

Piecing Our Lives

The Monthly Newsletter of
The West Alabama Quilters Guild

February 2019
Volume 19, Number 1

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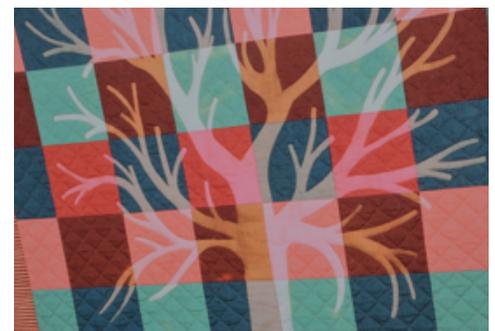
Hallie O’Kelley with her depiction of “October Glory”. The dedication was held on Saturday, January 12 at Government

We love you

West Alabama Quilters Guild
is proud to honor

Hallie O’Kelley
with this depiction of her
quilt “October Glory”

We thank Hallie for her
many contributions
to the
Arts in Tuscaloosa



President's Letter, February, 2019

Greetings,

What a great celebration we had at Government Plaza after the January Guild meeting for the unveiling of Hallie's mural. It was so great to see the large crowd of Guild members and so many members of her Church (Forest Lake Methodist) there to support her and show her how much we admire and love her dedication to art and quilting. It is such a wonderful testament to the work we do and the work that she has done for over 20 years as a member of our Guild.

I am excited to begin this year and at our February meeting we will reveal our 2019 Challenge, the Itch to Stitch projects and enjoy each other's company. Don't forget to fill out and bring your "Just Finish It" lists. I am working on mine and am embarrassed at how many UFOs I actually have in my sewing room. Now is the time to finish them.

We are still looking for someone to chair the Kentuck event and the Education Team. Be brave and step up. You will have lots of help. Remember that if we don't have anyone to chair, it will be difficult for us to participate. We have done it for years so much of it is already ready to go each year. I don't want to drop out if we don't have someone to head it up. Let me or someone on the Board know if you have any questions or wish to step up and help out with either project.

See you in February,
Ana S



Registration continues for the **Christina Cameli Workshop**. \$40 per workshop.

If you have signed up but not paid, please pay at the February meeting. Registration will open to the public after the guild meeting and classes may fill quickly!

Lecture at 7:00 pm on Friday, April 19, 2019 at Tuscaloosa DOT (normal meeting place). Free and open to public. DOOR PRIZES!!

Workshops Friday and Saturday, April 19-20, 2019. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Tuscaloosa

Recommended book: *First Steps to Free Motion Quilting*. Christina will have copies of this and other books she's written, including a book that comes out the week before our class.

Friday - April 19, 2019

9:00AM – **Beginner** – **Jump Into Free-Motion Quilting** – Ideal for the Novice/Beginning Free Motion Quilter. Topics covered include setting up your machine, basting and getting started. Lots of practice time working with different designs and opportunity for help and guidance from Christina.

1:00PM – **Intermediate** - **Free Motion Texture** - Focus is on light and shadow and the principles of open space and repetition to create captivating free-motion designs.

Saturday – April 20, 2019

9:00AM – **Beginner/Intermediate** - **Grid Based Quilting** – Class combines the structure of quilting with a walking foot with the freedom and texture that's possible with your free motion quilting foot. (How it can be both beginner and intermediate will be explained at the meeting.)

1:00PM - **Intermediate+** - **Free Form Quilting** – Explore allowing the quilting to develop as we go. Freeing the free-motion brings us face to face with blank canvases and tight spaces; we choose only the rules that serve us. We practice getting unstuck as needed.

February 9, 2019 Guild Meeting:

8:45: Basics & Beyond: “What to do with old quilts” presented by Ana S

9:30: Business Meeting

10:30 Program: Sarah Bliss Wright and she will be presenting a program on the Bemis Bags.

<http://www.alabamahumanities.org/alabama-cotton-bemis-bags-pieced-quilt-history/>

Treasurer Report as of December

Previous Checking Balance: \$11,756.15

Current Checking Balance: \$10,074.42

Income: \$5439 (includes retreat money)

Expense: 1933.28



*Details can be seen at the guild meeting.

Membership:

New Member:

Toni H

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

(205) xxx-xxxx

xxxxxxxx@xxxxxx

November 22

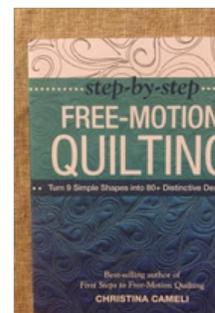
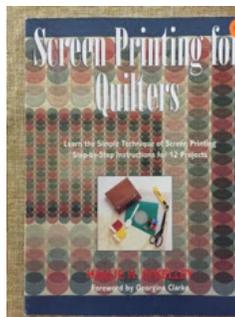


It's time to renew your membership!!!! Don't forget. Please make sure all your contact info is correct for the guild directory.

Library News:

The library has a number of new books for February. By popular demand, we've purchased a second book by Christina Cameli, "Step-by-Step Free Motion Quilting."

In celebration of our most famous member, Hallie O'Kelley, we've also added a copy of her "Screen Printing for Quilters." Congratulations, Hallie!



We've also wish to express appreciation for the substantial donation of books from former member Sue M. The 22 books she donated reflect her interests in foundation piecing, miniature quilts, and more.

2019 WAQG Officers

President Ana S
Vice Pres Barbara W
Secretary Anne E
Treasurer Marie D

Board Members

Paula B 17-19
Jamie S 18-20
Joyce T 19-21

Committee Chairs

Basics and Beyond Board Members
Community Service
Education
Historian Anne E
Kentuck
Library Patricia W Dana M
Membership Mary B
Name Tag Drawing Diane A
Newsletter Jamie S, Judy S
Programs
Quilt Show Beth M, Julie T
Retreat Joann W, Barbara H
Shark Pit Paula W
Sunshine Julie T
Telephone Tree Nan G
Workshop/Major
Workshops/Mini
Website Coordinator Laura R
Yearbook Mary B
Challenge 2018 Board
Website Laura R

WAQG Meeting, January 12, 2019, 8:30 a.m. TDOT Meeting Room, Minutes



Ana S, newly-elected President of WAQG, welcomed members to the meeting, and opened by saying that the meeting would be short, ending at 10:30 so that members could make their way to Government Plaza. The representation of "October Glory," one of Hallie O's designs was scheduled to be unveiled at 11 a.m. There has been excellent publicity in the Tuscaloosa News and the Northport Gazette.

Mary B announced that 50 members were present, including Toni H, a new member. There was one guest, Ann B. Winning nametags were drawn; Paula W, Brucie W, and Peg L. Anne E read a thank-you letter from Quilts for Kids, thanking the Guild for the Itch to Stitch quilt donations.

WAQG has been contacted by Kentuck and Hotel Indigo about mounting an exhibit in November-December 2019. **Those who wish to exhibit their handiwork should contact Ana as quickly as possible.** They must be prepared to sell the items they exhibit, and they need to know that Kentuck will retain 30% of the purchase price. The space at Kentuck will allow for non-traditional items, but Hotel Indigo will accept quilts only. Hallie O has exhibited there and believes that the size limit is about 60" (her quilts were square.) Quilts must have a sleeve on the back for hanging.

There will be a free event for anyone considering starting a small business on Thursday, January 23 in the Dinah Washington Cultural Center.

Information and instructions for both the Challenge Quilt event and Itch to Stitch will be shared with members at the February meeting. The Challenge Quilt event will be held in November 2019.

Ana explained the WAQG "Just Finish it" project of WAQG, and asked all members to take a form home and fill it out, make a copy, and bring the original to the February meeting. Anne E will be monitoring this effort.

A Chairperson is urgently needed for Kentuck. Please let a Board member know if you are interested. There will be a great deal of help available from those who have chaired this effort in earlier years. **Also, Kentuck is scheduled for the second weekend in October in 2019, so our October meeting will be held on the first weekend of that month.**

The Board is also seeking a chair for the Education projects as soon as possible. Again, there will be assistance from other members.

For now, Basics and Beyond will be the purview of the Board members, but anyone wishing to take on this responsibility is urged to contact Ana.

Sunshine. Julie T reminded members that Sara T is still suffering and to send prayers and cards her way. She mentioned several other individuals and family members who are going through difficult times.

The next quilting retreat is scheduled for August 15-18, 2019. Registration is full, but you should ask to be put on the waiting list if you are interested. Contact Joann W who is coordinating the retreats.

Laura R announced that the WAQG Website has been updated and freshened. Please take a look and let Laura know if you have comments or suggestions.

Patricia W announced that she has prepared a catalog of the materials in the library that can be downloaded and then searched.

Rose O reminded members that the signup sheets for the workshops in April were available, but that registration would be open to the public very soon. The workshops will be held at the Universal Unitarian Church in Tuscaloosa.

Minutes continued on page 5.....

Minutes continued.....

Eve E brought examples of calendars that she was going to present during the meeting, but which was cancelled due to the abbreviated meeting.

Ana stated that she envisioned some small workshops this year given by members.

Beth M reported that the theme and instructions for the Opportunity Quilt will be on the agenda for February.

A number of members showed their completed quilts during Bring and Brag, and Becky B received a pin for her first full-sized quilt.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m., and many members reassembled at Government Plaza to witness the unveiling of Hallie O's quilt design that is permanently displayed in Hallie's honor.

Respectfully submitted
Anne E, Secretary

Education News:

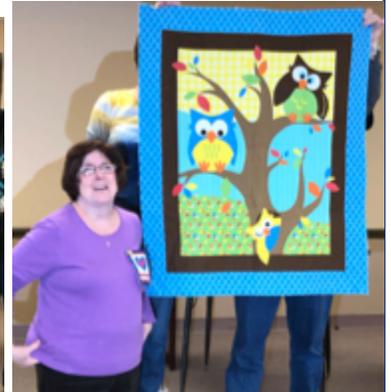


A very special thank you to Judy W., Deborah C., and Helen C, for volunteering to help Nan G. teach and encourage Tuscaloosa Magnet School students make their first quilts last October through December, 2019!



Pre-K "Q" week was celebrated at Westwood Elementary. Becky B and Dot B shared about quilts, color, squares, circles, hexagons, and Appliqué. The book "The Quilt Story" from the library was read and then each child and teacher colored their own mini Q quilt. That afternoon they napped with their quilts.

Bring & Brag/Just Finish It



Quilters' Retreat

'Tis the season of the Rooster
Red and ready by the lake,
Nineteen ardent quilters gather
Rush to choose a place to stake.

Three delicious meals a day
(Made with Rooster care for all,)
Make our quilters quite ecstatic,
Ready for a longish haul.

Pins and scissors, irons and Ott-Lites,
Brothers, Pfaffs, and Baby Locks,
Yards of fabric, bitty pieces,
Appliqué and nine-inch blocks.

Close your eyes and listen closely
To the symphony of sound,
Bobbins filling, quilters joking,
Cell phones ringing all around.

Time to sow and time to dream,
Time to learn, and time to share
Precious handwork, finished projects
Hanging from the highest stair.

Sunday morning, weekend's over,
Machines silent, packed to load,
Shouts of "Bye" and "See you later"
Signal time to hit the road.

Anne E
Red Rooster Retreat. Smith Lake, Alabama
1/5/19

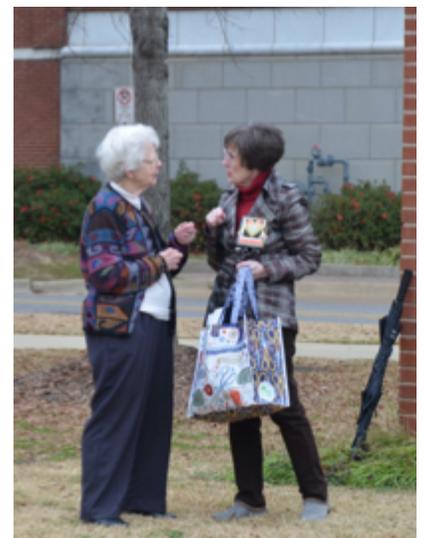


More info on Sara Bliss Wright (February program)

Sarah is a Rhodes Scholar. Here is a short bio that was published in The St. Clair News-Aegis in September.

“Alabama native Sarah Bliss Wright spent thirty years of her career in the performing arts before turning her attention to textile arts. In 2006, the desire to create a crazy quilt from her late father’s neckties led to the addition of quilting to her creative pursuits. Meeting Mary Elizabeth Johnston Huff, a fellow Alabamian, and well-known author of numerous books on quilting, sparked Wright’s interest in quilt history and the extensive research that followed.

Wright earned a B.A. in Psychology from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. She also studied at the University of Exeter, England as a Rotary International Fellow. She is the curator for “Our Quilted Past,” an exhibit of Alabama feedsack quilts and Bemis Brother Bag Company. Her research of quilt history is published in *Quilt History* magazine, 2013. She is a member of the Alabama Quilt Study Group, and currently lives in Mobile, Alabama.”





**West Alabama
Quilters Guild
P.O. Box 020059
Tuscaloosa, AL 35402**

We're on the
web
www.waqq.com



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