



## MAY MEETING

**Saturday, May 19, 2007 - 9 A.M.**

South Suburban Evangelical Free Church  
12600 Johnny Cake Ridge Road  
Apple Valley, MN

Located two blocks north of the corner of McAndrews (County 38) and Johnny Cake Ridge Road. Go in the side door located on the East Side of the building. Turn right and walk until you see the stairs. You may go up the stairs or take the elevator located to the right of the stairway. Turn left from the stairs or elevator and then turn left into the hallway and go to room 255.

### President's Letter

Howdy! Hope that everyone is enjoying the weather and getting their spring tasks accomplished. I've spent way too many hours weeding in my garden...because I spent way too few hours doing the same last fall!

We had a great meeting in April with many, many quilts being layered and started through the process! Great work everyone!

We'll be announcing a fun summer challenge at the May meeting too! Summer is a time where not only flowers and leaves pop out, or people come out of their houses, but animals also roam about. Ok, no more hints! You'll hear more at the May meeting and the details will also be in the June newsletter.

What do you all think of the new clean-up process? We'll keep it up for the next few months, to see how it flows. The hope is that by the time we sit down to eat, all of the supplies are back in the storage unit and those doors shut and locked, and the tables are back into place so that when the meeting is over, everyone can leave at the same time. It seemed to work pretty well during April, but remember that feedback is always welcome.

Look elsewhere in the newsletter for the basic schedule for the year. We may add additional activities as they come up (like a second meeting one or two months where we can all work on our own projects, a field trip to an area show, etc).

Oh! And the basics of our new website are available at [www.prairieland.net/QuiltDreamers/](http://www.prairieland.net/QuiltDreamers/) (we can't get a nicer address without spending way too much money). Anyway, I'm looking for suggestions for content, wording, etc, etc. The Guild is ALL OF US so I'd like lots more input

**President's Letter (continued)**

on how to represent us on the web. Once we're happy, then I'll start advertising our site on search engines sites that posts Guild addresses, etc.

Looking forward to the May meeting!

See you then! - Cindy

**June meeting: Saturday, June 16 – at the church**  
**June newsletter deadline: Thursday, 6/7/2007**

**Outreach Report**

This month we distributed 101 quilts. Of those, 49 were provided to the Lakeville CAC (an umbrella organization for Dakota and Scott County that covers the Lewis House shelters, Armful of Love, and other county services). Ten quilts were delivered to the Fairview Southdale Palliative Care Unit (see the letter below). Scott/Dakota CAP received 20 kid's quilts, the Ridges Hospital received 12 preemie and 5 baby quilts, and Amnion received 5 baby quilts.

(BTW...for those who might not know (I had to look it up!) Palliative means providing care, comfort and support for patients who are beyond a cure and nearing their time.)

--Submitted by Cindy and Gwen

**We received this touching letter from the Fairview Southdale Palliative Care folks:**

“What a blessing! Thank you so much for delivering them. I had a meeting with our Palliative Care group early this morning and showed them some of the quilts. The staff was so inspired, that I know we will be able to provide quilts to families who are grieving as a loved one dies. Just this morning I learned that a middle-aged man came to our unit having been diagnosed with leukemia recently. Today he had a stroke and passed away by this afternoon. His wife and four young-adult children survive him. Because staff had seen the quilts, and notified me, this patient was given the nautical print quilt before his death, and the family now has that quilt to take home as a keepsake. When the nurse brought in the quilt, the wife said, "How did she know, my husband is a very nautical kind of guy." It meant a lot to her. It was just perfect!

Thanks to you and the Quilt Dreamers for making a difference to this family by providing comfort in the form of a quilt.

Sincerely,  
Sandy and the ICU staff at Fairview Southdale Hospital”

### **May Birthdays**

Happy Birthday wishes go to Valynda Machen (5/28) and Marilyn Kassube (5/31) this month! We all hope you'll have a great time on your birthday!

### **Food for the May Meeting – Liz Tarr**

For the May meeting let the food honor our MOTHERS. Bring a food that your mother taught you to make or that is a favorite of your Mother or in some way connects with your mother. (Of course my mother will probably be there to check up on this...)

### **Quilt Layering Update – Joyce Fagerness**

It looks like everyone is back in the swing of things! 28 quilt tops were handed in and 22 were layered. 20 kits were taken. We had a large stack of finished quilts when the meeting was over.

We are still in need of fabric wider than 42" for backs, so if anyone has any fabric they want to get rid of, please bring it to the next meeting. It looks like it will be another fun year!

### **Special Project for July Meeting – Valynda Machen**

Several of you asked for the number of fat quarters required for the July Wicked Easy Quilt projects. Here you go...happy shopping.

Crib: 6 fat quarters plus 4 fat eighths.

Lap: 12 fat quarters plus 2 fat eighths.

Twin: 20 fat quarters

Queen: 30 fat quarters

Keep in mind, this assumes your fat quarters are perfectly square. You may want to add a little extra, just in case. These measurements do not include the inner border or binding.

### **2007-2008 Quilt Dreamers Monthly Schedule**

To help everyone with planning, here is our schedule for the year. There may be an extra meeting or two added, so that we can all work on our own projects for an afternoon. Are there months that would work best for people? For instance, what do you think about October, to allow us to prepare for holiday gifts?

**April, May and June meetings:** Work on kid's quilts

**July:** a special project lead by Valynda. The project can be for kids or Quilts of Valor

**August, September and October meetings:** Work on kid's quilts

**November:** a special project lead by Valynda. This will work well as a Quilts of Valor project

**December:** Our annual Holiday Party

**January and February:** Work on kid's quilts to display at the Show

**March:** The Big Show!

**Current and Upcoming Events**

May 26 through September 3, 2007 – “Quilt National 2007” - Athens, Ohio

Dairy Barn Cultural Arts Center, 8000 Dairy Lane, Athens, Ohio.

Hours: Tuesdays-Wednesdays, 11am-5pm; Thursdays, 11am-8pm; Fridays through Sundays, 11am-5pm.

Admission: \$5 general; \$3.50 students & Srs. (65+); Free under 12.

Go to <http://www.quiltnational.com/qn07when.htm>

The exhibit will be open on Monday, May 28th [Memorial Day] and Monday, September 3rd [Labor Day]. The exhibit will NOT be open on July 4th.

June 8 - 10, 2007 – “Stitches in Time” - Rapid City, South Dakota

Sponsor: Black Hills Quilters Guild 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Show

Cost: \$5.00 each day or all 3 days \$9.00 - EMail: [addoyle@rushmore.com](mailto:addoyle@rushmore.com)

Location: Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. Hours June 8 & 9: 9 am-5pm; June 10: 10am – 4 pm.

Four hundred (400) quilts on display plus vendors, banquet, quilts for sale and demo. Send SASE to BHQG, PO Box 2495, Rapid City, SD 57709 or call Carol at 605-342-4126.

June 13 – 16, 2007 Minnesota Quilters Show - "Land of 10,000 Quilts"

St. Paul RiverCentre, St. Paul, Minnesota

Exhibits and Vendors: June 14-16, 2007, Classes begin: June 13, 2007

June 15-16, 2007 – “Decade of Dazzlers” - Grinnell, Iowa

Sponsor: Jewel Box Quilters Guild

EMail: [ejji@wildblue.net](mailto:ejji@wildblue.net)

There will be a raffle quilt; a quilt turning; and a display of Quilts of Valor.

July 13-14, 2007 – “Quilts on Lake Bemidji”, Bemidji MN

Sponsor: Headwaters Quilters

Hampton Inn, 1019 Paul Bunyan Dr. South, Bemidji

7/13: 3pm – 8 pm; 7/14: 10am – 5pm; \$3.00 admission. Vendors, silent auction and 2 raffle quilts. EMail: [mcmaster@paulbunyan.ent](mailto:mcmaster@paulbunyan.ent)

**2007 – 2008 Quilt Dreamers Officers**

- President.....Cindy Wilson
- Vice President....Carol Jacobson
- Treasurer.....Gwen Lundgren
- Outreach.....
- Special Projects...Valynda Machen
- Quilt Coord.....Joyce Fagerness
- Newsletter/
- Membership.....Stephanie Power
- Food.....Liz Tarr
- Quilt Labels.....Zee Ebeling
- Turban/Preemie
- Coord.....Gwen Lundgren

**2008 Quilt Show Committee**

- Co-Chair...Carol Ogden
- Co-Chair...Shawn Mothershead
- Members’ Quilts...
- Quilt Descriptions...
- Auction...
- Kids’ Quilts...
- Welcome Table...
- Publicity...
- Food...
- Special Exhibits...
- QD Shirts...

This is a very interesting article sent to your editor by Carol Wedding::

### **Did Slaves Use Quilts as Escape Maps?**

By Sarah Ives  
National Geographic Kids News  
February 17, 2004

Have you ever used a secret code to talk to your friends? According to art historian Raymond Dobard, slaves may have used a secret language to escape to freedom along the Underground Railroad. But this language didn't involve talking or even writing the code that was hidden in the patterns of quilts.

The Underground Railroad is the name for the routes that U.S. slaves used in the 1800s to escape from slave-owning states in the South to "free" states in the North. Dobard learned about the quilt code from Ozella McDaniel. McDaniel's ancestors were slaves who she says passed down the secret code from one generation to the next. According to McDaniel, the plantation seamstress would sew ten different quilts. Each quilt would have a different pattern with a different message. The seamstress would display the quilts one at a time. By memorizing the patterns, slaves would create a map in their minds of how to escape - mental map that no one else could trace. "It was a way to say something to a person in the presence of many others without the others knowing," Dobard said. "It was a way of giving direction without saying, 'Go northwest.'"

The first quilt the seamstress would display had a wrench pattern. "It meant gather your tools and get physically and mentally prepared to escape the plantation," Dobard explained. The next code was the wagon wheel. This pattern told slaves to pack their belongings because they were about to go on a long journey. Dobard's favorite pattern was the "bear's paw." Hung by the seamstress at the plantation, this quilt told escaped slaves to head north over the Appalachian Mountains. "You were supposed to follow the literal footprints of the bear," Dobard said. Because, he continued, "bears always go to water and berries and other natural food sources."

Some historians, however, do not believe that the quilt code is true. They think that there is not enough proof that slaves used a quilt code. "What I think they've done is they've taken a folklore and said it's historical fact," Giles R. Wright said. Wright is a black-history expert in New Jersey. "Folklore" means a widely known story that generally has no proof to back it up.

One reason some historians think the code is a myth, Dobard explained, is that the evidence comes from oral history. Oral history means that history is passed down through spoken word and not written down. Also, none of the original quilts have survived. But that's not surprising, Dobard said. "Consider the nature of quilts. A quilt was to be used. To expect a quilt that remained within the slave community to survive more than a hundred years is asking a lot."

The debate about the Underground Railroad quilt code continues. History, it seems, can be as mysterious as a secret code.