



Bits and Pieces

Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild Newsletter

Volume 40. Number 4

Bonnie Piernot and Maggie McGuire, Editors

From the President...

Well, we have made it into Lent, so that means spring is definitely on its way, although, given the mild winter we have experienced, one can hardly be blamed for not noticing. The new season certainly gives one a potential reason for some extra cleaning out and tossing out. If you are so inclined and your spring cleaning includes some time among your quilt/sewing stuff, I would encourage you to think of Sue Idol and the white elephant booth at this year's quilt show. Believe it or not, September is not really all that far away, and so far donations have been a bit slow. I know that Sue would deeply appreciate receiving your contributions whenever you get them together throughout the next several months so that she will have ample time to price them for the show. (As she pointed out last month, she is eager to receive any of your quilting/sewing donations EXCEPT for upholstery/decorator fabric).

While we are thinking about the quilt show, let me remind you that the theme of the show is Reach for the Stars and the challenge quilt theme is based on the old song "Would you like to swing on a star?" The rule for the challenge is that the quilt must have stars in it plus at least one of the following: a mule, a fish, a pig, or a monkey—or a jar full of moonbeams! Certainly it is not too early to start thinking about that challenge. Also, it is not too early to think about possible projects for sale at the quilt show in the Bluebonnet Shop. If guild members made up one or two items for the shop, we would have a knock-your-socks-off shop in September.

For those of you contemplating entering a quilt in the upcoming show it may be of interest to note that, in addition to the usual categories, there will be a new category—Modern Quilts (think negative space, solid fabrics and asymmetrical design).

On another note, I urge you to consider the upcoming guild workshops connected to our programs. Participation in these offerings over the recent past has been dropping off. For the most part the cost of our guild sponsored workshops are a real bargain compared to the fees charged for such offerings in other venues. Please take a look at the guild website's listing of upcoming programs and consider registering for one or more.

Lots for us to do! Have a great spring.

Charles

Meeting Minutes...

March 2017

Welcome – The meeting was called to order by President Charles Gilreath at 7 p.m. at the Brazos Center.

Minutes – The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – Benita Ebel reported 2/28/17 balances of \$11,897.92 in the checking account and

\$16,850.17 in savings to make a combined balance of \$28,748.09. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Membership – Maggie McGuire reported there are now 119 members on MyGrove. Present at the meeting tonight were 59 members, including 2 new members. Two visitors were present. Maggie offered to visit the homes of those still having trouble with MyGrove to help with any problems! Door prizes were won by Nicole Pavel, Charlotte Simpson, Kerry Fisher and Linda Winder.

Sunshine & Shadows – Charles Gilreath reported three cards were sent since the last meeting. Bobbie Middleton thanked the members for cards she had received. Peggy Leach reported she has a new great granddaughter born in February. Deb DeRoche mentioned that we will not see Terry Skrabanek at Lone Star for several weeks as she is staying with her sister **Deirdra** who has had a heart transplant.

Quilt Show – Charles Gilreath reported that "Modern Quilts" will be added as a new category. He mentioned that the deadline for entries, not yet set, will be firm with no exceptions. The category list was not available. He also mentioned the tote bags and flash drives which will potentially be sold at the Quilt Show for additional income. Linda Winder reiterated the Challenge Quilt theme "You Could Be Swinging on a Star" and the required elements. Carol Laughlin suggested we should auction more than three of the Challenge quilts, if not all of them. Kim Debona reminded the group to be thinking of basket themes for Basket Blitz, and to bring 2-1/2" strips and fat quarters to the April and May meetings to be used for baskets.

Care Quilts – Nicole Pavel reported that 50 care quilts have been provided so far this year and read a nice thank you note from Hospice Brazos Valley, one of the recipient organizations. She added there are several tops ready to be finished at a June workshop for care quilt projects.

Programs – Charles Gilreath reminded the group that more participation is needed in the workshops to

continue offering classes by national teachers at such a reasonable cost.

Adjournment – The business meeting was adjourned by Charles Gilreath at 7:24 p.m. Alma Fonseca introduced Maggie Ball, the speaker for the evening program.

Show and Share followed :

Sally Robinson – Witch's Boot and Mary, Mary quilts with embroidery

Rowena Reed – Baby quilt and bag

- **Sharon Braunagel** – Embroidered ribbons for Abigail
- **Peggy Leach** – Baby quilt with giraffe
- **Nadine Stuth** – Bag using fabric purchased at Dallas Quilt Show
- **Marijane Deen** – Table topper with leaves
- **Nelda Cohan** – M is for Micky quilt for her husband
- **Linda Winder** – Quilt for Sydney
- **Julie Sabraula** – Red/Green/Yellow quilt
- **Charles Gilreath** – Books and Blanket quilt
- **Carol Laughlin** – Self portrait wall hanging
- **Quilt 'n Peace Bee** – Care quilts

Respectfully submitted by **Kerry Fisher**, Secretary



20th Anniversary BBQG Winter Retreat

Thirty-five BBQG members participated in the 20th Annual BBQG Winter Retreat held in February at Camp Lone Star in La Grange. Of the 35, two were new attendees. The main objective for the retreat was to enjoy quilting fun and fellowship while building stronger relationships with other guild members. Planned activities were minimal to give everyone the opportunity work on their own projects. Many brought along projects that they had worked on at previous retreats.

After dinner on Friday, participants constructed bingo blocks from fabric. Several games of bingo were played with prizes awarded to the winners. Thirty six bingo blocks were generated which will be donated to the BBQG Care Quilt program to be made into 4 lap quilts. Following the fabric bingo and group photo, attendees celebrated the 20th Anniversary with cake and champagne. At the conclusion of the celebration Bunny Douglas presented the retreat committee with quilt blocks she had collected from attendees of previous retreats and led the group in a special rendition of "Thanks for the Memories."

Other optional activities enjoyed by participants included demonstrations by Connie Silber on rotary cutting techniques and the construction of hexagon needle books and demonstrations by Cindy Stitt on the construction Drunkard's Path blocks, string-pieced circles table runners, and Swedish folded stars.

Some additional fun facts about Winter Retreat include:

- The first Winter Retreat, held in 1998, was the first BBQG sponsored retreat.
- The first Winter Retreat was a 3-day, 2-night event with 17 participants.
- All 20 winter retreats have been held in February at Camp Lone Star.
- More than 118 different persons have attended Winter Retreat in its inception.

- Seven persons have attended all 20 Winter Retreats.
- The BBQG Summer Retreat is an off-shoot of the Winter Retreat.

Special thanks to:

- **Bunny Douglas** for assembling two photo boards on which she highlighted the two decades of fun and fellowship at Winter Retreat.
- **Rowena Reed** who added black sashing and green polka-dot cornerstones to 12 of the bingo blocks to complete one care quilt top while at retreat.
- **Cindy Stitt** for bringing her Country Stitches mini quilt store to all 20 Winter Retreats!!!



Quilt Retreat in Picture...



JoAnn Williams, Sue Ryan, Linda Novosad, and Bunny Douglas



Chris Deppe



Rowena Reed and Fran Gray

Bee News

This reporter finds the **Material Girls Bee** keeping busy with projects large and small, from wedding ring quilts to butterfly to Habitat for Humanity Welcome Banners to a multitude of chickens and a few cats. This reporter is also happy to report all Material Girls are in good health and continue to travel often to see the world and family in and far.

Mari Szabo
Professional Quilter
mrszabo@gmail.com
625 Ridgewood, Unit 9
Caldwell, TX 77836
979-571-3489

Enduring Quilts

A business card for Mari Szabo, a professional quilter. The card features a decorative floral and swirl pattern on the left. The name "Mari Szabo" is at the top in bold, followed by "Professional Quilter". Below that is her email address, physical address, and phone number. At the bottom, the words "Enduring Quilts" are written in a stylized, flowing font.

Happy Scrappers are working on individual projects. Some of the members continue to work on the donation quilts for 2018 and 2019. They are going to be beautiful!



Quilter's Hideaway Day Retreat

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your friends
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purpose, come join us - Tuesday at 10:00 am at First Baptist Church, College Station.



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The **Busy Bees** will be taking a Spring Break this month with hopes of getting back together soon afterwards. Everyone has been sewing on individual projects - several started at the February retreat.

Submitted by *Jane Riggs*

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Thank You from Maggie Ball

Dear Ladies,

Thank you to all of you for making my teaching trip to your guilds run so smoothly and enjoyably. Your kind hospitality and assistance with transportation was greatly appreciated. It was fun to sight see in your area too and you put on a grand show with all the bluebonnets. Please pass on thanks to the guild members for their generous support for the

Mongolian Quilting Center. Between your four guilds, we raised a staggering sum of \$3,327! My goal was \$2,000 and you surpassed this by a long way. Thank you, thank you! It was my pleasure to teach at your warm and welcoming guilds.

All the best, *Maggie*



Sharon Braunagel



Cindy Stitt



Polly Trant

Terry Skrabaneck
Owner

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