



STASH

October 11, 2017

PINE BELT QUILTERS 2016-2017 Officers

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From Traditional to Modern and Beyond

Connie opened the meeting by calling on Betty Bingham for the thought for the day, *The Brush* by Dwight L. Moody. We had an unusual number of visitors due to invitations for other quilt guilds to attend and enjoy our speaker's lecture. Then Susie Jackson introduced Cynthia England of Dickinson, Texas (between Galveston and Houston.)



Cynthia England and "Open Season"

She is a self taught quilter and is known for a unique "picture piecing" technique she developed. Her quilts have won many national and international prizes. One of her quilts was included in "The Twentieth Century's Best Quilts." Cynthia shared her method and many of her quilts with us.

Originally, Cynthia planned to be an elementary school art teacher because that was the least amount of math you were required to take in college. But she switched to commercial art. After graduation she worked for an oil and gas magazine. When the oil crash came to Houston, the whole art department was abolished. She was six months pregnant at the time. Thinking "No one is going to hire a woman who is six months pregnant," she stayed home and really got into her quilting.

Her quilts were pieced and hand appliquéd using her own photographs as

inspiration; now her quilts are pieced using the "picture piecing" technique she developed when creating a black and white checkerboard floor for "Come Into the Light," one of her early quilts. This quilt is an interior

view of a Victorian entryway with ornate woodwork and leaded glass windows. (See photo on pg. 3)

She decided to make her next quilt using her new method. The result was "Piece and Quiet" which is 64" x 80", took about six months to complete and contains over 8,000 pieces. This quilt is an autumn scene with a stream flowing through the woods. (See photo on pg. 3) Cynthia didn't bring either of these quilts. They were however part of her slide show presentation. She did bring "Open Season." This amazing quilt, is 87" x 90", took six years to complete, has over 21,000 pieces and 280 different fabrics.

After choosing a photo, Cynthia lays out all fabrics that might work in her design. She arranges these in order of value, looking at both sides of the fabric, because a fabric might be totally different from one side to the other. She then makes a color chart. It is like a painter's palette. She picks her fabrics from this chart, though she may not use every fabric in the quilt.

Continued on pg. 2

Cynthia makes a full-sized line drawing of the picture. She says that you do not have to know how to draw to do this, it is more tracing than drawing. Then she takes all the curves out of her drawing. She divides the pattern into sections based on the way pieces will be sewn into units, marking sections, subsections, piece location and fabric choices. Then she makes an exact copy onto freezer paper. Now she has two identical copies of her pattern, one to use as a reference and one to cut into pattern pieces to be pressed onto fabric.

Cynthia then cuts her freezer paper drawing into major sections and places each section in a separate plastic baggie. One section at a time, she cuts apart the freezer paper pattern and irons each piece onto the front side of fabrics she has chosen. Her method is not foundation piecing. She cuts around each shape, eyeballing a generous quarter inch. Then she constructs the quilt section by section, keeping each finished section in its own baggie until she is ready to put everything together. She sometimes embellishes her quilt tops with paint or embroidery—whatever it takes to get the results she wants.

After she ran through her method of creating a quilt, she gave us a trunk show of some of her quilts, many made from her patterns, which we could actually touch. She also sells books describing her process and patterns she has created. Members who took the workshop (held the following day) had a choice of two of her patterns, a mountain scene or a beach scene. *(See photos on pg. 3.)* They didn't have to go through the steps of drawing the picture and making two copies of the design. Cynthia's patterns contain a paper copy and a freezer paper copy. Her kits contain all the fabrics necessary for the quilt top, including borders. It really speeds up the process.



Pine Belt Quilters officers 2018-2019 - Ellen Hall, Missy Lee, Margie Hancock, Dianne McLendon and Jo Ellen Carr

Pictures at the end of her slide presentation were of the Hurricane Harvey flood and its effects on her home and sewing studio, which received about a foot of water. Luckily, the house is a two story, and she was able to move most of her furniture to the upper floor before the water entered. AND she didn't lose any of her fabric. She feels that she and her family were extremely lucky. We were extremely lucky that she was able to come to Hattiesburg to visit with us despite the problems at home. She and her husband are rebuilding the downstairs area themselves.

Shirley Wiltshire showed us a garden flag that she put together as a sample for this month's boutique project. She also requested that members bring used color catchers to her at the November meeting. She will let us know next month if we will be making Christmas stockings.

Dianne McLendon reminded us that challenge quilts will be due at the December meeting. She introduced the newest friendship block, Christmas Star. She will email patterns to those who sign up. Dianne also shared a snippet with us. At the Dollar Tree you can buy plastic cutting mats. They come in packages of two and make excellent plastic template material.

Joe and Betty Bingham reported they had taken in 14 pillows, 13 blankets and 37 mother pads. Kaye Christensen reported that they had taken in 14 walker totes and six catheter bag covers.

Mary Nell Magee told us that they had received 60 quilts from PBQ members to be sent to Houston. We will also add some quilts from Children's Quilts, to the donation. The Brandon quilt group will add some of their quilts to the effort.

A new slate of officers for Pine Belt Quilters was named and a vote was taken. The new PBQ officers for 2018-2019 are:

President - Margie Hancock (new)
Vice President - Dianne McLendon (new)
Secretary/Newsletter Editor - Jo Ellen Carr (new)
Treasurer - Missy Lee (returning)
Membership - Ellen Hall (returning)
Show Chair - Martha Ginn

Dianne McLendon asked members to be thinking about recommendations for programs for upcoming meetings and bring these ideas to the November meeting.



Ellen Hall admiring Cynthia England's "Open Season"



"Come into the Light" and "Piece and Quiet"



A detail of "Open Season" (see above)



"Windswept Roses" from Picture Piecing Traditional Quilts



"Smoky Mountains"



"Life's A Beach"



Pine Belt Quilters Newsletter
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November Reminders

Linda Basden
Myrna Sue Jones
Lois Mills

November Birthdays:

Ellen Cox
Paula Jones
Mary Ann Scruggs
Shirley Wiltshire

Diane Gerard
Judy Kufahl
Shirley Walley

People with birthdays in November please remember to bring a small gift (quilt related) to be used as a door prize. It should be wrapped or bagged.

The **November 9** workshop will be a Christmas stocking workshop with Shirley Wiltshire.

The fabric for November's Fat Quarter Lottery is Christmas prints.

Children's Quilts will meet December 5.