



LOVE, JOY, PIECE



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North American Mennonite Relief Sale Board – Quilter's Newsletter

From the Editor:

Recycle – From Rags to Riches

One of my quilt Guilds had a challenge one year. We were challenged to make a recycle quilt. At first I wondered what I could possibly make. When the recycle quilts came in I was amazed at what people had come up with.

At our local relief sale one of the booths is a recycle booth (called the Denim Nook). A group of inventive ladies produce everything from placemats to purses from used jeans. The placemats have pockets on them for napkins or cutlery. With a little bit of imagination used denim can be turned into many useful and inventive things.

Your local thrift store is a gold mine for useful items to help you produce a wonderful quilt. Aside from cutting up used cloths, how about using the buttons from clothes? Buttons can be used to embellish a quilt. Buttons can be made into flowers, flower centres or "spot". Buttons can add weight to the quilt so be mindful of how or where you use them. If you place all the buttons in one spot (e.g. centre) all the weight will be localized.

Adding the buttons after quilting will make the quilting process, especially machine quilting, easier. Ladies or men's handkerchiefs, if folded correctly, can be made into beautiful butterflies. The beautifully decorated hankies can also be used to make baskets. Depending on the size of your basket you may be able to get four baskets from each corner of the hanky. Rick rack, lace or ribbon is great to create flower stems, leaves or flowers. Velvets, silks, satins and specialty fabrics paired with buttons, lace or trims can make a wonderful crazy patch quilt. Instead of having to do a lot of embroidery, try adding spectacular buttons or trim with recycled lace. A used wedding dress could provide enough lace, trim or satin to complete a quilt.

This is a small list of ideas you can try. When you enter a thrift store, look at the contents with the intent of using things in a new or different way. We haven't even talked about decorator fabrics or wool.

Have fun and play. If little children can turn macaroni into beautiful art, we should, with a little imagination, be able to "recycle" thrift store finds into wonderful quilts.

Thanks for Sharing Your Heart!

I wish to thank everyone on behalf of Marlys and myself for your enthusiastic participation in the heart block project. We are truly grateful and amazed at the results of your enthusiasm. A project we thought might produce a quilt or two became many quilts. The love shared with us and those who continue to benefit from this project is truly appreciated. Total raised to date is \$37,171 US (\$42,111 Cdn) for the traveling quilts. This figure does not include the heart quilts that were sold on the auctions.

It has been a true blessing to watch God's love being spread. The American and Canadian traveling quilts will continue to raise funds. The American Share Your Heart traveling quilt will be sold at the Minn-Kota Festival in Sioux Falls, SD in July of 2007. The Canadian traveling quilt has just begun its journey. The two loaves and fishes that Marlys and I started with became enough to "feed" the multitudes with baskets/hearts left over.

To God be the glory great things he has done!

Bev Patkau

To arrange to have this quilt at your sale, contact:
In Canada: Bev Patkau, 227 Valhalla Crescent NW,
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Canadian "Share Your Heart" Traveling Quilt

Harold D. Schmidt of North Newton, KS has been making quilts (1 per week!) since 1985 –



a total of over 400. He gives over 600 volunteer hours every month at the age of 88. Harold's profession was school teacher for 35 years and upon his retirement, he needed a new outlet for his creativity. His wife Hazel was a professional seamstress and he used her equipment. Harold began his quilt making career sewing fancy quilts but once his wife had a stroke, he needed to give more time to her care. He saw a bag of jean rags and thought they might work to make comforters. The fabric comes from everywhere – thrift shops, neighbors, sometimes a bag of fabric shows up at his doorstep.

Harold D. Schmidt and Irma Gonzalez Harold built a sewing machine table and went to work. He uses 30 squares to make one blanket of 9 inch squares. They make great picnic blankets. Blankets are created for MCC Relief Sales and to be sent over seas, Etc. Thrift Shop in Newton, rest homes, fundraisers – where ever they are needed. Fifteen of his blankets were sold at the Kansas Relief Sale this year. Irma Gonzalez, Central States Quilt Room Supervisor, used fabric featuring the local sports teams of each Central State Relief Sale as the backs. These were a fun addition to each sale. "I feel good that I am doing my part in doing good for others" Harold stated.

With the interest in denim quilts, comforters, and pillows these days, think about purchasing the



blocks already cut and ready to use! You can order a kit from the MCC Store that includes 200 patches/squares with pockets, instructions to create one-of-a-kind blanket and ideas on how to decorate it. It is easy! The jean blanket is beautiful, durable, and easy to wash. Finished size is 65 in. x 87 in. (165 cm x 221 cm.) The direct address of the page to order the kit is:

http://secure.mcc.org/mccstore/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=2

The packages include mostly blue denim but also a variety of colors, a few pockets, and some labels i.e.: Wrangler, for those special places on a quilt.

Idea for kids using denim: Tina Hildebrand of the Brandon MCC Relief Sale in Brandon, Manitoba had a great idea using denim blocks. Kids had a great time creating comforters. Tina used plastic garbage bags to protect the children's clothing. Using templates and a Clorox stick, the children marked the pattern onto the denim block. She let this sit at least ½ hour, then rinsed in clear water and laid out to dry. One year they used the outline of each country MCC represents in each block.



Learn what other Relief Sales are doing – attend the 2007 Biennial Workshop in Hutchinson, Kansas on April 12-13. Watch for more information or contact the Bergs at Daheberg2@aol.com or phone (814) 445-6945.

Email Chat room

To sign up for the email *chat room and newsletter*, please send your email address to Harriet Berg Daheberg2@aol.com

Newsletter This newsletter as well as back issues is available on line <http://mcc.org/reliefsales/lovejpiece/>

To sign up to receive Love, Joy, Piece Newsletter by mail: **US** - contact mwiens@pro-ns.net or mail to Marlys Wiens, 7310 York Avenue S. #105, Edina, MN 55435.

Canada - contact Bev Patkau at lpatkau@shaw.ca or mail to Bev Patkau at 227 Valhalla Crescent NW, Calgary AB Canada T3A 1Z8.

For more information on Relief Sales, go to www.mcc.org/reliefsales or www.mcc.org