

Piecing our Lives

The monthly newsletter of
The West Alabama Quilters Guild

August, 2015

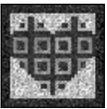
Volume 16, Number 8

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Here is Julie with her wonderful peacock quilt, embellished with crystals and beads. Julie is asking for suggestions for a name for this quilt, so if you think of one, please tell her!



President's letter:

Contentious Topics you Might or Might Not want to Avoid

When I taught physical education majors how to teach elementary school physical education and dance, I always warned them there were three topics they would be wise to avoid discussing with children in public elementary schools: religion, politics, and sex. I have learned there are three topics to avoid with quilters unless you are prepared for what might be a contentious discussion. Here is what I have heard, so far, about the three topics:

Topic One: Should you use starch, "Best Press," or sizing or none of the above. As I understand the arguments, the problem with starch is that it attracts silver fish. Every argument I have heard for starch always ends with, "but you must wash it out of the quilt." Arguments for starching claim it is easier to piece accurately and keep the edges turned under in applique.



Topic Two: Should you press your seams open or press your seams to one side with folks on both sides acknowledging that sometimes you must press your seams open in some situations when you have many seams coming together in one place. What I have heard about this debate centers on quilting in the ditch, which is quilting right on the seam (if it is pressed open) and right next to the seam (if the seam allowance is pressed to the side). One side claims if the seams are open, you will be quilting over nothing but thread and the other side claiming it is much easier to piece and match seam lines and the quilt simply looks better when seams are pressed open. One debater convinced me that you won't know how you think about this issue unless you try both ways, so I did. (One way was very difficult for me, so I have an opinion on this topic, which I won't share, because I said, these are topics to *avoid*.)



Topic Three: Prewash your fabric or don't. This debate is complex because there are many different reasons to prewash or not such as prewashing to prevent fabric colors bleeding onto adjacent fabrics, prewash so you have less shrinkage, or don't prewash because you want shrinkage to get that puckered, antique, cuddly look for the finished quilt. The most interesting argument I read was to prewash the fabrics you intend to applique, but don't prewash the background fabric. Then when you wash the quilt the background will shrink more than the applique and consequently hide your applique stitches under the slight puff of the applique pieces—a look many quilters like.



If you want to voice your opinion on any or all of these topics, send, give, or email me your comments and I will report on what everyone said in later newsletter—of course, you can remain anonymous and I will not take sides.

Workshops

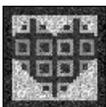
If you are thinking of taking Gail Graber's workshop, don't be put off if you don't like the star she has on her website. She plans to teach us how to design and draft our own stars. You can make your own a star pattern, maybe a holiday star pattern.

I was fortunate to take a design class with Gail and I happened to create several modern designs. I entered thinking I could never draw such a quilt and left thinking, "I could do this." Regardless of your skill level, you can find this workshop valuable for learning the process of designing and drafting stars.

Don't forget to write me a note this month with your name and the workshops if you need a scholarship for Harriet Hargrave's workshops. A scholarship is just like a tuition scholarship to school, your workshop fees are waived by Hargrave or, if necessary, paid for from donations to a scholarship fund. We don't want anyone to miss this opportunity because cost was a constraint. The guild is not paying for these scholarships.

We are down to the last few days to finish those charity quilts! See you in August.

**And sew on,
Inez.**



August 8, 2015, Guild Meeting:

8:45 Basics and Beyond: Realizing that many of you are new to B & B, I wanted to introduce you to one of my favorite and fun squares for an easy quilt. It is called the Disappearing Nine Patch. Just involves a nine patch square and a Rotary cutter. Looks fancy and is sooo easy. Secondly we will start a three month two color mystery quilt. Ana.

9:30 Guild Business meeting

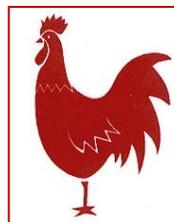
10:30 Program: **Our annual Itch-to-Stitch** presentation of our efforts of making quilts for community service organizations. We have two organizations this year: **The Easter Seals Nurse Family Partnership Program** (baby and small quilts are appropriate) and the **Central Church of Christ Disaster Response Truck** (any and all sizes of quilts are appropriate). Make plans to join us for this fun and fulfilling program and bring all of your quilts to donate.

September: Diana M with Tessellations

October: Kentuck Prep

November: Gingerbread House

December: Challenge and Holiday Party!

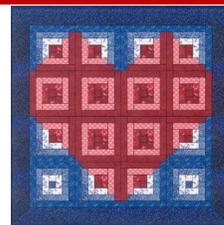


Red Rooster Retreat :

The August retreat is full and we are all looking forward to it on August 27th through August 30th. The next retreat will be January 7th through the 10th, 2016. Just around the corner. Ana.

Hospitality

Bring food when you can as we all enjoy our goodies!



2013 WAQG Officers

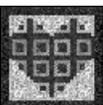
President Inez R
Vice Pres Paula B
Secretary Judy S
Treasurer Beth M

Board Members

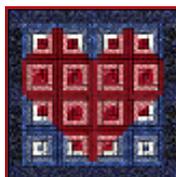
Jamie S 13-15
 Barbara W 14-16
 Charlotte N 15-17

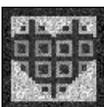
Committee Chairs

Basics and Beyond Ana
Community Service Sara
Hospitality Faye , Diana S, Reita M
Education _____
Kentuck Charlotte N
Library Susan A
Membership Mary B
Name Tag Drawing Jill K
Sunshine Julie T
Mini Workshops Jacque T
Major Workshop 2015 Charlotte N
Major Workshop 2016 Paula B
Newsletter Laurie P-D
Opportunity Quilt 2015 Beth M, 2016 Laurie P-D and Brenda P
Publicity/Historical Sharon L
Yearbook Mary B
Challenge 2015 Board
Quilt Show 2016: Beth M
Telephone Tree Nan G
Website Coordinator LPD
Retreats: Ana S



Fun and varied quilts shared at our July meeting.





Important Kentuck Festival of the Arts information for WAQG booth:

- ◇ Kentuck Festival is held Saturday-Sunday, Oct 17-18, 2015
- ◇ Saturday 8-5 pm, (patrons are allowed in early on Saturday) and
- ◇ Sunday 9-5.
- ◇ We set up on Friday, October 16th.

Every WAQG member is requested to either 1) make an item (to have a WAQG sales tag) of around \$ 20 value OR 2) donate \$ 20 to the guild. Include the donated item on a sales inventory sheet.

Kentuck is a juried art festival that WAQG is privileged to be invited (free) to participate. **With** privilege comes the responsibility to hold ourselves to standards deserving of our participation in Kentuck. We represent quilting as an art and craft and thus we have established criteria for sales items:

Items must be quilted throughout with a minimum of two layers of fabric, batting, fleece etc. Quilts typically have three layers with a front, back, and batting of some sort. Fleece serves as both batting and backing, thus only two layers would suffice. Regardless of the number of layers, there should not be any doubt that it is a quilted item. Exception: pine cone ornaments and cathedral window items

ALL items to be sold (no exceptions) must be on a sales inventory list, and checked-in by the October 10 meeting. The guild will transport items to Kentuck. No items will be accepted after the meeting.

Do not submit items made using:

ready-made purchased pre-quilted fabric

Cheater's cloth (printed fabric made to look like patchwork)

Copyrighted fabric (Bama, Disney, etc.) unless you own a license allowing you to sell items with these fabrics.

Panels are acceptable if they are quilted throughout and some sort of quilted border(s) has been added.

If you are making multiple items of a similar nature, please know that only a few will be on display in the sales tent at a time. Others will be stored underneath the sales tables.

If there is any question to the acceptability of an item, please bring a sample in for Inez and Charlotte to review.

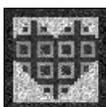
Try to keep in mind the spirit of these rules—that is to represent quilting as an art and craft in a juried festival. For example, putting three layers of fabric together with a few grid lines of quilting meets the rules, but not the spirit of the [rules](#). Fleece used as batting and backing is only two layers, but better meets the spirit of the rules than three layers of fabric.

Friday, Oct. 16 will be set up of the booths. We have assembled teams to do different tasks led by different people in the guild. Lots of people will be needed to assemble the large tent, however, once that is completed, we ask that you depart to let the merchandising committee do their job. While well intentioned, too many people only makes this task harder.

Take down begins on Sunday at 5pm. Please pick-up or arrange pick-up of your unsold merchandise then. Help will be needed to disassemble the tents and return them to the storage unit. A couple of trucks will be needed for set-up and take-down, please let Charlotte know if you can provide one.

When pricing an item remember to include 10% for the guild and 9% tax. We are quilt artists and have put treasure, time and effort into our work. We will not be reducing any prices on Sunday. If you need some assistance with pricing your items ask for assistance.

Kentuck information continued on page 6



Kentuck information continued:

Children's area: Black/white/ and bright 9.5" unfinished squares along with die-cuts are requested, these will be used to make charity quilts in our large demonstration area (see the box for details). →

We will also be tying a large quilt that will be placed in a frame. The public will be encouraged to participate.

Items needed: extra tables, trucks to transport tents and equipment, three sewing machines during all time periods, general sewing supplies for piecing, machine quilting, and tying, (you can bring your own machine if you are demonstrating and are not under any obligation to let others use it).

For yourself, bring: lawn chair, lunch, hat, sunscreen, thimble, Kentuck Artist Assistant Badge, something to work on.

Kentuck Artist Assistant Badges are available for \$ 5 each which pays for admission to the festival on either/ both Saturday and Sunday. To qualify for a badge you must sign up to work at least 2 hours in some capacity at the WAQG booth. See Charlotte for a badge. Badges can be picked up at our October 10th meeting.



The Kentuck Festival is a wonderful time for us to educate our community about making quilts. It is also a fun time to get to know each other better.



Kentuck 2015 Our Demonstration

Kentuck 2015 in Black, White and Bright

This year our Kentuck demonstrations will once again showcase our machine skills by making quilts progressively from start to finish. Last year's program was so successful we will be repeating it. Our goal is to show the steps of the quilt making process and be able to talk about and demonstrate each part of the process. There will be stations for designing, piecing, layering, pin basting, quilting and binding. These will be youth quilts made for a designated charity.

How can you help?

We will need 9 1/2" blocks in black/white and bright:

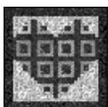
- Nine patches
- Snowballs with 3 1/2" corners
- 4 patches
- Rail fences
- 9 1/2" squares to fuse appliques on
- Or, bring in a charity top for us to finish, quilt, bind, or layer.
- Or, bring in black/white or bright fabric to make applique shapes or backgrounds.

Items will be collected at the August, Sept, and October meetings.

If you would like to contribute fusible applique shapes in black/white or brights for the blocks please see Beth or Diana so that we can coordinate supplies.

Although our goal is to complete quilts for donation, this is meant to be fun. The demonstration pace at Kentuck will be more of a saunter and not a gallop so we can easily talk and answer questions. Enjoy!





2015 Mini Workshop Schedule

August 8th after guild meeting:

Sashiko by Machine with Inez.

September 12th after guild meeting:

Cos Guo's folded fabric flower purse

2 options- learn to fold fabric flowers or make entire purse.



Supply List (to make entire purse)

Estimate of 2 and 3/4 yds of fabric, plus extra if making matching strap

2 and 5/8 yds of light or medium fusible stabilizer

21- 3/4" buttons to be covered with fabric

1 - 7.5" zipper or other closure

Strap of choice, option - liner of choice

Rotary cutter/matt/ruler, we will be cutting hexagons with each side measuring 6.5" (13" across) after fused to stabilizer.

IF you want to only learn how to fold the fabric into the flower, then bring some fabric and fusible stabilizer.

Welcome New Members:

Marie 8/13

Patty

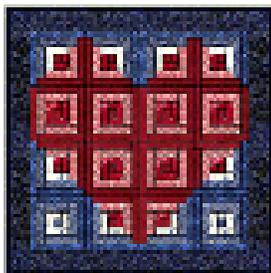
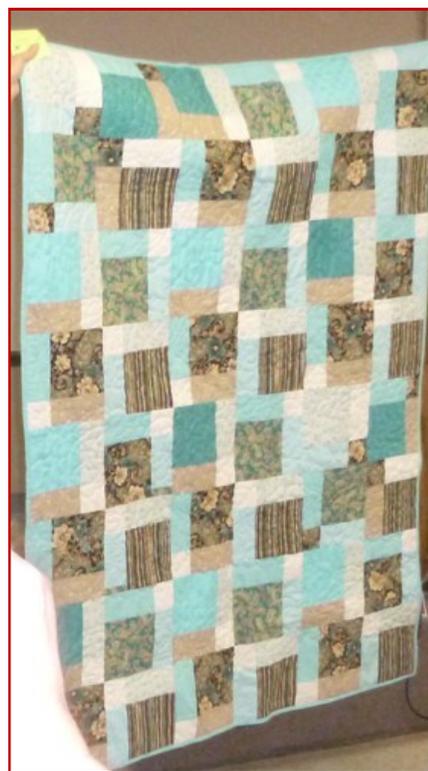
Ginger

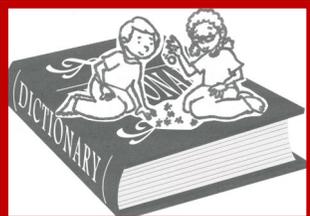
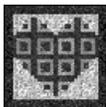
Elzora

Directory contact information update:

Change of address:

Augusta





2015 Challenge: "Play on Words"

Rules

Limited to two entries per person. Entries must be in different categories and must be brought to the December 12th meeting.

Entry must depict a play on words. We encourage playful, fun-filled, pun-filled entries, but serious depictions are also valued. The entry can be any style (traditional, contemporary, or modern or a combination). Lettering and embellishments are encouraged, but not required.

The title or theme of the quilt must reflect a play on words and be visible. It can be part of the quilt design or you can write the title on paper and pin it to the quilt for the December meeting.

The quilt should be in a pillowcase that is labeled with the category you are entering. You should drop it off in the lobby when you arrive in December.

Item must be made with two or more layers of fabric held together with quilt stitching throughout.

Item must meet requirements and be entered in one of the following categories:

Larger wall hanging: each of the four sides must be at least 30 inches and no longer than 60 inches.

Smaller wall hanging: Each of the four side must be less than 30 inches.

Miscellaneous: This includes wearables, household items, 3-D sculptures. Item cannot be larger than 40 inches in any dimension.

Prize ribbons will be awarded based on the votes of members present at our December 12th meeting. We will have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons in each category and a Best of Show ribbon.

The most important rule is: Have fun with this Challenge!

Assistance in Design (not in making the quilt)

Design Buddy: We encourage everyone to find a design buddy for this challenge with whom you can brainstorm possible quilts, discuss your ideas and how you might turn these ideas into a quilt, or figure out how to solve problems with your design or quilt.

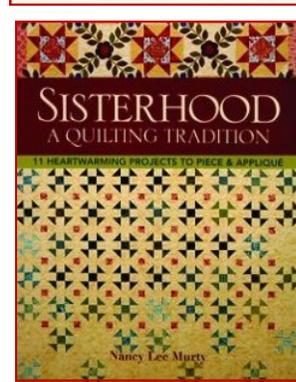
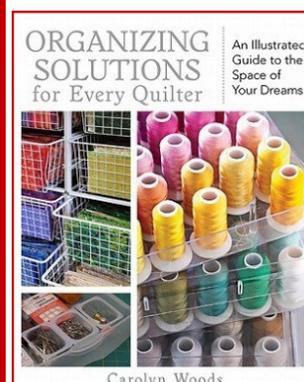
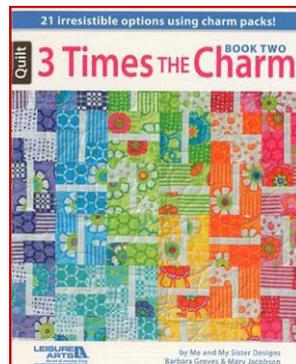
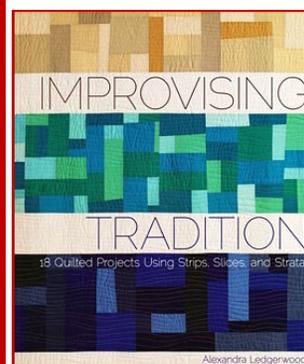
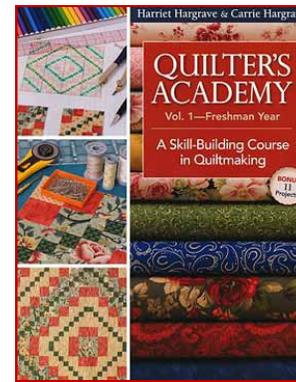
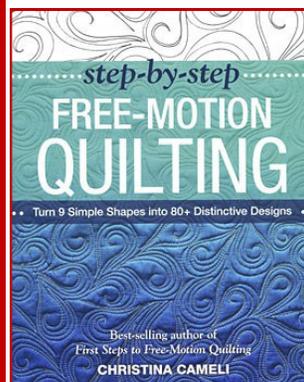
Consultants: The following have volunteered to help anyone with designing their quilt:

Charlotte , Inez , Laurie ,
Ana , Jamie , Susan .



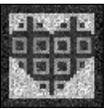
Library Notes

New on our shelf:



Book and DVD suggestions or donations welcome!

Susan , WAQG Library



WAQG 2016 Major Workshops

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.

See Paula and pay fee to register.

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:

(Registration begins in September - Inez)

Tuesday, April 12: **"Quilt as Desired"** \$40

Wednesday, April 13: **"Introduction to Quilters Academy"** piecing accurately \$40

Thursday, April 14: **"Invisible Machine Applique"** geared for beginners. \$40

Friday, April 15 - Saturday, April 16: two-day workshop for beginners, **"The Basics of Heirloom Machine Quilting"** \$80

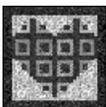
Scholarships are available. If you need a scholarship for the Hargrave workshops, please write a note to Inez by our August 8th meeting stating:

I am requesting a scholarship for ___ (fill in the number of 1 day and 2 day workshops).

I am requesting a partial scholarship for ___ (fill in the number of 1 day and 2 day workshops). Then sign your name, and give the note to Inez by August 8th. That's it.

Harriet has already offered several scholarships per workshop and we will be working to get as many scholarships as we need so that cost is not a constraint to any guild member.

Remember: Registration starts at our September meeting. You may register for as many workshops as you like, but you must pay for or have a scholarship for all workshops at that time. We will continue to accept guild member registrations until the workshops are filled. We will open registration to the public after our November 14th meeting.



We are rolling with plans for our 2016 Quilt Show!

**Set up: Wednesday,
March 2, 2016**

**Judging: Thursday,
March 3rd**

Quilt Show open to the public:

Friday, March 4th 9am—6pm

Saturday, March 5th, 9am—5pm

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

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

A very pleasant space and an easy location to find.

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.



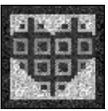
Thanks to everyone already working on these and other tasks for our show.

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



More wonderful quilts shared at our July meeting.





Minutes July 11, 2015

Next Board meeting July 14 , 2015 at 5:00p.m. Jason's Deli

Announcement: Sew Delightful will be closed the last week of July for retreat and will be closed the first weekend of August as well as all weekends in July. Fabric Shop in Starkville, Ms is closing and has some good deals on sewing machines, 10% off on fabric.

Committee Reports: **Membership-** 55 members present today. Four new members joined today. Elzora F, Ginger W, Marie W, and Patty C. July birthdays announced. Guild pins are available for sale @ \$5 each. **Library-** Seven new books donated to library and new order arrived from Amazon. Book from Harriet Hargrave here also. **Name Tag-** Names drawn this month were Jill S, Sara T and Paula B. **Basics and Beyond-**Worked on kites for quilts and a quick holder for items. **Retreat-** Ana is taking money for August retreat. **Challenge quilt-** Inez reminded us of some examples for this quilt. Challenge will be for December meeting. **Itch to Stitch-** Reminder that our charity quilts are due for next month's meeting. **Newsletter-** Have items to Laurie by July 23rd.

Quilt Show- David L and Laurie P-D are still looking for sponsors at \$50 and up. Beth suggested we do basket for auction that contained five inch squares. Please give donations to Sara T for basket. Rose announced that silent auction proceeds will be donated to Tuscaloosa VAMC for Veterans of Foreign Wars, specifically for a PTSD group. Please donate items to Rose for auction. Julie T has 5 vendors for our quilt show and they will all have double booths. Room for one more single booth, preferably for fabric, if anyone wants to recommend a fabric store they know of, please talk to Julie.

Kentuck- Diana S discussed our demonstration-quilting in progress that will be held at our tent area. Children will make the quilt blocks and members will demonstrate process of making quilt. Please donate 9 ½ squares of black, white and/or bright fabric for this booth, or other 9-1/2" (unfinished) blocks as listed on page 8. If anyone wants to help with Accu-cutter for quilts please let Diana know. These quilts will be donated to a charity.

Workshop- Inez R will do August workshop on Machine Sashiko. All who are interested, please sign up after meeting. Paula B is taking sign-ups for Gail Garber's workshop in February. Harriet Hargraves' workshops will be open for sign-up in September/October. After September meeting Cos and Charlotte will do fabric-fold flower purse workshop. Sign up sheet on back table.

Bring and Brag and Just Finish It- Paula B, Jacque T, Jill S, Dot B, Becky B, Karen W, Mary Jean H, Inez R, Sara T, Christine L, Faye L, Melanie M, Brucie W, Marjorie S, Jamie S, Sarah W, Julie T and Judy S.



Julia Graber shared her quilts and SAQA info.



**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:

Bring all of your Itch-to-Stitch quilts!

If you signed up for Inez' Machine Sashiko mini-workshop, bring your supplies!

Show us your "Just Finish It" completed projects.



Husqvarna VIKING Sew Delightful

1875 McFarland Blvd N, Suite 200, Tuscaloosa, AL 35406. Phone: 205-752-1700. E-mail: sewdelightful@comcast.net. Website: sewdelightful.net

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