

Dear New Member,

Welcome to **East Iowa Heirloom Quilters (EIHQ)**! We're so glad you've decided to join our guild and hope this letter will help you to become more familiar with our activities.

Our **MEETINGS** are held on the fourth Monday of the month (except December) at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm at the American Legion, 625 31<sup>st</sup> St., Marion, IA. We only have an evening meeting in October. There is a large parking lot behind the building and our landlords have asked that we park beyond the second set of doors as the front area is reserved for Legion members. Sign-up sheets for activities are available before every meeting.

Monthly meeting activities include a **BLOCK OF THE MONTH**. For a dollar or two members may purchase a precut fabric kit for a quilt block to be pieced at home and returned at the next meeting. One lucky person's name is drawn from all of those who return completed blocks and she/he wins them all. There are usually enough blocks to make a large quilt; the winner may purchase more fabric locally for sashing and borders.

Another monthly activity is the **FAT QUARTER LOTTERY**. Simply bring a fat quarter (usually 18" by 22") of good quality cotton in the theme specified for that month in the newsletter (such as florals, reds, batiks, Christmas fabric, etc.) Turn in your FQ and sign in at the Fat Quarter Lottery table and your name may be drawn to win a bundle of 5 or 6 fat quarters. Usually there is enough participation for several bundles to be created so there will be several winners each month.

EIHQ boasts a **LIBRARY** of over 600 quilting-related books. Our librarian brings a selection of books to each meeting and members are invited to check out as many as 3 books on their membership card. Please return books promptly the next month. If you would like a particular title in our collection the librarian will be glad to bring it to the next meeting.

**SHOW AND TELL** is one of our most popular meeting activities. Members are encouraged to bring their completed projects and tell a little about them. Small purple ribbons are awarded for completed quilts in show and tell; members usually pin these ribbons to their nametags. Please don't be shy about participating in Show and Tell as every experienced quilter was once a beginner and there is nothing more encouraging to quilters of every skill level than the praise of your fellow members! Just join in the line and record your name and project in the notebook provided so that we can list it in the newsletter.

We encourage everyone to wear a **NAME TAG!** You'll want to create your own after you've had a chance to look around and get some ideas from our members. The only rule is that you can read your name. If you don't have one, the hostesses at the door will ask you for 25 cents. This money goes to our SOS projects and should help you remember yours next month.

**WORKSHOPS** on a variety of topics are held nearly every month and they're taught by well-known speakers and teachers or by our experienced and talented members. We try to vary the topics and to schedule both weekday and weekend workshops on a variety of topics so every member can attend at least one or two each year. Our popular workshops fill up fast so be sure to sign up and pay as soon as you can if you'd like to attend.

**MONTHLY PROGRAM** speakers are frequently well-know quilt makers, authors and educators. Unless otherwise noted the speaker and topic will be the same for the morning and evening meeting each month. Your annual dues help to defray the cost of securing top-flight speakers and instructors. If you have suggestions for workshop or speakers please contact the Vice President.

EIHQ members willingly **SHARE OUR SKILLS (SOS)** to make upwards of 300 quilts every year for charity. SOS quilt assembly afternoons are often held between our monthly meetings and we also meet at local quilt shops to sew and tie quilts. Members are encouraged to donate time, fabric, batting and completed quilts and tops for SOS and they are awarded green ribbons for doing so. If you would like to help (and we sure hope you will!) please see the SOS chair before or after the morning or evening meeting.

Several times each year our activities include a **CHALLENGE QUILT PROJECT** or a **MYSTERY** quilt. These activities as well as the block of the month are great ways to learn new techniques and work with a variety of fabrics.

**ACTIVITIES** abound at EIHQ! We sponsor an annual bus trip to a quilt show or “shop hop” and we hold spring and fall quilt retreats each year. We also have occasional UFO sewing/quilting days to help us get going on those ‘unfinished objects’ that lurk in all of our sewing rooms.

EIHQ provides a **SPEAKER’S BUREAU** for local schools and organizations. Members volunteer to show quilts, provide hands-on activities and facilitate ongoing projects to groups requesting a program regarding any aspect of quilting and quilting history.

You will receive a **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** (11 issues annually, January – November.) It’s chock-full of information about upcoming meetings and activities. Please note that your **EIHQ MEMBERSHIP CARD** may be honored for a 10% discount at several area quilt shops—be sure to ask when you shop.

Our next biennial **QUILT SHOW** will be held in September 2011, and we hope you will get involved volunteering for the show and showing your own quilts.

EIHQ’s **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** is elected every year at our annual meeting and the current officers are listed on the back of the monthly newsletter. Members are welcome to attend our monthly board meeting at 6:30 pm on the third Monday of each month at the Marion Library, 1095 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Marion.

EIHQ has over 400 members and our large monthly meetings simply don’t lend themselves to getting to know each other. One of the best ways to meet people is to get involved in guild activities. **We strongly encourage you to sign up for workshops, retreats, UFO days, SOS quilting or to volunteer in any area that interests you.** Becoming involved in guild activities gives you the opportunity to meet other quilters in a smaller more relaxed setting and its fun!

Special **MEET AND GREET** events are planned for January 25, June 28th, and Nov 22. There will be a reserved area for new members to sit, visit, eat cookies, etc! Please stay after the morning meeting or come an hour early to the evening meeting to take advantage of this opportunity.

Our hope is that you enjoy your guild as much as we do! If you have questions, concerns or suggestions please contact one of the officers, as we’re here to serve you! We look forward to seeing you often!

Linda Sutherland, Membership

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