



# The Quiltmaker's Shoppe

Arlington WA

January - March 2018

315 N. Olympic Avenue, Arlington, WA 98223 Phone: 360-435-3993 Mon - Fri 10:00-5:30 Sat 10:00-4:00 Sun 11:00-3:00

Check out the Shoppe's website! <http://www.thequiltmakersshoppe.com>



Greetings to all!

Well. Here we are in 2018! I was born in 1958 so that means... yep. 60. It's just a number, right?

You are as young as you feel and all that stuff. And, on some days I may feel about 40, but mostly I feel about 60! One exciting thing about being 60 is that I now get to take my cranky old woman hat out more often and put it on legitimately. I've had it in my mental closet since I was about 45 but didn't feel that I could use it all that often, depending on the age of the listener. But NOW! HA! You'll be able to hear me carry on about things like "kids these days", and how overwhelmed I am by having 188 choices of shampoo at the drugstore. Remember when it was VO5, Faberge or Suave?? And it was oily, normal or dry? Now it's full body, extra body, curl enhancer, curl control, etc., etc. And, don't even get me started on all the joys of technology! In true "cranky old woman" mode I dread each update. What will I have to relearn this time? What ever happened to the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it?" So, be prepared to meet this part of my personality on any given day this year! And I know that many of you have already met her, particularly on those aggravating computer days I have!

## SHOPPE TALK

I have a pile of stuff to talk about for the New Year. First, I'm late with this newsletter because I have been sewing! The Hoffman "Call of the Wild" digital wildlife prints and the patterns that have been written have been taking up all of my time. I just finished a new quilt top using the Bear & the Eagle panels and I'm working with the Wolf & Eagle panels now using a pattern by "Quilts with a Twist" out of Sitka, AK and it is very different than anything I've done. I just want to sit down and play with it. To heck with laundry, cooking, dishes, bill paying and newsletters.... I just want to sew. But, you all keep asking for the class schedule so I'm staying away from my sewing machine and sitting down with my computer. The things I do for you guys!

Here are some highlights for 2018! We are back in Shop Hop this year, and also doing the Row by Row event. Both start in June so I'll have more information in the next newsletter. You can come in now and see the poster for the Shop Hop fabric - it's bright and cheery and perfect for this side of the state. The theme for Row by Row this year is Music - I've got a few ideas dancing around in my head, hopefully one of them will strike the right note. (puns intended)

The Tranquility Block of the Month will begin the second Saturday in April - Forest Floor is wrapping up so if you have one of our older BOM quilts that you are still working on bring it in on the second Saturday of the month in February or March and get Belinda's help finishing it up before Tranquility starts! Tranquility also has several extra projects using two panels created to coordinate called "Abundant Grace". Wall hangings, pillows, etc.

There is also a possibility I will be teaching a BOM beginning in May. I've just received the Shoppe kit for "Enchanted Garden" by Jason Yenter of In the Beginning Fabrics. As soon as I finish the wolf quilt and some baby quilt samples I'll start this one. This project uses the Floragraphics Batik collection (gorgeous) and simple piecing topped with fusible machine applique. The fabrics will be arriving in April so stay tuned for more information!

## NEW FABRIC AT THE SHOPPE

Just in from P & B is an adorable flannel baby collection. It is available in a pink and in a blue colorway and there is a pattern I have used before with a similar flannel that will make up perfect and go together quickly! Kits are available in blue and in pink. Also in the children's collection is Camp Along Critters from Studio E with a cute panel and coordinates. The Mickey and Minnie Mouse fabrics continue to be popular and the Hoffman Digitals continue to amaze with more arriving soon.

## **FABRIC COMING SOON**

Dreamscape III from In the Beginning Fabric should be here any day, just 2 fabrics along with a pattern to make a fun and beautiful Kaleidoscope quilt. Northcott is re-releasing their Prehistoric Dinosaur collection and Clothworks has a gorgeous collection featuring fuchsias and hummingbirds (yes, Shirley! Fuchsias!!) All of these along with more Hoffman Digitals and batiks are expected in February and March so keep checking in! Also arriving very soon are more of the Monet prints from Robert Kaufman and also some Vincent Van Gogh! Exciting!

## **COMING UP:**

It's time to start planning to attend Quilt Shows and gear up for some traveling! For more information on times, fees and parking come into the Shoppe and pick up a flyer!

## **QUILTERS ANONYMOUS QUILT SHOW**

**March 16 - 18**

**Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe**

## **ALL IN STITCHES QUILT SHOW**

**April 27 - 28**

**Edward D. Hansen Conference Center Angel of the Winds Arena (formerly Comcast/Xfinity Arena), Everett**

## **CAMA BEACH "QUILTS ON THE BEACH" SHOW**

**Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, Cama Beach State Park**

## **WESTERN WASHINGTON SHOP HOP**

**June 23<sup>rd</sup> - July 1<sup>st</sup>, At your Local Quilt Shop!**

## **ROW BY ROW EXPERIENCE 2018**

**June 21<sup>st</sup> - September 4<sup>th</sup> at Quilt Shops Around the World!**

## **CLASSES**

Krista is willing to teach the Tuffet again! Please sign up early as I need to order the kits at least a week before the class. She is also teaching her "Hollow Star" pattern. Judy will have her famous Free Motion Quilting class as well as a class described as "a crazy circle quilt"! In addition to the Block of the Month and Finish it Friday Belinda will be teaching a new way to do a Bargello using only 2 fabrics! Of course, one of those is an Ombre so maybe that is cheating?? She's also ready to spend a day teaching you how to get your quilts finished up and ready to display! Bindings hints

and tips, label making and attaching and the ever necessary but seldom done hanging sleeve! And, for a grand and relaxing time, join Sondra for the Sashiko class on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. Sondra is newest to our stable of teachers and she has the knowledge and teaching skills to not only give you a new skill but also make you want to do more. Each of us that took the class from her last year gave her two thumbs up! Not to mention that Sashiko is easy and fun once you learn some tricks. Pat will introduce anyone to the art of quilting and Cathy Callan always has something new to share at the Hand Embroidery class!

## **CRANKY OLD WOMAN NOTES:**

Now for the editorial comment... I'm not supposed to say this and I hope you won't take it personally but lately I've had so many calls and visits from customers genuinely upset and wondering why so many quilt shops are closing. Sometimes it's unavoidable, a death or an illness, but there is another factor that doesn't get talked about because it's considered bad manners. As a Cranky Old Woman, I'm going to set aside Emily Post for a bit and talk about a challenge that faces me. A month doesn't go by that I don't have someone in that purchased fabrics and projects online and needs some one on one help figuring out the pattern or the fabrics that don't quite match the description. Or, telling me about the GREAT DEALS they found and purchased online on fabrics the "e-tailors" were closing out - often items I have in the Shoppe. Over the past 2 months I've been sent 4 different surveys telling me that more and more quilters are doing their fabric shopping online - one showed that in 2015 only 27% of quilters did most of their fabric shopping online and in 2017 it was 76%. This is just downright discouraging to a shop owner. Online sellers have definitely got advantages over me, with the huge market available to them they are able to place much larger orders with the fabric companies, get a better price, get the fabric sooner and with their lower overhead they can sell it cheaper. I am asked why I don't set up an online Shoppe myself. Here is my answer. To me quilting is not all about the act of sitting at a machine and sewing while a computer video plays in the background. Yes, You Tube videos can be useful but too many people are limiting themselves to that learning method these days. They watch the video online, click on the convenient link to purchase everything they need to make that exact project and wait for UPS. They are missing out on so much by dismissing the social aspect! I go to work everyday

looking forward to the people I will meet and chat with. Stuffing fabric into an envelope and slapping on a label really doesn't excite me at all. I've met so many wonderful people and developed so many friendships at the shop and I've watched many friendships develop among you as well. Quilting has always had the social angle as well as the practical making of blankets, going way back to the beginning of the art. I don't mean to scold or to whine! It's true that often you will see a fabric collection in a magazine and it isn't available in any of your local shops because there is only so much we can fit in our Shoppe. But it is hard when I have a regular customer come in and tell me that she purchased 18 yards online of a collection that I have in my Shoppe because it was \$2 cheaper a yard. That's \$36 she saved, less shipping. I can't quite figure out how to respond to these comments! Or to conversations in the classroom about which website to go to for the best deals on batiks. I don't know for sure about other shops but I know that mine has felt this "competition". And, I can't compete. I need to staff the Shoppe with knowledgeable people. I need to spend time, fabric and money to get samples made. I need to be able to show you at the front counter a quick demo on how to use a Bloc Loc ruler or make a tube pillowcase or help with the math behind borders! And, mostly, I need to carry forward the traditions of quilting as a community of face to face, person to person sharing, caring and love of the art. Personally, I carry a huge guilt for being an early Amazon supporter when all they sold was books. I was in book heaven with them for awhile until I made a trip to Mt. Vernon to visit Scott's Bookstore. It was a fantastic place to go with helpful employees, tons of books with reviews by the employees, comfortable chairs to sit in and browse through the books and free gift wrapping. Prior to Amazon we would go up there about every other month and buy loads of books. At Christmas I'd walk out with multiple bags of beautifully wrapped gifts I knew would be appreciated by the receivers. Because of the convenience of Amazon (and this was in dial up internet days) I had not been up there for several months when the month before Christmas Bill & I drove up ready to do some damage to their inventory and a sign was on the door, "Out of Business". In the restaurant upstairs, we were told that since Amazon came along their business had taken such a hit they could no longer continue to offer the same service level and that people would come in, browse the books

and then order them from Amazon for a better price. All these years later I still feel guilty and I still miss that store. Same thing happened to our favorite bookstore in Whistler, BC. So, I kind of see what is coming down the road and I wish I had the answer but I don't. I just ask that before you click on that "submit order" button you take a minute and consider the value of your local quilt shop in your life. I know the value The Quiltmaker's Shoppe had to my life before I jumped off the cliff and purchased it from Kim & Marty 7 years ago - truth is, that's why I bought it. I believed then and I believe now that it's necessary to have a place you can go to wander and visit and maybe be inspired by the fabrics, patterns, and samples or by another customer or maybe an employee. Someplace you can safely tell your secrets! Has life thrown you a turn? When mine did I found it comforting to wander the rooms at The Shoppe and feel the fabrics and yes, to buy fabrics and bring them home to carry some of the comfort with me! In the Shoppe we hear stories that run the gamut of hilarious, heartwarming, frustrating, aggravating and sometimes downright heartbreaking - and, while we don't claim to counsel we do listen, we empathize, we care, and if appropriate we find some humor where we can. Family and friends are great and we all need them but sometimes you need a third source once removed for life's curveballs.

Or, maybe you just want to get out of the house and go somewhere? See people and have a break from the daily regular stuff. Feeling a little antsy but nowhere you really need to go. We have a coffee pot that is usually available and we understand wanderers. Maybe we don't have the exact collection you see in the magazine but we might have something better! We even share books and recipes and will recommend and explain the wonders of the Instant Pot to anyone that will listen!

Then, when we've spent some time and we've shared some stories I worry when I don't see you for a while. Many of you have been on the receiving end of a phone call or email when a month or so has gone by without a pop in visit. Cheryl, Linda, Chris, Denise, Betty and many others can attest to that - right now I'm waiting for an email reply from Alice before I begin to search through old class lists for her phone number! In short, I care about you all, I consider you more as friends than as customers and that is the main reason I am still open for business. I would miss you. If I did go "online" I might get a report if I lost your business, but I wouldn't notice if I just missed YOU!

So, there is my initial "Cranky Old Woman" column for this newsletter! Not sure if this will be a regular feature but it feels right to have it out there. If I've annoyed or offended anyone I guess I should pre-apologize but I'm trying to answer the questions I keep getting asked. "Are you going to keep this Shoppe open?", "Why are so many shops closing?", "Why won't you meet the online prices?" and, "Why don't you go online?" Hopefully I've put many of those questions to bed! With a cozy flannel quilt on top!

**SUPER WEEKEND** Watch your e-mail for the great deals the first Weekend of every month!

## WINTER CLASSES

### OPEN EMBROIDERY - Cathy Callan

This class is just becoming more fun every month! Cathy has so many ideas for us! Of course, she is ready, willing and able every month to help you with your embroidery project, whether you are a beginner or learned at Grandma's knee and just want to advance or brush up your skills. She has also started bringing us along into the world of wool applique and fancy stitching to make some really fun stuff! So, come join! Bring in something you are working on or stop into the Shoppe and pick up a brand new pattern and floss. It is a great way to spend a few hours a month with friends.

Fee: \$5

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month (10:30 - 12:30)

### FINISH IT FRIDAY - Belinda Murray

Have projects you'd like to finish up (or start)? Need a little help figuring it out? Like to sew with other quilters? Just want to sew away from the laundry, the dishes, the phone, the pets, the kids and grandkids? Join us! It will be a fun time out. Space is limited, so sign up early as it will fill fast.

Fee: \$15

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays (1:00 - 9:00)

### TRANQUILITY BOM - Belinda Murray

Beginning in April we will be doing another beautiful Block of the Month from Wing and a Prayer Designs using Timeless Treasures fabrics. The 2018 BOM Tranquility features 15 printed cotton fabrics. The palette ranges from aqua to deep sea blues, a foundation of sandy creams and beiges with a coral accent. Finished size: 106" square.

Fee: \$260 or \$65 per qtr

2nd Saturday of the Month (10:30 - 1:00)

### APPLIQUÉ ONLY - No Teacher

It's always more fun working on projects with friends. Bring your unfinished appliqué project or start a new one!

Fee: \$15 per year

3rd Wednesday of the Month (10:00 - 1:00)

### INTRODUCTORY QUILTING - Pat Mitchell

Pat will introduce a new round of quilters to the world of half square triangles, flying geese, sashing, borders, quilting and binding! Or, to refresh the skills of anyone wanting to get some basics back in hand. You learn a LOT in this class and are ready to take on almost any pattern once you've mastered these basic skills. Please come and join her for a fun and enlightening experience! It will be well worth the time!

Fee: \$70.00 plus fabric/tools

Tuesdays, Feb 13, 20, 27, Mar 6, 20, 27 (11:00 - 2:00)

### FREE MOTION QUILTING - Judy Irish

Learn to sandwich and quilt all those quilt tops you have stashed away! Judy's free motion class is just the place! She will encourage you to dump fear and intimidation and simply have fun breathing and quilting! This class continues to fill fast; sign up today to secure your place.

Fee: \$35

Fri, Feb 16<sup>th</sup> (10:30 - 3:00)

### HOLLOW STAR - Krista Moser

Are you looking for a quick project? Something to spruce up your dining table or give as a gift! Have you ever wanted to learn inset or "Y" seams but didn't want to commit to a big intimidating quilt full of them?! Come join us for the Hollow Star Table Runner. You are sure to leave class with new or sharpened skills and a beautiful table runner to show off!

Fee: \$35 + pattern

Sat, Feb 17<sup>th</sup> (10:00 - 3:30)

### GET 'ER DONE - Belinda Murray

The quilt shows are coming up! Even if you don't plan to enter a quilt in a show there are some finishing skills that are handy to have. You know how patterns say "quilt and bind as desired", or "be sure to attach your label"? But, what is the BEST way to miter your binding corners? How about the hand stitching of the corners? How do you make and attach a label? And, what about a hanging sleeve? Would you like a class to teach you all about these final steps? If it all sounds like something you would like to learn, or just improve on, we have you covered!

You can bring in your own small table runner or placemat, quilted and with the binding ready to go or there will be a Shoppe kit available with pre-quilted fabric, pre-made binding and muslin for the sleeve. The labels will be computer generated and printed in the class. Come away with all of your finishing touches perfected!

Fee: \$35 + \$15 Shoppe kit  
Sat, Feb 24<sup>th</sup> (11:00 - 3:00)

### **SASHIKO** - Sondra Shaw

Sashiko is a Japanese decorative hand stitching /quilting art that uses long, simple geometric stitch patterns on a solid color fabric. Like a whole cloth quilt, the design is all in the stitching. Sign up and learn the basics of this art.

Fee: \$25  
Thurs, Mar 15<sup>th</sup> (10:30 - 2:30)

*There will be no break, but feel free to bring a lunch (or order takeout), and you can take a break to sustain yourself.*

### **TUFFET** - Krista Moser

What is more fun than making your very own tuffet? Well, having Krista as your Tuffet Teacher! These cute little stools are a great way to put your own personal stamp on any room in your house. They also make a great gift for the person who has everything as well as the person who needs everything! For students only I will be selling the Tuffet Kit for \$50.00. This is regularly \$75.00 so that is a real bargain! Limit of one kit at this price.

Fee: \$45 + Kit + pattern  
Sat, Mar 17<sup>th</sup> (10:00 - 3:30)

### **WACKY BLOCKS/LIBERATED PIECING** - Judy Irish

This is a technique class for making blocks without patterns and some blocks without measuring! You will have the opportunity to create blocks for future projects, or learn some easy methods to create blocks that are fun and easy with minimal work and math. A class that is great for all levels, and also great for using up orphan blocks or piles of fabrics lying around your studio.

Fee: \$35  
Thurs, Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> (10:30 - 3:30)

### **TWO FABRIC BARGELLO** - Belinda Murray

Bargello quilts are fun to make. These lap size projects are quick and easy and not a lot of matching. Using only two fabrics it makes your choices fast and fun. Choose an ombre or length of grain stripe and a pretty or jazzy print for the insert and you are ready to go. Come join us and have fun with Bargello!

Fee: \$35  
Sat, Mar 31<sup>st</sup> (10:30-3:30)