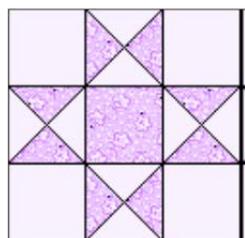




Common Threads

New Member

Handbook



*May all of your ups and downs in life
be with a needle and thread*

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Note: For questions or changes, contact Jackie Jones (whackiejackie@hotmail.com), or Elizabeth Cohen (mrsgiddyup@yahoo.com)

A. General Information

1. Purpose:

According to our By-Laws, the purpose of the guild is to:

- a. join hands in friendship
- b. encourage high standards of design, technique, and creativity in quilting
- c. promote the appreciation and preservation of quilts
- d. to preserve the art of quilt making
- e. further the art of quilting through education and communication

2. Membership Requirements:

Membership in the guild is open to anyone who:

- a. is interested in the purposes of the organization,
- b. completes the membership form, and
- c. pays dues which are established by the Executive Board

3. Dues:

Dues are established by the Executive Board. Dues are currently \$30 annually. A member:

- a. who joins through the June meeting will pay the full yearly membership
- b. who joins after June 30th will pay ½ of the yearly membership
- c. who is 75 years or older has free membership
- d. who is 18 years of age or less must be accompanied by an adult

B. Meetings

1. General Information:

Meetings are held monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 pm, except in November which is the third Tuesday due to Thanksgiving. They are currently being held at the Bexley United Methodist Church at 2657 E. Broad St in the basement meeting room. When attending meetings, you should:

- a. register your attendance at the Membership table
- b. wear your name tag (if you forget it, you have to pay a quarter)
- c. show consideration for those speaking during the meeting
- d. respect the position of no personal fundraising during the meetings
- e. guests may attend two meetings free of charge before joining the guild

Meetings are overseen by the President and start with a short business meeting, introductions and announcements. Next, the featured speaker or activity takes place. All activities are voluntary. At the end of each meeting the floor is open for members and guests to share their latest quilting projects during “show & tell”.



These members are showing their beautiful table runners.

2. Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting is held in January. The new officers are installed at this meeting. The Treasurer gives an annual financial report (reviewed by two members of the Board prior to the meeting), and the outgoing committee chairs may choose to report on their activities.

C. Guild Administration

1. Officers:

The elected officers consist of President, Vice President, Secretary/Historian, and the Treasurer. Nominations are presented at the October meeting. Officers are elected by the guild members in NOVEMBER. Elected officers begin their term in January and remain in office for one year. The officers' duties can be found on our website under the "Board" tab.

2. Executive Board:

The Executive Board consists of the elected officers and the committee chairpersons. They have general supervision over guild affairs. The meetings are scheduled by the President.

D. Roster

The roster consists of the names, addresses, phone numbers and email ids for all guild members. If yearly membership dues are paid by the February meeting, the member's information will be included in the annual roster. The roster will be distributed via email to all guild members by the March meeting.

E. Calendar/Program Guide

A program guide will be prepared and distributed at the January or February meeting. This is prepared by the incoming President.

F. Website

Our web address is: www.commonthreadsohio.org. The website was developed and is maintained by our webmaster, Patty Merry. Take a look! The website is a great resource for our guild.

The website has a plethora of information including our organizational structure, copies of our monthly newsletters, current year plans and ongoing programs such as our service projects, pictures of our Quilt Show, information about our challenges, workshops, bus trip and retreats, as well as a beautiful collection of fabric and quilts.



G. Newsletters

The Secretary publishes the newsletter each month. It contains information provided by the Board members as well as other guild members, information about the upcoming meeting and events as well as pictures from the past month's "show and tell".

The newsletters are sent out to all guild members with email ids each month. If a member does not have an email id, they can receive a hard copy by mail if requested.

H. Committees

There are many opportunities to volunteer and serve on committees within the guild. The current committees are: Service Quilts, Ways and Means, Membership, Challenges, Mystery Quilt, Quilt Show, Retreats, and the Swaps: blocks, fabric, and raffle blocks.



To the left are pictured just a few of the charity quilts that the guild members have created. These beautiful quilts were donated to the Quilts of Valor charity.

1. Service Quilts:

The three main charities that we support are Baby Quilts, Quilts of Valor and the James Cancer Stitching Sisters. All of these are ongoing efforts. Each member can participate in one or all of these charities as they choose.

- a. Baby Quilts: We provide baby quilts for Moms2B (<http://www.moms2boho.com/>). This is a worthwhile cause. Please review the website listed above to learn more about the organization. The baby quilts we make and donate can be any size. Pre-cut kits are available at our meetings for you to take home and work on. You can piece, quilt and bind the quilt, or just do whichever part you are comfortable doing and return it at the next meeting for another member to finish.
- b. Quilts of Valor: This is an important charity. Our quilts are sent to service men/women. The size requirements are as follows;
 - 1) 55 to 72 inches wide
 - 2) 65 to 90 inches long

They don't have to be all red/white/blue, other colors are fine too. There are pre-cut kits available at the meetings, or you can create one on your own. There are patterns available on the website: www.qovf.org

- c. JSS - James Cancer Stitching Sisters: The James Stitching Sisters is a group of volunteers who create lap quilts for cancer patients receiving treatment at the JamesCare Comprehensive Breast Health Center or at OSU East. They have a sewing center in Dublin where they regularly meet to work on projects. Anyone can help by gathering and organizing fabric, cut quilts, piece tops, machine quilt, or do anything else that is needed to maintain the cancer patient quilt program. If you would like to help, visit their website: <http://glester111.wix.com/jamesstitchingsister#!find-job/c1cuz> or our website under the "Activities" tab, "Service"; scroll down for JSS information. Each first Monday of the month, a group meets at Quilt Beginnings North (Sawmill); and on the third Friday of the month at Quilt Beginnings East (Broad Street).

2. Ways and Means:

Several times throughout the year this committee plans guild fundraisers like dinners, UFO project sales, quilt-ins and raffle quilt/baskets that are sold during our quilt show or other events. They also sell guild pins all year long (available at the membership table).

3. Membership:

This committee serves as a welcoming committee to members and guests as they enter the monthly meetings. They are responsible for the annual membership drive, collecting dues and updating the member database. They are responsible to help new members feel welcome and answer their questions, and provide them with an updated copy of the New Member Handbook, roster and name badge kit.

- 4. Challenges: A "quilty" challenge is a project that lets you use your creativity and imagination. The challenge is presented to the members with a theme and perimeters.



One year the challenge was titled "Fa-Bra-Ka-Da-Bra" with a challenge to create something made from a bra/bras or parts of them that was anything BUT a bra! Fun!

5. Mystery Quilt:

This is just what it sounds like, a quilt that is built one step at a time without knowing the result until the last step. The mystery begins in February and ends at the reveal in November. There is usually a small cost to participate. Use your fabrics and follow the directions you are given at each monthly meeting. Here is a sample of one on our mystery challenges.



This beautiful quilt was made by Marilou Bradley and won the "best design" award for the 2012 mystery quilt challenge.

6. Quilt Show & Little Quilt Show:

A Bi-Annual Guild Quilt Show is held and open to the public. Guild members bring in their quilts; a committee organizes the space, hangs all the quilts and prepares for the show. A judge (not guild member) is selected to judge the quilts "by love". The judges provide constructive comments, so don't be afraid to bring in your projects.



2014 Best of Show Quilt

Karen Beckley is shown with her award winning quilt

Here are a few other award winning quilts from the 2014 quilt show



Catie Gynn

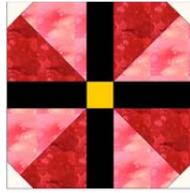


Kaaren Courtney

A Bi-Annual Little Quilt Show is held in alternative years with the Quilt Show. This provides an opportunity for members to show off their personal expressions in small quilts. These are displayed for the guild, but not judged.

7. Swaps: Each year, the guild offers a variety of small group activities for its members. All activities are voluntary. Some activities require signing up for an annual commitment; others are monthly in which anyone can participate. Not all activities are offered each year, and new ones are often added. Here are some past activities:
- a. *Birthdays Fat Quarter Swap*: Here is how it works. Each person who signs up will specify what type of fabric they'd like to receive (colors, patterns, etc.) and give their birthday month. Then when that month arrives he/she will receive a FQ from each other person in the swap.
 - 1) Rules: **This is a yearlong swap, and when you sign up you are obligating yourself to remain in the swap for the entire year and to all of the other requirements of the swap.** There will be a limit of 2 swappers per month. This means if you are the 3rd person who signs up for a particular month, your name will be saved and you will be given, or you can choose, an alternate month which does not have two people in it already. This will assure you will not have to send more than 1/2 yard of fabric in any month. This could potentially mean that we could have 24 swappers.....23 fat quarters arriving in your birthday month!
 - 2) Fabric is to be quilt shop quality 100% cotton, unless something else is specified by the recipient, such as flannel or woven plaids, etc. If someone asks for a fabric that you have not heard of before, please ask them for examples, and/or look it up on the Internet. Or ask the swap coordinator. The answer is right at your fingertips most of the time.
 - b. *Pizza Box Block Swap*: When we do this swap, the sign up is in January, specific instructions are provided then. **This is a yearlong commitment to make 1 block each month!**
 - 1) On the inside of the lid, write your name, phone number, and e-mail.
 - 2) You select a block you would like; just make sure it is a block for any skill level. For block suggestions, you can go to www.quilterscache.com
 - 3) You will provide the background fabric cut to size for all to use. Make sure you include plenty-- the leftovers will be returned in your box, but keep some just in case. Participants will provide the rest of the fabric to complete the block per your instructions.
 - 4) Bring to the meeting your box with the following inside: a made sample block, background fabric, block instructions and specify what kind of fabric to use.
 - 5) You will leave the meeting with the box that corresponds to the number next to your name for that month. If "2" is next to your name in the April column that is the box you take home.
 - 6) Each month make the block as the instructions indicate. Do not trim it unless directions asked you to and make sure it is the size requested.
 - 7) Do not sign the block unless asked to do so. Do sign and date the sheet on the pizza box showing you have completed that block.
 - 8) At the following meetings, repeat steps 6 thru 9: bring the box you have completed, take the box # that is listed beside your name for that month.
 - 9) Please use quilt shop quality fabric that you would love to receive and no holiday or metallic fabric unless requested. If you have smokers in the family, please take care to keep pizza box fabric away from the smoke, some people are very sensitive. Any questions, please contact the swap coordinator.

- c. *Block Swaps:* Depending on the interest shown, we will facilitate a swap. There will always be a sign up sheet so we know how many of the blocks we will need to swap. We will gladly take requests if there is a particular block you would like to swap, and provide a sign-up sheet. The participants will decide on a fabric style or color way and deadline.
- d. *Raffle Blocks:* This is your chance to win blocks made by many of the guild members. We have raffles every other month (alternates with fabric swaps). Patterns are available on the website and on hand at the meeting before the raffle. Each block you turn in gives you a ticket for a chance to win. Most months are themed ie: hearts in February, bunnies in April, turkeys in November. You may enter 3 blocks for 3 tickets to win. Depending on the number of blocks received, we may have more than one winner.



*This is a sample of the May
2012 raffle block.*

- e. *Fabric Swaps:* This is an excellent way to add variety to your stash. We will swap fabrics every other month (alternates with raffle blocks). In 2012 we swapped 10" squares, 2 different fabrics equal one set and we swapped 12 sets as one swap. Place in a plastic bag with your name on the outside. You may swap as many bags as you would like. In 2012 we swapped polka dots, neutrals, blues, batiks and Halloween prints.
- f. *Half Square Triangle Swap:* This is a very popular swap and great for those of us who love the scrappy look. Each year for 3 months there is a sign-up sheet. In 2012 we had 21 participants--those participants chose how many pages of HST's they wanted to do for each participant (2 for each person for a total of 42 pages of 2" HSTs; in 2011 we had 12 participants and did 3 pages per participant) with the color or fabric type specified. Triangle paper will be provided and do not cut the pages apart! We don't want anyone to get duplicate fabrics, so you can use your stash. A pattern will be provided, or you can use in any project you like.
- g. *Fat Quarter Lotto:* Here's how it works: Each month, a color is designated and for every fat quarter or that color you bring in, you receive a ticket. If your ticket is drawn, you win the stack! You can also buy a raffle ticket for \$2.50 if you don't bring in a fat quarter. You can bring in as many fat quarters as you like and you'll receive a ticket for every fat quarter.

I. Speakers

The Vice President schedules speakers for the following year that may include well known artists with published patterns, books, methods or equipment. For renowned speaker meetings, a \$5 fee is charged to non-member guests. Speakers may also be contracted for workshops.



This was one of our very enthusiastic speakers, Linda French, with her "Circle of Life" Award winning quilt.

J. Workshops

Each year the guild sponsors several workshops provided by quilting celebrities from local experts to nationally renowned instructors. Early in the year forms are provided to sign up for the workshops, and occasionally, one may be added later in the year. There is a charge for each participant, costs and supplies vary by workshop.

K. Retreats

Out-of-town retreats are held twice a year, usually in the spring and fall. In past years, retreats have been held in Berlin, Ohio (Amish country), Coshocton, Newark and Chillicothe, among other locations. Retreats are usually from Friday until Sunday, and are a time for quilters to get together, sew, shop, eat, and have fun. Everyone can work on their own projects, or not sew at all! It is just a great time to do something with others who have a common passion for quilting. Sign-ups occur about three months before the event. You must be a member to participate.

New in 2015, an in-town retreat will be held. This retreat also runs from Friday to Sunday, but the location is local, so no hotel is involved. Sewing hours are: Friday (5pm to midnight), Saturday (8am to midnight) and Sunday (8am to 5pm). Sign up for this event is at the January meeting. You must be a member to participate.



OK – retreat attendees; does this look familiar as you head for the retreat??

L. Bus Trip

The bus trip usually occurs in the middle of July and covers several states either East, West, North or South of us. We usually travel Thursday through Saturday. The trip includes between six to nine quilt shops, good restaurants and quilting fun. There are door prizes, games and lots of laughter on the trip. On the way home, we always add up purchases and gasp at our totals! You must be a member of the guild to participate.



*WOW, what a group! This was the 2012
Common Threads Quilt Guild bus trip to
Wisconsin.*

M. By-Laws

The guild by-laws are available on the website under the “About Us” heading. Please familiarize yourself with them.

N. Friendship Groups

These are voluntary groups of members who would like to get together outside of guild meetings for quilt-related sewing. There is no obligation to belong to a group, nor is your membership limited to one group. Friendship Groups are formed around a common interest or geographic location. They can be designated either "Open" (anyone can join), or "Closed" (members are invited). Open groups can later become closed groups if the members desire.

Here is what is needed to form a Friendship Group:

1. someone willing to be the contact person
2. designate a purpose (for example, to meet to talk and sew; to pursue a specific interest, to gather members from a geographic locale)
3. designate a time and place to meet (for example, second Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m., Jane's house)
4. decide on a title for the group (for example, “Open Sew Stitch n' *itch”, “Scrap Happy Quilters”, “Gahanna Friends”, “Appliqué Aficionadas”)
5. decide if it is "Open" (anyone can join), or "Closed" (members are invited)
6. communicate these decisions to the friendship groups coordinator

O. Secret Pals

Some years we have an option to have secret pals. If applicable, this program and its guidelines will be announced at the beginning of the year.