

Circle in the Square Quilters

September 2025

Volume 41, Issue 5



September 14 Meeting - CSQ Tea

1:00 pm

University City Public Library, 6701 Delmar, University City, MO 63130

Everyone had so much fun at last year's tea that we are holding it again instead of a potluck dinner.



Come join us for an afternoon tea at the University City Library Auditorium. Bring a savory treat or a sweet delicacy to share. Finger-food only. **Please do not include peanuts or tree nuts in your treats due to serious food allergies.** Bring a quilting friend to introduce her (or him!) to our guild!

We will have a short meeting during the tea. Sign-up sheets will be available to help with the installation and de-installation of our quilt show. Interested in hand piecing? The hand piecing group will also be present, and you will have the opportunity to see their wonderful hand work.

October 24 Meeting - 6:30 pm - University City Library

Yes, we are meeting on Friday evening! We are keeping you on your toes this year. We have a special keynote speaker. Alice Ridge will present "Raiding the Kitchen" about looking at things in your kitchen and how to add them to your quilting. I'm very curious about what she will say. She told me that she loves chocolate, so perhaps we can learn how to add chocolate to our quilts. What a wonderful world that would be!

Quilt Show Awards. After Alice's presentation, we will hold a short guild meeting and announce the winners of our 2025 Quintessential Quilt Show and present ribbons. Come listen to Alice Ridge and then cheer our winners. Friends are welcome to attend.

Registration for October Workshops. Alice will also be doing two workshops on Saturday October 25. Cost is \$55 per workshop and that includes the required kit. If you sign up for BOTH workshops, the cost is reduced to \$100 instead of \$110. Alice Ridge will teach easier techniques instead of difficult, traditional techniques. Come boost your brain power by learning new skills, creating a beautiful work of art and having fun with your fellow quilters. If you have quilting friends who are not members of CSQ, they are welcome to register and join us. Registration form follows in this newsletter.

Circle in the Square will not meet during November and December. Join us at a virtual meeting in the new year on Tuesday, January 20, 2026. Speaker to be announced.

From the Prez

I recently cleaned and reorganized my sewing room. It felt really good, but I found a few items that aren't quilting related, and yet, need sewing nonetheless. I promised myself I would not start a new quilting project until I dealt with those other items. Then, last night, I caught myself working on a new table runner and my non-quilting projects are untouched. Oops! Another item for my UFO list!

Our Quintessential Quilt Show is fast approaching. There will be lots of opportunities in the next few weeks to get involved with the various activities associated with putting on this event. Many people have already graciously volunteered their time and talent, and I truly appreciate that. The setup on September 30 is work but also fun so I hope you'll be able to stay for a bit when you drop off your display quilts. This is our big opportunity to share our art with our community.

There's still time to register for the Alice Ridge workshops October 25.

We hope to see you there.

Lou

CSQ Council 2025-2027

Lou Kaufmann, President
Peggy Harris, Vice-President
Marilyn Raphael, Treasurer
Jessica & Sally Koczan,
Secretary
Rachel Shapiro, Membership

Betsy Sweeney, Service Project
Lou Kaufman, Quilt Show
Nancy Kollmar & Lou Kaufman,
Website
Joyce Johnson, Raffle Quilt
Laura Falk, Newsletter
Nancy Kollmar, Historian

2025 Dates to Know

Oct. Meeting - Alice Ridge

Quilt Show Update

Notices have been sent out to the local and not-so-local quilt guilds, letting them know about our Quintessential Quilt Show. A couple of local publications have also been asked to mention our show in upcoming issues.

Right now, we're in the final days of accepting quilt submissions. We have a lovely collection to display. Our next steps are to figure out the hanging arrangements, match up the quilts to the existing boards and get the final documents generated. Ticket sales for our raffle quilt have been brisk. Thank you to Nancy Kollmar and her helpers.

The quilts will be hung on Tuesday, September 30 at the University City Library. If you are unable to drop your quilt(s) off after 2:00 on Tuesday, please check with another member.

Take down will take place on Sunday, October 28 at 4:00. You MUST pick up your own quilts or let Marilyn Raphael know who will be picking them up. We want to make sure your quilts are kept safe!

The committee decided to forego the Opening Gala, originally scheduled for Friday, October 3. In past years, we have awarded the Viewer's Choice ribbon at the Opening, but we felt that 2 days wasn't enough time for our members to

QUINTESSENTIAL
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view the show and vote. This year, voting will take place throughout the month of October, and the Viewer's Choice will be awarded at the October 24 meeting along with the First/Second/Third prize ribbons in the Small, Wall and Large categories. Stay tuned for information on the balloting process.

Carol Peck will be coordinating the hand quilting exhibit on Sundays during the Quilt Show. We still need volunteers for October 12, so let Carol or Lou know if you're interested.

Operation Shower Update

As of September 1, CSQ members have donated 82 baby quilts to Operation Shower. Check out the website to learn more about this UCity based organization and think about volunteering to help with the shower happening in St. Louis in May 2026. As always, I am happy to accept any baby quilts to be donated anytime.

Mystery Quilt

Please be on the lookout for monthly clues for our Mystery Quilt. If you are starting late, please contact Joyce Johnson for the hard copy of Month 1. Months 2 and 3 were emailed to all members in early July and early August. Month 4 should be in your inbox in early September.

2027 Fundraising Quilt - Boho Heart

If you adopted a block for our 2027 fundraising quilt, please complete this block in the coming month and be prepared to return it no later than our October meeting. You may also turn it in at our September afternoon tea if you wish. Joyce Johnson will not be at that meeting but will make sure that someone else will be there to collect. The blocks that have been submitted thus far look fabulous! Many thanks to all who have lent their time and talents to this great project.

Quilt Basting Service

The Monday Quilters are now offering basting services for those who finish their quilts by hand or domestic machine. Prices range from \$25-\$35. If you are interested in this service, please contact one of the Monday Quilters (Nancy Kollmar, Ruth Hanson, Pat Owoc, Suzanne Skelley, Robin Osborn, Lou Kaufmann, Joyce Johnson, Carol Peck, Betsy Sweeney or Ramona Dunlap).

CSQ History

Our biennial quilt show is next month, so it seemed appropriate to reminisce regarding one of our previous shows. I chose the "The Quintessential Quilt" show of 1995, only 30 years ago. That was the year we started using this title. Back then The Historical Society of University City was the co-sponsor along with the support of the Regional Arts Commission. Who remembers Leslie Rovainen, the show chairperson?

Ricky Tims was awarded the BEST OF SHOW for his "Road to Wichita Falls, TX" quilt. (See pic on right.)

The history about the quilt is on his Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/RickyTims/posts/1317570963065670/>



Back then, CSQ was the only juried quilt show in the Greater St Louis Metropolitan Area and our judges that year were Drew Donnelly Benage, Carole Braig and Connie Ewbank and in the area there were 14 quilt shops.

Our fund-Raising quilt “Ruth’s Floral Fantasy” was designed by Ruth Hanson. There were a total of 72 quilts exhibited, including one from each of the judges. When reading the comments for the show, besides guests from Missouri & Illinois, there were guests from Alaska, Arizona, California, Harlem, Iowa, Texas, The Bronx, England & France.

Photos

Apologies for the lack of photos this month. I missed some meetings due to travel and didn’t ask anyone to take pictures for me!

Here’s a fun article that Peggy found in the Wall Street Journal about the original Dear Jane quilt.

MASTERPIECE | THE JANE STICKLE QUILT (1863)

Wall Street Journal
Aug 30-31, 2025

Innovation Stitch by Stitch

By JOHN J. MILLER

AFTER WINNING A \$2 PRIZE at a country fair during the Civil War, an extraordinary quilt vanished from sight. It remained mostly forgotten until the 1990s, when modern quilters rediscovered the unique design and obscure maker of the Jane Stickle Quilt. Ever since, thousands have fashioned their own versions and embarked on pilgrimages to see it in person. Vermont’s Bennington Museum displays it for several weeks each September and October, as it will again this year, starting on Labor Day.

The roots of quilting go back at least to the ancient Egyptians. The craft at its most basic involves stitching together a three-layered object: two pieces of fabric with padding in between. It can become carpet or clothing as well as a canvas for creativity. One of the oldest extant quilts comes from medieval Sicily and depicts the chivalric romance of Tristan and Isolde. The Victoria and Albert Museum in London owns one section and the Bargello in Florence holds another.

The most familiar form of quilt is the household bedcover, and that’s how the form flourished in America from the colonial period onward. Women especially have used the medium to combine utility with self-expression and beauty.

The best quilts not only warm sleepers at night but also challenge the distinctions that separate fine art from folk art—and the Jane Stickle Quilt is one of them.

Most quilts rest firmly in a tradition of familiar patterns and designs, copied and recopied across time and generations. Almost everything about the eponymous Jane Stickle Quilt, however, is new or at least unusual, starting with its intricacy. Each of its 169 blocks, pieced together in a 13-by-13 grid, is about five square inches, about one-fifth the size of a typical block of its era.

The quilt’s major innovation is its kaleidoscopic composition. Each block contains two fabrics: a colored calico or gingham and a white background. None of the colored fabrics repeat from block to block. Nor do the designs of the blocks. Some are common patterns, known to quilters everywhere. Most, however, are original to this quilt. They range from simple to complex. Many contain individual pieces of fabric as tiny as a quarter inch. They were “drafted by a skilled needle worker with a mastery of geometry,” writes Pam Weeks, an author and curator at the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, Mass.

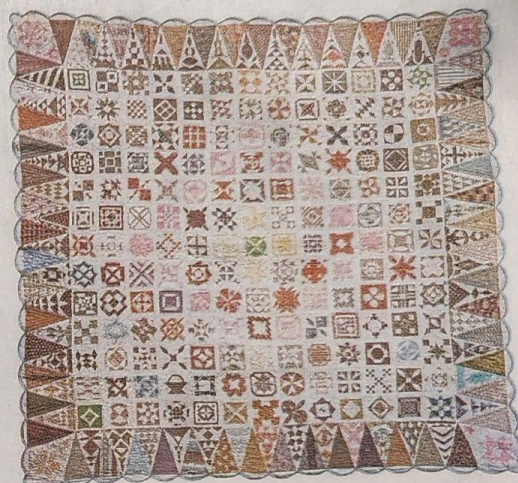
At the center of the quilt is a green block that looks like a bull’s-eye. Blocks of red, yellow and purple surround it. Even in their faded condition, these colors impose a

loose order on a riot of shapes and forms. Another striking element is a border of isosceles triangles with designs that are also exclusive to this quilt, plus a scalloped edge, another rare trait. The darker triangles catch the eye and point inward, as if gesturing to the square blocks. The quilt is both striking up close and coherent from a distance.

In a corner, Stickle signed her name in ink. She also added a detail and a date. The quilt contains 5,602 pieces of fabric and it was made “In War Time, 1863.”

At least seven of Stickle’s nephews served in the Union army during the Civil War. It’s impossible to know if they were on her mind as she quilted, but her only surviving words are the ones she wrote onto her quilt, referring to the conflict in which they fought. In that time of scarcity, she was resourceful and practical, acquiring a wide range of fabrics for the quilt’s top and recycling her family’s bed linen for its backing.

Little else is known about Stickle. Though married, she appears to have had no children. When Jane was age 46, in 1863, the Bennington Banner reported that she was “an invalid lady, having been for a long time confined to her bed, but her ambition to do something to kill time induced her to put together this quilt.” The next week the newspaper noted that she



The Civil War-era quilt has 169 blocks, arranged in a 13-by-13 grid.

had won a \$2 prize at the country fair for “Best Patched Quilt.”

Many quilts become family heirlooms, and Stickle’s found its way to her niece, who must have recognized its artistic merit because she sold it to the Bennington Museum in the late 1930s. The museum puts the quilt on view for only short periods due to its fragile condition.

One quality of a masterpiece is its ability to inspire—and in 1996, Brenda Manges Papadakis published “Dear Jane,” a book on how to make Stickle’s patterns. Enthusiasm for the quilt spread over the next 25 years as the book’s first edition sold more than 160,000

copies. Many quilters now approach the Jane Stickle Quilt with both reverence and their own innovations. Some duplicate it as closely as they can, while others make variants in bright colors and new configurations. Like stage actors cast in the role of King Lear or Lady Macbeth, they are eager to perform in a tradition as well as to make their own mark.

Ms. Papadakis calls these quilts “Baby Janes.” Through them, the legacy of a childless quilter lives on.

Mr. Miller is director of the Dow Journalism Program at Hillsdale College.

BENNINGTON MUSEUM

Circle in the Square Quilt Guild Registration Form

for Alice Ridge Workshops - Saturday, October 25, 2025

Please fill out the form to register for the workshops. You have the option to attend one or both workshops. Select the workshops you wish to attend and proceed with payment. Supply lists will be emailed in September. There are *TWO* workshops, each has a \$30 required kit fee and the workshop fee of \$20, for a total of \$50. The guild is subsidizing the rest of the cost of the workshop as well as the teacher's travel expenses. Please circle which workshop you are registering for.

Celtic Knot Workshop 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, University City Library Auditorium

Workshop fee (\$20) and required kit (\$30)
\$50

Mock Molas Workshop 1 pm to 4 pm, University City Library Auditorium

Workshop fee (\$20) and required kit (\$30) \$50

CSQ members receive \$5 discount for each workshop until July 31, 2025.

Total due \$ _____

Pay by check, payable to Circle in the Square Quilt Guild

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

For further information or where to mail your registration form, please email Peggy Harris, VP Programs at STLCSQ@gmail.com