

SNIPPETS



In The Spotlight!
Kathy Aparicio

My Journey - I love to create!

I started sewing as a very young girl and worked on garments, to home décor, to quilting. Then a great bunch of ladies asked me to join their fiber arts group. That was seven years ago.

What a great way to incorporate the skills I learned from garment construction and home décor to my love of art. This is an ongoing learning experience. I take as many classes as I can from a wide variety of teachers. Each one has given me new knowledge in their own way. I very much enjoy entering my creations into art and quilt shows and I look forward to new roads to travel and to see where this journey takes me.

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Sunshine

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Newsletter / Website

Dawn Dilley 843 399-4834

ddilley1@mac.com

Programs

Margo Woolard 843 449-3131

Kathy Aparicio 843 650-9740

Judy Lilly 843 215-5023

Projects / Challenges

Visit the website for current
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Web Page

coastalcarolinaquilters.com

Greetings from Bev

What a fantastic flea market we had! If you missed it, you will just have to wait till next year's but I can tell you this was the best one ever ... well, so far! I got a wonderful needlework stand that I've been wanting but wouldn't pay the big bucks for and several other things. Several people had new items for sale - some purses, totes, etc and Margo had those wonderful thread stands that her husband makes on her table.

The May meeting will be very informative. Kathy Aparicio will show us how to construct a stitch book for your sewing machine stitches. If you have not taken the time to sew out all the stitches on your machine, this is the time to do it. I used to sell machines and I always told new (and old) owners to sew out every stitch at the default setting and label them for future use. Then when you want a fancy stitch for something, you have a real stitch to look at. I have never seen a machine that displays the stitches the way they will look when they are actually sewn so this 'sew-out' book becomes invaluable especially for crazy patch and any kind of decorative stitching on your projects. How about a pretty stitch around a collar? I've taken store bought garments and added some pretty stitching to make them a bit less mundane and I always get compliments on them.

In addition, if there is time, I will show you some other tricks with your machine like bobbin work, twin needle stitching and sewing with 2 colors at the same time. Fun stuff! You know, whatever the cost of your machine, you need it to work for you. We don't want them to go the way of the bass boat - sitting in the driveway and never seeing water! So let's plan on a day of fun stitching. Read Margo's article in this newsletter for more information and a supply list for those of you who want to start your own stitch book.

I'm closing with a big welcome to all our guests and new members and a very sad (but temporary) farewell to all our snowbirds. Y'all

be safe and come back to see us real soon! —
Beverly Clement, President

Notes from Margo

To-Do List

- Wear your name tag
- Bring your stitch sampler supplies
- Bring your lunch
- Bring Show and Tell

May 18th Program – Stitch Sampler by

Kathy Aparicio. Is your sewing machine under-utilized?? Kathy will show you how to put together a great reference book of all those wonderful decorative stitches you have on your machine but never use. If you want to participate in making the Stitch Sampler bring a machine you are familiar with and the manual in case you get stuck. Cut 5 or 6 – 8" x 10" pieces of muslin or other light colored fabric for your pages. Kathy's sampler book is 7" x 8", but you can make your book any size that suits you. Bring pieces of a medium weight stabilizer the same size as your muslin to use behind each page of your book. The stabilizer will make your stitches look better and give your book more body. Bring a few different colored threads that will show up on your fabric and a mechanical pencil or a **very fine tipped pen** (like a Sharpie) to draw a grid on your fabric. Bring your other basic sewing supplies too, like a small ruler, pins scissors, etc. Bev Clement will also demo the use of a twin needle and a wing needle.

We are going to divide the room up this month. Those that want to participate in the Stitch Sampler class and demos, we ask that they sit at the front tables around the wooden floor. Those that don't want to take part, please sit at the tables at the rear of the room. This way those that want to hear and see what's going on can be up close and personal and not be disturbed or distracted by the rest of the crowd. The non-participants can visit and do your own thing at the rear of the room.

May 19th – Indigo A-Go-Go class by Jerre Reese. Spend the day using all those beautiful stitches to make this quilt. Class will start promptly at 9:00 a.m.! Please don't be late. The supply list and pattern have been distributed. If you have any questions regarding the class please contact Margo Woolard at cdwool31@frontier.com or call 449-3131. Sorry to say the class is full!

Scrappy Block Demo – Darla Harlacher will demo this very simple and very versatile Bento Box block done with 2 ½” squares and strips. And who doesn't have a few of those in their scrap bin?? Attached are the instructions and the picture of the block. You can also find all sorts of info and videos on the web to make a bento box quilt. One source is fonsandporter.com/video/bento-box-quilt/.

Grab Bag Challenge Begins – DJ and Jerre have come up with our next challenge!! The rules are simple, you will grab a bag, and in that bag you will find a piece of fabric. You are to use at least an 8” piece of the fabric found in the bag and add whatever other fabrics you want to add, make whatever you want to make and make it whatever size you want to make it. How easy can that be?? Sew get creative!!! You can keep what you've made or donate it. The choice is yours. But if you don't make anything you must return the bag **and the fabric!** 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes will be awarded at our September meeting.

Goody Makers - Pat Gauthier, Janice Hallett, Valerie Ineichen, Kim Kiraly and Elsie Price. Remember to bring your goodies already cut into bit-size pieces and bring any serving utensil you'll need. If you can't make the meeting call Darla (421-9455) to get a sub. Thanks!!

Coming Up in June – It's our first charity workshop sewing fest of the year!! Bring lots of helping hands as well as your sewing

machine to sew some baby quilts. Thanks to all that have taken the kits home too!!

Membership additions – Please update your membership roster to add these new members.

Chilson, Kathy

226 Seville Dr.

Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

843-651-0078

kscot226@yahoo.com

Johnson, Carole

501 Hillsborough Dr.

Conway, SC 29526

843-347-3850

caroleperry@sccoast.net

Horsley, Nancy

7597 Dunbar Dr., SW

Sunset Beach, NC 28468

910-575-1241

njhorsley@atmc.net



Bento Box Block Instructions

For each quarter block you will need:

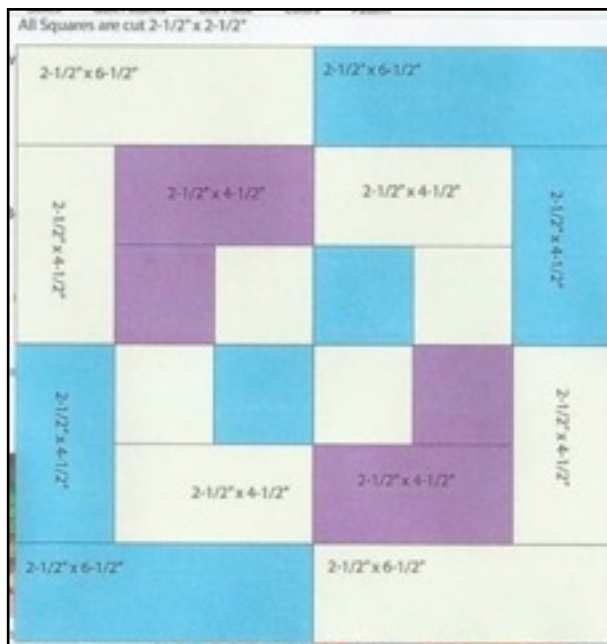
- 2 – 2 ½” squares
- 2 – 2 ½” x 4 ½” rectangles
- 1 – 2 ½” x 6 ½” rectangle

1. Sew the 2 – 2 ½” squares together.
2. Add 1 – 2 ½” x 4 ½” rectangle to the top of the 2 squares.
3. Add the second 2 ½” x 4 ½” as shown.
4. Add the 2 ½” x 6 ½” rectangle to complete the block

The 4 quadrants make a 12 ½” unfinished square. Watch your color placement within the 4 quads.

To make a block from strips (2 ½” x WOF): you will need a light strip and one strip of a medium/dark fabric.

Make it really scrappy by using all different lights and medium/darks or do a controlled scrappy quilt, the choice is yours.



History of the Sewing Machine - Part 3

Prior to the 1800s, we really didn't have a 'middle class' - just about everyone fell into the poor or fairly rich groups. The new middle class family owned their own home and generally had only one bread-winner - usually the husband. Wives stayed home and took care of the home, garden and children. This led to the 'myth' of the 'cult of domesticity' which said that the woman actually controlled the homes which were extensions of their tastes and wishes. Of course the husband still controlled the purse strings so the wives only had so much control. It was during this time that women organized their own sewing rooms - not unlike the sewing rooms of medieval times but designed especially for her, not her servants. The sewing room would have everything she needed including a sewing machine, but of course her husband was the one who decided if she got a machine and if so, which one and when. Women's discontent erupted in 1848 when several hundred women gathered at Seneca Falls, NY for the first women's rights convention and the women's revolution started changing the everyday lives of American women. What a perfect time for the sewing machine to come about. It was generally thought that only men were strong enough and smart enough to handle machinery until the sewing machine came out. Even then, most machines were in shops run and operated by men. The 'little woman' was simply not cut out for running machinery! To show husbands that these new fangled sewing machines were not too complex for their wives, manufacturers like Singer hired women to demonstrate the machines in store windows and at gatherings such as fairs. They pictured prominent women in their advertising, manufactured toy machines for little girls and offered half price machines to minister's wives who, they knew, would use the machines at their charity sews, thus providing free advertising for them. By 1900 nearly every middle class home had a sewing machine. After that, women took on even more complex machines like automobiles. In 1850, there were more than 5000 women working in their homes in New York alone, making shirts by hand. In 1853, the New York Herald printed "We know of no class of workwomen who are more poorly paid ... or who suffer more

privation and hardship. A (male) tailor gets five dollars for a coat taking two days, but a shirtwoman gets a maximum of one and a half dollars, working twelve or fourteen hours a day." Many social reformers hoped that the new machines would improve women's lives and others thought that the machine would put many of the women out of work but neither happened. Remember when we thought the same thing about computers? I do think they improved our lives but they certainly put no one out of business. With the sewing machine, the hopes didn't come true because they simply cost too much for the average working woman to afford. Many only made \$400 a month and the machines cost \$100 - \$125. What did happen however, is that men bought the machines in wholesale lots at a reduced price and installed them in lofts for the working women to use. These machines often had so much vibration that they were bolted to the floor. These new sweatshops had terrible working conditions and low pay, but they could turn out many more shirts than hand sewing did and much cheaper. From 1870 to 1950, women were increasing in the work force. In Connecticut the percentage went from 17.6% to 31.5% during those years. Over all in the USA, they went from 14.7% to 27.4%. Reform started after the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire in NYC in 1911. This fire was a turning point in US history. Triangle Shirtwaist was a sweatshop on the top 3 floors of a 10 story building. At 4:45 there were 275 girls and women, aged from 13 - 23, packing up to go home. Within 20 minutes, many of them were dead on the sidewalk outside the building. The morgue was overloaded and a temporary morgue was set up on a nearby pier on the East River. The owners, Issac Harris and Max Blanck were tried for manslaughter and acquitted in 1914. When the fire started, the doors to the stairway were locked which was a daily occurrence. Some women escaped down an outside fire escape, some went down in the only elevator and some crawled across a ladder placed between windows of their building and another across the alley. But 146 died in the fire - some from jumping from the windows, some still at their machines and some at the locked doors trying to get out.

As terrible as this fire was, it brought the working conditions in sweatshops to national attention - low pay, long hours, few breaks, frequent fires and poor safety equipment (which consisted of 27 buckets of water and a fire escape that collapsed when they tried to use it). And not to leave them out, I'd like to add that men were also working in many sweatshops but not as stitchers - they were cutters.

This horror led to numerous changes in worker safety including the beginning of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union and a commission created by the NY legislature formed the Fire Prevention Division as a part of the Fire Department.

There were a number of problems that led to these deaths. The doors opened inward. As the women tried to leave, the crush of more women behind them pushed the doors shut so they could not leave. New laws insured that all factory doors opened outward. Some of the doors were locked. The owners had inspectors at the other doors to make sure the ladies were not stealing anything, so doors without inspectors were locked. After this, owners could not lock any doors during business hours. New sprinkler systems had to be installed if a company employed more than 25 people above the ground level. Multiple fire exits, unblocked fire doors and clear pathways to exits were all required. Firefighting equipment must be maintained in buildings and employees had to be educated in their use and the use of fire extinguishers, escape routes and fire drills. Emergency evacuations were required to be in writing and posted. The United States Department of Labor classified these new standards as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) which still exists today. There have been some disastrous fires since then and a lot of the resulting deaths could have been avoided if the OSHA regulations had been followed. The worst one was exactly 79 years after the Triangle fire at the Happy Land Social Club in the Bronx where 89 people, mostly customers, were killed.

There is a PBS DVD available on this fire called "The Triangle Factory Fire Scandal."

On a brighter note, high schools and colleges were introducing Home Economics classes focusing on all the home arts - cleaning, cooking and sewing

being at the top of the list. Many of the schools had the new sewing machine to teach their students how to use them and maintain them. One of the first was Domestic Science Department of Storrs Agricultural College - now the University of Connecticut. In their annual report of 1897-98, Maude Knapp Wheeler, Head of Domestic Studies, said, "To best fit our young women for homemakers and housekeepers, we instruct them scientifically as well as practically, so that at completion of the course the pupil will possess that knowledge which will incline her to make a home which will be healthful, comfortable and happy at a comparatively small expenditure of time, money, and labor. She will have learned the why as well as the how and will have become intimately acquainted with the scientific principles which underlie all household problems."

In the 1902-03 Annual Report of the same institution, Alberta T. Thomas was a Professor of Home Economics and Lady Principal. She said, "The skillful, tidy housewife, the mother wise in preserving the health of her children, the woman of economy who saves her dressmaker's and milliner's bills, her plumber's charge and the doctor's fees, each is a power to promote the physical, mental and moral well being of this world."

Women who used sewing machines had to keep them in good working order. Each machine came with a tool kit which included appropriate screw drivers, thread cutters, oil and extra parts like shuttles and bobbins. I can remember my mother's tool kit for her White and watching her practically take her machine apart to clean and oil it. Maybe this was the beginning of the pink flowered handled tools we can now find for the use of women in the home? Though machines today, for the most part, do not need (or want) oiling, we do get small screw drivers to change the needles, tighten or loosen the tension on the bobbin case and other small tasks. For just about anything else, we take ours to the local repairman because the machines are so complex that we probably don't want to mess with them.

In the 19th century, most women did not have the money to buy sewing machines so of course they were bought by men, whether for use at home or in manufacturing.

Women decided if one would be bought for the home, however. If a woman did not want one, the man was not going to buy it. So most advertising was aimed at women. Pictures of women happily sewing with the family around them were commonplace. Singer and many other manufacturers printed trading cards and "cigarette silks," actually inside cigarette packs, that had pictures of their machines that women could use in their crazy patch quilts. Original and reproduced cigarette silks are in much demand even today. Thread manufacturers advertised their new stronger threads especially designed for use in sewing machines. We can often find ONT advertising (Our New Thread became Coats & Clark) and other manufacturers too. Most of this article came from the Windham Textile & History Museum website but I cannot close without this quote from History Today - The novelist Mrs. Gaskell was sentimental about hand-sewing being a labour of love. Though she thought some clothes should be made by the woman of the house, she wrote to a woman friend in 1862 who had complained that she was too busy sewing to find time to write novels: "I dare say at present it might be difficult for you to procure the sum necessary to purchase a sewing machine; and indeed, unless you are a good workwoman to begin with, you will find a machine difficult to manage. But try, my dear, to conquer your clumsiness in sewing." I bet we could lose a lot of friends today if we told them to 'conquer their clumsiness in sewing' so I wouldn't suggest you copy that to your friends - even those who cannot sew on a button - but I hope you are enjoying this stroll through history with me. More next month!

A new retreat facility is opening in Murrells Inlet. Check it out! Contact CCQ member Melissa Wells for more info.



The Happy Cottage

A fun place where friends meet to create!

(Private retreat facilities in Murrells Inlet, SC for up to 12 ladies)

Gather your friends together and come to the Happy Cottage for a creative fun filled weekend or stay for the whole week.

The Grand Opening will be in July, so book your dates before they are taken. The house will be available year round.

- Quilting, Stamping, Knitting, Beading, Scrapbooking, Etc...
- 5 bedrooms (2 Queens, 2 Full, 7 Twin beds), sleeps 12
- 3 1/2 baths, full kitchen, dining room, lots of parking including a covered carport to pull under to unload and load
- Spacious work area for 12 with rolling executive chairs, large windows to let in natural light and day light bulbs for nights
- 3 design walls, 2 iron stations, cutting table with rulers

- Pocket doors to separate craft room from the rest of the house so night owls can continue working and not disturb others
- Relaxing front porch with bench swing and rocking chairs, screened in gazebo off of the back deck
- A/C and ceiling fans throughout the house, HDTV with cable and DVD in separate living room, free WiFi
- 3 miles to the beach, close to malls, restaurants, fabric stores
- No smoking, no pets
- Sheets and pillows provided, towel package available upon request
- Pricing starting at \$50 + tax per person per night, 3 night minimum, 10 person minimum
- Available in July 2015

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Contact us for reservations

Email: Melissa@TheHappyCottage.com
 Telephone: 803.500.1511
 Website: TheHappyCottage.com