

The Voice of the Turtle

Turtle Creek Quilters Guild
Established 1983

Next Guild Meeting October 20, 2024

Doors Open at 1:00 PM -- Meeting Starts at 1:30 PM
Location is Switlik
Program: Block of the Month and Constellation Showcase

President's Message

Wow! What a wonderful way to start off the new guild year! If you didn't get a chance to attend the meeting, you really missed a good one. It was so nice to see so many ladies and catch up with one another; plus, it was nice to see some new faces. I hope the "guests" will become members. I think one of the guests did join and hopefully we will see more new faces this year.

Our Teddy Bear Challenge did not disappoint. We had 25 entries!! I am always amazed at the creativity and diversity of the entries. I know it was hard for me to pick who I thought was best in each of the categories. Congrats to all the winners. For me, making Teddy Bear quilts provides me the opportunity to try something new. Between the challenge and show and tell, the amount of teddy bear quilts collected was phenomenal.

One of the highlights of our meeting is Show and Tell. I know how much we all look forward to it. The September meeting is always a fun meeting seeing all the quilts that our members worked on over the summer. The productivity of our guild is overwhelming. I know that many of the quilts shown were earmarked for the various charities we support. We are a generous, productive and talented group of ladies.

See you all at our next meeting and/or the UFO.
Chris

Remember:
Quilting is a gentle reminder that even in the chaos of life, we can find peace and serenity.

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
October	5	20	26
November	2	17	23
December	7	15	28

The following are the dates of the UFO at Hamilton Library for 2025. They are all the first Saturday of the month, except for June:

Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 21, July 5, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6

Minutes of the Last Meeting

President Chris Crum called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm to allow members time to vote for the Teddy Bear Challenge. Greeter Janice Puccio indicated there are 37 members present today and our two guests were introduced. Chris hoped that everyone had an enjoyable summer and thanked BJ Drews for her tenure as outgoing President. Chris noted that BJ had additional challenges brought on by Covid and we all appreciated BJ's hospitality allowing us to meet in her backyard during this time. Chris presented BJ with a gift from the guild. Chris also thanked Pat Walker for her time as Program Chair and Betty Kiss for her time handling Block of the Month and the Constellation and Shoot for the Stars challenges. Chris mentioned that the position of Program Chair remains unfilled at this time and if anyone is interested in the position, please speak with Chris or Pat.

Chris thanked Cynthia Vitale, Donna Kolesar and Barbara McDowell for their willingness to assume the Block of the Month Committee. Chris thanked BJ for changing hats as she is our new Treasurer and thanked Margaret Pemberton as she fills the position of Vice President. Chris also mentioned that the position of Fundraising Chair is open at this time and we are looking for someone who will organize the numerous donations that come in for the year-end auction so it would be helpful if the person has storage space.

Chris asked for a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter (summer edition). A motion was made by Janice Puccio and seconded by Joann Tarateta. On voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Chris asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and indicated that there is a discrepancy between our records and the bank's records. A motion was made by Carol Ober to accept the Treasurer's Report

as it stands now and the motion was seconded by Louise Zingale. On voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Membership – Joann Tarateta asked all members to pay their dues either today or as soon as possible so she can post the payments and issue the membership cards at our next meeting. Joann indicated that she will also update the membership list and distribute it to the guild members. Chris welcomed new members Robin Affrime, Karla Rhodes, Elizabeth Trimble and Bob Tilley.

Barbara Mitchell indicated that proceeds from today's teacup auction were \$28 and Janice indicated that we raised \$120 for the guild from today's raffle basket which was won by Joyce Olshansky.

Block of the Month – Cynthia showed an example of the block that was distributed in June and approximately 21 blocks were won by Betty Kiss who will give them to her daughter Micki Rockwell.

Cynthia showed the group a pillow with a dog's face on it and said that you can find the instructions by searching Wandee tutorials. Cynthia also shared a non-quilting public service announcement as a result of a fire extinguisher explosion at her daughter's house. Everyone should check the age and condition of their home fire extinguishers as they only last between 10-12 years. The powder which exploded from the extinguisher (which was in the pantry) traveled throughout the house and has required extensive cleaning by professional cleaning companies.

Geri Wolf read the list of members' birthdays for July, August and September and Meg Heinemann said that she will gladly accept all donations for raffle baskets that will support our Quilts of Valor efforts. Carol Ober said she is also a member of Quilts for Kids and said that the group is organizing a Shop with a Cop event for the Christmas holidays. As part of that program Carol indicated that quilts with a Christmas theme would be gladly accepted. Last year they made and distributed 250 quilts and the size is approximately 36 x 48. Please be in touch with Carol soon if you are able to help with this project or bring them to the next meeting.

Charity – Louise Zingale said that today is the last day to turn in placemats and that over 500 were distributed to various groups in the community. Louise also reported that over the summer we learned of a need at Penn Med for port pillows (used to protect a port from the pressure of a seatbelt). So far 130 were made and donated and they don't need any more at this time. Louise read a note of thanks from Penn Med staff. Judy Watkins read several thank you notes from the staff who distribute the quilts we make to the children in the foster care system. The messages contained in the notes conveyed how important these quilts are to the children at a particularly difficult time.

Jane Laub distributed flyers for the Holly Berry Bazaar which is on Saturday, November 2 from 9 am to 4 pm and will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 129 Chestnut Street, Toms River. Jane showed one of the quilts that will be included in the bazaar and it was gorgeous.

Show and Tell occurred while the votes for the Teddy Bear Challenge were tallied and as usual, it was evident how productive everyone was over the summer.

Chris mentioned that one of our longtime members Kathy Travaglione passed away recently after her battle with cancer. Details of a memorial service will be shared when we get the arrangements from Kathy's family.

Sally Ward, Teddy Bear Quilt Chair, thanked everyone for participating in the challenge and said that 25 teddy bear quilts were turned in today. Listed below are the winners who received a lovely gift:

Best for a Boy – Judy Watkins, Best for a Girl, Pat Walker, Why Didn't I think of That – Mary Ford, Best Applique – Barbara McDowell, Best Quilting – Celeste Suminsby, Best Use of Fabric – Joyce Olshansky and Best in Show – Chris Crum. Congratulations to everyone!

Newsletter deadline is September 26 so please be sure to get any items to Mindy before that date.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Geri Wolf and seconded by Barbara Cincotta. The meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.

Submitted by

Margaret Pemberton

Vice President, for Secretary Ginger Barlow

Treasurer's Report – BJ Drews

The **treasurer's report** can be opened at the following link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yRM7Ee8qv9YoZ8ROwMU7pgScJfKP0cw-/view?usp=drive_link

The **proposed budget** can be opened here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_uP3c_wRStrtD1LwMYoIAI6DTj59Dkm3/view?usp=drive_link

Editor's Note: if you have trouble opening the link, please email me and I will arrange another format.

Program News – Pat Walker

Looking Ahead (Location - Switlik Pavilion):

- October – Block of the Month and Constellation Showcase.
- November – Brita Nelson – The Questioning Quilter presents “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, Viewer's Choice of finished and quilted Y2K Charm Pack Challenge.
- January - Annual Holiday Tea Social, Block of the Month and Viewer's Choice of “2023 –2024 Block of the Month” program. Please note the “2023 – 2024 Block of the Month” quilts must be “completed and ready to gift”.

Guidelines for Getting Your Quilts Long Armed

If you want a nice job, you must give us a nice top and backing.

- 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.
- Ideally all threads should be trimmed from the front and the back. Most important are the threads on the back since dark threads will show through a light colored top.
- The edges of the backing must be even.

Pat Walker

Sunshine and Shadows

Thank you to Geri Wolf who is taking over this position.

Happy birthday to those members who celebrate in October:

Barbara McDowell, Barbara Schock, Debbi Oriolo, Donna Kolesar, Margaret Pemberton, Mary Sobon, and Mindy Langer.

Teddy Bear Quilts

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who submitted Teddy Bear quilts for the September challenge. Please see the minutes for a list of our challenge winners.

Photography

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

Please note, the position of **Historian** is still open! (We love our photographs, but there is other history that must be maintained as well.)

Membership – Joann Tarateta

If you plan on joining the 2024-2025 guild year, your membership fee of \$40 is due by the next meeting. I will have the new membership list by the Nov. newsletter. As of now we have 4 new members and 36 returning members.

Turtle Creek Peacemakers Update – Submitted by Debbi Oriolo

Now that the summer is over and everyone is back from vacation, our QoV presentations are picking up. We currently have three in-person presentations scheduled at Switlik Pavilion on Oct 26th (one) and Dec 28th (two). We also will be presenting QoVs to four veterans at Greenbriar Horizons community in Bordentown on Nov 9th. Feel free to join us and meet some of the veterans we will be honoring with QoVs. We also have six virtual Zoom presentations that will be scheduled sometime in the next couple of months. Presentation pictures are posted on our Turtle Creek Guild website under the Quilts of Valor menu tab. Also, one of our QoVs, made by Michael Morisco & quilted by Chris Crum, is now on display through the end of the year at the NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum in Holmdel.

Charity Committee Report (Judy, Louise, Mindy and Yoko)

So far in September, we have given 17 quilts to the Princeton Medical Center cancer center. They are very grateful and appreciative of everyone's creativity and artistry. We are glad that many of the quilts donated recently can be used by either men or women. (Excuse the stereotype, but we do often get lots of quilts with flowers and shades of pink; it's helpful to also have some that men might feel more comfortable with.) Also, when making charity quilts, please refer to the chart in the newsletter as a guide for sizes.

Thanks for your donations and keep them coming!!

During the past year, the charity committee has been gifted with several tubs of fabric. We have quite a lot of large pieces and would like to share them with anyone who is making a charity quilt and needs backing. Just bring your tops (or blocks) to the October meeting and we will see if we can match them up with a backing fabric.

The refugee group continues to accept donated sewing machines. There are many new arrivals who can sew or want to learn, and the husband of one of them repairs sewing machines, so if you have any machines you'd like to donate, please contact Mindy to be put in touch with the group's liaison. She says they are thrilled to receive machines. Anyone who is interested in teaching people to sew may contact Mindy as well.

Editor's Note:

The deadline for the November newsletter is **October 25**. Please email any input to Mindy Langer, langer4581@gmail.com or mail to Mindy Langer, 67 Cranbury Rd., Princeton Jct, NJ 08550, or call or text her at 609-306-6211.

In Other News:

An upcoming quilt show submitted by Joann:



****If you have anything you would like to share in future newsletters, 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	Sally Ward
Foster Children	Approximately 40 x 50"	Quilted. Bindings should be machine-sewn for durability	Ongoing project, quilts collected at all meetings	Charity committee
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