

Omaha Quilter's Guild  
General Membership Meeting  
August 10, 2021

President Liz Fleming called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. She welcomed all members back and extended a special welcome to first-timers and new members.

Angie Reed was introduced for a special presentation. Angie has been in charge of Helping Hands for the past 10 years. She reminded members that her group meets at Sew Creative every Tuesday from 10:30 to 3:30. Angie proudly presented 50 pillowcases and 50 baby quilts to member Jan Koch, for the NICU at Children's Hospital. Angie pointed out that this is in addition to the 20 baby quilts given to Children's earlier this year. Angie asked members to plan to attend next month's meeting. The September meeting is a sew-in. She will have fabric and instructions ready for members to sew Christmas stockings, pillowcases, bindings, and fidget quilts. The doors will open at 4:30 and you can stay until 9. Members were encouraged to bring their machines.

Block Exchange - Barb Andrysik explained this year's block exchange, "fussy cuts." Sally Grice prepared a package of 6 "fussy cuts" for any member interested in participating. Each month, one of the fussy cuts will be used in a block. The fabric for the rest of the block is up to the member to select. The patterns and instructions will be available each month from Block Exchange. Members were encouraged to participate by picking up a package, completing the block and turning it in the following month to be eligible to win a set of blocks. Members may also pick up a second package of fussy cuts if they wish to make a block to keep. This month's log cabin block is due in October due to the Helping Hands Sew-In in September, and the block assigned in November will be due in February. Otherwise, the rest of the blocks will be due the following month. Barb pointed out that the patterns are fairly simple and easy to do and she often has treats for those turning in their blocks!

Opportunity Quilt - Debbie Hanslip, (quilt mom with Dorothy Lange) introduced this year's quilt, "Give it a Twist" made by Janelle Reed and quilted by Jackie Heyne. She encouraged members to purchase tickets for a chance to win this beautiful quilt.

Nebraska State Quilt Guild "Threads Across Nebraska" - Nancy Peters informed members that she will be transporting quilts from our guild to the quilt show in Kearney sponsored by the NE State Quilt Guild October 8 and 9. She reminded members to enter their quilt if they received an invitation with their judging sheet at our show in June. She asked members to let her know if they are entering a quilt. She would like our guild to have about 20 entries in this show. Nancy will pick up quilts at the September meeting and return them at the October meeting. Nancy also informed members that Scott Flanagan will be the featured quilter at the show. She encouraged members to travel to this show in Kearney.

CEF - Debbie McMillin reminded guild members that our guild continues to help foster children in the Omaha area. She informed members that the proceeds from Santa's Workshop, the

Stocking Challenge, the auction at the Holiday Party, and the toy drive at the party all benefit foster children. Debbie pointed out that members could start looking for and purchasing toys for all ages. The toys may be turned in at the meetings in October or November, or at the Holiday Party in December.

Stocking Challenge - Janelle Reed informed guild members that she still has 6 fat quarters available for anyone interested in making a stocking for the stocking challenge. She explained that members "vote" for their favorite stocking with a monetary donation. The person who earns the most money with her/his stocking will win a prize. She also said that stockings made out of any fabric may be donated, but that only stockings made with the challenge fabric will be voted on. The fat quarters are available for \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00.

Mystery Quilt - Janelle Reed will post the first instructions for the mystery quilt in October. Members should email Janelle if they would like to participate.

Quilts for Veterans - Kerby Selmer announced that she has blocks ready to send home with any member who would like to help out. She also has kits made up for members to work on when the group gets together at Fabric Bash on the 4th Saturday of the month. They meet at 9 and sew until they get tired. Kerby also asked to be informed about any members who are veterans in order to present them with a quilt at a future date.

Rising Stars - Eilene Hengen announced that she has programs planned beginning in October. Rising Stars is scheduled to meet from 6 - 6:30 p.m. each month before the general membership meeting.

Quilt Show - Chairs Eilene Hengen and Helen Nance announced the theme for the 2022 quilt show, "One Stitch at a Time." The show will be held at Embassy Suites June 23 - 25. Eilene encouraged members to begin working on quilts for the show now. She also noted that more information about the challenge project and other details regarding the show will be available in the coming months.

Library - Helen Nance reminded guild members that the library is open each month before the meeting from 6 - 6:45 p.m. She also asked members to let her know about books that they would like to see added to the library.

Programs - Angella Arndt announced the program lineup for 2021-22. She also showed a sample of the "Mini Flying Star" from Cindy Erickson's class to be held in October. The program schedule for 2021-22 is:

August - Robbi Joy Ecklow (class - Fusapalooza)

October - Cindy Erickson (class - Mini Flying Star)

November - Lynn Doyle (class - Half to Haves)

December - Holiday party (no class)

February - Judy Fletcher, certified Laura Heine instructor (class - Vino Collage Quilt)

March - Cindy Grisdela (class - Fire & Ice Bargello)

April - TBA

May - Deanne Eisenman (class - Delightful Season Wool Applique)

Angella informed members that most classes still have some available spots. However, the March class is completely full.

Holiday Party - Angella Arndt announced that the OQG Holiday Party will be held on December 14 at the German-American Society. The doors will open at 5 with dinner served at 6:30. Tickets are \$25 and will be available in October.

Camp Wannamakeablankie - Amy Robertson informed guild members that camp will be held again this year at Camp Carol Joy Holling October 15-17. The registration form is available on the OQG website. Registrations are due by September 1. Meals are included. The price charged depends on the number of campers per room. Amy noted that there is still space available. She encouraged members to consider signing up.

Newsletter - Amy Robertson announced that in addition to being the newsletter editor, she is also in charge of groups.io, the guild's private online group. New members may be added to this group by contacting Amy via email.

Bus Trip - Yvonne Wilson (speaking for Susan McDonnell) informed guild members that a bus trip is planned for Saturday, April 16, 2022. The bus will leave the parking lot at the College of St. Mary at 6:45 a.m. and return at approximately 9:30 p.m. Susan asked that members vote to select which of the two options they would prefer. Option 1 would go to Missouri Star Quilts and Crossroads Quilting with a stop for dinner at St. Joseph, Missouri on the way back. Option 2 would go to Kansas quilt shops including shops in Olathe, Lawrence, and Topeka. Guild members voted and Option 1 received the most votes.

Golden Thimble - Windy Benigno announced that the Golden Thimble Award is presented to a guild member each year for their contributions to the quilting community. She informed members that nominations need to be received by April 12. The committee includes 3 past presidents. This year's committee members are Windy Benigno, Linda Holman and Nancy Peters. The committee decided to have a box available at the membership table this year. Members may fill out a comment sheet and place it in the box when they notice a member who has done an outstanding job in some area. These comment sheets will be used to help identify the contributions that nominees have made throughout the year.

Santa's Workshop - Carol Nish announced to guild members that it is not too early to start thinking about donations for Santa's Workshop. She explained that this is a raffle at the Holiday Party where members may win a number of fabulous prizes. Carol asked that members consider donating new or nearly new items. She informed members who have older, outdated items from their sewing room to consider placing those donations on the "freebie" table at the guild meetings. Ideally, the donations to Santa's Workshop would be items members would like to win, rather than items they want to get rid of. She thanked past donors and noted that

donations may be brought to the next few meetings or members may contact Bev Adams, Dorothy Lange, Liz Fleming or Carol to drop off items.

Membership - Nancy Wells and Windy Benigno (for Molly Phillips) announced that 62 members were in attendance. The guild currently has 111 paid members and will continue to accept memberships. A number of door prizes were distributed.

Speaker - Angella Arndt introduced our speaker, Robbi Joy Ecklow, from Omaha. Robbi talked about her move from Chicago to Omaha and shared a number of interesting stories along with her quilts in a trunk show.

Liz Fleming thanked everyone for coming and reminded them to come and sew in September.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Nish.