

# Zoom Meetup Pizzaz

SCCQG January 2021



# Laughter & Bonding

Laughter is something people appreciate and remember. Try a “Funny Questions” session, or ask one question at each meeting, letting members know that it will be part of the meeting. Get them talking and laughing. Here’s a website where I selected “Funny Questions to Ask” -

<https://conversationstartersworld.com/funny-questions-to-ask/>

By asking questions we get to know each other better because rarely do people just answer - they expound! When we share a laugh we remember the moment and the people we shared it with.

Programs aren’t what they used to be! Let’s brainstorm that. We have a lot of talent in our guilds, it’s time to let it shine. I’m going to talk about Non-Traditional Entertainment ideas, Growing Your Bees, Publicity, The Teacher Exchange Program and everything is in a PDF. Please don’t write what I say, write the ideas that spark in your mind as I talk. Put them in chat for all of us!

**Meetings where people are acknowledged, where they get to talk and are listen to, are meetings people want to come back to.**

# Pre-Meeting Entertainment

If your guild has someone in charge of “Hospitality”, consider greeting Zoom attendees personally as they come into the meeting. You can even entertain them in the waiting room now, by sending messages to those waiting - a quip, cute joke or even a warm message can put a smile on everyone’s faces.

Laughter is the best ice breaker :) Add humor to everything, take nothing too seriously. We are building the bridge of change as we travel it.

I was asked about using music to signal that the meeting is about to get started. That’s easy to do on any device that can handle multiple windows or applications running. Here’s a YouTube video of musical intros to get you started.

Opening Music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUur1wuhP88>

# In-House Entertainment:

- Feature the Founding Members of your guild with their own “Quilt Show” as a program.
- A program on randomly selected members that shows “Your Best, Your Worst, Your Next Quilt”
- Ask your collectors to do a Program on “What I Collect” (with photos and a talk by members on what they collect and why - pincushions, sewing items, etc.) This is especially fun with vintage sewing/quilting item collections (machines, quilts, blocks, tools) and collectors.
- Member Studio Tours - photos, videos, discussion
- LQS Shop Tours
- “What Can I Do With This UFO? with discussion on what viewers would do with it if it were their quilt.
- Show what you’ve made in an online class in the last 6 months.
- Pick a Color and do a theme “Blue for You!” “What Do You Do With the Blues?” Have quilts, decor, anything related to that color as part of a Show & Tell and discussion.
- Member’s Stash Tour - photo tour and talk of What’s In Your Stash?

**Zoom Background Scavenger Hunt:** Have one person make notes on what she sees in Zoom backgrounds and then call them out. Participants write the name of the person with the “item”, such as “a window garden”, “a bookshelf”, “design wall”.

**Themed Virtual Backgrounds as a program.** Choose a theme (Holiday, Quilt Shows I’ve been to, Quilt related travel, Your Best Quilt, Favorite vacation spot, etc.) and have attendees set a photo in that theme as their virtual background, then have each describe the photo and the event around it or the quilt and its story.

**BOM and mystery reveals,** block or row, for any personal quilt-alongs, mysteries, BOMs. Popular National Quilters QAL or your own LQS BOM or QAL.

**What’s Out There?** What Quilting Resources Have You Found Online? Have a discussion and ask people to share screen to bring up websites, events or other interesting quilt related finds.

**You-Tube Video Watch Parties** are very popular, with guilds. Show a specific teacher's video(s) and then the next month do a show & tell for anyone who used that teacher's techniques or patterns, continuing the theme.

**Technique Theme** - share one or more YouTube videos on a technique and then do a "Show & Share" on that technique, showing blocks, tools, projects, UFO's, finished quilts, that all use the technique. Build a challenge into this theme and keep it going for more than one meeting, i.e. schedule follow-ups and finishes. Invite local speakers or members known for these techniques to share what they like best about it.

**Drawings and prizes for everything!** Use the Wheel of Names to select winners and mail prizes to attendees who were not present, encouraging them to attend or contact someone for help attending. <https://wheelofnames.com/>

# Teacher Exchange Program

All guilds seem to have that “go to gal” who steps in to entertain us. What if we were to share that person between guilds? You’d see new faces, hear new voices and not be paying big bucks. These gals would charge under \$150 for their presentation. Many have a specialty topic that they love sharing.

Here’s how you can join the exchange program or tell your guild members about it, so they can join: <https://www.quilters-calendar.com/teacher-exchange/>

This is in HIGH demand - if you know a guild member who fits the bill, please recommend they join the program and contact me for any information.

# Games

Ronna Bruce of the Sherman Quilt Guild (Sherman, Texas) motivates her guild by showing what's going to be awarded as game prizes. Ronna creates wonderful games and guilds love them! She shares them on her website at

<https://sites.google.com/view/ronna-bruce-designs/home?authuser=0>

She has a quilter's version of "**Never have I ever**"; she's created a **Wheel of Fortune** game that's a BIG hit with guilds and has them begging for more. Ronna has all you need to get started playing **Quilters Bingo** and Ronna creates personal **avatars** using Loomie

(<https://www.loomielive.com/zapp>) which she uses in Zoom meetings. She created a "Santa" and had her husband read a fake "naughty list" of quilting offenses matched with guild member names. This could be adapted for birthdays or other in-meeting events. Watch a tutorial video on creating a Loomie avatar here: <https://youtu.be/UnzU3q7NzYI>

Pat Karasik played a Trivia game with her guild that was a big hit. Take a look at

<https://triviamaker.com/>

Play Pictionary with the Zoom Whiteboard and Scattegories via

<https://swellgarfo.com/scattergories/>

# Break Out Rooms

Getting to know fellow guild members better is easy when using Breakout Rooms. Try grouping people in unusual ways, such as: Born east of the Mississippi or west; Small town gals or city gals; What fabric do you most closely identify with - Burlap and Feedsack, Linen & Lace, Silks, Batiks, *Polyester Baby!*

Try out “**Table Topics**” which is available on Amazon.com for \$25

# Entertaining Events & Times to Chat

Multi-Day Virtual Retreats are very popular, as are One Day Getaways (even if it's just for a few hours).

Weekly informal, no agenda Sew-In - Sit & Sew - Sip & Sew (very little sewing is done!), WAYWO Right now? (Limit 1 - LOL) are all tremendously popular for just letting people **see and talk to each other**. As isolated as conditions may be keeping us, or geographically distanced, it's great to have a moment to just catch up and see what's new with old friends and new acquaintances.

# Support Your Bees!

Get people together every way that you can by creating more Bees.

Are some members following a specific QAL (or any QAL); BOM, Mystery? Make a Bee for them.

Scrappers, Modern Quilters, Art Quilt Lovers, Midnight Sewers, Sew-A-Thons, Happy Hour Quilters, any others you can think of. Any sewing connection you can make is a good one.

Are you reaching out to new sewists? Can you match them with a mentor?

Does your guild have a super-stash of goods? Can you create “welcome to the guild” baskets of donated books, patterns and supplies to new quilters?

**Don't ask in a poll, don't ask permission, don't wait for permission! Schedule and announce Bee meetings and then adjust timing and frequency as requested.**

# Publicity

Program Chairs - Your job is not to create every program, it's to curate, coordinate and emcee. As for help, volunteers, people passionate on a specific topic, to put together a YouTube based program.

You will spark and entertain but you will never meet everyone's needs, yet how many times have we all attended something that we thought wouldn't interest us just to be fascinated?

Use Press releases monthly to your local newspaper and community groups. Post in any available social media channel in your area. Ask other local groups on social media to spread the word on every event and meeting you hold.

Bring in your local mask makers - not all are quilters! Many have learned how to thread a sewing machine in the past year and they are sick of making masks. They are our new members. Offer to pair them with a mentor or put their needs (fabric, thread, books, patterns) out to your members. Use any method you can think of to create a good bond for new members.

# More Tips

Approach past presenters and ask them to drop in to some of your informal meetups. Incorporate “social hour” into new contracts with presenters and ask them to share a teaser for their upcoming presentation. All presenters are used to social time when booked for guilds - nothing’s changed except the timing.

Remember, all contracts and terms are negotiable. Fees, recording, social appearances, all are reasonable to discuss when vetting a presenter.

Teamwork is the KEY to success and for preventing burnout. A Zoom Team for handling setting up meetings, Bees, Sit & Sews. Programs & Entertainment Team. A Communications Team should handle newsletters, e-blasts, website updates, Publicity and Social Media for Zoom Meetups. Please don’t overwhelm one person because “that’s how we always did it.” Using Zoom requires a LOT of help, if you are doing it all, it’s time to get helpers.

# Marguerita McManus - Guild To Guild Network

Visit The Quilters Calendar for Zoom Ready Teachers, Networking opportunities with other guilds, tips on using Zoom and more :)

<https://www.quilters-calendar.com/>

Network, post questions, recommend Teachers in a group of hundreds of guild representatives on Facebook with the Quilt Guild Ambassadors - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/610710369453612>

Sign up for my newsletter with Zoom Tips, Guild Networking Meetups and information on Teachers - <https://www.quilters-calendar.com/newsletter-signup-for-guilds/>