

Newsletters in June 2015

Kathy's Tips Newsletter/ June

June 12, 2015

Hello friends,

Happy Birthday to me. Happy Birthday to me. I am a spunky 63 years old today. The brown spots are getting bigger, the wrinkles deeper, and the hip grouchier; but the joy of setting my own schedule, time for creativity, and not caring if the house work is done is so worth it. Maybe I should be thinking about that bucket list though? Maybe take a few risks and make sure I have packed everything in while I can. HmMMM.



1. Climb a redwood tree and sleep in a sling from the top branches.
2. Swim thru a sea cave with a dolphin.
3. Watch baby turtles hatch and run for the sea.
4. Take a hike through a bamboo forest and see a real panda.

Now I am scaring myself because I think this was the same list I had when I was 6 yrs old. What I really really want to do is what I'm doing: making art, playing with grand babies, kissing the man I have loved since I was 13, and treasuring friendships new and old. There has been some tough stuff along the way. A severely disabled son who still has daily seizures, an adopted son with Attachment Disorder, a pretty crazy father; but somehow it has all brought me to feeling incredibly blessed today. Thanks to all of you who have supported and encouraged me on this crazy, never dreamed of, quilting journey. Who would have ever think??

Student Work

Joy Heggland's finished piece "Guardian Spirits", from my two day landscape workshop in Duncan, B.C., is something that I just have to share.



Yes Mam, that is fabric. Could it look any more dimensional? Does it captivate your eyes and make you want to search for each little treasure? Do you just know that if you were to touch it, it would feel like bark. The right fabrics (lots of marbled fabrics), the right shading (with value changes and some over dying with the paint crayons), and great craftsmanship, has truly made this a signature piece. Thank you for sharing it with us, Joy. It is awesome!

Travels

Hearts and Hands in O'Fallon, Illinois, was my last stop. I'm here to say that the heartland is full of kind, gracious, and very talented quilters. We made a fabulous flock of cardinals together. Many of the students belong to the Applique Society. I will get to see some of them again when I teach at Kathy Dunigan's new Appliqué Academy next February.

Quilter's Anonymous, in the greater Seattle area, greeted me with the same level of enthusiasm and nurturing that they have shared since I was a "want to be quilt teacher" 15 years ago. Love you guys!

I think we might have gained some cruisers who want to go on the Panama Canal quilting cruise this coming November. See www.quiltcruises.com

Exciting news- AQS has accepted my new Eagle "Born in the USA" pattern for publication. It usually takes months between acceptance and actually having the printed pattern in hand. I will let you know when it's available. I wanted to preview it with you and thank all the service men and women, especially with the coming 4th of July. I get orders from military bases and know that quilting helps them handle stress too.



Silk Ribbon embroidery. I am playing outside my comfort box. If you watch my Facebook page, you will have seen a peak at the new block of the month pattern I'm developing. Lot's of visual texture is my goal, so a touch of silk ribbon embroidery would be fun to add. Yes, the ribbon can be over dyed with my paint crayons.

Click on this youtube video link to watch me make petals and paint them with color.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyNNxK-BZks>

My Youtube channel has a lot of quilting related videos. If you subscribe, you will always get any new ones I post.

Click below for the paint crayons in my store.

<http://www.kathymcneilquilts.com/shop/item/fabric-paint-crayons/>

Have a wonderful 4th of July everyone. Be safe.

hugs Kathy www.kathymcneilquilts.com