

Joyce Thorbergson - CQG#139, 140, 157

Joyce's quilting story starts around 2003 with her following a pattern for a baby quilt to make "quillows" for her nieces. To make a *quillow* you make a quilt top, a backing, and an attached pocket. The quilt is then folded into thirds and finally into the pocket. The style is still popular for a "carry quilt" for children, picnics and as a car blanket. Joyce enjoyed learning sewing in high school, but had little time for it until her children were grown. When they were young, Joyce was a 'Circle Leader' for *Creative Circle* products. This involved in-home demonstrations of various stitchery products. The leaders would earn a commission for each kit they sold. So, Joyce was used to learning from written directions and brought that skill to learning to quilt.

For the quillows, the instructions had her cutting all the 2" squares diagonally and then sewing the triangle patches together to create two colour half-square triangles. After joining the guild, she learned a quicker method for creating these particular blocks as well as many other 'efficient' piecing techniques. She enjoyed many of the in-house workshops to learn new techniques and patterns, and to work on her projects she went to some of the quilting retreats at Three Bars Ranch and Bull River Guest Ranch. Over the years, Joyce introduced her good friend Barb Archibald, who also enjoyed a variety of crafts, to quilting. Together they would go to the retreats and even go on their own week-long retreats at Barb's various time-shares or a friend's cabin at Tie Lake — the time-share locations took them to Otter Rock (Oregon); Big Sky, Kalispell and Whitefish (Montana); Fairmont and Invermere. On these trips, they would check out the quilt shops and add to their 'stash', plus accomplish a lot of projects.

When Joyce quit smoking in 2015, she "kept her hands busy" with her quilting and sewing projects. She completed single bed quilts for her five grandchildren, and ten quilts for her family, plus baby quilts and more quillows. Her tally is: 22 quillows, 11 queen/king quilts, 13 single or lap quilts, 22 baby quilts and 10 community quilts. Her approach is to celebrate new babies with a quilt and then a quillow for their second Christmas. On registration day she was delivering a quilt to the new baby in the neighbourhood - she and her husband were 'adopted' grandparents. All the gifted pieces carry a tag: *Made with love from Joyce or Mom...*

Joyce joined the guild in 2003 (age 52) and almost immediately acted as the back-up secretary and then as the secretary in 2004-2005. This was at the time when Audrey MacKinnon was President (#053). Generally, Joyce simply has enjoyed participating in the various guild activities - the auctions and the Quilt-till-you-Wilt Saturdays are two favourites. And of course she brought goodies, donated quilts and helped at quilts shows and the multitude of guild "volunteer" opportunities.

Her quilting space started out as a small spare bedroom, and now has expanded out to tables set-up in her rumpus room where she can watch TV while quilting. The bedroom is the storage space for her fabrics and notions. Her machines are a *Singer* and a *Kenmore* - she machine quilts all her creations on a domestic sewing machine! She learned machine quilting through various workshops and sticks to in-the-ditch, and diagonal or wavy lines saying "I'm not good with all that free motion work". Over the past five years, she's switched to doing bindings by machine when she previously did the traditional binding that was hand-stitched on the back. Her favourite pattern is always the "one I'm currently working on!" and her favourite colours are turquoise, pink and purple.

Locally she shops at *Fabricland*. Since it's opening in 1986, Fabricland has supported the area guilds by providing door prizes at the Quilt Shows and for many years offering a "quilters only shopping" event, where even non-Fabricland members can take advantage of reduced pricing (50% off or better) on all their purchases. At the spring 2025 event, a few folks left with *Oliso*

M2pro Mini Project Irons as door prizes. Joyce pre-washes the fabrics before starting a project, except when making a flannel rag quilt.

Quilting has helped Joyce through rough times - quitting smoking and Covid. It brings out her artist soul. She often buys fabric because of the colour or pattern. Then she collects several coordinating colours so she has enough to design a project based on a block pattern that she likes or wants to try - like #139 with the disappearing nine patch block. She would encourage new quilters to join a guild to learn techniques and to meet new people who share their love of quilting.

Quiltmaker	Joyce Louise Thorbergson (nee Beyak)
Date and place of Birth	March 30, 1951 Atikokan, ON
Father Birthplace	Boris Beyak Vita, MN
Mother Birthplace	Marie Winnipeg, MN
Date and place of Marriage	August 2, 1975 Vancouver, BC
Spouse	Dennis Martin Thorbergson
Quiltmaker education	Grade 12
Where quiltmaker lived	Winnipeg, MN; Vancouver, BC; Williams Lake, BC; Vernon, BC; Cranbrook, BC.
Ethnic/Ancestry background	Ukrainian

CQG# 139 - *Floral Panel*

Quiltmaker: Joyce Thorbergson

Owner: Made for Joyce's parents.

Joyce made this quilt with matching shams for her parents - starting it on February 16, 2017 and having it finished on April, 2017! She designed the layout to feature the panel. Joyce did the machine quilting herself. She bought the panel and coordinating fabrics on a trip to Florence, Oregon. She says that she "designed the quilt as she went along and bought the border fabric and backing after making the *disappearing nine patch* blocks" (see FN #036)

Pattern	Designed by Joyce Thorbergson based on floral panel and 'disappearing nine patch' block. Panel: "Garden of Dreams" by Kona Bay, 2013
Date	Specific date: April 2017
Size	L 92½" x W 91"

Overall Style	Finished quilt with pillow shams Medallion (Variation) Repeated blocks
Block	Medallion panel L 40½" x W 21" Feature block: L 12¼" x W 12 ¼", square Brackman #1601a (V) [modern adaptation - disappearing nine patch] Number of blocks: 10 Spacing - On-point w setting triangles
Border or Frame	Frame 1: W 2¾", straight/flanged, Colour: green Frame 2: W 1⅛", straight, Colour: gold Frame 3: W 2⅝", straight, Colour: green Frame 4: W 12½", pieced, [3 sides], feature block as above Frame 5: W 7/8", straight, Colour: blue Frame 6: W 2", straight, Colour: light blue Frame 7: W 5¾", straight, Colour: blue floral Frame 8: W 1⅛", straight, Colour: light blue
Medallion	Panel - L 40½" x W 21" Framed
Edge finishing	Binding: W 5/8", straight, machine front/hand back, Colour: light blue
Batting	80/20
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Panel: oriental flora Motif: flowers, plain solid Feature colours: blue, gold, black Background colour: green Quilt fabric designer: Kona Bay
Top piecing method	Machine piecing
Backing	One fabric, Cotton, Plain weave Feature colour: blue Motif: flowers
Quilting	Domestic Machine Patterns: in-the-ditch, echo, crosshatch Thread colour: navy, green, gold
Condition	Used (has been laundered)
Label	<i>To Mom & Dad Made with love, Joyce April 2017</i>

CQG# 140 - "Sweet Dreams"
Quiltmaker/Owner: Joyce Thorbergson

Joyce isn't sure of the origins of the block - she may have seen it or just made it up herself. She liked the lavender fabric and it was "on sale" so she gathered the pieces to make a coordinated palette. She bought the fabrics locally at *Fabricland*. The bill of sale totals \$151.21 (July 12, 2017). She made this quilt to keep for herself so picked colours that she liked. She started it in September 2017 and completed it two years later - October 2019. Joyce machine quilted her treasure. Fabricland lists fabrics as: Shelly Quilt (purple floral), Poplin Prints (purple/black floral), Heritage Solids (olive greens), Shadows (mottled mauve), and Rachel Prints (white/mauve floral).

Looking closely at this piece, it's noted that Joyce fussy cut the fabric for the half-square triangles to keep the motif going in the same direction on each block! Plus in the layout, each block has the olive green/purple floral cross rotated against the previous block in the row both vertical and horizontal. She designed the sashing after the blocks were made.

Pattern	Designed by Joyce Thorbergson. Traditional sash and block with cornerstones spacing. Block is a variation of "Grandma's Choice" with a star centre
Date	Specific date: October 2019
Size	L 107½" x W 91
Overall style	Finished quilt Sash & Block, Repeated blocks
Block	L 9¾" x 9¾", square Spacing: plain sashing with cornerstones Number of blocks: 56 Brackman #1847 (V) (Grandmas's choice) Directional
Sashing	W 2¾" straight, three pieced strips, Colour: purple, mauve Cornerstone - 2¾" square Colour: purple
Border or Frame	W 2½", straight, one fabric Colour: purple/black print
Edge finishing	Binding: W 5/8", straight, machine front/hand back, square corners Colour: olive green
Batting	80/20
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: flowers, plain/solid Feature colour: white, green, purple, [See above for fabric designer]
Top piecing method	Machine piecing
Novelty techniques	Fussy cutting

Backing	Cotton, plain weave, one fabric Feature colour: purple Motif: flowers
Quilting	Domestic machine Thread colour: purple Patterns: in-the-ditch
Condition	New (fabric have been pre-washed)

CQG# 157 - *Hunter's Star*

Quiltmaker: Joyce Thorbergson

Owner: Daughter/Son-in-law Quiltmaker

Joyce made this quilt specifically to try the *Hunter's Star* block pattern. She used a 'layer cake' - a pre-cut set of 10" patches from one fabric design line. She started it in July of 2018 and completed it in March 2020. Her comment: "it was fun and challenging. Got a lot of experience matching points."

Joyce's pattern was from *Missouri Star Quilt Co* that uses half square triangles and 4-patches, rather than Y seams. When the blocks are connected the *Hunter's Star* emerges. The pattern directions call for 4 packages of 5" squares/charm packs (precuts). Joyce enlarged the piece by adding borders.

Joyce machine quilted the quilt. It was made for her daughter and son-in-law. It has a patterned back so it is reversible.

Pattern	<i>Hunter's Star Pattern</i> by Missouri Star Quilt Co.
Date	Specific date: 2018 - 2020
Size	L 87½" x W 79"
Overall style	Finished quilt Repeated blocks
Block	L 8 ¼" x W 8¼", square Spacing: Connecting blocks/centre intersecting blocks Number of blocks: 42 Brackman #3158 (V) (Indian Arrowhead ~1934) or #1284 (V) (<i>Hunter's Star</i>)

Border or Frame	Border 1: W 1%", straight, one fabric Colour: blue Border 2: W 1¼", pieced rectangles Colour: multiple Top fabrics Border 3: W 1%", straight, one fabric Colour: blue Border 4: W 2⅜", straight, one fabric, Colour: green Border 5: W 1%", straight, one fabric Colour: white Border 6: W 6", straight, one fabric, green
Edge finishing	W ¾", straight, machine front/hand back Colour: green
Batting	Unknown, low loft
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: flowers, novelty, polka dots Featured colours: brown, blue, green, purple, off-white
Top piecing method	Machine piecing
Backing	Pieced blocks Cotton, plain weave Feature colour: green with same fabrics as TOP Motif: modern
Quilting	Domestic machine Thread colour: green Pattern: diagonal lines, echo, outline
Condition	Used (has been laundered)
Label	<i>To Tianna & Chris Made with love From Mom 2020</i>