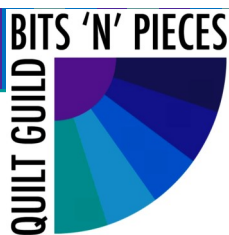




Fan Mail

Salem Methodist Church ♥ 14825 Manchester Road ♥ Ballwin, MO
www.bitsnpiecesguild.com

GUILD MEETING PROGRAM: MARCH 25, 2025



FANFARE OF QUILTS

March 15-16, 2025



**Putting a Quilt Show together, especially ours,
takes a lot of planning, commitment, and
execution.**

**So it is because of ALL YOUR hard work,
dedication, and participation, we can once again
present the
Best of Shows!**

FANFARE OF QUILTS - March 15-16, 2025

QUILT SHOW CHAIR

Darla Gibson

ddgibby64@yahoo.com

As I write this, because you know I have to do it, we are 12 days away from the Quilt Show!

The committee has one last meeting tomorrow to make sure everything that can be planned is planned. And, we will have a few contingencies in place too! I am very excited about all the work that has happened and all the work to come!

Please make sure you are inviting your quilting and non-quilting friends to our show! In order to make this a smashing success as 2023 was, we need to have as many people attend as we can get! If you see a quilting forum on any of your social media outlets, get a note out to have people attend. Even if they are nationwide or international, you never know who might be traveling through St. Louis that can stop to say hi!

Also, make sure to invite your book clubs, sewing clubs, knitting clubs, Bible Study Groups, etc... And, of course, invite family to see your beautiful quilts!

March 15 and 16 are going to be busy and crazy and wonderful and amazing!

See you at Queeny!
Darla

MERCHANDISE PICK UP



Missed the deadline to order your "Hanging with the Best" Bits Merch? We will have a small number of aprons for purchase at the Membership table at FOQ.

If you ordered merchandise, you'll pick up your order there, too. If you won't be at the quilt show, please make arrangements with Patti Moreland or Lori Feldman to pick up at the next Bits meeting.

TRAVELS OF KING TUT

Two years ago, the Art Bits quilt, **Wonderful Things - 100 Years of King Tutankhamen**, made His debut at the Bits n Pieces Fanfare of Quilts 2023 with His commanding presence.

King Tut and his entourage then went to AQS Daytona, where before his subjects near and far he posed in all His majestic splendor.

His Majesty continues to travel. He will display His gorgeous robe with its magnificent designs, unique shapes, and exquisite artwork at two upcoming AQS Shows:

Branson, March 12-15

Paducah, April 23-26

This mastery of fabric, thread, and many hands, is one magnificent piece of artwork that you do not want to miss.

We hope Bits members will be able to see this terrific art quilt at one show or the other.

Sally Pelikan

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patti Moreland, President

A big thanks to Darla, her Quilt Committee and everyone in the guild that signed up to help or displayed one of their beautiful quilts at the Bits n' Pieces 2025 Fanfare of Quilts!

You won't want to miss our March Meeting! We will have a very brief business meeting (programs, workshops, sew days). Then we will see a Fanfare of Quilts Parade - All of this years' Quilt Show Winners - followed by reports from Darla, Barb (raffle) & Membership (new member report).

Although there will not be any other show n tell this month, we will have our committee tables and our free table.

I learned so much about needles at the February meeting. I can't stop changing them! Thank you Debbie for bringing us Rhonda Pierce from "Schmetz Needles".

Don't forget to turn in your UFO list to Jane and Rita! And start thinking about your 2025 Guild Challenge quilt! If you are stumped I am sure Harriett can help you. See you at the March meeting and Happy St Patrick's Day.

Patti

MEMBERSHIP

**Karen Grogan mgrogan11@att.net
Beth Roehm bethroehm57@gmail.com**

At this writing, Membership Renewal is winding down. We have 208 dues paying members in our guild for 2025 - including 12 brand new members! Many have successfully used the online payment method which has helped with administrative paper-work.

Just a reminder for everyone to please wear your name tag to our meetings and make sure you stop by the Membership Table for an attendance prize ticket!

Guests are always welcome! Guest fee is \$2 unless we have a national speaker and then the fee is \$5.

Thanks,
Karen Grogan and Beth Roehm

In our **February 25, 2025** Guild Meeting, Rhonda Pierce from Schmetz Needles held a very informative and interesting presentation on the many sewing needles Schmetz carries.

Sarah Weible, a guild member, wrote, *"That was an awesome presentation. I knew NOTHING about these needles, but I know so much now!"*

GUILD MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2025

Darlene Kopta, Secretary

President Patti Moreland called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Program - Rhonda Pierce from Schmetz Needles was our guest speaker via Zoom. She taught us about needle anatomy, the Schmetz needle system and specific needles for all your sewing needs. See recent email for handouts from meeting.

Merchandise – Patti announced special guild merch available if you order by Friday. Lori Feldman has sign up. You can receive bought items at the Quilt Show.

Route 66 Badges – Wendy Richards announced that those participated in the Route 66 challenge received a badge with their quilt on it. Please wear to the Quilt Show and at other quilting events.

--10 Minute Break--

Minutes – Patti asked for a motion to approve the January minutes. Valerie Steele motioned and Chris Williams seconded.

March Guild Meeting – We will have the Quilt Show Review for March.

COK – Diana expressed much gratitude to all of you that donated batting and backing fabric. In April there will be fat quarter bundles available as a thank you to those that donated.

Baggie Blocks - Sue Myer shared info on what baggie and orphan blocks are, showed samples of finished quilt tops using them. She encouraged us to make some or go through and donate our orphan blocks.

UFO Update – Rita Nyhoff & Jane Dapkus awarded prizes to the following:

1st Place - Dar Sforza, 2nd Place – Jane Dapkus, 3rd Place – Teresa Latore, and 4th Place – Mickie Compton.

Participation Prize Winners include: Carol Spindler, Priscilla Kay, Teresa Latore and Margaret Pitman.

2025 Challenge – Harriet Zipfel announced the theme and parameters of this year's guild challenge quilt.

Use black and white fabric(s) and one other color fabric

Quilt must be 3 layers

Dimensions of quilt must be in multiples of 3; the smallest size is 3"x3" and the largest size is 18"x18" (for example 6"x9", 12"x12", 9"x18", etc)

Embellishments can be any color

Due Date: November Meeting

Members will vote on Top 3 winners

Quilt Show – Darla gave updates for the upcoming Quilt Show; there are 18 days until the show!

Reminder: Volunteers don't pay to enter quilt show. If you are volunteering, please dress casual nice – no denim and wear your name badge. Go to the volunteer table 15 minutes before shift when arriving. 31 Vendors this year – lots of shopping! Picking up your quilts will be first come, first served this year in the warming area. Our Quilt Show will be highlighted in West County Magazine's March 12 issue.

Membership – There were 115 in attendance tonight and 4 new members signed up! There are 228 total members that have paid this year's dues. Prizes were awarded.

Cotton Cut Raffle – Prize drawings were awarded.

Show n Tell

Meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Respectively yours,
Darlene Kopta, Secretary

2025 GUILD RETREATS
Teresa Basler
tbasler@swbell.net

At this time, I have 2 retreats scheduled:

Itchin To Be Stitchin – Staunton, IL
18130 Ranken Rd., Staunton, IL 62088
itchntobestitchn@hotmail.com

Friday, May 2-Monday, May 5, 2025
ALMOST FULL

and

Friday, June 20-Monday, June 23, 2025
PLENTY OF SPACE for double/triple
and private rooms.

For three nights:

Sharing a room with a friend, \$65.00 per
night; per person/TOTAL \$195 - **Deposit**
\$97.50

Private room, \$130.00 per night/TOTAL
\$390 - **Deposit \$195.00**

**Deposits are due ASAP. If we don't fill the
space immediately, Itchin To Be Stitchin
will offer our "open" space to others.**

***Itchin To Be Stitchin has become very
popular and reservations needs to be
made almost a year in advance.***

**Secure your spot NOW by contacting
Itchin To Be Stitchin TODAY and put
down your deposit. Their phone number
is: 618-635-2429**

**Put a RETREAT on your Christmas list. If
you're been GOOD, maybe Santa will
send you on a relaxing, fun, all the sewing
your heart desires retreat.**

**Other retreats will be schedule through-
out the year at Todd Hall.**

**Let me know of other retreat centers you
would like to visit. Watch for updates with
new retreats.**

Teresa Basler



Jean Weber, Coordinator
jeanwbr@yahoo.com
314-495-9887

Phyllis Nelson - Phyllis Nelson, a dear mem-
ber of our guild passed away on February 21st.
She had been in Dolan Memory Care for some
time. Her obituary can be found at
<https://www.schrader.com/obits>.

Cards of sympathy may be sent to her hus-
band:

John Nelson
542 Coachgate Court
Ballwin, MO 63021

Please keep Phyllis and her family in your
thoughts at difficult time.

Route 66 Project News

By Wendy Richards
whoob@aol.com

We are excited to have the first full reveal at
our own Fanfare of Quilts 2025.

After that, the next commitment is Crossroads
Gallery in Wentzville for October of 2025.

In 2026, so far, we have the Route 66 Visitor
Center in Eureka for 3 months, then the History
Museum in Springfield, MO in November and
December.

We are in contact with the Will Rogers Museum
in Oklahoma and a museum in Illinois.

If anyone has contacts for other locations,
please let us know! We'd like it to show on
Route 66 locations for 2026, but we're open for
anything else after that. We are entering it in
Road to California and Houston, as well as
hoping to be in the Quilt Museum In Paducah.

We plan to have an exhibit book available by
our quilt show. It will have a photo and story
for every piece. It is a labor intensive project
— photos, editing, and more editing!

COVER OUR KIDS and MORE
Diana Priess, Coordinator
dianajpreiss@aol.com

Happy March to All our Bits 'n Pieces Members. You are All a part of making this goodness happen for so many kiddos hurting, feeling lonely, and in need.

Forward Bound: If you participated in Forward Bound, please bring your note to our March 25th Bits Meeting, to share your experience in giving to a Loved One in need.

Donate Backing & Batting: Please continue to bring your donations of 3-yards lengths for backing our Pieced Tops. And Please continue to bring your donations new 80/20 Batting! It has been absolutely Amazing how many of You have stepped forward to help us all achieve our Goal and Mission of Cover Our Kids!!

COK SEW FUN DAY!! Save the Date!: Monday, May 5, 9:30-2:30, at Salem at Ballwin United Methodist Church. Sue Meyer will be our Featured Speaker. Bring your sewing machine, supplies, and extension cord, and join us as Sue shares her concepts and instruction, and we all build "Baggie Blocks" to create a Beautiful Quilt Together!!

Cover Our Kids & More Quilt Guidelines

- ♥ Minimum Size: 36" by 36"
(Bereavement Quilts can be 24" by 36")
- ♥ Maximum Size: 84" by 84"
- ♥ For Pieced Tops to be Quilted, please Secure All Seams along the Outer Perimeter of your Pieced Quilt Top: Please Back Stitch or Sew a "Victory Lap" around the perimeter of the Pieced Top (This avoids seams separating when quilted.)
- ♥ Please Wash All Finished Quilts in Fragrance-Free Detergent. Avoid Stains, Pet Hairs, and/or Smoke Odor.
- ♥ Sew our Label in any corner of your quilt, on the reverse side.

**Optional for your Pieced Top:
Include Backing and/or Batting
(Much Appreciated!)**

**Thank You So Much for Your Dedication to
provide for So Many in Need!!**

**BEREAVEMENT/SWADDLING
QUILTS GUIDELINES**

*T*hese bereavement quilts will be donated to parents/families, to hold, swaddle, and cuddle their young infant/toddler one more time.

Many of you have requested more information regarding Guidelines for our Bereavement Quilts. It is Wonderful to see how many have stepped forward for this need!

Mercy Children's Hospital has requested:

- ♥ Soft, Soothing, Calming Colors
- ♥ Soft Fabrics
- ♥ Minimum Size: 24" by 36"
- ♥ Maximum Size: 48" by 48"

You may bring these completed quilts to any monthly Bits Guild Meeting, and we will make sure the hospital receives them.

Thank You So Much for Your Dedication in this endeavor!!



Bits n Pieces Quilt Guild 2025 Challenge

Harriett Zipfel - 2r2tnoe@gmail.com

This year the theme is black and white and red all over! Well, not exactly. This year your challenge is to select black and white fabrics and pair them with a fabric the color of your choice.

Guidelines:

- ♥The fabrics can be solids or prints.
- ♥You chose the color of fabric you want to pair with black and white.
- ♥The quilt dimensions can range from 3" to 18". No quilt should be greater than 18" on a side.
- ♥Quilts should measure in increments of 3". so 3", 6", 9", 12", and 18" are acceptable dimensions.
- ♥Quilts must consist of three layers. Three dimensional quilts will be accepted.
- ♥Quilts that do not meet these guidelines will not be eligible for vote or awards. (But we can display and admire your work anyway!)

Due Date:

The November 2025 Guild meeting.

Awards:

The membership at the November 2025 meeting will vote for first, second and third place quilts. Prizes will be awarded to the people who made the top three quilts.



UFO Challenge

Rita Nyhoff and Jane Dapkus

Congratulations to the winners of the UFO Challenge for end-of-year completed UFOs! You encourage all of us to complete those unfinished quilting-related projects (UFOs) lying around in our sewing rooms.

- 1st Prize - Dar Sforza
- 2nd Prize - Jane Dapkus
- 3rd Prize - Theresa Lator
- 4th Prize - Mickie Compton \$10

Why join the Challenge? The first perk is a real sense of accomplishment! "Finished is Better Than Perfect!" Seeing your finished work also encourages other members to get to work on their own UFOs, and the third perk is the awards that can be earned! See our webpage for more information <https://bitsnpiecesguild.com/special-events-2/ufo-competition/>

Now's the time to join the fun! Get your lists in to Rita Nyhoff or Jane Dapkus (The UFO Sisters) by the April meeting. You can download the form from our webpage [[link to 2025 form](#)] and email it to either of us or bring to the next meeting; or it's okay to email a list to either of us (contact info on Members Only webpage). When you've completed the project, bring it to a meeting for Show-and-Tell and stop by the UFO Challenge table to report the details (length, width, date started, and how and by whom quilted).

We look forward to seeing your fabulous creations! Get your list in now, before you forget! And we'll see you at the March meeting! Maybe you'll be able to show us a completed project!

Rita and Jane, The UFO Sisters

Bit n Pieces 2025 Workshops

By Candance Grisham

There are many opportunities for everyone this year with four different workshops scheduled. I am working out the details and will have samples and sign ups at upcoming meetings but here is the tentative schedule:



April 10, 2025 - Norma Stark

Mini Rings A Sew Kind of Wonderful mini ruler workshop, 33 x 44"

In addition, she is speaking and doing a different workshop with Hearts n Hands in O'Fallon, IL that week and we are welcome to sign up (after members) and come to the program.



June 25th, 2025 - Danielle of Warm n Cozy in Columbia, IL

"Master Your Stripology Ruler"

This is doing a full day workshop. It will take you beyond just cutting strips, squares and rectangles with your Stripology rulers! Learn to utilize the ruler for 1/4" and 1/8" inch increment cutting, squaring up blocks, cutting 45 degree and 60 degree angles, making basic quilt elements such as a Half-square Triangles and Flying Geese, and more!



September 24, 2025

Leila Gardunia

Mini Mirrored Diamonds This will be a full day workshop teaching beautiful foundation piecing with one of her patterns. Pattern required.



October 29, 2025

Erin Grogan

Big Stitch Quilting

This will have a 2 hour workshop. Big Stitch Quilting is something many have wanted to learn and what a great opportunity to see ideas, threads and a demo.