



NEWSLETTER

Mar 2025

FOR THE MEMBERS OF CHILLIWACK PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD

Monthly Meeting

In Person

Wed 19 Mar 2025



Mar Program

Sheryl Tunaley has been around a sewing machine since she made a green, stuffed horse for a Brownie Badge in the 50s. In the 60s she made her own long sleeved, hooded wedding dress, later dying it blue and wearing it as a housecoat!!

Her first foray into quilting came in the 70s, taking a class and tracing a 4-inch cardboard square a million times, on thin, yellow poly cotton gingham, and cutting each slippery little piece out by hand!

Sheryl is going to share her passion for quilting in a manner that is now recognized as 'sustainable'. Emphasis will be on giving fabrics a second life. Sheryl is hoping to encourage others to take a second or third look at the possibilities in fabrics that otherwise might be dismissed.

Featured New Members - Jane A and Iris Z. Each member will bring one item they have made, share it and a little about themselves and why they love quilting.

- Leah

Presidents Message

WARNING!! You might need a 'cuppa' of something.... this might be a bit lengthy.

By the time we meet again in person the spring solstice will almost be upon us. I was thinking about the month of March as a kind of welcome gateway to longer days and hopefully, sunnier skies. Many of us will be sowing seeds for the coming growing season here in the beautiful Fraser Valley.

I would like to talk about the idea of sowing seeds, but I would like to change the spelling to 'sewing' seeds. I don't want to necessarily change the meaning of what it is to 'sow/sew' a seed. Generally speaking, sowing/sewing a seed requires vision, planning, knowledge and patience. And there is an expectation of an outcome; a fruitful and productive result.

I have loved the process of quilting (well, most of the time) and the results (OK most of the time here as well). As president of our guild, I have a vision that includes embracing renewal and the 'sewing' of seeds that attract newcomers, young people and anyone else who would like to learn a little or a lot about our craft.

I want to focus on the idea of engaging young people into our guild. If we want our guild to not only survive, but thrive, we need to demonstrate to young people that the joy of quilting is a rewarding activity in so many ways. They may need a little guidance from friends, relatives and guild members like us to join our ranks. I believe that a few of the reasons that the participation rate is low among young folks is that they may not really know about it and if they do, they may perceive quilting as something that their grandma used to do. We need to challenge that old 'notion' and construct a framework where members of our guild reach out to the school community for example. Any quilter who has shared tips and tricks and skills IS a teacher already.

Members of our executive committee have heard me say 'I'm

Heart Block Challenge

This past winter's Heart Block Challenge is complete. It was very well received and has ended up a huge success.

We had our Heart sewing day on February 22nd and many members came out to spend a fun day together. Over 40 heart blocks were donated! Some of our guild members made heart blocks and quilts, and some made heart pillows. There were friends who came to help by stuffing the heart pillows. Others worked on their own quilts for We Care. It was a great time of fun and fellowship.

There will be a show-and-tell parade of completed quilts at the March meeting. The final tally of quilts and pillows will be reported in the April newsletter.

Completed heart quilts will be distributed to our community associations. Heart pillows are distributed to breast cancer patients. Both are wonderful contributions to our community.

Your We Care committee sends a heartfelt thank you to all who participated!!

If anyone has an idea for another winter challenge, please let us know. It would be great to have something every year to keep us busy doing what we love most – quilting!!

Check out the photos of the day here - <https://www.chilliwickpiecemakers.com/we-care-workshop-2025>

- Bev

not sure that most young people are motivated to make a Sunbonnet Sue quilt' for instance. (No offence Sue!) Young people are exposed to modern and technological possibilities that enabled them to reject constraints and therefore they are creative, beautiful rule breakers.

This, however, does not leave the rest of us in the proverbial dust. This is March: as in March forward. To March is to take 'measured' steps forward. No one Marches backward. Marching is the progress or continuity of something abstract that is 'moving inexorably forward.'

COVID-19 is a prime example of Marching forward. Our guild was able to weather that storm through the technological aid of zoom. While COVID was a setback, the best part of the story is that we had to learn and embrace the technology. Luckily, we had members who took the lead and learned how to use the available technology and share it with the rest of us. Remember what I said about teachers? We even had a very successful online auction via zoom. Outside of our guild other presenters, quilters and instructors also embraced technology through PowerPoint, lighting, overhead cameras so they could post content on platforms such as YouTube. These are businesswomen who learned on the fly and from each other as a response to the sudden changes in our world.

Adaptability and resilience are not the sole preserve of the young but their enthusiasm, innovation, energy and point of view blends exceedingly well with the experience of longtime quilters. Their contribution to our guild will be invigorating and I would like to challenge each one of you to think of a way or identify a connection in your life where a young person can be part of the wonderful world of quilting and are free to reinvent it as they see fit. Let's encourage them to take quilting to the edge. Then we can all take that leap of faith together and see what the new chapter will bring.

It takes courage to March.

Proud to be a PieceMaker
- Cherri

Dear PieceMakers,

I am writing a separate message to you all this month. As I write this, we have 73 members in our guild which is

Membership/Registration

Hello from the Registration Desk

Our Guild Membership is 73. We are always excited to welcome new members to our fun and talented group of ladies.

We will have the New Members / Buddy List at the membership desk at our next in-house meeting (March 19th) as it's been a while since we have been together.

Mentors for our new members are always needed so if you feel you can help out pls let us.

Congrats to Feb Prize winners -Cozy Cottons Quilts - Sharon Bolton
Quiltnut Creations - Leah McDonald

Thank you to our local merchants who continually support our guild with their generous monthly donation.

We will have Guild Pins and Lanyards for sale \$5.00 each at the next meeting.



Thank you and see you March 19th.

- Darlene & Nancy

absolutely wonderful. Conversely, however, the number of participants in the executive and director positions is low.

As you know, we do not have a Vice President and I will be finishing my 2-year term in June 2025, whereupon I will move into the Past President role. The purpose of this position is to assist the incoming President with any manner of issues. The point is that the President is surrounded by other executive members to assist in making decisions regarding the general running of the guild.

Currently, we have executive members wearing more than one hat and it is not fair to those who take on double and triple duty to save the guild.... again. I think it is safe to say that burnout isn't good for anybody or any organization and our PieceMakers are no exception.

We need some new people to step up and contribute to keeping our guild functional and vibrant. I have suggested that perhaps 2 people would be interested in co-leading the guild in the role of President. No matter what position you fill there will never be a time when you are left without someone to help you as you get to know the position. The job descriptions are on our website, and I heartily encourage you to look at it put your name forward as an executive member.

Simply put, the guild cannot run without the participation of our members, and we all know that many hands make light work. Please join the executive committee. We need you, your ideas and your enthusiasm. And your guild needs you.

Proud to be a PieceMaker
- Cherri

Fat Quarter Draw

The colour for March is PASTELS, bring as many as you like. Enter your name for each one you bring. Good luck maybe you will be a bundle winner.

We Care



Child Development Centre



Meadow Rose Society



Bradley Centre

The We Care Committee is very excited to see all the quilts at the We Care Parade on March 19th! We will be having a draw for those who participated in our Heart Block Challenge! For participating i.e. making a block, stuffing a heart pillow, making a heart pillow you will receive a draw ticket for each completed Heart Block quilt brought to the meeting you will receive another entry. Entries will be available at the 'We Care' table.

We are also very excited to receive news that the Bradley Centre (Long Term Care) located within the Chilliwack Hospital has agreed to take some wheelchair and lap quilts. We delivered 15 wheelchair & 15 lap quilts recently and they will keep us informed on 'how it goes'. This gives all of you who enjoy making the wheelchair quilts the opportunity once again to start doing that! This was made possible by the connection Candice Quesnel (Palliative Services Manager) at the Chilliwack Hospice Society has with the Centre. We hope that we will be able to continue with this and perhaps increase our donation of quilts as they do have 90 residents there. Leslie Z delivered Quilts to Better Beginnings in Agassiz.

Way to Go PieceMakers!!!!

Hard to believe it's already March and crocuses and daffodils are starting to bloom, and buds are getting bigger! For some of us this usually marks a time when we do some spring cleaning and gardening!

We do accept donations of fabric and notions and continue to distribute where we can in 'We Care', Days for Girls, Samaritans' purse (knits) as well as the 'free' table. Please email the We Care Gmail for information or bring smaller amounts to the meeting.

The 'We Care' has plenty of fabric, panels, backing and batting to help you complete your 'We Care' quilt. If you are looking for ideas or need a simple pattern to get you started check out the website for additional information.

These fantastic local merchants support our guild. Be sure to show your appreciation by supporting their businesses!



All the quilts that come in are photographed and put onto the website be sure to have a look!

Thank you all once again for your generosity of time and talents. Words cannot express how wonderful it is to know that our guild is such a kind and caring community of quilters who continue to support the program. Please go to the website for our list of Charities & sizes for quilts that are needed.

We are truly grateful as our recipients are as well! Please remember to label your quilts (available at meetings or Cozy Cottons) on the back of the Quilt with your name, initials or guild number.

Backing & Batting is available for 'We Care' quilts only and can be arranged by contacting Leah M. It would be appreciated if you could email her well in advance of the meeting so she can have it available at the meetings for distribution.

- Your 'We Care' Committee

Piecemakerswecare@gmail.com if you have any questions or want to order backing and batting for quilts!

Workshops

Biscotti Workshop with Nancy Riemersma

We have the required number of members signed up to make this workshop go ahead. There is still space for a few more if you would like to join in on this fun experience.

Date: Saturday, March 29, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Community of Christ Hall on Carleton Street. Cost \$30, payment with registration please, cash, cheque or e-transfer to piecemakers.treasurer@gmail.com.



Charitable Donations



The guild allocated \$600 in the budget to be donated to local charities. Three charities will be selected at our March meeting. They will receive \$200 each.

Please vote for the charity you wish to support, the sheet will be at the registration desk.

The winners will be announced at our meeting.



Guild Email Addresses

chilliwackpiecemakers@gmail.com

piecemakers.treasurer@gmail.com

piecemakerswecare@gmail.com

chillpmnewsletter@gmail.com



Check us out on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/840042746122369>

If you haven't joined our closed Facebook group yet, type in the search box 'Chilliwack PieceMakers' and ask to join.

To sign up please send an email to the Guild email address chilliwackpiecemakers@gmail.com or speak to Janet at the March meeting.

- Janet

Days for Girls

Our last Sew Day welcomed Christa V. she is retired RCMP officer who I first met during a quilt



delivery to Victim Services she has since retired and her and husband travel 'with purpose' quite frequently through Rotary. She reported that through Rotary Chilliwack her group recently made a trip to Cambodia and witnessed an Enterprise and spoke to the ladies working there. An Enterprise is one that makes the kits and distributes for a cost to the local population. The ladies make \$2 US per kit and can usually get 2 of them done per day. She reiterated that we can't imagine in Canada how much this means to the ladies to have Menstrual products and make an income for their families. We are always looking for people who are interested in helping with DFG whether you are a Sewer or perhaps just want to label or string the bags!!! If you are interested in the program, please check out the website – we are an international organization -<http://www.daysforgirls.org/canada/> Thank you to anyone who contributed fabric and your sewing skills – you are amazing for sharing your skills and fabrics for such a great cause and empowering women!!! Imagine what we could do with MORE helpers!

Our next Sew day will be held on Friday March 28th 10:00 – 2:00 pm (Bring your machine or serger and a lunch). Coffee & tea is available! Come and check it out stay for the whole time or just awhile. Once you have had some training on the pieces to be sewn, we always are happy to send items home with you to complete on your own time! We also need people who would be willing to 'cut' (rotary) fabric.

Free Day Retreat

Offering you a super fun day of sewing with guild members and it's totally free.

Look for the signup sheet at the March meeting, we can accommodate 25 to 30 ladies, so let's have a great turnout.

Be sure to mark your calendar. Saturday April 26, 10:00am to 4:00pm. The Community of Christ Church Hall, 9845 Carleton Street, Chilliwack, V2P 6E4 (Next door to Little Mountain School).



Bring whatever you are working on, hand or machine.

If you are a new quilter this is the perfect opportunity to ask lots of questions and be mentored on skills, you want to learn (like a free workshop).

The guild will provide tea and coffee. You could bring a small item of food to share if you like.

- Janet & Karlie

Westgate Apartments – 8955 Edward Street Chilliwack – Amenities Room off to the right side of the main entrance. This building is behind the Hospital area with plenty of parking!

We can always use quality cotton and flannel donations. All fabric should be at least 10" – 12" square or yardage. Whatever cannot be used (we do have some strict guidelines issued by DFG International) we ensure that is donated to where it can be utilized.

Thank you to all the PieceMakers who support DFG we are truly grateful for your generosity!

Contact Ginger C or Trish V for any additional information.

Youth Bags

Below you will find a list of items we are collecting for the 2025 donation.



Item	Female	Male	Either Sex
Bags			50 Done
Small shampoo			27 (need 23)
Small conditioner			11 (need 14)
Body lotion			21 (need 29)
Combs			37 (need 13)
Soaps/body wash			50 Done
Socks	25 Done	25 Done	
Deodorants	1 (need 24)	0 (need 25)	
Toothbrushes			22(need 28)
Toothpaste			45 (need 5)
Gloves			12 (need 32)
Scarves			31 (need 19)
Toques			45 (need 5)
Sanitary products	2 packet of pads (need more)		
Notebooks			9 (need 41)
Pens			50 Done
Handbag size tissues			42 (need 8)

We collect over the year and fill the bags in November and deliver them to Chilliwack Community Services Youth

Guild Executive and Committee Volunteers

2024 - 2025

President:	Cherri M
Vice President:	Vacant
Secretary:	Lyn R
Treasurer:	Kate D
Member at Large:	Norma H
Advertising:	Lyn R
Fat Quarter:	Bev T
Library:	Angela H Kim M Connie D
Membership:	Darlene T Nancy R
Newsletter:	Karlie M
Photography:	Karlie M
Programs:	Leah M
Quilt show:	Leah M Karlie M
Show and Tell:	Kim M Ginger C Linda V
Sunshine:	Cherri M
We Care:	Trish V Bev T Leah M Ginger C
Webpage:	Karlie M
Workshops:	Janet S
Youth Bags:	Janet S



Services. The numbers in the boxes indicate what we have already collected, the number in brackets is what we are aiming for. Please continue to collect items, the next drop-off will be at the in-person March meeting.

Thank you again for your generosity.

- Janet

Coffee News Publication

Thanks to Trish V who made a submission to the Coffee News Publication that advertises free events and groups about town. Here is what she wrote, maybe we will receive a new member or two from this.

'Chilliwack Piecemaker's Guild invite Beginner to Advance quilters to be inspired, learn new techniques, listen to fabulous speakers and give back to the community through our 'We Care' charity program. Meet 3rd Wednesday of each month September - June.'

March meeting Checklist

- name badge (for possible prize)
- fat quarter – pastel
- own coffee/water bottle
- door prize (voluntary)
- show and tell
- we care quilts
- heart block quilts
- library books to return
- sharing table items

See you Weds 19th.