



Love, Joy, Piece



March 2006
Co-Editors: Marlvs Wiens and Bev Patkau

Volume 3, 1st Edition
Mennonite Central Committee
North American Mennonite Relief Sale Board – Quilter's Newsletter

From the Editor:

The Ugly Duckling Quilt

Last year at my local relief sale (MCC Alberta Relief Sale, Canada) I saw a quilt. As I looked at all those quilts, one quilt stood out. It did not stand out because of its beautiful stitching, pattern or even its colour. In fact the reason this quilt stood out was because one was yellow - a colour quilters tend to shy away from. Yellow is a colour that draws the eye even when there is a small amount of yellow in a quilt. The other colours in this quilt seemed overwhelmed by the yellow. The second thing that drew my attention was that it wasn't finished. I couldn't understand why someone had put a quilt in the sale that was obviously not ready. Why had the committee not finished this poor quilt?

As the sale went on I watched one quilt after another sell. I wondered who would buy that unfinished "ugly duckling" quilt. As the picture of the unfinished quilt was shown on the large screen behind the stage, people began to bid. There were more than one person bidding on the quilt and the price was high. Did people realize that this quilt was not finished?

After the sale I spoke to the quilt coordinator who told me she had agonized about whether to finish the quilt. She told me the woman who had begun the quilt died suddenly before finishing and she had felt wrong about finishing the quilt without first talking to the family.

As we drove home from the sale, the unfinished quilt was forgotten as I remembered all of the beautiful quilts I had seen, the people I had visited with and the wonderful food I had eaten. The sale had been a success!

At church the next day people were excited about the successful sale. At coffee time after church we were all called together for a special presentation. Our minister's wife was called forward and presented with a quilt - out of the bag came the ugly duckling quilt! The woman who had died before completing her quilt was the mother of our pastor's wife.

Individuals in our congregation had known the story about this quilt and had joined together to purchase the quilt to return it to the family. This quilt was received with tears and gratitude. The ugly duckling had become a swan.

*Lord help me to not become the quilt police.
Show me the beauty of the story in each quilt.
Bev Patkau*

"Heart to heart", making a difference.

Many thanks to heart block contributors who have made this Heart Block project possible! We have received hundreds of blocks, including blocks from 6 countries! Several wall hangings and quilts have already been made and will be distributed to relief sales. We will be accepting more blocks through June 2006. These blocks will then be made into more quilts and wall hangings to be sold at relief sales.

Instructions: Size – 6" finished (6 ½" unfinished)
or 9" finished (9 ½" unfinished)
Pieced or appliquéd – you choose the color.

For more information or to send your block(s):

In Canada: Bev Patkau, 227 Valhalla Cres. NW,
Calgary, AB T3A 1Z8

Phone (403) 247-0512) E-mail lpatkau@shaw.ca

In United States: Marlvs Wiens, 7310 York Ave.
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**See story in "a Common Place" magazine,
March/April 2006 issue, p. 22. For a free
subscription to the magazine - www.mcc.org/acp or
phone (717) 859-1151.**

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

A special offer is being made to Relief Sales to raise funds for MCC. If Relief Sales order a quantity of 12 or more quilt books (order may be of mixed titles), Relief Sales will receive a 50% discount – therefore, 50% of sales goes to MCC. Perhaps a donor would like to purchase these books for Sales to resell. Order information will be sent to the Relief Sale Chairpersons. Contact your chairpersons for further information.

Idaho Relief Sale Auction Catalog Deadline is April 15.

If you have an item to donate to their 1st Relief Sale, please contact (208) 397-4772 or mjfree@dcdi.net.

Have Fun with a Quilt Workshop!

Have you been considering holding a quilt workshop but are not sure where to begin? I hope these ideas will help you get started:

The simplest workshop to organize is to hold a Tea. Invite all of your "quilt" friends and anyone else interested in quilting. Place announcements in the local churches and MCC centre. Invite a local quilter to come and give a trunk show and tell about her quilts. Decorate the room with quilts and serve tea, coffee and goodies. The aim of the tea is to inspire- not to teach.

For a one day class - ask a local teacher to do a demonstration. If you have an adequate power supply (lucky you!) students could bring machines and learn first hand. Place announcements in your local churches. Your church secretary may have a list of all the local churches or the MCC office should be able to help. If you don't know who would be a good quilt teacher in your area, ask at your local quilt shops. The quilt shops may even provide you with door prizes. Keep the topic or achievement level simple. Scraps are always a good topic because they appeal to almost everyone especially "thrifty" Mennonites.

Consider providing lunch as part of the package. Lunch is a great time to visit and network. I hand out goody bags to each person when they arrive, including small things like thimbles, thread, pins. Ask your MCC centre for free literature on relief sales or material aid. Remember the aim of a workshop is to inspire, educate and hopefully someday make a quilt for MCC.

Holding a weekend or multiple-day workshop is not a lot of work - especially if you ask friend to help. Holding the workshop at a church camp works well because those who come from a distance have a place to stay (young moms love a few days away). Camps also have kitchen facilities to provide meals. Hosting people from a distance in local homes works as well. The local quilt guilds are a great source of teachers, information and participants.

Inviting someone to present short inspirational devotions is nice (quilt related is even better). There are lots of great books to draw from. The one I use most often is "The Quilt of Life" by Mary Tatem. The local MCC centre may be willing to help sponsor part of the workshop and perhaps also help with advertising the workshop. Local quilt shops can also be helpful if approached respectfully.

The achievement level of your students will determine the classes you provide. Goody bags and door prizes are always a great idea. If your classes require small items such as hand quilting needles, place these in the bags - one less thing for the students to forget to bring. Don't forget to schedule time for feedback or questions.

I hope these ideas inspire you to hold a quilt workshop. Let's join together to make stitchin' fun!
(Questions about organizing a workshop? Contact Bev Patkau.)

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:

Canada - lpatkau@shaw.ca or mail to Bev Patkau at 227 Valhalla Crescent NW, Calgary AB Canada T3A 1Z8

United States: mwiens@pro-ns.net or mail to Marlys Wiens, 7310 York Avenue S. #105, Edina, MN 55435.

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