



# The Patchwork Pen

Berrien Towne and Country Quilters - February 2021

Stay Home, Stay Safe and Quilt

## **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**

Lisa Hansen  
treasurer@btcquiltguild.org

### **Co-treasurer**

Jody Albee  
Co-treasurer@btcquiltguild.org

## **Note from the Presidents**

Well we made it to 2021! Unfortunately we are still in the midst of the Covid 19 Pandemic and as much as we'd ALL love to meet once again, it is still not possible due to the restrictions we must follow. It is very difficult to excite people with only the written word, but I hope to try and to encourage all of you to continue to quilt! Now more than ever some of us need to do this to keep us of sound mind. Maybe some of you have a few UFO'S (who doesn't) or maybe your creative side just needs to start on something new, so here are a few ideas for you.

- From The Fat Quarter Shop you can print out a free pattern called [Swirling Stars](#).
- Also from The Fat Quarter Shop they are doing a ["Best Friends Quilt Along."](#) You can do this by yourself or call a friend or two and do it together. What a great way to still communicate with friends.
- ["A Quilting Life"](#) by Sherri McConnell has a free BOM (block of the month) in two (2) sizes. Either 6" or 12" finished blocks. The monthly pattern will be released on the first Thursday of the month. Each month there is a step by step video tutorial on how to make that particular block. January's block looks quite easy, so it won't be difficult to catch up.

Until we can meet again, Be safe and be kind to one another!

Kathy and Barb

## Remembering our members we have lost in 2020

2020 has been a difficult year dealing with the pandemic and shutdown restrictions. We as a guild also suffered the loss of three members, Laura Williams, Jan Reitz, and Sue Russell. Their deaths during this pandemic were difficult in two ways, loss of dear friends and fellow quilters and the inability to mourn them during traditional funerals and memorial services. Their families had to say good-bye privately without experiencing the support of the friends and associates whose lives were touched and made better by these three women.

Laura died in February prior to the lockdowns. A Memorial planned for April featuring some of the wonderful quilts she had sewn had to be delayed until September. Laura was an active member of our guild. She was a member of the Retreats Committee enabling members to sew, laugh, and enjoy each other's talents for a few days at a local hotel. Veterans of war were recognized and honored by the quilts of valor Laura and fellow quilters made for them.

Jan Reitz died in December. Jan is remembered as one of our quiet members. She loved to quilt and garden. If you passed her home on Holden Road, you may have seen her flowers for sale at her roadside stand. She was known to admire and love all of your show and tell quilts.

Sue Russell also died in December. She was a source of information for antique quilts, Roberts Rules of Order during our meetings, and applique. Sue was a very talented quilter. She inspired many to try their hand at applique including being part of the Applique society. Sue's memorial service will be held via Zoom through Sue Russell's church on Sunday, February 7th. It will begin after their regular Sunday services. Anyone interested in attending needs to email Sue's daughter Sarah at [Shigh1964@gmail.com](mailto:Shigh1964@gmail.com). She will then send you an email with the meeting link and password.

Laura, Jan and Sue will be greatly missed by all. We are all better people and quilters for having known them and have been inspired by them.

## Programs

What a year we have had. I hope you have been doing a lot of fun sewing and crafting. When we are able to get together, we will have some fun sewing projects to make, like the journal covers I talked about last year or quilted mug rugs. What are some other things you would like to do this year?

In the meantime, I am creating a mystery quilt along that is going to start on Thursday February 11, 2021. It will go for 6 weeks with a clue given each Thursday. The scrappy quilt will be 68" x 88" with the following yardage:

Red scraps to get 4 yards,

White scraps to get 1 yard.

Yellow scraps to get 3 yards,

1 yard for binding

I will be sending the clues out through my new online quilt shop Corner Curve Quilts and the newsletter. So who is going to join me for this fun quilt along? ~ Michelle Tuller with Nicole Rimes Assistance

## Retreat Information!

This is the time we would usually inform you about our spring retreat. I have spoken to the Blue Gate Garden Inn in Shipshewana, where we have a reservation for our April 22-25, 2021 retreat.

This retreat is looking different because of COVID-19, but we are trying to figure out a way to have a retreat and save our deposit that we paid for the 2020 retreat, when the hotel so graciously forwarded it ahead a year. They are willing to work with us, possibly moving it to a later date this year, if one is available. Currently, as I write this. They are open for business in Indiana, with a few restrictions. They will inform us if there are any changes.

The breakfast buffet is open and included in the price of the hotel room. They ask if we would wear a mask when traveling through the hotel and while we are getting our food at the breakfast buffet, as well as wearing disposable plastic gloves (that they provide) going through the buffet. Yes, according to the Indiana health department, they can serve their breakfast buffet with those restrictions in place.

With our contract, we have a minimum of 10 hotel rooms that must be paid for to get the discounted price for the hotel rooms and the large sewing room.

\*The rate (add 12% room tax) for the hotel rooms per night are: \$90.98 for a king/queen room or \$101.90 queen/ king/ pull out sleeper. \*The price of the sewing room for 4 days (Thursday – Sunday) is \$642 and would have to be divided between the attendees. An example of cost (tax included) for our large sewing room is: 10 people- \$64.20 each/ 15 people- 42.80 each/ 20 people- \$32.10 each/ 25 people- \$25.68

\*The evening buffet meals are \$23 per person per meal (with all the taxes included), with a minimum of

25 people. We are proposing that we all find our own meals, except for the breakfast, which is included with the hotel room, but we are open to what the majority chooses.

Also, to help keep the cost down, there will be no theme or giveaways. Just come and sew on your projects on your own 6 ft table! Bring your own snacks and drinks.

Right now, the retreat committee is looking for how many of you would be interested in coming to a Shishewana retreat. We need to know if you are interested by February 20th.

Please call or text Peri Hansen 269-757-2496 or email me at [quilter.peri@yahoo.com](mailto:quilter.peri@yahoo.com)

## The Big Oooohhhh!

No this is not Oprah.

Have you ever walked in the sewing area and say "Oh SH\*t, what happened here? Or have you looked for something for more than an hour? I know I have! So I thought this year may be dedicated to organization!

The big Oooohhhh!

It's a new year. Bring it on!

So I have been in my sewing room for a while now, and it looks like I have multiple projects going at the same time (I do)! I am really bad at putting away fabric. So can you imagine having the fabric for three or more projects on your cutting table? Can you relate? I like to have it close by just in case I may need another square, then I do not have to dig in the drawer. Haha.

So I thought I might try organizing the projects by having separate boxes for each of them. Done! But the question I have so when does the excess fabric return to the drawer?

Bottom line is the drawers of fabric need to be organized!

So the journey for this year starts. Folding fabric so it fits into the drawer or container is not as easy as it sounds.

Here are a few tips. Measure the storage container you will use to keep the fabric and fold the fabric to fit!

There are also folding fabric boards available. Some folks like to determine the size and then use their rulers to fold around.

So this month it's all about folding fabric!

Here are some references: [Komari Your Stash](#) YouTube video [So Sew Easy](#) YouTube video

## Audit

Since the guild books have not been audited since the 2016 Fiscal Year, an audit was conducted on Dec 30, 2020 by Maxine Wantuch, guild member.

A bank reconciliation for the 2020 business year was completed. The 2020 treasurer's report was audited by comparing the month end balances with the bank statements. There were no discrepancies. An overview of disbursements were audited and none looked out of the ordinary. The checks were copied along with the description of purpose and committee.

The monthly summaries from the treasurer were very concise. The budget amount, YTD spending, and available funds were listed.

Conclusion: Maxine found the 2020 treasurer's report for the Berrien Towne and Country Quilt Guild to be an accurate report of the guild's funds.

## Library

As you know, we will not be meeting in February due to the pandemic restrictions. Marilyn Herrman has stepped down as our librarian. We want to thank her for several years of service as our librarian. With that said, we will be sending reminders to those of you with library books checked out. When we are able to meet again, you will be able to return those books.

## February Birthdays

Patty Root 2/3  
Joy Shew 2/5  
Lynn Folino 2/15

Tami Wisner 2/23  
Brenda Petznick 2/28

Website: [btcquilt.org](http://btcquilt.org)

**Facebook:** Berrien Towne & Country Quilt  
Guild Admin: Elaine Bokhart

## Newsletter

Articles for the newsletter are due the **20th of each month**. Please send to Mary Maloney at [newsletter@btcquiltguild.org](mailto:newsletter@btcquiltguild.org)

## 2021 BTCQ Meetings

At this time, we are unable to gather as a group for our monthly meetings. The February meeting has been canceled. We will keep you informed regarding the remaining meetings for this year, unfortunately month by month until restrictions have been lifted. The United Methodist Church of Stevensville has continued to work with us to schedule our meetings. Due to the cancellation of the February meeting, we are now paid through November of this year.

We are looking at and discussing alternatives for our meetings this year. Depending on restrictions, we may have to return to an outdoor setting such as the meetings at Bicentennial park we had last summer. Other alternatives for the Board meetings are also being explored.

## 2021 BTCQ Committees and Chairpersons

Committee	Chairperson	Email
Bus Trips		
Community Quilts		
Door Prizes		
Fabric of the Month		
Fundraising		
Golden Thimble	Kathy Phipps	mrkjp@comcast.net
Historian	Annette Wright (Temporary)	historian@btcquiltguild.org
Hospitality/Banquet		
Librarian		
Newsletter	Mary Maloney	newsletter@btcquiltguild.org

Newsletter Mailing	Bonnie Lewis	newsletter@btcquiltguild.org
Policies and Procedures	Michelle Tuller	mtuller@comcast.net
Programs	Michelle Tuller	mtuller@comcast.net
Quilt Show 2022		
Retreats	Peri Hansen, Kay Wilcox, Kim Otte	retreats@btcquiltguild.org
Sewing Day		
Speaker 2021	Chris Andrews	
Speaker 2022		
Sunshine and Shadow		
Vendors	Maxine Wantauch	
Website	Jane Rush	webmaster@btcquiltguild.org
Membership and Binder	Barb Manning, Kathy Martus, Jane Rush	membership@btcquiltguild.org

**Quilting Bees, contact chairperson for up-to-date meeting times and places:**

Description	Location	Contact
Applique Society	Bridgman Library Thursday 5:30 - 8:00	Linda Woods 269-556-1125
Berrien Springs Library Quilters	Berrien Springs Library Monday 10:00 - 3:00	
Bridgman Bees	Bridgeman Library Thursday 10:00 - 2:00	
Dear Jane	Lincoln Township Library 4th Thursday 6:00 - 9:00	Michelle Tuller 269 442-1586 Cindy Shepherd plshepherd@qtm.net
New Buffalo Library Group	Pokagon Room, NB Library Wednesday 10:00 - 2:00	Kathy Martus 269 469-9217
Patriotic Quilts	Bridgman Library 4th Wednesday 10:00 - 2:00	

# Virtual Show and Tell



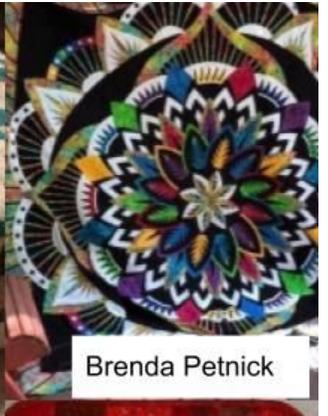
Cindy Shepard & Ebby



Brenda Petnick



Lois Steinke Lentz



Brenda Petnick



Lois Steinke Lentz



Cathy M. Arney



Bekki Lund



Michelle Tuller

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