

West Suburban Quilters' Guild Newsletter

Volume 44 Issue 5

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 6:30 PM

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 clhquilts@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 Spring!

The trees are budding and the grass is turning green, and tulips and brave plants are popping through the long dormant earth. There are robins on my lawn, songbirds at our feeders, and the Canada Geese and Sandhill Cranes have returned. I am coming to believe that the long winter is finally behind us, and Spring is at last here! I hope that you all have a chance to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine in the coming weeks.

I had the honor last week to join Mary Margaret Wacker as she delivered quilts to the newly renovated Old Soldiers' Home at the Milwaukee Veterans' Administration. We were given a tour by the developer, and met some of the earliest residents to move in to the magnificent building. It was an awesome experience, and you can be assured that your efforts in making quilts for these men who have proudly served their country will be greatly appreciated. It is not too late to make quilts for this project, as they are now renovating additional buildings on the VA grounds for veterans in need of such housing.

We will meet via Zoom on April 14th at 7:00 pm. (open at 6:30 pm for visiting.) Watch your e-mail for details and a link to join the Zoom meeting. Our April speaker will be Julia McCleod and the program is entitled "Everything But the Cotton."

"Let's explore the world of quilts that were made with what I call 'Not Cottons'. When quilters don't have access to a stash of quilters' cotton, what do they turn to? This one hour lecture, trunk show and Q&A session shows quilts – antique and modern – made of wool, silk, polyester and more. The trunk show of my own work shows what you can create with

neckties, saris, kimonos and other unusual, 'not cotton' textiles." Julia Mc Cleod

On May 12, 2021, we will meet at Brookfield Lutheran Church at our normal time. Save the date and watch for more details.

If you have NOT been receiving my e-mails and/or know someone who should be on the list, please send me name and e-mail address. During this time I wish to work on inviting lapsed members to rejoin, and potential members to join us as we get ready for an exciting rest of the year and planning for our 2022 Quilt Show. Since last March our membership has dwindled, and the Covid pandemic has made gathering as a group difficult and less fulfilling than in the past. There is light at the end of this tunnel, and we are moving forward toward another exceptional Quilt Show in March 2022, with Mary Weber as Chair. We need as many quilters as possible to participate in the success of this Show, and in the richness and success of our Guild, which will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2022!

The Raffle Quilt is pieced and has been delivered to MaryJo Busch for quilting. (Thanks MaryJo!!) NOTE: I am seeking assistance in finding someone who can take a good photograph of the quilt when it is completed. If anyone can volunteer or knows someone, please let me know.

Once again, we will need everyone to be involved in the Show, both advance work and on the days of the Show. I know this is repetitive, but it is sooo important. We hope that you are all working on quilts for the Show – yes, it's a year away, but after the tough year we've had, every bit of help is needed! We will need help selling raffle tickets, making quilts for the show, serving on committees to help prepare for the Show, and contributing in every way possible to make this a really successful Quilt Show. And let me add that while it's a lot of time and effort, it is also a great deal of fun and satisfaction, working together with Guild members, forging and strengthening friendships along the way. Our Show has a great reputation, and its stature, along with the experience gained by participating in its production, adds to our individual quilting experience, expertise and reputation. I have had people from around the Midwest, when learning that I am part of this Guild, mention the Show and comment that I must be an "exceptional quilter if you are part of the West Suburban group." Enjoy the camaraderie inherent in working together, and the pride in accomplishment by being part of the team. Thanks in advance to each of you for your contributions!

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 Challenges elsewhere in this newsletter. Don't forget the President's Challenge. This, too, will be a category at the Quilt Show.

Enjoy the sunshine and the Spring weather, and be well.

Warm regards,

Karen

Meeting Minutes

March 2021

Our socially distant zoom meeting began with Sashiko demonstration by Donica Lintner and included marking tools, the uniqueness of Sashiko threads and needles. In place of a traditional thimble, Donica recommended a Japanese ring which is placed on the second knuckle or all the way on the finger instead of being worn on the fingertip. Lintner also shared proper stitching techniques, how to take a corner and her favorite books. Sashiko began as a repair technique and has become a modern form of art and expression.

Quilt show: The show is 365 days from the March meeting. The committee is considering changing a couple categories and is asking those involved with previous challenges to define the parameters for the ribbon process. The wall hanging category may be split into large and small items because smaller items can be overshadowed by something much larger. One idea mentioned was items under 30" and items over 30". There's also discussion on creating a machine quilting or hand quilting award. These items will be discussed further during the next board meeting. The raffle quilt is nearly finished and is very bright & beautiful. Chairs are hoping to get 4-6 entries from everyone due to lower membership numbers. The committee is considering a special exhibit for longtime member Ginny Lindow.

The March clue for BOM is 'globe or circle'.

Minutes approved with a motion from Donna B. and a second from Vicky W.

Treasury is approximately \$8500.

We will try to meet in person in May. Karen will confirm with the church.

The Veterans project has 20 quilts so far and some people have moved in, but nobody has spent the night yet as the building is being tested for lead. A quilting group in Plymouth, WI, is looking to add pot holders and kitchen items after members of that group saw an article on us and our donations, thanks to Mary Margaret.

Show & Tell: Donna shared a stained glass quilt that won a 1st place ribbon at the Sew Many Pieced show. Judy shared her basket project and a quilt-as-you-go item. Judy's project had a beautiful binding on it & she says she's willing to teach a class on how to do it. Judy also shared an art quilt called Forest Floor with painted cheesecloth. Gloria shared a table topper from a block exchange and Laura shared a very colorful scrappy quilt

Mary made a motion to adjourn with a second by Wendy. The meeting ended at 8:40pm.

Submitted by Mary Jo Busch

Treasurer's Report

Balance is \$8538.11

Submitted by Donna Bilda

Block of the Month

Hello Quilters –

I hope this finds you healthy and sewing away as we currently have two exciting BOM challenges taking place.

They are as follows:

- The BOM shoe challenge
- The BOM mystery basket challenge
 - January mystery release – Add background filler to your pot. (Greenery/wheat/?)
 - February mystery release – Add tall/spiky flower(s) of your choice (i.e.; Iris/ Blazing Star Liatris/Lupine)
 - March mystery release – Add circular flower(s) of your choice (i.e.; Allium/Globe thistle/Dahlia)
 - April mystery addition to be released at meeting...stay tuned. (Hint...add a garden tool)

You will find the detailed instructions for both of these challenges in the recent newsletters.

Sew...be sure to stitch along with us and share your creation at each guild zoom meeting. We look forward to seeing your progress. Let go ladies – We want to see some shoes/boots/flip flops and of course, those baskets at show-and-tell!!

Happy Stitching Everyone!

Your Block of the Month Team

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.

Program Committee

April 14, Wednesday, Everything but the Cotton with Julia McCleod

“Let’s explore the world of quilts that were made with what I call ‘Not Cottons’.
When quilters don’t have access to a stash of quilter’s cotton, what do they turn to? This one hour lecture, trunk show and Q & A session shows quilts – antique and modern – made of wool, silk, polyester and more. The trunk show of my own work shows what you can create with neckties, saris, kimonos and other unusual, ‘not cotton’ textiles.” Julia McCleod
May 12 Potluck

Charity Committee

There are still many needs. We are still seeking Walker Bags for persons with walkers. It is included in this newsletter. 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:

When we committed to making quilts for the Old Soldiers Home, I wasn’t sure what the turnout would be. I should not have worried! To date we have 21 quilts with more promised in the coming weeks.

The residence is planning to open in early March so we’ll get the quilts delivered asap and then bring them another batch as they come in.

The article about our project on the VA website has worked its magic. A sewing group has volunteered to help out with donating quilts, a woman from Spectrum wants to do an article on our guild and a veteran who read the piece brought me a beautiful quilt made by his mother in law.

In exploring the Old Soldiers Home website, it mentioned that there will be a section for female veterans as well. Eventually, they hope to house families too. At this point, I’m guessing that lap size, twin size and larger will all be accepted and used.

https://www.milwaukee.va.gov/features/Handmade_quilts_to_greet_new_residents_of_Old_Main.asp

Thank you, also, to all those who have added pillowcases to Operation Sweet Dreams for the children of All People’s Church in Milwaukee. I was talking with my friend who works with the church and I asked her what else we could provide. She suggested kid size quilts or fleece blankets, fleece scarves, hats and mittens. Her thought was that the fleece was easier for people to wash than knitted items.

I have always said that quilters are among the most generous people I know. Thank you for proving it time and again!

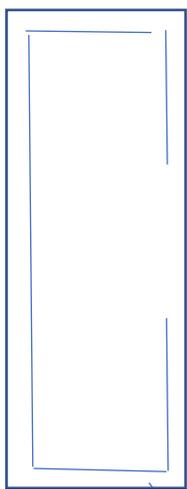
My husband and I took a tour of the grounds of Milwaukee's Old Soldier's Home. If you're curious about where the quilts for veterans have been going, this might be enjoyable for you as well. It's an audio tour app that you need to download to your phone. <https://www.savethesoldiershome.com/tour>



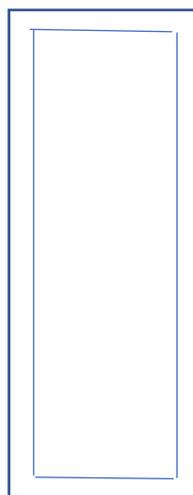
Mary Margaret Wacker

Walker Bags:

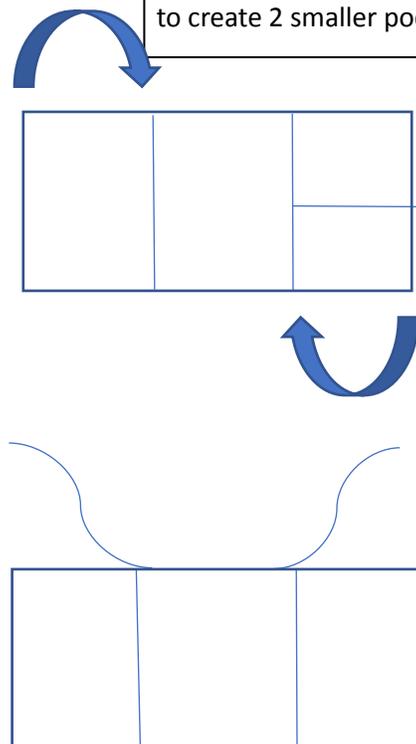
1. Start with 2 pieces of fabric 42 x 16. Place right sides together and stitch around the edges using a 1/2 inch seam allowance. Leave an opening to turn the fabric right side out.
2. Trim corners and turn right sides out. Top stitch entire outer border of fabric piece 1/8 to 1/4-inch, stitching closed 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 1/4 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

If you know of anyone who needs a little sunshine please notify either myself or Patty Martin.

Quilt Show

I hope everyone is getting as excited as I am about our next quilt show in March. The dates will be March 11 and 12, with setup on March 10. The raffle quilt is coming along very nicely and will be beautiful. It will definitely have that WOW effect that will sell lots of raffle tickets.

We have several vendors pending but if anyone has a favorite that you'd like me to contact please let me know Quiltie704@yahoo.com.

Now, enough talk, get back to your quilting. I'd like to have at least five entries from each member. I know that's ambitious but I want our show to be spectacular.

I know we can do it. Thanks, Mary Weber



Raffle Quilt

The Raffle quilt group has now met for 4 full Saturday's of sewing. The quilt top is finished and has been turned over to MaryJo Busch for the quilting.

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