

Piecing our Lives

The monthly newsletter of
The West Alabama Quilters Guild

January, 2016
Volume 17, Number 1

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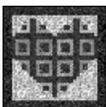
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A colorful December Holiday Party with lots of food and the "Play on Words" challenge quilts.

Time to renew your membership for 2016 !!
See Mary B to pay your dues. She will have a draft of the **2016 Membership Directory** at the meeting, so please be sure to check the directory and make any needed changes to your contact information listing.





President's letter:

Quilt Show Registrations: Don't forget the due date to register a quilt for our show is the January meeting. We hope everyone enters at least one quilt. Beginners, we are especially interested in showing beginner's quilts in our section: "The starting line: Beginner's quilts." Let's encourage folks to give quilting a try and teach our visitors what quilting looks like from beginners to experienced.

January Meeting: Damon Ligon from General Sew and Vac will be here in January. Have your questions ready. He is very knowledgeable about sewing and, of course, sewing machines. In addition to his discussion of how to care for our machines, I plan to ask about tension problems and how to fix them (especially with invisible thread), needles and thread sizes.

Cohesiveness: The Story of the Quarter Quilt

Those of you in attendance in December saw my state quarter collection quilt—over 8 months in the making. Here is the story of its design and my multiple attempts at getting a cohesive quilt.

Cohesion means the parts and pieces work together logically and in ways that enhance each other, enhance the whole, and become what is unmistakably a whole greater than the sum of the parts. Simply put, a cohesive quilt works. I know a cohesive quilt when I see one, but I can't design one—yet.

My first design was for a collection of 56 blocks each 3 by 5 inches with a black, one inch sashing heavily quilted in green thread for a quilt about 48 by 28 inches. The colors were black, white, and pale green with silver designs on the fabric. The state initials were on top, the date the state voted to join the union was in the middle, and the quarter was next incased in a tube of silver bridal veil, which you can't see unless you are close. It had crystals, a scalloped edge and every glitzy fad I saw at Paducah. I soon added the state flower to each block because applique flowers are my favorite thing to sew (not a reason remotely related to design), and the blocks grew to 4 by 6 inches. I thought I did enough preliminary drawings and quilting tests to have a cohesive, beautiful quilt. I was wrong.

After 30 state blocks were completed, it was blatantly apparent the quilt didn't work. It was so busy it made John's (my husband) and, admittedly, my head hurt. The black and white fabric with silver was overpowering and the green quilting just added confusion. The sashing needed to be bigger to keep the complexity of the blocks in check. I finished all blocks and knew 56 (50 states and 6 territories) divided by 7 and 8, 14 and 4. Three sets of 8 blocks equaled 24, which could be divided by 6 and 4. I drew and tried on my design wall well over 20 different ways to arrange the blocks, with different sized sashing. Every arrangement was too busy or looked like a mish mash of state blocks flung on the wall. John said if I asked him to look at the quilt blocks one more time, he was going to burn down my sewing rooms. Even saintly, hobby-supporting husbands have their limits. Cohesion was elusive.

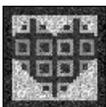
I head out to Bootcamp with Harriet Hargrave and brought all of the blocks. By then I had them arranged alphabetically. I love alphabet quilts (note, this is another reason not remotely related to design), so the 4 A's (AI, AK, AR, AZ) were together, then the 3 C's, etc. The last day of bootcamp, we showed our quilts for help and suggestions. I explained my love of the alphabet. My classmates talked about the state blocks and flowers they liked best. Harriet, was quiet for a while. Then she said, over time, "We are all enamored with the blocks. You need to arrange them in order of their entry into the union. Initially, I didn't even know what that date on the block represented. This is not an alphabet quilt, it is a quarter quilt. Get rid of anything that distracts from the quarters," (or, words to that effect.) My classmates jumped in: "Get rid of the scallops, get rid of the crystals, simplify the quilting—do a grid or channel quilting," in my words, "get rid of the glitzy fads."

Back home, having drawn every possible arrangement of 56 blocks, I quickly settled on the arrangement and started designing the border. I drew and then pinned on my design wall beautiful flower arrangements in the corners and sides. I stepped back and knew the border detracted from the theme: the quarters. I eliminated and eliminated until I ended up with a simple, small border and the quilt finally worked. It is not beautiful, or glitzy. There is no bling. But, it is interesting and, finally, cohesive. Flower borders will have to wait as will the alphabet and crystals, the quilt is about one thing: the quarters.

And sew on, Inez

PS. Thanks to Hallie for pointing out that Iowa is IA, not IO and to Laurie for calling and telling me. The O became an A that day.





January 9, 2016, Guild Meeting:

8:45 Basics and Beyond: Join us for a discussion/demonstration of all things basic to quilting: fabric choices, fabric grain, washing, measuring, cutting, pressing, tools and notions. Charlotte

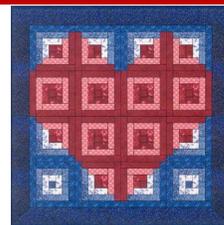
9:30 Guild Business meeting

10:30 Program: Damon Ligon from General Sew & Vac will be with us. Have your questions ready. He is very knowledgeable about sewing and, of course, sewing machines. In addition to his discussion of how to care for our machines, I plan to ask about tension problems and how to fix them (especially with invisible thread), needles and thread sizes.

2016 Brings lots of new ideas and interesting programs. On the agenda is Big Stitch Quilting, Thread Painting, Applique Techniques, Our Sew Many Spaces Tour, and more! Stay Tuned for more details.

Hospitality

Bring refreshments to share when you can.



2016 WAQG Officers

President Inez R

Vice Pres Paula B

Secretary Laura R

Treasurer Beth M

Board Members

Diana S 2016

Charlotte N 15-17

Christine LeCr 16-18

Committee Chairs

Basics and Beyond Charlotte

Community Service Sara T

Hospitality Sharon Long,

Education Nan G

Kentuck _____

Library Susan A

Membership Mary B

Name Tag Drawing Jill K

Sunshine Julie T

Mini Workshops Debbie W

Major Workshop 2016 Paula B, Inez R

Newsletter Jamie G and

Judy S

Opportunity Quilt 2016

Laurie P-D and Brenda P, Diana M.

Publicity/Historical ___open

Yearbook Mary B

Challenge 2016 Board

Quilt Show 2016: Beth M

Telephone Tree Nan G

Shark Pit: Paula W

Website Coordinator LPD

Retreats: Ana S



Welcome New Members:

Georgette

Linda

Jane

Contact info update:

New address for **Jacque**



Thanks to Hallie for leading our silk-screen printing after the December meeting. Judy, Jamie, Mary, Charlotte and Laurie helped prepare these great patches for our quilt show name tags and prize ribbons!!

Thank you note from Ana

I just wanted to take a minute to thank everyone for their very kind wishes and words. I have really enjoyed doing the Basics and Beyond class for all these years and it is so rewarding to see that I did my job. Thank you for all the cards, gifts and the great gift from the Guild. I will enjoy the Retreat and think fondly of all of you. It means so much to me. Charlotte will keep you laughing and intrigued with her new approach to the Basics and Beyond class. Thanks again!!! Ana

2015 Challenge Winners
"Play on Words"



Inez "Thinking Out of the Box" won Best of Show and 3rd place, Larger Wall Hangings.

Larger Wall Hangings



Jamie's "Boot Camp" 1st place



Laurie's "Scape Goat" 2nd place

Smaller Wall Hangings



Pat's "Quilting Bee" 1st place



Hallie's "Horse of Another Color" 2nd place



Doris' "Kiss my Grits" 3rd place

Miscellaneous



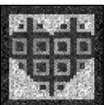
Nan's "Cereal Killer" 1st place



Melanie's "Chicken Cord on Blue" 2nd place

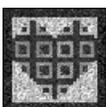


Diana's "Barking up the Wrong Tree" 3rd place



More wonderful quilts shared in December





WAQG 2016 Major Workshops Registration for all of the workshops is closed and waiting lists have been started. The lectures, however, can be enjoyed by everyone—they are free and open to the public.



**February 19-20:
Gail Garber**

Lecture, Free and open to the Public:

Friday, February 19, 2016, 7:00 pm at TDOT.

Workshop: "Sensational Stars".

Saturday, February 20, 2016
Full day. At TDOT.

Cost: \$40 plus supplies.

Workshop is full, but see Paula to be added to the waiting list.

This is a workshop geared toward the Intermediate quilter and features drafting, foundation piecing techniques and color selection. Read more about it at GailGarber.com



**April 12-16:
Harriet Hargrave**

Lecture: "Top 10 Tips to Becoming a Better Quilter"

Free and open to the

public.

Friday, April 15, 7:00 pm. At TDOT.
harriethargrave.com

Workshops:

All workshops are now full, but see Inez if you would like to be added to waiting lists.

Tuesday, April 12 (9:00-4:00) : **Piecing Quality Workmanship**, \$40

Wednesday, April 13 (9:00—4:00): **Machine Applique** \$40

Thursday—Friday, April 14-15 (9:00-4:00): two-day workshop for beginners, **"The Basics of Heirloom Machine Quilting"** \$80

Saturday, April 16 (8:30-2:30): **"Quilt as Desired"** \$40



Quilt Show 2016 reminder!

We want your quilts!

Please remember to turn in your completed quilt registration form (form only-not the quilt) to Beth M at the January meeting.

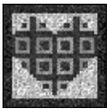
Please complete one form for each quilt. Be

sure to include an "insurance value" for our insurance policy. The value would be for the cost of materials only unless it has been appraised. Remember that every quilt needs a 4" hanging sleeve on the back.

Also, sign up to help with the show, bring your 5" squares of fabric for our opportunity baskets and try to make something for the silent auction. Our quilt show will be here before we know it! Beth.

Request from Rose O:

It is time to turn in your donations of quilted items of any size, large or small, for our Silent Auction at the Quilt Show to benefit the PTSD Vets of Foreign Wars. People can bring to next two guild meetings or can call me or email and I will pick up.



Quilt Show 2016

Register your Quilts Now!! The forms are due by January 16th.

The registration forms were emailed out last month, have been available at guild meetings and for those who receive the newsletter by regular mail—are attached here. Make copies as you need to. Complete one form for each quilt. Remember that there is a category just for beginner's quilts, called "The Starting Line" with a separate registration form.

See Beth's note at the bottom of page 6 for more.



Set up: Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Judging: Thursday, March 3rd

Quilt Show open to the public: Friday, March 4th
9am—6pm, and

Saturday, March 5th, 9am—5pm

Take down and clean up: immediately after the show, Saturday at 5pm.

Location: Taylorville United Methodist Church
640 Bear Creek Road
Tuscaloosa, AL

A very pleasant space and an easy location to find.

In addition to our many wonderful quilts on exhibit, we will have: Demonstrations, Special Exhibits, Vendors, Opportunity Baskets, our Opportunity Quilt, and a Silent Auction to benefit our local VA Veterans of Foreign Wars PTSD group.

Thanks to everyone already working on the many tasks for our show.

Check our website for updates:
www.waqq.com.

Minutes from December 12, 2015

Next Board meeting January 21, 2016 at 5:00p.m.
Jason's Deli

Announcement/Mail:

- Request for donations of quilts from Quilter's Dream Batting for ALS persons
- Check Smoky Mountain Quilters web site for info on their quilt show
- Sew Delightful will be closed from December 24 -26 and for inventory from December 31- January 9th
- Hangers are being collected for Kentuck
- Sara T is still collecting 5 inch squares for the quilt show

Jackie T is moving out of state. Each member can make 12" finished (12½" unfinished) block of card trick pattern on black background with rainbow colors. Directions to be provided.

Basics and Beyond:

- Ana S to retire from teaching and Charlotte N to take over. In honor of Ana doing this for so many years, guild presented her with paid 4 day retreat.
- C. Nix announced work meeting in February to prepare for quilt show. We will work on name badges and ribbons for hanging quilts.

Retreat: Money due for January retreat today. Spaces still available.

Mini Workshop: Debbie W is heading this program and will coordinate with C.Nix from B&B.

Membership: 65 members present and 3 visitors, 2016 dues are due, check the directory to make any necessary corrections, and let Mary B know if picture is unsatisfactory.

Name Tag Drawing: Winners are Paula W, Becky B, and Brucie W

Sunshine: Julie T announced the current member health concerns

Newsletter: Items for newsletter due by December 28th

Opportunity Quilt:

- Augusta A won the drawing for this year's quilt.
- Diana may won the prize for selling the most tickets.

All squares for 2016 quilt need to be returned

Quilt Show: Nancy H has agreed to be our judge for 2016 quilt show.

Just Finish It/ Bring and Brag: Nancy A, Nan G, Mary Jean H, Sara T, Karen L, Melanie M, Julie T, and Inez R,

- Paula B won prize for most items finished on her list. Finished 77%.
- Our Holiday Feast and Challenge competition followed for a fun program.



**West Alabama
Quilters Guild**
P.O. Box 020059

Tuscaloosa, AL 35402

WAQG Meets at the Department of Transportation Building (1000 28th Avenue) on the second Saturday of each month

A not-for-profit organization



Reminders:

Turn in your quilt registration forms for the Quilt Show!!

Start your "Just Finish It" list for 2016.

Augusta had the winning ticket for our 2015 Opportunity Quilt!!



Husqvarna VIKING Sew Delightful

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Phone: 205-752-1700
E-mail: sewdelightful@comcast.net
Website: sewdelightful.net

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