

CLAMSHELL QUILT GUILD NEW MEMBERS WELCOME GUIDE

Welcome to the Clamshell Quilt Guild! We hope we meet and possibly exceed your expectations, and we are delighted to have you join us. You will meet many new people, make new friends, and learn a lot about quilting. As a new member, many of the regular functions of the guild may seem confusing to you. Hopefully this welcome manual will help you understand how the Guild works. You may still have questions after reading this booklet but we hope you will be comfortable enough to ask an officer, a committee chairperson or a guild member for help. Check out: www.clamshellquiltguild.org also!!

MEMBERSHIP CHECK IN TABLE

When you arrive, please check in at the membership table each month. Guests and current members are welcomed here. The price for guests is \$5 for each meeting, \$10 if we have a speaker. Current members are reminded about the yearly dues at the August meeting, and dues are due at the September meeting. Members who choose not to renew by the October meeting will no longer receive the newsletter or membership benefits.

WAYS AND MEANS TABLE

Make sure to stop at the Ways and Means table to fill out one free door prize ticket at each meeting. There are also tickets for sale to support additional drawings for donated or purchased quilt related prizes. These drawing chances are \$1 for 5 tickets. The winners will be drawn during the meeting. Supporting the Ways and Means drawings help to support future prizes, educational programs and charities supported by the guild.

GUILD LIBRARY

This is a great place to look for new project ideas with our books, videos, and DVDs. Library items can be checked out until the next meeting. There is a \$0.25 fee per month for late returns. The Guild Library also orders books for members through the American Quilters Society (AQS). Speak with the librarian if you're interested, the more books we order the better discount on the books purchased.

BLOCK OF THE MONTH

Each Guild member is given a booklet of 12 block patterns, one for each month of the year, when you join the guild. The blocks of the month patterns are also located on the Clamshell Quilt Guild website. If you choose to participate, bring your completed block for that month to the meeting and for each block you make your name is put into a drawing. Before the end of the meeting one or more names will be drawn depending on how many blocks were turned in that night and the winner(s) win the blocks to take home and use as you'd like in a quilt or other projects.

NEWSLETTER

A newsletter is published monthly by our members and emailed to all members. Please ensure the membership desk has your current email address and updates. If you do not have email access, we can mail your newsletter, but this costs approx. \$12 per year and is discouraged. Whenever possible, we appreciate you allowing this to be emailed to you.

THE GUILD MEETING

The President calls the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The agenda includes the Secretary's Report, the Treasurer's report, and general announcements. This is followed by the various reports and updates from the different Committees. If we have a Program speaker we will generally try to complete the meeting at approx. 7:00 PM for the presentation. After the featured speaker there is a 20 minute general meeting break time when you can socialize, check out the free table, sign up for upcoming workshops, visit the Library, or check out the Block of the Month display. The meeting finishes up with the door prize, Ways and Means drawings, the Block of the Month drawing, and Show and Tell.

The following are some of the regular features of the Clamshell Quilt Guild:

WORKSHOPS: Several times a year when we have a guest speaker he or she will offer a workshop. The workshops are usually held the following day at the Waterford Library from 9:30 AM-3:30 PM. Information about the upcoming workshops are in the newsletters as well as the at the Information table during a meeting.

OPEN SEWS: The Guild schedules open sewing time three times each month: the first Monday of the month from 1-5 PM, the last Tuesday of the month from 5-11 PM., and the third Friday of the month from 5-11 PM. The Friday group is called the Crazy Quilters and includes a potluck dinner. All meetings are at the East Lyme Senior Center in East Lyme. This is time to work on an individual project, to get help or feedback from fellow quilters on projects, or work on Charity projects.

QUILT SHOW: The Clamshell Quilt Guild holds a quilt show every other year. This is a two day show that involves all members and many committees to make it successful. Members are encouraged to enter their own quilts in the show and to participate in the organization of the show. In conjunction with the show there is a special Quilt Show Raffle Quilt created by a committee of Guild members. There is usually a Guild **Challenge** that's included as part of the show. The Challenge committee sets up guidelines for a quilt project contest and encourages any Guild member to participate.

CHARITY QUILTS: The Guild supports many organizations and charities by providing quilts and quilted items. The committee is always looking for volunteers to put quilts together, to donate fabric, batting, backing or thread, or to quilt finished quilt tops. Workshops are scheduled through out the month to complete these projects. Some of the organizations the Guild supports include the Lawrence and Memorial Hospital NICU, the Women's Center of SE CT, the American Hero quilt project, the Veteran's Home, and the Waterford Country Day School.

BUS TRIPS: These are organized by Mary Kay Granata. She organizes many trips to various quilt shows, shops and museums throughout the year. The trip information is always in the newsletter, and sign up is on a first come, first serve basis. The bus typically picks up at Waterford Wal-Mart on the day of the trip.

QUILT RETREATS: Retreats are offered in the Spring and Fall. The retreats run from Friday morning until Sunday afternoon. This is time to use as you choose to work on your sewing/quilting projects of any type, socialize with fellow quilters, get help with projects from others, and enjoy hot meals with no interruptions. You may stay up as late as you'd like sewing at night. There are no time restrictions for our sewing room with a nice view of the lake.

GUILD BIRTHDAY QUILT: In September there is a drawing for a quilt made by the previous Block of the Month Committee based on the 12 monthly patterns. This drawing is free to members in good standing for the entire prior guild year. You must be present to win.

NAMETAGS: Members are encouraged to wear their nametags to each meeting. There are nametags with the Clamshell Quilt Guild logo available for purchase, or you could create your own. See any executive board member to purchase a name tag.

BYLAWS: These are a set of rules that supports the operation of the Guild. It includes the Guild's mission, and the responsibilities of the Officers and Committees. It is available on our website in the About section. www.clamshellquiltguild.org

The Clamshell Quilt Guild is made up of many people with many personalities and skill levels. The Guild tries to make every effort to encourage inclusion and friendliness. We hope that we have made you feel welcome and that you will soon feel comfortable enough to engage members in conversation, take a class, join a committee, and be an active part of the Guild. We realize that everyone does this in his or her own time. We also understand that you get as much as you put into it, so join in, have fun, expand your quilting skills, meet new people and make friends. There are many members who are outstanding quilters and are willing to share their skills. We also have members that are new to quilting and are anxious to learn more. Our programs try to incorporate all quilting levels through out the year. We feel sure, that whatever experience level you are, you will enjoy the programs and fellowship of other quilters. One of the best ways to meet fellow quilters is to volunteer or join a committee. Open sews are also a good way to interact and get to know other quilters in a supportive and relaxed atmosphere.

So once again welcome to the Clamshell Quilt Guild. We hope you will be with us for a long, long time. If you have any questions please feel free contact any of the committee chairs - their contact information is always in the monthly newsletter.

www.clamshellquiltguild.org