



# The Scrap Bag

January 2021

**Calico Cut-Ups Quilt Guild  
Of Bella Vista, Arkansas**

Volume 28, #1  
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**Weather permitting, our first guild meet-up in 2021 will be on  
Monday, Jan 25, between 1:00-1:30, outdoors in the lower parking  
lot of the First United Methodist Church.**

Happy New Year!

## President's Message

Although there have been a lot of negative things happening in the world lately, a lot of good things have happened as well. In our upcoming year, I want to focus on the positives, build on them, and keep working to achieve our mission: *"The mission of The Bella Vista Calico Cut-Ups Quilt Guild is to stimulate an interest in quilts and quilt making, educate its members, provide for the interchange of information, and encourage community giving."* In the upcoming year, your board will be actively seeking ways to continue to unite quilters of every age, gender, background, and quilting/sewing experience level. And that leads me to my "President's Theme" for 2021:



Since our last regular guild meeting, back in February of 2020, we have learned to Zoom, held masked parking-lot meet ups, received weekly emails and monthly newsletters, had an outdoor Show-and-Tell meeting, and made record numbers of sewn and quilted items that we have donated to our community. We will continue with these projects, using our 4<sup>th</sup> Monday meeting times to mask up, socially distance, and gather outdoors in the church parking lot to distribute materials and collect finished projects to donate. We will also be there to answer questions, enlist new members, collect dues, and hold impromptu show-and-tell for those projects you want to share.

Many of you have asked when we may be able to resume our "regularly scheduled programming," including our monthly meetings, small groups, workshops, and social events. Our plan is to monitor CDC and Arkansas State Health Department guidelines and church availability to determine when groups of our size are approved to meet indoors. I am optimistic that we will be able to have an outdoor picnic and Show-And-Tell meeting when the weather warms up this spring, and that we will be able to resume indoor meetings by mid-year. We are proceeding with plans for Kids Kamp and Quilt Congress and are hoping that we will not have to postpone them again. We are **so** looking forward to getting together in person and catching up on everyone's news! So, wear your masks, stay safe, and get your vaccination when it is available! ***It's going to be a great year for quilting!***

***Stay Safe! Rebecca***

# Miscellaneous

For Sale for \$400

Janome 6600 Memory Craft Computerized Sewing Machine Have brought a new machine so need to sell. This machine has a quilting table with a quilting foot, has dual feed feet that are to be used like a walking foot. It has quarter inch seam foot, many bobbins, knee lifter, and protective cover.

I have used this machine in recent years mainly for piecing. Have serviced it every 2 years and will have it serviced once more.

Contact [myrlenemcz@aol.com](mailto:myrlenemcz@aol.com) or 970 376-6332

## Upcoming Events:

3/16—20 and 3/23-27  
18th Annual Shop Hop  
2 weeks Tue—Sa

9/17— 9/18  
Visions of Quilts in 2021  
Quilt Congress

## Sunshine and Shadows

Do you know of a Calico Cut-Ups member that could use a card for good news, a celebration or some sad news? Please contact Allison Totten at 501-912-8808 or email [tottens2@yahoo.com](mailto:tottens2@yahoo.com). Thank you for your help.

***WELCOME NEW MEMBERS***

Kim Pitman



Amazon Prime members

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate .005% of your sales to The Bella Vista Calico Cut-Ups.

Use Smile.Amazon and scroll to the Bella Vista Calico Cut-Ups or go directly to:  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/71-0748551>.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Quilt Congress**

**Sept. 17 and 18, 2021**

*Deb*

# Special Projects & Quilt of Valor



Note from Cathy Beaver,  
Special Projects

Well, there is a positive to Covid-19. Everyone is sewing. Wow, you impress me Calico Cut-Ups!

43 quilts  
12 totes  
1 quilt top  
3 pillowcases.

I will deliver to Ronald McDonald House, Children's Memory Care and NWA Children's Shelter.

The guild also gave a quilt to Mr. & Mrs. Suthers who lost everything in a fire. She's due with their first child the beginning of January.

## Special Projects Notice

Please bring your Hobbs batting Barcodes to Cathy Beaver so we can get a discount on the future purchase of batting.

When you donate items on behalf of Calico Cut Ups please make sure you give Cathy Beaver the information as to the items and the count.

## Quilt of Valor by Shirley Jenkins

Here is my newest contribution. It is made from scraps on pellon. I used backing from quilts I have found for the sashing and border



# Calico Cut-Ups Advertisers

## We Thank You

Note from Scrap Bag Editor:

As editor I have decided to feature one of our advertisers each month in 2021. They are listed on the website but I don't think they get much attention there so below is my first for 2021.

### **Laurie's Long Arm Quilting (and so much more!)**

Laurie McCracken has been sewing nearly her entire life, beginning with clothes for her trolls and other dolls by the time she was 7, progressing to making her own clothes by the time she started junior high school. Although her professional life was in banking, she continued sewing in her spare time. In 2008, after moving with her husband from Florida to Bella Vista, Laurie's interest in quilting was sparked, and she began learning what was to become a favorite hobby. Twelve years later, one finds her busy in her own quilt shop, readying to begin her third year of operation.

Laurie's 14 foot Statler Stitcher long arm greets customers upon their arrival, as do shelves of various colors of quilting thread. Several of Laurie's many beautiful quilts adorn the walls. At the far end of the room is an array of one-of-a-kind, 18 inch doll (e.g., American Girl, Daisy Kingdom) clothes hand-made by Laurie in her spare time. Doll bedding and accessories are also featured.

A second shop room is arranged for teaching anyone interested in learning to make quilt tops. Private lessons begin at \$20.00 per hour and are scheduled by appointment. Design walls offer space to visually plan for and watch a top come together.

The remaining room hosts Laurie's Bernina and all else needed to either sew her creations or to make or bind quilts for customers. She also repairs quilts.

Although Laurie does not offer custom quilting, she does offer customers a wide selection of edge-to-edge designs from several thousand files! Quilting runs from 2 cents per square inch to 3 cents, depending on the density of the design. Laurie doesn't carry fabric, but customers can purchase batting and backing from her. Choices include six types of batting and both white and natural muslin for backing. If customers prefer to provide their own batting and/or backing, both need to be 4 inches wider and longer than the quilt top for attaching to the long arm.

In addition to the above, Laurie carries a wide array of colored thread for regular sewing machines. Finally, Laurie holds a drawing each month from tickets identifying the previous month's completed quilts. The winning ticket provides a 20% discount on that customer's next quilt project.

Laurie's Long Arm Quilting is located on Frontage Rd., just down from Bella Vista's Walgreens and behind the Edward Jones office. Her FaceBook page ([Laurieslongarmquilting](#)) provides photos of many of the 600 plus completed customer quilts and, sometimes, a bit of news. A sign-up sheet is available at the shop for email announcements. Shop hours are 11:00 — 5:00 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and 11:00 — 3:00 on Saturday. Laurie may be reached by phone or text at 479.321.0456, via [Laurieslongarmquilting@aol.com](mailto:Laurieslongarmquilting@aol.com), and through FaceBook Messenger.

*Article by Ann Wicher*



Laurie McCracken of  
Laurie's Long Arm Quilting

This tree is the one that Laurie and her friend entered in the "Dress My Tree" fundraiser for NWA Alzheimer's Assoc. Cutest Tree of 30 entries.



Laurie's Dolls. Ask her to show you the doll designed and named for her.

# Scrap bag Quilting Tips



## WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT QUILTING DURING THE 2020 COVID PANDEMIC

All of us during the 2020 Covid pandemic have experienced shortages of fabric, elastic, thread, and notions. We have relied on our stash of fabrics to make masks, quilts, etc. I am very thankful to have had my stash. But I also learned to make do and improvise to complete a project, perhaps use a ruler I had but never used, or used the internet to learn a new technique or instructions on how to make a block.

I have hunted for some time for fabric weights to help hold my rulers for cutting, especially for longer lengths. Those I found were either too light or too large, etc. My husband suggested using ceramic tile squares from the hardware store and gluing a handle on top to easily move it from place to place. I could adjust the weight on how many tiles I layered together using superglue to adhere the layers.

They were just what I needed. The tiles can come from any hardware store or you may have some already at home. I bought mine at Lowe's for 15 cents apiece and purchased a wooden drawer knob to glue on each stack. These were a little over a dollar each. I made six of them to hold my longer rulers while cutting. These were very inexpensive and worked great for me. This certainly may not be a need for you but it may get you to brainstorm on how we can use inexpensive and available items during Covid shortages.

I know all of you have come up with ingenious ways to sew during Covid shortages. I have also used the internet and found new websites and you tubes more than I had ever done in the past to get pattern ideas and "how to" instructions for quilts.

I'm hoping you will share and email me solutions you have found to help with your quilting or the name of websites or quilting you tubes videos you have used during this past year so we can all learn and benefit from your ideas.

Email: [tottens2@yahoo.com](mailto:tottens2@yahoo.com)

I have included a picture of the fabric/ruler weights. If possible, include a picture when you share your ideas. These ideas will all be included in the monthly issues of our scrap bag. We are all anxious to see what ideas you have come up with during Covid distancing.

Allison



## Show and Tell



Quilt by Sue Wagner

The snowflake was made using gridded fusible interfacing - ironing over 500 squares and HST's onto the interfacing and then sewing the rows. I saw this on Pinterest and drew it out myself on graph paper. Was fun, relatively quick, and I learned a few things! My daughter loves it!

Quilt by Gail Storm

Skewed log cabin. Took class in Houston for fun. Finished top last winter but just got it quilted. I guess it is home but would reconsider for a price.

