

Piecing it Together Newsletter



JUNE - JULY 2015

Dear Quilting Friends,

I hope you all are staying cool and have started your summer quilting projects. The shop is busy, and we have a lot going on. So much new fabric is coming in daily it's hard for us to keep track.

We start June off with our annual lunch, trunk show and lecture with the always-entertaining Pat Knoechel. The event (\$10) will be Sunday, **June 7**, from 12-3. Space is limited so sign up is required.

The Western PA Shop Hop starts **June 17 and runs through June 20**. This year's theme is "Hop Around the World." We'll have games, prizes, gift bags and food so don't miss out on the fun. Following this will be the Row-by-Row states-wide shop hop which starts **June 21 and runs through September 5**. Come in and get your free patterns. Collect eight patterns, make a finished quilt, be the first to bring it in and you'll win 25 fat quarters.

And don't forget our quarterly Potluck Dinner. The kits are ready and the dinner will be **July 31**. The blocks are raffled off (a drawing) for some lucky person.

As part of our giving back, the shop raffles off a quilt every month to benefit the kids' Back Pack Program. Tickets are only a dollar and you could win a finished quilt.

Thank you for your patronage, and I hope to see you soon. Johanna

FYI, Reminders, and Thank You's

Would you like to give something back to the community? If so, Community Service is calling you! Not only will you be giving back to the community, you'll also get to meet other quilters, have lunch and perhaps even learn something new. We really could use your help. Next meetings are June 12 and July 31.

Need a place to lay out your quilt? You're welcome to do it at the store. Just call first for an appointment.

We offer private quilting lessons for only \$20 an hour. Call us if you need help and we'll schedule a time for you.

Need to make a quilt fast? Come in and check out our new selection of panel fabrics and other fast-finish kits.

Did you know that with store receipts totaling \$100 (regular-priced items only) you get a free yard of fabric? (Offer does not include wool and minkee fabrics.)

Happy Birthday to You! Come in on your birthday and receive a special one-time discount of 20%. Just show your ID within one week of or one week after your birthday to receive your discount.

Need to cut strips or other quilt block designs fast? We have just what you need. Our AccuQuilt Studio Fabric Cutter can cut those for you in no time. We have LOTS of shapes. Call the shop to find out if we have the shape you need. We're getting in new ones all the time. (Fabric must be purchased from shop for free cutting.)



Effective with the August/September issue, we are changing the way we distribute the hardcopy newsletter. Due to the rising costs of postage and printing, we are forced to make some changes in our current mailing practice.

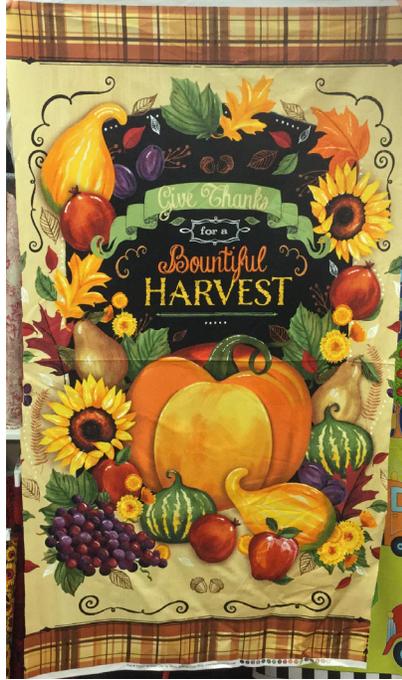
There will, however, be several ways you can still receive the newsletter:

1. Pick up a copy at the shop.
2. Access the newsletter on our website at: www.piecingittogether.biz
3. Receive a PDF copy of the newsletter (a more detailed version) via email. Just send an email request to: piecingittogether@gmail.com
4. Pay \$6/year to continue receiving the newsletter (6 issues) via U.S. mail.

Don't miss the Student Quilt Show, Sunday, August 2, 2015

See page 7 for details.

Panels for Any Occasion



An Ugly Quilt

by Vivian Benton, newsletter editor

I decided to have a little fun to see who would be willing to admit they've made an "ugly" quilt. This is not a new idea. Ami Simms ran a contest of this type for years--she called it "The Worst Quilt in the World Contest." It was quite hysterical. She ended up writing a really funny book titled *How Not to Make a Prize-Winning Quilt*.

Ugly might be a strong word. You'd hate to think you've poured your heart and soul and spent countless hours on a quilt you think is ugly. But after you grow a bit and learn a bit more about color and using different tools to make different techniques, you can look back at some of your older quilts and admit they might be more useful for the dog's bed.

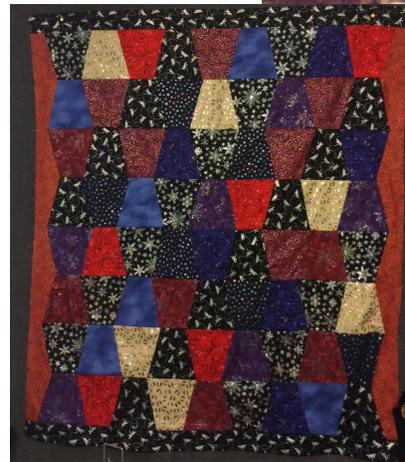
I now realize when I'm making a quilt and I don't like a certain element or a certain color, I'm not going to like it any better once it's made. You've probably heard the expression "don't worry about it, it'll quilt out?" Well, no it won't. And usually if you don't like some part of it when you're making it, you're still not going to like it when it's done. Granted, I've made some quilts that weren't my favorites and after they were quilted, I liked them a lot more, but they're not ones I pull out when I show off my quilts!

I will be honest with you. I have made some ugly quilts. Granted the pretty ones far outweigh the ugly ones by a long shot (yes, I'm laughing out loud), but you just never see the ugly ones! I'm making an exception now. The quilt to your right is one of my ugliest (note that I said "one of"). I love the fabrics individually; I love the elements individually. But when sewn together, not so much! And I cannot tell you how much time I spent designing this quilt, calculating and recalculating this side to fit that side, that side to fit over there, etc. When it was finished, all I could say was "OMG, this is too ugly for words!" Now I know some of you out there are saying "I don't think it's ugly." Well, beauty is in the eye of the beholder after all! What's pretty to one person might not be so to somebody else. Those of you who know me know that I don't like pink. But that's not to say if I see a quilt with pink in it I'm not going to like it or I'm going to think it's ugly. I've seen some really really pretty quilts with pink.

It's really humbling to admit you've made an ugly quilt. I say learn from it and move on. I still look at this quilt and think about all the time I spent on it. But I don't look at it as time wasted; I look at it as lesson learned, and that lesson was: I should have quit way before it was done!



Vivian's ugly quilt!



These three quilts were brave enough to submit a quilt they thought were either ugly or not quite up to their usual standards. Thank you!

Each submitter will receive a yard of fabric from *Piecing it Together*.

For sale!

FOR SALE: Brother 950D Sewing & Disney Embroidery machine

Gently used Brother 950D Sewing & Disney Embroidery machine. Includes built in designs, 2 hoops, CD with additional designs, multiple feet, auto needle threading, thread cutter, USB, card slot, hard carrying case, etc. Lightweight for traveling to classes and camping. It has excellent reviews. Easy-to-use. Paid \$700, asking \$450.

Contact kathycolwell@comcast.net or 412-398-0404.



For sale, Edmunds maple quilting frame, \$50. Call Anne 412-364-6442

SINGER 160 ANNIVERSARY EDITION SEWING MACHINE

Standard accessories package; Value-added accessories package with instructions; instructions manual and Quick Start Guide; Simple stitch adjustment - automatic optimal settings for stitch length and width; Easy



ily personalize your projects by overriding automatic stitch adjustment; Automatic reverse - reinforces your stitch; Center zigzag taper stitch - tapers to the center for a more attractive look; 7mm stitch width - maximum width for satin, decorative and other stitches; Automatic tension for stable stitch quality on any type of fabric; Exclusive underplate for making buttonholes possible in places that conventional buttonhole devices cannot easily reach; much, much more. Asking \$450. Can send full description. Contact Marcia at merymar-chyk@hotmail.com.

New and/or Useful Tools

STRIP STICK (SUBMITTED BY CAROL HARTMAN)

I recently took a workshop where I was introduced to the Strip Stick. At first I thought it was just another gimmick and told myself: I'm not buying it... I'm not buying it! By the end of class of course I had one in my pile of stuff to buy.

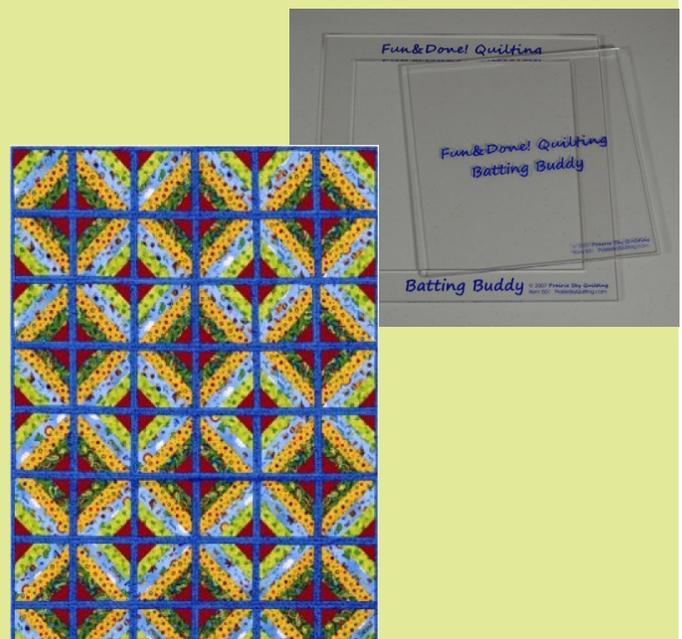


After getting it home I put it close to my ironing station so I was more inclined to actually use it. Well, let me tell you...I love it! If you sew strip sets, which we all do with the patterns today, it will eliminate those little tucks when you iron your seams open. The stick is designed to fit between the sets so that you are ironing just one seam at a time making multiple seams an easy go. It is also elevated and, because of its design, your seams iron flatter and more consistent than with just a flat surface.

So I give this tool a big Thumbs Up!

THE BATTING BUDDY (SUBMITTED BY MAUREEN PROFETA)

I just finished a quilt using the Batting Buddy. It is an acrylic template that came out a few years ago that can be used with the "Fund and Done" patterns by Prairie Sky Quilting. It was so easy and the results are beautiful.



WHERE WERE YOU?



Flea Market



Monday Sewing Bee



Classes

See you next time, maybe!

JUNE CLASSES

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| <p>1 Afternoon Sewing Bee (Mondays, 1:30-3:30)</p> <p>2 T-Shirt class. Bona (10-4, \$30)</p> <p>3 Summer Floral Corsage. Linda Williams (10-12, \$10 plus \$5 kit fee).</p> <p>4 Modern Quilt Squares & Rectangles. Staff. (10-1, \$15). We cut the pieces for you.</p> <p>5 Hunter Star. Staff. (1-3, \$15). You pick the fabric and we make a kit for you.</p> <p>6 Heirloom Class. Annie Tuley (10-12, \$10)</p> <p>6 Not Your Grandmother's Double Wedding Ring. Vivian Benton (10-4, \$30). A fast non-traditional way to make a traditional quilt.</p> <p>6 Clam Shell Kittens. Annie Tuley (1-3, \$10) We make kits and show you how to make this cute little quilt.</p> <p>6 UFO Night. (4:30-9:30, \$10)</p> <p>9 Colorwash Trip Around the World. Staff (11-1, \$10)</p> <p>10 Beginning Quilting. Georgia Moncada (1-3, \$60). This class runs for 6 weeks.</p> <p>11 Beginning Sewing (a CCAC class). Phyllis Jones (6:30-9pm). This is a basic sewing class that runs for 6 weeks.</p> <p>12 Community Service (10-4). Please come help out when you can.</p> <p>13 Mini Gordian Knot. Esther King (10-2, \$20). This is a machine applique class.</p> | <p>13 Easy Pineapple Block. Vivian Benton (9-12, \$15). Learn to stitch on fabric foundations. (Blocks pictured are not sewn together)</p> <p>13 Easy New York Beauty Block. Vivian Benton (1-4, \$15). Learn to stitch this beauty on fabric foundations. (Blocks pictured are not sewn together)</p> <p>16 Charm Square Star. Staff (10-1, \$15). Make a beautiful and easy star with charm squares.</p> <p>17 Western PA Shop Hop (10am-9pm)</p> <p>18 Western PA Shop Hop (10am-9pm)</p> <p>19 Western PA Shop Hop (10am-9pm)</p> <p>20 Western PA Shop Hop (10am-5pm)</p> <p>22 States-wide Row by Row Shop Hop starts</p> <p>23 Chocolate Kiss. Staff (11-1, \$15). This quilt is pieced and machine appliqued.</p> <p>24 Sunbonnet Sue. Georgia Moncada (1-3, \$20)</p> <p>26 Scrappy Tote Bag. Sharon Samuto (10-1, \$15) This is a great large bag (16" x 20" x 8")</p> <p>27 Emily's Star. Carol Hartman (10-1, \$15). Learn how to paper piece on top of the paper. Pattern required.</p> <p>30 Lunch Bunch with Georgia (10-1, \$25)</p> |
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Class projects are pictured on pages 8 and 9

JULY CLASSES

- 1 **French Table Runner.** Esther King (10-12, \$15). This is a charm-friendly quilt. Pattern included.
- 2 **Prairie Point Christmas Tree.** Esther King (10-12, \$12)
- 3 **Simple Landscape.** Staff (11-1, \$10). Make a small landscape quilt easily.
- 4 **Independence Day.** Shop will be closed.
- 7 **Patriotic Table Runner.** Staff (1-3, \$15)
- 8 **Framed Block Quilt.** Georgia Moncada (1-3, \$20). (Continued July 15)
- 10 **Hand Quilting.** Staff (11-1, \$15)
- 11 **Heirloom Class.** Annie Tuley (10-12, \$10)
- 11 **Potluck Dinner.** 3-5pm. Bring a dish and enjoy.
- 14 **City Bag.** Sharon Samuto (1-5, \$20). This is an easy zipper bag with lots of pockets (13" x 11" x 4"). Pattern required.
- 16 **Belle Kaleidoscope Quilt.** Esther King (10-2, \$40). (Continued July 23).
- 17 **Binding.** Staff (1-4, \$15). Learn four ways to bind your quilt. Kit included.
- 18 **New: Pick a Postcard, Any Postcard!** Vivian Benton (10-4, \$30). We'll take a postcard you love (you can purchase one or you might already have one), enlarge it, then recreate it EXACTLY in fabric. So much fun and easier than it looks!
- 18 **UFO Night.** (4:30-9:30, \$10)
- 21 **Pineapple Placemat Two Ways.** Staff (11-1, \$10)
- 22 **Dancing Bears.** Georgia Moncada (1-3, \$20). This is a machine applique class. (Continued on July 29).
- 24 **Lucky Pennies Table Runner.** Esther King (10-12, \$17). Pattern included.
- 25 **Oh, My Stars!** Vivian Benton (10-2, \$20). You'll love paper piecing these cute little star blocks.
- 28 **Drunkard's Path Three Ways.** Staff (1-3, \$10)
- 28 **Lunch Bunch** with Georgia (10-1, \$25)
- 30 **Basic Rotary Cutting.** Esther King (10-12, \$10). Learn rotary cutting while creating a table runner or placemat.
- 31 **Community Service** (10-4). Please come help.

Annual Student Quilt Show Sunday, August 2, 2015, 12pm-4pm

Get those class projects done!

For several years now, *Piecing it Together* has recognized the students who have taken classes at the shop by hosting a student quilt show. This is the occasion for all of you who have taken a class and finished the project (quilts, bags, placemats, etc.) to show off your work. We prefer the quilt is finished (quilted) but that is not a requirement to enter.

If you are interested in exhibiting your class project, call the shop at 412.364.2440 and let the staff know so they know how many to prepare for.

Gift certificates are awarded for the 1st (\$25), 2nd (\$15) and 3rd (\$10) place entires. Voting is done by ballot from those who come to the show. There will be a blind draw if there are ties. Snacks are provided. Hope to see you there.

Summer Class Offerings



Summer Floral Corsage
June 3 (Linda)



Modern Squares & Rectangles
June 4 (Staff)



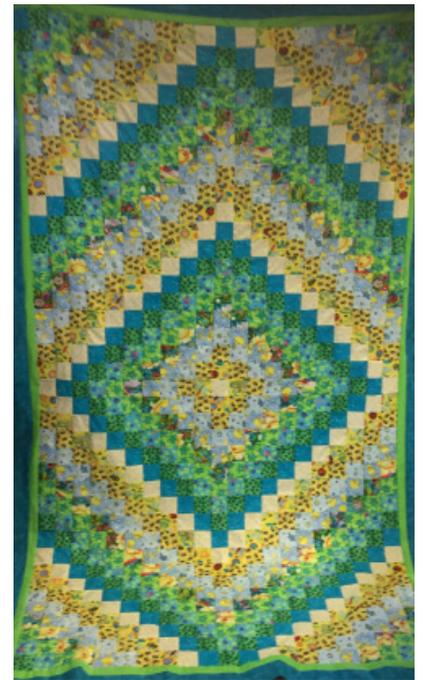
Hunter Star
June 5 (Staff)



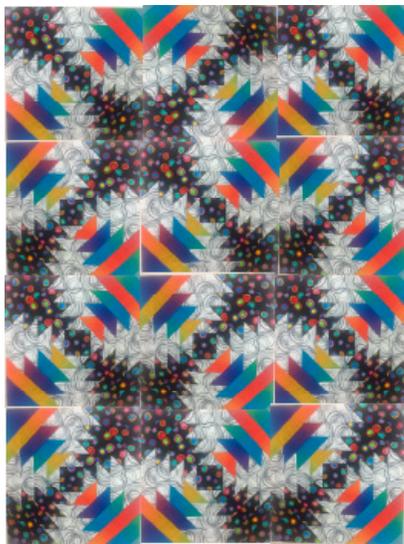
Not your Grandmother's Double Wedding Ring
June 6 (Vivian)



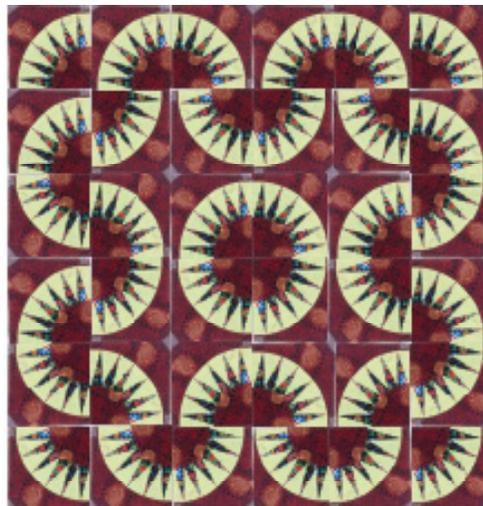
Clam Shell Kittens (Copyright Annie Tuley)
June 6 (Annie)



Colorwash Trip Around the World
June 9 (Staff)



Easy Pineapple Blocks
June 13 (Vivian)



Easy New York Beauty Blocks
June 13 (Vivian)



Charm Square Star
June 16 (Staff)

Summer Class Offerings continued



Chocolate Kiss
June 23 (Staff)



Simple Landscape
July 3 (Staff)



Framed Block Quilt
July 8 (Georgia)



Sunbonnet Sue
June 24 (Georgia)



Belle Kaleidoscope
July 16 & 23 (Esther)



Dancing Bears
July 22 (Georgia)



Emily's Star
June 27 (Carol)



French Table Runner
July 1 (Esther)



Pick a Postcard, Any Postcard!
July 18 (Vivian)



Lucky Pennies Table Runner
July 24 (Esther)



Oh, My Stars!
July 25 (Vivian)

LEARN MACHINE QUILTING ON A MID-ARM MACHINE

Piecing It Together provides one-on-one training classes to anyone who would like to learn to quilt on a mid-arm machine. You must take the training class (1 session, \$75) before you can rent time on the shop's machine. We provide three leads which you can use again and again. The class is three hours long and is by appointment only.

After this class, it is \$12 an hour to rent time. We love using this wonderful machine and know you will too.

If you have taken the class but have forgotten some of what you learned, we are offering a refresher class for \$11.

Do you have a quilt that needs to be batted?

1 session with Staff - \$40

Thread-basted, full size or larger

1 session with Staff - \$25

Pin-basted, full size or larger

Or you can do it yourself for free using our tables.

Please call to schedule an appointment with staff.

**Piecing It Together
3458 Babcock Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
412.364.2440**

**Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm
Thursday 10am-6pm**

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Shop Hop Fabrics (this is not a panel but three different fabrics pieced to make this top)



**Free pattern for VIQ Shop Hop quilters.
Limited supply of kits are available.**