



Along the Towpath

New Quilting Group Meets

A new organization devoted to quilting, The Towpath Quilt Guild, has grown out of the Fayetteville Free Library's quilt month series.

The group has members from Fayetteville, Manlius and Cazenovia, and is welcoming more. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 14 at Merchants Bank, Fayetteville,

at 10 a.m.

The program will cover drafting a square, making templates, and hand piecing. Following the lecture, members and visitors will share quilted gift ideas.

Michael James, an award-winning American quilt artist, will speak Monday, August 25 at DeWitt Community Church,

at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to his lecture are available through guild officers or at the Fabric Barn, Fayetteville.

Newly-elected Guild officers are Marty Browne, president; Leland Burnham, vice-president; Barbara Western, recording secretary; Jean Hughes, corresponding secretary; and Phyliss Scutt, treasurer.

Suburban Life, July 8, 1981.

Friendship has been the glue that has kept the Towpath Quilt Guild going strong for 40 years. Even though we work alone at our machines or with out needles and threads and pieces of cloth, we come together and share our work, plan special events, enjoy each others food, share joys and sorrows and learn from each other. Forty years ago we started with a large body of traditional patterns and embraced what we called the American Quilt. Since then we have discovered patching, appliqué, quilting, and embroidery traditions from around the world to enrich our work. We have new tools: rotary cutters, specialized rulers, our camera, fancy machines, computers, and dozens of books and magazines. The quilting world has enabled many quilters to become business owners.

This issue of *Along the Towpath* is devoted to the very early years of the guild. Jo Coon remembers 5 or 6 women getting together at Rebekah Clark's house and then meeting at Merchant's Bank. So many people showed up for that second meeting they took all the parking places and had to find another place for meetings. Getting a suggestion from the embroiderer's guild, the group stated meeting at the Fayetteville Methodist Church. Very quickly the early members chose a name, had a contest to create a logo, elected officers, wrote by-laws, created a banner, held a show and sponsored nationally known quilters to speak. The membership quickly approached 140 which was the limit at the church. Members held sales of their quilted goods to raise money for the guild. Many members like Jo had experience in sewing but no experience with making a quilt block. Jo remembers being stymied by the math involved in piecing and so turned to appliqué. She became a quilt designer, national award winner and teacher, and created pattern and fabric lines. Marty Bowne, the first president, became a writer and editor for the American Quilt Society magazine and started two naturally known quilt conferences. Sharon Souva has made a living selling her quilts and wall hangings and now teaches at Cazenovia college. We will learn more about our founders and the talented members who have created such a vital guild.

Marty Bowne First President of Towpath Quilt Guild Shares Her Memories

How did I begin to become interested in quilts? It probably came about through a myriads of interests; first of all, I had always been a home sewer making my clothes in high school and college and then continued sewing for three daughters and a son; second, my maternal grandmother made me a drunkards path quilt; third, color fascinated me, and I liked to read. These all combined when I worked at the Fabric Barn in Fayetteville. With the event of the bicentennial, the back to the earth movement, the push for the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) and women exploring new fields, starting small businesses, writing books, publishing magazines and taking adult education classes, quilting was reinvigorated. Women were branching out to exploring new arenas. I do not keep a journal, so the time lines from my recollections may be a trifle out of sequences but the facts about what happened are the story.

Doreen Allen, who owned the Fabric Barn, a popular fabric store on Brooklea Street in Fayetteville. was aware enough to see that offering classes in sewing and quilting brought customers into her shop. She employed two quilting teachers who insisted that quilt fabrics should be 100% cotton. I was not yet a quilter who didn't understand this requirement. However, I loved color and solving problems, so when the students came for advice, I really liked helping them with their quilting. I decided to try it out in a small way. First, I pieced a block and quilted it without a backing or batting. When I showed it to Genie Barnes, one of the teachers, she graciously told me, I had to use three layers. So, I used a piece of flannel I had from my kids clothes, and an old sheet for the backing. Hand quilting through that discouraged me, but I decided to take an adult quilting class at our local High School from Barbara Trudeau. (Editor's note: Barbara's quilts almost always won Best of Show at the Towpath quilt shows.) It was a basic course. At this time, I discovered *Quilter's Newsletter* magazine and subscribed.

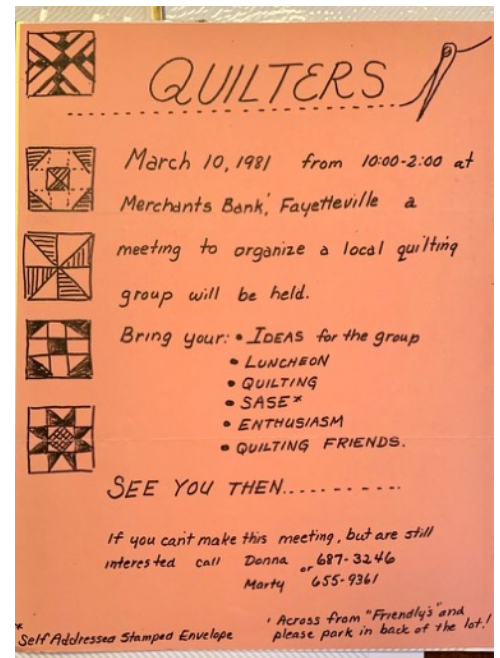
Much to my amazement, there were some articles by national quilters that brought the traditional into a more innovative design area. The quilts of Maria McCormick Snyder, Elizabeth Busch, Yvonne Porcella, Terrie Mangat, Beth and Jeffrey Gutcheon and Michael James broke from the tradition of the bed quilt . Articles by Jean Ray Laury fascinated and inspired me to find out more.

In Camillus, west of Syracuse, Joyce Wightman had a small quilt shop in a strip mall. She had classes and invited Jinny Beyer to come to make a presentation open to all quilters.

Also in this area a quilt guild had formed, Thumbstall Quilt Guild. I met some of the quilters from this area and realized a quilt was a bonus in addition to making friends.

Several of us in the eastern area of Syracuse had formed a few little classes and challenges. These were spearheaded by Lee Burnham who lived very near the Fayetteville Library. She put up a sign in the library for those interested in forming a group to meet. We had our first meeting in the bank building at the top of the hill in Fayetteville

There were women from Chittenango, Jamesville, Dewitt, Fayetteville, Cazenovia, East Syracuse, and Minoa anxious to get an organization started. These enthusiastic women worked hard to make the group open to all and to increase the membership. I wish I could remember the names of those early officers and members, but I am unable to remember them all. At this time I read in *Quilters Newsletter* about a quilt



Continued on page 3

conference in Nantucket with 7 teachers about whom I had been reading: Michael James, the Gutcheons, Jean Ray Laury, Micheal, Jinny Avery and Carter Houck. So, ever anxious to learn more, I signed up for the workshops. Prior to going I bumped into Mary Lou Schwinn, who was working with adult education at Cazenovia College. I told her about the conference I was attending, and questioned her about the possibility of holding a quilting conference. She suggested I talk with the organizers of the Nantucket workshop, and so I did while there. This was the beginning of **Quilting by the Lake**.

That trip also prompted the first joint venture of Thumbstall and Towpath Quilt Guilds. While at the conference I talked with Micheal James who was living in Rochester at the time. I asked him if he would come and speak to the combined guilds at the Dewitt Community Church. He presented his lecture in 1981. The tickets for his lecture brought in enough money for the treasuries of the two guilds. Another joint program with these guilds brought in Jean Ray Laury, a regular contributor to *Quilters Newsletter*. She presented a lecture at the Civic Center, Syracuse.

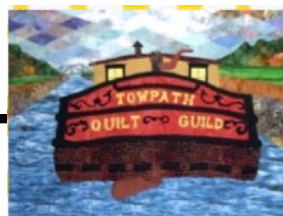
Towpath Quilt Guild wrote bylaws and started on its successful way. On my 50th birthday in 1981 I was elected the first president of Towpath Quilt Guild. It is with great pleasure I continue to hear about their meetings and activities. All the successes have been achieved through the enthusiastic support of the members.

CONGRATULATIONS. MAY TOWPATH QUILT GUILD CONTINUE FOR MANY MORE YEARS..

Marty Bowne



Lee Burnham was a major force in starting Towpath Quilt Guild. She was friends with many of the leading quilters across America such as Judi Warren Blaydon. Drafting patterns and meticulous piecing were the focus of her teaching.



Michael James: Towpath Quilt Guild's First Program

Hello Noel,

It was very kind of you to contact me about the Towpath Quilt Guild's upcoming 40th anniversary. The news article with the photograph that you attached was pretty sobering!! Wow! 40 years - that's a lot of water (and quilting thread) under the bridge. Congratulations to the Guild, and to your charter members! I certainly remember Marty Bowne very fondly, and teaching a number of times in Cazenovia over the years. The truth is, in many ways it seems like just yesterday - then I'm confronted by my curmudgeonly visage in the mirror and I'm shocked back to reality. It was a lot of fun back then, when the post-Bicentennial quilt movement was going strong, and people like me were young and brash and full of energy. So many guilds have managed to grow and prosper since then - it's great that yours is among them. The Lincoln Quilt Guild here is still going strong as far as I know. They were responsible for organizing and staging one of the first national quilt conferences here in 1977, just a month or so after the big one in Ithaca that summer, where I believe I may have first met Marty. I know that Jeff and Beth Gutcheon were there, as was Jean Ray Laury and Myron and Patsy Orlofsky. Nice memories - so many of the circuit teachers are now gone - Jeff Gutcheon, Virginia Avery, Yvonne Porcella come to mind - but I still stay in touch with some of the other "seniors" among us. In fact, had lunch in NYC with Beth Gutcheon as recently as two years ago. See what you've done? You've opened a Memory Lane can of worms!

**I do send sincere best wishes to your Guild and its steadfast members!
Wishing you forty more years of camaraderie and uplift!**

Sincerely,

Michael James



Michael James, an authority on quilts, autographed copies of his book "The Quiltmaker's Handbook" at a recent meeting of the Towpath Quilt Guild. Members of the group, Donna Fuller, M. James and Barbara Western, are enjoying the event.

Quilter Visits New Group

Michael James, artist and quilt maker, was the speaker recently at a program sponsored by the newly organized Towpath Quilt Guild. Mr. James showed numerous slides to illustrate "Inspirations and Innovations in American Quiltmaking," discussing new work by American quilt artists.

He also displayed several of his own quilts.

Trained in painting and print-making, Mr. James is a self-taught quiltmaker whose work has appeared in numerous exhibitions both in this country and abroad. He has also written two books about quilting.

The Towpath Quilt Guild welcomes new members interested in quilts and quilting. Meetings are in the Merchants Bank of

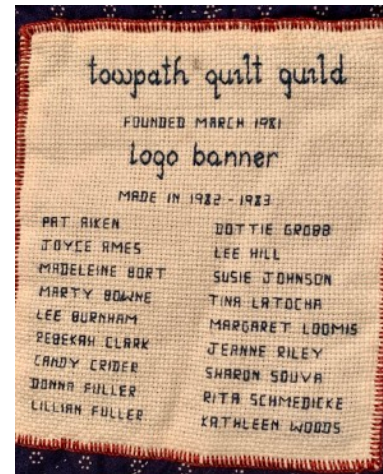
Fayetteville at 10 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

On September 15, Mary Helen Foster, who teaches quilting at Syracuse University, will speak on many aspects of quilting including Hawaiian appliques and Seminole patchwork.

To join contact Phyllis Scutt, 348 South Webber Dr., Chittenango, 13037.



The original banner displayed at meetings. Jane Tracy made the one we currently use. Label on back of banner is on right with the name of many of the original members.



Quilt Show 1982



Towpath party early 80's.

Quilt historian Julie Silber will speak today on "American Quilts, a Handmade Legacy."

Silber, of Oakland, has collected and studied quilts for 16 years. She formerly was associated with Mary Strikler's Quilt, a gallery of antique quilts and other American folk art.

She now is active as a lecturer, teacher, author and exhibit curator. Her Syracuse visit is sponsored by two area quilting groups: The Thumbstall Quilt Guild of Marcellus and Skaneateles, and the Towpath Quilt Guild of Fayetteville. She'll speak at 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Route 690 and Farrell Road. Admission is \$5.

Sy. Post Standard
 Sept 20, 1983



From Our Co-Presidents

As we continue to navigate this time of unprecedented uncertainty, we are working with the Board of Directors and our members to continue all the wonderful initiatives that have been the backbone of Towpath Quilt Guild. 2021 was slated to be a quilt show year, but due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the board made the difficult decision to postpone the quilt show indefinitely. As the situation evolves, and when we all feel safe again, we will return to planning a bigger and better quilt show- the best in Central New York! We have a beautiful quilt ready to raffle, and plenty of time to plan an event that will showcase the talent and creativity of our membership.

At this time, the church is not available to us for our monthly member meetings due to COVID restrictions. We are offering meetings and presentations on ZOOM, and so far, have enjoyed them. In October we hosted Leah McComas for a virtual lecture and our November speaker was Ellen Blalock- both talented and accomplished artists. We know our members are staying creative during these unusual times, and many shared their creations on the website and at our "Virtual Show and Tell" ZOOM meeting in January. The February meeting will present another opportunity to share your creations with another show and tell focusing on projects created during the COVID lockdown. We hope to continue to offer inspiration, education and some fun experiences virtually until the time we can all safely meet again.

As co-presidents, we want to thank those who have come before us and who are continuing to offer guidance and support. As in years past, the talent, vision and dedication of Towpath members will carry us forward. We anxiously anticipate the time we can gather in person.

Happy Quilting!

Terri Feola Missv Albert. Co-Presidents



Past Presidents' Note

What a year!!

In July, 2019 Towpath Quilt Guild had their quilt show. It was attended by over 500 people and so many great comments about all the quilts that were displayed. Everyone who participated should be proud of their accomplishments.

We did not sign up for a pandemic and the cancellation of two wonderful Quilt Guild meetings that did not take place. Our June meeting is still in question. We will let you know as soon as we know if the church is open and meetings are possible.

We are in awe of what everyone has been doing to help others. First: All the quilts and blankets that are to be donated to the YMCA downtown will benefit many. This is also going on as our Service Project for 2020-2021. Second: The donation for baby quilts and blankets for the McMahon Ryan/Child Advocacy Center has also been ongoing by several members. Third: Mask Making Professionals: There are so many of you who made masks for family, friends and different organizations. I know masks were made for the Residential Health Care Facility, Nottingham, local Nursing Homes, Eastern Farm Workers, Hospice Centers, The VA, Cral Contracting, Inc. and the homeless population of Syracuse.

Probably if all were to be counted it might total 2,000+. Well done Towpath Quilt Guild for caring about others. This Guild can be proud of all the outreach they do and have been doing for many years. Be safe and be well.

We have been privileged to have a Board that has met and taken on many topics and lots of discussion over making sure our Guild is functioning as it should be and conforming to the By-Laws that were revised and voted on last year.

As our year draws to a close we would like to say thank you to each of you and to give Missy and Terri the support and encouragement you have given us this year.

This Guild is AWESOME. We are so proud to be a part of it and to have been Co-Presidents this year.

Arlene and Barbara



Apron worn by hostesses our quilt shows.
Retired after 2005

FOR SALE: Lightly used Elna Excellence 760 Pro in like new condition with made-to-fit inset table. \$1300 firm. Contact Carol Holladay (cholladay63@gmail.com or 315-342-5652) for more details and/or pictures. Closest to Elna Excellence 730 Pro on elnausa.com website, but has 270 decorative stitches.



Quilting For A Friend

Women who share the bond of a love of quilting gathered on the front porch of a Fayetteville home recently to make a Friendship Quilt for one of their own who is moving out of state this summer.

Kathy Woods of Minoa, a member of the Towpath Quilt Guild, is moving to Louisville, Ky. As a remembrance of the many hours they have shared discussing and studying quilting, members of the guild decided to make a quilt using the state capital pattern for Albany and Frankfort, Ky., the capitals of Mrs. Woods's current and future home states.

Each of the 24 pattern blocks of the quilt was made by a different member of the guild. They were connected and the quilt was basted before various members of the group met Tuesday, June 5, at what the women call "the quilt house of Fayetteville," the home of Lee Burnham on Genesee St., to have an old-fashioned quilting bee.

This is the first time the mem-



What better way to spend a warm summer morning than to have a quilting bee? Members of the Towpath Quilt Guild working on a Friendship Quilt for Kathy Woods, who is moving to Louisville, Ky. this summer are, from left, Kathy Woods, Madeleine Bort, Mary Jo Deysach, Rebekah Clark, Marty Bowne, Lee Burnham, Judy Wallace, Sharon Souva, Candy Crider and Debby Rollenhagen.

bers have gotten together for a group effort, said Marty Bowne, past president of the guild. "Quilting remains a solitary effort."

Eight women at a time, four on each side of the quilting frame, spent more than eight hours to make the tiny quilting stitches that connect the pattern front to the padding and backing of the quilt.

Including the time spent to make each block (about two hours each) and to baste the material together, about 75 hours of work was involved in

the quilt before the women began their quilting bee.

The finished quilt will be presented to Mrs. Woods.

There are about 130 members of the Towpath Quilt Guild from as far away as Ithaca and Oswego, in addition to the suburbs of Syracuse, who meet the second Tuesday of every month at the Fayetteville United Methodist Church. A nationally-known quilting expert will speak or there will be a workshop at the meetings. Quilting is done on an individual basis.

Service Project Quilts



Masks

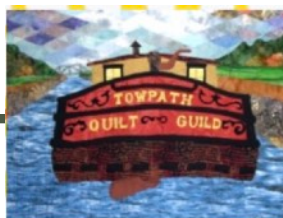
Members of Towpath have made hundreds of masks. Here is just one response.

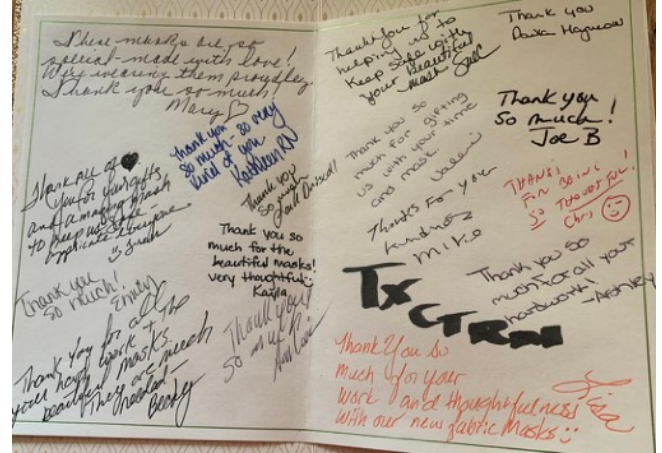
Hi Mom, I have no idea how many were in the last batch. As soon as it hit my office some were taken. I would guess around 20 were in there. So far your group has provided masks to the entire staff of the Nottingham RHCF. This includes masks for them to use when they are outside of work. All of the residents who needed a mask were given one. The food service departments at our main campus and Auburn facility all received masks as well as our entire finance department. I have taken bags of masks to main campus for staff. I took another bag over to main campus yesterday for residents. The healthcare workers are not the only heroes in all of this. You and your quilt guild members are also heroes. Thank you for helping keep our staff safe which then keeps our residents safe. Love, Tracy

From Barbara Christian—

Noel, included are 4 pictures and the letter I received from my daughter. (See next page) When the pandemic was declared she reached out to me to ask if I could make masks for the nursing home because they only had enough for the next week and then would run out. I sent out a call to the guild through our email system asking for masks. I included a pattern recommended by the CDC along with some guidelines.

The guild members responded with enthusiasm and I was able to deliver a total of 835 masks overall in the next four weeks. As you can see by Tracy's letter they were widely distributed. The thank you notes are evidence of the gratitude from staff.





We Made Masks

Limestone Threads



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Online Fabric Retailer
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"WHERE TWO OR THREE QUILTERS ARE GATHERED ..."

I must admit that the thought of making an extra long twin-sized quilt for this year's January Service Project was a bit intimidating for me. Having spent the the months of Autumn coordinating the Towpath Holiday Party, along with making lap quilts and totes for Christmas gifts, I was eager to spend Winter Hibernation immersed in "MY" projects. Question: However was I going to do that while making a 93" x 63" quilt for the YMCA? The answer came from a Beatles song: "With a little help from my friends". In keeping with what I have done over the past several years, I gathered a small group of quilt guild members at my house on Service Project Day. Together we made the Quilt-As-You-Go bed cover seen in the photo. The picture does not do justice to how very nice this quilt turned out. No doubt, it will be a treasured gift for the man who receives it.

My thanks go out to Carol Holliday, Suzy Tankersley, Karen Green, and Judy Hueser ... I could not have done this without you!

Donita Whelan



When one door closes...another Opens!
As with quilt shows this earth opportunity to
sell fabric closed but a door did open.

Limestone Threads is now a boutique style
shop! A boutique style shop is not a large
shop—which means call/text or email for an
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The Raffle Quilt

JUST FOR EWE QUILTING



LONGARM QUILTING SERVICES

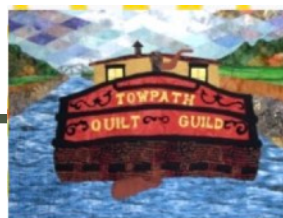
Longarm quilting: Custom and all over designs

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Quilt Bindings: Hand sewn, machine sewn, with or without a flange

*Large and small items accepted!
Most quilts ready in 2-3 weeks!*

Wenda Coburn
315-345-4604
wenda@wendacoburn.com



On line Meetings and Workshops

FEBRUARY 9th Towpath Guild meeting to continue to stay connected as quilters and members of Towpath

Program: **“Virtual Quilt Show and Tell”**

You are invited to participate in a members virtual Show and Tell

When: February 9th at 10:am. via zoom.

The Theme: Covid Projects

Send up to six images to Noel Keith at noelkeith@icloud.com by Friday Feb.5th.

MARCH 9th

Tierney Barden

Presentation: **“Bringing Enchanted Designs To Life” via zoom**

Have you ever wanted a sneak peek at a fellow quilter's design wall? Quilt designer Tierney Barden is bringing her playful design wall to us! During this rare glimpse behind her studio door she'll walk us through her design process sharing everything from fabric selection to layout and design choices to what happens when something doesn't work. Join the fun and bring your questions.

Workshop 1/2 day

Enchanted Applique Workshop

Are you ready for fun and fresh inspiration? Paper and scissors hold the key in this light- hearted half day workshop. Play with three approaches to the traditional craft of paper cutting and create a bounty of unique appliqué designs. We'll spend time exploring paper cutting followed by transforming our cuttings into appliqué. Tierney's demos and tips help you create beautiful results. She will have templates available for your use, or you may prefer to draw your own. Tierney will bring samples for inspiration.

APRIL 13th

Wenda Coburn

Website: wendacoburn.com

Presentation: **“Learn the Origins of the Barn Quilt movement. “**

Workshop 1/2 day

Garden Quilts:

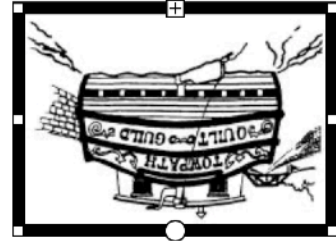
Create your own 12” wooden Barn Quilt using 1 of 21 designs available from my book “How to make a Garden Quilt.” Garden quilts are smaller versions of Barn Quilts that can be displayed in flower beds or

MAY 11th

Sue Ellen Romenowski

Presentation: **“It's a Passion”**

I found quilting in the fall of 1995, or maybe it found me. Join me as I share with you my evolution in discovering the many ways quilting both traditional and modern can be applied to create more than just quilts. I will share with you about my journey with a trunk/slides presentation.



TOWPATH QUILT GUILD
BOX 188
FAYETTEVILLE, NY
13066

Along the Towpath...

Towpath Quilt Guild meets at 9:30 AM on the second Tuesday of the month at United Methodist Church of Fayetteville, Genesee Street, Fayetteville, NY. In the event of bad weather, we follow the Fayetteville-Manlius school closings.

Annual dues are \$25.00 payable at the September meeting. Members save \$5.00 by registering by mail before September 1st. Guests are welcome to attend a maximum of two meetings at \$3.00 per meeting. After that time the fees may be applied to the annual dues.

The guild newsletter, **Along the Towpath**, is published four times a year and is included in the annual dues. Non-members may subscribe to the newsletter for \$5.00 per year by contacting the editor. Cut off dates for receiving new material are, Jan. 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15.

Ads will be published at the following per issue rates:

- Classified-3 line \$5.00
- Business card size \$8.00
- 1/4 page \$14.00
- 1/2 page \$20.00
- Full page \$26.00
- (Each member can place one free 3-line ad per year)

Towpath Quilt Guild Board of Directors

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Co Vice presidents- Barbara Smith and Barbara Western
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Corresponding Secretary- Barbara Smith
Treasurer- Bonnie Haaland
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Librarian- Karen Arnold
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January Service project- Marilouise Mattson
SCRAPS- Cathy Lee
National Quilt Day - Michelle Ricci
FQ Exchanger - Fran O'Donnell