



## Favorite Quilts

Timeless Stitches – Quilt Capital of Kansas

By Sharon Vesecky



“So which quilt is your favorite?” I was asked by a customer the other day. That is like asking a mother which of her children is her favorite! Our conversation was interrupted, so I did not have to give her an answer. But I was thinking, “Which quilt is my favorite.” I realized that the answer would have to be, “The one I am working on now.” Well, that narrows it down—I haven’t been able to work on just one quilt at a time since I opened the quilt shop! It’s necessary to keep projects moving and it is not unusual for me to work on three to five projects at a time.

Right now, I am working on the shop quilt for the Ad Astra Shop Hop, some samples for the “Kite in a Square” ruler (our Ruler of the Year for 2023), Sunshine Block of the Month (BOM), an English paper piecing quilt, a mandala quilt, and the quilt that is in my quilting machine. The top is finished for the Ad Astra Shop Hop quilt. I will put it in the quilting machine after the one that is being quilted now. Then all I will have to do is bind it.

The “Kite in a Square” samples are not that far along. I want them finished for the All Kansas Nebraska Shop Hop that starts April 1. I did make a table runner that just needs a little more quilting and it will be finished. I quilted it on my featherweight machine, but I plan to quilt some floral motifs in the setting triangles using the Statler longarm. I’m also trying to decide on some blocks to use to finish a very old UFO. I have a hand-embroidered panel for the center medallion and want to make it big enough to use on a bed. I want to make some blocks with the Kite in a Square ruler to make the quilt bigger. It’s still in the planning stage.

The Sunshine BOM quilt is just started. It is a fusible applique project. I have pieced all the background blocks and have fused the applique pieces on the first block and have the applique pieces for the next four blocks in various stages of preparation. I want to have several blocks fused so that when I stitch them down, I can use the same color of thread on several blocks assembly-line fashion.

I called the English paper piecing quilt “Flowers in the Snow.” It is similar to a Grandma’s Flower Garden quilt, but I omitted the green round to use up more scraps. The pieces are  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” hexagons—a flower center with six flower petals around it with a round of white hexagons separating the “flower petals.” I started this project in late 2009 and it became a quilt in progress in March of 2010. It is time to finish it up! It has become my evening and early morning project.

The mandala quilt top was about two thirds together when I had to move my sewing machine off the dining room table so we could have Christmas dinner. Since it is so close to finished, I am laying it out again so that I can finish it up and get on to other things.

I have a shop sample of “Winter Garden” in the quilting machine now. The center of the top is a very pretty panel with a red amaryllis on it. It should only take a couple of days to quilt it and then I will concentrate on

quilting the shop hop sample. The shop hop fabric has bees and beehives on it, so I called the quilt “Bee in my Bonnet.” I haven’t decided on a quilting pattern for it, but sometimes that doesn’t happen until I have the quilt loaded in the machine.

These are my current (five to seven) favorites. Of them I think that the Sunshine BOM is at the top of the list because it is so bright and cheerful, but the mandala quilt is running a close second. I really do envy my customers who tell me that they work on only one quilt at a time.

Here is a recipe that is great for breakfast.

## **Pecan Pie Muffins**

1 c. brown sugar

½ c. all-purpose flour or substitute gluten free flour

1 c. chopped pecans

2/3 c. melted butter

2 eggs, beaten

Combine brown sugar, flour, and pecans. Mix well.

Add butter and eggs; mix well.

Fill paper-lined muffin tins two-thirds full and bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes (15-18 minutes for mini cupcake size.) Cool.

Source: Grass & Grain