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## WELCOME TO NEWTOWN QUILTERS' GUILD

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*About Our Guild . . . CELEBRATING 30 YEARS!!! 1989 - 2019*

In the late 1980's, a small group of women gathered for friendship and sewing. Those early get-togethers were enjoyed at their homes and, during the summer months, at the Newtown Swim Club, where it wasn't long before their work began to draw the interest of others. Word quickly spread, and the small group of friends expanded. Quilt making seemed to be the one craft that held everyone's interest, forming the colorful backdrop to many rewarding friendships.

Outgrowing living rooms, the group moved to the Newtown Crossing Farm House. By late 1989, the group formalized and became Newtown Quilters' Guild. In 1992, the guild was incorporated and is a non-profit organization. The guild's mission was established: to provide fellowship among quilters; to support and encourage the art of quilt making; to promote knowledge and understanding of all aspects of quilting; and to establish and promote educational and philanthropic endeavors through quilting.

The guild is comprised of an Executive Board (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary), Standing Committees, and Special Committees. Members volunteer to serve, without compensation. The guild's By Laws provide the roadmap for how the organization functions and describe the duties of the above-noted positions. A copy of the By Laws is included in the new member packet; they are available on our website, as well.

Our guild provides a unique community for quilters, bringing together many diverse interests through a shared love of their art. We are a regional organization, with members residing in Bucks County, Philadelphia, New Jersey, and other neighboring communities. Membership is open to quilters of all skill levels and interests. While Newtown Quilters' Guild has grown and kept pace with the ever-changing world of quilt making, it remains true to the rich traditions, pieced together by the women who gathered in friendship those many years ago.

[www.newtownquiltersguild.org](http://www.newtownquiltersguild.org)

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## Membership

Annual membership dues are \$45.00. As a membership benefit, members receive four books of tickets for that year's raffle quilt. You may keep the tickets for yourself, or you may sell your tickets. Dues are payable no later than the December guild meeting; they are not refundable.

When you become a guild member, you will receive a New Member Packet which includes information about the guild: a copy of the guild's By Laws; a pin, featuring the guild's logo; a fabric patch, also featuring the guild's logo, to be used for making your name tag, along with instructions for doing so; a membership card; and the current membership list.

Benefits of membership in our guild include: monthly newsletters; a membership listing; first priority, over guests, when signing up for workshops and trips; the opportunity to display at least one quilt in our biennial quilt show; one vote on any issue presented to the general membership; and an opportunity to join our members-only Facebook group, to name just a few. There are many intangible benefits, as well—meeting new friends, sharing your work with your peers, learning new skills and techniques, and participating in our guild's many activities.

Responsibilities of membership in our guild include: support and participation in our fundraising activities; attendance at our monthly guild meetings; support and participation in our guild's philanthropic endeavors; timely payment of annual dues; support and participation in other guild activities, including volunteering to help at our guild's quilt show and providing snacks for our Hospitality Table at our guild meetings. Members are encouraged to participate by serving on the guild's Standing and Special Committees, as well as the Executive Board. We think you will find that your investment in our guild will be a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

## Meetings

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. We meet at the Lower Makefield Township Community Center, 1550 Oxford Valley Road, Yardley, PA 19067. Meetings are called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members and guests may arrive as early as 6:30 p.m. Guests are welcomed at our meetings, for a \$5.00 guest fee, unless otherwise noted. The October and December meetings are for members only. The meeting agenda consists of a program, sometimes featuring a guest speaker; a business meeting; and Show & Tell, where members have an opportunity to show their work.

Refreshments are served at our meetings, providing time to socialize. Members are responsible for bringing snacks and refreshments and may choose the month which works best for them. The Hospitality Chair coordinates the hospitality table, making sure there are enough refreshments for everyone to enjoy at each meeting.

We celebrate the guild's birthday in June. In keeping with the guild's long-standing tradition, strawberry shortcake, along with fresh strawberries and whipped cream, are brought and enjoyed by members.

Our garage sale, another guild tradition, is held annually at one of our guild meetings. As a member benefit, members may sell quilting/sewing items and keep 100% of their proceeds.

In October, our annual member sharing dinner is held. Another long-held guild tradition, our dinner provides an evening of indulging in the many culinary creations made by our members, while socializing, and celebrating all things guild. In the year of our Quilt Challenge, the quilts are displayed and admired at the dinner. During the year of our Quilt Show, show winners are announced at the meeting.

Members are encouraged to wear their name tags to meetings. It's a great way to let everyone know who you are! When you wear your name tag, you will have a chance to win that month's prize. Prizes have included thread, fat quarters, notions, etc.

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## Programs & Workshops

One of the features of our guild meetings is a program. We have hosted locally and nationally known speakers, as well as our own members, who have shared their quilting journeys. Some of our meetings center around programs, such as: sewing for philanthropy, our annual garage sale, game night, our holiday celebration, member demonstrations, and more.

We offer workshops to build your skills and to let you explore something new. Our workshops provide time to socialize and to get to know other members. Workshop sign-up is based on a "first-come, first-served" policy. Payment of the workshop fee is required at sign up to reserve your space. Guests are welcomed to attend our workshops if openings are available. Our workshops are generally held on the same day as our guild meeting, unless otherwise noted.

A listing of upcoming programs and workshops can be found on our website.

## Philanthropy

Reaching out to those in need is one of the cornerstones of our guild. Through the generosity of our members, we have provided quilts to children, military personnel, a grieving town in Newtown, Connecticut, first responders, and more. We have made and filled holiday stockings for HomeFront NJ and have put together Birthday Buddies and donated them to a local food pantry. We held a non-perishable food drive at our 2019 Quilt Show, with donations going to the Interfaith Food Alliance. Following are some of the organizations to which we donate quilts: Quilts for Kids, Project Linus, Patriot Program at Capital Health, Camp Erin, Bucks County Homeless Shelters, Wounded Warrior Project, and Quilts of Valor. We have, also, made and donated quilts to be used for raffle by charitable organizations. Members are encouraged to participate in our philanthropic endeavors. For more information about philanthropy, please visit our website.

## Quilt Show

Our guild's biennial quilt show is our signature event. It is held on the second weekend in October. The show is an exhibit of the work of our members, in addition to raising funds for the guild. It is an opportunity for the guild to share the art and craft of quilt making with members of the general public, as well as with our peers. In addition to quilts, our show features:

- Small Quilts & Gift Baskets Raffle - Members make and donate items to this very popular raffle. Tickets are sold, with nearly 100% of the proceeds going to the guild.
- Aunt Sukie's Attic - Members donate fabric, books, patterns, and other items. Again, nearly 100% of the proceeds go to the guild.
- Café - We sell beverages, baked goods, and nibbles to our visitors, as they take a break while visiting the show.
- Our 2021 show will feature a boutique. So, stay tuned!

As you can imagine, it really does take a village to produce our quilt show! There are usually two quilt show chairs, along with chairs to run the various committees that work on publicity, decorations, volunteer sign-ups, layout, quilt registration, and show ribbons, in addition to the café, small quilts raffle, and Aunt Sukie's Attic. (You may be wondering "Who is Aunt Sukie?" Well, you'll just have to ask one of our long-time members. There really is a story about Aunt Sukie!) Everyone's participation is crucial to the success of the show - "All hands on deck!" Being part of the show, no matter how you contribute, is being part of the guild. This is a great opportunity to meet and spend time with your fellow members. The show reflects our pride in our work and in our guild.

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## Raffle Quilt

Our raffle quilts are truly a guild project. A committee is formed to oversee the making of the quilt and selling the tickets. Our raffle quilt is an important fundraiser, with the help of all members needed for it to be successful. The winner of the raffle quilt is drawn at one of our guild meetings, as noted on the ticket.

## Quilt Challenge

Our biennial Quilt Challenge stretches our members' creativity. The Quilt Challenge takes place during the off-year of the quilt show. The committee chair issues a challenge theme, and members create quilts interpreting the theme. The Challenge offers a great opportunity to work outside of your comfort zone and to share the results with your fellow guild members. The quilts are displayed at our October guild meeting. Don't be hesitant about participating. Jump right in. You just might surprise yourself!

## Working with Our Neighbors

Being part of our community is important for Newtown Quilters' Guild. Not only do we reach out through our philanthropic work, but we participate in community events.

For over 25 years, our guild has participated in Newtown Market Day, an annual event, held in October, and presented by the Newtown Historic Association. The event celebrates the colonial tradition of local farmers and homesteaders who brought their crops, livestock, and homemade wares into town to sell to neighbors and townspeople. Crafters, artisans, colonial demonstrations, and more are featured. In the early years of our participation, guild members dressed in colonial costume and hand quilted on a frame. While we no longer wear colonial dresses, we continue to share the art and craft of quilt making with the community. We, also, sell tickets for our raffle quilt at this event.

We partnered with Friends Home & Village to make a quilt to raise funds for small repair projects which needed to be done at their facility. The quilt hangs in the dining room for all to enjoy.

We've participated in Lower Makefield Township's Community Pride Day and have donated gift baskets for their raffle. We look forward to developing our relationship with the Lower Makefield Community.

## Newsletter

Our monthly newsletter is an important tool in communicating with our members. Each month, you will receive a courtesy email to let you know that the newsletter is available on our website. Each issue includes a message from the president; information about upcoming meetings, events, workshops, and other activities; the minutes from the previous guild meeting; and other newsworthy items. If you have a business, you may advertise, free of charge, on the Newsletter page on our website. Stay up to date with all things happening in the guild by reading the newsletter.

## Website

We have a great website, [www.newtownquiltersguild.org](http://www.newtownquiltersguild.org). Be sure to visit often. There, you will find information about the guild, including our workshops and programs calendar, a gallery of photos, philanthropy, our newsletters, important member information, and more.

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## Facebook

You can follow the guild on our public Facebook page. We, also, have a private group Facebook page for guild members only. Our private group provides members an opportunity to show their work, ask questions, seek advice, and more.

## How We Communicate With You

In addition to our newsletter, website, and our Facebook pages, we send email messages, sometimes called "blast emails", to the membership. These emails are another very important way to reach you and cover many topics.



## Inclement Weather Policy

When Mother Nature interferes with our meeting nights, cancellations may happen. Cancellation notifications are made to members by blast email, our website, and both our public and members-only Facebook pages. Members without internet access will receive a phone call. When weather threatens, please check before heading out to the meeting. When a workshop has to be cancelled, the attendees will be notified via phone and/or email.