

Piecing our Lives

The monthly newsletter of
The West Alabama Quilters Guild

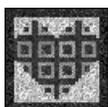
September, 2015
Volume 16, Number 9

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Thank you to all of our WAQG members for your generosity. During our August "Itch-to-Stitch" meeting we gave 77 quilts to the Easter Seals Nurse Family Partnership program for first time Moms, and 26 more quilts to the Central Church of Christ Disaster Response Truck!



President's letter:

Diana M: Tessellations: Good things ahead. Next meeting Diana May will teach us about Tessellations, which make fascinating and beautiful patterns for pieced quilts.

Hot Topics: I spoke to many members about their opinions about the 3 hot topics I discussed in last month's newsletter. I would like to talk with many more if not all of you this next meeting. Track me down if I don't find you. Or, send your opinions to me by mail or email. The topics are: 1) To starch or use Best Press or not, and why; 2) To iron seams to the side or open, and why; and 3) To pre-wash or not prewash your fabrics, and why.

It is critical that you tell me why you choose the options you do. So far we have many interesting and informative opinions—add yours to the list and I will collate these for a future newsletter.

Itch to Stitch Charities for 2016: The Board is seeking suggestions for charities for this coming year's Itch to Stitch. In Itch to Stitch each member, if possible, makes one (or many more quilts) to donate to our selected charity. The charity must serve Western Alabama and be a non-profit. Just write your suggestions down, give them to me, and the Board will contact the charity.

Registration for Workshops: **We start registrations for the 4 Harriett Hargrave workshops in September. You must pay the registration fee to register. See Inez for Harriet Hargraves workshops and Paula B for Gail Garber workshop.**

Tuesday, April 12, 2016: Quilt as Desired \$40. Spend a day with Harriet and your quilt tops deciding what type of quilting would make your quilt top a knock out, but quilted within your skill level. Students bring their quilt tops and quilts to class so that the problems or frustrations they have experienced can be seen as they are discussed and hopefully solved. Other topics will be covered like batting choices, stencil designs, quilting ideas, marking tools, caring for quilted quilts, and on and on.

Wednesday, April 13, 2016: Piecing: Introduction to Quilters Academy. \$40. This one-day class covers the highlights of what Quilters Academy is about. This is not a project class, but strictly technique oriented. The mysteries of why grainline is critical to precision piecing will be covered, finding your perfect seam allowance, as well as ironing for accuracy. Choosing rotary cutters and mats, rulers, thread choices, and sewing accurately will be the main topics covered. This will be achieved through sewing samples. If time allows, perfect 3" 9-patches (1" grid) will be constructed.

Thursday, April 14, 2016: Invisible Machine Applique. \$40. Enjoy learning true, professional techniques for beautiful machine appliqué. Tried and true methods for achieving perfect appliqué by machine are stressed. Invisible machine appliqué techniques will give a hand appliqué appearance, and is Harriet's instant gratification technique. 6 hour class - 4 hours of Invisible machine appliqué techniques and 2 hours of exploring Curved Piecing a la appliqué.

Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16, 2016: The basics of heirloom Machine Quilting. \$80. This two-day workshop offers anyone the opportunity to explore what traditional heirloom style machine quilting is all about, and an excellent start to mastering the techniques that make your quilts heirlooms in a fraction of the time of hand quilting, but with the same look.

This is a practical, basic class for machine quilting. Whether you have never quilted before, or have done some things but are not happy with the results, you will benefit greatly from this workshop.

Registration for all Harriet Hargraves workshops will be open to guild members exclusively from October through the November meeting. Then we will open registration to the public for \$50 for one-day workshops and \$100 for the two-day workshop.

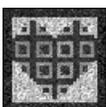
February 20, 2016: Gail Garber Workshop \$40. Spaces are still available for Gail Garber's workshop **Sensational Stars**. Design your own circular stars in different settings. Students will learn drafting and paper foundation piecing techniques as well as tips for glorious color selection. By the afternoon, you'll be stitching together your one-of-a-kind celestial masterpiece! Intermediate Skill Level.

And sew on, Inez.



Kentuck Building Renovation Fund
WAQG folks can help:

As many of you know, **Kentuck's shop/office building is undertaking a fund raising campaign to repair their building.** Laurie P-D had this awesome idea for us to give back and show our support for Kentuck. Laurie's idea was brought before the WAQG Board and approved enthusiastically: **Any member who wants to donate a quilted item to be sold at Kentuck in our booth can do so with the entire proceeds (after taxes) donated to Kentuck's building fund.** We plan on starting small, and simple this year with guild members, if they so choose, donating any quilted item of their choice. Next year we hope to expand and coordinate our efforts—more about that at a later date. When you check in your items in the October meeting, write on the price tag that the item is for the **Kentuck Fund** and tell the individuals cataloging the items that it is intended to be a Kentuck donation.



September 12, 2015, Guild Meeting:

8:45 Basics and Beyond: So excited that we have so many people showing up for basics and beyond. For September, we are going to look at two techniques for Quilt-As-You-Go projects. Sometimes it is difficult to quilt a large quilt on a regular machine, but if you eat the elephant one bite at a time and quilt each block before putting the quilt together, it is a bit easier. Also the next Mystery Quilt clue will be handed out. Don't forget to bring your two colors with you so that we can see what you are working on. Ana.

9:30 Guild Business meeting

10:30 Program: Tessellated Quilts. Our own Diana M will



start with the simplest one-patch shapes and progress to some exciting new variations. Before the program, be sure to draw a number from a basket on the membership table for Diana's "give-away" at the end of her presentation.

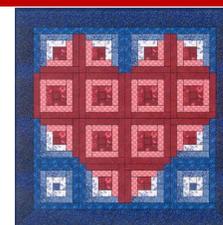
October: Kentuck Prep

November: Gingerbread House

December: Challenge and Holiday Party!

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

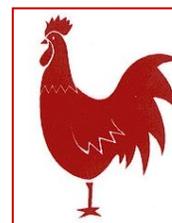
Publicity/Historical Sharon L
Yearbook Mary B

Challenge 2015 Board
Quilt Show 2016: Beth M

Telephone Tree Nan G

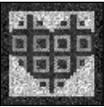
Website Coordinator LPD

Retreats: Ana S



Red Rooster Retreat :

The next Red Rooster Retreat will be January 7, 8, 9 and 10th, 2016. More information to come.
 Ana



A wonderful display of generosity as we give a total of 103 quilts to our designated local community service organizations at our annual "Itch-to-Stitch" program.



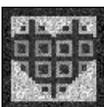
Sherri Presley-Dumas (at right) receives 77 quilts for the Easter Seals Nurse Family Partnership Program. Shown here with Sara T, Inez R, and Barbara W.



Joe Higgins, center, an Elder at Central Church of Christ, receives 26 quilts for their Disaster Response Truck program. Shown here with Pat S, Sara T, Inez R, and Mary Jean H.



Great Bring & Brag quilts shared.



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. **See Inez' letter on page 2 about items to also donate for the Kentuck Building renovation fund .**

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 this 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.

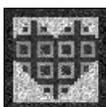
For a list of suggested pricing ranges, see page 6. Try to keep in mind the spirit of these rules—that is to represent quilting as an art and craft in a juried festival. For example, putting three layers of fabric together with a few grid lines of quilting meets the rules, but not the spirit of the [rules](#) . 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:

Here are suggestions for pricing your items:

Rag quilts \$30 to \$80
 King quilt \$150 to \$425
 Queen quilts \$90 to \$350
 Reg quilts \$70 to \$225
 Cuddle quilt for Child \$25 to \$80
 Baby quilt \$20 to \$60
 Mugrugs \$12
 Potholders \$5
 Small Wall hangings \$15 to \$45
 Large Wall hangings \$50 to \$150
 Table runners \$35 to \$60
 Bed runners \$40 to 80
 Ornaments \$10

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: We want to have lots of WAQG members working on demonstrations either by piecing the 9" blocks the children make, sewing on the fleece backing and/or quilting the quilts using free motion quilting. These will be charity quilts and we would like to invite the public to sew along with us. IF you are not comfortable with free-motion quilting, NO worries. This is a perfect time to try with some help. These charity quilts are perfect for trying unfamiliar activities. That being said **we need some machines and tables to do this work. Please let Charlotte know what you can bring. Trucks for transporting items from (Friday afternoon) and to (Sunday late afternoon) the WAQG Storage unit in Cottondale to/from the Kentuck Festival grounds are needed.**

We will keep only 1-2 rotary cutters around and will have a designated cutter holder (we certainly don't want a child to get his/her hands on one!). Some rulers and mats might also be helpful for cutting fleece for the backings.

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.



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:

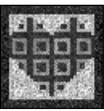
- Nine patches
- Snowballs with 3 1/2" corners
- 4 patches
- Rail fences
- 9 1/2" squares to fuse appliques on
- Or, bring in a charity top for us to finish, quilt, bind, or layer.
- Or, bring in black/white or bright fabric to make applique shapes or backgrounds.

Items will be collected at the September and October meetings.

If you would like to contribute fusible applique shapes in black/white or brights for the blocks please see Beth M or Diana S 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

September 12th after guild meeting:

Cos G'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.

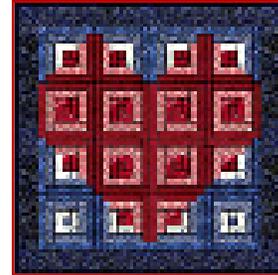
Welcome New Members:

Peter M

Millie D

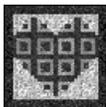
Directory correction:

Laurie



More great quilts shared at our August meeting.



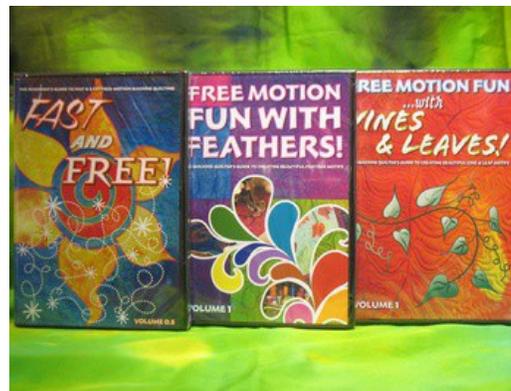


Library Notes

New on our shelf:

3 DVDs with Patsy Thompson Teaching

Free Motion Quilting:



Fast and Free! Vol. 0.5 (Beginners guide)

Free Motion Fun with Feathers! Vol. 1

Free Motion Fun with Vines & Leaves! Vol. 1

Visit Patsy's website for demos & downloads:

<http://www.patsythompsondesigns.com/>

More websites with quilting info and free demos:

Angela Walters: [http://](http://www.quiltingismytherapy.com/)

www.quiltingismytherapy.com/

Christina Cameli: <http://www.afewscraps.com>

Leah Day: <http://freemotionquilting.blogspot.com/p/start-here.html>

More DVD's in Our Library:

Ricky Tim's Grand Finale

Ricky Tim's Quilting Caveman Style

Alex Anderson Teaches You to Start Quilting

Quilt Restoration Workshop with Nancy Kirk

Suggestions or donations welcome!
Susan A, WAQG Library



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 shown above, 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!

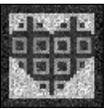
Assistance in Design (not in making the quilt)

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 N, Inez R, Laurie P-D,

Ana S, Jamie S, Susan A.



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 B and pay fee to register. A few spots left.

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:

See Inez' column on page 2 for more details on workshop content.

Registration begins in September - see Inez

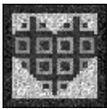
Tuesday, April 12: **"Quilt as Desired"** \$40

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

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 keep 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
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.

One of our special exhibits will feature our community service efforts. If you have photos showing people receiving our quilts, please email them to Becky B

Julie T has a wonderful array of vendors lined up for our shopping pleasure!

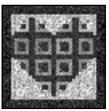
Thanks to everyone already working on these and other tasks for our show.

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



We had great fun learning Machine Sashiko from Inez in August. Our mini-workshops are a great way to learn a new technique!





Minutes August 8, 2015

Next Board meeting August 11 , 2015 at 5:00p.m. Jason's Deli

Announcement: We have reached membership of 102 members.

Guest Name Tags: Paula B quilted some name tags for quests to use while at meeting. They are at registration table.

Committee Reports: **Membership-** 53 members present today. Two visitors present. August birthdays announced. **Library-** Some new books are in. **Name Tag-** Names drawn this month were Janie W, Augusta A and Pam S. **Basics and Beyond-** Reviewed disappearing nine patch and given instructions for mystery quilt to be completed by November. **Retreat-** Ana is taking money for August retreat. **Newsletter-** Have items to Laurie by August 20th. **Opportunity quilt-**Raffle tickets are still available for opportunity quilt. **Sunshine-**Julie T asked for any information.

Quilt Show- Sara T is asking for donations of five inch squares that will be raffled off at quilt show. If anyone has large basket to put the squares in, Sara would be interested.

Kentuck- 1) acceptable items – information in newsletter. 2) Sign-up sheets available for Kentuck on front table. 3) Need storage unit crew. Charlotte N has price tags available for anyone who needs them.

Workshop- Sashiko will be this afternoon's workshop. 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 purse workshop. Sign-up sheet on back table.

Bring and Brag and Just Finish It- Steven H, Julie T, Nan G, Jamie S, Melanie M, Sue G, and Diane A.





**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



General Sewing & Vacuum

Baby Lock & Brother Sales Riccar Vaccums

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New Baby Lock "Lyric" and "Soprano" machines. View at <http://babylock.com/sewing/lyric/> and <http://babylock.com/sewing/soprano/> Trade-In specials available!

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Phone: 205-752-1700
E-mail: sewdelightful@comcast.net
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**Longarm quilting,
Monogramming and Embroidery,
Heirloom Supplies and Sewing**
Featuring Fine 100% Cotton Fabrics and all your sewing supplies.

Bring in this ad and receive 20% off a one-time purchase of regular priced merchandise. You must have coupon and certain exclusions apply. Limit one per customer per newsletter.

Reminders:

Bring food to share.

If you signed up for Charlotte and Cos' mini-workshop on fabric folded flower purse, bring your supplies! See page 7.

Show us your "Just Finish It" completed projects.