



Bits and Pieces

Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild Newsletter

Volume 41. Number 4

Bonnie Piernot, Editor
Chris Deppe, Editor

From the President...

Truly March has come in like a lion..... actually more like a herd of elephants! Had a wonderful day walking around the Houston Rodeo on Sunday, came home to hail and had to turn the heat back on today. Yup, it is spring time in Texas.

Thank you to everyone who sent in their membership. We are holding steady at 146 ladies and gentlemen. The roster is updated and posted on My Grove. Copies will be sent to our snail mail members shortly.

We have received several compliments from a variety of speakers or visitors about how friendly and fun our meetings are. Thank you to everyone who has taken a visitor or new member under their wing and made them feel welcome. Also, a HUGE thank you to Kerry Dwyer (aka Gladys) for organizing the PIPP challenge. The meetings are running a little longer, but WOW! are we getting things done. This month is # 4 on your list. My number 4 is a huge project. I need to get started.

I hope everyone had a "aha moment" from Lois Hallock, "Creating the Perfect Quilting Space. I went to Lowe's yesterday and bought new light bulbs for my sewing room. Wow, it is amazing how much difference a brighter light makes. I even straightened up my fabric shelves (I had already followed her advice about flat folding my stash) and found several things I had been looking for and

some really cute chicken backing I had forgot I had bought for the What the Cluck challenge. How are your chickens doing?

After the workshop and a trip to the quilt shop, Lois and I found a bluebonnet patch so she could have her picture made. She said she had always heard of our wild flowers, but had never been here at the right time.



The winter retreat is over, spring retreat is filling up and the Labor Day retreat looks like it is going to happen. Retreats are a great way to get to know your fellow quilters and establish relationships that will last a lifetime. Not to get too sappy, but the friends I have made in this guild are so important to me and I know I am a better person for them.

Phase 1 of the storage move is complete and we have shifted our stuff in the small Cube Storage into the larger unit. A huge thank you to Stephanie and Nicole, their husbands and Michael and Grace for helping. All of the Care Quilts are organized and sorted.

Thank you to everyone who has worked on the Care Quilts. If anyone needs fabric to make a care

quilt or complete a care quilt, please let Stephanie or Nicole know. There is a lot of fabric available.

Did you know that we have an archive of the Guild's history? Thanks to Carol Willson for completing the records and getting them organized. Another great reason to move to a climate controlled facility! Carol Morrissy is our speaker for April, followed by her workshop on fabric postcards. I was not too sure what the workshop was about until I saw some of the finished products displayed at the Dallas Quilt Show. The postcards are so pretty and look pretty simple to complete. If you have not signed up for the workshop, there are still a few spaces left, so contact Sharon.

Thank you to Donna Bracewell for volunteering to take over Sunshine and Shadows. Her contact information is Donna Bracewell, dbracewell53@gmail.com, 832-265-4105. Please let her know if you hear of someone who is ill or having a difficult time. Please keep Charles Gilreath, Bunny Douglas, and Mary Ann Durbin in your thoughts.

Will close now as # 4 is calling me. See you in April and may all your eggs be CHOCOLATE!

Maggie

BBQG Meeting Minutes – March 2018

The meeting was called to order by president Maggie McGuire at 7:00 p.m. on March 13th at the Brazos Center. There were 61 members in attendance, including three new members, and eleven visitors.

Minutes

A motion was made by Michael Jackson and seconded by Sue Idol to approve the February

minutes as published in the newsletter. The minutes were approved.

Programs - Sharon Braunagel announced that due to cancellations, there were still three spots available in the Wednesday, March 14th workshop with Lois Hallock. Future programs will be presented by Carol Morrissey in April, and Debbie Maddy in May. Sharon encouraged members to enroll in future workshops, and she announced that members do not have to pay for the workshop at the time they sign up. Sharon also showed us a beautiful Carpenter's Star quilt by Debbie Maddy which will be the class project for her workshop. Dallas Bus Trip - The annual bus trip to the Dallas quilt show on March 10th was a success. 27 people attended.

Scholarship – Marty Fuller reported that eight applications for scholarships have been received so far, and that the committee will be meeting soon to review them.

Donation Quilt – Jo Ann Williams reported that the donation quilt had made several recent appearances, including a Go Texan event (\$268), Washington on the Brazos (\$358), and the Smithville Quilt Guild (\$95). The quilt will be at Calvert's 150th birthday celebration on April 21st. We need volunteers for that date.

Education- Guild members provided demonstrations at the Texas Independence Celebration at Washington on the Brazos, and also spoke at St. Joseph's school.

Old Business:

Donation Quilting Services - Maggie reported that the board had formally approved a policy for the guild to pay for professional quilting services for donation quilts. "The recommendation is that the quilter(s) will invoice the BBQG their normal quilting fees less a 50% courtesy to the guild. Donation quilts are the only quilting that will be paid for by the guild." Because this policy was

initially proposed in 2015, but never formally approved, the guild has retroactively paid for all quilting done on the 2016, 2017, and 2018 quilts.

Retreats

Maggie asked for an update from the retreat chairmen. Connie Silber reported that everyone had a great time at winter retreat. Rowena Reed said that 21 members have signed up for the summer retreat to be held on June 21-24 at Magnolia Manor. There are still three spots available. Diana DeFrancesco reported that we are still looking at venues for a 3rd retreat to be held Labor Day weekend. They visited Hidden Treasures in Giddings, and plan to visit Twelve Pines Retreat Center near Huntsville soon. Maggie reported that she and Denise Mackan will be meeting with all three retreat chairmen to discuss guild policies and financial support for retreats. An open discussion on this topic will be held at the June guild meeting. Any concerns or suggestions regarding retreats need to be put in writing and emailed to Maggie for the board’s consideration.

New Business:

Storage Units – Currently, we have two 10x10 units, neither with lighting, and only one of which has climate control. The combined cost of these units is \$2,339 per year. We have an opportunity to upgrade to one 10x20 climate-controlled unit with lighting at Cube Smart for \$118 per month, or \$1,416 per year; a savings of \$923. The board has already approved this move. The board also approved a payment of up to \$200 to Aggie Veterans for moving the contents of the current Villa Maria storage unit to Cube Smart.

Bryan Public Library - Michaele Jackson reported that volunteers are needed to work at Fine Arts week at the Library in July. We will be helping pre-teen children with a hand sewing project. Michaele plans to make kits.

Sunshine and Shadows – Maggie requested feedback on whether we wanted to resume sharing

of sunshine and shadows at monthly meetings, as we have done in the past. A motion was made by Kerry Dwyer, and seconded by Jo Ann Williams, to reinstate this item to our agenda. The motion passed.

Maggie also reported that due to the recent death of guild member Ann Gilreath, we are in need of a new Sunshine and Shadows committee chair, to handle sending cards from the guild as needed. Donna Bracewell volunteered to take on this responsibility.

Speaker – Lois Hallock, Author of “Creating Your Perfect Quilting Space”, gave an excellent presentation on workspace design and ergonomics.

Show and Tell – Thanks to a new sign up and numbering process, Show and Tell was executed with unusual efficiency. With more than 20 members participating, we were able to see many lovely works by our talented membership.

PIPPS – Projects in Progress Previously Started. Chair Kerry Dwyer drew the number “4”, as the project from participating member’s lists, to finish for show and tell at the April meeting. Maggie McGuire won the prize for March. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Ellen Hassold

Treasurers Report...

Checking	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Savings	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Submitted by Rozan Coody

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PIPPS Report...

We had another great month of PIPPS. Maggie McGuire won the prize for February and next month we need to work on our number 4 PIPPS.

Submitted by Kerry Dwyer

BEE News...

Happy Scrappers are working on individual projects including block of the month, cross stitch, appliqué, and other things to keep us happy!

All American Bee will present a Quilt of Valor to Bill Hamilton, USAF.

Quilt'n Peace Bee continues to make numerous care quilts. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. We meet at First Baptist Church in College Station on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 2:00. Come, bring a lunch and stay or drop by and work a while.

Submitted by Jane Riggs



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BBQG SCHOLARSHIP

BBQG has received eight scholarship applications from seniors attending Bryan/College Station High Schools. In April a committee will rank the applications and decide on two scholarship recipients. In May each recipient will receive a quilt, a \$1000. check made out to the college they will attend and a certificate. In June the winners will be introduced at the BBQG monthly meeting.

A BIG thank you to SUE RYAN for making and donating two beautifully pieced quilt tops and NORMA REEL for quilting both quilts. Sue's selection of fabric and precise piecing created two attractive quilts. Norma has quilted scholarship quilts for several years and does a beautiful professional job of quilting and adds a unique label to each quilt. Sue and Norma both make a tremendous donation in time and materials to the BBQG and a very special gift to the scholarship winners. The quilts are treasured by the recipients and admired by many when they are presented at the scholarship award event. THANK YOU SUE AND NORMA!

Submitted by Martha Fuller

Terry Skrabanek
Owner

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March Show & Tell Participants...

PIPPS:

Sharon, Sally, Maryann Dean, Nadine, Kerry Dwyer. Donnice. Fran Gray, Delores Ryder, Maggie. Kitty Ard, Diane DeFrancesco. Sue Idol, Kerry Fisher, Sue Chrysler, Nancy Searcy, Linda Winder, Debbie Ginn. Vicky Carpenter, and Suzanne Hinson.

Non-PIPP

Paulette Mayo and Debbie Boyle



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Quilts of Valor made for veterans, service members

Members from the Creative Memories Quilt Guild of Caldwell and the Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild of Bryan-College Station participated in the National Sew Day for Quilts of Valor on Saturday, Feb. 3.

Almost 30 participants worked on nine different quilts that will be presented to service members and veterans touched by war.

Maggie McGuire, Nancy Coleman, Pam Unnasch, Twana Benner, and Barbara Behler from the Creative Memories Quilt Guild participated.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 by founder Catherine Roberts, whose

Nat, was deployed in Iraq at the time.

From the beginning, Catherine had definite ideas about standards of excellence for Quilts of Valor.

"I knew a Quilt of Valor had to be a quality-made quilt, not a 'charity quilt.' A Quilt of Valor had to be quilted, not tied, which meant hand or machine quilting. Quilts of Valor would be 'awarded,' not just passed out like magazines or videos. A Quilt of Valor would say unequivocally, 'Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor' in serving our nation in combat," Roberts said.

In late December 2017,

members from the Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild awarded Quilts of Valor to 12 veterans (all men) at CHI Burleson St. Joseph Manor in Caldwell.

Men who were draped in the quilts were: Ben Berka, U.S. Navy; Lewis Caddell, U.S. Army National Guard; Francis Comly, Army; Ross Davis Jr., Army; Robert Griffen, Navy; Walter Lero, Army; Terry Maxwell, Army; Walter Nix, Army; Wallace Rosas, Army; Willie Sebesta, Army; and J.S. Suehs, Army.

For more information regarding the National Quilts of Valor Program, visit <https://www.qovf.org/>.



Upcoming Quilt Shows...

Victorian Romance Quilt Show Presented by Happy Hearts Quilt Guild, Friday, June 22, 2018 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 23, 2018 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Admission \$5.00

Location: The Silos on 77 Event Center
 1031 CR 223, Giddings, Texas 78942

Admission includes: Judged Quilt Show, Vendors - Door Prizes, Bed Turning – featuring Antique Quilts (Times 11:30 and @:00 daily), Quilt Raffle (Drawing 3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 23, 2018m Tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5)



VETERANS WALTER Nix, Ben Berka, Ross Davis Jr., and Francis Comly receive Quilts of Valor from members of the Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild of Bryan-College Station.



CREATIVE MEMORIES QUILT guild members Maggie McGuire, Nancy Coleman, Pam Unnasch, Twana Benner and Barbara Behler display a quilt made during the National Sew Day held on Sat., Feb. 3.

