

# ***The Voice of the Turtle***

## **Turtle Creek Quilters Guild**

Established 1983

**Next Guild Meeting February 18, 2024**

Doors Open at 12:30 PM -- Meeting Starts at 1:00PM  
Location is Switlik

### **February Program – Quilt for Kids “Teams” program Also Block of the Month and Constellation challenge**

The subsequent Guild Meeting will be March 17, 2024

#### **President’s Message**

Our January tea was once again a great success. We had a great turnout given the frigid weather and the array of treats, both savory and sweet, was awesome as usual! Thank you, Barbara Shock, for all the work you did to prepare, set up and clean up.

It is wonderful that members have come forward to assume the duties of chairing our Teddy Bear and Block of the Month initiatives next year and I am confident that volunteers to serve on the Program committee will be forthcoming.

As I mentioned at the meeting, in March I need to appoint a nominating committee to receive nominations for President and Vice President. Since I am running for neither office, I can and am willing to serve on it. I need two or three members to join me on the committee.

*Quilt on!*

*BJ*

#### **Meeting Dates for the Upcoming Year**

	<b>UFO SATURDAYS</b>	<b>GUILD MEETING</b>	<b>QOV SATURDAYS</b>
	Hamilton Library	Switlik Pavilion	Switlik Pavilion
	9 am to 5 pm	1 pm to 4 pm	10 am to 5 pm
February	3	18	24
March	2	17	23
April	6	21	27
May	18	19	25

June	1	9	22 Ham. Library
July	6		27 Ham. Library
August	3		24
September	7	15	28
October	5	20	26
November	2	17	23
December	7	15	28

**Minutes of the Last Meeting – submitted by Ginger Barlow**

BJ called the meeting to order at 1:50

The minutes from the last meeting were accepted as presented.

The Treasurer’s report was accepted as presented.

31 members were in attendance. We currently have 53 members.

The raffle basket netted \$90 and was won by Ginger Barlow. Barbara asked for donations of items for raffle baskets.

The teacup auction raised \$32.

Charity:

Judy informed the group that 23 quilts went out in January for foster care. The placemat donations are ongoing and any shape placemat is appreciated.

Twenty-eight teddy bear quilts were delivered last week. Meg has 28 more ready to be delivered when she hears from another fire department.

Sunshine and Shadows:

Kathy reported sending out 4 birthday and 2 get well cards this past month.

Hospitality:

The hospitality committee did a wonderful job hosting the January tea.

Programs:

Joann presented the Secrets and Salads challenge and passed out fabric. The item should not be a quilt – Use your creativity! The items will be brought in May (in bags for anonymity) and voted on.

In February, we will have a team challenge for Quilts for Kids. Members were divided into teams of 3. The guild will provide cut fabrics and directions while the team should arrange to bring 2 sewing machines to use, a rotary cutter, small ruler and mat. They can also bring a small iron.

In March Anne Holt will do a presentation on Quilts for a Cause.

The June meeting will be our annual sale and auction. That will be the last meeting before the summer break.

The BOM was passed out and the constellation block was shown. The winning quilts of the BOM challenge were announced and awarded prizes.

Winners of BOM challenge: Blue and white pyramids-type quilt; Purple and gray hourglass quilt with arrows; Sunflowers/maple leaves quilt and Bunnies

Board Openings:

The guild has an opening for a program chair and would also benefit from a program committee to share the workload. BJ pointed out that a lot of the programs are repeating (auction, tea, teddy bear challenge) so some of the ‘figuring out’ is done. We will likely have an opening for the treasurer role. In March a nominating committee will be named to collect names of people interested in holding roles in the guild. They do not have to reach out and ask people to accept positions – they are there to collect information for people who are interested or know someone interested. If you are interested in running, please reach out to them or any board member.

Other Business:

Jeanne and Mary Ann Walker brought to the guild that a quilter passed away and her family would like to give a Tin Lizzy (sit-down longarm) to someone who could use it – especially for charity work. The cost of the machine and table is approximately \$3000 but there is no payment required, just appreciated.

BJ made the motion to adjourn. Meg agreed and Karen seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20.

**Treasurer’s Report – January 2024 – Submitted by Joann Tarateta**

Jan 2024	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$7,688.00
Raffle	\$90.00
Name Tags & Guests	\$0.50
Tea Cup/Year End Auction	\$32.00
Charity	-\$117.28
Miscellaneous Fundraising	\$79.00
<b>Balance in Treasury</b>	<b>\$7,772.22</b>
Beginning Balance	\$1,162.61

May 2024 Retreat Payments	\$50.00
July 2024 Retreat Payments	\$100.00
Retreat Balance	\$1,312.61
Adjusted Balance in Treasury	\$9,084.83

Joann

### **Program News**

Looking Ahead (Location - Switlik Pavilion):

February – Quilts for Kids (QFK) Program led by Carol Ober. Participating members were assigned teams (so start your engines)! Fabric kits and directions will be provided. Teams must coordinate amongst themselves to determine who will bring: sewing machines (we recommend 2 per group) and supplies, plus, rotary cutter, extension cord, iron, small ironing board, ruler (12”) and smaller cutting mat. In addition, we will have Block of the Month and Constellation Challenge.

March – Ann Holte of Filaments Studio will present “Quilts for a Cause”. Please join us for this informative lecture and trunk show. Ann will also bring items to purchase (Books, Patterns and; Templates). In addition, we will have Block of the Month and Constellation Challenge.

April – Charity Committee Program. We will also have the Block of the Month and Constellation Challenge. Note: Thinking ahead we are “tentatively” looking at October for the Constellation Showcase.

May – Secrets and; Salads Challenge and Block of the Month.

June – Auction and; Ice Cream Social.

Summer Recess: July and August

September - Annual Teddy Bear Challenge, Big Show n’ Tell, Block of the Month.

October – Block of the Month, Constellation Showcase and possibly a “Make and Take Project” ... so be prepared to bring your sewing machines and supplies.

November – We will have Brita Nelson – The Questioning Quilter presenting “Now You See it, Now You Don’t. The Magic of Disappearing Blocks” and she will have patterns for sale. Plus, Block of the Month.

December – Block of the Month and for those of you who want to participate: Twas the Night Before Christmas (\$10 Gift).

\*\*\* Constellation Quilt Challenge \*\*\*

72” x 84”

The program will run April 2023 through March 2024

Click on this link to see a picture of a completed quilt top:

<https://link.shutterfly.com/Cy5q3VIA3yb>

Fabric requirements follow:

By now you should be well on your way. There are only a few remaining blocks to be completed and then you can focus on assembling the quilt top, followed by: borders, backing, etc. As most of us know, it's better to have a bit more fabric than less.

Borders: Ladies ... listen up! It all depends on what you decide to do. The following measurement is based on the instructions handed out. However, if you decide to add more than 1 border, the measurements will vary. Remember: Betty's quilt top was made up of 3 borders of varying widths). So, if you do more than 1 border, you'll have to do some math. Betty suggests you wait until the quilt top is almost complete before proceeding with your decision on the borders.

Backing: 5 yards

Binding:  $\frac{3}{4}$  yard (or, see "Border" yardage, above)

If you are participating:

This is your chance to choose and use your favorite colors for your quilt. You have a chance to explore new combinations of colors and be bold

You are responsible for providing the fabrics for your quilt {top, backing, batting (unless it will be donated) and binding}

Constellation Showcase – tentatively October 2024!

The quilt will be yours to do with as you please: keep, gift, or donate. Your choice!

Lastly, the Program Committee reserves the right to tweak the rules!

\*\*\* Viewer's Choice of the 2022 – 2023 Block of the Month Program \*\*\*

Thank you to everyone who participated. Special thanks to Gretchen Faras for hanging up the quilts and for tallying the votes! And to the Viewers for participating and supporting our guild.

September – Maple Leaf (Jeanne Tharp) \*\*\* 3 rd Prize \*\*\*

October – Another Chain and Hourglass Quilt Block (BJ Drews) \*\*\* 2 nd Prize \*\*\*

November – Halloween (Mary Ford)

January – BH4 Block 27 Threaded (Chris Crum) \*\*\* 1 st Prize \*\*\*

February – Square Knot – Version #1 (Mary Ann Yurcisin)

February – Square Knot – Version #2 (Mary Ann Yurcisin)

March – Easy Chicago Geese Quilt Block (Donna Kolesar)

April – Rascally Rabbit (Ann Vannozzi) \*\*\* 3 rd Prize \*\*\*

Note: Each Winner was awarded a Magnetic Wand (to pickup pins off the floor) and a magnetic sewing needle case.

January 2024 BOM (Star of Bethlehem 12-1/2 Unfinished/12" Finished):

So many gorgeous blocks were completed and turned in. Chris Crum's name was drawn.

Please congratulate Chris! We look forward to seeing the finished quilt top at the next Viewer's Choice. If there are any remaining kits or blocks in anyone's possession, please get them to Chris.

February 2024 BOM (Moda Blockheads 5 "Celeste" 12-1/2 Unfinished/12" Finished):

The pink/red fabric was GENEROUSLY donated by Betty Kiss. Special thanks to Betty for choosing this beautiful block, cutting the fabric, providing instructions and preparing the kits.

You provide a white fabric! Instructions were sent out. We look forward to seeing the completed blocks next month!

#### Additional Rules for Block of the Month Programs:

For ambitious quilters: if you submit additional blocks, you'll receive an additional entry for each block submitted. For example: Submit 2 blocks this month and you'll receive two entries for the drawing.

You may transfer all or part of your entries to another guild member.

If you are unable to make the block, we ask that you return the kit(s) as quickly as possible so they may be given to the winner of the blocks in a timely manner.

If you've completed the block and want to be entered into the drawing but cannot attend the meeting, we ask that you email Pat Walker or Jeanne Tharp a .jpeg picture of your block. We ask that you do this no later than 6 pm the evening prior to our scheduled meeting (doing so will make things easier on the Program Committee).

The drawing will take place during the meeting.

It will be up to the members to get their block to the winner. Again, be conscious of the postage and packaging.

Have fun! Any questions, please contact Pat Walker.

#### "Block of the Month Program" Fast Forward:

For the winners of the "Block of the Month Program" (July 2023 – June 2024), we will have an additional contest (Viewer's Choice). We ask that the winners of the blocks complete a project, ready to gift, by our January 2025 meeting. The projects will be put on display and Turtle Creek Quilt Guild Members will vote.

In addition, if you won a BOM, the Program Committee has offered to long arm your BOM Quilt top and ask the following:

- o You must supply the backing.
- o If the quilt is earmarked for charity, TCQG will provide the batting. Otherwise, you are responsible for providing the batting.
- o If you decide to take us up on this offer, we ask that you get the quilt to Pat Walker no later than October 2024 Meeting.
- o Lastly, follow the steps outlined in "Guidelines for Getting your Quilts Long Armed" below.

#### Guidelines for Getting Your Quilts Long Armed

If you want a nice job, you must give us a nice top and backing. We are not Miracle Workers.

Backing and; batting should only be 4" around each side of the quilt top

If the backing is pieced the seam should be 1/2 to 5/8" and pressed open

The threads should be trimmed from the quilt top.

All loose threads should be removed (especially from the back side of the quilt top). This is very important if you have a light colored quilt top and the loose threads on the back side show through.

The edges of the backing must be even.

My sincere thanks and gratitude to Gretchen Faras and Chris Crum for providing assistance at the January meeting, to Betty Kiss for the BOM and Debbi Oriolo for proofing the Program portion of the Newsletter, and to all the other volunteers and participants.

Sincerely, Pat Walker  
Program Chair

### **Sunshine and Shadows**

Birthday cards to: Mary Ford, Judy Watkins, Alice Haluszka and Christine Kales who celebrated January birthdays.

Get well cards were sent to Rosalie Creanzo due to surgery and Geri Wolf due to a broken ankle. Get well cards were also sent to Mary Sobon and Geri Wolf due to Covid and to Alice Haluszka who was under the weather.

### **Teddy Bear Quilts**

Hello Ladies!

The Levittown Fire Dept is having their meeting on the 29th....if they decide not to take the 28 I have packed I'll take them somewhere else. I'm catching up to the end of the quilts and animals that I have. So please keep sewing, I don't want to leave Sally without anything to work with.

Thank you,

Chris& Meg

### **Photography**

Photos can be viewed on Shutterfly in the link that gets sent via mail. Thanks to Jeanne Tharp, our historian and photographer.

### **Membership**

We currently have 53 members.

If any member would like a FQ of the Secrets & Salads fabric for the May program – please contact me and I will get it to them.

"Meet a Member Form" - please fill it in and return the form to me at the next meeting. We look forward to catching up with you and seeing what you are enjoying these days. Who knows, you may inspire us to take up a new interest or revisit one we have forgotten.

2023-2024 Membership list. As always, this list is only to be use for Guild Business. Any corrections or updates pertaining to this list can be emailed to: [joeyt2@comcast.net](mailto:joeyt2@comcast.net)

Fondly, Joann Tarateta

### **Turtle Creek Peacemakers Update – Submitted by Debbi Oriolo**

The Turtle Creek Peacemakers Quilts of Valor group has hit the ground running this year with many new nominations for both in person & virtual presentations including six individual Zoom presentations and a presentation with two brothers getting QoV's at the same time. We also have large group presentations later in the year including Village of Buckingham Springs (55+ community) in New Hope in June, Greenbriar Horizons (55+ community) in Bordentown in Nov and possibly Menlo Park Veterans Home in Edison later this year.

### **Charity Committee Report:**

23 quilts were donated to Foster Children this past month.

Thanks to all, as always, for your generous and beautifully creative donations. We are always accepting placemats for Meals on Wheels, as well as quilts of various sizes to go to our recipient groups. In addition, used sewing machines in working order are greatly appreciated by the refugee community. Please contact Mindy if you have a machine to donate.

Judy, Louise, Mindy and Yoko

### **Editor's Note**

The deadline for the March newsletter is **February 22**. Please email any input to Mindy Langer, [lander4581@gmail.com](mailto:lander4581@gmail.com) or mail to Mindy Langer, 67 Cranbury Rd., Princeton Jct, NJ 08550, or call her at 609-306-6211.

### **In Other News:**

If you have anything you would like to share, just send an email to Mindy Langer. This includes book and movie recommendations too!

Here are a few recommendations for this month:

If you enjoy quilting videos on YouTube, Ginger has a channel called "Copycat Quilter" and would appreciate you watching, subscribing and/or sharing.

Joann Tarateta recommended the book [The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane](#) by Lisa See.



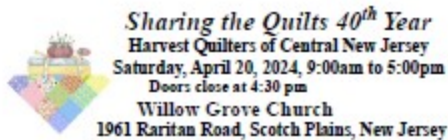
Barbara Benedict sends the following:

For vintage textiles and antique quilt auctions:

Dana Balsamo  
732-221-3560  
Suite 17B  
3490 US Route 1  
Princeton, NJ

Also, there is a Modern Quilt Show in Raleigh, NC from February 22-24.

And finally, from Carol Oynyk, a show that she says is always nice, from a group her mom was in:



*Variety of Art, Traditional, and Modern Quilts of all sizes, themes, techniques and patterns; "Charity Baby Quilts" as our Challenge*

*Karen Hochman: Lecture at 10:30 "Everything Old Is New Again, What Inspires You?"*

*Kathy Lee, Featured Quilter: Traditional Patterns with Non-traditional Fabric; Her Collection will be on Display in Library*

More info: [www.harvestquilters.com](http://www.harvestquilters.com) or find us at Harvest Quilters on Facebook  
Queen size Quilt and Drawing Basket Tea Room: Breakfast and Lunch

Admission: \$8 adult; \$3 Children under 12 \$1 off with this Coupon  
*"Quilts are the Homespun Art of Women's History"*

## A Reference Guide for Charity Projects

Project	Preferred Size	Finishing	Due Date	Guild Contact
Teddy Bear Quilt	Approximately 24 inches square And 25 by 30 and 28 by 28 (for Capital Health)	Quilted; <b>NO</b> embellishments!!	Ongoing project, quilts collected at all meetings	Meg / Chris
Foster Children	Approximately 40 x 50"	Quilted. Bindings should be machine-sewn for durability	Ongoing project, quilts collected at all meetings	Charity committee
Placemats	Various sizes		Ongoing project	
Capital Health Cancer Center and Princeton Medical Center	Approximately 40 x 60"	Can be quilted or tied	Ongoing project, quilts collected at all meetings	
Animal Beds Ongoing project	Approximately the size of a standard pillow case	Fill a pillow case-sized envelope with fabric and batting scraps; sew ends securely	Donate directly to Hamilton Animal Shelter, 2100 Sylvan Ave, Hamilton, or to the Trenton Animal Shelter	
Quilts of Valor	Finished size can be no smaller than 55" x 65" and no larger than 70" x 90. Ideal size approx. 60" x 80	Quilts should be washed prior to donation	Ongoing project	Debbi Oriolo and Margaret
Refugee families	Children's bed size or adult twin size or larger	May be quilted or tied	Ongoing project	Charity committee