



The Patchwork Pen

Berrien Towne and Country Quilters –March 2021

Stay Home, Stay Safe and Quilt

Hi Quilters,

Wow, here we are already in March!! I know many of us love the changing of the seasons, but I am so ready for Spring! Our March 11, 2021 meeting will be via ZOOM! We are looking forward to trying this new way of meeting. Please join us - we are hoping to see all of you again.

The Board has also been meeting via Zoom and are currently working on the budget and will be able to present it to you at the March meeting.

In every newsletter, I've tried to give you some directions for finding free quilting ideas and/or patterns. Well this month I'd like to give a big shout out to our very own Michelle Tuller! If you are unaware, she is doing a free mystery quilt called 'Cy Star'. She has been sending out the clues every Thursday morning via email to our guild members and the quilting community. If you have missed any of the clues they are still available on her website [Corner Curve Quilts](http://CornerCurveQuilts.com). With many small businesses closing during these challenging times, let's support our local small business member.

There is also a quilt along I'd like you to know about. It was announced in the current issue (169) of Better Homes and Garden American Patchwork and Quilting Magazine. Between February 22 and May 2, follow along on Instagram and Facebook as they make the "Nine-Patch Square Dance" quilt. For further details you can visit ALLPEOPLEQUILT.com/quiltalong.

We hope that you are all staying safe, warm and healthy and we look forward to seeing all of you on March 11.

Kathy and Barb

Quotes of the month

- * "Sometimes adversity is what you need to face in order to become successful." Zig Zigler
- * "The easiest way to make an impact in your community is just to be kind." Joshua Williams

Officers 2021

Co-Presidents Barb Manning Kathy Martus president@btcquiltguild.org	Vice President Jane Rush Vicepresident@ btcquiltguild.org	Secretary Cindy Shepherd secretary@btcquiltguild. org	Treasurer Jody Albee treasurer@btcquiltguild. org
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Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

As we continue the pandemic restrictions, alternatives for meetings for the BTCQ guild have been discussed. The ability to meet at the pavilion at Bicentennial Park last year was one alternative gathering, however, Michigan weather limits the months we are able to meet outside.

On February 11, the board met via a free “Zoom” meeting, to review and approve the budget for 2021. The main drawback of this meeting was the limited time we were able to meet. The use of the Zoom platform for guild meetings was discussed, however, final approval for a Zoom account was tabled until more information could be gathered.

Kathy Martus, Barb Manning and Jane Rush have decided to purchase 1 month of Zoom as a gift to the guild. We will trial the Zoom meeting platform for the guild over the next month. A board meeting has been scheduled for February 22 to complete the review and approval of the 2021 budget. The March general meeting will not be able to meet at the United Methodist Church of Stevensville. Instead, the March meeting will be held via Zoom. We will evaluate this meeting alternative and decide if this is a good meeting alternative for the guild in 2021.

Here is the information for the Zoom meeting for March 11. An email will be sent to all guild members with the same information to be able to join the meeting easily.

Barb Manning is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Barb Manning's Zoom Meeting
Time: Mar 11, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5611361841?pwd=Vjl5S1VRelJLdWp5RXBDQjNyS3NhUT09>

Meeting ID: 561 136 1841
Passcode: 6r6eeR

Programs

Hello, How is the mystery quilt along going? Are you making the whole quilt, just enough for one block or waiting until the reveal to start? I have also put videos on YouTube to go with each clue.



Post your mystery quilt progress on social media.

Take time to maintain your machine, by oiling it per your machines owners manual.

Change the needle.

Brush the lint out of the bobbin case. Do you know when you last changed the rotary blade in your cutter? Cindy Shepherd, recently shared, write the date on your rotary blade when you change it. You might be surprised how long it has been since the blade was changed.

Until we can safely meet, keep the sewing machine humming.

As Always,

Michelle and Nicole
Program Chairs

Sad News

Once again, we are remembering a friend of our guild, Char Nye. Char passed away January 30. Char had been requesting memorial donations be made to the Berrien County Youth Fair. This is difficult for our guild with the loss of 4 members over a year's time.

Looking for a new Co-Treasurer

Lisa Hansen has resigned from her position as Treasurer for personal reasons. Jody Albee, who was the co-treasurer, will assume the position as Treasure. We are looking for a volunteer as Co-treasurer. Marilyn Hermann and Linda Woods have volunteered as Co-Librarians for this year. We thank them.

March Birthdays

Jan Zielke 3/3
Jane Rush 3/4
Kathy Brown 3/10
Kristina Underly 3/13
Carol Reigle 3/21
Julie Koch 3/23
Leslie Tidaback-Hilmer 3/23
Doris Lewis 3/26
Deb Weil 3/26
Jeanette Cannon 3/28

The big Ohhhh!

Do you recall playing with your Mom's sewing basket? I remember dumping the basket on the floor and untangling the spools. And my Mom would walk in and see the floor and that is when I heard the big Oooohhhh!

Tame the thread is this month's organizational project!

Not sure about you, but I have lots of different types of thread. Thread for my serger, hand sewing silk thread, quilting thread, and embroidery thread (DMC floss). Reading about how to do this - the masters recommend sorting the type of thread, then storing it where it is used.

Bins or plastic compartments with dividers are great to store thread. But again, you will need to measure the spool to know what size to buy. Most spools have a thread in-keeper, a small slit in the plastic, to keep the ends of thread tucked. If not, use a little bit of Amazing tape(it comes in lots of different widths), or Glad press and seal to keep the loose ends from tangling. My serger thread is the tallest spool I have, almost 5" tall, so those spools go into an area right by my serger. The normal sewing thread is in a sewing cabinet. If you choose to store your thread on a stand where it can collect dust, try creating a cover for the thread. Also, there are some bobbin keepers so that you can store the bobbin with the spool. Try different ways to see what works for you.

Here we go, and dive into the thread storage to Tame the Threads!

Have fun and sigh with a big Ohhhh!

Quilting Resource Survey

Please participate in a survey to share your favorite quilting resources. The results of your responses will be shared in the next newsletter. Copy: <https://forms.gle/8fYSUg5vAEH11etv8> or click below link [Quilting Resources Survey](#)

Berrien Towne & Country Quilters Board Meeting Minutes via Zoom

February 11, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Presidents Barb Manning and Kathy Martus.

Members Present

Barb Manning, Kathy Martus, Jane Rush, Cindy Shepherd, Elaine Bokhart, Maxine Wantuch, Peri Hansen, Bonnie Lewis, Chris Andrews, Kay Wilcox, Kim Otte.

Minutes

The September Board Meeting minutes were approved as written.

Meetings

- o Barb talked with Sandy from the Methodist church where we have our guild meetings. The church will not allow us to have our March meeting there; they are currently still not having church services due to the Covid pandemic.
- o It was suggested we meet at the Bicentennial Park on the corner of John Beers and Scottsdale roads April thru September.
- o We will have a Board Meeting before the guild meeting in April.
- o Since we rent the park for the entire day it was suggested we could have a Sit and Sew during the day. The Sewing Days chairperson Elaine Bokhart will consider it.
- o Zoom meetings were discussed. This Board meeting is using the free Zoom and limited to 40 minutes. If we purchase Zoom we can have longer meetings, guild meetings and workshops via Zoom. It works well for other guilds. It may cost as little as \$15 per month. There is also Google Platform that is free. It will be looked into for the March and April meetings.
- o Barb and Kathy will contact the church to retrieve our sound system from our cabinet to be used at the park when the Covid restrictions are lifted.

Budget

2021 budget was introduced. There are only 15 committees with chairpersons for this year plus the 4 officer budgets.

- o Community Quilts – No chair. Pine Ridge took quilts last Christmas. A motion was made to approve giving this year's quilts to Pine Ridge if members want to donate. After discussion the motion was withdrawn.
- o Door Prizes – after discussion door prizes will be dropped for 2021.
- o Treasurer – Lisa Hansen resigned today. The co-treasurer, Jody Albee will become the treasurer and a new co-treasurer will be needed.
- o Hall Rental – The park rental may be \$250 and Zoom may be \$100 to purchase. A \$350 budget was suggested.
- o Hospitality and Banquet – motion made by Cindy Shepherd to leave the line items with \$0 for 2021 due to Covid pandemic. Second by Kim Otte, motion carried.
- o Library – members are encouraged to return books. Motion made by Kim Otte to leave the line item with \$0 for 2021. Second by Jane Rush, motion carried.

- o Membership – Deb Adams will meet with Barb, Kathy and Jane pass the membership information. A new directory will be distributed quickly.
 - o It was asked what the 2020 budget was spent on.
- o Newsletter – is still being printed by Lakeland.
- o Programs – a mystery quilt was introduced today and will continue for the next 6 weeks. Michelle Tuller will use the programs she planned for 2020 this year.
- o Quilt Show – budget is needed to pay the storage unit. There is discussion with the Flag Day committee to possibly have a Quilt of Valor presentation and possibly a Boutique. This is only a possibility if the pandemic restrictions permit. It was brought to our attention the Bi-laws have quilt shows on even years only. This possibility is not a quilt show but instead a marketing opportunity. It was questioned where the costs would come from.
- o Retreats – there was a \$500 budget in 2020, \$403 was spent. The proposed budget for 2021 is \$97 since last year's money was spent but we were not able to have a retreat due to the pandemic. It was discussed the Retreat budget is spent on prizes/give-aways and reimbursing the volunteers for time spent making give-aways, gas and travel expenses. It was asked why we are only doing this to retreats?

The meeting abruptly ended at 7:40... our time was used up and Zoom ended the meeting with no notice.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Shepherd, Secretary

Virtual Show and Tell



Tami Arneson Wisner



Sonja Stormo



Peri Hanson



Nicole Rimes



Maxine Wantuch



Nancy Kallio Zabel



Leslie Tidaback Hilmer



Kathy Rozinski Phipps



Eileen Ebersole Chapman



Cindy Shepherd



Marion Huyck

Newsletter News

In an effort to cut cost please send notice if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter in printed form. Newsletters are sent electronically to guild member's email accounts. Email is cost free and convenient for many of us. If you access an email account and no longer wish to receive a printed copy, please send notification. You can send notice to newsletter@btcquiltguild.org

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