

Flying Geese Quilt Guild

Member Handbook

Mission Statement

The Flying Geese Quilt Guild is an organization dedicated to the preservation of the art of quilt making and sharing our knowledge.

Welcome!

Welcome to the Flying Geese Quilt Guild. We are happy to have you as a member. We hope that your association with the Guild is an educational and pleasant experience.

The Flying Geese Quilt Guild depends on member involvement to sustain our guild and to support the art of quilting. We are an all volunteer organization and volunteers are the heart, soul, and backbone of our organization. We would not be successful without you! If you have particular skills or interests, we need to hear from you.

Please contact one of the officers or chairpersons so we can learn about you. We rely on you to keep our guild healthy. Member input is the basis for planning programs and other events.

Anytime you want more information or help, please feel free to ask any member of the guild for assistance.

Working together we all achieve more.

Membership

Among the benefits of Guild membership is a FGQG pin, a membership card that may be used for discounts in many quilting shops, and a nametag. As a member you have opportunities to participate in classes, workshops, bees, and retreats which often have limited enrollment.

A membership roster is updated annually. This list is confidential and is to be used for guild business **only!** No solicitation is allowed. We ask everyone to be respectful of all members' privacy. Guild bylaws and the membership handbook are available on our website.

Newsletter

The monthly newsletter is an important part of the Guild. This lifeline is used to inform members of relevant issues and of upcoming events and projects. The newsletter is sent to members prior to the general meeting.

Members are encouraged to submit articles including committee reports, quilting quotes, notices of upcoming meetings, information about speakers and workshops, and other Guild business. Commercial announcements may be included, for a fee.

Web Site

Our web site contains current information about Guild activities, by-laws, member handbook, member directory, a great photo gallery, membership forms, and lots of additional information. Check out our website, www.fggg.com .

Dues and Fees

Membership dues are collected annually. Members who *renew* by the September general meeting will receive a \$5.00 discount on their dues.

If you do not have an email address and would like to receive one by mail, the cost is \$15.00 annually.

A \$5.00 fee is collected from each guest attending a general meeting

Name Tags

Please wear your name tags during the general meetings. This will help all members get to know one another. We collect the nametags after each meeting and have them ready for you at the next meeting.

Challenges

The Guild encourages friendly competition among its members. Challenges are contests producing theme-quilted items. Members who participate follow specific guidelines and rules when constructing these projects. It is always fun to see how a little competition brings out creativity.

General Meetings

The FGQG meets monthly throughout the year to share quilting news and information to engage in fellowship. Organizational business may also be discussed. Planned programs are major part of the meeting agenda. We meet on the third Monday of each month from 6:30 pm until approximately 9:00. It is recommended that you arrive 10-15 minutes early, in order for the meeting to start promptly at 7:00.

General membership meetings are held at the Fallston Volunteer Fire Hall, 2201 Carrs Mill Road, Fallston, MD 21047. Parking is limited and you are encouraged to car pool.

The meeting includes a welcome to new members and guests, announcements, discussion of upcoming projects, and a planned program. The programs offer instruction, hands on experiences, trunk or slide shows of quilts, and more. We host local, national, and sometimes international quilt speakers to present programs for our members. Show and tell is included, (as time permits) with members sharing quilts and projects they have finished. This is a very enjoyable part of the evening.

Parties

We have two annual Guild parties. These gatherings are primarily a time for socializing and, of course, show and tell.

Our *annual holiday party* is held in December. Food suggestions are assigned according to the first letter in your last name. There are two traditions in which members may choose to participate. In our Ornament Exchange members trade handmade or quilt-related ornaments. In the Holiday Block Exchange, members make 12½-inch square blocks with a holiday theme. You take home one block for each one you submit. The evening includes show and tell of all sorts of quilted and handmade items.

In June we have our *annual meeting*. We call this our "*unpicnic*." At this meeting new officers are installed and our budget is approved. This is followed by a potluck supper, good food, camaraderie, socializing and, of course, show and tell.

Business Meetings

The Guild has grown to the point that separate meetings are held to conduct routine business. These meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month. Officers and chairpersons present reports of their committees' activities and discuss Guild business. All members are invited to attend these meetings.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather, all Guild meetings and bees follow Harford County Public Schools' the decision regarding cancellations. January and February Guild meetings are scheduled on school holidays so any cancellations will be handled on a case-by-case basis. When workshops presented by out-of-town speakers are scheduled, any cancellations will be handled on an individual basis.

Meeting Etiquette

It is requested that young children do not attend the meetings. Children over 12 may come with their parent if they are interested in quilting. Please turn off all cell phones and refrain from chatting during meetings and presentations. Eliminating these distractions ensures that everyone has an enjoyable experience.

Working on your own hand-work (binding, piecing, knitting. etc.) is welcome during meetings.

Month of Love

The *Month of Love* is an endeavor to support our community. Each year a different project is undertaken to donate quilted and handmade items to various charitable organizations.

Some of our past projects have included quilts for infants, for cancer patients, for children in foster care through the Dept. of Social Services, and pillows for patients at Upper Chesapeake Hospital who have undergone breast surgery.

We have designated February as our *month of love* but these projects may continue throughout the year.

Quilt Show

The Guild holds a quilt show every other year. Quilts on display are made by guild members of all skill levels. All members are invited and encouraged to display their quilts. The show is open to the public with an admission fee. It is held in Harford County in the October of even years.

Since the Quilt show is a huge undertaking, there are many tasks to be accomplished to ensure a successful event. Members are asked to serve on a committee to assist with the show. Members who attend the show but are not working are charged the admission fee, the same as the general public.

Members are encouraged to donate quilted items for a silent auction held as part of the quilt show.

Biennial Raffle Quilt

In conjunction with the Quilt Show, the Guild creates a quilt which is raffled and a portion of the proceeds given to a local charity (the balance is used for guild programs). It takes approximately one year to prepare for this raffle.

A committee is formed to coordinate all aspects of the quilt raffle including design, fabric purchase, and assembly of the quilt. Fabric kits may be distributed at a general meeting to those members who wish to construct a block. These blocks are returned to the committee for construction of the top. The committee is also responsible for marketing the quilt which is displayed throughout the year at various community events for the sale of raffle tickets. All members are encouraged to sell tickets to support this project.

The drawing is held the last day of the quilt show.

Bingo

A quilt bingo is our major fund-raising project. It is held biennially in odd-numbered years. Members make and donate small-sized quilts, wall hangings, table runners, totes, etc to be used as prizes. Your support of this event helps us keep dues low and the quality of programs high.

Workshops and classes

Workshops and classes are continuing education programs for guild members. A fee is charged to pay the teacher and to cover the cost of meeting space. Classes and workshops are held at various locations. Details are listed in the newsletter and on the website. Payment is required at the time of registration to ensure your spot in the class.

Retreats

The Guild sponsors at least one retreat each year. Retreats are usually long weekends, Friday through Sunday.

All members are invited to attend, but space is usually limited. Participants escape from their daily responsibilities and work on their own projects. They always have lots of fun and get so much accomplished.

Please note that a 50% deposit is required to reserve your spot. The remaining 50% is due at least 2 months before the retreat. If you are unable to attend you will be reimbursed if there is someone on the waiting list. You may also find a person that is willing to buy the reservation from you.

Refund Policy

If a member cancels two weeks before a workshop, the member will receive a refund, less 20% for processing fees. If cancellation is less than two weeks before a workshop, no refund will be given.

In the case of retreats, where the Guild has guaranteed a certain number of attendees, refunds will be given only if another person can be found to fill that spot.

Quilting Bees

The Guild has two quilting bees. These are informal gatherings, full of sharing knowledge, seeing the work of other quilters, and having fun, too. Each person brings their own project to work on, but everyone is willing to help someone with a question or problem. These are very social times and often include a get-together for lunch afterwards.

The Wednesday morning bee meets at St. Alban's Anglican Church, 1011 Old Joppa Road, Joppa Md 21085 every week from 9:00-12:00.

The Calico Quilters meet the second Saturday of each month at the Essex Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library in the Middlesex Shopping Center, 1101 Eastern Ave, Baltimore Md 21221 from 9:00 to 2:00.

These bees are free for all members.

Marathons

Periodically, the guild organizes a sewing marathon on a Saturday where members can spend uninterrupted time working on their own quilt projects. A nominal charge and a covered dish that can be shared for lunch is the admission fee. Dates and locations are announced in the newsletter.

Goslings Program

The Goslings meet the first Monday of each month (October through June) to learn more about the Guild and to work on simple projects. Meetings are held at St Alban's Anglican Church, 1011 Old Joppa Road, Joppa 20185 from 7:00 –9:00 pm. The time offers an opportunity to meet with other guild members. It is a great way for us to get to know you and for you to get to know about the Guild. These meetings are geared toward new members but all members are welcome to attend.

Involvement

There are many ways in which you can participate in the Guild. FGQG is *your* organization and we need you to give a few hours during the year to make the events and programs that you enjoy possible. The Guild could not continue to exist if we did not have dedicated members willing to donate their time and energy. Whether it is working for a few hours at the Bingo or Quilt Show or chairing a committee, your support is appreciated and vital to the Guild. Please contact an officer or committee chair to find out how you can become more involved.

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