

West Suburban Quilters' Guild Newsletter

Volume 44 Issue 2

Meetings

Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month, with the exception of a couple Tuesday meetings. See the schedule in this newsletter.

Meetings begin at 6:30PM

Social time begins at 6:00

**Brookfield Lutheran Church
18500 W. Burleigh
Brookfield, WI 53045**

Website

Follow us on the website at <http://www.wsqg.net>

WSQG_Mbrs_Only!!

Submit items to Cathy Helgeson at clhqilts@yahoo.com

Facebook

Please check the WSQG Facebook page. This is a closed group. Contact Johanna Fritz to join the page.

Newsletter

Submit items for the newsletter by the 25th of the month to Judy Valentino at judyv1954@sbcglobal.net

The newsletter will be published on the [WSQG.net](http://www.wsqg.net) website. An email, with a link to the website, will be sent to membership when the newsletter has been published.

President's letter

Happy New Year to All!

“These are confusing and difficult times. Even if we are resolute in our beliefs, it is hard to listen to the news and opinions every day, from the variety of sources available, and reconcile what we hear with what we have learned over our lifetimes. Even when we are sure about our own convictions, it is painful to hear from people we love and care about – close friends, respected colleagues, and even family members, who hold opinions that are very different from ours. Relationships in the coming year may be a bit contentious and perhaps a little touchy.”

This is what I wrote last January, along with a few suggestions about avoiding conversations that would make people uncomfortable at Guild meetings. Who knew that we'd only have three meetings at the beginning of last year, and then the Covid 19 Quarantine would cause us to stay at home for the rest of what for many of us was a very long, tough year.

Still, we continued to quilt. And we kept in touch and found ways to safely connect. It took us a while, but we are now part of the Zoom world, meeting virtually and sharing our accomplishments and ideas in the virtual meeting space.

I am so proud of the way so many have stepped up. We are on track to hold our next Quilt Show in March 2022 at Waukesha Expo, and planning for a Raffle Quilt is underway. Special thanks to Mary Weber for taking on the Chairmanship of the Quilt Show once again. I know that you will all help her wherever you can. Thanks also for the

enthusiasm of all who have offered to assist with the raffle quilt. You are all amazing!!

We have several quilt challenges that have been issued, (and these challenges will result in special exhibits for the Quilt Show.) See the details on these Challenges elsewhere in this newsletter. Additionally, we have several charity projects that many of you have been enthusiastically contributing to in your own ways, as you can. Reminders and details of the charity projects can also be found elsewhere in this newsletter, and I know that you will continue to support them as your time and ability allow.

There is one more challenge. It has been customary for the President to issue a Challenge prior to the Quilt Show, and this, too, will be a category at the show. And this is also explained “elsewhere in this newsletter,”

I trust that you all had a lovely Christmas holiday (and/or whatever holiday you celebrated), and wish you a 2021 full of creativity, love and good health.

Warmest regards and lots of love,

Karen

Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes 1/13/2021

The meeting started a few minutes late due to technical difficulties in understanding how to use ZOOM.

Twenty-one members joined the call, including a guest appearance by Betty Lerner.

Show & tell included a handful of quilts, slippers and a couple religious vestments.

New business kicked off the business meeting with Karen reminding us we have our 40th anniversary coming up.

Treasury report: there are three members whose checks have not yet been deposited and we have acquired a paid Zoom subscription.

Membership report: we have 41 paid members and 4 corrections in the membership directory. **The guild would like to include photos in future directories. Members are asked to submit your own photos, “head shots”, if you have a favorite you prefer to use.** Send to Wendy Bannister.

Programs: February lecture will be another Zoom call with a topic of rulers.

Charity report: Please continue stitching walker bags, Christmas pillowcases, hats & mittens. Mary Margaret will return from Florida on Feb 3rd, and is willing to start collecting items in Feb.

Sunshine report: Barb Minnich is recovering from Covid and sadly lost a close family member to the virus. Gini Lindow is now living in Heritage Place. Karen H. will share the address information for those who wish to contact Gini.

BOM report: Previously stitched block tickets will be drawn during our next in-person meetings. There are 2 challenges currently running. For the basket/vase challenge, MaryJo shared the

first item to be placed inside your basket/vase: filler material. Please look for BOM information in the newsletter. Karen is will issue a president challenge sometime this year.

Quilt show report: New raffle quilt design team is Mary, Karen, Judy, Patty, Donna, and Ann. Mary hopes to have a new design before the February meeting and may chose a show theme based on the raffle quilt. Kits will be created after a final decision. MaryJo agreed to do the quilting.

Reminder: the newsletter deadline is the end of every month.
Adjourned with a motion from Donna and second from Wendy.

Submitted by MaryJo Busch

Meeting minutes 10/14/2020

The meeting started at 6:40pm due to technical difficulties.

Members present signed a sympathy card for Vicky W. and a friendly hello/we miss you to Betty L, who returned to New York state last year.

One guest present: Jo Cross, who is a new quilter, and found us online.

We sang to three members celebrating October birthdays.

A new Block of the Month pattern was distributed and previous blocks weren't chosen because the blocks and many participants were not available. Winners will be chosen during the next in-person guild meeting.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved with a motion from Vicki S. and a second from Donna B, with no dissent.

West Suburban needs quilt show chairs to move forward to 2022.

The annual board meeting will be held October 21st as a conference call.

The charity committee will share a simple pattern for walker bags and adjustable walker aprons. Members may use any fabric, and please remember the men.

The second charity idea is making masks for men, women and children. There will be a link in the newsletter for anyone who doesn't have a pattern. The third charity idea is creating food pantry bags. Frank's Sew Much More in Waukesha is collecting these bags. Karen H. continues to collect feminine products for Time of the Month Club.

A proposal was made to postpone having an auction this year and holding a rummage sale during the May potluck. This proposal passed by unanimous vote.

Carol Butzke is scheduled to speak in November. Her topic is *Women in Quilting*.

October speaker is Rebecca Lidstrom from Studio R Quilts, presenting *One Block Many Ways*. Rebecca displayed numerous ideas from the same block and same selection of fabric and included design ideas with a variety of borders, creative sashing ideas, color placement and even rotating blocks for added interest. One of Rebecca's favorite quotes is from Catherine Hepburn: "If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun!"

After the break, door prizes were claimed by Mary Margaret W., Karen L. and Barb M.

Two raffle quilt ideas were presented: using large floral fabrics set on point with 2-color sashing strips between the blocks, and a pattern similar to attic windows. The large floral design leads the current polling.

Vicki S. led show & tell with a large modern style yo-yo quilt, followed by Caroline with quarter square triangles on flannel and tied. Donna closed with sharing a mystery quilt created with hot pink and green fabrics.

Johanna is planning to launch a WSQG YouTube channel for speakers and show & tell, similar to what Betty L. created for her guild Amherst Quilters.

Renewals were discussed by Wendy B. and Donna B. Membership is currently lower than last year and the board will discuss ideas on increasing membership during the board meeting.

Nomination vacancies include show & tell chair, nominating chair and quilt show chairs. There will also be a few additional positions available as some people are in their final year of their current officer positions.

Reminder: the newsletter deadline is the end of every month.

Adjourned at 8:35

Submitted by MaryJo Busch

WSQG Board Meeting 10/21/2020

Roll call at 7pm via conference call.

One of our members has informed the board she's been diagnosed with Covid19. She displayed symptoms after attending the in-person meeting last week. The decision has been made to do contact tracing and to inform all members who attended the meeting last week.

A motion was made by Mary Margaret to accept the minutes from the August 8th meeting, seconded by Kathy H. Motion passed and minutes accepted.

Treasury report:

*The quilt show posted a \$443.04 loss and with membership numbers down, WSQG is operating at a deficit.

*The guild currently has 37 paid members. Reminders will be sent to unpaid members from last year. It's noted that the guild had a waiting list as little as 6 years ago. The board pledged to contact former members and discuss ideas to increase membership moving forward. These ideas include hosting an auction, inviting guests, and highlighting our many talented members with additional special projects. Our president may form a new temporary membership committee who will work with the vice president to attract guests and increase membership. Currently there is no directory booklet, but a membership list will be created. A link to this list will be posted on the website.

*The snack budget is very low.

*Door prizes average \$10 per prize.

*Quilt rack storage locker size and price is under consideration and will be researched. Our current arrangement includes free use of a moving truck during the show weekend.

*Programs are \$755 this year. Presentations will include schoolhouse, sashiko and wool.

*Vicky W. made a motion to approve the proposed budget, seconded by Patty M.

The 2020-2021 proposed budget has been approved by board members present on the call with one dissent who expressed concerns related to the quilt show.

There were long discussions on Zoom guild meetings to include members who choose to stay home for health and safety reasons. The board will investigate prices and technology requirements.

Block of the Month will send info and fabric to those who request it. The absentee member must stitch the block and send it back to the committee before the meeting to be eligible for the drawing.

Charity projects this year include walker aprons, grocery shopping bags and 3D masks, time of the month products and quilts for the Old Soldiers Home VA homeless.

Eldrid has been working on old guild photo albums and discovered the person(s) who created the albums failed to include identifications with the photographs. Eldrid will write a newsletter history column as we look forward to celebrating 40 years as a guild in 2022.

Cathy H. notes we have three new members in a single month who found us on the web, and has collected information on presenters and will forward to the program committee. Cathy finds that our website is not user-friendly when posting updates, so she will find a class and hopes to create a new, easier to use website.

Judy V. is asking that all electronic submissions be sent to her at the end of each month.

Current vacancies include a nominating chair, church liaison and show chairs. The board questions if it's possible to host a quilt show with as few as 30 guild members. Karen plans another board meeting after the holidays in which the main topic is addressing the quilt show vacancies. What is our future? Do we need to re-tool the show? Do we allow non-member submissions? Do we show in galleries? Use the church as our venue? The raffle quilt ideas were also addressed. How will we handle a raffle without a show? Many questions remain.

Donna B. made a motion to adjourn. Judy V. seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10pm.

Officer Meeting 10/29/2020

Officers Karen H, Wendy B, Donna B, MaryJo B.

Mary Margaret and Patty M present as non-voting program directors.

Meeting called to consider cancellation of November and December WSQG meetings following an announcement that one of our members tested positive for Covid19 immediately following the October meeting, held in the church. All members have been notified of the diagnosis.

November speaker Carol Butzke rescheduled for April because of personal concerns over rising Covid numbers. Additionally, members have expressed the same concerns and have notified Karen they would not be attending in-person meetings until the Covid numbers decline. Members have also expressed concerns over the fact our meetings will be held a short time before both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Officers discussed trying to make Zoom meetings available to all members for the December meeting. One topic suggested by Patty is 'What are you working on?' where members could either hold up a project or share a photo.

Officers voted to cancel the November meeting and hold a practice Zoom session before making a decision on December. We will try to distribute BOM regionally and hope to host a Zoom meeting for the guild in December. The board is looking for ideas on how to hold Zoom meetings and would like to do things differently from other guilds.

Calling members back to monthly meetings will be decided on a month by month basis. We may keep the Zoom format if it's popular and we become good at it. The board is hoping to offer more to members, not less.

Donna made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wendy. Adjourned at 7:42.

Submitted by MaryJo Busch

Block of the Month

Hello Quilters –

A quick reminder to our block of the month participants – we postponed the drawings for the following blocks:

- Pot of gold
- 3-D scrappy pinwheel
- Crazy little strings, and
- Woven leaves

We will draw the winners of these blocks as a celebration when we are able to reconvene back together. Sew...be sure to complete and bring your blocks for the celebration. Please note...if you want to participate in the above exchange – it is your lucky day! We do have a few remaining kits available. Please contact Vicky Wolf for BOM kits.

Block of the month Challenges – we currently have two challenges taking place. They are as follows:

- The BOM shoe challenge
- The BOM mystery challenge
 - January mystery release – Add background filler to your pot. (Greenery/wheat/?)

You will find the detailed instructions for both of these challenges attached to this newsletter.

Sew...be sure to stitch along with us and share your creation at each guild zoom meeting. We look forward to seeing your progress.

Happy Quilting! Your Block of the Month Team

Block of the month Challenges

Shoe Challenge

This Block of the month Shoe challenge will feature footwear – Yes – Footwear. The question is? Will you be able to fit into your favorite pair(s) of shoes/boots after Covid19 or will we all be in our favorite flip-flops?

For this BOM challenge you will show off your creativity through selecting your favorite style of shoe/footwear (be it...high heels, flats, boots, cowboy boots, sneakers, sandals, or flip-flops).

The objective of the challenge will be to create a block of your favorite shoe for each month of the year. Dress up your chosen shoe style to reflect the month of the year. You may create the same shoe style with a different look based on the month or you may mix it up and select a different style of shoe to depict each month...totally up to you. However, it must be footwear.

We will begin with the month of December. Shoe block may be either pieced or applique to represent the month of December. Block size requirement: minimum of 10 inches finished – maximum size of 12 inches finished. Finish a block each month and show off your work during BOM show-and-tell time at our zoom meeting each month.

Everyone keeps their own blocks. You will end up with 12 blocks. Each quilter may design their own layout for their blocks to finish their quilt. Looking forward to seeing each of your blocks and the finished quilt.

Basket Mystery Quilt Along

Introducing our basket mystery quilt along challenge for this year. This challenge will have you adding something to a basket/container and/or on your background fabric each month that is similar to painting a picture. This challenge is open to everyone that is a member of the guild.

To begin you will need a piece of background fabric that is the size of a fat-quarter (18 x 22). You may want to add a piece of interfacing to the back of this piece of fabric to enable the fabric to be sturdy enough to add on your mystery motif each month.

Once you have your background fabric selected and ready to go, the next step in this challenge will be to select a piece of fabric that is fitting for the type of container (basket/vase) you want to create. You will create this container out of fabric. We suggest a basket; however, you may select any type of container or vase. Basket/container can be pieced or appliqued.

The next step will be to place your basket on your background fabric. You will work with your fat-quarter in the portrait view. You will want to center your basket from the sides of your fat quarter placing it about 3 inches from the bottom of your fabric. Be sure to leave ample space above the basket for adding in each motif as directed. Stitch/applique the basket to your fat-quarter leaving the top of your basket only tacked on to the fabric as this will enable the addition of further motif items as we move forward with the challenge.

Stay tuned for the next addition. We will give you something to add to your basket each month.

Sew...be sure to stitch along with us and share your creation at each guild zoom meeting so we can see your progress.

Clue Number 1 For the basket/vase challenge, MaryJo shared the first item to be placed inside your basket/vase: background filler material ! Happy Quilting! Your Block of the Month Team

Program Committee

Feb. 10. Kristi Droese “Accuquilt, Tips and Tricks”. Creative Grid rulers certified n Marci Baker Style. I.e. 3D tumbling blocks, star table runner.

March 9 Tuesday. Danica Lindner. Sashiko.

April 13, Tuesday, TBA

May 12 Potluck

Charity Committee

Don't forget in this time of giving, there are still many needs. We are still seeking Walker Bags for persons with walkers. There is a pattern on the WSQG website. You can also contact Joy Zuerner, Mary Margaret Wacker, or me if you cannot access it. Fidget quilts are desired for older adults as well. And Karen Hendrickson is still collecting menstrual products for homeless women, as well as masks of all sizes, but especially small sizes for children and women. Karen will be happy to pick up Menstrual Product or finished items from your porch or curb – just call Karen (414-358-9501). Mary Margaret (414-587-6008) will be available in Feb to arrange pickup or drop off of VA homeless quilts and Christmas pillowcases for children.

Veterans Quilts:

Shortly after the Civil War, the Old Soldier's Home was built near what is now Miller Park. Over the last few decades the beautiful buildings and grounds have fallen into disrepair. They are now renovating some of the buildings which will become housing for homeless veterans. I contacted a woman who is part of the renovation team and offered to provide quilts. She is thrilled at the thought of the veterans walking in to their new room and seeing a beautiful quilt on the bed for them. Would you like to provide one of those quilts to honor and warm our veterans who are struggling right now? They plan to open on March 1 which doesn't give us a lot of turnaround time. She said they didn't necessarily have to be patriotic Quilts of Valor, though that would be nice. Since there will initially be 14 single unit rooms, I'm assuming they will have twin size beds. I know this is a busy time of the year but could you possibly create a quilt to donate or look through your completed quilts for something that could be gifted to them? Contact Mary Margaret Wacker or Joy Zuerner to let them know you'll be providing a quilt. We're hoping to give the team 20 to start off with. Thank you so so much for your generosity! (Editor's Note: Deadline Early February, Mary Margaret would like to give them 2 weeks to “breath” before anyone uses the quilt.)

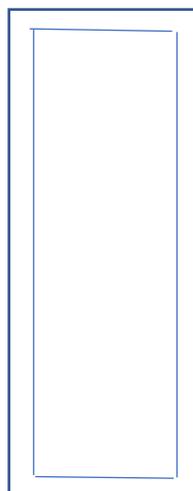
Pillowcases for kids: Mary Margaret has committed to make 100 Christmas (2021) pillowcases for an inner city church. Any help would be appreciated. Make pillowcases or donate fabric. Contact Mary Margaret

Walker Bags:

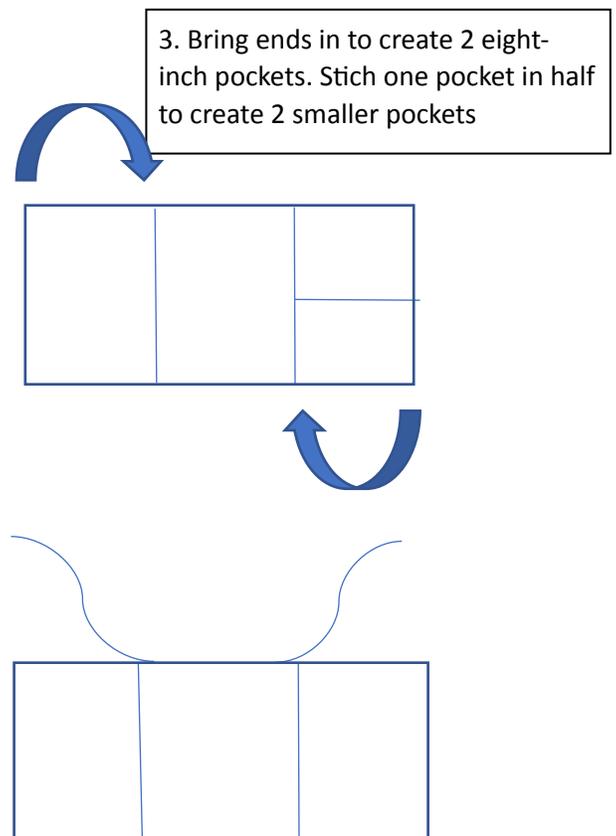
1. Start with 2 pieces of fabric 42 x 16. Place right sides together and stitch around the edges using a ½ inch seam allowance. Leave an opening to turn the fabric right side out.
2. Trim corners and turn right sides out. Top stitch entire outer border of fabric piece 1/8 to 1/4-inch, stitching closed the opening. (similar to making a table runner)
3. Bring sides in and stitch along the edges to create 2 eight-inch pockets at each end. Sew a seam on one pocket to make 2 smaller pockets
4. Stitch 4 pieces of ribbon (bias tape, or twill tie) 12-inch-long to the back edge of the bag just above the pockets to make ties to attach to the walker. The long ties will make the bag adjustable to different size walkers.
5. If using thinner fabric (quilting cotton), you may need to add fusible interfacing/fleece or batting between the layers to stiffen the bag. If you have heavier fabric (home décor, canvas, denim) you shouldn't need this. The finished bag should be approx. 15 x 25 inches.



1. Stitch a ½ inch seam leaving an opening to turn right side out.



2. Turn piece right side out, press and topstitch close to the edges, (stitching closed the opening)



3. Bring ends in to create 2 eight-inch pockets. Stich one pocket in half to create 2 smaller pockets

Sunshine

Gini Lindow has moved into new housing as she is recovering from her broken hip. If you would like to drop her a note her new address is:

Heritage Place
17560 West North Avenue
Brookfield, WI 53045

If you know of others who we should contact, please notify either myself or Patty Martin.

Quilt Show

Mary Weber is our new/returning Chair of the Quilt Show. Yeah Mary!

Raffle Quilt

Stay tuned....New Raffle quilt committee formed, more info at February meeting. Karen will schedule a zoom meeting in the near future.

President's Challenge

It has become tradition for WSQG Presidents to issue a Quilt Challenge once during their term, and for the quilts submitted in that challenge to be a) voted on by members, with honors given within the Guild and b) hung together at our Quilt Show, voted on by viewers, with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons given in the President's Challenge category. Many of you may recall that at the last Show, then President Patty Martin's Challenge was to create a quilt based on a song. They were wonderfully done and very creative. This is a great opportunity for you to "stretch" a little and have some fun.

This year, my Challenge to you is:

Create a quilt that incorporates your birth flower or birth stone or both. The depiction of these symbols can be literal or suggested, but we should be able to identify what they are and I am asking that your label indicate the name of your birth flower and birth stone.

The size of the quilt should be 36" square, and it must be three layers, quilted (by you or someone else), bound and have a 3" hanging sleeve.

Here is a list of Birth Flowers and Birth Stones:

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| January | Carnation (or Snowdrop) | Garnet |
| February | Violet (or Primrose) | Amethyst |

| | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------------|
| March | Daffodil | Aquamarine |
| April | Daisy (or Sweet Pea) | Diamond |
| May | Lily of the Valley | Emerald |
| June | Rose | Alexandrite |
| July | Larkspur (or Water Lily) | Ruby |
| August | Gladiolus (or Poppy) | Peridot |
| September | Aster (or Morning Glory) | Sapphire |
| October | Calendula (or Marigold) | Opal |
| November | Chrysanthemum | Topaz (or Citrine) |
| December | Holly or Poinsettia (or Narcissus or Orchid) | Turquoise (or Tanzanite) |

Most of all, let go and have a great time! Call me if you have any questions: 414-358-9501.

Creatively yours,

Karen