



# Lighthouse Beacon News

lighthousequilters.org

January 2016

## Lighthouse Quilt Guild

January 11, 2016

6:30 pm Social Time

7:00 pm Meeting

### United Methodist Church of the Dunes

717 Sheldon, at Colfax

Grand Haven, Michigan

### 2015-2016 Executive Board

#### Chairperson

Connie Townsend

#### Co-Chairperson

Kay Wilton

#### Secretary

Carol Keen

#### Treasurer

Barb Wexall

#### Community Outreach Committee

Elizabeth Clark and Kim Frisch

#### Historians

Melanie VerDuin

#### Hospitality

Jean Stordahl and Monica Leenhouts

#### Librarians

Joy Quinn

Marchia Schoemaker

#### Membership-Bookkeeping

Jane Thomasma

#### Membership-Welcoming

Carol Keen

Jane Thomasma

Lorelle Eberly

Marilyn Cook

#### Newsletter

Chris Bussell

newsletter.lqg@gmail.com

#### Program Coordinators

Su Palmer and Pam Kihn

#### Publicity

Jackie Baden

#### Quilt Show Chair

Karen Katje

#### Quilt Show Co-Chair

Lynn Koster

#### Take-A-Chance

Shirley Swifney

#### Vendors

Su Palmer and Pam Kihn

#### Webpage Manager

Char LaDronka

#### Next Newsletter Deadline

January 20, 2016

Quilting Friends,

Well, the gifts have all been frantically sewn and given. The Christmas fabric has been packed away until later in the year. It is now what I like to call 'quilting season'. The winter months provide us with a time of indoor activities enforced by the cold and snow. I so look forward to long days spent piecing my plentiful, colorful scraps. Let it snow and blow all it wants. This is the time my sewing machine will be its busiest.

How many of you make New Year's resolutions? I stopped long ago because by March they had flown out the window. I like an idea I got from Bonnie Hunter of Quiltville.com a few years back. She picks a word that will describe her next year so that is what I'm doing for 2016. Actually this year I will have two words. The first one is FINISH. I have lost count of the number of unfinished projects I have so in the next year before I can start a new one I must finish an old one. Let's see how long that lasts! My second word is PURGE. I have been in the process of moving my sewing room from an upstairs bedroom to the basement. Oh my! The stuff I am finding. Time to get rid of fabric that I have no idea why I bought and look I have two of that book. Think I will have plenty of donations for the guild boutique.

A large part of my enjoyment at our guild meetings is seeing the work of others, be they beginner or experienced, during Show and Tell. The interpretations and creativity demonstrated, not to mention the exquisite workmanship, never cease to amaze me. I love hearing your comments about your own work such as: "Not all my points are perfect", or "I'm not sure about this color. Hope they like it"..... We get so hard on ourselves - we are our own worst critics. That is why Show and Tell is so important. It gives us a chance to share our work and hear the ooohs and aaaahs from our peers. It makes us happy and confident knowing others have appreciated our work. Let us ALL be great cheerleaders! Looking forward to the tips and techniques at the next meeting.

Happy quilting,  
Connie

## Upcoming Programs

Su Palmer and Pam Kihn

Sign-up sheets will be available for future classes at our January meeting. For additional information, contact Pam Kihn (231-206-6729) or Su Palmer (231-740-7104).

### **January 11, 2016**

Evening Program: Table Sharing "Tips, Techniques and Projects"

Walk-about for members to visit tables to see demonstrations on a tip, technique or project. Presenters will be our own guild members sharing tips, ideas and simple projects.

Vendor: Around the Block Quilt Shop, Portland, MI

Class on Monday: Join us to make "Mumbo Gumbo." A scrappy strip quilt. Bring your sewing gear to create a quilt using strips to make a 10 inch half log cabin block. Only criteria is to have a half square triangle made with a bright and a dark for the start of each block. If you don't have strips, you can bring fat quarters and cut them up. Some of us are bringing our strip bins and bags to share with others! Call Su Palmer (231-740-7104) for additional information. This is just for fun! No fee.

### **February 8, 2016**

Evening Program: Trunk show with Cardinal Creations, Lake City, MI

Class on Monday: TBD Sign up information will be at our January meeting.

Vendor: Cardinal Creations and the New Ewe

### **March 14, 2016**

Product Review with Jill from Quilted Memories

We will have tables with mini demonstrations presented by our members and Jill to learn about quilting products that will support us in our quilting passion.

### **March 19, 2016 - Saturday at Church of the Dunes -- National Quilting Day**

"Git 'er Done" - Bring an unfinished project or a UFO (unfinished object) and move it to completion or at least closer to completion. You may want to bring the row by row experience kits or patterns you collected last summer to complete a quilt for the July quilt show!

### **April 11, 2016**

"Thread Painting" by Jan Berg Rezner - Class & Evening Lecture

### **May 9, 2016**

Trunk Show and lecture presented by Kathleen Andrews. She will also be teaching a class on Monday. Visit the KwiltArt website to see her quilt patterns at [www.kwiltart.com](http://www.kwiltart.com).

### **Jenny Doan program DVDs**

We will be taking orders for the DVD taken at Jenny Doan's presentation in September. We will have a copy of the DVD playing at the January meeting and if you are interested in ordering one, please see Barb Wexall. The cost is \$15.00 and is payable at the time of order. We will place the order after the meeting and will hopefully have them available at the February meeting.

## Hospitality

Jean Stordahl and Monica Leenhouts

Wow! What an amazing group of ladies! We had an abundance of delicious snacks at our December meeting. Thank you!! Now it is time for the January Birthday People to shine. Bring your treats for the January meeting.

## **Membership**

**Jane Thomasma**

Sixty-one of our 139 members enjoyed the Hoffman Challenge quilts and a delicious Christmas goodie buffet of refreshments at our December meeting. We had three guests, one renewing member, and welcomed new member Art Kinane. Roster updates will be available at the sign-in table at our January meeting. Be sure to keep your roster as we will be giving updates but not a complete new roster. If you have not picked up a roster yet this year, those will also be available at the sign-in table. Also be sure to pick up your nametag if you have not already done so.

## **Community Outreach**

**Elizabeth Clark and Kim Frisch**

Our December meeting brought nice donations of quilts for both the Breast Cancer Center and our baby quilt programs. We also had an "angel" drop off a bag with substantial yardages of fabrics for baby quilt making -- solids, prints, ABCs, and panels. We don't know who left it at our table, but a great big "thank you" for your generosity.

The Christian religion celebrates January 6th as the date when the Magi brought valuable gifts from afar to a child they didn't know. Our quilts donated in community outreach carry on that tradition of giving. Thank you to the many members who give from their needles -- and from their hearts.

## **Quilt Show**

**Karen Katje and Lynn Koster**

"My Michigan" Quilt Show – Our next quilt show will be July 29 and 30, 2016. With the winter months upon us, it's a great time to work on your quilts for the quilt show. Your quilts are needed for our show to be a success! If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please let Lynn Koster at [lbkoster@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lbkoster@sbcglobal.net) and Karen Katje at [mkkatje@gmail.com](mailto:mkkatje@gmail.com) know. We will have a quilt show meeting on Monday, January 11 at 6:00pm.

**"My Michigan" Quilt Challenge** – We hope you are working on your 12"x12" challenge quilt. We want to know what you love about our beautiful state of Michigan. Your challenge quilt needs to be completed by our July meeting.

## **PALS bus trip to Chicago International Quilt Festival**

**Kathy Myers of PALS**

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 9, 2016. PALS is planning a big bus trip to the Chicago International Quilt Festival. We will have a fun filled day with hundreds of quilts to admire and also hundreds of vendors where you will find just the right items to purchase. The bus will leave Muskegon at 6:15 AM. It will also stop at Meijer in Grand Haven to pick up our Lighthouse members joining us. We will stop for breakfast and arrive in Chicago just in time for the show to begin. Along the way, we will have plenty of prizes. After a busy, exciting day at the show, we can relax on the bus and will stop for dinner on the way home. We welcome all Lighthouse members to join us. The cost for the day is \$58.00. This includes the bus fee and show ticket. You are responsible for your own meals. Signup will begin at the PALS January general meeting and the following week at the January Lighthouse Guild meeting (1/11/16). Checks should be made out to PALS.

## **Sewing Machine Maintenance from Pocket Posh tips for Quilters**

Here are a few things that everyone can and should do for their sewing machine on a regular basis. Please keep in mind that every sewing machine should see a professional for a full service every few years. Just to be clear, a few years is two or three; five years is half a decade, and way too long between professional services. Also, the older the machine, the more regularly you should use it. Machine oil and lubricant (white grease) will dry up if the working parts of the machine are not put to use. Even if you do

not have a project to work on, it is a good idea to run your machine at least five minutes per month. This may be done without thread, needle or bobbin. You simply need to keep the lubricants moving through the machine.

Here are a few things you may do more often:

1. Use good quality thread and needles.
2. Change your needle after every few hours of use, and try to use the proper needle for the job. A wide variety of needle choices are available, and your dealer will be happy to educate you on the different reasons to pick different needles.
3. Oil your hook. The hook is the part of the machine that rotates around the bobbin and bobbin case. The hook picks up the thread from behind the needle's eye and wraps it around your bobbin. You should dust out the lint from around the hook, remove the bobbin, and drop one or two drops of oil in the part of the hook that moves around the basket (the part that hold the bobbin and bobbin case). This should be done after you have used about five bobbins of thread. If you're on a sewing marathon, once a day is enough.
4. Clean your feed dogs. Your sewing machine was not manufactured with little felt pads between the feed dogs, that is, the lint from hours of sewing. You should remove your needle and presser foot, and then remove your stitch plate. Most stitch plates will lift up with a slight pressure from between the machine body and the plate itself. Many older machines have one or two flathead screws that hold the plate down from the top. Use a very short-handled screwdriver to loosen these screws. My favorite screwdriver has little wings on the handle so that I can apply a good amount of pressure even on a small handle. Once the plate is off, dust out the space between the feed dogs. If the feed dogs are teeth, then you are flossing the gums of the feed dogs. The more lint, the less lift on the feed system, the poorer the quality of your stitch.
5. Last, but most important, never use cans of "spray air" or "air duster". These products are CO2 propelled and will blast moisture into your machine and make mud out of the lint you were trying to remove. It's best to use a nylon brush for all your cleanings. You may use an air compressor if it has a moisture trap on it, but you should remove the stitch plate and blow down and out through that opening. Your sewing machine mechanic will remove all the exterior covers before he blasts the machine with compressed air. You do not want to pack lint back into the machine.

A few tests you should know how to perform:

1. **Timing:** To confirm that your machine is in the proper timing for the needle and hook relationship, insert a new needle and thread the machine, lower your tension a bit, and run your very widest zigzag stitch. If the stitch forms on both sides, then your machine is well timed.
2. **What's that ticking noise?** If you are concerned that you are hearing a ticking noise in your machine, remove the bobbin and bobbin case and the thread. Insert a new needle and run the machine with the presser foot in a position so that the feed dogs are not hitting the bottom of the presser foot (that would make a terrible noise) and listen for the tick. If no tick, then try it in your widest zigzag; if still no tick, then thread the machine and replace the bobbin and bobbin case. If the tick returns, you know that it is simply the sound of the thread coming off the position finger and that you do not need to be concerned.
3. **Thread tension:** The most common mistake made in troubleshooting your thread tension is when you find big loops of thread on the underside of your fabric. Everyone blames the bobbin at first, but it is rarely the fault of the bobbin at all. If you get big loops, ½ to 1 inch long, then it is most often caused by the thread not being in the upper tension correctly. Here is the key: The lifting of the presser foot opens the tension assembly on most home sewing machines. In other words, you must thread the machine with the presser foot in the highest resting position. The tension discs will be wide open to accept your thread. Often people leave the foot down to prevent the fabric from slipping out of location as they rethread the machine. The needle must be up to thread so we put the foot down. Oh no. The thread will not be under tension, make a bunch of noise and a big mess under the fabric. Now you are frustrated, so you lift the foot, pull the fabric out to clear the jam, and the next time you stitch, the tension is perfect. Baffled? Perhaps

the tugging in frustration allowed the thread to get where it needed to be, and now you are ready to sew. Little loops, like specks on the bottom, simply mean you need to tighten the top tension or loosen the bobbin. For speckling on the top, just loosen the top tension. If you are still getting irregular speckling, change your needle and match your threads; nobody is perfect.

**Lighthouse Quilt Guild  
Treasurer's Report as of 12/17/15**

<b>General Fund Balance on 11/20/2015</b>	<b>\$16,983.11</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Lake Trust Credit Union (interest)	\$0.21
Membership	\$40.00
Name Badges	\$8.00
Pins	\$5.00
Programs	
Donna Kooistra appraisals	\$70.00
Jenny Doan DVD's	\$30.00
Programs-Workshops	
-Carol Keen	\$15.00
Retreat-December 2015	\$550.00
Retreat-April 2016	\$625.00
Take A Chance	\$23.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,366.21</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Community Outreach	
Breast Cancer Quilts	\$106.58
Habitat Quilts	\$50.67
Newsletter printing	\$16.32
Office	\$11.99
Programs-Workshops	
Carol Keen	\$75.00
Retreats	
December 2015-Facility rental balance	\$1,975.00
December 2015-Supplies	\$721.16
December 2015-Refund to participants	\$480.00
April 2016-Facility deposit	\$250.00
December 2016-Facility deposit	\$250.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,936.72</b>
<b>General Fund Ending Balance on 12/17/15</b>	<b>\$14,412.60</b>
<b>Quilt Show Balance on 12/17/15</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>Balance of both LQG Funds on 12/17/15</b>	<b>\$16,912.60</b>



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Authorized Gammill Dealer

**Weather Related Meeting  
Cancellations**

If Grand Haven Public Schools cancel school or evening school events, then there will be no meeting for the Lighthouse Quilt Guild. If the schools do not cancel events but conditions are deemed hazardous to our members, an announcement of cancellation will be sent to the WGHN radio station and TV 8 or 13. You can also call the guild chair or co-chair to seek advice on road conditions here in Grand Haven.



Lighthouse Quilt Guild  
1206 Hillcrest St.  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

**Your January Lighthouse Quilt Guild Newsletter is here**

What to Bring to the Next Meeting:

- ~ Your Name Badge (pin it on!)—this is your entry to the meeting
- ~ Completed Community Charity Quilts and/or Kona solid cotton fabrics
- ~ Spare Change for Take a Chance
- ~ Library Books
- ~ Show and Tell

