

## Gift Cards FOR Quilters

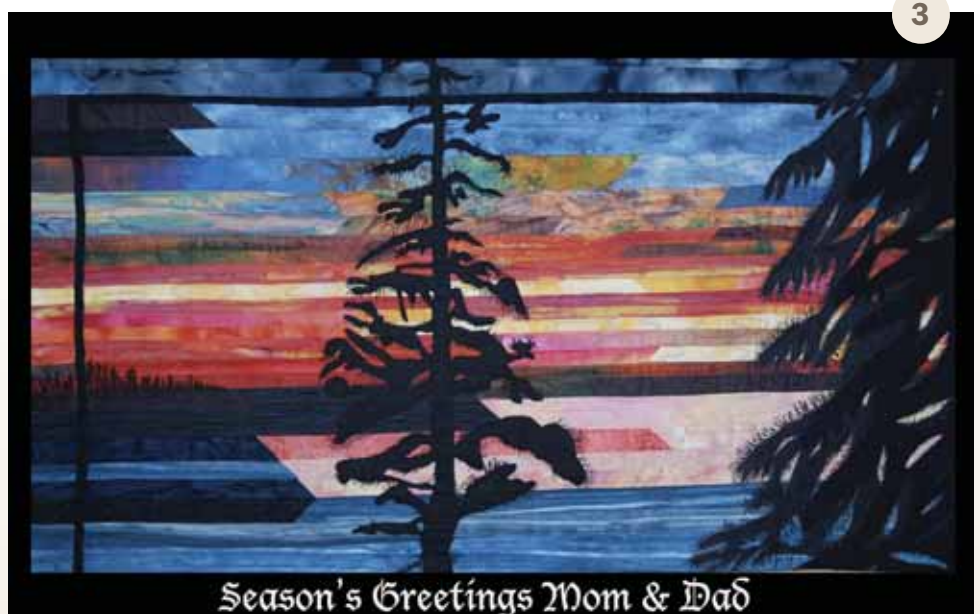
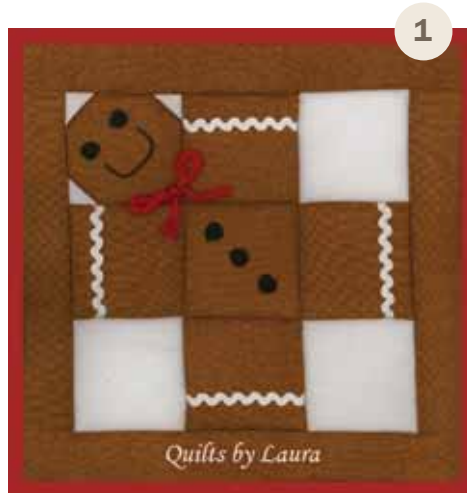
by Cindy Scraba

Giving a thoughtful message in the form of a QuiltCard is a treasured gift to receive. Creating your own signature style of QuiltCards can be as unique as the quilt from which it was derived. And the Holiday Season isn't the only time to share these special works of art. Here are some ideas to inspire you to design and gift your own QuiltCards year-round.

**1** This first example features a whimsical, Gingerbread Boy potholder purchased at a local craft fair from Laura Morrissey, a member of the NANAIMO & PARKSVILLE QUILTERS' GUILDS. I scanned this GBoy (humanely of course), shrunk him a tad and included a contrasting border using Photoshop™. Adding Laura's signature text was the final touch. A camera, scanner, computer and printer are necessary tools when it comes to making QuiltCards.

**2** Can you guess the subject for this Holiday card? Actually, I photographed the back of a quilter wearing this sweater at a guild Christmas party while I was in the lineup for the potluck buffet. I am easily amused and entertained by embellishments.

**3** Nature is always a peaceful and universally appealing source of QuiltCard inspirations. Trees symbolize life and growth – a meaningful message in many ways. Upon completion of a pieced landscape workshop with Coreen Zerr of Nanaimo, she suggested we send her a photograph. It was the perfect composition destined to become a card, which I personalized by adding a greeting within the framed border.



**4** It appears that Mr. Tree approves of his lovely quilt companion cuddling alongside in the gentle breeze. I'd photographed this outdoor quilt show event located on a farm near Duncan on Vancouver Island for their sponsor, Creative Quilting. When making a QuiltCard, the principal intention is to use your own quilts from your photo library. Quilt credit: Eimear Keane, Past Co-President of NANAIMO QUILTERS' GUILD.

**5** Who doesn't adore Kewpie dolls and the retro appeal of their rosy-cheeked cheeriness? Barbara Root, Immediate Past President of the NANAIMO QUILTERS' GUILD entered this treasure into their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Post Card Challenge at their 2010 *Material Magic Quilt Show*. In this example, the subject matter was already a "card"; however, this angelic messenger has the potential to evoke more than a smile from its recipient.

Photos by Cindy Scraba



**6** Birds are challenging subjects to photograph, unless they're anchored by quilting and can't fly away. Details in a quilt offer opportunities for different perspectives. It's no secret that I enjoy using threads that "dance" whenever possible in my projects, which also transfers into a glitzier gift card. This was one of several creatures camouflaged within this quilt I created for the VICTORIA QUILTERS' GUILD's *Pacific Challenge* (*The Canadian Quilter* 2009 Summer issue has the full story.) This type of card would be suitable for multiple occasions when you personalize the greeting.

### Cinderella's tips for creating stunning QuiltCards

**A** Photograph the focal points of YOUR favorite quilts and highlight those areas as the QuiltCard subjects using "crop and zoom" options in your photo edit programs. Choose "feel good" subject matter.

**B** Print your QuiltCards using a quality, matte photo paper for best colour results. Choose a setting to the scale you prefer, ½ page size or less. Or, print on convenient 4" x 6" photo cards and mount those directly on cardstock. If you're familiar with card making techniques this will be second nature.

**C** Fold the printed copy or cardstock in half. A Harar™ marker (or bone-folder) achieves a sharp edge without wrinkling the QuiltCard spine.

**D** Trim the sides and bottom edges to the desired size to fit your envelope. I prefer to use my rotary cutter and Olfa™ ruler for straight edges.



Quilters are truly generous when it comes to giving of their time and talents to help many worthy causes all year-round. **Question:** If you give someone one of your special GiftCards would they reciprocate? Feel free to share your creations by email and perhaps I'll feature them in a future column, "QuiltCards Revisited".



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