

Ruth Gilbert - CQG# 096 - 103, and 120-126

Ruth is the maker of many, many, quilts. She estimates that she has made about 160 quilts. Ruth joined the guild in the fall of 2023 and is an avid participant of the 'Worker Bee Wednesday's' and 'Tuesday Morning Quilting' with Donna Bernhardt. She taught the in-house workshop on cuddle capes (see CQG#102). Ruth has probably shown a finished piece at every guild meeting since joining. Her most recent (Winter 2025) full-size quilt is documented under the *Workshop: Colorado Star Log Cabin (CQG#096)*.

Ruth started quilting in 1994. Her interest was peaked when she saw some quilts at a fair. She took a "sampler quilt" class through a shop in Mundare, AB, *The Chicken Coop*. This was a year long project where participants made one block a month. The queen size quilt was pink, purple and green and longarm quilted at the quilt shop. Ruth's daughter has this quilt. Sadly, Ruth can't convince her daughters to sew.

Since her retirement, Ruth quilts about 2-4 hours a day, four days a week. Now her space is part of her living room and kitchen, with her sizeable stash and book collection housed in floor to ceiling shelving. An ironing board is in the hall with her design board that occupies a wall. She also has a sewing space in her basement - but the living room space is light and airy. For Ruth quilting is an artistic outlet and was a great stress reliever when caring for her ill husband over the past nine years. It has helped her through some rough times: "I have to concentrate so I can't think about other things. My grief would be worse without quilting". Ruth likes to "get out and Meet people" so she joins the guild activities and takes workshops. She generally quilts by herself at home anytime the urge strikes day or "sleepless" night.

Her attitude is obvious in the array of pieces that she registered: if I see something I like, I do it. She likes older style patterns and appliqué. She once bought a bolt of an alphabet panel that she loved and made 15 baby quilts. Ruth makes quilts for all the usual reasons: home use, special occasions, gifts, charity. Of the 12 completed quilts at home, five will go to her immediate family, six to her brothers, and one to her sister.

Ruth exhibited pieces when she lived in Vegreville, AB. She helped organize the quilt shows, but no prizes were given out. She sells the occasional piece if she is asked to make a quilt and the asker is willing to pay her price.

Her preferred colours are muted or soft tones - greens and beiges. She has a sizeable stash of fabric and kits. She mostly uses yardage over pre-cuts, all 100% cotton, and a lot of batik. She has a few favourite shops though sadly the one in Parksville, *Sweetpea Quilts*, has closed so she won't be visiting it on this spring's trip to the Island. Ruth has a member card for *Fabricland* and she enjoys the selection at *SugarTown Quilts* here in Cranbrook. Her approach is to check her stash first, take those pieces to the quilt shop, and add what is needed.

Ruth's main sewing machine is a *Husqvarna Interlude 445 electronic*. She has a *Brother* electronic quilting machine model for classes and two 'loved' antique machines. She talks about machine quilting "by cheque", meaning that she pays to have some larger pieces quilted mainly with edge-to-edge pantographs at an average cost of \$250. Small items she quilts on her domestic machine using stitch-in-the-ditch and recently some free motion that she learned through books, trial and error, and practice on small quilt sandwiches. She favours a traditional binding - sewn by machine to the front, mitred corners and hand-stitched to the back. She only pre-washes reds because they are the worst for 'bleeding'.

Ruth also hand-quilts on a floor frame, but only pieces that she has hand-pieced. A current project is an EPP (English Paper Pieced) Grandmother's Flower Garden style top. She takes the hexagons along for something to do when travelling.

As to who will inherit pieces that she hasn't given away, Ruth says she will see who of the family might want the piece. If nobody wants it, then it can be donated.

Quilter	Ruth Lillian Gilbert (nee Russell)
Date and Place of Birth	October 16, 1956 Winnipeg, MB
Father Occupation Birthplace	Normal Russell Road Construction Manitoba
Mother Occupation Birthplace	Florence Ridley Housewife Manitoba
Date and Place of Marriage	March 24, 2012 Vegreville, AB
Spouse Occupation	Pavol Peter Bartek (Paul) Mine Manager (deceased)
Quiltmaker Occupation	Immigration Officer (retired)
Children	3 daughters
Education of Quiltmaker	Grade 12
Where quiltmaker lived	Eriksdale, MN; Winnipeg, MN; Vegreville, AB; Marysville, BC; Cranbrook, BC.
Ethnic/Ancestry Background	English/German

CQG #097: Double Wedding Ring  
Quiltmaker/Owner: Ruth Gilbert

Ruth made this quilt for her wedding - "I was getting married again and I knew I wouldn't get one from someone else". She kept these nuptials low key. It took almost a year to create because of the 'template' method she used for piecing the top. She saw a picture in a magazine that included the templates. The fabric was bought at the *Jasper National Park Quilt Shop*; soft pastels from two jelly rolls and yardage of the melon and green fabric for the centres. Her new husband saw the fabrics, but not the quilt until it was completed. It was machine quilted on a *Sweet 16* mid-arm machine on a frame by Dana Stewart of the *Chicken Coop Quilting Shop* in Mundare, AB, as a wedding gift.

Pattern	<i>Double Wedding Ring</i> is a "vintage quilt" pattern in the public domain. The pattern dates to the late 1920s. (Brackman # 303)
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Date	Specific date: April-Dec 2013
Size	L 99½" x W 76 ½"
Overall style	Finished quilt Repeated blocks, Scalloped edge
Block	L 16⅞" x 16⅞" Circular (arches with plain centre) 48 blocks set side-by-side, Brackman #303: Wedding Ring (McKim 1929)
Edge finishing	Binding: W⅜", Scalloped Colour: red with white polka dots Machine front, hand back
Batting	80/20, low loft
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: flowers, polka dots, strips Featured colours: pastels, brown, green, pink, red, yellow Background colour: cream/white print
Top piecing method	Machine pieced Template (paper) patterns
Backing	One fabric, cotton, plain weave Feature colour: beige Motif: flowers
Quilting	Mid/Longarm Machine Pattern: edge-to-edge panto
Label	Hand-printed <i>Double Wedding Ring</i> <i>April - Dec 2013</i> <i>Made by Ruth Gilbert</i>

CQG#098: Irish Chain Nine Patch  
Quiltmaker/Owner: Ruth Gilbert

*Single Irish Chain* patterns are still a popular design for quilt tops. It is a vintage design like it's sister the *Double Irish Chain* (Brackman#1013 circa~Ladies Art Company 1895). They come together relatively quickly and allow the quilting (hand or domestic/longarm machine) to shine in the settling blocks or negative space. Ruth has made this pattern before. This piece was longarm quilted by Brenda Augustine.

Pattern	<i>Single Irish Chain (Nine Patch)</i> is a vintage quilt pattern in the public domain. Circa ~ 1920
Date	Specific date: Spring 2023
Size	L 91" x W 94"

Overall Style	Finished Quilt Repeated blocks
Block	L 12¾" x 12¾", square with same size setting blocks Brackman# 1606a: Single Irish Chain Number of blocks: 36
Border/Frame	Border 1: W 1½", One fabric, Colour: teal Border 2: W 5¼", One fabric, Colour: teal/ turquoise. Pieced: piano keys with cornerstones
Edge finishing	Binding: W ¾", straight, machine front/hand back
Batting	Warm & Natural, Low loft
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: batik Feature colour: blue, cream, green, teal, turquoise Background colour: blue grey
Top piecing method	Machine
Backing	One fabric, cotton, plain weave Motif: Batik, polka dot Feature colour: blue, white
Quilting	Mid/longarm Machine Thread: variegated green Pattern: edge-to-edge panto (stars & swirls)
Condition	Unused

CQG#099 - Country Hollow  
Quiltmaker/Owner: Ruth Gilbert

This piece shows the beauty and symmetry of selective fabric placement in two simple blocks: Sister's Choice and 25 Patch. The simple quilting allows the blocks to take centre stage like a traditional sash and block pattern. Ruth sent the quilt to Brenda Augustine, a former guild member, to be quilted.

Pattern	Name: <i>Country Hollow</i> . Blocks in public domain: Sisters Choice (Brackman #1930) and 25 Patch (Brackman# 2279)
Subject	Stars and Crosses
Date	Specific date: September 2022
Size	L 80½" x 82"
Overall Style	Finished Quilt Repeated blocks, Sash & Block with Cornerstones

Block	<p>Feature block 1: L 10½" x 10½", square; Brackman #1930: Sister's Choice/Star and Cross (circa 1895) Number of blocks: 13</p> <p>Feature block 2: L 10½" x 10½", square; Brackman #2279: Building Blocks Number of block: 12</p> <p>Plain sashing, sashing cornerstones Total Number of blocks: 25</p>
Sashing	<p>W 2", colour: white Cornerstones: 2" square, colour: blue</p>
Border/frame	<p>Border 1: W 2", pieced 2" squares, colour:purple teal, multi fabrics Border 2: W 2", colour: white with 2" square blue cornerstones Border 3: W 3 ¼", one fabric, colour: teal</p>
Edge finishing	Binding: ½", straight, machine front/hand back
Batting	80/20, low loft
Top fabric	<p>Cotton, plain weave Motif: batik Feature colour: blue, mauve Background colour: white</p>
Top piecing method	Machine
Backing	<p>One fabric, cotton, plain weave Feature colour: mauve Motif: brush strokes</p>
Quilting	<p>Mid/Longarm Machine Thread colour: Mauve (probable polyester) Pattern: edge-to-edge panto (stars &amp; swirls)</p>
Condition	Unused
Label	<p>Hand printed <i>Made by Ruth Gilbert</i> <i>Top stitched by Brenda Augustine</i> <i>Cranbrook, BC. Sept 2022</i></p>

CQG#100: Heart of the Home  
 Quiltmaker/Owner: Ruth Gilbert

Ruth has several kits she has yet to start. She ordered this “block-of-the month quilt-along kit” online. The theme “Heart of the Home” caught her attention. It was advertised as a ‘whimsical take on a classic design’. Louise Dunn, a fellow guild member, quilted this piece her HQ 16.

Pattern	<i>Heart of the Home Quilt A Long</i> : “American Patchwork and Quilting”, Feb-Apr 2024. Designer: Sherri McConnell.
Subject	Log Cabin with centre block of “home” symbols: Heart, Star, and House
Date	Specific date: July 2024
Size	L 71¾” x W 71⅝”
Overall Style	Finished quilt Sash & Block Log Cabin block with non-traditional centre
Block	L 11” x W 11”, square, pieced centre (Heart, Star, House) Plain sashing, sashing cornerstones Number of blocks: 25 Brackman# 2573(v) - (centre block pieced)
Sashing	W 1¼”, Colour: white Cornerstones: 1¼” x 1¼”, Colour: multi
Border/frame	Border 1: W 1½”, one fabric, white Border 2: W 3½”, one fabric, multi
Edge finishing	Binding: ⅝” straight, machine front/hand back
Batting	80/20, low loft
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: Flowers, plaid Feature colour: coral, green, pink, orange, yellow Background colour: white (prints, plain/solid) Quilt Fabric Designer: Moda (Strawberry Lemonade by Sherri & Chelsi)
Top piecing method	Machine
Backing	One fabric, Unknown - like Minky Fabric microfiber (polyester) Plain weave Feature Colour: cream Motif: plain/solid

Quilting	Mid/Longarm machine Thread: polyester, Colour: cream Pattern: all over design, feathers
Condition	Unused

CQG#101: North Star  
Quiltmaker/Owner: Ruth Gilbert

Ruth and a few other members made this piece “for fun” at an in-house workshop facilitated by Donna Bernhardt as one of her “Tuesday Morning’s with Donna” projects. Some members stopped at the centre star and made table-toppers, and a few completed the quilt. Ruth added borders to make her’s larger. Ruth made two of this pattern for the beds in her spare room. *North Star* is another piece that Ruth had quilted by fellow guild member Louise Dunn.

Pattern	<i>North Star</i> by Missouri Star Quilt Company, 2018
Date	Specific date: 2024
Size	L 75” x W 75”
Overall Style	Finished lap quilt Repeated blocks, Medallion/Frame
Block	L 10½” x 10½”, square, side-by-side Number of blocks: 36
Border/Frame	Border 1: W 1”, one fabric, Colour: cream Border 2: W 4 ¾”, one fabric, Colour: green
Edge finishing	Binding: W ½”, straight, machine front/hand back, Colour: green batik
Batting	80/20, Low loft
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: batik Feature colour: Cream, Green Background colour: Off-White
Top piecing method	Machine
Backing	One fabric, cotton, plain weave Flannel Feature colour: green Motif: geometric
Quilting	Machine - Mid/Longarm Thread: polyester, Colour: beige Pattern: edge-to-edge panto

Condition	Unused
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CQG#102: Quilted Hug Reading Cape  
 Quiltmaker/Owner: Ruth Gilbert

A number of guild members joined Ruth on a Tuesday morning's to make "cuddle capes" in the fall of 2024. Those modelling their creations at the guild's show-and-tell were: Hazel MacDonald, Betty Wardle, Mary Lindquist, Ruth Gilbert, Brenda Arnold, Donna Bernhardt and Betty Valin. Most were made for personal use or as gifts. Adding these capes to the guild's donation list would make it an obligation. The lap quilts the guild donates serve a similar purpose.

Pattern	<i>Quilted Hug Shawl/Cape or Project</i> free pattern on various sites through Pinterest or Facebook (2025).
Specific date	November 2024
Size	Non-traditional piece: ~ L 32" x W 66"
Overall Style	Finished quilted clothing Horizontal Stripes
Edge finishing	Binding: $\frac{3}{8}$ ", shaped/curved, Colour: white Machine front/hand back
Batting	80/20, low loft
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: Novelty (reading themes) Feature Colour: blue, cream, green
Top piecing method	Machine
Embellishment	"Frog" closure
Backing	One fabric, cotton, plain weave Flannel Feature colour: green, purple, rose Motif: flowers
Quilting	Domestic Machine Thread: Cotton, Blue/Pink Variegated Pattern: Echo
Condition	Unused

CQG\$103: Garden Melody Jacket  
 Quiltmaker/Owner: Ruth Gilbert

Quilted clothing is becoming popular, and shops are now offering workshops. There are two styles: those pieces made from "thrifed" quilts that are cut up like standard dressmaking, and those where the sewer makes the quilted fabric specific to pattern pieces. This is one of two



jackets that Ruth has constructed by making the quilted fabric. She wears both jackets in the cooler weather.

Pattern	<i>Garden Melody Jacket</i> by “Judy Murrah’s Jacket Jackpot”, The Patchwork Place, Martingale & Company, Woodinville, WA, 2003, p.30
Date	Specific date: November 2024
Size	Women’s Jacket size large
Overall Style	Clothing (Non-Traditional Piece) Non-square blocks, repeated blocks, varied blocks
Block	<p><u>Jacket Front</u> - (R) 4 ¼” quarter Log Cabin, non-pieced feature fabric; curved sashing from jacket back, W ¾ (L) 10 ½” Log Cabin. Side-by-Side</p> <p><u>Jacket Back</u> - Bargello pattern (strip) to mid-back, non-pieced feature fabric. Curved/shaped sashing across back to (R) front, W ¾”</p> <p><u>Jacket Sleeves</u>: 5 ¼” 60° pieced diamonds (strip/plain), Side-by-Side</p>
Border/Frame	Cuffed sleeve: W 1 ¼”, Colour: multi
Edge finishing	Binding: ¾”, curved (shaped to jacket opening) Machine front/hand back
Batting/filling	Light weight fusible, cotton muslin (foundation)
Top fabric (jacket front & back)	Cotton, plain weave Motif: Asian flowers Feature colour: blue, green. mauve, purple
Top piecing method	Strip (Bargello) Machine Appliqué (raw edge)
Embellishments and Appliqué	Woven ribbon, Flowers, leaves, stem/outline Appliqué method: raw edge fused, machine stitched
Backing (Jacket lining)	Cotton, plain weave, vertical pieced Specific fabric: Muslin Feature colour: white Motif: plain/solid
Quilting	Domestic Machine (minimal) Pattern: top stitched
Condition	Used (has been laundered)

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