

Dixie Quilt Guild

Newsletter

August 2020



President's Message

Laura Arnold has been vacationing (lucky girl!) and does not have a message for you this month besides stay healthy, wear your mask when required, and keep on quilting! I'm thinking that we're going to have to set aside a LONG time for our next Guild meeting's Show and Tell. I for one can't wait to see what everyone has been working on. We will keep everyone updated as to when the next meeting will be; it will depend on when the Electric Theater opens its doors. In the meantime, look for a couple of surveys from Laura; one has some serious questions, and the other has some fun ones!

~ *Lynea Askey, Newsletter Editor*

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Dixie Quilt Guild Meeting: Our next meeting is September 2020.

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**NAME TAGS are available at
Hooray!: The Engraving Shop**

146 N. 200 W. St. George

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The cost is approximately \$10.00

Hello, Dixie Quilt Guild Members:

This is a friendly reminder to pay your annual membership dues, which will cover the 2020/2021 year. Currently, only 65 members have renewed, and we have over 300 members! It's still only \$20 per year, and you can pay online to avoid the long line at our Guild meeting.

Thanks!

*Bruce Bussey
Membership Chairman*

OFFICERS, NEW MEMBERS, AND BIRTHDAYS

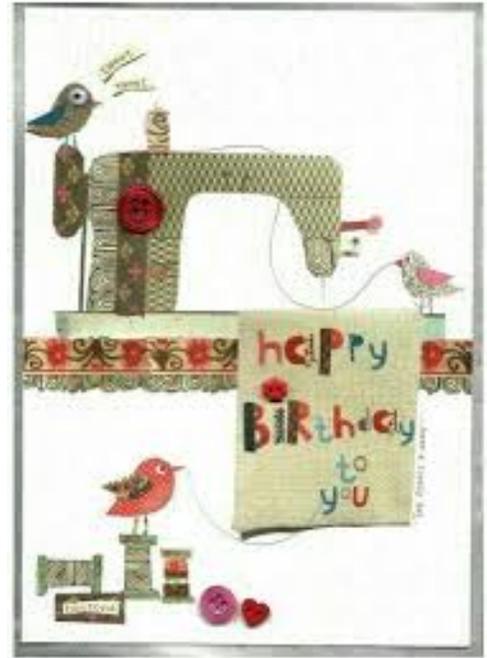
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Happy August
Birthday!



I want one!

SUNSHINE & SHADOWS. Please contact Jackie Brown for sending sympathy, get-well wishes, or congratulations cards from the Dixie Quilt Guild. You can reach her at 435-773-6100 or fredandjackie@coolmojo.net.

Hello, Quilters!

When I purchased my Bernina 880 about three years ago, I was so excited that it came with an embroidery attachment. I took lessons in how to use it and pretty soon started to make free-standing-lace butterflies. They were so beautiful, but they took so long because you had to sit at the machine to keep changing the threads; what a hassle.



And then, a few months ago, I took the plunge and bought a Bernina E16, an embroidery machine with 16 needles – meaning that, if you had 16 or fewer colors in your design, you didn't have to change threads at all during the stitching! When I started using it, I felt a little guilty saying that I embroidered a piece when the machine really did the work.

However, I've just finished a gorgeous 20-panel wall hanging quilt, and each of the panels (8"x8") took about 3-4 hours to stitch out. Plus, the quilt has some 3-D accents: 39 flowers and 5 butterflies. I could actually do other sewing while the embroidering is going on . . . but I still couldn't be too far away. You can probably imagine that, with a machine that goes at the speed of 1,400 stitches per minute, you're going to have some thread breakage. In addition, the designs are so thread intensive, they use two to three bobbins each, so it seems as though I'm constantly changing bobbins. And there's quite a bit of applique setting and trimming, not to mention resetting most or all of the threads at the beginning of each panel, on both the machine and the computer that the E16 is attached to and where the design is (and a few of them do have more than 16 thread colors, so I am stopping the machine to switch out colors). Plus, it took quite a bit of work to sew all of the panels together, sandwich and quilt them, and then bind the quilt.

Still, I'm not kidding myself: The machine did the bulk of the work. But the way I look at it now, if I didn't have the E16 (which I absolutely LOVE, even with all of the whining I just did), I would never have this beautiful wall hanging – because I certainly would never have done it by hand (can you even imagine how many years it would take to hand-sew 1.6 million stitches?!), I wouldn't have considered doing it on my 880, and I can't fathom how much it would cost to buy it.

But you can count on seeing it at the next Quilt Guild meeting's show and tell! Here's a sneak peek of two panels, sewn together:

Keep calm and embroider on!

~ Lynea Askey, Newsletter Editor

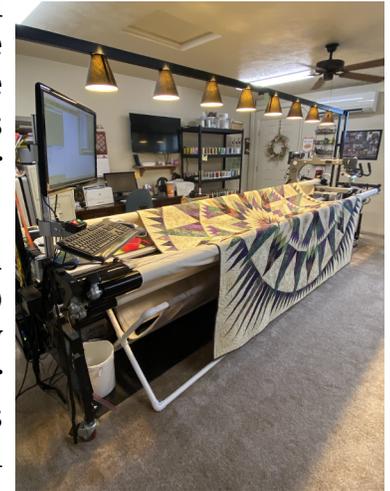


SHARON RAWLINGS



Sharon Rawlings should get an award for “Best Use of Garage Space”! Her sewing/quilting space is truly something to aspire to. The main attraction is her Gammill Statler, but she also has *loads* of fabric and thread, in addition to quilts hanging everywhere.

Sharon bought the Statler for her quilting business, 2 Quilting Bees (see her new ad on Page 12!), from Gammill in Mesa, Arizona. As part of the deal, she received 100 yards of fabric—and she decided to get 2 yards of 50 different fabrics (see picture below). A great addition to her fabric stash!



On the machine is a Judy Niemeyer quilt, which took Sharon 3 weeks to quilt.

Sharon started the business with her youngest daughter, Jana Jammet, about 12 years ago, although Jana moved to Washington state three years ago, and Sharon now runs it by herself, except for the generous gift of help from dear friends. She does mostly edge-to-edge quilting, but she does custom quilting for past customers. At the time I interviewed her, she had 17 quilts waiting to be quilted!

It was interesting how Sharon got started with 2 Quilting Bees. She was preparing to go for a bike ride one day, and she fell off her bike and broke her leg . . .



pretty badly: She had to have four surgeries. At the time, she had been working for two-plus years as the manager of Quilted Works in St. George (her dream job!), but she had to quit as a result of her accident. That put her in a bad funk. But Jana came over every day to take care of her, and they would talk about projects they were going to do. One day, Jana said to her, “You can get up now and sew.” Sharon said that Jana was the person who “saved me from myself,” as she loves to be up and going.

So, Sharon and her daughter sat every day for four or five months and made 50 quilt tops. Up until then, Sharon would bring her tops to Quilted Works to quilt them, but now she didn't have a machine available. She exclaimed to Jana, “Do you know how much it's going to cost us to quilt these?” But her daughter replied that they should buy a machine to quilt them—and start their business! Sharon got a Small Business loan, and the



SHARON RAWLINGS

minute they opened their doors, they had customers. At the beginning, the Dixie Quilt Guild members were her best supporters.

Sharon and Jana started off by doing charity quilts and have now run thousands of quilts through the Statler. Sharon likes giving back to the community, and she does it in more ways than one. She dedicates Saturdays to people who need something “tomorrow.” And she opens her voluminous stash to family and friends who need fabric. In fact, one of her granddaughters has never bought a piece of fabric; she “shops” at Grandma’s! In addition, Sharon loves to encourage young quilters; she teaches them and then gives them projects. She even makes kits for her granddaughters who sew. She said that one of her favorite things in life is to teach young people how to sew. Finally, she has said to each of her grandchildren who has taken classes in sewing from Grandma: “If you want to continue to sew, I will give you a sewing machine.” She has purchased 13 Pfaff sewing machines, most of them for her grandchildren.

Sharon has sewn for a majority of her life, starting in junior high. When she got married and had children, she made their clothes: suits, underwear, frilly dresses, pants—you name it, she was making it. Then, her children were grown, and she didn’t want to make clothes any more, although she still wanted to sew. That’s when she started quilting. She would go into fabric stores and see quilts, and, as her children were starting to give her grandchildren, she wanted to make a quilt for each of them. She was self-taught, and her first quilt was “the most horrible thing; it was orange, olive green, black, and cream—and there was no pattern; I just cut pieces and sewed them.” Since then, she has attended many quilting classes and seminars from renown teachers. She has also taught beginning quilting, along with other specific pattern classes.

Sharon and her husband moved here 40 years ago from Cache Valley, where they ran a registered Holstein dairy farm. After selling the farm, they moved to St. George, where she worked for Dixie State college as the administrative assistant to the Dean of Continuing Education and for the Vice-President, Karl Brooks. Sharon also opened a ceramic shop here and eventually started to make porcelain dolls, which she did for 20 years. She also made their clothing—and, as you can see, both the doll and her clothes are beautiful! When the customers’ doll hobby started to decline, Sharon made the decision to retire from her job and went to work for Quilted Works.

When Sharon married her current husband 27 years ago, she had 7 children and her husband had 5, so they have 12 together. Sharon has 34 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Sharon plays Bunko once a month with her dear friends and has done so for 8 years. A woman of many talents!



THINKING AND SEWING OUTSIDE YOUR BOX

WHEN LIFE GETS SCRAPPY

Remember those random strips and scraps we talked about last month?

Well, there is no reason they have to stay in squares or strips. Once the strips (or scraps) are randomly sewn together, you can cut them into any shape you wish.

Consider star points, for instance. Consider centers of Ohio Stars, or Thousand Pyramids, or Eight-Pointed Stars. This little four-block quilt was made just that way. First, I sewed lots of strips into strip segments, tall enough to fit a 9-1/2" star point template. This could be bigger OR smaller; your choice. Every star needed 8 of those points, so you can see that it's a nice way to use up a goodly amount of small strips.



The sashing and border are rows of the strips, sub-cut into 2-1/2" wide by however-long pieces, and edged on both sides by the background fabric. I realize I am not giving you actual pattern instructions, but most of you can take this idea and run with it your own way. If you don't like the Y-seams in this pattern, then choose another . . . but use up those random strips in some way.



The whole point of this little (maybe crazy) article is to whet your appetite and to get those creative juices of yours flowing. Think of the money you might have spent on those fabrics—and understand that they are still valuable. Now have fun. Sew up some strips and get designing. I'll be happy to see what anyone might do with these ideas, so post some photos.

Be well, and enjoy your creative genius.

~ *Bonnie Miles*



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Cathie Purdy

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ROUNDED APPLIQUE EDGES

Many of you are already using this method for making nice, rounded edges on your applique pieces. For those not familiar with the method, I am giving some simple instructions. I use this often, especially when I have very small circles, leaves, or flower parts that I want to have a smooth curve.

1. Trace and cut the shape you are making out of card stock. I use leftover file folders or even light cardboard, like cereal boxes. If it gets a little warped, you can just press it and flatten it out again.

2. Cut the fabric for the shape, with a scant quarter-inch seam allowance all the way around. If your seam allowance is too wide, you will rarely get a good, smooth, rounded edge.

3. Tear off (or cut) a piece of aluminum foil large enough to comfortably enclose your fabric and template. It should extend beyond the edges of the fabric, but not be TOO large.

4. Spritz the RIGHT side of the fabric with water or starch; no need to soak it.

5. Place the fabric RIGHT side against the foil, then center the template on top of the WRONG side of your fabric.



6. Carefully fold the foil up around the edges, pressing it against the edge of your template. You will be able to feel it through the foil, making sure the curve is even.



7. Pulling the foil in tight, press the foil on BOTH sides, letting the iron rest on the piece for a few seconds. Let the piece rest until it cools a bit, then carefully remove the foil, taking care not to disturb your nice, rounded edges.



8. Press the template/fabric piece again, front and back.

Then, remove the template and press once more.

Those edges are there to stay! Even if you use only water, the fabric conforms to the shape and the heat sets it. You can carry this around until you are ready to stitch it to your applique background.

If you haven't tried this, now is the time. Just take a minute and see how easy it is.

Like Mikey from the old cereal advertisement says: *"TRY IT—YOU'LL LIKE IT."*

~ Bonnie Miles



A SCRAPPY FLAG

This little quilt was made from scraps of reds and creams with four scrappy blue and gold stars. “Sweet land of liberty . . . of thee I sing” is embroidered on two corners. It comes out every flag day and stays through July. I do love our country’s flag.

~ *Bonnie Miles*



While Covid-19 is keeping us from group gatherings, the caring quilters in our community are still working in the background with "pickup and delivery." We, Margie and Susan, are going as often as we can to Pat Kittock's (home of the philanthropy "stash") on the second and fourth Thursdays between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. to keep up with kit prep, etc. We are wearing masks and social distancing in the interest of safety. Stop in for a short visit during this time if you would like to make a return or pick up a new project. It would be nice to see your friendly faces, even if partially covered by a mask.

While many of the places we try to supply with "comfort through quilts" are not accepting donations during this pandemic, we do appreciate all of your efforts to keep us prepared for future needs. I can report that we have been able to keep the palliative care unit at the hospital supplied and quilts for babies going to the Hope Pregnancy Center as well as making arrangements for quilts for the local families who suffered such devastating loss in the recent wildfires. The display of quilts at the senior center was also changed this month, providing new "eye candy" for visitors there.

If you have questions or requests, please call Susan Mapston at (435) 628-5420 or Margie Black at (435) 668-1659.

Please stay safe and well until we can meet again.



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Dixie Quilt Guild

P.O. Box 2812

St. George, UT 84771-2812

www.dixiequiltguild.com

The Dixie Quilt Guild encourages, promotes, and preserves the art of quilt making. Through Guild activities, we make friends with others who share our fascination with this art form, add to our knowledge of techniques, improve our skills, find solutions for challenges, and share satisfaction in our accomplishments.

Meetings are held at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month (except July and August) at the Electric Theater in St. George, Utah. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., and members are encouraged to come early to sign up for classes and so forth.

Workshops are held the third Tuesday of most months. Workshops begin at 10 a.m. and offer a time to learn new techniques, work on personal projects, or help with Guild philanthropic projects.

Check out the Guild website: www.dixiequiltguild.com for more information about the many Guild activities.

Our organization of over 300 men and women prides itself on supporting the community in a variety of ways. Members have made quilts for the Dove Center, the Washington Police Department, the Veterans Home, and the Dixie Regional Medical Center, including Palliative Care and the Dialysis Center.

Membership dues of \$20 are due on September 1 for the year running from September to the following August. You may join at a Monthly Quilt Guild meeting; by sending your application (found on the website) with a check to the Dixie Quilt Guild, P.O. Box 2812, St. George, UT 84771; or by using PayPal through the secure website. Membership, along with meeting new friends and activities, includes access to the website, workshops, and a newsletter emailed.

Contributions and gifts to the Dixie Quilt Guild are deductible for federal income tax purposes as charitable contributions.



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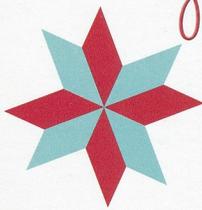
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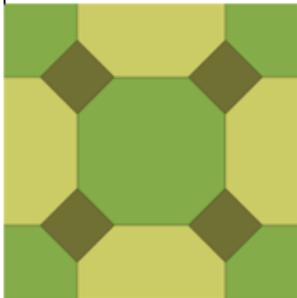
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Friday Funny!
TODAY, I NOTICED THAT THE COVER OF MY IRONING BOARD WAS WRINKLED, AND I LAUGHED AT THE IRONY. THEN, I LAUGHED AGAIN BECAUSE OF THE WORD "IRONY"



*I sent my kid to college
so I could store fabric
in his room.*



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