

WELCOME

Welcome to the Coastal Quilters Guild of Northeast Florida! We are glad to have you join us. Because we have so many activities and projects, we have chosen this way to let you know about them. We hope you will choose those which appeal to you, and that you will become an active member. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call upon any Guild member, who will be happy to help you.

As stated in our Bylaws, our purpose is "...to preserve the heritage of quilting, to be a source of information and inspiration, to perpetuate a high quality of excellence in quilting and related arts, and to be a gathering for people with a common interest."

Our monthly meeting takes place at the Neptune Beach Senior Citizen's Center on Forest Avenue. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and ends before 9 p.m. Business matters are generally dispatched during the first part of the meeting, followed by regular monthly activities as well as a program of some kind.

Our dues are \$20.00 per year (July 1 through June 30); \$10.00 for new members joining after January 1. Out of town members pay \$12.00 per year.

This Guild was formed in February of 1987, with approximately 40 charter members. Thirteen of them are still active. The previous year, even before the official Guild was formed, several members made the wonderful quilt which hangs today in the Children's section of the Beaches Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library.

OFFICERS:

The elected officers are: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Bylaws Interpreter. The Guild Board, which directs the ongoing activities of the Guild, also includes chairpersons for eleven

standing committees - Community Service, Education, Exhibits, History, Hospitality, Charity Quilts, Membership, Newsletter, Publicity, Telephone, Quiltfest, and Sunshine.

Elections are held annually in February, and are for one year terms.

MEETING ACTIVITIES:

Several of the activities mentioned below are ongoing. Some we have previously participated in and some we may revisit in the future.

Show and Tell: Members bring in whatever completed projects they would like to "show off" to their comrades. Sometimes they come in groups, as when the students from a handbag class together bring in their finished bags. This activity is sometimes the highlight of the evening!

Fabric Drawing: Each month a fabric color or pattern is specified. At the following meeting, all who wish to participate bring along a quarter yard (or "fat quarter") of that fabric, and in return receive a raffle ticket. A single ticket is then drawn, and the holder of the winning ticket takes home the entire collection.

Block of the Month: A committee chooses 12 blocks, and then presents them, one at a time, in each of 12 successive meetings. A fee of \$10.00 is collected at the beginning of the project (this fee covers patterns and instructions for all 12 blocks.) Three or four months after the final pattern has been released, a grand showing of the resulting quilts is scheduled. Quilters who have "completely completed" their quilts are given a monetary award.

Projects have included various samplers, a Calendar Quilt, a House Quilt, and a Florida Quilt.

Fabric Exchange: A fabric pattern or color is chosen, as in the Fabric Drawing. Each person must bring in enough 6" x 6" squares to be able to exchange one with every other participant. After the exchange, everyone has the same number of squares, but now they are all different.

Since there must be an accurate count of contributors, everyone must sign up early for this activity.

ONGOING GUILD PROJECTS:

Community Service: In the past, the Guild has made quilts for Hubbard House, the Jacksonville Rescue Mission, and the nursing home facilities of Vicar's Landing and the Avanti Villas. We also have made quilts for Hospice and the Crisis Pregnancy Center at the Beaches and Mandarin.

During the December Holidays, members brought gifts to be given to a family chosen by the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM).

Currently we are making quilts for LINUS and bringing selected food items (peanut butter, canned meats, toilet paper, whatever has been requested) to each meeting for donation to BEAM. Other projects may be selected by the membership in the future.

QuiltFest: Our Guild is a member of Quiltfest, Inc. of Jacksonville, Florida. This is an organization supported by local Guilds, whose purpose is to stage an annual Quilt Show and to promote the art of quilting. It is a judged show; money awards as well as ribbons are presented.

Each of the member guilds has a booth at the show where their "Opportunity Quilt" can be displayed, and \$1.00 chances sold. The show also provides members of the sponsoring guilds the opportunity to sell their quilts (not antiques!) in a separate area. QuiltFest also boasts a merchant's mall, and offers classes and lectures given by nationally known and local teachers.

All the sponsoring guilds send representatives to a monthly QuiltFest meeting. In addition, each member guild is expected to provide volunteers to serve as "White Glove Ladies" - who show off the quilts to visitors and make sure the quilts on display are not harmed or soiled. Guild Members are also requested to donate small wall quilts toward a QuiltFest "Silent Auction" with the proceeds going to the Morocco Shriners Transportation Fund.

Opportunity Quilt: Our QuiltFest Guild Opportunity Quilt is made by our members. Each year a "Quilt Mum" is appointed by our Second Vice-President; she and her committee select a pattern, purchase the fabric, and make all the arrangements for completing the quilt. At quilting time, it is passed around among all who volunteer to share in this work. The "Quilt Mum" is also responsible for the acquisition and sale of the raffle tickets.

This quilt is the major money maker for the Guild (hundreds of dollars) and all our members are urged to buy/sell at least 10 tickets preceding QuiltFest. Some of the past recipients have been: Hubbard House, BEAM, Meals On Wheels, St. Andrew's Lighthouse, and the Neptune Beach Senior Citizen's Center.

Some of the designs we have made include Grandmother's Flower Garden, Ohio Star, Fans, Boston Common, Arrowroot, and White on White. For the 2000 show we made a Conway Album, which won for us a Quiltfest ribbon!

President's Quilt: A President who leaves office after one year receives blocks made by Guild members; a President who serves for two years receives an entire completed quilt. Outgoing presidents also receive a Past President's pin.

Sunshine State Quilters Association: Coastal Quilters is proud to be a charter member of a state wide organization of quilters known as the Sunshine

State Quilters Association,. This group will generally hold three or four symposiums a year, in different parts of the state. Individual memberships are also available.

Hospitality Committee: Guests, new members, and speakers are welcomed each meeting by members or appointees of the Hospitality Committee.

Sunshine Committee: This Committee sees to it that flowers or a gift is sent to any member hospitalized for illness or major surgery. (Only one gift can be sent in any 6 month period.) In addition, flowers or a memorial to a charity are sent to commemorate the death of a Guild member.

REGULAR EVENTS:

Recurring Programs: Our Annual Meeting/Founder's Day is in February each year. New officers are elected at this meeting, and our outgoing President gives an Annual Report.

In July the Guild Board sponsors a Summer Ice Cream Social for all the members. The Board supplies all the basics, members bring all the gooey toppings.

The December program is one of the most anticipated events of the year. Tables are set up and decorated, and members all bring their specialty dinner items. (Quilters are extraordinary cooks!) In past years we have also had block exchanges and ornament exchanges.

Friday Morning Quilters: This group was meeting on Friday Mornings even prior to 1987 when the official Guild was formed. Currently the group meets at the Neptune Beach Senior Citizen's Center on Forest Avenue, beginning about 9 a.m. Each quilter brings along her own project, and there is always someone to help out with problems as well as major endeavors such as sandwiching a big quilt. The room is reserved until 3 p.m. Some go out for lunch; others bring their own so they have more work time. Either way, Fridays have become known as the "Quilter's Day Out."

Retreat: Several times, usually in March, members of the Guild have gone on a "retreat" Each person brings her own projects to work on. Sometimes optional workshops are offered.

The location varies: the last retreat was held in Ocala. Costs are kept to a minimum, but meals and snacks, as well as cleaning services, are provided by the camp.

Paducah: A busload of quilters leaves Jacksonville on an April morning (a day before the opening of the annual American Quilter's Society Quilt Show) and finally arrives in Paducah, KY a little before midnight. These hardy souls (fewer than 50, because of Paducah motel limitations) have three days to take in the Show, the vendors, the shops, the Museum, and the town before boarding the bus again for the return trip.

This is an extremely popular trip, usually booked up several months in advance.

Newsletter: A Guild Newsletter is mailed to all members about 10 days prior to the monthly meeting. It contains minutes and committee reports from the previous meeting, as well as upcoming program information and birthday lists and reminders of things to bring to the following meeting (nametag, donations to BEAM, etc.)

The Newsletter also contains updates to the membership Roster and a few advertisements from local shops.

OCCASIONAL EVENTS:

Workshops: One of the greatest benefits of membership in Coastal Quilters is the opportunity to learn from others. Workshops are conducted by members, local teachers, and by nationally known teachers. (We have had Judy Mathison from California, Marianne Fons from Ohio, Ami Simms from Michigan, and Jane Hall from North Carolina.)

A deposit is charged, payable at sign-up time. No-shows will forfeit this.

Workshop participants must be prepared to arrive early and help to set up the work area.

Workshop Planning: The following rules apply to proposals for Guild Workshops:

1. Workshops sponsored by the Coastal Quilters Guild will be held for educational purposes. Costs to participants will be based on expected expenses. The Guild may agree to subsidize the teacher; this money will come from the Education budget.

2. Persons desiring to conduct a workshop must submit a proposal to the Board, including:

- A detailed description
- The amount of compensation desired
- Minimum and maximum number of participants
- Number of hours the workshop will last
- A basic supply list
- Other costs (supplies purchased by the instructor)

3. The Board may request the instructor to modify the terms of the proposal prior to acceptance. Following acceptance, the Board still reserves the right to cancel the workshop without payment if there are not enough participants to cover expenses.

4. Paid instructors will be limited to teaching no more than two guild-sponsored workshops in a given year. Exceptions may be considered on an

individual basis, and decided by a vote of the Board and/or the general membership.

5. If a workshop is not filled by an agreed-on date, it may be opened to non-members, who will pay an additional charge.

6. With Board approval, the Education Chairperson can schedule teachers for future years to take advantage of shared travel expenses and accommodate teacher schedules.

Challenge: As in the block of the month, a Guild committee assembles a collection of small fabric pieces and a set of rules for the project. The "Challenge" for members who purchase the package is to use these fabrics (more may be added) to complete a project of their own choice. Those projects completed by a specified date are then displayed as part of that month's program; a viewer's choice ballot is held and awards are presented.

Several months may elapse between the end of one challenge and the start of another.

Field Trips: Frequently, a group of members will depart for a field trip, such as a local quilt show or a faraway shop. Past trips have included the Central Florida Quilt Show in DeLand, and the "Stars over Amelia Quilt Show" on Amelia Island, as well as trips to quilt shops in Georgia.

Members also get together to participate in the annual "Shop Hop" which is an event sponsored by quilt shops from Daytona to Orlando to Jacksonville Beach. Participants are encouraged to visit as many as possible.

We hope you've found this handbook to be helpful and informative. Please feel free to ask questions of any of our members. We all look forward to sharing our love of quilting with you.

WELCOME!