

# Piecing Our Lives

The Monthly Newsletter of  
The West Alabama Quilters Guild

December 2017  
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Eve is giving members some tips on organization for their sewing area. November's program had her and other members showing how they have used various things to organize.



## QUILT SHOW INFORMATION

When: March 2-3

Where: Taylorville Methodist Church  
640 Bear Creek Road

(Setup and judging will be done on days prior to the show)

Quilt entry forms are due by the **January Meeting**.

Quilt delivery: You will need to deliver your quilt to the church in its pillowcase. The time that we are accepting quilts will be announced later.

Each quilt being shown needs to have a hanging sleeve attached for proper display.

If you have not volunteered to help, please do so. We cannot succeed without a lot of wonderful members helping.



## WAQG President's Letter-December 2017

Dear WAQG members,

What's under your needle? I was able to get my Challenge project completed so my flying geese have taken flight and are ready to land at our December meeting. Please remember to bring your challenge project in a pillowcase so others won't see your project as you bring it in. I can't wait to see what everyone's geese look like.

Speaking of geese, which being of the fowl family reminds me of turkeys, which reminds me of Thanksgiving. This year I am thankful that I am blessed to still have my entire immediate family to share Thanksgiving with which consists of my parents, Wallace and Sue Lancaster, who have been married almost 64 years and still live independently at the ripe ages of 85 and 88, my one and only ('older') sister, Rhonda, her daughter, Ashley, and her two precious sons, Hunter and Daniel. Many folks think the boys are Sammy, my husband, and my grandchildren and we wish they were, but we weren't blessed with kids of our own. Sammy's parents and his brother are deceased, so our family is a small one. As Joyce Giraud once pinned 'Thanksgiving is one of my favorite days of the year because it reminds us to give thanks and to count our blessings. Suddenly so many things become so little when we realize how blessed and lucky we are.' I am thankful that I was introduced to quilting just a few years ago at the WAQG quilt show and that the guild welcomed me into the wonderful world of quilting. I continue to be amazed at the talent in our guild and what a generous, kind and loving group of folks I am blessed to be with each month at guild meetings. You inspire me and push me to develop my skills while gently nudging me to step out of the box and try something new... but remember I'm still a newbie so almost everything is still new to me. I don't say it enough, I know, but from the bottom of my heart *Thank You* for opening your hearts, sharing your knowledge and holding me tight in your arms, that I am sure is covered with loose thread and bits of fabric.



I am looking forward to seeing you at our December meeting that will be fun and festive as we wish each other Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.

Quilting is a scrap of happiness... so let's get back to our machines and see which gift we left under our needle that needs to be completed.

*Debbie*

### December 8, 2017 Guild Meeting:

**8:45: Basics & Beyond:** Bring practice binding samples, we'll also discuss curved piecing and plans for next year. Happy Thanksgiving - Charlotte

Bring ideas for the topics list for 2018.

**9:30: Business Meeting**

**10:30 Program-** Challenge Unveiling/  
Christmas celebration



### October Treasurer Report

Income \$5,134.00\*\*

Expenses \$2,621.64 \*\*



Previous checking  
balance \$10,052.99

Current checking balance \$13,957.59

**\*\* Details can be seen at guild  
meeting**

### Entering a Quilt in the 2018 WAQG Quilt Show

Entry forms for the 2018 WAQG quilt show will be available starting in October. We will have both electronic and paper copies. All forms are due at or before the January meeting. Please only turn in a form if you are confident that your quilt will be completed by the February meeting. Those quilts that are not completed by the February meeting will be removed from the show. We need to have an accurate count of quilt entries to plan the display layout for the show.

As in past shows, you can choose whether or not you would like to have your quilt judged. While being "judged" may sound intimidating, it is a great way to get constructive feedback from an expert quilter.

The entry form will ask for detailed information about your quilt that will assist us in putting it into the appropriate category. The categories will be determined by the types of entries we have, with the goal being to have an even distribution of the number of entries across categories. Be thinking about good names for your entries!

We will also have two special categories, neither of which will be judged:

The Starting Line - Entries of "first time" quilts, which could be your very first quilt show entry ever, or pieces that represent a new type of quilt for you even if you have participated in shows before. For example, if in the past you have always shown quilts with computerized long-arm quilting, but this time you have a quilt where you tried free-motion domestic-machine quilting for the first time, that might be an appropriate "Starting Line" entry. If you want your first time entry to compete in the general show you will need to enter it as a standard item.

Guild Challenges (2016 and 2017) - If you have completed a challenge for 2016 (Essence of Alabama) or will have one for 2017 (Flying Geese) these will be displayed together in a special area. We encourage you all to share your challenge item for this display (even if it wasn't ready for the December Challenge show!). It's a great way to demonstrate the community our guild represents. If you want your challenge item to compete in the general show you will need to enter it as a standard item. If you have any questions speak to Laura R.

### 2017 WAQG Officers

**President** Debbie W  
**Vice Pres** Eve E/ Rose O  
**Secretary** Laura R  
**Treasurer** Dot B

### Board Members

**Charlotte N** 15-17  
**Christine L** 16-18  
**Paula B** 17-19

### Committee Chairs

**Basics and Beyond** Charlotte N  
**Community Service** Sara T  
**Education** Nan G  
**Historian** Anne E  
**Kentuck** Paula B, Teresa M  
**Library** Susan A  
**Membership** Mary B  
**Name Tag Drawing** Diane A  
**Newsletter** Jamie S, Judy S  
**Opportunity Quilt 2017** Fay L  
**Programs** Eve E, Rose O  
**Quilt Show** Paula W, Karen L  
**Retreat** Ana S  
**Shark Pit** Paula W  
**Sunshine** Julie T  
**Telephone Tree** Nan G  
**Workshop/Major** Eve E, Rose O  
**Workshops/Mini** Debbie W  
**Website Coordinator** Laura R  
**Yearbook** Mary B  
**Challenge 2017** Board  
**Shark Pit** Paula W  
**Website** Laura R



Information for the Quilt Show Boutique is coming.....

Charlotte shared a recent article from The Quilting Company that I think you will find fascinating. It reported the results from the Quilting in America 2017 Survey and it shows the following interesting facts about quilting.

#### The Size of U.S. Quilting Market

- Total number of quilters 7 to 10 million in the U.S.
- Total number of quilting households is 6 to 8.3 million
- The estimated total annual spending is \$3.7 billion
- Quilting household spends an average of \$442 annually

All Quilters	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
Percent	10%	59%	31%
Years Quilting	6.1	16.8	26.6
Hours/Week	6.9	11.7	17.6
Age	60.9	63.2	63.4



#### Dedicated Quilters

- Defined as those households who spend more than \$500 per year on quilting-related purchases
- They represent 16.4% of all quilting households

#### Who is the Dedicated Quilter?

- A 63 years old female who has been quilting 19 years
- She is well educated (70% attended college)
- Affluent with an average household income of \$95,900
- Spends on average \$3,363 per year on quilting
- Leans toward a preference of traditional quilting styles (85%) over modern (37%) and art (20%)
- In past 12 months purchased an average of 99 yards of fabric at an average cost of \$9.34 per yard
- 64% turned to quilting-related websites and 52% to online classes and videos for inspiration
- Spend 7.9 hours weekly on the internet browsing, visiting or interacting with quilting-related sites

#### Buying Habits

- The Dedicated Quilter purchases an average of 99 yards of fabric with the average price per yard of \$9.34
- Favorite fabric types: Batiks (72%); Small Floral Prints (65%); Holiday Prints (64%); Print Solids/Blenders, etc. (64%); and Tone-on-Tone Neutrals (58%)
- 83% will purchase 100% cotton thread
- Over half purchase batting in the queen form while 43% purchase in rolls with 66% are most likely to have purchased natural cotton and 55% cotton/poly blend
- 97% are purchasing fabric, batting and/or thread in person at retail locations and 68% are purchasing items online

#### The Under 45 Quilter

- Educated (4-year college graduate 35%; Post graduate degree 23%)
- Affluent (\$98,000 average household income)
- Devote on average 10 hours a week quilting
- Twice as likely to be employed full-time while devoting this time to her craft
- 26% have purchased a traditional sewing machine and 26% attended a quilt show in the past year
- Prefers modern quilting
- Websites (75%) and online video (63%) play a stronger role for information and inspiration
- Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest are important sources for this group

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**WAQG guild meeting minutes, November 11, 2017**

**Announcements:** Next dementia "activity blankets" for Hospice of West Alabama sewing session will be in January, Nominations for Itch-to-Stitch charities need to be completed using the nomination form, will be voted on by Board in December. David L - licensing to sell UA logo items cost \$120 per year plus ~\$25 for official decals, can sell \$2500 max per year, send picture of what you are making to the licensing office, fairly easy to do  
December board meeting shifted to Wednesday.



**Voted on and unanimously approved new slate of officers to begin in 2018** - President - Debbie W, VPs - Rose O, Eve E., Secretary - Anne E, Treasurer - Dot B., new board member Jamie S. to replace Charlotte N.

**Membership:** 49 members present, 1 guest.

**Sunshine:** keep ailing members in your thoughts,

**Name tag winners:** Dianne B., Martha S., Mary Lou P.

**Basics and Beyond** - shared Log Cabin block homework, today Binding, December curved piecing, Please give ideas for 2018 Basics and Beyond to Charlotte

**Programs - Major workshop** - Melinda Bula in February, sign up in back, \$75, look at book and DVD in library to learn more about Melinda. Seminar on Friday will be about selecting and understanding Color. Patterns will be either zinnia or sunflower, will need to buy fabric kit or bring own, will also need thread for painting, 2019 major workshop will be Christina Cameli doing free-motion quilting. December meeting will be a brunch holiday party, December birthdays bring dessert to share, Challenge show with Flying Geese, Please share ideas for 2018 programs with Eve E.-especially want to highlight guild talents.

**Quilt show** - March 2nd and 3rd, entry forms available, return forms by January meeting, Laura R. will also distribute forms by email and on website - can submit by email, \$15 fee for each quilt for non-members, Silent auction - be working on donations for the silent auction at the quilt show, proceeds donated to the VA memory care unit

**Hurricane Quilt Relief-** need quilt tops 50" wide or less and Christine will quilt on the long arm, also consider donating extra quilting tools/supplies to help quilting victims reestablish their studios. Education - Nan G. is chair of the education committee and needs help for ideas, supplies and volunteers. Teaching a partnership class at the Magnet school for 5th grade, meets once a week, donated supplies would be helpful. Also need help making 4-6" sandwiches for outreach activities, suggestion to show student quilts as part of quilt show

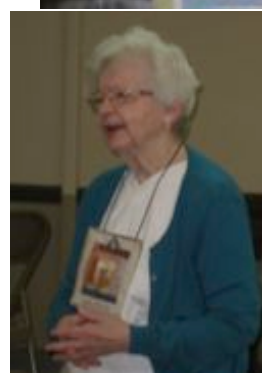
**Kentuck** - Thank you for all of the help, earned > \$3000 in funds, please provide constructive comments to Paula B., small items sold best (<\$10 = 60 items), only 5 items >\$80 were sold, we suggest more art quilts for next year to better fit with Kentuck's image, Kentuck a great way to acquire new additions such as hexi...

**Opportunity Quilt** - make sure to sell and turn in your tickets, drawing at December meeting,

**Bring and Brag:** 11 people shared their most recent projects, Just-Finish-It - 2 completed projects,

**Program:** workspace organization strategies, several members shared their own low cost organization tricks.

Bring & Brag/Just Finish It



A few of the quilt donations for hurricane victims.



November Program – Members giving organizational tips.



Basics & Beyond





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

We're on the  
web

[www.waqq.co](http://www.waqq.co)



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



**Husqvarna VIKING**  
**Sew Delightful**

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Website: [sewdelightful.net](http://sewdelightful.net)

**Longarm quilting,  
Husqvarna and Viking Machines,  
Heirloom Supplies and Sewing**  
Featuring Fine 100% Cotton Fabrics and all your  
sewing supplies.

Bring in this ad and receive  
20% off a new item  
purchase of regular priced  
merchandise. You must  
have coupon and certain  
restrictions apply. Limit one  
per customer per year.