



TCQG News

Serving Northwest Harris,
Montgomery & Waller
Counties in Texas

Volume 22 Issue 1
January 2026

From The President's Stash

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

(Wow! It feels strange to say that already.)

First, I would like to thank all of the 2025 Executive Committee members that volunteered to return in their position for another year. They're a great group to work with. Also, I would like to welcome two new members of the Executive Committee. Rhonda VanAlstine is our new VP of Administration who brings a wealth of knowledge of how our Board works. Kristie Boston is our new Jr. Program Chairperson, and she brings experience as a Program Director for another guild. Regina Eardley steps up from Jr. Program Chairperson to Sr. Program Chairperson, and she's looking to bring us the best year ever. 2026 possibly could be our best year yet!

You would think with the holidays over, we, as quilters, could take a break. And yet, here we are screeching to the finish line of our TCQG 2026 Quilt Show on February 27-28! That's just 2 months away. By the time you get this issue of the newsletter, the holidays are over and there's nothing to stop you from finishing your entry quilts or quilting projects. Let's get going!

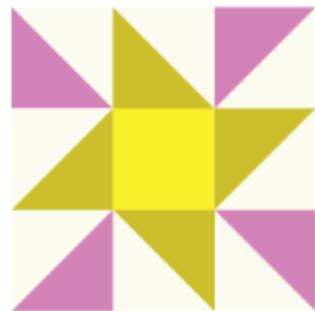
(continued on Page 2)

Meetings begin promptly at 7p.m, so we can adjourn on time. The front doors will be closed at 6:55, and the members will be asked to take their seats. This will allow the various committee heads & board members to get into the meeting on time. Come early so you have time to sign in, check out any raffles or upcoming workshops, visit the magazines, etc.

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January BOM Eccentric Star



Meetings

Fairfield Baptist Church
27240 Highway 290
Cypress, Texas
On 290 westbound
between
Mueschke and Mason Road.
1st Tuesday of the month,
7pm-9pm
tricountyguild@gmail.com



Along with you, Treasure Aisle, Tin Can Raffle, Gift Boutique and the other committees are wrapping up their preparations for the show. We're all in the final stages of getting ready, but there's one more thing.

I know you're going to step up to volunteer at the show, and YOU know you're going to volunteer, so let's stop putting it off and let's let DENISE know you're going to volunteer. She's getting nervous looking at all of the blank spots on the Sign-Up Genius page. She'll have paper sign-up sheets at the January 6 meeting for you or you can still sign up online, but let's make that commitment now.

As I said earlier, we have a great group serving as our Executive Committee, but we need you! If you have an idea that you'd like us to look at or you have a suggestion that you think will improve our guild, please let someone on the board know. And you can always call me.

Let's continue to make Tri-County Quilt Guild the best guild around!

See you January 6!

Elaine Bullard
2026 President
918-808-2667
elainebullard53@yahoo.com

Beverly Jones, a long time TCQG member, passed away early Sunday morning, December 14, 2025. She had been ill since late January. Beverly was an active member of the Bee Czars Bee and also of Charity Bee. She was a dedicated sewer of drawstring bags and Christmas stockings. She usually took a large number of bags and stockings home each month and would return to the next meeting with them all completed.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. At this time, we don't have any information about a service for her. If you wish to send a card to her family, you might want to let them know how you knew Beverly.

Bill Jones and Janet Geess
32120 Divot Dr.
Waller, TX 77484



Donation Opportunity

These can be done by individual guild members. Connie Kortz at My Fabric Friends quilt shop in Victoria is running the Poppy Block drive. She is collecting completed quilts, quilt tops, or just blocks which they will combine with other donations to complete 1,000 poppy block quilts. They will go to the girls who were at the Hill Country camps on the morning of the flood this past summer. The pattern will be in the email sent to the guild. The pattern is 5 across and 7 down. Donations of backing or binding (7 strips of 42") are also being accepted.

Mary Ellen Adkison (713-480-3834) will collect the blocks and get them to Connie. Please get to her by the February meeting. Mary Ellen is collecting sunflower blocks yellow and blue 12.5 unfinished size. See the email for the pattern.

Tri-County Guild Officers Elected

At our December guild meeting, we elected officers for 2026. Please congratulate our new officers and lend your support as they serve in the new year.

President Elaine Bullard

Vice President for Administration Rhonda VanAlstine

Vice President for Financial Oversight Donna Vandiver

Secretary Robin Galvin

Membership Chair Jaine Jewell

Junior Program Chair Kristie Boston



Almost all of our members have already renewed for 25-26. If you have not done so yet, click [HERE](#) to go to the membership page on our website.

Online credit card payments for membership renewal are fast and preferred!

If you wish to pay cash or check at the meeting you MUST enter all of your information on the membership page of [TriCountyQuilt-Guild.org](#) PRIOR to the meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to me at TriCountyGuild@gmail.com

Jaine Jewell Membership 25-26



Happy Birthday to These Members!

Clark Johnson - 1st
Mary Pennington - 6th
Kathleen LeBlanc - 8th
Marian Page - 9th
Michelle Hines - 11th
Carolyn Niemann - 12th

Ann Keilers - 13th
Marisa Wilhelmi - 17th
Belinda Wheeler - 21st
Mary Ann Craig - 22nd
Lori Smith - 23rd
Christine Luciani - 26th

Beverly McGaughey - 26th
Natalie Pryor - 27th
Marsha Franty - 28th
Jean Chapman - 28th
Marilyn Thomas - 31st

welcome

Welcome to our newest member!

Abbie Bailie



Block of the Month is changing in 2026!

What's the same? Each month I will send out a new block pattern in the newsletter. The kits will be available at the meetings each month. For the 3 months where we don't have meetings, I will bring kits for 2 different blocks to the following meeting.

What's different? This year, there will be a final mystery quilt top made of 12 - 12" blocks. If you'd like to make the quilt on your own, you can either make it scrappy and play as you get each month's pattern, or you can use the fabric requirements below to make a quilt out of yardage.

If you have any questions, I'd love to hear your thoughts!

Becca

news4tcqg@gmail.com | 832.689.2808

Fabric Requirements

A	2/3 yard
B	1/3 yard
C	1/2 yard
D	1/4 yard
E	1/4 yard

Background **1 yard**

***Cutting Instructions will be available by the January meeting**



January Block of the Month - Eccentric Star

Adapted from a Moda Blockheads block by Linzee Kull McCray

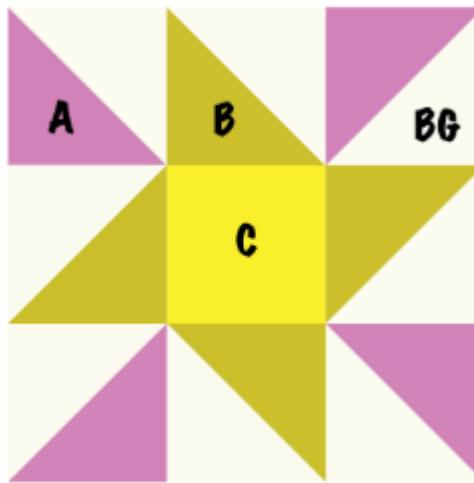
What you'll need:

Background Fabric (BG)
(4) 5" squares

Fabric A
(2) 5" squares

Fabric B
(2) 5" squares

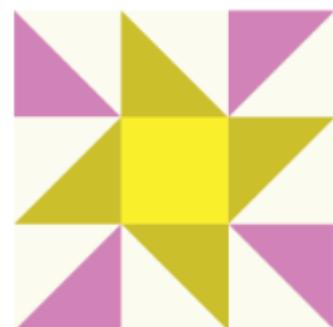
Fabric C
(1) 4 1/2" square



This is perfect for charms or 5" square scraps. You can even use a couple favorite fat eighths for the colored fabrics!

Steps:

1. On the wrong side of each BG square, draw a line from one corner to the opposing corner.
2. Place BG squares right sides together with each of the A and B squares. Stitch a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam on both sides of the drawn line.
3. Cut the square apart on the line to yield two HSTs, and press the seams to the darker triangles.
4. Trim HSTs to 4 1/2".
5. Stitch the units together following the diagram with fabric C square in the center of the 9-patch.



If you have any questions, email me at news4tcqg@gmail.com



Upcoming Lectures:

January: Sherilyn Mortensen of Sea Sherilyn Sew will be offering a workshop on Free Motion Quilting on the domestic machine on January 7.

She is the author of Ultimate Beginner's Guide to Free Motion Quilting and co-author of several other books with her sisters, Jenny Pedigo and Helen Robinson of Sew Kind of Wonderful. To sign up email Regina.Eardley@gmail.com.





Celebration 20 Quilt Show News

Less than two months until the Quilt Show! The show chairs are busy getting the final details taken care of and getting ready for the show. Volunteers are still needed for the two days of the show as well as setting up the Thursday before and for round one of quilt intake on Saturday before the show. Lots of opportunities to get involved. Please pay attention to the emails going out with details on volunteering and final preparations. We need your help to make sure we have a great show.

Becky Burkett and Donna Vandiver
Co-Chairs



Celebration 20 Quilt Show Judges

SHAWN SICKLE, NACQJ Certified Judge

Quilting was something that Shawn Sickle admired from afar while she was busy raising a family and running a business. Her mother was an avid quilter, and they would regularly go to quilt shows over the years. Then in 2010, the opportunity came to make a quilt for her first granddaughter, and the rest is history, as they say.



That first quilt sparked an interest that has since blossomed into a passion. In 2018, she was introduced to longarm quilting which expanded her repertoire and catapulted the progression into quilt judging.

Since becoming a candidate of the National Association of Certified Quilt Judges (NACQJ), Shawn is actively judging and working in shows throughout the country. In 2023, she was a finalist in the Cherrywood Fabric Challenge and the Hoffman Fabric Challenge, as well as being juried into a Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA) show. Shawn is driven to pursue a judging certification through the NACQJ to share her passion for the craft as well as to empower and encourage fellow quilters.



Celebration 20 Quilt Show Judges

LOIS KINDLEY, Candidate NACQJ Judge

Lois Kindley is an award-winning quilt artist and longarm professional with over 45 years of experience, having created hundreds of quilts and quilted more than 500 customer pieces nationwide. She has had quilting featured on The Quilt Show and has exhibited and been juried into multiple AQS and IQF shows. She has taught quiltmaking to adults, children, and inmates. She is in the final stage of certification in the NACQJ's candidacy program, as she recognizes and values excellence in quilt show judging.



JUDGING PHILOSOPHY

As a quilt show judge, she strives to recognize and award excellence in workmanship and design in quiltmaking. She hopes that the comments she shares will be insightful and helpful, and that they encourage the maker who has worked so hard to complete and enter their artwork into a show.



January Boutique News

First of all, we would like to say “thank you” to all the members who have donated, planned, taught, sewn, and other behind the scenes necessary work that makes our Tri County Quilt Guild one of the best!

COMING SOON!

Plan to come early to our January TCQG meeting! The Boutique will be open for review and capture! You will be able to reserve some of our lovely items [quilted jackets, upscaled jean jackets, Show and Tell Bags]. We will safely keep them for you to purchase and take home with you at the Quilt Show. See you in the Lobby with Libby!

JANUARY 21 WORKSHOP

While working through some of the Boutique storage containers, we surprisingly discovered quilted fabric ready to be transformed into Show and Tell Bags! The Show and Tell Bags always are popular Boutique items at our Quilt Shows!

We will have the fabric cut and ready to sew! Thank you, Debby Dodge for your leadership in this project!

For this workshop you will need to bring your sewing machine, size 14 needles are suggested, 40 or 50 weight neutral colored thread, scissors, cutting mat, a long cutting ruler and rotary cutter with a fresh blade. A WALKING FOOT WILL BE NECESSARY. We could also use an extra serger.

Please RSVP to Diana at 281-435-7144 or Elaine at 918-808-2667.



“Celebration 20”

SCHOOLHOUSE

Learn something new! Join us in the Schoolhouse at the 2026 TCQG quilt show. Two days of fun learning, and no test at the end!

- Gain quilting tips from expert quilters at our **“Ask a Quilter”** table.
- View a specially curated collection of red, white, and blue quilts at a **bed turning exhibition**.
- Take a fun photo at the **Selfie Station**.
- Attend one or more **exciting sessions!**



New this year in the Schoolhouse!

Make Your Own T-Shirt Quilt

Facilitator: Kristi Grove – TCQG member

Cost: \$35.00

(pre-registration required. class fee includes entry into the 2026 TCQG show)

Friday, February 27 2:30pm-4:00pm

or

Saturday, February 28 8:30am-10:00am

- gain ideas for selecting t-shirts for your quilt
- learn an easy technique for calculating block and row dimensions
- practice stabilizing and cutting a block
- view examples of completed t-shirt quilts, and more!

Leave the session with one or more shirts ready to integrate into a quilt. A detailed handout will be provided to guide you in the completion of your project.

Class registration starts in January!



2026 Schoolhouse Sessions

Attend at no cost to you!

Facilitator: Lisa Hart, Tri-County Quilt Guild Member and Owner, Handmade by Hart

Rest tired feet, and view a beautiful collection of red, white, and blue quilts during this popular session as we celebrate Tri-County Quilt Guild's 20th anniversary and our nation's upcoming semi-quicentennial.

Fri Feb 27 12:30pm-1:15pm

Sat Feb 28 11:45am-12:15pm

Fabric Flowers

Facilitator: Nancy Youens, Tri-County Quilt Guild Board Member and Celebrate 20 Featured Quilter

Express your creativity in this hands-on session as you learn a technique for making beautiful non-sew fabric flowers. Create a flower during class and leave with ideas on how to use fabric flowers to add beauty to a personal space of your choosing.

Fri Feb 27 11:45am-12:30pm

Sat Feb 28 12:15pm-1:00pm

Playing Around with Disappearing Flying Geese

Facilitator: Jackie Hillman, Tri-County Quilt Guild Member

Join award-winning quilter Jackie Hillman for this hands-on workshop featuring her signature Disappearing Flying Geese technique, including a lecture, and trunk show of many of her quilts showcased at International Quilt Festival in 2023. Participants will explore various ways to split Flying Geese blocks, along with inspiration for designing their own blocks using split Flying Geese paper pieces. Participants will receive handouts including design suggestions and charts for creating blocks in different sizes.

Fri Feb 27 10:45am-11:30am

Sat Feb 28 2:15pm-3:00pm

Slow Stitching 101

Facilitator: Patty Mooney, Tri-County Quilt Guild Member

Slow stitching is an ancient practice that combines traditional hand-stitching with creativity and promotes both relaxation and sustainability. Participants will practice various slow-stitch techniques on a quilt block.

Fri Feb 27 1:00pm-1:45pm

Sat Feb 28 1:15pm-2:00pm

Quilty Tips and Tools

Facilitator: Bridgette Woods, Tri-County Quilt Guild Member

Hear quilting tips from expert quilters and gain guidance on how to use those nifty gadgets stashed away in your sewing room. Share your favorite tool, a helpful tip, or just sit back and soak up some knowledge from seasoned quilters.

Sat Feb 28 11:15am-12:00pm

Using African Wax Prints in Quilting Projects

Facilitator: Stephanie Moss, Tri-County Quilt Guild Member

Learn more about African wax prints (Ankara) and discover ways to integrate these vibrant textiles in quilting projects. View items made using these rich, colorful fabrics and be inspired to use African wax prints in your next project. Attendees receive an informative handout and a sample of Ankara fabric.

Sat Feb 28 10:30am-11:00am

Space is limited. All sessions are on a first-come first-served basis.



Bed Turning at the Quilt Show

We are bringing back the bed turning in 2026 as we celebrate 20 years of our guild. The bed turning will take place in the schoolhouse area during the quilt show.

A bed turning is a presentation where a variety of quilts are shown and discussed. We have done a different theme each time that the bed turning was held in the past.

2012 was vintage quilts

2014 was vintage baby quilts

2016 was 2 color quilts

2026 will be red, white and blue quilts

We will use two tables placed side by side to simulate a bed. The head end will be elevated for easier viewing by the audience. All of the quilts are stacked up and after each one is discussed, it is folded back, revealing the quilt underneath it. This is repeated until all quilts have been shown.

Guild members, if you have a red, white and blue quilt that you would like to have featured in the bed turning, please reach out to **Lisa Hart**. There will be a different form for the bed turning than the forms for entering a quilt into the show. This is a display only area, it is not for judged quilts. There are a limited number of spots available.



Three Tips for January

This Facebook video shows a unique way to finish the end of a narrow tie for a garment or sewn item. Courtesy of Elaine Bullard

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/841070615397845>

To easily aid in picking up pins, buy a magnetic wand from Amazon or a teacher supply store.



Seam guide - apply blue painter's tape along any seam allowance to keep the fabric edge straight.





Tri-County's Fabulous Bees



Remember: you must be a paid member to participate in our Bees.



Our Bees create a strong sense of a quilting community within the guild. Consider becoming a Beekeeper! Organize your bee, find a location, contact the Queen Bee Chair to let her know, and go from there!

Charla Reese, Queen Bee, charla361@yahoo.com



BEE Czars: Meets the 4th Saturday of the month at The Quilty Shop. We choose projects as a group or work on our UFO's. We plan on two retreats a year. If you are interested in joining this bee please call to be put on a waiting list.

Bee Keepers: Ann Keilers 832-515-1081 or Marian Page 281-797-3014.



Day Strippers: Daystrippers is the only bee that has been with TCQG since its beginning. It meets at Cypress Crossing Christian Church on the second Friday of each month from 10 - 2. They work on personal projects and occasionally go on retreats and to quilt shows together. There are currently no openings in this bee. However, you can contact the beekeeper to be put on a waiting list. New members have been moving in through the list!

Bee Keeper: Judy Klevorn jklevorn@gmail.com



Quilty Pleasures Meets on the second and fourth Monday from 1:30-4:30 at The Quilty Shop. We mostly work on individual projects with an occasional group project. Our Bee is currently closed to new members but contact either of the CoBee Keepers to be added to a waiting list.

Bee Keepers: Deb Durr dpdurr1@yahoo.com and Anita Arendall



Quilter's Dozen: Meets the 4th Thursdays at The Quilty Shop from 10-4:30. We have great times together! This bee has openings.

Bee Keeper: Charmaine Fritchey cfritchey@gmail.com



Grateful Threads: Formerly "We Be Quilters". We have changed our meeting time to the THIRD THURSDAY -once a month- at the Quilty Shop in Tomball from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. Now a full day!! We are a "sassy" group of Quilters who meet to sew whatever you are working on, a long lost "UFO", hand work, etc. Come to share tips, get ideas, and socialize. Come when you can, no experience necessary. Contact Bee Keeper, Stacy Chandler , to be included in our great group. An email is sent out prior to the Bee to remind you to RSVP. Come and have a great sewing day with us in a beautiful quilting shop.

Bee Keeper, Stacy Chandler stacey1622003@yahoo.com

Quirky Quilters: This bee is for those quilters who want to push the boundaries of traditional quilting by exploring textile art. This may include, but not limited to, collage, fabric painting, mixed media, free motion quilting, slow stitching, raw edge applique, pixelated blocks, foundation paper piecing, and thread painting. The purpose is to share ideas and techniques, encourage creativity, and seek feedback in a safe environment. We will work on our own projects, possibly invite guest speakers, and learn from one another. If this sounds like fun, give this bee a try. Quirky Quilters meets at The Quilty Shop on the third Thursday of each month from 5-9pm. **This bee is accepting new members!** Contact Regina Eardley, Beekeeper, at Regina.Eardley@gmail.com.

Charity Bee: Meets at Cypress Crossing Christian Church on the 4th Wednesday of each Month from 9:30-1:00. 15751 Cypress Rosehill Rd, Cypress, TX 77429. **Charity Bee needs new members and volunteers. We are growing and we need help in getting our project needs fulfilled. The activities we perform are not difficult; just very busy. We will help you learn everything you need to know.**

Any questions, please contact Mary Willyerd, Janet Winkler, or Karen Cook.



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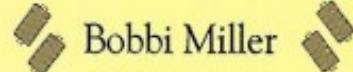
Wrap up in a quilt, feel the hug!

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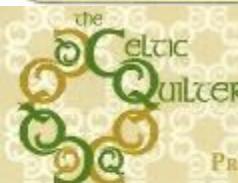
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