


Newsletters in January 2014

[A New Year](#)

January 21, 2014

Happy 2014 everyone,

 *Smarter*, no promises on that. *Wiser*, no promises on that. Wackier, and less judgmental of myself and others, [Absolutely!](#)

With all the wisdom of a 5 year old, my grand daughter informed me that old people die. (*Thanks kid. I really needed to be reminded of that.*) Then she looked at me intently and said "But Oma, you are only a little bit old, right?"

Just old enough to stay out of the bad kind of trouble, and young enough for all the good kind of trouble, that's me.

[Vagabond teacher-](#)

Bruce and I had a great trip to the Oklahoma City Quilt Expo. I taught kind hearted, wonderful ladies for 3 days. Most of my students were beginning appliqué quilters. It's really fun to see the excitement in their faces when they make their first Cardinal or part of a landscape. Thanks Sheri for taking all of my classes and signing up for the cruise to Australia and New Zealand too. Sheri has 3 parrots. One of them hops around gardening with her. Quite the talker, the parrot tells the dog "Stop it, Stop it" whenever it starts bugging her.

Check out my schedule to see if we might meet up somewhere this year? I am traveling coast to coast with a lot of trips. <http://www.kathymcneilquilts.com/schedule/>

[Come on my studio tour with me right now though:](#)

I just uploaded this new video to my website, with tips for storage and some features we built into my studio that really help me with my work. Lastly, I will take you to my wacky bedroom where, returning to my art after 25 years, it all started.

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I found the pattern for the mug organizer. Its a simplicity pattern and available on Amazon, *but what isn't?*

www.amazon.com/Simplicity-Sewing-Pattern-2450-Craft/dp/B00367IIJY

[Ribbons and things-](#)

I just heard the news, and I am flying down to the Road to California show on a whim! My quilts: "Jingle Bells" won the Directors Choice Award; "Havasu Falls" won first in Naturescapes; "My Venetian" won 2nd in Art People. My heart is racing and my toes are tingling!! Drop by my quilts, if you are coming to the show, and say hi. I'll be somewhere by one of them. *See them on my web site gallery.*

<http://www.kathymcneilquilts.com/gallery/>

[Quote of the month.](#)

"Computers are useless-

all they can give you are answers."

-Pablo Picasso

So much of **Creativity** is about the questions. What if I combined these three prints? What if I made this part of the block really dramatic with a big value change? What if I tried to put all the seasons into one composition? Keep asking. Don't play it safe. Quilting is the place to be brave.

Have a great month.

hugs Kathy