

# WELCOME TO NEWTOWN QUILTERS' GUILD

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## *About Our Guild . . .*

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 as a non-profit organization, and 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. Our By Laws provide the roadmap for how our guild 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, joining together many diverse interests through a shared love of their art. Our members reside not only in Newtown, but in neighboring communities in Bucks County, Philadelphia, and New Jersey. 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

Membership is capped at 100. When our full complement of members has been reached, those interested in joining the guild are placed on a waiting list. Annual membership dues are \$45.00. Included with membership dues are 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, including information about the guild; a copy of our By Laws; a pin, featuring the guild's logo; a fabric patch, also featuring the guild's logo, to be used in making your name tag, along with instructions for doing so; and a membership card.

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 annual membership card. 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. 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 \$5.00, 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 refreshments and may choose the month which works best for them. The Hospitality Chair coordinates the hospitality table, making sure there are sufficient refreshments for 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 at our June meeting.

In October, our annual member sharing dinner is held. Another long-held guild tradition, our dinner provides an evening of indulging in many culinary creations, socializing, and celebrating all things guild. The winner of our raffle quilt is drawn that night. In the year of our Quilt Challenge, the quilts are displayed and admired. During the year of our Quilt Show, show winners are announced at the meeting, and exhausted members enjoy a well-deserved evening of food and fun!

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 local and national guest speakers who have shared their quilting journeys. Other meetings center around programs, such as: sewing for philanthropy, our annual garage sale, game night, our holiday celebration, 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. Guests are welcomed at our workshops if openings are available. Our workshops are generally held on the same day as our 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 a cornerstone of our guild. Through the generosity of our members, we have provided quilts to children, military personnel, a grieving town in Newtown, Connecticut, local police and fire departments, ambulance squads, and more. 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. Periodically, other organizations request philanthropy quilts. 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 being an important fundraiser. 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 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 - Think of this as a fabric lover's garage sale. 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.

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 of the various committees, assigned to 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.

## Raffle Quilt

Each year, our guild makes a raffle quilt. The committee chair selects a design, and members make the needed blocks. Once completed, the raffle quilt is taken to venues to sell tickets. Members are encouraged to help with ticket sales. The winner of the raffle quilt is drawn at our October guild meeting. We have revived one of our old traditions: the Workers' Quilt. This quilt is made from leftover blocks from the raffle quilt. The size of the Workers' Quilt tends to vary, but it is usually a small quilt. Those who participated in making the raffle quilt are eligible to win the Workers' Quilt.

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## 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, and members create quilts interpreting the challenge. 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!

## Newtown Market Day

Market Day is 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.

Our guild has participated in Market Day for over 25 years! In the earlier years, 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. This is a great day, so be sure to join your fellow guild members.

## Newsletter

Our guild has a monthly newsletter. You will receive an email, with a link, to notify you that the newsletter is available. Our newsletter is an important tool in communicating with members. Its contents include a message from the president; information about upcoming meetings, events, and workshops; the minutes from the previous guild meeting; and other newsworthy items. Sometimes, members submit articles, and you are encouraged to do so. If you have a business, you may advertise, free of charge, on the "newsletter" page on our website. Be sure to read the monthly newsletter to keep up with all things happening in the guild.

## Website

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

## Facebook

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

*Last, But Not Least . . .*

## How We Communicate With You

In addition to our newsletter, website, and our Facebook page, we send email messages, sometimes called "blast emails", to the membership. The emails are another very important way to reach you and cover many topics. In particular, should a meeting need to be cancelled, due to inclement weather, you will receive an email. Look for emails from .Newtown Quilt Guild; be sure to check your spam box, as well.