


Friendship Star Quilters May 2021


P.O. Box 8051, Gaithersburg, MD 20898

Website: www.friendshipstar.org

The Quiltline

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 **Apr 29th - Last day to register for May Zoom guild meeting AND the last day to submit photos for Show & Tell.**

 **May 3rd - Zoom guild meeting, 7:00 pm.** Business meeting will start at 7:30.

Monthly Fabric Raffle – Postponed until we meet in person

Meetings	Service Projects	Executive Board Meetings
<p>Guild meetings are usually held at 7:30 pm on the 1st Monday of the month at</p> <p>Gaithersburg Church of the Nazarene 8021 Warfield Rd Gaithersburg MD</p> <p>Meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.</p>	<p>Service Projects Workshops are usually held from 9:30 am - Noon at</p> <p>Fairhaven United Methodist Church 12801 Darnestown Rd Darnestown, MD</p> <p>Pick up and drop off sessions will be held on May 6th and 20th. See page 7 for more information.</p>	<p>The next board meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday June 14th at 7:00 pm.</p> <p>If you have a topic to bring up to the board, please contact any of the officers to add your item to the agenda or to receive the Zoom link for the meeting.</p>



President's Message

Michele Barnard

“Then you have to remember to be thankful; but in May one simply can't help being thankful...that they are alive, if for nothing else.”

— Lucy Maud Montgomery

This month I am thankful there appears to be a light at the end of COVID. Just this weekend I was able to enjoy my first gathering with friends with everyone unmasked – all of us are now fully vaccinated.

At the last Board meeting, we discussed how the guild could return to in-person meetings. This has been a topic of discussion essentially since the pandemic started! We still don't know for sure when we'll be able to be together in person, and it really depends on what parameters are set by both Montgomery County and the church where we meet. We really are hoping for in-person meetings in the fall, but are also hedging our bets by looking for speakers who are able to do Zoom presentations if we are not able to physically meet.

May is the month where I struggle with competing priorities in the garden. SO MANY WEEDS and I have the poison ivy rash as a badge of honor in the battle. So many exciting new things to plant! I've already shared a bunch of my volunteers in my neighborhood, and have been given a few as well.

I've fallen off my “sew every day” wagon a little, and would like to start back with that routine. I am making progress on my rainbow quilt for our Service Projects Challenge, how about you? In May, all of the colors seem brighter, and that helps send me back into the sewing room.

Yours in quilting,

Michele



April Guild Minutes

Peggy Weidman

President Michele Barnard called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and welcomed members and guests. Harry Fox, a guest of Carmen Sesvold, introduced himself. Priscilla Newberger was a guest of Liz Adams.

Meeting Minutes: The March FSQ Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Colleen Biasco

Nothing to report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominating Committee - Michele Barnard

Michele reiterated that a volunteer is needed to serve as co-treasurer or as an Officer Nominating Committee member to recruit a new co-treasurer. Michele's job is to convince members to serve, not to take on new duties. The latest *Quiltline* has details regarding the skills needed by the Treasurer. Co-Treasurer Colleen Biasco offered to answer any questions about the position.

Fabric Sale for FSQ members – Michele Barnard

The family of Renee Ewing, a former FSQ member who passed away last year, is hosting a fabric and crafting sale exclusively for FSQ. The sale will be on April 10 and 11 by appointment only. A flier for the sale was recently sent by list serve. If you did not receive it, you can contact Michele for a copy. Judy Hoffman asked if the family would be willing to donate items that do not sell to Service Projects. Michele will ask Anne and Nancy if they are interested.

Executive Board meeting – Michele Barnard

The next executive board meeting is Monday, April 12, 2021 at 7 PM. Anyone interested in attending is welcome. Contact one of the FSQ officers to receive a Zoom link to the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee – Michele Barnard

Reminder: volunteers are needed for the Officer Nominating committee or to be co-treasurer next year. FSQ is operated by volunteers and the organization can't be sustained without them.

Membership – Brenda Knopp

Brenda reminded members that May is beginning of membership renewal for the 2021-2022 year. Updated renewal forms are available on the FSQ website. The renewal will be conducted by mail, at least until we start having in-person meetings.

Service Projects – Michele Barnard

Nothing to report. New pickup and drop off dates are available for April. Go to Signup Genius to sign up for a time slot. Contact Anne Weaver or Nancy Brennan if you have questions.

Yard Sale - Peggy Weidman

The Yard Sale committee is considering two dates for the Yard Sale this year: either the September 6 or November 1. A survey has been sent out through Signup Genius asking members which date they would prefer and whether they have items to donate. Peggy explained that the Yard Sale is a fund raiser for the guild where members donate their unused fabrics and quilting supplies/equipment for sale to other members and sometimes guests. Members were encouraged to register their preference for a date in Signup Genius. If there is no preference, select "maybe" as an option for the dates. A reminder with a link to the survey will be sent on Tuesday. As soon as a date for the sale is decided upon, the committee will make plans for collecting donations from members. If you have questions, you can email Jennifer Rossmere or Peggy Weidman.

One Last Appeal – Michele Barnard

We still need volunteers for the Officer Nominating committee or a volunteer to be co-treasurer next year. Kathy Swartz indicated she is willing to consider becoming co-treasurer, but as a new member, has no idea what it involves and will have to talk to Colleen before committing.

Programs – Cathy Miller

Someone asked how they could invite a guest. Cathy reiterated that guests were allowed to attend one meeting for free, provided space is available. To invite a guest, contact Cathy beforehand with the guest's name and email. Cathy then introduced this month's speaker, Barbara Cline.

Presentation: Barbara Cline "Designing Inside Different Block Layouts"

Show and Tell – Judy Walsh presented a slideshow of 41 quilt photos submitted by 20 guild members who described their creations. This included 5 sampler quilts from members who attended Brita Nelson's online class on disappearing 4 patches.

Door Prizes

Barbara Cline donated 2 PDF patterns that were won by Mary Lou Dungan and Liz Adams. The door prize from FSQ was a Capital Quilts gift card that was won by Peggy Weidman.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM

The next meeting will take place on May 3, 2021 at 7:30 PM. Members must register in Signup Genius by midnight on Thursday before the meeting in order to receive the link to the Zoom meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Weidman, Secretary



Programs

Cathy Miller

Bethanne Nemesh is our speaker on May 3, 2021. <https://www.whitearborquilting.com>

Bethanne's lecture is "Walk a Creative Path." Below is how she describes herself and her work.

"My name is Bethanne Nemesh, and I LOVE quilting. I love everything about it...the conceptualization, the design, the execution, and especially the finish! I am all about the finish details. I began my quilting journey more than 20 years ago, in college. A professor helped me see that I didn't have to tolerate the "boring" calicos of the era. I could go out and dye, or manipulate my materials to match my vision...which allowed me to think of quilts as more than the family heirlooms I had grown up with. Then, batik fabric arrived on the scene and I was completely hooked.

"I began my longarm machine sewing business in 2008 with the purchase of an A-1 brand machine. My innovative approach creating secondary designs, in generally traditional quilts, as well as unique free-hand quilting patterns, quickly earned me a thriving quilt-for-hire business. However, sharing my work on-line, and sharing my personal quilts on the national show circuit, changed my business forever. My true love is in teaching others to quilt. I love interacting with my students. My favorite classes to teach are actually practical ones. I firmly believe in each student having a strong grasp of foundation quilting skills, and if they choose to quilt for hire, a firm understanding of the link between style, and time spent quilting, and how that relates to their personal business model. I love encouraging my students to express themselves uniquely in their art, ignore the trends of the quilt world, and find their own creative path.

"On a personal level, my heart is in my show quilts. My quilts are deeply personal to me, expressing a story in cloth. My pictographic quilts feature a completely original collage of flora and fauna,

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depicting individual ecosystems, layered with meaning. My contemporary whole cloth quilts feature a unique intertwined and interlocked style, melding traditional elements with the fantastic. My yarn couched pieces are more for fun and exploration of a new media, but one that I find a great deal of pleasure in.

“I hope you will follow me on my quilting journey, here, or even better, arrange to take a class with me so I can meet you in person. I frequently travel to both guilds and national or international conventions. A current list of classes and teaching engagements can be found on the teaching tab.

“I have written a number of books to support my teaching, created pattern kits, designed quilting patterns for purchase, as well as published digital classes through AQS and the iquilt program.”

Our speaker for June is Peter Byrne. Here is his introduction:

“I am an international award-winning, published modern quilter and teacher with a deep passion for innovation and design. My strength is maintaining a fresh approach to quilting, with original designs and technical mastery.

“My goal is innovation, my passion is creativity and I am thrilled to have opportunities to share new techniques within the quilting community.

“While attending QuiltCon 2020, my quilt titled ‘**Starring You**’ won *Best in Show* and my quilt titled ‘**Cityscape**’ won *Best Machine Quilting Frameless*.

“After 25 years working as a stylist and salon owner I retired, and then had time to explore new creative outlets. I started making quilt in 2009 and to further my quilting experience, in 2017 I joined the Toronto Modern Quilting Guild and when I walked into that first guild meeting, I had never quilted a quilt!

“It was at this time, I became a full time student of the craft and 2 years later, I designed and made Starring You and Cityscape.

“I’m very excited to share my quilts, dreams and ambitions with you and look forward to meeting you at my Trunk Show!

“Here are all the places you can find me!

Email: petersquilts@gmail.com

Instagram @petersquilts

Facebook under Peter Byrne

“I invite you to check out my website at www.peterbquilts.com”



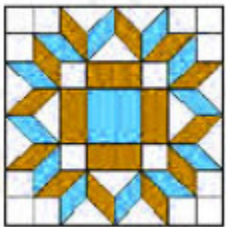
Service Projects

Anne Weaver and Nancy Brennan

We recently updated our donation numbers since June 1, 2020 and were pleasantly surprised that we have completed and donated **461 quilts!!!** What an accomplishment, especially during the pandemic and lockdown. We realized that **we have only 39 more quilts to go before May 31 and we will have donated 500 quilts during this very difficult year. That's only 39 more! We can do this!!**

If you can help machine quilt and bind some quilts on either your domestic machine or your sit-down machine that would certainly get us closer to our goal. They are already spray basted and we will provide binding too. We also have quilts that are already quilted and just need binding. Please contact Nance or Anne if you would be willing to take a few. Many thanks in advance.

May Service Projects pick-up and drop-off sessions will be held on Thursday, May 6 and Thursday, May 20 at Fairhaven United Methodist Church. You can sign up for a 20 minute appointment at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084fa5ad2baafd0-service>. If you are new to the guild and want more information, or if anyone has questions please contact one of us and we will be happy to answer.



Website Update

Holly Knott (Developer) and Lorie Coston (Web Admin)

I was happy to be able to work with Friendship Star Quilters again, after having built your guild's WordPress website way back in July of 2013. Technology changes rapidly as we all know, so after almost 8 years, the WordPress theme that was state-of-the-art in 2013 needed important updating in order to continue to function properly. The underlying server software that runs your website needed updating just as much.

Just as your own computers become outdated, whether it's the computer itself or the version of Windows or Macintosh operating system, websites also keep needing updates. Keeping the

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software, themes, and plugins (software bits) updated also helps keep a site secure. Updates often include necessary security patches which are critical these days to help prevent hacking success.

Working closely with Lorie Coston, we discussed the necessary changes which included points of Security, a sense of Freshness, and making the site Easier to Use. Specifically:

- **Upgrading to the latest version of the operating software.** The site was many versions behind, which is a security risk to the extent that your site could become defaced or deleted even. I updated software on the hosting company's server to be in sync with 2021 WordPress requirements and I adjusted some settings on the server to allow for larger file uploads. This means you can have clearer pictures!
- Lorie and I worked together on cleaning up unneeded plugins and **adjusting some code** that was causing conflicts with other plugins. Security Certificates are now operating as designed.
- **Upgrading to a new, very flexible, mobile phone and tablet friendly theme** that would allow the site to be viewed on mobile phones and tablets. This was the top priority and is an absolute must these days. Note: Google announced that sites that are not mobile friendly will not be given precedence in search engine results. You want your *members* to be able to view the site and you want the *public* to be able to find your site via a Google search (or any search engine). Prospective members need to be able to *find* you when they Google you!
- Changing to a new theme meant losing the look of the old site, to a degree, so we worked on **updating the colors, fonts**, navigation bar, footer, page types, etc. This fulfilled the Freshness requirement Lorie expressed.
- We decided that I should **design a fresh new header** using part of an image from an FSQ raffle quilt called "Oh My Stars," whose star design ties in with the logo block design.
- **I redrew the Friendship Star Quilters logo as a vector image** so that we could adjust the colors slightly for the new header, and I provided a copy of the vector file to Lorie for the guild's future use. The previous version was very small and not editable, so having the vector image available will allow the guild to use it in various ways in the future.
- At Lorie's request and in keeping with many websites, **I also added a new feature to your site: a Blog.** This can be used for a variety of posts including a "What's New?" type of post for announcements, guest messages to the guild from Speakers, your President's messages, Committee reports, guild member announcements and information of general interest. Members will be able to easily post comments on the blog posts.
- I installed a page building plugin called Beaver Builder that **will allow the web administrator to layout pages on the site in a very easy, drag and drop manner.** In the past, we'd have to build tedious tables to layout pages in columns that never really fit or pictures that wouldn't stay where they were placed, but Beaver Builder allows us to drag over the layouts, insert photos, videos and text into the table "cells" and it's all mobile friendly. This will help create

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interesting page layouts to make the site look attractive and interesting to members and the public.

- I have provided Lorie with a short reference guide on how to use Beaver Builder.

Lorie and I discussed various issues that were important to her for maintaining a website including a schedule for running backups, keeping elements updated which are aspects of security, trends in websites and so on. It can be very challenging for volunteer website managers to carry on the site maintenance after other website managers have been involved in updating and often changing the site from when it was first built. Often the reference guide I supply when the site is built no longer completely applies this many years later as many aspects of the site are changed over time.

Your site is now secure, fresh, mobile, and easier to use. Hope Friendship Star Quilters enjoy the new site!

Holly and Lorie



Facebook

Suma Glassman and Ellen Robinson

Did you know that FSQ has a Facebook page? If you are on FB, why not like our page:
[https:// facebook.com/FriendshipStarQuilters/](https://facebook.com/FriendshipStarQuilters/) .

If you aren't on Facebook, the page is "public" so you can still view it just by going to the link above.

We will be posting meeting reminders and other items that might interest to you. If there is something you think might be interesting to others - quilting related of course - please contact us and we will get it posted.



Library News

Rosie Hormuth and Liz Lawrence

Ladies, sorry to say the FSQ Library remains closed for the foreseeable future.



Membership

Brenda Knopp

Happy May!

This is the last month of the Guild year. June begins the start of the 2021-2022 business year. The goal is to do our best to gather in person during this next year! To renew for the next year, you can fill out the renewal form found on the FSQ website and mail your check to the address provided. If there are no changes to your address and phone number just the check and a quick note saying “No changes” will be acceptable. There will be more to come about how the meetings will be held when we do return to in person gatherings.

Currently, during our Zoom guild meetings, we are allowing members to bring a guest one time (without cost) as long as there is available space. Some lectures may have space limitations and we do need to abide by that. For the most part this is not an issue and we would love to keep seeing new faces.

If you would like to bring a guest, please note the guest’s name in the SignUp Genius. Please also email me at mbrshp@friendshipstar.org . In the Subject note “FSQ Guest”. Send your name, the guest’s name and the guest’s email address. Please do NOT give out the zoom link sent to you for the meeting. We will send the link to the guest.

Thank you and Stay Safe!!

Brenda Knopp
Membership Chair

May Birthdays

Beth Amundson - May 1
Ginny Leake - May 7
Freddie Berg - May 13
Jennifer Rossmere - May 13
Trish McTighe - May 19
Laura Chaskes - May 20
Wendy Bauman - May 23
Sue E Thornton - May 31
Leslie Waltz - May 24





Yard Sale

Jennifer Rossmere

Thank you for your response to our survey and we are thrilled to know so many of you have things to donate to the Yard Sale. Per your responses, it has been decided that **the Yard Sale will be held on November 1st** at our FSQ guild meeting at the Gaithersburg Church of the Nazarene.

The Yard Sale Committee is meeting next week to work out plans for dates and locations for you to drop off your donations.

If possible, please separate donations into

- 1) fabric,
- 2) paper (books/magazines/patterns etc.), and
- 3) other.

This will greatly aid in our sorting.

Look for more information via emails and in the next newsletter.

Thank you,
The Yard Sale Committee



Readers' Corner

Judy Walsh

Welcome to the Readers' Corner – a new place to share books we think others might enjoy. Liz Lawrence's article last month about cozy quilting mysteries made me think it might be worth having a regular column about reading. **My hope is that many guild members will contribute to this column.** The books you share do not have to be quilting or sewing related.

For years I have listened to audiobooks as I sew and I'm delighted that our county library has made Hoopla available. You can sign up through the library website:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/collection/downloads-and-streaming.html>

Both e-books and audiobooks are available, and up to 9 items can be borrowed each month for free. They also have movies, music, TV shows and comics.

I like mysteries and have enjoyed several series on Hoopla that our library hasn't offered in audio format: The **Irish Village Mystery series** by Carleen O'Connor, the **Benni Harper Mystery series** by Earlene Fowler and the **Bread Shop Mystery series** by Winnie Archer are just a few I've "read" on Hoopla. And there are no scratches or skips, unlike CDs borrowed from the library!

I'm currently listening to the **Martha's Vineyard Mystery series** by Cynthia Riggs. Unfortunately, Hoopla doesn't have all 14 of the books in this series.

Please share some of the books or authors you've enjoyed by sending in a brief write-up for our next newsletter.



For Your Viewing Pleasure

Judy Walsh

Recently I was fortunate to view an online quilt show by the Friendship Knot Quilters of Sarasota, FL. With 10 categories to view there is truly something here for everyone, no matter what your quilting interest. I hope you enjoy it!

<https://friendshipknotquilters.com/virtual-quilt-celebration-2021-gallery/>



Elected Officers		
President	Michele Barnard	president@friendshipstar.org
Vice President	Judy Hoffman	VP@friendshipstar.org
Co-Treasurers	Colleen Biasco & Joy Dorman	treasurer@friendshipstar.org
Secretary	Peggy Weidman	secretary@friendshipstar.org

Committee Chairs			
Fabric of the Month	Liz Plantz & Harriet Sheinson	Raffle Quilt Marketer	Volunteer(s) needed
Facebook	Suma Glassman & Ellen Robinson	Raffle Quilt Ticket Sales	Gerda Sherwood
Holiday Party	Barbara Kilby	Retreats	Joy Dorman & Nancy Colladay
Library	Rosie Hormuth & Liz Lawrence	Service Projects	Anne Weaver & Nancy Brennan
Membership	Brenda Knopp	Small Groups Coordinator	Nicki Lynch
Newsletter	Judy Walsh	Summer Challenge	Meg Tison, DeVeda Powell & JoAnne DuChez
Pins	Susan Spencer	Sunshine & Shadows	Ellen Robinson
Programs	Cathy Miller	Web Master	Lorie Coston
Publicity	Lorie Coston	Yard Sale	Jennifer Rossmere