

# Newsletters in September 2013

## Fortune cookies

September 27, 2013

Hi everyone;

My first thought is for my dear Quilting buddies in Colorado with the horrendous flooding. So many were trying to save the stuff from their quilting rooms, not to mention their entire homes. Our prayers are with you. It is going to be a long recovery. I hope to give you all hugs when I come to teach at Quilt Colorado next summer. Hopefully, Longmont will be fully functioning again by then. This natural disaster reminds me of a great quilting story from Utah.

**Panguitch Quilt Walk.** [www.quiltwalk.org/the-panguitch-quilt-walk-story.html](http://www.quiltwalk.org/the-panguitch-quilt-walk-story.html)

In 1863 the first group of the pioneers came to Panguitch. They followed the route over the rugged Bear Valley, part of the Spanish Trail. Crops were planted but the season was short and they did not mature. The winter of 1864-1865 was extremely cold and snow was deep. The closest supplies were either one hundred and fifteen miles to the north in Gunnison, or forty miles to the west over the difficult Bear Valley Road in Parowan.

Seven men left Panguitch to go to Parowan to get flour and food for the starving colony. At the head of Bear Valley they had to abandon their two yoke of oxen and a light wagon because of the deep snow. They proceeded on foot. The only progress that could be made over this frozen, crusted snow, was to lay a quilt down, walk to the end of it, re-lay it, and walk again. Those quilts saved the colony!!

Quilting personally saves my sanity in stressful times and all charity quilts add a lot of warmth and love to this world. We are blessed to be part of this tradition.



### **Ribbons and exciting things.**

I have a pretty new blue and red ribbon from the Pacific West show. "More Than a Memory" won 1st in Pictorial and "Audubon" won 2nd in Traditional Applique. The crazy thing is..... a week before the show, I got a fortune cookie that said "*You will receive a prestigious prize or award within the month.*" **Who has ever gotten a fortune cookie that said that????? Way too weird!! I now love weird.**

The new fall/winter edition of "American Quilter" has an article I wrote with detailed pictures and helpful tips for quilting "Audubon's Christmas". There is also a free video on my web site.

The new edition of "Quilt Life" features "Jingle Bells" on the last/inspiration page.

**BIG big news.** February 2015 - Come with me to Australia and New Zealand. My new Quilting Cruise assignment! *We are so excited.* I have wanted to go there for ages. Please consider coming along. It is going to be beautiful and loads of fun. We fly to Sidney, Australia, to leave on the 11 day cruise. Three days at sea for our classes; all other days in fun ports. Laura Wasilowski and Paula Nadelstern are the other two teachers. For more information click here or write to me. [www.quiltcruises.com/DownUnder15/](http://www.quiltcruises.com/DownUnder15/)

You saw the Koala project last month. Here are my other two specially designed class projects. The table runner designs are based on Maori carvings I researched. The other is a landscape based on pictures from Fjordland National Park in N.Z. I will be making kits so you can just relax and play. The border fabric is optional, of course. It's made in Australia. Here is a link to finding it.

[www.americanquilter.com/books\\_supplies/item\\_detail.php?id=2366](http://www.americanquilter.com/books_supplies/item_detail.php?id=2366)



**Tips and Tools.** 1/2 inch sharp sequin pins are the best for my hand applique work. Those longer white-headed pins hang up my thread. These are tiny and don't get in your way. Here is a link to finding them. (800 for \$5.99)

[www.ebay.com/itm/Collins-Applique-Sequin-Pins-Brass-Size-8-1-2-800-Ct-Extra-fine-shaft-/121170281098](http://www.ebay.com/itm/Collins-Applique-Sequin-Pins-Brass-Size-8-1-2-800-Ct-Extra-fine-shaft-/121170281098)

Thread work. Why oh why is my top thread looping?

Your top tension may be too loose. Try turning it up in small increments. Always thread the machine with the pressor foot up. The thread may not fall between the tension disks if it is down. Do you need more stabilizer? If you are using a hoop, reposition and pull taut. If you are using tear away or water dissolvable, add an additional layer. Remember to do most of your thread work on the quilt top. Add additional runs over that area at the time of quilting. You want to keep the density of actual quilting consistent over the entire top to prevent puckering.

### **Teaching trips.**

My trip last week to Duncan, B.C., Canada was great fun. Bruce went on a wild mushroom hunt with Bob the Bonsai Guy. They found delicious Chanterelles under the forest moss. Thanks to Joy and Chris for making this a really special trip. I take off again Monday for Pennsylvania. Check my schedule to see if we can connect somewhere next year!

Take care everyone. Hugs Kathy

[www.kathymcneilquilts.com](http://www.kathymcneilquilts.com)