

Hammersmith Quilters Guild Newsletter



www.hqgsaugus.org

September 2019

For This Meeting

September 4, 2019

Program: Super Show 'n' Tell: Bring your first/worst/favorite quilt and tell us about it!

Show 'n' Tell: YES! This is in addition to the Super Show 'n' Tell above. Show us what you've done over the summer!

Fat Quarter: Batiks (Bring an extra FQ and give it to Sally Nimblett, Louise Nazzaro, or Dana Giunta: see below under the Quilt Show news.)

Refreshments: Janice Moore, Louise Nazzaro, Mary Flaherty, Lynda Persico, Lauren Laughlin, Dottie Macomber, Barbara Martinson, Adrienne Nolan, Martha Mazeika, Lucille McCarthy

Creative Quiltworks: Page 38 Challenge due (Has anyone figured out why page **38**??)

Please bring your finished house and tree blocks for the raffle quilt!

President's Message: Martha Mazeika

Greetings!!

Happy New Guild Year!!!! September is upon us and along with new pencils, school starting, and pumpkin spiced everything, we start another year of the HQG! I am excited to serve as your president for the next 2 years. This next year will be filled with sharing, learning, preparing, and building. We will be sharing our projects through show-n-tells and our knowledge through presentations by guild members. We are learning by listening to speakers. Quilt Show 2020 – “Around the Block” will be here before we know it, so prepare those projects! And don't forget to build lasting friendships with guild members. If you see a new face, invite her/him to your table and engage them in a conversation about their quilting journey.

Be considerate...

The 2019 Survey results revealed an ongoing challenge we have had the last couple years – the side conversations during the business meeting, speakers, and show-n-tell. When some folks are chatting, others cannot hear what is happening on the stage. To help correct this behavior, we will be trying a few different approaches. You might observe a speaker going silent as we wait for the chatting to stop. We might put slips of paper and pens out on the tables for you to have silent conversations with your table mates, or we ask you to text your comments and thoughts to your neighbors (just make sure your phone is on silent so we do not hear your message notification). The side conversations have to stop! We have time before the meeting and during the break to talk – use your time wisely!

Holiday donation...

We will be filling pillowcases for the 2019 holiday season. Along with making pillowcases, we are asking members to donate \$5 towards the items that will fill them. We want to continue to be transparent about

the guild's funds by having all funds, both in and out, go through the guild's treasurer. We will be collecting the \$5 donations and depositing them in the guild's account. Once the Charity Donations committee is ready to go shopping, they can request a check for the amount that was donated. This procedure will help to keep an accurate record of the costs for different guild initiatives. You may give your \$5 donation to Sally as you check in.

Bylaws Review...

Looking for 2-3 members to volunteer to be on a committee to review the HQG Bylaws. If you are interested, please let me know at the meeting or send me an email (marthamazeika@gmail.com) This is a good way to make yourself read the bylaws (!) and to learn the "rules" that govern the workings of the guild.

Thinking ahead...

I want to start having this conversation now to continue the growth of HQG. In May 2021, we will be having our next elections. So, why am I asking you to think about this when that won't be happening for another 2 years? There are four of us currently on the board who will have served in their positions for 2 terms by the time the next elections roll around. According to the HQG Bylaws, one can only serve 2 consecutive terms in the same position. Well...we will have to have members nominated to fill the positions of the executive board, especially president, treasurer, secretary, and member-at-large. We want to give people an opportunity to learn what these roles are all about, so if you have questions, please ask! We also want to offer the opportunity for members to shadow those who currently hold these positions, which is probably the best way to learn about the responsibilities and duties of the various positions.

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

See you all on September 4th!!

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 August 14 is \$15,157.94 with all receipts paid and deposits made to that date.

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 Board meeting; minutes are always available from Dottie for your reading pleasure at every guild meeting.

Membership: Sally Nimblett

In June, 74 people signed in, including one of our new members, Carol Healy. We also have another new member who couldn't be with us in June: Maureen Clark, who used to own Marketplace Quilts in Salem. Over the summer, two more people joined: Cathy Juliano and Lynne Kulakowski, who is a former member. Welcome to all of you!

We had a good number of people show up for the two Sit 'n' Sew meetings this summer. In June we had 20 attendees, and in July there were around 25 or so. Not a bad turnout considering many members are busy with other activities during the summer months.

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

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 this month: Janice Moore, Louise Nazzaro, Mary Flaherty, Lynda Persico, Lauren Laughlin, Dottie Macomber, Barbara Martinson, Adrienne Nolan, Martha Mazeika, and Lucille McCarthy.

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.

"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.

- All destashes/scrap are welcome and you need to only bring them in, no sorting or packaging required. Also, any quilt-related items: patterns, quilt magazines, etc.
- If you bring stuff, you don't have to take someone else's home, if you don't want to. And, if you don't bring any stuff, you can still take some home. A win-win, as they say.
- All scraps, all sizes (scrap is a relative term and yardage to some is a scrap to another), useful for quilting (so please no upholstery samples...), so wool, silk, of course our beloved cotton...all good.
- But make sure no scrap is left behind. Take home your own scraps and other stuff at the end of the meeting if not taken by others.
- The table should be empty ten minutes after the meeting ends. Please check for items or fabric scraps that you brought in and, if they are still there, please take them back home with you.

Hello Quilters!

Hope you are having a great summer! We are looking forward to a great year of programs and activities for the guild and hope you are too! The calendar for 2019-2020 is almost finalized; you can find it on the Calendar page of the website. -Gail Dwyer

June's Silent Auction raised **\$332** for the guild! Thanks to Ann Ambrose, Ruth Ashton, Margie Berkowitch, Irene Dwyer, Dottie Macomber, and Nancy Sandreuter, as well as to Peter Ruggeri (husband of late member Ruth) for their donations of items to be auctioned.

Don't forget to sign up for **Michelle Banton's upcoming workshop** on the Dresden Neighborhood pattern on October 2nd at 1:00 pm. If you have given your \$10 deposit, please bring your \$20 balance to the September meeting (cash or check made out to HQG). If you have not signed up and wish to, please plan to pay the entire fee of \$30. There will also be a charge of \$8 for the Dresden Neighborhood pattern (payable to Michelle at the workshop), if you don't already have the pattern. You may give your payment for the workshop fee to Dottie.

The following people have signed up and paid their deposit; they need to bring an additional \$20 to the September meeting: **Barbara Martinson, Joyce Rodenhiser, Lucille McCarthy, Kathy Connors, Holly Petersen, Janice Moore, Jean Balliro, John Balliro, Millie Becker, Cindy Nile, Carmen Arnone, Linda Reppucci, and Irene Dwyer.**

The following have signed up and need to pay the whole \$30 fee: Lynda Persico and Matty Graciano.

We will be joined by a member of the Tewksbury guild, Marlene Levesque. Her guild had booked Michelle for a presentation but didn't do the workshop. Marlene found out on our website that we are offering Michelle's workshop and signed up! **We have only three spots left!!** If you are interested in joining us, see Dottie at the September meeting to sign up!

Future Getaway Weekends

As has been previously mentioned, we will be going to the same venue, the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in Saco, Maine, for our next getaway weekend, March 19-22, 2020. If anyone is interested in researching other suitable venues, the specifications needed for a successful and inclusive getaway weekend were listed in the April newsletter (old newsletters are available under the Recipes and Archives tab of the website). Because we need to book well in advance, please present any findings to the Program Committee **by the October 2019 meeting**; this would be for the 2021 getaway. If we hear of no other venues, or if those presented do not meet the specs provided, we will plan on going to the Saco Ramada Inn for 2021 as well.

Sign-ups for the 2020 Getaway Weekend will begin in October! (DO NOT send me your deposits yet!!) 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. I know that some people did not like the food offered or wanted to eat out both nights. If that is the case, you won't need to pay for the 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 will be 48 spaces for the weekend, so be prepared with a non-refundable deposit of \$50 **in October.**

As usual, the breakfast buffet is included, and you are on your own for all lunches and for Thursday dinner.

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

1. Please remember your **donation quilts and pillowcases**. Members are expected to donate a quilt and a pillowcase every year. We will collect holiday pillowcases at the September, October, and November meetings. We will be stuffing the pillowcases with toys, toiletries, and other age-appropriate gifts and will then donate them to children through various social-service agencies.

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. Since December, our total # is currently 41 quilts and 58 pillowcases in stock. (Many Quilts of Valor pillowcases have been made but I do not have an exact count as many have already been passed along to the regional QoV coordinator for Massachusetts.) Only 8 of the pillowcases in stock are Holiday pillowcases so we need many more of these by November, when we typically “stuff” about 100 holiday pillowcases for deserving children of all ages.

I would also like to address a few points from the annual Member Survey:

- Some members expressed that they did not know how many donated doll quilts were sold in the quilt show boutique. I informed members at the November meeting that, unfortunately, not many were sold. The exact number was 8 at \$10 each, so a total of \$80 clear profit was realized from the sale of the donated doll quilts. I informed the membership that the leftover quilts were gifted in the donation pillowcases to the girls who were young enough to play with dolls, and what was left over from that would be donated to an animal hospital for dogs and cats.
- Additionally, someone suggested we ask the membership to make toiletry bags filled with items for local shelters. While this is a nice idea, members are already expected to make a pillowcase and a donation quilt each year. The full membership does not meet this obligation, so to ask them to make another item would not be feasible. In addition, the donation committee has a certain budget to work with, and we do not have the budget to buy toiletries, even travel size, which have gotten very expensive.
- Someone suggested to tack on the \$5 donation for the pillowcase items to the dues. However, members are asked to donate this money voluntarily. Tacking it on to the dues is a decision to be made by the executive committee and then voted on by the membership. Tacking on that \$5 makes it a mandatory act of kindness and inflates dues unnecessarily. Our members are very generous, and if someone cannot afford to make that donation, it should not be forced upon them through their dues.

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

Creative Quiltworks Committee: Kristin Callahan & Ellen Moore

Our next Creative Quiltworks Challenge will be due in September. For this challenge, you will turn to page 38 of any issue of “This Old House” magazine and use what you find on that page to inspire a small quilt. If anyone wants to join the “Page 38 Challenge” and does not have access to this magazine, just email me (Kristin) at Klcquilts@msn.com and I will mail you a page. Your project should be 30”x30” or smaller.

In September:

1. Please bring in your “Page 38” challenge, pin the original paper page to the front so we can see the page that inspired your creation, and put your name on the back. We will vote at the break and give ribbons to the winners! Did anyone realize why page 38? (The magazine was just because my husband only subscribes to 2 and the other was “Money”! Ugh! No good ideas there...)

2. Please bring in your completed fidget mats for collection to be donated. I will have information as to where they are going and who will deliver them.

3. Directions will be given for October's project. See me at the table for a handout. -Kristin

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

The Quilt Show Committee had their first meeting in June and began the planning for our next show, which will take place on Saturday & Sunday, October 17-18, 2020. The name of our 2020 show is "Around the Block".

The **Challenge Category for the show** should relate to the theme, "Walk Around the Block". You may interpret this any way you like; you might make a quilt that depicts what you see in your neighborhood or on any city block; you can do a play on words with multiple meanings of "block"; have fun! There is only one additional condition: your quilt can be no larger than 20"x20", or a perimeter of 80", in case your quilt isn't square. There is no minimum size. If you have questions about this challenge, ask us!

The quilt show committee is composed of the following members:

Co-Chairs: Dottie & Holly

Boutique: Joyce Rodenhiser & Lauren Loughlin

Café: Paula Grenier & Julie Legere

Decorations: Sally Nimblett & Joyce Rodenhiser (liaison to Saugus Garden Club)

Publicity: Rosie Graham & Margie Berkowitch

Raffle Baskets: Louise Nazzaro, Sally Nimblett & Dana Giunta*

Raffle Quilt: John Balliro* & Gretchen Berkowitch

Raffle Quilt Ticket Sales: Ann Ambrose* & Sally Clapp*

Registration Forms and Quilt Tags: Anne Smith, Holly & Dottie

Volunteer Coordinators: Janice Moore*, Martha Mazeika, & Holly

Other "Super Volunteers" (those whose attendance is not required at committee meetings but who are doing a job above and beyond the usual 2 hours of volunteering asked of all guild members) include:

Door Prizes: Cindy Nile*

Vendors: Cindy Nile*

Quilts of Valor liaison: Merle Gordon

Signage and Ribbon Design: Carol MacRae

Voting: Marcia Karalis

Show Treasurer: Carmen Arnone

As you can see, we have some "veteran" quilt show volunteers and some who are new to putting on the show (designated by an *); this is a goal that Holly & I have. We would like to involve more members who have never before helped with the planning of the show. We are trying to pair veteran planners with newer committee members so we can "pass on our knowledge" and get more members involved.

We will announce more details about the show during the September meeting and in subsequent meetings. However, one detail which the committee discussed is the **always-epic Raffle Basket of Fat Quarters**, one of the most popular raffle baskets at our shows! Last year we had so many fat quarters donated that Adrienne Nolan had to make up more than one raffle basket of FQs! Let's do that again! Here's the plan: every month, when you bring in your FQs for the fat quarter drawing, bring an extra one in that month's color or theme and give it to Sally Nimblett, Louise Nazzaro or Dana Giunta so they can start collecting them for a Super-Duper raffle basket- or two! **September's theme is Batiks, so bring in an extra batik FQ to donate to the raffle basket for the show.**

Secretary Report: Dottie Macomber

Printed reports containing the 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

Member News: Dottie Macomber

If you have **Linda Anthony's Dr. Seuss book**, "You're Only Old Once!", please bring it and return it to Linda at the September meeting. She was circulating it for everyone's pleasure but would like it returned. Her name is inside the front cover.

Lesley Pew had a quilt accepted into the Mancuso World Quilt New England show in Springfield in August. Congratulations!



Janet Dalis also had a quilt accepted into the Mancuso show, and this same quilt won three ribbons at the 2019 Vermont Quilt Festival: a regular First Place ribbon, a rosette for Best Use of Theme ("Color My World"), and a rosette for Viewer's Choice- Congratulations, Janet! (photo on next page)



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.

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

Don't forget to go to the museum before September 8th to see our own Janice Meade's quilt in the Best of the Guilds exhibit at the New England Quilt Museum!! **Admission is free** to the museum from August 7th through September 8th during the Summer Celebration of New England Quilts, which also includes venues other than NEQM. The following information was taken from the quilt museum's website. When you go, be sure to vote for your favorite quilt; the winning guild gets the use of the classroom gallery next year to put on an exhibition of their own quilts!

THE BEST OF THE REGION'S QUILT GUILDS

August 7 – September 8, 2019

The New England Quilt Museum, together with the Lowell National Historical Park, Whistler House Museum of Art, Brush Art Gallery, and Arts League of Lowell, present the biennial festival, **Summer Celebration of New England Quilts**. The partnership among these venues offers visitors an array of quilt and textile arts exhibitions, education programs, demonstrations, and activities for school-age visitors.

Thanks to our sponsors, the New England Quilt Museum and participating partners are admission-free for the duration of this festival.

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

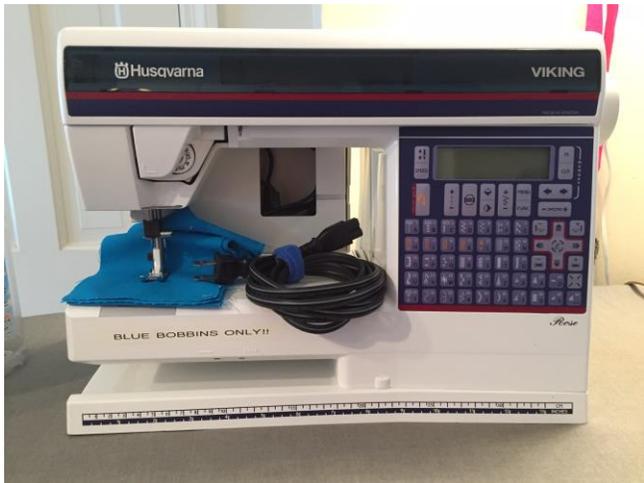
If you hear of any shows that are not listed on our website, please let me know so I can add them.

Cotton+Steel Update

A lot of you are fans of the Cotton+Steel line of fabric. I recently read an update about the five founders of that brand in Love Patchwork & Quilting magazine. It seems that those five women have left RJR Fabrics, who owns the Cotton+Steel name, due to organizational difficulties at the company: an outdated computer system, orders arriving late to quilt shops, and other logistical problems. They have, however, moved over to Moda Fabrics and started a new fabric brand called Ruby Star Society.

So, if you like the designs of the original Cotton+Steel fabric lines, know that if RJR continues marketing fabrics under this name, they will not be designed by the original designers. Look for Ruby Star Society lines of fabric and you will see work by those original five designers.

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.



UFO Project Dot-to-Dot!

Are you having trouble getting your charity quilt done? Just don't know what to do, what fabrics, what pattern, what colors? Well, I may have the answer to your troubles!

A woman contacted me at the New England Quilt Museum during my weekly volunteering gig a few weeks ago. She is a member of a quilting group who meets at a senior center in NH. She said that her group is composed of all "older ladies", and as they pass away, the families bring their fabric and other stuff in for the group to have. She said they were starting to feel overwhelmed by the donations and wondered if the museum took donations of fabric and quilt tops. I told her they do take fabric and

package it up and sell it at very reasonable prices in the shop but that they don't take tops for resale unless they are very old (antique) and in great shape. I told her she could just include the tops in her donation and that I would take them for my guild to finish and donate but asked if maybe her group wanted to do that themselves. She said there were only a few tops so she'd just mail them to me personally if she could get my address. So, I didn't think any more about it until last week when a big box arrived; inside were 25 tops!!! They range in size from roughly 36" square to roughly 40"x52" and all are extremely well pieced and well pressed. Many but not all are scrap quilts, and many already have borders; the smaller ones could easily have another border or borders added to bring them up to lap quilts for teens and tweens. There are also two smaller pieces, a 27"x27" pieced item that would make a lovely medallion center for a quilt, and a smaller 24 ½"x24 ½" pieced item that could have multiple borders attached and turned into a small quilt.

When I emailed my contact in that group, Bonnie, to thank her, she told me that all of the tops were completed by a woman in their group who passed away last year just shy of her 90th birthday. I asked if she could give me the woman's first name so I could refer to her when I told you all about the donation. She said, 'You're not going to believe this but her name was Dorothy [my name] and we called her Dot.' I told her that is what many people call me, even though I introduce myself to people as "Dottie". As she said, "You can't make this stuff up!"

SO... that explains the "Dot-to-Dot" part of the title of this section of the newsletter. So, what is the "Project UFO" part about? I am going to bring 4-5 of these UnFinished Objects to each monthly guild meeting until they are gone. Anyone may take a top and agree to finish it; this will count as your charity quilt donation for this guild year. All I ask is that you check in with me first before you give the finished quilt to Gretchen; I would like to photograph them and send the photos to Bonnie and her quilting group at the Slusser Senior Center in Hopkinton, NH. AND anyone who finishes one of these quilts gets a coveted UFO charm to sew to your guild name badge, if you wish! (see below) Actually, I'm not sure how "coveted" they are, but I have them left over from a UFO challenge we did a few years ago, so what else am I going to do with them??? You'll have your choice of bronze or silver tone- while supplies last, as they say! (I do have enough in total; you just might not get your first choice of color.)



I do have to mention that they have a little bit of a musty smell, probably from being stored. I have some airing outside on my porch to see if that improves them. I gently washed one of the tops that I want to complete. I did it the way you would wash an antique quilt: no washing machine, no agitation, just a soak in a basin of warm water and a little quilt soap (I used the Fairfield brand, Quilt Wash, but any mild soap will do). Then I just dumped the water out and kept filling up the basin, forcing the water through the fabric with a gentle pressing motion and repeating until the water ran clear. Now that one is drying on a laundry rack set up on my porch, and I don't detect any of the musty scent on it. I just felt that I should mention this in case you are a person who is sensitive to any kind of scents. Of course, now I'll have to press that one, but that's okay.

So, see me each month to see what tops I have brought, and get your charity quilt donation done!!!

Respectfully submitted,
Dottie Macomber, Secretary