

The Voice of the Turtle

Turtle Creek Quilters Guild

Established 1983

Next Guild Meeting January 21, 2024

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

Location is Switlik

January Program – Annual Holiday Tea, Plus Block of the Month and Constellation Challenge. Also, Viewers’ Choice of 2022-2023 Block of the Month program completed quilts

The subsequent Guild Meeting will be February 18, 2024

President’s Message

Happy New Year!

I am looking forward to another great year of gorgeous quilts!

BJ

Meeting Dates for the Upcoming Year

	UFO SATURDAYS	GUILD MEETING	QOV SATURDAYS
	Hamilton Library	Switlik Pavilion	Switlik Pavilion
	9 am to 5 pm	1 pm to 4 pm	10 am to 5 pm
January 2024	6	21	27
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 Jeanne Tharpe, substituting for the Guild Secretary

The meeting was opened on December 17, 2023 by Vice President Joann Tarateta at 1:31 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Maria Winter, seconded by Barbara Wade.

Motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting was made by Chris Crum, seconded by Janice Puccio.

Motion to approve the treasurer’s report was made by Barbara McDowell, seconded by Barbara Cincotta.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barbara Wade, seconded by Meg Heineman

There were 27 members in attendance, and no guests.

Membership: We have 53 members.

Charity: The annual total was shared in the newsletter. The Charity committee will continue to collect placemats - keep making the placemats.

Teddy Bear: Meg Heineman shared that 24 quilts were donated to 2 Pennsylvania organizations. Sally Ward and Margaret Pemberton will be taking over Teddy Bear quilts after June.

Raffle Basket: This month’s basket for Turtle Creek Peacemakers was donated by McCaffrey’s market and raised \$96.00. It was won by Meg Heineman.

TeaCup Auction: This month’s tea cup auction raised \$21.00.

Sunshine and Shadow: Birthday and Get Well cards were sent out.

Programs: The January 2024 BOM was shown, and uses blue Batik fabric. The three blocks for Constellation 9 were displayed.

Winners of the December blocks were Cynthia Vitale, Anne LaBella, Mary Ford, Louise Zingale and Barbara Schock.

Viewers choice is next month for quilts made with the winning blocks from last year’s drawings.

Hospitality: Next month is our January Tea. Barbara Schock has a sign-up sheet for food. Bring placemats and any other items to decorate your table. Jeanne will bring an electric tea pot, tea bags and water.

Photographer: If you are not receiving the pictures from our meetings, let Jeanne Tharp so you can be added to the distribution list.

Treasurer's Report – December 2023 – Submitted by Joann Tarateta

Beginning Balance	\$ 7,790.83
Raffle	
Name Tags and Guests	\$ 1.00
Tea Cup/Year End Auction	\$ 21.00
Membership	\$ 40.00
Website	\$ (99.95)
Program	\$ (64.88)
Balance in Treasury	\$ 7,688.00
Beginning Balance	\$ 1,062.61
May 2024 Retreat Payments	\$ 50.00
July 2024 Retreat Payments	\$ 50.00
Retreat Balance	\$ 1,162.61
Adjusted Balance in Treasury	\$ 8,850.61

Note: adjustment made to Program line on the Nov. 2023 report – should be (\$29.99) not (\$89.97).

Thanks – Happy New Year!

Joann

Program News

Looking Ahead (Location - Switlik Pavilion):

- January – Annual Holiday Tea Social (see bullet below for additional details), Block of the Month and Constellation Challenge. Plus, Viewer’s Choice of “2022 – 2023 Block of the Month” program. Please note the “Block of the Month” quilts must be “completed and ready to gift”.
 - Regarding the Annual Holiday Tea Social: If you plan to join us but haven’t signed up to bring a dish to share, please email Barbara Schock (barbschock9@gmail.com) with your contribution (the current list is attached to the newsletter). Also, feel free to bring your favorite tea setting (cup/mug, teapot, place mat).
- February – Quilts for Kids (QFK) Program led by Carol Ober. Participating members will be formed into teams. Fabric kits and directions will be provided. Please bring your sewing machines, sewing supplies, rotary cutters and rulers. Irons, ironing boards, cutting mats will be provided. More info will be forth coming. In addition, Block of the Month and Constellation Challenge.
- March – Charity Committee Program. Plus, Block of the Month and Constellation Challenge.
- April – 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). We will also have the Block of the Month and Constellation Challenge.
- May – Secrets and Salads Challenge and Block of the Month.
- June – Auction and Ice Cream Social.

***** 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.shutterstock.com/Cy5q3VIA3yb>
- Fabric requirements follow:
 - Blocks:
 - 12 – 15 Fat Quarters from an assortment of light, medium, and dark
 - 2 – 3 Fat Quarters for the accent color(s)
 - 3.5 yards of light background fabric
 - 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.

- 2 yards is plenty to be used in the body of the quilt.
- 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}
 - Yes ... we will have a Showcase – TBD 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!

December 2023 BOM's (Mitten, Present, Reindeer, Stocking, Tree, Wreath):

- Twenty-seven blocks were completed and turned in. Five names were drawn:
 - Cynthia Vitale
 - Anne LaBella
 - Mary Ford
 - Barbara Schock
 - Louise Zingale
- Three blocks were not turned in (Reindeer, Tree, Present). We ask that the remaining blocks/kits be given to Anne LaBella at the January meeting.

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

Note: The white background fabric was GENEROUSLY donated by Betty Kiss. Special thanks to Betty for choosing the festive block, cutting the fabric, providing the instructions and preparing the kits.

You provide a blue batik! Instructions were sent out. We look forward to seeing the completed blocks!

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 2022 – June 2023), 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 2024 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:
 - You must supply the backing.
 - If the quilt is earmarked for charity, TCQG will provide the batting. Otherwise, you are responsible for providing the batting.
 - If you decide to take us up on this offer, we ask that you get the quilt to Pat Walker no later than October 2023 Meeting.
 - 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 removed (especially from the back side of the quilt top).
- The edges of the backing must be even

My sincere thanks and gratitude to Betty Kiss, Barbara Mitchell, Debbi Oriolo and all the other volunteers that lend a hand.

Sincerely, Pat Walker

Sunshine and Shadows

In December, we have nine birthdays. Birthday cards were sent to Ginger Barlow, Beth Cass, Barbara Cincotta, Karen Galley, Joann Tareteta, Mary Anne Walker, Sally Ward, Maria Winter and Diane Wisner. A thank you note was sent to Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Goldman for the donation of fabric. Dr. Goldman's mother was a quilter. She is no longer able to quilt and she wanted her fabric to go to a group who could use it.

Teddy Bear Quilts

Hi Ladies,
Hope everyone has a Happy Holiday Season! Short input this month!! We are donating 24 Teddy Bears friends to 2 Pa Fire Departments.
Thank you,
Meg & Chris

Photography

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

Membership

"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

Fondly, Joann Tarateta

Turtle Creek Peacemakers Update – Submitted by Debbi Oriolo

The Turtle Creek Peacemakers Quilts of Valor group had three very successful fundraisers which were Facebook Giving Tuesday in late November, the Texas Roadhouse Dine to Donate in early December and the donated McCaffrey's Raffle Basket at the Turtle Creek Guild meeting in December. Thank you to all who supported us both with these fundraisers and any other way you helped us achieve our goal and mission through the year. We are looking forward to a very productive year creating and presenting Quilts of Valor.

Charity Committee Report:

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 January newsletter is **January 24**. Please email any input to Mindy Langer, langer4581@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!

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; NO 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

Places to Go -- Quilts to See

DO YOU KNOW OF A QUILT SHOW THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST? If so, please send the information to Mindy Langer

