

## County Line Quilt Guild Challenge for Spring 2009 Show

This challenge was motivated by the recent announcement that it was the 5th year anniversary of the war in Iraq. I felt overwhelmed by the amount of violence in the world and craved a time when I wasn't being bombarded hearing about the hostility and cruelty that is every where. Although I wasn't a hippie in the 60's, I understood their desire to reach out and express their wish for harmony. As a quilter, it seemed that fabric would be a great resource to voice my desire for peace. This was the foundation for the challenge.

Here are some other's thoughts about Peace:

### Quotes:

"A smile is the beginning of peace." -- Mother Teresa

*"The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend."* -- Abraham Lincoln

"Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures." – John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Maybe we should develop a Crayola bomb as our next secret weapon. A happiness weapon. A beauty bomb. And every time a crisis developed, we would launch one. It would explode high in the air - explode softly - and send thousands, millions, of little parachutes into the air. Floating down to earth - boxes of Crayolas. And we wouldn't go cheap, either - not little boxes of eight. Boxes of sixty-four, with the sharpener built right in. With silver and gold and copper, magenta and peach and lime, amber and umber and all the rest. And people would smile and get a little funny look on their faces and cover the world with imagination. ~Robert Fulghum

Peace cannot be achieved through violence, it can only be attained through understanding. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

### Symbols of Peace:



**Peace Symbol:** This forked symbol was designed for the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War (DAC) and was adopted as its badge by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) in Britain, and originally was used by the British nuclear disarmament movement. It was later generalised to become an international icon for the 1960s anti-war movement, and was also adopted by the counterculture of the time. It was designed and completed February 21, 1958 by Gerald Holtom, a professional designer and artist in Britain for the April 4 march planned by DAC from Trafalgar Square, London to the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston in England.

The symbol itself is a combination of the semaphoric signals for the letters "N" and "D," standing for Nuclear Disarmament. In semaphore the letter "N" is formed by a person holding two flags in

an upside-down "V," and the letter "D" is formed by holding one flag pointed straight up and the other pointed straight down. These two signals imposed over each other form the shape of the peace symbol. However, Holtom, a conscientious objector during the Second World War, subverted this use of semaphores by placing the D over the N, the "upside down logo" signifying his anti-military principles. In the first official CND version (preceeded by a ceramic pin version that had straight lines, but was short lived) the lines widened at the edge of the circle which was white on black.



**Dove:** In Judaism and Christianity, a white dove is generally a sign for peace. The Torah describes a story in which a dove was released by Noah after the Great Flood in order to find land. The dove came back carrying an olive branch in its beak, telling Noah that the Great Flood had receded and there was land once again for Man. (Genesis 8:11).

The motif can also represent "hope for peace" and even a peace offering from one man to another, as in the phrase "extend an olive branch". Often, the dove is represented as still in flight to remind the viewer of its role as messenger.



**Peace Flag:** In recent years, especially in connection with the 2003 Invasion of Iraq, there has been a surge in popularity of the Peace flag, a series of seven rainbow colors (red on bottom) with the word PACE (Peace in Italian and Romanian, derived from the Latin word pax, pronounced pah-chay) boldly printed across the middle. The more recent usage originated in Italy. In most of the world, however, the rainbow flag (red on top) is most often connected with gay pride. The usage of the rainbow can either be tracked back to pacific coexistence of different people, or to the rainbow that God showed Noah at the end of the worldwide flood as recorded in the Bible, as a token of the covenant that He made between Himself and mankind, that He would not again destroy the entire world with a flood (Genesis 9). The flag in its current shape appeared as early as September 24, 1961, in an Italian peace march. It had previously featured a dove drawn by Pablo Picasso. The flag is often flown from balconies in Italy by citizens opposed to the Iraq war. Its use has spread to other countries as well, with the Italian "pace" replaced with its translation in various other languages.



**Peace Sign:** The "V-sign", also called the "peace sign" and the "victory sign," is a hand gesture with the index and middle fingers open and all others closed, facing the viewer. Originally strictly a sign for victory, it developed into a peace sign during protests against the Vietnam War (and subsequent anti-war protests) and by the counterculture as a sign of peace. Because the hippies of the day often flashed this sign (palm out) while vocalizing "Peace", it became popularly known through

association as the peace sign. Originally, however, its symbolic meaning was love; signing "love" and saying "peace" was a hippie anthem and mutual greeting.

### **Colors of Peace:**

As I researched colors that represent peace, I learned one thing: the meaning of color varies significantly across cultures, religions, and usage. There does not appear to be one universally accepted definition of what colors represent. However, white is one color that is widely perceived as a color for peace.

### **The CHALLENGE:**

So, here is the Challenge:

The theme is PEACE – the interpretation is up to you.

Pick one of the Quotes from above as your inspiration.

Use at least two of the symbols. They don't have to be predominant, but please don't throw them in obscurely just to use them.

White must be used. Again, it does not need to be your predominant color, but include some true white (not grey, not light tan).

#### Other details:

Size: Totally up to you! Just remember that we need to display it at the show.

Format: Needs to be made of at least 50% cotton fabric and utilize batting. It does not need to be flat! Any form of embellishment is encouraged. Wearable art, clothing, and fabric accessories are all acceptable.

Due Date: February Business Meeting

Accompanying Material: Please include a typed piece of paper that details the techniques and items used to complete your challenge. Also, indicate which quote and symbols inspired you, and why. Please describe what Peace means to you and how you are expressing it through this challenge.