

A Note From the President...

Dear Quilters,

Yes, now I have to remember to call all of you quilters and not ladies, as we have now welcomed our first male quilters.

Time is flying by. I have been so busy since before Christmas. I don't know where the time goes. It has now been a year since our very first meeting. We have come a long way. We have a ways to go before everything is running smoothly.

This next year will be exciting and a whole lot more fun for some of us. With more people helping do little things, it makes it a lot easier for the board in general. We have learned a lot of things through trial and error. Mostly trial, as we have made any major errors that I am aware of.

It looks as though most of the rain is behind us. At is a good thing, especially for those of us who have had leaks. So-Cal spring is here and our usual weather of cold mornings and warm afternoons is very welcome. Hopefully this will help with get more members out to our meetings. At our last board meeting we discussed buying new chairs. None of us thought we would be needing more chair so soon. However, with more than 75 members, it won't be long until we will have to have more chairs.

As a board we have been working very hard to make Acacia Quilt Guild a good place to be and something for everyone. I hope that you feel that we are succeeding.

Thanks for all your help, both on the board and off.

Susan Stokes

April Meeting

For our April Meeting we are going to have Margrit Hall, below is her bio. Also everyone who has her book, "Benni Harper's Quilt Album", to bring it for her autograph. She will be bringing ALL the quilts from the book. The book includes both traditional and original designs which illustrate the short stories in the book which are written by Earlene Fowler.

From an early age Margrit had a desire to express herself artistically. She worked in a number of different mediums, but couldn't find the right means of expression. About 30 years ago she finally found her artistic voice -- in quilting. Once she found that voice she began to read and learn everything she could about her new passion. It wasn't long until others started asking for her assistance. With a college background in Education and Communications, sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge with others was a natural step. Margrit now has over twenty years of experience in instruction and lecturing on the art of quilt making. Margrit possesses an in-depth expertise in the preparation and presentation of programs, classes, and instructional materials. Margrit has worked with leading fabric manufacturers in the development of original quilts and patterns to showcase new fabric designs. This experience helps to make her patterns marketed through her company Cat Tail Design detailed and easy to follow.

Margrit brings an artist's eye and color sense to her fabric artistry and presentation. She has developed her skill in watercolor painting and often that perspective is reflected in the color and flow of her quilt designs. Margrit's sketching and drawing abilities also provide her with skills that transfer into the creation of fabric art.

As a former Curator of the Hoffman Challenge, and now the Quilting Events and Special Projects Director for Robert Kaufman Fabrics, Margrit has been exposed to a wide array of fabric artists, viewing works from across the United States and internationally as well.

Margrit's experience has given her the perspective of a beginning quilter as well as the subtlety and complexity of the more experienced artist. Her first-hand knowledge of the fabric industry, from manufacture to use, brings a unique knowledge to her lectures and workshops.

Margrit and well-known mystery author Earlene Fowler have completed a book that was published by C & T. The book will have original quilts with matching scenes from previously untold stories from the lives of Benni and Gabe. It was published last fall and is titled "Benni Harper's Quilt Album". A second book is in the works!

Margrit is a resident of Orange County, CA, where she lives with her husband, David and continues to teach, lecture, and design.

Sew so Late

The decision has been made to have our Sew So Late on the 4th Saturday of the month. This month we will be sewing on Saturday, March 23. Perfect for finishing those last minute Easter projects! The time will be 6 to 11 p.m. We will be meeting at The Bunney Hutch in Los Alamitos. If you put your name on the list at our last Guild meeting, be expecting a reminder call.

Birthdays:

If your birthday falls in April, Happy Birthday! Lucky for you, you get to bring refreshments.

April Birthdays:

Dell Childs, Ardelle Stenson, Nancy Healy

Attendance...

At the last meeting we had 50 member, and 10 guests.

Door Prize Winners/ Donations	
Door Prizes: Gift Certificate for Leah's--Linda Vaughn, and Charlotte Hansen Fat Thirds from Bear's Quilt Shop--Sherry Baker, Cecelia Carey, and Helen Whitaker Fabric Swap --17 people participated	Opportunity Basket: Susan Derring

Board Positions for next Guild year.

The following are running for positions on the board for next guild year.

President: Phyllis Campbell

1st Vice President: Sherry Baker

2nd Vice President: Sonia Das, and Randy Miller

Recording Secretary: **Need Someone**

Corresponding Secretary: Dell Childs

Treasurer: **Need Someone**

Upcoming Meetings...

Our speaker for May, Ruth Blanchet, she is coming all the way from New Zealand. She is speaking and doing workshops in this area before teaching on a quilting cruise to Alaska. She will be showing us some of her outstanding work that you won't believe until you see it with your own eyes.

Ruth Blanchet was born in the city of Nelson in the South Island of New Zealand. She has a passion to make quilts and wall hangings as well as clothing. For the past twenty years she has concentrated mainly on quilting and designing patterns.

In October and November 2003, she made her first successful trip to USA and taught in the States of Oregon, California and Arizona. Her second trip to USA was in May/June 2004 where she taught in California.

In 2000, she was very successful in the challenges she entered, winning a third prize award in the Hoffman challenge with my waistcoat, "Blue Tears". Due to gaining a placing, Blue Tears was featured in the NZ Quilter magazine. This is the third entry she has made for the Hoffman Challenge, all pieces being selected for the traveling exhibition.

She gained the Most Interesting Quilting Design Award for my Kiwi-Quilters Challenge, "Falling Leaves". Her piece "Native New Zealand" was selected to travel internationally in the Horizon Challenge and has been featured in two magazines, The NZ Quilter and Popular Patchwork, UK's biggest selling Patchwork and quilting magazine. She Also won a third placing for her wall quilt "Deep Purple" in the American Quilt Art Forum Challenge 2000.

In 2001, she entered two challenges with both pieces gaining an award. The first was a piece she designed and made called "Flight" for the American Hoffman Challenge. It was selected to travel around the States for the duration of one year.

The other was a piece called "Imagination" which won The Most Interesting Quilting Award for the second year running for the Kiwi-Quilters challenge. It has been displayed in locations within New Zealand. It has Also been featured in the NZ Quilter magazine and Patchwork Quilt Tsushin, a Japanese quilting magazine.

In 2002, she again entered the American Hoffman challenge with a piece called "Celtic Storm". It was awarded selected to travel around the States for the

duration of one year and Also features in the NZ Quilter magazine.

Nancy Malm has provided us with the recipe for her...

Amazing Raisin Cake

3 cups unsifted flour
2 cups sugar
1 cup Best Food's mayonnaise
1/3 cup milk
2 eggs
2 tsp. Baking soda
1 1/2 tsp. Ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp. Ground nutmeg
1/2 tsp. Salt
1/4 tsp. Ground cloves
3 cups chopped and peeled apples (granny smith)
1 cup seedless raisins (plumped)
1/2 cup coarsely chopped walnuts

Grease (Pam) muffin pans. Set aside. Put first ten ingredients in mixing bowl; beat at low speed for two minutes. Scraping bowl frequently. Stir in apples, raisins, and nuts. Fill muffin cups half full. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes or until tester comes out clean. Remove from pan and cool on racks. Store for one day to let flavors mingle. Then enjoy!

Sunshine/ Shadows

Phyllis Victor's mother passed away on March 15th, exactly 13 years after her father. Phyllis' mother was an avid quilter, doing everything by hand. She was 89 years old and was in the process of finishing a quilt which Phyllis brought home to finish for her. Our hearts go out to you at this time Phyllis.