



LOVE, JOY, PIECE



September 2005

Co-Editors: Marlys Wiens and Bev Patkau

Volume 2, 2nd Edition

Mennonite Central Committee

North American Mennonite Relief Sale Board – Quilter’s Newsletter

To assist you in making a queen or king size, Love Joy Piece is designing several tops with the measurements.

From the Editor:

2005 has brought several exciting Relief Sale events into quilting. At the end of March, the “Passing on the Comfort” exhibit and book was launched in New Holland, Pennsylvania. The exhibit is scheduled to travel for a three year term and may be coming to your area. Contact loisfl@ptd.net for further information.

Quilters need to celebrate this book of:

Passing on the Comfort: The War, the Quilts, and the Women Who Made A Difference.

The quilts photographed in this book are the type of quilts that we, our mothers, or our grandmothers made. Author Lynn Kaplanian-Buller approached me at the event before I recognized her with such enthusiasm about taking the exhibit “home” and sharing it with others. She had already realized we were from the same hometown. These quilts have so many stories and missions. Hearing co-author An Keuning-Tichelaar of Holland read the stories of the quilts, brought tears of joy knowing how women had made such a difference in history.

As you read the book, enjoy the quilts pictured, notice the rich history of bringing warmth to hurting and lonely people, sharing friendship, and assisting in their journey to freedom. Today, MCC continues to assist people in difficult and hurting situations in different countries.

Have you considered making a replica of one or more of the quilts in the book for your Relief Sale? The patterns being sold with the exhibit are crib and doll size.

There are 18 different quilts in the book. If you have any of the measurements to make a queen or king size quilt, please share that information. When available, it will be sent to you on the Love, Joy, Piece chat line.

The second event benefiting Relief Sales this year was the Biennial North American Mennonite Relief Sale Workshop in Waterloo, Ontario in May. Many sales were represented and it was exciting to see the interaction and sharing of ideas. The New Hamburg Sale created some conversation with “Four Elements”, a unique variation of Drunkard’s Path and awesome machine quilting.

How can we assist sales? Quality is always an issue as quilted quilts produce more dollars for MCC than the tied comforters. If you have a top and don’t have the time to hand quilt it, consider having it machine quilted. If you need help with finding someone to machine quilt it in your area, please let us know on the chat line. Although hand-quilted quilts are usually our first love, we are finding that often the machine-quilted quilts are bringing the same amount at the auctions.

Something we would like to see is more Quilt Retreats. They are so much fun - getting to meet other quilters, and just a time of rejuvenation. Is it possible to partner with Mennonite Retreat Centers around the United States and Canada? Do you have a retreat where you could invite other quilters? Please let your friends on Love, Joy, Piece know (almost 100 of us already!)

Blessings and thank you!

Marlys Wiens

Ideas Have you visited www.quiltingculture.com lately? Sharon and Marilyn are visiting many Relief Sales and sharing some of their findings. Take advantage of their information if you don’t have time to visit other sales. You might be surprised to find your auction there!

Have an Extra Quilt? The Idaho Sale is having their first auction on May 6, 2006 and they could use our support! Contact Marty Freeburne, (208) 397-4772 or mjfree@dcdi.net.

Email Chat room

To sign up for the email **chat room**, please send your email address to Harriet Berg at Daheberg2@aol.com.

Newsletter

To sign up to receive Love, Joy, Piece Newsletter by mail, contact mwiens@pro-ns.net or mail to Marlys Wiens, 7310 York Avenue S. #105, Edina, MN 55435. Canada - contact Bev Patkau at lpatkau@shaw.ca or mail to Bev Patkau at 227 Valhalla Crescent NW, Calgary AB Canada T3A 1Z8.

The purpose of the newsletter is to share YOUR ideas, YOUR tips, and YOUR stories. We look forward to hearing from YOU!

Mennonite Quilt Designers and Quilt Book Authors: Myra Harder and Cori Derksen

Since the weekend Bev Patkau and I were asked to be the editors of Love, Joy, Piece in 2003, we have been on the search for young, energetic, quilters that we could share with you. Bev had heard of Myra Harder and Cori Derksen from Winkler, Manitoba, and I had one of their books, “All Through the Woods – Quilted Projects from the North Country”. Bev felt it was my “job” to find these women. On our way back to Minneapolis that Sunday afternoon, we stopped at a quilt shop in St. Cloud, Minnesota, in search of any information about Myra and Cori. The shop had my book and Bev spotted “Four Seasons of Quilts” by the same authors. Reading “Meet the Authors” in the back of the books made us think they just had to have a Mennonite connection. The hand quilting on the cover quilt by Betty Klassen, Myra’s mother, was something that we would love at any MCC Relief Sale!

The search has proceeded for over a year with many “No, I have no idea who Cori Derksen and Myra Harder are”. You might think that Manitoba and Minneapolis are not that far apart but we are in different countries and when the snow flies, 500 miles of prairie is a long ways apart.

One beautiful autumn day while attending the Morris, Manitoba Relief Sale, I stopped to rest by the quilts that were ready to be auctioned and took some time to regroup. To my surprise a gentleman came and sat next to me and started to talk. He had no idea that this was my first time to the sale, first time to the area, and that I knew almost no one. He dominated the conversation by sharing how late his wife was and that he wanted to go home. Finally, I asked him how late she was and he smirked. The agreed time was not for another 45 minutes. Here was my chance! What’s the probability that this man who was a farmer from Winkler would know Myra and Cori? To my surprise, he not only knew them, he had just greeted Myra’s mother and he recited all of their telephone numbers by memory. After months of searching, I suddenly was saying, “Slow down, wait, I have to write this information down!”

Needless to say, I would like to introduce you to two young, energetic quilt designers and quilters who have been friends since grade school and are now business partners. For their first four books, they keep track of their books by the times they were pregnant with their children. Yes, four children and four books and the children know which their book is! How easy is it to say, I don’t have time to quilt? Once you meet these gals, you will realize quilting, friendships, creativity, and yes, hockey, all go together. The first time I met them at the St. Cloud Quilt Guild meeting as guest speakers, they came in with hockey bags packed with the quilts from their books!

Myra and Cori’s web site is: www.blumeadowdesigns.com. Their story keeps getting sweeter when Myra tells her childhood story of her parents moving the family to Pennsylvania to volunteer for two years with MCC. Her memories are so clear and Cori has been drawn into that enthusiasm of helping people. It gives a special dimension to their quilting business.

Currently, they are writing a new book, “Blessed Home” and designing new quilts for the book. This time, “Blessed Home”, the book and quilt on the cover, comes with their own line of fabric by RJR called Love, Joy, Peace. Yes, their line of fabric is based on the Biblical Fruits of the Spirit. The book “Blessed Home” and line of fabric are to be on the market autumn 2005. Their quilt will be featured at the RJR booth May 2006 at Quilt Market in Minneapolis where only quilt shop owners and licensed quilt businesses share their products. Love, Joy, Peace designs and books may be ordered directly from their website.

Myra and Cori have offered the cover quilt, “Blessed Home” to a relief sale auction to benefit MCC. Together they are running a business, designing new books, and raising small children –creating a very busy schedule.

*We would like to hear your stories! Share your pictures, favorite shops,
and patterns. We are about sharing and we need to hear from YOU!*

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Share Your Heart as we Share With Others

The North American Mennonite Relief Sale Workshop in Waterloo, Ontario was a great time for sharing ideas and coming up with new ideas. At the heart of all of the Mennonite Central Committee themes for 2004 - 2007 is "Love" and how better to demonstrate love and caring for others than with a Heart Block.

The MCC Relief Sale Quilt Liaisons of "Love, Joy, Piece" Bev Patkau and Marlys Wiens, have a challenge for YOU:

Help us respond to the needs of others by creating quilts composed of heart squares to be sold at Relief Sales. Bev and Marlys will piece the quilts. The more blocks you send, the more quilts we will make!

Where will these quilts be sold?

Initially, one will be created to be sold at the Pennsylvania Relief Sale's 50th Anniversary on April 1, 2006 in Harrisburg, PA. If we have additional blocks, one will be created for the new Idaho Relief Sale in Nampa, Idaho on May 6, 2006. If your heart overflows and we have even more blocks, the sky is the limit!

Instructions to create a Heart Block:

- Size - 6 inch finished (6 ½ inch unfinished) or a 9 inch finished (9 ½ inch unfinished)
- Pieced or Appliquéd
- Color - your choice

Time Table:

- Please have the blocks to us by October 31, 2005 or contact the following.

Where do I send my block and who do I contact for more information?

In Canada:

Bev Patkau
227 Valhalla Cres. NW
Calgary, AB T3A 1Z8
PH (403) 247-0512
E-mail lpatkau@shaw.ca

In the United States:

Marlys Wiens
7310 York Ave. #105
Edina, MN 55435
PH (952) 835-6915
E-mail mwiens@pro-ns.net

*We look forward to seeing Love, Joy, Piece and your friends respond.
Please help spread the word so others may share their heart as well!*

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