

Hammersmith Quilters Guild Newsletter



www.hqgsaugus.org

November 2019

For This Meeting

November 6, 2019

Program: Presentation by member Bev McGrath

Vendor: Crosscut Sewing of Melrose will be vending.

Show 'n' Tell: **No** (because we have a speaker)

Fat Quarter: **Purple** (Remember to bring an extra fat quarter to give to Louise, Dana or Sally N. for the raffle basket at our next show.)

And just a friendly reminder: a fat quarter measures 18" by half the width of your fabric, typically 18" x 22" (assuming your fabric is 44" wide). This is NOT the same as a standard quarter yard, which measures 9" x 44".

Refreshments: Coreen Comeau, Pat Sargent, Rosie Graham, Barbara Talanian, Linda Reppucci, Maureen Maher, Betty Carr, Ellen O'Sullivan, Sally Clapp, Bernadette Reilly-Smorawski, Donna Cormier (water)

Creative Quiltworks: "Not-so-Simple" Owl Pincushion

President's Message: Martha Mazeika

Greetings!!

November is a month to think about what I am thankful for in my life. When it comes to quilting, I am thankful for the abilities I have to do the craft and for the people in my quilting community including all of you. Last month I mentioned the great many resources there are to support the craft of quilting. I am excited that the resource we will highlight this month is one of our own members. At the November meeting, we will hear from Bev McGrath about her quilting journey.

Congratulations to members who had quilts displayed at the Topsfield Fair. I like that the HQG was well represented. While volunteering, I had the opportunity to talk to other quilters. I am always interested in how others started their journey in the art of quilting, what types of techniques they use, and if they belong to other groups or guilds. These stories bring me smiles.

I hope all of you have a spooky end to your October and a wonderful month full of thanks in November.

Always here to listen, talk, discuss, and answer questions.

See you all on November 6th!

Martha

(413)250-5449
marthamazeika@gmail.com

Reminder of schedule for monthly meetings:

6:30pm Hall opens
7:00pm-7:30pm Business meeting and Raffles
7:45pm-8:45pm Speaker/Other Program/Show 'n' Tell (when applicable)
8:45pm-9:00pm Good-byes and Clean up

Treasurer's Report: Carmen Arnone

The balance of our funds as of October 9, 2019 is \$18,881.37 ; this includes recent dues payments as well as over \$3,000 in deposits for the March quilting weekend.

Guild members who expect to be reimbursed for purchases made for the guild are asked to put receipts in an envelope, which I can provide if necessary. Please write your name on the envelope with the amount due and indicate the category to which your expenses are related.

For example: Molly Member
Hospitality supplies
\$ 13.76

Every effort is made to reimburse you at the meeting if possible. If not, a check will be mailed to you ASAP. Thanks for your cooperation. Remember: no receipt, no reimbursement!

Before making an unusual or unusually large purchase, or if you are not sure if your purchase qualifies for reimbursement, please check with Martha. The Executive Board has made a budget for the 2019-2020 guild year for each area of guild activities; please try to stay within your budget. If you don't know what your budget is, ask Carmen, Dottie or Martha, or see the minutes from the July 2019 Executive Board meeting; minutes are always available from Dottie for your viewing pleasure at every guild meeting.

Membership: Sally Nimblett

In October, 83 members signed in. We welcomed two new members, Ellen O'Sullivan (who is rejoining us after a break) and Sue Fair, who could not be with us that night.

The following new members need to pick up guild tote bags, pins and membership cards from me: Susan Brown, Carol Healy, Deborah Young, and Sue Fair.

If you have a change of contact information (address, phone, email), please see me and get a change-of-information slip. We want to keep our membership list up to date to make sure you are informed!

I have patterns for pillowcases and name badges with me at every meeting; if you need one, see me.

Just a reminder to everyone: be sure to sign in each month as you come in, or circle back to the front desk after you have dropped off your "stuff". We like to keep attendance records because it helps us to know which programs/months are the most popular, and it gives us an idea of how many handouts to prepare for meetings.

Six people were dropped for non-payment of dues, so we are now at 113 members- room for 7 more (six, soon, as Holly has a friend who plans on joining)!

Refreshment Committee: Barbara Martinson & Kathy Connors

The following people have signed up to bring snacks for our November meeting: Coreen Comeau, Pat Sargent, Rosie Graham, Barbara Talanian, Linda Reppucci, Maureen Maher, Betty Carr, Ellen O'Sullivan, Sally Clapp, Bernadette Reilly-Smorawski, Donna Cormier (water)

REMINDER - November is the month to sign up for the December 4th **HOLIDAY POTLUCK SUPPER**. Please think about what you would like to bring. The sign-up sheets will be available at one of the long tables. Categories include **Appetizers, Salads, Main Dishes, and Desserts**. THANKS. And if anyone would like to share a favorite recipe for the dish you'll be bringing, please bring a copy and we will give it to Dottie to put up on the website. 😊

The sign-up sheet for all other meetings is available at the snack table. Please sign up to bring snacks-sweets, fruit, veggies, cheese-and-crackers, whatever- to one meeting. With our growing membership, we should have 8-10 people signed up each month. And don't forget to pick up any containers or plates after the meeting.

"Free Stuff" Table: Rosie Graham

Here is a reminder of the "rules" for the free stuff table we have at our meetings. This is the round table just to the right as you enter the main hall in the Senior Center. A big thank you for those of you who take stuff and take your own stuff home at the end of the night.

- You may bring in any quilt-related items that you no longer want: patterns, magazines, notions, and fabric (quilting cotton, wool, silk- fabrics used for quilting- no upholstery fabrics and those generally used for garments), etc.
- Anyone may take items from the free table, whether or not you brought anything in. This is recycling at its best!
- Make sure nothing is left behind. Please take home anything you brought in that was not taken by others. The table should be empty ten minutes after the meeting ends.

After the September meeting, the table was a "hot mess", with a mountain of scraps spilling everywhere. Therefore, in an effort to keep the Free Table semi-organized, we ask everyone who bring items to use a box or reusable container to contain your items, one where the items can be easily seen by others without having to pull everything out and scatter it all over the table. This will also provide a container that you can easily take back home with you after the meeting with any items that were not claimed by others. Also, when looking through the items on the table, please return anything that you don't want to its container.

This last "rule" is especially true with regard to fabric scraps. If all you are bringing is a book or pattern or two, you do not need a container. Just take it/them back home with you at the end of the meeting if no one else has claimed it/them.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation so our own "trash" can continue to become someone else's "treasure"!

Program Committee: Gail Dwyer, Dottie Macomber (and former chair, Joyce Rodenhiser)

For our November program, our own longtime member Beverly McGrath will be presenting some of the fabulous quilts she has made over the years and taking us on a quilter's journey sure to inspire all levels of quilters! We will also have a vendor, Crosscut Sewing from Melrose.

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the recent workshop with Michelle Banton. We appreciated that you did a lot of planning ahead to attend the workshop, have a meal, and come to the Guild meeting all in the same day! We sincerely hope you had a great time, met someone you may not have known, and learned new techniques! We thank you again and look forward to seeing your finished pieces - so many interpretations of the same pattern with all the varieties of lovely fabrics!!

Piece in peace- Joyce

From Dottie: I would like to thank the following people for being the first to finish one of the UFO Project Dot-to-Dot quilts: Kathy Connors, Linda Anthony and Lesley Pew. Each of these members fulfilled their annual requirement of donating a finished quilt AND received a “coveted” UFO charm (and yes, Linda, you DO have to sew it on yourself!).



I will be bringing 9 more tops to the November meeting, and the final lot to the December meeting; see me if you would like to finish one. Some are full-size lap quilts and others are smaller and need a border or two added to them. This is a good way to fulfill your annual charity quilt donation requirement. Also, these would be perfect for practicing your own machine or hand quilting. If you want to practice ruler work or free-motion quilting but don't want to do it on a top you pieced, here's a chance to practice and complete a quilt that will comfort someone else. There is no deadline for completing these quilts, but **remember** to report to me with your finished quilt before you turn it in to Gretchen and the Charity Donations committee so I can take a photo to send to the group who donated all these tops to us AND so I can give you your UFO charm!

Also from Dottie: **The March Getaway Weekend sold out within minutes at the October meeting!** However, because life happens, I have started a waiting list. If you were not at the October meeting and would like to be placed on the waiting list, please contact me. For those who did get in, I will need your final payment by the January 2020 meeting. As it gets closer to the date of the getaway, I will send out more information, including the names of restaurants and quilt shops in the area or on the way.

NEWS FLASH! Carmen's “niece” the masseuse, Ida Atkinson, will be joining us again on Saturday of the Getaway to provide 10-minute massages. Appointments may be made through Carmen starting in January or February. Price information will be available then as well.

Charity Donations Committee: Gretchen Berkowitch, Sally Nimblett & Louise Nazzaro

1. So far, we have 58 holiday pillowcases. These are for the donations we make to various social service agencies to be given to needy children in December. We will be stuffing these pillowcases with toys, toiletries, and other age-appropriate gifts. We typically stuff about 90-100 pillowcases, so **keep those pillowcases coming!** Make your pillowcases out of winter-themed or Christmas-themed fabrics. For a pattern for the pillowcases, see the Member area tab on our website or see Sally Nimblett for a printed pattern.

On Saturday, Nov 30th at 10 a.m. we will be stuffing the pillowcases at Blessed Sacrament Church on Summer St. in Saugus. A sign-up sheet will be at the November meeting, so sign up to be an "elf" and help us stuff the pillowcases!

2. If possible, we like to give a quilt with each holiday pillowcase. So far, we have the following quilts that were donated last guild year after Christmas and in September and October:

- 14 baby quilts
- 2 toddler boy quilts
- 10 juvenile girl quilts
- 10 boy juvenile quilts
- 17 girl teen quilts
- 9 teen boy quilts

As you can see, we need some more toddler quilts for both boys and girls, and more teen boy quilts; however, we will accept quilts for any age or gender. Again, we usually stuff 90-100 pillowcases and when possible, we like to include a quilt with each pillowcase of gifts.

3. November will be the last month when we will be collecting voluntary \$5 monetary donations to buy items to stuff in the holiday pillowcases. Please see Sally Nimblett when you check in if you would like to donate; she will have a little bag where you can put your anonymous donations of cash.

4. Non-perishable items will be collected for the food drive at the December meeting **ONLY**.

Thank you for your continuing support of our charitable donation projects. -Gretchen

Creative Quiltworks Committee: Kristin Callahan & Ellen Moore

Our next Creative Quiltworks Challenge will be due at the November meeting. For this challenge, you will make a not-so-simple Owl pincushion. The instructions and templates are on the website, for those of you who did not pick them up at the October meeting. Here is the link to this project, with the creator's photo step-by-step tutorial: <https://moonstitches.typepad.com/photos/tutowlrial/index.html> A link to the photo tutorial, including the page of templates for the owl parts, is on the website under the Newsletter tab.

To new members: this is an optional activity but a fun way to try a small project or technique each month.

The winners in the viewer's choice voting in October for the Simple 4-Patch Pincushions were:

- 1st place: Caroline O'Brien for her cactus pincushion (entry #10)
2nd place: Jean Balliro (entry #1)
3rd place: Holly Petersen (entry #7)



2020 Quilt Show: Dottie Macomber & Holly Petersen, co-chairs

Announcements will be made at each guild meeting about our next quilt show, which will be Saturday & Sunday, October 17-18, 2020.

From Dottie: I neglected to mention at the October guild meeting that we are creating some new categories for award ribbons. Instead of just a Best Machine Quilting category, we are separating that award into Best Machine Quilting on a Long Arm or other movable machine and Best Machine Quilting on a Domestic or Stationary Machine. We are also splitting the Best Traditional Piecing award into two categories: Best Machine Piecing and Best Hand Piecing (which includes traditional hand piecing as well as EPP, English Paper Piecing). We may consider other categories at our next committee meeting.

From John and Gretchen: A big **Thank You!!** to everyone who made blocks for the raffle quilt. We should be assembling the top soon, and then Kristin Callahan will be quilting it for us- Thank you, Kristin!

Secretary Report: Dottie Macomber

Printed reports containing the full minutes of all previous meetings for the current guild year, both general membership and executive board, will be available for your perusal at monthly guild meetings. Minutes of the Executive Board meetings will also be posted on the website under the Newsletter tab.

As the Secretary, I am in charge of the **Sunshine and Shadow** "committee". If you know of any member who has suffered a serious illness or accident, has had a death in the family, or needs cheering up for any other reason, please let me know so I can send them a card on behalf of the guild: 781-932-3602 or mcandmac@comcast.net

Carmen Arnone thanks everyone for their cards, thoughts and prayers on the passing of her sister.

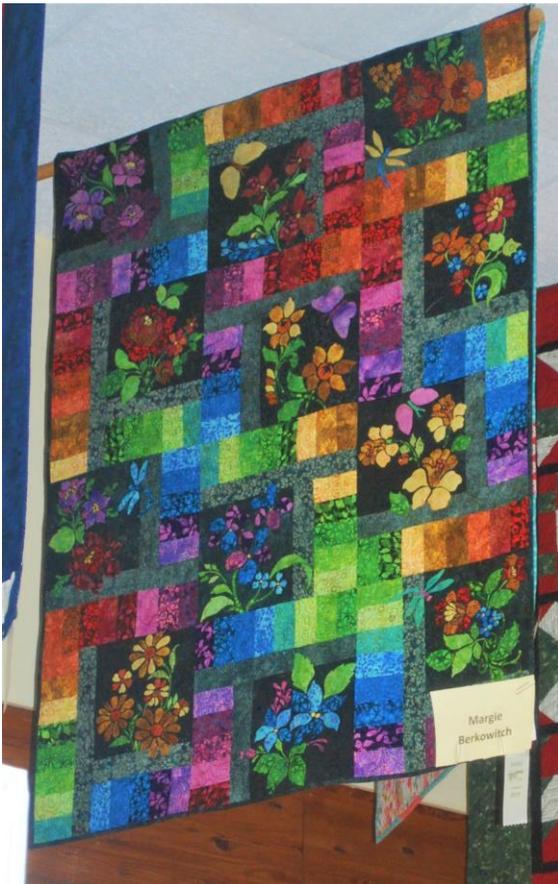
Member News: Dottie Macomber

Congratulations to the guild members who entered quilts in the 2019 Topsfield Fair! You all did Hammersmith proud!

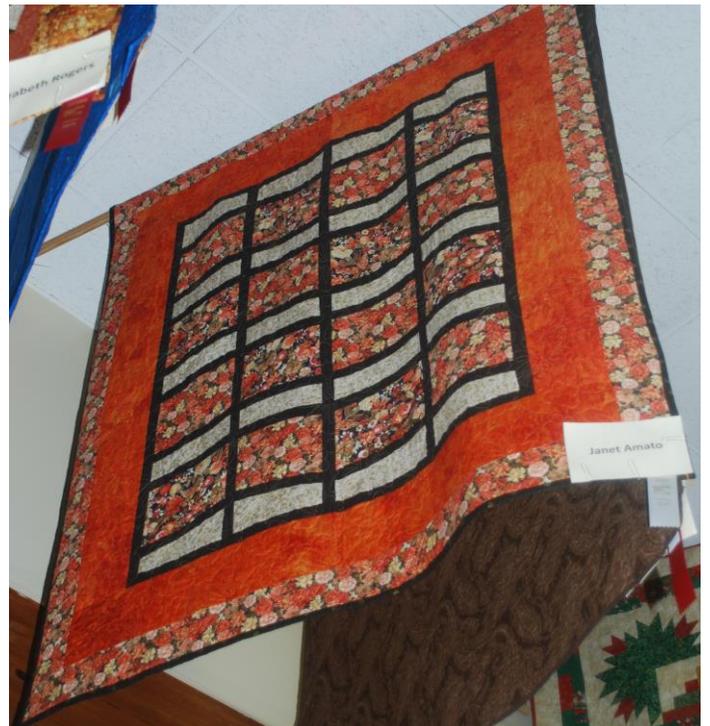


Janet Dalis won a blue 1st place ribbon and a large rosette ribbon for Committee's Choice.

Carol MacRae won a 2nd place ribbon for her fall-toned quilt:



Margie Berkowitch won a 3rd place ribbon, as did Jane Amato.





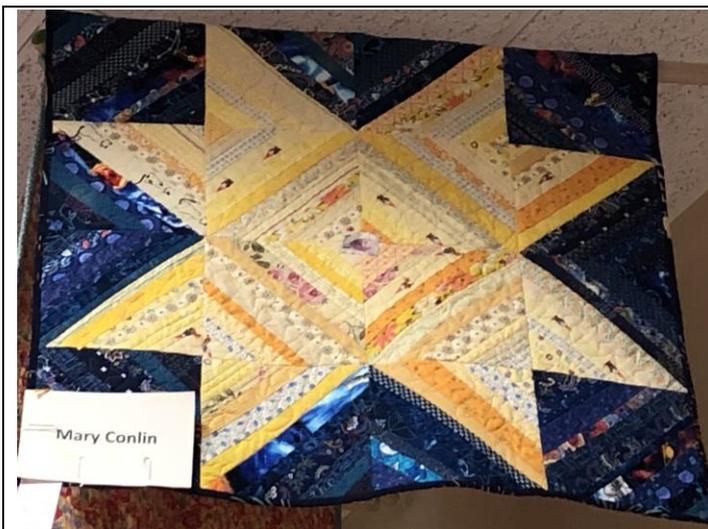
Carmen won an Honorable Mention for her getaway mystery quilt and 3rd place for each of her two fidget mats.

Lesley Pew won an Honorable Mention for her fish wall hanging, and Martha Mazeika got a 2nd place for her wool applique (and first-time entry at Topsfield).



Molly Conlin got a 3rd place for her star and swan quilts and a 1st place for her Turkey Tracks quilt.

Congratulations, everyone!



The display of quilts at the fair this year was, in my opinion, leaner than other years. If not for our guild's quilts, the display at the fair this year would have been sparse indeed. Our guild contributes consistently to the fair's display each year, and for that we should be very proud.

As always, if anyone submits quilts to shows or fairs, or if you have any other quilting accomplishments to report, please send the information (with photos if possible) to me, Dottie Macomber, at mcandmac@comcast.net or 9 Fletcher Rd, Woburn, MA 01801.

Respectfully submitted,
Dottie Macomber, Secretary