
QGI New Member Guide

Welcome to the Quilters Guild of Indianapolis (QGI)! All our members are passionate about quilting, as you will soon learn. To help you get the most out of your new membership, this guide contains some important information you should know about the Guild.

How to Contact Us

Website: <http://quiltguildindy.net/>

On our website, you can learn about upcoming meetings and speakers, find out about special events and happenings such as workshops and retreats, download our monthly newsletter, and view photos of winning quilts from our recent quilt show.

E-mail: QGI.vp.membership@gmail.com

If you provided us with an email address, you will periodically receive meeting reminders and other important notices from Jenny Quilter (QGI.vp.membership@gmail.com). **Please add this email address to your list of contacts so that the emails are not rejected as spam.** These reminders are being sent to you by a Guild Board Member, but if you do not wish to receive them, reply to the e-mail with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. We do not, give our members' email addresses to anyone; we only use the addresses as a convenient way to stay in touch with you.

Mail: P.O. Box 50345
Indianapolis, Indiana 46250-0345

Find us on Facebook! If you are on Facebook, you can follow the guild's public page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Quilters-Guild-of-Indianapolis/126246407446858>

When you "like" this page, and select "Show in News Feed", you'll automatically see any new posts in your own news feed.

You can also request to join the private group on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/131347020220302/>

First you will need to send a friend request to one of our Facebook group administrators. Then ask them to add you to the group. This page is used for informal sharing of quilt-related news and topics and can only be seen by members of the group

Our Bits and Pieces Newsletter includes information on our meetings, upcoming quilting events, a list of programs and workshops, etc. The newsletter is available on our website: <http://quiltguildindy.net>. Click on What's Happening at the top of the page to access the newsletter.

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QGI Membership

Membership in the Guild is based on a calendar year. If you join in July, you will need to renew again in January of the next year. Some members renew in November or December in order to avoid the January rush to renew. Membership dues are \$30 a year, with reduced fees for **new members** (have never been a member in the past) of \$15 for those who join in July or later.

The Quilters Guild of Indianapolis (QGI) holds up to three meetings a month in various locations, so chances are you'll find a group that suits your style. (See the upcoming section, "Groups," for more information about each of the three QGI groups: **General QGI**, **QGI North**, and **QGI South**. Since April 2020 meetings are held in person, via Zoom, or hybrid (both Zoom and in person). Check the website (quiltguildindy.net) for the specifics of the meeting you wish to attend.

It is customary to wear a fabric name tag to the meetings. When you arrive at an in-person meeting:

- Sign in at the **Hospitality table**
- Pick up a **raffle ticket** for a door prize
- Look for the **Programs table** to learn about upcoming workshops
- Pick up **fabric to make a charity quilt /pillowcases** or yarn to knit/crochet a hat. See the section "Charity Work" for more information.
- After you settle in, we encourage you to chat with other members and to ask questions so we can get to know you better.

Now that you are a member, you might be interested in bringing your friends to a meeting. Your friends can attend up to two meetings as our guest before joining the Guild. So bring them along and share the fun! Please note that there is a small charge for guests at some of the meetings that includes a nationally known speaker. (See the section, "Member's Benefits" for more information.)

Member Benefits

- Generally there is no charge for meetings. However, we do accept a \$1 voluntary donation to the church hosting the meetings, or to help reduce the room rental costs.
- Bring a guest. A \$5 admission may be required for programs by national speakers.
- Discounts on workshops
- Join a Quilting Bee (a smaller group of like-minded quilters)
- You may enter your quilts in our biennial quilt show!

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Member Contact Information

Member contact information includes the names, addresses, and phone numbers of our members so that you can easily stay in touch. Throughout the year as new members join the Guild, updates are made to the contact information on our website. This information is intended for guild uses only, please do not reuse this data for any other purposes. Commercial uses, spam, outside fundraising groups, or other uses are not approved by the QGI board. Click on the Members title at the top of our website.

Name Tags

We ask all guild members to wear a name tag to all meetings. This helps members get to know one another. The only “rules” are that your name tag be made of fabric and that it bears your name (whether panned, scanned onto fabric, or embroidered).

Door Prizes

At most of the meetings, you will be given a raffle ticket when you sign in at the door. Tickets are drawn later in the meeting to award door prizes such as quilt fabric, patterns, and magazines. You must be wearing your fabric name tag (or be a new member of three months or less who hasn't yet made a fabric name tag) to participate in the door prize drawings. Good luck!

By the way, the Hospitality Chairperson is happy to accept quilting-related donations to use as door prizes, so if you own a quilt shop or are cleaning out your quilting closet, please consider donating new or gently used items to QGI. See the sections on Charity and the Quilt Show for other options to donate.

Volunteering

Our Guild is large, and it takes many hands to help it run smoothly. Luckily, quilters are generous people who give lovingly of their time and talents by volunteering to help. Whether you choose to help out at a meeting by taking attendance, passing out door prizes, or holding up quilts, or if you volunteer more of your time by serving on a committee or on the board, the time you give to our Guild is greatly appreciated. If you know how you want to help, just let the President or Vice President know and they will introduce you to the committee chairperson in charge of that activity.

Volunteering is a great way to get to know other members!

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The Board

The Quilters Guild of Indianapolis, like many large groups, has a board that makes decisions for the group. If there is something about the Guild that you feel passionate about, consider serving on the board where your opinions directly affect the direction the Guild takes. The board meets every other month via Zoom; meeting times appear in the newsletter, and all Guild members are free to attend if they wish. Since April 2020 the board meetings have been held via Zoom.

Refer to our Constitution and Bylaws (located on the Website in About Us), for further information on board positions and board members' respective duties.

Groups

QGI is comprised of three groups, each with its own meeting. As a QGI member, you can attend any or all of the meetings for these three groups. Have fun and attend them all if you like!

The General QGI group meets once a month, on the second Thursday of the month from 7:00-9:00 PM

- This is the largest of the three group meetings, and it features national speakers. If you want to know who is speaking at the General meeting visit the events page on our website.
- This group may offer a Block of the Month.
- If you want to meet most of our members, participate or volunteer in our group activities - charity work, meeting helper, one of the many quilt show committees, or quilting bees.
- Guests are always welcome, but remember that special fees may apply. For example, a \$5 fee is charged at the General group meeting to non-members on those nights a paid speaker is scheduled.

The QGI North group (QGIN) usually meets on the first Friday of the month, from 1:00-3:00 PM.

- These meetings feature local speakers such as quilt shop owners, our talented Guild members, and other speakers sharing quilt-related lectures and trunk shows.
- QGIN may hold its own block of the month (BOM) .
- A small donation of \$1 is asked at admission to this Guild meeting to offset the cost of renting the facility.
- To learn more about what's happening with this group, look for the special QGIN section in the newsletter, or visit the QGI North meeting page on our website.

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The **QGI South group (QGIS)** meets on the fourth Thursday of the month from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

- This group features local speakers such as quilt shop owners and our talented Guild members and a fascinating array of speakers.
- This group may offer a block of the month.
- To learn more about what's happening with this group, look for the special QGIS section in the newsletter, or visit the events page on our website.

Charity Work

We have multiple groups of members that meet every month to give generously of their time in helping those less fortunate. Although the making, finishing, and distribution of charity quilts and other charitable works occur year-round, we celebrate the collective work of our members at special meetings held at each group location. If you would like to help our charitable efforts, there are many ways in which you can participate.

Third Thursday Charity Group

Location: North United Methodist Church, 3808 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis

Meeting Time: 9:30am to 3:00pm

- Come assemble already pieced tops into finished quilts by “pillow-casing” them (sewing a top, back, and batting together with the seams inside like a pillowcase) and either tying or machine quilting the result. Bring your own lunch and sewing machine (if you want to help stitch the tops).
- Piece a charity quilt top. At every meeting, you can pick up material or a kit for making a charity quilt. There are no rules here, as the need is great. To best fit the batting we have on hand, we ask that you sew quilt tops in these rough sizes: baby quilts (45” x 45”), lap quilts for young children (45” x 60”), or larger tops for adults and teens (60” x 85”). The Guild has a vast supply of material for piecing so just ask! You can complete your quilt by using your own batting and your own/charity fabric for the back, although that is not required. After piecing a charity quilt top, bring it to any meeting for completion by the Third Thursday Charity Quilts group and later distribution by our Charity Quilts chairperson.
- Help complete a charity quilt. The “pillowcased” quilts are generally finished by tying with cotton crochet thread. You can pick up a quilt ready to tie and do it on your own or share some time with friends. If you'd like to practice your quilting skills, these quilts can also be pin-based and then finished with whatever type of quilting you prefer.

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- If you are a long-arm quilter, we can always provide you with a set of top, backing, and batting to be quilted. New long-armers can build their confidence using these quilts, and more experienced quilters can always try new techniques or patterns to refine their skills, or just for the warm feeling of sharing your time, talents, and equipment.
- The quilts often need a final step of trimming and binding so if you enjoy this part of the job, we can use your help.
- Bring the completed quilt or top/backing to a meeting for collection and later distribution by our Charity Quilts Chairperson. If you are home bound or can't travel to meetings, contact the Charity Quilts Chairperson for drop-off or pickup of the charity work.
- **QGI Quilt-In.** Every March the Guild celebrates National Quilting Day by hosting one or more "quilt-ins" to benefit local charities. Bring your sewing machine and/or tying supplies (needle, yarn, and scissors) to one of the QGI Quilt-In locations, along with a dish to share, and make a day of it! At each quilt-in, charity quilt tops already pieced by our members are assembled into finished quilts, ready for donation to local charities.
- **Quilts for Premies.** Roughly 16" x 16", these small quilts go a long way towards comforting premature babies (and their families, who wait eagerly for the day they can take their little bundles home)! Premie quilts are quick and easy to complete and are in high demand by local hospitals. These quilts should not include batting. Bring your finished quilts to a meeting for collection and distribution by our Premie Quilt chairperson.
- **Quilts of Valor.** Quilts of Valor are quilts made to honor those touched by war and have wounds that can and cannot be seen. Quilts are preferred to be at least 60" x 80" and no bigger than 72" x 90". These quilts are often red, white, blue and gold. If you would like to honor past and or present military members, bring your completed quilt to a Guild meeting for distribution. Our group is coordinated by Christine Hurley, a Guild members who has taken on this worthy cause. Please visit online at: www.qovf.org for more info.
- **Hats for Charity.** Many of our members enjoy a vast array of hand-crafts, including knitting and crocheting. If you enjoy these arts as well, why not make a knitted or crocheted cap for distribution to the homeless during the winter months? Yarn and patterns are available at Guild meetings; bring your completed hats to a meeting for collection and distribution. Hats may go to schools, cancer centers, refugees, or the homeless population.

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Weekly Tuesday Charity Meeting
Meeting Time: 9:00am to 12:00pm
Irvington United Methodist Church
30 N. Audubon Rd, Indianapolis

Volunteers are needed to sew quilt tops. We meet each Tuesday morning 9:00 am until noon. There is no need to bring anything with you. We have all the supplies including sewing machines. We support a wide variety of charities and welcome new people. You do not have to be a quilter. Come help and get to know some wonderful people. Four of us have been together for 30 years!. Text or call Dallas Reed at 317-363-4116 for instructions on locating the meeting room in the church. Please join fellow quilters in this noteworthy community service. Many thanks!

Block of the Month (BOM)

Each meeting/group may have a BOM program where a new block is shared each month. Some of these groups use the turned in blocks to make charity items, some do a block raffle where one contributor wins all submitted blocks, some just ask you to show your completed block and then keep it to finish a quilt for yourself as a year-end project.

Show and Tell

At each of the three group meetings, QGI members are encouraged to participate in Show and Tell. When it's time for Show and Tell, an announcement is made; members line up with their completed quilts and show them one at a time. When it's your turn, show your quilt and briefly describe its history. Did you make the quilt for a special person or occasion? Why did you choose those particular colors or fabrics? Is it a finished project from a Guild workshop? Share your journey with us!

You can show the same quilt at all three group meetings if you like, but please only show quilts you have pieced or appliqued yourself. It's okay if you paid someone else to quilt the quilt for you.

Special Events and Happenings

The Quilters Guild of Indianapolis holds many special events throughout the year.

Speaker Workshops

The General meeting, held on the second Thursday evening of every month, often hosts nationally acclaimed speakers. These speakers, in turn, may offer workshops where you can learn how to assemble a specific quilt or learn a new skill. Workshops are open to both members and non-members. These workshops sometimes fill up early, so be sure to sign up quickly for the workshops you wish to attend.

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A member of the Programs committee is typically available at each Guild meeting so you can ask questions about the workshops and sign up. Registration forms for workshops are available on the Programs page on our website. Full Day (6 hour) workshop fees are discounted for members. Visit the Programs page on our website or check out the monthly newsletter to learn more about upcoming workshops.

QGI Holiday Party

Hosted by the President of the Guild, the Christmas party combines food, fun, gifts, and special entertainment selected especially for Guild members by your President. Watch the newsletter for details on this year's Christmas Party.

Quilt-In

Every March, the Guild celebrates National Quilting Day with special charitable events. See the earlier section, "Charity Work," for more information.

Quilt Retreat

If you want to get to know your fellow Guild members, what better way to do it than to attend a quilt retreat? Up to two times a year, retreats offer you the chance to sew, commune, and share your craft with a group of your fellow members. Come enjoy a weekend away from your cares and woes as you sew, sew, sew! To learn more about upcoming retreat locations and dates, check out the monthly newsletter.

Quilt Show

Every two years the Guild hosts a quilt show in the fall. The money raised at the quilt show supports the many activities of the guild throughout the year. Only members can enter their quilts in the show, and even have them judged (for ribbons) if they like. A small fee for registering each quilt you want to enter is charged to offset some of the costs of hosting this large show. All types of member quilts are welcome, from traditional wall and bed quilts to art quilts and quilt fashion apparel. The only requirement is that you have not shown the same item at a prior Guild show. (It's okay if the item has appeared at other quilt shows, or if you've shown it at a Guild meeting.)

The quilt show offers many opportunities for you to volunteer, because it takes a lot of planning and many hands to put on the show. Whether you serve on the quilt show committee to help plan the show, or can give only a few hours of your time selling tickets or manning the Peony Shoppe, all are welcome. And what better way to meet your fellow members while enjoying some truly remarkable quilts!

The Peony Shoppe, by the way, accepts your quilting-related donations for sale at the show. Donations are also accepted for the Treasure Baskets (which are raffled off at the show) and Mystery Bags (which are sold for a small fee at the show).