

Flying Geese Quilt Guild

Member Handbook

Mission Statement.

The purpose of The Flying Geese Quilt Guild is to create, stimulate, maintain, and record an interest in all matters pertaining to the making, collecting, and preserving of quilts and to establish and promote educational and philanthropic endeavors through quilting.

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. The guild is an all-volunteer organization and volunteers are the heart, soul, and backbone of our group. Our membership would not be successful without you! If you have related skills or interests, please contact one of the officers or chairpersons so we can learn about your interests. Our Guild relies on the members to keep our group 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

As a member you have opportunities to participate in classes, workshops, bees, and retreats. Friendships and learning are the greatest benefits of guild membership.

A membership roster is updated regularly and posted on our website (fggg.com). 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, policies, and this membership handbook are also 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 the first of the month.

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, and policies. The guild member handbook, member directory, a great photo gallery, membership forms, and lots of additional information are also available. 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. A \$5.00 fee is collected from each guest attending a general meeting.

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

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.

General Meetings.

The FGQG meets monthly throughout the year to share quilting news and information, and to engage in fellowship. Organizational business is also discussed. Planned programs are part of the meeting agenda.

Guild meetings are held on the third Monday of the month beginning at 7 pm. The doors are generally open by 6:30 pm to allow for set up, speaker preparation, quilter's camaraderie, and other business activity. It is recommended that you arrive during this early time span so the meeting can start promptly at 7. The evening generally concludes by approximately 9 pm.

General membership meetings are held at the Fallston Volunteer Fire Hall, 2201 Carrs Mill Road, Fallston, MD 21047.

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.

Social Events

We have two annual Guild social events. 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 also includes a potluck supper and show and tell. In June we have our *annual meeting*. We call this our “*unpicnic*.” At this meeting new officers are installed, and the upcoming year’s budget is approved. This is also followed by a potluck supper, good food, camaraderie, socializing and, of course, show and tell.

Board Meetings

The board of directors holds regular monthly meeting to conduct the business of the Guild. Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month. The officers and chairpersons present reports of their committees’ activities and discuss Guild business. All members are invited to attend these meetings.

All board meetings will now be held via ZOOM communication unless otherwise announced. Contact the newsletter chairperson to gain access to the meeting.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather, all Guild meetings and bees follow Harford County Public Schools’ decisions 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 handwork (binding, piecing, knitting. etc.) is welcome during meetings.

Month of Love

Month of Love projects are an endeavor to support our community. Each year projects are undertaken by guild members who wish to work on quilted or handmade items that are donated to various charitable organizations.

Some of our past projects have included quilts for cancer patients, and stuffed pillows for breast cancer patients. We have donated baby quilts, bibs and burp clothes to Birthright of Harford County, children’s quilts through the Dept. Of Social Services for those in foster care. Additionally, quilts have been donated to VA hospitals for our service members. More recently members have been actively involved in making pretty pockets for breast cancer patients and pillowcases for Ryan’s Cases for Smiles.

February is typically designated as our *Month of Love*. The members attending the general meeting work together on items the charity committee has prepared for the evening. These projects generally continue throughout the year by members who volunteer to contribute.

Quilt Show

In the past the Flying Geese Quilt Guild has held 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 quilted items. 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 committees that assist with the show. Members who attend the show but are not working are charged the same admission fee 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, members of the Guild create a quilt which is raffled off during the quilt show. A portion of the proceeds is 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 participate. Finished portions are returned to the committee for construction of the top.

A marketing chairperson is responsible for coordinating with various community events for display and 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 large quilts (lap size or larger). Members who are long armers are solicited to quilt one quilt as a donation and then be paid for any other quilts they are asked to work on. 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 usually sponsors a spring and a fall retreat each year. Retreats are usually long weekends Thursday 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 are always a lot of fun and members remark about how much gets 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 to take your place on a 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

Currently 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.

Goslings Program

The Goslings meet the first Monday of each month (October through June) 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. This time offers an opportunity to meet with other guild members

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 during the 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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