

WEST HOUSTON QUILTER'S GUILD

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

This handbook is designed to provide new members with information on the West Houston Quilter's Guild (WHQG). It will provide you with a basic understanding of what it means to be a member, our community service obligation, our programs and workshops and some of the fun things that go on in this guild. We hope that the handbook will encourage you to become involved in the many activities and take full advantage of the many things this guild has to offer.

THE MEETING: WHQG meets monthly, the third Wednesday of each month at the Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center, 16600 Pine Forest Ln., Houston TX 77084.

Our meetings begin at 6:30 with social time, sign in and sign up for Show and Tell. A brief business meeting begins at 6:45, followed by the guest speaker's presentation, a short break, Show and Tell, final announcements, and door prizes. The meeting normally ends prior to 9:00 pm.

WHAT IS OUR GUILD ABOUT?

We are about OUR HISTORY!

The WHQG is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 with the purpose of developing and nurturing appreciation for the art of quilting and its history. Simply put, we are a group of people who love quilts!

We are about COMMUNITY SERVICE!

The WHQG members have a long history of sharing their talents with others. There is nothing more satisfying to our members than to create a comfort quilt for someone in need. Community projects include The Project Linus, Nursing Home Quilts and Christmas Stocking Project, and Quilts of Valor.

The WHQG does not limit its generosity to just a few organizations. Our members continue to provide support where needed.

Community Service / Comfort Quilts: All lap size quilts and baby quilts "blankets" created for donation to our Community Service Committee are considered comfort quilts. This is the part that makes our members feel proud to be known as a quilter and allow us to share with our community. We all know how nice it is to get under a quilt when you are sick or having a bad time and to know that our love of quilts and quilt making can bring a little sunshine to someone in need is undeniably a special feeling. As you'll see in every month's Show-n-Tell our members are very generous supplying these beautiful quilts. Check our Website (www.whqg.org) for size guidelines and pattern ideas.

Check the Website for size guidelines and some sample patterns. Each December, the Community Service Committee (and any guild members that volunteer) will participate in the distribution of these comfort quilts to every resident of a selected nursing home. Early in the year, the chairman will ask the membership to nominate a west side nursing home to be the recipient of these donated items.

Each and every guild member is encouraged to create at least one quilt for the elderly and one for the children's charity (Project Linus) every year. Keep track of the time you spend on making the Comfort Quilts and record the hours on the sign-in sheet at the monthly meetings.

Our guild is fortunate to have a bee devoted totally to the creation of charity quilts. The bee, *Comfort Quilters*, meets first, second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center. All members are invited to attend this bee. Please ask any Community Service Committee member for more information. Remember, whether you work on comfort quilts at home or at a bee, please record your hours on the sign-in sheet at the monthly guild meetings.

HINT:: *Many of our members turn in their comfort quilt(s) during the month that their birthday falls, this way you have a date to put on your calendar, others find that they may use their mom's birthday, a son or daughter's or an anniversary date to remind them it's time for their quilt to be turn in. Of course, whenever you turn one in it will be greatly appreciated and don't forget to sign up for Show-n-Tell and let the group see your quilt(s). You never know what will inspire someone else.*

We are about EDUCATION!

Monthly Speakers: We have speakers from all over the world come to talk and show us new and exciting aspects of quilting. Our speakers vary from the traditional to modern art quilts.

Demo Night: At times the guild will have a Demo Night. Experienced guild members will demonstrate a technique of general interest. Several stations will be set up in the seating area of the meeting room, and members attending the meeting will rotate among all stations to observe the skill or technique shown. An informative handout usually accompanies the demo.

Workshops: The Guild sponsors workshops that vary from project orientated to mastering techniques. Class size is small and reserved for members only. Workshops are generally, though not always, held in conjunction with a guest speaker's visit. One of the greatest benefits of Guild membership is the opportunity to participate in workshops. This is a chance to work one-on-one with an expert, to learn new techniques, to ask questions and get their opinion. A workshop fee is nominal to guild members, as the cost is underwritten by the guild.

Bees: A Bee is a smaller group of quilters (typically 10-15 people) that meets either weekly or monthly. Although we thoroughly enjoy our monthly meeting, smaller groups, or bees, extend our acquaintance within the larger guild, and are a great forum for exchanging ideas, learning new skills, and sharing quality quilting time. Our guild has many bees, and each bee sets its own rules, such as when and where to meet, meeting frequency, number of members, and activities.

Activities in bees range from working on your own projects, doing a block swap, making comfort quilts, doing round robins, gathering to go to quilt shows, shop hops and retreats, and so much more. When you join a bee, your knowledge of quilting increases as does the fun and friendships. Fill out a Bee Interest Form, available at the membership table or the Website (www.whqg.org). This will assist you in finding the right group for you.

Biennial Quilt Show: A very important part of our life is the biennial quilt show that is held in the spring of odd numbered years. The Since 1999, the West Houston Quilters' Guild has held a quilt show featuring quilts, wall hangings, clothing, etc. made by members of the guild. Members can choose to have their entries judged, ribbons are awarded, and individual evaluations are given. The show also invites numerous vendors to bring the newest in quilting fabrics, tools, gadgets, antiques and others items dear to a quilter's heart. Members are not only encouraged to enter their creations in the show but to sign up to be part of the quilt show committee that produces this event or showcase their talent by helping construct the show's donation quilt. The quilt show committee meets monthly for most of the two years in between shows, and works very hard to put on an event that will be enjoyable to quilters and non-quilters alike.

Associated with the quilt show is the **Guild Challenge Quilt**. In the year prior to the next quilt show, a challenge is issued for members to design and make a quilt that meets certain criteria. Previous challenges have included one-color quilts, quilts with stars, and quilts with a particular theme.

Monthly Newsletter: Our newsletter "Sew On and Sew On" is available on the Website, (www.whqg.org) for all to view. We encourage everyone to read the newsletter online to save time and postage. Members who do not have computer access may request a copy of the newsletter be mailed to them for a small fee. Our monthly newsletter will keep you posted on the guild's current events and activities. Current and past newsletters are posted on the guild's Website

Quilt Retreat: The Guild puts together Quilt Retreats where members take a weekend off from cleaning, husbands and children to treat themselves to uninterrupted sewing time with fellow quilters. Sometimes an organized project is planned (such as a Mystery Quilt) and sometimes everyone works on their own individual projects. Check the Calendar for dates. Sign up early – spaces fill quickly.

Website: www.whqg.org: Here's the place to go between meetings. It's updated often so check it between meetings to keep up with the latest announcement and local activities. Check it out for everything you need to know about our Guild. There is a lot of information available there, including current and past newsletters, a brief description of our **bees**, a calendar of events, some Frequently Asked Questions (with answers). There is also secure members only section where the roster, board minutes and the guild's financial information can be found.

IN SUMMARY:

As you can see, our guild is about many things. We are in the "business" of giving, education, sharing and fun. Giving of our talent to those less fortunate, to the community and to each other, learning from our speakers, workshops and challenges and sharing with our friends and family our love of quilts. Fun is in the center of everything, the giving, the learning and the sharing.

Your membership is the key to enriching your love of quilting. Join a bee, tell a board member you'll lend a helping hand, go to the community service bee, attend a sew-in or enter a challenge. Take full advantage of the activities in your guild.

And finally, we are glad to have you!

OTHER INFORMATION

Board Of Directors: Listed on the Website and in each newsletter, the Board of Directors guides us through our quilting year. The Board meets on a monthly basis and you are welcome to attend any of the meetings. Meeting time and place are listed in the newsletter. Minutes of the meetings are posted on the Website in the Member's section. Do consider becoming involved with the board; it is a wonderful way to extend your acquaintance with other members, and will enhance your sense of belonging.

Directory/Roster: The roster is published on-line in the Members-only area of the Website. It contains useful information including name, address, phone numbers, e-mail address and birthday (not year, please!) of all members. It is not printed for distribution, but is available through the Website. Members without computer access can request a hard copy from the Membership Chairperson.

Donation Quilt - (also known as Opportunity Quilt): In addition to Comfort Quilts, a committee within the guild creates an outstanding quilt as a fundraiser in conjunction with our biennial quilt show. This is a primary fund raiser for the Guild to support our programs. Here's an opportunity to join with others. The need for volunteers is great. This effort begins about 16 months before the next show. Whether you are a novice or expert you'll be welcome to join the committee.

Magazines: Feel free to recycle your quilt related magazines and donate them to the guild. The funds received from the sale of magazines go towards funding the guild's educational endeavors.

Membership Table: The Membership Table is the place to go when it's time to pay your annual dues (currently \$30 per year.) You can also turn in your completed Bee Interest Form [here](#).

Newsletter Ads: Advertisements may be placed in our newsletter by anyone. Check the WHQG.ORG Website under the Newsletter Tab to learn current costs.

Quilt Angel: Selecting a Quilt Angel is one of the final items of business for the year. Anyone can nominate a member to be considered for this honor. The criteria for selecting this year's angel are service to the guild during the current year. Current board members are not eligible to win.

Sign-In Sheet: At each meeting there will be a sign-in sheet. Please be sure to put your name on the sheet and complete the section for the number of your **volunteer hours** for the past month. Whether you volunteer through being part of a committee, making comfort quilts or teaching, please record your hours.

Show and Tell: At every meeting, everyone is invited to take a turn in the spotlight to SHOW their finished project and TELL us all about it. We want to hear your name, and we would like to know something about the quilt - your inspiration for making it, perhaps, or the occasion for which it is made, or just who is the lucky person to be the owner of it, even if it is yourself. Make sure to sign up when you have quilt(s) to show. The form is located by the member's sign-in sheet at the member table and has a place for the name of your quilts and for your permission to publish your quilts' pictures on our guild Website.

IN CONCLUSION

As you can see the West Houston Quilter's Guild is a busy organization and we are so fortunate to have lots of willing hands to keep our Guild activities giving to our community. The best way to meet people and get the most out of your membership is to be part of the action. Join a bee, tell a board member you'll lend a helping hand, go to the Comfort Quilter's meeting, or ask questions of members at the meetings. Soon you'll feel right at home! And we are glad to have you.