



The Patchwork Pen

Berrien Towne and Country Quilters September 2021

Hi Everyone,

As the Summer slowly starts to come to end, we hope that you have had some quality sewing time, be it by yourself or with a group of friends. Currently the 'Fat Quarter Shop' has a weekly free pattern for what they are calling 'Bats and Boos'. These cute blocks will make a small wall hanging or table topper which will measure 40.5" x 40.5". We hope you will all enjoy this and it will certainly help us get into a "Fall" frame of mind. Hoping all of you are doing well and staying safe, we look forward to seeing everyone at the September 9th meeting!!

Kathy and Barb



Quotes of the month:

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful." Joshua J. Marine

"You have to have confidence in your ability, and then be tough enough to follow through." Rosalynn Carter

Officers 2021

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|---|---|---|---|
| Co-Presidents Barb Manning Kathy Martus president@btcquiltguild.org | Vice President Jane Rush Vicepresident @btcquiltguild .org | Secretary Cindy Shepherd secretary@btcquiltguild.org | Acting Co-treasurer Jody Albee Marcia McCavit treasurer@btcquiltguild .org |
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| Berrien Towne and Country Quilters | | | | July 31, 2021 |
| Treasurer's Report | | | | |
| | | Beginning Cash Flow Balance | | \$ 8,812.50 |
| Income: | | | | |
| raffle basket | Raffle Basket Fundraiser | \$ 41.00 | | |
| donation | Corner Curve Quilts | \$ 28.00 | | |
| | | | | |
| | | Total Monthly Income | | \$ 69.00 |
| Expenses: | | | | |
| supplies | Library | \$ 45.60 | | |
| stamps | Sunshine and Shadows | \$ 11.00 | | |
| irons | Misc. Equipment | \$ 34.98 | | |
| | | | | |
| | | Total Monthly Expenses | | \$ (91.58) |
| | | | | |
| | | Ending Cash Flow Balance | | \$ 8,789.92 |

Last call!

Please let me know if you are interested in serving on the Executive Board for the 2022 year. We do have interested individuals for all positions but want to make sure we have not missed anyone who is considering running for a board position.

Positions are: President; Vice-President; Secretary; Treasurer; Co-Treasurer. For detailed information, please check out the Policies and Procedures on our website, [BTCQ Quilt Guild](#)

Once the Executive Board is in place, we will work on filling the Committee Chair positions.

Please consider volunteering in some capacity. We are all volunteers, and many hands make light work!

I look forward to hearing from you, and to a great 2022 for our guild members.

Jane Rush

Dear Members,

Since the Retreat Committee has made their announcement to abruptly quit their position, many questions have been raised, so we will try our best to explain and answer them,

During our first board meeting, our primary goal was to tackle the budget realistically!! Committees without a chairperson were placed at \$0. Hall rental was reduced (due to credit for unused time during the pandemic). Retreats spent \$403.00 for prizes/giveaways in 2020, but these were never used (due to the pandemic). The remaining budget for the retreat committee was now at \$97.00 for 2021. At this time the retreat committee requested the entire \$500.00 for the 2021 budget. Questions were then asked by the presidents in this regard, seeing that we were informed that the prizes/giveaways were not going to be used for the 2021 retreat in Shipshewana.

At the following meeting, the budget review continued and all committee's were asked to give us a minimal, realistic dollar amount that was needed for each committee. Budget accepted by all committee's. An emergency board meeting was now requested by the retreat committee. It was revealed that the committee charged \$10 to each participant and used this fee collected to defray costs of retreat handouts, prizes/giveaways and the cost of the retreat for the committee members. This value was up to \$83.00 per committee member, per retreat. It was also discovered that the committee occasionally used a "free" comped room provided by the hotel , which was dependent on the number of hotel rooms reserved by the retreat participants. The committee stated that the comped room did not cost the guild any money.

A short time after this meeting it was brought to our attention by a guild member, that she was made aware, by another guild, that they were audited by the IRS due to a member benefiting in a similar manner. It was learned that if there was a benefit of \$600.00 or more it needs to be reported to the IRS, due to our non-profit status.

We thank the retreat committee for all their hard work and effort in making the retreats fun and memorable!! We understand that the retreat committee members felt accused of impropriety. This was never our intention. We apologize that this inquiry was misconstrued. We also, as your presidents, feel a huge responsibility and obligation in managing the budget and the guild monies. In light of everything, an independent committee was formed and our policies and procedures were reviewed and updated.

Thank you -
Kathy and Barb

Berrien Towne and Country Quilters Guild Meeting

August 12, 2021

Barb Manning called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. The Methodist Church in Stevensville is continuing to allow us to meet in their building. We will be notified if this changes due to the new pandemic outbreak.

A motion was made by Marilyn Herrman to approve the July guild meeting minutes, seconded by Michelle Tuller, M/C.

The next Board meeting will be August 30th at New Buffalo Library. Everyone is invited with voice, only the Board has vote.

Quilt Show: Jane Rush will be announcing a meeting and sign up in September to organize a committee. Please consider a position on this committee. Julie from the Quilted Oak Leave in Dowagiac has voiced an interest in vending at the show. Denise Tackett is unable to chair a raffle quilt. Please consider chairing this important fundraiser for our guild. Please submit a proposal in writing to the Executive Board for approval. The quilt needs to be completed six months prior; the Board next meets August 30. A sit and sew was suggested to complete the quilt blocks/top. Barb will email details.

Membership: Jane Rush will begin to collect 2022 dues in September. Dues are \$30.

Executive Board: Jane Rush reports all positions are still open. Please consider a position, Jane will be reaching out. Jane states the Board will be looking at downsizing

the committee chairs on the Board. Jane feels we have too many committees that are unnecessary.

Storage Shed: The place we rent has been sold. The new owner of the facility now requires insurance which will add \$12 per month to our expenses. The guild has not used anything in storage since the 2018 quilt show. Should we continue to store items we are not using? The cost is \$1,000 per year for a 5 foot by 10 foot storage unit. There was discussion to look into moving to a less expensive storage facility.

Library: Marilyn Herrman shared several books donated by the Laura Williams estate. They are all available for checkout.

Retreats: "At the beginning of the year, the retreat committee were accused of taking money from the guild and spending it inappropriately. We were shocked and appalled that anyone who knew us and our character, would think we would misappropriate guild funds. We each have been active, participating members of this wonderful guild for almost 20 years and this accusation greatly hurts us.

After providing records of our budget to prove that none of the accusations were true, we felt the matter was resolved. Yet, we continued having to defend ourselves at guild and board meetings. The retreats used to be a joy to prepare for, it has now become extremely stressful. Given the choice of continuing to be accused or our health, we are choosing our health. Therefore, the whole retreat committee is resigning, effective immediately. This is a very sad day for us.

All the guild equipment, except for that which programs is currently using, along with pre-purchased retreat giveaways, retreat

information, paperwork and contracts for the fall and spring retreats have been brought to this meeting and located against the wall.”

Berrien County Fair: Kay Crow announced there will be a show and tell on Friday, August 20 at 4:00 pm in the Home Economic building. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

The free tables are full of Sue Russell’s quilting items her family would like to share with everyone in our guild.

Motion was made by Kay Crow to adjourn the meeting at 7:38, seconded by Jane Rush.
M/C

Raffle Baskets were won by Sherri Skorupa and Andrea Buck. We made \$44 tonight.

The Program this evening was completing our journal cover. Michelle Tuller also demonstrated how to properly fold a quilt for storage.

Everyone enjoyed show and tell. What a talented group we have! Kay Crow showed the 10 quilts donated for the place near Ludington that has requested quilts for veterans. If you have a completed quilt to donate please contact Kay Crow ASAP.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Shepherd,
Secretary

Share your News

I went to the ruler workshop presented by Deloa Jones back in 2019 but could not do ruler work because my thread constantly broke when using either one of my Husqvarna machines. This summer I attended the Denver Quilt show and signed up for a ruler class at Sew-ology in Castle Rock, CO. After several trouble shooting attempts, my

thread still kept breaking. I was convinced that it was a case of user error. Deflated and with a high degree of buyer's remorse for the purchase of the second set of rulers, I borrowed a Brother CS-6000i. I finished two projects without thread breakage. I guess I have to invest in a new machine, darn it.
-Mary Maloney

Program Committee

Hello Quilting Friends,
Where has the year gone? Summer is winding down and the days are starting to get shorter. I have been doing a lot of quilting, have you? A Scrappy Kind of Year, will continue with the September meeting taking a look at color. How do you pick fabrics for a project? What type of harmonious color scheme do you use? Do you quilt with your favorite colors? Do you buy kits, because you do not know what fabrics to put together? We will look at the color wheel and how it can help you to choose fabrics for your next quilt.
As Always,
Michelle and Nicole



September Birthdays

As we finish our summer, let's celebrate the first fall birthdays.

Pearl Hedtke 9/12
Cathy Benke 9/15

Heather Broehm 9/23
Virginia Fortson 9/23
Marilu Housand 9/26

Show and Tell







Tell us about special events and quilting news that you would like to share in the

newsletter. Follow this link to share your news with guild members. [Share your News](#)