

Hammersmith Quilters Guild Newsletter



www.hqgsaugus.org

October 2019

For This Meeting

October 2, 2019

Program: Presentation by Michelle Banton (Note: the guest fee is \$10 for this meeting.)

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

Fat Quarter: **Navy Blue or Navy Blue with White** (Remember to bring an extra 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: Nancy Sandreuter, Kathy Connors, Barbara Martinson (water), Nita Penfold, Gerry McCaul, Susan Stowe, Sally Nimblett, Mary Ann Andree, Irene Dwyer

Creative Quiltworks: Simple 4-Patch Pincushion

President's Message: Martha Mazeika

Greetings!! Fall is here!

There are many resources we have as quilters. I have recently been looking for podcasts to listen to. I did not realize that there are many podcasts devoted to quilting. One I have been enjoying is the American Patchwork and Quilting Podcasts. I like the topics that are covered, as well as the frequency podcasts are online, about 1 every 2 weeks. You can download these podcasts on your phone or computer. These are nice to listen to while working on your projects!

Michelle Banton will be joining us in October for a workshop in the afternoon and for a lecture in the evening.

Thank you all for keeping the side conversations to a minimum at the September meeting. I did notice there were a few during the show-and-tell. Please remember to be considerate when others are talking.

Still need volunteers for the By-Laws Review...

Still looking for 2-3 members to volunteer to be on a committee to review the HQG By-Laws. We need to do this review soon so we can publicize any changes to vote on at the May meeting. If you are interested, please let me know at the meeting or send me an email (marthamazeika@gmail.com)

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

See you all on October 2nd!

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 September 13, 2019 is \$15,612.52; this includes workshop fees received from members who are taking the Michelle Banton workshop on October 2nd.

Guild members who expect to be reimbursed 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 for your viewing pleasure from Dottie at every guild meeting.

Membership: Sally Nimblett

In September we had 84 members sign in, a record for the guild! We welcomed four new members: Betty Bare, Susan Brown, and Deborah Young, as well as Geraldine McCaul, who is rejoining us after a little time off. Welcome to all of you! We also had 2 guests join us.

For those renewing your membership, dues were supposed to be paid by the June meeting. We must receive your dues payment by October 1st, **before the October guild meeting**, or you will be dropped from the membership list. We currently have 117 members, only 3 away from our limit of 120, so we must receive dues payments in a timely manner or offer your spot to someone else if we end up with a waiting list for membership. Please send a check to Sally Nimblett at 22 Pleasant Park Rd Winthrop MA 02152. Or contact me by Email: Sjnimblett@verizon.net. Thank you!

If you paid your dues for the 2019-2020 guild year, we have your **new membership card** with your name printed on it. Please pick it up when you sign in.

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

Please notify me if you have a change in address, phone number or email address. We want to keep our contact information current so we can communicate with each of you.

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.

Refreshment Committee: Barbara Martinson & Kathy Connors

The following people have signed up to bring snacks for our October meeting: Nancy Sandreuter, Kathy Connors, Barbara Martinson (water), Nita Penfold, Gerry McCaul, Susan Stowe, Sally Nimblett, Mary Ann Andree, and Irene Dwyer.

The sign-up sheet 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, fabric (quilting cotton, wool, silk- fabrics used for quilting- no upholstery fabrics and those generally used for garments), notions, 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

Everyone who signed up for the **Michelle Banton workshop** for October 2nd from 1:00-5:00 should have received the supply list. Don't forget to carpool if you can, and plan to arrive at the Senior Center at least 30 minutes early to unload all your gear, find a parking space, and get set up in time for the workshop to start at 1:00. If you have any questions, contact Dottie. Don't forget an extension cord and/or power strip to make sure we have enough "outlets" for everyone's machines.

From Dottie: I would like to thank the following people for taking one of the **Project UFO Dot-to-Dot** quilt tops to finish and donate back as a charity/comfort quilt: Linda Anthony, Jean Balliro, Joyce Rodenhiser, Lucille McCarthy, Lesley Pew, Mary Ann Andree, Gail Dwyer, Caroline O'Brien, Barbara

Martinson, Kathy Connors, and Carmen Arnone. There is no deadline for completing the 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!

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.

Sign-ups for the 2020 Getaway Weekend will begin at the October meeting! For the benefit of newer members, the Getaway is a weekend of open-sew quilting. This year, the dates are Thursday March 19th through Sunday afternoon March 22nd. We are going to the Ramada Inn and Conference Center just off the Maine Turnpike in Saco, Maine (about 85 miles north of Saugus) for a weekend of quilting your brains out! Bring whatever projects you want to work on, whether it's hand sewing, machine piecing, quilting, etc. and work all day and into the evening! Take breaks when you want, work when you want, go fabric shopping in local shops when you want (I will be providing a list of quilt shops in the area and on the way up to Saco); there is no set schedule (other than Friday and Saturday night dinners) and no classes are taught. This is just a time to get together with your fellow guild members and sew as much as you want- no dishes to do, house to clean, bed to make- just time for you!

Packages are for 3-days 2 nights (Friday through Sunday) or add an optional third night (Thursday). Breakfasts are included every day, and we have the option of a catered dinner on Friday and Saturday nights. (If you come up on Thursday, you are on your own for Thursday dinner. No lunches are included any day, which usually works out fine, as many people leave the hotel to do some shopping on one or more days, and you can bring your own food for lunch and keep it in the mini fridge in your room.)

I'm going to try something different this year and make the Friday and Saturday dinners optional. It will be all-or-nothing: you'll either be signing up for both meals or for neither. We will again be having the Italian buffet on Friday, as that seems to be the best choice available for those who observe Lent and, by popular demand, we will again have the Thanksgiving turkey dinner buffet on Saturday. I know that some people did not like the food offered or wanted to eat out both nights; if that is the case, you can do so and won't need to pay for the two dinners. We will need a minimum of 25 people to have the catered dinners, so hopefully enough people will still want to eat together that we can offer this option.

There are only 48 spaces for the weekend, so bring your non-refundable deposit of \$50 **in October**. **I will not take your registration form without a deposit**, so bring your check made out to HQG or bring cash. (If you do not have your deposit with you, I will put you on a waiting list until I receive your deposit.) I will have registration forms and the final pricing at the October meeting. Also, you have the option of a single room or a double; if you want a double, please be prepared to include the name of your roommate on your registration form. I don't do matchmaking for roommates! 😊 If you are not going to be at the October meeting, send in your deposit and the name of your roommate with another guild member and I will put you on the "registered" list and get a registration form to you.

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

1. A total of 29 pillowcases and 13 quilts were donated at the September meeting. Please remember your **donation quilts and pillowcases**. We will collect holiday-themed pillowcases at the October and November meetings. 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 at a date to be specified in November. We typically stuff about 100 pillowcases, so keep those pillowcases and quilts coming!

We continue to need lap size quilts for tweens and teens, especially for boys. We also need toddler quilts (large baby size). If possible, we like to give a quilt with each holiday pillowcase.

2. A reminder for those members who were not present at the September meeting: please **DO NOT** leave any items for donation until there is a donation committee member sitting at the table ready to accept your donation.

3. We will be collecting voluntary \$5 monetary donations to buy items to stuff in the holiday pillowcases. October will be the big drive as we will need to start our shopping at the end of October/early November. Please see Sally Nimblett if you would like to donate.

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 October meeting. For this challenge, you will make a simple 4" four-patch pincushion. The instructions are on the website and were also emailed to everyone. Let's see some cute fabrics on those pincushions. 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 September for the "Page 38" challenge were:

First place: Halloween tub embroidery by Nancy Sandreuter

Second place was a Tie: Chairs by Carmen Arnone

Red, white and blue stars by Gretchen Berkowitch

Third place: Christmas pillow by Holly Petersen

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

Announcements will be made at each guild meeting about the quilt show, which will be October 17-18, 2020.

At the September meeting, members were told about a new requirement: if you plan to exhibit a quilt or quilts at the show, you must provide at least 2 volunteer hours. These are usually done during setup on the Friday before the show, during the show itself, or after the show during take-down. If, however, you know that you are going to be away that weekend but still plan on entering a quilt by leaving it with a friend to submit for you, we **WILL** work with you to find another job you can do to help with the show, such as selling tickets for the raffle quilt at Saugus' Founder's Day event in September 2020, rolling fat quarters and tying them with ribbons so we can offer them as favors to those paying admission to the show, or donating an as-yet-undetermined number or value of items for the boutique where the entire selling price goes to the guild. We can figure something out. Our intention by implementing this new rule is to have everyone who takes part in the show to "own" it by helping with the running of the show. Many hands make light work, as they say. And as always, if you do not wish to volunteer but wish to attend the show, you will have to pay admission. Volunteering in some capacity gets you free admission and, now, the ability to enter items to exhibit.

Another new policy: for this next show, you will be able to sell quilts that you have hanging in the exhibit area of the show. As will the sale of other items at the show, the sale of exhibit quilts will be handled through the boutique, and the guild will retain 20% of the purchase price. Quilts that are sold will have to remain on exhibit for the entire show. At the time of sale, buyers will arrange with the boutique personnel for the pick-up of their purchased quilt(s) after the show is over.

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

Margie Berkowitch would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and well wishes for a speedy recovery from her car accident

Member News: Dottie Macomber

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.

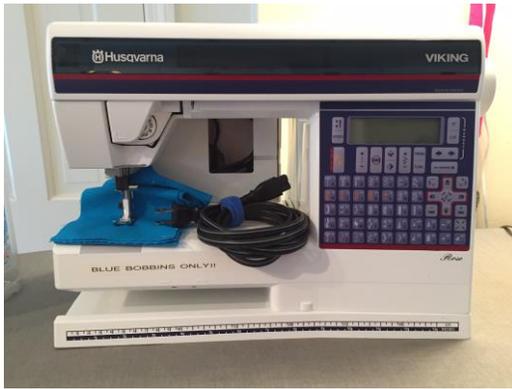
Member Carole d'Entremont has 25 balls of crochet cotton she would like to give away! Call Carole at 781-620-1723



Member Lynda Galvin has several patterns for sale, new, never opened, ranging in price from \$5 to \$10 to \$20. See the Quilters Market tab on our website for all the photos, prices, and contact info. Here are just four of the patterns offered for sale:



Member Anne Smith is selling a Husqvarna Rose 605 sewing/embroidery machine, \$400 or BO. For additional photos, see the Quilters Market page on the guild website. For more info, speak to Anne at a meeting or call her at 978-317-4441.



News Around the Guilds, at the New England Quilt Museum, and Other Events

Nimble Thimblers Annual AUCTION 2019

The Nimble Thimblers Quilt Guild, a Wakefield area group of 50 members, announces its annual fundraising AUCTION, set to take place on Tuesday evening, October 29th, 2019 at the Crystal Community Club, 77 Preston Street, Wakefield, MA 01880. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free and there is plenty of parking and no stairs.

This year, we offer an impressive array of items for sale – quantities of fabric, sewing supplies, finished and unfinished QUILTS, plus handcrafted gift items and more. We continue to change and alter our event and we will feature a “Wine Basket” which will be a raffle, many fabric related silent auction items, and a great variety of things on the “Grab ‘n’ Go” table. The Live Auction will begin at 7:00 and feature 25 items; during this time, you can continue to monitor your silent auction bids. Sewers and non-sewers alike will find treasures galore. This year, we are having fewer items in the live auction so as to have a really fun evening which ends by 9 PM; that means many fabrics/baskets will be “Grab ‘n’ GO”. Cash or check only, no charges and please bring a bag to carry home all your treasures!

See our website under the Bulletin Board page for show listings.

If you hear of any shows that are not listed on our website, please let me know so I can add them.

The following is not an event or show, but I loved this blog post so much, I decided to share it with all of you. If you’ve heard of Marie Kondo or seen her shows about tidying up, and if you own a LOT of quilting “stuff”, you’ll appreciate the sentiments in this post:

is marie kondo good for quilts?

June 21st, 2019 by blogger Teresa Duryea Wong on the Okan Arts blog

Marie Kondo is adorable. She sparkles. Marie is a tiny Japanese woman who wrote a tiny little book, **The Life-changing Magic of Tidying Up**, that sold really big — over 10 million copies. Now she has a new

Netflix series where she helps people “tidy up.” Her adorableness makes you want to cheer her on. Makes you want to sign up. Yes, I want a tidy life. Yes, I want to feel joy. Please, Marie, just show me how!

Marie’s religion helps people decide what stuff to keep by deciding what “sparks joy” for them. If an item does not spark joy, get rid of it she says. I embraced the concept. I cleaned my closet. I got rid of old stuff and donated it. I folded my jeans so they stand up. I organized my shoes. It was joyful. But after that, her joyful method met a spectacular collapse in my home. Marie, I said, you are not touching my books and certainly not my quilts or my studio!

Can you imagine what would happen if she entered a home like mine with piles of old quilts? She’d ask, do these spark joy? And of course, I’d say no. Joy is not the right feeling. I’d explain, these quilts were made by my grandmother, my great-grandmother. These quilts once kept my family warm. Mothers made these quilts for their children. These are a part of the people who came before us. These do not spark joy. They take up space and collect dust. They are hard to store. But I keep them because they spark something more important than joy. They spark memories. They are our history.

In her television show, Marie consistently encourages people to get rid of their books. She suggests they do not open the book, just look at its cover and decide if it sparks joy. This is crazy. Getting rid of all my books would make me sad. Like old quilts, books are hard to store and collect dust, but I keep them because of what they once meant to me. They represent literature and learning. They do not spark joy. I keep them because I love them.

And what about our quilt studios and workspaces? Does your space have clutter? Mine does. Some days I wish it was less cluttered, but I also believe that clutter can spark creativity. A dusty old object can spark inspiration. A shiny tool can spark creativity. For example, I have over two dozen pairs of scissors. Do I need them all? Does each pair spark joy? No. They simply have a job to do. But even my ordinary, utilitarian scissors can spark creativity. They are part of the process. They have nothing to do with joy and everything to do with how I create.

And what about all that fabric? Like many of you, I have tons of fabric. There are days when it stresses me out because I feel like I should be using it more quickly. But then those feelings pass, and I look at my stash and I am inspired. That’s the thing about emotions, they change.

Cleaning might feel joyful for a moment. But it can go too far. Don’t break what isn’t broken. And so, my dear adorable Marie, you can have my closet, my jeans, my shoes, but you must stay away from the stuff that sparks my creativity — my books, my studio and my quilts!

Respectfully submitted,
Dottie Macomber, Secretary