

Lynn Zak: CQG#069,070,071

When Lynn joined the Cranbrook Guild in 2004, she had been quilting for 6 years. Her initiation came about in 1998. She had recently retired as a Realtor, when friends Sharon Petruk, Ileane Sampert and Icille Pighin (all guild members) invited her to go to Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, for a quilt show. On being awed by the display she determined: "This is what I want to do in my retirement!". At the time she and Brian were moving to the coast where she conveniently settled only minutes from *Wineberry Fabrics* in Surrey. Lynn started taking classes at *Wineberry*, discovered how much she enjoyed the art, joined the *Peach Arch Quilters* group, accumulated a stash of fabrics and patterns, discovered the *Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show* and eventually moved back to Cranbrook. Like many quilters, she came from a sewing background. Prior to her move to Cranbrook in 1990 and her adventures in real estate, Lynn had owned a fabric shop and taught classes on parka making ala Linda MacPhee (macphee workshop.com) in Whitecourt, AB, and MacKenzie (BC).

For a time, Lynn lived between Cranbrook and South Surrey/Whiterock travelling to and from every two weeks, at first in a sporty PT Cruiser and later in a truck as she needed more luggage room for her and her dog. Her "dedication" was such that she timed her travels to mesh with Guild meetings (and "Kootenay Ice" hockey games) in Cranbrook, and the Peace Arch Quilters meetings in South Surrey. The Cranbrook Guild reaped the benefits of Lynn's vast experience. Immediately that she joined, Lynn co-chaired the 2005 Quilt Show with Ileane Sampert and Sharon Petruk. Then with Linda Wesley and Juananne Wales, she took on the job of Programs Coordinator (2005 - 6). With fellow member, Wendy Litz, Lynn again acted as Program Coordinator (2007- 9) and then workshops coordinator (2013-15). Lynn's contributions were many. Highlights were that she introduced members to Judy Niemeyer (*Quiltworx*) patterns and still generously walks quilters through the intricacies of these foundation paper pieced gems. Also, each year Lynn went to workshops at Sisters, Oregon as part of the *Sister's Outdoor Quilt Show* and brought ideas back like the "Mystery Quilt". She taught two sessions: one a two colour, and the other a three colour. The idea is that you start with metres of two/three complementary fabrics and in two days you make a twin-size top without seeing the actual pattern product until the last moments of the class. The teacher divvies out the instructions one line at a time. Lynn decided to retire from the guild in 2017, but is still an active planner of quilting activities.

Lynn still organizes a twice-yearly retreat for quilters at the *Bull River Guest Ranch*. All this work might be 'self-serving' as these weekends are a highlight of Lynn's quilting year. She started these in her guild years and just kept them going. Another highlight is that for 22 years, she and Brian travelled to Sisters, OR, for the *Sister's Outdoor Quilt Show*. The trip became a two week quilting adventure for Lynn involving a week of classes, the show, and then a week with a group of quilting friends that she had met through the show and who all rented cottages beside the Metolius River - the men fly fished or golfed and the women quilted (see #071). A lesser activity now is the local library's 'Crop Weekend', where Lynn and her quilter friends can easily gather without haven't to be part of the planning.

Lynn is still a prolific quilter. She's completed at least 150 pieces, mainly quilts, all of which she has machine quilted; so she makes the quilt from start to finish, with the last step being the hand-stitching of the binding. She has a rack of 30 tops to machine quilt on either her domestic *Janome Horizon*, or her *HQ Sweet 16* sit-down or her *HQ Simply 16* mid-arm on a 10 foot frame. Lynn stitches-in-the-ditch on her domestic machine, or free motion quilts on her sit-down machine and uses pantographs on her frame. Her very first quilt was a four block, 'sash and block' traditional sampler in earth tones that she machine quilted. Having sampled all the various technique styles/fabrics of the past 27 years, she prefers the foundation paper pieced designs of *Quiltworx* and likes to use batik fabrics in brighter tones - the purple and turquoise

hues. She owns “a stack” of the Quiltworx pattern collection. Locally Lynn has taken on the task of organizing workshops with Martha Penner, a certified Quiltworx instructor. At these workshops, Martha helps quilters with the pattern of their choice and with any required revisions due to pattern updates as Mary Lindquist needed (see #017).

Her large basement quilting space is coveted: Two rooms - one with a 5' x 10' table and the other with her mid-arm and frame. The surrounding cupboards and drawers hold her fabric stash. One drawer is full of blocks, and UFO projects from two years of taking in the *Western Washington Shop Hop* with quilters from the Peace Arch Group. Each shop gave a block pattern and fabric. One year they stopped at 25 shops in one day. The next was a two day trip to 38 shops. Another spot holds scrappy, hand pieced, stars made by her maternal grandmother (Brackman # 3735a Eight Point Star Simple Star ~ 1928). On display are four pristine vintage Featherweight sewing machines and a William treadle machine.

Lynn now ‘shops’ in her stash, as do her quilting friends (aka “the Vultures”), and frequents the local *Sugartown Quilt Company* for quilting thread and the extra fabrics she needs. She has enjoyed collecting fabrics on all her trips. Originally the cost of a yard of quilter’s cotton was USD \$7, and is now is about USD \$12-15: close to par with Canadian prices. *JoANN Fabrics (US)* was a great source of batting. Quilting has taken her to a lot of interesting places including to Paducah, KN, and the home of the *National Quilt Museum*, and to a *Longarm Quilter Conference* in Utah with Juananne Wales, where she heard Angela Walter’s speak on free-motion quilting.

As quilters do, Lynn has donated quilts to the many causes including community quilts through the guild, for victims of Hurricane Katrina organized by Juananne Wales, and the 9-11 attack in New York, where she and two colleagues collection quilts from all over BC.

Her work has been displayed at the guild’s quilt shows, at the Eureka Outdoor Quilt Show and at the Sister’s Outdoor Quilt Show. She has sold three pieces; “people don’t want to buy quilts for what they cost to make”. Lynn names and labels her creations with the details on a piece of muslin.

Quiltmaker	Lynn Frances Zak (nee Groves)
Date and Place of Birth	January 19, 1950 Victoria, BC
Father Occupation Birthplace	John Ernest Groves Police Officer Calgary, AB
Mother Occupation Birthplace	Rebecca May Francis Homemaker East Portal, SK
Date and Place of Marriage	October 23, 1971 Victoria, BC
Spouse Occupation	James Brian Zak Forestry Manager & Consultant
Quiltmaker’s Occupation	Forest Service worker, Fabric Store Owner, Realtor, Sewing Teacher

Children	2 daughters
Education of Quiltmaker	Grade 12
Where quiltmaker lived	Victoria, BC; Campbell River, BC; Lake Cowichan, BC; Grand Cache, AB; Whitecourt, AB, MacKenzie, BC; Maple Ridge, BC; South Surrey, BC; Cranbrook, BC.
Ethnic/ancestry background	English/Welsh, and 1/4 American

1/4"

CQG #069: Sisters

Quiltmaker/owner: Lynn Zak

Sisters is a photo-memory quilt. The idea came from a course that Lynn took at the *Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show* with Sandy Bonsib, and her book *Quilting Your Memories*. This wall-hanging quilt was made for Lynn and Brain's daughter to remember her time with her sister who died. Lynn had the photos printed on fabric at a photoshop close to Wineberry Fabrics in Surrey. Bonsib encouraged quilters to "stitch a personal tribute to people and events in your life". For now, it is in Lynn's studio.

Pattern	Self-designed based on the book: <i>Quilting Your Memories</i> by Sandy Bonsib: Martingale and Company, 1999.
Subject	Photographs of two girls at various ages
Date	Specific date: June 2001
Size	L 42 1/4" x W 28 1/4"
Overall style	Wallhanging, pictorial
Blocks	Feature block: L 9 1/2" x W 9 1/2" Secondary block: L 7 1/2" x W 9" Shape: Square & rectangle, non-pieced, side by side 12 blocks
Border	W 2", Colour: blue, rose, 2 fabrics, straight
Edge finishing	Binding: 1/4", machine front/hand back
Batting	Cotton, low loft
Top Fabric	Cotton, plain weave Photos on cotton fabric Motif: batik Feature colour: rosy/purple, blue
Top - piecing method	Machine
Embellishments	Photo transfer

Backing	One fabric and one photo block Fabric: cotton, plain weave Motif: batik Feature colour: rosy/purple
Quilting	Machine, in-the-ditch Cotton thread, Colour: purple/blue
Condition	Unused
Label	Block and pocket (for a letter) Photo “ <i>Made with much love for Tiffany from her mum June 2001</i> ”
Comments	Hanging sleeve Photo on the back of parents

CQG #070: PT Cruisers Rock
Quiltmaker/Owner: Lynn Zak

Lynn made this quilt with quilter eight friends from the *Peace Arch Quilters* group. The idea was that each person had two months to make a row for one other member using themes from their quilting exploits, then she would pass the “top” to one of the other eight, until each member had a top with seven rows. Lynn chose the name *PT Cruisers Rock* as initially when she was commuting between Cranbrook and the coast she drove her sporty PT Cruiser. $1\frac{1}{2}$ ” $\frac{3}{8}$ ”

Pattern	Row quilt self-designed by the quilters listed on the label
Subject	Quilting themed blocks
Date	Started 2003; completed 2005
Size	L $70\frac{1}{2}$ " x W $54\frac{1}{2}$ "
Overall style	Finished quilt. Row quilt with unusual blocks. Varied blocks/row. Horizontal strips
Blocks	33 themed blocks of various sizes in rows
Sashing	W $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", straight
Border/frame	W $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " flange, one fabric
Edge finishing	Binding $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (not filled with quilt) Machine front/hand back
Batting	Warm and natural cotton, low loft

Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: novelty, mottled colours Feature colours: blue, gold, red Background colours: multi-tones
Top - piecing method	Machine appliquéd Machine
Embellishments	Buttons, small clothes-pins, gold pin Embroidery Novelty materials
Appliquéd	Motifs: novelty Method: raw edge fused/machine stitched, hand embroidered sentiments & mice squares
Backing	Pieced backing, three fabrics Hanging sleeve Fabric: cotton, plain weave Motif: novelty (sewing notions theme) Feature colour: blue, cream, mauve, pink, teal
Quilting	Machine (domestic) Patterns: in-the-ditch, outline/echo and meander Cotton and invisible thread
Condition	Unused, like new
Label	Hand printed <i>PT Cruisers Rock</i> <i>Diane Sentra Jan 2003</i> <i>Sewing machine, coffee & friend to quilt with -</i> <i>Rosemary McLean March 2003</i> <i>Happy Days - Maureen Moore Sept 2003</i> <i>More & More Marilyn Good Nov 2003</i> <i>Quilting 9 Patch, Debbie Wickstrom Feb 2004</i> <i>Quilt Till You Wilt, Pat Lundman</i> <i>PT Quilter, Lynn Zak. April 2005</i>

CQG # 071: Suns of Metolius
Quiltmaker/Owner: Lynn Zak

The layout of this quilt is Lynn's design. Each quilter of the 15 that 'camped' together in the cottages by the Metolius River during the *Sister's Outdoor Quilt Show* in July, made a "sun block" between summers. Then the group drew one name as the winner of the blocks. The real winner passed the blocks to Lynn as, on hindsight, nobody really wanted to take on the job of making the quilt. Lynn had to adjust some blocks and create setting blocks/pieced sashing to make the blocks fit. The quilt is a nice memento of those grand weeks together.

Pattern	Block pattern from Valori Wells' New York Beauty Quilts called "Firefly", circa 2004.
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Subject	Suns
Date	Completed 2009 (2000-2015)
Size	L 74¾" x W 60"
Overall style	Non-traditional blocks, improv layout with setting sashing strips/blocks.
Block	Varied sized rectangles between L 13¾" to 14¼" x W 9¾". Floating Brackman # 3314v (stylized on rectangle block) (Lattice Fan, Aunt Martha Workbasket, 1941) 16 blocks
Sashing	Random pieced, setting sashing pieces W 1½" to 4¾" x block width/length Machine pieced geometric templates
Border	1. Accent: W ⅜", Colour: white with black star motif, one fabric 2. W 2 ¾", Colour: black with white polka dots, one fabric
Edge finishing	Binding: W ½", straight, machine front/hand back Colour: multiple short strips of the fabrics in the top
Batting	Warm and natural, low loft
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: batik, flowers, polka dots, geometric, novelty Feature colours: black, white, green, red, pink, yellow, orange, turquoise, purple, navy Background colour: black with white polka dots
Top piecing method	Foundation paper piecing Machine
Backing	Vertical pieced, two fabrics, cotton, plain weave Feature colour: black with white polka dots
Quilting	Machine, domestic Thread: Cotton, black, white Patterns: in-the-ditch, meander, curved lines (echo)
Condition	Unused

Label	<p>Hand printed “Suns of the Metolius” Pieced by Lynn Zak Mary Reynolds, Michele Dore, Kitty Smaral, Marsha Linstad, Jill McKenny, Sue Strauss, Shirley Massaro, Sue Fox, Marilyn Parks, Jane Oliver, Emily Thompson, Donna Warfield, Linda Bullock, Marianne Marks, Linda Houston. Quilted by Lynn Zak Completed May 2009</p>
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