

QUILT GUILD OF GREATER VICTORIA

The Quilt Guild of Greater Victoria is steeped in tradition for the 30+ years of its existence. Founded in 1983, it encompasses the talents of some 100 members who have kept the idea alive that a group of fabric/fiber artists can learn from each other and create a forum where new creativity can be nurtured and taught. The Quilt Guild of Greater Victoria has members who are beginners to those who have been with the group since its inception and are always looking for new members who want to learn more about the art or bring their fresh perspective.

The quilt industry has changed much in the past 30 years. Fabrics and fibers in vivid colors can be made into traditional quilts or morphed into the modern movement where the quilts would not be recognized by the grandmothers of the past. Today the quilter has access to tools such as internet learning channels on You Tube, Craftsy, computerized quilting machines, precut fabrics, Pinterest, and the list goes on.

The ages of the quilt artists are so diverse that there is something for everyone. It's no wonder that quilting art is now a multi-billion dollar industry. The International Quilt Festival and QuiltCon are two national events that showcase the smorgasbord of creations that the current fiber artists are creating.

Who can resist making something you can hang, wear, or snuggle with on the couch?

Each monthly meeting covers the Guild's business and then has an informational program. National or local teachers present a workshop (either ½ day or 1 ½ day) where members can learn new techniques. Workshops for 2017 include creating a Borgello quilt, hand quilting revisited, thread painting, and a nontraditional star quilt.

There is a block of the month drawing at each meeting where the winner gets the blocks made by the group. A fast and easy way to get an entire quilt (some assembly required).

Perhaps the best part of the meeting happens at the conclusion. It is Show and Tell where members can show the projects they've completed, or are currently working on, or need help with. It's like a mini quilt show each month! Visitors are always welcomed to attend two meetings before they decide to join, and membership is open to everyone.

The Guild is active in service to the community. With all this talent (and sewing machines), it's easy to see why this group finds itself making other people's lives a little better with something handmade. In the past the Guild has donated pillows, pajamas, personal care products to the Blue Bonnet Youth Ranch, made fidget blankets for Alzheimers patients at a nursing home, created Quilts of Valor for wounded servicemen, and this year, provided clothing, blankets, stuffed animals, for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners at the local hospital. Donations to Toys

for Tots or the Community Food Bank are done at the annual Christmas Luncheon held in December.

The Guild also enjoyed a fun time at their booth at Maker's Fest hosted by the Victoria Public Library in July. Children of all ages were able to create a unique quilt block with glue and paper demonstrating how a few triangles and squares can turn out so differently for everyone.

Each year the Guild hosts a children's sewing day during the summer where sewing and finishing a project like a pillow case, book bag, or zipper case comes with the help from the members. In May, the Guild hangs a sampling of modern and traditional quilts, wall hangings, wearables, and miscellaneous projects at the Victoria Public Library with the hope that these items bring joy to the library patrons. The Guild also displays a different quilt each month at the IBC Bank on Navarro.

Come join the Quilt Guild of Greater Victoria as they embark on another year of projects and activities. The meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 3604 N. Ben Jordan.

Mark your calendars for **Quilt Fest 2017 "A Celebration of Color" March 31 – April 1, 2017 at Holy Family Catholic Church Activity Center**. This annual festival is the local offering of vendors, classes, auctions, scrap dive, and beautiful quilts created in Victoria and surrounding counties. You can get an idea of the kaleidoscope that is the quilt world at this festival. See www.quiltguildvictoria.org for more details.