



The Quiltmaker's Shoppe

Arlington WA

July – August 2018

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

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



Summertime!

SHOPPE TALK

The latest big excitement to hit the shop has to do with Machine Quilting. Most of you have probably seen a demo or talked to someone who is using these rulers for home machines. I've been hearing about them for awhile but until Belinda did a demo during a Finish it Friday class I didn't realize just what a great tool these rulers are! I'm bringing in the Westalee brand rulers and feet as they are available or by special order. And, Cathryn will talk about these in her Machine Quilting class. If you need some guidance when quilting your own table runners, wall hangings, lap quilts or even bed quilts - these will give you confidence and ideas!

NEW FABRIC AT THE SHOPPE

New Christmas, Halloween and Fall fabrics are in with some great projects! New batiks and some new kid fabric and panels with Hildy Goats from Susybee.

FABRIC COMING SOON

Through July and August Renoir fabrics from Robert Kaufman will be arriving to take their place next to the Monet, Klimt and Van Gogh prints that beautify the shop. These fabrics are stunning! I have 3 panels coming in and I am really taken with the blenders and coordinates. Once you see these fabrics you will surely need to add some to your stash - if you don't want to take them home and start sewing immediately!

COMING UP:

Sondra is back with more Sashiko! She has been studying and working to find more tips and tricks, as well as working on more samples. If you would like some quick, enjoyable and relaxing handwork this class will suit you to a "T". Cathryn is continuing with her Machine Quilting class through the summer and we are also continuing the Block of the Month and

the Embroidery group. A full class schedule will resume mid-September.

RAMBLINGS...

Oh yes. Here I go again! I was just told last week that I have an "unusual" sense of humor... Hmm. I'm not sure if that was meant as a comment, an insult or a compliment, but I have decided to take it as a compliment (makes life easier when you make that choice in a questionable situation).

Here's the story I told that brought the comment. I had a case of toilet paper to put away at home and I was grumbling (to myself) because Bill had just left it in the garage instead of carrying it upstairs. Halfway through working myself into a little fit of self-righteousness (I have to do ALL the work around this place) - I looked at the roll of TP I was putting away and saw this on the package, "PROFESSIONAL GRADE"! What?? Immediately my mind wonders - what is Amateur Grade? And then I started to laugh at the idea that someone wants "Professional Grade" TP! Does that mean something? Is there a TP rating system I don't know anything about? Am I allowed to have this in my home? Do I need to pass a test first? See - this is what can make me laugh out loud when I'm home all by myself in the middle of a pity party! Here is another one. A box of Triscuit crackers is sitting next to me on the table as I am writing today. On the back of the box it says, "REAL FOOD MADE BY REAL PEOPLE"! Gee! That's good to know! That pretend food made by pretend people may look good but, it really doesn't fill you up. Great if you're on a diet though I suppose. Or, maybe they are referring to the Keebler Elves? Not sure but it can keep a smile on my face for a good 15 seconds just thinking of all the possibilities!

Do you want to hear a few more of my favorites from over the years? This is from an instruction sheet to

put together a TV stand. I had it on my fridge for years, so it's memorized and can always make me snort or giggle when it comes to mind, "if all parts are in correct manner installed and legs wobble DO NOT STAND UP!!" And it had a picture - a stick figure with his arms up in terror as a HUGE shelf unit tipped towards him. I figure his legs were too wobbly to turn around and run!

Then there was the cantaloupe that had a big label on it with large letters stating "PERFECTLY RIPE" - but when I cut it open it was green. Reading the teeny tiny print at the bottom edge of the label I see these words, "when ready". HA! They got me!

When I pile all of these together I find some rules to live by. Everything is perfectly ripe (when ready), watch out for pretend people with their pretend food, never stand up when your legs are wobbly and, by all means, stick to Professional Grade on your paper products!

In a brief nod to technology, I also enjoy the auto-correct function in text messages! I laughed when I received the text telling me to "sew the washing and the borders together end to end" (should be sashing of course). The picture I saw was a clothesline of assorted laundry all stitched together end to end... with borders.

Now you know. This is the sort of stuff that runs through my head - along with old songs and rhymes - and at any given moment when a memory twangs or a phrase is uttered they will pop out of my mouth. I share these bits with anyone who happens to be nearby. I think that many of you have decided to tolerate the mental salad I throw out and I appreciate it, the rolled eyes (Jeannie, Strauda, Cathy, Linda) and the sideways looks (Rosie, Kim, Belinda and Donna). Truth be told, I even appreciate the look I occasionally get of puzzlement followed by a quick glance to make sure the exit is close by! Humor is absolutely in the top 3 items I need in my life; the rank depends on the day. It can take me from a grumbling cranky old woman to a cheerful happy girl in 5 seconds flat. I hope all of you are able to find and laugh at these little bits of silliness in daily life and even, occasionally, be the bit of silliness. Truly, some of my very favorite laugh out loud memories have ME as the butt of the joke!

TIP TIME I thought I would try to find some interesting and worthwhile tips to share this month so I began reading through quilt books and magazines going way back into the dark ages before rotary cutters. Here is what I've discovered! The same conversations were going on back in the early 70's that go on now - to pre-wash or not? Adamantly one expert says "Yes! Everything". Just as insistent is the other expert saying "No! Only if absolutely necessary!". Tearing vs cutting fabric: "Tear! The only way to get the straight of grain!" "Don't ever tear, it distorts the fabric". And so on! I'm groggy after 2 hours of reading conflicting advice and have to say that I'm firmly in the middle on both issues. If I'm mixing flannel and cotton I will prewash the flannel. If it's a vivid color I consider a rinse in lukewarm water - but, the color catcher sheets you can buy now make that kind of a rare thing for me to do. Tearing? Depends. I'll tear wide backs because you just can't cut them straight but with regular width fabrics I can usually get a good grain line by lining up the selvages and checking that the fold falls straight.

There is one tip that consistently shows up though, time after time and back to the beginning of my research. Good tools are worth the investment! Granted the best tools can be pricey so you may need to budget your purchases but once you've used the Bloc-Loc rulers for getting your pieces perfect - or cut an entire quilt of fusible applique bits as I just did using Karen Kay Buckley's assorted scissors - you realize the truth in the word "investment" above. These tools are designed and perfected for specific purposes and they do their job well and make your work easier and better!

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

SUMMER 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

1st Thursday of the Month (10:30 - 12:30)

THE BASICS OF MACHINE QLTG - Cathryn Scott

Cathryn's class is for the quilter who needs help, advice and support for basic quilting techniques including In the Ditch, Echo Quilting, marking your quilt, perfecting your stitch length and tension, using transparent thread, choosing your design and more! Bring your questions, ideas and machine and attend as many sessions as you need.

Fee: \$30

July 19th, August 16th and September 13th
(10:30 - 2:30)

TRANQUILITY BOM - Belinda Murray

We are 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)

SASHIKO - Sondra Shaw

By popular demand, Sondra will be teaching another Sashiko class -- a Japanese decorative hand stitching/ quilting art that uses long, simple geometric stitch patterns on a solid color fabric. Like a whole cloth the design is all in the stitching. Sign up and learn the basics of this art.

Fee: \$25 + supplies

Thursday, Aug 23 (10:30 - 1:30)