

Guild Program for February 24, 2015

Adventures at the Silent Auction **Presenter: Tracy Back**



Tracy Back will show the small quilts that she has purchased at the IQA silent auction in Houston. These include works by Cynthia England, Diane Gaudynski, Phillipa Naylor and more. Candy Grisham will also feature her quilts at this mini quilt show.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Blessings.

One of my words for the year is "blessings." As I sit in my warm home with a cup of tea and reflect on this word, I am aware that like most members of Bits, I have many blessings for which I'm both thankful for and humbled by. One year after I took Communion in Church, I returned to my pew to give thanks and reflect. The little girl in front of me was a chatty little thing and kept asking her mom why she had her head bowed. To which the mom replied, "I'm thanking God for my blessings". The child answered in a loud voice heard throughout the church, "All of your blessings!" Mom replied, "Yes, including the noisy one!" So our blessings are in many shapes and sizes.

The guild too has many blessings ranging from the friendship, talent, and nurturing of the members to the thankfulness of those in the community we serve. So let's honor our service commitment and complete the 1) Honor Flight Quilt project initiated by our Past-President, Judy Humphrey; and 2) provide ongoing comfort to the children in the region through the Cover Our Kids Program, chaired by Christine Williams. Let the blessings of a gifted quilt be the thankful blessings of our talents and resources. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to share our creativity with the community.

Speaking of sharing our talent with the community, please remember our 2016 quilt show. Our Chair, Nancy Peters, is experienced in quilt show planning. However, this show doesn't just happen, but is the result of the volunteer time and effort of the guild members. We are blessed with many talented and resourceful members. So please pay attention to the group messages from Nancy Peters, volunteer, and help make our 2016 Fanfare of Quilts a success.

In February we celebrate Valentine's Day so remember to be thankful for your blessings, and to thank those who give you blessings through their thoughts, actions, and caring.

As always thank you for all you do for the Guild and the Community.

Best,

Anne Perry, President

MEETING MINUTES

27 January 2015

President Anne Perry called the meeting to order at 7PM.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved as read.

Linda Waugh, Vice President, shared the forecast of programs for this year. A garage sale of quilt related items will be held at the May meeting.

Jean Goldsberry explained the program for the evening. Eight members brought in the first quilt they ever made and their most recent quilt. We were challenged to match each member's first and most recent quilt. To those of you who shared your quilts, congratulations on the phenomenal growth displayed in your quilting skills.

Quilter's Minute was presented by Anne Perry.

Treasurer Jean Weber presented the proposed budget for 2015. A vote was taken by the membership to approve the 2015 budget in its entirety.

Nancy Peters, quilt show chair, discussed the Fanfare of Quilts Show 2016. There are many opportunities for us to volunteer. There are still several opportunities to share your talents to head up a committee. Please call or email Nancy to discuss these opportunities.

Debbie Ernst, a committee member of the 2015 guild challenge, announced this year's theme and title, "What's your number?" She explained that members were to choose an even number to be matched to a page from the "National Geographic" magazine. Both sides of that page may be used as an inspiration for your challenge piece. Rules for the challenge will be given out to people who sign up. Quilts will be displayed at the September meeting for judging. The top three quilts will receive prizes. Sign-up will be available at our meetings.

Cover our Kids Chair, Chris Williams, gave a brief overview of the COK mission. She listed the organizations that received quilts this past year. The first COK Sew Day was

held on January 20th and 12 members participated. The next COK Sew day will be held on Saturday, February 28, at the church. Chris let us know about some changes in due dates for baggy blocks and kits. Baggy blocks need to be returned the month following sign-out whether they are finished or not. Kits need to be returned in two months after sign-out. Again, they need to be turned in whether they are completed or not. A new "ribbon" task has been added to the program. This new "white" ribbon will represent small bags of scraps—Scrap Baggies, that will need to be pressed and trimmed into usable shapes—and be returned at the following meeting.

Judy Humphrey reported on the Honor Flight quilt project. To date, enough quilts have been turned in to be given for the March flight. We still need additional quilts for the April flight. Contact Judy if you need additional information.

Darla Gibson explained our UFO activity. Forms will be available to list those unfinished projects that have been piled away in your sewing room. The goal is to finish as many as you can. Prizes are awarded at the end of the year to those who have finished the most projects.

Darla also announced that a One Day Retreat will be held April 11th at the West County Fire Station. There is a \$10 dollar charge for the day that includes lunch.

New Business

The next Workshop by Members will be presented by Candy Grisham and Judy Humphrey. They will guide us through creating a wool appliqué needle book.

Anne Perry announced that a volunteer was needed to be the Set up Coordinator. Please contact Anne if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.

Anne also asked for input about continuing the BOM. If you are interested in heading up a BOM for the guild please contact her.

Please mark your calendar! Our July meeting date has been changed to **July 21**. The church will be holding Vacation Bible School

during the last week of July and the meeting space will not be available. Our July meeting will be held **Tuesday, July 21st**.

A 10 minute break was taken.

During that break members looked at the "first quilt and the most recent quilt" challenge. Each wrote down their matches. After the break the makers of the quilts were revealed. Prizes were given to those members who had the most matches.

Laura Khoury reported there were 82 members present. Attendance prizes were given out.

Susan Calzone, Retreat Chair, spoke about the next retreat June 3rd through June 7th at Todd Hall. A sign-up sheet is available or you can call Susan. Meals can be purchased from Todd Hall or you can bring your own food.

Anne requested that small group committee chairs, who have a report to submit, contact her prior to the meeting so it may be placed on the agenda.

Several of the small group Chairs gave a brief overview of their groups.

Many members participated in Show and Tell.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Sagan, Secretary



REMEMBER OUR VETS
They covered us – won't
you cover them with an
Honor Flight Quilt?
Due
March 2015

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COK and More: Chris Williams

- Cover Our Kids & More is the service project of Bits 'n' Pieces Quilt Guild. We make and donate quilts to various agencies throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. For those of you who are new, this is truly a group effort of the entire guild. Some members piece baggy blocks, some sew quilt tops, some quilt the quilts, others sew on bindings – all depending on the time and abilities they have to share. I hope we can continue in this generous fashion in 2015 and encourage any new members to get involved in this very worthwhile project.
- We started the year out with a great fun Sew Day on January 20th here at Salem Methodist Church. There were 12 members who joined us for a fun, productive day of sewing and cutting. The next Sew Day is Saturday February 28th. A flyer will be sent out shortly with more information.
- Something new we are trying this year is to have a cutting station at the sew day. If you want to come join the fellowship but don't want to or can't bring your sewing machine and equipment, I will have scraps or kits to be cut. No need to bring anything except a rotary cutter.
- I hope you will join us at the next sew day here at the Church. NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
- **Baggy Blocks:**
 - **Darla Gibson** volunteered to be the first Baggy Block Coordinator and she took the 9 patch blocks turned in at the January meeting. Darla will be organizing the blocks into kits which will be available soon at upcoming meetings.
 - **Laurie Schrader** is our Baggy Block Coordinator for January's friendship star block and will be collecting the blocks at the February Bits meeting. All of the blocks were signed out and we are looking forward to seeing them completed at the February 24th meeting. If you cannot complete a block, please return it at the meeting anyway.
 - **Lisa Marsden** will be the coordinator for the February baggy blocks and has already started on that project.
 - **Debbie Briscoe** will be the coordinator for the March baggy blocks.
 - **"The Company"** mini group has volunteered to coordinate the April baggy blocks. Thanks to those who volunteered to be coordinators.
- At the January meeting, I announced a change in the return dates for the kits, asking that the kits be returned within 2 months. I would like to clarify that request as follows:
 1. Kits that are taken home to be pieced, please return 2 months after the meeting.
 2. Kits that are taken home to be quilted, please return 2 months after the meeting.
 3. Kits that are taken home to be quilted and pieced, please return no later than 3 months after the meeting.
- If you find you are not going to be able to meet these guidelines, please contact Chris Williams or return the quilt to COK so that we can keep the process moving.
- Also, there are several kits still outstanding from 2014. If you have a kit, finished or unfinished, please return it at the February 28th meeting...again, no questions asked.
- We have a growing stash of scraps languishing in storage so it is

time to get those into the talented hands of our members. Thus the creation of yet another ribbon to the already colorful COK Color Chart:

- **NEW RIBBON: Scrap Bags—WHITE Ribbon:**
 - Similar to baggy blocks, each month there will be small bags of scraps tied with a **WHITE Ribbon**. The scraps will need to be pressed and cut into more useable sizes to be used for blocks and kits.
 - Like baggy blocks, there will be instructions in each packet for cutting sizes and will need to be signed out and returned by the next meeting. Each Scrap Bag should take only about an hour or so to complete.
- As a final note, I have taken pictures of all of the COK quilts that were turned in during 2014. If there is a quilt you would like to see again, please see me at the meeting. I have all of the pictures on my iPad and would be happy to forward a copy to you.
- **COK Sew Days at Salem Methodist**
 - Saturday, February 28
 - Saturday, March 21

Retreats at Toddhall (Columbia, IL): Susan Calzone

- Our guild's retreats are a vacation. A vacation spent doing what you love to do with a room full of others doing what they love to do: sew, iron, cut, quilt, design, create, share, laugh.
- The approximate costs for a 5 day, 4 night retreat with the various options are as follows:
 - meals inclusive, private bedroom - \$395
 - meals inclusive, shared bedroom - \$299
 - no meals, private bedroom - \$283
 - no meals, shared bedroom - \$187
 - freebies: fun, laughter, learning, helping, creating, producing, oh, and lots of snacks
- Sign-ups for the June 3rd – 7th, 2015 retreat are in progress. I will not be at the February guild meeting so please email me if you would like to sign up, or have any questions. If the retreat fills to capacity, you may choose to be put on a wait-list.
 - \$75 down payment due on or before March 24th (guild meeting)
 - Balance due payments due on or before April 28th (guild meeting)

Detailed information can be found on our website at bitsnpiecesguild.com or our yahoo group site at bitsquilts@yahoogroups.com.

- Future retreat reservations:
 - June 3rd – 7th, 2015
 - January 20th – 24th, 2016
 - June 8th – 12th, 2016
- If you have questions feel free to contact me. Susan Calzone sesnowzone@charter.net.

Day Retreats: Darla Gibson

- **APR 11 - One Day Retreat** Pack up those projects and sewing supplies and sign up for another fun one-day retreat. Save this upcoming Saturday to finish up those UFOs, start new ones, or even work on Christmas items...anything you'd like.
- We will meet at the West County Fire Station from 9 am to 9 pm.



COMMITTEE REPORTS—cont'd

The room can hold about 16-20 people...but we already have 13 on the list now!

- So hurry and see Darla at the next meeting to sign up. A small fee of \$10, which includes lunch, will reserve your spot.
- This is a great opportunity to get to know some of your fellow guild members and to spend the day working on your own projects. We'd love to have you there!

2015 Guild Challenge: Roxanne Jasper

- **What's Your Number?** Is the title of the 2015 challenge.
- You pick an even page number from 8 magazines and both sides of that page may be used for your challenge inspiration.
- First through third place winners will be voted on and announced at the September guild meeting. All entries will be displayed at the 2016 Fanfare of Quilts.
- Rules: 32" x 32" finished, hand or machine quilted, 4" sleeve and label on back, inspiration page with explanation returned with quilt, embellishments, any fabric medium and quilt style and method allowed. See flyer on website for details.
- The members of the Challenge Committee, Roxann Jasper, Mary Lou Melkowski, Debbie Ernst, and Terry Rhodes, would like to thank everyone for their participation in this year's challenge. We were very excited that, at the first meeting, sixty people chose their numbers! The last meeting the magazines will be available will be in August. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the committee members with any questions.

Library: Kay Merz

- Our library is a great resource available to our members. If you want to research a new quilting idea or a new quilting skill or simply relax with a good novel, our library of almost 300 books and DVDs may be the answer.
- Our library is located in a cabinet in the side classroom in the back of the meeting room and is available to members before, during, and immediately after our monthly guild meetings. Please check out this great resource and feel free to contact me at kaymerz@aol.com if you have any questions or I can be of help in locating a book for you.
- A list of all available books can be found on our website under the "Members Only" section.

Membership: Lisa Marsden

- Thanks to everyone for your cooperation during the renewal process at the January Meeting. We will have everything available for you at the February Meeting if you were unable to complete this process in January.
- The annual fee this year is \$25. Guests are always welcome at the meeting for \$2.00 (\$5.00 when there is a national speaker). Encourage your friends to join us!
- We would like to give a HUGE THANK YOU to Jackman's and Cindy Holten for donating items for our attendance prizes!!
- Our attendance prizes were won by Jeanette Marcus and Sarah Stevens. Congratulations and we hope you enjoy them!
- Remember to wear your badge. We have stick-on name tags at the membership table or you can order the engraved badges. These are \$10 and can be ordered in magnetic or pin backed

styles. Remember the magnetic badges should not be worn with a pacemaker!

- We had 82 people in attendance at the January meeting.
- To date, 102 people have renewed their membership for 2015.

Media Resources: Cindy Holten/Darla Gibson/Marsha Bray

Our guild uses many forms of social media in order to provide you with the most updated information about our guild.

- Cindy Holten—Newsletter Editor
- Darla Gibson—Facebook Page and Yahoo Group
- Marsha Bray—Website

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding any of these media resources, please contact the respective individual for assistance.

Programs for 2015 Guild Meetings: Linda Waugh

- **FEB 24—Quilter's Minute:** TBA
Program: Adventures at the Silent Auction by Tracy Back and Candy Grisham
- **MAR 24—Quilter's Minute:** Darla Gibson
Program: A Taste of Appliqué—Something for Everyone presented by the "A Team" mini group and Friends.
- **APR 28—to be announced**
- **MAY 26—It's time for Spring Cleaning and a Guild Garage Sale**
- **JUN 23—to be announced**
- **JUL 21—NOTE DATE CHANGED TO 3rd Tuesday**
- **AUG 25—Suzi Parron, National Speaker. Details to follow.**

QUILT SHOW 2016:

2016 Fanfare of Quilts Show Chair: Nancy Peters

- Although March 19 and 20, 2016 is over one year away, it is time to start our planning for the event that not only promotes Bits 'n' Pieces Quilt Guild, but more importantly, also promotes and educates people about the art of quilting. Our membership always grows after a show so we must also inspire quilters.
- The show is a lot of work and that is why we ask for so many volunteers...much like the saying, "Many hands make less work."
- Look at our website for the 2016 Committee Roster. There are still several positions to be filled with Publicity and Demos being the two most urgent positions to fill. There are files for each position to help you with your job. Please don't hesitate to call or email if you have any questions.
- A special thanks to those members who have already generously volunteered!

Sunshine & Shadow: Cindy Holten

- **Elizabeth Stewart** - Became Grandma for the fifth time on Jan. 30, when her daughter gave birth to TJ (Toby Jacob), an 8 lb 10 oz baby boy. Mommy and baby are doing fine.

Please show your support through your thoughts, prayers, and cards.



COMMITTEE REPORTS—cont'd

Please email me at cmholten@sbcglobal.net about yours or a member's special happenings, quilting honors/awards/showings, or life's events both happy and sad. And I will be sure to both announce it in the newsletter as well as send a card from the Guild.

Treasurer's Report: Jean Weber

- When submitting to the Treasurer in person:
 - Please complete a Reimbursement/Income form and attach your receipt.
- When submitting to the Treasurer by email:
 - Please include reason for payment, the total amount requested, and a scanned/attached file copy of the invoice and/or receipts. The reimbursement form is not needed for an emailed request.
- The Reimbursement/Income Submission form is used to document all money requests and helps to clarify transactions.
- The Treasurer, Jean Weber, will also have hard copies of the form at the monthly guild meetings.
- The Treasurer's Report is posted to the Yahoo Group each month and may be found on our website in the "Members Only" tab.
- The Reimbursement/Income form can also be found on our website in the "Members Only" tab.

Workshops by National Speakers: Wendy Richards

Help Wanted for National Speakers Committee

- If you've said to yourself, "I'd like to see more outside speakers come to our guild", or, "I'd like to see more [fill in the blank] kind of programs at our guild", then this is the perfect opportunity to get involved!
- 2015 is already taken care of...you'd be securing probably one speaker for 2016 and two for 2017.
- The job is not hard!
- The job can be really fun because you get to spend time with the teacher and get an inside peak at their life on the road!
- Grab a friend and do it together.
- I've kept notes and will happily "mentor" you if needed.
- Call me if you want to know more.
- AUG 25—Suzi Parron. Details to follow at a later date.

UFOs: Bernice Dodge and Peggy Anderson

- The UFO Challenge takes on a brand new meaning this year as we prepare for our 2016 Quilt Show. Start looking for your unfinished projects that have been stored away in boxes, bags, closets, etc. and make your list to bring to the meeting and turn in to the UFO coordinators! Even if it is your first quilt that you never finished, it could be hung in that category at our quilt show! We are giving you until the March meeting to turn the list in. Hopefully all of them will be in by February but for those who are "dragging their feet" you will have an extra month! A project qualifies as a UFO if you have started it before January 1, 2015. Next month we will determine what the categories for winning a prize will be and that will be announced in February.
- A form went out to Yahoo Groups that you may use to list these projects but if you want to update last year's or have a form on your own computer you want to use or even hand write it on

notebook paper, these will be accepted. All we ask is that it is marked "2015", includes your name at the top, has a column for project name or description, date started, date finished and size (length and width). Of these, the only one that has to be included at this time is the project name or description. You can add the rest as you turn them in.

- We are asking that each finished project be shown at a meeting during Show and Tell. Sometimes we feel our projects aren't good enough to show but we encourage all levels of quilting at our meetings and during our show so please share them with all of us. If you have to deliver or give your project as a gift before you get to a meeting please show a picture to the UFO Coordinators when you sign them in. This also pertains to those who have to leave before Show and Tell; please show us that you have it with you and it is completely finished.
- See you in February with your 2015 list of UFO's!



MARCH PROGRAM PREVIEW

"A Taste of Appliqué" Something for Everyone

Presented by

The A-Team mini-group and other members of the guild

Come to the March meeting and be inspired by our program. You will be able to view appliqué works of art "up close and personal" and you can chat one-on-one with the talented experts who created them. We'll begin the program with a slide presentation and then provide you with time to explore these appliqué topics:

- ♥ Needle-turn Appliqué
- ♥ Machine Appliqué (Raw Edge)
- ♥ Using Fusibles
- ♥ Designing Your Own
- ♥ Wool Appliqué
- ♥ Tools
- ♥ Using Interfacing and Freezer Paper
- ♥ Using Your Embroidery Machine to Appliqué

**Get inspired and learn
a fun and fabulous skill.**



BITS AND PIECES

“Many hands lighten the load”

This is the quilt show committee roster for the upcoming 2016 Fanfare of Quilts. As you can see there still are many positions that need to be filled, so please consider volunteering. Please contact Nancy Peters.

2016 Fanfare of Quilts Committee Roster

Committee	Chairs
Chairman	Nancy Peters
Treasurer	Jean Weber
Announcer	Tracy Back
Award Ribbons	Lisa Marsden, Laura Khoury, Nancy Turner
Bed Turning	Laurie Schrader, Jeanette Marcus, and (need 1
Challenge	Mary Lou Melkowski, Roxanne Jasper, Debbie Ernst
Charity Raffle	Jan Orhle, Debbie Miles
COK and More	Chris Williams and new COK Chair
Concession Area Table	
Decorations	
Database	Cindy Holten
Demos	
Door Prizes	Wendy Richards
Drop Offs	Nancy Peters
Featured Quilter(s)	
Indoor Signs	Cindy Holten
Insurance	Nancy Sinise
Judges	
Layout	Nancy Peters, Nancy Sinise, Wendy Richards
Library Cases	
Membership Table	Lisa Marsden, Laura Khoury, Nancy Turner
Outdoor Signs	
Pipe and Drape	Nancy Peters
Program	Cindy Holten, Wendy Richards (Proof)
Publicity	
Queeny Venue	Nancy Peters
Quilt ID Signs	
Raffle Quilt	Darla Gibson, Wendy Richards
Registrar	Nancy Peters
Sewing Machine Raffle	Dot Branson
Show Set up	Nancy Peters
Sign Permission	Nancy Sinise
Special Exhibits	
Takedown, Quilt Pick Up	Tracy Back, Marsha Bray
Vendors	Marsha Bray, Michele Weiland
Volunteers	Chris Williams
Website	Marsha Bray



Start cleaning out those sewing rooms and the closets, shelves, bins, books, nooks and crannies of all things quilt related for our Guild Garage Sale on May



EARLY REMINDER

*MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!*

**CHANGE IN JULY
MEETING DATE.**

Tuesday, July 21

Due to a conflict in the Church's schedule, it was necessary for the guild to re-schedule its JULY meeting date.



QUILTER'S QUEST QUORNER

Question: What brand/model of iron do you use and why?

For years I used my mother's Sunbeam steam iron, probably bought in the 1950's. And then I knocked it on the concrete floor and it died. I then bought a Rowenta, Surflite, titan plus, DE 46.1, made in Germany and bought it in the early 90's. Still use the steam iron. I fell for a Rowenta with all the bells and whistles, 120 holes in the plate, and lights that indicated it was ready to use, but it lasted only 3 months, factory repaired and lasted another 6 weeks. I threw it away. The other iron I use is a GE, model 17F3 1/4. I bought it at a garage sale for a \$1 and had a new cord put on it. It's great for applying fusibles. Barb Warner

I got tired of buying expensive irons that pooped out, so I went on Amazon and bought the Panasonic NI-E200T. The iron cost less than \$25 and is great. Rosemary Hopkins

I use an off-the-shelf (cheap) iron from Target or Wal Mart that feels good in my hands and has a good point. All the expensive ones I've had (read Rowenta) have leaked or died and I can keep a \$20 iron for years. I just wish they didn't auto shut off. I like irons to be heavy and with steam. I now have a Black and Decker that I love. Candy Grisham

I recently purchased the Rowenta Steam Station and love it. Very smooth and gets wrinkles out on the first try. Hope will last for years. Cheryl Cobert

I don't have a favorite, but I must have one with an automatic shut-off feature. Wendy Richards

I too, love Rowenta irons. I have 3.....but my very favorite is my Rowenta travel iron. I have a TV table with the appropriate ironing piece on it by my sewing table, with my little Rowenta. It's just so handy for all the little pieces that you use for quilting. The regular size Rowenta is on my ironing board for larger pieces and backing and sometimes my own personal things. I just purchased a new Rowenta for the ironing board too. I just switch back and forth and I really like them both. Carol Wynn

I learned very quickly that I could drop and break an expensive iron just as quickly as I could a cheaper iron. I also learned that Rowenta did not last nearly as long for me as I would have hoped. Right now I have several irons, none top of the line. The features are what matter to me. I look for light weight to take to sew days. I look for ones that do not automatically shut off for all day sewing sessions at home. I like a large, easy-to-stay-clean sole plate for pressing new yardage. I even have an iron I bought from The Vermont Country Store catalog that has no steam vents for fusing when steam is not needed. I like my Panasonic probably the best. Fran Collins

Next Month's Question:

What Specialty Ruler do you actually use the most and why?

THE QUILTED FOX

Paducah Bus Trips April 22, 23, 24, or 25, 2015



Quilters enjoying the AQS quilt show in Paducah.

Travel with The Quilted Fox to the AQS Quilt Show

There will be a bus each day of the show. Sign up now because the seats sell out before the show. It's only \$52 per person which covers the bus. (Meals and show entrance are on your own. You'll stop for breakfast on the way down and dinner on the way back.)

You'll be able to rest on the trip home and let us do the driving! On the bus you'll receive a coupon for 20% off a one-time visit (all regularly priced merchandise) during the week following the show.

Don't forget – we're open every Sunday from 12 – 4 pm

Visit us at: 10403 Clayton Road in La Chateau Village or call us at (314) 993-1181

Monday & Wednesday 10-5; Tuesday & Thursday 10-6:30;

Friday & Saturday 10-4:30; Sunday 12-4:00

Find our newsletter on our web page: www.quiltedfox.com

February Birthdays

Carol Valenta

Irene DiRuscio

Jeanette Marcus

Judith Hoffman

Michelle Fulk

Peggy Anderson

Sandy Arft

Vicki Wolff

Happy
Valentine's
Day