

Verge

Sky arcs overhead
where the light and darkness meet
and joining, summer

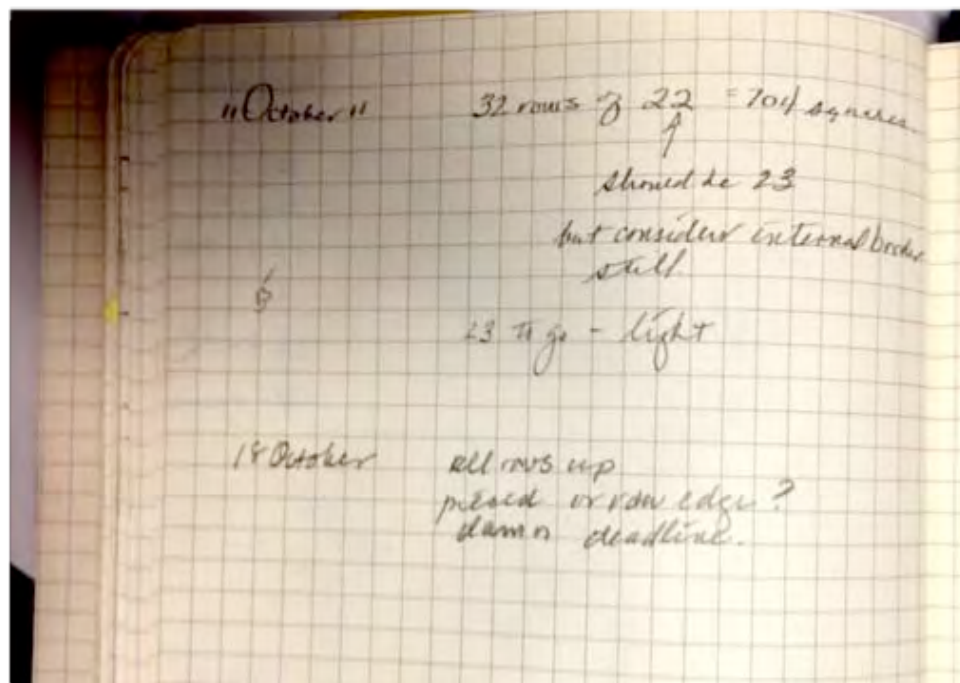


Mary Beth Frezon

A machine quilter,
Herder of cats, love fruitcake
A haiku writer.

15 September 2011	<p>“Dear Mary Beth, Congratulations! We’re very pleased to inform you that you are one of 38 artists selected, from the 147 who submitted 588 images for consideration, to create a work of quilt art for the SAQA special exhibition Seasonal Palette. The exhibition will premiere at International Quilt Festival Houston November 1-4, 2012, preview October 31, 2012.”</p> <p>Seasonal assignment to follow. Guess you know what you’ll be hearing about over the coming year lol.</p>
28 September 2011	<p>So it turns out there’s only 6 months to make the seasonal quilt for the SAQA exhibit I’d mentioned a couple weeks ago rather than the 12 indicated in the prospectus. Spent a couple days pondering and asking about this and feeling like I’m the only one who is concerned. Maybe it’s just that cutting, arranging and sewing all those pieces does actually take some time. Or the fact that I work a day job. Or that... well you get the idea.</p> <p>My original notes for this project show that it would take at least 1092 squares. Probably more since the instructions say no borders and I’d need to make it larger to be sure it finished to the correct size (I tend to lose a couple inches due to quilting like a maniac).</p> <p>So my next mission is to try and rethink my plan to see if that’s a reasonable timeframe and without blowing all my vacation and sleep time.</p> <p>Meanwhile... no one else seems to be talking about it, LOL...</p>
29 September 2011	<p>...Now I’m finishing the bottom sleeve (of Ten Years On) and I just pinned on the label. The end is nigh. I’m pondering the whole seasonal palette thing while stitching. Apparently I wasn’t the only thing who asked about the shorter time frame. Anyway, it will be nice to finish this one.</p>
5 October 2011	<p>Cutting (and finding) of many green strips continues. Pretty confident I have enough darks. Not so confident about the lights. What if I have to buy more lights?? Oh noes!!!</p> <p>Then of course these will have to get cut into squares. That goes pretty quickly.</p> <p>Pooped. I’m going to crawl into bed. I’ve got biga and poolish ready for pizza and bread. There might be some kitchen time tomorrow.</p>
8 October 2011	<p>It's a funny thing. Today I created 50 stacks of different "dark" fabrics. A few of them I was half-hearted about. I don't really have a way to handle or store that many stacks. There were a couple too many browns. Maybe too many mediums.</p> <p>So I did what any self-respecting quilter would do: I rummaged in the stash and pulled and ironed a bunch more choices!</p>
9 October 2011	<p>Sometimes, in the middle of doing what many would consider mindless and boring, you realize that you’re actually paying some important bits of attention.</p> <p>For example, if you’re cutting long strips into squares, it pays to use the previous cut to rest the back end of the ruler on. That way you can press straight down on the cutting side and your rotary cutter is more likely to cut perpendicular to the mat, making all the pieces the same size.</p> <p>Ok and a good movie helps get it done too.</p>

10 October 2011	<p>Well it seemed like I had an overwhelming number of green fabrics, 60+ darks and about 40 lights. Not so much in the overwhelming number department it turns out, at least not in the darks. A few rows of sticking squares up on the wall till I switch over to lights.</p> <p>Looks ok though. I am just trying to get it up there on the wall so I can decide if that's going to work.</p>
10 October 2011	<p>OK, so 32 rows of dark to medium-dark greens up on the wall. There are a couple spots I know I'll fiddle with but I'm happy with it overall. I'm going to have to condense it a bit in order to get the rest of the rows up there so I want to take a couple decent photos of what's there now. There are some greens and blues that just aren't built for photographing. I'm actually going to haul my nikon up there to see what that makes of some of those colors. It's so much mushier and darker than what the panasonic sees. Very odd. But still and all, it's on the wall and underway and that's what matters.</p>
13 October 2011	<p>Tomorrow: iPhone 4s launch.</p> <p>Today: much talking.</p> <p>Tonight: put more squares up on the wall. Have almost half the light color squares up now and I'll have to compress the ones above because I'm out of room.</p> <p>I like the stuff that's in the wall, but I wish I could make the quilt I had in mind instead.</p>
15 October 2011	<p>Greens Putting Away Dept: It gets rummaged It gets put away. It's all part of the fondling process.</p>
18 October 2011	<p>I think that's as many rows as I need to allow for quilting take up. I'll check but I think there is supposed to be one more column.</p>
18 October 2011	<p>Spent a chunk of today sticking the final squares up on the wall. Added the column I'd left off, to give me a bit of leeway for squaring up the whole thing to size. It's very very hard to do all this piecing and presumably a lot of quilting and have it come out to the required size without some way to trim it down at the very end. Not my preferred thing, for sure.</p> <p>Anyway. My next decision before starting to sew has to be to stick with a modified version of my original twelve month long plan and piece in the bits of yellow or go with some other attack like raw edge applique or whatever. I guess I'll have to ponder a bit – starting out piecing and then wishing I'd pieced in the bits would be non-productive.</p>



25 October 2011


I'm still in the pondering phase of how to do a reasonable facsimile of my quilt plan in the shortened amount of time and no path is pulling ahead towards a win there.

14 November 2011


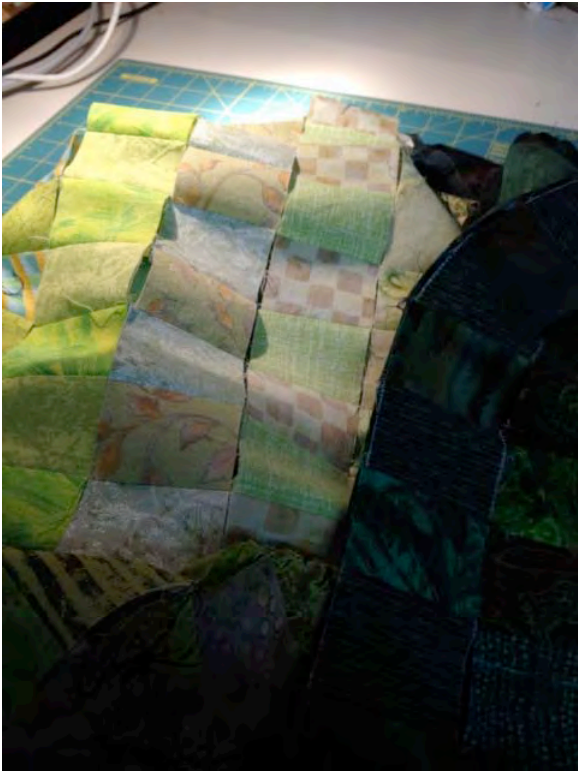
Still plugging away at the NaNoWriMo goals. The progress bar at right works and updates a couple times a day. The story is coming along. I'm really sticking with the notion of this being pure first draft run-through. No pressure.

On the quilt front I'm really struggling with this seasonal palette quilt. Makes me sad and angry not to make the quilt I'd intended because of the time restraint. Right now I'm doing the boring bit of taking down the squares and stacking them up for sewing. Boring and boring.




15 November 2011	<p>On the one hand, my stacks of squares are all lined up and ready to start sewing. The only thing to ponder there is what color thread to use for the piecing – dark, light, in between? Miles of sewing, two inches at a time. This is the grunt work part of making quilts – the repetitive stuff that is part meditation and part “get on with it already so I can see it done.” The balance between the work and impatience to see the work done.</p> <p>On the other hand I’ve racked up 28272 words in the fields of NaNoWriMo which just shocks the heck out of me. ...snip...</p> <p>My quilting is all about working with light and color and texture. I make it up out of my head and do my best to put it out there as fabric and thread. I think that all parts of it have some design function, but it’s so a part of me now that I don’t think of it so much in those terms.</p> <p>This writing stuff feels different. The design work part feels much more sustained and in my face all the time. Get idea, write it all down, wonder what the next part has, write that down, repeat. Wonder what’s going to happen next. What could happen next. What should be the big thing that the second part is working towards and how the heck is that going to happen? (OK there’s a lot of OMG’ing that could be happening during commutes etc but I really try not to think about it too much!)</p> <p>So both things: fun but different. I’m glad I am doing both things. Next up – a lot of piecing. Maybe I’ll figure out the part two thing while watching the pieces go by.</p>
	(Pause to Finish National Novel Writing Month, wherein I wrote 50,000 words of a new novel between November 1 and November 29, 2011. First time participant, First time winner!)
2 December 2011	<p>Finally made it into the sewing room tonight, but frankly despite trying to distract myself with favorite playlists, I was missing my story and the characters.</p> <p>Got four columns sewn together. Nineteen more to go. And then the rows.</p>
2 December 2011	
6 December 2011	Sixteen down, seven columns to go.


7 December 2011	<p>Halfway sewn:</p> <p>Too big to hang on wall without some problems. Good thing it's going to get smaller.</p> <p>In the last couple columns I had to replace three or four squares for things like a flaw, wrong size, missing altogether. Good thing I had some extras!</p> <p>Good thing it's time to go to sleep!</p>
7 December 2011	<p>Mind Games and Thoughts Thereon:</p> <p>Last night as I got to the last few columns of pieces to sew together, I turned the iPhone to shuffle the English Country Dance Playlist and played "Name that Dance Tune" to pass the time. Here's the take home message from listening to a couple hours of random dance tunes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are dance tunes for which I can instantly give you the dance title. • There are dances which I can not only tell you the name, but a clear memory of when I learned it or did it. • There are dances that I don't connect the tune, figures or name, but I can tell you that I learned it in a particular pavilion of Pinewoods Camp. • There are dance tunes I can tell if they belong to a set dance or a longways. • There are dance tunes that put a particular movement in my brain. I remain skeptical about these since an eight-beat figure can fit to any eight beats of music. • There are dances which, given the title, I can provide you with a doodled tune. • There are dances which I could probably give you most of the figures, or at least the crux move, with or without being able to doodle the tune. • There are any number of dance tunes that I'm familiar with but don't remember their titles, let alone anything about the dances themselves, but fewer of these than I would have guessed.
11 December 2011	<p>My life, now 1.5" at a time. After a couple nights of quality time with the iron I started sewing the horizontal seams.</p>

12 December 2011	<p>There are 14 rows sewn together which by my calculations is one quarter of the whole. Turns out that singing along to Paul Simon and other folks is helpful. I did spend some time wondering when I stopped listening to music and started singing or doodling along to whatever I'm listening to, even classical instrumental and symphonic music. Weird. At least I do not do this at performances. Anyway. 25% down, 75% to go. I like it so far. Hope the size fudge works for making the after-quilting size come out right.</p> 
14 December 2011	<p>Five seams to go to have the first half sewn together. Poor M. had to listen to my kvetching about the changed deadline vs the quilt I wanted to make vs the one I had time for. It's not that I don't like it, I just thought it would be much different. I'm still enjoying watching it unfold and glad I took November off for NaNoWriMo.</p>
15 December 2011	<p>Top half piecing is done. The rest might have to wait a bit. I think the photos are more contrasty than real life; I'll have to try the other camera and see what happens.</p>
27 December 2011	<p>Trying: To get back in the swing of things.</p> 


30 December 2011	<p>Few rows into the bottom light area.</p> 
9 January 2012	<p>Spent most of last night and today working on NaNoWriMo stuff but tonight I tried to get the sewing going again. The picture is what this kind of piecing is all about – at almost every intersection. There are little wisps of thread waiting to be removed. My little waste bag is a colorful collection of them.</p> 
11 January 2012	<p>That's all she wrote for tonight: two halves that will become one. It's just easier to iron it all on two pieces and then sew and iron the last seam.</p> <p>Have it hanging sideways on the wall because it's too big.</p> <p>I like how it looks but there was a lot of teeth-gritting and listening to favorite Paul Simon etc to get through the second half. I will need better carrots to keep going.</p> <p>Time for a glass of wine, some reading and sleep.</p>

12 January 2012	<p>Yeah. Darn ironing.</p> 
13 January 2012	Half done with ironing
15 January 2012	<p>All kinds of nervousness:</p> <p>Yesterday I ironed the second half, fixed the one wrong seam, sewed the two halves together and ironed that last seam open. The thing is too long to hang vertically so it's back pinned horizontally on the wall.</p> <p>Today I decide I can probably find a piece of something to use for the backing and although I know theoretically how big the top should be (and if you're thinking it's 78" per the size requirement you would be quite wrong) I go in with my long tape measure to be double sure.</p> <p>For some reason, it's not the size it's supposed to be. It's the right number of squares but it's a good ways from the size it's supposed to be, way too close to 78.5 and well...</p> <p>I guess the only the thing to do is to add another row or two? I will re-iron it before I decide but not tonight. The thing is, quilting takes up a LOT. I can cut off what I don't need. I can't add on if I don't have it. Will ponder alternatives I guess but adding a couple rows is probably the easiest thing.</p> <p>I did hack off an amply-sized piece of a near-black print for the back and ironed that.</p> <p>Yeah. So much for progress.</p>
25 January 2012	Quiet night in the world of east-no-where-land. Very quiet. Too quiet. I can pretty much say I don't feel like sewing together 46 squares of fabric.
30 January 2012	<p>Forty-six squares of green off the wall</p> <p>Forty-six squares off the wall</p> <p>If one of those squares should happen to fall</p> <p>I'm just going back to bed, that is all.</p>

10 February 2012	<p>At lunch I brought my soup etc and my laptop to the “break room” where, instead of working on my NaNoWriMo piece, I opened up the Superior Threads website and dumped a chunk o’change for thread. Like I don’t have thread. But seriously, I don’t have any of these colors and I have the current project to start quilting! And all that va-kay to quilt during. (It was only 20,560 yards. No biggie. And some current thread color cards. That’s all.)</p> <p>Yes, I’m supposing that a normal person would have booked a flight somewhere and gone. But, I’ll be home with two purposes: to live like a normal person and to live like the crazed “quilt the hell out of it” woman that I normally am.</p>
11 February 2012	<p>Couldn’t help but peek at my account over on Superior Threads (don’t you know that the newsletter from them refers to Mother Superior?) and **My Order Has Shipped**!!</p> <p>Tomorrow’s Sunday of course so no mail. But that’s ok. I need to layer. Actually, first I need to fix one bit of seams along one edge which seem to need a little taking in. That’s ok. Will need a quick re-press anyway before layering. Layering. Pinning.</p> <p>Ripping open of big package of thread.</p> <p>Doesn’t get much better than that, eh?</p>
14 February 2012	<p>Next up: pins!</p> 
14 February 2012	<p>Telling the truth: I’ve been thinking about the journaling that is part of the seasonal palette quilt thing. You’ll remember that not so long ago I submitted haiku for both bio and quilt statement. I’ll continue to use the bio haiku because hey why not?</p> <p>While I’ve been putting all these pins in today I’ve been thinking about this journaling process. I’ve taken some photos. I have some scraps set aside. I’ll send in a practice quilt piece.</p> <p>And in the written material, I plan to write:</p> <p>November – I took the month of November off to do National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). First time and I ended up writing 50000 words in 29 days. Nothing quilt related.</p> <p>Best thing I could have done.</p> <p>My blog journals my quilting progress so it will be easy to pull it together.</p>

14 February 2012	<p>Little Yellow Things: No doubt there will be more.</p> <p>Truthfully would rather have been writing on my NaNoWriMo. Trying to get this quilt done because I see the glimmer of the next one out there.</p> 
15 February 2012	<p>My big box o'thread appeared this morning a couple days before expected so it was good I managed to get all those pins closed last night.</p>  <p>This meant that it was time for the ceremonial cleaning and waxing of sewing table and cleaning and oiling of the sewing machine and setting up the test quilting piece and having a brief go at that.</p> <p>It seemed like a Good Thing that there, atop the sewing machine, waiting for me like a rare epic Warcraft ring was this, The Ring of Fearlessness:</p>  <p>I'm no fool. Bind on Pick Up or not, I put that on and went on with the rituals required. I'm going to start by sewing down all the little yellow flecks so I can get rid of all the small applique pins holding them on. Then it will be on to the main event, quilting the heck out of it.</p>
16 February 2012	<p>Very tedious and disjointed sort of work. I threw away probably more thread than I kept on the piece, probably. I took a chance hanging it up on the wall to see what it looks like really – vertically and am missing about an inch of height. That will get better of course with more quilting.</p> <p>I don't have any intentions to quilt this with stems and leaves. Just so you know.</p>

16 February 2012	<p>Slow but sure to get over that hump of not wanting to start. Figures that the middle area includes the edge of the color change making it a little scarier.</p> 
17 February 2012	Bobbin #2 Yup it's that time again. I just put in bobbin #2.
17 February 2012	
17 February 2012	<p>Nothing like a thread problem. Tension gone bad. Try again. Try again. Try again (rethreading each time etc). Stop. Clean. Work on practice piece. Same. Thread a bit of a new bobbin. Same. Put different thread on top. No problem.</p> <p>Ok then. Cotton thread that is hanging a bit coming off the spool I think. No time for that.</p>
18 February 2012	<p>Took a spell off to see my long-time co-worker Doug off after his last day at work at the FruitStand. There was some unexpected dishing and it was odd to be thrown into a loud, work-related thing after being on my own for a few days.</p> <p>This morning there was a patch of sunlight and it was warm enough to sit on the front steps and drink my coffee without being cold. I listened to the wind and the birds and enjoyed the sun on my face. The rhody was all unfurled and leathery, it's leaves tapping to the breeze. As I finished my cup, the clouds covered the sun, the temperature dropped and it was a warm but February day again.</p> <p>Now I'm determined to make some progress in quilting.</p>

18 February 2012	<p>Well a tough afternoon for staying focused. Let's just say there were some outside distractions and let it go at that.</p> <p>But here I am a few lines of stitching into bobbin #3.</p> 
19 February 2012	<p>Hanging the quilt up last night, it was good to see that the bits of quilting are adding up to some progress. I think I'm about to change colors in the bottom area. I have a more sage-y light olive color thread ready to go there, although I'm going to compare to the medium green again before starting. The top area in the dark green is bigger than the bottom portion but less color changes involved. Dark and less dark. That is all.</p> <p>After I realized I was done for good quilting last night I climbed into bed and picked up the book I'd started the night before. The introduction is heavy on Scottish Gaelic words and terms from the late 19th century so I was frequently looking up things via dictionary or internet. I was surprised how many Scottish Gaelic words I knew (brose? really?) but the density of the words certainly made it easy to read slowly. This book has two dedications, the first to Robert Louis Stevenson, which was an unexpected and pleasant surprise. Also a surprise in the intro were several pages about a possible Finnish connection (as the editor does some comparative looks at non-Gaelic fairy-like beings).</p> <p>I'm sure I'll finish the introduction sooner or later.</p>
19 February 2012	<p>Sorry I didn't post about #4. You were probably waiting for it. Sorry. I just put in bobbin #5 though so now you're all caught up.</p> <p>We good?</p>

20 February 2012

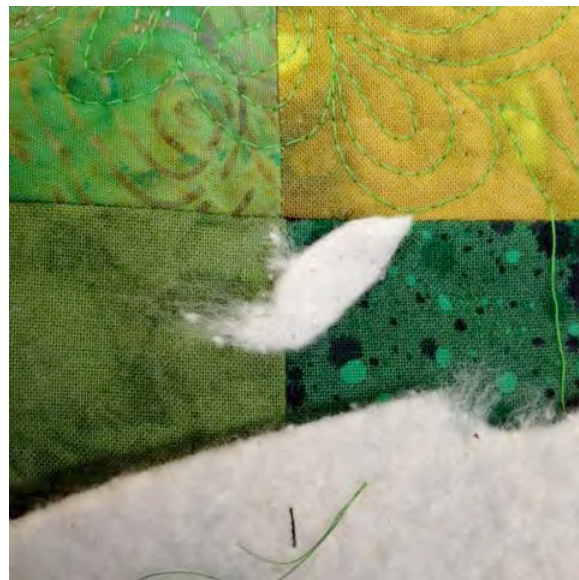
Leaving a clean machine and the quilt hanging up, about half done.



20 February 2012

Sometimes you sew: Sometimes you un-sew.

That's just the way of it. If you pay attention, it just sounds different and you stop and look. Hopefully sooner rather than later!




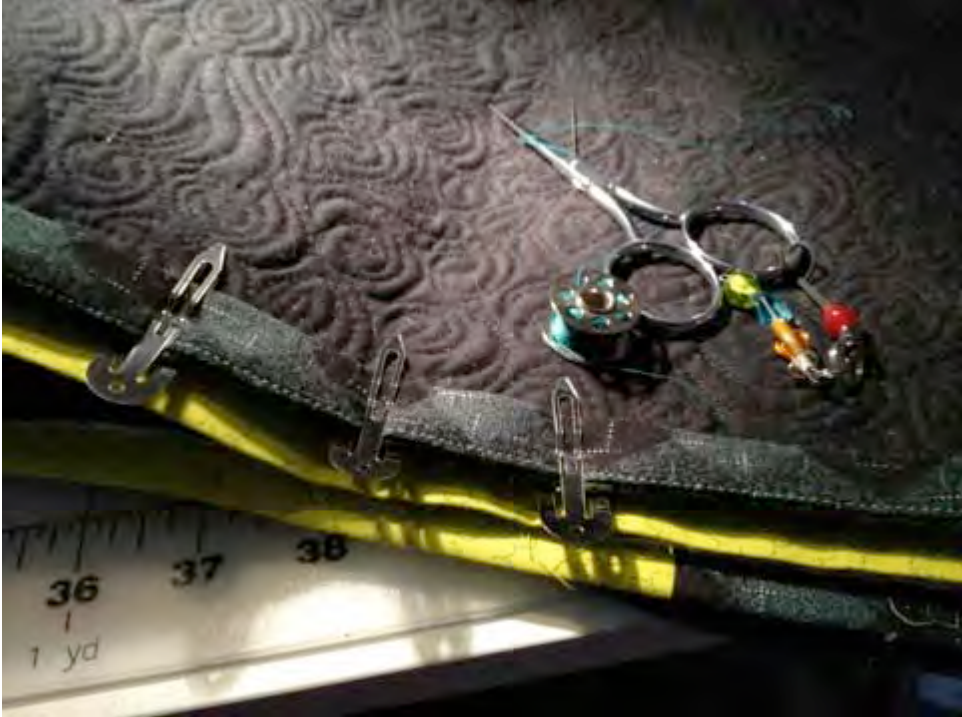
21 February 2012	<p>Thoughts about quilting: I'm about half-done with the quilting. Half to go.</p> <p>There are a few different things that quilting can do to a quilt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accentuate the piecing/applique/design • blur the edges of the piecing/applique/design • have nothing to do with any of it • make something else happen altogether. <p>I mentioned somewhere that I'd been looking at this recently finished quilt's quilting when thinking about what to do with this one. That quilt is too large to hang up in the room I'm sewing in at the moment, so it is hanging draped over a pole, not in front of me all the time.</p> <p>What I notice when I look at it, with all its color gradations and checkerboarding designs is that the quilting in each square seems distinct. The quilting "design" is to quilt the heck out of it as Naomi likes to say , which for me is a long long series of spirals, spirally things, tendrilly things, flowery petals, dandelion-leaf-like things, pretty much whatever comes next and fits in the space. There are times when I may say oh for pete's sake stop with the spirals and do a sunburst sort of thing here, or how about a feather-thing here, or do something small here because you're getting boxed in.</p> <p>Up close it looks like a lot of spirals and all those other things. A bobbin's (#6 at the moment) worth of line at a time, generally speaking.</p> <p>From over here though, what I see is that each square has its own bit of design, random as it might be. The quilting isn't blurring the lines or colors. I still see the color and design of the bigger quilt. The quilting in "Ten Years On" looks like part of the fabric somehow, in no small part because of the checkerboarding caused by the crossing color directions.</p>
21 February 2012, continued	<p>On this new quilt, I wondered if it would work the same way. I had some thought to wanting some purposeful diagonal stuff going on in a particular direction but I wasn't married to that idea. I'd try to get some in when I could.</p> <p>So I'm here to report that this effect of seeing pattern in each small square still holds true. The effect is not as strong as with the previous quilt, because the color/value difference between neighboring squares is not as large.</p> <p>I'm good with quilting the heck out of things, and grateful to have an official name to give my process. I'm very pleased that both quilts stand on their own color and design wise and the quilting adds something else. I do want the colors and fabrics to do their thing, after all.</p> <p>Do what you want with that info.</p> <p>I'm a quilter. I make quilts. I don't want anyone to call them something that says otherwise.</p>


22 February 2012	<p>The past couple days have seen an uptick in visitors of the quiet variety. I have gotten a few likes or comments over on the facebook links to these posts but it's quiet here. These things just intrigue me at a geeky level.</p> <p>Had really good intentions to do a bunch of quilting yesterday. Instead I made a very small dent of throwing out some paper stuff from a room and ventured up into the attic and found a box of calligraphy books. Fascinating stuff. Even more fascinating, the Society of Scribes, of which I was once a card-carrying member, is still around and active.</p> <p>The book, or more accurately folio, that I had been looking for was pretty much as I remembered it, although I'd forgotten the cards of historical hands for study and copying. The link I found to them online indicate that the designer and calligrapher, Ismar David, died in 1997.</p> <p>This and a few of the other books made my heart glad in strange and amazing ways.</p> <p>When I finally gave up trying to quilt last night I opened up my book to page 47 and started in on the writings of Robert Kirk re the presence and activities of fairies, fauns and elves in the low country of Scotland. I still had my dictionaries at the ready but Andrew Lang, editor, had thoughtfully inserted some of the definitions for me via square brackets.</p> <p>Well it's a bright and warm morning so I'm taking the rest of my coffee outside for a few minutes and encourage you to do the same. Then perhaps I will get that stint of quilting done (couldn't decide about how to do the top area – two colors? start in the middle and work out?)</p>
22 February 2012	Bobbin #7
23 February 2012	<p>Time for a redo: Boxed myself into a corner that was too long and skinny to come out without a problem, so I had to remove a small area to give me room to make it all nice and flat.</p> <p>Real truth is, like many things in life, you get a couple tries to make it <i>good</i> and then you go to plan b.</p>

23 February 2012	<p>I should make a playlist of music to quilt by. It would start off with Layla and go on to some music that has a bit of drive to it and stuff that I can belt out in the privacy of my own home. I got a chunk done and then there was some email and a phone call that took precedence. Note to self: make music to quilt in overdrive to. A sort of fifth gear of machine quilting. As it were.</p> <p>Anyway, when I turned back to look at it, this is what I saw and will see tomorrow when I come back.</p> 
23 February 2012	<p>Yup. Your regularly scheduled internet browsing has been interrupted by this newsflash.</p> <p>Bobbin #8. Yes that is correct and verified. Bobbin #8.</p> <p>We now return you to your regularly scheduled program.</p>
24 February 2012	<p>The Anti-Metaphor: Sometimes a clean machine is just a clean machine.</p> 
24 February 2012	<p>I didn't have too much further in the "light" area of the top part when I stopped to clean the machine (and boy did it need it!) As I finished it, I wanted to take a moment and look at the before and after of the quilting.</p>

25 February 2012	<p>Put in #10 and wound 11, 12, and 13.</p> <p>Listened to the new playlist enough to think “again? playing that again?” so I’ve switched to my alphabetical list of English Country Dance which randomized is like a challenging round of “I can name that dance in x number of measures” sometimes it’s “the dance starts with…” or “I think this has a star round here or a skipping double figure eight” etc.</p> <p>It intrigues me that I can often relate a tune to some place where I did that dance. It amazes me that I remember any of it at all.</p> <p>In other news I actually cracked open the ol’ moleskine tonight and wrote stuff down in it so I wouldn’t lose what I was thinking about the past couple days. So that’s a good thing.</p>
26 February 2012	<p>Signed it, now on to the end. Took a moment of the quilt being in an ugly position to quilt in my last name and now I’m ready for the last push. I like sneaking in my name somewhere, just for posterity’s sake.</p> <p>In other news, I wonder what it would be like to have a sewing room with heat?</p>
26 February 2012	<p>Just a little more of the exciting and sometimes fraught-with-peril part of going around in between the yellow bits. Started roughly with some un-sewing. Now a few placed straight pins are helping out as needed.</p>
26 February 2012	<p>Just put in what will be the final bobbin. If there were another one I’m not sure what to think except it would be for bare couple square inches. Geesh. Reverted to a “Top 50 or so” playlist because I just couldn’t deal with nothing.</p> <p>Shower and dinner to follow, in no particular order. Taking the rest of the night off.</p>
27 February 2012	<p>Today was a nice little down day. I was waiting for some confirmation about what sort and size of sleeve this SAQA quilt needs. I like to do that as part of finishing the edges if I can, and only do it once.</p> <p>So, what to do in the meantime? I closed up the ironing board and cleared out some magazines, some icky fabric, put away some stuff, thought about the coming project a bit. I count this process as being normal, part of staying acquainted with the stash, letting the brain work out the possibilities etc. All good.</p> <p>And now I have the info I need so I can measure and trim up the Seasons quilt and get it done.</p>

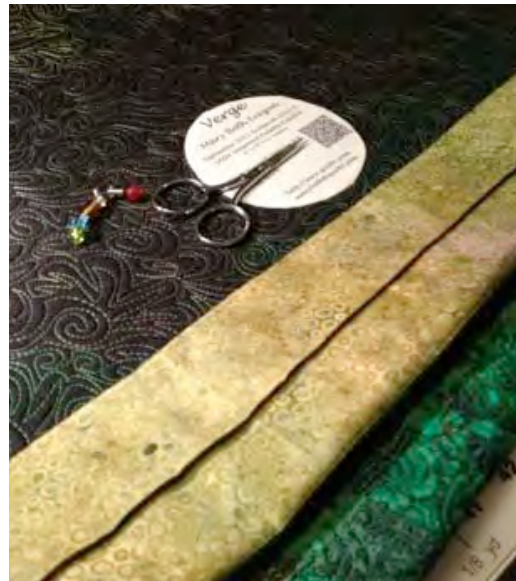
<p>28 February 2012</p>	<p>There is nothing like the fear of needing to lop off enough but not too much.</p>  <p>My brain, the math side, says that two parallel lines can become a rectangle. My brain, the quilt side, says screw this up and there's no way to add anything back on. No pressure.</p>
<p>28 February 2012</p>	<p>We both need to relax. I got tired of looking at it sideways, so I took it back off the wall and hung it right side up with a couple inches to spare.</p>
<p>3 March 2012</p>	<p>No ice storm lingers this morning. Most of what fell last night, making an impressive amount of racket, was slush and grapple. I went out and fetched the mail and filled the feeders (aka turning on the kitty tv) and enjoyed the sun's warmth.</p> <p>Last night, while trying to stay focused on sewing the facings to the current quilt, I got distracted by a digital conversation with some co-workers which led me to firing up photoshop and creating a tshirt design (and companion i-device case). That certainly was a blast from my past. The fact that you can come up with a design and have it printed on an individual basis is probably red-light-warning sort of tempting to me. Oh dear. I'm going to ponder it and will post links when I decide.</p> <p>Am also working my way through the Mabinogian which is just fascinating stuff. Not dense with words needing look up, although last night I did have to find out a bit about ancient Welsh land divisions. I made it pretty far without needing to stop and do that though. There were a few bits, especially early on where the translation was wanting. The sentence structure just didn't make sense, but it wasn't critical so I plowed ahead.</p> <p>The stories are of course mythic in scale and filled with cunning and magic and super abilities.</p> <p>Meanwhile I made and attached tiny facing strips and sleeves and I suppose I could do the label while I'm here at the computer. Ready for a few nights of hand sewing.</p>

4 March 2012	<p>Searching for a Title: I confess that I'm so done with this current quilt project that I made a label last night with the first thing that came to my brain. As it lay on the table along side me I regretted it. Why should this work get less of a title than other pieces? So I started rummaging. I was pretty sure there was a specific word for what I was looking for but could I remember or find it? Of course not.</p> <p>So I'm still working on it. Because darn if I will send this out with such a limiting title. That's just not me. Words don't fail me now!</p>
5 March 2012	<p>...and let it begin just before one corner. There's a reason for this tradition. It means that after the last corner, there are no more corners to do. I know that sounds weird. Look at it this way: if I started on the nice straight part after the first corner, I'd have to do:</p> <p>hard side, corner, easy side, corner, hard side, corner, easy side, corner</p> <p>versus</p> <p>bit of easy side, corner, hard side, corner, easy side, corner, hard side, corner, most of easy side</p> <p>I don't know about you, but I'd rather race to the finish along a long straight line without worrying about going around a corner or anything else that might slow down crossing the DONE line.</p>
11 March 2011	<p>After my resolve recently to post just a little more often, I have been absent. No excuses other than too many days at work (today is number seven), trying to push the Seasonal Palette quilt to be done (please let it be done soon!), some family things (little brothers who worry their big sisters), thinking about long-term things (in my spare time)... well you get the idea.</p> <p>The quilt will get done, sooner or later. Then I have friends on guard to keep me from ever signing up for such things ever again. Seriously. Not ever.</p>
12 March 2012	<p>Listening to <i>Anansi Boys</i> by Neil Gaiman while sewing down facing. First time I've been able to keep the story of an audio book going in my head.</p> 

<p>13 March 2012</p>	<p>OK, some coffee and hopefully the end of this endless facing. Guess I better settle on the title so I can put the label on. Guess I better remember if I have to heat set the label's printing and I guess I better get on making the freezer paper circle so I can applique that sucker down, eh?</p> <p>Ended my listening last night at the end of Disk Six of Anansi Boys. Love the reader doing various voices. It's not like it being acted out, but makes it easy to know who's talking. At times the Caribbean inflections make me wonder what the words on the pages look like but I'm good with it. In the past when I've tried to listen to an audio lecture or something while sewing it hasn't gone well. My brain wanders away and I come to down the road no idea what is being talked about. I can see that this wouldn't work during actual quilting for instance – I'd have to be on earbuds then anyway – but for me piecing and quilting are too meditative by themselves to have a storyline spooling out in my ears.</p> <p>I think the reason that music works for me there is because I always end up singing along. My choices are things I can sing or doodle along too which means honestly I'm not really just listening to it.</p> <p>All righty then let's get these things started and done.</p>
<p>14 March 2012</p>	<p>Just the label...to go.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the quilt is hanging from a rod, on the wall, and it seems to be pretty darn flat. Side bonus of lopping off the edges where I did – looks like a super-duper tricky edge of individual squares wrapped to the back. LOL not.</p> <p>And now to sleep.</p>
<p>14 March 2012</p>	<p>Let's get that label on and move on, shall we? I'm ready. More than ready, actually.</p> 

14 March 2012

Actually done doesn't begin to describe. But let me try. Tonight, done means the label is on, sleeves and facings are done. Needs the final de-linting etc. Official photos. But it is as done as it's going to get. Doesn't matter. All that matters is that it's done. For tonight.



9 April 2012

Last Haiku for the Night:

**demands a statement,
twenty-five words of meaning:
tell the viewer why.**

bah. I went with:

**Sky arcs overhead
where the light and darkness meet
and joining, summer**

Let the viewer make up their own mind as to what it's about.