

2021 Holly Girls Quilt Retreat

June 2021

Hello everyone,

The retreats will be here before we know it and we want to go over a few things!

Covid updates: We are following the Covid protocol in the letter sent in May (we can resend this information if you need to review). **Please provide your vaccination record by August 1st.** We asked that you voluntarily share your vaccination record (a photo on your phone is fine). Please redact information that you may feel uncomfortable sharing (such as birthdate, vaccine type, etc.). We need this information to plan on the work space for the retreat. The workroom will be for vaccinated people. Non-vaccinated people will be provided a separate space. We are planning our group meetings to be held in the tent and request non-vaccinated people wear masks and social distance for these meetings.

Balance: We are moving the balance due to August 1st. If you paid the \$150.00 deposit, the amount due is \$500.00. To use your credit card, go to www.Sue-Nickels.com and click on the Retreat tab. Scroll down to “register here for fall retreats”. Re-enter your information, check the box for \$500.00 balance then proceed to payment information. You can also send a check to Hollygirls Quilting, 3196 Edgewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Please make checks payable to Hollygirls Quilting. If you have already paid in full, we will confirm this in an email. Let us know if you have any questions.

Lodging: Please be sure you have made your lodging arrangements with White Birch Lodge. You can contact them through their website, www.whitebirchlodge.org, or call Glaidis at 231-264-8271. Plan to arrive Tuesday afternoon and depart Sunday morning. When you arrive on Tuesday, check in at the office, then set up your workspace in the dining room. If you have any problems, call Sue (734-649-0637) or Pat (231-740-0927). Have an early dinner then evening activities begin at 7:00pm. At that time, you will receive a schedule for the rest of the retreat.

We are unsure that the “Add a Sewing Day” option will be available due to concerns for cleaning the workroom between the weeks. You are welcome to come early to your lodging (Weeks Two through Five) but the workroom may only be available for set up Tuesday morning. Check with Glaidis at White Birch Lodge about early arrival and housing availability. If the Add a Sewing Day is available, the fee is \$50.00 and will be due at the retreat. This option is not available for Week One.

Food: We will provide coffee, tea, muffins & donuts in the morning. Lunch is on your own. Dinner is included Wednesday and Saturday. We will follow Covid protocol and share details at check-in.

Sewing Machines: If you are driving, we ask that you bring your own sewing machine. If you have any questions about feet and accessories, let us know. If you are flying, we have machines you may borrow. Please let us know if you need a machine. If you have already requested a sewing machine please re-confirm this with us. We will confirm this by email.

Sewing Tables: The workroom will be set-up with proper spacing and we may not have room for additional sewing tables. Let us know if you were planning to bring one and we will determine if this is possible and let you know in August.

Nametags: We will provide nametag holders with pin backs. If you want to bring your own holder without a pin back, that is fine.

T-shirts: We are working on a design and will let you know when it is finished. You can let us know then if you want one. The cost is \$25.00 and is due at the retreat.

Retreat Projects: Below are photos of project ideas and fabric requirements.

This year's topic is: Sampler quilts.

Sampler quilts give the opportunity to learn many different skills. This year will focus on techniques- precision piecing, precise machine applique and *machine quilting. We have made and patterned a sampler quilt called "Michigan Medley". It has 25 blocks (9" square) and include a variety of pieced and applique designs. We also made a "modern" set using the pieced blocks. There is a small sampler project that uses five of the sampler blocks and has plain blocks to show machine quilting. The photos of the quilts and fabric requirements are provided below. The patterns will be available at the retreat and there will be a pattern fee. You are welcome to create your own sampler quilt project using any of the blocks we have provided or use your own ideas.

We used a fabric line called Mackinac Island from Minick & Simpson for Moda designs for the Michigan Medley and Small Sampler quilts. They are coming out with a new line in August (?) with Moda fabrics called Belle Isle. The designs are very similar to what we used.

*Sue will teach a machine quilting class using rulers. Sue has new rulers and will show her projects using these rulers. This class will be 1-2 hours. This is an optional class. If you are interested in this class, bring the following supplies: 18" square of light solid fabric for top, 22" square of backing fabric and batting, ***ruler foot for your machine**, cotton thread, 25 safety pins, marking pencil, quilters gloves or fingertips (Sue uses fingers cut from good quality kitchen dishwashing gloves). Sue will have rulers to share. Top will need some marking so wait to baste the layers together. If you have any questions, email Sue at nickquilt@aol.com . ***Please note-** the ruler foot is a specific darning foot for using rulers in machine quilting.

Please note: We love sharing our techniques and patterns with retreaters. You are welcome to do an independent study concept at the retreat. However, we do not feel comfortable helping interpret other designer's patterns and techniques.

Here is what you need to do by AUGUST 1st:

1. **Vaccination record- email or text to Pat:** patty.holly@comcast.net or 231-740-0927
2. **Pay Balance of Fee**
3. **Let us know if you need a machine**
4. **Would you like to bring a table, if so, what size?**

Remember to review the general supply list information on Sue's website under Fall Retreat tab. There is a lot of information in this letter – you may want to print out a copy!

We are looking forward to making this Holly Girls Quilt Retreats a wonderful quilting experience for all!

Sue Nickels nickquilt@aol.com (734-649-0637) and
Pat Holly patty.holly@comcast.net (231-740-0927)

Retreat Project Ideas:

Michigan Medley



Finished size: 73½" X 73½"

Block size: 9" x 9"

Fabric requirements:

Sashing: 1½ yards (medium blue)

Corner Squares: ¼ yard (red)

Inner Border: ½ yard (blue print)

Outer Border: 1½ yards (navy)

Set-in Triangles and Corner Triangles: 1½ yards (peachy pink)

Fabric for blocks: For the light colored background – 2 yards

We used ten different fabrics for the blocks – ½ yard each

If you want the sashing or the corner squares to be the same fabric used in the blocks, add ½ yard to the amount needed (Sashing – 1 ½ yards plus ½ yard, get 2 yards, corner squares – ¼ yard plus ½ yard, get ¾ yard.) These will be part of the ten fabrics.

Backing: 5 yards

Binding: ½ yard

Modern Sampler



Finished size: 52" x 52"

Block size: 9" x 9"

The set for this quilt was inspired by Mel Beach's "Spinning Stars".

Fabric Requirements:

Background: 2½ yards (white)

Sashing: 1 yard (black print), 1 yard (green print)

Blocks: Use extra white, black print and green print plus
½ yard each pink, blue and gray (six colors total)

Backing, facing and pocket: 3 ½ yards

Michigan Medley Small Sampler



Finished size: 43" x 43"

Block size: 9" x 9"

Fabric requirements:

Blocks: 1 yard (off white)

Sashing: ½ yard (blue)

Sashing squares: 1/8 yard (red)

Border: 1 yard (pink)

Corners: ¼ yard (pink print)

Applique and pieced blocks: Assortment of fabrics to equal 2 yards (8 fat quarters will work)

Backing: 3 yards

Batting: 47" x 47" square

Binding: ½ yard