

Pieced Together Quilters Handbook

This Handbook provides a brief history of Pieced Together Quilters (PTQ) and information and guidelines for both new and returning members of PTQ.

HISTORY: Their love of quilting, the desire for fellowship, and their determination to preserve the art of quilting brought 17 quilters together on the cold and snowy night of January 19, 1983, at the Bound Brook High School. This was the beginning of PTQ. Of these original 17, Betty Sanderson is still a member. Under the Bound Brook Jointure for Community Education, PTQ met at Bound Brook High School until 1988. By this time membership had grown to 75 members, enough to warrant a move to Bridgewater High School. In the fall of 1994, we broke our ties with the Jointure, became incorporated as a non-profit organization, and started meeting at the Green Knoll Rescue Squad Building in Bridgewater. In early 2020, PTQ began holding its meetings virtually due to the onset of COVID19. From 2022 through June 2024 this group met at the Jewish Community Center in Bridgewater. In 2024, PTQ relocated to its current meeting place at the Mount Horeb United Methodist Church Codington Hall in Warren.

PTQ offers its members many opportunities for inspiration, encouragement, knowledge, learning and friendship. Membership is open to anyone who loves quilts and beginners are encouraged to join. Guests are welcome at any time.

MEETINGS: Meetings are held from September through June on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at the Mount Horeb United Methodist Church Codington Hall, 42 Liberty Corner Road, Warren New Jersey 07059. Meetings are held in person or via Zoom at 6:45pm. Meeting and program information is available on PTQs website, <https://www.piecedtogetherquilters.org>. Meetings may include a lecture or demonstration, Show and Tell and other activities. Generally, the first meeting of the month (the 2nd Wednesday) is the business meeting. The second meeting (4th Wednesday) may include a guest speaker or lecture.

MEMBERSHIP: Annual membership dues are collected in September and entitles members to participate in all Guild activities.

ACTIVITIES: The Guild has many on-going activities. Members can choose to participate in some (or all!) of the activities. Activities may include:

Block of the Month (BOM)

Directions for making a specific quilt block are given to members. A specific theme, fabric color(s), and block size may be required. For each completed block submitted, you receive one chance to win all of the blocks for that month. You may make more than one block. A name will be drawn to determine the lucky winner!

Block of the Month Quilts

Each month, over a nine-month period, a specific block is presented as well as sashing and borders. New techniques and use of specialized rulers have been taught in this activity. Quilters display their completed quilt tops at the June or September meetings.

Challenges

Challenge projects vary. The rules may include a theme, a specific size, color of fabrics, and/or an embellishment. About 6 to 8 months are given to complete a Challenge Project. The one major rule is that the work be kept secret from other Guild members until they are displayed. This is not a judged activity, but a fun experience to do something you may not have tried on your own, and just to have fun.

Fabric Swaps

Swapping fabrics help to add a variety of fabrics to our stashes. This organized activity is especially helpful to those new to quilting and those wishing to make scrappy quilts.

Focus Groups

Focus Groups are informal workshops presented to PTQ members by a member during regular meetings. They can include a new technique, use of new tools, hints, etc.

Friday Quilters

Guild members gather on Fridays from 10am to 3pm at Mount Horeb United Methodist Church Codington Hall to work on their own projects. This is a good opportunity to receive help or advice if needed. Bring your machine, sewing supplies and your lunch. Note: \$5 fee per person.

Garage Sale

Usually an annual event, members bring in quilt-related items (fabrics, tools, accessories) to be sold with proceeds benefitting the Guild. All items are priced by the donor and all unsold items must go home with the donor.

Guest Lecturers

Professional and well-known quilters from our region are invited to give lectures and/or workshops for Guild members. These lectures are either in person or via Zoom and are free to members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members. There is also a charge for workshops and the amount varies according to the instructor's fee.

Opportunity

During our monthly business meetings, members have the opportunity to purchase one (or more) raffle tickets for one dollar each. The prize may consist of one or more quilting-related accessories. Proceeds benefit the Guild.

Raffle Quilt

Proceeds from our Raffle Quilt are used to further education of Guild members and the public about quilting, quilt history, and for our charitable quilt donations.

Show and Tell

This is a favorite! Members get to bring in their beautiful quilts for the Guild members to admire!

Sew Ins

Sew Ins are usually held on a Saturday to work on a specific project, to learn a new technique, or to work on your own projects.

Retreats

Annually in early Spring a 3-day retreat is organized and held at an area hotel. For a fee each member gets an individual table and chair, dinner on Friday and Saturday, coffee/tea, giveaways and participation opportunities. Optional hotel accommodations. Space is limited.

Trips

PTQ organizes bus trips to some of the large quilt shows in the region.

CHARITY GROUPS:

Friendship Quilts

Friendship quilts are service projects for our community. Donated fabrics, batting and a pattern are made into kits available for Guild members to make into quilts. The quilts are donated to local charitable organizations.

Monday Morning Quilters

Monday Morning Quilters meet twice monthly on the 1st and 3rd Mondays from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the Green Knoll Rescue Squad in Bridgewater. Quilts made by this group are donated to local charitable organizations.

Pet Beds

Quilters are asked to save their batting and fabric scraps to be used to stuff into pet beds. Once the beds are filled with the scraps they are donated to area animal shelters.

Quilts of Valor

PTQ is group member of the Quilt of Valor Foundation. Its mission is to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. For more information go to the Quilt of Valor Foundation website.

ORGANIZATION:

*All members are encouraged to participate in a Guild committee and a charity of their choice.
A shared load allows the Guild to work efficiently and well.*

Officers: President (2-year term)
 Vice President (2-year term)
 Secretary (2-year term)
 Treasurer (2-year term)

Program Chair(s)

- Plans Focus Groups, lectures and workshops to educate all Guild members
- Negotiates contracts for workshops and lectures, sees to the needs of guest speakers/teachers and introduces speakers
- Gives Program schedules and descriptions
- Oversees the overall program schedule and plan

Program Chair(s) continued:

Challenge Project Organizer:

- Defines the challenge theme and requirements
- Selects, purchases and distributes fabric for the Challenge Project and collects money for the fabric from those participating
- Organizes the final display of the Challenge Projects at the covered dish supper in June

Focus Group Organizer

- Solicits ideas for focus groups from members
- Generates ideas for focus groups and finds members to volunteer
- Helps coordinate the Focus Group sessions

Fabric Swap Organizer:

- Announces the fabric swap theme for the following year
- Shows examples of “good” choices to the participants
- Organizes the check in and check out process for the first meeting of each month

Friendship Quilts Chair

- Maintains supplies necessary for completion of the service projects
- Organizes the production and distribution of kits to Guild members
- Researches and makes recommendations to the Guild on who the recipients of friendship quilts will be
- Acts as liaison to the recipient organizations

Historian Chair

- Maintains material and scrapbooks of Guild activities

Hospitality Chair(s)

- Recruit volunteers to provide refreshments for all in person meetings, the covered dish supper (June), and any other special occasion
- Reminds volunteers of their commitment and thanks them at the meeting
- Maintains necessary paper goods and supplies
- Organizes set-up and clean-up when refreshments are served, including taking out the garbage at the end of the meeting

Membership Chair

- Collects dues (and gives them to the Treasurer)
- Maintain accurate membership record
- Provides a current membership list to each member
- Greet and introduce new members and guests at each meeting
- Distribute membership packet to new member (Badge pattern, Pin, Handbook, Bylaws)
- Ensures that new members feel welcome, not just at their first meeting, but until they feel comfortable
- Select standing members to make contact with members during social time

Raffle Quilt Chair(s):

- Commencement of the Raffle Quilt
- Choose the design and fabric for the quilt
- Coordinate the sewing, assembly and quilting of the quilt by members of the Guild
- Supervise the progress of the Raffle Quilt
- Coordinate the selling of the Raffle tickets, including pictures
- Ensure that the required permits and licenses are obtained for the drawing of the Raffle Quilt.

Resource Table Chair

- Sets up the materials (articles of interest, show flyers, shop brochures, book announcements, etc.)
- Puts away the materials at end of meeting

Sunshine Chair

- Sends greetings and/or fabric bouquets to guild members
- For sickness/hospitalization sends a card (signed by members if convenient) and fabric bouquet
- For death of a close relative sends a sympathy card
- For death of a member informs members of services, etc. and coordinates the donation in their memory

Telephone Chain Chair

- Inform members who do not have email or cell phone of meeting cancellations

Web Page Chair

- Designs and maintains the Guild web page;
- Collects information from the President, Program Chair, and Guild members for publication on the web page