



# Bits and Pieces

**Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild Newsletter**

**Volume 40. Number 3**

**Bonnie Piernot and Maggie McGuire, Editors**

## *From the President*

Local TAMU horticultural expert Doug Welsh used to remind gardeners that it is okay to enjoy all the colors of nature, and that in the winter brown is still a color, so we should not always rush to clear out our flowerbeds when there is still a possibility of a killing frost. I have always tried to follow Doug's advice and relax about the trashiness of my winter landscape, and spend my time on other endeavors—such as cranking out quilts, for example. The very mild winter we have experienced so far this year has, however, forced me deal with the garden much earlier than I usually do. The perennials have already started springing to life, so I have had to get out had whack away the dead matter. After several days of physical effort, itchy eyes and a great deal of sneezing I am happy to report that I am nearly ready for spring.

Looking at my much more orderly flowerbeds, I am pleased with the effort, and that has sparked other thoughts of a more “quilterly” nature. I suspect that each of us has squirreled away in our stash several bags (boxes? Tubs?) of scraps eager to be worked into quilts or other projects. Just think about the possibilities of tackling those bits and pieces that have been lurking in the dark places of your quilting domain and seeing what sort of results emerge. Not only will such an effort yield the satisfaction of a new and pleasant finished project (yes, you have to finish it! Not another UFO!), but you will have the added benefit of having cleared out some of the underbrush on your stash. We'd love to see your

results at a Show and Tell in the near future—and it will be perfectly alright to brag a little about your success at stash reduction as well!

*Charles*

*Terry Skrabanek*  
Owner

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## *February Meeting Minutes*

**Welcome** – The meeting was called to order by President **Charles Gilreath** at 7 p.m. at the Brazos Center.

**Minutes** – A correction to the January minutes was noted by **Nicole Pavel**. The evening bee cuddle quilt demonstration at First Baptist Church was held January 17<sup>th</sup> instead of scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> as reported in the minutes. The corrected minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Benita Ebel reported a January 31<sup>st</sup> checking account balance of \$15,418.40 and a savings account balance of \$16,846.94, with a combined total of \$32,265.34.

**Membership** – Maggie McGuire reported there were 63 members, 1 visitor and 2 new members in attendance. She said 134 members are now signed up on MyGrove, and asked anyone who has had difficulty with the new software program to contact her. Door prizes were won by Marjean Neve, Jane Goetz and Nelda Cohan.

**Sunshine and Shadows** – Charles Gilreath reported six cards were sent last month for shadows. Kerry Dwyer mentioned that the guild was advised via Facebook that past longtime member Grace Reed, who had handled Sunshine and Shadows and was active in the guild at one time, passed away 10/25/16. She will be included in the memorial that is part of the Quilt Show. Sherrill Johnson was happy to announce a sunshine event: a great grandchild on the way.

**Dallas Bus Trip** – Jeanne Rierson reported that 20 spaces are still available for the Dallas quilt show bus trip on March 11th. She will run an ad in the local newspaper this weekend to see if others in the community would be interested and to help fill the spots that are open.

**Summer Retreat** – Rowena Reed announced that the summer retreat is now full. Members can be added to a waiting list by calling Peggy Mobley.

**Programs** – Alma Fonseca mentioned she had extra handouts from the last meeting that outline the upcoming workshops. Theresa Morrison has added a workshop in August to make boutique items for the Quilt Show (date and location pending). Fran Gray reported that spaces are available for the March workshop by Maggie Ball and the April workshop by Dot Collins.

**Habitat Banners** – Nancy Searcy reported that the workshop held to make banners was a lot of fun and

netted 5 finished banners. She brought a selection of banners to show the group.

**Donation Quilt** – The donation quilt raised \$280 at the GoTexan event and \$282 at the Antique Show.

**Quilt Show** – Charles Gilreath announced the first meeting for the Show chairpeople was held end of January, and they will meet the last Tuesday of each month prior to the Show. Linda Winder announced the theme of the challenge quilts is "You Could Be Swinging on a Star"; she read the lyrics to the song to the members and added each entry must include stars and a mule, fish, pig or monkey. There is no entry fee for a challenge quilt; first, second and third place winning challenge quilts will be auctioned and all others donated as Care Quilts. Quilts are to be 45 x 45 inches and do not need a sleeve. Charles reminded the group that Sue Idol (White Elephant) and JoAnn Williams (set up/take down) need someone to shadow them as this will be their last term as chairpersons in these respective areas. Sue Idol asked the group not to send any more "home dec" or upholstery fabric for the White Elephant booth – quilting cotton fabric only.

**Adjournment** – Charles Gilreath closed the business meeting at 7:30 p.m. Alma Fonseca introduced guest speaker Diane Rose, who provided the program for the evening.

**Show and Share** followed the program and featured:

Maggie McGuire – 4 finished Quilts of Valor tops completed at the sew-in held at the American Legion and attended by 19 people. She also showed a log cabin quilt with ruffles made for her granddaughter.

Angela Harrison – Fractured Paint box quilt and Blockade, Bloom quilt

Laura North – Color My World and Texas quilts

Fran Gray – Wall Hanging and "Bingo" blocks quilt made at the retreat

Sally Robinson – Cactus Blooms and Red-white-blue BOM quilts

Charles Gilreath – Books & Blanket quilt, and a quilt made by his mother

Paulette Mayes – 2 Care quilts

Jeanie Bassett – Red-white-blue quilt for her husband

Sharon Braunagel – Pinwheel scrap quilt

Nicole Pavel – Baby Care quilt with giraffes

Sue Chrysler – Retirement gift quilt, wallhangings

Nancy Searcy – Applique Bible story quilt for neighbor's anniversary

Polly Trant – Red poppy quilt top made at retreat

Charlotte Simpson – 2 small quilts

Respectfully submitted by Kerry Fisher, Secretary



## Bee News

At the **Joyful Quilters'** bees on Jan. 17 and Feb. 7, Nicole Pavel and Stephanie Modrall led the group in making infant's cuddle blankets as part of the care quilt outreach of the Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild. Several visitors attended. The bee made 10 blankets.

In addition to working on individual projects, Happy Scrappers helped to bundle and staple \$5000 worth of



donation quilt tickets. Some members will participate in Winter Retreat.

The **Thursday Thumblebees** continue to meet twice a month to visit and work on individual quilting, knitting, and care quilt projects.

Almost all of the **Busy Bees** went to a retreat at Greenbriar Retreat Center. We got a lot accomplished and caught up on our social activities. Lots of projects completed or at least progress was made.

The **All American Bee** hosted a National Quilt of Valor Sew In at the American Legion on February 4. Nineteen ladies and gentlemen completed all of the blocks for 4 quilt tops and began sashing them before the end of the day. Lunch was served and everyone enjoyed the Sew In.

**Quilt 'n Peace Bee** members continued to work on baby blankets for the Guild. We made a trip to Meme's January sale and some members went to Giddings to the Super Bowl sale at All Around the Block. Fabric, food, fun and fellowship all contribute to a fantastic bee. Come join us.





## 2017 BBQG Dallas Quilt Show Bus Trip:

The Wheels on the bus go round and round.....It's that time of year again. The Dallas Quilt Show bus trip is Saturday, March 11, 2017. The bus will leave the Wells Fargo Bank in Bryan (HWY 6 & Briarcrest Dr.) at 7:00 a.m. and return at approximately 9:00 p.m. The bus ride will be straight through to the Quilt show at Dallas Market Center and arrive at approximately 10 a.m. when the show opens. Show tickets will be handed out as you depart the bus. We will have till 4:30 to enjoy the day viewing the quilts, attending lectures, watching presentations and visiting the vendor's booths. There are several food vendors in the food court. The bus will depart at 4:45 p.m. and stop in DeSoto for dinner. There are 5-6 restaurants to choose from. The cost for BBQG members is \$50 and \$50 for nonmembers. The sign-up deadline is March 1, 2017. There will be a sign-up table at the February guild meeting. If you have any questions call Jeanne Rierson at (979)220-3188.



## Where Do You Get Inspiration For Your Quilts?

**Carol Laughlin:** "mostly Quilt shows, look at a lot of magazines, in my travels I see stuff that catches my eye, I experiment a lot, love crazy color combinations, like to feel alive and enjoy life therefore I love to do so called Quilts. (Art Quilts)."





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### *Habitat For Humanity Banner Workshop*



### *How Did You Get Interested In Quilting?*

**Barbara Mes:** "After living in Stavanger, Norway for several years, I went to a quilt show given by the Petroleum Wives Club. There I saw a gorgeous red, white and green quilt. The next thing I knew I was in a beginner's class given by Mary Lou Riff from Oklahoma. I could walk down the steep mountainside from my house to hers for the weekly lessons, carrying my tools and fabric in a wooden "tine" a Norwegian friend had given me. That was in 1990. The sampler I made that fall became our daughter Alice's Christmas gift at the end of her first semester at Texas A&M. I had hand-pieced and hand-quilted it."

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## *Quilts of Valor Workshop*



### **Reminder:**

Signup for 2017 workshops is on a first come, first pay basis. Sign up often and early so that you get the workshops that you want.