Park
Dues are $\$ 15$ annually

## Secretary's Report

Called to order: 6:30 pm
\# present: 19 members present.
Guests: Cheryl Leach from Wolcott joined us.
Birthdays: Happy Birthday to Jan Kuhn, Carol Moulton, Anita Morris and Sara Sargent.
Drawings: Hilda took the drawing for both Just for coming and Food shelf.
Secretary's Report: Marion moved to accept, seconded by Cindy and accepted.
Treasurers Report: Marion moved to accept, seconded by Julie and accepted.
Sunshine Cards: Donna not present but Carol not aware of any sent.
Sunshine Quilts: Marion delivered quilts to the Manor, Meals on Wheels and Home Health. Thank you letters read. The Manor expressed appreciation as they fill a need for holiday gifts for residents.
Marion says another guild has offered us fabric and she is expecting large pieces that will work for backing.

Mystery Quilt: Part 6 distributed, next month will be instructions for putting it together.
Raffle Quilt: Marion stated she needs to set a workshop date.
Program Committee: Andrea led a discussion on how we want to proceed with the programs. We started last year to have different people take a month and be in charge of the program for that month. Do we want to go back to that? She is looking for new ideas. Discussed using technology, either the TV in the building or the projector and screen guild owns. No votes.

## New Business:

Trunk Show by Pauline Lang - Presented opportunity. Pauline Lang is trained in Deb Tucker techniques. She is available to do a trunk show and a workshop. Looking at April date. Need to find location, room for around 12 participants. Andrea will contact and bring specifics to the next meeting.

Julie Rohleder shared that they have sold their business and will be moving out of state at the end of the month. Thanks given for her commitment to the newsletter. Nancy Hayden has volunteered to take it over.

Sew and tell
Program of vintage sewing notions enjoyed by all.
Respectfully submitted by Robin Wright



## Part Six

In this Part you will put more blocks in groups:

1. You will be assembling a lot of pairs from combinations of 2 blocks:

The Fabric D (striped) block with corners attached and the Fabric C (plaid) with corners at opposite corners.


This Fabric D block


This Fabric C Block
You will sew these two blocks together in two different orientations:
Your fabrics may vary from these, but the orientations shown below as A and B below will hold true for your blocks, too.

Orientation A:


## Make 12 pairs in the Orientation $A$.

Your corners should line up better than I show in this pair of blocks above. My graphics aren't drawn completely to scale. I suggest you put a pin in the center where the corners meet and then line up the edges to sew.

## Orientation B:



Make 16 pairs in Orientation B.
2. Now you will sew two other blocks together and make four pairs (corners):

Now take the 4 "Corner Blocks" that look like this ( and have only one corner triangle): And sew FOUR pairs with the Fabric D blocks used above in this

Orientation C:


Put these 4 corner Blocks back into a baggie labeled CORNER BLOCKS

## 3. Combining 3 pairs each of Orientation $A$ and $B$ pairs from \#1 above: <br> Pull out 3 each of Orientation A and Orientation B block pairs from \#1 above. Sew first into pairs of $1 \mathrm{~A}+1 \mathrm{~B}$ so that they look like this:



You will now have 3 of the above $A+B$ combinations. Combine these 3 into a strip that looks like this:


Make three more of these so you will have a total of 4 strips looking like the above in orientation.

## Part Seven

So Far? In this Part 7 you will put more blocks in groups, assemble these and finish the quilt! There are suggestions for making this $40 \times 40$ inch quilt larger for use as a bed quilt as well.

## 1. Finally the Stars!

You still have 4 sets of 3 strips each in the Deep B and Bright A colors from Part 5 of the Mystery. You will now assemble these into the Star Blocks.

It is important when you do this sewing that the corners of color A (the bright-light color) meet perfectly to form the star. This block is worth pinning and easing if necessary to make sure these corners match. The contrast between the bright fabric and the deep "B" background means if the corners are off they will show a lot!

Here is what your finished star block will look like:


Assemble all four of them now. Press these star block seams. When you have all four, put them into a larger square grouping that will look like this:


This group will be referred to as the Four Star Center. I have deliberately left a thin white line to show you the divisions. These are not going to exist in your sewn block group. Press all seams.

## 2. At the end of Part 6 you made 4 strips that look like this:



Press strips. Take these 4 strips and lay them around the edges of the Four Star Center. You will now be checking to see if the lengths of the strips match (as they should) the lengths of the sides of the Four Star Center unit. The striped edges got to the outside, the blue triangles form the edge joining the Four Star Center group.

Pick up one strip at a time and finding the center seam pin it, right sides facing, along one edge of the Four Star Center group matching the centers. Now place a pin at each end of the strip matching the end of the strip and the end of the Four Square Center group. Place another 2 pins, one each in the middle between the center and each end. Lay the pinned piece flat and look at it and "feel" where you will sew the seam. Do they match up nicely or is one (either the strip of the center unit too long)?

Do this with each strip along all four sides. You can switch strips around for a better fit if it helps.
Since you sewed the same number of units in the strips as you did the Four Star Center group (ie. you sewed 6 of the originally cut blocks in each length) you should have a good match in length. If your $1 / 4$ inch seams were very off you may have a poor match. If the lengths are within $1 / 4-1 / 2$ of matching you should be able to "ease" the seams by pinning in smaller and smaller subunits before sewing - Note: Do NOT sew now!

## 3. Sewing the first two strips to the Four Star Center group

When you are satisfied that your strips are going to sew evenly to the Center group, remove 2 strips pinned to opposite sides. On the strips left (pinned to opposite sides of the Center) adjust pinning where necessary, try to match the Fabric "A" (bright-light) where it forms diamonds so the edges line up evenly. Now, sew ONLY these 2 strips to opposite sides of the Four Star Center.

## 4. Finishing the remaining two strips

Take the out the 4 blocks (sewn from 2 smaller blocks) labeled "corner" that look similar to this image below: [If you used stripes, your stripes may be running perpendicular (as here) or parallel, either is OK].


You should have 4 "Orientation B" blocks left from Part 6 that look like this:


You will sew these 2 pairs of blocks together to make larger 4 blocks that look like the combination below. We will call these the Corner Units.


Now you will sew these 4 Corner Units to each end of 2 of the Strips which you unpinned in \#3 above.
The orientation will look like this:
Press all seams neatly.

[Are you saying - "Ah ha!" at this point?]

## 5. Sewing the last two seams

Pin these last two strips again along the remaining opposite sides of Four Star Center and to the ends where they will meet the strips you just sewed to opposite sides. Pin evenly at block joins all along the edge.

SEW this LAST Seam!
Congratulations,
you have finished the Four Square Star Mystery Top.

